

February 23, 1945

Dearest Hiro,

How are you, dear? We hope by now the weather is warmer for all of you and that things aren't too difficult for you. Here it is the usual weather—with people going to the beaches, etc—and we only wish you could share it with us.

I received your letter dated 2/1 (it was started a few days previously) and mailed on the 3d; I got it on the 20th, which wasn't too bad time. However, much of your mail has been coming so slowly lately, but of course that can't be helped. I only hope my mail to you doesn't take that long. The two snapshots you enclosed taken while on pass were good, you looked rested and very snazzy in your outfit. Is that the raincoat I sent you—and does it fit you all right? That was Hamada's choice so you have him to thank for the style. Incidentally I read where his son is in the De Witt hospital in San Francisco, wonder how serious his injuries are. The hotel in which you were sitting certainly looks very ritzy—must be one of those famous places along the Riviera, is the new GI rest area in Cannes which we've been reading about. The Time magazine had a write-up about it how they were trying to give men 7 day furloughs to it.

I last wrote you on the 20th; I went to the bank, visited the kindergarten, and took some things up to Mrs. Robertson I thought the children could use. Had lunch with Betty Hiraoka at the school; she has the best school lunches around here. Then met my elementary school club and taught them dancing. I met Paul Lau, the Boy Scout man there. It is Boy Scout week now, so all the schools are having some observances. He asked about you and Etsuo. Then I picked up Peter and Bunny and came home. Obabhan had made some banana cream pies, so I took one up to Margaret's and chewed the fat with her for a while.

On Wednesday, Mrs. Suzuki and I went in for our Chinese cooking class. We had a quite a feast, learned how to make chicken with almond, mullet Chinese style, wun tun, char siu, etc—next week will be our last lesson. There are four men in the class of about 30, and they're about the best cooks in the bunch. Then I had a conference with Miss Shaw, visited Sear's and got home about 4. Then left my car at the garage overnight to be fixed. The mechanic wanted to check on the wires—I sent off a package of a few baby things like a sweater set, flannel material, etc to Mrs. Malenotti in Rome. I had to write out a declaration as it was worth about \$5.00 but the postage was only 28 cents. We can send clothing, and soap, but must be a certain weight package (not more than 4 lbs) and certain measurement, and not more than one package a month. Next month, I'll send her something else. I hope it reaches her at the address you sent. I had to indicate it it wasn't delivered what did I want to have done with it; so I told them to give it to the American Red Cross in Rome, as they could give it to some other baby. So will you write Mrs. Malenotti and tell her I've sent a package to her—and I'll do the same.

I received a picture from Mitsu Sugawa—it was taken in front of a Red Cross enlisted men's club—a very good picture of him; please thank him for it. I saw his father yesterday, the brother who was drafted about two weeks ago is home now, in the reserve, so at least there's one left—in the evening, Capt. Albers dropped in for a chat. He had a special pass made out for me by the colonel to the camp to see the shows as they aren't allowing any civilians in unless accompanied by a service man now. Too many kids went and caused trouble.

Yesterday Mrs. Ottman called up and said all was set for me to start working on the first. I will have a case load from Aiea to Waipahu junction, so will be quite busy. However, since it's close to home, it couldn't be better. I'll go in on the first to see her and get started. I still don't know my definite hours, as it depends on a lot of things, but will try to fit it in to be able to get the kids at the corner.

I wrote to my college friend Isabell Hawkins Scott who has been in Santo Tomas in Manila; and strangely after I sent it off yesterday the Star Bulliten had her name listed as among those rescued from the camp with her husband and three children. I hope she'll get my letter, we can send it % of an APO now. I also sent a thank you note to Yasuko for sending me the dish set for Jane; also sent Chizue a letter and a baby gift. I think I told you she had a nother baby girl; bet Tom's disappointed. I also sent off your picture to Fts and Kamejiu the one taken in Nice. Had my car checked again yesterday, but they brought it back in time for me to meet my Pearl City club. Peter got a haircut up at Mrs. Fujitani's; it was getting so long he looked almost sick. Then I found a letter from Peg. Stone; she is living in a suburb of San Francisco; the government has put up homes for sale for Navy officers it is called Parkmerced— must be a nice place. Juday is in high first, and Marjorie has started kindergarten. She hasn't seen Lester for several months, so he must be very busy now. She sent you her love. I went to Waipahu to market in the afternoon, but couldn't find much. There is a meat (beef) shortage now, it is almost impossible. But Dodo and Mr. Oshiro are very nice and occasionally I find a piece. However, yesterday there wasn't a thing; so I guess tonight its canned goods again for supper. Last night we had canned Vienna sausage which Peter loves; he says he could eat a whole can by himself!

I visited Grace for a while before supper; she showed me some snapshots Dollar had sent in the snow, etc. He looks fine, but all of you look so pale— must be the lack of sunshine there. Please give him my aloha— I recently wrote him to thank him for the Xmas presents for the kids. He— Sam recently heard from Ruth, and apparently she still corresponds with Dollar, so maybe she's changed her mind about things.

Last Sunday in the Advertiser there was an article about you and Yamada getting promoted to captains; in Monday's Star Bulliten the same article appeared, I wonder how come its just coming out now; must be some War dept. release— so everyone has been congratulating me— don't know why they should congratulate me, when it is you that has done all the work!

Jane is taking her morning nap now, its about 11 a.m. Peter wrote the enclosed letter to you last night— you know him, be brief as possible! But his script is pretty good, don't you think? He kind of giggles when I tell him you're waiting to take him camping, etc. He says I'll bet daddy never wants to camp out again.

Jane has learned to push chairs and climb, so we have to be on the alert all the time now. He is such a darling and loves music and dances to it already! Must be your blood— maybe one of these days she'll do a mean hula like you do!

I took the car up to the garage again this morning, they still want to work on it. I expect it back about 1 though, as I have to go to Aiea today. I forgot to tell you I was talking to Edna Kuroda the other day; she is running a hot dog shop next to the service station— it seems to be the fad now— as the service men go for them. She sent you her regards. Also yesterday Lucille Hanifin who works for the Am. Red Cross called me up and asked me if I wanted to work for the APO. I told her I had decided to go back to N P W. Helene Morgan has left the APO as Director of the Home service division and is heading up the medical social dept. at Leahi again. Surely will miss her but then I know I'll see her quite often at Leahi.

I sent the baby package to Mrs. Fernanda Malenotti, Apt. 7, Via Nizza 56, Rome Italy. Is that correct? If not, please ask her to be looking for it through the post office, and send me the correct address, also was it a boy or girl baby?

The boy I met at Suzuki's the other day, Cpt. Kidani from Santa Barbara, has a brother with your group, do you know him.

Please take care of yourself, dear— I am still hoping on hope that one of these days your furlough will be coming up.

Love, *Shirako*