

Jan. 7, 1943

Dear Mom:

Just came in from another week of bivouac, finishing the problem as we call it with a fourteen miles hike. I never thought the day would come when I would walk further than Dr. Ikeda's home - but apparently the day is here for walking is about all we do nothing else but. After the first few miles the feet get so tired and sort of numb -

Bivouac this week was very cold. Rather very, very cold - the first night out poor Joe Itagaki couldn't sleep all night. Our problems are getting tougher and tougher and now we are not even allowed fires to be built at night. We keep warm as best we could - the next night I had an invention of my own with candles and it worked out very nicely. I invited Joe to sleep with me in my tent - he slept all right but he certainly can snore. The kind that the movies would pay good money for a sound effect. It was better sleeping the second night. The boys get up early in the morning fumble around with frozen fingers for their equipment and go out hiking over the swamps. Its really a life but I don't really mind it. They come over to my tent and talk about all kinds of things - we have a very nice sgt from the mainland by the name of Sugi who used to be in the flower business in LA. He wants to come to the islands after the war and go into the flower business - when I think of fellers like him with a wife and baby - I think of the book that came out several years ago "little man, what now." After the war is going to be a big problem with them. There are so many like him.

Next day I spent some time out with two fellers from the islands - they got news simultaneously that their respective brothers were killed in action in Italy. It made me feel like weeping to think of all these fine fellers and many others in the world paying the supreme sacrifice. The letter to one of the boys I remember vividly - it was from another brother in which he wrote "Guess brother, it just you and me now. You and I must live through this to go back to Hawaii." I wonder how many people realize the things these boys are going thru the letter added "I only pray that your outfit will not have to come over, war is not like story books - it is terrible -" I wonder how many people who went around making speeches but did not come themselves, realize what war is. I remember having a little squabble with Harry - as I objected to his using his ministerial influence in influencing boys one way or another. I told him that if he was going to do that - he must also go with them. I feel that no one at home can realize the sacrifice these boys are making - and as the news from our boys in Italy come to us, it just keeps on beating that into my head. I only pray that this war will be over soon - and believe that it will be partially over this year after we beat Germany to her knees.

It was grand to hear of your fine Christmas and I do owe so many people so much for the way they have been trying to make it easier for you. I hope Peter will not resent my giving stamps to Jane too much. I want to train him to feel that Jane is ~~about~~ his and my responsibility and that together we should buy stamps and ~~things~~ for her. Perhaps he will get the idea as she grows older.

Too bad about Achan. If she could only get better but guess her case is hopeless. Hope the parents do not let her know how serious her case is - did Peter enjoy his gifts. I think he would be most interested in that ~~Senachlucht~~ gift I sent him -

Shigemi is such a grand feller. And Horace too - I plan to send them a letter of thanks as soon as I can. It is tough trying to keep up with my correspondence - especially as we go out in bivouacs right along and that means we can't write until the weekend. I have over a hundred letters and cards to answer - and it's real tough.

Good to hear that Jane is getting along ok. Be careful not to let Peter too near her as he may carry flu and colds to the baby but I know that you do take such precautions.

Harry Komuro wrote me a very nice letter the other day - also received letters from many of the church people. I will try to answer Harry's letters pretty soon when and if time allows. We go out on bivouac next week again - plans are made here from week to week and so we don't know anything beyond that. I know that we are scheduled to go out in a three weeks problem straight through with another division - and after that we have our final training. Thus we ~~can figure out~~ usually just about when we go into the big scrap and it isn't too far off.

Give my best regards to Doc and tell him that I will write in the very near future.

as ever

love

