

January 17, 1945

nearest Hiro,

The mail has been coming in quite regularly now— thank goodness— and we are wondering how you are, and what has been decided about your ankle. What a way to spend the New Year's but then I'm hoping you got a good rest in the hospital.

I last wrote you on Monday the 15th— have my letters been reaching you all right dear? I can't imagine how you can tote all my letters around— as for me I have all of yours in a bunch— someday when you come back, we can reminisce over them.

Did I tell you we got a Maas package from Judy Miller for Peter and Jane? A wooden jeep set for Peter and a book for Jane — on Monday Ruth Takayasu called that Ben had phoned them on Sunday from a hospital in Massachusetts— we are hoping his injuries aren't too serious. I wrote to Peg, Stone and Beth Howell. I then sent some snapshots of us to Kamejiu and Maudie and wrote to Shizue too. This is expecting her third baby this week— Tom was elected head of Hilo Memorial hospital last week. I went to Waipahu and left the snapshot with Edith Hikichi— then went to my high school club and Ewa. I met Miss Coates at the plantation store and we chatted over cokes— she thinks Peter should continue Punahou in town next fall, as he's got the stuff— she is amazed at his vocabulary and interest in so many adult things. Says he's her outstanding pupil. She was quite discouraged though about the set up out here this year— the new administration hasn't been very cooperative it seems with the country branch and pays little or no attention to it. Therefore she is planning to quit teaching at Punahou from next year, and probably teach in Ewa school. She has a brother in France too— so is quite worried about him. She is such a nice person and is a good discipliner too.

I then picked up my new gas allotment, I have a "C" book— so get all I need for my work. Saw Shigemi and Horace— and showed them your snapshots. I met a returned AJA from Wahiawa named Kiyoto Nakai of the 100th; he's blind in both eyes. He said you had visited him in the hospital at Rome— he and Shigemi were classmates at Mid Pacific so he was visiting Shigemi— poor fellow— I received three letters from you that day, written 12/7 and mailed on 12/12; with snapshots enclosed; one written 12/22 and mailed 12/24 with the two portraits of yourself for the Suzuki and Iguchi's; and one written 12/24 mailed the same date with the \$ 5.00 worth of clipper stamps. I've had them changed to 15 cents ones— you know clipper mail is now 15 cents instead of 20 cents since Jan 15). The Wakami's and Ikinaga's certainly are nice to us—I'll be sure to thank them. Also heard from Dad Husted— he had heard from you said he sat through the newsreel of the lost battalion twice hoping he could see you in it!

I was so glad to hear from you dear— and know how hard you are working for the boys. We're so proud of you, and what you're doing for them. Everyone says you're doing such good work— so keep it up—but the thought of the dangers you have to go through gives me the creeps sometimes— but as you say— in war there's lots of danger.

Your portraits were so good— I'm anxiously awaiting the one you're sending me. Peter was so glad to see it— said you look like a movie hero! I took one to the Suzuki's and to the Iguchi's too. They both appreciated it so much. Any of the boys have written they visited Nice— so am wondering if that's where you had it taken. Maybe sometime you can get more reprints made— I'd like to give them to a few extra people like Mae, Dunny, Richards, etc.

It must be hard for you to answer the inquiries of parents who've lost boys. The Iguchi's still haven't received any letter from you through channels, nor Tom's belongings— it certainly takes time doesn't it. Margaret said she visited some returned boys who are in an army hospital here convalescing— most of them are 100th boys.



Yesterday I ~~wrote~~ went to town to the staff meeting; visited Sam and left birthday presents for Mona and Elsa. Mona's was yesterday and Elsa's is the 19th. Sam said he was very busy having a USO at his home— more people dropping in— it must be hard on his pocket. Eddie still hasn't had his baby— any day now. The Johnson's had a baby girl— you remember him, the architect— lived next to Tommy's. Tommy and Charlie Riddle met Kazuko in Wash. D.C. or NY recently. Kazuko is working in Wash. D.C. now. They never hear from Kazuko directly, its always through someone else!

I then picked up the kids; met my Waipahu club— received a letter from Allie Cardiner—

Jane is crawling all around me while I type this. She's going to be walking before we know it — tries to take about three steps already. She points to things now and jabbars all the time. Calls obahcan "ba"— and me "mama" and of course has said "dada" for you a long time ago. She is so cute— puckers up her mouth and throws kisses at your picture.

Peter is such a rascal. The other night we were talking about disciplining him. He said he wouldn't mind if I went away and never came back— because I scolded him. But as for daddy, he wanted you back, cause you "spoiled him", and as for obachan he wanted her to stay, because she could "play checkers with him". He's quite a checker player now and can outsmart all of us— will probably take you down when you come back! He is so good, he plays two hands at once— and tries to trick each other!

I think Martin is coming this weekend. He called me up the other day, and is binding me a book case for your books. His brother was drafted and is supposed to be around— says that makes three of them in his family in the service.

I see by the papers where the Hamada boy (liberty house) is now at De Witt Hospital in Auburn, Calif. I hope to meet him when he returns, as he probably can tell me all about seeing you. I will have to show Mr. Hamada how you look in the raincoat— I'm so glad you got it all right.

It was good to see Dollar is back with you— please give him our regards. I showed Doc your pictures today— said he got your portrait— said if he were over there, he would go to town with those mademoiselles! Shigemi showed me a snapshot from Chicken Kinaga with another boy— with a blond between them walking down the street! Still don't let any of them catch you unawares— and don't go visiting any Chinese paintings!

Capt. Albers dropped in last night— he said he had phoned his wife last week— it was their third anniversary— said she cried through most of it— I'm sure I would too; if someday you phoned me— he sent you his regards

Am going to work on some reports today— how I hate the thought of it— Statistics, etc. Also am going to bake some cookies— tomorrow we're having the Y council meeting at the high school, so am making refreshments for it. Tomorrow night deacons meeting; Friday night the play in town with the Suzuki's. Saturday Martin is coming, and so on it goes.

Miss Coats says report cards will be out the end of this month— am wondering if Peter is progressing all right. He was so proud of himself yesterday— got 100 in both spelling and arithmetic— if he tries he can do it, but so often, he dashed through something, and makes errors— I think he has our nervous temperament all right.

He is playing football with Arthur boy and that gang these days on our front lawn. Is quite a quarterback!

Shigemi was surprised to see the Oyasato fellow's picture with a mustache— knows him well. Capt. Nakata is with the engineers isn't he? I don't know the Sakurai boy from Seattle nor that Anaka person or the short fellow— the Tsuchiya person is an island boy isn't he?

Please take care of yourself dear— we're keeping our fingers crossed about your ankle. Happy birthday dear. Love,

Hiako

P.S. Mr. Okada was just here \* was worried about his son, Muneharu Okada. He's with the Artillery — do you ever see him — how is he? Tell him to write more often to his folks —