

June 16, 1944

Dearest Hiro,

How are you? It is such a relief to know you are now in Italy, and not elsewhere. It must be quite an experience to be there, and the destruction and poverty of the people must be appalling. We all hope and pray for the safety of your group, and that this awful war will be over soon. Most of the parents here are so relieved to have heard from their sons, but there are still a few who haven't heard, and they are worried. I hope the boys realize how important it is to write to their folks, as they think of them all the time. Grace heard from Dollar the other day; I guess he must be with you-- do you get to see all your pals quite often? And have you seen Takeshi yet? After I wrote you on the 14th, I found four V-Mail letters from you, three for me, and one for Peter. He was so thrilled about it. He was reading it at the dinner table, and dashed into his room to look for his magnifying glass on your suggestion, then couldn't find it, so read it as it was, and got through fine. Obachan can't read them even with her glasses on, guess her eyesight is bad. Of your four V-mails, only one was dated, and that was May 29th, and was from "somewhere in Italy". You might be interested to know that the Army postmark on all of them was June 9, and we got it on the 14th, so you can judge how fast they get here. I suppose they wait till a bunch of them are ready to be processed, hence the delay. So it seems to me, that your regular air-mail gets here faster. It was certainly interesting to hear about Sully; hope you will see him soon. What a small world this is. Yesterday a couple of the officers were here; they were glad to hear about Sully; said Buck Weaver is in England; poor thing lost his foot locker; and he misses Hawaii a lot. Maybe one of these days you'll be seeing him too, who knows?

I also receive a nice letter from Kamejiu on the 14th; she is always so considerate and writes whenever I guess she thinks my morale is down; she was worried about you since the news of the invasion had come this week, and wondered about you. Said she had just finished a big recital, and was going to take off to Paauilo with Florence for a few days to go horse-back riding, etc. Needs relaxation and seemed down in the dumps. Said Eddie and Kaisy were coming next month, so was looking forward to their visit to pep her up. Maudie and the children are coming to Hilo soon; she feels Etsuo should move back to Hilo too, as she would feel safer, etc. Obachan wrote to my mom too; she is well and just as busy as ever. She had Florence write a thank-you letter in English to Peter, as Peter had written her to thank her for the birthday stamps. Peter wondered if Obachan really had written it, and was surprised at first until I told him it was Florence's writing! I also got a letter from Emiko Abe in Milwaukee; she is living with Mrs. Toshiko Fukuda and her two-months son in an apt. costing \$70.00 a month. Capt. Fukuda is with the 100th, do you know him? Anyways, Emiko is expecting a baby about Dec. 23d! I feel so sorry for her, with her husband away-- and in such a strange place. Is Abe with you, by the way? Please give him my aloha.

Yesterday I went to town with Grace to the Y, where we spent the whole day learning how to teach crafts to children. We left the Ikeda children at the Tahara's. I had an interview with Mrs. Ottman at 9; she was so nice, and said that she really would like me to come back to work even now on a part time basis, taking intake, which would mean a sedentary job, and not running around; suggested I come a half a day, if I could. However, I told her I wasn't ready yet; she said to let her know about the middle of July how I felt, and then request an extension of my leave, as she is sure she can have it extended. I am glad, as I wouldn't want to lose out on my seniority, if and when I may have to go back to work someday. She had a gift for Jane, some rubber sheeting; she sent her best regards to you. By the way, she wondered what Louise Maehara was doing. Will you ask Saburo when you see him, if she wouldn't like to return here and work in the dept. Mrs. Ottman says she feels Johnny could

pull strings to get her and the baby back without much difficulty, as they need her badly. She was surprised Louise hadn't written here to ask about coming back. I really think she should.

You might be interested to know that Martha Morimoto (Tadashi's wife) (is he with you?) is now the head of the American Red Cross Social Service Dept. for the whole island of Maui. It is the first time a non-haole was appointed to the job, it seems. I am sure she can do a good job with her training.

Everyone at the dept. was asking about you; and all wanting to know when I was coming back! It was good seeing them again. While I was there, the newspapers came out with the extra about Japan being bombed yesterday! What excitement there was all over. Well, lets hope this will mean an earlier finish to the war.

Grace and I had lunch at the Y and left about 3, then did some shopping. I had my glasses fixed, as I had broken them. You say you broke yours too; are you sure you won't heed them? What happens when you break them; do you have optometrists, etc. with you? If you want them fixed, I can do it, and send them back to you if you want. We got home about 5; then Lt. Albers and Lt. Firth dropped in. Both men are so homesick. Lt. Firth's wife just had a baby in Texas, and he brought the pictures over to show me. Guess all the men in the service feel the same way; and like to show their family pictures to others!

This morning we slept late; we were all tired out. Then I made up some dough to make butterschotch rolls. I am going to Waipahu with Grace this afternoon, so ill take some to the Oshiro's, they have been so nice to us. Peter is playing with Junior now. He and Junior exchange toys; Peter usually gets the better of the bargain! Leave it to him! He also did some arithmetic problems this morning. When I went into his room this morning about 8, I found him lying in bed working on his arithmetic book! What a boy he certainly likes math. And gets along fine in it too.

The papers state that the 4th of July will be a territorial holiday. I suppose though most people will be busy; do you remember last year, how we all went to the beach with Cap. Millsapps, and it was the next day you had to report to the Colonel. Little did we know that you were getting called that day, we had so much fun at the beach. And pretty soon it will be a whole year since you've gone-- it seems like eternity -- but keeping busy is the best thing.

Tomorrow afternoon I am going to the Lions club luau in Kaneohe with the Suzuki's. It should be good, will cost \$3.00 per!

This Sunday will be Father's Day; I hope you got the card we sent you-- we will be thinking of you -- and wishing you were home with us.

This is such a beautiful day-- yes the red flowers on the trees are coming into full bloom; our yellow show re tree in the backyard is gorgeous. Just the kind of day we would want to takeoff and go to the beach on a picnic.

Please take care of yourself, dear. I hear Jane crying now, so will close. She is such a darling-- is beginning to grab her feet and trying to put them in her mouth!

Love,

Huako

One of the girls at the Y has a boy-friend there; he sends her some of the little can-openers with your ration kits, if you have any left over, will you send them to Peter? Or any other souvenirs that he might enjoy? I see where the Americans are already feeding a half-million Italinas in Rome-- I guess America will have to do a lot of it from now on.