

March 13, 1944

Dearest Hiro,

How are you? By the time you get this no doubt you'll be with Alice and Hank— how we wish we could have you home instead— I seem to dream all the time that you have come home.

I last wrote you on the 10th— I just had a moment to dash a p.s. on the letter while I was at the post office— to tell you Tex Hughes and Mr. Chiba came over that day— Tex had been on the mainland recently— and had talked to Kazuko on the phone from near Portland, said he expected she was getting transferred to Wash. D.C. I asked Tex about our leaving the peninsular— he said he hadn't heard anything about it— so I guess its just another idle rumor— so don't worry. Incidentally the Prange's sold their home, and have moved to town— they bought property in Diamond Head, and expect to build. Kiyō said ~~that they sold~~ to a Filipino who is a bartender at the Bladisdell Hotel. Kiyō and Herbert have bought their own home— their landlord was going to sell it from under them, so they decided to buy, and got an extra lot adjoining too.

I also got a nice letter from Mrs. Richards on the 10th, assuring me all arrangements have been made by her for Peter to get the same scholarship for next year. Will you write her and thank her if you have time/ she certainly is swell. Peter was still in bed on Friday— he certainly reacted to all his injections— in the middle of the night he had to get up as he had diarrhea— then he broke out with hives. However, since Saturday he's been up and around, so don't worry, and today he's gone back to school.

On Saturday I made some peanut butter cookies for the Church board which was to come on Sunday. I wrote to Punahou in answer to a questionnaire they sent the parents of prospective third graders out here— they wanted to know if ~~th~~ wanted the third grade out here or not. When I went to the post office I found a letter from Emiko Abe— he had written the day after you had dinner with her— also three letters from you dated 2/29, 3/2 and 3/4. I guess the letters written in February were the ones you wrote from the field as they were slow in getting here. So your're sending your things home— at first the news kind of jolted me, me then— we have all been expecting that someday the time would come— and knowing how much you want to be with your boys through thick and thin, I know God will take care of you and bring you back safely to us. What ever comes, don't worry about us— we'll keep the home fires burning to wait the day when you'll come back. Obachan and I talk about the day you come home— we'll have to prepare Jane for you, as maybe she'll cry the first time— the other day when Mr. Chiba was here, he looked at her, and she cried— I didn't realize she could distinguish between family and strangers already! Then we talk about the feast we'll have ready for you— sashimi, hekka, rice, tsukemono— and oodles of things you probably dream about. Peter will be so full of questions— I don't think any of us will eat or sleep for days— the excitement will be so great. I asked him if when you came home, he would want to sit on your shoulders and play bombing games again, he said, "Of course, but tell daddy, I'm going to be heavier and maybe, he can ride on my shoulders instead." Last night we were listening to "Take it or Leave it"— you know the Eversharp pencil program on the radio— Peter said, "Remember when Daddy and I used to lie on the puno and listen to it?" He misses you so much I know— all those recollections are still very real to him.

About your furlough- I know you'll have a grand time with the folks- they will probably have a bang-up reception for you. And when you see Takeshi, please give him our aloha-

It seems like you must have quite a reputation for eating around there- you're always getting into lots of good feeds. Imagine sashimi and chicken hekka there- why we can't even get it here. Fresh chicken is a rarity now- and naturally sashimi too.

On the 11th, who should drop in to see me but Owen Sowerwine! It was about 5 p.m. and I was feeding Jane- when someone knocked at the front door and said "Saki"- obachan went out- then I heard him say "I'm Owen"-- I dashed out in my stocking feet(had kicked off my shoes while feeding Jane) and there he was-- looking just the same as he did ten years ago. He had someone waiting outside- so couldn't stay- but he saw Jane and Peter then dashed off. Now that he knows where we are, he said he would visit us again, if he came back. He had gone clear to Waipahu looking for us- how he ever found us, I don't know. Today I wrote to Allie telling her about it. Owen said to be sure and say hello to you.

Yesterday, Sunday, I went to Sunday school- had some 48 children there. I started to feel funny and by the time I got home threw up my breakfast-- and was in bed the rest of the day from some kind of food poisoning. I still can't figure out what it was, as neither obachan nor Peter had it. Peter went to Jean Tatekawa's birthday party yesterday- but poor thing, couldn't eat much, as his stomach wasn't settled yet either- he was a good boy, though, and brought home the stuff he couldn't eat, like tempura, osushi, cake, etc. So when Dinnie and the Church board came here last night at 5:30, I was in bed, but obachan took care of them and served tea and the cookies I had made. I didn't get to see Dinnie as he dashed off, and spoke at our Church last night. He told obachan though he tried to see you in Boston, but he was there in Oct. after you had left for camp. He seemed very skeptical about Miho getting back- in the meanwhile told the church to "carry on" as best as it could. They stayed for an hour, then adjourned to go to church which starts at 6:45 these days.

I had a little okai and soup for supper last night-- feel much better today, although my stomach hurts a little yet. Shigemi was just over and brought us some food stuffs. He was enroute to town, said he had written you yesterday.

Everyone is praising the Annual- it is really a grand piece of work- considering the time you had in putting it out. I can't find Ben, Roy Sator, Buster Suzuki Shig Teraji, and others-- did they come in later after the pictures were taken? It gives us at home a good idea of what training consists of-- it must be hectic.

So you're getting to be a champion hiker-maybe one of these days you can enter the marathon of the Olympics! But I suspect when you get back you'll never want to hike again-- but ride, ride and ride. I'm very proud of you "taking it" with the boys-- after all you're not a spring chicken anymore- and it must be tough. But then as you say, the boys say you can take it-- so keep it up.

Obachan got a letter from Kiyo's mother, Mrs. Morey the other day. She is still in a camp. If you get to N.Y. look up George Morey- his address is 625 W. 152nd St., N.Y. 31. He just had a baby boy. He is a buyer for the WRA. I forgot to add, he lives in Apt. 1-D.

Emiko Abe wrote that she had visited the Hinata's in New Orleans-- they must be

having visitors all the time! She thought Mrs. Hinata was a forlorn looking person— and felt she was quite lonely since her husband passed away. It too bad she couldn't come here to join Yuki.

The Methodist Conference just ended— Bishop Baker was here— I guess Harry was busy as usual, as I saw in the papers where he was made an officer again.

Have you reported Jane's birth to the proper authorities? She should be included as a dependent now, shouldn't she? Also what has happened to the loan you made to Ben Richardson— and is there any chance of your collecting it before you take your furlough to see Takeshi. Will you write him and ask him anyways—

I wish you could see the collections of planes, boats etc. Peter has all over the house— made out of odd pieces of lumber— Arthur boy makes them for Peter and he just loves them. Peter pounds nails in them for guns— and some of them are the weirdest looking things. Per usual he goes around zooming and making all the sound effects. He even shows them to Jane now!

Jane smiles and coos and is such a good baby. I plan to start her on Pablum and vegetables this week— remember how excited we were with Peter when he started on them? I hope she will take to it—

Peter's new teeth on the upper rim are now coming in. Doc wants to see him so I've got an appointment for April 3d— just think he's booked ahead that far. He now takes appointments you know. Dickie was sick last week with a cold, but is ok. now.

This is all for now, everyday we pray that peace will come soon, and you and all the others can come home safely — please take care of yourself, dear.

Love,

Heiko

P.S. am @ p.o. Just rec'd your letter of March 14th. Yes, I got one bond from you - dated Jan 1st, guess I'll get them regularly from now on.

Just heard from Alice too - they are anticipating your visit with them. Have a grand time, honey —