

May 9, 1945

Dearest Hiro,

VE day has come, and we are wondering where you are, and hope and pray all is well with you and the boys. I remember your saying that you would have a thanksgiving service— I can imagine what a relief it is to all of you, to not have to fight any more, and now look forward to coming home.

Here in the Islands, we worked as usual yesterday— things were very quiet. I think everyone realizes that the war isn't really over yet— when we are so close to the Pacific phase of the war— so that celebration was out of the question.

On Monday the 7th, Michiko called me up about 6:30 a.m. I wondered what was the matter and she said turn on the radio, which I did. We then listened to both CBS and NBC broadcasting about the surrender— and all day long the radios brought news from all over the world. Since they said that the President would make a formal statement the next day, most of us still couldn't fully believe the news— but it was wonderful nevertheless. I went to work as usual— and took Helene Morgan to lunch at the Pleasanton Hotel. She is no longer with the Red Cross, and is doing medical social work at Leahi. Then dropped in to see Al Young. Obachan had called her up for me to come home, as Kitty Rigby (of Portland)'s husband, Douglas Wight had just come, so I dashed home. He is in the Navy, I had never met him before. He is a very nice person. Martin was still here, so Obachan had made lunch for the two, and they had a nice time chatting. I then took him back to his station— Martin left about 5 with his driver. That night I wrote to Kamejiu and enclosed some money for Obachan for Mother's Day from you and me— and sent her some new snapshots of the children. Obachan had sent Peter some defense stamps for his birthday— so Peter wrote to her too. I also sent the answer to the Central Pacific Base Command about army quarters on a post. After thinking it over, I decided not to ask for quarters, as I don't know about your plans, and if I can rent a house outside, I would prefer to— don't you think it is better that way? As long as you get your rental allowance, it will be better that way. I received a letter from Dollar that day— dated 4/29. He said he had seen you near Carrara — and that you were busy and well. He was in officers training school— He said not to worry about you and the mademoiselles over there, as you had to set an example—

Yesterday was officially VE day. The president broadcast his proclamation about 3:30 a.m. our time, but I listened to the rebroadcast later in the morning. We heard the news from all over the world— London, Paris, etc. It must have been a great day of celebration over there in Europe for all the peoples — I worked as usual. Even had a special case in Aiea at 4:30 I had to go to. Then in the evening, picked up the Iguchi girls, and Peter went too, and we went to a Thanksgiving service at 7 at our church. Kats had a short, simple, nice service. It was hard to say anything to the Iguchis knowing that Tani will not come back now— Mrs. Iguchi even came out to the car to say how happy she was for me that you would be coming home now, and my words just stuck in my throat, as I couldn't say anything to her.

This Sunday night we will have a special Thanksgiving service at church. It will be Mother's Day too—

It still seems almost like a dream, dear, that it is over over there for all of you. Now we are waiting for that wonderful day when you will be coming home. I presume the problem of figuring out priorities for men coming home will be a big one, but just the knowledge that you will be safe from now on, is such a relief to us all. I already feel as if a big load has come off my shoulders, and thank God that he has seen fit to keep you safe and sound—

We will have so much to make up and do together, dear— Peter is all agog. He wanted to buy a bond yesterday in celebration, so we did— for you. Jane of course doesn't know what's going on— but you will love her— Obachan sends her love too. Please write—

Love,
Hiroko