

November 18, 1944

Dearest Hiro,

With the news of Gen. Eisenhower's big drive that started this week, I guess all of you must be pretty busy. Still I'm so thankful you're where you are, and not in Holland or some other place where things are popping fast. According to the papers your group is fighting in the Vosges hills, so I suppose by now you're having some snow. I hope the raincoat I sent you will reach you before spring comes around, but then I suppose it rains constantly there, and it should keep you warm anyways.

We too live in hopes and prayers that the war will end today— but I can imagine how much more your boys live for that day — it all seems to be so useless and horrible. Mrs. Tsugawa got word from the war dept. that Mits was slightly wounded on Oct. 18. She was so thankful that it was just slight, and that you have been so good to Mits. I also heard yesterday that the family of Takamatsu Maeda just got word of his injuries too. Also Mr. Yoneda's sister's husband, Yozo Yamamoto, we understand was wounded seriously, for the second time at that. His wife works at a beauty shop in Honolulu. Do you ever see "Blackie", and how has he been behaving. Yes, the casualty notices are now coming in all the time. In Aiea, Kuroda, Hanano, Yamamoto— so far no recent deaths in Waipahu though. It must be tough for you to see the boys you know so well going through these hardships, but I know that you're helping them a lot.

I last wrote you on Thursday the 16th. I went shopping in Waipahu that day. Mr. Oshiro of Maruyasu gave me some fish, and we had sashimi for supper, which was so good. I also bought a jar of umeboshi there, and it came from Denver of all places. An 8 oz. jar costs 62 cents— its made out of apricots, and its very good. However, I think our homemade kind we make here out of plums, shiso, salt and lemon juice is even better, but its hard to get shiso now with so many people making it too. The company that makes the ume and other Japanese products is the Hana company. Am wondering if Wes Oyama has a finger in it— as you know him— his dad is very smart and can concoct new recipes I think Babe sent you some ume for Ymas, so I hope some day you'll have a ochazuke feast. Then Toku Takeda dropped in. She is the former Toku Yoshizawa, Dr. Y's daughter. Her husband was the Buddhist priest that died, and now she is supporting her 3 children as a social worker for DPW. She certainly has a wonderful spirit, and is a fine example of courage for any young widow, working so hard. I hadn't seen her for ages— she brought me some grand Jonathan apples which just came in. As it was just before lunch, she stayed and had a sandwich with us. She was glad to hear about Masami Yamato and Toshi Anzai as she knows both of their wives. I must send some prints of the pictures you sent me to their wives. No one has heard from either of them as far as I know— Jiro said the last he heard from Yamato he wrote from a Replacement Center— but of course didn't know whether it was still in Italy or in the States. As for Anzai, he hasn't written to me yet— and I don't think he's back yet. Incidentally Mrs. Goya, the pork peddler, hopes her son will be home by Ymas. She is so happy but I hope his wounds haven't incapacitated him. After lunch, I went to Pearl City to meet my club there.

Friday I cleaned the house— then went to Aiea to my club there. Then Kozo Yoneda came over to play with Peter and stayed for supper with us. I went with Joan and Horace to see Maj. Maurice Evans in "Hamlet" at Roosevelt high school. It was certainly well done— Horace took as his guests myself, Choy Leong, one of the art teachers at Waipahu High who is a good friend of theirs, and Bob Cruzon, the sailor. Also in the car were Betty Katano and Steve Hirotsu's sister, who is a junior at the Univ. She said her mother appreciated so much hearing about Steve from you. Also Horace said he had received your letter to him dated Nov. 3d, and they all wonder at your keeping up your correspondence— even to Teddy and Mavis and the others.

It was so nice of Horace and Joan to take me— everyone is so grand to us. Did I tell you about the "Mail Call"— a news sheet put up by the YMD? They are financing it out of their own pockets, and it is really good. Each one of you

will get a copy monthly. Horace said they sent out about 125 copies this month, and the number is going up, as the boys get drafted. I think the Waipahu boys will get a lot of enjoyment out of it.

Mr. Murakoshi was at the play last night with Mae. They are quite lonesome since Henry has left. It is tough on small families like theirs. They are carrying on with the business. There were 19 folks from Waipahu who went in to the play.

Today I just took my car up to be serviced. Mr. Mikami drove me back. He's so tickled at the prospect of becoming a papa next spring. So we kid him and tell him we hope its twins or triplets to make up for lost time!

Peter, Dickie and Kozo are going to Waipahu pretty soon on the bus to see "Hitler's Gang"— Grace is going to drive them up to the corner. Peter is growing so much. I must have been exaggerating when I said he was five feet tall, I meant four feet. He's going to be a killer diller too I think— has such nice features, and I suppose we'll start getting phone calls from love-sick gals pretty soon! Jane is such a darling. She is such a poly poly active baby. She just loves to look at your picture and talk to you in her baby language— we have lots of fun with her— especially when we let her crawl all over the parlor floor. She goes lickety split all over the place.

Tomorrow at Church, Chaplain Weaver, who is near the church will speak, as Kats is going to help install Rev. Allan Hackett the new minister at Central Union. Rev. Hackett is a young fellow, and seems very nice— his wife is very nice. They're from Connecticut.

We had quite a scare last night— an air raid alarm of 99 minutes from about 11 to 12:30 a.m. Some unidentified planes came near, and the anti-aircraft guns went off at them for a time, with searchlights, etc. Later they were identified as friendly, but it was the first time since Pearl Harbor the guns went off like that. Peter slept through it all and was mad we didn't waken him up! Jane was wide awake and insisted on staying up till almost 1 a.m. as I think she was scared of the dark, as of course we had to completely black out.

Peter wrote the enclosed letter for you. It certainly is a hodge podge of ideas. He started it a few days ago, and finally finished it this morning. Thus the contents are mixed up to say the least.

About the gov'n't check -- I think I got them all right. I got one in the form of money order from you APO 464 on 6/20/44 for \$80.00. Then on 8/17/44, I got a gov'n't check from the finance office for \$80.00, and on 10/11/44, I got another gov'n't check for \$80.00. Your allotment has been coming in regularly, and please don't worry about finances as we're getting along all right. Your allotment and my work check just helps us to break even.

So far I received only one doll for Jane from you. It was a cute one with braids and a bonnet and lovely dress— we have it on the piano by the soldier doll Peter got for Xmas last year.

Peter wants to start a stamp collection, cause Dickie has one. So will you send him some foreign stamps as you come across them. I think it'll become a good hobby for him, don't you?

Don't worry about our being evacuated, as I don't think it will be done soon. Recently they tried to oust the guests at the Brookland Hotel in town as they wanted to bring some Coast Guard women here to be housed there, but the hotel guest protested, and they made other plans. So I think they realize how acute the housing situation is here, and we hope at least they won't oust family groups like us. Anyways I'll keep you in touch if I do get any notices.

Please take care of yourself, dear. We keep praying for you each day— and imagining that you're coming in our front door. What a lot of things we'll do then— there is so much to make up for— and we miss you so much. Love, *Hiako*