2014 Blake St.
Berkeley, California
January 16, 1941

Mrs. D.S. Thomas
2710 Garber Street
Berkeley, California.

Dear Mrs. Thomas:

For your several letters of the past week, may I express thanks. Your deep and sincere interest to see that arrangements may be made is deeply appreciated. We will do our best to see that we will live up to the terms of the agreement and see that you will not be disappointed in my mother's services. Of course we do want you to remember, however, that she is not an old hand at this sort of thing and until she gets the real "hang" of it you may have to give this point some consideration.

Of the various plans you kindly proposed, my mother feels that the last one (2 hrs. daily) would be the most convenient and to her liking. Since you also mentioned, I believe, that this plan would be preferable to yourself , I trust that the arrangements can be made to come out to the satisfaction of both parties concerned.

The schedule which you requested in the last letter is as follows: 2 hrs each day from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. There is a possibility of my mother obtaining an all day job one day every two weeks with another party. If this should happen I wonder if arrangements can be made to spread one 2 hr. day work over the two week period so that she may go to this other job. As I said, this is still pending and there's nothing definite about the matter. Of course if this should inconvenience you we will see that the situation be remedied.

Trusting that we will mutually have "smooth sailing",

Very Sincerely yours,

Yukio & Hannah Kawamoto

March 10, 1942

Dear Mrs. Thomas:

Today is my 14th day in the Army and I am anxiously waiting for them to send me to my permanent station if they ever are. I'm beginning to wonder. There are 16 of us remaining. From time to time we have been "losing" our men. First sixty or so then a dozen or ½ dozen men from day to day.

During these fourteen days I have experienced all sorts of things. I've done K.P. (kitchen police; cooks' help) both night and day shift (either shift requires 12 to 14 hrs.), pick & shovel detail, hauled various things on Army Trucks, cleaned up stables, examination halls, reception rooms, mowed a lawn, pitched hay, picked up cigarette butts, washed a truck with hose & broom, made beds three different ways depending on the day when they are specified, laundered my clothing and various other things. Despite that, however, as far as getting along I've been doing quite well. All the fellows are ~~nice~~ swell and we get along. We all have a

common quality in that we all feel "we're all in the same boat so let's make the best of it" attitude. Perhaps this is what makes ~~me~~ the ~~gang~~ function. It's not exactly the most desirable ~~sort~~ type of life one would like to lead. Of course there is also one other small matter of the possibility of Court Martial too.

Most of this work detail I have described have come just about in the "middle" of my stay here. It is this period when some of the boys have left and get a pretty good bunch are still remaining in idleness when they work us. Those who leave early of course get out of it. We are worked for three or four days consecutively until some new recruits come in and they replace us. Also we are losing men from day to day and our working manpower becomes limited. This is our present status and so for the last two days we've had ½ day of drill & calisthenic exercises only. This at least is my theory. Maybe I'm wrong and we're in for more work tomorrow. I don't know. Whatever it is I certainly would

lidy to get to my permanent station. There, we may have to work hard in our basic training but it will be constructive effort. Here we are mere "work horses" for nothing. ~~day~~ Last week I had an interview with a lieutenant ~~regarding~~ ~~my~~ attitude towards the war. Particularly in regards to Japan. The ones interviewed were those with Japanese names and one of two Germans and Italians of uncertain nature. He was a former U.C. man himself and was very nice about it. I asked him how I did in the I.Q. exams and he told me I did rather well. Since I had applied for the ground crew of the Air Corps, I asked him my chances. He told me that hardly we nisei were on the spot and therefore not to hold to highly a hope. By the way, please do not tell my mom I applied for the Air Corps. It's the ground crew so its safe anyway but you know how mothers are. Furthermore I probably won't be accepted anyway. It would save unnecessary anxiety.

(4)

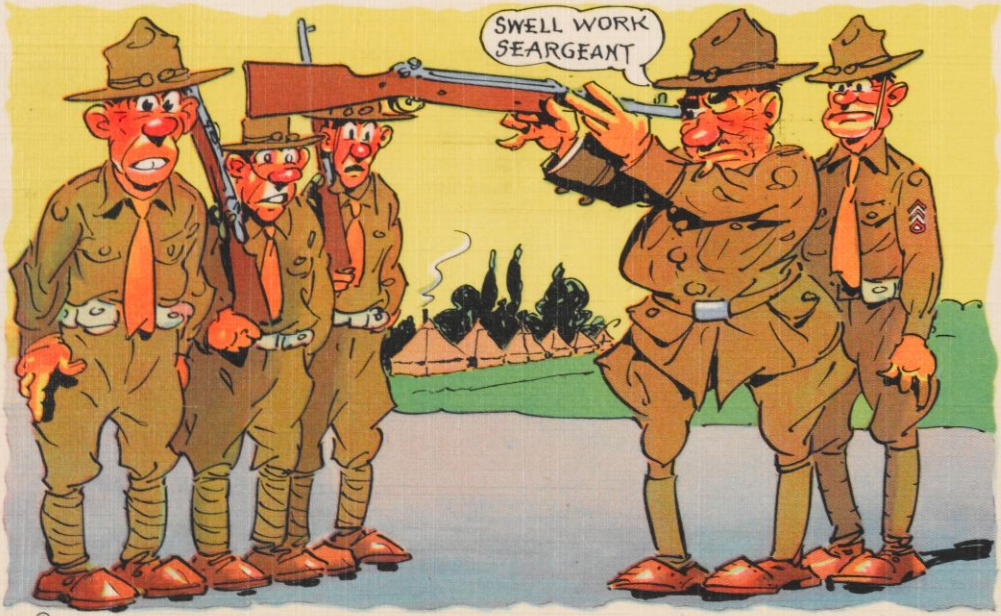
I received a letter from home today stating that in case of evacuation you would store my belongings for the duration. It certainly was a magnificent gesture on your part and I appreciate it very much. I haven't got anything of real value but I'm one of those sentimental types who hates to part with text books I've used, term reports, odds & ends, pictures, scrap books etc. Of minor value as they are, they nevertheless would have taken much valuable space when my folks packed. The relief of this burden would certainly help them and I'm sure they are very grateful also. I don't know how I can ever thank you for all you've done for us, but some day if it's humanly possible I shall do so. If that day ever comes —— perhaps it will end with my verbal thanks only.

Thanking you again,

Very Sincerely

Pvt Yukio Kawamoto

Best regards to your husband.



Pvt Y. Kawamoto
1st Platoon
Co. C66 Bn
14th Trg Regt.
Camp Joe. T. Robinson
Arkansas.

March 17, 1942

LITTLE ROCK
MAR 18
12 M
1942
ARK.

Dear Mrs. Thomas

I finally reached my destination yesterday morning and found myself 2500 miles from home + good ol Calif in a camp near Little Rock, Arkansas.

I'm getting along quite well and feeling fine despite a few bumps from the long train ride. The people out here are very nice to us. I hope things aren't too bad at home.

Yukio

C. T. ARMY COMICS—10 SUBJECTS

GENUINE CURTEICH-CHICAGO "C.T. ART-COLORTONE" POST CARD (REG. U.S. PAT. OFF.)

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
INDUSTRY AGRICULTURE
FOR DEFENSE
POSTAGE 1 CENT

POST CARD

Dr. D. S. Thomas
2710 Garber
Berkeley, Calif.

THE SEASON'S GREETINGS

12/21/42

Dear Mrs. Thomas:

Another year is about to pass away and we are about to greet another holiday season. It has been quite a year too, hasn't it? Many people have gone through a "life time" of experiences I suppose. I for one can say that this year was ~~not~~ spent in any way but the usual normal routine. Since my return here to camp I have been even busier than before. The fact that I have now been classified into a higher section hasn't helped things either.

I hope this card finds ~~everything~~ you and your husband in the best of health and spirits. May the new year bring

you much joy and lets hope that by next Christmas will be able to observe a normal one once again.

Always

Yukio

tissue copied

April 26, 1942
Sunday

Dear Mrs. Thomas:

I thank you very much for your interesting and informative letter. By the way and strangely enough I sent you a souvenir "key" thermometer a few days prior to receiving your letter. Did you receive it yet?? It's not much but it may serve to cover up a spot on the wall or something.

Your emphasis on the newness of the evacuation problem to the authorities in charge and the necessity of difficulties and rough riding until things become more familiar to them and the kinks etc. ironed out as well as the sympathy and social mindedness of those who are taking part impressed me very much. Sister, it made me realize more fully the problems involved if I were to be confronted in conducting such a task — particularly with the limited time available. I'll do my best to convince my mother of the necessity of many seemingly unnecessarily burdening regulations, orders etc. The trouble is I have no direct contact with her at the moment. I am not allowed to write or receive letters in Japanese. I write home in English and the lady Doyonatsu who is a nisei translates them to her. Sometimes she writes to me for my Mom, consequently it's not as easy as when I can set

direct contact with her.

I am now in my training finally and will begin my third week tomorrow. We are quite occupied and are constantly on the "go" from 5:45 a.m. till 6:30 p.m. or so. The remaining few hours in the evening are usually consumed in cleaning our various equipment as well as ourselves from the Friday's dust. I find difficulty in just getting out one letter a night. I usually write home and Freno every other night. I leave it to you as to why I write Freno.

Our training has been intensive and hardly possible to describe fully. We receive instruction in various ways. We see demonstrations, hear lectures, see movies, and then actually practice them in various forms of drills. In a way, it's like school but more practical. We have been primarily concerned with the rifle, its care and nomenclature, various positions for firing, sighting and aiming, bayonet position, and manipulations and gas attack drills including experience of actual gas in a gas chamber.

The training is rough more strenuous than the special detail work we were previously doing. I don't mind it as much however, for I feel that I'm a soldier. Furthermore, I kind of like it for my progress has been good. Perhaps, it's due to my youth and body build but I'm much more agile than a number of the rest of the company who are men in

(2) thru late twenties or thirties. Further, a lot of them have potund and awkward body builds. Finally, I never saw so many thick skulled, stubbornness and ignorance. I think the members of the last company were much more intelligent and alert as a whole. I guess what the professors used to tell us at school is true. Namely, "Dumb as your students are, you are the upper 10% of the intelligencia of the nation."

In my last letter to you, I wrote that there was no discrimination with the niggers here. It is true in so far as the basic training period is concerned. It is not true from that period on. At least it doesn't seem so. Many of the niggers of the last company are still in this camp though attached to different headquarters. They are on special detail, truck driving or some other similar detail. Some of them have come back ~~and~~ to our company area to visit us from time to time and they are pretty disgusted. They tell my that the Colonel himself told them that they will be doing what they are presently doing for the duration and so advised them to ~~get~~ start getting used to it. They feel disgusted for they did well in their training and showed their willingness in every way despite the situation back home. What hurts them most probably is the fact that they

are not trusted and that the govt has no faith in them. They become more and more conscious of their racial line. ~~and that it's a shame~~

It's a strange situation, isn't it? The niggs complaining of not being placed in combat units whereas there are innumerable white Americans here who would give plenty to avoid combat duty or better still secure a discharge as some niggs have ~~[illegible]~~ had to accept.

Getting back to the record of the niggs I might mention that the only expert rifleman of the last company was a negro. He is now driving a truck around camp. Furthermore, the best record of this camp is held by a negro who scored 198 pts. out of a possible 200. So it goes —

I am looking forward to that report of Pres. Truman. I hope it will not inconvenience you too much.

I do not have an extra group of the group snapshot in front of the fort on hand. I can get a hold of the negative I believe and will send one to you as soon as I can.

I have been informed from U.C. that I will receive my diploma in May. I do not need to finish my correspondence course. I believe the text is with my other ~~books~~ belongings with you. I have been suggested to return it. I will write home to have one of my friends pick it up for me. So will you please the favor of handing it to him (when) I believe it merely has to be turned in at the rental desk of the R.B.R. Thanks again for your letter, Yours

Mr Neustadt -
This is from a boy at Camp Robinson, Ark. -
DSG

COPY

April 26, 1942
Sunday

Dear Mrs. Thomas:

Thank you very much for your interesting and informative letter. By the way and strangely enough I sent you a souvenier "key" thermometer a few days prior to receiving your letter. Did you receive it yet? It's not much but it may serve to cover up a spot on the wall or something.

Your emphasis on the newness of the evacuation problem to the authorities in charge and the necessity of difficulties and rough riding until things become more familiar to them and the kinks etc. taken out as well as the honesty and social mindedness of those who are taking part impressed me very much. Further, it made me realize more fully the problems involved if I were to be confronted in executing such a task -- particularly with the limited time available. I'll do my best to convince my mother of the necessity of many seemingly unnecessarily burdening regulations, orders etc.. The trouble is I have no direct contact with her at the moment. I am not allowed to write or receive letters in Japanese. I write home in English and the lady downstairs who is a nisei (C) translates them to her. She also writes to me for my Mom. Consequently it's not as easy as when I can get direct contact with her.

I am now in my training finally and will begin my third week tomorrow. We are quite occupied and are constantly on the "go" from 5:45 a.m. till 6:30 p.m. or so. The remaining few hours in the evening are usually conserved in cleaning our various equipment as well as ourselves from the Arkansas dust. I find difficulty in just getting out one letter a night. I usually write home and Fresno every other night. I leave it to you as to why I write Fresno.

Our training has been intensive and hardly possible to describe fully. We receive instructions in various ways. We see demonstrations, hear lectures, see movies, and then actually practice them in various forms of drills. In a way, it's like school, but more practical. We have been primarily concerned with the rifle; its parts and nomenclature, various positions for firing, sighting and aiming, bayonet positions, and manipulations, and gas attack drills including experience of actual gas in a gas chamber.

The training is much more strenuous than the special detail work we were previously doing. I don't mind it as much, however, for I feel that I'm a soldier. Furthermore, I kind of like it for my progress has been good. Perhaps it's due to my youth and body build, for I'm much more agile than a number of the rest of the company who are men in their late twenties or thirties. Further, a lot of them have rotund and awkward body builds. Fianlly, I never saw so many thick skulled rookies and ignoramuses. I think the members of the last company were much more intelligent and alert as a whole. I guess what the professors used to tell us at school is true. Namely, "dumb as you students are, you are the upper 10% of the intelligencia of the nation".

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similar detail. Some of them have come back to our company area to visit us from time to time and they are pretty disgusted. They tell me that the colonel himself told them that they will be doing what they are presently doing for the duration and so advised them to start getting used to it. They feel disgusted for they did well in their training and showed their willingness in every way despite the situation back home. What hurts them most probably is the fact that they are not trusted and that the gov't has no faith in them. They become more and more conscious of their racial line.

It's a strange situation, isn't it? The nisei complains of not being placed in combat units whereas there are innumerable white Americans here who would give plenty to avoid combat duty or better still secure a discharge as some nisei have had to accept.

Getting back to the record of the nisei I might mention that the only expert rifleman of the last company was a nisei. He is now driving a truck around camp. Furthermore, the past record of this camp is held by a nisei who scored 198 pts out of a possible 200. So it goes.

I am looking forward to that report of President Sproul's. I hope it will not be inconvenient for you.

I do not have an extra snap of the group snapshot in front of the tent on hand. I can get a hold of the negative I believe and will send one to you as soon as I can.

I have been informed from U.C. that I will receive my diploma in May. I do not need to finish my correspondence course. I believe the text is with my other belongings with you. I have been requested to return it. I will write home to have one of my friends pick it up for me so will you do me the favor of handing it to him (or her). I believe it merely has to be turned in at the rental desk of the RER. Htanks again for your letter,

Yukio

COPY

LETTER

Yukio Kawamoto
Camp Robinson, U. S. Army

May 17, 1942

May 17, 1942

CAMP JOSEPH T. ROBINSON, ARKANSAS

Dear Dr. Thomas:

Thank you very much for the interesting letters and plans of President Sproul. They are highly encouraging although just how far they will materialize Iim rather dubious. Nevertheless, as I've already mentioned they are encougaging. Needless to say, much whole hearted efforts are deeply appreciated by we nisei. Actions like this and people like you gives us the added hope and faith which I hope will carry us through.

I wrote mother of the nature of your trip to New York and your inability to see her off. I'm sure she understands. She knows your kindness is not superficial and deeply appreciates it. She wrote me to thank you for all you've done. Did I? Or haven't I gotten around to it? If not, I do so officially right now. Thank you very much Mrs. Thomas on behalf or my folks and myself too.

According to the letters I've been receiving, lige at Tanforan isn't exactly a "bed of roses". The people are making the best of the situation with good spirits however, and looking forward to the improvement of facilities which seem to be taking place daily. Although she didn't mention it I would guess that Mom is having her greatest difficulty in the food and the rest rooms. She didn't eat too much at home anyway but she ate next to nothing before public gatherings. Besides, she only eats certain oriental dishes with any resemblance of an appetite.

As for the rest rooms, she certainly must be constipated now for she wasn't very regular in her habits even at home. I remember well how she'd prefer to go constipated for a few days rather than use outhouses on camping trips, etc.

I guess in a matter of time she'll become accustomed to this new camp life, but it is rather trying until that time I'd guess. I found it so in the Army. Adjusting oneself from civilian to military routine isn't easy at the beginning either. In fact I'm not sure that I'm fully adjusted even now.

As for myself, I'll be on my sixth week of training this week. It won't be long now and in a way I'm glad for we're been getting a lot of hikes with full field equipment lately including on night operations' hike in a pouring rain. Furthermore, I'll know more definitely what branch of the service I'll be assigned. It may also mean that I'll be eligible for a furlough after that date.

Hoping to hear the latest official "dope" of matters of interest to me and of personal news to yourself.

Sincerely,
(signed) Yukio Kawamoto

Enclosed: Snap you requested.

COPY

POST CARD

Yukio Kawamoto
Camp Robinson, U. S. Army

May 21, 1942

May 21, 1942

Dear Mrs. Thomas:

Just a card to inform you that I received a word of "advice" from my mom concerning your contemplated visit.

She has written that visitors are not allowed on the grounds. The only means of contact is a few words at the gates of the camp. It certainly strikes grim, doesn't it? Concentration camp?

I might also inform you that my training here may be completed sooner than the full 8 weeks. A group of men are going to leave this Sat. (5/23). Another on the 1st of June. Myself? I don't know yet.

Sincerely,

(signed) Yukio

May 23,1942

Dear Yukio,

I was glad to get your letter, and thanks for the snapshot. Was your girl friend evacuated from Fresno? My assistant was down at the Fresno evacuation, and said the whole setup there is the best she has seen anywhere.

I went to Tanforan on Thursday to see Shibutani and Najima. I did not try to get inside, as I didn't want to raise too many questions. Visitors can, however, go out on the balcony and get a birds eye view. It was a terribly windy day, and the dust was terrific. One's face was black in a few minutes, and I actually got an eye infection due to dust under the lid. I certainly pitied the poor people who had their laundry hanging on the lines! Reports from the students confirm the impression you got from your parents. The food was lousy in the beginning but is improving. They fed the Issei sauerkraut the first week and are just now getting a sufficient supply of rice. I happen to be German descent(fourth generation, so I guess I am safe!) yet I have never been able to eat sauerkraut. I can imagine what a shock it must be to people used to oriental or even ordinary American food. Also the lack of privacy and the primitive toilet arrangements were unquestionably disturbing. Things will naturally be much, much better in the Relocation Centers(You understand that the Assembly Centers are temporary) but the beginnings there will be hard, too.

So far there seem to be no great difficulties about visting provided one does not want to get inside the general setup. So willyou please send me your mother's exact address, as it is necessary to write in advance if one wishes to be sure to find the people: visiting is limited to one hour, and ~~xxxxx~~ out of this hour is taken the time to locate the person. Also, they seem to have no alphabetical register, so it is almost impossible to see anyone unless the exact address is known and unless the person has been informed of the intention to visit. Please tell me what your mother would like me to bring her. Is there any sort of food she particularly likes that I could take in a carton, e.g. from a Chinese restaurant? I will appreciate your advice, for I should like to take her some small present, and it would be nicer if it were something she was really longing for. I hope to heaven they dont tighten up on restrictions before I have a chance to see her. Now that I have been there once and know the ropes, I hope to get up relatively frequently to see some of my students who are, naturally feeling pretty isolated. I think the intellectual Nisei are taking it hardest, which is easy to understand.

I enclose a statement which may interest you. I am on that Committee. Also, I got some money for my research.

Best wishes. Sincerely yours,

COPY

LETTER

Yukio Kawamoto
Camp Robinson, U. S. Army

May 27, 1942

May 27, 1942

Camp Joseph T. Robinson, Arkansas

Dear Mrs. Thomas:

Received your air mail letter concerning a contemplated visit to my parents. I want to answer you immediately but unfortunately I was on guard duty and I could not be releived for 24 hrs. Here I am back now and attempting to make that reply.

I can easily give you the answer to the 1st. question. Her address is: Barrack 8, Apt. 47 (it's in the horse stall section I understand).

As for the second question, however, it will take some time for I would have to contact my mom first for an answer. I do believe, however, that she might not request anything (oriental modesty, politeness). I do believe that she would appreciate almost any oriental dish, however, and no doubt you could not go wrong. I might suggest that she likes egg omelet (Fuyo-ha), greens (vegetable dish), bean curd (tofu), etc. As for occidental foods, I'm not sure but I know definitely that she has a marked weakness for olives.

Whether you will be successful in your visit or not, I'm not sure.. I will be deeply grateful for all you are doing nevertheless. I'm sure Mon too will be very happy to see you again. If your gift scheme works out, she'll probably be overwhelmed.

Keeping my fingers crossed,

Sincerely,

Yukio

P.S. Thank you for the bulletin. Glad to hear your financial trip was successful, you deserve it.

June 6,1942

Dear Yukio,

I saw your mother and father and "Marie?" on Tuesday, and we had a real family reunion. Your mother has kept her sense of humor, and I thought, on the whole, all of them looked pretty well and were keeping cheerful under difficult circumstances.

Fortunately, your mother did write to me and told me what she wanted. So I didn't have to carry an omelet with me (which, to tell the truth, I was getting cold feet about!) but took some eggs, which apparently they miss more than anything, some candy and some cookies, all of which she had asked for, and , remembering your hint, I added some olives.

I hope transfer to Relocation Centers will not be postponed too long. Little can be done at the Assembly Centers. Most people just sit around, and that doesn't lead to a very healthful state of mind. In the Relocation Centers, they will feel that they are really getting somewhere in building up a community which will be their home for the duration. Furthermore, the Relocation Authority is trying very hard to get good administrators .

I am setting up a study and research group in sociology at Tule Lake, and the army is moving four of my Nisei assistants up there immediately. They are Tom Shibutani, James Sakoda, Frank Miyamoto(from Seattle) and Haruo Najima.

I have to go to Tanforan on business almost every week, and so will see your parents soon again, I hope.

Last night Dr. and Mrs. Yanaga came to our house to dinner. He is working for the government and therefore is not subject to evacuation, curfew, etc. However, the whole group is being transferred to Denver or Boulder Colorado next week. Dr. Yanaga sent you his greetings.

Let me hear from you.

Sincerely,

provided. Use typewriter, dark ink, or pencil. Write plainly. Very small writing is not suitable.

No.

(CENSOR'S STAMP)

Dr. D.S. Thomas
2710 Garber
Berkeley, California

#39090824
Sgt. Yukio Kawamoto
(Sender's name)
Hqs.-#USAFISPA
(Sender's address)
A.P.O. 502 % PM
San Francisco, Calif.
29 October 43
(Date)

Dear Mrs. Thomas:

Just a few lines only to inform you of my change of address and my safe arrival to my present station. We had a smooth trip and our bunch was pretty fortunate in getting pretty nice accomodations and treatment all the way. To my surprise and satisfaction too I discovered I had pretty good savage and came through the entire trip without a sick day.

Can't say too much of anything anymore and I will be limited to a "how are you, I am fine" type of letters from now on but I hope you will bear with me. I hope this will not discourage you from writing in detail about matters back home, your project, and things in general for I shall be looking forward to them more than ever now.

Conditions out here in this "somewhere in the So. Pacific" station are naturally not the best but it can be worse. Mosquitoes are bad but fortunately not of the malarial type. It's quite warm here already and I don't look forward to going thru two summers in one year but I guess I'll have to. I trust everything is well with you and Mr. W.I. My regards to him and others.

Sincerely, Yukio

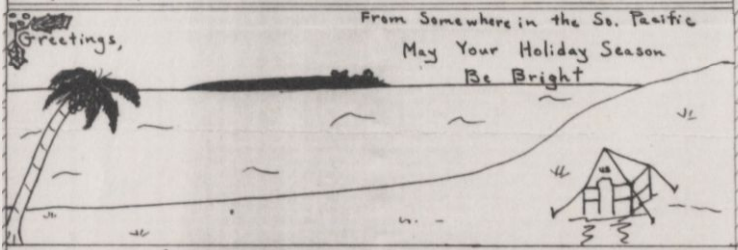
Print the complete address in plain block letters in the panel below, and your return address in the space provided.

No. _____

(CENSOR'S STAMP)

To
Dr. D.S. Thomas
2710 Garber
Berkeley, California

From #39090824
Sgt. Yukio Kawamoto
(Sender's name)
Hq. – USAFISPA APO 502
% Postmaster
San Francisco, Calif.
(Street and number or place of mailing)
6 Dec. 43
(Date)



Dear Mrs. Thomas:

Here's wishing you and Dr. W.S. the very best of Holiday Cheer!

I trust that you are both in the best of health and are busily at your research and studies as this festive season approaches.

The weather and atmosphere of this area can hardly be considered appropriate for this season. Nevertheless the very fact that I am sending this would indicate that I am aware of it.

P.S. Will be in an area where things shouldn't be dull, shortly.

With best wishes,
Yukio

V-MAIL

☆ U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE : 1943 28—25162-2

June 18, 1942

Dear Mr. Thomas:

This is Yukio again but from a different camp. We left Camp Robinson on the 16th and arrived here on the same day but late in the night. In short, I am readjusting myself to my new surroundings wondering what we will be doing, etc.

I am living in barracks here and there are 59 other nisei soldiers living in the same barrack with me. We all came together from Robinson. There are a lot of other nisei already here and who have been here for several months now. From what they've told me and from what I've observed, we're the "handy man" around this camp doing various odd jobs.

(Pause)

I am continuing this letter again after getting a slight taste of my new duties. I now have a temporary job of clerk at the Guest House (where relatives of enlisted men stay while visiting them) and its duties are to be somewhat of a hotel clerk and handyman (I help ~~the other~~ another fellow who's duty is somewhat that of a chambermaid). Insignificant as the job is, it's one of the better ones and I think I should consider myself as lucky. It at least relieves me of K.P. duty and the other odd details that the unassigned men must do as landscape beautification, clean up jobs of various sorts [furnace, various bldgs, etc], etc.

The Camp itself is located too far from anywhere and we feel very isolated. There is a small town called Neosho not too far away but it is one of those 1 horse town affairs; I'll be more generous and call it a two-horse town. At any rate, the closest city that can be called a city at all is Springfield and it too is but a town of Stockton's size or so. This place is 73 miles away

and costs $2.25 round trip for bus fare let alone the fact that a pass is necessary to leave camp. So top this (camp already in the styx) our outfit is located in an isolated section of the camp proper. In short, we are in the styx of an already styx camp.

~~The camp is on flat lands and~~

Perhaps I may be ~~prejudiced~~ overgloomy in my opinion of the camp due to my unfamiliarity with it as yet. I know I felt somewhat the same way when I first got into Camp Robinson. After becoming accustomed to it, it wasn't so bad. In fact, now that I'm here I feel rather ashamed for being so caustic in my remarks of it while I was there. One thing that I can definitely say for the better here is the manner in which things are done here. Most of the things are done in easy going style and the non-coms do not yell at us here as they did at Robinson. Perhaps it was because we were in training. Just why I'm not sure but they certainly "rode us" roughly there.

I received a letter from mom telling me of your visit and all the delicacies you brought them. It was certainly nice of you and I appreciate it very much. By the way I got the box of chocolates. I got it the night before I left Robinson and they certainly came in handy. Consumption of candy, cookies, etc. in the Army is amazingly high speed. Open the box and pff — where's the box? It still was good while it lasted. Thank you very much.

I will write again after I become more familiar with my "new home" and routine here. Meanwhile, a letter from you would be most welcome as they always have been and always will. Sincerely,

Yukio

I got through with all this cleaning up, it was 2 to 2:30 a.m. I then tried to get a few winks of sleep on the sofa in the lobby and I was usually tired enough to get them. This certainly wasn't good for the pres in my khaki uniform either (neither was it good to work in them; usually we work in "fatigue-clothes" but inasmuch as I am clerk, I had to wear my sun-tans) Around 5 a.m. I usually went around awakening soldiers (sleeping with their wives) so that they could get to their respective companies for reveille (this practice was abolished short time later). At 6 a.m. I left for my barracks about a mile's walk away. After reaching there I had my breakfast and then went to sleep (tried to sleep). I didn't succeed in getting very much however due to the noise, flies (this country is worse than horse stables in this respect), and lack of habit in sleeping day time.

After a week's ordeal of this routine, I went on the 1 p.m. to 9 p.m. schedule. In this particular shift, I cleaned out rooms, changed linen, and made beds during the afternoon and took charge of the desk after ~~the~~ 5 p.m. This too wasn't too much to my liking but I thought it was better than the night shift.

Tomorrow, I am ~~was~~ to change shifts again but we got a housekeeper now and a new schedule and system is to be made. I don't know just what will be the result but I hope it's for the better. I do believe that the housekeeper will take charge of the desk more, however, leaving us primarily for the janitorial work.

Unpleasant as my new duties are, I am trying to face the situation as cheerfully as possible for I do realize that there are fellows "over there" who are going through hell and nightmare. There is no doubt that we are going through trivial strain in comparison to those in combat. ~~yet I guess~~ However I guess it's my pride that bothers me. This experience may do a world of good to a fellow who has been leading too sheltered a life for too long a period ~~lately~~. What do you think?

When we moved over here, I had a terrible time packing and carrying my barracks bag due to ~~the~~ excess miscellaneous articles I've accumulated or had sent to me. I've learned a lesson and I'm going to be prepared to travel light from now on. I am sending home some of these articles. I am sending a book over to your address. I would appreciate it very much if you would place it with my other belongings. By doing so, I hope I am not burdening you too much. Thank you for everything in the past too. Regards to the Yamagas.

Yukio

July 13, 1942

Dear Mrs. Thomas:

I received your most encouraging letter a few days ago. Fortunately, however, I was pretty well adjusted to my new duties by then. I don't know just why but in time one gets fairly well used to his duties despite its nature it seems. Then too this process was facilitated by my mental effort toward readjustment and meeting the situation. My line of adjustment and thinking was very similar to your explanation and words of advice strangely enough or maybe it isn't so strange. Needless to say the fact that my conclusion was somewhat in the same spirit as yours reassured me more than ever to keep at it and make the most of the situation. I'm still plugging away as are most of the other men although I must admit that we blow off "steam" very so often.

As you know Mrs. Thomas, I am very green. Pretty much of a nursery house "flower" I'm afraid. I figure, therefore that it will do me a lot of good too to take some of the roughen side of life too. As long as I eventually rise to a more elevated field all the experience of practically any nature at present will probably do me a world of good. Don't you think so too? A person who's seen a lot in this world usually is a very understanding and well rounded out personage, isn't he? I don't know if I'll ever amount to much but I can try, can't I? And if I ever do this present experience may help me too. Even if I don't it still will help me in understanding life more fully. What good it will do towards building myself will be that much for the better for me.

As for the treatment the Army has given me I can't be too complaining for it could be a lot worse. Of course I know we're given a little tougher sledding than the others but I also realize that we're a peculiar "problem child" to the Army also. Furthermore, the encouraging thing is that the higher rank officers seem to understand us so well. Their words of encouragement and reassurances certainly help. All in all after viewing the situation with wide a vision as possible, it's but a matter of degree and comparative unpleasantness

AIR MAIL

(2.) War itself and its consequences are not pleasant. As you said, its just that some are more fortunate than others in getting less of the bitter taste of its effects. Then too if we can emerge (and I certainly hope to) from this mess despite these various handicaps it will be more to our credit and the fruits of the same shall be particularly sweet.

As for my attitude I have rationalized it into the following: "I am a member of the Corps Area Service Command (CASC) and as one its members I am expected to render service. That service be what it may, if they are orders, must be performed by me in a soldierly manner. I am a soldier and as one I should know the manner in which orders are to be observed. Whether this alone actually did it for me or not I don't know but I have found that I have been the only reliable orderly there up to this time (several have come and gone; didn't last). Needless to say, however, I am not contented by any means. I am looking forward to a transfer or reclassification to a more suitable and desirable dept. of service. To be truthful I am making arrangements right now for a transfer to the Finance Dept. They are looking for some new men there and I believe my college diploma will do me some good after all. Anyway I got my fingers crossed and I hope you'll do the same to help me get there.

Your request concerning the autobiography of my mother and I was very interesting. I can see too your desire for study of the same inasmuch as you are a scholar in this field. Since this war I have often thought about writing my impressions, my observation and opinion of the general reaction, the effects and consequences, the issue situation, etc. myself too. I do believe, however, that it would be rather unwise at the present moment. We are all on the spot at the moment and I don't believe I would care to write so openly under present conditions lest they be misinterpreted. ~~Furthermore~~ And to do justice to the sort of material you are seeking one must be open and decisive in his statements. Furthermore, the background, the objective in coming to America, ~~to~~ and other immigrational problems that you desire of a typical Japanese family in America may not be obtained from ours for I believe we ~~typify~~ a rarer group if not an exception.

Please do not misunderstand me through Mrs. Thomas. I would ~~not~~ do anything I can for you and I do believe in you. ~~[illegible]~~ I certainly

AIR MAIL

regret that I ~~couldn't~~ can't reply more favorably. I haven't heard from mother since I sent her your letter as yet. I am inclined to believe that she would view it in similar light however. I will write what she says as soon as I get her reply. By the way in one of her letters she mentioned about being very pleased with the results of the iron you brought her after someone got a cord for her, or something. Anyway she was very appreciative and requested me to thank you. ~~at any~~

More appreciative of your kind efforts more than ever,

I remain,

Yukio

CAMP CROWDER
MISSOURI

July 18, 1942

Dear Mrs. Thomas:

Since I wrote you last I have received a letter from my mother and she did respond to your request (to my surprise). It is, however, very brief and contains only the barest outline. Evidently she misunderstood you (or did I?) and made ~~a~~ one letter answer. You desired a more thorough and detailed job, didn't you? Something compiled over a period of time. This was my understanding.

As for my daily routine here, it's about the same except that we have additional duties now of serving guard duty (since 3 wks. ago).

I am confident, however, of getting into a better dept. I understand the Finance Dept. is looking for men in their detachment and I have applied. I have seen the Colonel in charge there and have been assured that they will request me. It's been a couple of weeks now and I am getting tired of the delay but I understand that it's quite normal for Army red tape to take so long. I believe the job calls for clerical ability ~~and~~ and the hours are fairly long as office hours go. It is, however, definitely to my liking than my present job. It may teach me something (experience) and it is a bit more dignified. I'm still hoping anyway.

Sincerely,

Yukio

July 25, 1942

CAMP CROWDER
MISSOURI

Dear Mrs. Thomas:

I thank you very much for your letter. I certainly was relieved to hear your understanding reply concerning that biographical project of our family. I felt you would understand and yet I was afraid that by my hesitation I might offend you ~~for~~ — and after all you've done for us too. Perhaps as you say, however, I may be able to help you in some way after all this present "mess" is over.

I have good news for you this time Mrs. Thomas. You probably have noticed it already from my return address but I have been transferred to the Finance Detachment. I had to go through a lot of red tape but I finally got there. Needless to say, I enjoy it much better than my previous duties at the Guesthouse. It is, however, by no means easy. Our hours are from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 a.m. six days a week with a 45 minute lunch period during the noon periods. During busy periods we work overtime and on Sundays too. This past week is an example (we worked till five and we're working tomorrow [Sunday]). So you can see that for an office job we put in long hours and work hard.

The particular section I am assigned to, is the check writing section of the administrative department. My duties are varied. They include: rubber stamping, entering figures in the voucher, working the check machine, typing checks, filing, and the like. As I said before, we are very busy (you know the volume of business the Army is doing nowadays) and at the end of the day we are pretty well fatigued. I do prefer it, however, for it is definitely more respectful and this experience will probably do me some good.

I'm glad to hear Jimmy is so inquisitive of my

CAMP CROWDER
MISSOURI

welfare. He's really a pretty nice fellow. Hard worker too but he is a bit eccentric (just enough) so that he didn't get along too popularly with the young group. You see I met him through church activities and school. I don't know his family background (other than the little he told me) etc. I did get to know his nature fairly well through our association at church, however. I imagine he's turning out reams of work for you now too. He probably is just the fellow for that research type of work. I think he enjoys it. Is he working on the psychological aspects of the present crisis on the nisei? It would be typical of him if he were.

Please inform him that I'm getting along well and that I'm feeling fine. I trust he is also in the best of health and spirits. Please extend my regards to all my friends for that matter Tom, Tomi, Najima, etc. My regards to Dr. W. I. Thomas also of course.

As ever,

Yukio Kawamoto

despite two written appeals (one from the University War Council; the other from myself). Thus it looks pretty certain that I'll be going sometime in the March quota.

The way events are changing day by day regarding restrictions and things concerning the enemy aliens, however, one can never tell by the end of this month whether the restrictions wouldn't be extended to even we American-born Japanese. You know, it already has reached this point in some areas.

I have very little choice either way. Personally, it doesn't bother me too much for I believe I can "take" whatever they have "dished" out to me. I am concerned, however, over my folks for they are quite aged and rather helpless. They've been such good law abiding citizens too. It makes me boil!

Oh well, I guess War is War and nothing much can be done about it by we ordinary citizens. Meanwhile, until things become utterly impossible, I beg of you to continue your tolerant and understanding ways with mother. I appreciate (she does too) it very much.

Sincerely,

"Buck-Private-To-Be"
Yukio Kawamoto

	hrs.		carfare
Fri	2 1/2		2
Sat.	2 1/2		2
Mon.	2	4	2
Tue.	2 1/2	15	2
		40	
Wed.	2	600	2
Thurs.	3		2
	14 1/2		12

*1 40 minutes of overtime (over that was charged) last Thurs.

*2 On the days when ironing is to be done, the time invariably becomes longer than usual.

Since my mother has informed me that you are very much concerned over my draft situation I shall inform you. And before I forget to say so may I state that I appreciate your deep interest in my welfare as well as that of my folks.

I have been officially classified IA

September 12, 1942

Dear Mrs. Thomas:

Just a son pinch-hitting for his Mom to say thanks a lot for everything and a parting goodbye. Although she has been taking English lessons while at the center (getting a certificate of completion of some nature too) it apparently isn't sufficient for this purpose. I, frankly, doubt if she'll ever master it but I must give her credit for trying.

An explanation of why this au revoir message (is that right? I never took French) is being made is hardly necessary to you I suppose but it is because of the approaching date for relocation of the occupants of Tanforan. Naturally this exodus from familiar surroundings and climate to one of strangeness makes one reminisce. Being in this frame of mind, I guess she wanted

for prospective students for the next M. I. School class (study Japanese). Just how they are going to select them I'm sure I don't know. One thing I am sure however and that is ~~to~~ that I don't care to go personally. So I'm hoping that I won't be chosen but I'm afraid it'll be just my luck that I will.

Other than that there has been very little change. The weather did change for the cooler for awhile (it rained about a week) but today as well as the few days preceding have been warm and sultry again.

I understand California is supposed to be rated highly for the coming gridiron season. Certainly wish I could be there to see some of the games. Somewhere among my belongings is a piece of the Stanford goal post obtained last year at the "Big Game".

say goodbye and thanks to all those who were nice to ~~them~~ her while here. She seemed particularly grateful for the ironer you gave her too.

I presume you are busily doing one research project or another despite the wartime inconveniences etc. that you are enduring out on the coast. What is the latest authoritative view these days? I'd like to hear about them if you could spare the time. Otherwise let it go and I'll still understand.

I am still going through the regular daily routine at the Finance Office. I must admit that I am getting a bit bored and a change of scenery wouldn't hurt me a bit I'm sure.

Another point I might mention is that we had an interview not so long ago by ~~the~~ a military intelligence officer. It was an interview

I thanking you again in behalf of my parents and myself,

Very sincerely,

Y. Kawamoto

May 25, 1943

Dear Mrs. Thomas:

Just a line to let you know I'm getting along quite well and nearing the end of my course. Summer is approaching out here at last and though I do not care for the increasing frequency of rain, it is getting quite pretty out this way. It's surprising how well the countryside can look after the trees and grass start to bloom forth.

As I've said already, we are now approaching the close of our course and we look forward to that furlough which should accompany our graduation.

Naturally enough I expect to go and visit my folks & friends at Topaz. There's a lot of other places I'd like to go too but I'm afraid neither time nor funds will permit.

Some time ago you wrote saying that you would be spending the month of May in Chicago. Is that where you are at the moment? If so, how long are you going to be there? I hope not too long. I'd certainly hate to miss dropping in on you in Berkeley. I have hopes of doing so sometime in July if things turn out the way I think they will.

Mom wrote to me not long ago about the preserved (?) bean curds you sent her from Denver. It was quite a treat to her & dad and she asked me to thank you for your thoughtfulness and kindness. I trust everything is quite well with you & your husband.

Yours

M-91—Milling District and Heart of City, Minneapolis, Minn.

City of Lakes and Parks

2B-H1191

Cpl Y. Kawamoto, Jr. Wt.
Camp Savage, Minn.
U.S. Army

MILLING DISTRICT AND HEART OF CITY, MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

This interesting air view shows in the foreground the historic St. Anthony Falls and river banks lined with the world famous Minneapolis flour mills.

The background shows the business district of the "Metropolis of the Northwest" with its many skyscrapers and industrial enterprises.

ST. MARIE'S. GOPHER NEWS CO., MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

GENUINE CURTEICH CHICAGO "C.T. ART-COLORTONE" POST CARD (REG. U.S. PAT. OFF.)

July 5, 1943

Dear Mrs. Thomas:

Just got back from my furlough the other day and received your letter. Thank you.

Yours was hot, dusty, and the food situation was much worse than previously. Still, I had an enjoyable time meeting the folks and friends. I even had some of that fermented bean curd you had sent. It was good.

Our futures are uncertain and we are still unsettled. Will write again when I do get settled.

Sincerely,
Yukio

Free

SAVAGE
JUL 9
9 P
1943
MINN.

PLACE ONE CENT STAMP HERE

POST CARD

Dr. W. S. Thomas
2710 Garber
Berkeley, California

C O P Y

September 12, 1942

Dear Mrs. Thomas:

Just a son pinch-hitting for his Mom to say thanks a lot for everything and a parting goodbye. Although she has been taking English lessons while at the center (getting a certificate of completion of some nature, too) it apparently isn't sufficient for this purpose. I, frankly, doubt if she'll ever master it but I must give her credit for trying.

An explanation of why this au revoir message (is that right? I never took French) is being made is hardly necessary to you I suppose but it is because of the approaching date for relocation of the occupants of Tanforan. Naturally this exodus from familiar surroundings and climate to one of strangeness makes one reminisce. Being in this frame of mind, I guess she wanted to say goodbye and thanks to all those who were nice to her while here. She seemed particularly grateful for the ironer you gave her, too.

I presume you are busily doing one research project or another despite the wartime inconveniences, etc. that you are enduring out on the coast. What is the latest authoritative view these days? I'd like to hear about them if you would spare the time. Otherwise let it go and I'll still understand.

I am still going through the regular daily routine at the Finance Office. I must admit that I am getting a bit bored and a change of scenery wouldn't hurt me a bit, I'm sure.

Another point I might mention is that we had an interview not so long ago by a military intelligence officer. It was an interview for prospective students for the nest M. I. School class (study Japanese). Just how they are going to select them I'm sure I don't know. One thing I am sure, however, and that is that I don't care to

go personally. So I'm hoping that I wont be chosen but I'm afraid it'll be just my luck that I will.

Other than that there has been very little change. The weather did change for the cooler for a while (it rained about a week) but today as well as the few days preceding have been warm and sultry again.

I understand California is supposed to be rated highly for the coming gridiron season. Certainly wish I could be there to see some of the games. Somewhere among my belongings is a piece of the Stanford goal post obtained last year at the "Big Game".

I thank you again in behalf of my parents and myself.

Very sincerely,

(Signed) Y. Kawamoto

October 28,1942

Dear Yukio,

I am ashamed that so much time has passed since I wrote to you. I am waiting eagerly to hear what you are doing in Minnesota! My guess is that you are teaching Japanese. Right?

I have been in Minnesota several times and thought it was a beautiful state. It is very much like Sweden, and it is no coincidence that the Swedish immigrants settled there in such large numbers.

I was sorry not to see your mother before she left Tanforan. I shall certainly write to her. Furthermore, I actually expect to visiti Utah, probably some time in December. It will be fine to see her again.

The last days at Tanforan were hectic, for me as well as for the evacuees. I kept my small student group together, but with some difficulties, which you can imagine, or about which you might even have heard. Now they too are scattering. You know Fred Hoshiyama, I believe. He has got a $1000 scholarship to go to Springfield Massachusetts. We are all delighted at his good fortune. Kenny Murase is in Pennsylvania, and rumor has it that he is contemplating marriage, but he won't say to whom! Shibutani and Sakoda are still at Tule Lake and are turning out reams of manuscript. I have been up to Tule Lake four or five times, and always get such a swell reception from the WRA people that it is very cheering to be carrying on a study with this fine cooperation. Mr. Ernst(Project Director of Topaz) has written a cordial invitation for me to do something there, and I hope I can manage it. I also have a set-up at Gila, with Charlie Kikuchi and Tally Yusa working hard for me. Do you know them?

So much for the present. The Campanile strikes six, and I have to rush to get a street car. Incidentally, I cannot even get anyone to clean the house once a week, and with my natural orderliness(?) you can imagine how we are getting along. But after all, that is a very small headache indeed in a world where things are going so badly in a big way.

Hope to hear from you soon. My best to your parents. My husband sends regards.

Sincerely yours,

November 4, 1942

Dear Mrs. Thomas:

I received your letter recently and enjoyed reading it very much as I always do. Thank you.

Frankly speaking, I did "miss" your letters during that silence-period you mentioned. At the same time I realized you were deluged with important business so I passed it off at that. And then at other times I began to wonder if my non-cooperative answer to one of your requests had anything to do with it. I would then "bawl" myself out and say to myself, "I'll not never forgive you (me)". Then again I would say Dr Thomas is far too large a person to let such matters interfere, she must be just too blamed busy.

At any rate, whatever I may have thought or whatever may have been the reason, I certainly feel relieved now.

Your curiosity in my doings up here in Minnesota is only natural I suppose but at the same time I'm afraid you've asked me to write upon something very ticklish, you see they're kind of "funny" of about the things you write about certain matters around here. Since you

day), pulling out weeds, etc. Toward the end of the week about forty members of the overhead were called in for interviews. I presume you understand what sort of interviews they were. Anyway eight of us were selected to be placed in _____. That's where I am at present.

Though our "grind" is a tough one and the hours are long, I've been getting along quite well so far for thus far most of the work has been more of a review and brushing up. I can see, however, that I'll be cramming not too long from now. The pace that's set here is torrid.

Mom and dad seem to be getting along fairly well in their "new home" but also seem to be having difficulties in adjustment. The weather seems to be bad and the incomplete facilities on their arrival there seemed to have caused much inconvenience. At any rate, both came down with minor illness. Dad's but slightly and mom slightly more. Dad's resulting more or less from nursing mom and mom's resulting from an accumulation of some of the above mentioned reasons (psychological too I suppose). She is, ~~however~~, now well on her way to recovery. Since her missing me seems to have something to do with her trouble, I'm sure she would be delighted to

made a guess, however, I believe I'll be able to answer it somewhat without committing "sin". Your guess is correct insofar as the subject itself is concerned. You were grossly in error, however, as to who was doing the "doing". You see I'm on the receiving end of the matter at the moment and probably will be for several more months. After that maybe I'll be ~~doing~~ doing the doing for a while or it may mean a little "boat ride".

When we first arrived here, we were a sorry lot. The twenty or so of us who were transfer from crowder to here found ourselves at a loss for when we arrived here no one seemed to have known of our coming. Furthermore, being sent up here under a clerk-typist rating I figured I would get some clerical job in some office. I soon learned this was not to be so. They already had more non-com clerks than they knew what to do with so they indiscriminately threw us (9 from the finance office) with the others (unskilled) and we found ourselves in the overhead doing odd details around camp. Details is just another army term for doing menial work of one nature or another. Anyway, my first week was spent here raking leaves, hauling coal, painting, doing K.P. (every 2nd or 3rd

see you when you make that visit to Utah. I certainly hope you do.

All of the fellows you mentioned I know one way or another. I'm sure they have been doing their jobs sincerely and untiringly. At the same time, can you blame them? Anyone would with such a swell bops (if I may be permitted to use the term). Please extend my best wishes to them and of course my best to ~~the~~ you and the continued success in your project. I certainly envy those lucky fellows going to these various eastern schools.

I'm sorry to hear of your difficulty in obtaining ~~the~~ services or maintaining the home. It is understandable, however, with the shortage of manpower everywhere and in everything (particularly so on the coast I suppose). I can imagine too the "orderly" status of your home at present. Yes, mom whispered it to me. She did say it good naturedly, however, and it certainly didn't make her lose any respect for you. Neither with me.

I don't know if I mentioned before but I'll say it again. The people up here are swell. The women are beautiful too.

Best regards to the Wz.

Sincerely, Yukio

COPY

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I don't know if I mentioned before but I'll say it again. The people up here are swell. The women are beautiful too.

Best regards to the Dr.

Sincerely,

(s) Yukio

Dec. 15, 1942

Dear Mrs. Thomas:

Just a brief note written at the request of my mother.

I just came back from there and find myself deluged with all sorts of task and have not settled ~~down~~ down as yet. Still, it was well worth it. Even in surroundings of a relocation center there's no place like "home" and old time friends.

The message mom wanted me to send you was concerning a lace material she is crocheting for you for a gift at Christmas. It is only a token gift of appreciation and a gift ~~only~~ ~~with~~ made with limited material (limitations within a center). She did

make it, however with "lots of feeling" behind it. Please accept it as such and overlook any flaws in material that might be present due to her difficulty of getting the proper material for her work.

Inasmuch as I am still behind in other matters I must attend to, please excuse me for now.

May your Holiday Season be a pleasant and memorable one.

Sincerely,

Yukio

"HE WHO HAS NOT BEEN AT ARAGON KNOWS NOT WHAT A PARADISE IT IS!"

ARAGON BALLROOM, LAWRENCE NEAR BROADWAY, CHICAGO

Pfc. Y. Kawamoto
Bldg. 15 Student Det.
School
Camp Savage, Minn.
U.S. Army

2/19/1943

ARAGON
"Ballroom of a Thousand Delights"

920

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POST CARD

PLACE STAMP HERE

Dear Mrs. Thomas:

Just a card to let you know that I am down here in your "home town" of Chicago.

I am enjoying myself immensely and making the most of this leave (very rare you know).

I visited U. of Chicago & I. homes but felt unprejudicedly (of course) that Cal's is better.

Sincerely,
Yukio

Mr. D.S. Thomas
2710 Harbor
Berkeley, California

December 28,1942

Dear Yukio

It was so good to hear from you--and twice at that ! I am simply delighted with the beautiful doilies your mother made for me. She is certainly talented. I appreciate too the lovely thought that prompted the work.

And thank you for your New Years' greetings. It has certainly been a year of turmoil and grief, but we are holding fast to faith in the future.

If you did not receive a box of candy from me, mailed on December 12, will you please let me know, as I will check with the store and be sure you get it, even if not in time for holiday celebration.

My husband and I visited two relocation centers in Arizona recently--Poston and Gila. Gila is by all odds the most attractive center I have seen, and Poston is the worst dump. Work at Gila is going along splendidly: and the Study itself is progressing in spite of occasional set-backs. We are going to Tule Lake again just after New Years. As you probably know, travel is no joke at all these days. We waited in a small Arizona station from 7:30 in the evening, when the train was due, till 5:30 in the morning when it finally arrived. We managed to clean up on quite a lot of detective stories in the interval.

I heard from your friend Barry Saiki in Arkansas. He is awfully busy, but has promised to write a short report for me. Believe it or not, I am getting in material at the rate of 250-300 typed pages a week. It just keeps me busy reading the reports. Synthesis and analysis will certainly be major jobs. But this is a great project, and I hope and believe that what we have to publish when the war is finally over will be of some importance in the reconstruction period.

My best to you, and WI sends kindest regards.

Sincerely yours,

Jan. 6, 1943

Dear Mrs. Thomas:

Thank you for your letter and your kind remembrance of me during the holiday season though to be truthful I haven't received it as yet. The fact that you remembered me ~~alone~~, however, is quite a "gift" ~~for me~~ in itself alone.

I'm glad to hear you ~~enjo~~ liked the doilies (is that what you call them?) I'm glad also to hear that your project is getting along so nicely. Sure must be encouraging to get reports numbering so many hundreds of pages though they must be fatiguing to wade through them all too. Got a hunch our Mr. Saiki sends in his share of "volumes" also. He gets his hand into so many things and yet manages to show results in all of them. More power to him.

It was good news too to hear that Gila is a center on the better side for a certain party I know lives there and it does make me feel better.

As for news here, studies are tough as ever and with the increasing stringent regulations of one nature or another, life is quite "rugged" here. Food is steadily getting worse and waiting in line for it in this sub-zero weather is no picnic either.

Sincerely,

Yukio

(2.)

P.S.

#1 Can appreciate your statement of the condition of rail travel these days. Didn't get a seat of my own all the way from Omaha to Utah during my furlough.

#2 Mom wrote me to thank you for the fancy box of edibles during Christmas.

#3 Am looking forward to the arrival of the box of candy. (my barrack mates hold the same anticipation. Aren't they considerate? I wonder why ???

January 19, 1943

Private Yukio Kawamoto
Headquarters and Student Detachment
Camp Savage, Minnesota

Dear Yukio:

I have just returned from a trip to Tule Lake. Before going up there, that is about ten days ago, I checked up on your Christmas gift, and the candy store gave me their word that they would send another box out to you immediately. If you have not received it by this time, will you please inform me and I will put some more pressure on them. I hope that you enjoy the candy even more because of this long period of anticipation, but I am sorry that things have gotten so mixed up.

Tell your Mother that she would be surprised to see what a good housekeeper I have become. Having faced the situation that I can get no domestic help, I find that I am going back to childhood habits which were evidently better than I knew. The house is much more orderly than she ever saw it when she was kind enough to help me out.

With cordial regards,

Sincerely yours,

Dorothy Swaine Thomas

DST;mw

February 7, 1943
Sunday

Dear Mrs. Thomas:

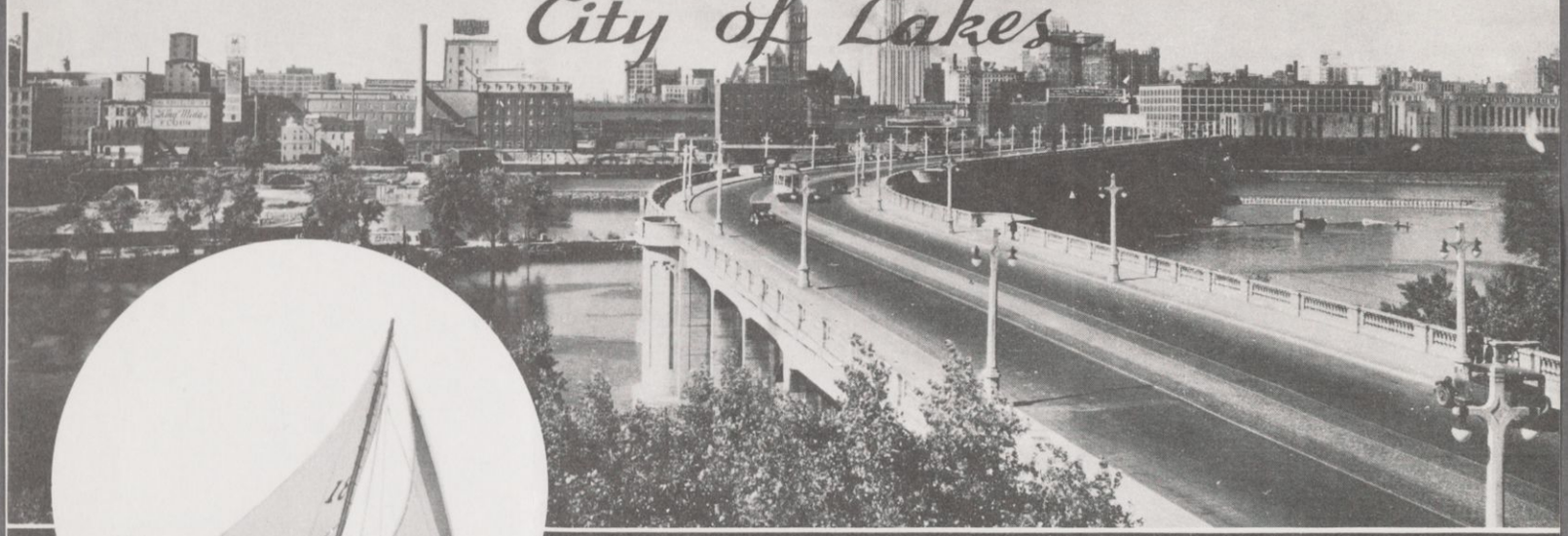
Thank you for your letter. Thank you two for the swell chocolates. Yes, they finally arrived. I guess I had to wait quite a while for them but they were well worth waiting for as my barrack mates will testify. Thank you again.

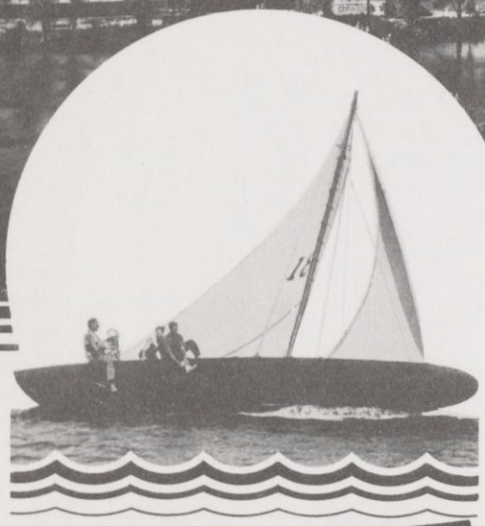
Inasmuch as I am writing this letter at the USO (note the stationery), I'm afraid I don't have your letter available in writing this letter; ~~so~~ please excuse me if it gets one sided.

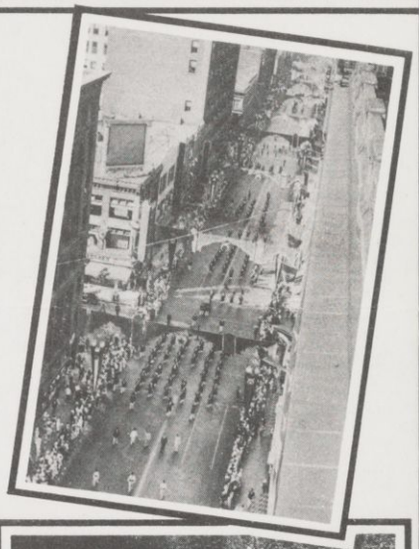
As a whole everything is quite the same with me here as far as the daily routine is concerned. However, there have been a few things out of the ordinary that are ~~to~~ news to me. First of all is the news which you probably have already read or heard about. Yes, the formation of a nisei combat unit. This in itself may not seem to effect me directly but it does in many ways indirectly. Already I have heard from some of my former buddies who have been selected for this unit. A great majority of them have been promoted from pvts + p.f.c.s to Sgts and higher. So be sure I will be a sgt of one grade or another by the time I complete my training here also but its such a "grind" before I get there _____ particularly so since I did not volunteer for this branch of service as many of the fellows who are here did (even they find it tough and in other ways not what they exactly expected; some came to get to the front and they now regret that they didn't stay with their former outfits). Yes, I would much rather be fighting with a gun than what I will be. I certainly hope they'll transfer me but I'm afraid I'm not that lucky. Another cheerful earful is the news that they decided to give us a little ~~breathing~~ breathing spell towards the end of this month in the form of a three day pass. Since we hadn't

MINNEAPOLIS

City of Lakes





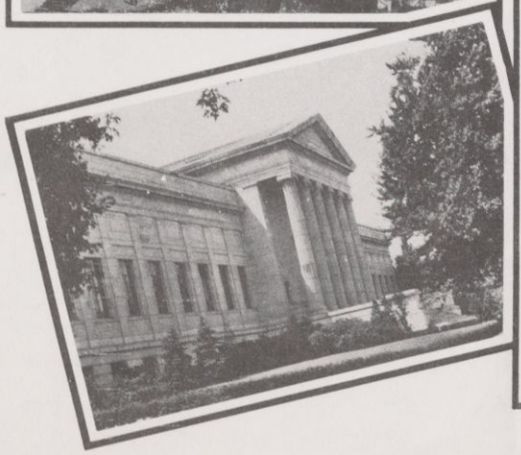


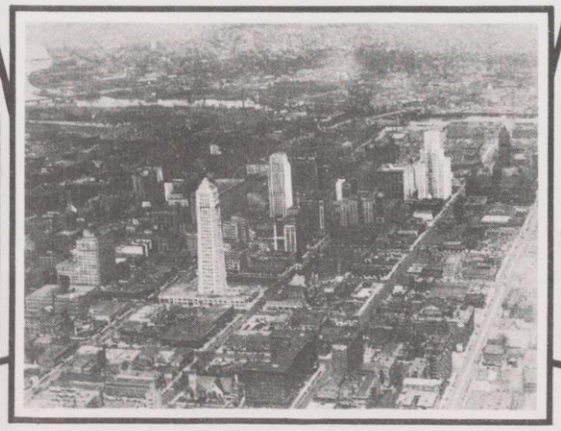
Minneapolis

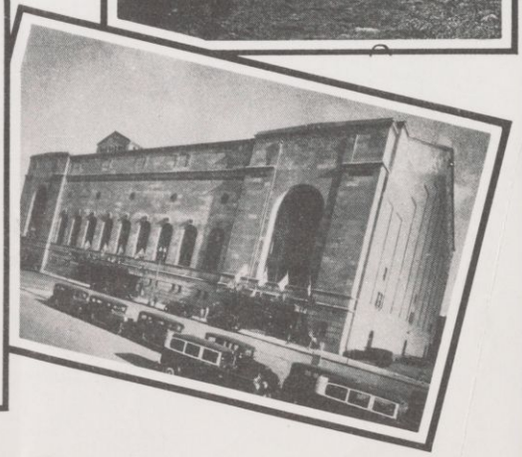
THE visitor to Minneapolis comes to a thoroughly modern city, yet a city that has everything in the way of natural beauty and scenic setting. Stretching away for miles on each side of the Mississippi River Gorge, the city is surrounded with scenic boulevards which lead to and from its hundreds of parks and the eleven large lakes where sailing, swimming, bicycling, riding, band music, light opera, canoeing, golf and tennis are some of the diversions offered to visitors.

Restful ease is assured in the deluxe Minneapolis hotels where rates are popular with all travelers. From your hotel it is but a short distance to such interesting sights as the Milling District at St. Anthony Falls, Lake Minnetonka with 110 miles of shoreline, Victory Memorial Drive, Minneapolis Auditorium, Minnehaha Falls, University of Minnesota with 550-acre campus, the Smart Shopping Center, the Financial District and the Walker Art Galleries and Minneapolis Institute of Arts. The Minneapolis Symphony orchestra is another attraction which offers cultural enjoyment to Minneapolis' guests.

Call the Gateway Information Bureau of the Minneapolis Civic & Commerce Association for further information.







(2.)

expected anything like this until at least the end of the term it certainly was pleasant news. Some of us, who are on the skeptical side, however, wonder if this will not be an excuse for the furlough at the end of the term which we were all looking forward to and expecting. I certainly hope they will not be that mean. No use being blue about it anyway. If my funds dont run out on me by then I hope to visit Chicago and look up a friend as well as take in the sights.

The weather out here has been quite terrific to say the least; (it hit 30° below at one time) ~~but~~ it has turned for the better these last few days, however, and today it is quite warm with a bright sun shining. Reminds me somewhat of San Francisco on a bright but nippy day. Speaking of San Francisco reminds me of a news item saying the bay area had a storm. Is that so? Seattle too had quite an affair, didnt they? They call practically anything a "storm" out on the coast though, don't they?

I dont ~~know~~ remember if I mentioned it before but we have been having several measle cases back in camp and a number of barracks had to be quarantined including mine. Fortunately for me, however, they lifted our quarantine after one day (school couldnt continue without me, hem! Too many students were affected and they made the quarantine a modified one which doesn't amount to no real trouble on our part)

That just about winds up the situation here. I'll mail this letter back in camp since I want to insert a snapshot of the family which I took on my furlough. Thanks for the candy again.

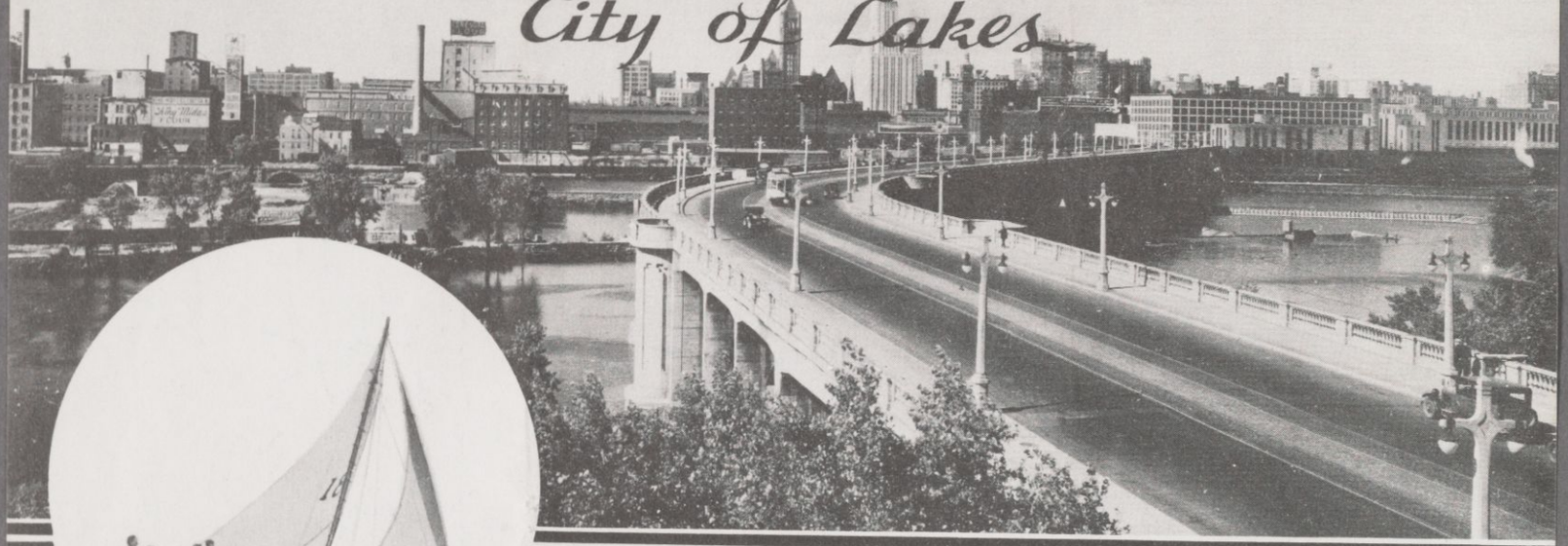
Sincerely,

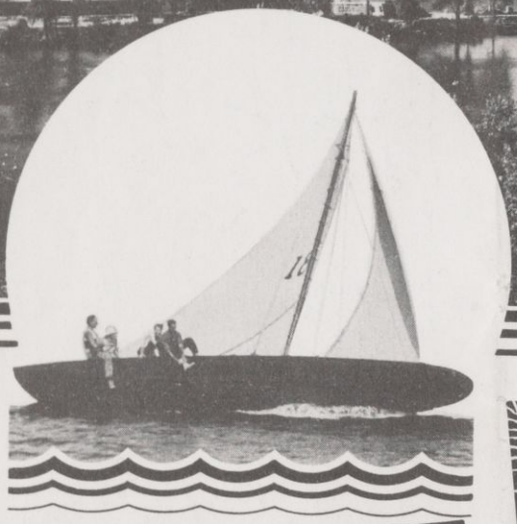
Yukio

P.S. That P.F.C. in front of my name stands for Pvt 1st class; got it at the beginning of the month.

MINNEAPOLIS

City of Lakes





Minneapolis

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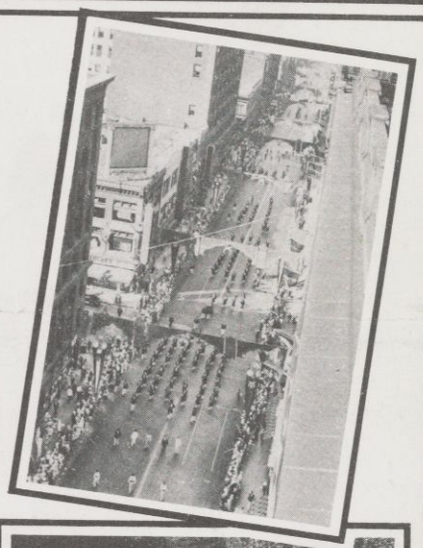

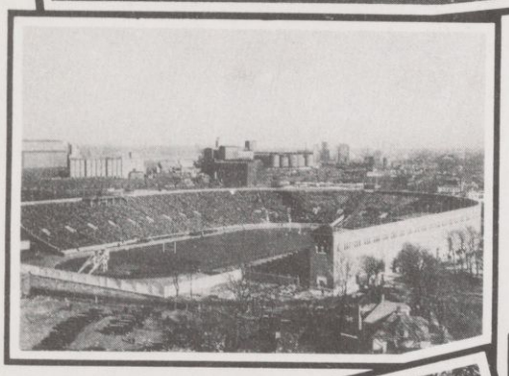

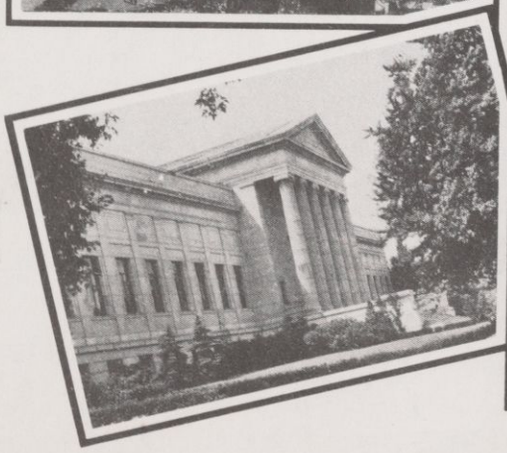

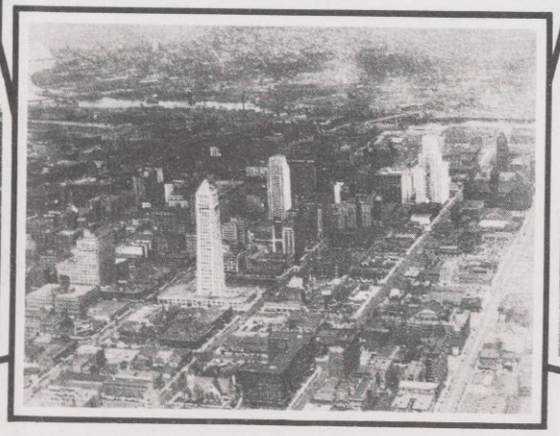

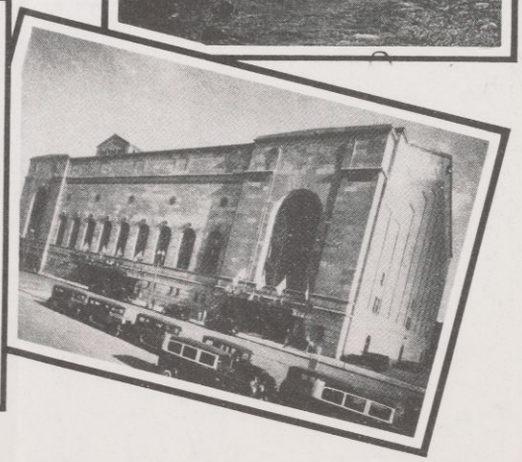

April 16, 1943

Dear Mrs. Thomas:

It was certainly nice to hear from you. I'm sorry I made the mistake of referring to Chicago as your home town. I knew it wasn't i.e. I didn't know positively what was your hometown but I used that term for I thought I read or heard somewhere that Dr. W. S. was a member of the Univ. of Chicago faculty and well — I naturally thought you were around also and that referring to the "dump" (you said it) as your hometown wouldn't be too unreasonable even if it were not actually. Although it's a bit dirty, I had a swell time there and was impressed very favorably.

As for May, I hardly believe it would be possible for me to go there. I'm spending the second of the only two "breathing spell" three day vacations we get in a term right now. This time on the old home grounds of Minneapolis and vicinity.

to wait till Johnnie (me in this case) comes marching home again. If I only had a brother things would be so much more simpler. Oh well, that's the way it goes I guess.

It may interest you to know that the members of this post heard a frank talk from a Mr. Shirill who seems to be active in this relocation activity in the Chicago area. Do you have any connections with his work?

Trusting things are well with you all,

Sincerely,

Yukio

It was very nice of you to recommend my parents' release for relocation. I wrote to my folks about it immediately on receipt of your letter and they were very grateful. They as well as I think, however, that it's a difficult step to take and perhaps one which should not be taken in their particular case. They are both old, unfamiliar with the language, have no reserve to rely on, etc. and venturing out into an unfamiliar city in a new section of the country is perhaps a bit too adventuresome for an old man and woman, don't you think? I think I would feel more at ease out in the front too with them in the center rather than if they were outside. ~~I probably would be quite concerned.~~ It is needless for me to say that I would like to see my folks live normally once again and the sooner the better. Under present circumstances, however, I believe security is the foremost question at the moment. I think relocation will have

June 15, 1943

Corporal Yukio Kawamoto
Headquarters and Student Detachment
Camp Savage, Minnesota

Dear Yukio:

Your letter was forwarded to me in Chicago. I just got back yesterday after taking a trip to Phoenix and seeing some of the people from Gila and Poston. We have set up an office in Chicago, and Frank Miyamoto, Tom Shibutani and Charlie Kikuchi are studying the progress of the resettlement.

I am indeed delighted to know that you are coming to Berkeley, and I hope that you can stay with us while you are here. Let me know when you are coming.

Give my very best regards to your mother and father.

Sincerely,

Dorothy S. Thomas

DST:mw

Fort Snelling
Minnesota

August 3, 1943

Dear Mrs. Thomas:

I'm afraid I've been grossly in fault of being tardy but I felt I better write to let you know that I'm still around these parts.

As you can see by the stationery, I am now at Ft. Snelling and have been for a little over a week now. You no doubt know where it is but it's in the city limits of Minneapolis and is about 20 miles from my former camp of Savage. Being a permanent military establishment, the facilities are excellent and is quite nice. It is somewhat like the Presidio although it's probably not quite that good.

In regards to that possible trip to Berkeley, I had in mind the possibility of my being sent across via San Francisco which would possibly give me the chance to visit the old home town. At the time I wrote about it I felt I would be doing just that sometime in July for we were to graduate on the 18th of June and after our furloughs it would be just early July when we would return for duty. The way it's turned out, however, most of us are still here and when it'll be I'm sure I don't know. A few guys

have already left averaging about 1/week for the last three weeks or so and each of them left on just a few hours notice so when we do go it will be sudden. I may yet realize my hopes. It'll be just my luck though that they'll send me to Seattle or some other embarkation point. At any rate thank you for your invitation.

Following graduation, we went on furloughs. I saw my folks & friends at Topaz again and though the life was a bit dull it was good to be "home" again. Incidentally, I also had some of that chinese bean curd you sent her. I didn't care for it back home but I found it good there after I tried it.

After our return to Savage, our duties were hikes, study, rifle practice, and waiting for orders. This routine is being continued here at ~~Savage~~ Snelling. A little over a week ago we got 3 day passes again and I went to Chicago for the 2nd time. The stay was brief but it was packed full of pleasant moments. Only trouble was my inability of meeting a lot kids whom I knew were there somewhere.

[One of the fellows got into some trouble this last week-end with a white woman, and as a consequence our entire unit was recalled to the post and are confined at the moment. The theory being it being for our protection and to avoid possible trouble as well as keeping it quiet. The manner in which we were herded, however, I think it made it more conspicuous. I, personally, don't like this way in which we're handled as a group rather

(2.)

Fort Snelling

Minnesota

than individuals. If the army adopts this policy with us at this time, ~~see~~ who are about to go to the actual front I kind of wonder just how the government is going to handle us after the war. Are we to be looked upon as group rather than individuals indefinitely? We have often been accused of being cliquish and tend to group but I don't believe the government or the army is doing much to suggest to the public that we are individuals. On the contrary, they seem to encourage the other the way they handle us.

It's bad I know to be feeling this way when we are about to go to the front but it can't be helped. It's bad enough when we get but cpls or at most some grade of sergeancy when the white fellows get commissions for work in which I'll leave up to you who knows more etc. Oh well, our duty is clear and despite the unfairness and our personal gripes I have the utmost faith that will come through. We know there are a lot of people pulling for us too which means a lot. A lot more than stripes or bars.

Sincerely,

Yukio

August 25, 1943

Dear Yukio:

I was indeed delighted to get your letter of August 3, and apologize for not answering sooner. I hope that you will be able to come to Berkeley, and repeat my invitation, that you stay with us when you do. Your letter was very interesting indeed. I feel that your attitude about the treatment of the Nisei as a group instead of as individuals is quite understandable. It is very gratifying that in view of all the difficulties you are facing you still have faith in democracy. You're right that there are a lot of people pulling for you, and I hope that you won't worry too much about the extreme statements that are being made now in the press. I feel that there will be a big reaction in favor of Nisei after the war.

Give my best regards to your mother and tell her that the bamboo tree is flourishing.

Very sincerely yours,

Dorothy Swaine Thomas

I'm sorry that I had to leave so abruptly, but our leave hours are so limited, I hope you understand. There were loads more I wanted to hear from you and there were loads more I could have said also. Perhaps I'll be lucky enough to get another opportunity. I certainly hope so.

Wishing you the best of health and luck in your project and study,

Shel, yours

Dear Dr. + Mrs. Thomas: Sept. 13, 1943

Just a brief note but to thank you for a wonderful dinner and a pleasant time the other day. The chicken was really delicious and your hospitality was wonderful. I really don't know how to thank you but believe me I am truly grateful.

5-7-A.
Topaz, Utah.
Sept 21, 1943.

Dear Dr. Thomas:

I want to thank you very much for your kindness in every way you showed Yukio a week ago last Saturday. He enjoyed your company and the delicious chicken dinner you served him very much. We do appreciate your thoughts and kindness beyond words. Many, many thanks for everything.

I have started to go to English Classes here and have learned few words so far before but still is very hard to write letters yet. I hope to do so soon and am trying hard for Yukio sake.

The weather is very cool mornings and hot afternoons with occasional dust storms which we all hate. We are still enjoying your 7 honeyes which you sent us from Colorado. Thank you very much for it. Again thanks once more for everything.

Sincerely yours.
Hana Kandomold/m.m.

October 8, 1943

Mrs. Hana Kawamoto
5-7-A
Central Utah Relocation Project
Topaz, Utah

Dear Mrs. Kawamoto:

It was a great pleasure to see Yukio, and we sure enjoyed our evening with him. He has developed wonderfully, and I know how proud you and Mr. Kawamoto must be of him. We had hoped to see him again, but I suppose he is by now on his way to foreign parts. We hope he'll get a furlough and come back this way again before too long.

I am delighted to hear that you are making such good progress with your English. Some day I hope you will write me a letter, and give me real evidence of what you can do. I only know about ten Japanese words now, so I don't think I can return the courtesy and write you in your language.

Give my very best regards to Mr. Kawamoto, and my husband joins me in all good wishes to both of you.

Sincerely yours,

Dorothy Swaine Thomas

DST:mw

October 8, 1943

Dear Yukio:

We certainly appreciate your kind letter. It was a great pleasure for us to see you, and we had hoped that you might be able to get over again. I assume that by this time you have left the Bay area. If not, do come over again, or at least telephone us. We would love to have you for dinner any time you are free.

I read your letter in the Chronicle, and thought it was a very fine expression.

I had a nice letter from your mother and have written her.

Do let me hear from you as soon as possible.

Sincerely yours,

Dorothy Swaine Thomas

DST:mw

Sgt. Y. Kawamoto
#39090824
A.P.O. 4162 D-4
c/o Postmaster
San Francisco, Calif.

10 Jan. 44

My dear Mrs. Thomas:

Your very nice greeting-card letter reached me the other day and was appreciated very much. It was nice hearing from you again, as it always is, and that swell picture of the U certainly brought back memories. In actual months, it wasn't so long ago when I had the pleasure of last visiting the alma mater but it seems as though it were years ago. Perhaps the great distance and the quality of remoteness makes it seem that way.

Although I look forward to your letters very much, as I've mentioned time and again, I also realize that you are very much occupied and that very little of your valuable time can be spared. As it is, your letters have been far more frequent than I could expect and I appreciate this fact as well as the many other favors and kindnesses you have bestowed upon me. You most certainly have been very nice to me. Your reasons for your delay are most certainly adequate. I trust and hope that you are in the best of health now.

2) I see where you are still diligently pursuing your study, making trips here and there, contacting your many assistants, etc. I'm sure the final results will be a fine "work of art" and an authoritative one. May I wish you continued success.

I was glad to hear about Barry being in Chicago but not to hear that it's but a temporary one. I agree with you that he is very self-conscious. I might even go as far as to say that he is somewhat afflicted with an inferiority complex. Particularly in regards to his "prowess" with the opposite sex. On the other hand, he is very eager, active, and almost over aggressive in participating in matters and organizations which he believes to be for the welfare of the nisei. He's a hard worker and I'm sure he can do a lot for us.

Your plug for me with Mr. Boller may prove to be very helpful for here in the services as well as anywhere else, more times than not, it's who you know rather than what or how much you know. Back at 502, we work with the navy and although they cannot do anything directly for us due to the difference in services, their good word will help. One day when I become a general perhaps I'll owe it all to you ~~efforts~~ and your efforts on my behalf.

3)

Your generosity in offering to get me a present is typical of you but I hardly think I can accept it. It's been so one sided it bothers me to impose upon you any further. Nevertheless I shall be selfish enough to mention some of the things I would like to have although I'll not request or expect them.

Being out here in the jungles, our existence is very crude and one requiring only the barest of essentials. Therefore there is really very little one needs aside from what the gov't gives you. For the same reason what we crave for the most are impractical or rather impossible. For instance the following: A home-cooked sirloin steak dinner, a genuine running water bath with hot water, a spring bed of any vintage as long as it's a bed, ice cream sodas, qt. of milk, womens companionship, trip back to the states where there are no insects that bite, where tropical diseases are not prevalent and where one can get a good nights sleep without interruptions or disturbances. Do you see what I mean? Seriously though, the following could be used: moccaison slippers (this requires a ration coupon and I hesitate to ask for it. I think I can get a fellow in the army in the states to get one for me without too much hardship on his part), scout knife (hard to get),

+) sporty sun glasses (otherwise it makes me look too much like Tojo; this I think I can work out the best by contacting an optometrist friend of mine now in Chicago) vest pocket magnifying glasses, possibly a small loose leaf leather note book (tend to get mouldy out here, however), Sr. ring (U.C. '42) [much too expensive an item], edibles of the nature that can stand the severe banging that overseas pkgs. receive and those that will not melt to a horrible conglomeration from the heat of the equator en route, and lastly but definitely not leastly any kind of literature, yes, even college text books. I trust this gives you somewhat of an idea. Don't let this list bother you. It's just the rascal in me.

Overseas postal regulations require a written request from the serviceman so: I, Sgt. Yukio Kawamoto, hereby request Dr. D. S. Thomas to send me _____ to my overseas station.

Sgt. Yukio Kawamoto
U.S. Army

In all probability, I shall be back at 502 by the time of return mail.

My very best regards to the Dr., I remain,

As ever,
Yukio

February 2, 1944

Dear Yukio:

I was indeed delighted to get your long letter. Your morale certainly seems to be good. I realize there isn't much you can write to us about what you are actually doing.

You may have heard that the draft for the Nisei is reinstated, although, as far as I can see, they have not actually begun the reclassification. From the postwar standpoint I think this is an important move, although there is no question about the hardships that will result temporarily. I think it will particularly slow up relocation since so many of the Issei are dependent on their young Nisei sons. One minor hardship is going to be in relation to our study, for I am afraid I will not be too successful in getting occupational deferments for my Nisei workers.

There are all sort of rumors and newspaper reports about a big change in the administration of the WRA. It is said that it will cease to exist as an independent agency and will be incorporated in the Department of the Interior. The main reason for this is the inefficient way in which they have handled public relations, and it is thought that Ickes can buck the public much better than Dillon Myer. I don't think this change will make much difference to the evacuees, but we are following it with great interest.

I am getting together a box of items for you, but am greatly disappointed at the limitation on the size of the things I can send. The first box will contain some candy and a vest-pocket magnifying glass and a small leather notebook. The magnifying glass is a gift from W.I., and the other things are from me. Will you please write me another request for a package, since apparently I have to show a letter everytime I send anything. I had expected to send a larger box, so yesterday evening we sat and ate up the excess of the candy that you otherwise would have got. Please let me know whether the sort of candy I have sent can stand the heat, or whether it arrives in an inedible state.

Do write again soon. We love to get your letters.

Sincerely yours,

Dorothy Swaine Thomas

21 Feb. 44
South Pacific

To whom it may concern:

I hereby request Dr. Thomas to send me candy, books to my overseas station.

Sgt. Yukio Kawamoto
#39090824
Div.-Hq.-Co. APO 37
c/o Postmaster
San Francisco, Calif.

21 Feb. 44

Dear Mrs. Thomas:

It was nice hearing from you again and I found your reference to the WRA set up's possible changes, the drafting of nisei, and its possible effects on your project workers, interesting. I suppose this means fellows like Shibutani, Saiki, etc.

So be perfectly frank and honest, however, I guess the idea of a package coming was "The News" of the letter. They are about the only things we can look forward to out here and I assure you that they are looked forward to. I feel rather guilty receiving item after item from you and Dr. W.I. for I have imposed so much on you already but I guess I'm still just a kid for I take great pleasure in receiving these and other gifts. I only hope someday I may be able to return in kind.

Things here have not changed appreciably, although in this general area, things are beginning to move quite rapidly as you've no doubt been reading. To give you a little better idea of this "region" I am approximately in, may I say that I have been in New Caledonia, Munda, New Georgia, Guadalcanal, Villa Lavella and X place where I am presently. A bit awkwardly put, I'm afraid, but wor-

2) ling makes a difference with censors and this is the only way I can refer to it without getting the "hatchet." My exact location may even be learned if you should ask someone in Ohio, for the outfit I am presently with is the 37th Infantry Division which is primarily an Ohio outfit.

There is very little else to say so I shall end this up with a moron joke indicating the new low our mental status has reached out here in the jungles.

Hold tight! here goes:

"Do you know why little Moron saluted all the refrigerators in camp?"

"Because he thought one of them might be <u>General Electric</u>!"

Sincerely,

Yukio

Enclosed is the request. A bit awkward but how cooperative I am. Hmm.

Print the complete address in plain block letters in the panel below, and your return address in the space provided. Use typewriter, dark ink, or pencil. Write plainly. Very small writing is not suitable.

No. _____

Censored
Gilbert B. Ayres
Capt CE

(CENSOR'S STAMP)

To
Dr. D.S. Thomas
2710 Garber
Berkeley, California

From # 39090824
Sgt. Yukio Kawamoto
(Sender's name)
Div. - Hq - Co APO 37
% Postmaster
San Francisco, Calif.

19 Mar. 44
(Date)

Same Place

Dear Mrs. Thomas:

Your pkg with the candy, cookies, notebook, and magnifying glass arrived several days ago and it was really swell. Thank you ever so much.

I meant to thank you immediately but things have been extremely abnormal the last couple of weeks; we have literally been working day and night during this period and this is about the first breather I've had (10 p.m., candlelight, blackout conditions). Thus, this short note. Just the same I thought I'd better jot down a few lines of thanks on the theory, the sooner the better. Short as it is, therefore, it is a highly "concentrated" thanks.

Aside from the delicious quality of the edibles, its surprisingly good condition, the notebook and magnifying glass were also in good shape and arrived most timely. The glass especially has been put to good use. Please thank Dr. T. for me.

I have gone thru more new experiences again, some exciting, some not so, and some not so pleasant. Can't say much more about it and I believe you know why.

I am still very much [redacted] in good shape. Yukio

May 26, 1944

Sgt. Yukio Kawamoto, #39090824
Div. Hq. Co. APO 37
C/o Postmaster
San Francisco, California

Dear Yukio:

I have certainly been very negligent both about answering your letter and in getting the subscription to the Daily Californian. The subscription goes in this afternoon, so you should certainly begin to receive it before too long. I quite understand that you don't like mystery stories, although both Mrs. Wilson and I are completely addicted to them. W.I. just turns up his nose at them. If there is anything else I can send you, be sure to let me know.

Things are very hectic here. Nobody has been drafted yet but they are all vulnerable. Haruo Najima is now in the Army and will soon be at Camp Savage, so he'll probably be following in your footsteps.

I am having a staff conference in Salt Lake City in June and am going to Topaz just for a day and a night. I wrote your mother and certainly hope to have a chance to see her. I will take her a small present from you, using the two dollar check you sent me.

Do let me hear from you soon again.

Sincerely yours,

Dorothy Swaine Thomas

Print the complete address in plain block letters in the panel below, and your return address in the space provided. Use typewriter, dark ink, or pencil. Write plainly. Very small writing is not suitable.

No.

censored
S.B. Ayres
Maj CE

(CENSOR'S STAMP)

To Dr. D.S. Thomas
2710 Garber
Berkeley, California.

From #39090824
S/Sgt Yukio Kawamoto
(Sender's name)
Div-Hq-Co APO 37
% Postmaster
San Francisco, Calif

10 June 44
(Date)

Dear Mrs. Thomas:

So thank you for the latest pkg, Mrs. Thomas. It reached me a couple days ago and as always in very good shape. You must use scientific methods in your packing and a special type container or something for your pkgs. unfailingly come in A-1 shape. This must definitely cannot be said for some of the others. Some of them seem to have gone thru more combat than some of these battle-grizzled veterans out here by the time they get into our hands.

The eats were swell and contrary to what I thought I even enjoyed the mystery "thrillers." One must try things to find out, doesn't one? Speaking of trying out things, I've tried a little smoking since I've come out here and during the ban issues we have from time to time people find me going in for a bottle or two even tho I'm frankly not crazy about it even now. I seem to enjoy the "black locker" better (these rare occasions when a bottle of whiskey or the like is procured by hook or crook). Naturally I can't take much but I enjoy it. Perhaps the next time we have a "shell" I'll be able to do better than I did last time. Hope that day will be in the near future. Sum of events are becoming more encouraging, aren't they? Hope it continues. Thanking you again tho and very best regards to Mr W I + yourself, always,
Yukio

V···-MAIL

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE : 1943

June 15, 1944

Dear Yukio,

This morning I received your V-Mail letter dated June 10. That certainly is speedy, and I have been doing a lot of speculating about your possible whereabouts.

I was amused to note that you have fallen for mystery stories. I should report that even WI has recently taken a more tolerant attitude, and, when I left him alone for a day in Salt Lake City, I discovered he had spent the whole day reading some that I had left xim in the room. How the great have fallen!

The purpose of this letter is to tell you of my visit to Topaz. I hadd had a staff meeting in Salt Lake City, and Mr. Peterson of WRA kindly drove me to Topaz for a day. I got a really royal welcome from your parents and Mrs. Miyasaki, enjoyed their wonderful hospitality for a couple of all too short hours, and came away loaded down with beautiful gifts. Your mother is really an artist in handicraft. She gave me, among other things, a shell gardenia that is so exquisite that I feel it should be photographed, and I shall try to have it done.

Your parents looked extraordinarily well. The transformation in your mother was particularly marked. I had had sad memories of how she looked during those trying days before evacuation and even at Tanforan. She seems relaxed and even happy now. And of-course your father was the same jolly, cheerful fellow that he always must have been. Mrs. Miyasaki was her usual peppy self, and I was charmed with the youngsters. We drank coffee and ate all sorts of delicacies. But mostly we talked about Yukio, read some of his letters, and looked at pictures of him and his friends. Among the latter, I noticed a remarkable number of beautiful girls. Which is the lucky one? Also, I was very touched when Mrs. K said "Yukio say Mrs. Thomas like mama to me". Apparently I am getting quite a family, without any effort on my part.

The Salt Lake City meeting was a great success, although I worked the boys and myself far too hard. I had a beautiful program planned, whereby evenings were to be given over to relaxation including movies and sukiyaki. Instead of that, we met morning afternoon and night every day for almost a week, trying to come to grips with our problems. We rarely broke up before midnight, and then we were all so over-stimulated that noone could sleep. We all had terrific shadows under our eyes, and lost weight. But we made great strides in regard to the study, so the sacrifice for science seems worth while. I just got back yesterday, and slept for fifteen hours straight.

Let me hear from you soon again, and put in another request for a package if there is anything you want.

Sincerely yours,

PS Isn't Topaz an awful dump?

Dear Dr Thomas:

Happy new year to you all do hope you had a nice Haliday, or was it just another day like it was in Camp?
I want to thank you very much for your Four leave Clover. We hope it will Bring Yukio back home Tous.
We appreic ate your Kindness Tremendousely
No What The West Coast is Opened we are Glad in a way But we have no home to go Back to now I have written Yukio About the Coast re Opening so he will Probably write you There are many Things I would like to write you About but my English is very Limited
With our best wishes for a brigther And a Happier New year

Sincerely Yours
Mrs. C. Kawamato

5-7-A. Zapa Beach.
Aug. 7, 1944.

Dear Dr. Thomas:

I want to thank you for airing out our trunk and also for the package which came last Saturday. I shall mend those things. I am so glad you put in the water canteen it will come in handy. Now how much do I owe you for the service. please let me know.

I can not begin to thank you enough for all the kindness you have shown us. It was so very nice of you to take time out to air the trunk when I know you are so busy with your own work. We are very grateful for your ever kindness and do appreciate it tremendously. Do hope you are having nice summer weather there. We have been having much heat with our famous dust storms lately. I have been busy with the U S O doings. We had a memorial service

(2) for a boy who was killed in action overseas last Saturday night. From now on there will be more such services as many of our Japs boys have gone overseas, I presume. There has been a death in our block and the funeral is tomorrow morning. We of the block have made a beautiful heart shaped wreath of white and red roses of crepe paper. Thank you very much once more for everything. With our best regards to you all. The Meyrsahis sent their kind regards to you also.

Yours sincerely,

Hana Kawamoto / M. M.

Print the complete address in plain letters in the panel below, and your return address in the space provided on the right. Use typewriter, dark ink, or dark pencil. Paint or small writing is not suitable for photographing.

(CENSOR'S STAMP)

TO:
Dr. D.S. Thomas
2710 Garber St
Berkeley, Calif.

SEE INSTRUCTION NO. 2

FROM
#39090924
S/Sgt Yukio Kawameto
Hq-Co, Special Troops
37th Inf Div, APO-37
% PM, S.F, Calif.

(Sender's complete address above)

52d Sta Hosp
2 Dec 44

Dear Mr. Thomas:

Just a few lines to let you know that yours truly has become a sad sack. As you can see I am presently in a hospital and have been so now for nearly 2 weeks. I am practically well now, however, and feeling quite well. Something which I couldn't say a week ago.

After a year's jungle life without any illness it seemed of any consequence, I spoke a little too soon when I said I was a veteran. For one day "believe" I was pretty much flattened out. I ran a high fever for several days and in general I was weak and very miserable. As you may have guessed, my first fear was that I had gotten malaria. My worries proved to have been unwarranted, fortunately, however, later when lab. results proved to be all negative. Needless to say I was very much relieved.

How have things been with you Mr. Thomas? And Ma. W.I.? Busy on the study and research I trust. Your last letter in which you confessed that your attitude is more that of human interest rather than the scientific seemed to fit well. Really, Mr. Thomas, you have a heart of gold. I'm sure its realized by many and appreciated too. As for one, you know how I feel. Well—end of the gage. But mighty hope you have a good Xmas, and thanks for remembering me.

Sincerely
Yukio

HAVE YOU FILLED IN COMPLETE ADDRESS AT TOP?

REPLY BY V···-MAIL

HAVE YOU FILLED IN COMPLETE ADDRESS AT TOP?

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE : 1945 16—28143-2

5-7-A,
Zyrgyltau.
Dec. 2, 1944.

Dear Dr. Thomas:

How are you since? Do hope you are back in best of health. I have been having some dentistry done and all my uppers are extracted and some day will have false teeth. So have not been feeling too well. I haven't been gone to English classes lately. Gubio tells me you have sent him a nice X mas gift. Thank you very much for your everlasting kindness. We do appreciate your kind thoughts tremendously. Just had a letter from Gubio today saying that a "bug" slapped him down and is in

the hospital for precautionary treatment for a slight fever and not to worry about it.
Marie's been very busy with her children so you haven't heard from me so regularly.
Have sent a package for Xmas.
Have made 2 different kinds of crepe paper flowers please interchange them in the basket.
The shalock on the basket won't go good so please reshalock it and will always look like new. The shalock we get around here isn't very good.
Hope you will like the crocheted doilies.
Well it's beginning to snow

a little this morning and is really cold out. How is it in Berkeley?

Thank you once more for everything.

With our best regards to you both.

Marie sends her kind regards to you.

Sincerely yours

Mrs. Kawamoto

M. M.

5-7-A,
Tapayttan.
Dec. 7, 1944.

Dear Dr. Thomas:

It was nice to hear from you and know you are well. We are both pretty well. It is considerably warmer these day only cold early mornings and late at nites. Hope it doesn't get too cold.

About that book, I have destroyed all my books and magazines before evacuation as we were only limited to such small amounts of baggages. I have asked

different persons about the book but no one seems to have it. But will keep on asking, I doubt very much if any one has it here.

Well how was Salt Lake City? and how is it in Berkely now?

There was a memorial service for those soldiers killed in action, wounded, & missing last Sunday. There are 10 killed in action from this center. Most of them are young volunteers.

With our best regards to you both. and Marie sends her kind regards to you

Sincerely
Mrs. Kawanolo / M.M.

December 26, 1944

Dear Yukio:

I was certainly glad to get your letter, for your mother had told me that you were sick. It is indeed good news that you didn't have malaria.

Several days after your letter arrived, we received a wonderful box of chocolates. Somehow this seemed to be the reverse procedure - you should be getting something from us. But we have enjoyed everyone of them.

Speaking of chocolates, I was amused and chagrined at the fact that your mother had sent on a box that I took to Topaz. It certainly shows the limitations of language. You will remember that you sent me a check for $2.00, and I thought it would be a nice gesture to take a box of chocolates to your mother from you. I also got one for myself. Evidently when I said one from Yukio she thought I said one for Yukio. However foolish she might think I would be for sending chocolates to the Pacific, she would not dream of telling me so. I certainly hope they were not completely melted before you got them.

I received a wonderful Christmas present from your mother: a beautiful crocheted doily and some flowers that show a real artistic talent. I certainly appreciate her kindness.

There is a great deal of excitement here now about the lifting of the exclusion order, but the reports that I get from the camps show, as we might expect, that the enthusiasm there is mixed with a great deal of fear and apprehension. The people are particularly worried for fear WRA will forcibly close up the camps. Frankly, I don't think anything of the sort will happen. I don't anticipate any great number returning to the Coast at this time because of the fact that so many of them have lost all their property, and that even though jobs are plentiful, housing is scarce and there is always uncertainty about the reaction of the Californians. Nevertheless, this means that one of the important elements in our discrimination has been removed.

We had another Salt Lake City conference which was

very successful. Unfortunately, the time there was so limited and full of things to do that I was not able to take another trip to Topaz. I certainly hope to hear from you soon again. We have had a very quiet Christmas and are now busy with the many things that have to be done. W.I. joins me in thanks for the Christmas present and every good wish for the new year.

Sincerely yours,

January 8, 1945

Dear Yukio:

Your mother tells me that she has written you about the rescinding of the restrictions on return to the Coast. As you may well understand, this is not considered an unmixed blessing by the evacuees and there is a lot of distress in the camps for fear people are going to be pushed out. I hope that you will not worry about this. The official announcement says that camps will be closed in from six to twelve months, but in all cases at least three months' notice will be given. Your mother is worried about getting housing in Berkeley. The situation is certainly very tight here, as I think you know. A good many interested organizations and individuals are beginning to mobilize their efforts to see what can be done. The best possibility, if your parents really want to return, would be for them to get in with some nice family and do some domestic work. I don't know whether they would even consider such a proposition. If they would, I would make every effort to put them in touch with someone who had the right attitude and where I felt they would be happy. I certainly wish that I had a larger house and could take them in, but as you know this isn't true.

I assure you that I am going to keep my eye on them, and I will do everything in my power to make things agreeable for them. In the meantime, I hope they will just stop worrying and wait and see what the government actually does plan to do. Let me hear from you soon.

Sincerely yours,

Dorothy Swaine Thomas

Print the complete address in plain letters in the panel below, and your return address in the space provided on the right. Use typewriter, dark ink, or dark pencil. Faint or small writing is not suitable for photographing.

(CENSOR'S STAMP)

TO: Dr. D.S. Thomas
2710 Garber
Berkeley, California

SEE INSTRUCTION NO. 2

FROM #39090824
S/Sgt Yukio Kawamoto
Hq - Co, Special Troops
APO 37 c/o PM
San Francisco, Calif.
19 Jan 45

(Sender's complete address above)

Somewhere in the Philippines

Dear Mrs. Thomas:

It is I this time who has been highly negligent and allowed such a lapse of time between letters I'm afraid. My reasons, however, I believe you will agree with me are such to be excusable. I've been on the move as you can see.

We have been quite busy and still are as might be understandable but I decided to jot these few lines during the short lull of the moment to let you know of my present whereabouts and at the same time acknowledge your long unanswered letter which has been hanging over my head all this time.

Our trip over was quite nice, as army convoys go, and although not completely devoid of exciting moments, they were a lot less than anticipated. After our safe arrival at our destination also things have been progressing smoothly and well. We are already enjoying the "luxuries" of hot meals and stable enough conditions to keep from sleeping in foxholes. Further, due to willing native labor, disagreeable chores as laundry, digging holes, setting up camp, etc have been greatly reduced. They have also been a source of supplementary food as: chickens, eggs, etc, which needless to say, have been real treats for us. Incidentally, we find them very friendly.

No doubt your problems in conducting the research is mounting and your difficulties I can readily appreciate. Your aspect on the matter as a human being rather than a scientist impressed me very much and thought it was very typical of you — a swell person. Regards to Mr. W. I and thank you for the X photos.

Yours

HAVE YOU FILLED IN COMPLETE ADDRESS AT TOP?

REPLY BY V···—MAIL

HAVE YOU FILLED IN COMPLETE ADDRESS AT TOP?

FOLD TOP AND BOTTOM IN, THEN FOLD IN CENTER AND SEAL
NO OTHER ENVELOPE SHOULD BE USED

☆ U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE : 1943 16—28143-5

FROM: Sgt Y. Kawamoto
Hq-Co, Spec Srps
APO 37 c/o PM
S.F., Calif.

Free
SEE INSTRUCTION NO. 5

V···— MAIL

TO:

Dr. W. S. Thomas
2710 Barber
Berkeley, California

Answered
Austin Osgood
Ind Ind

FOLD HERE

FOLD HERE

V-Mail service provides a most rapid means of communication. If addressed to a place where photographing service is not available the original letter will be dispatched by the most expeditious means.

INSTRUCTIONS

(1) Write the entire message plainly on the other side within marginal lines.

(2) Print the name and address in the two spaces provided. Addresses of members of the Armed Forces should show full name, complete military or naval address, including grade or rank, serial number, unit to which assigned or attached and army post office in care of the appropriate postmaster or appropriate fleet post office.

(3) Fold, seal, and deposit in any post office letter drop or street letter box.

(4) Enclosures must not be placed in this envelope.

(5) V-Mail letters may be sent free of postage by members of the Armed Forces. When sent by others postage must be prepaid at domestic rates (3c ordinary mail, 6c if domestic air mail service is desired when mailed in the U. S.)

☆ GPO 16—28143-4

February 23, 1945

Dear Yukio:

I was certainly glad to get your letter from the Philippines. I can imagine how busy you are and how little time there is for writing any letters. Apparently you have not yet received letters from your mother or from me regarding the WRA's plans for closing the camps. I am keeping in close touch with your parents and you know that of course I stand ready to help them at any time. I don't feel that they should make any hasty move. I am rather in favor of their taking it easy in camp for the time being and seeing what opportunities develop on the outside or eventually what changes in government policy may occur. As you know, plans on paper often look very good but when the practical working out of these things come along there are many unforeseen difficulties, and policies do have to be modified. Naturally, I cannot predict what form the modification will take but my own feeling is that WRA has been premature in announcing the absolute closing of the camps. The announcement is causing a needless amount of distress. Thus, people who are in a position to relocate immediately are, of course, being spurred to do so, but the problem is not a simple one for the bulk of the Issei. I believe that their problems will get more sympathetic recognition later than they are now. That is, I feel that by July the impracticability of moving everybody out may well come to be recognized. At any rate, the best plan now is not to worry and just see what happens in the course of the spring and summer.

Our Study is going along very well indeed. It is, of course, a great advantage to me to be able to have my Nisei staff members come to Berkeley. Charles Kikuchi is here with me now but will shortly return to Chicago. Jimmy Sakoda and his wife are relocating in Berkeley and will arrive here very shortly from Minidoka.

The tempo of the war certainly seems to be increasing rapidly. In a sense we are very far removed from it, and civilian life goes on pretty much as usual but letters from you and others bring the whole thing closer to us. Do please keep on writing and let me know how you are getting along. I would like very much to send you a box of whatever you would

like, and wish you would send me an official request.

W.I. sends his best regards.

Sincerely yours,

Dorothy Swaine Thomas

Somewhere in the Philippines

22 Feb 45

大日本帝國政府

Letterhead: THE IMPERIAL GOV'T of JAPAN

Dear Mrs. Thomas:

Thanks for the letters. Gradually the mail is beginning to catch up with us and among them were yours which were needless to say, most welcome.

I should deal on other social matters to make this letter correct I suppose but inasmuch as I am pressed for time and since circumstances are what they are, I'm afraid I shall have to lim t myself to matters of urgent nature only. I believe you know what matter I am referrin to.

During my trip to this place and since, much has happened in regards to the relocation program and the lifting of the restrictions on the West Coast I see from both your accounts and letters from Mom. One in particular referred to an apt that you had procured after much trouble and effort on your part which was located in a good district and at the remarkably reasonable rental fee it demanded and that an immediate reply in regards to its acceptance or not being desired. Naturally by the time I received the letter with this operation still in process, the matter was much too late to do any good. Dad & Mom too still seem reluctant to act without consulting me first ----all of which makes things very difficult and slow and yet for which I cannot exactly blame them. The thing that concerns me is, however, the fact that efforts you went to make this possible could not be taken advantage of. No doubt you were disappointed also if not angered.

A friend of mine sent me the official statement made by Mr Myer concerning this new program of the WRA and the regulations governing it. From my hurried perusal, I gather that it is desired that all evacuees make arrangements for relocation within an allotted time of some 6 months although it does state at the same time that no evacuee will be forcibly ousted from these centers. All of which will create quite a headache for my folks and myself----particularly under present circumstances. It will also mean a further burden on you I guess for I'm afraid I shall be compelled to lean on your kindness even more heavily than in the past which has not been slight to put it mildly. I am naturally greatly concerned and although I would like to see my folks living more normally again I hesitate to urge too strongly their immediate relocation on their own inasmuch as so many factors must be considered and the conditions outside being such an unknown element to both myself and my folks. I know you shall but I request your learned advice again on all matters concerning

this important matter (to me) and I trust you will keep me well informed. Naturally I shall do all I can also but needless to say my hands are pretty well tied and that what I'll be able to do wbuld of necessity be extremely limited.

Among other things, my folks have been concerned with means of livelihood on relocation. With their present income, which is nil, it would be utterly impossible. They are willing to do some work if they can procure it but this they are not sure of. Their age and infirmity also limits the fields in which they may be employed. Some light housework at some nice home is about the only possibility I can think of for the present. I am sure they would be able to handle this much and would welcome any opportunities in this regard. I don't particularly desire seeing them do this but I feel it will be necessary since I am not in a position to support them wholly. I have assurred them, however, that should they relocate they may count on $50/mo from me in addition to the present allotment they are receiving ($37.00; $22 of my pay, $15 from the gov't). Further, with proper applications, I believe they can receive additional support. For instance, my present allotment is classed "B" and this can be changed to "A" standing I'm quite sure. I have failed in the past to get this classification in spite of repeated efforts but with relocation and the obvious necessity of more funds required to make a living I feel they may reconsider. Incidentally, I've been very peeved in the way the Allotment Bureau has so stingily withheld support in my case. So many other families much better off have been considered so much more favorably. Oh well, such are the injustices of life, I guess.

If I am not mistaken also, I believe the WRA itself is making facilities available to aid relocatees monetarily where deemed deserving and necessary. Naturally I am going to do my best to see that all such possibilities are looked into but my efforts of course shall be limited to the mail.

The above is about all I can hink of on the spur of the moment but I hope it will give you some basis to work on. It is not my desire nor my liking to lean on you so heavily but both my folks and I can only look up to you for genuine and sympathetic aid. Some day, I don't know how, I hope to repay you in some way or another. At the present time, all I can express is my heartfelt gratitude.

It's been some time now since my initial landing days here and I am gradually getting adjusted to this place in spite of our constant movements. The operations XXXX is progressing well although not without sacrifice. I am well and though busy getting along. My opinion of the native populace has lost a great deal of enthusiasm since my first letter and at times has reached the point of disgust but it could be worse I suppose.

大日本帝國政府

Our work has been vastly different here in the problems involved but it has been very interesting also. We have encountered various peoples and with extremely varied and interesting backgrounds. We have had some also with whose nationality you would be interested in too. All in all though, I am pretty well fed up with it all and can only look forward to the day when I can get back home. Gads, when will that be! It is now said that persons without at least 30 months over here will not even be considered for rotation. Here I am putting with a bare 1½ years.

I am being "interrupted" with business now; it's a wonder I got this far without it, being busy as we have been so many weeks now, and I'm afraid I shall have to let other matters go until the next time. In the meantime, let me hear from you.

Trusting that all's well with you although undoubtedly extremely busy with these latest changes.

My warmest regards to Dr WI-----

Very Sincerely,

Yukio

Enclosed: Some souvenier currency.

Somewhere in the Philippines
28 Feb 1945

Dear Mrs. Thomas:

Again strictly a business letter and rather an urgent one. It deals with this relocation business, the closing of the centers within the next several months, etc.

I have naturally been greatly concerned in regards to my parents on this matter and they have also as you already know. I finally reached the conclusion that nothing short ~~with~~ of my actual presence and handling of the matter would take care of it adequately. This is not meant that your assistance is not sufficient nor adequate but the plain fact that complexities of matters necessitate the work to be done by an immediate member of the family. I'm sure you understand. As for your help and kindness of the past, they have been really much much more than we or anyone could expect as I've stated time and again.

Anyway acting on this conclusion, I have taken steps to get back to the states to see my parents resettled and see that they will be able to get along. It is an emergency furlough application and whether I'll get it or not still remains to be seen but the authorities with whom I have spoken to are inclined to regard my applicat on favorably and the signs are good. My commanding officers, including the Col of the group, are all for me which is indeed encouraging and heartwarming. Among the steps required, however, is an investigation by the Red Cross and this in my case will probably be the deciding factor. They are going to contact the Topaz Division on this matter I believe. The minimum time required before the results can be known on this matter I understand is about 3 weeks. The rest should not take more than a few days. So if all goes well I should be on my way back by the end of March. Am keeping my fingers crossed.

All this I am relating to you since I know I will be in dire need of your advice and guidance on this matter even though I do manage to get back to take care of this matter. Furthermore should you find the time, I feel any advice you can write me on this matter prior to my actual departure from here will help me immensely when I do get there. Advice as to possible localities where reports have been favorable, wherrethere aare a few already resettled and getting along, etc. I am not even sure just where I would like to see them resettled at the moment. I am also inclined to feel that my folks are at a loss in regards to this matter with much of their decision binding on the moves of their more closer friends. All in all I can be sure of big headaches awaiting me should I manage to get back. This is when I'll need plenty of your sound advice.

A lot more can be said on this matter and I don't believe I've begun to exhaust the many factors and problems involved but due to pressure of work (still) I'm afraid this will have to do for now. My main point in writing this letter was to inform you of the steps I have taken over here.

I trust things are well with you and Dr WI. My best regards to him please. I am still in one piece and believe will remain so for the "hot phase" of the campaign as far as we are concerned is now over. Much paperwork remains to be done of course, however.

As ever,

Yukio

March 13,1945

Dear Yukio,

I was indeed glad to get your letter of Feburary 22nd. Mails certainly seem to be picking up, at long last.

Re your family: I really would not worry about the whole thing too much at present. I was neither "disappointed nor angry", to use your expression, that they could not take advantage of the apartment I had told them about. I had gone to no trouble at all in the matter. I have "lines" out, and my friends inform me when things turn up. I simply passed on the information.

I have no hesitation in advising any Nisei to return here at any time whatsoever. Charlie Kikuchi was here for six weeks, and not only did no one give him a dirty look but he had the best time in his life. The only discussion of his racial origin that came up was when a barber, who thought he was Chinese, gave him a long lecture aboutthe virtures and loyalty of the Nisei. Charlie got a great kick out of that. Jimmy Sakoda and his wife have just arrived, and they are extremely happy. Various student organizations are busy collecting money for scholarships for Nisei, and so on.

So far as the Issei are concerned, I hesitate to advise immediate return, unless a number of them come at the same time, or, and decidedly preferably, unless they can come with some Nisei companions. This is not because I think they will be in any "danger" in this area(the same is not yet true in regard to some places in the rural sections) but because they will be so lonely. Language is, after all, a terrific barrier to "assimilation."

Thus, leaving for the moment, practical matters of income and housing out of consideration, I would not advise your parents to return immediately unless someone like the Miyasaki family were prepared to return at the same time.

As far as government policy is conserned, I figure their present efforts are going to be directed towards getting all the Nisei and many of the sansei out of the camps just as soon as possible, and that is certainly all to the good. They should never have been in camps in the first place, and the sooner they are returned to normal life, the better for their future. I believe the government is beginning to realize the complications of the situation for many of the Issei. They too should never have been in the camps in the first place, but to talk of returning them to "normal life" when most of them have lost their foothold completely, and when they have no younger persons here who can take the major responsibility is not wholly realistic. What will be done is an open question, but that some modification of the original plan will have to be made towards the end of the summer, none of us can doubt.

If your parents chose to come back, and if housing could be found, I should be most happy to have your mother come back to work for me. I am prepared to pay $50 a month for the same sort of work she did for me before: light laundry, cleaning, etc. amounting to about three and a half hours a day six days a week. At present, as I believe I told you, I have to pay $1 an hour for occasional cleaning. As you can imagine, I can't afford to have regular part-time help at that level. I think that the wage I suggest will be about the regular "stabilized" wage by

summer time. Under no conditions would I be willing to pay less, and I would want to be sure, by checking the situation, that I was not paying too little. On the other hand, I honestly can't afford to go much higher. Your father, I am sure, could also get some light work, and it seems to me that their combined income from work of this sort could easily amount to $100 per month. The government allotment of $37 certainly ought to cover their rent, so that it seems to me the mechanics of living could be taken care of on that basis, without any further contributions from you. Where to find housing is, of-course another matter, and most of the places available require some service. i.e. they want some domestic help in return for housing. If your parents get really serious about the matter, I will start inquiring around. My present advice is to take it easy, unless the Miyasaki's get a good job. They, indidentally, ought to be able to move into something with really good wages, both of them being young and strong.

I am not writing to your mother about this directly, for I am afriad she might think I am trying to "pressure" her. I leave it to you to raise the question with her in your usual tactful and understanding way.

In order to show you how insecure the people in camp feel, and what the situation is in general, I quote from a letter from a Nisei friend who just visited his parents in Topaz:

"Many people with whom I've talked are interested in the possible venture back to their former homes in California, but they are more interested in hearing about crowded conditions, Negroes, dustbowlers and possible discrimination. They want something to justify and rationalize themselves into staying here. You just can't tell them otherwise. There is a story going around here about Mr. Sadamune of Oakland who is back theire, an Issei who returned from Gila and lives with his hakujin wife in Oakland who was supposed to have been threatened by phone 2 am one morning to leave Oakland or have his throat cut.(Many gersions of this--some say his throat slit--others shot). It was supposed to have been in the Oakland Tribune, some say it was in the Pacific Citizen. But the funny part of it all is that I saw Sadamune last Saturday, and he said nothing about it. In fact, he said he had had favorable letters welcoming him home from people he did not even know. Topazians are willing to believe almost anything which they want to believe They hate like hell the idea of moving, the idea of facing the world again. As you said, the issei are goin to "gambaru". They seem passive too, if the WRA is going to throw them out, then they say "shikataganai"--it can't be helped. Issei don't believe a word about Federal, State or county help. They remember too well the fate of people who were on W.P.A., and they don't want to be like them. Deep underneath they feel since the US put them here, it's up to the US to take care of them."

Well, you see how complicated the situation is, and how unwise and unkind it would be to urge too strongly until the situation settles down a bit. As the more venturesome go out and good reports begin coming into the center, others will be willing to make the break. In my opinion, that won't be till the middle or end of the summer.

Tell me more about the natives. I was much interested in your statement in your last letter.

WI sends regards. Sincerely yours,

3/15/45

MISS LEAH DICKENSON
RELOCATION PROGRAM OFFICER
TOPAZ UTAH

SERGEANT YUKIO KAWAMOTO HAS APPLIED FOR EMERGENCY FURLOUGH FROM PHILIPPINES TO ARRANGE RELOCATION OF PARENTS RESIDING 5-7-A. AM THOROUGHLY FAMILIAR WITH CASE AND CAN TESTIFY TO URGENCY. YUKIO IS ONLY SON AND PARENTS HAVE NO CAUCASIAN FRIENDS EXCEPT MYSELF. CAN MATTER BE EXPEDITED THROUGH LOCAL RED CROSS. REPLY APPRECIATED.

DOROTHY SWAINE THOMAS
EVACUATION AND RESETTLEMENT STUDY
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

SENT 11:50

BE 1430

March 16,1945

Dear Yukio,

When I received your letter of Feburary 28th, I telegraphed an acquaintence of mine who is relocation planning officer in Topaz, to add my recommendation re your furlough. I don't really think it will have any influence, but I asked her to reply and will keep you informed.

I am rather in a spot in respect to giving you any advice. Surely you must have read between the lines as to my feeling about changes in policy that may take place. Naturally I don't know a thing about future plans of the government agency, for it is clear that if they appeared to weaken, they would defeat their whole purpose, which is to get as many people relocated as quickly as possible. I think I can say with assurance that noone is going to be "kicked out", and that plans for public assistance,etc. etc. are well under way.

I do agree strongly that it would be highly desirable for you to come personally to help settle your parents if you can get permission. If you can't, I do want you to stop worrying, and to tell them to wait a few months before making any definite plans unless something appropriate turns up for them. I agree further that group relocation(i.e. relocation with friends) is the only sensible procedure for them. Unless hostels or some sort of temporary housing is provided by the W RA, Berkeley and the Bay Region seem to be quite out of the question. For two days, I have been working on the problem of finding housing for Jimmy Sakoda and wife. I even managed to get the study declared "essential" by the War Manpower Commission, which means that my employees are eligible for war housing. At present there is not one single vacancy either in private or in public housing, even with the very high "priority" we possess. Thus it is not at all a matter of discrimination: I have as yet to get a single address to see whether or not we would be "discriminated against."

Re community acceptance, recent experience seems to be highly favorable in most urban places in this area. There are a few tough spots, but they are where you might expect them: Placer County and that general area. The trouble here would be lack of housing, and if housing were by chance found, lack of contacts. Except for a few homeowners, there certainly can be no real influx of evacuees into this area, until the shipyards start closing down(which, according to the newspapers will be sometime this summer). Do your parents have friends in either Salt Lake City or Denver? There are appreciable Japanese American communities in both of those towns, and, according to my observations, pretty good community attitudes(I have stayed for days in both places, visited all sorts of restaurants and stores with evacuee friends and never noticed the slightest degree of antagonism, except at the upper-upper class Hotel Utah, where request for rooms was refused). If the situation here remains tight in regard to housing, and if relocation becomes necessary, temporary settlement in a place like Salt Lake City until you return might be the best solution.

Please ask me any specific questions that come to mind. I certainly hope to see you soon.

Sincerely yours,

CONFIRMATION

T E L E G R A M

TOPAZ, UTAH

MARCH 17, 1945

MAR 19 1945

DOROTHY SWAIN THOMAS
RED CROSS
BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA

APPROVAL GRANTED FOR VISIT OF SGT. YUKIO KAWAMOTO TO VISIT PARENTS 5-7-A TOPAZ. PLEASE HAVE HIM COMPLETE NECESSARY FORMS IN OAKLAND WRA OFFICE.

LEAH K. DICKINSON
RELOCATION PROGRAM OFFICER

Relocation Office

LKD:IAD:Hm

840A
N.S

The Philippines
28 Mar 1945

Dear Mrs. Thomas:

Thank you for your immediate reply and action on the receipt of my letter informing you of my plans concerning possible relocation of my parents. Your answers did much to give me a basis on which to act. That thoughtful gesture of wiring your acquaintance relocation officer at Topaz in my cause also very definitely should help in my opinion and was naturally very much appreciated.

As for the situation on this side nothing has happened since and no further progress has been made on the matter. I am still waiting -----was interrupted here;it is now 30 Mar 45---am still waiting and may find myself doing the same in the following week to come. The other day I dropped in on the Red Cross to check on the matter and they informed me that they had not heard yet but felt the answer would be coming within the week although they could of course promise nothing definite. So it is.

Immediately after receiving your letter, I wrote home of the things you advised in your last letter (16 Mar). I think it will help them in many ways. It certainly gave me a better idea. I had no idea that the housing situation was that bad although its critical nature was known in a general way much as the gags they pull on Washington.are. In this regard I think I'LL contact a friend of ours who owns and operates several apts in Berkeley on possibilities. She may not have anything to offer but due tohher business she should have access to more information in this regard I should think. At any rate there wont be any harm in asking, will there? Incidentally, her name is Mrs. Vecki and should be residing at the Glen Garry Apts 1802 Le Roy Ave (Just North of the Campus).

So long as I remain out here, I believe your advice on my folks sitting tight until the Gov't's relocation policy becomes more clear and to await and observe developments will probably be the best course of action. This would be in accordance with the preference of my parents too I believe. Their tendency, as you know, was to stick it out for the duration or at least till my return. They naturally prefer to live on the outside but without my presence they are extremely reluctant to do so. They are obviously envious of these other families where some son or daughter would relocate first and then call out the family. Can't blame them but I sometimes get "hard-boiled" and tell them they shouldn't be so dependent on me. If worse comes to worse, however, your suggestion of Salt Lake City or Denver may well be the answer. As I understand it though, I was under the impression that those two localities were rather getting overpopulated too. ~~Is the~~ Wouldn't this make housing difficult there too? When you get right down to it I suppose this would be true in any city in the country these days.

We are living very much the life of Riley these days here and knowing from past experience that such things do not continue forever in the army we are making the most of it. In short, most of the boys are having a whale of a time. I have had some too but with this problem on my mind I have been somewhat less eager than the others. I suppose a GI should be more carefree and hellbent but I still find myself pretty much as I've always been. Good, or bad, whatdo you think?

Just now I have no specific question. I wish the Red Cross would

get on the ball as a GI would put it. My best regards to Dr WI and again my thanks for your continued efforts and interest in my regard.

Sincerely,

Fabio

P.S. As the days go ~~BAY~~ by I find myself getting more distant with the activities of my ole alma mater. Naturally I still find some news interesting but I think it hardly worth your expense and trouble. Therefore, when my present subscription runs out please do not bother to renew it had you such intentions in mind. For the past issues, my thanks.

April 12, 1945

Dear Yukio:

I received your letter of March 28-30. I should have written you long ago about the Red Cross situation, but I thought sure you would be on your way by this time. I am enclosing the telegram that I received from them on March 19.

Regarding housing: the situation here is absolutely tight and will remain so at least until the shipyard workers are laid off which, it is anticipated, may happen sometime this summer. Your friend, Mrs. Vecki, telephoned yesterday. She not only no longer has the apartment you mentioned, but she is just about as helpless as I am in finding anything.

I really expect you will be here soon and that you may not even get this letter, so I will not go into any further details. If you are definitely turned down on your furlough, however, I will make every effort to see that something is done. Meantime, tell your parents not to worry. The grapevine has it that WRA is about to do something "drastic" about housing, so we will see.

Sincerely yours,

Dorothy Swaine Thomas

Enclosure

The Philippines
24 April 1945

Dear Mrs. Thomas:

Your guess that I would not be here long enough to receive your letter of 12 April, I'm afraid has turned out wrong. I received it today and the way things stand at the moment I may well get a couple more before I do if I do get to go back.

My application has not been turned down but is still in the process of going through channels. I'm afraid I was overly optimistic as to the speed in which the army does things in matters as these. By now I should have known better than to expect the Army to handle the matter in a matter of days as I was led to believe when I first made my inquiries. The several weeks the Red Cross required I rather expected and it was not so bad but the business after that I had expected to be handled immediately. In a way this slowness of ~~the~~ answer of course is a good sign in that it is still being considered. Had it been turned down right here in the Division itself, as a lot of them are, I would have known by now. As it is, it'll go to Corps, Army, and who knows, perhaps even to Gen MacArthur himself. Well, "he's returned" so I hope he'll be considerate enough to allow me to "return" also. Rather corny, isn't it?

Mom writes that Marie Miyasaki is planning on Denver where she has a sister if worse comes to worse but her general tendency as it is true with a great many of them is to stay put at least for the time being. This is an area I believe you also recommended as a possibility.

Regarding employment, I am more concerned than ever since the condition of my parents are such that I am even beginning to wonder if the lightest of work will not be too much for them. She tells me that Dad must rest himself after walking but 2 blocks. The Red Cross answer I recall now wrote the physical condition of my folks quite prominently based on physicians' reports. Both my Mom and Dad have been having trouble with their legs for quite some time now. Guess what I really need is a complete discharge. I would so like to see them enjoy a little of the not too numerous days they have left. They deserve it so much.

Things are pretty much the same here. It is not quite as rushing or as rugged as the last few days but we are far from idle. Have gotten accustomed to the beach and the bay again but it wont be for long I don't believe. It may well be the hills this time. One consolation is that it will be cooler.

Would like to write more but time does not permit. Thought I'd keep you constantly informed as long as I could. Perhaps by the end of this month I'll be able to write you if I am coming home or not. I'll be saving the stories on the natives till then (i.e. when I get back).

As ever,

Yukio

P.S. I also rec'd that enclosed telegram you so thoughtfully obtained for

me. There is no end your kindness, is there?

YUKIO KAWAMOTO - NOTES BY D.S.T.

May 28, 1945

Yukio flew back from the Philippines on an emergency furlough, granted because of statements by WRA that the centers would be closed by the end of the year. Red Cross investigation had shown that his parents were "aged and in poor health" and probably incapable of self-support. Yukio, being the only child in the U.S., (there is a daughter in Japan - taken there as an infant) was granted leave by the Army to arrange for the resettlement of his parents. He arrived with high hopes of assistance from WRA in obtaining housing and other facilities. The parents had told him they preferred to return to Berkeley to to wait out his eventual demobilization.

Yukio was greatly disheartened to find that there was no available housing in Berkeley, and that WRA had made no plans to provide housing for the returning evacuees. He wondered whether he should try to resettle them in the middle west.

D.S.T. invited R.N. and N.S. over to discuss the matter with Yukio. The combined advice of these two and of W.I. and D.S.T. was that the parents should "stick it out" in Topaz, since it is certain that WRA policy <u>must</u> change and that shelters will be established to take care of the residual camp population, even after the war. It was considered inadvisable for Yukio to attempt to resettle his parents until after demobilization on the following grounds:

(1) Berkeley, which the parents (but not necessarily Yukio) prefer as the only place in the U.S. with which they are

familiar (as I remember, Mr. K. was a resident here for some 40 years; Mrs. K. for 25 years) has no housing except in return for service. They are not capable of performing full-time domestic or gardening work.

(2) The parents speak very little English. They are Buddhists. Berkeley has no prospects of a "Japanese colony" under present conditions. They would be isolated and unhappy, even if housing could be obtained.

(3) The family has no resources except Yukio's pay and Army allotment.

(4) Resettlement in the middle west was likewise advised against. All the factors listed above are operative in most other communities. In addition, the parents are reluctant to settle in an unknown place and, of course, Yukio has no idea where he will be able to get a job after the war. To move his parents now and later to have to move them to the place where he finds a job would be expensive and cause much personal hardship. In addition, his own job-seeking opportunities would be hampered.

R.N. said "Anyone who lets the WRA force him out of camp under these conditions is a sucker."

Yukio was on the one hand relieved to have the implied "solution" of his problem, but, on the other hand, he said he would have a guilty conscience about obtaining the emergency furlough under false pretences. We assured him that these feelings of guilt were unnecessary. R.N. explained that every Nisei boy

in the Army was undoubtedly worried about the same thing. Few of them would be so lucky as to obtain furloughs. Yukio could, therefore, do much for the morale of the boys in his own unit (and elsewhere) by carrying back an accurate account of the situation in regard to closure.

Re Yukio's report of his experiences in the Pacific area, the following items are of some interest:

(1) He is with the 37th Division (Ohio). The relations between the Nisei and the combat soldiers ~~is~~ are excellent. The G.I.'s are extraordinarily tactful, he reports, and try to spare the feelings of the Nisei, even in discussing the enemy. They are sympathetic and indignant about evacuation. Some of them have said "If I were treated that way, you wouldn't find <u>me</u> in the Army fighting for the so-and-so's."

(2) Nisei are not promoted above the level of Master Sergeant. Inexperienced Caucasians are given commissions in G.2 and are put in charge of the Nisei interpreters. The Caucasians usually have no adequate knowledge of the language (exceptions: a few who were born and brought up in Japan). This situation arouses a good deal of resentment among the Nisei.

(3) The Nisei G.2's are occasionally "captured" by our troops (ditto for an unfortunate Chinese cook in the 37th who has been "captured" six times!) They are particularly fearful of getting into the hands of the Marines. The Marines, he

says, are "trigger happy" and shoot without questioning. They rarely capture anyone, but kill on sight (even their own men at times.)

(4) Nisei in the armed forces are resentful of the J.A.C.L. They abhor the flag-waving tactics of the Pacific Citizen. They disliked Kuroki's "propaganda."

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Miscellaneous

(1) When R.N. and N.S. were describing the chip-on-the shoulder attitude of some aggressive Nisei who are returning to this area, Yukio indicated that he approved. (R.N. and N.S. definitely did not). "It's more American to behave that way," said Yukio.

(2) Kibei interpreters sometimes have linguistic difficulties in interviewing prisoners, as they mix in a lot of American slang.

(3) Prisoners sometimes think the Nisei are other prisoners who have gone over to the "enemy." Most prisoners are "scared stiff" and answer readily. A few are sullen. Very few prisoners speak any intelligible English. The only one who spoke good English claimed to be a Nisei, educated at Amherst. His father is alleged to be in N.Y. Said Yukio, "I think the fellow was just an opportunist. He was caught in Japan when the war broke out, and I think he was doing pretty well. So he enlisted in the Army. He could, of course, have claimed his American citizenship and been sent back."

(4) Re the whole Kawamoto family case history (which is

well-documented by letters in my file), Mrs. K., who was a teacher in Japan before coming to the U.S. and who was a teacher in a Japanese language school in Oakland for many years, daily expected to be picked up by the F.B.I. The K's have only one relative in this country, a cousin of Mrs. K, a resident of L.A. This lady was picked up the day Yukio was in L.A. en route to Camp Robinson. This, of course, goes far to explain Mrs. K's almost pathological fear which was shown day after day while working for the T.'s. Her lips were cracked and swollen and her eyes puffy from crying. She would repeat over and over again "I afraid." D.S. and W.I., who could not communicate with her because of the language barrier, were distressed and deeply depressed by her state of mind, and did what they could to reassure her. They were never able to discover the root of her particular trouble, but attributed it to the more general circumstances of evacuation.

Topaz, Utah
4 June 45

Dear Mrs. Thomas:

Finally getting around to writing you of the many things that have been on my mind. Seeing my folks, paying respects to the neighbors, friends, and calling on the Red Cross, relocation officials, etc has made my return so far a very busy and tiring one. Nevertheless it has been nice too needless to say and everyone have been extremely good to me. So are my Mom dance with joy alone has made the trip well worthwhile so far as I am concerned.

Regarding relocation, I have found things pretty much the way you had presented the picture to me and I now feel that actual physical relocation of my parents during my brief stay cannot be done and should not be done. Alternative plans for eventualities and possibilities are about all I've worked out and believe ~~the~~ it to be about all I'll be able to do. A close home town friend of mine who has been looking around in Berkeley since 11 May wrote to me the other day and his advice is strikingly in the same vein as yours also. In his case, he owns a home (a nice one too) but is having his troubles with OPA regulations and a real estate agent who made things a mess by inserting something like a "duration clause" in renting out the home. He dropped in at Higamini but instead found you out and had a talk with Ken Nishimoto, he writes.

The WRA officials here (Miss Dickenson & Mr. Earle) that I've talked to don't make any bones about the housing difficulty existing in Berkeley. Their suggestion is one that we all know about already, that of getting a room with a family and

2) doing some domestic work in return. Mr. Earle assures me also that before actual committments are made terms must be agreed to by both parties and WRA itself will not allow people in the category of my folks ~~will~~ to be sent out without reasonably assurance of their successful relocation of becoming true. Perhaps this will have to be the eventual course my folks will have to take for their desire to return to Berkeley seems genuine and unshakable. Possibilities in Fresno and Denver have been made known to us by some friends but Mom prefers to go to Berkeley even though it may mean a little less in the way of convenience and necessity of doing some domestic work. They are both (my folks) in lot better physical condition than I had imagined too and believe we are capable of doing a certain amount of light work.

So as I see it just now, my folks ought to sit tight for the time being and start looking for this possible way of relocation. This can be done through personal friends, contacts, or through WRA. Having it done by personal friends will ordinarily get better results in that it is looked into with personal interest. Having it done by an organization as the WRA will tend towards the other direction in that it becomes just another problem case to them. On the other hand, to have it done by friends means relocation on one's own initiative and the WRA will tend to leave it up to you and forget its responsibilities. Were I to leave it up to them instead the responsibility would lie with them. The point is in either case the one in which my folks will have to undergo the least hardship is the one that I would desire. Which of them actually will turn out to be the best of course I do not know. With my possibility of going back overseas again being very strong I have the tendency of desiring to fix the responsibility on

3) somebody or some organization. She ~~answer~~ would ~~then~~ seem simple but I hesitate in that I do not exactly have too much faith in the WRA. It's sense of responsibility may well be of the degree as referring to the local charity group for assistance in case of eventualities and the like. Should that be the case it can hardly be relied upon.

So much for relocation. Among other things I visited the Red Cross while I was here to thank them for their recommendations regarding my furlough. While there, on their suggestion, I learned that (very much to my surprise) that a discharge from the service was not entirely impossible with my family background. Although I am not naive enough to count on it I do feel that it may be worth a try in that actual discharges have been made on similar grounds. What is very much in my favor too is the fact that under new regulations men returning from overseas stations irrespective of the original orders are reassigned to the states where each case is reviewed for possible discharge or assignment to continental duty wherever possible. Previously a man on furlough or leave was sent directly back to the port of embarkation after his designated number of days were up. Officials there have only one function and that is transporting personnel one way or the other and so the fellahs had ~~a~~ no one to turn to. As it is now I do have the opportunity and as long as I've gotten back this far I think I really should try. So do this there are certain forms that must be made. Among them are two letters from two close friends testifying to the actual hardship the family is confronting. I am asking a family friend of over twenty years duration to write one of them and the other I would like to ask from you. You have not known us as long but hardly less is the way I feel. The hardship of the family too did not exist until you knew us and from that time to the present I believe is known hardly better by anyone than you. Then again ~~you~~ the fact that you are caucasian and

4) a prominent one in your community I think will make it that much better for me. A statement from a caucasian I think will be looked upon as one more unbiased. If you could do this for me there you would really be helping me out a great deal (what have you've been doing up to now? nothing but help!).

I am to present these papers when I report to St Douglas, Utah (Salt Lake) on the 27th (June). I therefore need it by then and of course preferably much earlier if possible. In it I have been advised to have stressed the emotional and mental hardships rather than economical grounds. I believe what I am saying here would be obvious to you but I am repeating them just to be sure. The fact that my personal presence with my folks is absolutely necessary must be brought out. The hardships involved without me, the added relocation problems that have now come up necessitating my personal attention to their affairs constantly and the like. Age, physical ailments ~~prohibiting~~ limiting their effectiveness, etc might also be mentioned.

I feel awfully funny writing like this but if I have to return to my overseas station again my folks are going to take it quite hard and they are going to have things quite hard. I have served over 3 years now and nearly 2 of those overseas so one can't exactly say that I haven't done my share either. I think I am somewhat justified in desiring to seeing my folks spend their last few years in more normal surroundings etc which can only be accomplished by my spending full time attention to that end.

I do not know exactly how you feel towards this matter but if you ~~will~~ can do this for me I shall appreciate it very much. Your opinion and advice along this line also would be very much welcomed.

5)

So be thanking you at the end is hardly proper but I must mention my thanks for the ever hospitable manner in which you received me while in Berkeley. Your deep interest in my problems, personal attention, sound advise, etc I am deeply grateful for. You made me feel very much at home and needless for me to say to a GI just returned that meant a lot — it meant a lot to me. So too it all you even supplied me with the sherry to give Dad. He was tickled pink and wishes to express his thanks to you. And on and on goes the long list of thanks I owe you and I must not forget Dr. W. L. I feel got to know him much better this last visit and if I might be permitted to use the expression, he's a swell egg.

Will be waiting to hear from you,

Very sincerely,

Yukio

P.S. Best regards to W. L., Ken, & Nikky. Don't forget the latter!

My folks send their fondest regards.

I may go east shortly to see a young lady. Keep it under your hat but who knows what might happen. After all I've been overseas a long time, you know.

P.S. #2 The letter I requested should be addressed to: Commanding Officer, 9th Service Command, Ft Douglas, Utah. A personal rather than a legal air ~~is prefer~~ preferable they tell me.

File under Kawamoto.

June 7, 1945

Commanding Officer
Ninth Service Command
Fort Douglas
Utah

Sir:

I am writing this letter on behalf of S/Sgt. Yukio Kawamoto, who is now on emergency furlough from the Philippines. Sergeant Kawamoto's furlough was granted to enable him to make plans for the relocation of his parents from the Topaz Center in Utah.

As you know, the War Relocation Authority has announced that all centers will be closed on or before January 2, 1946. More than 50,000 evacuees must be relocated by that date. The War Relocation Authority expects this relocation to be accomplished on the individual initiative of the persons concerned, in spite of the fact that the bulk of the people left in the centers consists of elderly non English-speaking persons of the immigrant generation and young, dependent children. Sergeant Kawamoto's parents are elderly immigrants. His problem is complicated by the fact that he is their only son; that there are no other close relatives in America to whom he could turn for help; that they suffered great economic hardship after the outbreak of war, and were unable to accumulate any savings whatsoever; that they owned no real property and therefore have no home to which they might return; and that their ability to earn their own living has been markedly diminished due to mental strain and physical impairments.

I have been in close contact with the Kawamoto family since December, 1941. Just before the outbreak of the war, Sergeant Kawamoto was a student in his senior year at the University; Mrs. Kawamoto was a teacher of the Japanese language in Oakland; Mr. Kawamoto held a part-time job as janitor in a private school. They lived in a rented house in a good neighborhood in Berkeley. With the outbreak of the war, Mrs. Kawamoto lost her job, and came to work for me as a part-time domestic servant. In February, 1942, their son was inducted into the Army; in May, they were evacuated to the Tanforan Assembly Center.

From December, 1941, to May, 1942, I saw Mrs. Kawamoto daily. I visited them almost weekly at Tanforan, and

saw them at Topaz in June, 1944. During this period, I have been impressed by two things: (1) their almost pathological fear and anxiety about facing readjustment to normal society, due in part to their declining physical stamina; (2) their complete mental and moral dependence on their son. In my opinion, they are incapable of relocating alone, under the present WRA program, for, in addition to the handicap of their physical and mental condition, which would probably make it impossible for them to find jobs or housing, they speak so little English that the ordinary processes of daily living (buying groceries, paying bills, etc.) in a community where the Japanese language is not understood, would be difficult for them.

Under these circumstances, and in view of Sergeant Kawamoto's long and competent service overseas, I respectfully urge your sympathetic consideration of his case.

Very truly yours,

Dorothy Swaine Thomas
Director

June 7, 1945

Dear Yukio:

I received your letter today and was most interested in your report regarding your parents and the situation at Topaz. I am enclosing a letter to the Commanding Officer, with a copy for you. I hope this is satisfactory. Please let me know if you want it changed in any way.

I think it would be the smart thing for you to go to Ohio for a while and see what the prospects are there. Since you have long and distinguished service with the Ohio Division, it seems to me that your reception in that state would be extraordinarily cordial. Anyway, it is something worth thinking of.

Your friend, Mr. Oda, had a long talk with Dick Nishimoto and was referred to a job as accountant by Nikki. I haven't yet heard the outcome of the thing. I hope to have a chance to meet him one of these days as I hear he is a very fine fellow.

I can't tell you how much we enjoyed your visit. Tell your mother and father that we are convinced that their son is one of the best, and do write to me soon again.

Sincerely yours,

Dorothy Swaine Thomas

Enclosure

St Douglas, Utah
27 June 45

Dear Mrs. Thomas:

Finally getting around to thanking you for your fine letter and recommendation which you sent me so quickly. The time went so fast and so busy was I that I just couldn't get around to it. Even now I suppose without the pressure I wouldn't be at it. Boy, aint I awful or something.

As you can see, I am now at Douglas. I reported here today and am slightly beginning to get an idea of what is in store for me. Among other things, the most important by far as you may guess concerns my application for discharge. I learned that the Red Cross no longer handles dependency discharges and therefore must be sent through military channels and appropriate forms followed. Such being the case, your letter too I'm afraid must be notarized and presented in affidavit form. I am therefore imposing on you again to have it remade into more legal form. I'm afraid also that I must ask of you to cooperate with me quite instantaneously for my time factor is rather acute. From what I understand I shall be here till the 30th. Then it will be Camp Bowie, Texas. How long I'll be there I don't know but inasmuch as that is where they're going to reassign me I suspect I'll be there a few days anyway. That is where I intend to put in my papers so I naturally would like to have them when I get there. This is asking a great deal of you I know but I'm afraid circumstances force me to and knowing how understanding you are I guess I do not hesitate.

I am enclosing the copy you made especially for me since you may no longer remember its contents. Since I do not know just whom it should be addressed to, please do not specify. Address the envelope to me to 806th Replacement Bn., Camp Bowie, Texas as I believe I shall be there within return mail time limitations. ~~Sincerely~~

2)

It's hardly proper or nice to write only of ~~the~~ my request and then end abruptly but since I have other to write to for the same reason and just as urgent I hope you will excuse me.

Sorry to be troubling you so often but counting on your not to let me down,

As ever,

Jukie

Regards to Dr. W. L.

June 29, 1945

Dear Yukio:

I am enclosing the affidavit you requested, also an extra copy for you. I certainly wish you good luck, and hope you'll let me know immediately what the outcome is.

Also, when you have a little time, do tell me of the recent developments at Topaz and what, if anything, has happened to change or formulate your parents' plans.

With cordial regards,

Sincerely yours,

Dorothy Swaine Thomas

Enclosures

SUBJECT: Application for Consideration for Dependency Discharge.

TO :

1. I, Tec 3 Yukio Kawamoto, ASN 39090824, hereby apply for discharge from the Army of the United States under provisions of Sec III, AR 615-362, 15 December 1944.

2. I request this discharge because of the necessity of my presence at home for the support and care of my parents. The background of my case is vital and is as follows:

a. You may or may not be familiar with these facts but shortly after the outbreak of war between the United States and Japan, all persons of Japanese blood, irregardless of citizenship status, on the Pacific Coast were uprooted from their homes and businesses to be evacuated to various camps inland. My parents were among them. They lost their jobs, sold what little they could at a loss and went into the dreary surroundings of one of these camps.

They have now spent over 3 years in these camps. Their financial income during this interim has been nil, they've long used up what little resources they had, and they have been entirely dependent upon me financially and mentally for the same period. Limited as expenses are in camp such as these, it is a community of people and as such even for elderly people, such as my parents, a few dollars are an absolute must monthly not to mention the fact that things like clothing, shoes, etc do wear out in time. Up till now, with the aid of an allotment from the Dependency Bureau ($37; $22 from my pay, 15 dollars from the government) and an additional $20 average per month from my pay, we have been able to meet expenses in the center. This of course will nowhere near meet the high cost of living expenses that are prevalent on the outside.

b. Early this year, almost simultaneous with the annoucement of the lifting of the exclusion decree of Japanese personage on the west coast, the War Relocation Authority (the Federal agency in charge of these camps) announced its policy of closing their camps within 6 months to a year's time (end of year will be 2 January 1946). Thus my parents now face this difficult task of readjustment back to normal living with the following handicaps: Broken spirit from having been in camp so long, declination of physical stamina (father has claudication of the veins; mother has a bad leg, caused by an original injury some years back which has gotten increasingly worse), their age (Dad, 69 Aug 1; Mom, 59), language handicap, complete ignorance of present war time living conditions outside, fears of possible violence due to war time

emotions, and countless others that make the situation extremely complex, not to mention the inherent basic difficulties of moving from one locale to another for anyone. Meeting present time housing problem alone presents a formidable barrier.

To help meet this difficult and trying situation they have no one to turn to but me. I am their only son and we have no relatives to turn to. They need me for both spiritual and financial guidance.

c. The WRA does have a certain program in which assistance and welfare are provided for but the greater bulk of the responsibility by far is up to the individuals and these "assistance" agencies mentioned, though well sounding in name are not as they may seem to appear. From what I have been able to learn they amount to nothing more than local charity groups of the locale to which the relocatees plan to return such as the community chest, social security board, church groups, etc. In short, they are not "guaranteed" assistance. Without my presence there to look after them, my parents, chances are, will be handled as shabbily as any wayside bum.

d. I have stressed primarily the financial end of this matter only thus far, and as important as that is, the stronger point is the morale and spiritual factors involved here. Picture if you will please an elderly immigrant couple; honest, law abiding, simple, hardworking, naive. For the fruits of their sweat and toil of many years (close to 50 years for Dad; over 30 years for Mom) in America they have only their son to show. In him was embodied their hopes and dreams. This son was drafted into the army shortly after the outbreak of war and 3 months prior to graduation from the state university. Just when they were beginning to see the horizon and beginning to feel the highest hump had been gotten over and that their son was now finally in a position to care for them---came the war, the draft, the blast of their dreams. Still they were brave and stoic about it for after all their son was a citizen of their adopted country and had a duty to perform. Difficult as it was for them to see their son go into the service of a nation at war, where the stakes involved life and death, they saw reason and the importance of duty. A few months later, however, imagine what emotions they must have experienced when they were uprooted from their home and sent behind barbed wires. They who had a son in the service, they who had done nothing against the United States being placed in camps like a war criminal by the very government for whom their son was serving. Trying it was indeed but they still bore it well attributing the injustices to circumstances of the war. Since then they have spent over 3 long years of drab, dreary life behind barbed wires in a camp situated in a wind swept, sun baked desert. For the same period their son served both here and overseas, the latter half being spent in the steaming South Pacific with an Infantry Division. They were long hard years for both of us. Now my parents must start life anew at their advanced age with the handicaps and under adverse conditions that I have already mentioned. Their need for me at now their most trying time of their lives is truly extreme.

3. This condition has arisen since my induction as already explained in paragraph 2 (d.). I was inducted on 25 February 1942 at the Presidio of Monterey, Monterey, California. My parents were evacuated from their home in Berkeley in May of 1942. The announcement for the closure fo the relocation camps was made January 1945 and the date set, as announced, was between June 1945 to 2 January 1946.

4. Discharge from the army is necessary to provide care and support for my parents as it will require full time on my part. It is necessity in the extreme as can be seen by the preceding paragraphs.

I am fully cognizant of the fact that war time hardships and tragedies are countless and that I am not the only individual with a difficult case. And yet the very fact that I am still presenting the case indicates, I feel, the intensity of how strongly I feel about this matter. As I see the matter, there are two possibilities. The first and the one I am counting on, with trust and faith, is the grant of my discharge. This will mean heartfelt gratification on the part of both my parents and I and add meaning to the past sacrifices and hardships undergone. It will mean reaffirmation of our faith in the justness and prudence of the United States Government. It will mean that my folks will be looked after and I will be doing it. The other alternative is not very pleasant and one which I have faith will not be allowed. That of my folks being turned out into the cold; a verdict bound to end in bitterness, disappointment, a real case of morale-breaking---its results being unbeneficial for all. I mention this because I can see of no other alternatives. I mention it because this is vital. Certainly the necessity of my discharge is extreme.

5. May I further request quick attention to this request inasmuch as the time factor involved is very important. The final deadline of the closure of the last camp in operation is set as the 2d of January 1946. The process is already in effect and many are reaching the closing stage. As the people are depleted from the camps, facilities are being curtailed. The mess hall where my folks are presently receiving their meals is scheduled to be closed in July necessitating their going to the one of the next block. Similarly, the hospital and other necessary offices will begin to close. Thus to avoid hardships to have the resettlement accomplished before the real dead end is highly desired.

6. For your information and reference, may I also present the following information:

a. My draft board that selected me was located at Milvia and Durant in Berkeley, California. Since I have no references available at the moment I cannot definitely say but the number I believe was Board # 70. Professor Herms of the University of California was its Chairman.

b. The present address of my dependent parents is:
5-7-A, WRA Their names are: Kumejiro Kawamoto (father)
Topaz, Utah. Chisato Kawamoto (mother)

c. My present status: I have just completed a 30 day emergency furlough to the United States from an overseas station. The furlough was granted me to resettle my parents but the complexity of the problem made its solution impossible in the time allowed. I have been in the service for 40 months; 19½ months spent in the Pacific, and have participated in 2 major campaigns.

7. May I refer you to attached documents a and b for additional information of my case and also its verification.

Your letter to Mr. Sam Oda's.

Tec 3 Yukio Kawamoto
39090824

June 29, 1945

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

I am writing this on behalf of S/Sgt. Yukio Kawamoto, who has recently been on emergency furlough from the Philippines. Sergeant Kawamoto's furlough was granted to enable him to make plans for the relocation of his parents from the Topaz Center in Utah.

As you know, the War Relocation Authority has announced that all centers will be closed on or before January 2, 1946. More than 50,000 evacuees must be relocated by that date. The War Relocation Authority expects this relocation to be accomplished on the individual initiative of the persons concerned, in spite of the fact that the bulk of the people left in the centers consists of elderly non English-speaking persons of the immigrant generation and young, dependent children. Sergeant Kawamoto's parents are elderly immigrants. His problem is complicated by the fact that he is their only son; that there are no other close relatives in America to whom he could turn for help; that they suffered great economic hardship after the outbreak of war, and were unable to accumulate any savings whatsoever; that they owned no real property and therefore have no home to which they might return; and that their ability to earn their own living has been markedly diminished due to mental strain and physical impairments.

I have been in close contact with the Kawamoto family since December, 1941. Just before the outbreak of the war, Sergeant Kawamoto was a student in his senior year at the University; Mrs. Kawamoto was a teacher of the Japanese language in Oakland; Mr. Kawamoto held a part-time job as janitor in a private school. They lived in a rented house in a good neighborhood in Berkeley. With the outbreak of the war, Mrs. Kawamoto lost her job, and came to work for me as a part-time domestic servant. In February, 1942, their son was inducted into the Army; in May, they were evacuated to the Tanforan Assembly Center.

From December, 1941, to May, 1942, I saw Mrs. Kawamoto daily. I visited them almost weekly at Tanforan, and

saw them at Topaz in June, 1944. During this period, I have been impressed by two things: (1) their almost pathological fear and anxiety about facing readjustment to normal society, due in part to their declining physical stamina; (2) their complete mental and moral dependence on their son. In my opinion, they are incapable of relocating alone, under the present WRA program, for, in addition to the handicap of their physical and mental condition, which would probably make it impossible for them to find jobs or housing, they speak so little English that the ordinary processes of daily living (buying groceries, paying bills, etc.) in a community where the Japanese language is not understood, would be difficult for them.

Under these circumstances, and in view of Sergeant Kawamoto's long and competent service overseas, I respectfully urge your sympathetic consideration of his case.

Dorothy Swaine Thomas
Director

806 Repl Bn
c/o 7th Hqs, Spec Svcs
4th Army
Camp Bowie, Texas
6 July 45

Dear Mrs. Thomas:

Still rather pressed with many things to attend to but not enough to keep from answering your, brief as this will have to be, Mrs. Thomas. Your letter was waiting for me when I arrived but I was unable to get it till yesterday (arrived the night of the 3rd). You certainly didn't waste any time, did you? I knew I could count on it. ~~but~~ I certainly appreciate your sincere interest in the welfare of my family and myself. I hope I didn't cause you unnecessary waste of your precious time. I'm afraid I've been very much a burden to you — probably more trouble than 10 children of your own ?? Anyway, truthfully I am very grateful. That's not enough but I don't know what to say. I always find myself getting stuck with words to express my thanks to you for I always find them never adequate and equal to my feelings.

Getting down to the situation here now, it's crazy but for the present anyway very much suited to my needs. Until I arrived here I was under the impression that this 806 unit to which I was reporting would process me and then assign me for duty at Smelling, Wash. D.C. S.F. or some place similar in some work in my field. When I actually did report here, this is what I learned: that the unit was activated but 2 days previous, that I was its first enlisted man, that most people did not even know the organization existed, that 8 officers and I comprised the entire "Bn", etc. Why, I don't know but my status for the moment is that I am a part of the Bn itself. A cadre man as the army term goes. What I could do with this unit with my specialist rating is beyond me but I know the army well enough now to expect anything. I guess they'll have me typing or something until the War Dept descends on them and inquires in no uncertain terms what they're doing with

2) me here. Anyway since the organization hasn't the personnel to function yet, for the time being this status is ideal for me. The CO (commanding officer) is quite nice fortunately (an Ohio man to boot) and he has given me free rein to attend to my personal affairs until things get under way. Thus I am now in a position where I am reasonably certain enough of my future for the next few weeks anyway to initiate my discharge papers here. I showed the Adjutant my application which I worked on while at St Douglas and learned that it is essentially correct. He feels I have a bonified case. The only thing that he wonders about is the government's interpolation of the case inasmuch as the party bringing about this condition was the government itself and the agency handling the matter is also a federal agency (WRA). Whether actually in fact or not, he wonders if the government will not look upon the WRA as being fully capable and competent in dealing with the problem of relocation. I never had quite looked at it that way myself but perhaps he does have a strong point there. He feels that the best thing to do therefore is to get a recommendation from the responsible officer at Topaz attesting to the need of my discharge in the case of our family's successful relocation. I can see his point but then I am doubtful of a WRA official sticking his neck out in my case. It's bound to set a precedent and with so many almost similar cases as mine (my guess) in the various camps, it's bound to start something. The army might not like it and take it out on somebody's hide and the responsible WRA official I'm sure would not want to be on the receiving end. I may be wrong but this is what came to my mind. The only thing in my favor, as I see it, is that this action would mean one more family less the WRA would have to worry about; one more off their hands so to speak.

3) She kept further suggested medical certificates on my parents physical condition, emphasis on their elderliness, etc for additional support of my case.

All of this would have to be done at Topaz and so I wrote of the situation to Mr. Fred M. Koba, the chairman of the Red Cross at Topaz, who by the way, is the one who suggested to me to put in for the discharge. Unfortunately the army no longer has the Red Cross handle dependency discharges so I lost his valuable backing but indirectly I think he can do much for me by obtaining that supporting documents for me i.e. of course if he can; his willingness I do not question. He is a very capable man as from what association I have had with him and more important, one very much concerned in seeing that deserving people get the proper breaks. I wrote to him of my doubts of WRA support too but I left the case up to his discretion. I am naturally very anxiously looking forward to his answer. I shall let you know of the results ~~very~~ as soon as I can also.

As for conditions in Topaz when I was there, I can't say that I was in a position to observe very much but relocation seemed pretty much in the minds of everyone. It seemed to me that most were desirous of going out if their assurances of making a successful go of it was even just moderately good. There are a group of die-hards but they seem to be losing ground. With mess halls closing down as well as the curtailment of other facilities, I believe most of them believe the centers will close within the specified period although they also seem equally sure that total relocation of all cannot be accomplished within that time.

A good number of people were relocating daily while I was there and what surprised me was that Berkeley was one of the most popular places to go to even for those who had not lived there previously. How they managed to

4) get housing, I don't know. Many no doubt own them or are going as domestics. Even then it was surprising to me.

I believe I wrote you from Topaz regarding having seen a Mr so & ~~so~~ after I saw Miss Dickinson on my parents case. He was pretty nice about it but was not very assuring to me in how my folks might be handled. He was pretty honest with me I guess in letting me know how these aid and welfare agencies work in helping a relocatee. It practically amounts to local charity, doesn't it? Having your folks looked after at an old people's home ~~sem~~ is not a very pleasant out look. Regarding the time limit of the closure of these camps I couldn't get a change from the set date but he let it out enough to say that that is so far as WRA is concerned implying that another agency could possibly take over. All this though I believe is all past knowledge with you.

Regarding my folks, they were much better both physically and spiritually than I had expected although they both do have trouble with their legs and of course their good spirits may also have been due to my presence. They are quite confident it seemed to me and whether from a mistaken illusion of conditions of the outside or not I don't know, but they seemed to impress me as being able to tackle the job. Being domestics doesn't appeal to them for it means being tied down and Mom doesn't have enough faith in her cooking ability to meet requirements but they are willing to work. I think what they really would like to do is get some sort of house and go out to work by the day. Course this runs into the trouble of the housing problem. They may not know it ~~too~~ but they are not as young as they used to be either. They are very definite about Berkeley however, as the place they want to go to.

About it for now. Enclosed you will find a copy of the rough draft of my application which I banged out while at Douglas. I intend to work on it a little more but I am enclosing it as is for your reference. I'm afraid I'm not very kind to the WRA in it.

My very best regards to all,

As ever,

Yukiko

U. S. Army

Camp Bowie, Texas

24 July 45

Dear Mr. Thomas:

Haven't much time to write tonight but what I do have to say I think I can safely say is pretty darn good. In fact I'm really making a gross understatement when I say damn good!

At noon today, I was informed by the Personnel Section that my discharge had been approved. I had hardly expected such speedy results but it is the real thing. Shy really expedited matters on my papers it seems. All that I need now is a clearance, train ride to St Douglas, 2 or 3 days processing at the Separation center and I become a "free man" once again. All in all, I believe within the next 2 weeks I should be back in Sopaz getting the relocation of my parents well under way.

Still having a hard time believing myself ——

Ya hoo!

Sincerely,

Jules

P.S. Pardon my exuberance

my heartfelt thanks for the cooperation and effort you extended on my behalf regarding this matter.

July 27, 1945

Dear Yukio:

I am certainly delighted and so is everyone around here at your good news. Now I believe things will really go smoothly for you and I must say you deserve your good fortune. Convey my congratulations to your parents.

Sincerely yours,

Dorothy Swaine Thomas

5-7-A
Sopaz, Utah
Aug 16, 45

Dear Mrs. Thomas:

So many things have happened in the past 2 weeks that I hardly know what to say or where to start with but inasmuch as I am the one that is writing the letter I think I'll begin with matters concerning myself the most.

In many ways, the events that gained world wide attention coincided with those of my own also. The day I reported to the Separation Center at Ft Douglas was the 7th the day on which the use of the atomic bomb on Hiroshima was revealed. The day I was discharged (10th) was the day when radio Tokyo first indicated its willingness to come to terms. Since then we all know the amazing conclusion to World War II. It's wonderful in that the lives of many people will now be spared and that those boys who've "sweated it out" in the Pacific so long can be reasonably be sure of getting back again and in one piece. In a way though, the sudden end of the war has left me, for one, somewhat bewildered. It's kind of hard to believe and adjusting one's self to this reality is not so easy. Makes one's

2) outlook a lot different. I wonder how those fellows out in the Pacific are reacting to the news. No doubt they are happy to know that they won't be fighting any more and yet I suspect they are a bit uneasy. Won't know exactly why but just feel that way.

Since my return here I have naturally been making inquiries regarding relocation. It has not been too encouraging. The chief bottleneck of course has been housing. This house of my folks' friends that I mentioned has been vacated only to the extent of accomodating their return. OPA regulations I understand will only allow the return of the owners for their own specific purposes only. With the termination of the war, these regulations may cease but at the moment that is the way it is. This family left for Berkeley yesterday. That is one possibility but cannot be counted on immediately.

As a veteran, I inquired on possibilities of Federal Housing and a little preferential treatment but that seems quite tight also. All in all I've become rather disgusted with the "aid + assistance" these relocation officers give you. So far as I can see they do not accept the slightest responsibility for your relocation. The weight

3) of the problem is left entirely on your shoulders. Shazie not even concerns about it. As a veteran, I feel particularly burned up about it.

Now that I am a civilian again I have other worries also. Being on my own now (1st time in my life), I have new problems to face as well as readjusting from military to civilian life. What to do in the way of a job is another urgent matter along with this education. In many ways, they go hand in hand don't they?

Difficult as things undoubtedly will be for awhile I realize I'm still lucky. Having been discharged when I have been, I do have a head start on the thousands of other boys who will have to be waiting awhile yet. When they get back I'm afraid they're going to be just another "joe" and get very little if any attention or preference.

Remaining here in the center will not get me anywhere and so although I have nothing definite in mind I intend to go to Berkeley within a week. In the meantime I intend to have everything arranged for the folks so that once I locate something they can be called out at a moment's notice on one of these special trains. I'll be calling on you of course.

4)

Any information that you may be able to give me that will help will naturally be appreciated.

My best regards to Mr WD and my heartfelt thanks for all you've done already on ~~to~~ my behalf.

Sincerely,

Yulari

P.S. Until I see you, I haven't even got any clothes to wear. I hope they still fit. The uniform may help for certain negotiations.

Kawamoto

September 13, 1945

War Relocation Authority
Sheldon Building
461 Market Street
San Francisco 5, California

Attention: Mr. Charles Miller

Dear Mr. Miller:

This is to confirm a telephone conversation with Mr. Lane of your office.

I have known Yukio Kawamoto, about whom you inquired, since December, 1941, and have been in close contact with him since that time. He is a young man of excellent character and unquestioned loyalty. He has good work habits and above average intelligence.

Very truly yours,

Dorothy Swaine Thomas
Professor of Rural Sociology