

Dingle, Idaho.  
Feb. 16, 1944.

Dear Mother,

Our thoughts have been with you constantly since word came about Aunt Rosie passing on, for we know how close the two of you were and what a loss you sense and how deeply it is affecting you. I wish there would not seem to be such sad partings. We thought very highly of Aunt Rosie and loved her too. Our deepest sympathy goes out to you and we know the bravery and faith with which you have faced great losses in the past will not desert you at this time. The services were in Salt Lake Monday with a short stay at 3:30 to 4:30 the same afternoon in Logan, but no services there. Rodney had planned to go but Monday morning the furnace refused to work and a bad storm came up but even so Rodney was going if he could get the furnace going. However, by the time it began to work again, it was too late to make the trip. We expect and plan to go down later and at least see the various members of Aunt Rosie's family. We were keenly disappointed not to be able to make the trip at the right time.

Rodney got back in good shape, tho' the roads in Utah were especially snowy. Indeed they were snow-bound at Fillmore when some 25"-30" of snow covered the ground in that vicinity and stopped all traffic while snow plows and crews worked frantically to open roads once more. It is most out of the ordinary to have any such snow there. In Salt Lake the streets were like glass and all were cautioned to keep off, unless absolutely necessary. They have had practically no sun there, only heavy smoke and much snow since Christmas. Rodney said as they came over the divide in Logan Canyon the snow became less until here there



was practically none. (We came home Friday late.) We really need much more snow, if we are to have crops this summer. It has tried many times to snow but only a little fine powdery snow manages to escape. We did have a short rain just before Rodney came back. We have had nice sunshine most of the winter and not nearly so much fog as some winters. Sleighing has threatened to become impossible several times in the fields.

The school is closed this week because of scarlet fever, which seems to be going around in a light form. We have taken the Dext test. The family is evenly divided on the results, the men half being positive. They are all three taking the regular shots now. Rodney's arm is really reacting. Joan has a surprising reaction to her light test - sore throat and rash for all the world like the fever itself, beginning during the night after her shot in the late afternoon. She has some tonics with it which may help to bring out the rash. Her tonsils must come out but that's a dread prospect.

We have just received a letter which we know will be of genuine interest to you since it comes from a recently returned former patient of DuLabi. We have been glad and appreciative of every bit of news we have received. Since Mrs. Whitehead would like Douglas to hear also, will you please send it on up to him as soon as you all have read it there. We are also sending along the letter from Mr. Costrude which is quite informative and therefore valuable information. We would have sent it on at once had we known you had not received one also. It seemed this was a copy of one to you.

I am very happy Rodney had a visit with you even tho' it was but a short one - he was so anxious to see you and visit a while. Take good care of your self. Give our best regards to all the other members of the family.

Love from us all  
Rodney & Norma



from the guards radios and could read between the lines. They had been no "TP" for 10 months - as a matter of fact we were not given any paper of any kind until we were allowed to subscribe to the Manila Tribune last June which also gave us some news altho it was purchased for a use and not its news.

Each of us only had a  $3\frac{1}{2} \times 6'$  floor space in the barracks so had to double the deck our beds so as to conserve floor space for sitting room. Mrs Ream and all of her children were together.

Our day ended with lights out at 9:30 and usually the folks played cards after dinner. On Sat. night we were allowed a  $1\frac{1}{2}$  hour social but never saw movies and only had a piano since July.

Fabian used to enjoy going to the shop as it got him away from the camp noise and congestion. I didn't blame him as it was terrific. Mrs Ream used to take Fabian a "snack" at 10:30 every morning and spend half an hour with him.

Most Camp Holmes internees feel that they are there for the duration but it is surprising the fine spirits they are in. I think so much work keeps their minds of their troubles.

I only wish I could sit down and talk to you folks as there is so much to say but I must close.

Sincerely W. Portuondo

301 N. Tacoma Ave  
Tacoma Wash  
Jan 6, 1944

Dear Mrs Ream -

I have had letters from both J. Rodney and Mrs Kenneth Ream so will make this a "Family" letter as I have so many to write and never seem to be able to catch up with my correspondence.

I think I told you that Dr Allen was transferred to the ~~San~~ Santo Tomas camp at Manila as they were short of medical help there. Her two sons went with her. One of her sons was born at Baguio during a few months that she was freed in that city but later they were all reinterned again. Dr Allen's husband left Baguio with the US forces Dec 20, 1941 and I am not positive as to his whereabouts but think that he is interned in one of the military camps. It seems to me that Dr Allen had word of him or from him brought by natives. I had never met Major Allen but know that the forces he was with from Camp John Hay operated for some weeks in the Mountain Provinces, north of Baguio, before surrendering.

The women's committee referred to was a committee of 9 women elected quarterly by the women internees and looked after the woman's end of the camp so that the General Committee could be relieved of these responsibilities. The vegetable crew consisted of about 50 women who functioned as a section of the kitchen and prepared vegetables for cooking. Ordinarily this is known as KP duty but was a big job and mighty important as it relieved men for the more difficult work.



only served one slice 3 meals weekly.  
Coffee was served 2 mornings a  
week. After the 3rd month the  
Japs gave us an allowance of US.12  
cents each per day but that covered  
food, light, medical supplies and  
anything else the camp needed  
and could get.

There was also a shortage of  
clothes and medicines but I  
hope the Gripsholm Red Cross ship-  
ment arrives as it is badly needed.  
Up until the time I left we had  
never received any help from  
the Red Cross or the other camps  
had. At least 50% of the 500 internees  
wore wooden shoes which were  
made by Fabian at the shops.

Our day started at 6:45 and for  
1 1/2 years the men had daily  
roll call at 8. The grade & high  
schools operate by internee teachers  
and camp hospital operated the  
same way. We had to cut our  
own fuel so there was a large  
wood crew that worked on the  
hill in back of camp - cutting  
down trees and transporting  
them to camp. The entire camp  
functioned on its own initiative  
and operated like a small  
American town except for having  
10 Jap guards around. As a  
matter of fact it was more  
like being stranded on an  
island with all communications  
cut.

We were allowed to listen to Tokyo

2  
Men and women were quartered in  
separate barracks from the start  
and for 10 months opposite sexes  
could only talk to each other at  
an open space near the guard  
house where two lines were drawn  
6ft apart. — the men standing on  
one line and women on the other.  
On Sunday evenings men were  
allowed to mingle with families  
for an hour and walk together.  
For the first 1 1/4 years camp life  
was like this and there were  
not many pleasures but since  
June 43 we have been allowed  
self-government and consequently  
camp life has been far more  
enjoyable since we can manage  
our own internal affairs.

Food has always been scarce  
but for the past year we have been  
able to borrow pocket money which  
enabled us to buy extra food from  
a small community store we  
operated in camp. The first 3  
months were the hardest as the  
Japs took most of our money and  
made us feed ourselves. We only  
had 400 calories ea per day for  
the first two weeks - 800 the  
second two and then gradually  
up to 1800 when I left. Rice  
and sweet potatoes were our  
staple diet but we did get some  
beef or pork, green vegetables and  
fruit. We had no wheat flour or  
dairy products except for a limited  
amount of milk for children up  
to 5. We made a bread out of  
rice and cassava flour but



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J. K. Keam  
Dingle, Idaho.