

11/28/42

Daer Ma & Pa:

I just received your box today and I am amazed! You are just like a touchstone! The arrival of the persimmons and the pomegranates and the walnuts was a memorable occasion to me and my roommates, for as you know the ~~pomegranate~~ persimmon is an extremely beloved fruit of the Japanese people..... Even tho, I prefer the banana, and the pear and so on!..haven't much left after giving a few to my roommates and to my other friends.....even tho I didn't want to really give those to strangers: the miser that I am..... but I have plenty left yet!

I was simply amazed by what the French have done to their fleet. I wonder what the actual details are of the scuttlings? Remember that the dispatch is taken from the Vichy radio..... I suppose that the French did sink their ships: what I wonder is to the actual no. of ships sunk. I agree with an article that the French ships couldn't have left the harbor at Toulon without their having been sunk immediately because of the nature of the harbor. It is a shame that the French commanders didn't turn over their ships to the United Nations before the Nazis occupied the unoccupied part of France. That was certainly an example of muddled thinking on their part: even tho they might mistrust the British, a practical man would be forced to aid them, for the British are the lesser of two evils. Then too if the United Nations win, and turning the French Warships over to their use is just that, the french would have the Soviet Union to see to an equitable settlement after the war. I have supreme confidence in the Soviets not because of any sentimental attachment to their nation but because of the knowledge of their consistent work for justice between nations, before the war. But of course that's old stuff ~~between~~ between us!

As I mentioned to you undoubtedly I am writing to many small schools in search of a teaching position in Art or something acceptable in that line. I have just finished writing to Bennington College in Vermont for a job. B. is a progressive women's college in the East for progressive-minded daughters of rich bitches. Maybe if I get there, it'll be good hunting!

I hope that you have ~~opened~~ opened that box of Encyclo-
~~pedias~~ pedias as I requested. I will be extremely
dissatisfied if you do not do as I requested.
Disappoi-

How was your Thanksgiving on the farm? Here we had
quite a bit of turkey for dinner, with stuffing and
pie, pumpkin pie, and other small incidentals. And
lucky for us we have the best mess hall as far as
cooking ability is concerned! Did Mag come
for the dinner?

Where is Len and Grace now? I feel like writing to
them now because my mind is more clear as to the
issues at stake in this war, and also on this issue
of Evacuation. Also since I can't paint here
I have all the time in the world to write letters!

But I aint downhearted! If need be I will take any
job just so that I eventually land in the East. Also
like a current popular song, that your sons could sing
for you, "aint you glad you're single... jingle,
jangle, jingle!" Or do you think that such a song is
advocating race suicide?

Did you know that I was also knitting to keep me
from going nuts? Do the pigs miss me? And those pre-
historic monsters called cows?

If you think that the farm is muddy during winter,
you should come up to here. The soil is very alkaline
because the site of the camp is a dry lake-bed, and
not only that the soil is silt, and consequently very
fine and powdery. And when it rains, it is like walki-
ng in a glue-pot! It makes swell adobe bricks. As a
matter of fact, the poultry dep't is making literally
thousands of them to use in making hen coops! Also we
have bought some cattle and some pigs. Object is to
be self-sufficient as far as food is concerned.

The WRA was first of the opinion that we
should be self sufficient as possible in these camps
making our own clothing and food etc. But seemingly
pressure is being put on them to prevent this.... manu-
facturers profits must not be tampered with! So now
the WRA has done a complete right about in their ~~manu~~
policy and declared that the prime object of these
centers is to relocate the residents in outside jobs
as soon as possible. In fact, they declared that they
would consider their job very well done if they man-
aged to get everyone out of camp before the end of the
war.

A contributing factor is the wage scale which nature ally cannot compete with the wage scale outside at all. We get 16 and 19 dollars a month for our work. I worked for a contracting company in camp one day for about 12 hours straight, 75 cents an hour and time and a half over 8 hours, and I made some 12 doll -ars... almost as much as the camp workers make in one month of work at 8 hours a day, 44 hours a week. So very few men care to work for the camp, and there is a labor shortage here, an artificial one I admit, but a real shortage anyway. So the camp as far as the young and vigorous are concerned is doomed to failure as far as making a coöperative self-sufficient community is concerned, by various factors.

Anyway, merry christmas and a Happy New Year in case it slips my mind, later on

All my ~~love~~ love
Jm

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All my love
JM

My full name is Thomas Shuzo Yamamoto; born and raised in San Francisco, California on August 20 th 1917. The Next few formative years were spent in various secondary schools ending with my graduation from Lowell Hi School in 1935. My work in these schools was fairly good tho it wasn't distinguished, mainly due to my predilection for outside interests rather than school work. The next year I spent in trying to fit myself into some activity in life rather unsuccessfully. So I went on to The University of California With intentions of majoring in mathematics.