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Rec. ~~XX~~ Jan 5, 1944

Hunt Lodge
12/27

Hello Ojo-san,

It's rather late, but I hope you had a nice Christmas. We, who spent our second Christmas in camp as you, have not felt that joy, happy feeling which is usually mingled in with the Christmas spirit for over two years. Christmas just isn't like what Christmas should be, with so many members of the family scattered in different localities, and with this world war going on. Everyone feels that way, I believe, but we feel it more so. Did you have any entertainment on Christmas?

Here, as Ayako may have written, we had a contest for decorating the Dining Halls, and the flock residents all turned out practically every night to help with the decorations in their respective Mess Halls.

So ambitious were some people as to stay up all night to fix last minute details on the night

before the judges were to come around.

Our theme was "Keep the Home Fires Burning", and a huge white star consisting of crepe paper and silver stars highlighted the center of our Dining Hall, while at one end, we had a hand-made modern ~~to~~ fireplace with photographs of the soldiers who volunteered in the armed forces, from our block. This end was illuminated with green light while the other end was darkened. Last year, our block, 36 tied first with another block, but this year Christmas, we come in fifth place. Considering that there are "more than 38 dining halls, we did quite well, don't you think? Of course, on Christmas night, dear old Santa came, and landed out presents to all the youngsters. Kei-chan was ready to cry when she went up to Santa to get her present. I think his mask was a little to frightening.

Did you know, that Fumi-chan is going to Philadelphia? We received a letter from her recently, saying she had to report for work at a Philadelphia Hospital on the 27th that's today, so she was not able to come home during the holiday. We had been looking forward so much to the day that she would be coming home, that it was quite disappointing when we received her word. Perhaps she'll be coming back in the Spring. I wish you could be back by then too, Oji-san. By the way, I have heard of several men who have already had a rehearsing, but have you had yours, as yet? If not, do you know about when you'll be having one?

In closing, I would like to wish you a New Year of holding better things for you and many of us, and I hope and pray for the day to come when all this is over, and we could all be together again.

Lovingly, Yostuko.