

we started out. We took the wrong road, running into about 30,000 Jap marines. They saluted, we turned around and went the other way. All of us (9 in the car) loaded with guns, knives, etc., finally we found the road to Yokohoma and took off. Saw lots of Japs. Wondered what they thought. Ran across a GI every once in awhile confiscating trucks from the Japs. Japan is a very fertile country. Crops growing right up to the roads and railroad tracks.

The roads were very slippery (Mud) but we made Yokohoma OK. Was a nice modern city, but believe me it was missing city, very very few buildings left. Most of people living in tin shelters or boxes. An MP stopped us and wanted to see our trip ticket which is a ticket giving you permission to be wherever you are. This we didn't have, but gave him a story after he accusing us of pleasure riding. He finally let us know, rode all around. Nothing interesting as I said all buildings except few were just holes in the ground. We started back but before we got out of Yokohoma we ran out of oil. Saw a fire station which was one of the few buildings, so Smitty went over to ask for oil. -The Japs thought he was going to take the fire engine so they started to push it out for him to take. Finally made them understand that we ran out of oil and they gave us a 5 gallon can of it. The people in town were not bad looking. Lots better than Chinese, but it is true that the majority of them wear thick horned rim glasses, and didn't see many females. Street cars were running, but quite a few (missing) of some on side tracks burnt to a crisp. I had on a pair of pants, undershirt and rain-coat plus shoes that is all. The other guys had overalls etc. On the way back the ones that were lucky enough to have cameras took pictures. The children, some laughing, some making faces, seemed helaty enough. Quite a few Japs would see us and salute or bow. One fellow in on oxcart coming down the road was scared to death. You see, they were taught that we were monsters and cruel. We stopped to take his picture. Pointed the camera at him, he turned and got off car and got behind ox. We took his picture, smiled (Found out we weren't going to hurt him) We rode on back to Atsugi Airfield. We were one of the first batch in town and really were not supposed to be there. On our way back on field saw some of our planes that Japs had painted with green paint and rising sun, guess they had captured them some place, and were using them. Now to see the town and wrecked planes, you could really see why they surrendered. After we got back we went over way and found caves or under-ground rooms etc. There we explored with flashlights and rifles. The first one was a school, lots of books etc. Second one had ropes, bushes, buckets mops etc. Third had ammunition. We heard there was an underground airplane factory so looked for it. Came across a cave with medical supplies, another with bottles of beer (didn't know what it was) Another had blankets and canned fruit. We picked up souvenirs as we went along. Never found the airplane factory on that day but found a machine shop. (Still raining) We got back to our plane about 5:00 PM and decided we needed a hot meal so Smitty swiped "C" Rations, Beans and Spagetti, we opened out coffee can and had a good meal. While we were cooking it Thiesen, Hunt, Arnold and Higgins showed up, were hungry and had had nothing to eat except fish since they left. We all ate. (The old cold "K" rations and coffee) We told them of our car and exploits of day. They were envious, said they were worried about us etc. They had another car, a Ford with flat tires.

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The driver was repairing it and we were still eating when a Lt. from the 11<sup>th</sup> Airborne came up and asked if I had any blankets, ( I said we had none to spare.) He said he had some souvenirs to trade for some. I told him, I didn't want souvenirs, but I would take him to a cave with blankets in it. He gave me a nice compass for the deal. I got a jeep, rifle, and light and went to the cave, got some blankets and came back sat around and shot the bull with them and ended up by all of the crew having a compass. Finally the tire was fixed and everybody but Hunt, Smitty and I took off for Headquarters again. This night Smitty slept on the bed with Hunt and I slept on the floor. We slept until 8 o'clock next morning.

September 2, 1945 — (signing of Formal Peace Surrender) Tokyo Bay.

Smitty found another car – a Nissan. The 11<sup>th</sup> Airborne said if we could get it to run we could have it. It had no rotor in the distributor, so I made one, and got it running. Thiesen and the rest except for General