

Summer 2004

showed up. The Generals were at formal Peace Surrender. Thiesen and the rest wanted some guns, so we tool the Nissan and went to get them. (Still raining)

We got plenty and came back to the ship and checked the weather. A typhoon was near our destination, so we couldn't leave. General Stilwell showed up. I got sucked in to prepare their meal, but I fixed only the two generals and mine, the rest shifted for themselves on cold "K" rations. We had spaghetti, lima beans kened (tangerens) that the driver gave me. Smitty stole the beans and spaghetti.

Well I am sorry I have to quit, but my back aches and I have missed a lot of sleep so will sign off for the night,

Well, Well, Good Morning! It is September 4th. Had a swell breakfast of pancakes and eggs. We are real popular because we have plenty of souvenirs to give away. Well for the time being have to sign off again to head for airfield and put the "Chariot" in shape in case we have to go out soon.

Ho Hum! Back again, couldn't get any transportation to field so decided to wait until noon. Now getting back to the letter. After the General ate, they wait off in a jeep so we got the dodge (the B-24) crew left for Iwo Jima. In the meantime I had a motorcycle which I also got to running. I gave it to the Commanding Officer of the 11th Airborne for his personal use. Well anyway, as I wrote you after the Genera took off for parts unknown, we -- Thiesen, Arnold, Hunt, Smitty and myself began to explore. First we got a batch of rifles and bayonets. Then headed for the underground airplane factory. We found it about a mile from the field. They had a grass runway there and a complete assembly line. Planes still on line from just empty hull right up to complete planes. There planes are very similar to our P-47 type persuit. In this place we gathered many tools, electric drills, etc . Spent quite some time here. Then we went into more passage ways and found under ground instrument, propeller, engine and etc., shops. Mos of equipment was corroded from dampness. I was getting pretty tired. These caves were just plain holes in the ground. No wooden sides or any supports to hold them up. In some there were tracks from small railed carts. After we left the factory we went into buildings, found more tools etc.

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Also ran across Japs who bowed, saluted and seemed just the opposite of a "Super Race". It was quite a contract to see Smitty's 6' and 2" tower above them. In some of the caves were beds and messing facilities, to show that they live under ground. Dampness and. all, and on one side of the cave would be a corner with two triple deck bunks, 5' 6" long about 2 feet wide — like sleeping on diving board. On opposite side of cave were more alcaves, about 7' wide, 6' long, 5 decks high with a table and bench. This is where they ate. After we prowled around some more we headed for the plane because it was locked and we were expecting the General back. After we got to the plane, they all wanted to explore somemore, but I was tired so I stayed at the plane and they took off again. I made some coffee and set out food for the -General so I could get it quick when he showed up. Arnold and Thiesen plus crew showed up first with more junk and two cases of canned tangerenes. Very delicious and I am sending a can to you to try. Finally the General showed up. I started dinner. General Merrill who can speak and read Japanese was interested in our cave exploits so he took off with the crew to see if he could find some canned crab meat, leaving the General and myself at the plane. I asked if he wanted to eat. He said he would wait for the rest to return. Finally they did (no crab meat) but cases of salmon and peaches. We ate supper. The crew had "K" rations again. After supper we sat around and shot the bull and decided how and there to sleep. It was dark and had the little engine in ship running to furnish lights inside for the Generals. We had the gasoline lamp outside. Washed dishes (I did) Thiesen dried them then with pair of underwear. (no rags available) We had a quart of State-side whiskey so all took a snort and went to bed. Arnold under wing on cot, Hunt, Thiesen, Higgins on cots under bombay doors, the General on plane's bunk, General Merrill on a comforter and blankets that I fixed up in ship. I also slept in ship. Smitty slept in nose. At 3:45 am we got up. It was cold at nights with only two blankets to keep warm. I had to get up dur-ing the night and wash off tail wheel (So we say) Didn't sleep well and ached all over. After I got up I folded my blankets, drained water out of gas tanks. Smitty got up and we turned propellers around (Necessary) General Merrill came down out of