

Summer 2004

nose door. He is getting very fat. I got Arnold and the rest up, the General was still in bed tho. We got cots folded end everything stored away. Thiesen got back from operations. (He had the Dodge) We were clear to good weather fair. We were in the air at 5:45 am. I fed the General coffee, Grapefruit Juice, peaches, two, slices of nut cake that was left over from lunches. This looked good to them. I fed Thiesen and Hunt "K" rations. Arnold and Higgins ate two cans of fruit and coffee. Smitty ate nothing. I filled up on odds and ends. About 9:00 I made some hot chocolate out of "K" rations, chocolate bar and can of milk — was pretty good. Every one had a cup full. The visibility was poor so nothing much to see. We let down near Okinawa (saw Fugiama mountain (Spelling wrong) in Japan. It was pretty rough air over Okinawa. There are quite a few air strips here. We land at Kadena and some times Yontan, both being reasonably near Tenth Army Headquarters. We buzzed Headquarters to let them know we were back and to send transportation to the field. We landed about 11:20. Sure was windy. Nearly blow us off runway. Burnt brakes holding ship on runway and taxi strip. We parked and transportation came. The Generals took off in a jeep. We loaded our loot in a 3/4 ton truck and a jeep (quite full) and came back to area. Quite a crowd around looking over loot. We took what was ours and put the rest in Arnold's tent. I have two Jap rifles, 5 bayonets, three \$50.00 magnetic compasses, two slide rules, tools, helmet, etc. I will send as much as possible as soon as possible to you, for yourself, Norman, John Skippy and Bud.

-6-

After we ate lunch we were pretty tired so straightened up the tent a trifle and hit the sack. We couldn't sleep so we took a shower and fooled around until supper, after that you know the rest. This enclosed paper will show you that we were among the first to be in Japan and before the troops went into Yokoma, etc. officially. The Peace Conference was held on the U.S.S. Missouri, this you know. If you cut out an article about it, put it with this letter as it will save on the trouble of writing same.

On our way back we asked General Merrill what the Jap writing on different things were. He told us that they had no scientific words. One box he said read - "Tool kit for flying machine". Tells another "Ship go up or down" in our language this means a "Rate of climb indicator". Where I mention 11th Airborne Infantry, this was the advanced echelon sent to prepare for the rest to come.

Americans, including myself are very curious and destructive; for example, there were two brand new Jap Airplanes near the field, so some GI came along and zip cut out rising sun from wing and fuselage, leaving planes with two and three foot diameter holes in it. The rifle shed was quite a mess the second day. Rifles all over the floor. When I just went thru it was all orderly, with rifles nicely stacked, etc. The instrument panel on airplanes were stripped. Everything that looked like a souvenir was taken. Even tho it left the principle object from which it was taken unuseable,

General Merrill has lived in Japan. He almost drove the driver crazy by reading Jap signs and sign posts. The two Generals were puzzling him even more by saying "Well the last time I was here there was a building here and a temple there, etc. General Stilwell was never there, but was feeling his "Oats". He has gotten 10 years younger since he left the states for active duty again. General Stilwell is known as a Soldier's Soldier. He doesn't want anything better than what his men have. For example, there is a car here for him, but he wont use it. Just uses a jeep, top down, windshield down. MacArthur is a publicity hound, big cars etc. Carries newsmen with him and requests his picture made every time he does anything. Called General Stilwell out of his tent (General Stilwell's tent) so a picture could be taken of the two shaking hands, A nice house was built here for General Stilwell, but he wouldn't accept it, he lives here in a tent. He would prefer to eat "K" rations etc. as we do and shift for himself, but we wont let him, not that we have the power, but he knows we enjoy and feel better when we have our way. He always talks with enlisted men as though they were Generals, and thanks them for all he gets. He makes a special effort to shake the hands and thanks his jeep drivers and mess personnel. General Merrill is the same way. I have never known a General, including General Stilwell who is more