NOTE BOOK

E. J. LILLY, JR.,
Colonel, 57th Inf (P.3)

Dec. 8, 1944 — April 26, 1945

(1st Day of War's 3½ year)
732 Day of War

Dec. 8'44 (Fri) 24yrs+243 (974)

There are many rumors today about an early Red Cross issue. But as there have been others I'm not paying too much attention to it.

Ale news of Floyd is bad. Shady MacD. tells me he got it from Gillespie that it is only a matter of hours — morphine is reducing the sufferings.

Dec 9'44 (Sat) 24yrs+244 (975)

There was evidently some sort of an air raid alarm last night. I know the lights were out about 2 a.m. One man says he heard a siren — Dick Rogers claims he heard something that sounded like distant detonations — So much for that. A lot of small boxes or chests about 1'x1'x16" were issued today — or, rather, placed in the lower hall and we all went down and scrambled for them. I got one with a little door that you lift up and remove. Inside is a small drawer at bottom and an ideal place for my dishes alone.

We get an issue of ½ can of powdered milk and 2 packs of American cigarettes this afternoon. Phil and Al shared one, Ray and Jack shared one, so Lt. Eldridge and Pat Callahan — so I shared mine with Floyd Marshall. I put my tobacco in an oat bottle with the top cut off and left Floyd's in the can. Took it over to him also the cigarettes — just before supper. I got a chance to see him for a minute. He was very groggy with some kind of an opiate but knew me and seemed glad to see me. I told him to keep "thumbs up" — and he said "I'm going to pull through!" God knows I hope he does, but the doctors seem to think he's got more than two strikes on him. Browning the orderly on duty with him, says he's better today than he's been for days — and he (Browning) feels that he's got a good chance. I am praying for him. One note about the Red Cross issue — the cans of meat were opened enough to break the seals and we were told that the cans would have to be turned in at the end of a week. I am glad to get the Red Cross issues, of course, but I believe this method of issue is a direct violation of the articles of the International Red Cross — and certainly contrary to the articles of our Government. The reason back of it — according to the

Nipponese, is that at the Mukden (Hoten) camp (for enlisted men). Last year several men collected their Red Cross and, with that as a food reserve, attempted to escape — So they are taking no chances with us. They utterly fail to take into consideration the fact that, with us, they are dealing with a group of high ranking officers. At any rate their system will break up a lot of hoarding and will force those who have been in the habit of saving (trying to outlast everybody else) to consume their issues and, in that way, get the maximum amount of benefit from it.

Arnold Funk has posted around the following suggested scheme of issue — based upon 12 issues for each parcel (don't expect we'll get daily issues, but I think that is the idea)

1st day – ½ can milk & cigarettes; 2nd day – Spam and chocolate; 3rd day – Butter and jam; 4th day – Sugar and coffee; 5th day – Corned beef & cigarettes; 6th day – Fruit (raisins or prunes) and soap; 7th day – ½ can milk and butter; 8th day – Salmon and chocolate; 9th day – cheese and cigarettes; 10th day – Pate and butter; 11th day – soap and chewing gum; and on the 12th day – meat, butter and the vitamin C tablets that come at the rate of 1 pkg per 6 parcels.

Dec 10 '44 (Sun) 2 yrs + 245 (976)

Gen. Brougher conducted services this morning and asked me to read psalm 66 which, of course, I did.

There is a rumor that the flour for the kitchen (used in baking the buns) is to be reduced one-third. Sgt. Johnson was over here from the kitchen this morning and said the daily allowance for the kitchen had been reduced from 101 Kgm to 87 Kgm. He says that this reduction is for the purpose of building up a reserve for Xmas cooking — which, if true, isn't as bad as it sounded at first.

It is rumored that we get another issue from the Red Cross parcels today, but, so far, it is not a reality (10 45 pm).

It is a reality, however, that we get some Nipponese clothing. So far I have received a pair of gloves and a pair of sox. Pajama trousers were issued but somebody in my room had to cut out, and I was the unlucky one. Floyd is being included with the room. After the issue is completed (there are more articles to come) I will take his articles to him. Helmets have just come in and as there are 8 for our room I got one. I did — mine being of knitted wool with some sort of fur inside. While writing this, I got a heavy wool shirt and a pair of heavy wool long drawers. All this came as a complete surprise in spite of rumors that have been floating around for the past month.

On top of all this, we were issued 1 can of Spam, Prem, or Spiced meat from the Red Cross parcels (I got spiced meat) with the cans punched to insure immediate consumption — and a bar of chocolate (U S Army Class D ration).

Jack and I had a return bridge match with Aldridge and Balsam this afternoon and beat them — not quite as bad, however, as they beat us yesterday.

As soon as all the issues were completed I took Floyd's items to him over at the hospital. He was awake when I arrived and I showed each item to him individually. He seemed very pleased. Reached out his thin hand and clasped mine. I told him we were all pulling for him and gave him special messages from Shorty McDonald and Ole Garfinkel. He seemed pleased and said "Give them all my regards and tell them I'm going to fool 'em" — all of which sounded good to me — as if he's really got the will to live which in his case is a large part of the battle. Borowsky, the orderly, said they were going to try him out on a little "Prem" tomorrow morning. If he can assimilate his food, it ought to go a long way toward building up the resistance he needs to win his fight. I stopped by to see Col. Dougherty, Richards and Josh Stansell — all of whom seem to be getting along all right. Josh expects to be discharged Tuesday. Capt. Campbell (RN) seems to be picking up quite a bit too.

I hear there will be no issue tomorrow (of Red Cross, that is). We're hoping for the cigarettes (Nip) however — also the usual Sunday issue of candy or soya beans.

Phil told me today he'd made a date for him and me to go down to Gen Sitwell's room for bridge with him and A.V.M. Maltby. I've been enjoying my milk and other things. Last night before turning in I had a glass of hot milk. This morning I had a bowl of bread and (milk). Tonight I'm going to repeat the hot milk. I got my can of spiced meat while in the midst of a bridge game this afternoon and polished off about 1/5 of the can — plus a whole bun. It was certainly delicious.

Dec 11 '44 (Mon) 2 yrs + 247 (978)

Made a mistake somewhere in computing the duration of our imprisonment (to date, that is). Checked it this morning and found that we've been prisoners of war — those of us who surrendered on April 9 '42 — for 2 yrs and 247 days — or a total of 978 days, today.

I hung on to my spiced meat until supper tonight and finally polished it off — same with my chocolate. I still have about 3 heaping mess kit spoonfuls of powdered milk left. I'm coming out about even on this issue. The next issue on schedule is

one can of butter and one of jam. We did not get an issue today. We are somewhat disappointed that we got no candy — or issue of any kind through the canteen on Sunday. It is typical of these people to reduce issues — even food — when the Red Cross is being issued. I just heard today that some of the soldiers on duty on the train that brought us here had the small cans of sugar — which could have come from only one source — our Red Cross supplies. God knows how many of our parcels have been looted by these people.

Dec 12'44 (Tue) 2 yrs + 248 (979)

No bridge this morning. Made a date with Ly[illegible], the barber, to give me a hair cut at a few minutes after the library closes. He uses the library room as a barber shop. While I was waiting I went down to visit Gens. Jones and Bluemel for a while. While I was there, Brig. Trott our administrative officer, came in and there was a lengthy discussion about the running of the mess — trying to get additional men in the kitchen since it is conceded that they are under manned there now. They accomplished something in bringing out the facts 1) That Elmes' duties should be clearly defined by the senior officers (he has been in charge of distribution of food only and, heretofore, has had nothing to say about the org. of personnel in the kitchen. If some one will tell him exactly what he's supposed to do, I am sure he will do it.

I saw Sgt. Johnson this morning right after he had seen Floyd Marshall. The report was that Floyd looks brighter and is generally improved since he (Johnson) saw him a week or so ago. Floyd, according to Sgt Johnson, is interested in what is going on — which is an excellent sign in my opinion. As long as he shows an interest in happenings around him — it looks to me as though he has a chance to pull through.

This afternoon we received another issue of Red Cross — this time one can of butter and one of jam. Our room got various kinds of jam — some grape, pineapple, peach and strawberry. We decided the issue by lot — not choice — but I was lucky enough to draw my favorite, strawberry. So did Floyd. I took his butter and jam to him and got a look in on him. He didn't look quite as bright as he did the last time I saw him, but not so bad either. I can't help feeling he has a chance. He said he'd been feeling rather tired all day, though! I can't think of his exact words but that was the general idea.

Jack Stansell came back from the hospital looking fit as a fiddle.

Dec 13'44 (Wed) 2 yrs + 249 (980)

The rumor today is that we get corned beef and cigarettes. I finished my milk this morning — used it on the mush, which, as far as I could tell, had no trace of sugar in it (Al Balsam to the contrary) though Wednesday has, up to now, been the day we get a little sugar.

This afternoon, while I was taking a brief siesta, Red Cross was issued in the form of 1 - 4 oz can soluble coffee and one 8 oz carton of lump sugar. Later in the afternoon I took Floyd's issue over to him. Found him alone and went in, showed him each item — he gets such a kick out of getting his issues — and laid them on the table for him. Asked him how he felt and he said "Better" which was music to my ears. Not wanting to excite him — or do anything I shouldn't do — I gave him the old "thumbs up" sign and left him. Saw Col. Dougherty and Col. Richards on my way past the main ward. They look O.K. but both will remain in the hospital for a while longer, I understand.

Phil + I played bridge with Gen. Sitwell and AVM Maltby this afternoon. Phil and the AVM beat the Gen. + me.

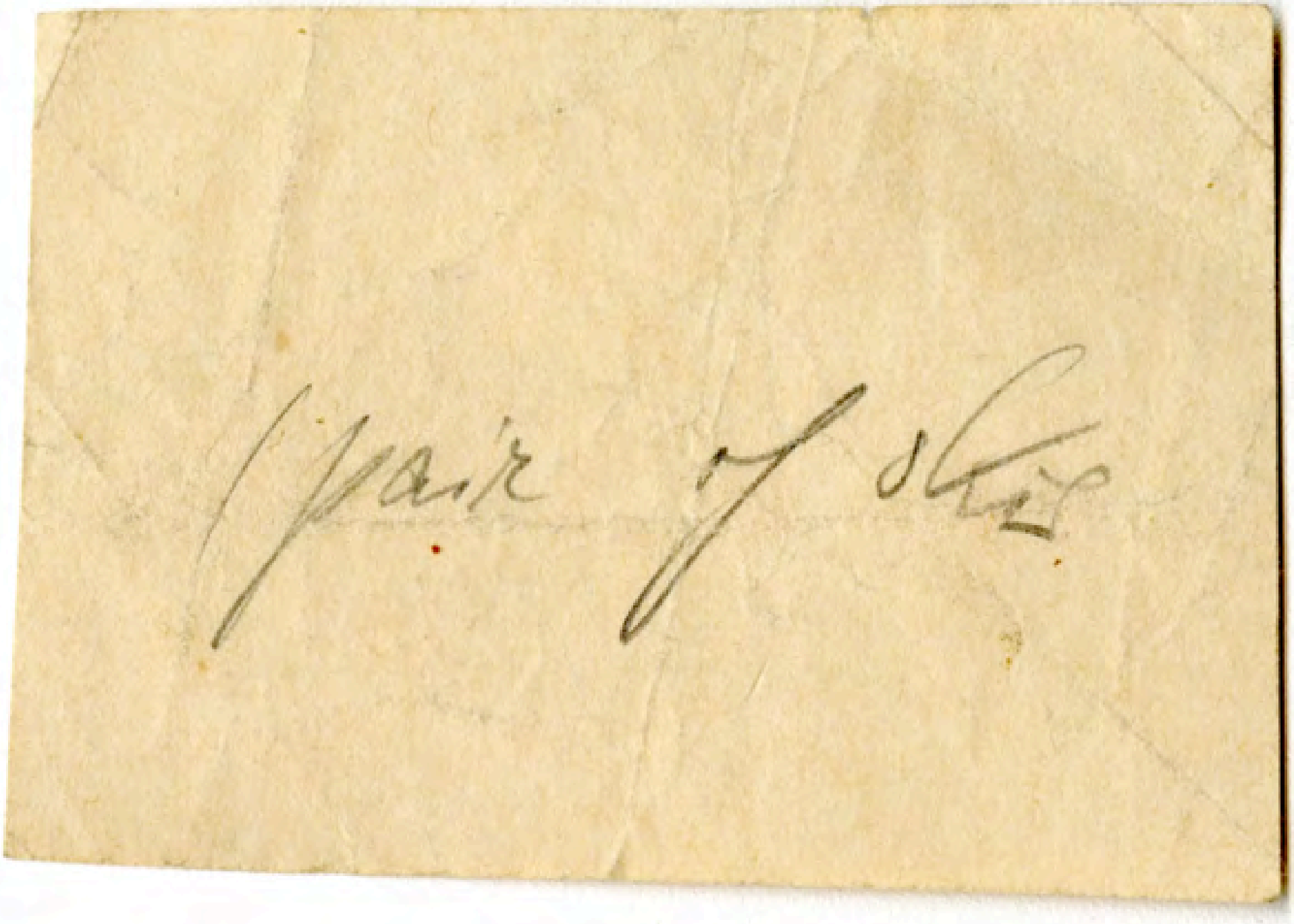
Dec. 14'44 (Thur) 2 yrs + 250 (981)

Instead of the usual pre-tenko tea this morning, Phil and I had a cup of coffee. It was delicious — a half mess-kit spoonful of coffee and two lumps of sugar in the small cup. Did I get a lift out of it or did I get a lift! Then I polished off my butter by putting it with 4 lumps of sugar on my corn meal mush. — And after the usual vegetable soup at noon, when the hot water came around, I had another cup of coffee with 3 lumps of sugar — plus a cigarette. I traded Pierce Arnold 8 Asahi cigarettes for 3 Chesterfields. At present I have 2 Chesterfields left — all between me and swearing off smoking. The Red Cross schedule of issues, which has been followed so far calls for corned beef and cigarettes today. The AVM said yesterday that we are also scheduled for an issue of Nip cigarettes and candy today. This morning Jack and I played bridge with Al Balsam + Ed. Aldridge — and they beat us by a close score.

Last night Jack Whiting and I went down for some bridge with Gens. Jones and Bluemel. They beat us — also by a close score.

Scudder came in with an invitation to Jack + me to play him and Col. Sturgwerking (Dutch) soon. That ought to be interesting, as Scudder is an excellent player and Sturgwerking has played in some international tournaments. As for Jack + me, we're just two bush-leaguers trying to get along but we can beat them if we get enough aces and kings.

Gen Brougher has been put in charge of a show to be held New Year's Day. He has asked me to get the guitars and mandolins etc together and arrange something for the show. I spoke to Tiger Teague who is a guitarist of no mean ability, but he gave me the cold shoulder — doesn't like amateur theatricals of any kind and will have no part in it. The Dutch mandolin player, Exmann, and the two accordion playing British soldiers have gone back to the so-called Vice-Roys group — so they're out. All I can think of now are Laughlin + Eddie O'Connor (mandolins) and whatever harmonicas we can pick up. Maybe Gen Weaver will play. I feel rather inadequate as the only guitar but if we can get up enough enthusiasm, will do the best I can. Gen Brougher also wants me to lead group singing — which, of course, I shall do to the best of my ability — though I don't feel especially cut out for that sort of thing. In addition to these assignments I'm also going to sing with the Double quartette — which will mean quite a bit of time spent in rehearsing between now and show time. There are also to be some carols for Christmas Eve, I understand. I suppose Bree Brady will be doing the choosing that.



I certainly wouldn't consider myself any hot shot on any of this stuff, but I am in favor of doing anything that will lift us a little above the hum-drum P.W's existence — so will do all I can to help — even though it may not be so good.

Dec 15'44 (Fri) 2yrs + 251 (982)

Aired and beat the dust out of my blankets this morning. We got an issue of raisins (or prunes) and a small cake of soap this afternoon. We were to get 3 issues of raisins and 1 of prunes in that ratio. I got raisins today and have enjoyed them very much. Ray O'Day heard me say a few days ago that I was about out of cigarettes, so gave me a pack — he had already let me have his pajama trousers when I was out out of the issue because he has something he can use. Didn't take Floyd's Red Cross issue over to him today — on Col. Gillespie's advice. He says Floyd has been suffering with a slight bowel upset and doesn't want him to have his prunes for several days. I didn't play bridge this afternoon so did quite a bit of chasing around trying to get people who play musical instruments lined up for our little pick-up orchestra for the show which Gen Brougher is instigating for New Year's Day.

Dec 16'44 (Sat) 2yrs + 252 (983)

Lots of rumors floating around today. 1) President Roosevelt made a radio speech 3 or 4 days ago protesting to the Nipponese government their treatment of Prisoners of War — based on reports received from escaped prisoners of war and verified by reports from former prisoners taken in the P.I. 2) From several sources, Nip soldiers have made the statement that Japan is now fighting alone 3) The high ranking officers here have been given reason to believe that in the near future we will get Nipponese milk and cheese, 4) Tokyo is now being bombed daily. 5) The naval aviation (Carrier borne) in the Philippines has been released and the air protection has been taken over entirely by land-based planes. 6) American Soldiers are now in Manila.

It all sounds pretty good and there is a great deal of optimism here.

I gave a soldier P20.00 for a can of corned beef yesterday.

No Red Cross issue today. We had to turn in our milk, butter and jam cans this morning. I went over and got Floyd's cans and saw him for a minute. He wasn't feeling too good, but was not down hearted. Col. Gillespie tells me his (Floyd's) condition is still very, very grave — though not so critical as a week ago — He is in much more danger now than he was at Cabanatuan, but he was very ill there.

Jack and I had a nice bridge game with Scudder and Strumwasser this morning — They won after some very interesting hands. They play and bid very well together — but really did have better cards than we did. Jack and I didn't do too badly together.

I didn't play bridge this afternoon. Air Commodore Modin brought his ukelele in and we got tuned together with Air Cmdr. Staton's help. Laughlin and I went in to their room tonight and played with them — not too good.

I had a nice cup of coffee tonight about tea time. Phil put some milk in it which improved it immensely.

I am serving for rooms 39 (ours) and 40 (across the hall) this week — not doing so badly so far. We had the biggest meal tonight we've ever had — a bowl full of beans plus a pattie made with this maize and corn meal. I saved part of my pattie and ate it later with some corned beef — very satisfying. Tomorrow we're scheduled for an issue of milk and butter — two of the most important items in the Red Cross parcel.

Dec. 17'44 (Sun) 2yrs + 253 (984)

A red hot report (better than a rumor this time) comes around this morning to the effect that Germany is definitely out of the war. Also, in the bridge game with Strumwasser yesterday, he told me that in Gen. Sitwell's conversation with the Nip soldier several days ago, the conversation had been on families but, immediately after, the soldier had asked Sitwell if he was American, British or what (so the subject of families had been discarded for the moment). Gen Sitwell told him he was British and it was a moment after that that the soldier said "Japan now alone".

So, he probably wasn't talking about his family as I had at first supposed.

Heard this morning from Pat Callahan — one of the high ranking British officers here told him today that the British would have sued for peace following "Dunkirk" had she not received positive assurance that the U.S. would enter the war.

A rumor that I forgot to list yesterday — the American and British troops are now on the Rhine.

We got 3 packs of Nip cigarettes today plus the following Red Cross items: 1/2 can Milk (I got Klim this time) and 1 can butter.

Phil mashed his right thumb in one of the heavy iron doors midway of our hall this afternoon. Quite painful — bone may be crushed.

Dec 18'44 (Mon) 2yrs + 254 (985)

Nothing much today except the issue of more Red Cross — to wit, 1-8oz can Salmon and 1 Chocolate bar (US Class D ration). Also the piece of news about Germany's being out of the war has been verified — to the satisfaction of some at least (including Sta. Wood who speaks the Nip language) So there it is. Pat Callahan who keeps a pretty close ear to the ground believes that Germany is out. He says the

source of the statement that she is out is much more reliable than the other. Any way, I don't know, of course, except that I don't see what's holding her in.

Tonight we were asked to contribute 1/10 of the 600 lbs of sugar we have coming from the Taiwan gift to the kitchen for use in making Christmas apple pies. Of course we all (or most of us) voted for it because we have nothing to lose. It began to look as if we would be gypped on the sugar deal altogether — and this is just a way of getting a little of what is rightfully ours. And, in my opinion, this is all we're going to get.

There was a very nice sweet roll for dessert at supper tonight — the roll was filled with some delicious concoction of soya beans. I heated mine over the coals and put butter on it — Delicious!

There was a rehearsal of the "orchestra" tonight. Bela Boraly, in spite of his cold, is taking charge and doing a good job. We will probably do a couple of medleys — and I will lead some group singing (or try to).

I am reading "The Forest and the Fort" by Hervey Allen (who also wrote "Anthony Adverse"). It started out by arousing my interest and hasn't lagged yet. I'm enjoying it.

Dec 19 '44 (Tue) 2 yrs + 255 (986)

Phil's finger is better — but there are kernels under his arm & his arm and wrist are a little sore. He is soaking it in an Epsom Salts solution. Col. Richards is back from the hospital looking fine. I polished off the remaining 1/3 of my salmon at noon today.

Jack Keltner & I "took" Crews and Townsend at bridge this morning.

There will be no Red Cross issue today. — Later — there was an issue after all — though none was scheduled! It consisted of 1 - 8 oz package of cheese and 2 packs of cigarettes.

A couple of days ago, I was told that Floyd Marshall's Red Cross items would be withheld. Yesterday the salmon and chocolate were issued any way. I spoke to Arnold Funk about it and, as the owner, gave him the chocolate and Gillespie the salmon — Today Floyd's cheese & cigarettes were issued again. I turned them over to Gillespie.

Tonight we each got one salt fish. I don't know what kind it was but it was about 6 or 8" long & about 1½" wide. Very good but there was something in it that bit my tongue. I heard several others make the same comment. It does look as though they're trying to improve our food, though. One table of beans, 1 bun (dark flour this time — very good) and the fish. A very satisfying meal.

This afternoon, I mixed a cupful of milk and broke up a bun in it. I've done that a number of times and it certainly is good. I wonder if, after I get home, I'm going to have the same aversion to canned milk (condensed, evaporated, powdered) I had before. I rather think not. It is so good here, that I hope it will always taste that way.

Phil Fry is feeling bad — this afternoon he had a temperature

of 101°F. He thinks it may be the recurrence of his malaria. Actually, it may be only a touch of "grippe".

Pat Callahan told me a good one today. He was talking to Col. Kengen (Dutch A.C.) about variation in weights. Pat told him how much he loved to eat — that he had dropped from his prewar wt. of over 200 lbs to a low of about 130. Col. Kengen told him that he also loved to eat — that before the war he normally ate 5 meals a day and weighed 309 lbs. His present weight is 139 just 170 lbs less. As far as I know, that is the record. Makes my drop from 147 to 123 look like nothing at all.

Dec 20 '44 (Wed) 2 yrs + 256 (987)

There was quite an earthquake tremor at 11:15 pm last night. Lasted 15 or 20 seconds I should say.

There is to be an inspection at 1 pm today by the Commanding General Central Manchurian Defense Forces (or something like that). This means folding blankets a certain way and putting them in a specified place — à la, Military School.

There were a number of repercussions from the fish last night. I passed Eddie O'Connor in the hall as I was coming up to go to bed. He was looking a little squeamish so I asked him if he was all right. He said "No, that damned fish went through me like a sick Frenchman". Arnold Funk's went right down and bounced right back, I hear. As for me, my cast iron stomach did not react unfavorably — there was definitely something a bit rancid, though, about the oil they used for cooking.

We had a carol practice at 6:30 tonight.

Talking to Ted Sledge tonight — he told me that the Nips took 333,000 prisoners in their push southward (Amer, Brit, Australian, Dutch & Native troops) — of these 128,000 were white.

Dec 21 '44 (Thur) 2 yrs + 257 (988)

About 10:30 am the noise of an air raid alarm was heard. While Jack Keltner & I were playing bridge with Scudder & Stegenberg a special roll call was announced. As I write this (11:20 am) nothing has happened.

At 10:35 am A.V.M. Maltby and another high ranking British officer were walking — and saw what the AVM described as a "large flight of planes" to the east headed SE. The question, of course, is where were they coming from and where were they going? It's odd too that the Nips' air warning system apparently wasn't prepared for them since they were about 15 min. late in picking them up. This could have been a flight of 10-15 or even 20 planes — the AVM wouldn't have called that a "large flight" — and, oh yes, they were flying at a "high altitude".

We got another Red Cross issue today — this time it was 1 can Rosemarie Pâté and ½ can butter.

Dec 22'44 (Fri) 2 yrs + 258 (989)

Weighed this morning — mine was 63.6 kgm (139.92 lbs). Gained 1.1 Kgm (2.42 lbs) since Nov 22'44 — date of our last weighing. Jack K. & I are entered in a duplicate bridge tournament with Ed Aldridge and Al. Balsam as the other team. Jack & I played Charlie Shue & Roy Hilton this morning — at least we finished 14 of the 16 hands. Have 2 more to play this afternoon. It's been good fun and we haven't done too badly so far. Finally finished the match and discovered when the scores were totalled that our team had won by 230 points. We play some people from the 4th Section next Sunday instead — tomorrow afternoon.

We got a cake of soap and 2 packs of chewing gum this afternoon from the Red Cross. This afternoon I went down and watched a match between Laughinghouse & Ames — and Moore and Richards; while O'Connor & Nelson were playing Gen Key & Brig. Eveleigh. Our team lost this match in spite of the fact that Eddie O'Connor bid & made 7 Spades doubled & redoubled on the last hand. We had a carol practice tonight. On Christmas Eve we're going to sing Christmas carols at four different "Stations" so everyone will hear them.

Dec 23'44 (Sat) 2 yrs + 259 (990)

We were supposed to play our Bridge match with the British Generals this afternoon, but it has been postponed until tomorrow afternoon at 1:30. We play against AVM Maltby & Gen Sitwell as one pair and Gen Simmons and Brig. Simson on the other.

At noon today we had beans and maize instead of the usual vegetable soup. There were two full ladles and a little over of so beans were literally going begging in some quarters. There's to be an inspection of quarters this afternoon — originally scheduled for 1 pm — there's no telling when they'll do it now if they do it at all — it's now 3 pm.

The inspection was made — by a corporal or private, I don't remember which — and all he looked at was our eating utensils. In all of these inspections, the point seems to be stressed — this time it was the eating utensils — and nothing else seems to be noticed.

There is a report — through our enlisted men — that Davao was bombed thoroughly several days ago (I mean the report was received several days ago) — and that Japanese troops (another report has it "POWs") have been despatched to clean up the debris and restore order.

Dec 26'44 (Tue) 2 yrs + 262 (993)

Sunday service was conducted by Col. Giblin (B). Sunday night we sang Christmas carols — our efforts were well received — the impression I got, being that everyone enjoyed them. We sang in four different places — 1st in the North wing, 2nd in the Center downstairs — 3rd in the South wing — and finally in the Center upstairs. In the afternoon, Jack Kestner & I as one pair, and Al Balsam and Ed Aldridge as the other, invaded the British generals in a duplicate bridge tournament. Jack and I played Brig Simson and Maj Gen Keith-Simmons, while Al and Ed played Major Generals Sitwell and AVM Maltby. The result was that we got a decisive beating from them.

Yesterday was Christmas Day. For breakfast the usual corn meal mush — for lunch, bean soup with bits of pork fat in it — Then came the big meal — and I do mean big. We got a big slab of cornbread slightly sweetened, a piece of what they called Yorkshire pudding but it was different from the Yorkshire Mother Bush makes (and I'll bet she has many times for being the real thing). This was made with flour & some corn meal, and contained carrots and some cracklings. Next there was a pork stew with some real lean pieces in it. Then came a piece of fish steak (might have been red snapper, or tuna I don't know. All I do know is that it was very good. Finally there was a generous piece of apple pie made of real fresh apples and liberally supplied with sugar. The PW version of the Yorkshire Pudding was particularly good I thought and I traded my corn bread to Al Balsam for his piece; warmed it over this morning and ate it — with some warmed over pork stew that Pat Callahan gave me — in my corn meal mush.

At 10:30 we had church services — Lucas (B) conducted and Gen. Weaver read one lesson while Col. van Struyvenberg (D) read the other — truly an international service.

At 9:30 this morning Ed Aldridge, while walking outside with Brig. Simson (B) heard a "large flight" of planes overhead going in a northwesterly direction. They were very high — and of course, may have been Nip planes, though that doesn't seem likely as the best Nip planes cannot fly nearly so high as ours, I understand.

I drew and crayoned three Xmas cards — one to Floyd Marshall which all in our room (No 39) signed — one to Gens. Jones and Bluemel — and one to Gen George Parker, Jr., the Senior American officer here, which all room members signed. I took as my pattern, the Xmas Card I received from Charlie Baldwin (a very pretty young girl who lived in the same dormitory with Betty Ann at the University of Georgia before we came to the Philippines in 1941). Yesterday we were issued a ½ pound of the Red Cross Sugar and a 4 oz can of soluble coffee. In addition the Nips issued us 2 packs of their cigarettes. The sugar that the old Sour puss in charge of P.W. Camps in Taiwan allegedly gave us before we left Karenko — 1050 Kgms in all — has provided the usual mystery. Several weeks after we arrived here we were issued a little less than 1 pound each — then came rumors that some of it had erroneously been sent to some other P.W. camp and some lost. Then a few days before Xmas we voted to give 1/10 of the 600 lbs of our sugar to the kitchen for use in the apple pies. That accounts for about 1000 pounds roughly. What became

of the other 1300 pounds is still a mystery. Another angle to this mystery was provided the day before Xmas when, on opening one bag of sugar a hole in the bottom stuffed with ragged pieces of paper was discovered. Whether rats made the hole and the Nips inserted the paper etc, or the Nips made the hole, stole the sugar and put the paper etc in the bag to conceal the theft is still a question. I have my own idea as to what happened, however, having been in daily contact with these people as a P.W. for nearly 3 years. At any rate the lost, theft or what not (call it what you will) has come to light — As Phil Fry expressed it "The Nips have lost face by the incident, but what is infinitely worse, we have lost our sugar".

I went over Xmas afternoon to take Floyd his Nip cigarettes but didn't see him as the orderly on duty (Cpl. Hale — Australian) thought he had seen enough people for one day — and I, of course agreed. I stopped in to see Col. Dougherty who has a heart condition, and visited with him awhile, Bill Maher came in while I was there.

On my way back from the hospital I noticed that the Japanese flags were displayed at the entrance to the compound — one on each side. That is the practice, I have observed, on holidays.

Last night, Tenko was held at 6:30 and "lights out" was delayed until 10 o'clock. I got down the guitar and played at it awhile. Ben-Hur Chastaine came in and we sang "Abdul Abul-Bul Amir", "Frankie & Johnnie", "To the Lakes" and other songs for quite a while. Ben knows all the words and has a nice voice. After a while Eddie O'Connor came in with Laughlin's Mandolin and we played "I'll take you home again Kathleen", "Red Sails in the Sunset" "Mexicali Rose" "Sadie Sue", "South of the Border" and tunes like that until it was time to get ready for bed. Quite a crowd gathered and joined in singing and suggesting tunes — all seemed in a very cheerful mood.

Bathing yesterday as well as Sunday has been at 1:00. I went over in the middle of the afternoon and found quite a crowd of all nationalities in the bath — all with the idea that they'd chosen a time when all the others would be sleeping or doing something else.

We took up collections of cigarettes for the kitchen help as well as the food carriers and coal carriers.

Phil gave me a nice Xmas card which Dennis Eyhearne made for him — all in colors with a sketch of this barrack building on the outside. Jack Keltner gave me a cigar —

So did Ed Aldridge. Ray O'Day, knowing of my sweet tooth and also knowing that I just cannot conserve sugar, gave me a bottle case of that commodity — mighty nice of all of them particularly since I gave no presents. 113

This morning I gave Laughlin a bun, as I was 5 or 6 ahead — and he craves his to eat and butter so much. Incidentally I have arranged with him to swap me his next issue of coffee for a can of butter — coffee comes once a month and butter about 3 times.

Today we are scheduled for 1/2 can milk each and American cigarettes (2 packs I suppose) — no issue yet (2:20 pm).

We have been requested to turn in all cans — even the paper wrappers from Nip cigarettes — on threat of having the issues cut off if we don't. All cans except one two inadvertently overlooked have had holes punched in them to insure prompt consumption of contents. We're each to be allowed to retain 2 milk cans, I hear, for use as containers for various articles, but as yet we've not received them.

Today at noon there was a liberal issue of bean soup. I finished my week as soup server last Friday and have been doubling for Jess Traywick who has had flu. Well, we had a big issue — and then Vic Collins came in with some more to give away. I took it and dished it out — all of which made more than a bowlful.

Dec 27 '44 (Wed) 2 yrs + 263 (994)

Bridge with Jack vs Schaefer and Strayuenberg again this morning. They really had the cards and handled them well. Beat the hell out of us: Strangely enough I enjoyed it very much. Some very interesting hands.

Yesterday I played bridge with Phil Fry vs Sam Howard & Ray Heston. A little out of my class but I enjoyed it — and, aside from one or two boners, didn't do so badly. Phil "carried" me, as this is a money game. We lost but I didn't cost him so very much.

We got 1/2 can milk and 2 packs American cigarettes today. I took Floyd's half can of milk over to him and saw him for a minute. He was looking fine and said he feels better than he'd felt since he left Shirakawa. That was the best news I've had in months. Believe now he has a good chance of going home with us.

We had a short practice of the double quartette at 2:30 this afternoon. Ran over a medley we've sung before, "Beautiful Isle of Somewhere", "Home on the Range" and the chorus to "God Bless America". It went off rather well, all things considered. Our "orchestra" practices tonight at 6:30 and again

Friday night. Then we'll do our best at the show on Sunday night.
The quantity of food continues ample. Lots of beans for noon and evening meals — some of the "boys" are actually giving some of theirs away — Even "Brig" Young, one of our A-1 trencher-men, has been passing some of his around. Ed Aldridge is upholding the reputation of our room. Col. Richards, I hear, is doing all right, as usual. Wade Killen seems to be the champion down in his end of the building.
Ed Cornell & I went down for bridge with Generals Jones & Bluemel last night. We had good cards and won.

Dec 29 '44 (Fri) 2 yrs + 265 (996)

Yesterday we got the following Red Cross issue: 1 can corned beef + 1 bar chocolate. Today — wonder of wonders — we got more Red Cross, to wit — 1 can Spam (spiced meat), 1 can butter, 1 can Jam (assorted — I got strawberry again, which would have been my choice) — and 1 small bar of soap. This morning Jack + Ed Cornell + Harry Skerry and I played bridge — cut for partners — with the result that Jack K. & I took an awful lacing from Harry & Ed. At 2:30 this afternoon we had a rehearsal of the double quartette — it is going to be all right. We have our final rehearsal Sunday afternoon. The "orchestra" rehearses again for the last time tonight.
I finished "The Forest and the Fort" by Hervey Allen several days ago — a fine book — and am now just beginning "Safari" by Martin Johnson.
I played a rubber of bridge this afternoon with Phil vs Irvin Doane and Roy Hilton — we won an 8. Phil "carries" me but when we win, he wins double.

Dec. 31 '44 (Sun) 2 yrs + 267 (998) (1120th day of the war)

Ray O'Day conducted church services this morning — Jim Hughes and Harry Hamilton assisted. Jack Keltner and I beat Crews and Cornell at bridge this morning before church — we won a 6 rubber and lost a 4. Yesterday I played the rottenest bridge I ever played — rotten even by my own standards. Almost decided to lay off for a while — thought better of it this morning though.
We got an issue of the much discussed Taiwan sugar — about 3/4 lb.
The double quartette practiced again at 2:30 pm. Eddie O'Conor, one of our ablest members, has a stomach upset & am told. I passed his room a couple of times this morning and each time he was in bed — and looked as if he were asleep — so I haven't spoken to him. From what Crews, one of his room-mates, tells me, I doubt if he will be able to sing tonight.
Yesterday I went into the baggage room with Gen Brougher

to rehearse with him a poem he's going to recite in the show tonight — and to which he wants me to strum some sort of an accompaniment on the guitar. It's about a negro shoe shine boy in New Orleans — the kind who snaps the rag in a sort of primitive syncopation. It's a nice poem with lots of "business" and color — but it was God awful cold in that room and my fingers certainly were cold and stiff.
There is a strong rumor that Germany is out of the war as of Dec 24 — that the Americans are in Manila and in possession of most of the P.I. — also that Taiwan is being bombed daily — also Tokyo.
Just heard a rumor (9:55 pm) that Russia is in the war against Japan.
Our show went off in good shape — began at 7 pm — we gave ours upstairs while the British gave theirs downstairs — then we switched so both shows were given in each place. We played a medley (that is our "orchestra" did) — then yours truly led some group singing — then Gen Brougher put on his monologue in which he "read" four of his poems — 2 in negro dialect & others very "Mississippi" — then Retallick played the harmonica & Greenleaf did a cowboy jig — then our double quartette did real well on a medley "Somewhere", "Home on the Range", & "God Bless America" — Finally there was another orchestra medley & some more group singing led by yours truly — ending with "Auld Lang Syne" —

1945

Jan 1, 45 (Mon) 2 yrs + 268 (999) 1121st Day of War

Lots of running around from room to room this morning wishing Happy New Years. Jack Keltner & I had a bridge game with Glen Townsend and Cy Crews (in which they gave us a good beating) but postponed it long enough to go the rounds. First we went to see Gens. Parker & Jones, then stopped by the room occupied by Arnold Funk, Beebe, Pierce, Brougher, Seals, Howard etc., then to see Gens. Sharp and Weaver — next one to their room occupied by the Navy and Mindanao group; then we cut through downstairs, spoke to the enlisted men of all nationalities, to the Dutch & British colonels — and across to see Gens. Keith-Simmons & Key — next to Gens. Callaghan and Sitwell — then on into the room occupied by Richards, Moir, Emelyn etc — all British Brigadiers — finally we went upstairs again and looked in on Brigadiers McLeod, Torrance — Gen Maltby — Capt. Campbell (RN), Commodore Collinson — and Air Commodores Modin & Staton. They were all pleased, of course — and said nice things

about the American part of last night's show. The nicest comment on my own efforts came from Gen Pierce. He came in specially to see me, shook hands and said something nice about my part in the show and ended by saying "Billy - one thing about you - you can always be depended upon" - or something like that. Coming from him, who was my commanding general during some of our serious fighting on Bataan and who demonstrated time after time that he was a real trooper (being the one General I know who actually won his star on the battle field) - that carried a world of weight with me and was thoroughly appreciated.

This afternoon, Jack & I play Et Aldridge & Al Balsam a little bridge.

This morning, Col. Walk (Dutch) who rooms across the hall, told me he had it from a member of our kitchen force, who got it from a Nip soldier, that Germany is out of the war.

Another rumor that is very persistent: Russia is massing troops on the Siberian border.

Saw Brig. Simson this morning and made a date with him at his suggestion - to take a walk at 9:45 tomorrow morning.

I am reading "Safari" by Martin Johnson - very interesting. I see on turning back a page, that I mentioned that on the 29th of Dec.

Several days ago there was a little surplus "Red Cross" to be distributed - so the rooms cut cards. My room, thanks to Ray O'Day, cut the can of coffee - so we've been having a cup now and then out of our community can. Just after lunch Ray made up some "Room" coffee - and I, not knowing it, made a cup of my own. So I had two cups - and invited Tanghe, who has been trading me his coffee for my butter (can for can) because he prefers the butter, in to drink the extra cup. He came, brought his own sugar, and gave me a stick of chewing gum.

Jan 2 '45 (Tue) 2 yrs + 269 (1000) 1122nd Day of War (3 yrs + 26 days)

This morning I had mush with sugar & cream - followed by corn bread & spiced meat. Phil gave me a piece of toast to go with my coffee & put some pineapple jam on the toast. While I was serving the hot water, Al Balsam put some coffee in my empty cup, Pat Callahan added sugar, & Phil put another piece of toast, covered thickly with pineapple jam, beside the cup. Was that a pleasant surprise - I ask you. It speaks for the generosity of my room mates.

at 9:45 (it is now 9:20 by Jake Uhrig's watch) this morning, I have a date with Brigadier Simson (British) to take a walk. He is one of the friendlier British officers here - though most of them are friendly enough in their own reserved way when you get to know them - and all of us Americans like him very much.

Yesterday - after our 4th Section bridge team had defeated the British team of which he was a member - Gen Key told me how he had "dropped a brick" (or, as we would say, "pulled a boner") in the match. His partner opened 2 Spades. He had over 2 honor tricks in his hand and better than adequate spade support - something like Q J x x. Thinking he'd show his partner he had something a bit special, he bid 4 Spades. Whereupon, his partner, correctly interpreting that as a sign off - passed - and they went on to make an unbid slam.

We're scheduled for an issue of Red Cross butter and cigarettes today. Later (6 pm) - we didn't get it.

Enjoyed my walk with Simson - we talked about the war, of course. We know nothing, but the conversation invariably turns in to that channel. We agreed that Germany was probably out now (it's so plausible), that it will be 3 or 4 months after Germany folds (or folded) before we can really get things organized to begin "pouring it on" Japan (after all, the gasoline & bombs etc will have to come by sea and rail - and that will take time. We also agreed that Russia will come in after Germany ceases to be a consideration. In receiving aid in the form of materiel from England & the U.S. she undoubtedly gave some assurance that she would do so - and while it is conceded that she'll do whatever is expedient for her to do - her expediency will cause her to throw in against the Nips - after all, she's a long range planner (she's shown that) and wants to be well thought of by both the US & England in the years to come. That wouldn't be the case unless she does. Also, the defeat by Japan in the first few years of the century must still rankle - and she'd like to wipe that off by being "in at the kill" - she'll get Port Arthur, Manchuria & whatever else she wants anyway, but will retain the good will of the English speaking nations only if she lives up to her agreement.

Another thing we agreed on was that, if Japan elects to fight it out, she will last a maximum of 6 to 9 mos. Simson says 9. I say 6.

I told him about Toni & her music - and he told me that he also has a musical daughter - didn't mention her age - but says she's taking a degree at

some musical conservatory. I think he said she was specializing in "piano".

Jack Keltner was playing with Shorty MacDonald this afternoon against Col. Urquhart (B) and Capt Menhennick (B-RN) — so I got Cy Crews and he and I took Al Balsam and Ed Aldridge for a "cleaning". We held marvelous cards and beat them in spite of some very poor bidding on my part.

Both Simson + Bishop (Gp Capt-RAF) say they hope the orchestra continues. B. even said he'd like to play once a week and hoped we'd continue the group singing.

I told Bill Braly about this but he's not interested. I don't blame him. His church music is enough — and he hasn't been feeling any too well recently anyway. Only took charge of the orchestra, he says, because he didn't want to let me down.

The soup this noon and again tonight was thickened with what we first thought was corn meal — but which I now am convinced was ceremonial rice — the kind that is pulverized and put up in cakes. When cooked in soup it takes on a gluey or pasty aspect — and, strangely enough, it is not bad.

Had a nice hot bath this afternoon. The water was nice and hot and I especially enjoyed soaking in the public tank.

Tomorrow, Jack + I have arranged a bridge game with Brig. Simson and Gen Keith-Simmons.

I wish we could have some mail. The last letter I received from Tan was dated Aug 21 '43 — and the last letter I received from anyone was from Maxine Westphal dated Jan '44 — and gave a satisfactory report of Tan, the children, and Frances as of October '43. Fourteen months without any report on loved ones is too long and I think it is inexcusable on the part of these people to prevent our getting mail for that long. The last letter we were permitted to write was about August 4 '44 — 5 months ago. I can't believe this treatment is in accordance with the terms of the Geneva Treaty. That's the one thing that burns me up with the treatment at the hands of these people. It looks like a form of mental torture to me —

Pat Callahan reminds me of the fact that "during the 444 hours we were on board the Oryoko Maru, we were allowed outside — either to go on deck or bathing on the dock — for a total of 4 hours. I have checked my diary covering the trip and agree with him for the most part. My notes show that we were on the Oryoko 445½ hours and were in the fresh air 6½ hrs. — not much of a discrepancy there!

Another thing about the trip that I'll not soon forget — we were allowed no water for washing our faces + hands or cleaning our teeth while down below. The water we were allowed to bathe with on the dock (3 times in all) was the only fresh water we were given for washing. We were strictly prohibited from cleaning teeth or shaving with the tea — on threat of having the issue discontinued. No provisions for our safety on board ship in case of emergency were ever made — this was obviously deliberate. During the air-raids on Oct 12 + 13th, not only were the water-tight doors in the forward bulkhead closed, but the doors to the stairs which opened inside the stair shaft were blocked by throwing several heavy bails of Japanese property — which completely cut us off — like rats in a trap — down below. In event of emergency there was absolutely no way out, except for a few who might have taken all their clothes off and squeezed through the 14" port holes — and even they would have died from exposure even if they had been able to remain afloat that long. The rest of us would have been drowned like so many rats when their cage-like trap is submerged.

Jan 3 '45 (Wed) 2 yrs + 270 (1001) 1123rd Day of War

Nothing much today — except a Red Cross issue of 2 packs cigarettes, 1 can butter + 1 can salmon.

Jack + I beat Gen Keith-Simmons + Brig. Simson at bridge this afternoon.

Jan 4 '45 (Thur) 2 yrs + 271 (1002) 1124th Day of War

Another Red Cross issue today — Raisins or prunes (in ratio of 3R to 1P) — I got raisins again — and 1 chocolate (US Army Class D ration). We expected an issue of milk but it was not forthcoming.

This morning I took Floyd's butter + cigarettes to him (Col. Gillespie had retained the salmon) and had a chance to visit with him for 10 or 15 minutes. He was feeling good + was more like his old self than I'd seen him in months. He said "Ted, I'm going home with you and I'm going to walk down the gang plank without any help." I felt very much encouraged about him. I saw him again just before supper when I took his raisins over and he asked me to sit down — so I visited with him again.

There is a rumor to the effect that Russia has withdrawn 80% of her troops from the Eastern Front.

Jan 5'45 (Fri) 2yrs + 272 (1003) 1125th Day of War

I hear the temperature is -13° F. today. Bridge - Jack & I vs Brewer & Townsend. They won by a small margin. Were due for milk & butter on the Red X issue today.

Later - no Red Cross issue.

Jan 6'45 (Sat) 2yrs + 273 (1004) 1126th Day of War

Rumor - Nips report that "in accordance with their usual practice the Americans have landed 11 Divisions on Luzon, P.I. against greatly inferior numbers. The Nipponese will continue to fight to the last man. The Germans continue to defeat."

No inspection today. This removes a great (?) load from my mind. The weather continues very cool, but beautifully fair - the sun shining brightly.

I think I discovered a bed-bug last night. Felt something crawling on my forehead - mauled it & got that all nauseating odor. Will take my bedding out this afternoon.

Jack & I had a nice bridge game with Scudder & Sturgwein berg this morning. We started off with good hands, winning the first rubber - a 19. But things soon evened up - they winning by 1 pt at morning's end.

Am counting strongly on Red Cross issue today - used my last milk this a.m. - also am "out in the open" with my sugar now. I have 2 cakes of chocolate still - and a few raisins left.

This afternoon 6 or 7 radiograms were delivered to American P.W's. Most of them, I understand, contained Xmas greetings. Those receiving them were Beebe, Cook, Cornell, Ives, Monahan and Wilson. Ives' was his second since arriving here, I hear. Maybe, one of these days I'll get one. I am beginning to devote too much thought to the fact that I've had so little in the way of communication with my babies. I must try not to think of it and not let it get me down. I don't think I can help thinking of it, as my family is constantly in my thoughts - but I can and will keep from becoming despondent. After all, what good would that do?

I hear that the British contingent received radiograms about "a fortnight ago".

I had a conversation this afternoon with Col. Wilson, who was at Pettit Barracks, Zamboanga, Mindanao, P.I. just before the outbreak of war. He knew Maxine Westphal & the Boyce family (parents, brother & sisters of Helen Boyce, Max's young protegée). The Boyce's lived in Zamboanga when Boyce was having his difficulty, and the girls were very small - then they moved to a place called MARAGASSO TUBIG where Boyce made something of a comeback. He says Mrs. B was part French, he thought - and was more

than half Japanese. It was my understanding from Max that the children were 1/4 Japanese.

No Red Cross issue today (it's now 5:40 pm by Jack Lehrig's watch) - so there probably won't be any today -

Eddie O'Connor, Laughlin & I are going into Modin's room tonight to play some "music" with him & Staton. Don't know whether Loren Wetherby is going or not -

Later - He didn't go - just Eddie, Laughlin & I - the others were Modin & Staton. These people are hospitable and we had a lot of fun playing old familiar tunes.

Talking to Pat Callahan tonight - the subject got around to the march out of Bataan. I asked him if he actually saw any of the reported atrocities & he said yes. He was at Balanga on April 18'42. He & Maj. Snell (dead), Mr. Sgt Cavanaugh (who died at Karenko) were detailed on a burial party. Several Filipino bodies were buried - one was not quite dead & tried to get up out of the grave - or shallow hole that had been dug to receive them and at the order of a Nip officer, a Nip soldier stuck a bayonet in the poor fellow's throat & finished him off. This clears up something that has been in my mind for some time. I heard, at Karenko, that Sgt Cavanaugh had seen Filipinos buried while still alive - at O'Donnell - but I guess this is what was meant. I always intended to ask Cavanaugh about this while he was still alive, but never did.

Another bit of information I received today - the dope on deaths of Americans at O'Donnell & Cabanatuan.

About 62000 PA, PS & Constabulary troops passed through O'Donnell & 30,000 of them died up to July 30'42.

There were 9,261 American officers & enlisted men there up to May 1'42 - and 1199 of these died up to June 3,'42 the date Col Holstead who furnished the information and who had been Camp Adjt there - left for Tarlac. We heard later that 1560 Americans (off & e.m.) had died up to Aug 15'42.

Also there were 15000 Amer (off & em) at Cabanatuan up to Aug 15'42. Of these 1540 had died up to Aug 15'42 - making a total of 3100 American deaths up to that date. (1560 + 1540) -

When Gen Stevens, & Cols Tarkington Mitchell & Horan came to Karenko from Bilibid Prison Dec 23'42,

they brought the information that there had been 4370 Known American deaths since May 6'42. As there had been 200 or 300 deaths up to May 6'42 — the total number of Known American dead amounts to somewhere between 4570 + 4670.

Jan 7'45 (Sun) 2yrs + 274 (1005)   1127th Day of War

Service this morning was conducted by Capt Wittendurk. He was assisted in the reading of lessons, psalms etc. by Gov. (Capt USN) McMillan + Capt. Lyle Roberts.

We had a Red Cross issue today — 1/2 can milk + 1 can Rose Mill Pâté — also we got an issue of Nip cigarettes (2 pkgs) + tooth powder.

There is a report that Gen. Arnold Funk who has been in charge of Red Cross issues (under Nip. direction) has been told that the issues will be strung out so as to last about June 30 — instead of April 30 according to original plan. We don't like this, although we have been assured by the Nipponese that when these Red X supplies are exhausted, we'll get no more.

I took Floyd's milk over to him today + saw him for a few minutes. He looked all right but not quite as "perky" as he did a day or two ago when I saw him last.

Shorty MacDonald has been under the weather for a couple of days, but was in a bridge game tonight + this afternoon — so must be feeling better.

The supper soup was better than usual — thickened with cornmeal + well seasoned.

Jan 8'45 (Mon) 2yrs + 275 (1006)   1128th Day of War

We got a Red Cross issue of butter today. I promptly gave mine to Col. Richards for his next issue of coffee —

By order of the camp commander, the issue of Red Cross items has been extended from April 30th to June 30th. Nobody I have talked to understands why this was done. As far as I can figure it out it is just another Nipponese whim.

Rescript Day today. The Nips don't seem to be as proud of it as they used to be — at least they don't read the Japanese Rescript to us any more.

Jan 9'44 (Tue) 2yrs + 276 (1007)   1129th Day of War

Nothing much today — this morning Jack + I took our weekly trimming at bridge from Scuoder + Stryyuenberg, but managed to take the measure of Al Balsam + Ed Aldridge in the afternoon.

The afternoon was marked by the issue of cheese + cigarettes from the Red Cross stock. I took Floyd's share over to him in the hospital. He was feeling better, having just had an enema and gotten rid of something that was bothering him. We talked of our Oryoku Maru experience and agreed that that was the closest call either of us had in the war — at least the nearest of us had been to a very horrible death. All the bullets and bombs on Bataan seemed relatively insignificant — they would have been sudden + merciful — but not what we faced daily on the Oryoku Maru for 19 harrowing days.

Had a nice hot bath this afternoon — and after supper tonight Jack Uhrig asked me to go down with him for bridge against Generals Jones + Bluemel. We had good cards and won. 2yrs + 9mos a prisoner today!!

Jan 10'45 (Wed) 2yrs + 277 (1008)   1130th Day of War

A trace of sugar in the breakfast mush. Bridge with Jack against John Rodman and Cy Crews. They won — there were some very close + interesting hands. They had cards for offensive bidding most of the time + did very well with them. Jack + I have a game with Scuoder + Stryyuenberg tomorrow morning. I gave Gp Capt. Coggle my cheese this morning for future delivery of his next Red Cross sugar. Now I have 2 sugars + 3 coffees coming to me on the 22nd of this month. I'm going to give my next butter to "Laughlin" for his coffee — that is a standing agreement between us. I do love that coffee — particularly when it's sweetened — and am willing to give up my butter for it. I'm out of coffee now, but good old Phil is carrying me along. Also, he gave me some of his butter yesterday — would split it with me if I'd let him.

Jan 12'45 (Fri) 2yrs + 279 (1010)   1132nd Day of War

Spiced meat (in my case, MOR — a Wilson product) from the Red Cross stock yesterday — Nothing else much, except the usual bridge.

Some time ago Sgt. Bland created quite a stir among the Nips — enough to cause an investigation — when he made a remark to a Nip soldier to the effect that "the Americans have the Philippines — they'll have Taiwan in —— (the month isn't important, but he mentioned a month pretty soon) — then Tokyo in —— (a month or 2 or 3 after that)". Well nothing came of the investigation, but it was apparent that the Nips didn't fancy the idea. —— Well, several

days ago, the same Nipponese soldier told the kitchen force — with the evident intent to go Bland one better — that the Americans had been "driven back across the Rhine" and that "MacArthur had been captured in the Philippines." Thus he unwittingly confirmed the rumor we had some time ago placing the Americans on the Rhine — and gave us information (whether true or not) that MacArthur is in the Philippines.

Yesterday, I heard through the Padre (via Pat Callahan) that, before he left here, Sir Shenton Thomas predicted that we had been brought up here to Manchoukuo with the idea that we'd be sent to some neutral country for internment. That, of course, has occurred to all of us — and what weight Sir Shenton Thomas' opinion gives it isn't quite clear, though he is undoubtedly a gentleman of sound opinion — but the biggest poser of the whole thing is, what neutral nation? Russia, though neutral to Japan is not neutral as far as the British, Americans & Dutch are concerned. Turkey is a "non belligerent ally" of England. Portugal & Spain are hardly to be considered — and no two people seem able to agree as to where we'd be interned, that is, if we were all interned in the same country which isn't absolutely necessary.

Another interesting bit — several days ago, the interpreter was in Brig. Trott's office & had with him a magazine about the size of our Time or Newsweek — which had columns of Nipponese & English. Trott read an article, printed in English, which was on the subject of Defeatism and warned the Nipponese people against it. The argument was something as follows as I remember it. (I got this, too, from Pat Callahan) — What if the Japanese armies have been driven back to their own shores? Hasn't the same thing happened to Germany? and isn't she still fighting? Didn't it happen to Great Britain? and isn't she still fighting? The war has reached its third phase now. The first was the capture of necessary territory — the second, Consolidation — and the third and present phase, "is the annihilation of the enemy"! And there it is, for whatever it is worth. An article, undoubtedly with the Govt. sanction, admitting that the Nipponese armies have been forced back to their own shores and are therefore fighting a defensive war. A far cry from the cocky attitude of a year or less ago. Another part of the article stated that the Allied Nations — their enemies — would be so tired of war after Germany falls that they would not go to the trouble of moving huge forces over into this part of the world.

At supper tonight, I brought up for discussion the subject of internment in a Neutral Country. Sweden seems to be the one considered most likely — and strangely enough, Russia came next (though I can't see that myself, since once we got into that country, she would certainly not be bound by any agreement,

but would turn us over to our own Government.

This afternoon an interesting situation arose in a bridge game in which Jack & I were opposing Wallie Mead & Scudder. Jack bid 2H fourth hand. Scudder on his left bid 3C. I held S J x x x x H x x C Q x x D K x x and passed. Wallie passed & Jack doubled. Instead of bidding my spades (as I should have done) I passed & we set them 4 tricks for 700 pts since they were not vulnerable. A later examination of the hands revealed the fact that we had a small slam in Spades — as Jack had AKQ10 of that suit. We were vulnerable, so if we'd make a small slam we'd have made 180+750+700=1630 pts. However, I don't see how we'd have arrived at slam. If Jack bids 3H, I go 4S — if 3S, I bid 4S (so we get to 4S anyway). I don't know whether Jack would have bid 6S or not. He might have since he had a "powerhouse". Anyway, it caused a lot of talk. Jack at first thought I should have bid — but the consensus of the bridge experts we consulted is that my pass after Scudder's 3C, gave the same information (i.e. less than 1½ HT) as 2NT would have done had Scudder passed. Where I made my mistake was in taking Jack's double as "business" instead of "take out" which it really was (though Jack admitted to me later he intended it as a business double. However Jack's admission doesn't absolve me — and I should have bid. Well, we learn a little every day.

Chuck Lawrence told me in the benjo today, he once heard some Nip soldiers giving instructions to a Chinaman. After much talk, the Chinaman said "O.K." and the Nip repeated "O.K." — and they both seemed satisfied of mutual understanding. Thus showing the universal use of "O.K."

Jan 13'45 (Sat) 2 yrs + 280 (1011)   1133rd Day of War

Daddy was born just 95 years ago today (Jan 13, 1850)

Not much doing today. There was some sort of a fresh patty for supper. Scudder & Steppenberg beat Jack & me at bridge.

Jan 14'45 (Sun) 2 yrs + 281 (1012)   1134th Day of War

This is Col. Dougherty's 61st birthday, & he's in the hospital. At the suggestion of Ray O'Day & Phil Fry, I drew up a Birthday Greeting Card and we all signed it. Ray took it over — and got Floyd to sign — so all 8 members of room 39 were represented on the card. Had a nice bath just before noon today. Bridge with Jack vs. Ed Aldridge & Al Bolsam this afternoon. We had good cards and won. Chuck Lawrence & Alex Campbell were taken to the hospital yesterday, I hear. — Chuck with pneumonia, I am told. Don't know anything about Alex's ailment. He was sick for a long time, I know, with pleurisy which began at Karenko.

Jan. 16'45 (Tue) 2yrs + 283 (1014)   1136th Day of War

We got 1/2 can of milk + 2 packs cigarettes from the Red Cross stock yesterday — 1 can Corned Beef + 1 bar chocolate today. Floyd got nothing today, both items being with-held. Yesterday when I took his milk + cigarettes to him he looked pretty well, all things considered. He said Alex Campbell had bronchitis and confirmed the information I had about Chuck Lawrence.

Last night one of the corporals returned from the Generals' Camp. He said (I am told) that Gen. King is getting along fine, walking about without a cane. This, of course, is good news to all of us.

This was bath-day, but I didn't take one, as I had bathed Sunday. I felt sort of rotten yesterday — slept about two hours in the afternoon, having had a headache all morning — on account of my bowels being clogged up. Too many beans + other starches I guess. I feel better today, but I still have a dull ache across my back just above my hips. Also I have a very sore left big toe — has been that way long enough to have me a little bit concerned about it.

Jan. 17'45 (Wed) 2yrs + 284 (1015)   1137th Day of War

This being Wednesday, there was a trace of sugar in the breakfast mush. A number of Wednesdays have been missed, but whenever there is any sugar in the mush, it invariably happens on Wednesday.

Today, by virtue of Ray O'Day's having served his time as room fireman, we cut cards to see who would be his successor. Pat Callahan cut the 3 of clubs — just under Jack Lewis's 4 of the same suit — and won the honor. Bridge again this morning with Scudder + Strayvenberg. They poured it on us again.

Jan 18'45 (Thur) 2yrs + 285 (1016)   1138th Day of War

Butter + Jam from Red Cross stock today.

Jan 19'45 (Fri) 2yrs + 286 (1017)   1139th Day of War

This is Marguerite's birthday — I don't remember which. It's also General Robert E. Lee's birthday. We got "Red Cross" today in the form of Spam and cigarettes. I saw Floyd when I went over to take his Red Cross of today + yesterday — Shorty MacDonald went with me — and he was very much all right. Saw Col Dougherty, [illegible]

Chuck Lawrence, Alex Campbell + Kohn. Kohn says he thinks the suspect him of having tuberculosis. I've been feeling a little "off my feed" for a day or two. Gave Phil my beans this noon — and most of my evening "soup" which consisted of beans, carrots, noodles, and a few small pieces of meat. We also got a patty with some "cracklins" in it in addition to bean bun. Jack + I got rather badly beaten at bridge this morning by Scudder + Mead. I didn't play this afternoon — read a while on "The Nat" by Rex Beach — and took a nice hot bath at about four. Happy Birthday Tootie!

Jan. 20'45 (Sat) 2yrs + 287 (1018)   1140th Day of War

No Red Cross today. We got weighed this morning and I weighed 64.2 Kgm — or 141.34 lbs — a gain of 1.32 lb over last month's weight. I've been a little off my feed the past two or three days and have been giving part of my soup and beans away — so must have lost a little weight in that time. There was a general gain in weight as far as I can tell (due to the Red Cross food, of course) — any number of people gaining anywhere from 6 to 10 lbs.

If I'm not mistaken, this is the day the President of the U.S. is inaugurated. We don't know for sure who that is but all the dope we have points to a fourth term for Mr. F.D. Roosevelt.

Tonight Laughlin, Eddie O'Connor, Loren Wetherby + I went down to Commodore Staton's + [illegible] room to play our musical instruments with them. We had a hell of a time getting tuned together but finally did — and had some fun. Today we were invited by Ken Bowman to come down to his room tomorrow night and play.

The Camp Commandant came around for evening tenko. We were to have an inspection of quarters by him at 3 pm today, but he didn't make it.

Jan 22'45 (Mon) 2yrs + 289 (1020)   1142nd Day of War

Yesterday Mick Galbraith conducted church services. Bill Braly was sick, so we had no violin to give the pitch. It was therefore my duty to start,

and I didn't do such a good job. However, it was the best I could do — and that was that. In the evening — our little musical group, having been invited, went down to Ken Lowman's room and played. We didn't do too well, but had a good time. Hersee, the young British enlisted man was there and sang very sweetly — "Rose of Tralee", "Underneath the Arches" etc.

This morning, Jack and I played Ed Corkill + K L Berry — and beat them. Tomorrow, Jack + I, and Ed Aldridge and Al Balsam play a British team composed of Harrison, Giblin, Ashton + Peak in the duplicate bridge tournament tomorrow afternoon.

An interesting development in the Red Cross issue. The Nips requested authority of our "high command" to issue some parcels to some Chinese internees who have recently arrived in this vicinity — on the grounds that there are several American missionaries in the group. The reply was that the "high command" had no authority to approve a request of the Nipponese to divert these parcels, but that they would approve such a request if it had come from the Red Cross. The result was that 256 parcels (all that were asked for) were taken from our stock for the purpose set forth above. Most of us are glad this was done, because we would not want to see any of our own countrymen in want, when a portion of our Red Cross stores might contribute to their relief. Of course, we all know that there is about one chance in 1000 that the Nipponese are on the square in this matter (we have come to know them pretty well by now, or do we think) but we do not wish to have this on our consciences in case it is on the "up + up."

Today we had an issue of Red Cross — one coffee and 1/2 lb. sugar. I had previously traded

a package of cheese to Group Capt. Coggle for an issue of sugar — 1 butter to Col. Richards for one coffee — and the same to Laughie. So I had two sugars (1 pound) and 3 coffees when I got through. I had made an agreement with Laughie some time ago to take all of his coffee for 1 can of butter each. In the meantime, the Dutch and others who prize coffee highly, have run the trading value of coffee up to where one can commands more than 1 can of butter — so I think Laughie regrets his agreement with me. In fact he said something which indicated as much when I collected my coffee from him today. I reminded him of our original bargain, but told him to do whatever he thought was right about it, and left it at that. Surely, if the coffee had depreciated in value, I should have felt obligated to go through with my agreement. I'm sure Laughie will do the right thing about it. Anyway, there's no use getting exercised about it.

Tomorrow is my darling little Tari's 12th birthday. God bless her! How well I remember that night in Detroit 12 years ago — and the drive down to Woman's Hospital with her precious Mother. It gave a great deal to be with my two Tari's tomorrow — but I'm afraid I must forego that pleasure, for this time anyway.

Jan 23'45 (Tue) 2 yrs + 290 (1021) 1143rd Day of War

There is a rumor that is worth entering here — The Germans are driving the Americans and British out of Holland and Belgium. There was a naval engagement by the Nip. fleet, reinforced by the home fleet, of the Philippines after which the combined Nip fleet escaped to the vicinity of the Celebes where they are now blockaded. There is also a report about bombings of Tokyo — by planes varying in number from 40 to 400. The rumor doesn't say how often.

We got butter and soap from the Red Cross stock this morning — and I hear we get Nip cigarettes tomorrow.

I took Floyd's sugar over to him this morning and had a nice visit with him. He looks as if he is getting along all right. I also stopped in for a short visit with Alex. Campbell, Col. Dougherty, Chuck Lawrence, & Kohn.

Our bridge team won its first match this afternoon. Jack & I beat Harrison and Giblin while Ed Aldridge & Al Balsam were beating Peak and Ashton.

This is my little "Booby Hatch's" 12th birthday. How my thoughts and love go across the world to her today! At 10:30 pm 12 years ago, she came to us — and what a joy she has been to us ever since. I well remember my farewell to Tori Sy, little Tom, Betty Ann, and Teddy on the deck of the Republic three years ago last May 6th. I was bearing up 100% — or so I thought — until little Tori hugged my knees and burst out crying. That was almost too much for me and I'm afraid I didn't do so well after that. Four years ago today, we sailed from San Francisco for the Philippines. A happy trip and two and a half glorious months at McKinley — followed by my family's safe return to Atlanta before the war broke. I've so much to be grateful for. I have had wonderful reports from all the family about little Tori's splendid progress with her music and I can hardly wait for the time when I can see her again and hear the music her dear little fingers bring from the piano. I do hope she grows up to be the lovely person her Mother is. All I can say is "Happy Birthday my darling and may it not be too long before I can hold you in my arms again!"

After reading over the last paragraph, it sounds like a lot of supersentimental drivel, but my babies will understand I'm sure.

I just got a list of the teams in the current duplicate bridge tournament. For future interest, here they are:

Ⓕ A. Bishop, Graham, Minhinnick, Urquhart

B. Stuyvenberg, Ⓔ Rose, Bridge, Hunt

C. AVM Maltby, McLeod, Uhl, Ⓕ Campbell

D. Harrison, Giblin, Peak, Ashton

E. Enos, Fay, Doane, Chastaine

F. Lilly, Keltner, Balsam, Aldridge

G. O'Connor, Nelson, Laughinghouse, Hirsch

H. Hoefel, Boudreau, Pedersen, Murphy

I. Grimwood, Wardle, Coggle, Ridgway

K. Hilton, R, Steel, Ausmus, Worthington

L. Mallonee, Fortier, Searle, Thompson

M. Stickney, Mielenz, Skerry, Townsend

N. Menzie, Brawner, Scudder, Mead

O. Cornell, Berry, MacDonald, Amis

Every team will play every other team. The scoring is the same as normally, except the the following bonuses are given: 50 pts for part score (below line), 300 pts for game not vulnerable, and 500 pts for game vulnerable. Arbitrarily it is assumed that for hands 1 and 9 neither team is vulnerable, 2+10 N+S vulnerable, 3+11 - E+W, 4+12 - All, 5+13 - All, 6+14 - E+W, 7+15 - N+S, and 8+16 - Neither. 16 hands are played — one foursome dealing & playing hands 1-8 while the other is playing 9-16. On the first play, a hand that is passed around is redealt until some one can bid.

Just for the fun of it, I am putting a table below to show the winners of the various matches — every team plays every other team & this is what the British call the "American" typing tournament.

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	K	L	M	N	O
A	–					F								
B		–			E	B								
C			–			C	G							
D				–										
E		E			–	E					E	.		
F	F	B	C	F	E	–	G	F	I	F	L	M	F	F
G			G			G	–							
H						F	G	–						
I						I			–					
K						F				–				
L					E	L					–			
M						M	G					–		
N						F							–	
O						F								–

Jan 24 '45 (Wed) 2 yrs + 291 (1022)

1143rd Day of War

Gillespie made a rather hasty and superficial dental survey. We got an issue of cigarettes today (Red Cross). The Nips have temporarily at least, discontinued the issue of cigarettes and candy. Hope they will resume this one day. There was a departure from the usual mush for breakfast this morning — Kafir corn, I think it was. It tasted pretty good & required some chewing. There was a little sugar in it.

Jan 25 '45 (Thu) 2 yrs + 292 (1023) 1144th Day of War

Our bridge team (F) plays the G team this afternoon. Jack and I play Laughinghouse and Hirsch — while Balsam and Aldridge play O'Connor + Nelson. This morning I took Floyd's cigarettes to him and found him in good spirits — and feeling all right. I took Col. Dougherty some blades that Jack Keltner had sharpened for him — Jack has a little sore throat and didn't want to go out. Chuck Lawrence is getting over his pneumonia, but his hemorrhoids are bothering him again. Alex Campbell was in bed, but looked OK. Col Dougherty seems to be getting along all right. We expected to get a Red Cross issue but none was made. Our bridge team was defeated yesterday. I played very poorly and contributed materially to our defeat.

Jan 26'45 (Fri) 2 yrs + 293 (1024) 1145th Day of War

Jack and I took a licking at bridge from Sewder and Stuyvenberg this morning — and this afternoon our duplicate team, Jack + I as one pair and Al Batson and El Aldridge as the other, lost to Mickey, Sticking + Skinny, Townsend. Jack + I played Mickey + Stickney. It was interesting and I enjoyed it in spite of our defeat — it's a wonderful way to pass the time, I think.

We got Salmon and Prunes today (that is there were prunes and raisins, but I got prunes). We were due for this issue yesterday but for some unknown reason didn't get it. We were due for Milk and Chocolate today but got this instead — Hope we get the Milk & Chocolate tomorrow.

We have heard for sometime — on the interpreter's word — that there are 10,000 pieces of mail for us in Mukden — and can't imagine why we don't get it unless the Nips have just made up their minds to keep it from us. Also, I hear that Brig. Trott, the Administrative Officer, has asked the Camp Commandant 4 or 5 times about our being permitted to send letters to our families. Each time, I hear, he has been greeted by a smile and the usual evasive shrug. This doesn't seem true to the Nip character — to me, at least, the natural, and characteristic, thing would seem for him to let us write it and then take it out and dump it some where — as I feel sure he did at Karenko and Shirakawa. There must be some reason we are not being permitted to send more, and I don't know what it could be.

Today a large box was brought in, I hear. It took 5 men to carry it. Rumor has it everything from mail to a dentist's chair.

I had a sore throat, headache and, I believe, some temperature last night. Gillespie gave me an aspirin which I sucked. Believe it did my throat + head some good. Anyway, I feel better today. I haven't had much appetite for these beans for some time. They seem to clog my bowels. However, except for the Red Cross, there isn't much else to eat. We wanted beans — and they surely are giving them to us now.

Jan 27'45 (Sat) 2 yrs + 294 (1025) 1147th Day of War.

There is a rumor that the Jap fleet which participated in the defense of the P.I., augmented by the home fleet, has been cut off in the South Pacific — vicinity of the Celebes.

We got Milk + chocolate out of the Red Cross stores today. I was two days out of milk — and many days out of choc. So it was very welcome to me. The Camp Commandant came through barracks this afternoon — and was quite affable +

courteous I am told. I saw him but it looked like the same old Nipponese stuff to me — all smiles + sucking in through teeth. Guess I'm hard to please — 2½ yrs ago it would have been pretty welcome, I'll admit.

Phil + I stole over to the bath at about 11:30 AM and enjoyed the nice hot water.

Jan 28'45 (Sun) 2 yrs + 295 (1026) 1148th Day of War

Another rumor of a naval battle in or near Macassar Straits (or Bay?) — Nip fleet is supposed to have suffered greatly.

We were asked today to vote on the operation of individual gardens during the coming warm weather — also on the operation of a chicken farm. The answer was pretty generally "no" to both. In my own case — most emphatically "NO". We've had our gardens and we've had our chicken, rabbit + pig farms. At Karenko the individual gardens did do some good — but the community gardens (or farm) + the rabbits, pigs + chickens, both there and at Shirakawa were nothing but one colossal swindle — from beginning to end.

This being Sunday, we had church services as usual. Stuart Hamilton conducted, Ben-Hur Chastaine read first lesson + I read the 2nd (1-10 verses, 7th Chapt. St Luke — about the Centurion). We won from Hoffel, Bourdeau, Pedersen + Murphy at bridge.

Jan 29'45 (Mon) 2 yrs + 296 (1027) 1149th Day of War

Nothing unusual today. Jack + I had a nice instructive bridge game vs. Phil + Bill Evers this afternoon. Played hands as in duplicate and discussed bidding + play.

Jan 31'45 (Wed) 2 yrs + 298 (1029) 1151st Day of War

Today we cut cards to see whether Phil, Al, Jack or I would be the next fireman for room 39. Phil lost, but he and I, each dreading the job, had agreed that we would help each other when it was our turn — so I was stuck too — and will go through 30 days together. We got Pate and Butter today from the Red Cross stock.

Feb 1'45 (Thur) 2 yrs + 299 (1030) 1152nd Day of War

This morning after breakfast, Phil + I took over. Pat Callahan carried through until that time. Everything went off all right until after lunch when we cleaned the clinkers out and "put Petchka to bed" for the afternoon. We underestimated the amount of fire left in the grate and Petchka went out on us. We had to borrow live coals from Chet Elmes, fireman of Room 37 — and it took two tries to get

the air fire going again.

Feb 2'45 (Fri) 2yrs + 300 (1031) 1153rd Day of War

We got Spam and soap from the Red Cross today.

Phil and I banked Patchuka carefully last night according to instructions and thought we'd done a good job but she was cold as an iceberg when we got at her at 6:30 this morning. However, we got her started again in time with Ray O'Day's help and benefit of some dry sticks of bamboo we picked up.

This afternoon our bridge team won its match against Bishop, Graham, Minturnick & Urquhart.

Feb 3'45 (Sat) 2yrs + 301 (1032) 1154th Day of War

There is a rumor of a move on Apr. 30th. Don't know any more — but thought I'd record it for future reference.

The Camp Commandant came through on an inspection of quarters at 3pm. Seemed in a very jovial mood. The Interpreter saluted me as "Proud Father" — a term he has applied to me since I showed him a picture of my children some months ago — at which time he was very complimentary of B.A.'s looks and used the term "lovely" — or, I should say, "rovely" over & over.

Feb 5'45 (Mon) 2yrs + 303 (1034) 1155th Day of War

Yesterday Col. Thyer (Australian) conducted church service. Sgt. Churchyard (Am) read the first lesson & a young British soldier named Horsley read the second (incidentally this youngster has a lovely tenor voice and has sung around in the various rooms several times by request).

This is Patty's 21st birthday. She is now a married lady — Mrs. Kendall Price — and I hope she is happy — and that her marriage will last. I wish I could see her today — for I feel almost as close to her as I do to B.A.

Tonight our little mandolin & guitar group has been invited down to one of the rooms in the east wing to play. On Wednesday night we're going to Gen Brougher's room for the second time. These "get togethers" are getting popular & we sing & play as we go along. Everybody, including our selves, has a good time. My own room has invited us down here for next Monday night.

We got butter and gum from the "Red Cross" today.

Feb 6'45 (Tue) 2yrs + 304 (1035) 1157th Day of War

A very bad rumor reached us today: Hoten has been bombed recently and 200 American prisoners in the camp there killed. Due to Gen Badson's bad cold we have

postponed two bridge matches we had scheduled for the next couple of days.

P.A. Brauner was taken to the hospital today — malaria I hear. One report had his temperature as high as 106° F.

I saw Floyd this morning when I took him his share of today's Red Cross issue (1/2 can milk, 1 chocolate & 2 packs cigarettes). He looked & acted like a man who is going to get well. While at the hospital, I looked in the ward on Chuck Lawrence, Alex Campbell, Col Dougherty & Capt Campbell (Brit). Incidentally, Chuck came out of the hospital today.

Les. Lathrop just told me this — Hurley told him — The junior Jap Sgt. has been away since last Friday — and the Interpreter said he would probably bring back word for the prisoners. When asked if he meant the smaller group here from the Mukden camp, he said no, he meant all the others too.

We get another small pox vaccination at 10 AM tomorrow.

This afternoon, the Interpreter was downstairs talking to Gp Capt Coggle (Brit) & C. asked him why we were getting the vaccination now when it wasn't due until June. The Interpreter is alleged to have replied "I think the war will be over by June". This came to me via Vic Collier who told Pat Callahan who told me.

Feb 8'45 (Thur) 2yrs + 306 (1037) 1159th Day of War

Not much happened yesterday. There was a tracing organ in the morning mush — which is a thing we've come to look forward to on Wednesdays. Last night our stringed instruments — augmented by Wentworth (a Br. e.m.) with his mandolin; went to the room occupied by Gens. Brougher, Funk, Bake, Stevens, Pierce, Seals, Drake etc. There was the usual stuff plus Horsley with his beautiful tenor voice — and a couple of selections by our double quartette (incidentally, we didn't do too well — I mean the double quartette). Bele Braly was there and helped a lot with his violin. He also played some Victor Herbert selections — and another piece — as violin solos. He played very beautifully, I thought.

This morning Jack K and I had a game with Scudder and Stueyvenberg. We won! During the game Phil came in and gave us the following rumor (or report) he had just received from K.L. Berry. It seems the Interpreter made the following remark to Roger Hilsman "Cheer up. You will soon be going home. Germany and Japan are finished & I will be a prisoner!" This caused quite a furor among the crowd nearby. No one could tell of anything else and of course, it took our minds momentarily off our game. In fact Stueyvenberg stepped down to his room to spread the news. A little later Dick Rogers came into our room and said he'd just come from Beebe who was with Hilsman when the alleged statement was made. Here's the other angle. Beebe & Hilsman were talking

to the Interpreter in Burke's room. Hilsman showed the Jap the map of Germany, indicated the directions from which she was being attacked & said "Germany finished" — then turning to the map of Japan indicated the probable directions from which the attacks would come, and said "Japan soon finished & you will be my prisoner & I will give you ice cream" — or something. And that seems to be that. I don't know whether or not the Interpreter said anything or not. He probably laughed disagreeing as usual.

One thing that is significant, maybe, is that though this is Rescript Day to the Nips, their flags have not been displayed — something they've done on the 8th of every month since I've been a prisoner as far as I know.

We still get mush for breakfast but there is a pretty well founded report that it will soon give out and we'll get Kofir corn for breakfast in its place.

Today we received corned beef, jam, and butter from the Red Cross supplies.

Our stringed group is getting invited around. Monday night we go to Brig. Trott's room — and the following Wednesday my own room has asked us to play.

I got another version of the rumor mentioned above — from Pat Callahan who had just talked with Hilsman. It was totally different but, from what I've heard I'm convinced that the Interpreter and Hilsman have been joking for a long time about Japan and Germany being "finished" — and this was just more of the same.

The Nip flags — for Rescript Day — did appear at the gate, rather late today — about noon

Feb 9'45 (Fri) 2 yrs + 307 (1038) 1160th Day of War

Rumor — A recent Nip newspaper has it that there is a New Cabinet in Tokyo — and that Tojo "has been sent to another place".

This is my Darling's birthday — a day that, I'm afraid I didn't make much fuss over when we were together — at least not enough. I suppose I often took too much for granted — that she knew I loved her as much the other 364 days as I did on her birthday — but it's all different now. It takes experiences like this to bring us to our senses some times. Anyway, my Darling, you know I love you, don't you? All I ask is that the good Lord will see fit to let us be reunited again — and soon. When that happens, my Darling, I'll never let you go. When I see you again, the first thing I'm going to say is "Sugar, take charge" and after that I'm going to devote a lot of my time to seeing that you don't get too far away from me. As you said in one of your letters written to me in prison camp, we haven't changed much in this period of separation — at least not to each other — a few added grey hairs perhaps, but what can they matter if we see each other "with eyes of love"? And as for our being "two old fools travellin'" again, that's definitely "in the bag". We're going to have a lot of good times together, Sugar, and each of us is going to try hard to make up to the other for those years

of separation.

I heard this today — The Interpreter visited the Kitchen and said "Cheer up the war will be over in three months and you'll all be going home." When asked how he knew, he replied "I get reports and I read the newspapers — and that's my opinion". Gp. Capt. Bishop (B) brought that in tonight. This confirms another report I had earlier. The Nips are definitely getting more & more friendly. "Aussie" Hale, the hospital orderly, told Pat Callahan that one of the Nip medical N.C.O.s who previously had paid no attention to him, accompanied him in to the bath and bathed with him the other day, and did everything he could to be friendly.

Feb 11'45 (Sun) 2 yrs + 309 (1040) 1162nd Day of War

We got another — and I think the last — issue of Taiwan sugar. A light half pound. The Camp Commandant being away — and there having been no inspection yesterday afternoon — the Corporal will make the inspection this afternoon. Later — the inspection came off and "ijo" was "arimasen".

Col. "Judge" Lynch — at General Parker's suggestion — has been giving a talk on the Status of Prisoners of War under our Military Law to the various American sections. Ours might be tacked to ours. Seemingly, it was a very dignified and designated treatment of the subject, probably brought about by some lack of discipline on the part of our enlisted men. Of course there have been a lot of jokes about it, though — kidding back and forth — pulling of rank etc.

We got Sugar and coffee from the Red Cross stock today.

Gen. Beebe conducted church services this morning — the double quartette sang "Jesus, Saviour, pilot me". Lyhane read the 1st lesson and Eckles the 2nd.

I saw Floyd Marshall this morning when I took his Taiwan sugar issue to him. He was feeling blue and discouraged — a little scared too — because he'd just found some traces of blood in some phlegm he'd spit up. This afternoon when I took him his coffee in R.C. sugar, "Aussie" Hale met me at the door & told me Floyd had just had a hemorrhage his first in over a month, I think. They had given him some sort of an opiate and were taking his temperature when I looked in the door. I feel sad about this. Quite a set back for Floyd. But, on the other hand, he's had a long spell of gradual improvement and is in much better condition to withstand such a thing.

Laughlin came through with the coffee this afternoon and I gave him his butter. He's sorry he made the trade all right. I don't blame him. I've gained on it, but I might have been the one to lose. He saw me later today and gave me a song and dance about having lost on the trade and having lost "4 loaves of bread" — or buns — in going through with it. So I gave him a bun — and will give him others as I can spare them. Anyway, Laughlin has put his seal of approval on the deal.

We signed a payroll today — deducting ¥8.28 the value of the candy (@.60) and cigarettes (@.75) up to and including Dec. 31'44. We have already had ¥50.00 a month set aside from our Nip "pay" to take care of these issues. Now we'll be credited with the difference between ¥8.28 and the ¥100.00 — or ¥91.72 — taken from our Nov & Dec '44 "pay". There was some meat in the soup tonight. Even at that, a lot of it went begging. I got an extra bowl from Dick Rogers and am keeping half of it over till tomorrow

This little incident amused me and is worth setting down here — Jock Cook has — as which of us hasn't? — a broken tooth, and one edge or corner of it is irritating his cheek. So he came in to see Roy O'Day this morning and arranged for the use of a file. Later he got it and took it over to the hospital where Col Gillespie filed the tooth for him. I saw Jock later and he told me the operation was a huge success. That illustrates the general dental condition here as far as dental treatment is concerned. The Nips have recently gotten hold of a dentist who has been doing some emergency work & extractions etc. But there are lots of teeth including my own, that are crying for neglect repair. I have five inlays out that I can think of now — and one crown that's past replacing. One thing I do have to be thankful for, though, is that I haven't had any toothache yet that is worth mentioning (Here I take time out to knock on wood, lest I be speaking too soon).

We got a new broom for the room today — also we were each issued one pair of cotton Nip sox today. They are straight with no heels, but we are grateful for them.

Feb 12'45 (Monday) 3 yrs + 310 (1041) 1163rd Day of war

Lincoln's birthday. Our mandolin group goes to Brigadier Trott's room tonight. There is a rumor that the Interpreter said the Nips can't hold the Philippines — also that we'll be sent to Vladivostok in the next month.

Later — we had a nice time in Trott's room tonight. Gen Drake was M.C. The double quartette sang "Just a Dream" and "Stars of the Summer Night" one of the prettiest songs we've sung, I think. Gen Peirce started things off in a serious vein with the "Gettysburg Address" — later Frank Nelson recited a couple of poems — rather sophisticated & cynical — by Edna St Vincent Millay. We ended the program of music, group singing etc with everybody standing and singing "God Bless America".

Feb 13'45 (Tue) 3 yrs + 311 (1042) 1164th Day of war

Butter & cigarettes from the R.C. today. I'm hurrying to finish "Three Harbors" by F. Van Wyck Mason. It's overdue and I'm going to have to hurry. Is an excellent book of 1775 in the American Colonies. Our bridge team beat Thompson, Searle, Maddox & Fortier this afternoon. And Jock & I played & beat Gens. Jones & Bluemel after supper tonight. It looks as if the doughnut cutter is being put to use, for the announcement was made that we'll have doughnuts for tomorrow's breakfast

Feb 14'45 (Wed) 3 yrs + 312 (1043) 1165th Day of war

Ash Wednesday & St Valentine's Day.

I don't have to tell a certain very dear lady that I hope she's still my Valentine.

We did get the doughnuts this morning — 2 each covered with sugar. They were mighty good with a cup of coffee. The Senior Camps Commandant is expected to arrive today and we've all been "asked" by the local Camp Comdt to have things in readiness for him in case he takes a notion to wander through the building. Of course we will — particularly when it's put like that. 139

Pat Callahan broke off a tooth this morning — on a doughnut, of all things. The doughnut was not that tough. The tooth was just ready to crack on anything — but it does seem too bad that the first doughnut in over 2½ yrs (since we left Tarlac, to be exact) had to do it.

Feb 15'45 (Thur) 3 yrs + 313 (1044) 1166th Day of War

The Senior Commandant of P.W. Camps in Manchoukuo actually arrived yesterday. We were issued a piece of burlap per room, with the "suggestion" that we mop the floor. Some rooms took that as a command — or failed to get the "suggestion" part of it — and actually did mop out — Gen Beebe's, for example. He was up to warn us in Room 39 but, fortunately, it wasn't necessary. We had no idea of mopping the floor. It will take a direct order — backed up by a little yellow fellow with a "needle" on the end of his gun to get anything but the very minimum amount of essential work out of this group, I feel sure.

There have been a few recurrences of the mail rumor, but as yet no mail

Feb 16'45 (Fri) 3 yrs + 314 (1045) 1167th Day of War

Well, the Senior PW camp Commandant made his so called inspection — came through barracks. Afterward he held a conference with the senior prisoners at which, in addition to Gen Parker (Amer), Gen Ilgen (Dutch) and AVM Maltby (British); Gen Funk in charge of Red Cross distribution, Gen Peirce Commissary Officer and Brigadier Trott, Administrative officer were also present. The following matters were taken up with him with the indicated results.

1. Sanitation. With summer coming on it was thought that something ought to be done about flies, mosquitoes etc. The reply was that we "need not worry".

2. He was asked about the generals' baggage from Heito, Taiwan, a great deal of which has not yet arrived. He said he had been informed that it was "on the way".

3. He was asked about summer clothing. This question provoked mirth for some reason.

4. He was asked about certain papers which had been lost or taken by the Nips at Shirakawa — and about which two letters have been written. He said he hasn't heard of it.

5. Mail — both outgoing and incoming. As to the former, he said censorship was the big problem. As to the latter he said none had been received but we'd get it when it did. That explodes the mail rumor. His answer about outgoing mail has given rise to a suggestion that some form letter or post card be printed for us all to sign (no censorship involved). Don't know whether this request has actually been made or not. There have been suggestions that if this can't be done, a form radiogram be sent with all our names appended — something like "Am well and living in Manchoukuo". Nothing has come of this yet, however.

6. Newspapers — impossible to get. He said "you don't need to worry about the war" — He was asked if we could not have a periodic report by interpreter (orally of course) — no reply to this.

7. Sending money — Some prisoners have interned members of their families to whom they wish to send financial aid.
He had not heard of this — and "would look into it."
8. Additional orderlies — most of us hadn't heard about this, or really considered it necessary. Anyway, the answer was "impossible".
9. Chaplains — this was brought about by a letter from Mike Quinn re a R. Catholic priest. Answer: "None available".
10. Dental Service (at Cabanatuan — some local "jack-leg" is already visiting camp twice a week). Answer: They're "doing the best they can". — Since, however, arrangements have been made, I hear, to have this same little fellow come out 3 times a week.
11. Optician or oculist — Answer: "Will see". (no pun intended.)
12. The Sr. Camps Commandant was thanked for the interest that has been shown regarding P. Exchange — and said that "every thing is rationed & and well" (et same as Nipponese Army) Oh, yeah!
13. In parting the old man said he'd received orders from the Emperor to safeguard us in "mind and body".
14. He said that more courtesy should be shown the local Camp Staff. I understand he got the Camp Staff together and laid down the law to them.

Regarding this last, I think our local Camp Commandant is an educated man — though he doesn't look it — and a pretty smart fellow. As soon as the old Colonel had left he was seen in our quarters fraternizing with several of the "inmates" — Mike Quinn to be specific — and that night he was present at evening tenko — with a very pretty expression on his face. My opinion is that this boy is nobody's fool.

The most interesting and amusing part of the whole inspection was the old man's departure. His conveyance was waiting for him near camp headquarters. It consisted of the body of an antiquated Ford, Plymouth, or Chevvy (I couldn't tell which from a distance). There were rubber tires in rear and the front end, from which the engine had apparently been removed, had been jacked up and a pair of "droshky" wheels substituted for the original ones. There was a single shaft and two light colored Manchurian ponies were hitched one on each side. As soon as the Colonel had gotten safely inside, the driver got up on a seat in the vicinity of the hood — cracked his whip, and off they went.

Feb 17, 45 (Sat) 2 yrs + 315 (1046) — 1168th Day of War

We had our vaccinations checked today. I got a little reaction out of mine — so probably needed it. We got an issue of Red Cross today. I got 1/2 can Klim and a box of prunes (my second consecutive issue of prunes).

There is a rumor — supposed to have come from a Nip paper of January 10 '45 — of an allied landing in some force in the vicinity of Damortis (about 30 km south of San Fernando, La Union). The rumor has it that the Nips treated a good many of the enemy dressed in civilian clothes. If true, these were undoubtedly former members of the Philippine Scouts and P.A. (41)

One thing that this means — if it is true, of course — is this: If we are able to bring a convoy around into the mouth of Lingayen Gulf we not only have destroyed most of the enemy flying fields in the P.I., but have also done a good deal in that line to those on Taiwan.

Feb 18 '45 (Sun) 2 yrs + 316 (1047) — 1169th Day of War

Loren Wetherby conducted church services this morning. Atkinson read one of the lessons.

As the result of what he referred to as "too many thin cows" in sight, the Senior Camp Commandant has revised the schedule of Red Cross issue. Most of this, however, is due to the 176 parcels that were taken from us to provide for certain American refugees.

He is alleged to have said that our "Conduct is worse now than when we arrived". So, what?

Feb 19 '45 (Mon) 2 yrs + 317 (1048) — 1170th Day of War

Our senior officers have expressed the wish that we cooperate in complying with camp regulations.

Red Cross issue of Butter, Salmon, and cigarettes.

Feb 20, '45 (Tue) 2 yrs + 318 (1049) — 1171st Day of War

Nothing important today. Sykes who has proved to be quite an artist and clever at getting likenesses of people, was up here today sketching Phil Fry. I saw the finished product and it is very good indeed — the nose is a trifle too large, but there's no doubt who the subject is.

Feb 21 '45 (Wed) 2 yrs + 319 (1050) — 1172nd Day of War

We were directed to "stand by" for some sort of inoculation today. I heard we were to get Typhoid (paratyphoid) A B, + B2, Dysentery (Shiga and one other bacillary type), and Plague. Well we went over & got it. A Col Van Mansen (Dutch) inoculated me. Had a good sharp needle and I hardly felt it. Learned later that it was for Typhoid (Paratyphoid) A, B1 & B2 only. — One funny thing happened. Col. Rutherford, hearing that we were getting inoculated against more than one disease, and seeing both Van Mansen and Pigden (Australian) giving the "shots", went up to each, stuck out his arm and got a shot from each — a double dose.

After we got our shots Ed Aldridge and I stopped by to see Frost. Found him looking O.K. and evidently in good spirits.

Sugar in breakfast mush — the first mush in weeks.

Feb. 22, 45 (Thur) 2 yrs + 320 (1051) — 1173rd Day of War

George Washington's Birthday. But what is more important — the first anniversary of the receipt of my first mail as a P.W.

We were weighed today. Mike was 65.6 Kgm — again of 1.4 Kgm since last month — or 3.08 lbs. My weight is now 144.32 lbs, only about 4 lbs under normal. No Red Cross issue today.

Feb 23, '45 (Fri) 2 yrs + 321 (1052) 1174th Day of War

The following questions have been put to the various national groups by their respective senior officers today: 1) Will you volunteer to dig fox holes for your own refuge in case of air raids? 2) Will you abide by the will of the majority? This afternoon the American members of this section voted by rooms on the above questions. I voted No on the 1st and Yes on the second. So did all other members of this room.

It was through a scheme similar to this that the Nips put a KUWA into my hands at KARENKO and kept it there all the time we were at Shirakawa — and I'm not going to bite again. Furthermore, ever since we've been prisoners we've been required to go in side or remain inside during air raid alarms and we've not the slightest assurance that we'll ever be allowed to occupy them if we dig them. Personally, I'm willing to take my chances. Ever since I've been a prisoner of war I can recall only one time that we've been given any sort of safety factor under such conditions that we'd have a chance to use it. On the NAGARA MARU we had life preservers and were given life raft drills — this is the one time I refer to. On the OTARU MARU from TAKAO to KARENKO we were given preservers but the way the hatches were battened down and the small narrow stairs leading up to the decks — our chances in case of emergency were negligible. Then on the ORYOKU MARU there was not even a gesture on the part of the Nipponese — though they did send us on one of their best ships with a two cruiser convoy — but we'd have been like so many rats in a trap if anything had happened. In KIIRUN harbor during the bombings there Oct 12 & 13, we were left on board to sink with the ship if she were hit.

Back to the subject of the fox holes — if Gen. Parker will order me to dig — or express himself as wishing me to do so, I will dig until I drop — or, as I said, if the majority of the American officers feel that we should dig these fox holes, I am perfectly willing to string along with them — in spite of the fact that under the Geneva Treaty we're entitled to enough orderlies to do this work on the one hand, and to be put in camps safely removed from remunerative air targets on the other.

Incidentally we are less than 1000 yards from the yards of one of the principal railroads in this vicinity.

Feb 24 '45 (Sat) 2 yrs + 322 (1053) 1175th Day of War

Jack & I played bridge with Stringvenburg & Scudder this morning and won by 1600 pts. They are now 7800 up on us. We play Stringvenburg & Bishop this afternoon. While we were playing this morning the Camp Commandant and the Interpreter walked through the barracks — all smiles. I hope this constitutes his inspection — While writing this I've been informed that it positively did not constitute his inspection — and that the Imperial C.C. will inspect at 3 pm this date. That breaks up the game with Bishop & Stringvenburg. While we were playing this morning, P.A. Brown returned from the hospital — looking fit as a fiddle again I am glad to say.

Feb 25 '45 (Sun) 2 yrs + 323 (1054) 1176th Day of War

Brig. Lucas conducted services this morning. Brigs. Lay and Crawford read the lessons. Jack & I played bridge with Mead & Scudder this afternoon. They won. This afternoon at 4 we had another double quartette practice. Nick Galbraith is taking Tom Dooley's place which Gen Beebe has been filling up to now. We have a part in a musical program in Sage's section. Our mandolin group will play also. The Double Quartette is singing Sage's "Every Waking Moment" and a new song of his called "Lonely Lady" — very pretty, I think.

We got Rose Mill Paté, Cheese, and Chocolate this afternoon. I took Floyd's over to him and found him looking well (for him, I mean), and feeling cheerful.

Rumor tonight: A December 31 '44 Nip paper carries the following items. 1) We have all of Holland 2) We hold the Kiel Canal. 3) A German Submarine entered the Scheldt River and sank 40000 tons of commercial shipping. 4) 78 Divisions — another version gives 26 — broke through at Luxemburg. 5) A large force — one version says 5 Divisions — landed in Isabela Province, P.I. (near Baler & Dingalan Bays). 6) In a naval action in the Pacific, 6 of our transports were hit — 4 sunk. (Later — it looks as if the Isabela rumor is wrong & that the landing was on MINDORO — just off the SW of LUZON — a short banca trip from NASUGBU, Batangas.)

Feb 26 '45 (Mon) 2 yrs + 324 (1055) 1176th Day of War

Spam and soap from Red Cross today. I took Floyd his spam right after supper — found him a little downcast over a little "flare up" he'd had earlier in the day. He'd spit up a little blood with some phlegm. This is not serious and Floyd himself realizes it, but he was not as bright and gay as he was when I saw him yesterday.

I missed the double quartette practice this afternoon — because I was playing in a duplicate bridge match with the British. Wardle & Rodgers upstairs playing against Al Balsam and Ed Aldridge, and Greenwood & Coggle downstairs, against Jack Kelther & me, beat our team by about 3000 pts.

We had a nice time down in Gordon Sage's room after supper tonight. The mandolins etc played a couple of times (7 pieces in all), there was some group singing, led by me, three times (9 songs in all). The double quartette sang "Every Waking Moment" and "Lonely Lady," both by Sage. The former we'd sung several times before — the latter is a recent composition of his. Both very pretty I think — and we didn't do too badly.

A Nip paper of Feb 13 '45 has found its way into camp. The following are some of the items that have been translated so far —
1) At Lingayen and vicinity we had 30000 casualties (19000 dead).
2) Fighting in Manila which is burning at several points — the line extending thru MALACAÑAN palace. The Allies came down the Pasig (E to W) at this point. Tanks at Nichols Field.

3) The American navy now consists of 60,000 vessels, of which 37000 are landing boats.
4) The Russians have reached the ODER River – estimates placing the Russian line vary between 55 and 75 miles east of Berlin.

I was checking on the money I owe – Here is a list of it.

Borrowed from Gen Brougher 5/13/42		$ 10.00	(₱20.00)
" " Col. Sladge 6/5/42		10.00	
" " Col. Townsend 5/13/42		6.00	(₱12.00)
" " Col. Worthington 6/6/42		5.00	(₱10.00)
" " Maj. B.R. Brown 8/11/42		1.00	(₱2.00)
Chocolate from Phil Fry $1.00 (Tarlac)	}	6.00	
Bet lost to Phil Fry at Karenko $5.00			
Total debts		$ 38.00	

Just discovered an old note that I ran across the following members of Co K 57th Inf a day or two after the surrender on Bataan – 1st Sgt CANASTRA (who succeeded 1st Sgt RICO killed in action at ABUCAY), Pfc. LLANOS, clerk, and Pfc JEMEROL. Also I don't want to forget that I can always reach MR. SGT. LEOPOLDO DELAGO at PIÑEDA, RIZAL, P.I. (across the PASIG from FT. McKINLEY). PIÑEDA, incidentally, is where I saw the religious "Flagellantes" in action on Easter of 1941.

I have just heard something today which, if true, puts a new light on our situation in the P.I. just prior to the outbreak of the war. I got this from Jack Uhrig and it was verified by Pat Callahan. Here it is: On Nov. 29'41, after General McArthur had notified the W.D. of the flights of Japanese planes over Luzon, and after information had been received that Japanese transports were being loaded in Taiwan, the W.D. directed General MacArthur to "take whatever steps might be necessary for the safety of the P.I." – and authorized him to take offensive action if he considered it necessary to that end. That's news to me. I certainly cannot find any criticism for General MacArthur for failing to take offensive action, but in the light of subsequent events, it is interesting to think what might have been the result if we had taken the offensive. Certainly, a great deal of damage would have been done to the transports – probably not much to personnel, but it would have delayed the jump off for the P.I. and might have meant that we'd now had some air in the P.I. However there'd have been no Pearl Harbor, which, as disastrous as it was, has probably done more to unite the American people in this war than any other single thing. And there'd have been that sentimental and ignorant element in the United States who would have viewed our war efforts with a look of sympathy because we had "attacked the poor Nipponese people who meant us no harm" etc etc. I don't know. It's an interesting thing to think about, anyway.

Feb 28'(Wed) 2 yrs + 326 (1057) — 1179th Day of War

I hear that in a naval battle in the SULU SEA west of MINDANAO we had 6 transports damaged – of which 4 were sunk. This may have been part of the task force involved in the landing on MINDORO. This paper (2/13/45) speaks of fighting – street to street + house to house – in Budapest, in one place, and reports Budapest as having been captured by the Allies in another – also that, in this area, the Germans were attacked "from 8 directions". In this same paper, General MacArthur was quoted as saying "Manila will be captured in a few hours". The Russians were reported as being in POMERANIA on the ARENSWALD – RONE(?) line – about 100 Km from Berlin. A5

– Pat Callahan told me something that gives an indication of the pettiness of the Nipponese. While we were at Shirakawa, he needed duplicating tablets, carbon paper etc for keeping records of P.Ex. requisitions, transactions etc. He had to buy these things out of his personal credit – could not pay for them from the absolute profits of the exchange. Another thing – when Gen. SAZAWA, the senior commandant of prison camps on TAIWAN, visited Shirakawa, he took 3 cans of coffee from the P.Ex stock. The only way this could be corrected – since the original stock had to produce so much profit, was to increase the price of coffee. The theft of this coffee was exactly the same as if the money had been taken from the pockets of us prisoners. Now, I ask, what General officer of a civilized nation would have stooped to such an act.

The work on the trenches goes on – tools have been received and are now in use. A goodly number have been broken already. I understand it's a real job to get down into this ground. The Dutch, British + English-men dig – and then the 5th (ours) and 6th Sections. Maybe the tools will be pretty well broken up by the time our turn rolls around.

Gen. Bluemel was in today – the day when all morale is rather high, for obvious reasons – telling every one how he had just made a bet that we'll still be prisoners of war on Dec 31st of this year. I told him I'd like to have some more of that bet and he passed it by with a smile. Found out he'd risked all of ₱10.00. I don't mind anyman making any bet he wants to make, but it lowers my opinion of anyone in our group (particularly one with a star on his shoulder) when he not only makes such a bet as the one I just mentioned, but goes around in an obvious attempt to show what a very smart fellow he thinks he is by boasting of it to the already prison-weary members of this camp. Oh, well, it takes all kinds here.

I'm going down to Gen. Brougher's room tonight with our mandolin group. From all I can see, we're going to be asked to play about all we can, Horace will sing a few songs, and the rest will be a Brougher performance. Bill Braly has been asked to play a march dedicated to the Commanding General, 11th Division PA.

There was a little sugar in the mush this morning. Phil and I had some boiled raisins too, so it made a pretty nice breakfast.

March 1'45 (Thu) 2 yrs + 327 (1058) — 1180th Day of War

We got our 2d typhoid shot today. The 1st was on the 21st.

March 2'45 (Fri) 2 yrs + 328 (1059) — 1181st Day of War

Had a mighty sore arm last night and wouldn't be surprised if I had a trace of fever. A very uncomfortable night. My tour as room foreman ends at 8 a.m. tomorrow. Jack Uhrig and Al Balsam will cut for it + one of them will take over then. Tomorrow is Floyd Marshall's 50–

birthday. I have prepared a birthday card for him and had it signed by all room members. Chet. Elms has done the same in the case of Room 37. The recent paper (Nip 3/12/45) contains a report of bombings from the Marianas (Ladrones). The previous number — 80-90 daily — has been greatly augmented! I understand that the Japanese character used to describe the results, or effects, of the bombings means something superlatively terrible. KOBE, NAGOYA, YOKAHAMA, TOKYO, MOJI and a number of other industrial centers received special treatment.

Flash! Al Balsam wins the privilege of firing PACHIKA for the next two weeks. We hear that no fires will be permitted after March 15 — so Jack Uhrig won't take his turn for several weeks.

March 3 '45 (Sat) 2 yrs + 329 (1060) — 1182d Day of War

There is a rumor (can't trace this to the newspaper) that 41 German submarines surrendered to the Allies at LeHavre, France. Another one has 51 surrendering at Toulon. These rumors may or may not be true of course. I can't picture any of the Nips we have any contacts with giving out anything like that, but, as I said, it didn't come from the newspaper as far as I know.

The Sgt. over at the Kitchen told the men over there that Germany had asked for peace and had been refused.

Saw (Kky) Marshall after supper tonight — Ray O'Day and I went over — and he was looking pretty good. He had a little touch of "flu" day before yesterday and his temperature has been up about a degree today. However, he doesn't regard this as alarming; his morale is high — and that's a whole lot. He is going to go home with us I feel confident.

March 4 '45 (Sun) 2 yrs + 330 (1061) — 1183d Day of War

This is Sgt Dennis Lykens's 33rd birthday. He and Phil Fry have been good friends for a long time — since our imprisonment that is — so Phil invited him up and made tea — put some sugar and everything in it. I joined them and missed Church as the result. Chastaine conducted — and was assisted by Ray O'Day & Hamilton. Lykens confirmed the fact that the Mess Sgt had said what I reported yesterday — about Germany's asking for peace. There is a rumor today that the Japs suffered the following casualties in the Philippines — 65,000 killed and 125,000 captured. Don't know where it came from. We know they had a great many troops there — under the command of Gen Yamashita who took Malaya — and they were prepared to resist our attempts to retake the islands — so maybe that number isn't as fantastic as it sounds at first. Our troops landed at DAMORTIS, came down south in two columns — probably one in the Central Plain and one in CAGAYAN VALLEY and pushed the Nips back of the PASIG River.

We got milk and corned beef from the Red Cross Stock today.

The latest rumor — which is more than that, as it actually happened — I mean the following was actually told several of our enlisted men downstairs — "Germany is at the mercy of the Allies. She asked for peace and they would not give it". Another version gives the last sentence as "She asked for peace and America refused." adding "— and now all the world is mad with America"! — So what!

March 5 '45 (Mon) 2 yrs + 331 (1062) — 1184th Day of War

It is cool and windy today. I took three turns around the track this morning with Ed Aldridge. The wind was right out of the north and blowing a gale. The orderlies have been unable to keep fires going under the cauldrons in the washroom — hence no warm water.

We were scheduled to work on the trenches yesterday, but it was considered too cool. For the same reason we will not dig on them today.

Today is Murray Pilet's birthday.

March 6 '45 (Tue) 2 yrs + 332 (1063) — 1185th Day of War

The Interpreter told one of the men downstairs the following piece of news: 3 Chinese Divisions and 1 American Division have landed on Taiwan, just north of TAKAO — and the allied bombers have been so active that a lot of commercial shipping and some of the Nip naval vessels have been bottled up in TAKAO harbor.

If this is true, it seems to me very significant that 3 Chinese divisions can be spared for such a mission.

We will probably work in the trenches this afternoon — an hour is the time each group will have to work.

Yesterday we were queried on 1) the adequacy of the food at present 2) The advisability of making any representations to the Nips at this time 3) If the food is generally considered inadequate — and it is desirable to ask for more — what shall we ask for. I don't know the result. The whole thing was started by AVM Maltby, I hear, without reference to Gen Parker, but Gen. Parker, when he learned of it, agreed that we be asked about the above points. My answer was that the ration is adequate at present (in bulk only) and that it is not advisable to ask for more — unless the majority of prisoners consider it inadequate.

We worked on the trenches from 2:30 to 3:30 this afternoon. The ground was as hard as cement. The work was not hard. Pat Callahan, Phil Fry and I alternated with the same pick — until Pat was called to the hospital to get relief for a bad tooth that's been bothering him for some time. We sent Ray O'Day in about 3:10 to fix some hot water, so when we came in we had something to drink. I made some hot milk and crumbled a bun into it. It was quite cool outside but not very windy.

March 7 '45 (Wed) 2 yrs + 333 (1064). — 1186th Day of War

Jack Koehnen's 52nd birthday — also Brig. Wallis's (don't know which one). Sugar in morning mush. Taiwan rumor proves false. The

blame for this one — about 3 Chinese Divisions + 1 American Div — landing in Taiwan — Seems to point to Gevow who found he could get cigarettes for a rumor. I'm not sure of this, though. We got 1/2 can butter and a can of Jam today —

March 8 '45 (Thur) 2 yrs + 334 (1065) 1187th Day of War

Rescript Day! The Nips have their flags out by the gate.

Took Floyd his jam that was issued from Red Cross Supplies yesterday and his toilet paper — 73 sheets — that was issued the day before. Rumor — The buck-toothed Nip Corporal who takes tenko reports about half the time, returned from Mukden early this morning. He went down yesterday, I understand, to get cigarettes. He went to the kitchen to give GIBBS — one of the prisoners on duty there — several letters, handed them to him and said "Some people think the war is over." — and went on out. Gibbs, I hear, called after him to no avail and looked out the door to see him — the Nip — break into a trot.

Floyd says he feels better than he's felt for some time.

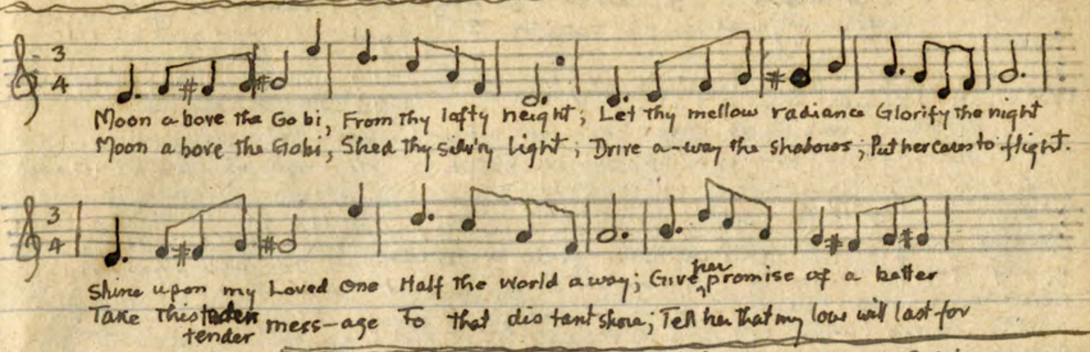
Phil went to the hospital with me. We stopped in and spoke to Col. Dougherty, Capt. Campbell (Brit. Navy) and Alex Campbell while we were there.

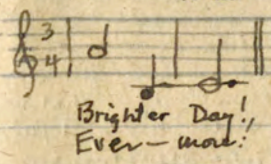
I understand that a communication addressed to all prisoners of war has been received. It states that all soldiers will pay income tax and that returns will be rendered after the war (so far as I can tell, there is no change in the law there) — also that the moneys paid to prisoners of war by captor powers will not be deducted by the U.S. Also, I hear, there is some reference to the purchase of Baby Bonds which give a return of $1000.00 in 10 years for each $375.00 invested. I think we're to be allowed to communicate our wishes in this matter and the money will be taken out of our pay. I know the Nipponese will not allow us to write — we can't even write to our families — so I enter this as an official expression of my intention to purchase $3750.00 worth of these bonds. I have announced this intention in the presence of Col. P. T. Fry and Col. J N Callahan who will bear witness to it. I do this on the chance that, later, if it can be shown that I had the desire to do this and made an attempt to do it, but was not permitted to do this, the U.S. Gov't may allow me to purchase $3750.00 worth of these bonds as of this date or earlier — since today is the date of receipt of the first information regarding this authorization.

March 9 '45 (Fri) 2 yrs + 335 (1066) 1188th Day of War

35 months ago today on Trail 20, Bataan, P.I., I laid my pistol on the ground, put up my hands and became a prisoner of war. I think I shall always remember that moment when the Japanese soldiers began swarming out of the brush — the "busy little fingers" taking things out of our pockets, watches off our wrists, insignia off our collars, keeping most of it but dumping the rest into the dust — snapshots of my family, little papers I had wanted to keep. I managed to pick up some

MOON ABOVE THE GOBI





Moon above the Gobi
From thy lofty height
Let thy mellow radiance
Glorify the night —
Shine upon my Loved One
Half the world away
Give her promise of a better
Brighter Day!

Moon above the Gobi
Shed thy silv'ry light
Drive away the shadows
Put her cares to flight —
Take this tender message
To that distant shore;
Tell her that my love will last for
Evermore!

of the things they threw down, but didn't dare abuse the opportunity lest one of the little fellows might take advantage of the excuse to press an itchy finger to his trigger. From that moment to this my chief aim in life has been to survive this ordeal and return to my family.

We got Spiced meat and cigarettes from Red Cross supplies today. I took Floyd's to him after supper and found him in good spirits. Looked in on Col Dougherty & the Campbells as I came out. They were huddled around the Pechika and seemed O.K.

I put some sincere but unoriginal words to a tune that's been running through my head — for the past few weeks — and got Bill Brady to write it down for me tonight. Above is the result. It's to Toni, of course — and I hope she likes it. The time is incomplete and I'll try to round it off sometime if I can. However, it's my first effort and I'm rather proud to have done it, poor as it may be —

March 10 '45 (Sat) 2 yrs + 336 (1067) 1189th Day of War

No inspection today. Coffee + sugar from R. Cross. Took Floyd's to him at noon and found him very much O.K. Saw Col. Dougherty + the two Campbells looking very fit. Took a message from Alex C. to Jack Vance about some toilet paper — an extra issue he'd heard about. Found it to be incorrect. Jack will straighten this out with him.

Played bridge with Phil against Eddie O'Connor + Roy Nelson. We won a 12 and lost a 13. Phil carrying our loss. We should have won — if I'd played properly. Phil has asked me to play with him against Bishop and somebody else tomorrow night. Jack + I played against Bishop + Strong [illegible] this morning. The held most of the cards and won. Today's rumor, "Germany is in chaos and the Russians are marching on Berlin" — Sounds plausible and all to the good if true. Two new Nip soldiers — one a corporal — took the Tenko formation

last night and this morning. What can this mean? We know it is a Nip policy to change the guard from time – I've been wondering why they haven't done it before. This is undoubtedly a provision against fraternizing. I have just heard – on the QT – that an entire change of personnel is imminent – and may include the Camp Commandant.
Traded my spam for ½ pound of Jack Frost sugar – to Kinkworth through Buick

March 11 '45 (Sun) 2 yrs + 337 (1068) — 1190th Day of war

Heard this morning that Sgt. Johnson, who has been suffering from an attack of appendicitis for a couple of days, is to be operated on at 10 o'clock this morning. Gillespie and Ken Lowman will operate. Arrangements were made by 'phone yesterday with a nearby hospital for the necessary equipment and it arrived here, I understand, about 2:30 this morning. I know this is considered a relatively simple operation, but I hate to think of his having to undergo it there – with Nip equipment by a man (Lowman will probably handle the scalpel) who has had no opportunity to keep his hand in. Anyway, here's luck to Sgt Johnson – and may you have a steady hand, Ken Lowman.

A Nip soldier is reported to have said "Toc san (many) cigarettes" yesterday – pointing to the warehouse. Hope he meant they were for us.

Word has just been given out by Bill Braly – our Section Chief – that we may each write a letter of 50 words. The draft must be submitted by 4 pm tomorrow. It will then be typed and resubmitted to us for signature before mailing. I recall that in Gen Jones's case – also Gen Bluemel's – he was allowed to write a letter on Nov. 14 '44 and it was returned to him typed and ready for signature on March 5 '45 – 3 mos 20 days later. At that rate will get ours to sign on July 1 '45. It should be said, in fairness to these people, however, that Gens Wainwright and King – and others of that group ("the Viceroy's Group" as the British call it) were able to sign theirs before they left here Dec 1 '44. Several of the Generals + Brigadiers group got theirs for signature several weeks ago.

Evans (Amer. E.M.) went to hospital yesterday – a sputum specimen had been sent away for examination and was returned with a positive TB report.

I hear that Sgt Johnson's appendectomy was a success – heard that one of the hospital orderlies, Jock Gitsham, said something very complimentary about the way Ken Lowman did it. Hope it's true. Saw Bland just before supper tonight. He says he had a favorable report on Johnson's condition within the past hour.

Here is the text of my letter:

FROM: COLONEL EDMUND J. LILLY, JR, U.S. ARMY, P.O.W. No. 1668
HOTEN CAMP, MANCHOUKUO.
TO: MRS. VICTORIA B. LILLY, — MARCH 12, 1945
107 STEDMAN STREET, FAYETTEVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA
MY DARLING:
AM WELL. NICE CLIMATE HERE. ~~DEAREST LOVE TO ALL.~~ PLEASE ASK WAR DEPARTMENT TO INVEST ONE HUNDRED TWELVE DOLLARS FIFTY CENTS ($112.50) [PER MONTH] MY UNDRAWN PAY AND ALLOWANCES FROM DECEMBER 31, 1941, IN RETROACTIVE GOVERNMENT BONDS, YOU AS OWNER OR CO-OWNER. KEEP COURAGE. TELL VENICE EVERYTHING FINE. TED

EDMUND J. LILLY, JR
COLONEL, U.S. ARMY.

Butter + soap from Red Cross today – Butter to Laughlin for his coffee

March 12 '45 (Mon) 2 yrs + 338 (1069) — 1191st Day of War

Heard from Lyhane this morning that Sgt Johnson is all right. Three American E.M. – Seidl, Bland, and one other – sat up with him last night.

Heard from Bill Dalton that his wife told him in one of her letters that the Govt. is paying interest (didn't say how much) on the undrawn part of our pay and allowances. Also the Red Cross Bulletin of April 1944 while referring to retroactive allotments, says nothing about the interest on bonds being retroactive, so I've decided to let it ride the way it is. Here is the body of my letter as actually sent – Heading and Salutation are the same. HEALTH EXCELLENT. MORALE HIGH. SPLENDID CLIMATE. DON'T WORRY. YOU HAVE REAL JOB. KNOW YOU ARE DOING IT WELL. PLEASE WATCH YOUR HEALTH. FEEL SURE OF EARLY REUNION. TELL VENICE EVERYTHING FINE – LONG FOR NEWS OF TEDDY'S DEVELOPMENT, TORI'S MUSIC, BETTY ANN, JACK, FRANCES, BUT OF YOU ESPECIALLY. HAVE COURAGE. DEAREST LOVE. TED.

March 14 '45 (Wed) 2 yrs + 340 (1071) — 1193rd Day of War

Yesterday we worked on our shelter trenches. It was chilly, but by no means as cold as it has been recently. I swung a pick for about 45 minutes of the hour I was outside – without gloves. Worked up a nice glow and really enjoyed it. There was a trace – very faint – of sugar in the mush this morning. I'm out of milk, so took it straight. I still have about ⅓ can of coffee plus the can I got from Laughlin – also a few lumps of sugar plus another ½ pound I traded my spiced meat for – so I will have coffee for a while yet. Phil and I have been going 50-50 on all food we've had. He's always been very generous to me and I hope I've been the same to him – so I don't hesitate to accept from him – nor does he hesitate to accept from me. A very satisfactory arrangement which works with cigarettes as well as food.

On Monday about 2 pm someone happened to think that maybe Floyd hadn't had a chance to write his letter, so I went over armed with paper, pen + ink. Found it was a good hunch as he knew nothing of it – in spite of the fact that the other patients had written theirs (he's in a separate room) – so we composed a letter to Betty and I delivered it with mine to Bill Braly, our Section "Hancho".

Rumor this morning: There was much yelling back + forth between the Nips at the hospital and those at the guardhouse – all apparently as if they were pleased about something. Then one of the hospital Nips said to Evans (TB patient) "If you're lucky you'll be out in 60 days – if not, in 3 months". Subsequent investigation has led most of us to believe he was referring to Evans' getting out of the hospital – and not to his being released as a P.W. Also one of the Nips at the kitchen tried to tell them something but they did not understand it. Then he wrote it down in Nip: no translation has been made yet that I know of. There is a rumor that there may be a newspaper in camp. The Camp Commandant and Interpreter had the three senior officers (probably Gens Parker (Amer.) + Ilgen (D) – and AVM Maltby) in the office this morning talking about animals and farming. Looks ominous to me. I don't want any part of it and won't do any work unless I'm ordered to do it.

There was a check of clothing and all Nip property except dishes today. Spoiled an afternoon waiting around, but I wasn't going anywhere. Beat Pat Callahan 2 out of 3 games of Cribbage (had all the cards).

March 15 '45 (Thur) 2 yrs + 341 (1072) 1194th Day of War

We got Salmon and fruit today – I got raisins, having had prunes the last 2 times. Traded Pat Callahan my Salmon for his next can of jam. Floyd Marshall got prunes and Pat, who was going to the dentist, took them over. Says Floyd is getting along fine. So are Sgt Johnson and Evans. He got the true story of what the Nip hospital man said to Evans (from Evans). It was "You will all be out in 2 months if you're lucky. It will be 3 months if you're not." So I have no doubt the Nip meant "out of this camp" and not "out of the hospital." The Camp commandant is still harping on the community garden and wants Trott to try to sell the idea to the prisoners. As it is there are 50 or 60 (mostly British + Dutch) who want individual gardens – and they have been assured by the Nips that there will be no supervision by them, that they will be able to get their seeds out of their deposits – and enjoy the proceeds of their gardens themselves.

March 16 '45 (Fri) 2 yrs + 342 (1073) 1195th Day of War

½ can milk and 1 chocolate bar (US Army Class C Ration) from Red Cross today. I took Floyd's to him just before supper. Found him in good spirits. He had just had a hair cut and had his beard trimmed – so his appearance was greatly improved. As I went over to the hospital I passed Cpl Nugent and Sgt. Rushing out on the field in front of this building – each with a [illegible] club knocking a ball back and forth. Nugent knocked the ball through the fence and asked the new Interpreter who happened to be passing by, if he could get it. The Interpreter – whose pronunciation is labored, but whose English is very good, said "No – It was your own fault."

Day before yesterday, I hear, a   came into the kitchen + tried to say something to the Americans there. They couldn't understand, so he wrote something on a paper. When translated it meant "Do you want some ——" Later contact with him was made, I hear. I played bridge with Jack against Harry Skerry and Vic Callan. I did everything wrong that one man could do – They'd have won anyway, but I did all I could, it seemed, to help them.

While I was over at the hospital I saw both Campbells, Col. Dougherty, Evans, and Johnson – all looked well.

March 17 '45 (Sat) 2 yrs + 343 (1074) 1196th Day of War

St. Patrick's Day and the Callahans, McCaffertys, O'Connors, Moores, Lynchs, O'Days, Murphys etc, have been in the limelight – all in rare good humor – with much kidding back + forth. Jim Menzies + Gil Bell came up this morning to greet Pat Callahan, each wearing a big orange bow on his breast.

Today we were issued ½ cake Nip soap each for the purpose of washing our heavy underwear – which we hear will be called in soon. Tomorrow all the "pochikas" on this (the east) side of the building will be allowed to go out and not be re-lighted until cold weather. We do get more sun than the other side, but our room is next to the door and has been draughty all winter. Now I'm afraid it will be very

uncomfortable until we get some warm weather.

Day before yesterday, the new Interpreter was down in the room occupied by Gen Drake, Brigs Trott, Blackburn, Col Cooper, Capt Bob Davis etc – One of them asked him: "Will the Camp Comdt let us know when Germany goes out?" – whereupon the interpreter said quickly "How did you know?" – then collected himself and said he didn't know. This has been checked on and is undoubtedly true. I thought it impossible at first as the interpreter looks like a pretty stolid, phlegmatic fellow + one not likely to go off half cocked like that, but I have reason to feel that it really happened. So that looks good.

We played our musical instruments in Slaton's + Wheeler's room tonight. When I came back to the room I was greeted with the information that the Nips will permit the sending of 64 radiograms per month – it will take quite a while – nearly 6 mos. to get all around, but it's a good sign anyway.

Smoked my last cigarette today, but hear on good authority that we get Nip cigarettes tomorrow!

March 18 '45 (Sun) 2 yrs + 344 (1075) 1197th Day of War

Church services this morning were conducted by Col. Gibbins (B) – the lessons being read by Hersey (B – other ranks) + Brig. Maxwell. Gen Wainwright read the West Point Cadet's Prayer – this being the nearest Sunday to March 17, the anniversary of the founding of USMA.

The radiograms referred to in yesterday's entry may be sent to the following countries only: US, Canada, New Zealand, Australia + India. Bill Braly came around today with the announcement that 60 radiograms could be sent – and asked for the names of all those who had sent radiograms (the broadcast we were allowed at Karenko not being counted). He said that those who had previously sent no radiogram would be given priority.

We got 1 can butter, 1 can pâté, and 1 pack cigarettes from the Red Cross stock this afternoon. I took Floyd's to him – found him a little blue + cross – he had spit up a little blood (Drs. told him not to worry however) and said he'd been coughing a good deal the past few nights – has had to take codeine several times lately which constipates him, but the yeast partially counteracts that, he said.

This afternoon I was watching a bridge game in the next room on the other side of the building when a very cocky + somewhat bellicose (truculent may be the word) little Nip sentry came barging through. He bumped into me (I was braced for him, however) and looked me – saw Pat Horan lying on his bunk next to the window with his feet on the shelf, so went over and made him take them down very unpleasantly. This was so different from the customary attitude of the sentries that everyone was rather surprised.

We had beans + gravy for supper, plus a turnover containing a little meat – [illegible] a welcome surprise and quite unusual. Everyone began wondering if another dog had wandered across the electrified wire in the prison fence.

Alex Campbell returned from hospital yesterday. Gillespie is sick + [illegible] + Lyle Roberts (Capt USN) is replacing him temporarily.

We let our fire go out this morning — Nip orders. It has been like an ice box in our room all day. We are next to the door and it is being continually opened and closed. Right after tenko tonight we cut cards to see who would send radiograms. We are allowed 3 in this room — Whig, O'Day & Callahan being ineligible because of messages previously sent — so Balsam, Fry, Aldridge, Marshall & I cut. Top low men out — high man to send 150 words — other two 40 words. Phil & I cut out & Al Balsam won the 150 word message — all messages to be free of cost, I understand. I am going over first thing in the morning to help Floyd with his message —

March 19'45 (Mon) 2 yrs + 345 (1076) 1198th Day of War

Worked for nearly an hour this morning on the shelter trench. It was bitter cold and quite windy. The room has been bitter cold. Last night we all wore our coats at tenko formation. The interpreter asked if we were cold & the unanimous answer was "Yes." We asked if we could start our fire (rather, Al did) & he said, No he'd have to speak to the camp Commandant about it. No word today. I went over and helped Floyd with his radiogram this morning — he ended with "Tell Toni and Betty Ann of Bensley and Panama that everything is fine." I doubt if it will get through, but hope it does.

We got 1 cheese & 1 pack of cigarettes from the Red Cross today.

Rumor: "The Americans are coming at the Japanese from all directions. There have been terrific bombings. The Japanese hands are tied." This is supposed to have come from a drunk Nip soldier over at the bath today — he said Taiwan was getting terrific bombings too. Understand there is hope of getting more from this same source. Another thing this fellow said was — the Americans had all the Philippines.

March 20'45 (Tue) 2 yrs + 346 (1077) 1199th Day of War

Bridge with Jack vs Stringenberg & Scudder this morning. I was over at the hospital taking Floyd his Red Cross (& can salmon that he didn't get when it was issued a few days ago — 1 cheese & 1 pack cigarettes that we got yesterday) — and got to talking to Floyd, so was a little late. Chet. Searles filled in for me until I got back. They won again. Sgt Johnson was walking around — his first day on his feet since his operation. All other patients seemed to be all right. Gillespie, I hear had a temperature of 103+ yesterday. It was 100 this morning. Floyd seemed to be in good spirits.

Rumor: One of the Nip soldiers said "America's No. 1 man and Japan's No. 1 man have had some good talks lately."

Word comes around that after today the heavy Nip shirt, trousers, helmet, socks, & gloves will not be worn. When they are turned in, all connection between them & present wearer will cease. When and if they are reissued, there is no reason to expect that we'll each get the same ones we turn in. Oh, well, the Nips say spring arrives tomorrow, so I guess it does — even though it feels anything but spring like. Tweet! Tweet! The turn in date has just been announced as Sunday.

Rumor: Gen. Stilwell and two other generals (Army) are going strong in China. Two Nips talking together. One shrugged his shoulders and repeated "Poor Japan — poor Japan!"

March 22'45 (Thur) 2 yrs + 348 (1079) 1201st Day of War

Yesterday was the 1200th Day of this war — and I've spent 1079 of them as a prisoner of war in the Orient.

Rumor — No 1. The kitchen force has been ordered by the Nips to get 3 days bread ahead and keep that much ahead. No 2. One of the Nips over at the hospital asked Mullins how long he thought the war would last. Mullins said — 6 to 8 months. The Nip asked why — and Mullins said "We have no news and consequently we know nothing." The Nip then said "Very big things have been happening."

This noon we had the best meal we've had in months. Bean soup — with grease, a few pieces of potatoe & carrot — some onions and, I could almost swear, some tomatoes.

We got spiced meat and 1 cake of soap from the Red Cross today. Phil and I are "out in the open" on coffee and tea at last.

Jack & I played Stringenberg & Scudder this morning and they plastered it all over us. This was our morning to work. I went out and swung a pick for about 15 minutes — but it was very cold & blustery. My hands nearly froze (The Nips forbade us to wear our heavy under-wear, helmet, heavy socks or gloves beginning yesterday). Harry Skerry the Engineer in charge came out for a few minutes and then came back in — and recommended to Genl. Parker that the work be called off for the morning. Later, it has been announced that there will be no work this afternoon either.

Though it is bitter cold outside our room has been warmer today than yesterday. This afternoon, though, the wind abated somewhat, and it feels as if we might have snow.

Contract for supper tonight.

March 23'45 (Fri) 2 yrs + 349 (1080) 1202d Day of War

It snowed last night and the ground was a beautiful white this morning. Everybody was bustling around 7 o'clock this morning so I got up. Col Braddock who has been very nice about heating water for us in this room since our Pochika went out of business, was here with hot water. I had a cup of hot milk — my coffee and Phil's tea having run out. The hot milk was good, and warmed my innards. There is a rumor that a Nip soldier said "Germany is still fighting but will have to quit any day. Japan will probably have to quit with her" — or words to that effect. This happened yesterday, I think.

I got a badly needed hair cut this morning from Rogers (S).

Butter and chewing gum today — Floyd, looking fine, gave me his gum —

March 24'45 (Sat) 2 yrs + 350 (1081) 1203rd Day of War

Got a bed time rumor last night from Eddie O'Connor — Some Nip said "Much unrest among the civil population in Germany — also in Japan. Much good news for you" — he was talking to one of the enlisted men downstairs. Bridge this morning, Jack & I vs Stringenberg & Bishop. We won — or rather, Jack did, for I did everything I could, it seemed, to lose. I can't remember when I played more boneheadedly. Scudder couldn't play — out working — so Bishop filled in for him. It has been beautiful, sunshiny & spring like today. Not too warm though. K.L. Berry said he saw a flight of 8 or 9 bustards go over. Our mandolin group played in Loughrin's room tonight —

March 25 '44 (Sun) 2yrs + 351 (1082) 1204th Day of War

Palm Sunday in Chapel-theater! Johnnie Johnson conducted the service, Ray O'Day read the 1st Lesson and Jack Keltner read the second. Capt. Wil ver-dink sang "The Palms" very beautifully. It has been suggested that our mandolin group play a couple of hymns next Sunday, being Easter, for singing. My attitude is that if it will contribute in any way to the success of the service, I'm all for it — otherwise I'm agin it. Bill Brady is going to suggest a couple of hymns suitable for singing in the key of E or G — and we'll try them out and see if we can do it.

The tune for the piece on the opposite page popped into my head at Wauwatosa, Wisconsin, in September 1924, soon after I had brought little Betty Ann and her mother up from Fort Sheridan, Ill., where B.A. was born. It had never been written down until this morning. I was talking to Dick Mallonée and happened to tell him about it, whereupon he volunteered to write it out for me — so there it is. I hope to get some words for it one day, but haven't yet.

I have written a verse to my "Moon above the Gobi" and that's why I've rewritten it on the following page. The words are rather unoriginal but, with the exception of the second part most of which was written by Dick Mallonée, they are mine — and that's something (to me, at least). I think Tori will get a kick out of it when she hears it.

March 26 '44 (Mon) 2yrs + 352 (1083) 1205th Day of War

We got cigarettes this morning. Don't know why the Nips wouldn't issue milk too (which was due today) but they wouldn't do it. I took Floyd's cigarettes to him and found him looking fine — half sitting up in bed reading "Three Harbors" by F. VanWyck Mason. I read it a month or two ago and enjoyed it immensely. We have been assured that our letters would be typed and ready for signature by April 1st. I understand they are putting them on post cards. Many of the radios which we were (or rather, some were) permitted to send — I wasn't lucky enough to be included this time — were censored + curtailed to the point where they bore no resemblance to the original. One British Brigadier wrote one, ending with "I hope to see you soon", when he got it, all but the ending had been cut out and that had been changed to "Hope to see you again" — rather an unsatisfactory message, I should say.

I was talking to someone today, Pat Callahan, I think — about some of the things the Nipponese officers have said to us since we've been prisoners of war. At O'Donnell, we recalled, the Camp Commandant said, among other things: "You are alive now only because of the magnanimity of our Emperor. You have dared to insult the Imperial Nipponese flag by fighting against it. If I had my way you would die, but you shall be made to suffer."

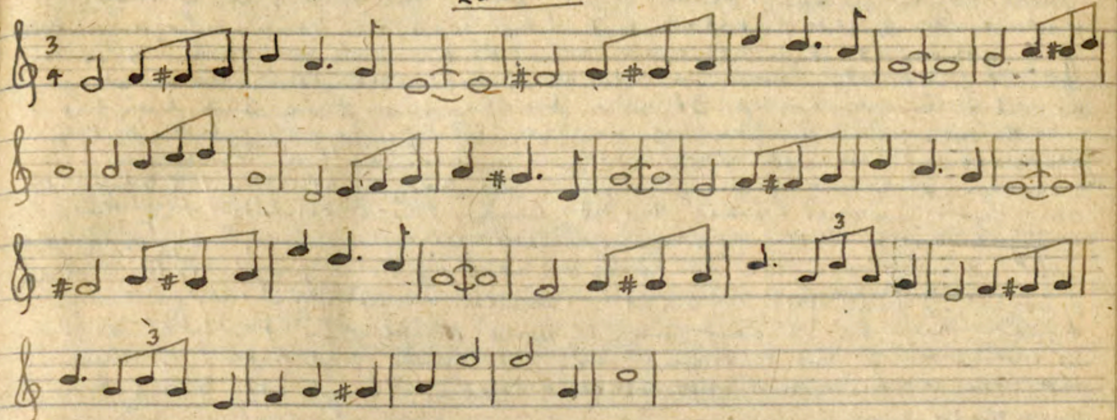
Soon after we arrived at Karenko, Taiwan, the subject of work for officers came up. General Wainwright said that he objected to it on the grounds that it was beneath the honor and dignity of officers of our army to perform menial labor. "Boots" one of the arch-sadists replied quickly to this: "You have surrendered. You have no honor."

When General Sharp and his officers from the southern islands arrived at Karenko, he was told by Capt. IMAMURA the camp commandant: "You have insulted the Nipponese flag by taking up arms against it. You will now have an opportunity to meditate and repent of your sins."

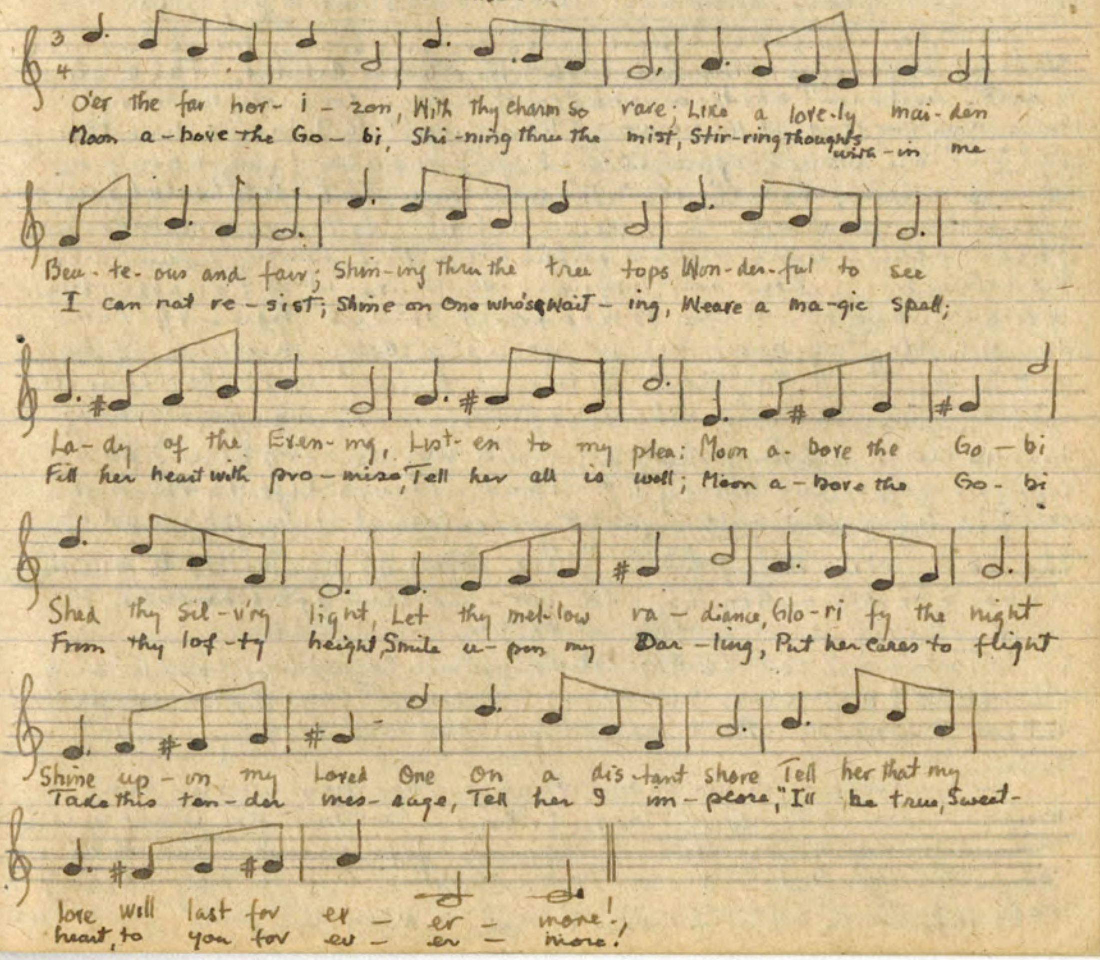
Then there was the "show off" Sergeant at Karenko whom we

referred to as "WAKAMOTO" (trade name for a vitamin yeast product of the Nips — He asked if we were educated and intelligent. When "Stu" Wood replied that we were, he asked "Can they count up to 100?" — that was his idea of education and intelligence.

LULLABY



MOON ABOVE THE GOBI



March 26'44 (Continued).

Gen. Brougher has been promoting something special for Easter Sunday service. The double quartette will sing "Christ Arose" and our string group has been asked to play several hymns while the congregation sings. Bill Brady asked me about it. I confessed that I was a bit dubious, but said we'd try several hymns and if he thought it worth while when he heard us play them, I, for one, would favor it. One humorous thing strikes me. We have a ukelele in our group. It will be the first time I've ever heard a "uke" played at a church service. The guitar is a little out of place too, but the Salvation Army uses them in their sidewalk services. It seems to me, though, that any instrument (almost any, that is) would be all right under those conditions if the thing is done with appropriate reverence. Any way, as Bill said, it may have the effect of attracting some people to the service. Brougher, I hear, will conduct. Bowler hasn't done this for some time — and he is particularly well adapted to it — because he is ashamed of his clothes. I'm certainly not proud of mine, but I'm certainly not ashamed of them. They're all I've got — and that's that.

March 27'45 (Tue) 2yrs+353(1084) 1206th Day of War

Yesterday we got our post cards for signature. Mine had been changed as follows: "Morale high" had been deleted. "Feel sure of early reunion" had been changed to "Pray for early reunion." "Have courage" had become "Chins up!" (I drew a line through the "s" — Toni wouldn't appreciate it if I accused her of having a double chin). Finally the "Dearest love, Tad" with which I closed the message had been deleted. Otherwise, no change. I hear others were not so fortunate — K.L. Berry found his hopelessly garbled and refused to sign it — finally he did so when the Nips threatened to cut him off from the privilege of sending or receiving any message if he did not. Can't say that I blame him. Mick Galbraith got this one across which almost made up for some of the useless deleting they did: "On my way up here I had visions of meeting Davey J." But it was left to one of the British to pull of the most priceless bit of phraseology. He said something like: "We are not permitted to mention names of other prisoners, etc. etc. — and, furthermore, the food is also unmentionable"!

Today we got 1/2 can Milk, 1 can corned beef, and 1 bar of Chocolate (USA Class C Ration). I saw Floyd after supper when I took his Red Cross to him. He was looking & feeling fine.

— Yesterday Pat Callahan turned over his woolen coat — British — complete with brass buttons — to me for what use I could make of it. It is a "quick" fit for me — and of course, hopeless for Pat. I can wear it as is, but by moving the buttons a little I can make a very useful garment

out of it. I am proud of it — my old cotton Nip coat was getting so tattered — past all repair — out at elbows (among other places) and frayed at the cuffs.

This morning I got ambitious and did a real man-sized wash — a thing I rarely do — two shirts — one khaki, one woolen — my Red Cross trousers and my Nip coat.

The double quartette is working on "Christ arose" for Easter. It's going to be pretty. Bill Brady asked me to sing a solo and, of course, I said I would. I'm going to sing "Holy Ghost with Light Divine" by Gottschalk. It was a toss up between that and "Oh Love that wilt not let me go" by A.L. Peace. I sang them both for Gen Beebe right after double quartette practice this afternoon and he liked the former better. I hope I can do all right. I have no illusions about my ability to sing but I won't let Bill down — and if he thinks it will contribute anything to the service, it's O.K. by me, and I'll do my best. I love to try to sing and it really pleases me a lot to have a chance.

I was thinking about the various propaganda devices that the Nips have adopted since we've been prisoners and discussing some of them with Pat Callahan today. I think the following are worth mentioning. They are rather amusing. The first one that comes to mind is the time Gen Wainwright was allowed to walk, with several others, into Karenko where he was posed and photographed putting a lump of sugar in a cup of coffee (or tea — it makes no difference what because the cup was empty). I'm not sure, but I think the sugar lump was reclaimed by the Nips — Domei news was in charge of this.

Another incident at Karenko — about this time the Nips brought some sort of bird in a cage and wanted Gen Percival (B) to pose with it — portraying a quiet bit of P.W. home life — in his room (cell). Gen. P. balked at this more power to him — and the Nips never did get their picture.

At Shirakawa about March 4-5, '44, the Nips moved in with many movie cameras and little candid cameras. The photographed volunteer p.w.'s washing their clothes — took the generals, except Gens. Parker and Sharp who were too thin, up in Yosamo Park and photographed them taking their leisure. They also staged a basketball game and took many pictures, both motion and still of the game and spectators (spectators, incidentally, were instructed to smile and look animated — I leave it to anybody's imagination how I looked when they pointed one of those things at me.) Another very unfunny attempt at propaganda occurred in the hospital. They moved a table into this very bare room and had several of the hospital orderlies stage a card game for them — thus showing the wonderful recreational opportunities for our convalescents.

Another incident will bear recording. I didn't see this but I have it on unquestionable authority that it happened. While the generals were in a prison camp near Taihoku, Taiwan, the Nip cameras moved in on them. An ice box was produced and placed in their quarters, its shelves well stocked with meat (a rare dish indeed for PW's) and other delicacies. I don't know that any of the generals were photographed with it, but I do have it that their quarters were photographed showing the ice box with open door and all contents visible — to prove how thoughtful the Nips were of the generals' welfare. Needless to say — and this is absolutely true — the ice box — with contents complete — was immediately removed.

These incidents are interesting, I think, as they show the underhanded manner of the Nips and the lengths to which they have gone to give an incorrect impression to our countries and to the world of their treatment of their prisoners. Of course they never showed the thousands of things — brutal and sadistic — to make our lives thoroughly miserable; things that no self respecting, civilized nation would even contemplate.

Ausmus had an accident today. While working with a Kuwa on the shelter trench of his room, he was trying to dislodge a piece of hard earth from the side of the trench when his tool glanced and hit his foot right at the bottom of his shortfinger. The corner of the Kuwa cut through the leather into his instep making a gash that required one stitch.

There is an epidemic of "flue" which is sweeping this floor. Down in Col. Brokner's room 4 or 5 have been down with it. Across the hall from us in Col. Braddock's room (No. 40) there are four SHUSHIN (sick in quarters) — Lathrop, Wilson, Kenyon (D) and Wood (D). Braddock told the interpreter it was due to no warm underwear + no fires on one side of the building. The interpreter smiled + showed his warm underwear.

March 28 '45 (Wed) 2 yrs + 354 (1085) 1207th Day of War

Last night Jack + I played Gen Jones and Gen Bluemel at bridge. We really walloped them — and were about over 4000 points when the Tenko bell rang. Jack + I made one small slam in no trumps — and a grand slam in Diamonds (the latter, vulnerable).

I got the "Forsyte Saga" by Galsworthy from the library this morning. Hope I can finish it in a week — the time limit — It is 921 pages long.

Our mandolin group practiced some of the hymns we're going to play next Sunday — tonight in Staton's room. Bill Braly was there + took charge. It sounded better than I expected it would. Nicholettes was up with his accordion — Lane couldn't come, but will be with us on Friday night — our next practice. Wickersham was up with his mandolin — also Longshaw with his violin. There was no instrument for

Eddie O'Connor — I am particularly sorry he couldn't play with us. There was an air alarm about 8 pm — though the lights remained on outside. We have no black out curtains here as we had at Shirakawa. Anyway the siren blew and blew (or whatever sirens do). (61)

March 31 '45 (Sat) 2 yrs + 357 (1088) 1210th Day of War

Am enjoying "The Forsyte Saga" — already very much intrigued by Irene as most men are (in the book at least).

Yesterday a Nip doctor over at the hospital told "Gussie Hall" that Hitler is no longer in power. Hall knows a little "Nip" and resorted to a dictionary in order to determine what the fellow was trying to tell him. It wasn't "dead" — it wasn't "gone out" — simply "out of power." Later in the day, Hall came over and told Pat Callahan that he'd talked with the same Nip a second time and got the report confirmed. This looks good, of course. He either went out voluntarily or was pushed out. Now the Allies may talk terms with the new government head. The way I dope it out is that with Hitler out of power the German army will lack the will to fight and the end will come a little sooner — in the event they elect to fight. Of course, if Hitler went out — either of his own volition or otherwise — because Germany wanted to talk terms (it has been known for a long time that the Allies would not deal with Hitler) — then their capitulation is a foregone conclusion and may well have taken place already.

Here's some dope I got hold of on the 28th — and is worth recording:

1. Total American casualties up to March 1 '45 — 859,597
2. Japan has been bombed daily by American B29 bombers from the Marianas since Dec 21 '44.
3. On Oct 12 '44 Taiwan was bombed by 1200 carrier borne planes — on Oct 13 by 1400 — and again on 14th by 450 (we were locked and battened down in the hold of the ORYOKU MARU at the dock in KIIRUN, Taiwan, during that time. We boarded Oct 9 — and sailed from that place for Japan on Oct 23 '44) Takao was hit "often" — Kiirun "not often"
4. For the purpose of describing events occurring in Japan, that country has been divided into three areas: No 1 — Eastern Japan. No 2 — Western Japan. No 3 — The island of KYUSHU (where we landed on the Oryoku Maru on Oct 28 '44 — and where Beppu and Moji and Hakata are located)
   Area No 1 was hit 3 times in Feb '45 by planes of American Task forces. No 3 was hit 3 times by the same kind of planes — the last time being on March 1 '45.
5. "Headlines last week" — For 4 consecutive days Area No 2 was bombed by 2500 planes (carrier borne) daily. The fortified areas along the Inland Sea and Northern Kyushu were given special attention. American losses — 5 First Class airplane carriers, 2 battle ships, 3 cruisers, and 1 auxiliary cruiser — also 180 planes. The Nips lost 50 planes and claim the damage was slight. Last week on one occasion 70 B24 and P38 planes bombed Takao and Tainan (both in Taiwan) concentrating on airfields and portions of Tainan. Tainan was bombed daily by B24's and P38's from the Philippines. Week before last 3 British destroyers attacked one of the South ANDAMAN Islands

with shells." One was sunk + 2 driven off."

Nip troops of their FIC army were found in possession of American food and munitions — and were therefore accused of "infidelity" by the Nips.

Americans hold all the Marianas and North Islands including IWO group South of the BONINS.

At a recent conference of Japanese officials the possibility of retaking some of these islands was discussed — the possibility of landings on Japan proper was "decried".

There was no mention of fighting in the P.I. — except that the Americans went into PALAWAN (in the SW part of the archipelago) on March 1'45.

The Allies hold the W bank of the Rhine from Mayence (or Mainz) to Ludwigshaven — our 7th army on the right. On the lower Rhine there are 3 allied armies under the command of Gen Montgomery (B) — the 1st Canadian, the 2nd English, and the 1st American. Concentration had been completed on a 100 km front and on March 22'45 they were ready to open the offensive.

The Red Army offensive opened on March 20'45 and they advanced 40 km in 1st 2 days, taking in Silesia, Neustadt - Kosel - Oberglogau, S + SW of Opel, and entered the Sudetans. Gen Kesselring (formerly commanding the German forces in Italy) was in command of the German forces on the W. front.

Lyhene came up this morning and said we would get 5 packs of Nip cigarettes, fresh pork in some form — for tomorrow (Easter). I hear that Coffee and Sugar will also be issued.

We were supposed to get Jam + butter yesterday — but didn't. Spiced meat + soap are due today. The Coffee + Sugar is not due, according to the published schedule, until April 3.

Pat Callahan owes me a can of jam for my last can of salmon.

We practiced Easter music yesterday — the double quartette in the afternoon and the mandolins here in Room 39 last night.

Lyhene made a very attractive poster announcing Easter services. I asked him to give it to me when it was taken off the bulletin board, but he said it belonged to Gen Brougher. However, he very kindly offered to make me another. It will be a very interesting souvenir.

Late bulletin (11:30 am) — Jock Ubrig just came in and announced that the pig (singular) had arrived.

Note — The Nip who told Aussie Hall about Hitler, also said "two of your friends are telling the Camp Commandant everything."

April 1'45 (Sun) 3 yrs + 358 (1089) — 1211th Day of War

Easter Sunday — Gen Brougher conducted the service. Col. Sturgeonberg read the 1st Lesson and Gen B. read the 2nd lesson. Our Stringed group, augmented by Lane and Nicholettes (both British) and their accordions, played the music for "All people who on Earth do Dwell" and "Christ the Lord is risen today". We didn't do too badly. The double quartette sang "Low in the Grave He lay" + very beautifully, I thought. I sang "Holy Ghost with Light Divine" to the tune of "The Last Hope", a piece by Gottschalk. It is a very pretty tune — but I did the best I could. I felt less nervous than on previous occasions and I felt that I did better than I had done before. Bill Braly played me an introduction and accompanied me with an alto obligato — or whatever the term is.

I finished the second verse of my "Moon over the Gobi" and have written it under the first one on page 57 of this note book.

Phil Foley attended church this morning. I was glad to see him there. He and I went over and had a bath about 1:15 pm. We have just come back. The water was really hot in the big tub and, as usual, I took seven or eight basins of cool water after I got out and I'm in a glow all over. That hot water certainly loosens up the old muscles.

I have just heard an angle on the landing in the IWO (or Volcanic) group — we are reported to have gone in there with a "brigade accompanied by tanks."

Gurdon Sage just came by and we went around the track seven or eight times. Gurdon wanted to work out a bass to his "Banner in the Sky". The tune is a very spirited march and has fine possibilities. I am looking forward to hearing our double quartette give a good going over. It's the type of tune with a martial air that, under the proper conditions, might have swept our nation. As I told him, if somebody like Bing Crosby had sung that at a big Victory Bond rally or some other large gathering where feeling and patriotism were exceptionally high, the thing would have swept the country like a prairie fire — even considering the fact that Bing Crosby could have made 'most any song popular.

We stopped in to see Floyd twice on our rounds — the first time he was sleeping — and the second, we found him getting a bath, so we didn't have a visit with him. However, we did stop in to see Col Dougherty, Col Van Rekum (D), Evans, and Jock Cottam (British "other ranks") who has been having a tough time with an attack of pleurisy.

April 3'45 (Tue) 3 yrs + 360 (1091) — 1213th Day of War

We got a cake of soap and a can of spiced meat from the Red Cross today. Shorty MacDonell took Floyd's to him about supper time. I saw Floyd this morning in the course of a walk with Phil. He was all right but needed a bit of bucking up.

All the news we get now is good. Germany is in position for the kill. The Russians with 100 divisions of vets are ready to jump off from the line of the ODER River — this on the east. (South of these 2nd + 3rd Ukrainian Divs.) On the west, Gen Montgomery's 3 armies (1 English, 1 Canadian + 1 American) have jumped off + have taken WESSEL 3/21. I hear Germany has an area a little smaller than the state of Oregon (375 mi × 535 mi). Planes from Italy have been bombing Berlin. In the Pacific one of our task forces has already begun a preliminary move on the LUCHOW (RYUKU) Islands (OKINAWA) 300 mi South of KYUSHU. The attack on TAIWAN is expected by the Nips at any time. All this is recent — not over two weeks old. Nagoya about 175 mi West + slightly south of TOKYO — toward OSAKA + KOBE was bombed by 130 B29s from midnight to 1:30 am a few days before Palm Sunday (3/25). Flares + some incendiary bombs were dropped. I hear the planes came in in small groups from occupied islands and cruised at an altitude of between 10000 + 13000 feet. The moon was about 3/4 full at that time. Apparently there wasn't much opposition

"prior to Palm Sunday"

Many casualties — from burnal until dawn.

by the Nip interceptors. Nips claim they shot 8 down.
The whole thing looks this way to me. If we can do this much figuratively "with one hand" what will happen when Germany is out and we can devote all our efforts to Japan? The Nips know its unconditional surrender or nothing. What have they got to gain? Talk about national Hari Kari — well Nippon has a chance to commit that if she wants to. The intelligent Nips must see that they're bound to be forced to surrender in the end. If she elects to fight — it will take some time, true enough, but, while we'll lose a number of lives in operating against her, think of the lives Japan will lose — among the fighting forces, among her workers in industrial & populated areas — and the irreparable damage to her industry and architecture. There will be deaths among her civilian population (women & children) not only from bombs etc, but from fires which will be started by incendiary bombs — for they will surely be used. When we land on Japan proper — we'll do it in a number of places. From each of these there will be a mad, confused exodus by the civilians and, as in the case of the fleeing Belgians in the last war, these civilians will form an almost protective screen before the attackers — and there will be deaths — a great many perhaps — among them. I firmly believe (hopefully, no doubt) that the more intelligent Nipponese will realize this and throw in the sponge soon (within 6 mos. at outside) after Germany folds.
Yap is claimed to be in Nip hands.

April 4'45 (Wed) 3 yrs + 361 (1092) 1214th Day of War
Butter and cigarettes from Red Cross to-day. Jack & I beat Stuyvenberg and Schroder at bridge this morning. We have played two duplicate matches in the "ladder" tournament so far. Lost to Rose Stuyvenberg, Hunt & Bridge whom we challenged, and won from Lowman, Roberts, Maxwell & Webb who challenged us.
With reference to the "news" of yesterday's entry, the Nips claim that the air field at Tuguegarao, P.I., is still in their hands — also Mindanao. The first could easily be true, but I doubt if they are able to use it as an airfield. I don't believe they still have Mindanao. Also 430 planes were used in connection with the Ryuku attack — which lasted for 2 days.
I understand that Olgen and Mackey have written letters requesting that the fires be relit. I don't know whether Gen Parker did so or not. Anyway there is only one fire on this floor, as far as I know — in Room 34. There are a great many colds and cases of "flu" — due to lack of fires and warm underwear.
Personally, I have been fairly comfortable — thanks to the woolen coat Pat Callahan gave me.
I've got to work on "Forsyte Saga" this afternoon. It's due back tomorrow — and I have nearly 200 more of the total 921 pages to read.
Eskridge was taking a walk this afternoon so I got him to take Floyd's Butter & cigarettes to him. He gave me a good report on Floyd when he got back. At 3 pm, I'm on page 848 of the "Saga".

73 more pages to go!

April 5'45 (Thur) 3 yrs + 362 (1093) 1215th Day of War
I hear the British have received 24 radiograms — they're here but haven't yet been delivered. (Later — the no. of radiograms received was 17)
Just polished off the last pages of "The Forsyte Saga" — enjoyed the book very much. It's a little more reading than I care for in a week — breaks in on too many other things I like to do. I felt sort of sorry for Soames Forsyte at the end. There was a fellow who missed all the finer things in life because he regarded everything with the air of a property owner — even his wives. He had everything material — and a real chance for happiness, if ever a man had it, but kicked all away — that is, all but his money which brought him no happiness. The beautiful character of Irene and the lovable, human characters of old Jolyon and his son Jo run through the book & make it really fine. "The Indian Summer of a Forsyte" — a story of the "romance" between old Jolyon — aged 85 — and young, beautiful Irene is very touching.
Last night about 11 or 12 o'clock, the sentry came through the building. He turned on our light and saw Al Balsam sleeping on his stomach! This seemed to bother him, so he woke Al and, by sign language, told him he should sleep either on his back or on his side. Pat Callahan talked to the Interpreter later and learned from him that it is considered very unhealthful in Japan to sleep on ones "tummy". Al has been in for a lot of kidding about this all morning.
The tools are being boxed up — apparently for shipment.
Phil found blood in his "stool" this morning. Went over to the hospital and discovered he has hemorrhoids. This relieved him, as it might have been more serious. He has not been in any pain!
Got Kipling's "Kim" from the library this morning. Got on next on the list for the "Crowthers of Bankdam" which is highly recommended by many.
Our rooms are like ice boxes. After the attitude of the Nips during the almost 5 months we've been here, this is surprising. They are "muffing the ball" again. A very stupid lot! Missing every chance to gain our respect — and make us partially forget their earlier brutality.
Tomorrow is Army Day. Here's hoping we give the Nips a little special program to celebrate the day!
Something happened today that both surprised and pleased me. I was sitting at the table reading when young Danny Nugent came in and sat down by me. He asked me who was doing my laundry. Truthfully, I told him no one — that every now and then, once in a blue moon or so, I did it myself. He offered to do it for me and made it very plain that he neither wanted nor expected anything in return. I thanked him of course, and said I'd look him up next time I had any that needed doing. I recalled that at Shirakawa he gave me a pair of Dutch breeches he'd gotten hold of somehow. All this is very nice and one can't help appreciating it. It makes one feel very kindly toward a young chap like that — and I, for one, hope very much that I can see young Nugent after this is over — at least keep in touch with him — and perhaps be of some service to him.

April 6'45 (Fri) 3 yrs + 363 (1094) 1216th Day of War
Phil Fry & I took a bath this afternoon.
All day today — off & on — the enlisted men downstairs have been

talking with the little "two-star" private who often comes around at "Tergo". They said "America has no ships, no soldiers & no planes" and he replied "America has many ships, many soldiers and many planes. Tokyo – boom, boom. Germany out. Soon I will be your prisoner and ask you for tobacco. Japan DAME!" (Damei, incidentally means "no good".)

With reference to the 47 British radiograms, it is quite evident that the letters of last August ('44) reached their destination. If theirs did, it's more than likely ours did also – and that is encouraging.

I've had a pain in my stomach since supper tonight – also a slight headache. This is quite unusual for me, as I am rarely out of form – physically.

The Nips took our orders for "summer clothing" today. I asked for a cap (just for fun – if it's like the dinky little thing the Nips wear, I wouldn't be caught at a dog-fight with one on), a pair of shoes, and a pair of pants. The only other thing we were permitted to order was a coat – and I don't need one.

April 7 '45 (Sat) 2 yrs + 364 (1095) — 1217th Day of War

We got fruit (raisins in my case) and salmon from Red Cross this morning. I took Floyd's to him just before lunch. He wasn't looking too well. "Aussie" Hall seemed a bit discouraged about him and said he was going through a pretty bad time. I noticed some tablets on the table – one of the sulphur derivatives – for his cough which has been bothering him a good deal. "Aussie" said he had spit up a little dark clotted blood. I also saw Col Dougherty, Johnson, Evans, Col Van Kenuren (who said he feels "fit as can be"), Jock Gilcham who's having a tough time with pleurisy and Col. Clifford (B) who was taken over yesterday with a painful attack of sciatica – his 3rd & worst since he's been a P.W., he told me.

Some news that just came in – a landing by 2 Amer. Divisions on Okinawa Island, Luchow (Ryuku) group. Also a landing, I don't know which island, on some other islands – [illegible] a group just NE of Taiwan – some mention of word Sakashima – name of either group or one of the islands in the group. The landing on Luchow was accompanied by 1400 vessels, probably including landing boats – the largest concentration of vessels in world's history, according to Nips. The landing on IWO in Volcanic group which we'd already heard about was accompanied by 800 vessels. Gen CHENEY (Air Corps) is in command there and he has a Brig. Gen MOORE (AC) with him. TOKYO and SHIZUOKA were bombed by 90 B29s. TAKAO, Tainan and several other towns were bombed on Taiwan. There is isolated fighting by Nips on Luzon. The American attack in Germany has penetrated to a point about 100 mi. east of Coblenz. The Russians, on the East, are within 90 mi of Berlin – and are reported to be by-passing that city to the south. The garrison at Glogau is reported to have "bowed to the Russians" (This was probably the basis for a rumor that "one German Army had surrendered to the Americans" – rumors start on less foundation than that). The Russians have passed through upper Silesia and at one point are within artillery range of Bratislav. Shanghai was reported as having been bombed by 10 bombers. I've got malaria – am taking quinine and atabrine.

April 8 '45 (Sun) 2 yrs + 365 (3 yrs) (1096) — 1218th Day of War

Finish my 3rd year as a prisoner of war today – 1 month enroute to O'Donnell and at O'D, 3 mos at Tarlac, 10 mos at Karenko and enroute there, 16 mos at Shirakawa + enroute there, 6 mos at Hoten Camp, Manchoukuo, including time enroute there. There is a great deal of optimism about a fairly early release. I am extremely optimistic. Germany is practically out – and I don't think these people have the stamina to take the terrific bombings the German people have been taking – their thickly populated areas will be annihilated by fire – and she will fold down. I feel sure I think my date of July 1 '45 looks better and better. I could almost wish she would hang on a while though and get the beating she deserves.

When I get out of this, I am hoping to be able to return to the Philippines and do something about reorganizing the 57th Inf. I hope, more than I can express, that I can make Tani understand this, for it is she whom I want to see more than anything in this world, but I shall always feel that unless I do all within my power to go back to Luzon and reorganize my old regiment and do all in my power to fulfill the obligations of the U.S. to those men who fought so bravely and well in the Bataan campaign, I shall not have completed my job.

This is Rescript Day in Japan and, I understand the flags are displayed at the gates here. These people are bragging it out it seems.

We got milk (½ can as usual), chocolate (both from Red Cross), a towel, some tooth powder and toilet paper (the last badly needed – I've been using blank note book paper for several days. Phil amused me yesterday. He's using his book of recipes. Said he'd already wiped on a "hot buttered rum" and was going to use a special "egg nog" for the next time).

Saw Floyd when I took his Red Cross etc to him. "Aussie" Hall said he had had a bad time of it last night (or this morning) from 1 to 2. Said he wouldn't have been surprised if the worst had happened. He thinks that Floyd's blood pressure was so low in December when he was at his lowest ebb that the blood couldn't gush as it does in the "galloping" cases – but now that he's been building up with the Red Cross food and his b.p. is up, one of these hemorrhages could easily gush forth and end it all. An odd line of reasoning which I don't entirely follow, but he's had a lot of experience with TB cases.

Today, Phil and Ed Aldridge lost a 4500 pt rubber at bridge. Ed A. went down 7 doubled (vul.) on a 2 NT bid. Roy Stetson on his left had 8 solid diamonds – and, of course, made them all – 2000 pts at one crack. Phil lost 1600 on another hand.

This afternoon Brigadier Wallis (B) came by my bunk where I was reading and asked me if I had a case for my guitar. When I told him I had none and had brought my guitar from Taiwan wrapped in a shelter-half he volunteered to make a case for me. He's got several jobs scheduled before he can get to it but will put it on his list. This, in my opinion was a most neighborly offer and, whether he gets around to it or not, I want to record here and now that I appreciate his offer.

April 9 '45 (Mon) 3 yrs + 1 (1097) — 1219th Day of War

This day 3 yrs ago was the darkest in all my life. We laid down our arms and put up our hands to a bunch of little yellow men, one mile off the trail leading off Trail 20 in Bataan.

They swarmed all over us, coming from behind every bush it seemed. Soon they were taking my watch, my fountain pen, the eagles off my shoulders, my U.S. & 57th Inf insignia — everything they wanted, in fact. I was in no mood to object. Call it scared if you want to. But I was doing nothing to provoke one of those little fellows to put his bayonet into my ribs — or, perhaps, press the trigger of his pop-gun. No, it was over then as far as I was concerned and my few personal possessions meant little to me.

I was talking to Gen Bluemel this morning and we discussed the whole thing and what we'd been through since. Among other things he said "Well, one thing I can say about you, Billy — you're willing to fight. And that's a lot" — all of which I appreciated. And, for the sake of the record, I repeat here what I've said to Gen Bluemel and many times to others. From the time that my troops and I came under his command on the night of April 7'42, to the time of our surrender about noon, April 9'42, Gen Bluemel handled every problem in a most soldierly, sensible, and courageous manner. In my poor opinion, no one could under the circumstances have done a finer job than he did between the dates mentioned above. I am thinking tonight of that other night 3 years back after Gen Bluemel, Col. Lee Vance, Lt Cols. Pacquette and Catyer & I had been detached from the main group of prisoners and taken for questioning to the Nip headquarters — Brigade or Division I should say — and of the way Gen Bluemel and all of us were questioned about Corregidor (fortunately I could tell nothing — never having been there) & how Gen B. was struck in the face with a brief case because he referred to the 31st Inf (PA) of his (31st) Division and the 31st Inf (U.S.) of the Philippine Division — and the Nips, misunderstanding, thought he was lying — and of the night we spent in the Nip guard tent, I lying halfway under an iron cot occupied by one of the Nip guards — because there wasn't room enough on the ground area inside the tent.

Phil & I went over and had a community bath at 4 p.m. Ran into Kent Hughes, Staton, Chapman, Ray O'Day, Gen Brougher, Gen Callaghan.

I walked for several rounds with Lee Vance and, of course, talked over the happenings of 3 yrs ago. Both agreed it was our unhappiest day.

April 10'45 (Tue) 3 yrs + 2 (1098) — 1220th Day of War

Gunton Sage is 50 today. He showed me a poem he had written on his "Cottage Door" which had a lot of sentiment packed into it. Our bridge team gets beaten by Keith-Simmons, Evelegh, Moir & Richards.

April 11'45 (Wed) 3 yrs + 3 (1099) — 1221st Day of War

A little sugar in the morning mush. We got butter, Rose Mill Paté and 2 packs cigarettes each today. Floyd got everything but the R.M. Paté. Shorty MacDonald took it over to him. Finished "Kim" by Kipling today — can't say that I was able fully to appreciate it. Got "The Crowthers of Bankdam" by Thomas Armstrong today on priority. — The matter of community and individual gardens has again reared its head. Without waiting to see how the prisoners would react the Camp Commandant brought in a plough and a couple of Manchurian ponies and, yesterday and today, had the ground inside the walking path broken up. The Americans and British are almost unanimously against the idea (one or two of each persuasion have wanted to volunteer but our senior officers have, it seems, put their feet down on any such action) — the Dutch on the other hand, I hear, have volunteered about 90% strong. While one of my reasons for refusing to volunteer is that I would not do something now which will, in effect, condone the compulsory work we did on Taiwan (both at Karenko and at Shirakawa). Some of our group feel a resentment toward the Dutch for their stand on this work, I don't share this feeling, since I feel that what they do as a nationality has nothing to do with what we Americans do. Neither do I share the views of some that this is an act of weakness, or "knuckling under", by the Dutch, or feel that this attitude of theirs has any bearing on the fact that they capitulated to the Japanese in the NEI without so much as one major engagement.

From something the Camp Commandant is reported to have said I am afraid that those of us who don't volunteer will be the objects of some sort of reprisals — maybe the more rigid enforcement of regulations.

→ (12th) Just got the "low down" on the volunteers for work — 2 in the 1st Section (North end of barracks), 13 in 4th Section (South end), and 26 in the 3rd Section (downstairs — south half middle part of building). As far as I can tell the 2 are Dutch, the 26 are Dutch, and the 13 are British and Dutch.

April 12'45 (Thur) 3 yrs + 4 (1100) — 1222nd Day of War

Rumor — The "2 Star Pot" of other rumors said "Too many Nipponese Soldiers are doing this" (holding both hands over his head). Also a Nip
(1) Corporal said over at the kitchen "Germany will be out in a few days. Japan will go very soon. You will be home by June". (See 4th line, next page)

Another angle to the work — today Brig. Trott gave the interpreter the list (all but 41) who would not volunteer to work in the gardens. The interpreter looked surprised & said, "But it's too late. The Camp Commandant has gone to Mukden to report that this camp volunteers to work!" Trott said "Well that is a mistake. Here is the list." The Interpreter replied "What shall I do?" — Trott: "Can you 'phone him?" Int: "No" — Trott: "Can you telegraph or radio him?" Int: "Yes" — whereupon the interpreter "hot footed" it out of the office and we won't have been had from him since! We have a bridge match this afternoon vs Webb, Maxwell, Lowman & Roberts. They are the challengers. We got cheese today from Red Cross stock.

This afternoon our bridge with Webb, Maxwell, Lowman & Roberts was broken up by an inspection of mess and room equipment by some lieutenant from Mukden. When they came in our room I didn't get up off my bunk fast enough so I was the recipient of quite a tirade on the subject of discipline by the interpreter. This got around a good deal and I was the object of some kidding afterwards. Other rooms also incurred the lieutenant's displeasure so I wasn't all alone. I think the lieutenant must have heard about our stand on work and possibly was instructed to be a little tough — this is only a guess however. Yesterday, our Pachikas were officially sealed by the Nips. This consisted of pasting a strip of paper about 2½" wide — and bearing a lot of Nip characters in red on it — over both doors. Jack & I played Phil and Stringenberg this morning and really took them in good style — having some very good cards to

do it with. This afternoon, both before and after the inspection we played Ed Aldridge and Al Balsam — the other half of our duplicate bridge team — and won from them.

(x) Another interesting angle to the statement made at the kitchen by the Nip Corporal (see first entry today) was that the Nips would fight a short while" for the Emperor." Some who know these peoples say that before Japan surrenders, the Emperor will take over the Government and release the Army and Navy from their oath (to fight to the last man).

April 13'45 (Fri) 3 yrs + 5 (1101) 1223rd Day of War

Took a walk with Phil and stopped in to give Floyd his cheese and a small dividend of toilet paper. It was balmy outside. I was comfortable without my over coat. Was glad to find Floyd feeling better and to see Col. Dougherty out walking. He said it was his 3rd time out. We saw big flights of geese headed north — one of about 100.

During the Nip lieutenant's inspection yesterday he asked the Dutch about the presence of so many bottles. He was informed that they used them in the "benjo" — after some conferring it was discovered that "benjo" was meant. Then the Dutch were asked what they did with their toilet paper — and the reply, as I heard, was "we trade it to the Americans for butter!"

Eddie O'Connor invited me in for tea this morning and gave me not only a nice hot cup of tea with sugar, but also two nice slices of buttered toast.

We played Brig. Maxwell + Mr. Webb (RC) down in their room this afternoon this afternoon. Al Balsam + Ed Aldridge played Ken Bowman + Lyle Roberts up in ours. We won 10 points to 6. One hand deserves comment. I picked up HAKQxx DKxx CAKQxx, and bid 2H. Jock responded with 2D (Ah! a positive response - no 2NT there), so I bid 4D. Then he bid 4NT and I showed him my 2 aces with 5H. He then bid 6D — and feeling sure he had the AD and since I had no spades I bid 7D. Jock's jaw fell, but he brightened up a good deal when my hand went down. The diamonds cleared nicely and he discarded all his losers on my hearts + clubs — he had the Jxx clubs. It was practically a lay down and we got 2140 points on that (1500 for grand slam vulnerable, 500 for game vulnerable, and 140 for tricks). And they say Friday the 13th is unlucky!

April 14'45 (Sat) 3 yrs + 6 (1102) 1224th Day of War

Spam and chewing gum today — just before supper. Phil + I took a walk after supper and went by to deliver Floyd's Spam + gum to him. He said he was feeling all right — no better + no worse — but he didn't look too good to me. There was an appearance of lassitude, somehow, that I didn't like. The Camp Commandant returned tonight ← around supper time, I hear. My guess is that he'll call a conference with the senior officers sometime tomorrow — about the garden. There was a long blast on some distant siren while Phil + I were walking. We climbed up on the steps at the other side of the area (about 12 ft high) and off to the south we could see a low range of hills. They looked almost as if they might be dunes — Col White (Australian) who was up there at the same time, said there was snow on them all winter. There is a shortage of flour — and until the 28th when we get the next issue there will be two issues of white bread + one of corn bread daily — that suits me all right. I hear it has been decided to issue the perishable items of Red Cross instead of other items such as canned food — for the reason that the cheese, chocolate, prunes + raisins (covered with paper only) may get mouldy. This strikes me as a

good idea. I still can't get used to the Nip practice of puncturing all cans before they're issued. Incidentally, for some time now the Nips have required us to flatten all cans before turning them in — that is, all except coffee + milk cans.

4/11 Tokyo has been bombed by 90 B29s escorted by 38 P51s or "Mustangs". These P51s, I hear, are low winged monoplanes with a cruising radius of 1500 km and a speed of 600 km per hr. The B29s came from Iwo Jima.

The Nips are still trying to hold the Cagayan Valley in Luzon and claim they still have the air field at Tuguegarao. They also report the US losses in the Cagayan Valley as 10,248.

On the 8th the Americans landed on the E. coast of Okinawa in the Luchows. The first landing a week or two before was on the W coast. The more recent landing was from 30 transports.

There are seven allied armies on the Western front 4 American (the 1st, 3rd, 7th + 9th), 1 Canadian, 1 British, + 1 Free French. Paton's army (our 3rd) has made a spectacular advance of 81 km to come abreast of Montgomery's force of (1 Canadian, 1 British + 1 American army) which advanced 35 km. The Russians are by-passing Vienna on the south. A junction of the British — American force with the Russians seems likely in the near future. This will cut off all of the German Empire to the South. The Russians are in Modling, 20 km S. of Vienna.

There is a new Japanese cabinet, called the "People's Cabinet," headed by SUZUKI as Premier — a man named TOGO is minister of foreign affairs. He is a conservative and, according to Stu Wood, is probably pro-Russian.

Mr. Knudsen, former president of General Motors, has returned as Production Administrator in the U.S.

There has been bloody fighting between the Nips and an American-Chinese force south of Lashio — at the western end of the Burma Road.

We now have some 45000 ton air plane carriers. These will do 34 knots into the wind, I hear.

An air attack on Mukden as of Dec 21st '44 was reported. (See Diary Entry of that date). Maybe the planes the AVM saw were ours, but more likely they were Nip fighters headed for Mukden to drive off the attackers.

Just heard that the Camp Commandant returned from Mukden this morning — not tonight as I stated above — and, further, that he was tight as a tick; inspected the guard and raised hell with them generally. That explains why there was no inspection this afternoon. Rumor — there is bad news which does not affect the prisoners will be revealed in a few days.

April 15'45 (Sun) 3 yrs + 7 (1103) 1225th Day of War

Col Braddock conducted service this morning. Loren Wetherby read the first lesson — and Braddock read the second himself. Bishop is sick so he can't play bridge with us tonight; Jock + I will take Phil and Strungwenberg on tonight. Later — they won — the lucky stiffs!

Last night I had a beautiful dream. Mother was there and I held her in my arms.

This afternoon the new corporal (one of the 3 star privates of the guard has recently been promoted.) went into Col. Browne's + K. L. Berry's room and found an iron rod. He picked it up and was taking it away when Col Browne said "No, we use that to poke the fire" — The Cpl. replied "No, you go home this summer." This is very much like the episode in the AVM's room when the little lieutenant from Mukden was checking mess equipment. He and the interpreter found a piece of iron there and were appropriating it when the AVM said "Well need that next fall to break up lumps of coal." He and his brother, Gen. Maltby, who rooms with him smiled. The interpreter told the lieutenant what the AVM had said and they both smiled and started out. The interpreter turned as he was going out, smiled and said "no more of that."

Ed Aldridge reported two flights of bustards going over at very low

altitudes — also some swans (black ones).

A dog got onto the electrically charged fence which surrounds the compound this morning and was knocked out. We crowded to the window and watched some Nip soldiers pick him up. The dog was not killed but got up and ran around wagging his tail. They caught him, put a rope around his neck and began dragging him off — the dog had collapsed again by that time. The last I saw of them, they were dragging him along (rather one of them was) and the other was holding the dog's rear end up off the ground by his tail. The dog's head & fore quarters were dragging on the ground. It all looked rather cruel and absolutely typical of the Nipponese to me.

4/13 there was a conference in San Francisco by Mr. Stettinius, Secretary of State. Italy, Switzerland and Sweden were denied seats — and Poland has to form a new government before she was granted a seat. The purpose of the conference was not revealed!

All male Nipponese below 35 yrs of age have been mobilized.

Mechanized units of Gen Simpson's American 9th Army have reached the Elbe River at Magdeburg (one of Germany's largest road rail centers) 80 km west of Berlin.

The British 2nd Army has advanced to a point SE of Bremen where much bloody fighting took place. The British met such stubborn resistance that they were forced to resort to envelopment (Note: Maybe the inference here is that in all other advances, frontal attack was all that was necessary!)

The American 3rd Army (Paton) is at Göttingen.

The Russians have taken Vienna and entered the plains of Moravia.

In the Pacific, several islands adjacent to Okinawa in the Luchows have been taken.

20 B24's bombed Maccassar; 10 bombed Yap.

Tokyo was bombed once by 20 B29's and again by 10; special attention was given to the Military District.

2000 Coal mines in the U.S. have been taken over by the Govt. because of strikes.

British war casualties are reported to be 1,100,00, including 326,000 prisoners.

April 17'45 (Tue) 3 yrs + 9 (1105) — 1227th Day of War

About a week ago, Joe Worthington, thinking the progress a certain pair of crows in building their nest in one of the trees out front was unsatisfactory, climbed the tree and finished building it for them. Now everything is all right.

Yesterday, I overheard Brig. Stringer say that there was a group of Europeans (evidently P.W's) working over beyond the hospital. At the time, he was in the benjo at the window pointing out to another British officer a group of people he thought were Europeans. I looked, and saw some forms moving but the distance was such that I couldn't tell whether they were Orientals or not.

Today there is a dust storm blowing and the sun is partially obscured. Yesterday was clear and bright — just another beautiful spring day. Phil and I did 6 turns in the morning — Eddie O'Connor accompanied us for 2 of them. Phil & I looked in on Floyd & found him much the same as the last time we went over. He said he was no worse, but no better — had a resigned attitude I don't like. Phil said again, as we came out, he didn't think Floyd would make it.

Last night the Camp Commandant came through barracks and pulled down some shelter halves, mats etc that some guys have been hanging up to keep the light out of their eyes. The orders as passed on to us were that blankets would not be hung up for that purpose. Oh well! I guess he isn't too pleased at our reception of his garden project.

Late flash — 10:45 am — The Camp Commandant is having a conference with Section leaders. Pat Callahan says he saw 15 or 20 new chunkles down

stairs. I had heard that some new tools had been received but knowing that many of the tools already here had been washed and cleaned, and knowing the proclivity of many here to jump at conclusions, I had discounted that as one of the unfounded rumors that occasionally get started. Well, will hear all about it from Bill Braly in due time.

I understand that the new Nipponese Premier, SUZUKI is a general in the army. This doesn't sound as if the new Cabinet is a Peace Cabinet — on the other hand I hear from Stu Wood that the SUZUKI family owns most of the ship yards in Japan. If this is true, this fellow may not like it so well when the bombings begin to destroy all his family's property. Only time will tell.

It continues to be raw & chilly this morning. The wind is high and there is much dust.

Pat Callahan just brought in a rumor that some European (white) prisoners of war had been brought in. That may account for Brig. Stringer's remarks of yesterday (see above.)

The new chunkles Pat Callahan saw — are new — but are some of the original tools received and not a newly arrived lot.

The latest dope on work in the garden — it is not to be compulsory and there will be no punishment for those who do not work. However, the Camp Commandant wants us to have a garden. He first said there might be a food shortage and the people who had the gardens would reap the harvest. I've heard all that stuff before and I've seen them at their toughest before — and if they want to get that way again, it's O.K. by me. We've got a relatively short time now — not over 8 months to 1 year at the very outside. The longer the war lasts, the more hell Germany & Japan are getting knocked out of them. So what, say I?

Jack & I played Phil & Strugwenberg this afternoon — and won again. So Phil crowing! I had to stop at 4 pm to rehearse a hymn the double quartette is singing Sunday — when the services will commemorate Anzac Day.

We got butter & chocolate from the Red Cross today. Floyd still had that resigned attitude when I took his R.C. to him. I gave him a good talking to about it and he promised to stay in there and fight. I believe he will.

Today is General Parker's 56th birthday & Hamilton's 52nd.

We turn in our overcoats tomorrow. Spring must be here!

Today has been windy and dusty — much warmer outside, though, than inside. Yesterday was pretty much the same — but 2 or 3 days before were beautiful and sunshiny.

April 18'45 (Wed) 3 yrs + 10 (1106) — 1228th Day of War

Bridge with Jack vs Strugwenberg & Scudder. They won.

We got cornedbeef and fruit from Red Cross today. Floyd got no C.b. and we decided to give him prunes since he hasn't had any yet. As there were 2 boxes of prunes and 6 of raisins for our room, we cut to see who would get the prunes. Al Bodom got them. Next time he will be out of the cutting and the other 6 members of the room will cut for the prunes. Raisins are more desirable to most guys than the prunes.

April 20'45 (Fri) 3 yrs + 12 (1108) — 1230th Day of War

Bridge with Jack vs Croskill & K.L. Berry yesterday morning. We won. Phil & I are out of cigarettes, but K.L. was nice enough to give me two during the game — and he came down again last night and gave Phil and me one apiece.

Jack & I played Phil & Strugwenberg this morning and they won. They really had better cards than we did, but I misbid my hand a couple of times, much to our disadvantage (eg. once I went down 3 on a 4S contract when there was 5C in the hand.)

Several days ago Alex Quinton had the hunch that everybody dreams

about. He was playing bridge and picked up SAKQJ, HAKQ, DAKQ; CAKQ. Of course 7NT was a laydown.

I have just finished "The Crowthers of Bankdam" by Thomas Armstrong. It is overdue at the library. Now I'm reading "Peril at End House" by Agatha Christie (a Hercule Poirot Detective Story) — out on Phil's number. I've just turned in "The Crowthers —" and drawn "The Kid from Tomkinsville" by John R Tunis — a baseball story. So I'm supplied with light reading material for a day or two.

We were told to stand by today for an inspection by some Nip officer from Mukden. He's here now and we're standing by after our usual custom (personally, it doesn't mean a damned thing to me).

Bill Braly came around a few minutes ago (about 2:30 pm) and said this fellow was the lieutenant who brought the generals' group from Fusan, Korea, up here. He first interviewed the three senior officers individually — being with the AVM longer than any of the others. Gen. Parker gave a summary of what went on — after the seniors (AVM — Parker & Cox — [Gen Sharp being sick]) had met & compared notes. All his talk was about the farm and he almost begged Gen Parker to try to get the American group to "cooperate"! He used the word that seems to be a favorite with the Nips. He speaks good English, being a graduate of one of the colleges of Cambridge Univ., England. Didn't use the interpreter at all. When he discovered that the answer was "No" he let the cat out of the bag and said that the original plan was to cultivate a 3 acre farm outside the compound. All of us are wondering just what is behind this determined effort they've been making to get us to volunteer to work. Oh yes, Gen Parker told him it wasn't a matter of cooperation or non cooperation with us — we'd just had our experience with working and we didn't want any part of it. Other matters were discussed — 1. Mort & Rabies — He seemed surprised when he learned of the situation, but so far as I understand it, he did not promise to do anything about it. 2. Benjos — something will be done to rectify the foul, stinking condition that exists now — maybe. 3. Clothing — Summer things will be issued in due time. 4. Shoe repairs — there is a shortage etc etc — the same old line. 5. Books. We heard there were 500 books for us at Mukden. The reply was that there isn't so. However an exchange of books with the library there may be arranged. 6. P.Exch — Shortage — the same old line, see 4. 7. Additional enlisted men — none available. 8. Red Cross Supplies — the reply to this was that on the 18th (month or year not stated) a Nipponese ship with supplies was torpedoed & sunk. There will be no more Red Cross after the present supplies are exhausted — so that's that. And that was all we got out of the visit of this lieutenant.

A confidential memorandum from Gen. Parker was passed around. One officer it seems, falsified about the previous sending of a radio — said he hadn't sent one when he had, and sent one last month, thereby depriving an eligible officer of the privilege — and the same officer, at the investigation, testified falsely under oath. Also there were two others who lied about not having sent radios when they had, but in the drawing they did not get a chance to send one. This looks pretty bad and I hope drastic action is taken in all cases.

Shorty took Floyd's cheese & cigarettes over to him this afternoon so I didn't see him (F.M.) Hope Shorty can give me a favorable report when he gets back. Later — Shorty tells me Floyd is about the same — is being upset by the sulphur derivative they're giving him and that seems to be the main cause of his depression.

This afternoon Brigadier Trott had a conference with the Mukden lieutenant and from what we heard of the interview, old Trotsky really gave it to him. The Lt. referred to the food shortage again and asked Trott how many potatoes it would take to feed this group. Trott said he didn't know — that he was no farmer. The Lt then said he thought 10 acres ought to grow enough potatoes. At this point Trott told him he might as well get all thought of a voluntary farm project at this camp out of his head. Trott said, further, that the Nipponese could do one of two things: 1) Violate all the customs of civilized nations regarding the treatment of prisoners of war and force senior officers to work or 2) Drop the subject of gardens. He pointed out to the Lt. the experiences we had in Taiwan on the potatoe & vegetable farm, the dairy, the pig farm — also with rabbits & chickens. The talk, I hear, was very straight forward and frank — yet Trott managed it on a friendly basis throughout. As for the Red Cross ship, Trott said he trusted the Lt didn't think we believed for a minute the story of the sinking — and stated further that, in view of the food shortage predicted by the Lt. and the Camp Commandant, the Nipponese Government knew well that all they had to do was allow us to send a radiogram to Washington and before long there would be enough supplies here to tax the resources of the Mukden Railway. The Lt then countered by asking if Trott doubted good will of the Nipponese Government. Trott then said if the Nips wanted to prove their good will they might do so by permitting a radio request for food. The Lt. said this would not be possible. And the Lt went back to Mukden tonight to tell his troubles to the Senior Camps Commandant there.

I can scarcely realize that tomorrow is my own Betty Ann's second wedding anniversary. I pray that it is the real thing with her and Jack — and that they'll have sense enough to make it last. And I'm old fashioned enough to think a baby or two will go a long way toward holding two youngsters like that together.

Getting back to Trott — another thing he told this lieutenant from Mukden: in India a British General officer with many decorations was placed in charge of the Japanese P.W. camp. He said that no civilized nation would even think of according to high ranking prisoners of war the type of treatment we have received — or placing a lieutenant in command of their camp — and, furthermore, that any Nipponese lieutenant would receive more humane treatment as a prisoner of war than our lieutenant generals have received. This reminds me of one of the more brutal things that happened (of many brutal things). Lt. General Heath, who drove the Italians out of Abyssinia, and was highly decorated by his Government (Br.), being referred to as "The Conqueror of Abyssinia" had been wounded in one of his arms which necessitated the removal of much of the bone and caused the arm to hang crooked. On one occasion Gen Heath was severely beaten by a Nipponese sentries at Karenko, Taiwan, because he had not held his arms stiffly by his sides — a la Nip — while standing at attention.

April 21 '45 (Sat) 3 yrs + 13 (1109) — 1231st Day of War

Congratulations to Betty Ann and Jack on their 2nd wedding anniversary. There are so many things I do not know, but I'm hoping the marriage is on a solid foundation based on love and mutual respect,

and comented possibly by (ahem!) a grandson or grand daughter for yours truly. I pray that Jack is safe. He already had a fine record in the Philippines, I hear, before he left for Australia — and probably after a while as instructor at that flying school (which I imagine was his duty at Glendale, California) he has had further combat experience — all of which I know he performed well, and I hope for survival. Oh well, there's no use letting my imagination run away with me. Anything might have happened. But what I'm trying to do is wish those two youngsters all that's good on this second wedding anniversary of theirs.

The new camp commandant, apropos of what Brig. Trott told the Mukden lieutenant about the rank of the prison camp commander in India, is reported to have said that he is a representative of his Imperial Highness, and as such, he is entitled to salutes from all prisoners. Of course, no one has denied this so I am wondering what he's popping off about. Anyway, he (the Camp Commandant) has scheduled an inspection of quarters for 2 pm today and declared, I hear, that on his previous — and (as far as I know) only — walk through barracks he noted a general untidiness and an undue amount of dirt. So maybe we'd better get ready for him.

Well, we had the inspection. It was thorough. There were a lot of Nip soldiers with the Camp Commandant. They pried into everything, but for some reason did nothing about anything. Nothing was confiscated. They stood in front of my mirror, admired a Nip fan I had displayed for them — also a little crayon drawing I made of one of the black trees out front with a crow's nest in it. But when one of the little fellows discovered some spare guitar strings in my (or rather Pat Horan's) musette, he was really nonplussed. Maybe he thought they were part of a radio. I don't know. Later the Camp Commandant had a meeting of section chiefs at which he explained that he had not meant to pry into our affairs except in so far as it enabled him to ascertain our mode of living. This explanation probably grew out of the following episode in Brig. Trott's room. They were prying into everything — handling this & that — and the Camp Commandant was doing his share, when the interpreter asked Brig Trott if he had ever been inspected this way before. Trott replied "Yes we have been subjected to this indignity three times before". The interpreter spoke to the C.C. and the C.C. stopped searching. Trott then asked the interpreter what he was looking for & the interpreter said "I don't know" and asked the C.C. — then told Trott the C.C. didn't know either — then Trott said: "Well I hope you find it". To get back to the meeting of Section chiefs the Camp Commander said he had noticed a number of prisoners "biting the gum" — and didn't like it. Also he said there would be no more Red Cross and that the orders from Mukden were to revise the schedule of issues to run through December! When Trott was talking to the Mukden officer yesterday, who was a Major and not a lieutenant, as I previously thought, he accused the Tokyo officers of lacking good will in the matter of allowing Red Cross supplies to be brought to us. The Major took exception to this — and Trott then said, as I reported above that he would like authority to send a radiogram to his government — in which case there would be enough supplies sent here to tax the Mukden Railway. To this the Major replied "I cannot do that. I am only a junior major, that is up to Tokyo". And Trott said "Well there's the 'good will' you speak of" and the interview ended.

April 22'45 (Sun) 3yrs+14 (1110) 1232^{d} Day of War

Today is the Sunday nearest to Anzac Day, so the morning service was commemorated by Col. Thyer; Col Kent-Hughes explained the purpose of the celebration — and read a poem "Non Nobis Domini". Brigadier Duncan Maxwell read the first lesson, then Brigadier Blackburn, who I understand was awarded the Victoria Cross in Africa, read the psalms, and Major Gen. Callaghan read the second lesson. Our double quartette sang "O, love that will not let me go" — and did pretty well we thought.

Last night we played (our mandolin group) down in one of the rooms occupied by British Colonels. They were awfully nice about it. Capt. Chapman RN gave me several cigarettes and so did Group Capt. Nicholetts (RAF). We enjoyed it very much.

Fifteen (15) members of our section got a chance to send radiograms (to be broadcasted). They are due tomorrow. As there are 19 eligible, we had to cut cards, the high 6 were allowed to send 150 words and the other 9, 50 words. Phil and I got a chance to send 50 words each. Here is mine:

Sender

Full name: Edmund J Lilly Jr
Rank: Colonel
Serial No. ~~1668~~ 0-7373
P.O.W. Camp. Hoten

Addressee

Full Name Victoria B. Lilly
Relation to Sender: Wife
Street: 107 Stedman Street
City (town or County): Fayetteville
State: North Carolina Country: U.S.A.

Message to be broadcasted

Health excellent. Warm clothing. Comfortable quarters. Don't worry. Thought of Betty Ann Jack on second anniversary. Best to Teddy who will be seventeen soon. Tell Venice everything fine. Take good care of your dear self as well as children. Long to see you all and hear Toki's music. Love always. Ted.

April 23'45 (Mon) 3yrs+15 (1111) 1233^{d} Day of War

This morning I filed my radiogram as shown above. I learned later that I should have entered my army serial number (0-7373) instead of the P.W. No. (1668). That has been changed however.

This afternoon we played the Bridge team — Thompson — Searle — Forbes — Mallonée. Al Balsam & Ed Aldridge played the first two in our room, while Jack Kastner and I played the last two in theirs. They were the challengers and lost 10½ to 5½.

Tonight our mandolin group played in the enlisted men's room. We didn't do too well but had a good time nevertheless.

Gen. Parker has written a letter to the protective power relative to the food shortage. It seems the Camp Commandant read it before Gen Parker signed it — either he or the interpreter saw it in Gen. Parker's room at last Saturday's inspection. I will copy the text of this letter if I can get hold of it. Gen. Parker stated that he had been informed that there was a food shortage which would become acute next year; further, that he had been informed that a Nipponese ship bearing Red Cross supplies for us had been torpedoed and sunk. He requested the Protective

Power to transmit, at his expense, a message to our Government in which he apprised them of the facts and requested that the necessary corrective steps be taken.

Brig. Gen. Arnold Funk has been directed by the Nipponese to prepare a schedule of Red Cross issues based upon the Nipponese decision to stretch the Red Cross supplies out to include the month of December this year. There is quite a feeling that the Nips should be told that we object to this stretching out and protest the decision — then it will be up to them to issue it as they see fit. On the other hand some feel that a schedule should be submitted in order to make sure (or as nearly sure as one can be with these unpredictable people) that the perishable items are issued first. I heard today that Arnold had done just that — and had put the remaining supply of American cigarettes up forward on the list too.

We were weighed this morning — according to monthly procedure. I weighed 66.3 Kgms — or 145.86 lbs; a loss of 1.8 Kgm or 3.96 lbs since I last weighing.

It has been fine outdoors yesterday and today. I walked with Phil yesterday. The sun was shining brightly but a cold + rather piercing wind was blowing — so we had to step right along in order to keep warm. I stopped by to see Floyd, according to custom and found him in better spirits. His cough hasn't been quite so bad and he hasn't had to use codeine so often.

Next Sunday is Al Balsam's 56th birthday and we're getting Hyhene to fix up a little Birthday greeting card for him. I've "composed" the following jingle to go on it.

Al, old Pal, you're fifty-six
And find yourself in a helluva fix,
But cheer up Al for soon you'll be
Seeing the people you're longing to see;
Doing the things you're longing to do —
And knowing that we're still pulling for you.

Dragged — and I mean dragged — into O'Donnell 3 years ago today —

April 24 '45 (Tue) 3 yrs + 16 (1112) 1234th Day of War

Jack + I played Phil + Strongvenberg this morning and lost to them again — mostly due to overbidding when vulnerable.

There is a change in the bathing arrangements. No more "Catch as Catch Can" between 1:30 + 5:00 pm. Now that applies on Sundays only. On other days hours will be allotted to sections between 3:00 + 5:00 pm — 1 hour to each section — so that now, exclusive of Sundays, we may bathe twice a week. That's all right with me as that's all I've been bathing anyway.

The Camp Commandant is making himself felt in several minor ways (he was called "Joe Stalin", because of his rather sinister facial expression, by the prisoners at Mukden). First of all, he came through barracks the other night and objected to the untidy way in which clothing was strewn over the tables. He insisted that clothing be either kept off the tables at night or be neatly folded in a manner he would prescribe. The next thing — he objects to PW's smoking on their bunks — and threatens disciplinary action. When Trott asked the interpreter what the punishment would be the answer was "I don't know".

There has been some question in my mind for a long time now as to whether or not the Commandant of State prison camps (the one who looks like an English bull dog) has the final say in matters pertaining to our camp. Now I am convinced that he does not — for the following reason: When the Mukden Major was here a week or so ago, Trott told him — "When you return to Mukden, please ask the Senior Camps Commandant, if he has the authority to force us to work, (which I doubt) either to put us to work or to drop the matter." Since then the matter seems to have been dropped.

April 25 '45 (Wed) 3 yrs + 17 (1113) 1235th Day of War

Sugar (the faintest trace) in the morning mush.

Jack and I played Strongvenberg and Scuder. We won a 6 and then proceeded to lose an 8. That was all we had time for and left them in possession of the honors for the morning.

4/22 The Americans are in possession of Leipzig, Hamburg and several other German cities. The Russians are "halfway to Berlin" — don't know yet just what that means. Hitler (the first time his name has been mentioned in weeks) has ordered the army in Berlin "to fight to the last man to protect the women and children from the Russians" (Note: It looks, from this, as though the Germans are plenty scared.)

On the 21st the 8th and 5th Armys (one of these is Paton's) entered Bologna, in Italy.

On the 21st 180 B29s from the Marianas stayed over Kyushu from 6 to 10 AM. The Nips claimed that they specialized on airfields (Note: Moji is a big industrial center and I know it must have caught hell. All those planes are not wasting their time on airfields which can be so easily repaired.)

With reference to the entry on Hamburg, Leipzig etc (above), the British hold Hamburg, while the Americans have Leipzig, Frankfort (on the Main), Nuremberg and Wurtenberg.

The Russians are shelling the suburbs of Berlin with their heavy artillery — and are advancing on a 700 Km front.

A force of the Americans are SE of Nuremberg aiming at Munich to the SSE.

On the 20th a flight of British mosquito bombers attacked Berlin.

The Germans counterattacked and are reported to have pierced the American 9th Division and headed toward Brunswick.

We have 6 divisions on Okinawa — the only ones identified are the 1st, 27th and 96th, of the 24th Corps.

On the 19th the island of IYE, north east of Okinawa in the Luchow group was shelled by a Battleship, a cruiser and a destroyer.

On the 20th and 21st Balikpapan, Borneo — and some other town in Borneo (don't remember the name) was bombed.

Macassar was bombed by 10 planes on the 21st.

The American 3d Army encountered elements of a Russian scouting force in the vicinity of Dresden. Looks like a junction to me.

It is reported that the people in Berlin face a shortage of food + water.

Spain has severed diplomatic relations with Japan.

The wind has been blowing up a lot of dust from the Gobi Desert all day today. Few people have been walking. Phil Fry told me of the following amusing incident today. He was looking out the window of our room, feeling glad he was not out in all the dust, when he spied a lonely Sholler walking right into the teeth of the gale. As he got to our corner, the Sholler halted and peered into one of the receptacles for cigarette butts the Nips have placed there. Suddenly his hand went in and out it came with its prize — a cigarette

butt. Then Phil recognized the stroller. It was none other than the fine gentleman and gallant soldier whom we all admire — Major General Albert M. Jones. — Well Phil wrote it up in his diary very much as I have done above, — then took it down and in the presence of Generals Pierce + Bluemel, read it to Gen. Jones. They all laughed — and Gen Jones produced a cigarette butt and said. "All that is not only 100% correct but here is the "Corpus delicti!"

Tonight our mandolin group went down in the room occupied by the Australians and played. This is ANZAC Day — a day of solemn memorial observed throughout Australia. Brigadier Duncan Maxwell explained the meaning of the day — how it commemorates the Australian landing on the Gallipoli Peninsula on April 25. He said the architect who designed the Cenotaph in Sydney had so arranged it that at the 11th hour of the 11th Day of the 11th month of each year, the sunlight comes through a slit in the structure and falls upon a commemorative tablet there. We played "Waltzing Matilda" and "Along the Road to Gundagai" two typically Australian tunes. They all sang them — their singing being led by Cols. Thyer and Kent-Hughes. We didn't do too well, but we had our usual good time.

April 26'45 (Thur) 3 yrs + 18 (1114) — 1236th Day of War

We got Pals and cigarettes today. I took Floyd's over and found him in a sort of grouchy mood, poor fellow. The first thing he said when I came in the room, as his eye lit upon the case of pals in my hand was "I don't want that damned stuff. I'll sell it." I tried to kid him out of it but it was no go. I said "Floyd, how's your morale today". He scowled and said "High as hell!"

On the way over to the hospital I passed Frank Nelson + Major Gen Keith-Simmons who were walking in the area. Gen Simmons said "Hello, Vamp" — then I remembered that last night when were playing down in the Australian room, Dick would say before each piece "Take it from the vamp" and I would give them a vamp on my guitar. This amused Gen Simmons who was there — and he kidded me about it just before the gathering broke up.

Here is a good joke on me. Some time ago at the last issue of Salmon, I traded mine to Pat Callahan for his next can of jam. Since then the Red Cross issues have been stretched out to include December. I just looked on the new schedule for jam — and find that the next issue will be on Oct 26'45. It looks as if I'd gotten the small end of that deal, doesn't it?

With reference to the 4 hours the 180 B29's spent over KYUSHU on the 21st Pat Callahan advances the theory that since there was also some activity in the Luchows on that date, it may have been that some Nip fighters went down from Kyushu and we were laying for them when they had to return — and land. This is just an idea and may be a good one. I'm still taking a lot of kidding about the Salmon-jam trade with Pat.

December 1944

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
—	—	—	—	—	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

January 1945

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
—	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13 Daddy
14	15	16 Tootie	17	18	19 Tootie	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31	—	—	—

February 1945

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
—	—	—	—	1	2 Toni, Sr.	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	—	—	—

March 1945

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
—	—	—	—	1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

April 1945 — BB + Jock 2 yrs.

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30 Mother	—	—	—	—	—

May 1945

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
—	—	1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14 Fran	15	16	17	18	19 Teddy
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30 Me 51	31	—	—

June 1945

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
—	—	—	—	—	1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

July 1945

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31	—	—	—	—

August 1945

Mon	Tue	W	Th	F	Sat	Sun
—	—	1	2	3	4	5 BG
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31	—	—

September 1945

M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sat	Sun
—	—	—	—	—	1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15 Wedd'g Anniv (22 yrs.)	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

October 1945

M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sat	Sun
1	2	3	4	5	6	7 WLH
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16 WCH	17	18	19	20	21
22	23 WCH	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31	—	—	—	—

November 1945

M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sat	Sun
—	—	—	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10 Mother Bush	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30 Thanksgiving	—	