

My Dearest One,

I scarcely know where to start to tell the long story. Perhaps I'd better begin at the beginning - that's always a safe thing to do. I'll trace the events in skeleton form and then fill in the details afterwards.

We landed at Atsugi airport (about 30 miles from downtown Tokyo) at about 9:00 (Tokyo time) yesterday morning. Before our baggage was taken off the plane and the bus came along to take us in to the city an hour had passed. The ride in from the airport was very, very interesting. We passed through some quite rural areas with their tiny and very neat fields and saw some very fascinating dwelling places. It was difficult at first to believe that what we were seeing was really true - the farms looked like pictures from a book and the people appeared to be fugitives from a Madame Butterfly opera company because yesterday was their New Years day also and also in Japan on that day everyone has a birthday; consequently the children and the women were dressed in their best and very colorful finery!

We arrived finally in Yokohama and began to see the signs of the destruction by the fire-bombing. I can't really describe it to you - at first it doesn't seem real either - for blocks and blocks and miles and miles - we guessed it to be about eight miles - along the road we travelled and as far back from the road as we could see at least 3/4 of the buildings had been destroyed. It's very amazing for often times all the places in a block may be destroyed save one and very peculiarly that one may appear to be a very inflammable building. The people have picked up a lot of the metal scrap and many have used fragments of corrugated iron sheeting to build up a little shack and there they live, the children play around the door, and the tea pot boils on a tiny fire. It was bitter cold yesterday - the temperature must have been about 28 degrees or so and there was a biting wind - and yet we saw many people in wooden clogs (the ones held on by a strap which runs between their big toe and their second toe) with no stockings of any sort!

We saw the same kind of destruction all the way into downtown Tokyo. The bus delivered us to the A.T.C. terminal and we were disappointed that there was no one there to meet us. As long as the other fellows had arrived on Monday, we thought they'd meet us & help us get settled down. T'was not so (we discovered later that Ed. had inquired about us but when he found out we hadn't arrived, he concluded that we had not gotten away from Guam). However we managed. We went to the Dai Ichi building where General MacArthur has his headquarters and after telling our story in about five different places, we finally found the right person. He sent us over to another building - the Finance Building - where we are to live. We couldn't be assigned to a room right then because of course it was a holiday, but they put us up as a "casual". After Larry and I got settled down a little bit we went out for a walk to try to find the Captains. We asked at a couple of places where we thought they might possibly be billeted but they weren't there. However, just as we were leaving one place we ran into Captain Shute on the street. He welcomed us cordially, but had little to tell us except to meet him at 9:00 this morning. By that time we were so cold that we went back to our quarters which, incidentally, were just a little warmer and had a very good New Year's dinner - turkey, mashed potatoes, peas, dressing, gravy, fruit cake, mince pie, ice cream, bread and gobs of butter. (We eat from trays but have to use our own knife, fork, spoon and cup from our mess gear and wash them after we finish - don't have to wash the trays just our own stuff) Right after we finished eating we sent a cable home. Remember to write and tell me when the cable arrived will you? It cost me 13 yen to send it - there are 15 yen to the dollar!

After we got back to where we were quartered (in the same building where we ate and sent the cable) Ed came along. He told us some dope about where we would be living etc. etc. We sat around and talked for a while and then Larry and I decided to go to bed because we were completely tired. It was only about 8:00 and there was a lot of noise in the room, but nevertheless I soon went to sleep and slept quite

soundly until about 5:30 this morning. Lay awake a while and then decided to get up. The only place in the building where there is hot water available is in the basement where the showers are located so I went down there to shave. Drew some water from a shower into a helmet I found, sat the helmet in a regular lavatory basin (no hot water connected to the basin, or course) and had myself quite a comfortable shave although the temperature of the air in the room was pretty low - could see my breath without any trouble.

When I got back from shaving, I got Larry up and we had an early and very good breakfast - I had three fried eggs, orange juice (canned), oatmeal (with thinned condensed milk--not bad), cinnamon roll, bread and butter, fresh tangerines (native Japanese grown ones), coffee (condensed milk-am learning to like it!) After breakfast we fussed around with our junk - more or less arranged our duffel bags. Finally came over to our office about 8:30. The captains were here and after a while they went into conference with Brig. Gen. Loper who is boss of this office. When they emerged from this conference they told us that it had been decided that they would not be getting set up in an office themselves until about the 20th of this month meanwhile until then the three of us are to work around this other office. Don't quite know yet what we will have to do, but think that my duties to a large extent will involve typing! But that doesn't surprise anyone does it? Weren't we pretty sure all along that this assignment was going to lead to that?

We were given the afternoon off to get settled down in our quarters and finally managed it. We still are not all in the same room, but we think we will be very soon because one of the fellows in a bed next to Larry's and mine is going to be going home.

Later this afternoon, we went for a little walk around the city. I'll write about some of the things there are to see in another letter.

Have been working on this letter at the office tonight. Right now though a couple of boys have offered to buy me a bottle of beer and I think I'll take them up on it.

I'm afraid that this letter hasn't told the entire story very well but I'll get it all told very soon. Oh, golly, Hon, I wish I were going to be getting some letters from you a little sooner than I am - get the letters here just as soon as you possibly can, won't you?

Love you so very much!

Your Dick forever