

POW/CI: Leonard J. Birchall

Folder 2

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Authority NND 883078

AG-KI Form 91 (20 July 1945)

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SCREENED (No PAP)

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Aug 20<sup>th</sup> - We put a lot of requests to  
the C.C. but the only one granted was a  
new line which was also purchased by  
a. "Abel". I've done very little work in  
the way of work & most of the men spent  
their time sorting out their kit. E. B. Boring  
was concerned in all kinds of ways & we  
have been down every hill since a good deal  
trying to keep the kitchen in his work. It  
is all over now but it is the best we  
have. I'm sure we now understand that the  
arms in the country are referring to  
in them. The arms which is referring  
to the same of the line. They tell us that  
it was in two months to get us  
out of the line in the case. What a wonderful  
thing!

Aug 20<sup>th</sup> - We are getting into a routine.  
I'm going to be at work in the morning.  
A concert for the night & a mass  
concert for tomorrow night. Our  
concert won't amount to a lot because

we have only one way except for  
military intervention - but it will  
take the life off his assets & offer  
some diversion. I had fond hope that I  
would be able to send a telegram to my  
daughter on this her fourth birthday but  
so near & yet so far. Things to look forward  
to in the coming are that some  
has received our first batch of Red Cross  
contribution on the 17<sup>th</sup> day & that have  
now been turned over to her.

- 1000 lb. 8 grain. Sulfadiazine
- 1 lb. powder. Sulfaguanidine
- 100 can. 100000 Sulfachlorothiazole
- 2 - 1/2 lb. can. other
- 1. 600 can foot powder.
- 300 4"x4" gauze pads.
- 300 multivitamin tablets
- 1. 900 can. Blakins disinfectant.

2<sup>nd</sup> row. Seventeen nice guests & an  
officer arrived. It was very quiet just  
before lunch. Speculation started at once

to

about their hands the guard to take care  
to follow. Shortly after lunch Lt. Rowland had  
me into his office. He said that he had  
noticed we had become very lax in  
our saluting etc. since the announcement.  
He said that all regulations must be  
strictly adhered to. Such as saluting  
the guard at all times, no smoking outside  
the barracks & not walking around with  
the hands in the pockets. He said that  
the guard has been strengthened for the  
purpose of enforcing these regulations.  
There will not be any let-down or an  
increase in relaxations. He said he understood  
our hearts & he was trying to do all he  
could for us.

During the course of the afternoon  
the new & the old guard & drill questions  
out the names that are now leaving  
for Tokyo on the 23<sup>rd</sup> day of the month.  
Now please that was the news that  
he told me & left over night notes

will shake their heads & not become too  
one's own firmly convinced that the  
guard said this. In checking us with  
the guard they changed their story to the  
one that they were here to prevent trouble  
and violence.

We were told by Mr. Watabiki that  
the prime minister committed suicide &  
the Prime Sanyo was the advisor to the  
new prime minister Mr. Watabiki's trip to  
London has been cancelled, reasons unknown.  
There were four Japanese left for the  
village at 7.00 A.M. Aug 22<sup>nd</sup> for  
vegetables. The men were sent to work  
in the garden from 9.00 A.M. to 12.00 noon  
We requested a few cabbages from our  
garden for lunch but the G.I. refused  
saying that they were not eatable. To help  
the Japanese have had five meals on  
these same uneatable cabbages. We  
rested during the afternoon. The news  
for the day is that the Peace was signed.

+

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at Shinjima this date & the allied  
forces are due to arrive in Tokyo on Aug 26<sup>th</sup>.  
The Japanese Army Air Force have been dropping  
leaflets to incite the people to keep fighting  
while the new prime minister is giving  
daily broadcasts to the people telling them to  
obey the Emperor's ruling. The reason  
given for not allowing us to have a hot  
bath is that the civilians will kill us if  
we go outside. The civilians around here are  
very friendly, in fact they are too friendly  
as far as the C.O. is concerned. All civilians  
are refused admission on the Tokyo train  
from the 25<sup>th</sup> on. We are now under the  
impression that we will be leaving this  
camp, the first week in September. The  
loads are very heavy, nothing like out  
of pieces of sheet & rags, so that we  
can't handle under our own colours.

Aug 23<sup>rd</sup> it rained all day  
and thus we had a day of rest.  
Chatahiki did not go to Tokyo but he



hope to come down with us. We were  
paid 100 days & did not have to put anything  
into the bank. The boat row would be night  
going through the fence in dunes. The  
guard caught a couple & only took the  
vegetables away from them. One thing they  
did not catch was a load of bricks &  
cigarettes that came in from the warehouse  
in the village. The boat that pulled this  
raid gave out an issue of five  
cigarettes per man. The Japanese had  
an issue of 100 cigarettes per man  
including in the issue up front in  
a bag. Two runners from Tokyo  
arrived late the night of Aug 23<sup>rd</sup>. They  
brought very important news as to what  
happened at the next morning. One told  
him he had to return to work at once  
but the C.O. refused to let him go. He  
insisted that he was going anyway  
& finally the C.O. let him go. We were  
given instructions to paint the

11  
11

letters P.W. on the south face  
of our barracks & they had to be  
20 ft high. Since the roof is only  
13 1/2 ft we had to cut down on the  
side but I think they will be  
visible enough from the air. We  
had to send down the information  
of the number of people without  
knowing to Tokyo to-day. All the camp  
records were burnt to-day by  
the Japanese under the orders of  
the C.O. We had them all taken  
outside the camp & he stated they  
until they were completely burnt. We  
expect to be on our way before the  
end of the month & Uchibiki who  
left to-day thinks the army. We are  
expecting him back on the 25<sup>th</sup> or  
26<sup>th</sup> so we should hear all the  
news of Tokyo at that time. It  
rained all day but the men were

still expecting to see an allied aircraft  
sometime during the day. Maybe  
tomorrow but that is wishful  
thinking on my part. The Japanese held  
a parade for the men to night but  
this time they are binding it themselves.  
Cracking is life as can be expected with  
all the men trying to get rid of all  
their excess clothing. By the way these  
letters on top of the barracks were  
painted yellow with a black background  
as usual the rips did not provide  
much so we had to use rags on  
the end of a stick. This had to be  
done by 4:00 P.M. to day & we just  
finished the job in time. The guards  
caught the hot plates going brewing  
up the vegetables but nothing was done  
about it so far. I wonder if they will  
say anything about it.

Aug. 25<sup>th</sup> was a very quiet day. It  
rained all day. The Japanese told us that

they expected an aircraft either to-day  
or to-morrow but nothing showed up  
all day. We had the confiscated vegetables  
for our lunch & supper which was very  
good. We managed to contact a drink of  
saki (rice wine) during the morning & this  
helped out the day. I shot all afternoon  
but I paid for it at night. The fleas  
were really rampant & I fought them all  
night getting about one hour of sleep in  
all. No sign of the man from Tokyo as  
yet and we anxiously await the return  
of ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> ~~man~~ <sup>man</sup> to get the logs from  
him. Two of the pigs were taken out of  
cans & ~~we~~ <sup>we</sup> think the pigs are wild  
in the lot in order that we couldn't have  
them but at last he will have  
answers for it. The Japanese in charge of  
the kitchen propositioned me about buying  
a cow for \$1,000. We consented & started to  
gather up the money which we finally  
managed. We did not see this deal for the

rest of the day a lot of supplies arranged  
such as rice powder & beans but nothing  
of much value to us. The capt. arrived back  
late at night & gave us a lot of info  
but we had to put the censor down on  
all of it. This was done & the letters  
etc. were not left open for the capt  
but we don't know the reason for this.  
We were warned that an aircraft is  
planned to visit us between noon & the  
2:30. This aircraft is to drop us some  
thing & they do not want everybody  
to run out of the camp. Right group  
have been organized consisting of  
1 officer, 2 privates & 1 guard to take  
care of these articles whatever they  
may be. It was raining all day so they  
did not start to clear the woods night.  
The sign of Water's & since no intercept  
Aug 24<sup>th</sup> - We received some supplies  
to - Day, 1 cake flour coop, 1/2 cake laundry  
coop, 200 sheets toilet paper & 1 pr. of shoes.

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47C

This soap issue is the same as 12 months  
issue because we usually get 12 cubs every  
6 months. The weather has taken a turn  
for the better & we now have some sun  
for a change. Our cow arrived at noon  
today amid the cheer of all the mess. We  
got her all set after lunch to be  
killed, incidentally this cow cost us  
\$2300.00 of which the guards are paying  
\$300.00. The first man to take a swing at  
her with the axe broke off a horn & she  
went out of the gate like a bullet. We  
traced her about 3 miles & finally caught  
her. She was brought back to the camp &  
this time she was properly killed one  
on the head. By the time I finished my 3 mile  
run I was in bad shape, this shows you  
what condition we are in. We killed the cow  
& dressed it before supper & then we sent the  
officers to guard it from then until roll call.  
We drew lots for the night shifts &  
all the officers took a turn at guard

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etc

duty. This cow cost us ¥2000; & the Japanese  
¥300. We are giving them 15 kgms of meat & bone.  
The man who sold it to us gets the same & we  
get the rest, about 150 koms. We used the  
heart, liver & the blood for our supper soup  
& the remainings in order go into the breakfast  
soup. Right after roll call some men went through  
the line to eat vegetables in full view of the  
guard. He immediately reported this to the guard  
commander & a second roll call was held  
about 400 hrs. At this time it was reported to  
me that three men had left with their kit  
with the intention of going to Tokyo. I told all  
the section commanders to make a head count  
but one of them covered a man missing  
from his section. There were 9 men missing but  
the Japanese only know about 8 men. They had me  
over to the office & wanted to know if these  
men were coming back. This situation had a  
lot hanging on it & here is how I figured  
it. I place this down for future reference to see  
whether or not I will still think the same in

tc

years to come. These men had nothing to gain  
by going as I am certain the authorities  
now in Tokyo are doing all that can be done  
& we will be out of here as soon as they  
can get us out. The camp is doing very well  
as far as food is concerned and we have as  
many a life as the men have had in their  
lives. I admit that the waiting is very monotonous  
but it cannot be for long & after over 3 years  
the period to wait is very short. I believe  
these men are very selfish & I know them to  
be the type that is not happy unless they are  
doing something out of the ordinary, a show off  
in other words. I did not go any way clear  
to jeopardizing the camp because of the foolish  
actions of these men & I felt certain that  
outside of a bit of prison detention they  
would be all right. With this in mind I  
told the Japanese that I could not guarantee  
that all of them would return. By the  
time they had guards surrounding all around  
the place & shortly after this the L.C. came



into camp. We ordered all the guards to take  
their rifles & load them. This was done in  
my sight. The guards were sent out to search  
for the men. Four of them came back with  
some vegetables & they were immediately placed  
in the guardhouse. Shortly after this two more  
came back & they were also placed in the  
jail. The N.Y. turn for guard on the next was  
from 11:30 P.M. to 12:30 A.M. Just as I was  
finishing my tour of guard a third roll call  
was ordered & I again told that the first three  
were now dead. I don't know whether they  
were caught & brought back or whether they  
came back themselves but at any rate they  
are back & in jail. The third roll-call was  
finished & we went to bed about 12:45 A.M.

Now to see what the morning will bring.  
Aug 25<sup>th</sup>. The next was decided this A.M.  
& now we have our share to do with as we  
please. Eight American fighters came over in  
formation this morning & it was a great  
thrill to see those white stars on the standard.

gfc

wing. It word on the prisoners but they  
had their full ration & so they will be O.K.

As the day developed it appears that three  
of the prisoners (the ones who attempted escape)  
had to stand to attention all day & received no  
further food. This lasted all day & further to  
this we had a long lecture by the S.O. that  
we were still under Japanese discipline. I  
decided to wait until I could formulate  
a plan. As the day wore on the men got  
talking back long about what they were  
going to do to release the prisoners but  
nothing was done. We had a rice stick  
sack for supper which made the Japanese  
very jealous but we were in a position to  
sell them off. The guards allowed us to  
give the prisoners some food after lunch  
& a blanket with the covering mat to tell  
the S.O. On the next morning Aug 28th  
we were allowed to give the prisoners  
some more food before roll call according  
to the S.O. As soon as an interpreter,

Mr. Kawai, arrived & I got him to go with me to interview the C.O. I placed the cards on the table & said either he released the prisoners to me for punishment or I would be forced to take action. He said he would send the men to Japanese military prison to which I said that all of us would march out of the gate at the same time. I explained that we had 230 prisoners to their 30 odd guards & we could do a bit of damage. He then said he would release them at 6:00 P.M. On the point of food we could feed them at 3:00 P.M. These were not what might be called good terms but it was either this or take over the camp. I couldn't see my way clear to do this at the time & I thought that the C.O. would be dealt with after this anyway. The prisoners had to stand up for 2 1/2 days until released. Shortly after lunch came the sound of an aircraft & my search out. It was a formation of eight machines. I was so

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AKJ

excited & could not even recall the various types but they were fighters, dive bombers & torpedo machines. They roared the camp and then started dropping things. One message asked for a man for every 50 in camp to stand on the parade ground. This was done but they flew away for a few minutes. The U.S. crewed transport ship began to take all the articles dropped, to his office but I refused & had them all taken to my room. He also wanted to see the messages & I refused this. He said we were not allowed outside the camp to get the parcels. The morning this interview the aircraft returned so I left without anymore to say. This time they really dropped the goods in fact one sack of sugar went through the roof of one barracks & four sacks of clothing through the frame barracks. All the articles dropped were distributed before supper was done to the parashutee for souvenirs. Amongst the things dropped was an American flag which was

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hoisted on a flag pole inside of 15 minutes.  
I suppose now we will have a general  
forest of flags from the various nationalities  
in this camp. The C.O. asked for a log &  
so I asked for the immediate release of  
the prisoners. This was done & I now find  
out that graft is still prevalent in this camp.  
A complete list of all the items received &  
names gathered from notes & books are  
entered in a new book. It was a picture  
night with everyone reading magazines & eating  
their food. It took me until about 1:30 A.M.  
to finally get my head down. We are now  
opening negotiations for another cow which  
will come in handy for the trip. On the  
morning of Aug 30<sup>th</sup> I've rigged up a signal  
lamp to try for communication with the  
machines if they return. The Sgt. Sgt. came  
in & enquired about the sick man for morning.  
We have about 10 men who can't make it  
but if it comes down to it I am certain  
we will get out of here if we have to crawl.

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The aircraft came over at about 2:00 P.M. & the first parcel dropped broke the electric wire which put out the signal lamp we had. They dropped some magazines and four large bags of emergency supplies. They then left us & came back about an hour later with some K. rations (23 boxes in all). This time we had the prisoners properly placed & all the parcels came in very quickly. A detail list of articles dropped is in other book. These were readily distributed & everyone had their fill for supper. This time some of the aircraft were from the USS. Bennington. There were Grumman fighters<sup>(4)</sup> & Corsair torpedor<sup>(4)</sup> planes. We had an early night & I really sleep.

Aug. 31<sup>st</sup> is Queen Wilhelmina of Holland's birthday. All the Watch & the officers took part in a flag hoisting ceremony on this occasion. We spent the remainder of the morning getting sprayed & ready to snow (when?). The weather was not very promising with rain & low cloud all morning. By the way the notes

from the aircraft yesterday told us that the  
Marines were in Tokyo & the fleet in Tokyo  
Bay. We received shoes for the men who  
have only the Japanese rubber shoes. These  
shoes were all stores captured in the Philippines  
and are just now being released. There were  
all size 7-8 which made it a bit difficult  
but I think we will get by with changing  
around amongst themselves. We tried to  
use semaphore contact with the planes yesterday  
but I don't know what success. We asked  
for papers & thanked them for all their help.  
Maybe we can find out about this after the  
move.

Sept 1<sup>st</sup> rain & low cloud all day which  
made us fall badly as we have no aircraft  
to-day. MacDonald & I went up to the hotel  
with an interpreter to buy some meat.  
The meat was horse, about 111 lbs for  
¥1682:00. We managed to get the lad to  
throw in a bottle of sake with it so  
we had some sushizaki with sake sup

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at the hotel. We enjoyed this very much and returned in very good spirits after lunch. I then propositioned the C.O. to let the officers have a party at the hotel on the morrow. This was granted and we are intended to go at 10:00 A.M. It is a stop affair with 8 officers & 8 gyp. staff but it will be a proper mind exp. for this hell camp. Once again the weather was bad all day long. No aircraft & no extra food.

Sept. 2<sup>nd</sup> - We bought a horse for \$1900 this morning. We slaughtered it at once and ended up by taking about 10 kg. up to the hotel with us. We bought some vegetables such as potatoes, beans etc & 10 bottles of sake. To the hotel we went to was about six miles & we hilled all the way. They had hot springs at the hotel & a nice room for us. We all changed into a Japanese kimono & went for a nice hot bath. The second

WJ



one since we arrived here and it was a delightful thing. We then returned to the large room we had. This room was a typical Japanese room, tatami, small table & cushions to sit on. There were 15 of us, 8 officers & 7 Japanese. We had our sushijaki again along with set sushi and what with speech making etc we managed to have a good time. We left this at 6:30 & just got back for lunch. All in all it was a good time & it was an excellent wind-up for the camp. All we have to do now is leave here.

Sept 3<sup>rd</sup>. Rumors started to run riot in the camp that we were to move. Once again the weather was bad, rain & low cloud. We now have increased our ration to 850 gms per man per day but our men seem ones & said to be starving. This is very unreasonable as we had a horse during the past day & more rice than they have ever had. We stressed

WJ

this but it is impossible for me to  
even talk to these men especially when  
they are so unreasonable in their demands.  
It is a noticeable fact that every time one  
of the British element come to complain  
they always have a delugent attitude  
and are not satisfied with an explanation  
unless you agree with them. This afternoon  
the discipline of the camp (internal discipline)  
was handed over to me by the C.O. We  
now hold our own roll calls & details  
as we see fit. The normal evening roll call  
to 7 P.M. & lights out at 9 P.M. The runner  
sent to Tokyo is due back late to night  
so we should have some dope on our move  
to-morrow. I hope for some good weather  
to-morrow as well in order that we can  
expect some more K rations.

Sept 4<sup>th</sup>: I was called one to see  
the C.O. this morning & told that we may  
have to move on very short notice. All  
things that are being left must be placed

in one spot & the barracks left clean. We  
are all to be in our best clothes & look our  
best. When asked when we were leaving he said  
he did not know but the orderly returned  
from Tokyo this morning with the news that  
we have to march tomorrow night. I  
feel certain that this is the case & as we  
have also been told by other sources that  
the radio announced that all prisoners of war  
were to be in Tokyo by the 6th. The G.O.  
said that everything we left behind would  
either be burnt or buried & adding that  
anything respectable we had she would  
like to have. Anything we wanted to give  
to anyone we were supposed to label  
& he would deliver it.

So much for that. The weather  
was down on the hill tops & while  
we could hear an aircraft trying to  
get down he did not succeed. I would  
like to reminisce sum up this camp for  
a bit as we are now about to leave it.

In the past few days they have been  
working his horses on the camp building.  
All the walls have been plastered with mud  
& straw for the winter supposedly. The bath  
started to-day for the first time giving  
the men their second hot bath since they  
have been here. With the cold & rain  
in this place I am certain that 50% of  
the men would not live through a  
winter in this place. Food has all ways  
been very scarce and as an example  
we have only had one load of vegetables  
since the 15th Aug. This load did two  
meals. The other way we have had is the  
cabbage, diction tops & a few cukes we  
had in our own garden. Rice & grain has  
also been very scarce & we have been  
cut from time to time to make us  
supposed shortages. These shortages are  
actually more important as we know  
the exact amount of grain coming  
into the camp & the amount used

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etc

every day. They have been a big problem  
in this camp as the men who come here  
from No. 1 Branch camp were armed with  
Japanese military shoes. These shoes are all  
one size & we have never seen a man with  
feet enough big to wear them comfortably.  
The men had a hard walk in the hills  
to the mine every day & by now they are  
walking on miles of rubber tied on with  
rice rope. We got 42 pairs of captured  
American shoes the other day but I have  
now been informed by Fukumoto that  
about 12 pairs of these shoes over our  
mine were taken by the Japanese camp  
staff. Similarly cigarette has been a  
problem. Yesterday the Japanese camp  
staff divided all the cigarettes in stock  
amongst themselves & we have not had  
an issue for well over a month. Our  
water supply is still the creek which  
runs behind the camp and we use  
this source for washing cooking etc.

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The day after we arrived here we were all reduced to four blankets. The nights were very cold at this time as they are now & yet no blankets. Our lack of food at the outset making it necessary for the officers to collect wild vegetables every day was the cause of our two deaths in this camp. The men were gasping for everything that looked like food, stealing the ship bucket used for the pigs & picking up anything that looked like food. An weight chart shows the condition of these men & what shape we would have been in for a winter.

DATE.	AV. WT.	Gain 14 days W.R. to W.A.	Gain 29 days Same 14 W.
June 10	61.5 kg.	-0.00	
" 20	60.9 kg.	-0.7 kg.	-0.7 kg.
" 29	61.1 kg.	+0.3 kg.	-0.4 kg.
July 10	60.3 kg.	-0.6 kg.	-1.0 kg.
" 20	60.04 kg.	-0.46 kg.	-1.86 kg.
" 30	59.63 kg.	-0.41 kg.	-1.87 kg.
Aug. 10	58.5 kg.	-1.1 kg.	-2.97 kg.

ET  
LTC

Such weight loss was occurring when food was supposed to be plentiful & the men gaining weight. One can easily imagine what was going to happen to us in the winter season. Our kitchen was never completed & only since the end of the war have they built the stone out of bricks & mud. In the short time we used them they are falling apart. We have been in a rugged place with no medicine or aid of any description. Our first bit of red cross medicine arrived after the war was over and up to that time we had nothing. There was no means of recreation for the men. Lights were so restricted that reading at night was impossible. I can think of not one redeeming feature in this camp, may we learn, it to morrow.

I ordered the two remaining pigs killed this afternoon & the C.O. said nothing. The small two star pay had come to my room to-day with Kakuwato to

tell me a few of the things going on. He told me about the shoes & cigarettes going to the staff & also the rumors they had regarding the rice after we left as well as the pigs. This was the reason for our killing the pigs. We also got underway with trading some of our rice for soap with the civilians. We had negotiations well under way & a sack of rice nearly out of the gate when the C.O. stopped in again. This time I stopped in & told him it was our rice. He took about half a bag of this rice for himself to buy & I brought this point up further to the S. He told him anymore complaints from him & we took the whole matter satisfied. Five minutes later the men were on their way out of the gate.

I announced to night that we may be leaving here tomorrow. There were loud cheers & the men are trying to settle down but a lot of



saki came in during the day which makes this rather difficult. Our work has only started for we have to break the camp into parties & work it out as flexible as we can for the transportation. We can only wait to see what we have along the line for transportation to see how smart we are. The C.O. came in about 8:30 P.M. with the official announcement of our going to-morrow night. The train leave at 007 hrs Sept 6<sup>th</sup> & we leave here between 94 to P.M. by bus. There are to be 10 buses, 2 trucks & 3 railway cars for us. I made this announcement & fell broke down. By 9 P.M. about 30 men had gone through the place loaded down with goods for trade mostly for saki. Evidently the guards were all for it and they let the men go. They travelled in groups & went to any house with a light on it. There they asked for trade & worked up in all cases in

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the house drinking sake & parading.  
The guards rounded them up about 12 P.M.  
but some still carried on. We sent out  
a pack of rice to trade for more & these  
lads were out all night. We had to guard  
two lads out before being to find one  
of them that spent the night in a ditch.  
I did not sleep until after 0330 A.M.  
went with putting drinks to bed &  
keeping the drunks quiet. In the morning  
there were a lot of men under the weather.

Sgt S. C. Mac, Rick & I went out  
with an interpreter, three guards & a  
half pack of rice to buy more. We walked  
a half mile & found two others out as  
well with bundles, thus I sent back to  
the guard house. We hired a cart & ox to  
carry our rice & bring back the men, for  
fuel. When we arrived at the farm house  
about 3 miles away we saw the  
aircraft diving over our camp & dropping  
parade. We bought our veg. & gave a

atc

receipt for it to assist the old boy as he  
was afraid of the police. We arrived back to  
the camp at 11:30 A.M. with four bags of soap  
for our supper. The list of articles dropped  
are listed in a separate book but the  
boys put on a good show diving all over  
the place. They were from the U.S. Co. Howard  
Richard. We had a parcel of 300 cigs when  
the someone president gave a speech presenting  
10 cigarettes per man. I was so disgusted  
at the time about how much they had  
tried to do for me I could not even  
answer it. We had a building down into  
groves & reservoir to the moon. I hope  
all over well. After supper the boys  
started raising Cain. For sake they  
had accumulated got to work & a big  
sing song resulted with the line of all  
the fire guns. Such is life I cannot  
put down my account for this show.  
My report the same as ever will be  
the great I cannot express it.

We left camp at 1030 PM on 10 because  
the luggage going by truck but it took  
until 1135 PM to get us to the station  
we finally got aboard the train to  
leave by 1230 A.M. At about 400 AM we  
came to a station named Saigo.

Here we were held up for 45 mins by  
a train wreck half a mile away. It  
appears that three coaches (wooden)  
had been involved & a lot of Japanese  
were dead & seriously wounded. The  
two doctors, all the officers & the  
two medical orderlies turned out  
& with our own supplies we gave  
what aid we could at this station.  
Only the injured who could make their  
own way to this station were there &  
they were a very pathetic sight. There  
was no other medical aid there or  
available in that area. We left a  
lot of blankets & medical supplies  
when we departed.

We arrived on Yokohama at 9:00 am  
& found that the Nips had taken us to  
the wrong station. We waited and the  
newspaper men came to take pictures  
& get articles. We were taken to  
the wharf by trucks & proceeded. I  
had a hell of a time getting the  
men through this. With all this  
excitement, lack of sleep & food my  
mind went to sleep for a time. I  
left all my baggage with a porter.  
Had except a few papers and went  
through the processing as well. Here  
I was told I had a bus & before I  
knew where I was they had me on  
board the hospital ship USS Mayfield.  
All the fight had gone out of me  
& just the big feeling of relief made  
me feel what the hell.)

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PW/CI: Leonard J. Birchall

Folder 2

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