

R.O.W./E.I. - R.D. Hoagh

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File: 999-2-200

Title: DIARY

Origin: S/SGT RICHARD D. HOUGH

Dates:

Classification:

Authenticity:

Source:

Extracted by _____ Date _____ Microfilmed _____ Date _____

AG-KI Form 91 (20 July 45)

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Title: Harry

Origin: S/Sgt. Richard D. Hough

Dates:

Classification:

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Source:

Extracted by William Peter Dietrich Microfilm Date _____

AGRP 49

S/Sgt Richard D. Hough



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DIARY OF
S/SGT RICHARD D. HUGH
1941- 1945

20th Dec - This time I gained 2 kilos, I now weigh 71.5 kilos. Not so Bad. Air Raids continue, we are being raided two or three times a day. Most of the raids are now at night, this area is now being left alone. Why? Here's hoping it stays that way. Wallie Hewston and I are "Bunking up" During the cold weather, the weather is now damn cold, nice every morning, not so good. Food remains about the same, we now get rice 3 times a day. How much longer that will last is a problem. No news, everything seems to be about the same.

23rd Dec. - Two more days to Christmas, somehow or other I expect this to be our best Xmas, for one thing we have 714 Red Cross packages in camp. Enough for 3 to one man, our camp has 238 men in it at present. I man is in the hospital in Tokyo. A Dutchman. A far cry from the conditions which existed two years ago, this winter we won't have any fires in the barracks, just the same as last year, so what we don't have we won't miss.

On Dec. 21st - The Japanese Civilians in camp pulled a surprise "snakedown" However they only found "Contraband" in the possession of the Dutchman, nothing on us "Yanks". And did they find plenty. "Fish oil, Coconut oil; Alcohol, Potatoes, onions, leather, stones, magazines, and all sorts of things, the "strafing", was severe a few of the Dutchman had faces like pumpkins, WE "Americans" were lucky, but this morning one lad went down to the "Benboo" before roll call was caught, and was "strafed" by one of the "Japs" with a G.I. belt. Damn rough, too yesterday 35 bags of sweet potatoes came in, so maybe we go back on potatoes for breakfast. They're damn good, but insufficient for a meal.

Last night some more mail came in, again I was left out, I haven't heard from home since Feb. 11th, I wonder if everyone is OK. Gosh, I hope nothing has happened to anyone.

On Christmas Day we are going to have another G.I. occasion, dancing, skits, stories, etc. I'm to conduct a church service again.

Dec. 26th. Mema's Birthday, here's hoping Mema that I'm back home for your next birthday. And I will be, make no bones about that. Yesterday was Christmas, and I do believe that it was the best Christmas we've had in Japan, each man received a "Red Cross" Food Package, which was mighty fine. And from the Japanese 16 oranges, also a good meal from the kitchen. Yesterday we had a small loaf of bread issued, the first for almost a year, it went very well with a can of meat.

Our Xmas show as a big success, My act was given the prize, (2 dozen oranges, 4 pks. cigarettes) anyway we got the biggest laughs, I borrowed a cape and made a tall hat for my part, and "Krita" really looked like a bum. Not a bad performance, even if I do say it. I can't figure out why I haven't been receiving any mail. Of course I'm not the only one, but really I'm puzzled. On Christmas Eve the boys came over again, and did they drop a load. However, they took a day off yesterday and so to-day I expect an alert.

Today I'm resting in our "Yasume" shack, I don't feel too good, I have a bad cold and it has settled in my stomach which makes me feel poorly. Well, Mema, next year will find us all back together again, so you and Dad have got to keep yourselves well. Buddy is OK, of that I'm sure, and I know that he too is looking for this damn war to end. Donald will soon have another birthday.

Diary (continued)

day, he must now be a big boy. Wait until I get back, will we have fun.

I forgot to mention it, but our barracks were decorated for Christmas tree, and all sorts of drawing etc. adorned the walls, streamers made from paper were strung from the ceiling, all in all the place looks very, very, nice. And now, we are sweating out New Years Day. Perhaps another Box, too, Jan. 6th - I haven't written in this book for quite sometime, things have been mighty quiet, that is in so far as the war is concerned. No news of any sort. Air Raids continue, we are alerted a couple of times a day. Last night the "Anti-Air-Craft" shouted loud and often, one raid at 9:0'clock, another one at 7:00 O'clock this morning. I hope that we continue to be lucky and nothing is dropped on us.

We received another "Red Cross" food package on New Years Day, mine is all gone, except for some soup and gum. We wrote another card home, I hope my people are getting some mail from me, I haven't been receiving any mail. Such luck. Food is about the same, not any more than usual. Last night each man was issued another blanket, we certainly needed one too.

Yesterday a traveling "troupe" of Japanese actors players at "Shows Denko", not had either. We had a very easy worked. I've had trouble with my left ear, very, very, painful.

Jan 11th - Today I've been in bed all day, another day off, This pleases me very much, last night we were weighed again, this time I gained, due perhaps to the "Red Cross" Box, more & more, bigger boxes I say.

Our boys are in my better shape now, than at any time, since we're been here, the Dutch, however are not doing so good, many are sick, and a lot of them are alive with "Cooties," So many in fact that they are being sent out to "K. Y. K." and being "Deloused" (by steam)

Air Raids continue, two or three every night, thank the Lord that this Area is not being bombed we hear that "Luzon" is being invaded, which means that we are getting nearer and nearer to that day of release. I'm reading the "Sea Hawk", by Rabsel Sabatini, I should have read it years ago, "Milton Sills" played the title role in the picture long, long ago.

Not much to write about, Nellie has a birthday in a couple of days, I wonder how her daughters is? My niece.

Jan. 19th - A beautiful cold clear day, one of the nicest we have in a long time, nothing has happened during the past week that is unusual, no news, nothing. Food as about the same, we are all still sweating out, all, personnel boxes, and the 3rd "Red Cross" food package. My ear is now OK, but I lost a "cap" off one of my teeth, now this war just has to end quickly.

"Wallie Hewston" went out to work today for the first now in good shape he weighs about 83 kilos, (not bad) tomorrow we get weighed again, I should show a gain too. I've had an extramtion of rice every night. "Lucky me". I've dreamed about home a lot lately, I hope that every one is in good health. Particularly "Bud".

Oh, I forgot, I now have a new pair of G.I. shoes, "Size 80", a bit too large, but what a relief to have something good on your feet.

Jan. 28th - Sunday, and is it cold - this is the coldest winter yet, no snow but plenty of ice, many men are sick mostly Dutchmen tho, colds etc.

Every day air raids continue, yesterday we had one in this area, to 70 planes, lots of action, and in so far as we could see none were shot down, the

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Diary (continued)

raids however, are mostly at night, every night two or three alerts, it doesn't bother us tho, we sleep right on through.

Our camp is now considered to be the no. one camp in this area, things have really changed, there is hardly any strafing, and conditions have become a lot better. However, food is still the big problem, but we are lucky to get what we do. It's a good thing that some of the boys work where there is rice stored. Need I say more. Then again I have access to some soup, and I can deal it off to the "Nips" for tobacco, when in turn I trade for rice etc, not so bad.

A minister is coming tonight, so we are going to have a church service. A Japanese, named "Rev Chiba" here has been here once before, pretty fine I say more mail came in, Nothing for me again. Tomorrow more is supposed to come in, Gosh, I hope that I can get them. I can't understand why I haven't had any mail, it's been almost a year, I'm sure that mail has been sent to me too.

Worked today unloading a car of Pig-iron, heavy work yet I'd much rather do work like that than stay in camp cooking or as a camp labourer. No news from anywhere, altho I know that we must be having big successes. Feb 3rd. - Yesterday, it rained and sleeted, that a day, Mr. Ground had certainly didn't show his shadow, we also had 3/4 of a box (Red Cross Food Package) issued to each man. The Nips nabbed 68 boxes, at that we received 91% of the total boxes that came in.

More mail came in, again I was left out, it is now almost a year since I received any. Many men are sick, flu and colds are prevalent. I've been bothered with a sort of an itch, maybe it is "Scabies," however, I believe that I have it well under control, hence hoping any way.

I weighed 73 kilos a couple of days ago, a new high for me. "Red Cross" Chow no doubt. Somehow or other I believe that this is our year, the war will be over and back home we shall go it just has to be.

I've written that this has been our coldest winter. It's a severe one, no doubt that, last night I had a canteen cup of water right alongside of my bed. This morning it was frozen solid. Cold I should say so. I lost a cap off of one of my teeth, but I'm getting it replaced. There is a dentist at the "Shova Denko" factory who pulls "Prisoners" teeth and does a few fillings.

Feb 12th - A beautiful Day, "Lincoln's Birthday, clear and cold, two air raids over Tokyo. I had a day off on the 10th, slept all day, also got weighed, still the same. No mail, I'm just unlucky. News is good, we have taken "Manila" and we here that Berlin is now in danger, good for our side. I've had my tooth recapped, a fair job, it cost me 7 yen, really cheap. A lot of "Red Cross" clothes have been issued I got a jacket, Really fine, it keeps out a lot of the cold.

Feb. 17th - Yesterday was the Red Letter Day for us Prisoners, at 6:30 AM the Air Raid signal sounded, and shortly after wards planes appeared. They were headed for Yokohama and the Naval Bases. Anti Aircraft was blazing away, and bombs could be heard rumbling in the distance. Then something happened that we had dreamed of. Single engine ships were being fired upon, they were our. Yes, dive bombers were at work, and are they fast, much faster than anything I've seen yet, all day they came, and no opposition in so far as Japanese Planes, a radio report gave out the news that 6 carriers working in concert with our B-29 are operating close to Japan the Japanese losses were ascertained to be 16 planes, 1 carrier, 1 destroyer, 2 other vessels.

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Diary (continued)

Ours losses were not reported. I didn't see a single ship knocked down or even look damaged. What a Day.

Myself and 3 other men are in isolation, due to "scabies" or something of that sort, this is our 3rd day in and it looks like we may be in for a long period, "kritson" has it pretty bad, hands and arms are swollen quite badly. More mail came in, none for me. More "Red Cross" clothing was issued, overcoats, etc, I didn't get a thing, no luck in the draw.

Today the air raids are on again, it is now about 8:00 am. and we've had one raid so far, they hit the "Kokan ship, Yard", "We live right smack in the center of things"- So we can see what's going on. All men have a day off. No other news but I'm sure that we have the various situations well under control, otherwise 6 carriers and a task fleet couldn't be assigned to this area. I just listened to a Japanese radio report (in Japanese) and the planes doing the damage are "Grujan F650 Curtis SB 2c and TFFs, along with the heavier aircraft from the Marianas. The show is not over. Maybe we shall get out of here much sooner than we expect.

Feb. 22nd - Today we've had a terrific snow storm, about 10 inches of snow, everything is at a standstill. However, air raids continue, rumors are that a huge task force is hitting the "Boninns". I'm sure that our friends have plenty of planes, Out there. I'm now out to work, my "itch" is practically cleared up. "kritson" is still in isolation though.

March 1st - Two days ago we had another severe storm these are said to be the worst in 10 years. No raid here for 3 days, the "boninns" must be now occupied by our forces and are quite good, Europe is progressing very nicely Berlin hits been evacuated, and on the western front a big draw is reported. Last night I received 4 letters, the first in over a year, everyone is OK. including "Bud" I'm really happy over the news, Some how though I knew that everything was alright.

Last night all men were inoculated again, for what I don't know. Another doctor is due here, he is a captain, and came up to Japan with us over two years ago, I'm glad too, because "Doc Curtin" is over worked. No doubt about that. The food situation is about the same, however we are supposed to be given a smaller ration, Oh, well, we can stand it. Tonight we get weighed again, I feel as tho I have lost, I'll know a bit later. I no longer work on "Soko", I changed details, I'm now working for one of the chemical units at Showa Denko not too much work, plenty of rest, and a good place to wash clothes.

I hope that this war will be over soon, as there is so many things I want to do.

March 3rd - Last night we had a chance to write a letter home, first one this year.

Our new doctor is here. Doctor Guffman, who is extremely fit, and he brings lots of good news for us, also some bad news, such as it is. 1700 prisoners (English & Dutch) were on the boats which were in "Takao" harbor when our dive bombers went to work on it. Only 4 survived. Horrible to say the least, also that we have much in the way of a Navy operation in and around Japan.

No Air Raids for the past 5 days, the boys are giving the "Boninns" a complete working over. No news at all from the European front, no news is good news. No more personal boxes are expected. It's too bad. We now get up at 6:00 o'clock, but fall out for at the usual time- 7:30 am. today has

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Diary (continued)

been a warm day, yesterday it rained, and so most of the snow has gone. To-day we worked on some sort of a compound that is called "shorten", "erry, Messy, stuff, but finished early 3:20 a. M. and then sat by a good fire for a couple of hours- not at all bad.

March 7th - Cold and miserable to-day, Nasty weather, we've had another snow storm, and yesterday it rained. Still working on "shorten", it's heavy work. Last night we had another air raid. A large fire was started near Tokyo. Today at noon it "rained again".

Today another "swiss" representative called on us in camp- I haven't rec'd any details as yet. We are now allowed to write a letter home each month. Thank the Lord for that.

No vegetables at all incamp. Our soup now consists of Noodles & Miso" or a concoction called "Sea Weed" - I expect things to get a lot worse before the finish.

No News at all. I've had my hair cut short again. I might just as well keep it short no comb anyway.

March 11th - Yesterday I had off, slept all day, we had a Red Cross" issue of sewing kits, soap, combs, razors, blades, pencils, shoe polish, toothbrush, toothpowder, shaving soap, plus some personal box items when were out of boxes that had'nt been delivered. These items consisted of towels, socks, handkerchiefs, underwears, sweaters, etc. All these items were issued by a raffle system. I received, 1 razor, 4 blades, a toothbrush and a comb. I traded my toothbrush, and comb to Dr. Curtin for shoe polish and chewing gum. Air raids continue, today's raids came at 2:00 A. M. and 1:00 P.M. huge fires are burning in the Tokyo Area. We also received some more books, they're not at all bad, some mighty fine reading in the lot.

Kritzon is now back working, he's still with me. For a year and a half we have work together. Our new doctor is very popular, he has a smile and a good word to everyone, Dr. Curtin needs someone like him around.

Deborah had a birthday two days ago. She is now 35 years old. it hardly seems possible. I've known her for 16 years. Certainly a long time. I wonder what she is doing now. acting or working?

Still no news. Many rumors, but no real concrete facts.

March 17th - St. Patricks Day, and it reminds me of my uncle Harry a Ferade, rain, and a hair out. No snakes tho, here "Litch" a tale. The other night a section of Tokyo was raided. and an area 5 miles by 8 was burned completely out. Only the sea saved a large section of the city. Rumors are that our Government has told the Japanese to evacuate Tokyo, because they intend to burn it too the ground. To-day a big raid is expected. And I have a day off. I intend to bread-to-day. "Poe" 90 Red Cross boxes came in a couple of days ago. They are to be issued "Easter" Sunday, or so it's expected. 2 boxes for 5 men. OK. Says. The Japanese workers at the various work details are now complaining about the war. They want peace, War is no good- No tobacco, no food, no clothes, nothing, nothings, that is their cry now. We prisoners laugh at them, it is our turn now. This war is'nt going too last much longer.

The weather still cold, much colder than it is back home. Our food remains the same, that is the rice is constant, but the soups, S/awful. Sea weed reminds me like sediment that accure in the bottom of the watering through, or on other old mossy logs, however, it does'nt last too bad though.

March 20th- Another day off, a big raid is expected to-day, and so all men have a day off. Kowasaki is also evacuating, Ho, ho, ho, are there people worried. So am I.

Diary (continued)

March 22nd. - I received 4 letters to-day. Everyone is OK. "Vin" is in "Margate", Kent, England. He and "Miffy" are engaged. I hope that I will be home for the wedding. I received a new pair of work pants, now I have a complete outfit. The weather is getting much warmer, soon we will be able to shed some of our garments. Air Raids continue, last night another big raid over the Tokyo Area. March 26th - To-day is a beautiful, sunny day. I expect to do some sewing on my work socks. I have two pairs which are in bad condition. We had a P.M. issue last night of tea, I bought 5 boxes. The Japanese H.Q. wants all "Auto Mechanics" and "Auto" specialists to move to another camp. I'd hate to see some of the men go. Things here are a lot better. We have lost all the "Strafens" "Seitau" "Forky", "Kasuya" & "Shudzawa" have been transferred to other camps or called back into military service.

March 28th - I received another letter last night, everything back here is still OK. "Dad" is still trying to win races with his pigeons.

Today I worked cleaning out of huge furnace. It was mighty dirty work, however, we got through early. And I had a good hot bath, washed and mended my clothes, shaved and enjoyed myself. Yesterday I made a small knapsack, something keep all my papers and valuables in. One of these days we are going to "evacuate" in a hurry and I want to be ready.

April 1st. - Easter D'y, it is certainly a beautiful days too., nice and warm. No "Red Cross" issue tho, I sort of expected that. There has been so many wild rumors of late that it is impossible to keep up with the movements of different camps. 100 men have been moved from the "Mippon Steel Camp", as to their where abouts I have no idea. The Air Raid sirens blew very early this morning, how ever no local raid, I conducted a "Short" church service this morning, and for the first time I felt nervous in front of an audience. Surprisingly so as I usually don't have any hallucinations what ever about speaking in front of a crowd. Fleas are back with us again, we nervous too, but I don't care, they don't mind sleeping with me, so I guess that I don't mind either.

My left food is swollen a bit, it may be "Berl-beri" I don't know - I hope not.

April 4th - 4:00 P.M. - We came in early today from work. Our interpreter "Konda" has returned from conducting some prisoners to other camps, and as he missed "show" Sunday he wants it repeated. So it will be repeated later, on to-day. It has rained very hard since 6:0'clock this morning, maybe the following sotry caused the rain, maybe not. And here is the tale.

Last night at 12:00 O'clock the sirens started wailing, at 1:00 o'clock the short blasts sounded, and we knew that planes were in the area. We here in "Kawasaki" live on a sort of an island man made T's true. Bounded on the north by "Mippon Steel" west by "Kokosho" (a gasoline refining plant) east by "Kokan" (a steel plant south by "Mitsui Bishi Kasei" (warehouses) the first planes hit deep in the west, towards Yokohama, and succeeding planes started in bombing in a sort of a circle. They would drop bombs causing huge fires, then dropped flares lighting up a new area for the next flight which followed in rapid order, we were right smack in the center of things, and the circle got smaller and smaller. We escaped bombing "Luckily", however many fires were started and much damaged ensued, "Kokan" was hit, and today a work detail "(Goal Shoveling") brought back the news that their "noontime mess hall", coal cranes, lock areas, and a coal ship ~~###~~ were damaged.

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Diary (continued)

Our boys are now getting close as most of the airplanes in last night's raid were twin engine ships. To-day we have been alerted twice, "Reconn" probably. I say maybe the rain was caused by our lads dropping a lot of a bombs.

No "Red Cross" boxes as yest, maybe never, although we did get a bar of soap issued. "A whole bar too". Fleas are now out in full force, what a Country. Bugs of all sorts, no clothing, food very scarce, and they are trying to wage a war with a Major Bwer, what a laugh. Just wait until that business is over in "Europe". Then -----

April 8th - New News. Our camp's Commandant has been ordered to a camp further north, and for a new commandant we have "Lt. Hayashi" our first Commandant who left here on Dec. 26th 1942, he is now back with us and he takes over the camp duties to-morrow. Lt. Hayashi is a man of about 40 years old, speaks good English and is very tolerant in his opinions, incidentally, he sent for me and asked me if I wanted to go back to work as "Mess Sergeant"? I said no Sir, I'm satisfied where I am. He gave me a couple of oranges, and wanted to know whether I smoked yet or not. He was surprised at my complexion, "Which is still good". Air Raids continue very heavily and we can look forwards to even heavier raids. We don't have any air raid shelters here in camp, so night raids are rather terrific. We are supposed to have a food cut in the next few days, this has been expected for quite a while.

April 13th, Friday - And a Black day for us. News has reached us that President "Roosevelt" died on the 11th Cerebral Hemorrhage or something of that sort. "Truman" is now President, heroes wishing him lots of luck and a speedy ending to the war. Air Raids continue, two or three alerts a day. Yesterday we suffered a big local raid, spent practically the entire day in the bomb shelter "At work", today the same thing happened, we don't do hardly any work now, just go out and spend the day, that's all.

I am now taking "Vitamin Pills" C, I believe, my gums are receding "So are many other men" Holy Smokes what next? Our doctors, "Cirtis & Knuffman" certainly have a lot of patience, first one thing, then another, and hardly any medicine to combat the ills and pains of the men. I think that we are very lucky to have "Two" good MD's. "Lt. Hayashi" is trying to get us moved to a safer location, heroes hoping that he is successful. All men wrote a care home today, I wrote to "Mama" and asked her to write and get my things which I left with Mrs. Neary in Anshan.

April 16th 8:30 A.M. - Last night at 9:30 the air raid alert was sounded, at 10:00 o'clock the local sirens sounded and a raid was on, and what a raid. About 300 B-29's came in. Singly in pairs, and in flights of 3- they bombed the area all around us, very close, at 11:30 PM we had to evacuate our barracks and seek shelter behind us down by the water front, I saw 5 of our planes go down, hit by anti-aircraft fire. They were afire, a horror death. We don't have any electricity, water, or food up to the present time, however, we came back into the barracks at 3:00 am. The Japanese are really scared, I don't blame them either, this country is done. The area in which we are in is a sort of an island, so maybe we might escape a local area bombing. Fires are still burning, all in all this is what we have home soon. Yesterday I had a day off from work today all men have a day off.

April 17th - Kusan

DIARY (Continued)

April 17th - Kawasaki is a quiet as a church, nothing is stirring still haven't any electricity, water has to be carried into camp from a distance of 3 kms, our ration has been but to a "raw low, no vegetables, in fact right now, 50 men are out digging greens (clover) for our soups. A short time ago the air raid siren blew, (off in the distance) So we may soon undergo another raid. Perhaps "Photo Joe" is out making a "Reconn" of the damage done two nights ago. I have more or lessed as certain the damage done and it is terrific, from "Yokohama to "Tokyo" through "Kawasaki" the railroad has been knocked out. Both sides of the railroad has been burned, and from "Kawasaki" station to "Tokusho" the Residential area is destroyed, all large factories west, and south of this area to "NipponSteel" were severely bombed. Refugees are taking up quarters in the ware houses right behind us (NBR) transportation is at a standstill, the POW in the British camp spent the past two nights. Bivouaced in a ball park, there barracks had the roof burned or blown off. Feel that we have been very lucky. And I hope and pray that we can continue to be lucky by the help of "G. R. Big" we shall be.

We have organized squads so that when the 3 short blasts go we can evacuate the barracks without the confusion and chaos when ensued the other night. 20 men are to remain in camp to fight fire. 15 men are to remove our rice supply the rest are to go down to the water front and get into two barges whom will be moved out to the breakwater. I have a squad of 12 men, all americans, this plan, I believe, will be a great benefit to us. The news of Europe is so sensational that I hardly dare repeat it here, how ever, I can say this I give the square heads two or three weeks more. That's all. Oh, yes, we are having a vacation, no work. April 19th 7:00 PM. - yesterday was the anniversary of "General" "Doolittle's" B-25's raid on Japan, (3yrs ago) and we were alerted 4 times, no raids in this area. We still had the day off, all men doing camp labor, I was hauling water, and 120 were out working in the garden, and thereby names of tale.

Right along side of the area in which we have our barracks are the warehouses of M.B.K. in which are rice is stored the men that went out to work on to work on the garden detail, 120 of them, had only I guard, and as soon as they were dismissed immediately made a believe for the rice "stores" about 60 men were inside the warehouse filling their pockets and logs with rice and which they were surprised by a group of Japanese truck drivers and civilians who had orders to remove rice and which was supposed to be delivered to "refugees and evacuees" our commandant was notified about the "stealing" and had all the men on the garden detail lined up and searched. 34 men had rice on them, A good amount, and when asked who was the man broke the lock refused to answer they had to stand attention from "noon" yesterday until two O'Clock today". When a "watchman" Confessed to breaking the lock, here's the payoff, he made an agreement with the 33 other men that he would confess, provided, that he would give him 2 cigarettes each out of their next issue. (today each man received 5 american cigarettes) and so ended another episode of "rice stealing".

Today 2 P 51's made a "pass" at the machine gun meet atop of the "Power-house" to the left of us. A big raid is expected tonight, "Right now it is raining".

The major League Baseball season opens up today, (I hope) also the "Boston Marathon" will be run. I wonder who will 50 men went out to work today, that is to "Shova Denki" and a runner is now out that there is no more working

Diary (continued)

parties scheduled to work at BEK due perhaps to the wholesale stealing of rice. Things are certainly getting rough, however, we who went to work today did 'N'g do a thing, all we done was sweep the streets, there is still no power or water and except for electric light, which is generated locally "Kawasaki" is still in total darkness. I have everything packed to evacuate at a moments notice, on yes, we are getting some "red Cross" food issued. Food boxes per day, the cooks are using the meat for soup, and the milk, raisins, chocolate, made a good breakfast meal. Cheese, am & butter will be issued out to the various sections at a later date, cigarettes are to be issued daily. Notes bad, one thing is it is much better to be issued this way, than not at all.

April 23rd. - Dad's birthday, 63 years old, HAPPY BIRTHDAY, DAD, I hope to be home for your next birthday. Today "Tokyo" was raided again, also Kawasaki, by F-51's not much damage, however we hear that 200,000 people are homeless our rice ration is very low, soups are poor, right now we are not doing so well in regards fod, at that were very lucky, we get more to eat than the civilians no outstanding news.

I'm trying to ctch up on some serious reading "Bret Hartes" best stories really good, and interesting reading.

April 25th - Our work details are now back to normal, although we don' t work hard we have to ugg out at 7:30 and come back in at 5:30 PM. I still work in the same place, "Dia ichi ryuson" (no 1 Acid Plant)

Newton has been in for about 30 months with a bad bone "felon", he had his am am and reged and a piece of sharnell showed up in the picture. Doc Curtin operated about two weeks ago.

Today there is supposed to be a meeting of all the allied nations in San Francisco I hope that some thing is decided, this war was now reached the stage wher is has become a calsmity, I for one am ready to call it quits.

Air Raids, continue, two alerts today, yesterday a big raid over Western Tokyo, Just so long as they don't hit this area I'm satisfied.

May 1st - Donald's Birthday, 8 yrs old, I'm going to be home. For your next birthday, Germany had fallen and this war is darn near finished, a big air & sea battle is going on in the Okinawa "ren, or so rumors say, Raids in the area continue, Uncle Sam is really pounding this people. More mail came in, I did'nt received any. We now have a new interpreter, "Kondo has gone",. No other news.

May 6th - A day off, the weather is getting much warmer, last night, we had another "Local" air raid, from here it looked like "B-21's" were in the raid if so our forces are closing in quickly.

Europe is finished, thank the "Lord" for that, now "Bud" "Olive" and Vin ought to be able to get back home safely. I'm sure that they are all OK.

I chipped a piece off another tooth golly, "Brock" has had another operation this time for a piece of steel which was I'm bedded in his right leg just below the knee "Dr Curtin" operated. All of our "Red Cross" food has been used up now we have nothing left, however, our "Rice" ration has come back to our usual amount soups are still bad. Believe me, I won't ever eat "piso" soup or any othe kind when I get out of the "Med house".

May 9th - All men wrote another letter home, however, I heard this morning that the last cards we wrote are still in the interpreters office.

Latest rumours, all but 60 men are to leave this camp for another camp further north, here a hoping that this rumors is true.

A big naval battle is in progress, or so we here, I wonder if we've met their

Diary -(continued)

their navy at last. Beans & soup for supper tonight. Not at all bad. May 15th - Mothers Day, and a beautiful day too; Yesterday I wrote another "Radio Address", what is to be broadcasted from "Radio Tokyo", here's wishing----- 25 men are working today on a rice detail; moving rice from a POW camp in Yokohama to the camps. The men in that camp moved north yesterday. We here in this camp are also scheduled to move; any day now. Two alerts today. No local raids tho.

I havn't received any mail for quite a while, I don't know when I shall receive any either. "Kritzon" and I are running a shoe repair shop at Showa Denko; on the detail I'm work "Honsio" (boss) So instead of working "Kritz" and I repair shoes for the different "Nips" who work on the same detail (D! Ryuzuu) we get 10 to 15 cigarettes for each pair that we fix, today we made 40 cigarettes, not all bad, considering that 5 cigarettes can purchase a ration of rice; cigarettes sell for 1 yen each, really expensive. However, you cannot buy anything except cigarettes, so the money is peritically worthless. I've had a headache for 3 days, can't figure it out, I'm eating OK. Regular etc, Maybe I'm just tired of Japan. "Europe is finished, how much longer before we go home?"

May 17th,- 3 years ago today I turned in and surrendered myself and the rest of my air corp group to the Japanese in "Newspet". Quite a long while ago. Yesterday 6 Americans came into the camp for some rae, they were shabby, tired looking, hungry and what a tale they told, really horrible. They are in a camp west of us, their total strength, 160 men, Mostly Dutch and English, the English prisoners came from "Thailand" where tis said 30,000 prisoners died mostly from "Colera and Dysentery", they came here last September, and have suffered rough treatment, I man was beaten to death, another was killed (burned) during the big raid that we had a month ago. They've been with out rice for a month, all they have had to eat was "onion soup" their camp was destroyed, everything burned, even their clothing, all they have now are the things they stand up in. "any more things were said which I can't write here.

No moving rumors today. No other news, Our Shoe reparing business came to an end today the "Boss" is afraid of the "Military Police"----- At "showa Denko" there is about 200 "Koreans" working, they (the Koreans) are taken over the plant, and are they big dealers, cigarettes cost 1 yen each, also they are trying to buy up everything that they can, Clothes, shoes, boots etc. There is going to be trouble, I can see it coming. I've been using the same razor blade for 3 years, luckily I have a good sharpener.-----

May 22nd - Two years ago today the "Dutch" party arrived. 15 Dutchmen have died during the time, much has happened more than I could possibly record. Today it has rained considerably and it is darn cold. On the 20th I had a day off, played cards all day, Lost about 50 cigarettes, easy come, easy go.

A lot of new books came in, a line has formed for the issue, I'm not even going to try to get one. Doctor Kauffman has been lecturing on "sexology" What a subject for a POW Camp- we have had a couple of cases of "perversion" already, I wonder what his (Doc's) idea is? Educational or what?

No movement as yet, no rumors ether.

May 25th - On the 24th at 2:00 AM. Our friends visited us again, 550 of them, Tokyo, Kawasaki, Kyoto were bombed.

Diary (continued)

3 planes made a run over us and dropped bombs. Our camp caught on fire, but our "camp" fire fighters put it out, however the "Mitsui Bishi" office just across the street was burned down, two or three ware houses, and a whole string of dwellings right in line with us burned up completely. Luckily no one in our camp was hurt as we had evacuated to the Dock area, and with the exception of 40 Gen our camp was deserted, Rice and other supplies were taken to the Dock Area, but were brought back later in the day. The bombs used were a new type too me, "Fire Bombs" rags soaked in Gasoline, Naptime and other valuable agents,

Shows Denko suffered huge losses, that is too big plants burned down, plus two or three offices, we went out to work today, but as usual did nothing, the work of restoration is being done by "Sorbers" not civilian workers.

During the raid I saw 14 planes go down, 11 of our and 3 pursuit ships, Japanese for the first time the Japanese used night fighters.

Today, we had another local raid, Tokyo and vicinity, no planes came over us, Tonight we expect another raid as shipboard fighters were seen today. During the raid, here's a real laugh "most every morning we have a "Crab" game in our section, should any guard or member of the Japanese staff come into the barracks immediately a cry "Reblight" is given. This morning one of the guards complained to the interpreter that some thing goes on everyday in our section as he sees men with money in their hands, but he says I don't see any gambling, the interpreter asked Sgt Britton what was the money used for "Britton" told him that the men were taking up a collection for a sick grandmother "He believed him too" --- Gullible no end".

May 29th - Today we've had our biggest raid so far, 500 B-29's and 100 P-51's hit Yokohama & vicinity, one of our planes was hit but recovered and stayed in formation, 3 "Migs" pursuits went down. The raid occurred just before noon and lasted 2 1/2 hours. The sky has been black with smoke since the raid, and right now a huge blow is seen west of here. We've been routed out of bed 3 nights in a row, raids on Tokyo & Kawasaki areas. I'm on the camp fire fighting detail, however, I don't intend to fight any fires, let the place burn, our side starts when so why should we try to put them out. I wonder when this war is going to be over? I'm sure that these people can't take much more of this, it really is getting awful.

Food remains about the same. No mail lately. In fact I hardly think that we will ever get any more until this fiasco is over. I read a grand GIC graphy today. (In their air raid shelter) George W. Carver, by Rechen Holt. He certainly had something, according to the author, he has done more for the "agro" than any other man with the possible exception of "Booker T. Washington". We have "World Series" by "Iphn Tuni" Not at all bad, His base ball vernacular is good, almost made me feel that I was seeing the games he describes. And so ends another day. Lights out and so to bed, for a while at least.

June 3rd. Tomorrow 90 Dutchmen are scheduled to move later on the rest of the Dutch Party will move, so far I cannot ascertain their destination. We (americans) are also moving; when, I don't know?

Today, a B-29 "Reconn" plane was shot down and landed in Yokohama Bay, all the crew are safe, prisoners of Japan but safe, for the time being. Two days ago "Osaka" suffered a huge raid, B-29 & B-24's & P-51's - PB 4ys' & other planes, one of the biggest raids so far. The raids are growing more & more intense, soon Mr. Nippon" will witness the night of America & England.

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Diary(continued)

Last night I received a letter from Deborah. Every thing seems to be all right. However, from her letter I gather that she has't heard from me.

Many rumors are prevalent regarding the end of the war, if only some of them were true. I hope and pray that everyone home is O.K. they just have to be.

Right now one of the boys(Hewston) has the phonograph in our section, fair music. Lt. Kagashi has been removed. I don't know why & further more I don't care.

June 6th - On the 4th 90 Dutchmen left this camp for some place up north. On the 5th we ceased working at K.W.K. & Shova Lenko, however, we are now engaged in cleaning up the camp and erecting bomb shelters. Tomorrow 80 men go out on K.B.K. and cleaned up one of the areas that was burned out two weeks ago.

There has't been any raids or alerts in this area for 5 days, something must have happened, many rumors prevail, nothing tangible through. We are supposed to get a new camp Commandant tomorrow. I wonder how he will be?

We are supposed to move soon, Just as quick as the Japanese can get accommodations and transportations for us.

I'm trying to read some of J.M.Barries play's "Quality Street" being the first one that I ever tried to read, his plays are very nice reading not at all hard, (as I expected)

My Birthday is nex Sunday, Golly, 39 years old, 154 Lbs, hungry for home and my friends, God when it this all going to end? While I berate and rant, I can say one thing, I'm darn lucky to be alive and I'm thankful for what I receive, believe me.

June 10th - As usual, my birthday is a day of glorious Sunshine, and some sort of an especial event.- This morning at 6:30 am. the air raid sirens sounded and a raid was on, 500 ships or more, 150, of them hit the "Yokohama" area the rest went northwest wards.

I've really enjoyed myself eating today, two cans of corned beef that I had saved from the "Red Cross" food packages, and so far "Two crime nations" of rice. Not bad I hope Mama and Dad enjoy themself today, its their 40 th wedding anniversary.

The new books that we have in camp are interesting, some real good books but try and get one. Right now I'm reading "In the Steps of St. Paul, a biography by "H.V. Morton", educational and has lots of historical events in it that to me are very interesting.

I've got today off; I'm now working on K.B.K. yesterday I shoveled coal with "S/Sgt Seres", we had a good dry tho,

June 14th- I've had two days off, but tomorrow I am to go out to "Sempaku" and shovel coal, Wow/-

We had an alert last night, B-24's and dive bombers, however, no local areas was hit. Fleas are awful, worse than efwr, Food remains the same. No drastic changes.

Wrote another card home today -

June 17th - Sunday; worked today at "Sempaku", shoveling coal, tomorrow 135 men go out and try to finish the boat; as, a "Reconn" spotted it today. "Enough said" ----

We had a treat for supper last night, fried rice and fish a good meal, the best for a long time.

Diary (continued)

I'm still reading about "St Paul" - might good reading too. I hope that every one home is all right, I feel that this is our year and ought to be home before the world eries is played.

Rumors have reached us about no baseball in the US. I can't believe that tho', too much depends on sports in the States, I'm sure that the American Public would't stand for any curtailment of any of their pleasures. There isn't any more cigarettes to be had; the "Nips" now smoke "Pine Needles" rolled up into cigarettes, not much to smoke, but better than nothing. There hasn't been a soap issue for two months, even the Japanese guards (camp) are complaining, they try to trade some of the boys ut some soap. No socks, in fact nothing at all. If only "Uncle" knew of the situation that exists at present, we could have that invasion that we are anticipating.-----
June 25th, - For the past week we have had numerous raids, luckily for us no local raids.

All of the Americans now work on 1 detail, M.B.K. -2 Days on 1 off, not at all bad. Today I've spent the day in bed, resting and reading.
No rumors. No change in camp details, every thing is about the same, still no soap.-- Cigarettes now sell for ¥ 1.50 to ¥ 2.50 and all we get for working is .35 ¥ per day.

Our camp has certainly changed, from the nervous tension which existed a year ago to a real nice camp, now it is o.k. here.

June 29th - Tomorrow 60 men move into this camp from "Nishan Flour Mill", Camp # G11- Shiozawa's Camp- on the third or fourth 100 men are scheduled to leave here, "ere's hoping that I'm one.

Last night there was another air raid, so far as I know they raided "Osiba" 20 miles east of here. Soon this war will be over, and the many of the old scores will be settled between us. There are a lot of men who have their neck-right in with the Japanese. They're the first ones to be working over.
For supper tonight we have rice & batter fried fish, not at all bad.

July 3rd - Yesterday 100 men left "Mitsui camp" for a new camp. 61 Americans 39 Dutch, (Myself included) We left at 6:45 AM and arrived here at 4:30 PM, about 200 Km from Kowassaki, this camp "60" is located high in the mountains, it is a mine, (copper) the personnel consisted of 190 men, 181 Dutch, 9 Norwegians. The food is about the same as we have been getting with one exception the serve bread here, once a day. 243 grams, not at all bad. The barracks are much better than our old ones and the Discipline is far better, I believe that this is a better camp, and while the work is different, I can't see us worrying too much. Today I weight 69.7 kilos, a slight loss from the last weighing. We under went our usual card filling out, and later on today we will have to swear not to escape.

We are resting for 3 days before we go to work, and from what I can find out work is easy. Many interesting stories are told by the "Norwegians" but yet, many tales to listen to.

The place was hit on June 10th, a huge factory about 3 kms. from here was completely destroyed. Steel beams and girders twisted and torn all over the place. Oh yes, every day each man receives 4 cigarettes, Money is no good.

July 7th- Yesterday we all went to work, there is two places of work, copper refining and mining. I work in a gold refining plant. The work isn't too hard, however I have to get up at 4:30 am, and at 6:45 fall out for work, Then we walk about 2 miles, have 1 hour for lunch, quit at 3:30 PM. and get back here about 5:00. Yesterday we had 3 air raids, local area too. The Japanese here seem to be plenty worried, they certainly go crazy when the alarm is sounded. Our total food ration is rice or bread per day is 705 grams (divided

DIARY (Continued)

thrusy) morning rice 220 grams, bread 250 grams, evening rice 235 grams, of course this is dry, when it is cooked up there are more grams than that. My new number is 273, so now to be had here, nothing but old news. Fleas in this camp are not quite so bad, and there are very few mosquitos, we are separated into work details, I now sleep in a section with 16 Americans and 1 Lutchman, there is a library here, but only a few books, nothing much of speak of.

We are in a town call "Hitachi" way up in the hills.

July 15th - Today & tomorrow we have a day off. Extra food too- we have a total off 350 men in this camp, and so "35" Red cross food packages have been issued (10 ments 1 box) all the eatables will be issued through the Kitchen, from the rents a couple of good stews should be made, from the milk, chocolate, sugar, and jam a couple of puddings, coffee instead of hot water, each man received 12 cigarettes and 1 piece of gum. 5 men to 1 bar of soap. The factories have given us a couple of days off. Now for some real news, Air raids continue in full force. On the 11th a raid carried on for 12 hours I saw P 51s and some navy planes, we were in and out of the bomb shelters all day. On the 13th, at 2:00 am. we heard flight after flight go over us. Some where north of us caught hell.

Yesterday, the 14th Tokyo, Yokohama, and vicinity were bombed from 6:00 am. to 7:00 pm. by 2000 planes, it looks as though the big push is now on. Here's hoping. Since we've been here we have no two shots for diphtheria, and is my arm sore. I am now down to 68.4 kilos, a hey low, however given the boys who have been here for 2 1/2 years. Lost, so I don't feel so bad.

Fleas have come out the past few days, almost as bad as "Kawasaki". The camp library has some good books, but are hard to get. Most of the books are biographies. Tomorrow we are going to have a "show". It should be a good one too - our old music makers came with us. Besides them, there are some real good ones here. There is a violin and an accordion and quite a few string instruments, all in all a fair orchestra. I sort of like this place, and while I'm here I intend to make the most of it by reading and studying.

July 17th - At 5:00 am. this morning we were alerted, and at 5:30 am I hit the dirt a plane was strapping the factory area just above us, at 6:30 AM, 5 planes dropped bombs in both factory areas, F4F's F4U's P51's, etc. were in the vicinity. One of the planes fires rockets or something like that. we did not go to work today, however, I expect to go tomorrow.

Early everyday it rains, hard too. Maybe its the high altitude, maybe not. Fleas are really bad here, perhaps it may be due to the weather.

Yesterday we had a show, not at all bad, I told a couple of stories, and sung a song.

July 20th - What a hectic a days. On the 17th at 11:00PM, 13 cruisers and otherships of the line shelled us. It was raining "Blue Blazes" and again I hit the "Fox Hole" believe me I didn't expect to come through that one. The shelling was a complete success, we hav'nt been to work since on the 18th we were again strafed, by P51's & F4F's, they also dropped bombs about 50 yards from us. They were after transportation and were after a couple of trucks which were on the road right by our camp. We could'nt get out of the building if we were seen our Boys would'nt know whether we are "Nips" or not.

Last night we were again under fire, and the whole area with the exception of the upper end of the valley, where we live, was completely destroyed. Incendiary bombs did the trick, we were indeed lucky, however, anything may happen. As much as we now have no place of work we are "resting" but to day I have

Diary (continued)

been hard at work building a bomb shelter, we certainly need some. This war is rapidly drawing to a close, everyone is speaking about an invasion. I hope it happens soon. Then and only then will we be able to go home.

July 24th - Since the 15th we haven't had to go out to work, however, today a clean up detail went out, I was part of the group, the city of "Hitachi" is no more, a complete job. 200,000 people homeless, 2000 "Nips" were killed during this raid.

Evacuees continue to pass our camp, they are heading for the mountains.

July 26th - Yesterday we worked cleaning up the copper mill, and at 2:00 PM. we came back to camp. At 4:00 PM, 300 men made the trip down to the water front a distance of 5 kilometers, there we had to work, sort out rice, salt, sweet potatoes, potatoes flour and what else was eatable out of the debris. The city of "Hitachi" is a complete job, nothing is left. I heard that 45,000 to 46,000 were either killed or injured during the raid of June 10th, the shelling and the bombing of a few days ago. It's awful, women and kids are aimlessly walking around, going up and down the highway. These people had better "Pack" in soon.

Today we also went down to the factory to work, cleaning up. At 8:45 am one (1) lone B-29 making a routine reconceance, seeing so many men working dropped a big bomb, about 500 lbs, on one of the buildings that hadn't burned, we were only about 50 yards away, fortunately we heard it coming and hit the ground, later on we went up into the hills that surround the factory area. 5 Japanese were casualties, luckily none of us were hurt. Too close for comfort though. Food in this camp is about the same as in our old camp, however, it is prepared a lot better. We no longer get bread, as our power line is down.

We make our oya flour from Barley.

Aug 4th - Bud's Birthday, I hope that you are back here "Lad" Now for what news that I have. 5 days ago, we had a 24 hour alert, and thick heavy smoke hung over our camp for two days. Later on we heard that Yokohama, Tokyo and Kawasaki were bombed very heavily. Kawasaki in particular being worked over, all the factory industrial areas were completely ruined. Our old Camp was destroyed and one of the new interpreters (7 new ones are in this camp) said that some men of Camp "2B" were killed, some wounded and some are all right. Some were brought into "HQ's" Camp. 4 more new Japanese arrived in this camp today. "Medical Man" Colonel Sakobee inspected this camp today, he was dissatisfied with conditions. The weather has changed for the better, no rain for 5 days, food is pretty good. However, I'm running out of tea. We have some fairly good bomb shelters now in camp, but if we should be bombed I'm afraid that we'll end up like "Kawasaki". Fleas are awful - Mum said. - "Back on bread again".

Aug 9th. - Amelia's Birthday - Good Luck Lady. I wonder why, I haven't heard from you since the war started? Funny ?????????? One man came back to this camp from the hospital in "Tokyo" everything is in ruins. He says that camp "11-0" was bombed out. 21 men were said to have been killed. Rather awful. Raids continue, every day and every night, today was no exception, 4 times today we were alerted, shelling was heard in the distance, so I guess that our Navy is still operating up and down the coast.

Hamlets were dropped in Tokyo in the other day and from rumors I hear that between the 10th and the 20th heavy air raids are in store. I wonder what teams lead in the Major leagues, may be "Boston" will be the scene of the world series. The weather has turned and is now hot & dry. Soon we may expect the "Monsoon" season, then it will be very rough on us. We had a good supper tonight, a "meat" stew and rice - yes, meat, Perhaps a horse or a "Bull" died, How could we be so lucky?

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Diary (continued)

Aug 15th- On the 13th we were strafed again- 6 F6F's took a look and "Bowie" later on (we were shot at about 5:45 am.) we went to work and spent the entire day in the "Yama"- the raid lasted 12 hours rather a long time. today we have 23 alerts so far, the raids are becoming longer and longer - Last night's raids lasted 5 hours.

The weather is hot and Fleas are having a harvest. Every morning I look as though I had a bad case of the measles. Food here is much better than at Mitsui Camp. Potatoes are used exclusively for soups. Not at all bad- we also got bread, made from barley flour. once a day. I gained a little in my last weighing.

Aug 17th - I month ago tonight we were bombed by B-29's the entire valley was burned out. Today and yesterday we were kept in camp no work, and a few minutes ago we received this news.

Americans, British & Allied forces are in conference with the Japanese military leader. There is an Armistice, but I think the war is over. For two days we haven't had an alert, and rumours are ripe about moving. Our Japanese commandant called the Officers in and told them the news. Then the senior NCO's were told, I had to tell the Americans in camp. No more work, however, we have to abide by the rules and regulations which have governed us here to fore. It's been a long time, and I'm glad that it is over. Uncle Sam hasn't let us down, he got here just a quickly and he could. It certainly will feel good to get into a new G. I. uniform. And perhaps soon I will be able to get a message home. Here's hoping.

Aug 20th- Over camp Commandant went to Tokyo 3 days ago and so far he hasn't returned. We just sit around talking and building castles.

We don't know what has happened, so far we know nothing, haven't seen or heard

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P.O.W. I. - R. D. Hill

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