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Sept  
3rd Aug 1945

Recovery team 40 left the U.S.S. Lavaca in the twelfth wave and landed on the beach at 1030. Our headquarters is located in the Japanese Naval Sea plane base headquarters. My equipment is still aboard ship and stored below deck. Expect to get it tomorrow.

4th Aug 1945

R.C.T. had a staff meeting, and I was present. I asked General Cunningham when I could fulfill my mission. He informed me that the Japanese delegates of the Tateyama City did not know of any P.W. camp in our immediate area. I asked if I could be permitted to check Kita Cotygora Numa in Kominato for possibilities of a P.O.W. (Our G-2 showed such a camp on our area map). The executive officer said he might form a patrol tomorrow to go up and take a look. Kominato is some approximate 22 road miles from here.

5th Sept  
Aug 1945

I left camp this morning at 0800 with a patrol that was heading up to Kominato. We found the town small, so we proceeded up ahead Katsuwara. The Lt. in charge of the patrol was seeking military information so we visited the mayor of Katsuwara. Japanese civilians know little military information and upon my questioning, he never heard of P.O.W. camp Kita Cotygora Numa, near Kaminato. Fact is, he never saw a white man after Dec 1941. The patrol leader asked the mayor to contact the military leaders in the

Sept  
5<sup>th</sup> Aug 1945 Cont.

vicinity. A naval officer and commander of coastal defense, Nishimura met us in the city hall. After the patrol leader was thru asking questions, I talked with the mayor of P.O.W. camps. I asked him of any camps near Kominato and his answer was negative. I asked him if he had seen P.O.W. in the area and his answer was still negative. I asked him if he was in command of the territory reaching up to Chosi which is the nearest city to Kiraoka Camp # 3. I asked him if he knew of a P.O.W. camp at Kiraoka. He said there was no Kiraoka near Chosi, but there was a Miraoka near Kisarazu which is on the Tokyo Bay coast half way between Tateyama and Chiba. We went back to Kominato and consulted the mayor of the town to the possible whereabouts of Kita Cotygora Mura. He told me there was no such a place in or near Kominato. He did tell me there was a Kita Michara Mura near the town of Wada. When I returned back to our post I explained all to the executive officer Col. Hooper and he told me of a patrol going up to Chita. I'll go along tomorrow, and check Chita for P.O.W. camps. I failed to mention that the Colonel knew of some prisoners being released near Kisarazu which were sent to Yokohama. This all happened three days prior to our arrival at Tateyama. On my patrol tomorrow, I'll also check the camp near Kisarazu for conditions, records, stores etc. I heard that the body of a naval officer pilot was picked up in our area. I'll check in details tomorrow when I return from

Sept  
5<sup>th</sup> Aug 1945 Cont.

my patrol.

I submitted my strength report this evening to our head quarters. I could not make my report previous to this date because my equipment was stored below deck and it just came off ship today. I back dated my report 3rd Sept, the date of our landing. I mentioned that I had to leave Pvt Robert E. Jones behind with my jeep because there was no room for it aboard ship. Jones and the trailer and jeep will come in with the 112<sup>th</sup> RCT's rear echelon.

L

Sept  
6<sup>th</sup> Aug 1945

Left for Kisojazu this morning by train. I found the naval air port secured by one of the Troops of the 112<sup>th</sup> with the navy operating the air strip. I contacted naval officers and found that they were evacuating P.O.W. to Guam. Upon questioning I found that the navy had evacuated 60 P.O.W. on the 5<sup>th</sup> and 70 this morning. Some 60 more P.O.W. were expected that afternoon. The P.O.W.'s were being brought in by boat from Itoyama and then by plane from Kisojazu to Guam. While waiting for the P.O.W.'s to come in that afternoon, I interviewed the mayor of Kisojazu and two Japanese officers but to no avail. I questioned them about Hirooka which is some 15 miles inland from Kisojazu, and they informed me that there were no P.O.W. camps there. Fact is, they never saw a white man till the 112<sup>th</sup> arrived. I interviewed some P.O.W. who were to be evacuated to Guam

6<sup>th</sup> Sept 45 cont.

this afternoon and obtained some valuable information. I found that most of the men came from Niigata B-5, Mitsushima, Tokio Dispatch Camp #2, Noetsu B-4, Umieta in Osaka, and Nagasaki B-3, all in and around Tokyo. (Note: Men mentioned that Sgt (master) Kobayashi Japanese K.C.O in charge of Nagasaki B-3 should be imprisoned severely for atrocities committed to P.O.W. line) and for further information, check with a Dutch T.W.S.S. Stuurman P.O.W. Leader and Major W.C. Berry D.U.S.). A P.O.W. Y.P.O., now w/c John F. Duffell N.S.N 5008009 informed me that he had married a white Russian whose first name was Mekhina (maiden name not remembered). He had last seen her in Manila on Nov '42 when he was brought from Corrigador to Manila for shipment to Japan. Duffell was being sent to the U.S.A. and was interested to go to Manila to seek his wife. (Wife had marriage license, Chinkung passport & also white Russian passport) His orders were sending him to the states, and he asked me if I would find out if his wife was still in Manila and if so, if she could be sent to his mother's home, 4205 Stonewall Ave Richmond Virginia. I informed him I'd do what I could. Nothing further for to-day.

7<sup>th</sup> Sept 1945

This morning, we left Kisarazu for Chiba. Chiba is the capital of the prefecture. We visited the governor and Chief of police of the prefecture. After many questions concerning possible white people or P.O.W. camps I still received a negative answer. There has been

7<sup>th</sup> Sept 1945 Cont.

no P.O.W. camp in the Chiba prefecture. I questioned these people as to the procedure as to what became of airmen either forced or knocked down in their prefecture. They informed me, that a record was kept of all this and that live airmen were shipped to Tokyo, the dead identified if possible and then cremated. I asked to see these documents and records and no one knew where they were. I forced the issue and they called in the Japanese military police. Then the Japanese M.P. and the governor, they will secure the documents for me. They refused to give me the originals, and will make duplicates of the originals for me. The governor's name is Saito and the chief of police, Omori. I couldn't get any further information. I expect to visit Chiba again in a few days, to secure these documents.

I forwarded the daily rosters to Capt Boyert for the 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> + 7<sup>th</sup> Sept. My report was negative.

8<sup>th</sup> Sept. 1945 Cont.

To-day, I retravelled along the East Coast of the Chiba peninsular as far as Katamura. I spoke to the mayor there to find out whether any planes were knocked down or forced down in his area and the answer was negative. I also checked further on Kita Citygawa Mura and he informed me that there was no such place. He said that there was a town called Kita Mihara Mura near Wada. In hopes of finding a P.O.W. camp, I found Kita



8th Sept 1945 Cont

Nikara Kura a forming village. I asked the mayor questions and received nothing but a negative answer.

I spoke to Colonel Hooper, 112th Ex affair directly after he came back from 11th Corps headquarters, and he told me of the abundant work of the recovery teams in the 11th Corps area. I asked to get in contact with my liaison officer Capt Goyet. He said he'd speak to the General as to my release from this area.

I submitted my roster report to headquarters tonight - Still negative

L

9th Sept 1945

Did not go off on patrol to day for I spoke to Col. Hooper. He told me that he spoke to the General and the General decided to inform Corps that there was no need for a recovery team in this headquarters. This message was sent to Corps and I'm awaiting an answer to this message.

Submitted my roster report - Negative

L

10th Sept 1945

No patrol to day. Still no message from Corps. I spoke to Col Hooper and he told me that I could go to Corps to find out just what I am to do. In leaving tomorrow morning I submitted my strength report to Headquarters and my roster report to Corps - Roster report still negative.

L

13th Sept 1945

I found Capt Goyet at Corps and he informed me to return to 112th to pick up

my crew. This happened 11<sup>th</sup> Sept. On the 12<sup>th</sup> I returned to pick up my team. When I arrived at corps headquarters 13<sup>th</sup> Sept Capt Fryer assigned my team at Atsugi Air Base. I am working with teams 41, 42 & 43 processing internees. My team didn't do any processing tonight for we were standing by watching the experienced teams work. We'll most likely work on our own tomorrow. I imagine that 100 men were processed. Of all the P.O.W.s I spoke to, all seem to complain of lack of food to eat and continual beating by the Japs. Abuses were not few.

L

14<sup>th</sup> Sept 1945

Bad weather today, and all P.O.W.'s due in today, will come in tomorrow weather permitting. All planes were grounded today. Expect a busy day tomorrow.

L

15<sup>th</sup> Sept 1945

My team went into action today and things went smoothly. In some three hours, we processed 103 P.O.W.'s one of which was a Dutch civilian & atrocity forms were filled out, two Reports of Death of Internees, and a list of 80 deceased internees from Camps Moji, Muroran, Formosa, Saigon, Takao, Singapore, Olusan. Men looked fairly well physically, but most had a far away look in their eyes. Still complain of small amounts of food & beatings. Two Americans hope to get back to get even with the Japanese who maltreated them. Many would like to come back as witnesses for war crimes. Most are all anxious to get home to their families.

L

16<sup>th</sup> Sept 1945

Some 500 P.O.W's came in this afternoon  
so back to work. My team processed some  
158 P.O.W's, 5 army Air Corps + ground forces,  
7 navy, 90 Marines most of Wake Islands  
56 British mostly from Singapore. Received  
two atrocity affidavits and a large amount  
of documents, records, rosters etc from a P.O.W  
camp leader by name of Capt Francis, British.  
Saw remarks about lack of food and beatings.  
No further comments

21<sup>st</sup> Sept 1945

we processed some + Estemal who were  
taken by the Japs on the Aleutian Islands.  
From inquiries, I found that these people  
were allowed to live freely in the city of  
Otaru in Japan. They were checked periodically  
by the Japenes as to their whereabouts. and  
were repatriated

28<sup>th</sup> Sept 1945

Have ordered to leave Atangi and go  
back with my team to head quarters  
Manilla. Expect to leave some time today  
by air

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