

1st Radio Squadron Mobile (J) 1944-1945

USAT Uruguay back to Seattle, Washington.

Tokyo, Japan

Irumagawa, Japan

Okinawa, Japan

Luzon, Philippines

Leyte, Philippines

Biak Island,
Netherlands East Indies

Nadzab, New Guinea

Lae, New Guinea

Milne Bay, New Guinea

Australia



INTRODUCTION.

The following images chronicle the movements of the 1st Radio Squadron, Mobile (J)* from 12 April 1944 to 20 December 1945, as they made their way from New Guinea to Japan conducting intelligence operations during World War II. This personal photo album was assembled and carefully annotated by Corporal Herbert C. Gimpl. He and his fellow soldiers are the subjects in many of the photographs; candidly and unwittingly illustrating the everyday lives of the unsung enlisted heroes who served in the Pacific.

After Mr. Gimpl's death in 1994, the collection was delegated to Frank and Florence Koopman, who kindly donated it to the AF ISR Agency History Office. Their intention was to preserve the memory of the 1st Radio Squadron, Mobile (J) and share this invaluable pictorial history with those who continue its legacy. Fortunately, the unit's legacy *is* still alive and in service today as the 301st Intelligence Squadron at Misawa Air Base in Japan.

In the hands of the AF ISR Agency History Office, the photo album was disassembled, scanned, and painstakingly reassembled for public distribution in a more versatile--and less fragile--digital format. The original photos have been sent to the National Archives for conservation and permanent retention.

Our thanks to Doris Gimpl, Frank and Florence Koopman, and the men who served with the 1st Radio Squadron Mobile (J). Also, a special thanks to Ted Koniarens for scanning the photos.

This book is dedicated to its author, Mr. Herbert C. Gimpl, whose meticulous account of events through photos and captions has preserved his unit's history forever.



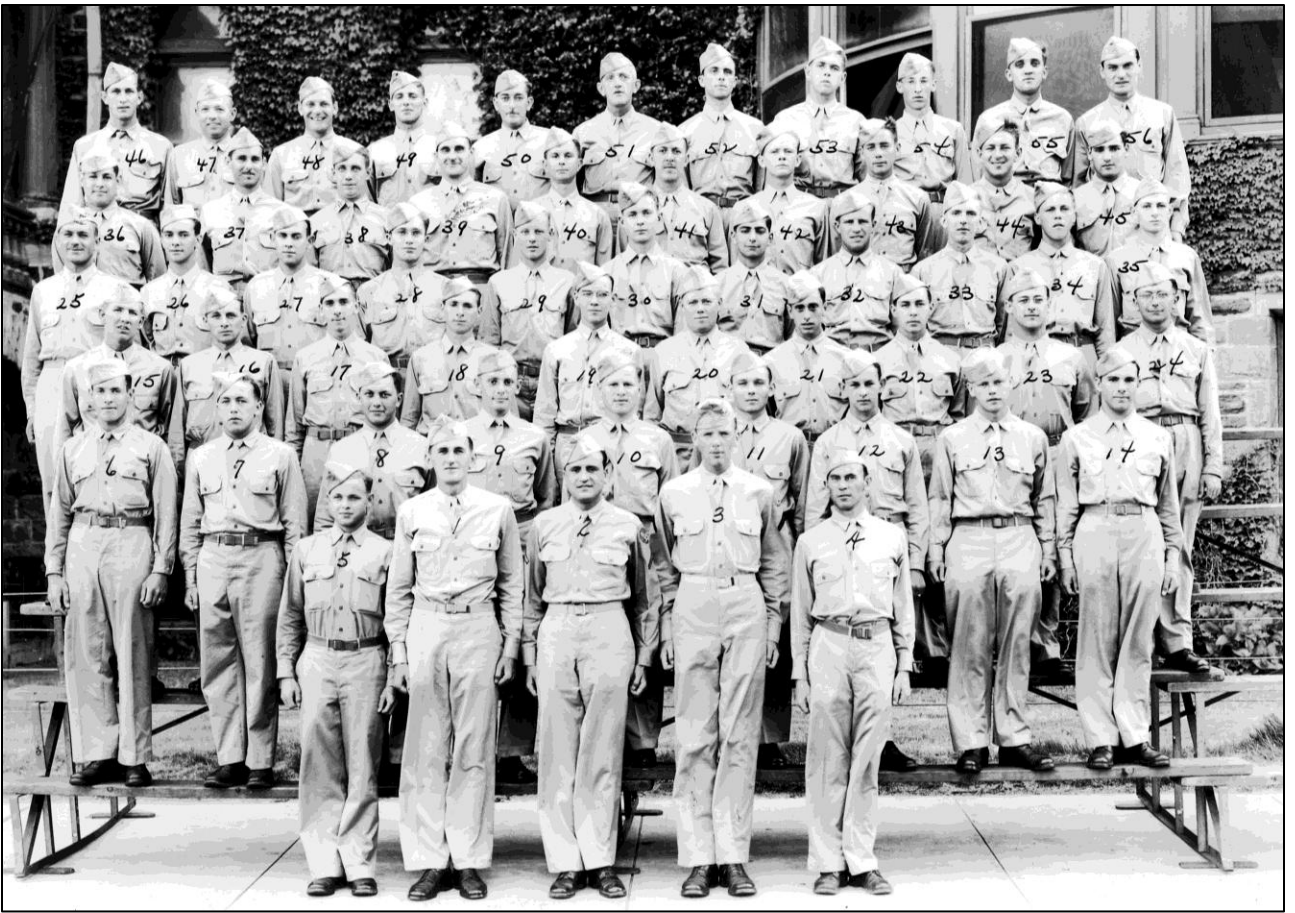
BJ Jones, Archivist/Curator
AF ISR Agency History Office

*(J) indicates the Japanese area of operation. The (J) indicator was later dropped in 1946. Font cover map from GoogleEarth.com. 1 Radio Squadron, Mobile emblem is unofficial.

NOTE: These images are the property of the United States Air Force and must be annotated as such when used in another body of work. Conditional terms of use prohibit users from displaying the images in a disrespectful manner or improper representation.

TABLE OF CONTENTS.

Basic Training and Technical Training School (1943)	1
Nadzab, New Guinea (12 April 1944)	3
Biak Island, Netherlands East Indies (11 August 1944)	4
Lae, New Guinea – Armed Forces Cemetery	9
Leyte, Philippines (25 November 1944)	10
Luzon, Philippines (20 March 1945)	15
--Clark Field	16
--On pass in Manila & San Fernando	19
--Fifth Air Force aircraft at Clark Field	22
Convoy from Luzon, Philippines to Okinawa Island, Japan	25
Okinawa, Japan (13 July 1945)	29
Japanese Peace Party on Ie Shima Island, Japan (20 Aug 1945)	38
Irumagawa, Japan (27 September 1945)	39
--On pass in Tokyo	44
--Gen MacArthur’s HQs at Dai-Ichi	47
--On pass, Day excursion	52
--On pass to Hanno	54
Going home aboard the U.S.A.T Uruguay	56



Army Air Forces Basic Training Command #7. Sq 14, Flt C. Atlantic City, New Jersey, May - Jul 1943. Photo taken at the Malborough Hotel.



Midland Radio & TV Schools Inc., Radio Operators Class HO92A at the Normandy Hotel in Kansas City, Kansas. Oct-Dec 1943.

“Herb and I were on the U.S.S. Howze and stopped on 4 September 1944 at Giligili in Milne Bay to let off a ‘hospital unit’ and cruised another 450 miles on an island tour 12 miles out from Lae [New Guinea]. Then we went on a short barge ride to land. We then slithered inland in the rain with 180 other soldiers in a parade of Navy ‘ducks’, for a 30 mile ride up into Markham Valley, and arrived at our camp site at 2000 hours. [Follow along] and track our movements through New Guinea, Biak, Leyte and Luzon [Philippines], Okinawa, and up to Irumagawa [later known as Johnson Air Base], Japan.” -- Frank Koopman



Frank Koopman, Walter Smittle & Bob Wampler.

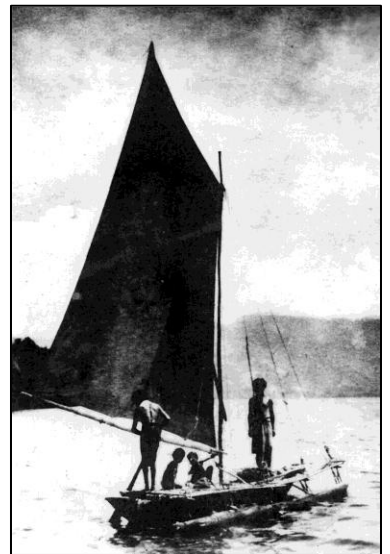
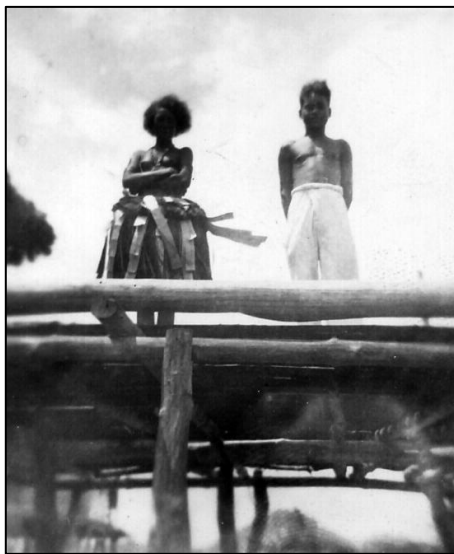


(Front) Gimpl, Yulman, Lapi, Shannon,
(back) Schaefer, Snyder, Harrer.



Wrecked Japanese “Betty” Bomber (Twin Engine).

NADZAB, NEW GUINEA, 12 Apr 1944 – 11 Aug 1944



Scenes from a native village near the 1st Radio Squadron, Mobile (J) camp at Nadzab, New Guinea.

BIAK ISLAND (Netherlands East Indies)

Arrived 11 Aug 1944. Left 18 Nov 1944.



Native village near Bosnik Airstrip.



Japanese bombs near Mokmer Airstrip.



Japanese shore gun pointing towards Owi.



Native village, complete with "G.I." tents.



Women of Biak.



The Palms.



B-24 Liberator, [Unreadable].



B-24 Liberator, "Booby Trap."



B-24 Liberator "The Butcher's Daughter."



B-24 Liberator, "Queen Mae."



B-24 Liberator, "Ho Hum."



B-24 Liberator, "Lilas Marie II."



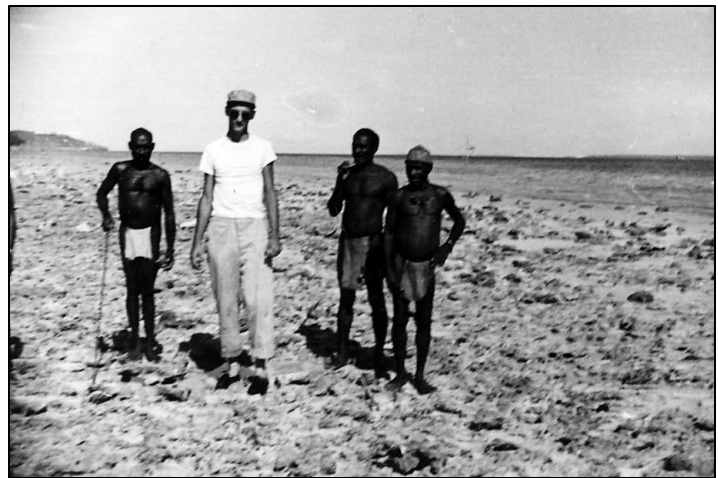
The tattooed lady.



Local villagers.



Shell Hunter.



Marmaduke Dickson and friends.



Japanese grave marker.



Local villagers.



James Ferenchak on a Japanese shore gun.



Japanese tank on the beach.



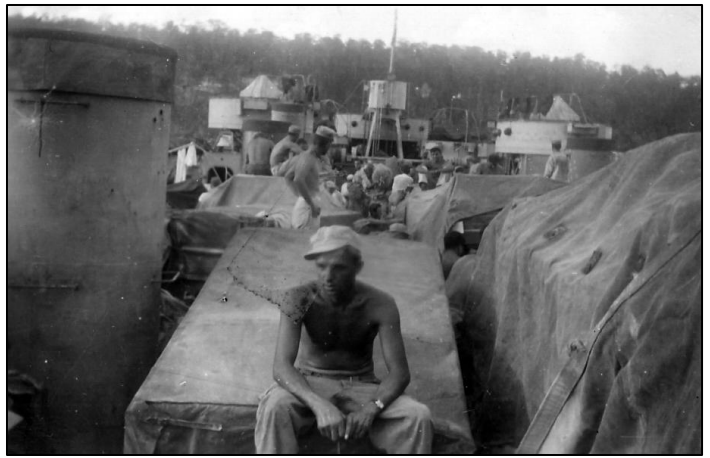
The River – just past the ‘Jolly Roger’ outfit. Favorite place for washing vehicles. Japanese caves were to the right. The river runs out of the coral cliff.



Mess Hall with tent area in rear.

(Standing) Schaefer, Ferenchak, Piner, Robinson (kneeling) Lapi, Gimpl, Harrer, Dickson, and Hogan. [Hogan was sent to Hollandia for Post Traumatic Stress Disorder.]





Down on the beach ready to load into LST, departing Netherlands East Indies (NEI) for Leyte, Philippines.

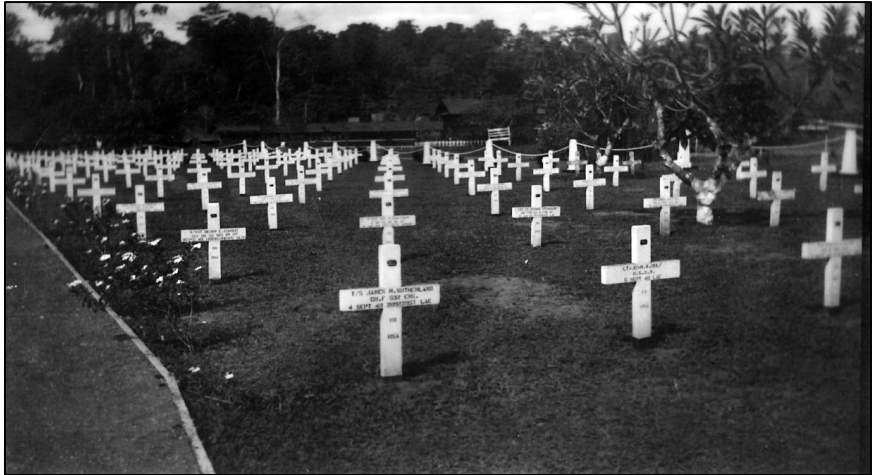
Ventling, Robinson, Snyder, Schaefer, Walker, Gimpl, & Gauthier.



(Front) Gimpl, Yulman, Lapi, Shannon, (back) Schaefer, Snyder, and Harrer.

LAE, NEW GUINEA

U.S. Armed Forces Cemetery at Lae, New Guinea. Photos taken after Corporals Clyde W. Torvik and Euell H. Belyeu were killed in a glider crash later at Nadzab on 19 Sep 1944.



Corporal Euell H. Belyeu.



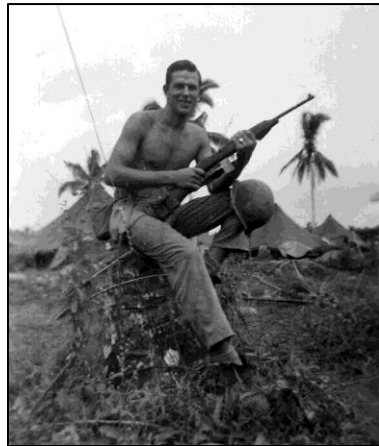
Corporal Clyde W. Torvik.



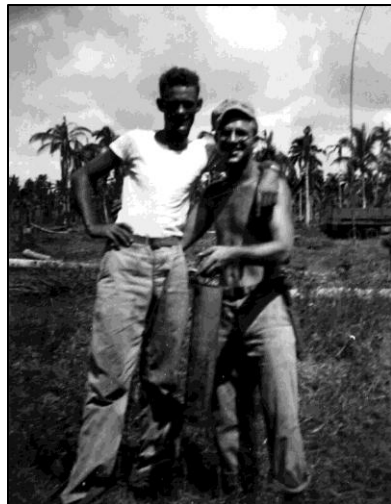
LEYTE, PHILIPPINES



First day in the Philippines, in Dulag. (L-R) Collins, Gimpl, Richardson, Shepherd.



Hal Ventling, Feb 1945.



Fitzwater & "Smitty" before all the tents went up.

Arrived on the island of Leyte in the Philippines on 25 Nov 1944, then on to Lingayen (on the island of Luzon), Philippines on 20 Mar 1945.



Church in Dulag used as a hospital.



View from tent, looking toward Burayen (14 mi from Dulag, 35 mi from Tocglobin).



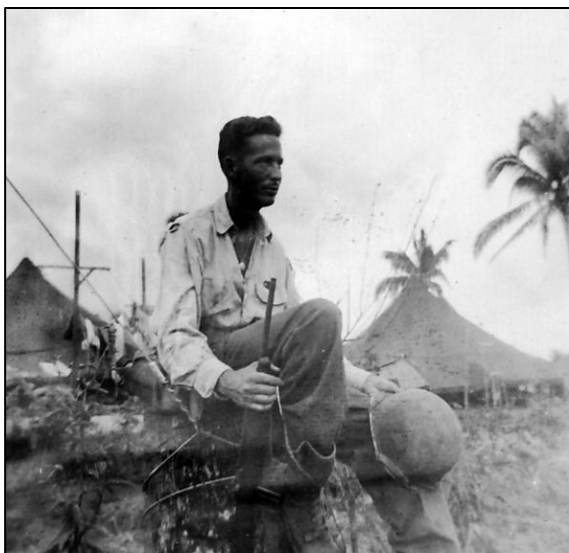
“Forward Echelon Commandos,” First week in the Philippines. (L-R) Schmidt, Vivian, Reed, Piner, Eisenson, and Sherlock.



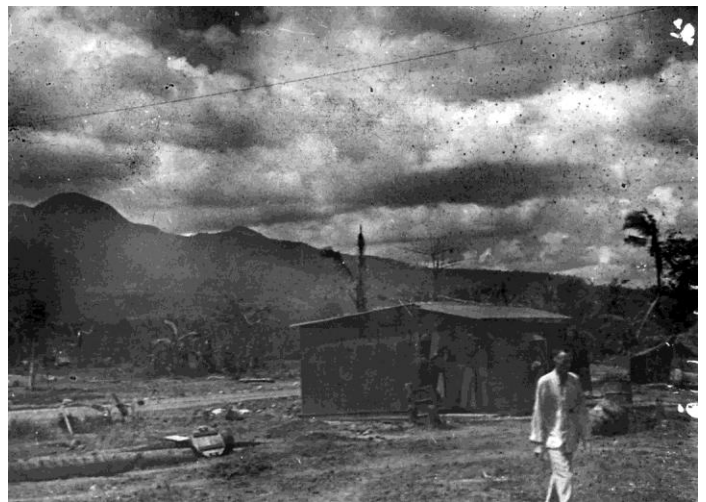
George Baker up a palm tree.



Our camp at Burauen, plus mud!



Ken Snyder in front of our tent area (in background), Feb 1945.



Washroom at 44th General Hospital.



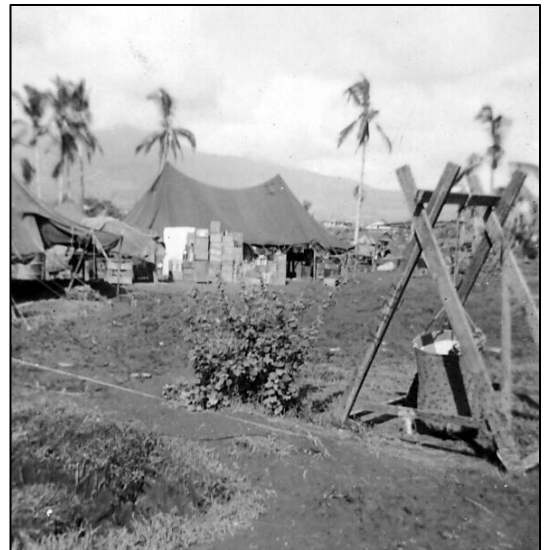
Carl Zorn in Filipino hut along riverside near our camp.



Filipinos washing clothes.



Wrecked P-38.



Lister-bag mess tent supplies, kitchen; Buraueu in background.



Walker, Robinson, and Dickson.



Duffy and Lustig by Mail tent.



River above the camp.



Looking towards hills from camp, DF to right, abandoned latrine at extreme left.



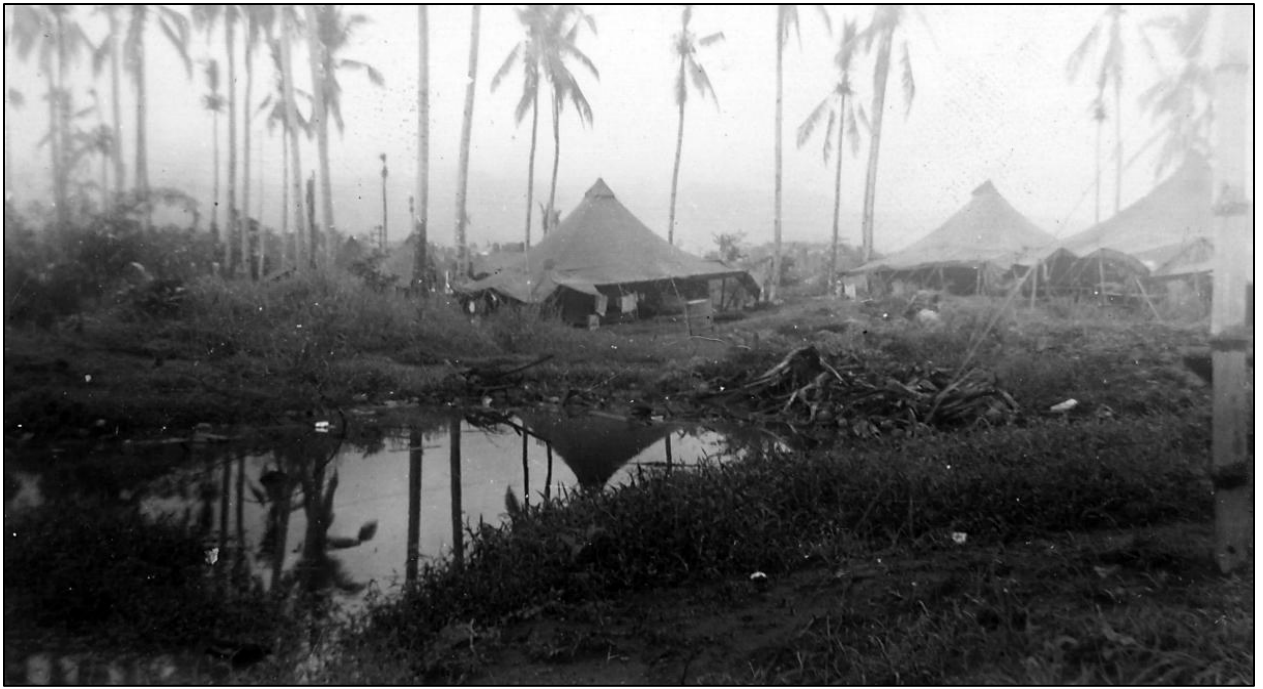
"Marie Raga" one of the Burauen "Belles."



Smittle and Schaefer at the site of a wrecked plane.



'Pop' the camp Handyman.



Camp in Jan 1945.



The River.



"Pete", Mike's 10 year old son. Good little casino player.

LUZON, PHILIPPINES



Japanese phosphorous bombs going off in a revetment -- TOO near the camp.

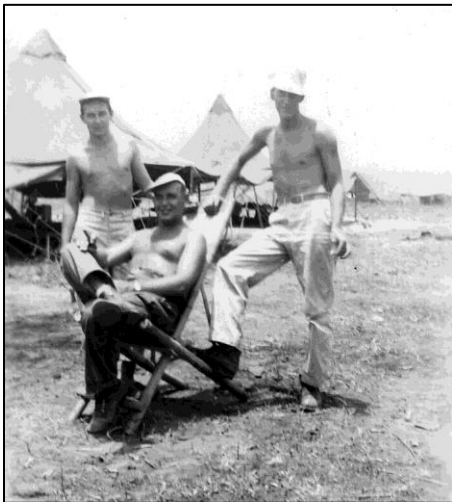


Two Filipino Lasses.
"Luzon type."

Arrived at Lingayen, on the island of Luzon, Philippines, from Leyte on 20 March 1945. We stayed at Binmaley.



Aerial photo of upper Luzon.



Gimpl, Eddie, and Shaefer.

TC-9s - Set up for voice intercept.

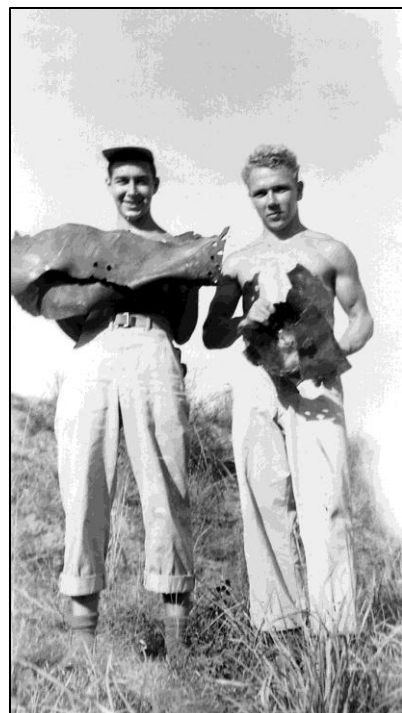


CLARK FIELD, LUZON, PHILIPPINES

Arrived at Clark Field on 5 April 1945



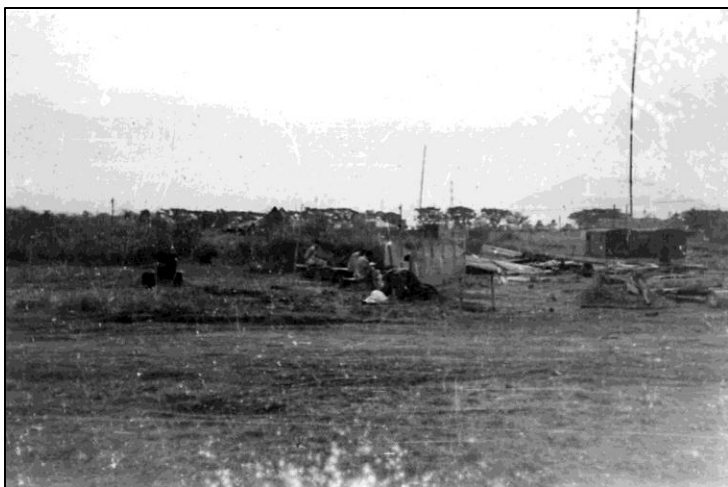
Camp at Clark Field.



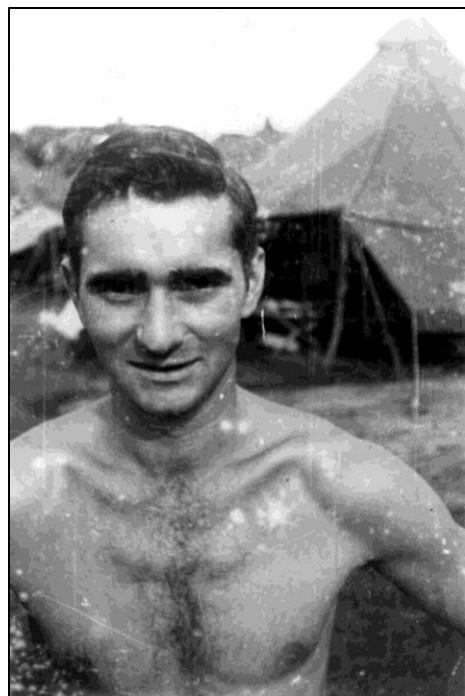
'Shorty' Wilson and Gimpl with bomb fragments.



Robinson and a B-29 Superfortress.



Latrine.



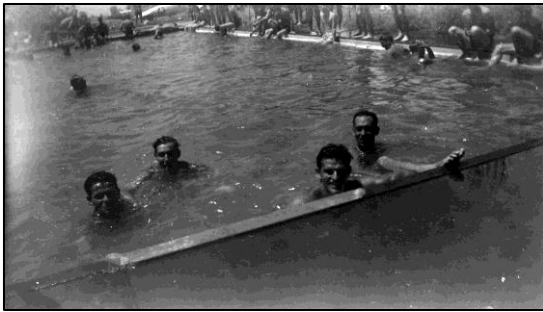
Bob Wampler.



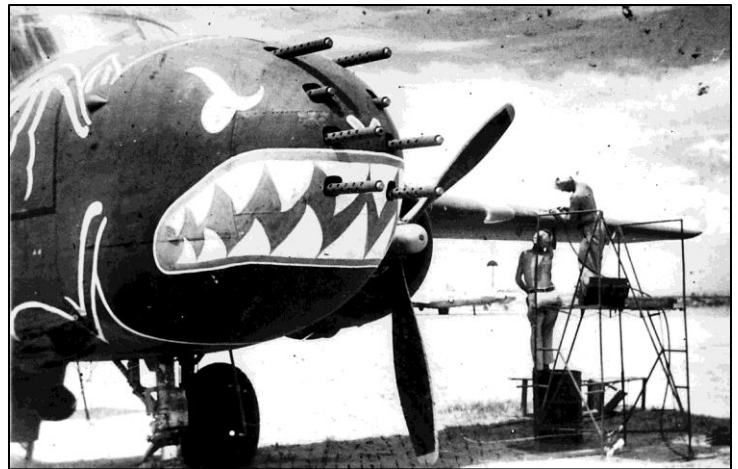
Swimming pool at Clark Field, right near the airstrips. Koopman and Gimpl at opposite side of the pool.



Gimpl, Ventling, Koopman, and Smittle.



Smittle, Gimpl, Ventling & Koopman.



A B-25 Mitchell, Medium Bomber, and its mechanics.



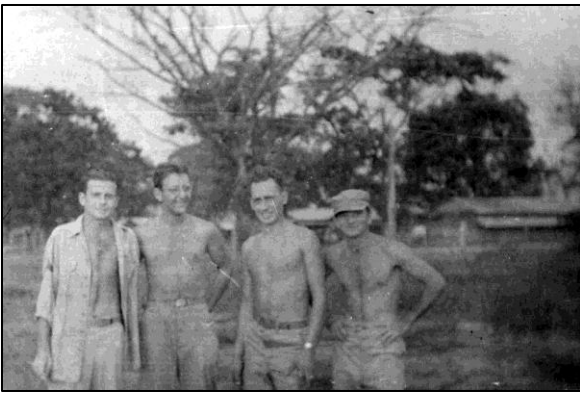
Koopman and two Filipino girls.



John Robinson with monkeys near the mess hall.



Fifth Air Force Commandos, better known as the "San Fernando Commanders."



Smittle, Robinson, Koopman, Wampler.

Frank Koopman, Walter Smittle, and
Bob Wampler 'dressed up' in uniform.



Posing Fiddlers . (Not one of them
can read a note of music!)

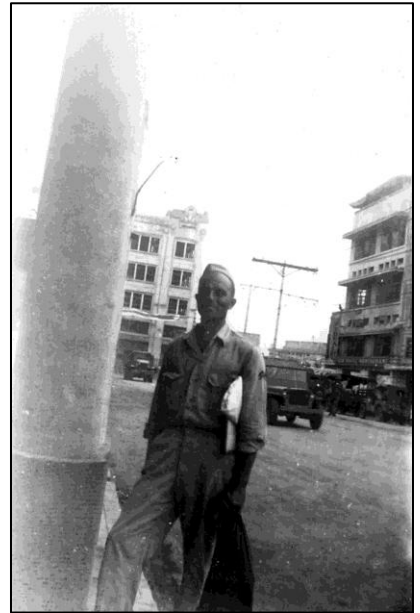
Smittle, Gimpl,
Koopman and Wampler.



LUZON, PHILIPPINES
On Pass in Manila and San Fernando



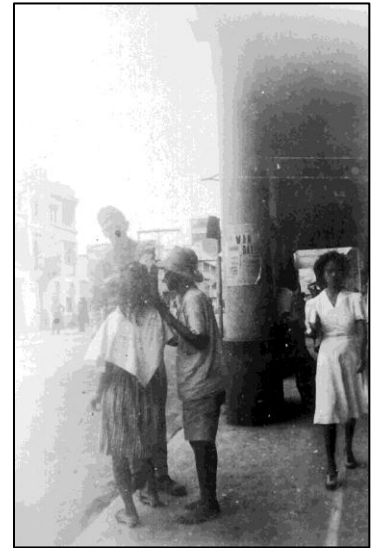
Manila Bay.



Eugene Coleman on 'Rizal.'



Eugene Coleman on one of few bridges.



Bob Day and Filipinos.



Main Drag.



The 'Copa Cabana' in San Fernando (Gimpl, Stoyhoff, Walker, & Day).

Remains of
 The Great
 Eastern Hotel.





Post Office in San Fernando.



"Pretty Miss".



Push Carts, downtown Manila.



Filipino Provost Marshal & Bureau of Prisons.



The Hotel Manila.



Destroyed and abandoned buildings in Manila.



The Street Scene in Manila.



Manila Street



Downtown Manila after a rainstorm.



Corporal Wampler in Manila

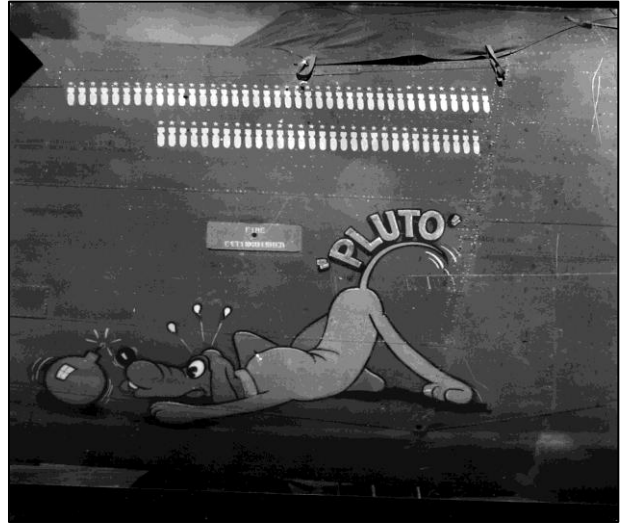


Corporal Gimpl in Manila

Planes of the Fifth Air Force Back at Clark Field...



B-24 Liberator, "How'm-I-Doin'."



B-24 Liberator, "Pluto."



B-24 Liberator, "Twin Niftys II."



B-24 Liberator, "Miss Jolly Roger."



B-24 Liberator, "American Beauty."



B-24 Liberator, "Pleasure Bent."



B-24 Liberator, "Oee Gal III."



B-24 Liberator, "Hangover Haven II."



B-24 Liberator, Yankee Gal."



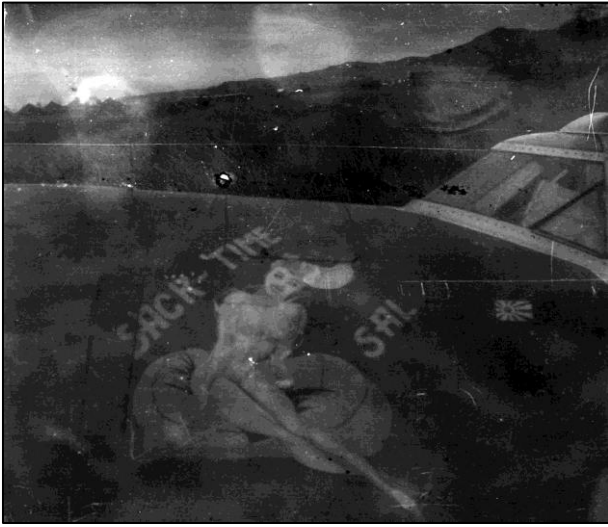
P-40, "Feathermerchant's Folly."



B-25, Mitchell "Bottom's Up."



B-24 Liberator, "Round Trip Rachel."



B-24 Liberator, "Sack Time Sal."



B-24 Liberator, "Tondelayo."



B-24 Liberator, "Miss Liberty."

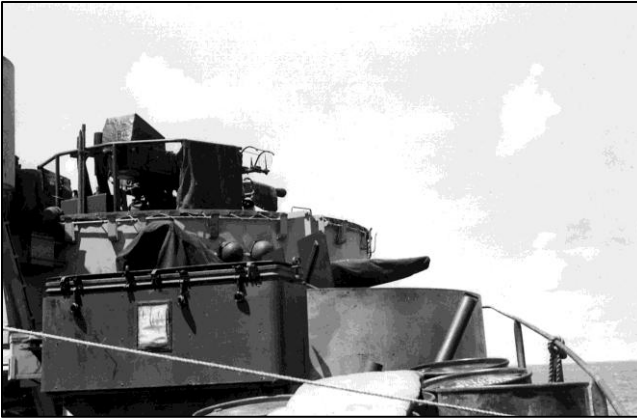


B-24 Liberator, "Bomb Wacky Wabbit."



B-24 Liberator, "Tail Wind."

Convoy from the Philippines to Okinawa, Japan (First time in enemy territory.)



Landing Ship Tank (LST), Forward gun turret.



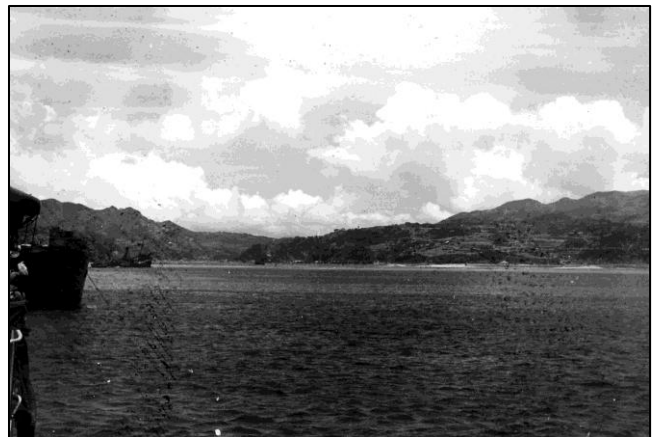
LST passing small islands.



Convoy-- LSTs in foreground; escort vessel in right background.



Sunken Japanese ship off the coast of Okinawa.



Coming into the Okinawan harbor; note half-sunken Japanese freighter.



Off the coast of Okinawa, Japan.



Ie Shima, where Ernie Pyle was killed and buried, right off the NW tip of Okinawa.

Letter of Commendation from the Commanding Officer of the U.S.S. LST 794, to the Commanding General of the 5th Air Force, commending the Commanding Officer, Capt Ellis Atchison, and the men of the 1st Radio Squadron, Mobile, regarding their voyage from Luzon, Philippines to Okinawa, Japan.

U.S.S. LST-794
Care of Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, Calif.

1 July, 1945

Commanding General, 5th Air Force
U.S. Army
APO #710, San Francisco, California

Dear Sir:

In the course of approximately one year of service in the Pacific, this vessel has carried out many assignments involving the transportation of Army, Navy and Marine units, along with their gear. We have come to expect varying degrees of cooperation and good behavior, or lack of them, from the officers and personnel of the units thus transported. It has been our custom to accept whatever fell to our lot without comment.

Recently, we had the pleasure of carrying 12 officers and 174 men of the 1st Radio Squadron, Mobile, APO #710, 5th U.S. Army Air Force, under the immediate command of Captain Ellis C. Atchison. The association was for us in such remarkably pleasant contrast to what we have become accustomed to expect from guests aboard this vessel, that I am prompted to express to you my appreciation of the good breeding and good manners notably displayed by every officer and man of the unit we carried on this assignment.

Captain Atchison particularly deserves our thanks and good wishes for his ready cooperation and agreeable concern. It was a real pleasure to observe the capable and quiet control he exercises in handling his unit.

We carry with us a warm regard and respect for the Army Air Corps. Captain Atchison and the officers and men of his unit, in our brief contact with them, have done much to nourish this regard.

Respectfully yours

/s/ W. C. CAIN
/t/ W. C. CAIN
Lieut., USOCR
Commanding Officer

CERTIFIED A TRUE COPY:

George W. Gilmore
GEORGE W. GILMORE
Captain, Air Corps

Letter from the Acting Chief of Staff, HQs Fifth Air Force, to the Commander, 1st Radio Squadron, Mobile, expressing his pride with the Advance Echelon. Also attached is a letter from the Commander commenting on the Company's conduct.

BASIC: Ltr, U.S.S. LST-794, 1 Jul 45; subj: Commendation.

AG 201.22 1st Ind.
(1 Jul 45) A1

HEADQUARTERS, FIFTH AIR FORCE, APO 710, 11 July 1945.

TO: Commanding Officer, 1st Radio Squadron, Mobile, APO 710.

The Commanding General notes with pride the excellent manner in which the personnel of the 1st Radio Squadron has conducted themselves on the recent move of the organization and desires that his personal commendation be added to that expressed by Lieutenant W. C. Gain.

/s/ W. T. Hudnell, Jr.
/t/ W. T. HUDNELL, JR.
Col., U. S. C.
Acting Chief of Staff.

2d Ind.

HEADQUARTERS, 1ST RADIO SQUADRON, MOBILE, APO 710, 14 July 1945.

TO: Commanding Officer, Advance Echelon, 1st Radio Squadron, Mobile, APO 710.

1. The Commanding Officer adds his commendation to the personnel of the Advance Echelon on their conduct and cooperation in the recent move to Okinawa Island.

2. A copy of this letter will become a permanent record of each individual's 201 File.

For the Commanding Officer:

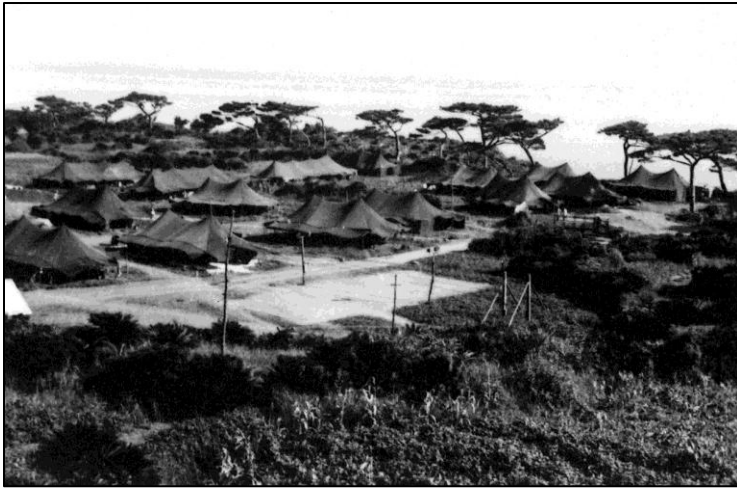
/s/ JOSEPH H. PAINTER
/t/ JOSEPH H. PAINTER
Captain, Air Corps,
Executive.

CERTIFIED A TRUE COPY:

George W. Gilmore
GEORGE W. GILMORE
Captain, Air Corps.

OKINAWA, JAPAN

Arrived 13 July 1945.



Tent area and volleyball court; ocean in the background.



Kitchen Patrol (KP) hard at work washing pots and pans.



Power Generators, Carpenter Shop, and Barber Shop (in the foreground).



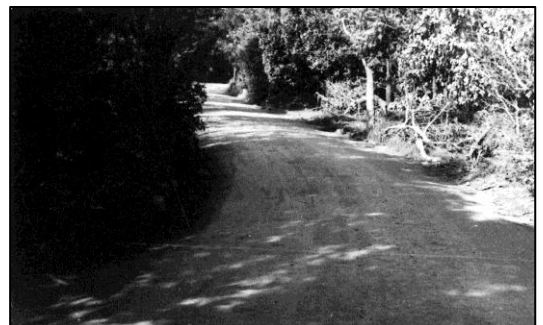
Operations Building and TC-8s, TC-9s.



Quonsett huts used for storing supplies (the only things left after a hurricane struck).



Wind-bent trees at the edge of the water; our camp and hills in background.



Typical Okinawan 'Highway.'



Our 'beach' and 'harbour' with our boats pulled up on the beach.



Okinawan women going to work laundry.



Our theater, "The Alpine Bowl," projection booth in center.



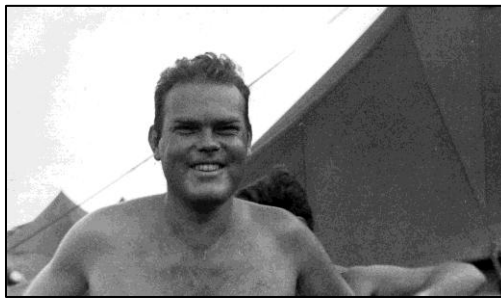
One of the hundreds of tombs on Okinawa. Bones of family are kept in these.



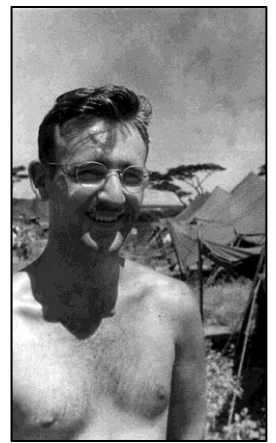
Poorer class Okinawan homes.



Joe Kolasa & Herbert Gimpl.



George Thalhamer.



John Robinson.



'Hal' Ventling, 'Ray' Shaefer.



Ray Schaefer & Clement O'Neil.



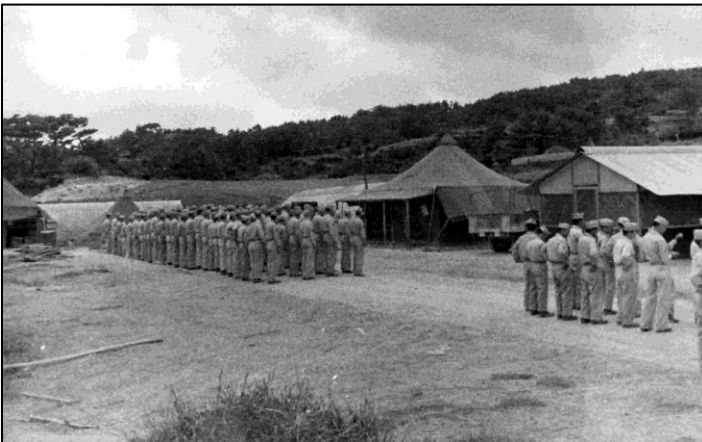
Bill Yulman.



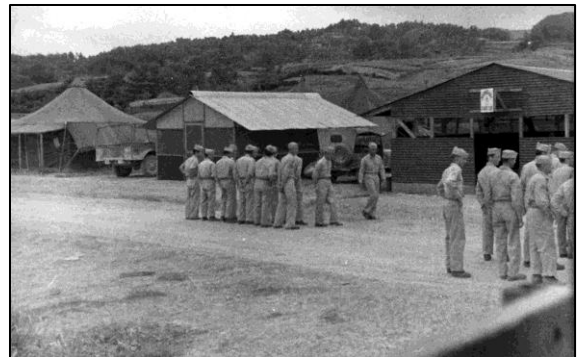
Walter Smittle, Wilbur Walker & Ken Snyder.



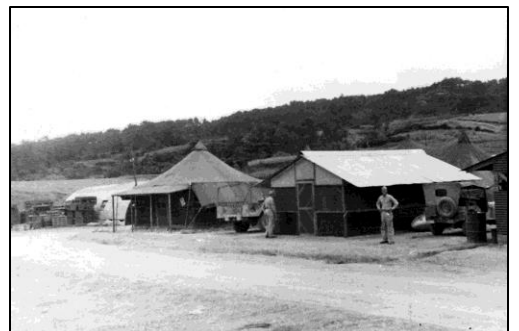
John Bell.



First formation overseas, held at Okinawa prior to movement into the Japanese main island. PX & Mail tent across 'company' street. Quonsetts are visible in the rear.



Rain comes and the formation dwindles.



Formation dismissed.



Okinawan kids and Bill Yulman.



Corporal Herbert Gimpl.



Alpine Village, Okinawa mess hall. Ladder was property of electricians, not permanent fixture.



Kids loaded down with what they could swipe, then headed off to the next camp.



Volleyball game. Gaines getting a "setup".



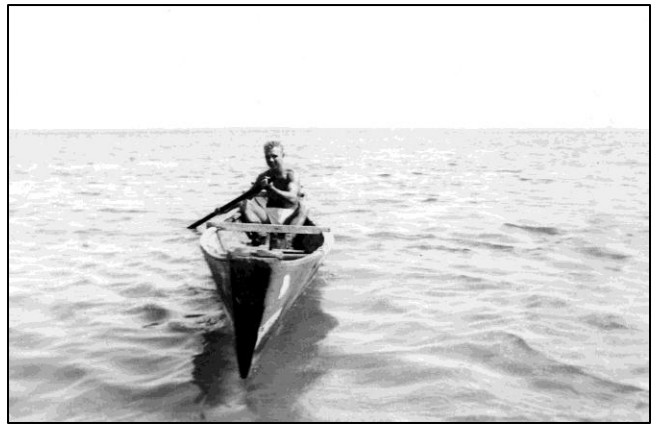
Wilson, Kossman, and Smittle on KP. Walker & Nitsche join other KPs.



Cole, Smittle, Carmo, and Koopman (with pick axe) on Kitchen Patrol (KP) duty, Okinawa 1945.



View of camp from top of coral cliff surrounding our area.



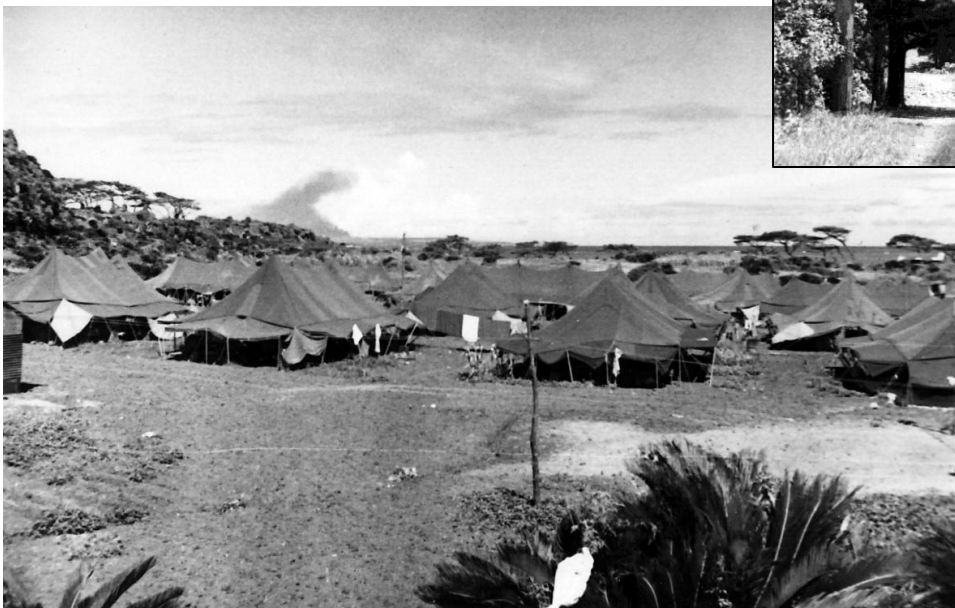
James Wilson heading in to the beach in one of our boats.



Looking out towards Ie Shima from our camp on Okinawa.



Looking toward Japan. The white strip in lower right corner is the main "Highway."



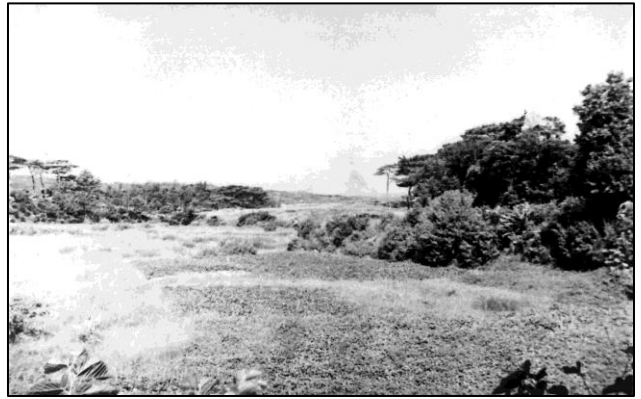
Shinto Shrine on the road leading to the villages in the hills.

Camp area. Smoke rising from Ie Shima.





Looking towards the ocean from high in the hills.



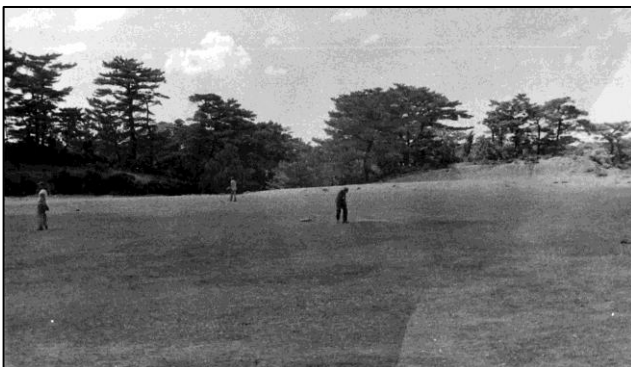
Abandoned Japanese gardens with a sweet potato patch.



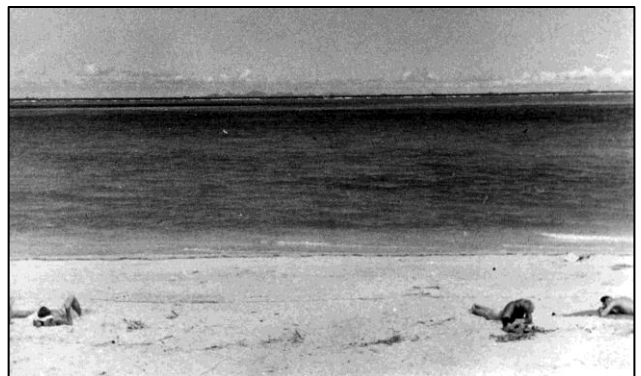
Most hallowed spot on Okinawa.



Fortier at 'The Most Sacred Rock. This shrine in hills is like our Plymouth Rock, but a more religious meaning.



1st Radio Squadron's Wammack, Hughes, and Davis work the outfield at the 1st Marine Division's baseball diamond.



Our beach. Notice the 'breakers' on the reef and the Japanese-held islands beyond.

“One night after the movies we were all hungry--as usual--so we decided to have some chicken...



Mortiz at work plucking the chicken.



Moritz carving up one of two chickens during our midnight requisition.

...We caught some that hung around the area and went to work. Moritz supervised. We raided the mess hall for bread, butter, coffee, etc. and cooked the chickens with a blow torch and a small camp stove.”



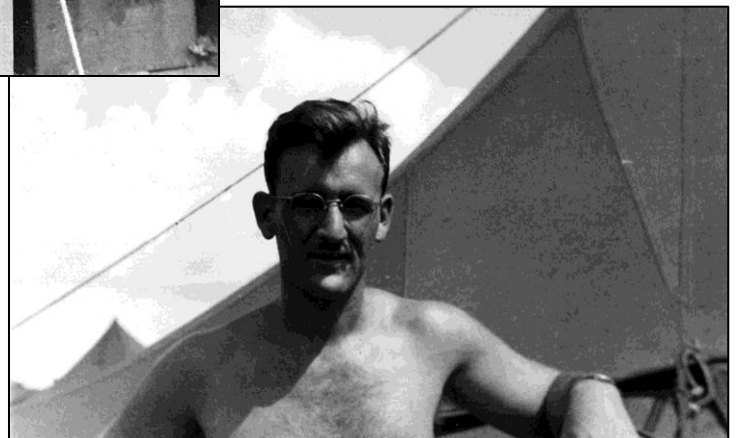
Touchstone takes over.

“We ate at midnight and the chicken was quite *fried*.”

John Robinson.



Gimpl getting out of the 'sack' and into pants. Notice the washstand and misc ex-Okinawan furniture.

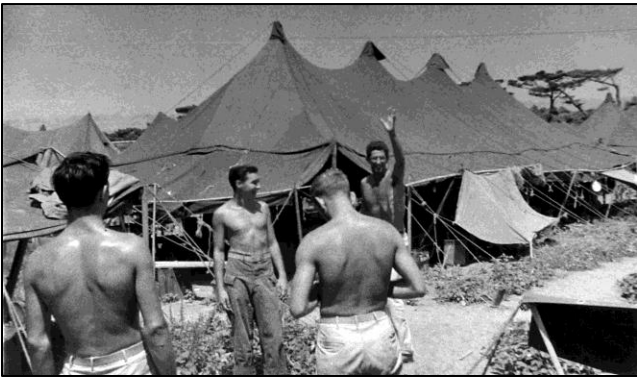




Schaefer (top), Joe Kolasa, Gimpl, and John Bell (side of tent).



Bacon, Moritz, Loftin, Baum and Grad.



Ventling watches Gimpl pose for a picture for Schaefer and Ernie Mann waves as Robinson takes his own picture.



Bacon, Moritz, Schaefer (standing), Baum, and Grad in front of tent.



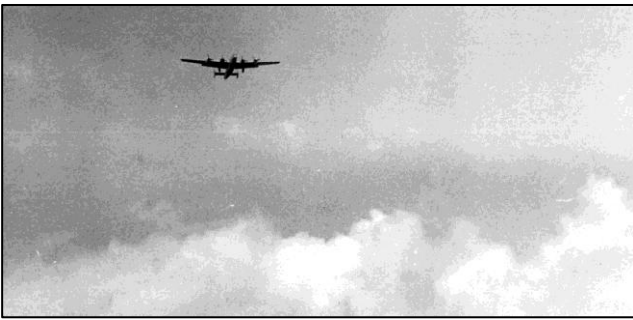
(L-R) Gimpl, O'Neil, Ventling, and Schaefer.



Ventling and Gimpl taken by surprise.



John Robinson posing at an abandoned, bombed-out Okinawan house.



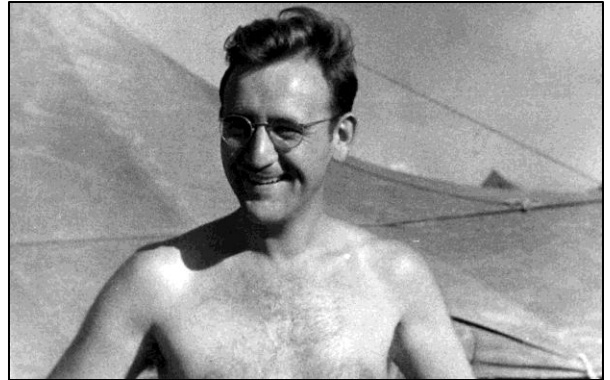
B-24 coming in for landing over camp; the strip was about a mile in from our area.



John and Hal behind our tent towards cliff.



Gimpl climbing steps to village shrine.



John Robinson.



John Robinson with ocean background.



Gimpl beside destroyed home (melon in hand).



Walker, Snyder, and Smittle.



Okinawans sifting rice, removing shells.



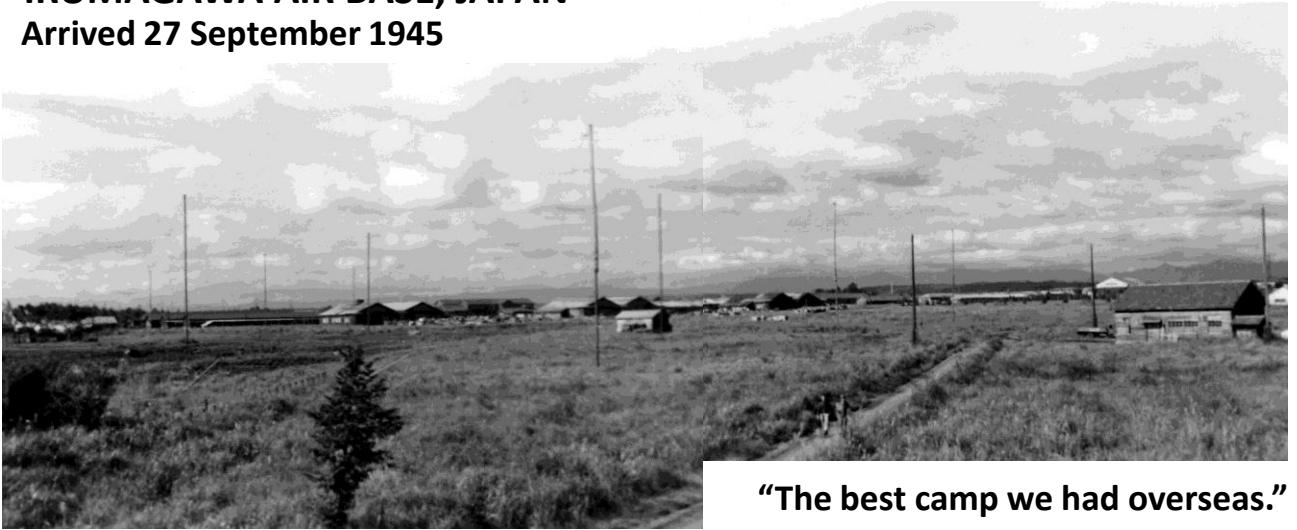
The shadow of a C-54 falls upon 'Sons of the (setting) Sun' on arrival at Ie Shima, en route to Manila. 20 Aug 1945.



Lt Gen Kawabe, Vice Chief of Staff of Imperial General Staff (on right), leads a Japanese Peace Party of 16 officials.

IRUMAGAWA AIR BASE, JAPAN

Arrived 27 September 1945

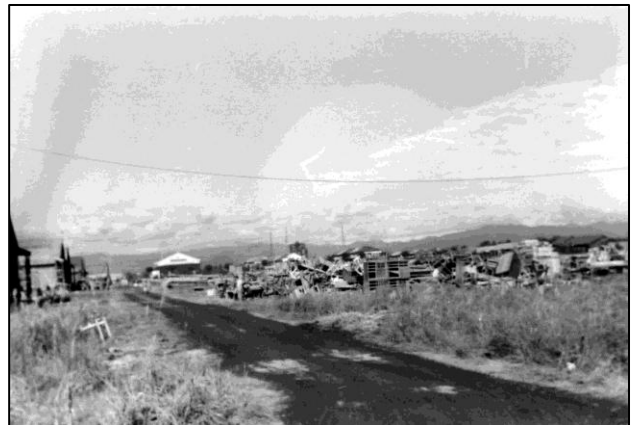


“The best camp we had overseas.”

Panoramic view from the tower used for training Japanese fighters. The buildings in the center are our camp. The white building to left of the shack was the post theater.



Our barracks, formerly a school building used to teach Japanese pilots.



Looking down road past the discarded Jap furniture (used for firewood) towards the theater. The old Japanese hangars were used as our motor pool.



Looking towards Mount Fujiyama (Mt. Fuji) from beyond our camp area.



Looking towards Fifth Air Force (5 AF) Headquarters.



Our barracks (circled). The fellows are talking to Bergman in the doorway.



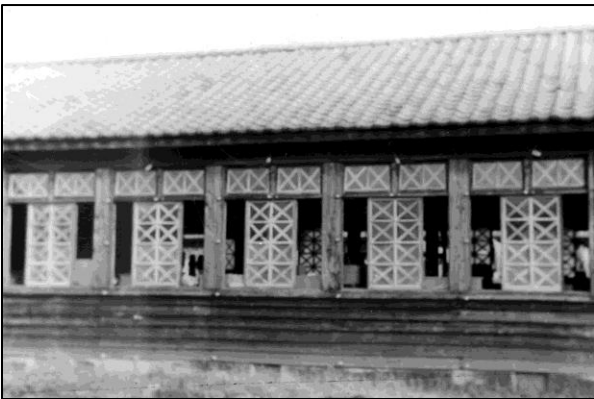
Interior of the Mess Hall. A Japanese KP at work sweeping the floor.



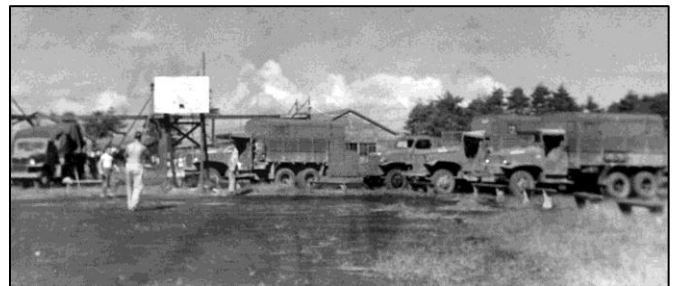
Taken in our barracks. Gimpl is washing near the stove.



Shaefer & Walker washing clothes.



Our barracks with windows open for a Saturday morning inspection.



Basketball court. Three of us shooting. The picture was taken in late October--still warm enough to go without shirt.



Baseball field; Basketball court on left.



The contraption was used for exercising by Japanese pilots.



Robinson & Gimpl; PX is the large brown & white building in rear.

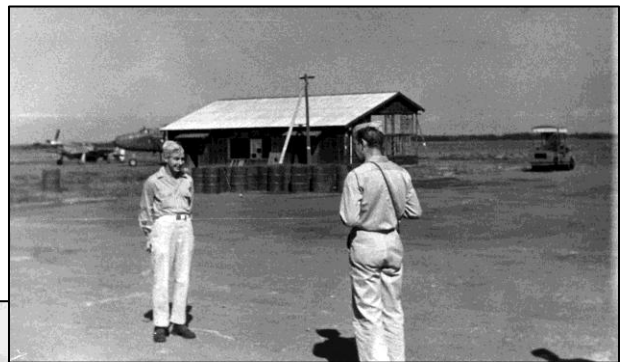
Schaefer and Gimpl --best of the "S.T.O.'s" (Small-Time Operators) baseball team.



Japanese laborer cutting up furniture for firewood.



P-54s lined up opposite a row of hangars.



Corporal Gimpl posing for Schaefer at the Irumagawa airstrip. (A P-51 and the nose of a B-25 in rear).



Fake B-29 Superfortress heavy bomber the Japanese had constructed, found in a field near our camp. It was complete with markings.



It caused a lot of speculation and aroused curiosity until it was learned the plane was used as a prop in a movie.

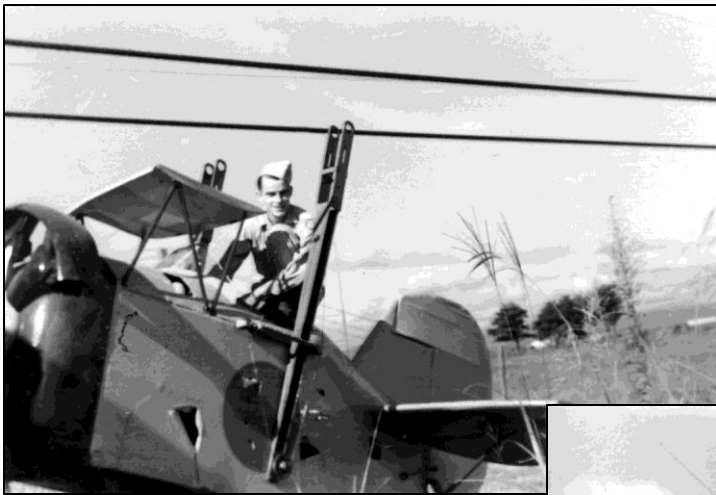
Posing in a dummy aircraft Japanese cadets 'flew' down a cable from a tower for pilot training. Also used it for rifle practice as holes prove.



Robinson in trainer with the Post in the background.

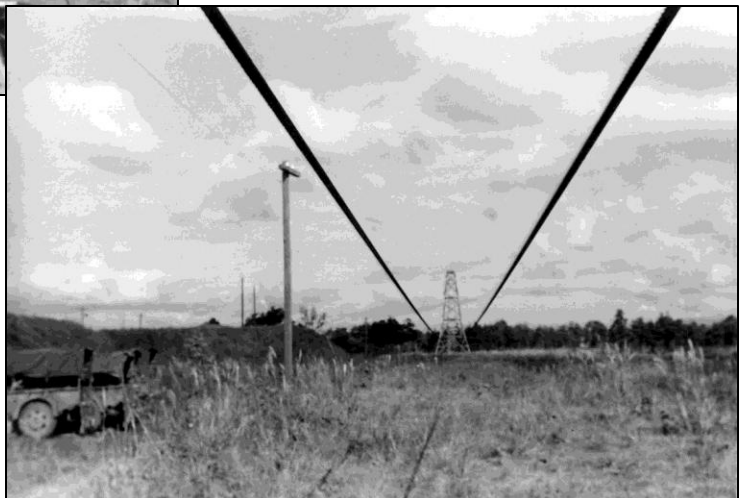


Gimpl.



Walker poses.

Tower and cables used for simulating flight in the trainer. The revetment enclosed a Japanese ammo dump.





Furniture stacked across the road from the motor pool hangar. After it got cold, not a stick of wood was left.



Japanese Homes and Gardens.



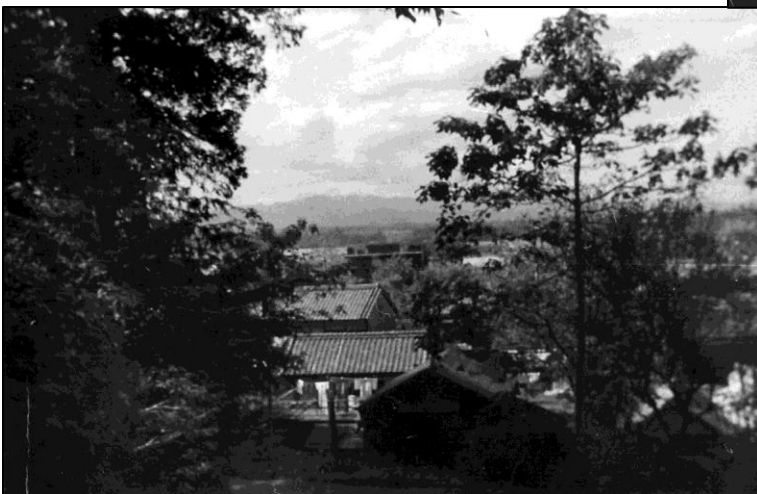
A flight of P-51s started to land at the Irumagawa strip. One stalled and crashed as we watched. It hit a house and burned. All that remained was the tail; Japanese policemen are in the lower right of the picture.



Gardens on the way to Irumagawa. It is about a 15 minute walk to town from our area.

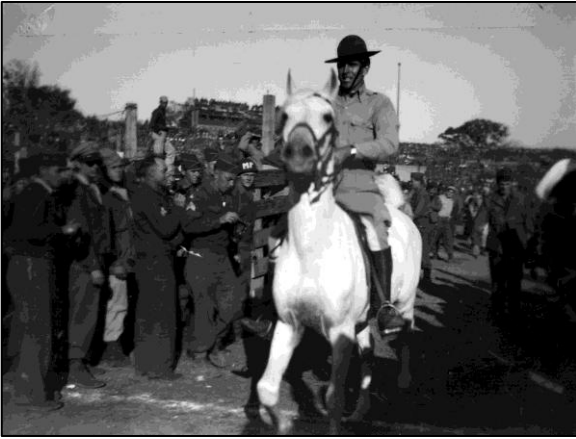


The 'Main Street' buildings are stores that sell everything from dried sweet potatoes to Kimonos.



Looking down into town from a path that lead over a hill.

On pass in TOKYO, JAPAN



Dick Ryan starting the 'rodeo at Tokyo.'



Japanese nationals in the rodeo.



MPs parading in the center of the area.



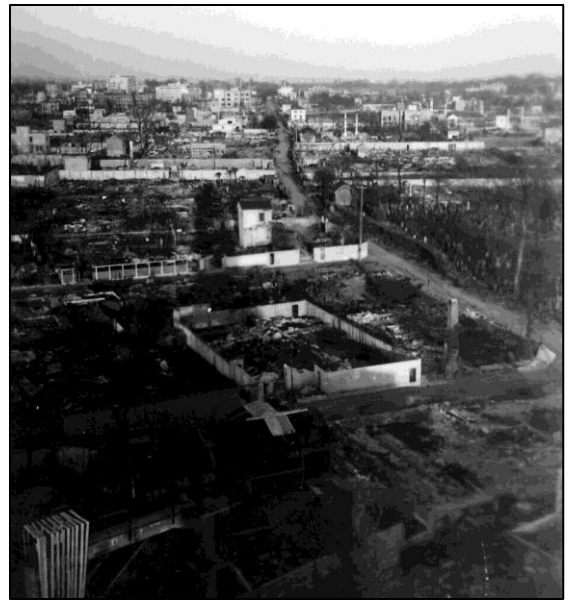
G.I.s watching the show.



Photos taken from a Tokyo rooftop. This section of Tokyo was completely destroyed.



Tokyo.



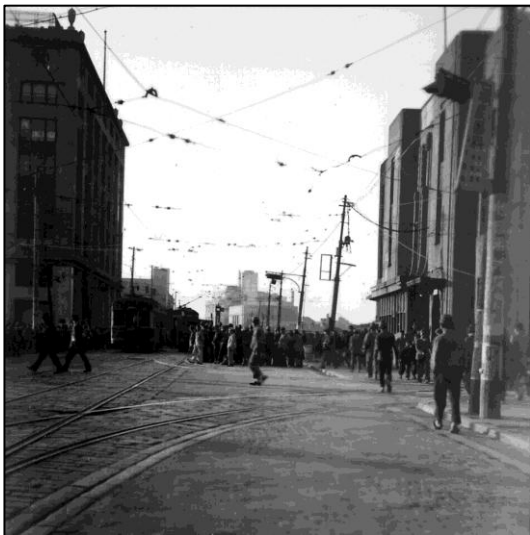
Another shot of Tokyo.



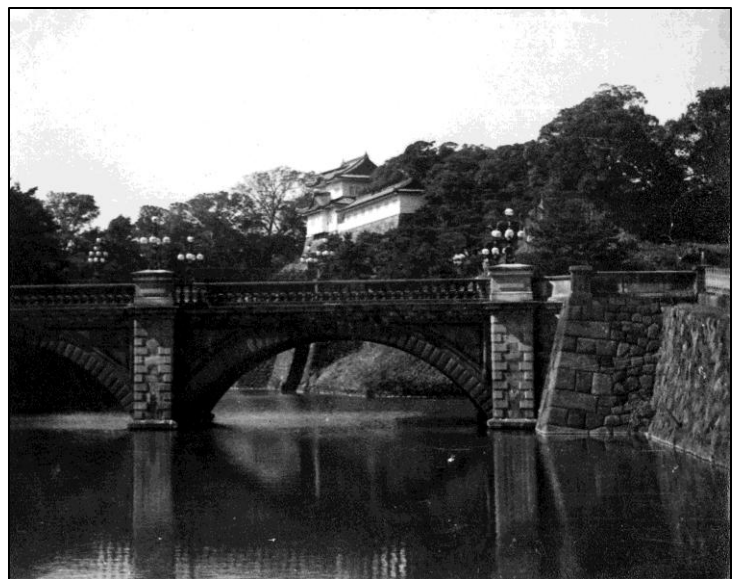
Mount Fujiyama as seen from Hibiya Park looking toward Ginza.



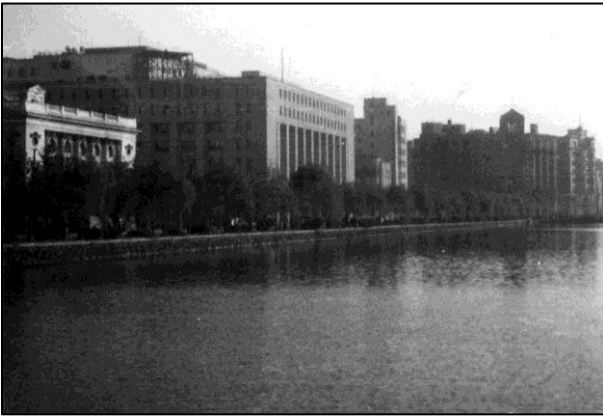
'Gooks' & G.I.s at Hibiya Park. Peace and quiet during the day, but after dark...!



Downtown Tokyo. 'Gooks' lining up to get on a trolley.



The moat, a bridge, and one of the buildings on the Emperor's grounds.



From the palace grounds, looking across the moat towards the business section of Tokyo.



Tokyo Station, the large terminal near Imperial Palace. There are newer and nicer terminals in different sections of the city.



A statue on the palace grounds.



Sunday afternoon in Tokyo on the corner near the park. A Red Cross tent is in the center of picture, where you can get directions.



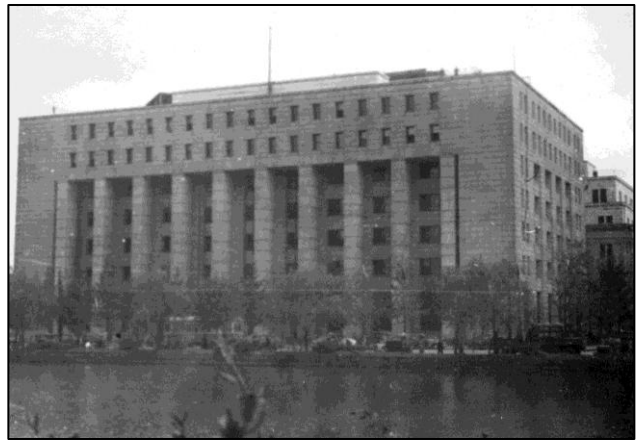
Jones, Ventling, Schaefer, Stoyhoff, Wampler, and Gimpl in the garden of the Imperial Hotel in Tokyo.



One of the rivers in Tokyo.



The Dai-Ichi building taken from a distance.



General MacArthur's Headquarters at Dai-Ichi.



Ventling straightens cap.



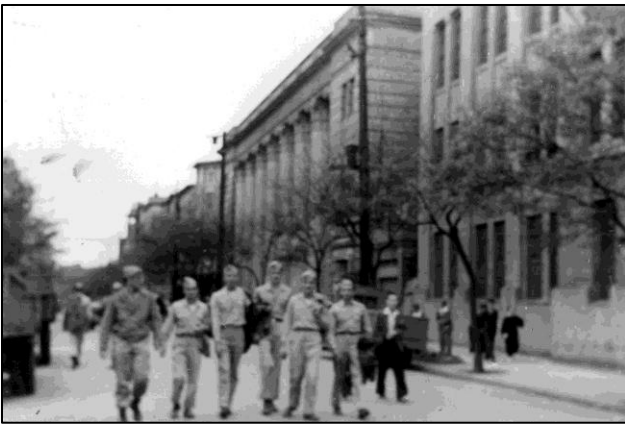
“We spotted a crowd waiting and a car with 5-star marker in front of the Dai-Ichi Building so we waited...”



Gen MacArthur pulling away from the crowd.

“Pretty soon, General MacArthur came out, said hello, and got into his car.”





Heading down the street in Tokyo, 1945. 'gook' on our left is a dealer, wanted to buy 'cigaretto' and 'chocoloto.'



Bombed out buildings in Tokyo.



Back at IRUMAGAWA AIR BASE...



Taken from the motor pool hangar, looking toward 5th AF HQs bldg, post movie and PX.



Looking over our barracks toward Mt. Fuji.



Front of motor pool looking down Company Street. The wreckage (right middle) is the remains of destroyed barracks.



Closeup of the diving tower. The pool is right beside the Enlisted Men's Club.



1st RSM softball team warming up for a post league game. Building in rear is our EM club.

Murray throwing in one of his famous speed balls. (We were undefeated all season.)



Ball game in progress. This diamond is part of the post athletic field across from the Officer's Club.





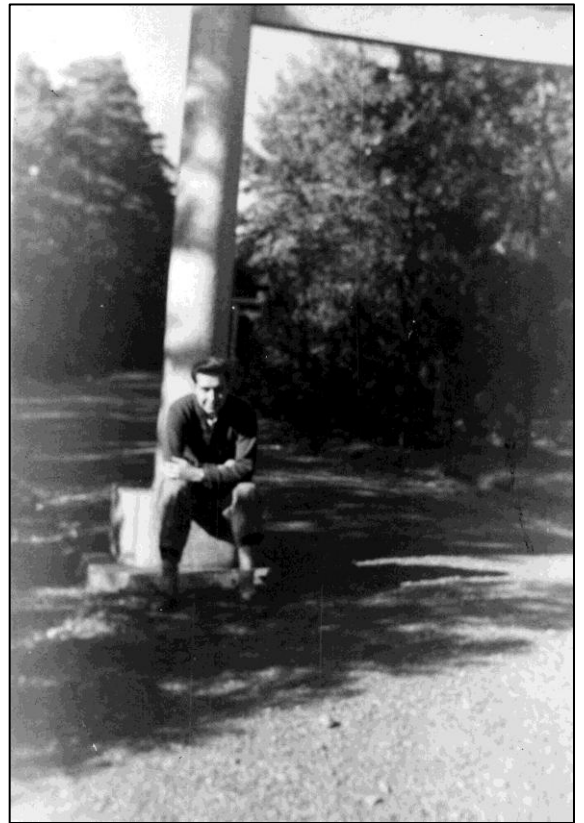
John Robinson near the post theater.



Don Nichols guarding our Operations Building.



Wampler & Gimpl in front of the barracks.



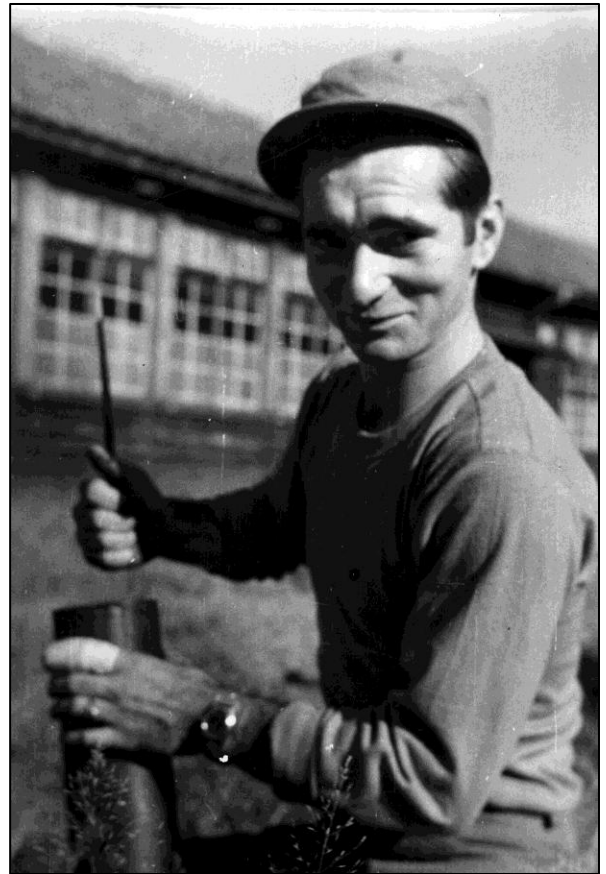
Gimpl sitting on a Shinto shrine on the post.



Robinson sitting beside a marker.



Kirby Loftin, Wilbur Walker, Herb Gimpl and Bob Wampler. Taken while cleaning stove pipes.



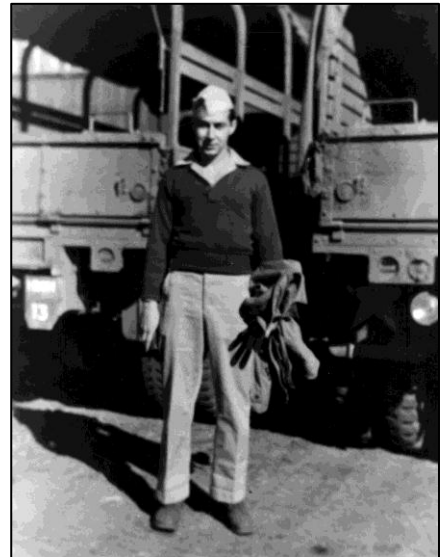
Bob Wampler cleaning a stove pipe.



Hal Ventling in the barracks.



Herb Gimpl and Hal Ventling.



Robinson and Gimpl posing in front of 2.5 ton trucks.

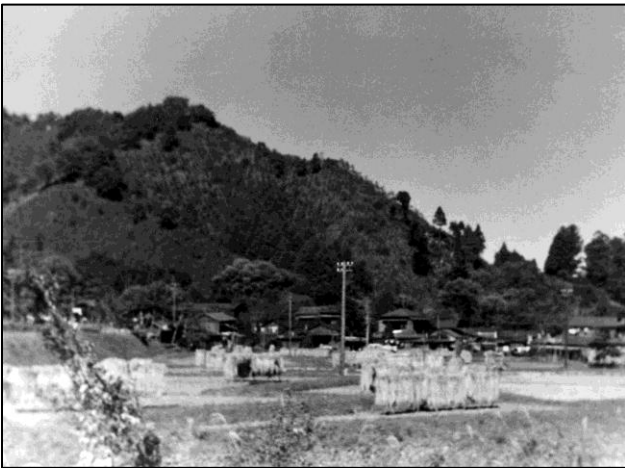
One Sunday during Nov 1945, John Robinson, Jack Lapi, Shorty Wilson and Herb Gimpl got a jeep and took a trip into the mountains towards Mt. Fujiyama. These are the pictures taken during the excursion....



Tokorazawa, Japan.



The towns got smaller and dirtier. The Japs left the cities and headed for the country when bombing started, hence these haphazard little towns.



Village with rice drying on the racks.



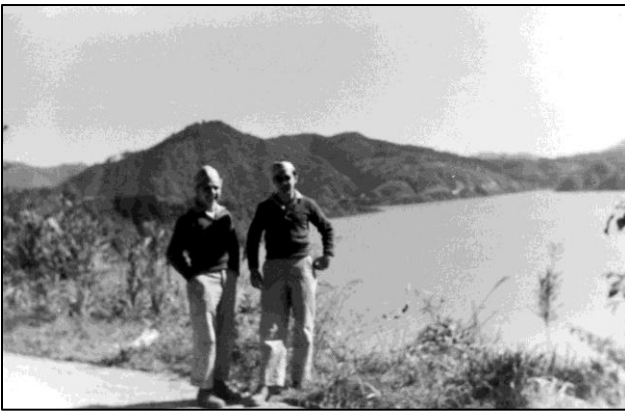
Rather nice houses in the Japanese country-side.



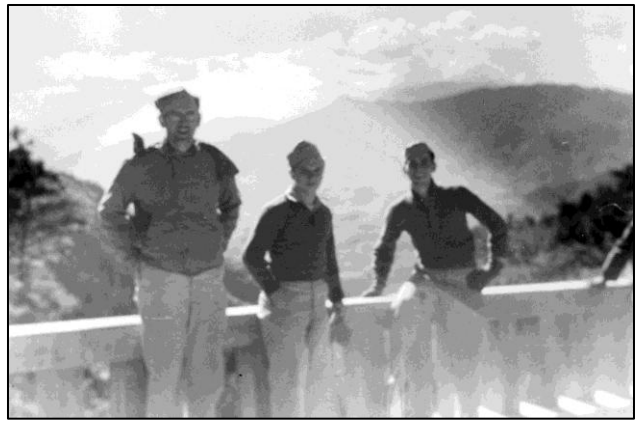
A hidden Lake.



Jack Lapi and Herb Gimpl



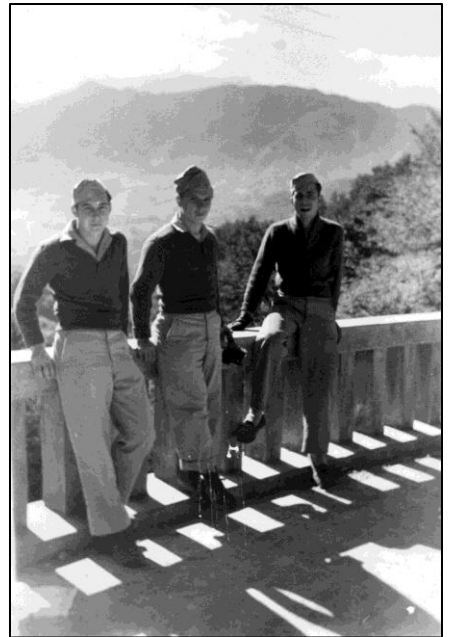
James "Shorty" Wilson & Herb Gimpl.



Robinson, Wilson, and Lapi at a small bridge overlooking a large valley.



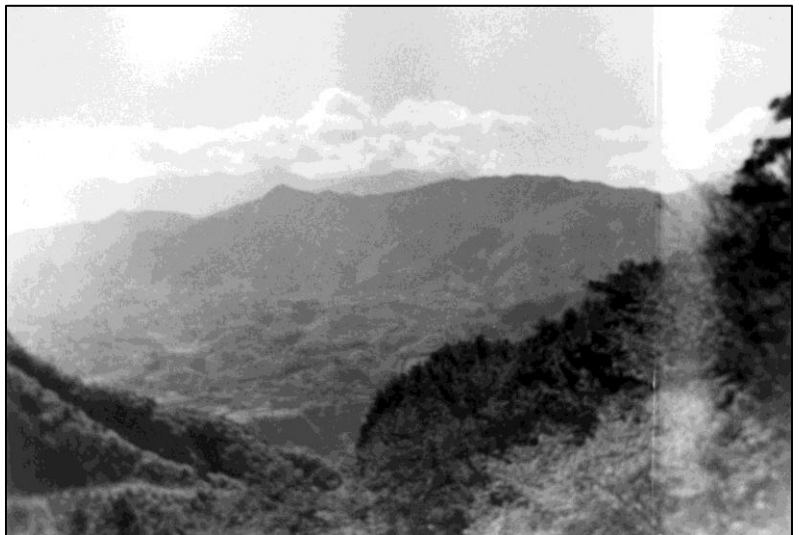
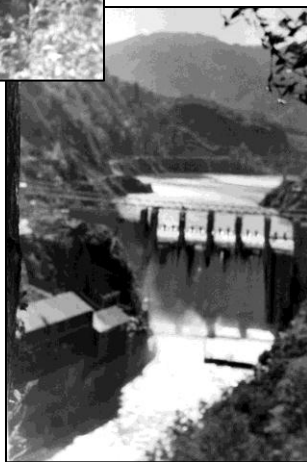
Japanese Dam.



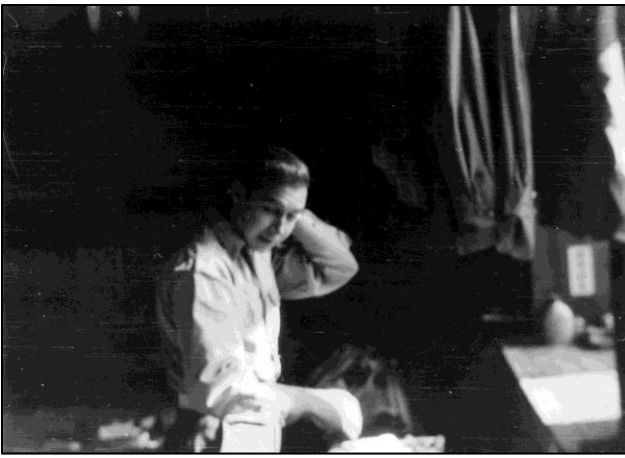
Japan has some very nice scenery. Gimple, Wilson and Jack Lapi.



John Robinson in roadway. Leaves were turning colors.



Japanese Valley.



Herb Gimpl getting ready to go out in Hanno.



Train Station.



Herb Gimpl at the train station to Hanno and Agano. Hanno was a 20 minute ride.



John Robinson waiting for the train.



Train coming in at Irumagawa to go to Hanno.



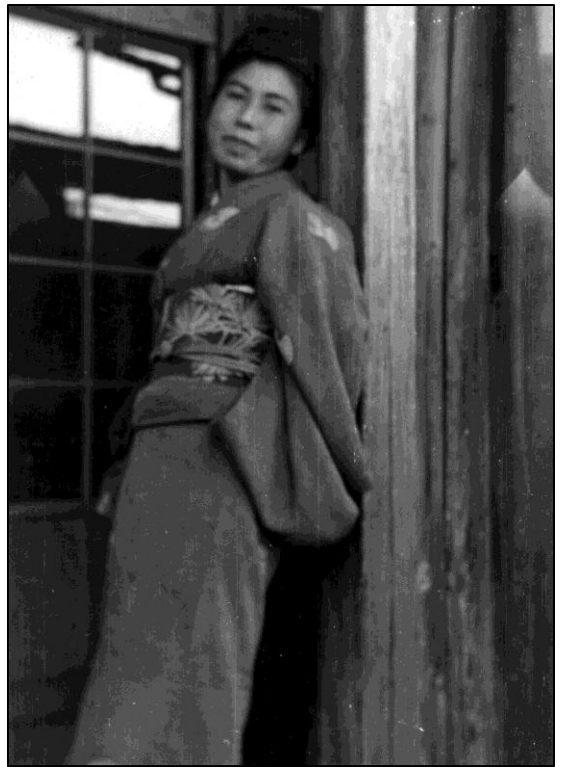
Hanno's Main street. No visible battle scars.



John Robinson and Jack Lapi.



Ukiko and John Robinson in front of her house.



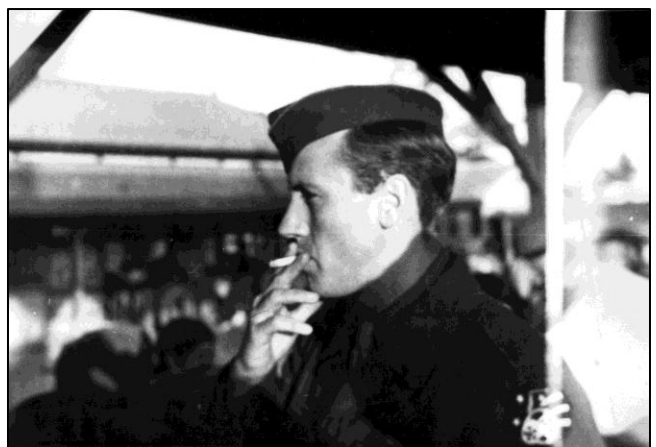
Ukiko standing in her doorway.



Wandering down an alley in Hanno.



Schaefer in Hanno.



Nick Schaefer waiting for the train back to the Post.



Irumagawa, Japan.



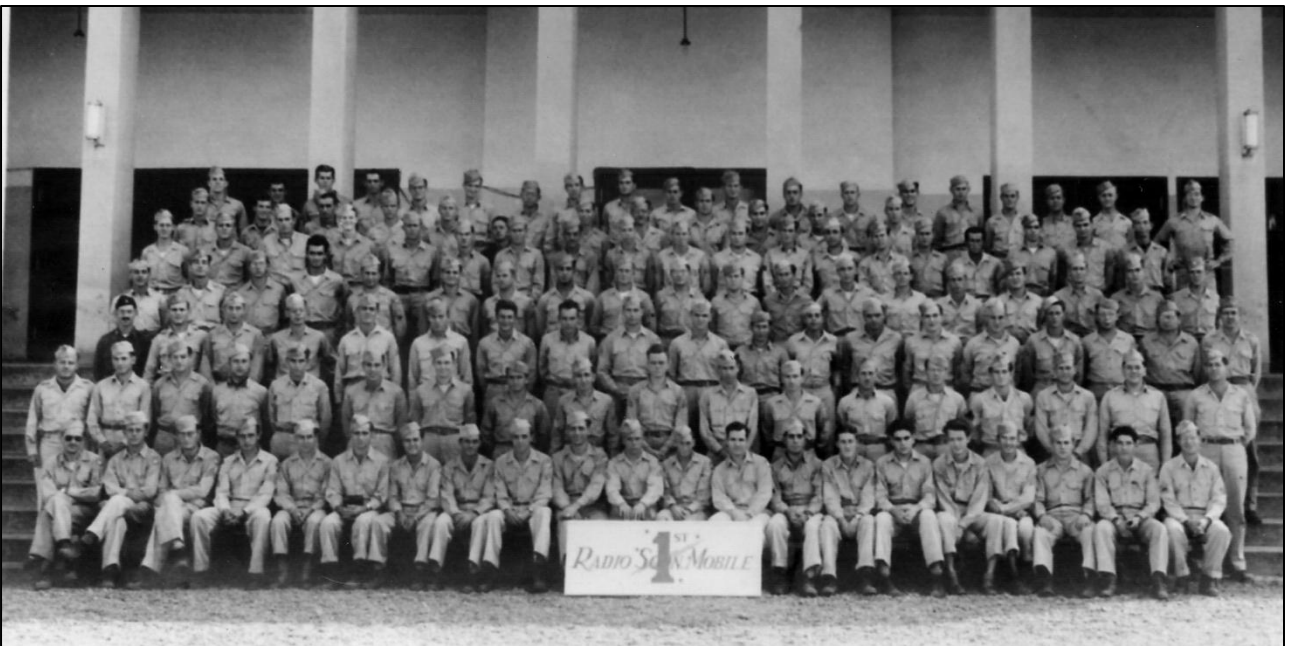
Fifth Air Force's Hangars.



Bob Wampler, Herb Gimpl in front of hangars.

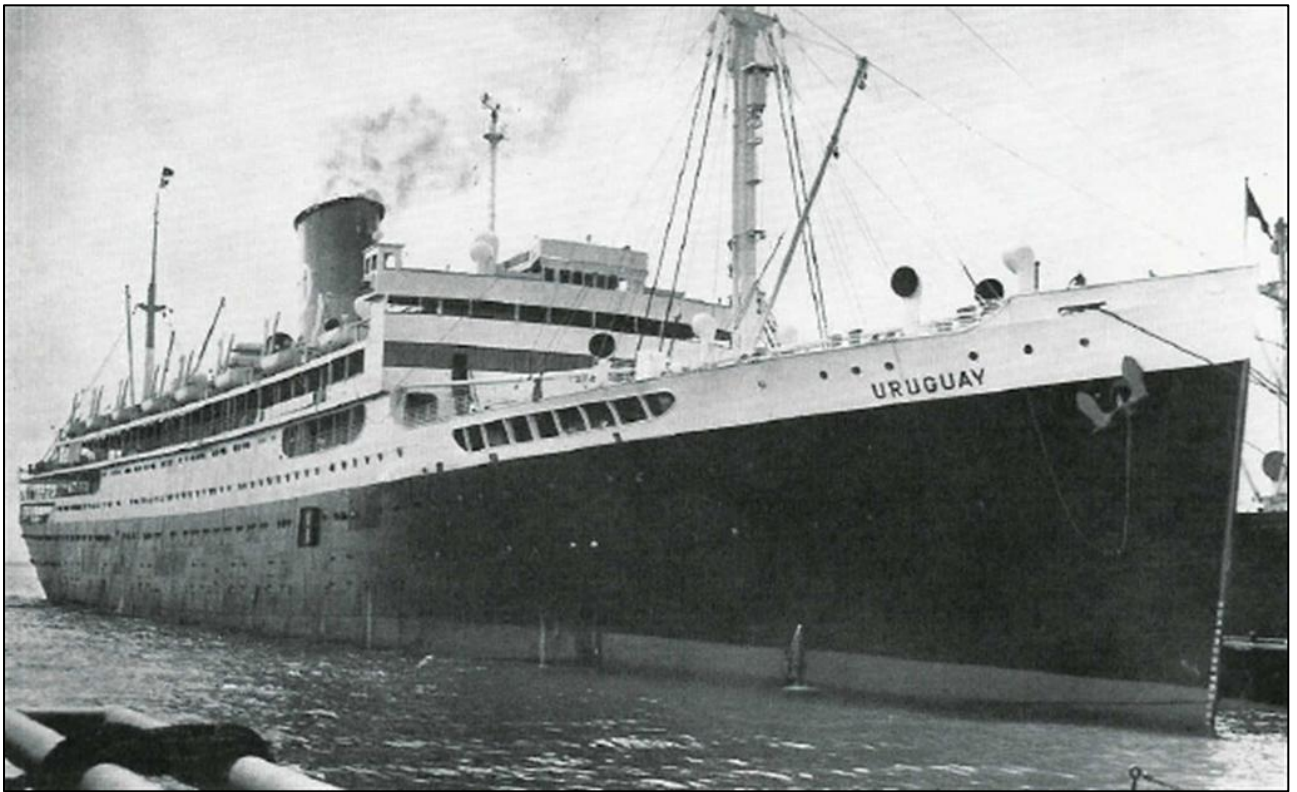


Herb Gimpl snaps a quick shot of John Robinson and Jack Lapi.



Irumagawa AB, Japan, 1945. 1st Army Air Force Radio Squadron, Mobile.

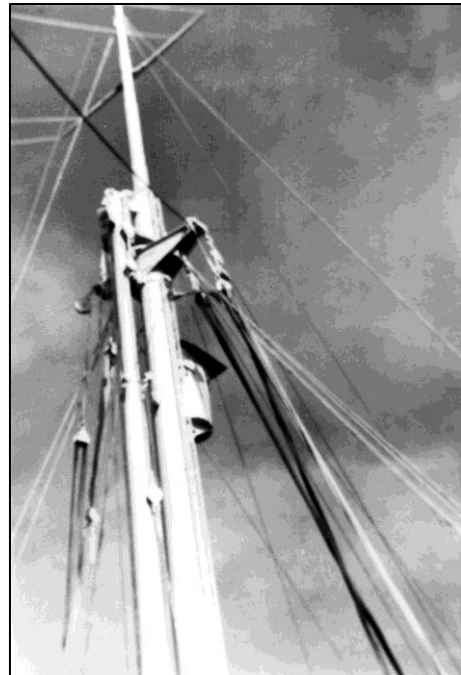
GOING HOME aboard the United States Army Transport Uruguay.
Left Japan on 9 Dec; arrived in Seattle, Washington on 20 Dec 1945.



[Photo from <http://www.moore-mccormack.com/SS-Uruguay-1938/SS-Uruguay-Timeline.htm>]



Nick, complete with pipe and lifejacket.



Forward mast and crow's nest
aboard the U.S.A.T. Uruguay.