

1943

- Nov 18th So cold my feet are nearly frozen. No heat at all and have no socks. Get half bar of soap per man each two months.
- 19th Feet nearly freeze last night, white frost and snow flurries.
- 20th This is our day off and its so cold- no fire at all, 300 Americans coming, but not to this camp.
- 21st. Cold and dreary. We go in mine at 10 O'clock. Had fish for supper not bad stuff. 3 cases of bully beef, 3 cases of meat and ~~vegetable~~ vegetables, not much for 200 men.
- 22nd. Cold and dreary, we find it cold because we haven't any fats, oils or sugar, Had a hard night in mine, rock hard to drill now.
- 23rd. Sun shining bright this morning.
- 24th Bright sun. Japs have taken all the horses away from here, must need them badly elsewhere.
- 25th Big shot here today. Supposed to be some kind of change here soon.
- 26th Not so cold, had a good sleep. Reported that the Bagdadio port of Italy had declared war on Germany. Bean soup for supper.
- 27th Sprinkling rain, not so cold so I slept most of the day.
- 28th Not a bad day in mine. One man hurt, rock fell on his foot.
- 29th Not so cold today. We are being taken over of some kind of civilian guard with bamboo sticks for rifles. Camp Commandant drunk tonight, couldn't walk. Vomiting all over.

- DEC 1st. Working hard this shift. Had cold water to bathe in. Get so dirty on the Jack Hammer. Russians reported advancing yet. The Americans have captured the Gilbert Island
- 2nd. The Bamboo Guards are not very good shots, they may have a poisoned dart in that bamboo blow pipe, like the natives of the Amazon River Valley, South America.
- 3rd. Had to give back half our blankets. Weather not so bad today.
- 4th Cold and rainy this a.m. We didn't have P. T. because of rain.
- 5th Not much like Sunday, every day is alike. Guards gone away from here.
- 6th Finer today, but when there is no fire and you are cold and wet and tired, it's miserable enough.
- 7th Have a sore finger, don't know what is wrong with it. One fellow says its a whitlow, very painful. Japs have 3 men in cooler and its cold, no blankets to cover themselves. Have all been moved around. I am in room 15, cold.
- 8th Two years ago today I started ducking bombs, and shells and I have been ducking things ever since.
- 9th Have all been moved around.
- 10th We go to work at 5 a. m. Mighty cold at that hour.
- 11th. My finger is sore, sort of a deep festered sore.
- 12th. Fish for supper, two or three about the size of our caplin. We get one cigarette per day, they believe in giving a big amount.
- 13th. Didn't work so hard today. no air to drive the jack hammer.
- 14th Two men hurt today, but not very badly.
- 15th. Much warmer and some rain. Had flounders for supper, My gosh, but we are hungry, there is a gawning in my stomach for want of food.
- 16th Raining but warmer. Always hunger, not enough food.
- 17th. Bright sun today. Not a bad day, but I Am so hungry.
- 18th Sunny. Japs have two men in guard room, they say they were using their batteries to light cigarettes down in mine, dangerous thing to do on account of gas exploding, gas known as coal damp.
- 19th Worked on surface today, two sections of us. They call a section in their language Bun Ti and a platoon Sho Ti. Our first day in sunlight and going down in mine.
- 20th Rations have been cut down something awful, don't know how we keep alive.
- 21st. Nice and warm today. Have hit mud in our tunnel, can't use jack hammer. We have to use a thing called picko, air pick in our language. The Japs have brought in some things as a canteen, Razor blades, tooth brushes, paste, cigarette holders and soap boxes. Rice and cabbage all day. Xmas is drawing near, would like to get news from home, might be home next Xmas.
- 22nd. Nice and warm. Didn't get much sleep, they have us up cleaning out toilets and clean up around the camp. We hear that Yanks have landed on New Britain Island on 17th of this month, hope they do fast work.
- 23rd. Time rolls slowly along and I know they are not happy back home but we say that each year and still we are here. The hunger is worse than the work. There was a blackout tonight.
- 24th. So this is Xmas Eve and we are down under the surface about 1400 meters, get out of mine at 6 a. m. Xmas.
- 25th. Don't have to work today. That is a break. We worked 16 days straight so we could have Xmas off. I was captured 2 yrs ago.

- DEC 26th. This is Xmas day back home as there is about 12 hours in the time, best wishes to all at home. Japs gave us about 2 ounces of saki, that is their national drink, it tasted like moonshine.
- 27th Not so cold today. A lot of the boys are sick, what little food we get extra makes us sick, our stomachs are so weak.
- 28th Nox news of any kind. The old says no news is good news.
- 29th Raining hard. We had to stand in line as one fellow and his coat stolen out at work. Wish we could get news of some kind.
- 30th Still raining. Nothing to report except I hope the new year will end this agony.
- 31st. This is the last day of 1943, not sorry to see it go as I feel confident that 1944 will see us free.

1944
Jan.

- 1st A new year is born and what has it to offer in store for us, just the usual day for us with rice and cabbage soup three times Sir Walter Scott said (The world is a stage and everyone is an actor and we must all play our role, but we must be on someone elses part now. Lets hope for the ~~best~~ best and take it like true British soldiers.
- 2nd Japs made quite a fuss yesterday as it is also a New Year for them and they are all one year older now. If they are born in DEC 1943, when 1944 comes, they are two years older, so this is the 14th year of Showa, as the years of each Emperor's reign is called after him. So they welcome the New Year with loud yells of Bangi or as we would say in our country (Hurrah)
- 3rd. Cold night, but no snow, there was about 1/4 of an inch of ice on a pool of water outside the hut this morning. I think that is the date that Mamma and Papa were married, what funny things come to ones mind.
- 4th Dull, looks like rain, not so cold when it rains.
- 5th Raining hard and we had roll call inside barracks, not so bad as standing out in rain. Hear the British have bombed Channel Islands
- 6th. Cold, looks like snow. No news of any kind.
- 7th. Cold, had a light fall of snow about 1/8 inch, more on mountains
- 8th. Time goes slowly, maybe this year will end and we will still be here.
- 9th. Dull and cloudy. Have had sweet potatoes for three days, much better then cabbage soup.
- 10th They still grow vegetables through most of the year.
- 11th. This is Elmer Scott's birthday. I wonder what he is doing.
- 12th. Very fine. Japs are making news reels, taking pictures of us in bath or showers and the Xmas dinner.
- 13th. Very fine. Didn't work very hard today. Air was good and jack hammer worked fine. When air is good we don't have to work hard. Now for the good news. Some Red Cross parcels came in today, about 104 boxes from the Canadian Red Cross. I hope there is some mail as it is no 27 months since I heard from home.
- 14th "Nice and fine. I heard some Japs talking and from what I could ~~make out~~ make out, not being good in Japanese, that there is something going on in Burma and they mentioned 60,000 men in a bad tone, so maybe they are getting the worst of it down there. I hope so anyway. Also hear that the Ruissians have driven the Germans 35 miles beyond the Polish border.
- 15th. Cooler today. Just rice and cabbage soup for supper.
- 16th. Not much like Sunday, just down in mine working.
- 17th. Reported that there is mail in camp. Will we get it or not.
- 18th. Japs gave out some of the comfort parcels, 35 in all. I didn't get any, one fellow 5 parcels, contained various things, soap towels, razor blades, chewing gum, and sweaters, socks, summer underwear, shirts, one blanket, camp shoes, cigarettes, pipe tobacco, handkerchiefs, tooth brush, powder. We couldn't see any date or postage stamps to find out how long they have been coming, but about two years I guess. Some parcels came here to men in other camps.
- 19th. Lovely and fine. One year ago yesterday since leaving Hong Kong At that time we were wishing for the ships to be torpedoed and end it all. Some prayed others cursed, happen what may we are still alive, most of us anyway- or partly alive I should say.
- 20th Fine again. nice weather for air raids, Just had our evening meal, rice and turnip soup. Didn't get our parcels yet. A year ago I was somewhere in the East China Sea in Jap prison ship Latua Maru.
- 21st. Fine and still hoping for the war to end, but I'm not heaten yet for I would stay here the rest of my life rather than loose the war. We have the day off change shift also.

1944

- Jan 22nd. Not too cold, it rained last night. Had to do P.T. this morning just the same. Some more parcels came in, I've had no luck yet. One fellow got 7 parcels. It's just one year ago that we landed at Nagasaki port, landed in evening, then marched through the city to station, boarded train about 11 p.m.
- 23rd. Arrived at this camp one year ago. Were given Red Cross food today. I got piece of cheese, about 1 inch square, 1 ounce of tea and sugar, two biscuits, half bar of soap, half bag of chocolate, two oz of butter.
- 24th. Weather clear, just in from mine, did'nt have a bad night. Had a few raisins and prunes in our rice today.
- 25th. Very fine morning, rain this p.m. Had a tin of sardines between four men, about 1 sardine per man. Not much in more than two years, hope it won't be very much longer.
- 26th. Nice and fine. Didn't get much sleep today, had to clean the windows inside and out. Had a can of meat roll between 6 men for supper.
- 27th. Nice and fine. A civilian visited this camp today, must be mine official.
- 28th. Fairly cold last night. I was hungry this morning as some dirty lousy thief stole my rice I had for the mine, worked all night nothing to eat.
- 29th. Many of the mens legs are swollen up and faces, also severe cramps in stomach. We are in a bad spot.
- 30th. Light frost this a m. One of the boys passed out on parade and when they picked him up, the Jap guard commander hit them and Sgt. Sheppard hit him back and in the end, Sheppard was bayoneted in the arm, almost got it in the chest, is in the guard house for 20 days, his arm must pain him terrible.
- 31st. Last night of January, next January is I'm alive I hope to be fr. This is our day off, but they keep running us around and no fire in the rooms or heat of any kind.
- FEB 1st. Bright sun, but wind is cold. Many of the men have severe cramps and diaherria. Had mussels for a few days and they are spoiled so that may be the cause.
- 2nd. Sleet in a.m. turned to snow in p.m. Snowed about four inches.
- 3rd. Deep slush with cotton sneakers on, feet are cold and wet. Snow gone this p.m.
- 4th. Walking through mud up to our ankels. No roads in this country, just paths and trails.
- 5th. Still have cramps, body swollen with Berri Berri. Hell on earth.
- 6th. Very cold this a.m. Like November back home, but they still plant their gardens. Funny place this Japan.
- 7th. Rain again and muddy as the dickens. There was a large parcel brought here today from the American Red Cross. Overcoats marked on it.
- 8th. Sun out this a m. but dull in p.m. Still have cramps and diaherr About a month since we had any bread. Sgt. Major Caldwell of the W. G. got beat up today, they hit him over the head with a big piece of wood and raised ~~it~~ a big lump.
- 9th. Everything as usual.
- 10th. Cold and windy. Still have cramps, wish they would give us something for them, its for the want of bread, all we get is rice 3 times a day. I got a comfort parcel today. I think it was from Mamma, they take all the paper away, but I caught a glimpse of the address and I think it was Papa's writing, I got down the articles so when I get back I'll know who sent it. 1 pair of blue striped broadcloth pyjamas, 1 large bath towel, 1 kaki shirt, 1 pair sismans scampers black, 3 pairs socks, 2 prs sun glasses, 1 razor eveready, 20 blades, 1 mending kit, tooth brush and powder shaving soap and brush, 3 combs and me with my hair all cut off, ha.ha, 2 suits of summer underwear, 1 woolen pullover sweater, 2 sun hats, 3 bars sunlight soaps, 3 of carbolic, 3 pks chicklets, 2 sun hats, 3 bars chocolates. I guess that is a lot, my but I'm glad, everything just comes in right, especially to shoes and socks, my feet are sore from walking over rocks, with thin rubber soled sneakers, hadn't any socks, just pieces of old rags that I wrapped around my feet.
- 11th. Fine today. Still looking over my parcel. Poor Mom, how she must worry. I'm sorry to have caused her so much trouble, God bless her.
- 12th. The only article missing was 8 pks gum, 4 handkerchiefs, 1 pencil, 1 box shoe polish, 2 pks razor blades, so I was lucky after all

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- Feb 13th. Japs gave us rest of Red Cross parcel and 30 lbs more rice as it is the anniversary of their empire. The first Emperor on Throne in 2604.
- 14th. Nice sunny day. I'm working on surface the last two days, nicer than down in that coal mine in dust and dirt.
- 15th. Still on surface, very cold day, snow flurries.
- 16th. We wouldn't mind if we had thick wollen socks and leather shoes.
- 17th. Fine today. Jap children must be tough, go around with wooden clogs, no socks bare feet and shaved hair off.
- 18th. Fine in morning, snow flurries in evening.
- 19th. Our day off. Japs call it Sunday if it comes every 6, 8, or 12 days it is Sunday just the same. 12 of us will be given more rice because we know how to use a jack hammer.
- 20th. I go down in mine at 10 o'clock tonight. We have received very severe orders about tobacco & matches in the mine. I believe we ~~xxx~~ are going to work in the coal soon, as there is more prisoners coming here.
- 21st. Snowed about three inches this a.m. but not cold.
- 22nd. It has snowed again. more snow this year than last. I see a lot up on the mountains. 26 more comfort parcels in today. Arley Enright got one. Mail was given out today. I didn't get any but Violet Enright mentioned that Mamma had got a letter from me when I was in camp H Hong Kong.
- 23rd. Dull day. Some more Red Cross clothes came in today.
- 24th. Dull day.
- 25th. Snow today. About 1/2 inch. Japs are giving us leather boots that came here about a year ago, not enough to go around. I was unlucky didn't get any.
- 26th. Not much going on. Many of the boys sick, can't eat the rice we are turning against the darn stuff, just force it down.
- 27th. Cars run off the track last night, it's a miracle no one was killed. Got a letter from Mamma at last and she had one from me, she got mine on August 28th, 1942 and wrote me on Sept 1st. 1942. received it today. Feb 27th 1944. This is the first letter in 3 years. I was in Nfld. when I got the last letter. Paspebiac East. Sept 1st, 1942. We were all overjoyed on receiving word on Friday evening Aug 28th, that you were alive and well and being well treated, your letter came to Montreal and Stewart called me on the phone and told me, I could hardly believe it. Papa, Grandma, Jackie and all the rest are well, Have had a wonderful summer, very dry not much rain ~~xxx~~ our Loving Mother. The letter was typed, I ~~xxxx~~ don't understand how it went to Montreal. Some more parcels came in today. but has been the nicest so far, everything was just right
- 28th. Nice day, sun very bright. Rumours about a naval battle in Pacific Japs seem to have lost quite a few ships for the first time, it ~~xxxx~~ took place near the Caroline Islands. A stone from a blast went right through one fellows ear, lucky it didn't hit him in the head.
- 29th. Nice and fine. I got five letters, 2 from Mamma, 1 from Irene, 1 from Betty Shannon and 1 from Harry and Edith, all mailed around the last of August, 1942. Everyone was well at that time. Betty sent me 8 snaps and a nice long letter, most of the letters were very short. Mamma looks good, also Meda, Gramma looks good but thin. I find Betty so tall, taller then Meda, and the children look great. It makes a fellow feel good to see his own people. I feel 100 percent better tonight, work will be light for me tonight, so glad all were alive and well at that time.
- Mar. 1st. Nice and fine. I went to sleep on a bench in the camp grounds, the sun was really hot.
- 2nd. Very fine. We go to work at 2 p.m today, they say it's 15 day shift too long. I have read my letters over and over a dozen times. Every one is going around exchanging news. So poor Harriet Chatterton died, more mail in today. I may get one at a later date.
- 3rd. Still nice and warm. but warm weather brings fleas. Some of the boys wanted to buy my pajamas, they are the nicest in the camp. My ~~xxx~~ parcel is the nicest that came here so far. My feet feel so good in the socks.
- 4th. Rain last night. Received four more letters today, one that I have been waiting so long for from Gramma, she was well at that time, it was written in Sept 7th 1942. Also one from Aunt Edie of same date, and one from Joyce Hayes same date.
- 5th. Nice and fine. We are working a very dangerous place now. I'm afraid someone is going to get hurt or buried alive. This is Winnies birthday, must be 30 years old, I think.
- 6th. This is Stewart's birthday, I wish him luck and good health for myself I'm sick as a dog, but have to go in mine just the same. I have Diarrhoea, have it fora long time. It is from being so weak the least thing pulls us down.

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- Mar. 7th. Rain today. Had a cavein, two men hurt, one his foot broken, the other cut badly but no broken bones.
- 8th. We braced up the roof today, didn't drill any holes.
- 9th. Time is terribly long, we are on a 15-day shift, it's too long without a break. Get so tired but can't do anything about it, so let's wait a little longer.
- 10th. Cold and windy. One third of a month gone.
- 11th. Blowing hard. Supposed to have attacked Guam, don't know if landing was made or not.
- 12th. Not much like Sunday back home, the only way I can tell it's Sunday is by this diary, Ten boxes of American Red Cross came today but I don't suppose we will get any.
- 13th. Finner today. They conducted a search yesterday, unexpectedly & found a lot of stuff, diaries, compasses, even 45 boxes ammunition took all our kit bags, now we have our clothes on the floor in a pile, gets worse daily.
- 14th. Expect a little better again today, but can't eat, appetite so bad. Nice and fine. Supposed to be a riot in town, a Korean was killed, not enough to eat the cause.
- 15th. Were caught with some maps someone found them in the dust box, now they have us in the guard room.
- 16th. Still in the guard room and have been standing up all this time, getting tired.
- 17th. Got out today, stood up all that time, didn't think it possible.
- 18th. Leg's swollen badly today.
- 19th. Nice day. Down in mine again, my legs are swollen.
- 20th. Strong wind to day. Hugh Lim had been released from guard house. but they have two more in there now.
- 21st. Nice and fine. Not much going on. The 2 men still in guard house.
- 22nd. Very fine. My legs trouble me, are still swollen.
- 23rd. Lovely weather, but we have to go down to the mine. dirty place and work so hard and so little food. People back home would'nt believe we eat so little.
- 24th. Very fine. They get some nice weather in Japan. Two Sgt's and one officer came here to day, don't know what nationality.
- 25th. Lovely and fine. The new arrivals are from the Phillipine Is. They tell some terrible tales. In one camp of 50,000, about 27,000 died. 500 a day.
- 26th. Fine. These Americans are nice fellows, the officer is from Florida and one fellow from Montana, the others from California.
- 27th. Raining today, but not cold.
- 28th. Cold and dreary, not much happening.
- 29th. Still cold and damp.
- 30th. Nice and fine, not much going on.
- 31st. Very nice today, too nice for us to be in this darn old mine.
- Apr. 1st. Raining today. I almost had my leg broken, a large rock fell on it. but there happened to be a drill leaning against the wall and it saved me. Another rock landed on my head, hurt my neck.
- 2nd. I think this is Psalm Sunday, not sure as we don't have anyway to know. I have an abscessed tooth, face swollen out of proportion.
- 3rd. This is our day off, first day off for me in a month. At last day off I was in guard house. Nice and fine.
- 4th. Lovely weather, cherry trees will soon be in bloom.
- 5th. Weather just grand, hope it keeps this way for a long time.
- 6th. Read all my letters and looked at snaps again today. They freshen the mind of things more civilized or western.
- 7th. Rain again today. Moon season changes about this time.
- 8th. Still raining and lots of mud.
- 9th. This is Easter Sunday I think, but no eggs or candy for us. One of our band passed away today. Sterling McKinley. He was sick for a long time, I think it turned to T.B.
- 10th. Just out of mine, it's a lovely day. Cherry trees are in bloom, xx some white, others pink and pretty to look at. Funeral of McKinley
- 11th. McKinley was only buried today. lovely day.
- 12th. Nice and fine in morning, but rain in p.m.
- 13th. Rain again today.
- 14th. Rain but not cold.
- 15th. Lovely day, too nice to be a prisoner behind a high wall unable to get out and enjoy oneself.
- 16th. Nice and sunny. I slept out on a bench for two hours, got a tan.
- 17th. Have'nt had a day off this month, these long shifts are tiresome.
- 18th. Rain this morning. I got hurt last night, a stone from a blast.
- 19th. The Major stiched it with sewing needle, he said I was lucky. if ~~xxx~~ it had missed that bone I would be in a bad fix, it pains me a lot lot, can hardly lay down I'm stiff from it.

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- Apr. 20th. This is Hitler's birthday. I wonder what he will say to his people this birthday. Also Aunt Bessie's birthday. I wish he all the luck in the world.
- 21st Going down in mine, back a lot better. Another man died last night W. B. Chenelle, he is from Madeline Is. Typhoid Fever the doctor thinks.
- 22nd Burial was today, another grave out on the hillside among the pine
- 23rd. No rain, but cloudy. Very quiet, no sign of release.
- 24th Nice day. I wonder if we'll ever be free again or get out of this place alive. Lots of food for thought.
- 25th Dull morning heavy rain in p.m. Sgt. Bill Condin got badly hurt last night, broken arm, ~~dislocated~~ dislocated hip and bad cuts on head, leg might be broken.
- 26th Lovely and fine today. My back is sore where that rock hit me the wound is infected. The barley and wheat they have sown in small plots, like our vegetable gardens at home, is all out in head.
- 27th Raining today, wind south east most of the time now so we must be in the south east moonsoon season as it is much warmer.
- 28th. Wind is cleared up, also the rain.
- 29th This is our day off as its the Emperor's birthday. Japs are all drunk, they gave us a can of bully beef between two men and a can of vegetable between two men. That is Red Cross stuff. The Japs themselves gave us 1 egg and 1 orange and a bottle of ~~beer~~ beer between 4 men, not much chance of getting tight on that. This morning they chaated some kind of song or prayer for the Emperor and ended up with loud yells of Banzip ~~huzz~~ something like our hurrah. Hope I won't be here for the next birthday. We were weighed this morning, I weighed 62 killograms, that is about 136 lbs, not so bad on this food .
- 30th. Lovely day, but so many are sick, two men have double pneumonia and four other have a temperature of 105 degrees. The M.O. thinks its influenza. Temperature of 105 isn't so bad in this place.
- May 1st. Grand day, couldn't be nicer. We have a chicken coop, also a pig pen so it looks as if we are going in for farming in a big way. Six men have pneumonia, no better.
- 2nd. Lovely weather. south wind just like August back home. We got an orange for supper again today.
- 3rd. Nice day. We had soup made with ferns, the young ferns when they are from 6" to 1 ft tall, it makes a very putrid meal.
- 4th. Still lovely and fine with west wind, nice and balmy. If we were only free .
- 5th. Rain today and strong wind. Had an orange each for supper.
- 6th. Nice and fine. Roof is very bad where we work, hope no one gets hurt. We got two cigarettes each today.
- 7th. Wonderful weather, warm breeze from the south east.
- 8th. This is our day off. Have the opportunity to write home. I wrote to grandma 40 words. Lovely and warm, about 80 degrees F.
- 9th Rained hard all day. Japs brought two pigs here about 5 weeks old. I guess this is going to be a farm, have also 50 white leghorns about 5 or 6 weeks old. Go to work at 10 o'clock to night.
- 10th. We have soup made with bean sprouts. the sprouts are about 5" long They are hard people to starve. Reported there is an epidemic of fly in Europe and America. I hope it isn't true. I got a new pair of tabbies today.
- 11th. We got an apple today and had an orange yesterday, tomorrow we get an egg, so it looks a little better for us lately, maybe the war is ne rly over.
- 12th Very hot, can't sleep. Sun so hot it shines right on my bed.
- 13th. Not so hot today. Just right for sleeping. Had another orange and egg today. I hope they keep it up, it's a big help.
- 14th. Very fine day. Maurice d'Avignon got his leg broken in two places today.
- 15th. We have today off. When the Japanese men have their day off, the women take over and go down the mine and work, they are certainly patriotic and trying to win the war. Our Shoti Joe had been called up by the army. Little cooler today, about 70 above. We got an orange again today. I shined my shoes, just like at home, helps to pass the time away. Cigarettes are very scarce, some of the men pay 1 yen for a cigarette and they work for 20 sen per day so they work five days for one cigarette. Large 4 engined planes just passed over here.
- 16th Very fine day. Go to work at 2 p.m. Same old routine day in and day out.
- 17th Raining hard and foggy. Blair Goull had his finger broken today. 48 Red Cross parcels came in today.
- 18th Still raining. Fleas are terrible bad, worse down on the first

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- May 17th. floor than up stairs. Had clams for supper last night, long ones called razor clams.
- 18th. Fine today, but very hot.
- 19th. Dull and rain again. I still have diarrhoea. Wish I could get Yews from home.
- 20th. Hoping to get some letters today.
- 21st. Nice and fine today. Two types of bombers passed here today. We got two needles tonight.
- 22nd. I am sick today from the reaction of the needles, freezing to death. We got some more Red Cross food today, it takes very little to help. We have a guitar, mandolin, ukelele and harmonica so we have lots of music.
- 23rd. Very quiet, nothing going on at all. Time so long, can see no end.
- 24th. Fine weather, many planes overhead, a new type that I haven't seen before, its a two engined bomber, very fast.
- 25th. Lot more mail in tonight. 500 letters, one fellow got 32, I didn't get any.
- 26th. Raining this a.m. but nice and bright this p.m. Japs think war will end after the election in U.S.A. in November. They believe the Democrats will loose the election and the Republicans will make peace. I imagine they are wrong.
- 27th. Very fine. We are working in the coal now and get dirty, just like Koreans.
- 28th. Very hot day. One man hurt, a large rock hit him in the head. Japs brought in about 10 lbs butter, we are fed much better lately
- 29th. Had a narrow escape today, roof of mine collapsed and I was buried, my legs are all skinned and my back is terribly sore, all bruised. Someone must be praying for me.
- 30th. This is our day off. My back is very sore, we also got another needle for tetanus. I also got 4 letters, 2 from Mamma, 1 from Stewart and one from Robbie Ross. One of Mamma's was dated Jan 19th 1943, and one May 4th. 1943. Stewarts was Aug 31st, 1942. Robbie Feb 14th. 1943, so three of the letters were from 1943, just a little over a year old. Stewart's letter was by air mail, almost two years getting here. fast plane.
- 31st. Lovely day. Go to work at 10 p.m. This is last day of May, hope we are free this time next year.
- June 1st. First day of June, weather terribly hot, near 100 degrees in the shade.
- 2nd. Heat is terrible in day time, night are nice. Fleas are worse in hot weather and mosquitos are getting bad, Nips are mad about something.
- 3rd. Hot again today, but a light breeze cools it down somewhat. Japs have moved the office out of this building to an adjoining building.
- 4th. Heavy rain showers. No much going on.
- 5th. Very muddy. There is a General of all prison camps coming today.
- 6th. Haven't been asleep yet. Inspected by a Jap General today, a man of about 45 years. One fellow has been out to another bldg with T.B. If the war dosen't end soon, we will all have it. Another fellow with a broken leg has meningitis, but is a little better today.
- 7th. Working in coal now and we come out of mine like negroes.
- 8th. This is Uncle Allan's birthday, must be 44 years old.
- 9th. Lovely day. Wheat is all ripe. This is pay day for us.
- 10th. We were vaccinated in six places today.
- 11th. Weather is hot, but we don't mind it very much now.
- 12th. Nice and warm again today.
- 13th. Hail storm with thunder and lightening. Biggest hail stones I ever saw.
- 14th. Lovely and fine. Soup has been bad lately, we will get bread if they can get yeast.
- 15th. Nice and warm, some of the fellows are out boxing, we have a pair of gloves, 7 or 8 were caught gambling and put in guard room, then got a terrible beating.
- 16th. Lovely day, bright sunshine.
- 17th. Nice and fine.
- 18th. Fine again. tomorrow is our day off, then go on morning shift. the fleas are awful.
- 19th. Lovely day. We had fun ~~today~~ today boxing, some the boys are too rough, they have black eyes and swollen noses. the camp commander gives prizes of cigarettes at the winners, We have tea in the canteen and vitamin pills. We are having a contest today. This is squash season, so we'll have a lot of squash from now on.
- 20th. Lovely day. About two days ago we had an air raid alarm and had to go down in mine in our bare feet, I only had my pyjamas on,

1944

- June 20th. could hardly walk next day. Heard it was a real raid, looks like it's true.
- 21st. Grand weather. The raid the other night was real. Fukoka was raided twice in the evening and again in the morning.
- 22nd. Very fine. Had shrimp for supper, they are so rotten they just smell like a dead Chinaman. We must be tough.
- 23rd. Very hot and mosquitos are bad, but would be worse if it rained more. Hardly any rain and this should be the rainy season. They are supposed to have lost most of their rice crops, looks bad. but they raise three crops a year and the fruit crop is bad also. Maybe on account of no rain.
- 24th. Heat is bad, but we don't mind it as it is so hot in the mine. Carried a Korean out, passed out where we work, badly mangled, blood coming out of his eyes, ears and nose. We got 6 small caramels today, supposed to have come from the Chinese Red Cross. Something is supposed to have happened in the west on the 6th of this month, hope it's true.
- 25th. Very hot and the mosquitos are bad.
- 26th. Rain last night and heavy wind, a hurricane from the south east.
- 27th. Rain again today and getting very hot and clammy.
- 28th. Nice and clear today. Japs are making big changes in the working parties, we are all mixed up now, English all mixed up with us.
- 29th. This is our day off, go on night shift next. Had a boxing bout today.
- 30th. Strong wind from the south, so hot we couldn't sleep last night. getting ready for work.
- July 1st. Dull, looks like rain anytime.
- 2nd. Raining all day. One of the Japs who runs the cars got mad at one of the Koreans and hit him over the head with a big stick and as far as I could make out he was dead, poor fellows, they are treated like animals or worse.
- 3rd. Rain and wind, but we had to do P.T. just the same
- 4th. Rain showers and air raid alarm. I heard the planes but couldn't see them.
- 5th. Heavy rain, this is the rainy season, late coming this year. We had potatoes in our soup today.
- 6th. Cloudy today. This is Meda's birthday, I sincerely hope she is well and that ~~by some way~~ I may be home for her next birthday I joined the army July 6th 1940 so it's 4 years today, seems a ~~xxx~~ long time.
- 7th. This is our day off, very quiet no roll call even.
- 8th. Had to go down and sleep in the mine as Yanks were bombing this island. I don't mind if they keep up the bombing.
- 9th. We got more mail yesterday, I got 3, one from Mama, 1 from Gram and 1 from the Prime Minister. They were written on Oct 20th, 1943 not so long ago. One fellow got one written on Jan 25th. 1944.
- 10th. Awful hot. We hear that many places were bombed by more than 200 planes and only 2 were shot down. One had a woman reporter on ~~xxxx~~ board so the Japs say.
- 11th. Weather hot. Japs gave us some soap today, we certainly need it.
- 12th. Very hot with light breeze from the south east.
- 13th. Heat continues, but there is a light breeze which helps.
- 14th. Very bad news this morning, two of our men were killed in mine by falling rock, they were crushed to death instantly. One fellow, Charles Fitzpatrick who was badly wounded in Hong Kong and Ralph Campbell from Campbellton N.B. His mother is Leitha McRae from my home town in Hopetown, Que. A cousin of my fathers, they will be buried this afternoon. Sgt. D'Avignon will be the padre for Fitzpatrick and Major Robertson for Campbell. One is a Catholic, other Protestant.
- 15th. Nice and fine. The two lads that were killed have been laid to rest out on the hillside among the pines, Fitzpatrick's brother was killed in Hong Kong. Very sad that one of them couldn't have lived through this mess.
- 16th. Very hot. No air raids lately. Have mosquito nets, now gives some protection from the mosquitos.
- 17th. Our day off, but have to clean up as there is an inspection soon.
- 18th. Still hot. No signs of release from here, would like to know how it's going.
- 19th. Off again today, some medical bloke here. We keep going all the ~~ix~~ time, air or fire drill.
- 20th. Fine breeze from south east.
- 21st. Rain last night and today. We only got out of mine at 5 O'clock, wires were crossed and couldn't get signals through.
- 22nd. Rain again today from south east.

1944

- July 23rd. Nice and warm, just right.
- 24th. Nice again, some wind from south east. Hope we are released soon from here.
- 25th. Nice again, some wind from south east. Hope we are released pretty soon. There was a Japanese Naval Officer here today.
- 26th. So hot last night, couldn't sleep. More mail in yesterday. I didn't get any. Nips all drunk last night
- 27th. Still very hot, not much going on.
- 28th. Our day off, not so hot today as we have rain showers. There was a R. C. priest or Cardinal here today, he was either french or Italian, its nice to see a white man, especially a freeman, but some day we'll be free.
- 29th. Had air raid alarm, had to stay in mine for 3 hours.
- 30th. Awful hot, can't sleep or rest. just sweating.
- 31st. Hot and clammy. Mosquitos are bad in this kind of weather.
- Aug 1st. Terrific heat, can hardly stand it.
- 2nd. Hot as ever. Not working in coal now so we aren't so dirty.
- 3rd. Still hot. We have squash soup most of the time now.
- 4th. Heat awful, hope it cools of soon.
- 5th. Heat bad, also mosquitos.
- 6th. Our day off, but so hot can hardly rest. Food scarce, no meat, fish or vegetable.
- 7th. Hot, but light breeze from south east.
- 8th. Hot in a.m. but heavy rain in afternoon.
- 9th. Cooler on account of rain. Japan supposed to have had 52 hours air raid, also a change in Government.
- 10th. Getting a little cooler, strong wind from south east.
- 11th. Very nice day, but we are tired and we just came out of mine at 12 o'clock, then there was an air raid and we had to go right down again. We have a goose, pigs, chickens and rabbits now.
- 12th. Not quite so hot today.
- 13th. This is Grandma's birthday, she must be 84 years old, hope she is happy and well and not worrying. Going on small rations starting today so we will be hungry more often now. Guess it won't last long now.
- 14th. Very hot. We get very little food now, not half enough
- 15th. Our day off, not a bad day, things must be going our way now.
- 16th. Hot again today and one section has to work 3 extra hours each day on air raid shelters, but we don't mind the work if they only bomb here more.
- 17th. Still hot, Man by name of Small fell and broke his ribs. Blair Coull has appendicitis, not operated on yet.
- 18th. Hot day. Our turn to work on air raid shelter, went in about 5 ft it will take ~~quite~~ quite a while.
- 19th. Rained hard, didn't work on air raid shelter.
- 20th. Not so hot. Just got out of mine, a raid was on and we had to go back. 11 large, four engined bombers, they fought for awhile over here, but none came down, then in the night they came back again so we had to go down again, we don't mind it. We didn't see the planes, just heard them.
- 21st. Nice and fine. Reported that 60 planes raided this island, came from China.
- 22nd. Fine. Another air raid, we were in mine, had to wait.
- 23rd. Fine day.
- 24th. Nice weather.
- Sept 8th. After a long layoff I again take up my pen. Reached Sig. line. Landed Sept 15th. Stalin, Roosevelt and Churchill confer at Fairbanks, Alaska. Landed on Sept 12th.
- 12th. Rumours of peace in Europe. 135 British arrived at this camp on Oct 12th. Royal Artillery 22nd Regt. some engineers, also some of 2 Batt. Loyals, and 1 Gordon Highland and 5 Aussies, all taken prisoners at Singapore, they came here from Korea. Americans raided this place on 11, 12 and 25th. Yanks supposed to have landed on Layte Is. P. I. on Oct 21st. Tokyo bombed every day lately. Germans supposed to have pushed us back due to bad weather foggy and couldn't use the air craft.
- Nov & DEC. Weather terrible cold and we are not allowed to wear our clothes. We pull old straw rice bags over our bodies when we get a chance to save our lives. Received a Red Cross parcel for Smas, its a God send. A long time of slow murder. This man in charge is trying his utmost to kill us all. This has been the most trying time of my life, I have missed a lot of writing because if caught it would be certain murder.

1945

- 1945. Mar 10th. 140 new arrivals here today, few Americans, rest British. They are from Formosa. Planes are now bombing every day and night. We have crossed the Rhine and are at Muaster on Mar. 27th.

- 1945.
Mar 10th. Battleship King George V and carrier Illustrious are taking part in the fight at the Ric Kiv Islands. Russians are only 25 miles from Berlin, they are also at Vienna. The Americans have landed on Okinawa.
- Apr. 1st. Air raids regular now. Reported that Germans have asked for terms on April 30th. Hope it's true. Reported that Hitler and Mussolini are both dead. We have been given a collection of old horse heads and other bones to make soup, it makes very good soup. We make soup twice with them and then send them on to another camp. We also got 50 or 60 large snakes for soup. I detest the darn things. One time we got wheat, barley, rye and some millet and now only rice. We were in the mine 18 hours on account of the planes. Germans packed up on 7th or 8th of May. We got the news by stealing the Jap papers and one guy can interpret it for us. Three more men are killed today. The weather is lovely, May is like July at home. One plane came down almost to the roof tops last night. Lucky the bombs didn't come through the roof.
- May 27th. Planes very low again last night. One Jan. 29th, 500 B 29S raided Yokahama, they had fighter escort. 2nd June to 8th terribly heavy raids on over all the cities. A fellow by the name of Hoffmaster, commander of the 3rd Division is reported to be in charge of the show over here. 100,000 Canadian air force is reported on way over here. Queev Mary and Elizabeth and Acquantania are reported carrying troops home from Europe and on to the far East.
- June 11th I watched the bombers for about 4 hours last night, they certainly gave someplace a pasting, the sky was just a vivid blaze of fire. 100 more came here today, 90 Aussies, 10 British. June 20th they had been in Burma and Thailand. Out of 50,000, 16,000 of malaria, cholera and dysentery. They were working on a railroad and averaged about one man per tie, also 50,000 Indians died.
- 30th 145 more British, Aussies, Americans and Dutch came here to day, they came from Nagasaki on this island. 8 men have been hurt in the last 24 hours, broken legs, arms and backs, terrible state. These new fellows were sunk when about 60 miles from shore, about 700 were drowned, what luck, some could'nt swim and just perished like rats. Prisoners Nips and all in the water together. We have about 5 raids every day now, its great, as many as 2,000 planes at one time. Have shelled many ports and towns lately. Churchill is said to be out and Atlee in his place. Much rain lately.
- Aug 8th. I had a narrow escape from falling rock today. the raids continue to get worse. This is our day off. I counted 294 bombers and the fighters were so thick they looked like flies. Two Japz planes went up and a fight took place. The Japs were shot down in flames. There were over 600 planes up there at one time. It's their turn now, darn them.
- Aug 8 & 9th It's just hell on earth now, our planes smashing everything to peices. When we go down in mine now we can't tell when we will get up again. Our Air Force is using some new and terrible kind of bomb or mine, it's a super machine of destruction, just deadly wipes out whole cities, it explodes about 3 or 4 hundred feet in the air, caused consussion of the brain. It is dropped by parachute the most deadly thing ever used in any war. The Nips are terrified
- Aug 15th Have day off and something is wrong. The Japs are crying, I believe the thing is over. Russians are in the war against the Japs, but it's not that.
- 16th They tell us we don't go down in the mine. It must be over. Don't know what to do.
- 17th Out of mine again, must be over because we are not down again, When we are not in mine we can't get any news or papers.
- 18th They won't tell us, but it must be over, not a bomber overhead, can't write, can't do anything, can't sleep, everyone is almost mad won't be in the mine any more thank Gpd. We are all crazy, can't eat or sleep.
- 19th We have to have roll call under the Nips, but will soon change it.
- 20th Still here, but we are almost free, Nips don't come around at all. We are now our own bosses.
- 21st. Very hot, but no news. 4 or 5 of the boys went over the fence, caused a big fuss, Just goes to show how we could have gotten out, had we any chance of getting away. We have killed the pig and all the hens and chickens, also the rabbits. We play valley ball, ping pong, tennis, chess and cards.
- 22nd. Very hot. No news of when we will get out, this is very monotonous.
- 23rd. Occupation army is supposed to arrive here on the 26th and Navy on 28th. Looks like we may be here for awhile yet. I was bitten by a centipede today on the foot and did it hurt, foot all swollen up and burning like fire.

1945

~~24th. Very hot, no news.~~

- 1945.
- Aug 24th. Very hot. We went for a walk today, 30 of us. We went out through the rice fields, also had a swim. Supposed to have an air victory flight over here. We have the camp marked with two large P O.W. signs
- Aug 25th. Very hot again this morning. Seven P 38 went over this camp at 10 a. m. not very low. 10 bombers passed, went right on. Getting tired and food is very bad, just rice and squash three times a day.
- 26th. Very quiet. Some of the boys are talking about going over the fence and going any old place they like, but that would be bad, the people are very hostile and would cut our throats in a minute. They may riot at anytime, if we had arms it would be O.K. but are not armed.
- 27th. Fierce rain and rainstorm, most of the fence is gone, the wind blew it away. No trouble to get away now, but what's the use. Food is awful, just squash and rice ~~wish they would hurry~~ wish they would hurry.
- 28th. Fine. 50 of us went for a walk under guard and had a nice swim, came back at 11.30. The greatest sight since I am in this camp, dozens of U. S. bombers were over and we got a large mirror and signalled to them and they started dropping food supplies to us, also medicines it made us feel so good to see hugh flistering bombers, all B 29s come down a few hundred feet from the ground and drop supplies by parachute, large gasoline barrles with all kinds of food, even fruit salad. Much of it was destroyed when hitting the ground. The Japs eyes just popped out.
- 29th. Planes overhead, but didn't drop anything at this camp, but we could see them dropping food about 5 miles from here.
- 30th. A lot of planes dropped us more food today, tons of it. Some Japs were killed by the large packs, big gasoline drums. They go right through the roofs of houses and go 4 ft in the ground. Fast fighters were right down near the ground. I think they were Mustangs. Not hungry, but anxious to leave.
- Sept 1st. Rain and fog. Planes overhead, we spread out a lot of yellow, red and blue parachutes to attract them when they come over.
- 2nd. More rain and fog. We can hear planes, but can't see them. Our food is low, hope the weather clears up soon.
- 3rd. Very quiet. Rain all day.
- 4th. S. C. M. Ildon and myself left for some of the other prison camps today. visited camp 23, camp 24, 200 Aussies, 200 British, camp 12, 200 Chinese, camp 11 200 Dutch, and 150 Americans.
- 5th. Got lost many times, visited camp 4- 300 mixed, camp 3- 1157, 630 Americans rest Aussies, Chinese, Indians, Dutch, 2 Arabs, 2 Canadians
- 6th. Camp 21- 650 Dutch, Aussies, and 3 Americans.
- 7th. Back at camp. Some of the areas that were bombed are completely flat, 200,000 were killed in 16 minutes. Still burning in many places, air drop 2 planes. Six of our boys died of poison booze, supposed to be wood, alcohol, 4 British and 2 Canadians, Clem Cyr from New Richmond was one of them.
- 8th. Funeral today, we cremat d them, put them in one pile, put coal and wood over them--- they burned for 4 hours.
- 9th. Feeling sick, Doc says I have Malaria, what bad luck. 11 American evacuation men were here today. Col. Martin in charge, took 17 men away with them.
- 10th. Feeling sick. Air drop two planes B 29s.
- 11th. Heavy rain. No planes. Still very sick but we have lots of medicine.
- 12th. Rain again today. Some planes over again, they dropped parachutes about 4 miles from here. where there is a camp with 200 Dutch prisoners.
- 13th. Still cloudy. 4 fighters passed over here this a. m. They gave us a demonstration of flying this afternoon.
- 14th. We have orders that we won't be moving till the 22nd. and they say by boat from Nagasaki.
- 15th. Fighters over camp. I went to a show, not much good.
- 16th. Went for a trip by car, what roads. Takes hours to get over the hills road just winds around and around until it reaches the summit of the mountains and go down the same way. Raining hard this afternoon.
- 17th. I am trying to get back to Kawasaki where we are camped. There is a typhoon on, water is up in the trains, we left the car about 25 miles from here, had to swim one place, bridge was gone. Lost our boots. A lot of people must have lost their lives.
- 18th. The typhoon had just about blowed itself out, but what a mess. Some of the boys had to stay in the school house. I stayed here.
- 19th. Planes dropped us all the food we want. 2 men were killed, hit by falling boxes.
- 20th. Planes dropped food again today. Not hungry, leaving on the 22nd.
- 21st. Preparing to leave, can't get going too soon. English leave at 10 o'clock tonight and Canadians and Aussies in morning.
- 22nd. 4 o'clock, we are at railroad, left at 6 o'clock going through bombed and every mile or so there is a tunnel.

1945

1945

- Sept 22nd. Just out of one into another. We will go to Nagasaki at 12.30 and then the boat that takes me home. We are now at Nagasaki and it is completely ruined, even the hills are all twisted for miles around. That bomb is a deadly thing. What misery the people are in now. hungry and when the winter comes on it will be terrible. We were disinfected about a dozen times. Covered with powder, went through showers, powder in our hair and ears, we looked like snow men. All our clothes were burned, all new American Army clothes and now we are on the British air craft carrier H. M. S. Speaker There are a lot of war craft here, also the American Red Cross ships, the U. S. Sanctuary and the U. S. Haven.
- Sept 24th Sailing along nicely. Arrived Okinawa 4.30. 1,000 ships in and around this place. There was fierce fighting here this summer.
- 23rd. Sunday and we have church service. The first Minister or Padre since leaving Hong Kong. Hymns sung O God our Help in Ages Past, Onward Christian Soldiers. As it happened the first hymns sung after our capture were the same as after our release. The day is nice and fine, we left harbour at 3.00 p.m. There were hundred of war ships in harbour and the American occupation troops were landing in these invasion barges, thousands of them. I wonder what the Japs think. We met two more large air craft carriers and 3 destroyers outside of harbour, also many air craft over head. Had a show last night and one tonight.
- 25th Getting off this ship this morning. Don't know what ship will take from here. May go from here to the Phillipines.
- 26th Okinawa. This is where the last big fight took place. Now on U.S. troop ship Rainville, 16,000 tons, 1,700 of us on board, very crowded and hot. left this place at 5.30 going southward.
- 27th Are supposed to pass Formosa today, but we won't see it because they keep in deep waters all the time on account of the mines.
- 28th Heavy rain squalls, getting hotter all the time. This ship is very steady, 17 hundred on board. We see many islands and lots of flying fish and sharks.
- 29th We are now off the Phillipines on the west coast of Lauzon. Get to Manilla today. Passed by the hard fought port of Corrigider and Bataan, can see the big holes made by the bombs and shells.
- 30th Rain again. Thousands of ships in this bay, also many sunken ones, some upside down, others just the masts out. Still on same one.
- Oct 1st. We docked at 11.30. This place badly battered. The Filipines much like Japs except they are darker. Got off ship and were taken in S. S. army transport to about 18 miles south of Manilla. Americans have lots of equipment here. There are some Japs prisoners here, they work under guard, are very servile now.
- 2nd. Heavy rain last night. We got American army clothes today. Had a medical inspection. Australian Doctor and the nurses were nice, also got 3 needles. We are now being interrogated about how we were treated while prisoners of war of the Japs.
- 3rd. Not much rain today, but the mud is awful. Planes are spreading some kind of stuff from the air to kill mosquitos. We were paid today. \$100. in American currency, this will be deducted from our pay.
- 4th Raining all day. Many Red Cross workers and nurses here.
- 5th. Went down to Manilla to a show at Times theatre, back at 11.30 City is a ruin.
- 6th Went on a sight tour, left in morning, drove for miles through coconut. palms and banana plantations, saw many places where fighting took place, planes shot to pieces, tanks smashed up. etc
- 7th. This is my birthday, very hot, have been told that we may leave tomorrow.
- 8th. It is now 12 noon. Don't think we will leave today. Rain all night
- 9th. Left camp at 6.30 for Manilla, went right on board and sailed out of harbour at 6.30 p. m. Are on British air craft carrier Glory.
- 10th. Had a good night. This morning we are going through the Strait of San Bernado at the southern end of Lauzon. Headed out in the Pacific this a. m. and the Phillipines were lost in the distance.
- 11th. Rough at times. the carrier rolls and pitches. This ship is 690' & 19,000 tons.
- 12th This a. m. at 8 o'clock we were about 100 miles north west of the Jap base and stronghold of the island of ----- and around 4 p.m. were about 10 miles north of the forward Pacific base of the Pacific fleet, the . Many hugh units of the U. S. Navy in the distance.
- 13th Passed about 200 miles south of Guam at 8 o'clock this morning. We are now in the wide Pacific, just missed a very bad typhoon it hit Okinawa, the worst in the island history. Americans may have to evacuate their troops from the place.

P45

- Sept 14th. We are now in the trade wind belt, at this time of year it blows from east to west. At 8 o'clock this am we were 200 miles north of the Jap stronghold of Truk where the Americans had a hard time taking it, and lost heavily. Its a coral island with a lagoon all around it.
- 15th. Wind not so strong. One of our hospital cases died last night, buried last night,
- 16th. Wind very strong, but we are going along fine.
- 17th. We were at Longitude 173 this morn'g. We have one extra day going east as we cross the 180 meridian or international date line. So we have two Wednesdays or two Oct 17ths.
- 18th. Nice today. We were about 900 miles from Hawaii this p. m. One fellow was arguing that we were only 5 miles from land, ocean only 5 miles deep here.
- 19th. Sun wasn't too hot today, so I stayed up on the flight deck. Watched the flying fish. We received 1 Australian pound today as a gift from the Australian Government. It is now about 8 o'clock about 200 miles from Pearl Harbour will arrive this morning, a good time to dock.
- Oct 20th. Docked Pearl Harbour at 8 a.m. Allowed off at 1.30, were supposed to stay in dock area, but most of the boys boarded trucks for Honolulu about five miles away. I went to a Navy Recruiting Club, we had a gang of girls sing and dance the hula hula for us on board the carrier. They dance the hula hula in grass skirts and are accompanied by singing and playing the Hawaiian guitar. They certainly got rythm. Their hands and hips are the chief elements of the dance.
- 21st. Left Pearl Harbour at 0800 hours this ~~am~~ a. m. Nice and fine. This is a powerful base, many submarines based here. The old Arizona is still lying on her side. It wouldn't be safe for the Nips to attack this place now. There are hundreds of planes overhead all the time, real fast ones.
- 22rd. We notice a cooler tang in the air already. I just came from the show in the hanger, the picture was Scatter Brians. One month since we left Japan, another 4,000 miles to go.
- 23rd. Getting cold, or maybe we notice it more on account of being in the tropics for the last while back.
- 24th. Fairly rough thisx a. m. Have seen many gulls. We notice the cold very much already what will we do in January.
- 25th. Getting anxious to get on dry land, this is our last night on ship, rough,
- 26th. Early morning, we are in sight of land and I know its Canada. but it is real chilly, We came in port, the naval at 0900 Esquimalt, got off ship at 120 hours, then taken in bus through Victoria to Gofdon Head camp, are now drawing our clothing. I got letters from Mamma, Meda, Aunt Bessie and Betty.

The Following was taken from Issue of October 5th, 1945 of the Montreal Daily Star

Manilla, Oct 5th. Members of a party of 160 Canadian prisoners of war who spent 32 months working in a coal mine at Kawasaki in Japan related yesterday how they planned to break out of the camp when the Allies invaded Japan and fight with other Allied prisoners as a guerilla and sabotage group. The prisoners who were repeatedly told by the Japanese guards that when the invasion came they would all promptly be killed, made plans according to that advice. They prepared maps of the area and slowly built up in a camp a hidden store of 800 sticks of dynamite stolen from the mine. When word of the invasion came they intended to smash their way out of the camp, destroy bridges and other installations, and attack an airfield. The Japanese almost stumbled on the plan March 16th, 1944 when they discovered some of the British Staff Sergeant Hugh Limb of the Hong Kong Volunteer force who earned the respect of every Canadian during the imprisonment. Six others in the group were locked in the dungeon and made to stand at attention for 31 hours without a break. They were Sgt. Maj. W. R. ~~Stubbins~~ ~~Stubbins~~ Parkes, Richmond Quebec, Sgt. Maj. Frank Ebdon, Donnocona, Quebec, Sgt. Maj. F. B. Cauldwell, Winnipeg, Sgt. Lance Ross Hopetown, Quebec, Sgt. Maurice D'Avignon, Marieville, Quebec, and Rfman "Yank Durns, Hartford, Conn. Parkes called the dungeon (a miserable dirty hole) and said men who wavered during the hours they stood racing the walls were prodded with sharpened bamboo sticks. Those who fell were beaten. To make the ordeal worse, they were fed small portions of Japanese rice and mouthfuls of salted water. Though the camp was good as such Japanese establishments go, most the the prisoners suffered from malnutrition and had to work despite illness. One Canadian who was seriously ill and was forced by beating to go into the mine, died before finishing his eight ~~xxx~~ hour shift. Last winter the prisoners suffered severely from the cold, but were kept working nearly a mile underground in tunnels which they had dug originally. The tunnels were reinforced with concrete walls in which as a sabotage measure, the prisoners packed mine tools and other implements. The prisoners received numerous beatings administered by the Japanese guards and work leaders, who lived in terror of a black moustache mine labour, commandant, nicknamed Hitler. The guards and work leaders used every means they could to keep coal production high. Mine cave ins took the lives of two Canadians and nine others died of illness during the 14 months ~~they~~ the prisoners worked to develop the mine and 18 during which they produced soft coal. The mine eventually produced 250 tons daily. The Canadians learned the taste of horsehead soup, ~~they~~ they managed to keep in good spirits to the utter amazement of the Japanese. The group from Kawasaki, now in Manilla awaited repatriation, included Cms. Tom Smith Donnocona, CSM Harold Sheperd, Riverbend, Quebec, Sgt. Leslie Stickles, East Angus, Quebec, Sgt. Charles Fletcher, Lake Megantic, Quebec, Sgt. ~~Rick~~ Bill Hawke, Cowansville, Quebec, And Sgt. Bob Barter ; Grand Cascapeia. ~~gr~~ Quebec.