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American Red Cross
Tenth Army Hdq.
APO 357
San Francisco

Okinawa
30 August, 1945

My Day
August 30, 1945

with apologies to Eleanor R.

explanatory note: in radio communications all messages are logged by "Date Time Groups", which always have six numbers. First two are day in month, second two are hour in day and third two are minutes.

280703 - Got up, washed, shaved.

290725 - Had breakfast, french toast and spam.

280800-- Opened office, sorting communications, and routing drivers for the day.

280906 -- worked on training Eugene Pratt, who is to handle communications office in Korea.

281135 -- Lunch; roast pork, pork and beans, canned fruit.

281245 -- Arranged, composed, and typed a long series of control messages to Washington, Guam, Honolulu, Manila, Saipan, Leyte, Tinian, and other points south and east.

281700 -- Supper.

281800 -- Scanned and approved several hundred outgoing messages for day.

- 282016 -- Took outgoing messages to Radio Station for transmission.
- 282109 -- Wrote letter to wife. Sent carbon copy of part of letter to family.
- 282311 -- Received call that supervisory (?) help was needed at canteen on Kadena strip.
- 282317 -- drove to Kadena strip.
- 282348 -- Kadena strip, Okinawa -- Some three hundred and fifty C-54s (four motored transports poised on their hard-monnts along the taxiways ready for the jump off to Tokio. Under the sleek hulls; shining in the moonlight were troops of our crack Airborue division, sprawled on the ground, some sleeping, some sitting quietly talking. Others washing faces, cleaning teeth, and some singing. At the Red Cross canteen tent long lines of paratroopers, their boots shining, their faces fresh.. you can tell fresh troops. anywhere, anytime. They wanted coffee, donuts, tooth paste, towels, razorS, everything we had. They wanted more coffee, more donuts, more talk. Pilots, colonels, majors, endless Captains from Australia, from China, from England, from Canada... all flying ships of the Air Transport C Command. Next door repair crews were fixing motors under powerful floodlights. Across the taxiway giant motors were being warmed up, throbbing, pounding, their giant propellers like spinning plates. Men climbing ramps with guns and gear.. airborne troops without parachutes, commandos of peace.
Four GI cans with immersion heaters making 120 gallons of coffee every 30 minutes.. still the cry, get more coffee, more donuts, more coffee, is there any more tooth paste? Can you use tooth powder son?
- 290100 -- At the end of the Kadena strip the first C-54, loaded and ready poised for the take off, warming up its motors. I sat in the jeep

watching, slowly backing the vehicle out of the path of stones thrown by the slip stream. It wheeled, roared into motion, and took off down the incredibly long runway. First into Tokio, 5 hours away.

290133 -- Hell no, we don't want to move this Clubmobile - look at the crowd now -- who's going to feed the men from the Control Tower and the Operations Office.. we gotta have more coffee.. more donuts.. more men.. bring some more heavy towels; this place is swimming, in spilled coffee.. lets clean it up. whaddya say Captain, when yah taking off? soon? When will you be back.. this afternoon? Swell.. We'll be here with hot coffee.

290318 -- Is this all the donuts you got ready? What in hell you guys been doing all night.. Imagine, Dombrowski in dough to his ears, and Bob Atmore, picking them up on a stick and arranging them in rows in the trays. Boy they small good.. got any more coffee ready over here? What? Only five machines running tonigt.. where's the other five?.. gone to Korea. What the hell for?.. we need 'em here. - when can I pick up the the next load? Yah.. I got a weapons carrier.. well load it full. Eight mурmite cans of hot coffee and 8 big trays of donuts.. should hold us another three hours.

290427 -- That goddamn generator on the blink again.. we gotta have lights.. get some flyboy mechanic to fix it.. I know it won't start. May have waterin the gas.. dump the gas out.. we gotta have lights. everything will get carried off in the dark.. just a minute you fellows, dont try to get coffee till we get the lights on.

290505 -- Should be light soon... and here it is raining like hell, and a few minutes ago tne moon was shining.. they're still going out.. one every three minutes.. 20 an hour --- how long will it take to move 6,000 men with 40 in each plane.. Ok, you figure it out. God I'm tired.. need more coffee again.. this tastes like dishwater.

- 290622 -- The donuts are gone, but these guys can eat their K rations for breakfast.. I know they don't like it-- never had to before.. picked fresh troops-- the finest cleanest young men in American-- K rations won't hurt them for one day-- nor sleeping on the ground they're going to Tokio.
- 290746 -- You suppose those guys will show up at eight oclock -- and the girls? is this place a mess-- look at it-- the men will be here soon to clean up-- sorta rough night we had.
- 290755 -- You guys can take over now-- yeh-- we had a rough night.
- 290832 -- I don't care what the rest of you do-- I'm going to bed.
- 291315 -- one o'clock.. the hell you say? God.. I missed chow-- breakfast- and lunch both-- wadda yah got to eat?
- 291700 -- Boy, does that taste good-- liver.. Tennessee steak.. onions, potatoes.. relish.. and cake. and asparagus.. does that taste good. Never want to see another donut again.. not for a long long time.

*(love you!
Herry,*