

Here

Here's a scan of one of several documents sent to me by Harry Hollis in North Carolina. Read his comments about these documents in my MailBag, page 10

Address reply to
and refer to:

U. S. NAVAL CONSTRUCTION TRAINING CENTER
CAMP PEARY
WILLIAMSBURG, VIRGINIA

23 February, 1944

Memorandum for Whom it May Concern:

Subject: Hollis, H.H. GM2c (552 19 46)

1. Subject man has served in this department for the past twelve months as Instructor, Instructor in Charge of a group of classes, Instructor in Charge of Practice Mortar Range, and Instructor in Charge of Artillery Range.
2. His selection to these duties was made from a large field of Special Trained Instructors, which, in itself speaks for his being considered outstanding in a select group of instructors.
3. It is through his efforts that this school has received numerous commendations on the quality of training given to the students, in the field.
4. His abilities are equalled only by his desire to do commendable work.

A.C. Gebbel
A.C. Gebbel, CM
Chief of School

ACG/ejf

THE NIGHTHAWKER: (CONT.)

23 AUGUST 1945
THURSDAY

THE HAWKROOST:

IN ORDER TO CLARIFY THE CONFUSION AND SCUTTLEBUT GOING THE ROUNDS, THE NIGHTHAWKER GIVES YOU THE PRESENT STATUS OF THE SQUADRON IN REGARDS TO AWARDS, CAMPAIGN RIBBONS, AND BATTLE STARS THAT WE ARE ELIGIBLE TO WEAR.

AT PRESENT, PERSONNEL WHO CAME ALL THE WAY WITH THE SQUADRON ARE ELIGIBLE FOR ONLY ONE RIBBON, THE ATLANTIC PACIFIC THEATER RIBBON, WITHOUT ANY STAR ON IT. EXCEPTIONS ARE THOSE FEW MEN WHO HAVE BEEN SPECIFICALLY DECORATED. NO AUTHORITY FOR A STAR FOR THIS OKINAWA CAMPAIGN HAS YET BEEN RELEASED, THOUGH ONE WILL BE ISSUED AT SOME NEAR FUTURE DATE. FOR PURPOSES OF POINT COMPUTATIONS UNDER THE ARMY DISCHARGE SYSTEM, THE OKINAWA CAMPAIGN HAS BEEN RATED FIVE POINTS FOR ONE BATTLE STAR.

THE AMERICAN THEATER RIBBON IS NOT AUTHORIZED FOR THIS SQUADRON.

ALL PERSONNEL OF THE SQUADRON WHO WERE ABOARD THE U.S.S. SCHEMPP HAVE IN THEIR SERVICE RECORD BOOKS A COPY OF THE LETTER OF COMMENDATION WRITTEN BY THE SHIP'S CAPTAIN. THIS LETTER DOES NOT AUTHORIZE ANY RIBBON OR POINTS.

NO RIBBONS OR BATTLE STARS ARE AUTHORIZED FOR OUR STAY AT THE PHILIPPINES ON THE WAY UP HERE. AUTHORIZATION FOR STARS IS NOT AUTOMATIC, AND MUST BE SPECIFICALLY DESIGNATED IN TERMS OF ORGANIZATIONS INVOLVED, TIME, PLACE, ETC.

BOTH MAC-33 AND MAC-31 ARE AT PRESENT RECOMMENDED FOR THE PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION, WHICH, SHOULD IT BE APPROVED, WILL ALLOW THE WEARING OF THAT RIBBON WITH ONE STAR FOR PERSONNEL WHO WERE IN THE GROUP BETWEEN THE INCLUSIVE DATES THAT WILL BE ANNOUNCED. ALSO, D.F. HAS BEEN SEPARATELY RECOMMENDED FOR THIS AWARD, WHICH WOULD INCLUDE US. HOWEVER, ONLY ONE OR THE OTHER OF THESE RECOMMENDATIONS CAN BE APPROVED.

CARDS, SIMILAR TO ID CARDS WILL SHORTLY BE ISSUED TO ALL PERSONNEL. THESE CARDS WILL DESIGNATE SPECIFICALLY THE AWARDS AND RIBBONS THAT THE BEARER CAN WEAR.

THE NIGHTHAWKER WILL KEEP THE SQUADRON ADVISED ON THE LATEST DOPE.

***** GET THIS GANG *****

KAY KYSER AND HIS BAND
WILL PUT ON A SHW AT NVAL OPERATING BASE # 2, BROWN BEACH.
TIME: 2000, 24 AUGUST, 1945

TRUCK WILL LEAVE FROM SQUADRON TRANSPORTATION AT 1830.
ALSO
THE GROUP WILL HAVE TRANSPORTATION LEAVING FROM THE GROUP EXHIBED
MEN'S MESS HALL AT 1830.
THERE WILL BE PLENTY OF ROOM FOR THOSE WHO WANT TO GO.

Here is the "Real Deal" – the Farewell Greeting from Col Maas that I have had reproduced on the E.F. Buddy Howard tribute page since 2001. Harry Hollis sent me a scan of the actual letter:

AIR BASE COMMAND
AFWASE AIRFIELD
NAVAL AIR BASES #3256

Sase

16 August 1945

To: All CBMU #624 Personnel.

To the officers and men of the finest Maintenance Unit in the Navy, I wish both to say good-bye and to express the pleasure and privilege it has been for me to know you, work with you and to live among you.

Never have I personally been treated better anywhere under any circumstances than I have been by everyone in 624 on Okinawa.

You have all measured up to the finest traditions of the American Navy, and in deed you have created some new traditions, of which the Navy will always be proud. The Sea Bees and Maintenance Units have contributed largely to our remarkable victorious march to total victory in the Pacific. It is safe to say that you, and the men and officers in your corps, have by their loyal, faithful, enthusiastic hard work, amazing ingenuity and unparalleled team work, not only took a major part in our ultimate victory but actually shortened this war by many many months, thereby saving untold thousands of American lives.

You in 624 were privileged to be in on the final battle that ended for once and all the hellish dreams of world conquest by the Jap Empire. In fact, you fought in the final battle that ended the Jap Empire. Okinawa will go down in military history as one of the great and most decisive battles in all history.

You played a vital part in that great historic battle. In all the military annals there has never been anything like the organization and work of the Sea Bees.

Your courageous, tireless and magnificent work will be remembered as long as there is American history.

Your work, from the beginning on this island, made it possible for the Marine planes to fly in the vital defense of Okinawa. You were as much a part of that heroic air defense as if you flew the planes yourself.

I am proud to have had you in my command, and consider it a high privilege to have been associated with you.

It is a high honor to call each and everyone of you - "Shipmate".

I leave you now for other work to which I have been called, but I will always consider myself part of 624. I am hereby assuming a new title.

Good-bye, good luck, and hopes that you will all be home soon.

Affectionately,

A Marine Sea Bee.

M. J. Maas

MELVIN J. MAAS,
Colonel, U.S. Marine Corps Reserve,
Air Base Commander.

Please Sase

*This is a 769. night fighter outfit
have 999
F7F now.*

"THE NIGHTHAWKER"

770616

EDITED BY 543
RADIO DEPT.

23 AUGUST 1945
THURSDAY



SPORTS

NEWS

GENERAL MAC ARTHUR'S HEADQUARTERS:
INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE INITIAL LANDINGS OF ALLIED OCCUPATIONAL FORCES ON JAPAN HAS BEEN MADE PUBLIC FROM GENERAL MAC ARTHUR'S HEADQUARTERS IN MANILA. FIRST LANDINGS, ACCORDING TO TOKYO, IS TO BE MADE BY AIRBORNE TROOPS AT AIRFIELDS NEAR TOKYO SUNDAY AND GENERAL MAC ARTHUR SAYS HE WILL LAND AT ASUOHL-IPRODZE TUESDAY. AT THE SAME TIME, THOUSANDS OF MARINES AND NAVY PERSONEL WILL GO A-SHORE AT YOKOSUKA NAVAL B.S.E. SPOKESMEN FROM MAC ARTHUR'S HEADQUARTERS SAID THE LANDINGS WILL BE CARRIED OUT WITH FULL COMBAT GEAR, SIMULATING WAR CONDITIONS. THREE DAYS LATER, ON AUGUST 31, THE SUPREME ALLIED COMMANDER WILL SIGN THE FORMAL SURRENDER TERMS WITH TOP JAPANESE OFFICIALS SOMEWHERE NEAR TOKYO. OBSERVERS SAY THE SIGNING WILL TAKE PLACE ABOARD A U.S. BATTLESHIP IN TOKYO HARBOR BUT THIS WAS NOT OFFICIALLY ANNOUNCED.

THE JAPANESE ARE INSTRUCTED TO EVACUATE ALL JAPANESE MILITARY PERSONEL FROM THE OCCUPIED AREA AND CONFINE JAPANESE TROOPS TO THEIR BIVOUACS. JAPANESE CIVIL POLICE, WITH SMALL FIREARMS, ARE TO REMAIN IN THE LANDING ZONES TO TAKE CARE OF POSSIBLE SNIPERS OR OTHER TROUBLE MAKERS. COASTAL GUNS ARE TO BE WITHOUT BREACH LOCKS AND ALL JAPANESE WARSHIPS ARE TO THROW THEIR EXPLOSIVES OVERBOARD AS WELL AS GIVE THE ALLIES THEIR LOCATION. AN ESCORT WILL LEAD THE ALLIED FLEET INTO THE TOKYO BAY WHILE JAPANESE NAVAL SHIPS ARE TO PILOT OUR CRAFT THROUGH MINE INFESTED WATERS THAT HAVE NOT BEEN COMPLETELY CLEARED.

GENERAL MAC ARTHUR HAS ORDERED THE JAPS TO BE ON THE ALERT BEGINNING AT 6 A.M. SUNDAY MORNING FOR THE ALLIED ARRIVAL. AIRCRAFT OF THE JAPANESE EMPIRE, BOTH CIVILIAN AND MILITARY, ARE TO BE GROUNDED AT 1800 FRIDAY WITH FEW EXCEPTIONS, GRANTED BY GENERAL MAC ARTHUR UPON THE JAP REQUEST, THAT ARE NECESSARY FOR PREPARATION OF THE ALLIED LANDING.

SO FAR, THE JAPANESE HAVE CARRIED OUT IN FULL, INSTRUCTIONS RELAYED TO TOKYO FROM THE MANILA CONFERENCE AND COOPERATION AT THE CONFERENCES IN MANILA INDICATED THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT WOULD ALSO COOPERATE IN THE ALLIED LANDING. TOKYO NEWSPAPERS AND RADIOS CONTINUE TO URGE THE JAPANESE PEOPLE TO MAINTAIN ORDER AND HELP THE ALLIED FORCES WHEN THEY OCCUPY THE HOME ISLANDS. TOKYO RADIO INTERPRETED THE POTSDAM ULTIMATUM TO LEARN THE ALLIES WOULD BE LENIENT SINCE OCCUPATIONAL FORCES IN GERMANY ARE MAKING SLAVES OF THE CONQUERED PEOPLE AND THAT THE MANILA INSTRUCTIONS ORDER THE JAPANESE TO CEASE FIGHTING TO LEAD A PEACEFUL LIFE AT HOME. NEWSPAPERS APPEALED TO THE POPULACE BY SAYING "ACTIONS OF THE JAPANESE WILL DETERMINE THEIR TREATMENT AT THE HANDS OF THE CONQUERORS."

AN UNOFFICIAL REPORT FROM WASHINGTON STATES THAT ADMIRAL NIMITZ WILL SIGN THE JAPANESE SURRENDER DOCUMENT FOR THE UNITED STATES AND GENERAL MAC ARTHUR WILL SIGN FOR THE BIG FOUR. OTHER COUNTRIES TO SIGN THE DOCUMENT INCLUDE: BRITAIN, CHINA, AUSTRALIA, FRANCE, SOVIET RUSSIA, CANADA, THE PHILIPPINE COMMONWEALTH, HOLLAND AND NEW ZEALAND.

MANCHURIA:
ALL JAPANESE FORCES ON THE ASIATIC MAINLAND HAVE LAID DOWN THEIR ARMS IN UNCONDITIONAL SURRENDER. FORMAL SURRENDER PLANS ARE BEING MADE IN CHINA FOR THE CAPITULATION OF TROOPS IN CHINA AND DOCUMENTS WILL BE SIGNED IN CHINA AFTER THE TOKYO SIGNING. THE RUSSIANS HAVE MORE THAN 250,000 JAPANESE PRISONERS IN THEIR STOCKADES INCLUDING 20 GENERALS. ON SAKHALIN ISLAND, RED ARMY HAS TAKEN SOME 50,000 PRISONERS.

(1)

Phase Sale

U. S. S. MERIDIAN (APA 203)

PLAN OF THE DAY

9 April 1945

DUTY COMMANDER - *Is (Je)* F. F. McManus
DUTY M.A.A. - GRAY, E. F., B22c
DUTY SECTION - FIRST SECTION

- 0400 - REVEILLE - Ship Officers and Crew.
- 0430 - Breakfast for Officers and crew.
- REVEILLE - Embarked personnel.
- 0500 - Breakfast for Embarked personnel.
- 0515 - Dawn Alert.
- 0614 - Sunrise - Lighten ship.
- 0630 - Pipe sweepers
- 0800 - LCM for trash disposal duty - make KENTON APA 122
- 0830 - Sick Call.
- 0900 - LCM for mail trip - officer messenger - mail clerk - four (4)
man working party, one man from 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and Engineering
Divisions, make all ships in T.G. 55.2.
- Censor Board lay down to Wardroom.
- Executive Officer's Mast.
- 1100 - Pipe sweepers.
- 1115 - Dinner for ship's crew and personnel embarked.
- 1130 - Dinner for Deckmen.
- 1300 - LCM for mail trip - officer messenger - mail clerk - four (4)
man working party, one man from 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and Engineering
Divisions, make all ships in T.G. 55.2.
- 1630 - Pipe sweepers.
- 1730 - Supper for Officers.
- Supper for ship's crew and personnel embarked.
- Test navigation lights.
- 1849 - Dusk alert.
- Sunset - Darken ship.
- 1945 - Lay before the mast all eight o'clock reports.
- 2100 - Smoking lamp is out in all berthing compartments.
- 2130 - Lights out - Silence about the decks.

*Please
Save
you*

J. P. duBois, Jr.
Lieutenant, U.S.N.R.,
Executive Officer.

MC LAVER BARCLAYS
FORT/BD, OREGON

CLOTHING AND SMALL STORES ACQUISITIONS

QTY	ARTICLE	UNIT PRICE	VALUE	QTY	ARTICLE	UNIT PRICE	VALUE
	APRONS, COOKS	.70			MATTRESS, RAMBOCK	2.50	
1	APRONS, LEVEL	.20	20	1	NECK TIE IDEFS	.50	50
	BLANKETS, WOOL	8.25			NECKTIES 4 in 1 and	.30	
	BROWN, BRANCO LARK	.03			OVERCOATS (JACKETS)	15.25	
	BROWN, MILK	1.20			OVERCOATS, RUBBER	1.00	
	FINEL, SCHREIBING	.12			PILLARS, RAMBOCK	.60	
	FINEL, BLANKING	.50			RAINCOATS, enlisted men	10.00	
	FINEL, BLUE PLASTIC	.10			EATING UTENS, NINE	.22	
	FINEL, BLUE	.05			EATING UTENS, WHITE	.25	
	FINEL, etc. small	.05			SERVICE STRIPES, BAY	.10	
	FINEL, AIC, BARGE	.10			SHIRTS, FINEL'S CO	5.00	
	FINEL, BARGE	.10			SHIRTS, blue chambray	.85	
	FINEL, blue cloth	1.50			SHOES, leather gen exp.	4.30	
	FINEL, cook/bakers	.30		1	SHOES, leather, low	5.00	500
	FINEL, MATCH	.20			SHOES, gymnasium	1.10	
	CLOTHES STOPS	.15			SOCKS, COTTON	.25	
	COVERS	.05		12	SOCKS, wool n	.40	480
	COVERS, MATTRESS	1.40			TAPES, COTTON, WHITE	.02	
	COVERS, PILLOW	.30			TAPES, COTTON, BLACK	.05	
	COVERS, PILLOW	1.20			TAPES, COTTON, WHITE	.05	
4	COVERS, PILLOW	8.35	140		TAPES, TWINE, LARGE	.75	
	COVERS, WOOL	.90			TAPES, TWINE, SMALL	.30	
	COVER, WHITE	.65			TROUSERS, BLUE	7.00	
	JACKETS, MESS ttt	2.50			TROUSERS, BURGUNDY	1.30	
	JACKETS, UTILITY	.72			TROUSERS, WHITE	1.65	
	JACKETS	3.00		4	TROUSERS, BURLAP	1.35	140
	JACKETS, BLUE TWINE	8.00			UNDERSHIRTS, COTTON	.35	
	JACKETS, blue undress	4.75			UNDERSHIRTS, PLAIN	1.50	
	JACKETS, BURGUNDY	1.25			HANDKERCHIEFS, DOZ	1.30	
	JACKETS, WHITE LIND	1.60			GLASS		
	JACKETS	1.00			GLASS		
	MARNS, dist, all oth.	.05					
					GRAND TOTAL		

160
550
480
120

1330
1

11.30
1.40

12.70

23 AUGUST 1945

MANCHUKUO:

A SOVIET RADIO BROADCAST REVEALED THAT THE RUSSIANS HAD CAPTURED AND ARE HOLDING HENRY PU YI, THE PUPPET EMPEROR OF MANCHUKUO UNDER THE JAPANESE. PU YI IS 39 YEARS OLD AND AS THE BOY EMPEROR WAS THE LAST OCCUPANT OF CHINA'S IMPERIAL THRONE, ASSOCIATED PRESS SAID CHUNGKING INDICATED PU YI PROBABLY WOULD BE TREATED LENIENTLY SINCE THE CHINESE CONSIDER HIM WITHOUT CHARACTER OR COURAGE TO RESIST THE JAPANESE.

GUAM:

PACIFIC FLEET HEADQUARTERS ANNOUNCED THE SURRENDER OF A SMALL JAP GARRISON ON NILI ATOLL IN THE MARSHALL ISLANDS. THE JAP COMMANDER OF THE ISLAND OF MORE THAN 50,000 TROOPS AND CIVILIANS, BOARDED A DESTROYER ESCORT TO SURRENDER TO A U.S. REPRESENTATIVE. THIS IS THE FIRST OF THE BY PASSED ISLANDS IN THE PACIFIC TO GIVE UP TO THE ALLIES.

JAPAN:

TOKYO RADIO HAS REPORTED ON THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE TWO ATOMIC BOMBS DROPPED ON JAPAN. TOKYO SAID THE FIRST ONE DROPPED ON HIROSHIMA KILLED MORE THAN 60,000 PERSONS, WOUNDING 100,000 MORE AND MADE 200,000 OTHERS HOMELESS. THE SECOND BOMB AT NAGASAKI CAUSED MORE THAN 124,000 CASUALTIES AND IN ADDITION, THE ENEMY RADIO SAID, EFFECTS OF THE BOMB ARE STILL GROWING SINCE MANY PERSONS ARE DYING EVERY DAY FROM BURNS. THE JAPS DESCRIBED THE DEATHS AS "UNCANNY" SINCE BURNS SUFFERED FROM THE GI-GANTIC EXPLOSION WILL NOT HEAL AND THOSE WHO SUFFERED MINOR BURNS LOOKED QUITE HEALTHY AT FIRST ONLY TO WEAKEN AFTER A FEW DAYS FROM SOME UNKNOWN REASON AND FREQUENTLY DIE.

RESULTS OF THE BOMB DROPPED ON NAGASAKI WAS DESCRIBED BY DOKI NEWS AGENCY IN TOKYO. A PHOTOGRAPHER WAS RUSHED TO THE SCENE SHORTLY AFTER THE BOMB EXPLODED. HE SAID THE CITY WAS A WAST DESERT OF RUBBLE AS FAR AS THE EYE COULD SEE. HOUSES WITHIN TEN MILES OF THE EXPLOSION WERE CRUSHED AND ALL PLANT LIFE WITHIN A RADIUS OF FIVE MILES WAS DESTROYED. THE DOKI PHOTOGRAPH REVEALED PEOPLE SEVERAL MILES AWAY FROM NAGASAKI WERE BURNED BEYOND RECOGNITION AND THOSE THAT SAW THE FLASH OF THE EXPLODING ATOMIC BOMB WERE SO BLIND, THEY COULDN'T SEE THE NEXT DAY. DOKI NEWSMEN DESCRIBED THE SCENE AS TRAGIC.

WASHINGTON:

GENERAL CHARLES DE GAULLE ARRIVED IN WASHINGTON YESTERDAY FOR A THREE DAY VISIT WITH PRESIDENT TRUMAN. THE PLANE BRINGING THE FRENCH LEADER TO WASHINGTON ARRIVED AT NATIONAL AIRPORT SHORTLY AFTER 1600 AND THE FIRST STATEMENT FROM DE GAULLE WAS TO THE EFFECT THAT U.S. LIST PLAY LEADING PART IN ORGANIZING THE WORLD TO CONFORM TO PRINCIPALS FOR WHICH THE ALLIES FOUGHT.

UNITED PRESS SAYS BOTH AMERICAN AND FRENCH OFFICIALS ARE WISHING DE GAULLE AND TRUMAN WILL GET ALONG BETTER THAN DID DE GAULLE AND LATE PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT. OFFICIALS OF BOTH NATIONS SAID THE RELATIONS BETWEEN DE GAULLE AND ROOSEVELT WERE ALWAYS STRAINED.

WASHINGTON:

THE COMMANDER OF ARMY GROUND FORCES, GENERAL JACOB L. DEVERES, SAID THE ULTIMATE SIZE OF THE U.S. ARMY CANNOT BE DETERMINED NOW BECAUSE AT THIS MOMENT "WE'RE NOT SURE THE JAPS HAVE QUIT."

DEVERES SAID THAT NOT UNTIL WE KNOW THE JAP REACTION TO OUR OCCUPATIONAL FORCES WILL IT BE POSSIBLE TO SAY WHAT STRENGTH ARMY SHOULD BE OR HOW MUCH POINT DISCHARGE SYSTEM SHOULD BE LOWERED. GENERAL DEVERES SAID FIRST DEMOBILIZATION OBJECTIVE WAS TO GET THE ARMY DOWN TO 2 1/2 MILLION MEN.

Another just for fun...

SUNRISE: 0742
SUNSET: 1628

U. S. S. PRESIDIO
(APA-88)

PLAN OF THE DAY FOR WEDNESDAY 5 DECEMBER 1945:

0330 Call duty Cooks.
0500 Call duty M.A.A.
0505 Call duty Division Police Petty Officers and Mess Cooks.
0515 Reveille.
0530 Sweepdown.
0600 Mess gear.
0615 Breakfast for Crew. Muster PAL's and restricted men.
---- Breakfast for enlisted passengers as announced.
0730 Relieve the watch.
---- Station Special Sea Details.
0810 Muster on stations.
0815 Laundry PC's deliver clothing to laundry for: Steward's Mates,
Cooks, Bakers, Mess Cooks, B and E Divisions.
1115 Mess gear. Sweepdown. Empty all G.I. cans into incinerator.
1130 Dinner for Crew.
1150 Relieve the watch.
1200 Dinner for Ship's Officers.
1300 Turn to.
1600 Sweepdown. Empty all G.I. cans into incinerator.
1645 Mess gear.
1700 Supper for Crew.
1730 Relieve the watch.
1800 Supper for Ship's Officers.
1845 Supper for Passenger Officers.
1900 Muster PAL's and restricted men.
1930 Eight o'clock reports. (Quarterdeck).
2000 Movies #2 hatch. B, E and M divisions rig and unrig movies.
2200 Taps. Smoking lamp is out in all living compartments.

- NOTES: (1) Uniform for enlisted men in Portland will be Dress Blues,
and White Hats.
- (2) PASSENGERS MAY DEBARK IN ANY SUITABLE CLOTHING AVAILABLE.
BE PREPARED TO LEAVE WHEN CALLED AWAY.

H. K. BENNETT,
Lieut., D, USNR,
Executive Officer.