



21 Dec 1945

AMERICAN RED CROSS

Dearest Wife & Son -

A few minutes this Friday morning so stand by for a short line from this section of the good old earth. There has been a few cold days & nights where the growth was very little but now the sun is out & how it makes things grow. The celery & radish looking vegetables can be seen to grow or opening eyes -

I have been turning a few things here & there from just looking at the activities of the Japanese people. Instead of a sewage system they have a wooden bucket with a lid. Once or twice per week somebody comes a honey dipper with an ox drawn honey wagon comes around & empties the slop jars.

Then the honey man sells the honey to the farmers for fertilizer.

The farmers have a concrete box or wooden tub that holds about 200 to 500 gallons. Farmers mix the rice straw that they cut ^{up} such pieces with the honey they buy and add a little water. Causing a fermenting action on the whole works.

Fertilizer of that sort causes radishes to grow some 18 inches long. Radish tops and everything else they can get hold of goes into their fertilizer plant or machine.

Spent two hours this morning walking along the road right along with the common folks of Japan - They have straw shoes for themselves & children made out of rice straw - Also they put rice straw shoes on their horses and oxen to keep them from getting sore feet.



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These last few days have been going to the Sentient and Choir Practice. Leaving Camp of a Morning 3 of us and riding trains & electric trolley cars between rehearsals ~~and~~. We have been to Parks and museums. We even went to one fellows home for an hour.

They have a board platform between two sliding doors. About as square as a bicycle is long. At that place everyone takes off their shoes. Perhaps that is the reason for the type of shoes the Japanese people wear. Two steps higher and through a glass sliding door with the bare feet you run on to the main floor which feels like velvet only appears to be rice straw woven and waxed. For heat they have a small charcoal

fire in a clay pot in the center of the room. The little kids with dirty noses gather around & warm the hands.

In this one fellows house lived 15 or 20 many more or less. Mamma Pappa, | Mamma's Sister & brother 2 or 3 of M's sisters or brother & grown girls whose husbands were killed They have 1 or 2 little children & their house - B-29- 3 boom - | My Sisters - 5 or 6 with some married some single with small children around - | My Children 2 or 3 - My wife B-29- 3 boom - Slays in box - | Aunts, Uncle, Cousins Nieces Nephews, all living in one house now that their houses are destroyed. It was quite an experience. We picked up enough Japanese language & they knew a few words English that we had an enjoyable hour at their house. They offered us eggs - tea.

IV



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Tangerines and a few little sou-
ioness. Army instructed us to eat
or drink nothing except tangerines
that Japanese have so we ate tangerines
and made them understand no
Thank you for the rest. Of course
we accepted the Presents a few little
tokens of remembrance.

The common folks of Japan
were 10 times as happy the war is over
as anyone in the U.S. - It did soul
good to get the opportunity to visit
with them -

Well its time to move
along for now so keep smiling.
Remember I love you's -

your husband

(ps)

LeGrand
your letters are coming through.
Thanks muchley