

September 15, 1945

My Darling Melva,

Hello Sweetheart! How is my gorgeous little darling tonight? I look at your picture and want to kiss you. You are so loveable and sweet. I like the snap shot of us standing there in the yard at South Bend where we are cuddling and smiling. It makes me want to be with you more than ever. It will be heaven when we can be together again. I can hardly wait to hold "Little Swag" in my arms too.

I am enclosing the check for \$90.00 in this letter and hope it will tide you over until you can get caught up on the allotment checks.

Tonight I made arrangements with my division officer to go on liberty tomorrow. The three of us from our room are going together. Wolfe just returned from liberty this evening, but he is going again with us tomorrow. We plan to visit both Yokohama and Tokyo. I'll give you the details when I return.

Darling Melba,

Well I have been to both Yokohama and Tokyo. I had quite a day. We left the ship at 0900 and headed for Yokohama. It took about three quarters of an hour boat ride. As soon as we got in Yokohama we headed for the railway station and boarded the train for Tokyo. It's an electric inter-urban train like the South Shore Line only the cars are small about $\frac{2}{3}$ the size. It has pretty good service though and only took a half hour to get to Tokyo. The B-29 bomber crews surely weren't kidding when they talked about running out of targets. There isn't a single store left in downtown Yokohama. It all bombed or burnt out. There a few buildings standing that were made of bricks with steel frames, but very few. Most of their ^{modern} buildings were wooden framed with plaster finishes outside and they burnt completely to the ground. Most of the damage was done by fire which just leveled everything.

The people are a bunch of midgets. I must really look like a giant to them. Everyone is in uniform starting with little boys five and six years old. I don't think they have anything else to wear. Most of the uniforms of the non-combatants or home guard are made of a cheap cloth looking very similar to burlaps. Everything is dirty and poverty stricken. Cigarettes, candy, gum and soap are much more valuable than money. Money doesn't mean a thing to the Japs because there is so little to buy with it. Everyone has money but nothing to spend it on.

Japan really stinks. It may have had a reputation for being a clean nation before the war, but it is surely anything but that now. The civilian population doesn't have anything. They have been on a war economy so darn long.

Tokyo looks a little better than Yokohama, but it is well burned out too. There is only one department store left that is open in Tokyo. Its a four story building but ~~yes~~ since today is Sunday it was closed.

I didn't see anything worth buying so I didn't spend any money. In fact I sold a couple of packages of cigarettes.

and two candy bars and then this evening sold the money to some officers that are going on liberty tomorrow. so for the day I made two dollars profit. I think everyone in Japan, ^{correcting} I should say the majority in Yokohama and Tokyo are about half starved. They particularly want food or candy. I had an extra "K" ration with me and was offered 100 yen for it which would be ^{at} 6.66 $\frac{2}{3}$ %. I told ^{him} ~~he~~ couldn't spend his money so I didn't want to sell it, but since he had a car, which was an Austin or some similar small make, I would ~~give~~ give him half of it if he would take the three of us to see a Ghesia House which was about two miles away. I got in front and the other two fellows climbed in the rumble seat by putting their feet down in the seat and sat up on the edge of the back part of the seat. It was quite a load for the little car but we made it all right. The Ghesia House was closed because of Sunday and wouldn't open up until 8 o'clock that night. so I

I have visited Japan without seeing what the Shesha girls look like!

We got out of the car out in that part of town and walked back. There hadn't been many, if any, military personnel that had visited that area so we were more or less a curiosity. People would all look at us but were afraid of us and duck into their houses as we came by. It was quite an interesting experience. A woman with her child met us on the side walk and she pulled her child away from ^{near} me as if I were going to gobble it up or something.

We stayed in Tokyo until about 2:30 P.M. and then got on board the train for Yokohama. On the train the mothers were feeding their babies from their breasts. The way the women carry their babies is by strapping them on their backs with a long strip of cloth. I don't see how the kids live thru it. No wonder they are stunted little people. Most of the women are round shouldered and stoop over from carry things on their backs. If it isn't a baby its a load of some kind strapped on.

5. After visiting Japan I don't see how the ruling class could ever have even hoped to win a war with the United States. They couldn't have possibly held out much longer even if there wasn't an atomic bomb. The average person has never had much and doesn't know much else. They are just as afraid of the ruling class as they are of us, I believe.

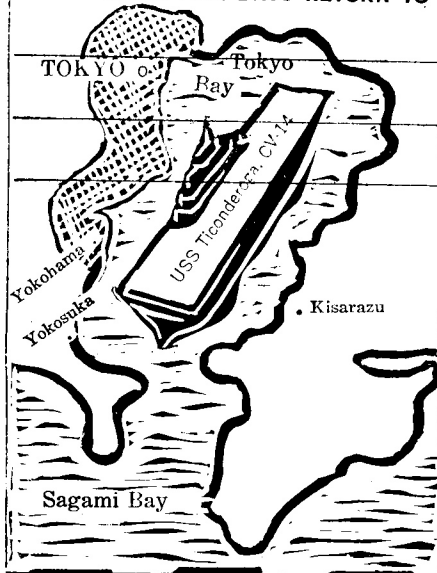
Well cutie that's enough rambling about Japan. I had better hit the sack. I surely won't have any trouble sleeping tonight.

Good night Sweetheart. I love you.

All my love,
Floyd

U. S. S. TICONDEROGA (CV-14)
Fleet Post Office, San Francisco, Calif.

AFTER FIVE DAYS RETURN TO



VIA AIR MAIL

Mrs. Floyd Swagerty
1029 Sheveland Lane
Napa, California

"B" WAS T

Recd. 9/25

40