

Series C (Part VII)

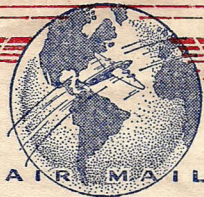
"Me and Tons"

(conclusion)

Upon arrival at Subic Bay, we loaded with the men and materiel of the 43rd Bomber Squadron. They are known as the "Kensmen" (named after General Kenney who used to be boss of that outfit). They fly B-24 heavy bombers (Liberators) and they are part of the Fifth Air Force.

Early in August we set sail - for Okinawa. When we arrived there, we were directed to take them to Ae Shima.

While there, I took a sight seeing trip all over that Island. I saw where the 77th Infantry erected a monument to mark the spot where Emil Pyle was



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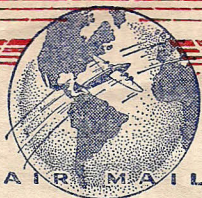
killed. A also visited his grave.

The ship was in Ae Shima when the Japs made their last attack on August 8. They caused damage to the air field and also damage to Okinawa, 20 miles Southeast of us.

We returned to Okinawa on the 9th of August.

On August 10, the word that the Japs agreed to accept the surrender terms of the Potsdam Conference came through.

Yes, we were at Okinawa on that night. We were up front - as close to Japan that any of our bases had come. This is as far as any one could go, unless you were on a Battleship or



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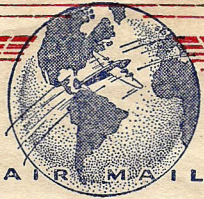
any heavy warship.

When the news was received, Okinawa was again lit up by tracers, only this time it was for celebration.

This proved to be a costly mistake. For the U.S.S. Pennsylvania was then hit by a suicide plane over across the island at Buckner Bay. The war was not yet officially over. Many died and many more were injured.

We left, and headed back to the Philippines. On the way back, we saw the huge C-54 transport plane that had taken off from Ae Shima.

The "cease firing" order had been given. We watched this plane as it



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headed for Manila. Aside, were the Japanese representatives that were to meet General Mac Arthur in Manila to discuss surrender and occupation of Japan.

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This was my story. It is every word true.

Most of the story has been left out. There are too many things that are hard to explain. Maybe, with the passage of time, the entire story will come out. But I think not - there is too much that happened.

Things that will never happen to my son - so help me God. Bunny.