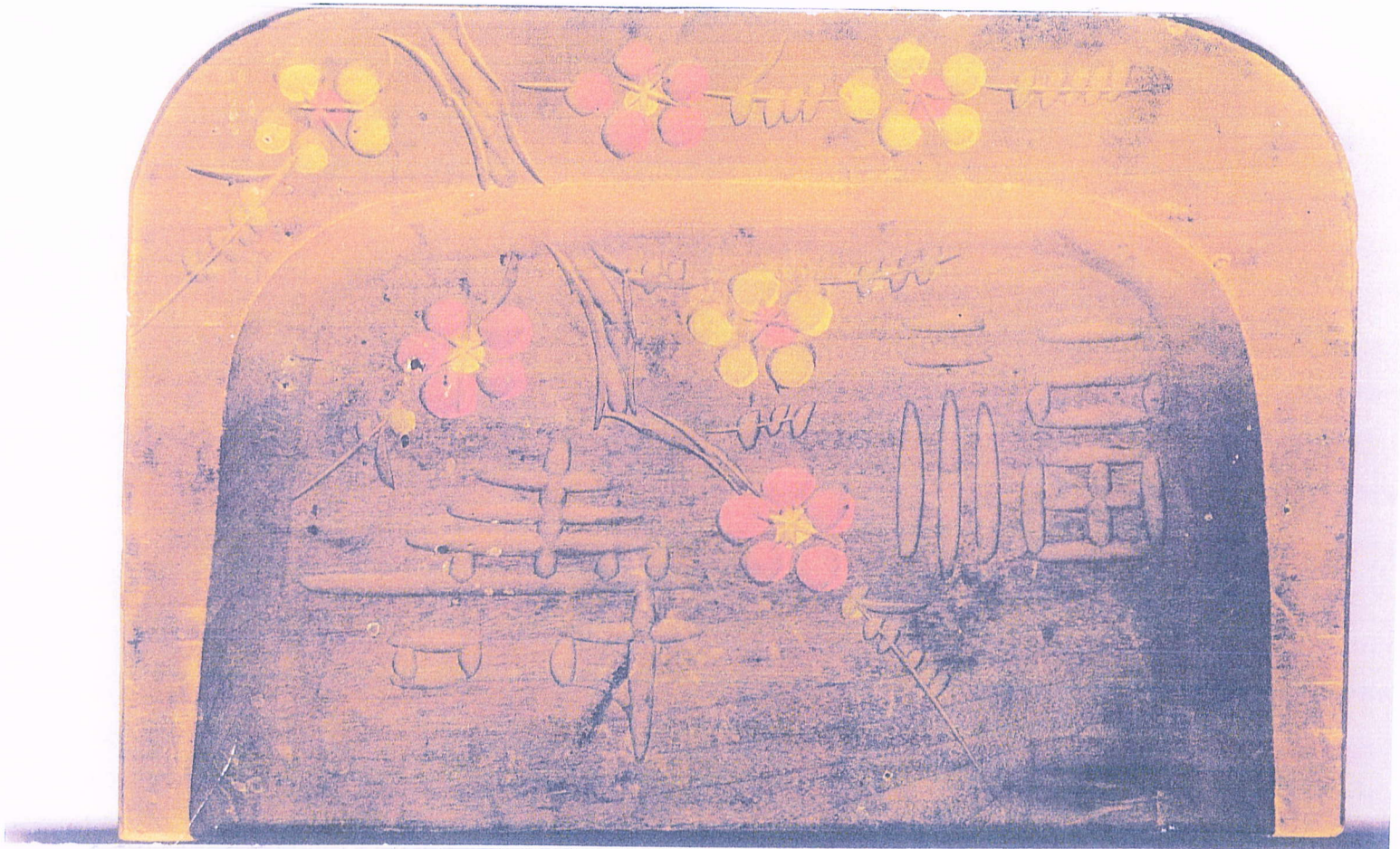


The Okinawa Diary of Russell H Hannah

A Relic From the Ruins of Hiroshima
Found October, 1945



By Russell H Hannah, Born 28 November 1926

Who was a Signaller 3rd Class aboard the USS LCS (L)
129 in World War 2

The period of time is from June 1945 through the end of
the war and occupation of Japan.

Compiled in January of the Year 2010.

From his personal knowledge and experiences, and
Naval Records from the Internet.

Okinawa Diary
1:00 AM on Picket Duty off Okinawa 7/29/1945
LCS (L) 129

Lt. Brennan and Russell Hannah (Signalman) on duty in the Conning Tower. We have seen a large explosion on the Destroyer Callaghan from a direct hit of a Kamikaze.

A short time after this we could see oil fires on the surface of the sea. I then received a blinker message ordering us in to pick up survivors.

I gave the message to Lt. Brennan. He was afraid to get too close to the Callaghan as she was sinking, for fear that her depth charges would go off and blow us out of the water. (She went to the bottom in about 2 hours).

Lt. Anderson took over and guided the ship into the oil slick and fires on the surface of the sea. Then the crew began pulling men out of the water and on to our deck from life rafts and the life net. There was a point on the midship starboard side of our ship where a man could actually reach the arms of somebody reaching up from the water that was in a life jacket.

A signalman relieved me, and because I am so tall I was sent down to help pull men from the water. They were all oil soaked, some burned or wounded.

There was so much oil on these men, you could hardly tell if they were burned. Some of the skin from both arms of a man I was trying to pull out of the water, came off in my hands.

By the time we had pulled the last man we could find from the water, every inch of space on our little ship was filled with burnt, wounded, and oil covered men. There was not room for them to stand, so every bunk on the ship had a man in it.

We then took the ship back to Okinawa and Buckner Bay, where there was a hospital ship. We were able to transfer all of them safely to the hospital ship.

Most of the crew lost a lot of their bunk gear because of the oil stains. I still have a white navy blanket with oil stains on it.

Except for some isolated incidents, this action ended our part of the war at sea.

After the war, at Pearl Harbor the whole crew was assembled in Dress Uniform, and an Admiral came aboard and awarded the Bronze Star to Lt. Brennan, who was not even in the Conning Tower during this action. I think that Lt. Anderson should have had it.

The whole crew were given citations for our actions that night.