Highlights and "Sky" lights by Oyler:

newey

Nov. 5, 1945 - Over Frisco - C-54 - Tea, Navy Nuose - adieu Golden

Gate - Smooth as glass - Evening - Hickham Field, Oahu - Sleep - Morning
New C-54 - Long hop but inspiring - Night - 2300 - Feel pressure, ears ring
fasten safety belt - Theels bounce - Swjalein, Marshall Islands - Feet touch

earth - stretch - Left in one hour - sleep - awake early - Sun up - 0530

wheels spin - Famous Guam - Out - breakfast Army style - explore - Have

lost whole day in last hop - crossing International line - deduct from

income tax - 1000 - aboard Motors race - - off again -

Last leg - Tokyo next - first time for crew - they are excited too - am only passenger - fine boys - sit with pilot - Never saw many gadgets - late islands in distance - think what has happened on some of them - very bumpy - clouds - wonder if navigation is 0.K. - this is his first trip - Getting anxious - Mountains in distance - clear now - can see two hundred miles in any direction - altitude 12,000 - down to 8,000 - going around mountain - sliding down - big sudden drop - 0.K. again - pilot searching for field - circles and turns back - narrowly misses mountain in mist and clouds - pilot laughs - I don't - circles again - see tiny straight line - gets signal - lets her down - Bump - another bump - Atsugi Air Field - Tokyo!

Dark now - glad trip over - Army car - narrow roads - dirty - 30 miles to go - enter Tokyo - everything destroyed for miles - nothing left - little tin huts with small lights - people look like monkeys - see soldiers without arms - could these be our enemy - gad what fools - children give sign and shout victory - what the hell is this anyway - arrive Dai Iti Hotel - Stands out like sore thumb - everything destroyed around it - Meet old friends - check in - room small but O.K. - bath - everything miniature - tub four feet long - toilet much too near floor - mirror too low - Jap bellboys - all bowing dinner - good - was hungry - will unpack in morning - Kombanwa - my first Jap word meaning good night -

Several weeks in Tokyo - Meet Generals (Mac Arthur, Thorpe, etc.) and senior officers - investigate files, check data - work with intelligence officers - can hardly believe some things I hear - could they have done these things - trips to nearby towns - all destroyed - what ever made these monkeys think they could rule the world - many pitiful sights - thousands of little children - no supplies of necessities - very little food - how can they survive the winter - very depressing at first - General tells me am on my own - no boss - can have anything I want - identification card will take me anywhere - few have one like it - opium factory on Korea - let's go!

Seoul capital 800 miles - left Tokyo liberation bomber 0900 - not built for comfort - got up at 0400 - another virgin crew - crew also wish to explorate flew over Fujiyama - more beautiful than pictures - inspiring - south to Hireshima of Atomic Bomb fame - my God! - can't believe it - no rubble - no rubbish - nothing - just like burned cement road for miles - next to Omura - Kamikaze suicide plane take off strip - hundreds of Jap planes being destroyed ten minutes - Nagasaki - Second Atomic bomb - many square miles evaporated - hill saved small section - circled several times - unbelievable - no wonder they quit - on to Seoul over Japan Sea - Mountains ahead - looks like

Nevada - barren rugged country - would hate to be forced down here - City ahead - plane circles twice - 0700 - sliding down - familiar bump - Korea!!

Twenty miles to town - rice paddies - bull carts - men and women carrying huge loads on backs - costumes and faces down from the ages - Koreans - Chines - Mongols - Russians - Malyas - Japanese - Strange sight - everything primatilike a different world - would not have missed this for anything - wish Harris could see it - must see more.

Chosen Hotel - Built by Japanese R.R. - reminds one of Canadian Pacific Hotels - very comfortable - built for tourists - met more friends - Tomorrow another day - tired - bed - very much O. K.

Morning - report in - get carte blanche authority - Lt. Gen. (3-star) Hod; famous commander - New Guinea and Okinawa much interested - explore - many modern buildings - narrow streets - temples - shrines - visit beautiful Shinto Shrine on mountain overlooking city - looks like Chattanooga, Tenn. - back . to city - little shops - dirt - cold - very Oriental and strange - visit Thiev market - Later - Thanksgiving dinner with friends in beautiful Japanese house: formerly owned by Bank President - Turkey - stuffing - everything - Pfeiffer Beer from Detroit - must write President - visit nearby towns gathering information - down to main business. - See General Schick, Provost Marshall -Justice Dept. - see local police - visit opium factory 3 miles from town modern opium and morphine strewn everywhere - no control - forgot to mention factory shut down and guarded by M.P.'s - open vault - some 50 tons on hand enough to supply U.S. for $2\frac{1}{2}$ years - much opium for smoking - destroy it - cap never be any good to anyone - control here will affect the whole world - glad I came - must have high officials see this - understand some arrests have been made - should get a conviction before Military Court as an example to others never been done before - will try -.

Investigate records - two jailed Japanese charged with possession and sale of 56 cases on one charge and 19 cases another charge - weight about 18 Kilograms each - Saw prosecution arrange trial Military Court - some said it could not be done -

Judge - Army Officer - on bench - witnesses enter - Armed Korean guards enter followed by prisoners and more guards - Prisoners have on long black robes - straw sandals - head-pieces of split bamboo - cone shaped - slits for eyes - They are handcuffed together crosswise and tied with ropes - more guards follow - Prisoners stated they wanted Americans (not Koreans) to shoot them - Sagoya says that opium was given to him by Naval Officer for safekeeping - both plead guilty - Sentence - 3 years hard labor and 50,000 Yen fine - Two additional years if fine unpaid - They breathe sigh of

relief - Bow and bow to Judge with thanks - Are led off -.

Back home to Tokyo - Short time ago Tokyo was end of road - Funny - Home to Tokyo!!!

Ralph H. Oyler

CHINA THEATER MISSION

Authorized and invited to the Chinese Theater on a confidential mission. Orders were of an exceptional nature.

From Atsugi Airfield aboard General Middleton's special plane - A C-54, accompanying Col. Frederick P. Munson, G-2, GHQ, SCAP. We flew over Mt.Fuji, Hiroshima, Nagasaki, across the Yellow Sea, and on to the China coast. Mud flats and rise paddies were visible for miles. Viewing Shanghai from the air, a beautiful sight with the 7th Fleet lined up on the Hwangpoo River. Landed at Kinagwan Air Base in Shanghai at 1625.

A staff car from the airfield took us to the Bund, passing numerous mule and horse-drawn two-wheeled carts, and Chinese using carry-poles for their heavy loads. On Nanking Road, there were untold thousands of paddi cars blocking the streets, to Yu Ya Ching Road to the Cathay Mansions; across from the French Club. Billeted in a suite of rooms, 1017-18. Everything was Stateside, except heat. The Japanese had taken radiators. Oil stoves used. Electric razor would not work; voltage 220.

Downtown on Bubbling Well Road. There was a riot on one of the corners. Several of our soldiers were in trouble. Jeep came along and picked them up.

To famed Palace and Cathay Hotel on the Bund, ("Where the East Meets the West"). The doormen at hotels and night clubs were 6 foot, heavily bearded Sikhs with colorful turbans.

Night club. Floor show was very enjoyable. All nations were well represented. Exchange is \$1500 to \$1, U.S. Dinner cost \$24,000. Called the Turnbulls; used paddi car in visiting them on Avenue Petain.

All three looked well, even after $2\frac{1}{2}$ years in Japanese concentration camp. Stayed late. Stopped by Chinese police due to curfew regulations. They tried to put on the squeeze.

Reported to Lt. Gen. Wedemeyer and his Chiefs of Staff in the Development Building, close to the Bund. Narrow streets, so crowded one couldn't walk, rickshas and paddi cars made it impossible to drive. Shanghai, they say, has never been so crowded. Newspaper cost me \$60. Left Shanghai for Peking on another C-54, this time carrying Chinese General Hu-Pai-Han and his aides.

Flew over concentration camp where Turnbulls were. Mud flats. Tientsin and over Walled City of Peking. Riding from air base, you would think you were south of our border — 'dobe houses, terrain the same, burros — until you see the slant-eyed Ori ntals, and the spitting long-haired camel trains, loaded with our gasoline, going into the interior. Individual burying mounds of Chinese families. Road was lined with numerous statues. Walls of the city, which still had the heavy gates and poles, and a compound going in before you enter the real city walls. Through side streets to wide boulevards, past the Forbidden City. Everything is in compound. Different embassies of all nations with bright-colored gates. Then to the Jagonlet Hotel.

To Old Peking Club for dinner. City same as before the aggression.

To State Department. Reported in at Headquarters. Then by plane to

Tienstsin, second largest city in China.

Astor Hotel, first steam heat. One hotel in which the Japanese had left the radiators. City laid out square. Hiang-Ho River running in and around. Built on a mud flat. Floods at high water. Miserable place to live. Reported to Headquarters — to General Rockney

and his Chief of Staff, General Wharton. Conference Chinese Pelice Commissioner. Visited the Japanese concession and Chinese quarters on Hashidote Street, known the world over for its opium dens, heroin factories and vice. Cleaned up completely by the Chinese. In the place of the smoking opium signs are cures for addicts. Traveled all over the city by jeep, crossing the muddy Ho River numerous times. Returned by plane to Peking with General and his Chief of Staff to the burning of some 30 tons of opium and paraphernalia the Chinese had confiscated after the Japanese surrendered. This was done with great pomp and ceremony. Some notable Chinese present. Visited Chinese quarters, Jade Street, Gold and Silver Street. Exchange here is \$7,000 to \$1 U.S. Harriet would love this. Not much to buy. Prices sky-high. Were cleaned out of merchandise by the Japanese.

Trip over the Great Wall of China, big serpent winding through the Western Hills, to the Bay at Shan-hai-kuan. Some of our fleet frozen in. Sub-zero weather, dust storms. A three-coat day. Up the East Coast into Mukden. Not allowed to leave the field. Russians were very arrogant, with their fur caps and high boots, although our drums of gasoline were there by the thousands. We did get gasoline. Left for Dairen flying along the coast, staying away from the mountains. Visibility was very bad so we did not stop. On back across the Bay to Peking. Helped Col. Munson dig up seven guns which he buried before the Japanese took him into custody in 1941. This was at night with the help of a Chinese lantern and his No. 1 boy in the American Embassy Compound. He gave me one of the revolvers which I will treasure. Returning to Shanghai on same C-54. Meather getting bad. Ceiling about 2,000 feet. Went back towards Nanking, then allowed to return to Shanghai. Arrived just at dark. Flew low over Hwangpoo River with the bat-

tleships blinking as we went by.

In Shanghai, visiting Headquarters, writing reports. To the Shanghai Club, which has the longest bar in the world. To the RAFA Club in the dome of the Hong Kong - Shanghai Bank. Tiffin at the Palace. Then shopping. Thieves Market on 218-26 Canton Road. Ivory opium stem for sale. Had been used lately. Price \$85. Wish it had been back in the States. Tried for Formosa. Weather not too good. Was unable to land. Turned back for Hong Kong for gas and returned along the sea to Shanghai. Flew all night, in the C-54. C and K rations. Stood by for return to Tokyo. New Year's and what a celebration for the Chinese.

The best sign I have seen was in the ATC — it was "Flight 32 for Tokyo and the U. S. A."

Finally got away in the same C-54. Members of the crew were marvelous. Within 40 miles of Atsugi Airfield were told to turn back — heavy snowstorm. Crew never had landed here before. Made five trips over Osaka Field before landing. Pilot set her down on a dime. Short runway. Not made for C-54. Chow with General Chamberlin and Chinese Ambassadors to the U. S., Mr. Wei Tao-Ming and Mr. Hollington K. Tong at the mess hall on the field. To New Osaka Hotel and flew on to Tokyo in the morning. Weather cleared up after an earthquake. Hope to leave for home next week.

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