

December 28, 1945
Sapporo, Hokkaido

Dear Dr. Stenzel,

I received your interesting letter a few days ago. I hadn't heard from you in quite some time; in fact, I was surprised to get the letter, as rumor has it that you were going to Venezuela to work for some oil company.

I am glad to hear that your work is progressing smoothly. I noticed the absence of Warren's name on the stationery; has he been drafted into the Army or has he changed employers?

As you know, I am on the island of Hokkaido, and as it appears that I'll be here until the division goes home in April, the possibility that I might meet Drs. Ladd and Schenk isn't a likely one. There have been a few changes in our set-
(over)

my recently. I am now the intelligence sergeant instead of battalion clerk. A staff sergeant's rating should be forthcoming in a few weeks. However, instead of intelligence work I shall be concerned largely with military government work which should prove very interesting. At present I am trying to learn the ropes as it will be my responsibility to coordinate the various departments of commerce and industry, labor, supply, public safety, public welfare, engineering, finance, & medicine under the executive and legal section of the military government setup. The military governor is the head man; under him will be the intelligence officer as head of the executive and legal sec-

tion and I shall be sergeant major
under the intelligence officer. We act
as a liaison between the Japanese
and the American Army and in-
sure compliance of the Japanese with
the terms of the Potsdam Declaration.

The other day we had some la-
borers in the CP (command post)
painting, and I discovered that one
of them was a geologist. The rea-
son he was serving as a common
laborer is each person is subject
to a labor draft as well as a mili-
tary draft, and he was required to
work so many days for the Japanese
government. Fortunately, he could
speak a little English and we had
quite a discussion. He ~~had~~^{has} invited
me to his home, but as yet, I
haven't had the time to get away.
I have seen several cephalopods

in a store window in Sapporo which look like Cretaceous in age. The coal they mine here is Tertiary, but it is bituminous and looks as though it would be much older. There is considerable andesite over the southern portion of the island which is Tertiary volcanic. The hot springs are of this age also. Proterozoic and Paleozoic rocks are exposed here also ~~along~~ eroded folds the axes of which are northwest-southeast. He has textbooks of Levenhufel, Lakee, and Winchell.

I know you are interested in learning a lot about the Japanese. To judge from this island, frankly, I am amazed that the Japs could prosecute a war. It seems reasonable to assume that the mili-

fanatics who started the war had a little intelligence, but when one begins to compare Japanese industry with American industry, one can only wonder. One American city could produce all and more than the entire island of Hokkaido could. Their machinery is antiquated; their road system is poor; their people, backward. ~~There~~ I had always heard that the Japs were sanitary people. They may be so far as body cleanliness is concerned, but their latrines are abominable. Their hospitals are in terrible shape. Smallpox is a common disease, especially among the miners. The average Jap has ragged clothing, almost a starvation diet, works hard, gets paid little, yet has considerable money. All that

adds up to the fact that goods just aren't available to buy; hence their money piles up. They are good workers. They will do the most menial jobs efficiently and quickly.

At one place on the island the Japs had all the facilities for maintaining an airfield built underground.

Today I went through a part of one of the largest, if not the largest, steel mills in Japan. There are 132 miles of railroads within the plant area. The mills are enormous and in one I saw big 16- and 14-inch gun barrels which were awaiting destruction. The plants are all owned by the Mitsubishi family — one of the zaibatsu families which heretofore controlled Japan's industry. The plants had British stockholders before the war, but evidently the Mitsubishi interest bought out the British.

The blind fleet bombarded this area and put portions of the plant out of commission.

The only way in which I can see that the Japanese were able to last as long as they did is the fact that they had a decade to stockpile war materials and build instruments of war. Probably most of their factories were on the continent in Korea, Manchuria, and China, or on Honshu, because Hokkaido seems too deficient in factories and other things which produce war materials. Compared with the rest of Japan, Hokkaido has the healthiest people. I think that is true, for Air Corps men from Tokyo with whom I have talked tell me that the people of Yokohama and Tokyo are thin, gaunt, and sallow-faced. Here they are rosy-cheeked and look well-fed. That is in the mid-

the class of businessmen I am now speaking.

In Sapporo there are large numbers of idle shops. One strange thing is that practically none of the buildings are painted. They are built of raw lumber then left to withstand the elements unprotected.

Now we are in the midst of snow-storms. It snows every day and already the snow is three feet deep outside. I went skiing for my first time Christmas Day. I had a few falls but had a lot of fun.

The Japanese civilian population has been very cooperative. The occupation has proceeded almost without incident. Koreans and Chinese in their anxiety to return to their homeland have given us more trouble than the Japanese; however, most of them have left. The Japanese are well aware that we

may be relieved by the Russians. The result is that many have requested that the Americans remain. Some have openly announced that they would rather we stayed here forever, if not in full strength, then at least in part, to insure that they will be well treated by the Russians. They are afraid of the Russians.

Another thing one notices in travelling about the island is the large number of young people working in responsible jobs. A 17-year old is a conductor on a train. 15- and 16-year-olds girls hold responsible jobs in railway depots. It is clear that all the eligible men were taken for the Army.

It is very hard to determine just how the Japanese feel about the occu-

pation, the American Army, and Americans. It is my feeling that naturally they don't like the occupation, because it is inconveniencing. However, they have been better treated than they expected to be treated. How they feel toward Americans, one can only guess. The American soldier is young, care free, and generous. As one fellow in Time Magazine put it: "When you bring up a generation [who became soldiers] of Americans on glamour movies, comic books, and juke box jive, what can one expect." I for one, who isn't exactly a stick-in-the-mud, feel that the time for serious thinking is here; in fact, it should have been started quite some time ago. Some changes in the method

of education ~~had~~ or the type of
the stuff we bring the children
up on had better be forthcoming
else we'll find ourselves behind
the eight ball, and Russia or
some other nation or nations
holding the cue.

Your friend,
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