

NEWS AND NOTES

A Letter to the Secretary

From Lt. Walter Abramitis, Sn.C., 0521028, 37 M.S. Det., APO 660, San Francisco, Calif.



*25 October '45
Osaka, Japan*

Hello Tommy

I received my membership card today and I want to thank you for taking care of it.

I'm just a bit busy cleaning up some of the breeding around our installations, and expect that in another few weeks as the weather gets colder I'll be able to forget mosquitoes—especially since I don't expect to be here next summer.

We have been finding some *Anopheles hyrcanus sinensis*, but not much since this place is quite a metropolis. We have been picking it up in ponds and lakes around temples as well as in the inner moat of the Osaka Castle.

Practically all our breeding of culicines is confined to artificial containers—especially in the incendiary cement water containers of which there are thousands. The cemeteries have a lot of hollow rocks that hold water but fortunately they aren't close by. The other stuff is wooden vats, cans, etc., even bombed out toilets produce their share of "skeeters".

We are now becoming more concerned with the rat population and flea situation. This is a city of rats, alright. One hospital is right in the bombed out area the building is fairly lively at night with rats. We'll be doing a lot of trapping and carry out a bait program to reduce the rat population. My guess is that they number higher than the Jap population in the city.

I saw Capt. Jim Hart in Manila but not since then. If I ever get up Tokyo way, I'll surely look him up. Incidentally, I ran in to Seraso—he has a

unit here. He worked for the State Department. What ever happened to Capt. Tischler? I haven't heard of him since he was in Oro Bay, New Guinea. Did he per chance get home?

Speaking of home, I wish I knew when I'll make it. I hope it's due at least in February. One thing, I'll need plenty of replacements before then. Our 1st Sergeant went home today, next month two more are due to go and by December all the rest will be eligible. That's going to leave me darn near alone! At present we have 9 men and 2 officers.

We will shortly have to go on a half-day basis as the 6th Army (our boss) wants to devote 20 hours to education and athletics plus the usual military basics such as drill, marches, lectures on military courtesy and inspections.

How is Dr. Pepper these days? And how is Dr. Headlee? What gives with the "chicks" in the department?

The cold weather is setting in here and we are still in sun-tans. Some winter clothing was issued but the supply ran out before we got any so now we will have to wait for the next shipment whenever that will be. I've picked up a cold that I'm trying to shake off.

My arm is a bit sore from influenza vaccine shots so I'll close for now. One of these days I'll be dropping in saying "hello". In the meantime drop me a line.

As ever,

WALT.