

2004

168,7014-1: Vol 3 DIARY of Korea, 1950-1951

UNclassified

Gen. E. E. Partridge, USAF

2004

DAILY DIARY:

2 Mar 51

3 Mar 51

Friday, 2 Mar 51 (ctond)

Command inspection. Although there are certain deficiencies to be remedied, such as a lack of TO&E equipment, I was very much pleased with what I saw there. We had a tremendous lunch, in fact some people ate as many as five halves of lobster plus a steak both of which were available in quantity. The dinner was served at the old 315th Division club in downtown Fukuoka. It is a good spot and this was my first visit.

Afterlunch, I tottered out to shiver in the cold and made a considerable number of presentations to both the 27th and the 8th Wings. It was interesting to note that the 27th Wing has a considerable number of 2nd Lieutenants.

Saturday, 3 Mar 51

This morning, Doctor Cohen came in response to my request for an Operations Analyst. While he is a statistician, and on his way up to Kimpo to analyze the bomber damage there, I took advantage of his presence to pitch him a problem regarding the destruction of rice supplies. We are currently locating rice in piles which are stacked in light straw bags without any cover from the elements other than the bags themselves. It seems to me that there should be some way of insuring that this can be made inedible. Presently, we are attacking it with Napalm in an effort to burn up the stacks themselves. We are not sure that this method is effective and I asked that the Operational Analysis study the problem.

In passing, I mentioned that there are now available in the States many chemicals which might be utilized for spraying rice crops to discourage the growth of the rice while still in the paddies. He mentioned the use of 24D weed killer as an example of the type chemical now coming available. We have no idea how much would be required per square mile nor whether there is any chemical which would do the trick. His investigation would be strictly exploratory.

383

383

2004

DAILY DIARY:

17 Mar 51

Saturday, 17 Mar 51 (cont'd)

gathering data.

There has been a slight flap about the gas situation. The Chinese are yapping on the radio that we are using poison gas. I believe this incident arose because of the fact that both the artillery and Air Force hit chlorine gas drums stored in the Seoul area. The State Department is now taking up the cry and the Embassy has approached the Fifth Air Force for the purpose of putting out a release for the Voice of America. I view this with alarm and turned it over to FEAF.

It has been proposed that I hold a press conference to explain I know not what. I turned this one down.

Yesterday I had some color photos made in the office for use by NEWSWEEK. Someone is doing a lot of plugging in my behalf and I am grateful if it will help in some way to give more credit to the people in the Fifth Air Force who are doing the job.

Yesterday, I failed to record the circumstances of a meeting which was held in my office with the major part of my staff. Many small bits of instructions were issued and I should like to get them into the records. I mention these items with-reference to their importance.

First, it is obvious that the war is changing and that the situation is much more favorable to us in mid-March than it has been since October. We now own Seoul and Perkins has gone forward to re-establish our headquarters in the same buildings which we previously occupied. Scott was directed to augment Perkins' establishment and at the same time, endeavor to find out whether the hospital in our area could be made available for 5th Air Force headquarters personnel.

Meyers was directed to consider the movement of an echelon of the 452nd to Kimpo. After examining this proposal for a considerable time and actually issuing warning orders, it was decided that the 8th Fighter Wing was in a better position to