FILE

UNITED STATES PACIFIC FLEET
THIRD FLEET

INITIAL RELEASE OF PRISONERS OF WAR IN JAPAN

In preparing for plans to liberate, care for and evacuate prisoners of war from Japan, ComTHIRDFleet decided to organize a Task Group which was designated as 30.6, ComTHIRDFleet retaining direct control of this mission through Commander Task Group 30.6 rather than have the function one under CTF 31 as were other administrative measures for the occupation and control of the Tokyo Bay Area. Commodore Roger W. Simpson, U. S. Navy, was assigned as Commander Task Group 30.6 and Commander Harold E. Stassen, U. S. N. R., was appointed Chief of Staff to Commodore Simpson as a temporary additional duty.

Commander, Task Force 31, (Rear Admiral Oscar C. Badger, USNavy) provided in his operational plan, (Medical Section) for the care and evacuation of Repatriates, assigning Commodore Joel T. Boone, (MC), U. S. Navy, Fleet Medical Officer, THIRD Fleet, who had been issued temporary additional duty on the staff of CTF 31, as Task Force Medical Officer, as Repatriation Officer as a further additional duty.

Upon the arrival of CTF 31 in the SAN DIEGO accompanying the mine sweepers into Tokyo Bay on August 28th, as ComTHIRDFleet's representative to arrange for the Naval occupation of Tokyo Bay and for the surrender of the Yokosuka Naval Base, the Japanese representatives boarded the SAN DIEGO to confer with CTF 31 for the surrender of Yokosuka Naval Base. The same Japanese representatives on the preceding day had boarded the U. S. S. MISSOURI to confer with ComTHIRDFleet and had been directed to return for conference with ComTHIRDFleet's representative, who in the second instance was CTF 31, upon the arrival of the latter in Tokyo Bay. Accompanying the Japanese representatives on the second visit to the Fleet was Doctor Marcel Junod, the representative of the International Red Cross in Japan. Doctor Junod had been sent from Geneva by plane to Tokyo in behalf of the International Red Cross in prisoners of war, having arrived in Tokyo on 9 August 1945, the day Russia declared war on Japan.

8/27/45

8/28

After introductory reports by Doctor Junod to Admiral Badger, he turned Doctor Junod over to Commodore Boone for questioning, while CTF 31 proceeded with the conference with the Japanese representatives, among whom was a Captain of the Medical Corps of the Japanese Imperial Navy, Captain Yoshi Kumura. Doctor Junod reported at length on the location of Japanese prison camps for Allied prisoners in the Tokyo Bay Area and of the conditions of the prisoners. He turned over a number of maps, charts and prison lists, including a list of seriously ill prisoners together with their diagnosis, who were hospitalized in Shinagawa. Due to the fact that Doctor Junod was a rather recent arrival in Tokyo, he did not feel competent to report on the location of prison camps outside the Tokyo Bay Area. He stated that other members of the International Red Cross who had lived in Tokyo a long period could furnish additional information. At first he was requested by Admiral Badger through Commodore Boone to remain aboard the SAN DIEGO overnight for further questioning, conferences and as an advisor. Toward evening he requested that he be permitted to accompany the Japanese representatives back to Yokosuka so that he could return to Tokyo and obtain vital information on prisoners of war from his associates. He felt that it would be wise to bring other members of the International Red Cross out to the San Diego the

8/28

following day. He did not have confidence in the Japanese to carry his message back to Tokyo for him and felt that he should go himself on this mission. Admiral Badger, when the matter was explained to him, authorized Dr. Junod to return to Tokyo with the understanding that he would come aboard the SAN DIEGO by noon the next day, which he did with three members of the Swiss Legation who had lived in Tokyo over a long period of time and who were serving the International Red Cross. These gentlemen were familiar with the location of prisoner of war camps throughout Japan. 8/29/45

A despatch was sent by CTF 31 to ComTHIRDFleet which was prepared for him by Commodore Boone on the evening of August 28. This despatch gave a summation of the conference with Dr. Junod and requested that a hospital ship be sent into Tokyo Bay in advance of THIRD Fleet for use in the care of prisoners of war. As a result of this despatch, ComTHIRDFleet decided to modify his schedule for entrance with the flagship into Tokyo Bay from Sagami Wan. He arrived early the morning of August 29. Admiral Badger, with his Flag Lieutenant, and Commodore Boone departed from the SAN DIEGO at 0940 for a conference on the MISSOURI. At this conference between Admiral Halsey, Admiral Badger, Admiral Carney, Commodore Boone and Commander Stassen, it was decided that, even though the Naval landings were not to take place until August 30, the liberation of prisoners of war should proceed forthwith and that Commodore Simpson in the SAN JUAN be ordered to enter Tokyo Bay immediately to execute previous directives for the formation and operation of CTG 30.6. Admiral Carney proposed that Commodore Boone accompany Commodore Simpson and Commander Stassen in the release of prisoners of war in the Tokyo Bay Area adjacent to the shore. Admiral Badger opposed Commodore Boone's going, stating that he needed him to stay with him as his medical officer. At the request of Commodore Boone, he was authorized by ComTHIRD-Fleet to accompany the initial relief party.

Admiral Badger with his Aide and Commodore Boone departed from the MISSOURI and returned to the SAN DIEGO. Commander Stassen was to follow in another boat. Commodore Boone felt he should return immediately to the SAN DIEGO to be on hand when Doctor Junod returned. As per arrangements, Dr. Junod came aboard the SAN DIEGO accompanied by three members of the Swedish Legation who had been working with the International Red Cross. Admiral Badger, being occupied in conference with the Japanese delegation, again directed Commodore Boone to confer with Dr. Junod and his associates. During the conference Commander Stassen and later Commodore Simpson came aboard to join in on the conference on the release of prisoners of war. Shortly after the conference Commodore Simpson, Commodore Boone, Commander Stassen and Doctor Junod departed from the SAN DIEGO and went aboard the SAN JUAN, proceeding from the SAN JUAN anchorage toward Yokohama and Tokyo at a point approximately opposite the shore where the Omori prison camp was located southeast of Tokyo. The SAN JUAN dropped anchor and the first relief party departed in an LCVP to locate the Omori prison camp. Prior to leaving the SAN JUAN, the BENEVOLENCE was seen standing up the Bay. Commodore Simpson assigned an officer to board her when she approached the SAN JUAN. Commodore Boone sent a note to the Senior Medical Officer of the BENEVOLENCE, Captain F. L. McDaniel, (MC), U. S. Navy, to be prepared to screen and care for prisoners of war but to only hospitalize ill prisoners of war taking steps after initial care of them to be prepared to transfer the able bodied prisoners of

war to another type ship. Commodore Boone had had made tags for all Repatriates with four distinctive color markings for the purpose of classification. A supply of these tags was sent to the BENEVOLENCE. Later a supply of them was given the RESCUE.

In the first LCVP leaving the San Juan was Commodre Simpson, Commodore Boone, Commander Stassen, Chaplain Robinson of the MISSOURI, who was acting as an interpreter, and Doctor Junod. The two other Red Cross representatives went in a second and third LCVP. The third Red Cross representative had been sent by Dr. Junod from the SAN DIEGO to Yokosuka Naval Base to pick up the Japanese loaned automobile and to proceed overland to Omori camp in it.

While aboard the SAN JUAN Commodore Simpson, in organizing his relief party, stated that he would have all medical officers and hospital corpsmen report to Commodore Boone when they arrived on the beach for such use and distribution as the latter would see fit.

The three LCVP's departed from the SAN JUAN at approximately 1500 and proceeded toward the beach being guided by planes across the Bay and through a channel until a dock was in sight. While entering the channel a large number of waving and very excited prisoners of war, unclad or partially clad, were seen to be standing on the dock. They soon started running out on the piling and the striping holding the piling. As the first LCVP arrived, many prisoners jumped into the water and swam toward the boat. Fearing that they would be injured by the oncoming boats they were urged to return to the pilings and the dock. The lead boat with Commodore Simpson, Commodore Boone and Commander Stassen was guided to a sewer pipe-line which was supported by pilings and extended out into the channel. The occupants in the boat clambered onto the sewer line and with difficulty made their way to the beach. The excitement of the prisoners was a never-forgettable sight. As has been said, many of them were unclad, some clad merely with a G-string, others with trunks, while some others were dressed in non-descriptive apparel. They carried home-made improvised national flags of the United States and Great Britain. Commodore Boone preceded the group along the pipe-line and was ashore first. Obviously it gave him the distinction of being the first American ashore in the environs of Tokyo. This fact was an after-thought because the scene was one of such intense emotion that no one could be mindful of distinctive conduct at the moment. Everyone was motivated by an impulse to get ashore and lend every effort in the relief of the starved and suffering Allied prisoners of war. A prisoner, who was later identified as Commander Maher, and a Major of the Army Medical Corps, informed Commodore Boone that the Japanese guards were standing on the beach with fixed bayonets insisting that we enter the prison through the main gate. Commodore Boone after calling this to the attention of Commodore Simpson and Commander Stasson and the others, followed the guides around the water front and entered the Prison camp by the main gate. Commodore Simpson, Commodore Boone, Commander Stassen and Dr. Junod were taken to the office of the Japanese Colonel commanding the Camp. At the gateway was found the Swedish Red Cross Representative who had driven from Yokosuka to Omori. He stated that the Japanese would not permit him to enter the camp and that he had been waiting for some hours for the

relief party. One of the Japanese officers present was able to act as interpreter. Some of the prisoners who knew enough Japanese were able to tell whether or not this officer was interpreting accurately. Commodore Simpson told the little Japanese Colonel that we had come to liberate the prisoners. The Japanese Colonel said he had not been instructed by his War Department to release them. There was considerable conversation on the subject which was finally brought to an end by both Commodore Simpson and Commodore Boone expressing themselves emphatically that they represented Admiral Halsey from whom they had orders to liberate the prisoners and that the prisoners were to be freed immediately. The Commanding Officer of the camp protested but he was pushed aside and the rescue party went into the camp to investigate the situation, notifying the prisoners that they were liberated and directed them to stop bowing to Jap officers.

One of the first buildings entered was what was called the dispensary for the camp. A number of sick prisoners, who were emanciated and ill looking, were lying on wooden platforms without any bedding whatsoever. A room at the end of the building had served as a dressing room and had a number of drugs and dressings on tables and shelves. Otherwise it gave no evidence of being a dispensary as the Americans know it. Commander Berry, (MC), U. S. Navy, who had come from the SAN JUAN in one of the other boats, was directed by Commodore Boone to assemble all ill prisoners into this building and get them ready for immediate evacuation. Commodore Boone recommended to Commodore Simpson that the sick be evacuated first and Commodore Simpson so ordered that that should be the procedure. Commodore Simpson, Commodore Boone and Commander Stassen circulated among the prisoners of the camp and into the various buildings to appraise the situation and to inform the prisoners that they were free. The scene was one of wild exultation. It was found that they had recently received food which was dropped from carrier borne planes and B-29's and that the past day they had received clothing.

With the situation in Omori camp quickly organized, Commodore Boone, feeling a keen concern for the prisoners who were confined in the Shinagawa prison hospital, of which he had been previously informed by Doctor Junod, informed Commodore Simpson that he was going to try to locate the Shinagawa hospital. He commandeered a Japanese car with a Japanese chauffeur. Commander Stassen started to accompany Commodore Boone and then decided that he should remain at the Omori camp to assist in the evacuation of the prisoners therein. Commodore Boone took two Japanese officers as guides, at least one of whom could speak some English and could act as interpreter. He also took Doctor Junod and a hospital corpsman, Pharmacist's Mate 1/c Wagoner. After a three or four mile drive through the outskirts of Tokyo, the car came to a bombed bridge which, Commodore Boone was informed, approached the Shinagawa hospital. He was told by the Jap, who was acting as interpreter, that the automobile could not go over the bridge and also that the car was out of gas. Commodore Boone suspected that the latter statement was a lie. Both Japanese officers were armed with Samari swords and pistols. No one else in the party was able to understand Japanese and it looked as though treachery was to be practiced on the party by the Japanese. CTF 31 in his operational plans had ordered all personnel, including medical, going ashore with the landing parties to go armed for self-protection. Before leaving the SAN DIEGO, Commodore Boone had asked permission that he might go unarmed. Commodore Boone wished

to determine whether or not it could be done safely even at this time in Japan. When Japanese treachery was imminent, Commodore Boone realized that neither he nor his hospital corpsman was armed and that the only people in the group that were armed were the Japanese officers. For a few moments Commodore Boone thought he might well have erred in not having gone armed and he felt himself to be in a tough spot for he knew that the sight of weapons to the Japanese meant authority. He also felt that if he had arms he could have made himself understood more readily when giving commands. He felt handicapped without them for a few moments; however, he was subsequently gratified that he was able to accomplish his mission unarmed. He felt that his appearance without side arms had disconcerted the Japanese officers and the Japanese guards in the camps who were all armed. Commodore Boone forcibly made himself understood that the car was to wait at the road intersection. He ordered the Japanese officers to accompany him with the others. The party went down a side road and crossed the bombed bridge on some rough planking. Upon locating the Shinagawa hospital, armed guards with fixed bayonets did not wish the party to enter the hospital grounds. Commodore Boone, leading the group, pushed the guards aside and proceeded into the compound. He saw in open doors and windows of the buildings American and Allied prisoners of war. When he waved to them there was no response. It was later learned that the prisoners did not know that help was so near at hand for them. When they recognized Commodore Boone as an American officer, their excitement knew no bounds. Those that were able to, ran out of doors and jumped through windows, running toward him, hugging him, yelling and literally kissing him and falling at his feet in their excitement. He told them that a rescue party was ashore to release them and that they should prepare to leave immediately.

The Japanese officer guide, who was acting as interpreter, went to bring the Commanding Officer. A Doctor Gotleib, who was a Naval Medical Officer prisoner and who had been captured at Guam four years before, hung on to Commodore Boone's arm for a long period walking about the compound before he realized what he was doing. When he did he apologized profusely and said he was not aware that he was being so familiar with a senior officer but that he had not seen an American officer for four years and that he could not let this officer get out of his sight. To him, he said, it seemed like a dream that he was again with an American. By this time the Japanese Commanding Officer of the camp came up to Commodore Boone and the others in his group, and with many bows and a manner of much friendliness, invited him to his office. The prisoners said he had treated them very cruelly up until a few days ago. After cessation of hostilities he had for the first time offered them mats to sleep on and food, other than rice and grass, which had been their diet for a long period. While Commodore Boone did not desire to recognize any gestures of friendliness on the part of the Japanese, he was not sure that treachery might not be practiced so he accompanied the Japanese Commanding Officer to his quarters, which were in one of the hospital buildings. Commodore Boone refused to sit down and partake of tea with him. He told the Japanese officer of his mission and that whether he had heard from his War Department or not he, Commodore Boone, had orders from Admiral Halsey, Commander of the American Fleet, to immediately release all the prisoners and as soon as he (Commodore Boone) could get boats he would transfer them to a ship in the harbor.

This institution (Shinagawa) should not under any circumstances have been designated as a hospital. It had no semblence of a hospital whatsoever. It was a series of unpainted buildings with dirt floors, stinking sickingly of feces and other human discharges. As a matter of fact the stench of excreta and decaying human tissue was almost overpowering. Patients were lying on platforms made of 12" boards supported by 2x4's which ran around the three sides of each compartment. Many of the sick prisoners were lying on bare boards but some on thin pieces of matting. There were no pillows or other headrests. As many as could possibly lie close together were assigned to each compartment. The only light came from a small window in each compartment. These compartments lead off from a long passageway which, as was said, was without flooring. At intervals were placed in this passageway, open commodes containing much offensive liquid feces. Flies and fleas were everywhere. Many of the patients were suffering from tuberculosis and coughing and expecterating freely. The patients that could not get out of bed had to defecate right on the boards on which they were sleeping. There was one officer prisoner (Major Walker, USA) more desperately ill than all the others. He could scarcely raise his head and was being cared for by a captured Naval hospital corpsman. Many of the patients were attempting to put on some clothing which had been received that day from airplane drops. Commodore Boone was asked to direct that no more boxes be dropped directly over the buildings as some cases had fallen directly through the buildings and had injured several of the prisoners. The food dropped in recent days had proved to be a Godsend to the prisoners.

Commodore Boone, leaving Dr. Junod behind, took Doctor Gotleib and started back with his two Jap officer guides to return to Omori camp to obtain boats and to guide Commodore Simpson and other members of the original relief party. After Commodore Boone had left the Shinagawa hospital; had crossed the bombed bridge and located his automobile, Commander Stassen and Commander Slonim arrived in two trucks at the road intersection where Commodore Boone had left his commandeered automobile. Commodore Boone had Doctor Gotleib ask the chauffeur if he had enough gas to get back to Omori camp and, as Commodore Boone suspected, the Japanese officer guides had been lying and it was ascertained that the chauffeur had plenty of gas. The group returned to the Shinagawa hospital camp with Commander Stassen to show him the hospital and so that Commander Stassen could, as he had expressed a wish to do, get the lay of the land in order to guide relief boats to some point of landing. Commander Stassen surveyed the area and agreed with Commodore Boone that the dock the latter had found in his earlier survey would be very suitable from which to load patients. Commander Stassen asked the prisoners, as darkness was approaching, to build a bonfire at the end of the land so that boats could find their way to the inlet from Tokyo Bay. Commodore Boone, Commander Stassen and Commander Slonim then went to their automobiles and trucks at the road intersection and went back to the Omori camp where a report was made to Commodore Simpson who had already sent boat loads of prisoners from the Omori camp to the hospital ship BENEVOLENCE lying about five miles off shore. The relief parties were reformed and Commodore Boone, Commander Stassen and others started down the inlet passage in an LCVP guiding the other boats. The tide was on the ebb and at various points it appeared that the LCVP's might not be able to get through the ebbing stream. Commodore Simpson followed the other boats for a time, and then, as the boats entered into the Bay proper, he headed for the SAN JUAN in order to obtain more

boats and to guide them into the inlets leading to Omori and Shinagawa. Commodore Boone and Commander Stassen with difficulty located the inlet to Shinagawa, which was about five miles from the Omori channel. Had it not been for the bonfire at the end of the land, sighting the inlet and getting the boats into it might well have been impossible before daybreak. The prisoners kept the bonfire going all night. The distance from the hospital to the dock where the patients were to be loaded was about one-half of a mile. Stretchers and litters at hand were not adequate to transport the numerous non-ambulatory patients so doors were used for stretchers in some instances, as well as wheelbarrows and other improvised carts. About one-half of the patients were dressed in the relief clothing which had been dropped to them. Commander Stassen accompanied the first boat load from Shinagawa back to the hospital ship. There were long intervals between boat arrivals so the evacuation was not completed until 0500 in the morning of August 30. At the same time evacuations were continuing from the Omori camp.

About midnight, while a number of patients were assembled and lying around the dock in the darkness, Commodore Boone looked up to see several Japanese guards, with fixed bayonets, talking rather wildly. Commodore Boone felt that treachery might be practiced on the group of prisoners, hospital corpsmen and the officers present. Commodore Boone, while keeping the guards attention, sent back to the hospital for Doctor Gotleib who could interpret for him. When Dr. Gotleib told Commodore Boone that the guards were trying to tell him that they wished to lend their services to act as guards for him and the others, it was a relief indeed. They were posted along the path being used from the hospital to the dock to facilitate a route of evacuation as it was inky dark and the relief party had only a few flashlights on hand. As morning came on, the Japanese guards became even more friendly, layed down their rifles and assisted in carrying the patients to the dock.

Commodore Simpson during the night brought in more LCVP's to the Shinagawa dock. Commodore Boone escorted him to the hospital grounds to show him around, later leaving with a boat load of the most desperately ill patients to guide them to the hospital ship. Commodore Simpson remained at Shinagawa to take charge of the loading of the patients and other evacuation measures. Because it was so dark and the water was full of pilings, fish weirs, and floating debris, the LCVP's had great difficulty reaching the hospital ship BENEVOLENCE which was lying six miles away. It required about an hour and forty minutes to reach the BENEVOLENCE. Upon arriving in the anchorage area of the BENEVOLENCE, Commodore Boone went by the SAN JUAN telling them that there was need for more LCVP's to bring out patients. Upon approaching the BENEVOLENCE he hailed Commander Stassen who was departing from the hospital ship in an LCVP and informed him that no boats were available at Shinagawa. Commander Stassen proceeded on to that point. He and Commodore Simpson completed the evacuation of Omori and Shinagawa and brought the last prisoners to the BENEVOLENCE at 0500 on August 30.

Arrangements had been made by the returning group to get word to the Red Cross representatives to bring in more prisoners from nearby camps to Omori. This was accomplished and the next day further evacuations from Omori took place Commodore Simpson and Commander Stassen divided relief parties into two groups

and went to other camps in the Tokyo Bay Area with boats and trucks and by evening of the 30th approximately 1500 prisoners of war had been screened through the BENEVOLENCE.

Alongside the BENEVOLENCE was placed one APD at a time to load the able-bodied prisoners after they had been screened and initially cared for on the hospital ship. As one APD was filled up to capacity another APD took its place alongside the BENEVOLENCE.

Aboard the BENEVOLENCE from the time the first released prisoners were received throughout the 29-30th and to the evening of the 30th, screening and caring for prisoners continued uninterruptedly. When received aboard the prisoners were tagged and information gathered from them by a clerical group. They were then taken to a ward where they were stripped of all their clothing, which was disposed of as it was impregnated with lice and fleas; given showers and then issued slippers, pajamas and bathrobes. In the nude, a physical examination was conducted by the medical officers of the BENEVOLENCE to determine which were the sick and which were to be hospitalized. The able-bodied were temporarily assigned to wards and all hands were fed. The able-bodied were issued, irrespective of rank, rate or nationality, a new white hat, new ~~dungarees~~ whites, new shoes, socks and underwear.

It was estimated by Commodore Boone and the medical staff of the BENEVOLENCE that all the prisoners of the original group were sufferers from malnutrition and that 85% of them were seriously affected with malnutrition. There were many cases of beri-beri and tuberculosis. There were a few cases diagnosed as diptheria which later by throat cultures could not be proved as such. There was pellagra, infected wounds and some fractures. All were, to a fair degree, emotionally disturbed and had a marked expression of fright. All showed evidence of intense suffering. The absence of psychosis among the prisoners was striking. Major Walker was so desperately ill that restoration measures, including an oxygen tent, had to be used. The day after the rescue he died with heart complications of beri-beri.

After Commodore Simpson and Commander Stassen had left the BENEVOLENCE with the two relief parties for Tokyo on August 30, Commodore Boone returned to the SAN DIEGO to resume his temporary additional duty assignment as the Task Force Medical Officer with CTF 31. He felt his presence was required in the initial Naval landings at Yokosuka Naval Base which were scheduled to take place on August 30. A destroyer transported him from the BENEVOLENCE to the SAN DIEGO which was anchored about two miles off the Yokosuka Naval Base. Upon reporting aboard to Admiral Badger, he found Admiral Carney was on the SAN DIEGO to accompany that flagship to its berth at the Yokosuka Naval Base. Commodore Boone made a verbal report of the liberation of the prisoners to both Admiral Badger and Admiral Carney and the latter directed Commodore Boone to give an interview to the assembled group of correspondents who were then aboard the SAN DIEGO and to give all the details of conditions in the camps and of the general state of health of the prisoners rescued. The radio announcer, Nelson Page, requested that Commodore Boone be permitted to give a broadcast to the United States sometime during the day. This Admiral Carney authorized and a broadcast was made at 2050 from the IOWA.

Upon arrival of the SAN DIEGO at the dock at Yokosuka Naval Base, Admiral Badger and Admiral Carney went ashore accompanied by some members of ComTHIRDFleet and CTF 31 staffs. A delegation of Japanese officials were on the docks. Admiral Carney, representing Admiral Halsey, received the surrender document from the Japanese Admiral, commanding the Yokosuka Naval Base. The official party then went to the Administration Building on the Base to establish Headquarters. Admiral Halsey's flag had been raised over the Administration Building by General Clement, U.S.M.C., prior to the arrival of the official party. After Admiral Carney had selected the office space for ComTHIRDFleet on the second floor of the Administration Building, he returned to the MISSOURI taking Commodore Boone with him. After luncheon on the MISSOURI, Commodore Boone returned to the Naval Base to supervise the medical activities for CTF 31. A survey was made of the Base and Commodore Boone conferred with Commander Gilmore, (MC), Senior Medical Officer of the IOWA, who had been previously assigned temporary additional duty as the Medical Officer for the Commander, Shore Activities at Yokosuka. After conferring with Admiral Badger, Commodore Boone departed from the SAN DIEGO to estimate the progress of the evacuation and of the care of the sick ex-prisoners. Admiral Carney had enunciated the fact that the prisoner of war work should take precedence over other activities and only be regarded as a secondary factor to security.

Nelson Page, the radio announcer, accompanied Commodore Boone to the BENEVOLENCE on an APD (Gosselin). They found Commodore Simpson and Commander Stassen having late dinner on the BENEVOLENCE with the Commanding Officer, Captain Laws, of the BENEVOLENCE. After conferring with them, Commodore Boone and Commander Stassen and Nelson Page departed on the Gosselin for the anchorage in the vicinity of the MISSOURI and the IOWA.

Commander Stassen, upon arrival, went to the MISSOURI and Commodore Boone and Nelson Page went aboard the IOWA for the scheduled broadcast after which Commodore Boone left in a small boat from the IOWA for the SAN DIEGO at Yokosuka dock. The Officer of the Deck of the IOWA misdirected the coxswain unbeknown to Commodore Boone, sending him to an anchorage where the SAN DIEGO had been anchored prior to its going alongside the Yokosuka dock. The Bay was rough and there was a storm raging. After traveling around in the Bay for several hours and stopping to get bearings from different ships, the boat in which Commodore Boone was traveling was hailed from the deck of an APA with the announcement that all small boats had been stopped due to the unknown location of a floating mine between the ships in that area and the Yokosuka docks which were about 5000 yards in shore. Commodore Boone remained in the open boat for awhile alongside the APA and then climbed aboard that vessel for a couple of hours awaiting daybreak. At 0530 Commodore Boone proceeded toward the Yokosuka Naval Base and, directly in the path of the course the boat was taking (which was the same course it was on when it was hailed during the night) was the floating mine. Commodore Boone arrived aboard the SAN DIEGO at 0550. The next day he continued with his work as Task Force Medical Officer for CTF 31, visiting the various areas of the Naval Base and Naval Air Station. Prior to his departure, four samples of tap water were taken from the Base and delivered to the hospital ship, BENEVOLENCE, for analysis. He conferred that morning with Commander Gilmore,(MC), and outlined the activities to be undertaken by the medical section of CTF 31. Prior to his departure from the SAN

DIEGO he conferred with Admiral Badger while he was having lunch with General Eichelberger, Commander EIGHT Army, the latter's Chief of Staff and General Clement. Commodore Boone urged on Admiral Badger and General Eichelberger that no fresh water be consumed ashore until it had been bacteriologically proven as potable and that in the meantime all water be acquired from ships. He also suggested that DDT spraying by planes over the Yokosuka area be undertaken without further delay. General Eichelberger said he would have it done and would include his own quarters at the same time. Admiral Badger wished Commodore Boone to stay for lunch on the SAN DIEGO with him and General Eichelberger but Commodore Boone said that he wished to go to the MISSOURI to give attention to some Fleet Medical matters.

During the afternoon a despatch was received from the BENEVOLENCE requesting that Commodore Boone attend a conference at 1500 at the Grand Hotel with the Chief Surgeon of the EIGHTH Army. Transportation was not readily available and it was impossible for him to arrive at the designated hour. Com-THIRD Fleet informed General Rice by despatch that Commodore Boone was proceeding and that he would arrive at the earliest hour possible. Commodore Boone was subsequently sent by a destroyer which did not reach the Yokosuka dock until 1700. Upon landing he went to the Grand Hotel and had a conference with General Rice, who reviewed the results of the conference held earlier by him with Commander Stassen and Captain McDaniel of the BENEVOLENCE. Commodore Boone then went to the U. S. S. TETON and borrowed a boat to go to the BENEVOLENCE. The TETON misdirected the coxswain of the boat and sent it directly off Yokohama Harbor about five miles to the TJITJALENGKA rather than to the BENEVOLENCE which had moved that afternoon, together with the RESCUE and SAN JUAN, to another anchorage nearer Tokyo. Commodore Boone went aboard the TJITJALENGKA to ascertain the location of the BENEVOLENCE but the TJITJALENGKA did not know the whereabouts of that vessel. The DUKE OF YORK was signalled but was unable to give any information on either the location of the BENEVOLENCE or RESCUE. When the storm and low visibility cleared for a short time, Commodore Boone and the signalman on the TJITJALENGKA picked up the BENEVOLENCE and RESCUE which were lying about five miles away inshore to Tokyo. The bearing was given at 036. Although departure was made from the TJITJALENGKA at 1800, the BENEVOLENCE, due to heavy mist and darkness, was not reached until 2030. Visibility changed from time to time as the boat proceeded from the TJITJALENGKA to the BENEVOLENCE; however, by maintaining course at 036, eventually contact was made with her. After reporting on board the BENEVOLENCE, Commodore Boone went aboard the SAN JUAN to confer with Commodore Simpson and Commander Stassen. Commodore Simpson was not aboard the SAN JUAN and so after conferring with Commander Stassen, Commodore Boone returned to the BENEVOLENCE; had dinner with Captain Laws, conferring with Captain McDaniel at the same time and leaving the samples of water for analysis which had been taken from the Yokosuka Naval Base. Arrangements were made while aboard the SAN JUAN that Commander Stassen would pick up Commodore Boone at the BENEVOLENCE when he was ready to leave for the general vicinity of the anchorage of the MISSOURI. Transfer was by an APD (Gosselin), reaching the Missouri at 0245 of the 31st.

Early the morning of September 1st, Commodore Boone went ashore to carry on his duties as Task Force Medical Officer for CTF 31. He accompanied Admiral Badger from the SAN DIEGO, after the latter's breakfast, to Admiral

Badger's Headquarters at Yokosuka Naval Base, conferred with him and Commander Gilmore. He looked over several installations and tended to other matters in connection with the Shore Activities. As Admiral Badger was moving from the SAN DIEGO and space was very limited on the OAKLAND, which had been designated as the new flagship for CTF 31, Commodore Boone arranged with Admiral Badger that he (Commodore Boone) would henceforth live on the MISSOURI which would facilitate his work as Fleet Medical Officer. He explained to Admiral Badger that he felt very shortly that Commander Gilmore would be able to take over from him on the medical work for CTF 31. Doctor Gilmore had been kept informed on all plans and procedures of the Task Force Medical Officer for just such a transfer of responsibility after the occupation of Yokosuka Naval Base had been established in order to free Commodore Boone for his primary duties as Fleet Medical Officer. Admiral Badger recognized that space would be very limited on the OAKLAND. It eventuated that Admiral Badger moved onto the PIEDMONT rather than to the OAKLAND. The afternoon of September 1st, Commodore Boone returned to the MISSOURI. Commodore Boone remained aboard the MISSOURI all day on the 2nd of September 1945 to take part, as a member of ComTHIRD-Fleet's Staff, in the surrender ceremony.