

One-Liners . . . That Changed My Life!

12 *“I saw you in the nose of the plane.”*

It was only about a month after our last bombing mission, and we were landing at an airfield on Hokkaido, a northern Japanese island, to deliver some supplies. I stepped out of the plane and ran into a friend from Wichita. We were both surprised. When he said, ***“I saw you in the nose of the plane”***, and I responded, “I wasn’t in the nose”, we were even more surprised!

Japanese soldiers swarmed all around the plane, bowing, saluting and smiling. We traveled across the dark airfield in an old truck with Japanese all around. I wondered if it was very smart with only a .45 caliber pistol. We had a Japanese interpreter who said he came from the USA to Japan in the early 1930’s to receive an estate and they drafted him.

He told us the nearby Academy (which was still operational) was to train men for Kamikaze (suicide) missions. The interpreter told us we could sleep inside the Academy, but we said, “No Thanks!” We all knew the war was over but we didn’t feel *that* safe!

Later we talked with Allied prisoners of war who were to be ferried out in my friend’s group of C 46 aircraft. I never saw any group of people so happy. They said they had gained 30 pounds per man in four weeks on the supplies the U.S. had flown in. There were English, Dutch, “Aussies” and “Yanks”—from Singapore, Malay, Bataan, Wake Island, etc. We were the first Americans they had seen in three to four years.

There are some memories we never forget—and need to pass on!

From Grandpa With Love

A Note From the Writer

Moving into my nineties caused me to reminisce. It was eye-opening to realize how much I had been changed by one-liners. I decided some of these might give others a new insight or a chuckle, so—enjoy! You can reproduce this material, provided the copies are complete, including this copyright note, and circulated free of charge. © 2016 Marvin J. Martin