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ASN 36644949  
499th Bomb Group V/H  
879th Bomb Sqd.  
Saipan, Marianas Islands



THIS LITTLE PAMPHLET, DEPICTING SOME OF THE HIGHLIGHTS OF OUR OPERATIONS, HAS BEEN PREPARED AS A SOUVENIR FOR MEMBERS OF THE 73RD WING. MESSAGES OF COMMENDATION FROM HIGHER COMMANDERS HAVE BEEN INCLUDED SO THAT YOU WILL HAVE A REMEMO OF THE APPRECIATION AND ADMIRATION WHICH YOUR BOSS HAS DRAWN FROM OTHERS. I DO NOT HAVE TO TELL YOU WHAT I THINK OF YOUR EFFORTS. YOU KNOW.

MY ONLY REGRET IN CONNECTION WITH THIS COMMAND IS THE THOUGHT OF THE HONORED DEAD AND MISSING WHOSE SACRIFICE, IN LARGE MEASURE, MADE OUR ACHIEVEMENT POSSIBLE.

WE HUMBL Y SALUTE THEM.

*James D. Bence*  
*Brig Gen USA*



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FUJIYAMA

FROM REAR ADMIRAL F. E. M. WHITING  
THE ISLAND COMMANDER CONGRATULATES YOU UPON THE BRILLIANT AND  
DECISIVE RECORD OF YOUR WING. THE NEVER FALTERING COURAGE, ABILITY  
AND EFFORT OF YOUR OFFICERS AND MEN DESPITE BITTER OBSTACLES HAS SET  
A STANDARD THAT WILL NEVER BE SURPASSED BY ANY OTHER FLYING UNIT.

FROM GENERAL JOSEPH T. MCNARNEY  
WE OF THE MEDITERRANEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS SEND YOU OUR  
WARMEST GREETINGS ON THIS OCCASION OF YOUR FINAL VICTORY OVERTHROW  
OF JAPANESE TYRANNY AND THE ATTAINMENT OF COMPLETE VICTORY AS THE  
ONE THAT FINALLY BROUGHT PEACE TO A WAR-TORN WORLD. YOUR BRILLIANT  
MILITARY SUCCESSES AND THE COURAGE OF THE TROOPS UNDER YOUR COMMAND  
HAVE BEEN AN INSPIRATION TO YOUR COMRADES-IN-ARMS THROUGHOUT THE  
WORLD.

FROM LIEUTENANT GENERAL NATHAN F. TWING

THIS IS A GREAT HOUR OF VICTORY FOR THE TWENTIETH AIR FORCE  
WHICH HAS PROSECUTED THE WAR AGAINST THE JAPANESE HOMELAND WITH  
DEVASTATING EFFECT. NEVER BEFORE HAS AIR POWER BEEN SUCH A DOMINANT  
FACTOR IN THE WINNING OF A WAR AND NEVER BEFORE HAS ONE AIR FORCE HAD  
SUCH A LARGE SHARE IN A VICTORY. I AM PROUD OF THE FLYING MEN AND  
THE GROUND CREWS OF THIS COMMAND WHOSE COURAGE, PERSEVERANCE AND  
SKILL HAVE MADE POSSIBLE THIS OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT. I CONGRATULATE  
YOU ALL.

FROM MAJOR GENERAL CURTIS E LEMAY

IT IS MY PRIVILEGE AND PLEASURE TO COMMEND YOU, THE OFFICERS AND MEN OF THE 73RD WING AND ALL UNITS SERVING WITH THE WING FOR YOUR ACHIEVEMENTS IN SUCCESSFULLY EXECUTING NUMEROUS MISSIONS TO THE MAINLAND OF JAPAN, AND IN FULFILLING AND EXCEEDING YOUR SHARE OF THE EXPECTATIONS OF THIS COMMAND.

THE OUTSTANDING COURAGE OF COMBAT CREWS, THE SPECTACULAR MAINTENANCE RECORD OF GROUND PERSONNEL, THE SOLUTION OF FORMIDABLE SUPPLY PROBLEMS, AND THE UNTIRING STAFF WORK TO COORDINATE AND INTELLIGENTLY DIRECT THESE ACTIVITIES AT A MINIMUM COST OF LIFE AND EQUIPMENT ALL BLENDED INTO AN INTEGRATED MAXIMUM EFFORT TO PRODUCE A TRULY SUPERIOR COMBAT RECORD. THE HIGH DEGREE OF TECHNICAL ABILITY, DEVOTION TO DUTY, MORALE AND DETERMINATION DISPLAYED BY EACH OFFICER AND MAN MADE POSSIBLE AN OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION TO THE DEFEAT OF THE ENEMY. WHEN THE HISTORY OF THIS WAR IS WRITTEN, IT IS MY CONSIDERED OPINION THAT SOME OF ITS MOST IMPORTANT PAGES WILL DEAL WITH THE AGGRESSIVE PLANNING AND ACTION, THE UNTIRING APPLICATION TO DUTY AND THE YET NOT FULLY REALIZED ATTAINMENTS OF THE OFFICERS AND MEN SERVING UNDER YOUR COMMAND.

BY THE GALLANTRY, SKILL AND INSPIRED RESOLUTION OF THE COMBAT CREWS, TOGETHER WITH THE EXCEPTIONAL RESOURCEFULNESS, ESPIRIT AND TECHNICAL ACUMEN OF THE GROUND AND STAFF ECHELONS, THE MEMBERS OF THE 73RD WING AND ALL UNITS SERVING WITH IT HAVE UPHELD THE HIGHEST TRADITIONS OF THE MILITARY SERVICE, THEREBY REFLECTING GREAT CREDIT ON THEMSELVES AND THE ARMY AIR FORCES.

AT THIS TIME I ESPECIALLY DESIRE TO EXPRESS MY DEEP APPRECIATION FOR THE LOYALTY SHOWN ME. IT IS MY EARNEST HOPE THAT WE SHALL AT SOME FUTURE PLACE AND TIME AGAIN SERVE ON THE SAME TEAM.

FROM GENERAL OF THE ARMY HENRY H. ARNOLD

THE SECRETARY OF STATE HAS PERSONALLY EXPRESSED HIS DEEP APPRECIATION FOR THE EXPEDITIOUS DISTRIBUTION OF PROPAGANDA LEAFLETS CONTAINING INFORMATION ON CURRENT PEACE NEGOTIATIONS. OWI JOINS THE SECRETARY OF STATE IN THANKING THE ARMY AIR FORCES FOR THIS JOB. TO THIS IS ADDED MY OWN GRATIFICATION FOR THIS FINE JOB.

FROM

FIELD MARSHAL SIR HAROLD ALEXANDER  
PLEASE CONVEY TO ALL TROOPS OF  
YOUR COMMAND MY IMMENSE ADMIRATION FOR  
THEIR SPLENDID VICTORY WHICH MEANS THAT  
THE LAST OF THE WORLD'S AGGRESSORS HAVE  
NOW BEEN DECISIVELY DEFEATED. WE IN  
THIS COMMAND HAVE WATCHED YOUR STRUGGLE  
CONSTANTLY AND FOLLOWED YOUR GROWING  
SUCCESSSES FROM DAY TO DAY, AND IN THE  
MOMENT OF YOUR FINAL VICTORY, I SEND  
YOU PERSONALLY AND TO YOUR TROOPS OUR  
GREATEST CONGRATULATIONS AND BEST WISHES.

FROM

GENERAL OF THE ARMY HENRY H. ARNOLD

ALL THE ARMY AIR FORCES JOIN ME  
IN CONGRATULATING YOUR ENTIRE COMMAND.  
THE DEVASTATING EFFECT OF THE 20TH  
AIR FORCE STRIKES HAS BEEN THE MAJOR  
FACTOR IN THE CRUSHING DEFEAT OF JAPAN.  
YOU HAVE BROUGHT AIR POWER TO ITS  
HIGHEST OPERATIONAL FORM.

FROM GENERAL CARL SPAATZ

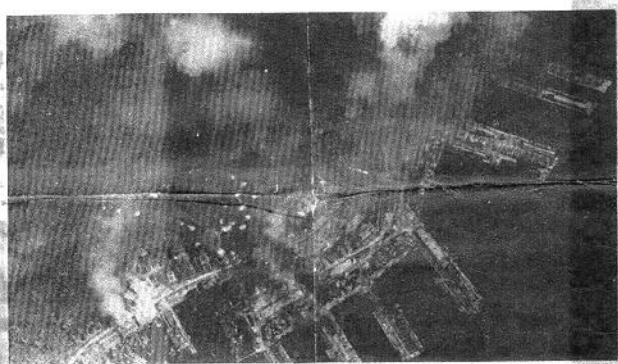
IN THIS HOUR OF VICTORY, MY HEARTIEST CONGRATULATIONS GO TO THE OFFICERS AND MEN WHO CARRIED OUT OUR STRATEGIC BOMBING PROGRAM AGAINST JAPAN.

ALTHOUGH I WAS NOT WITH YOU LONG, I HAD AMPLE OPPORTUNITY FOR FIRST-HAND OBSERVATION OF THE MAGNIFICENT JOB YOU DID IN THE MARIANAS AND IWO JIMA, AND WERE PREPARING TO DO ON OKINAWA. I VISITED YOUR INSTALLATIONS AND WAS IMPRESSED MORE THAN I CAN SAY. I SAW ALL MY ORDERS CARRIED OUT WITH A PRECISION AND FIDELITY THAT GRATIFIED ME MORE THAN I CAN POSSIBLY EXPRESS.

YOU HAVE MADE A TREMENDOUS CONTRIBUTION TO OUR VICTORY. YOU WHO HELPED PLAN AND DIRECT OUR MISSIONS AND OPERATE OUR HEADQUARTERS MADE A RECORD OF UNMARRED EFFICIENCY. YOU WHO SERVICED OUR AIRPLANES AND KEPT THEM FLYING SET A NEW STANDARD OF TIRELESS AND FAULTLESS MAINTENANCE. YOU WHO FLEW THE AIRPLANES, ON THE LONGEST OVER-WATER MISSIONS EVER KNOWN, SHOWED A COURAGE, SKILL AND FAITHFULNESS OF THE HIGHEST ORDER.

OUR CREWS WHO WERE LOST GAVE UP THEIR LIVES IN THE HIGHEST TYPE OF HEROISM--IN A SPIRIT OF WILLING SACRIFICE TOWARD THE GOOD OF ALL. TO THESE GALLANT MEN HISTORY WILL PAY ITS TRIBUTE.

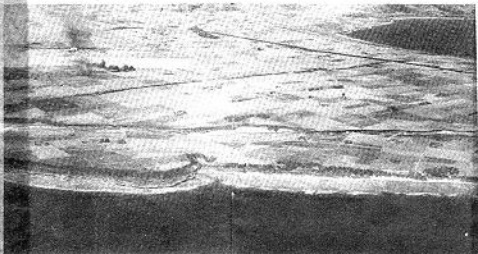
YET IN A SENSE YOU HAVE ALREADY PAID THE FINEST KIND OF TRIBUTE TO YOUR FALLEN COMRADES. YOU CARRIED ON. IN YOUR HANDS OUR STRATEGIC BOMBING PROGRAM REACHED A DEGREE OF PERFECTION, IN EVERY RESPECT, SUCH AS FEW MILITARY OPERATIONS IN ALL HISTORY COULD BOAST OF. I AM PROUD OF ALL OF YOU FOR WHAT YOU HAVE ACCOMPLISHED.



KOBE



OVER YOKOHAMA



SAIPAN UNDER TWO FLAGS

