

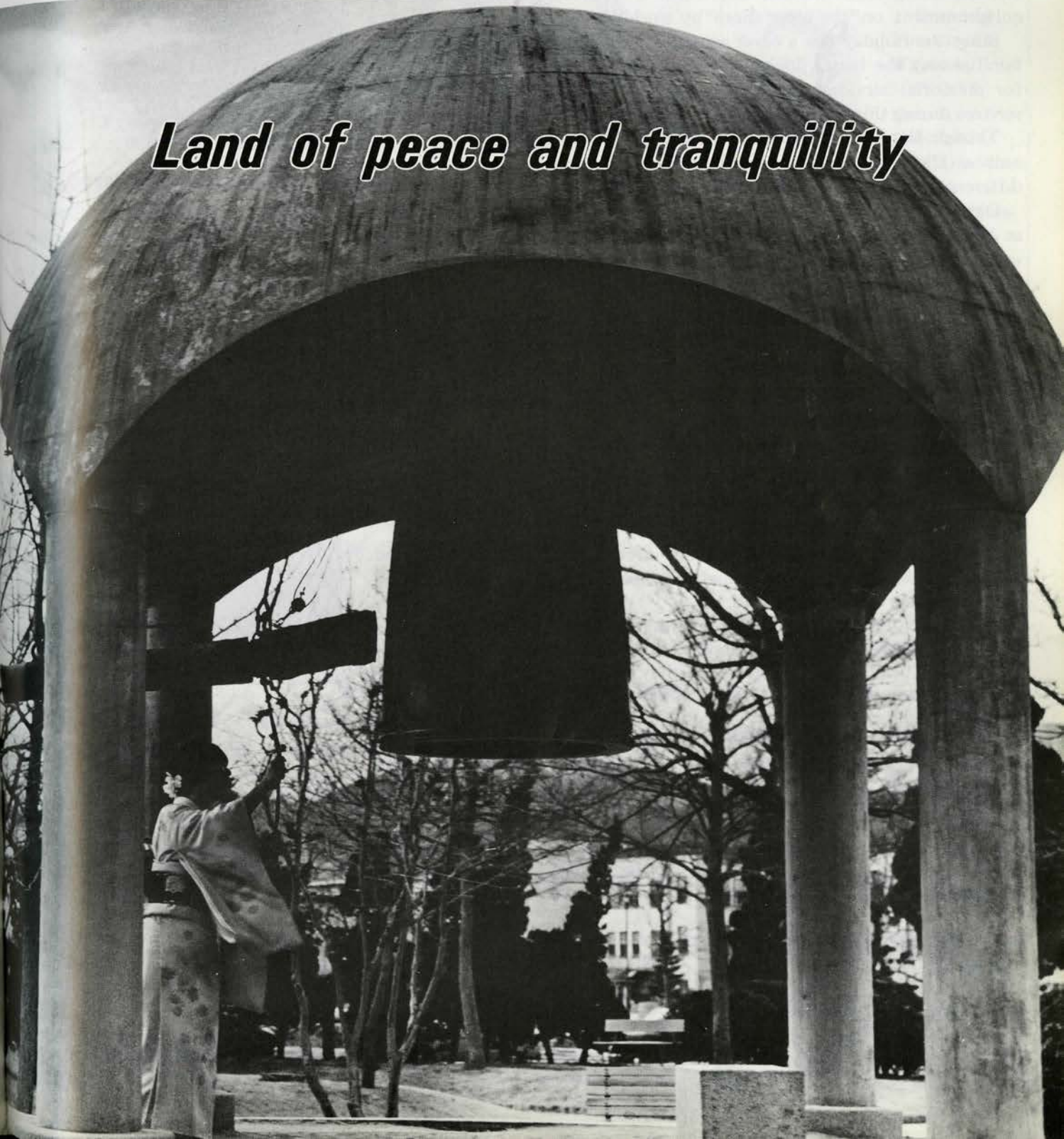
Torii Teller



Marine Corps Air Station, Iwakuni, Japan

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Land of peace and tranquility



Toru (Ted) Onoyama, management analyst, Management Engineers Office points to the island of New Guinea where he spent several years during World War II. Ted found New Guinea to be a jungle area that offered very little in the way of food for the troops he was responsible for during those years.

Sgt James T. Kern — photos



“Ted” Onoyama reflects on dual past

Venturing back into the “White House,” Building 360, we take yet another look through the window of time and look back on more of the past and it’s people, with the help of Mr. Toru (Ted) Onoyama.

analyst who has held a number of positions here since 1947, reflected back to the years of his youth before this region was occupied by allied forces.

Ted, who holds dual citizenship, both Japanese and American, explains, “I was a young man

from the islands (Hawaiian), when I graduated from high school and received an invitation from my parents to return to Japan for a higher education. I was excited about the offer and my parents and I returned to Japan. I soon found things arranged differently for me once all of us returned,” expressed the clearly spoken analyst.

“To my amazement I learned that I was registered.” Ted further explained, “Having been born and raised in Hawaii I was an American, but the Japanese government, because of my parents being natural Japanese citizens, also listed me as a citizen.

“While I was busy reshaping things with my family a letter was delivered to my parents home in my name. The letter

Looking over some paperwork is Mr. Toru (Ted) Onoyama, mangement analyst with the Management Engineers Office in Station Headquarters, Building 360.



was a notification from the military advising me that I had been drafted into the Japanese Army,” he added with a thoughtful gaze.

“At this point I had no recourse at all and was ordered to basic training in the Hiroshima area where I found myself training for several weeks with a calvary unit in 1939, prior to World War II.” He added, “The Japanese were involved in campaigns initially in China and then in the ‘French Indo-China’ area that is known today as Vietnam, Laos, etc.,” he paused for a few moments to gather his thoughts.

Things progressed for Ted during these intense jungle campaigns. This astute individual received quite an early indoctrination on current events of Japan, as he further explained, “Changes came quickly for me. The Japanese Army changed from horses, that were left behind in China, to mechanized modes of transportation that eventually took us to Shanghai where I stayed for sometime until the beginning of World War II.”

Continuing his explanation, he

stated, “World War II had begun and I knew then I had myself involved in a conflict of interest so to speak, but I also knew that I really had no choice in the matter and soon found myself with a new job (American equivalent of a Quartermaster) and a set of orders that read ‘New Guinea.’ Now that was an experience!”

Ted explained that the food stuffs brought to New Guinea, (seeds and other materials for planting), other than normal rations that soon ran dry, would not grow in that climate or soil. This made his job quite complex when it came to finding food for 400 troops as time passed along with normal rations running short.

The concerned soldier worked hard at taking care of his troops as he reflected, “I put together fishing lines and made friends with some of the region’s natives, who assisted in our reeducation on crop growing. But, things were made tougher with the stepped up advancement of the American progress in the Pacific Theater. The small fighters and

big American bombers really didn’t help the miserable existance we were already having, but everyone knew the situation and things soon changed,” he said with a grin.

The end to World War II, for Japan, was a signal of pleasant relief for Ted. The word was passed to them on the war’s ends, but it wasn’t until 1946, that transportation came to evacuate them from the tropical island of New Guinea.

Upon his return to Japan, the U.S. revoked and later reinstated citizenship to those Japanese Americans who fought for the Emperor of Japan, and Ted established himself in Iwakuni City.

“I married and started a family during the period prior to reinstatement of my American citizenship and at that point decided to stay here. I then began working on this base and have witnessed many progressive events and changes. I truly enjoy both my position in the local community and at Marine Corps Air Station, Iwakuni, Japan,” he stated.

— Sgt James T. Kern

1982 road taxes due

During this month and April, PMO will be conducting the annual vehicle inspections prior to personnel paying their 1982 Japanese road taxes. When reporting to pay taxes, personnel should have the following in their possession: ID card; operator permit for civilian vehicles; Japanese Registration Certificate/Crime Prevention Card for motorcycles of 125cc and below; Japanese Compulsory Insurance Certificate; vehicle registration; \$5,000 Property Damage Insurance Certificate; 1981 road tax receipt, and completed MCAS safety inspection checklist.

Today	1-4 p.m.	PMO Licensing, building 459B (motorcycles only)
Tuesday	10 a.m.-1 p.m. 2-4 p.m.	Mainside Bicycle Shop parking lot
Thursday	1-4 p.m.	Memorial Chapel parking lot
March 26	9-10a.m. noon-4 p.m.	Parking lot of BOQ4, building 611
April 5,6,7	8-10 a.m. noon-3 p.m.	Parking lot of BOQ4, building 611
Light 4-wheel vehicles (550 cc and below)		¥ 2,400
Vehicles with license plates Yama 55 and 44		¥ 6,000
Vehicles with license plates Yama 88 and 33		¥17,500
Yama 11		¥25,500
Motorcycles (125cc and below)		¥ 400
Motorcycles (over 125cc)		¥ 800

Marine runs for total body fitness

"Running is a word that every Marine knows about and can define in detail, even down to the pain that goes throbbing from toe to head during the PFT," stated Sgt Gary M. Turner, administrative clerk for the Station Training Department.

Rising before the sun comes up in the morning, Gary suits up for his early morning run about 4 a.m. everyday, including rainy mornings, and hits the trail for a brisk jaunt to Kintai and back.

The veteran marathon runner explains, "I've been at the running game for many years and I find it to be a very relaxing form of exercise for me, both mentally and physically."

Turner, who entered the Marine Corps in December 1973, commented that his secret to running long distances is known as "Runners High" which he explains this way: "After your body goes through it's beginning stages of adjusting to the rhythm of the run you then need to adjust your mental state and focus on your environment."

The 25-year-old Marine has maintained a 300 point PFT score since returning to the ranks of the Corps in September of 1978, after a short stint with civilian

life between 1977 and 1978. Gary's average 3-mile run, normally 16:30, has earned him many awards over the last several years.



One award presentation that stands out for the slender runner was during a recent "IG" at his last duty station, MCAS, El Toro, CA.

He stated, "I was assigned to participate in the PFT event during the 'IG' inspection last year at El Toro and I came away with a perfect score of 300. I was happy with the results and soon afterwards received a set of orders to MCAS, Iwakuni."

The dedicated Leatherneck added, "Naturally I thought to myself, 'what a reward,' but, things soon changed. After my arrival here I received a letter from the Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps. The letter was in recognition of my efforts in the 'IG', maxing the PFT, I then felt more at ease."

Gary is so much more at ease now that he has extended his tour of duty at Iwakuni from one year to two years and is considering putting additional paper work together for another year.

When he was asked for some closing thoughts on running, the agile runner concluded, "I recommend two things for people that are thinking of increasing their mileage and that is stretching exercises prior to starting your run and keep yourself flexible both physically and mentally."

— Sgt James T. Kern



Above, Sgt Gary M. Turner, demonstrates a Marine Corps chin-up. Left, Turner, running along the seawall, recommends that once runners have set their pace for a run, they could focus on the surrounding environment to relieve the boredom and pain.