

lunch with Paul Kohl, 3-5-75:

K was on MacArthur's staff during part of WWII and occupation of Japan, most of time as "a civilian intelligence officer". Worked in interrogation unit. Many stories of MacA's men:

--Gen. Crawford Sams; K says Sams got idea of putting DDT in backpack sprays, also ~~mx~~ spraying it from airplanes -- anything to fight disease threats. And it worked; K says there never was any outbreak during occupation, of any kind. Said Sams sprayed whole damn country; you'd walk out of a building and be white with spray from plane overhead. Sams also occupation adviser to economic section of reconstituted Japanese govt; K says it was his job eventually to evaluate Japanese performance and tell Sams he'd completed his job successfully. K has great personal regard for Sams; when K's baby daughter was severely burned and skin grafts wouldn't take after she was sent to Canada for surgery, Sams made arrangements for cultures to identify far east germ which was thwarting successful graft.

--Gen. Willoughby, K describes as egomaniac equal to MacA. Was private in German army before (?) WWI, rose to major (?) general in US. Head of MacA's G-2; fired K 4 times in 4 years, rest of staff would keep K out of sight a few months and ease him back onto job. K tells of personnel problem: Nisei soldiers in his section would want to see their relatives in Japan -- oftentimes sisters, for ex; one of MacA's men, Vanderbiden (?) was for enforcing non-fraternization even in these cases, Willoughby said the Nisei were American soldiers and had every right to see family members.

K's evaluation of MacA: hated him as a man, but credits him with job of genius in rehatg Japan. Made himself substitute emperor -- and didn't kill Hirohito.

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K was in regional charge of West Coast archives (Seattle and Calif.) in mid-Nixon years. Cites the Laguna ^{Negel} bldg, million sq ft built by N. Am. Rockwell. Nixon wd fly over it on way from ElTomo to San Clemente, told GSA to get it (seeing chance for rent-free federal office space after retirement, as LBJ rigged in Austin). Deal was worked out, swapping N Am R some govt plants and sophisticated toolery for the bldg, \$26 mil deal. Then the question, how to fill it? K as soon as he took Calif. job began hitting Nat Archivist to move quarters from outmoded, earthquake prone facty at Bell (?). GSA seized on this excuse, and moyed the NARS branch into 200,000 sq ft (2/3 of main floor) of Laguna ^{Negel}. K says its incredibly posh, orginally made for sophisticated component assembly -- aircondtned, humidity controlled, tremendous foot candles -- more facility than needed for archival work. But it gave GSA excuse for getting the building, and chance to alibi that the Nixon library materials would be temporarily put there.

I asked K if something like that doesn't stick out in budget, he said no, it's hidden in Operating Expenses, NARS. Acquisition costs hidden somewhere else, all done with burctc slickery.

K said he learned from Secret Servicemen that Nixon library was planned for just across road from San Clemente, on part of Camp Pendleton, never at Whittier.

K convinced NARS shd be out from under GSA; furious with GSA's Arthur Sampson's sweetheart agreement with Nixon on access to papers, ~~without~~ ignoring Nat'l Archivist whose decision it should have been. After 32 govt years, K (now 53) knows the angles and where the bodies are buried; dedicated to archival mangment, and fed up with burctc trickery that's gone on.

K estimates Truman's are last set of pres'l papers left unwinnowed. But he says even in winnowed stuff, much overlooked, forgotten because of its bulk.