

HEADQUARTERS
KOBE BASE
OFFICE OF THE COMMANDING GENERAL
APO 317

Noted by CG

21 Aug 1950

21 August 1950.

Dear General:-

The Japanese papers and the Stars & Stripes carry today the story of your appointment to head C.I.A., and I want to extend to you my sincerest congratulations. I am simply delighted that you are to take over that outfit. In my opinion there is no more important position in the Federal Government, nor one which in the past has been so thoroughly mismanaged.

I know of no one more eminently qualified for the post; you have the iron in your soul the job requires and your great personal prestige will assure you the public and congressional support which was witheld from your predecessor.

My job out here is comparably

that I would be assigned as an Asst. Div. Co
for 6 months, then get a Division. When I got
to Eighth Army and also GHQ everyone was
very cagey. They said I was to come here but
did not say why. Finally, in my interview
with Gen. MacArthur he said he had received
orders from Dept. of Army that I was not to be
placed in any position where I would be
subject to enemy capture and torture. So here I am.
My area includes all Southern Japan below
Yokohama. We have 4 large ports being
used at present in the war and 6 others
we are rehabilitating. I enjoy the work, and
will have to be content to let my boy, a 1st Lt.
in Mike MacArthur's 27th Inf. Regt. do my fighting.
He must be doing all right for he has been
recommended for Silver Star.

Again my heartest congratulations, and
with kindest regards and all good wishes
I am,

Most sincerely,


29 August 1950

Dear Carter:

Thanks sincerely for your kind letter of 21 August with its good wishes on my new assignment and your very generous remarks as to my qualifications for the job.

This promises to be as difficult as anything I have yet undertaken and probably the least rewarding. I feel rather like a local boy being pushed into the prize ring at the county fair—although extremely grateful for the confidence and plaudits of the populace, not entirely delighted with the prospects.

You certainly can be proud of your boy. My sincere congratulations to him on that Silver Star.

With warmest personal regards,

Sincerely,

15/Bedell

Brigadier General Carter W. Clarke
Headquarters, Kobe Base Command
APO 317, c/o Postmaster
San Francisco, California

DM