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SSgt. Dennis McGuire (right) of the 6927th Security Group at Onna Point on Okinawa talks to Mrs. Yoshikatsu Manabe, (center) sister of a dead Japanese soldier. McGuire delivered the

last letter and will written by the soldier who died at Macajalar Bay, Mindanao in 1945. McGuire presented the letter to her during a television show here Friday. (S&S)

BY AIR FORCE NCO

Brother's Will Delivered

By SFC JAMES P. STEVENSON
S&S Staff Writer

TOKYO—"I'm so glad there are people like you in the world," said Mrs. Yoshikatsu Manabe to the 40-year-old U.S. Air Force sergeant.

SSgt. Dennis McGuire, a Navy radio operator in World War II, had just given the Japanese woman the last will and testament of her brother Wataru Tanaka, who died during the war on Mindanao, the southernmost large island of the Philippines.

Mrs. Manabe, now the wife of a transportation company director in Nishinomiya City, near Kobe, received the 20-year-old letters during a Tokyo television show Friday.

McGuire, 40, who is stationed with the 6929th Security Group at Onna Point, Okinawa, presented the letter to Mrs. Manabe in a brown leather case on which he had inscribed miniature Japanese and U.S. flags to represent the friendship between the two countries since the end of the war.

He said that he found the letter, a blood-stained armband and a booklet while walking through the jungles shortly after American troops had cleared the area.

"I found them in a small package inside a Japanese radio shack," he recalled. "But none of them seemed to have any significance, so I took them back home with me."

McGuire was discharged shortly after the war and worked as a sales representative for a hotel in New York until re-enlisting in the Air Force in 1955.

McGuire said that when he received orders for Okinawa, he

dug the souvenirs out of a trunk and brought them with him.

He had the Japanese writing translated by a reporter on an Okinawa newspaper and found that it was the last will and testament of a dying soldier who wrote: "I'm going to the field, soon by order of the Emperor. I have nothing to say really. But I'm proud to serve my country in the Imperial Army.

"I want my elder sister, Teruko, to take care of my affairs."

Through the assistance of Japanese newspapers, Mrs. Manabe was located.

At the same time, the newspapers found the owner of the booklet McGuire had picked up, an ex-sergeant with the Imperial Army who was with Mrs. Manabe's brother when he died.

The ex-sergeant, Morizo Hagiwara, who appeared on the television show Friday as a pre-arranged surprise to both McGuire and Mrs. Manabe, gave a first-hand account of how the young soldier died of malaria early in September 1945.

Mrs. Manabe said that their home had been destroyed during the war and that the only memento she had of her brother Wataru was a photograph. "I will always remember you and wish you the best of happiness," she told McGuire and the ex-sergeant.

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