

12-16-44.

Annette and I made trip

to a lone Naga Indian village located on the east exposure of the main ridge paralleling the town of LEDO APO 689. The night preceding this safari was crystal clear and cold, with fog generating during the earlier part of the morning. At the time we left Ledo the sun was shining with clear skies above except for a few high cirrus fragments. The ridge and the object of our ascent was still partially shrouded with the remnants of the mystic fog that was so loathe to leave the main valley. Only the crests of the more prominent ridges were discernible through this opaque covering with the intervening valleys still very much asleep. The towering jungle trees behind this partial veil produced a most weird form and appearance. Our ascent was perfectly timed with the fog masses lifting until finally they were absorbed into the ethereal space beyond. Now clear above, low cumulus clouds to the north and remnants only among the rolling ridges and peaks to the south. It will be only a matter of minutes until the last remaining fog bank dissipates from the higher mountains except where some cool pocket favors their perpetuation. The north exposure of this valley bordering ridge is a most delightful spot with the trail now traversing the slope in a series of giant steps finally leading to the divide on that otherwise long and continuous dominating ridge. The soft and single pathed trail is smoothly moulded by the continuous impression of the small bare feet of the Indians and without those sharp edged shoe imprints we were so carelessly trailing behind. Many sections of the path were traversed with selective foot placements creating definite but irregular step-like patterns. Wherever solid rock surfaces imposed themselves upon the trail one finds the most concentrated of wear particularly where a fracture or crevasse lends itself for a more secure footing. My mind and thoughts were wandering from the present to the past with a mute picture of thousands of lone trailing primitives each one carefully placing his foot in the one and only secure anchorage clef in the solid rock trail. The