

John G. Kirschner, Faculty

14 November 1915 – 24 September 1999

(aged 83)



CAPTAIN KIRSCHNER IN TOKYO

Described by Principal J. L. Highsas as “one of the most popular” officers ever assigned to Tech High School ROTC unit, Captain John G. Kirschner has been assigned to the Military Intelligence Section on the commanding general’s staff in Tokyo.

Captain Kirschner told of his new assignment in a recent letter to Mr. Highsaw, in which the officer described his advance almost to the Manchurian border.

The advance started with the breakout at Tangu in September, the march through Taejon, the capture of Seoul and Pyongyang and finally, the march in November to within 19 miles of Manchuria. Caught in the Chinese counterattack, Captain Kirschner was wounded and evacuated to a hospital in Japan, where he remained 90 days.

Calling Tokyo “an amazing city,” the captain wrote of the “constant noise of auto horns, disconcerting after one has lived in Memphis.”

“I shall always think of the years I spent in Tech High,” he continued.

“They were the happiest years of my life.”

Captain Kirschner was commander of the Tech ROTC unit from September 1947 to June 1950.

Information from The Commercial Appeal, Tuesday, April 17, 1951.

