

U. S. FIGHTS ON IN PHILIPPINES

Silent on Whereabouts of MacArthur.

Manila— Continued from Page 1.

land at the entrance to Manila bay. The war and navy department's announcements on the Luzon fighting were bald and blunt and spare of detail, but they contained clues which led military observers here to reconstruct the situation in this fashion:

It was evident that with Japanese forces approaching Manila from two directions, over a terrain little adapted to defensive fighting, MacArthur decided to yield the city and continue the battle on ground of his own choosing.

A Daring Maneuver.

So, despite enemy harassments, he ordered a daring maneuver. The defending forces to the south withdrew and joined the American and Filipino troops which had been resisting the attack from the north. This left the southern approach to Manila wide open and the enemy marched in unopposed.

But, to the north it gave MacArthur a compact, one-unit fighting force with the advantage of shorter lines, closely co-ordinated command, and a broad battlefield of farm land, jungle and mountain country in which to make a determined stand.

At his back was Manila bay, the south China sea and the long mountainous Bataan peninsula which forms the western enclosure of the bay. Just off the end of the peninsula lies Corregidor and nearby it three smaller fortified islands.

It was considered unquestionable here that the strategist MacArthur had laid his plans months ago for the tactics he had been using in this delaying action.

Equipment Removed.

Cavite, for instance, apparently was abandoned several days ago. All stores and installations were removed or destroyed, and nothing of value to the invader left for him to seize.

Cavite will be valueless as a Jap naval base as long as American and Filipino troops hold Corregidor fortress, strategists agreed.

Big guns on the island port command both entrances to Manila harbor, making it virtually impossible for Japan to send warships into the bay. Hence the naval installations, even if repaired, would be without value as long as Japanese warships were unable to force the Manila bay entrances.

Military officials were silent regarding the Japanese statement that General MacArthur had withdrawn to Corregidor fortress for a "last stand."

But some experts believe Corregidor could hold out indefinitely. The island is only four miles long and a mile in breadth at the widest point and therefore could accommodate only a limited number of men.

Provisions Stored Underground.

But it has abundant provisions and ammunition stored underground, bomb shelters and an underground hospital.

The island is 27 miles across water from Manila. Seven miles of water separate it from the mainland to the south, and only two miles from the mainland to the north—all within easy range of its guns. It is well equipped with anti-aircraft guns.

Many of the gun emplacements are hewn out of solid rock.

The American flag waved over Manila for 43 years, four months and 20 days.

It first was run up late in the day of Aug. 13, 1898, when American troops entered the city and completed a victory for which Admiral George Dewey had paved the way the previous May by destroying the Spanish warships in Manila bay.

Dewey's Account.

Dewey gives this account of the incident in his autobiography: "At 5:43 I saw the Spanish flag passing the citadel, played the

Manila, Capital of Philippines, Lost to the Japanese



This is an aerial view of Manila, capital of the Philippine islands, which was entered Friday by Japanese troops. Picture shows some of the city's landmarks, now occupied by Japs. 1. Manila harbor; 2. Pasig river; 3. Fort Santiago; 4. the walled city, which bore the brunt of Jap bombings after Manila was declared an undefended city; 5. Manila

hotel; 6. Legislative building; 7. the Escolta, or business center; 8. San Jose hospital; 9. Malacanang palace; 10. former Bilbid prison; 11. San Lazaro hospital; 12. San Lazaro racetrack; 13. Santo Tomas university; 14. the road to Lingayen gulf, where the first large Jap invasion force landed.—WIREPHOTO (AP).



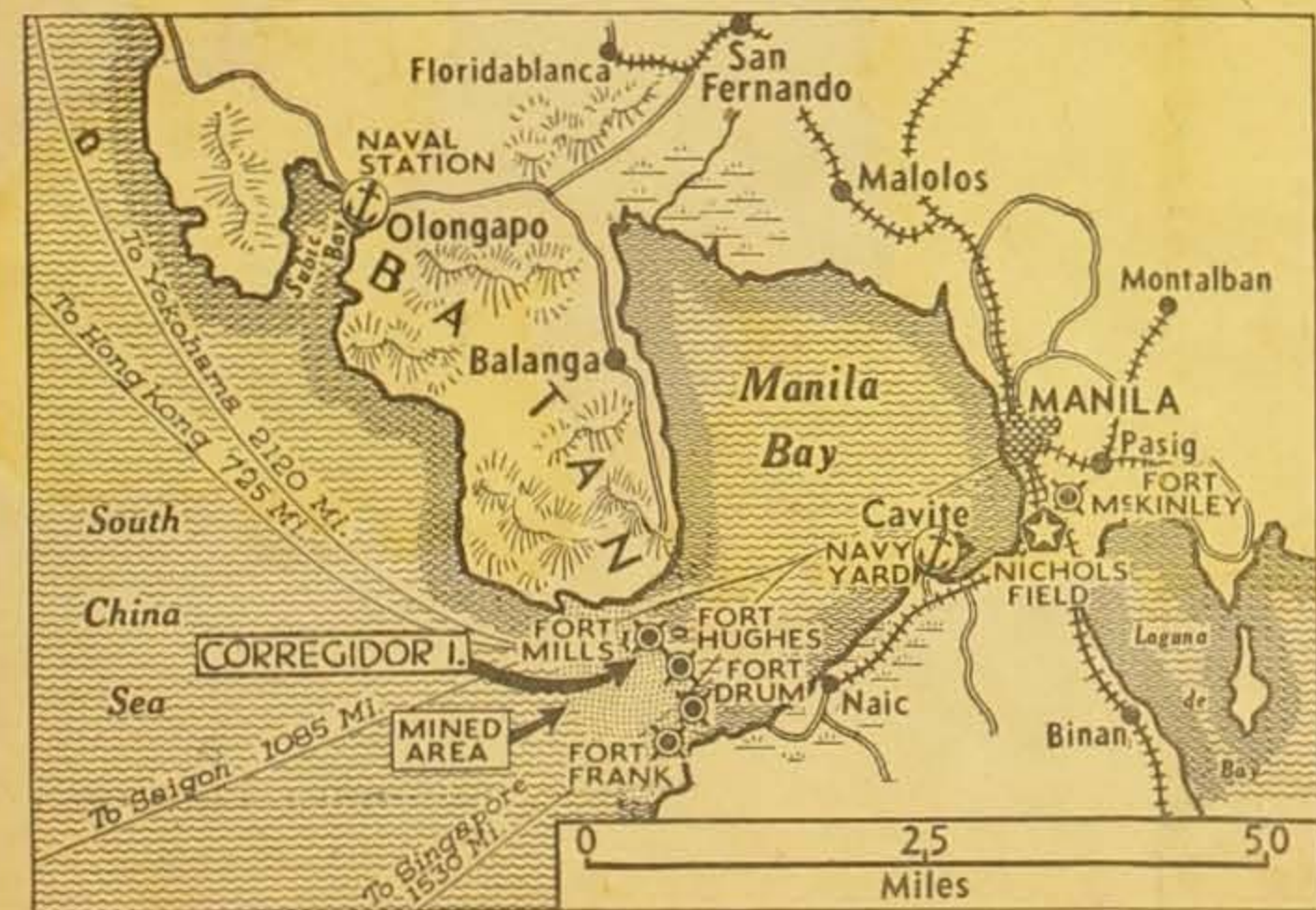
The important naval base of Cavite, 10 miles southwest of Manila on Manila bay, was evacuated by United States forces before the Japs entered the capital Friday. This picture shows a United States seaplane flying over the base, and a navy ship tied up at a dock. Nine and a

half million dollar Cavite was the principal United States naval base in the far east, and the navy had most of its supplies centered there. The navy said all equipment, records and stores not destroyed by Jap bombers had been removed. Hospital personnel remained to care for wounded.

come down and then our own float in its place. "The guns of all our ships thundered out a national salute while the band of one of our regiments, which happily chanced to be passing the citadel, played the

"Star Spangled Banner" the troops saluted, officers uncovered, and the Stars and Stripes, as it was raised for the first time over Manila, was greeted with all the honor so punctiliously given the flag on ceremonious occasions both by the army and the navy."

Where Battle for Philippines Rages



This was the main battle area in the Philippines Friday as the United States forces gave up Manila and the Cavite naval base. Main fighting was in the sector north and northwest of Manila, where American troops continued stubbornly to resist attacks. Tokyo reported that Gen. Douglas MacArthur's forces had fallen back to Corregidor fortress and Bataan peninsula, just above it.

CHINESE CLAIM HUGE JAP LOSS

15,000 Victims In Changsha Battle.

CHUNGKING, CHINA (SATURDAY) (AP)—Fifteen thousand Japanese soldiers were killed or wounded Friday in a terrific Chinese counter-attack in the outskirts of Changsha, a Chinese communique said today.

The battle still is raging fiercely for that capital city of Hunan province, scene of two of Japan's most humiliating defeats of the Chinese war in October, 1939, and September, 1941.

The majority of the Japanese casualties were due to artillery fire supporting the sudden onslaught by the main body of Chinese troops.

"A fierce battle of annihilation still was raging at the time this dispatch was sent," the communique continued.

"A portion of the Japanese force which reached the eastern gate of Changsha on the night of Jan. 1 was totally wiped out by Chinese machine gun fire.

Changsha, in the midst of a rich rice-growing district, is 400 airline miles northwest of Japanese-held Hong Kong and about the same distance east of Chungking.

"NOT PERMANENTLY."

TOKYO, JAPAN (OFFICIAL BROADCAST RECORDED BY AP)—A Japanese dispatch dated Hankow quoted military quarters as saying the Japanese "may not occupy Changsha permanently as it was the purpose to crush Chinese resistance" in driving on the Hunan capital. The Japanese claim they occupied Changsha Thursday night.

DATE OF WAR A JAP HOLIDAY

TOKYO, JAPAN (OFFICIAL BROADCAST RECORDED BY AP)—The Japanese cabinet Friday directed that the eighth of every month be celebrated as a national holiday in commemoration of the start of the war with the United States and Britain.

[The Japanese actually sprang their attack on Pearl Harbor soon after dawn Dec. 7, Hawaii time, but the imperial headquarters announcement that Japan was at war did not come until Dec. 8 in Tokyo.]

The Japanese success in the Philippines was attributed here to four reasons:

1. The attack on Pearl Harbor "which smashed all American plans to reinforce the Philippines in case of war."
2. "The over-estimation of General Douglas MacArthur's resources which led to a false sense of security."
3. Geographical difficulties involved in defense of the islands.
4. "Miscalculation of the power and determination of Japanese armed forces."

Actor Tony Martin Enlists in the Navy

SAN FRANCISCO, CAL. (AP)—Actor Tony Martin enlisted in the navy Friday and was assigned immediately to active service enlisting other men.

Martin, 28, will have as one of his main duties interviewing college students.

Autos— Continued from Page 1.

ence that the stoppage of passenger car production would create a temporary unemployment problem but that the hardship cases would be cared for.

He said many automobile workers would be forced out of jobs for a period averaging about two months until the automobile plants could retool for war production. He declared all displaced workers could be re-employed when retooling was completed.

Sidney Hillman, OPM associate director, announced that plans to speed up use of automotive facilities for production of weapons would be discussed at a joint labor-management-government conference here Monday.

The government's suggestions are expected to include pooling of engineering and production facilities, spreading of defense work through all usable plants, and creation of a labor-management steering committee.

MANILA'S FALL IS 'NOT THE END'

Filipino Pledges Isles Will Fight On.

The writer of this article is the official representative of the Philippines government in this country. He is also a member of President Manuel Quezon's cabinet and is the islands' leading industrialist.

By Joaquin M. Elizalde.
(Philippines resident commissioner to the U. S.)

WASHINGTON, D. C. (U.P.)—The fall of Manila is tragic heart-break for the people of my country.

But we do not regard it as the end of our war. We will continue to fight for our native soil, foot by foot, on whatever fronts are necessary. We have many islands and our determination not to yield is without limit.

This sad blow will increase the resistance from all sides. General MacArthur's masterful maneuver in uniting the defending forces north of Manila will force the Japanese to fight in jungles and forests where their temporary command of the air will mean little and where modern mechanized equipment will have minimum effectiveness.

Looting.

The Japanese will have to fight against a guerrilla warfare. I know the Filipino soldier will more than hold his own under these conditions.

We can anticipate complete and indiscriminate looting of our country, as has happened to other unfortunate peoples overrun by the Axis. But the spirit of national pride and solidarity which has prevailed for generations in our fierce love for our native land

RUSH TO ENLIST GREATER THAN IN LAST WAR

WASHINGTON, D. C. (U.P.)—During the first two weeks of fighting against the Japanese, recruits to the United States army surpassed the total for the entire month of May, 1917—the second month of the war in the world war.

Even with a 10-day lag in reports from regional headquarters, 42,657 men have been listed by the War Department, and Col. Harold N. Gilbert, chief recruiting, estimated Friday the total for the month probably will go as high as 50,000.

During May, 1917—the United States declared war on Apr. 7, 1917—there were 39,589 enlistments.

JUDGE OUSTS FRENCH TRIALS

BERLIN, GERMANY (OFFICIAL BROADCAST RECORDED BY AP)—Vichy dispatches today said the president of the Roman supreme court, which was asked to handle France's war guilt trials, had resigned, "citing a sensation in Vichy."

"Postponement of the trial by some weeks already had produced the belief that influential persons are at work trying to postpone the trial until after the German dispatch said. The president of the court, Henri Lagarde, was told to have given reasons of health for his resignation, but the correspondent said Vichy does not quite believe this."

CHURCH FIGHTS NAZI 'CHAINS'

NEW YORK, N. Y. (AP)—The British radio Friday quoted a pastoral letter, which it said was read from all Catholic pulpits in Bavaria before Christmas, protesting against Nazi "chains" that recall "the days of persecution of the early Catholic church."

The broadcast said the letter was secretly sent from Germany before suppression was ordered.

"A feeling of intense indignation mingles the whole of Bavaria," it was quoted. "The symbol of the cross is taken away from all the schools and chains are laid upon us which recall the days of persecution of the early Catholic church."

"We Bavarian Catholics have always made a great effort to preserve our faith in our country and we have stood for many things with extreme patience. "But, if we keep silent much longer, we will neglect our most sacred duties, God and the church; and the faithful will be unable to understand our attitude."

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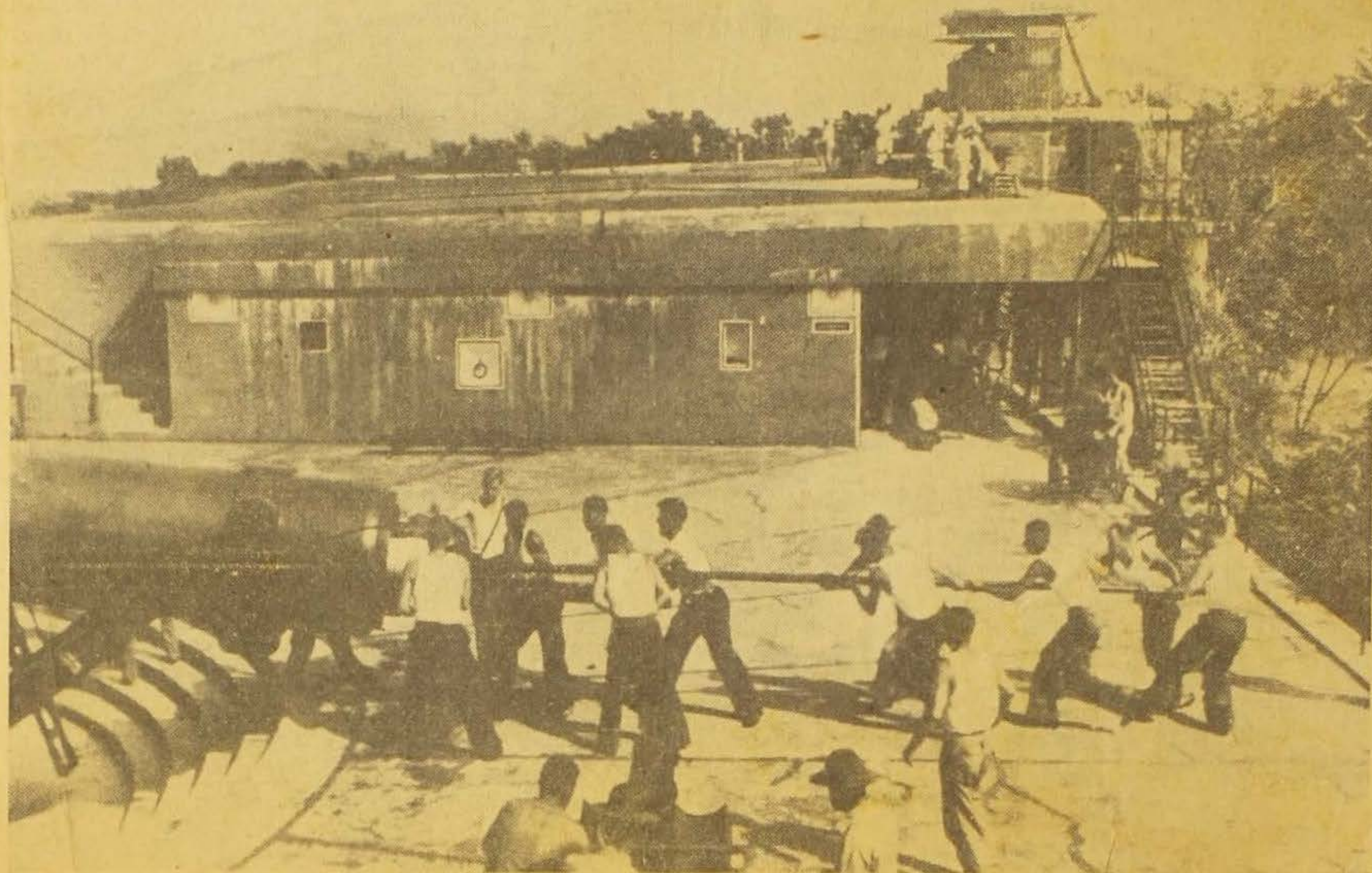
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DES MOINES SUNDAY REGISTER

AGES AS INDUCE MENT—

Army Presses Recruiting Drives

Big Corregidor Gun Is Loaded for Action



This is one of the big 12-inch disappearing rifles, part of Battery Cheney at Fort Mills on Corregidor island, which commands the entrance to Manila bay and is a

stronghold of American resistance to the Japanese invaders in the Philippines. Soldiers are ramming home a powder charge during maneuvers.—WIREPHOTO (AP).

Killed, Missing, Prisoners



Keith Earl Minard, Ph. M. 3/c, son of Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Minard and husband of Mrs. Waunetta M. Minard, died of injuries November 1, 1943, in an airplane accident while in the performance of his duties with the Hospital Corps of the Marine aviation in Hawaiian islands. He was standing in front of a small building near a runway when one of the planes attempting to take off swerved out of control and crashed into Minard. He died in a hospital, never regaining consciousness. His service record was highly commended by his officers in their letters to the family after his death.

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Staff Sgt. John M. Fishel, husband of Erma Effin Fishel of San Francisco, Calif., formerly of Oskaloosa, died in an internment camp in the Philippines, July, 1943. He was serving with the Army Air Corp having been transferred to the Philippines from San Francisco, Calif., in October 1940 soon after his marriage to the local girl. He was previously reported prisoner of the Japanese after the Bataan campaign. Mrs. Fishel is engaged in defense work at San Francisco.

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Willie Dale Wymore, son of Mr. and Mrs. G. G. Wymore, Radioman, 1/c, of the U. S. Navy, is being held a prisoner of war in the Philippine Islands. He was serving in the Manila Bay area at the time of capitulation.

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Cpl. Clarence Stanley Hodgson, son of Mr. and Mrs. C. B. Hodgson of Eddyville, died of wounds received in action while serving with the Marines in the Southwest Pacific. He had been with the Marines since August, 1940. The above picture was received by his sister, Donna, two days before Christmas and just a few days before the family was notified of his death.

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Sgt. David D. Naaktgeboren, son of Mr. and Mrs. C. J. Naaktgeboren of Pella and brother of Martin and Will Naaktgeboren of Oskaloosa, died in a German prison camp, July 13, 1943. He had been taken prisoner at Fald Pass in the North African campaign in February, serving with the 34th division.

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Ensign Derle Lee Schafstall, son of Mrs. Ralph Seeger of Oskaloosa, lost his life when the Navy blimp K-95 was destroyed by accidental fire on a routine flight to the West Indies early in November. After completing of Pre-Flight training at the University of Iowa in September, 1942, he was sent to the Naval Lighter Than Air Training Station at Lakehurst, N. J. He received his commission in February, 1943, and was assigned active duty immediately.



James Reginald Fansher, Electricians Mate 1/c, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Fansher of 511 north B street, and husband of Mrs. Aneta Fansher of Long Beach, Calif., was reported by the War Department as prisoner of the Japanese on the Island of Tarawa, formerly known as Formosa. He was stationed on Corregidor as a radio maintenance man at the time of the fall of the Philippines and Corregidor. For several years he had been on the U.S.S. Houston. He enlisted in the U. S. Navy December 12, 1929, at Ottumwa at which time he was making his home with his grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Fansher, 511 north B street. He was born in Oskaloosa and later made his home in California.

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Pvt. Gaylord James Bovee, son of W. H. Bovee of south F street extension, died while being held a prisoner by the Japanese, July, 1943. He is the first of the Japanese held prisoners to be reported dead. Pvt. Bovee was 35 years of age, enlisted in Army in California, and was soon assigned to duty in the Philippines, where he was stationed at the time of the Japanese attack. He had previously been reported missing in action and had been known by his family to have served with General MacArthur during the last days of the U. S. troops, residence in those islands.

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Lt. Paul A. Leydens assigned to a fighter squadron was killed March 20, 1943, in a plane crash at the Santa Rosa, Calif., Army airfield, where he was taking advanced training. He was the son of Mr. and Mrs. L. Leydens of New Sharon and husband of Mrs. Gladys Hull Leydens.

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Hubert Dwight Hough, yeoman, second class, is reported as being held a prisoner of war by the Japanese, following his disappearance while on duty in Manila Bay. Notification was received last March 8th.

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aviation Machinists Mate, second class, Kenneth Toll, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ira Toll, 516 G Ave. west, was killed in an accidental bomb explosion while he was on duty with the Navy in Pacific area.

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John W. Hamilton, Master Motor Machinist Mate, U.S.N., son of Mr. and Mrs. O. A. Ramey of Hedrick, was reported missing in action on March 24, 1943. He was serving aboard the submarine, Amberjack, the same ship Lieut. Commander Bernard Clary of Oskaloosa had been serving before he was taken to a hospital in Australia with malaria. The loss of the submarine was announced June 13.

He was 27 years old and was graduated from the high school at Richland and later attended Iowa State College at Ames. He was in his 3rd year of college when the selective service act was passed and he enlisted in the Navy February, 1941. He was stationed at Key West, Fla., the first year of his enlistment, then was transferred at his own request to submarine service in September, 1942, after Pearl Harbor.



Another prisoner held by the Germans is Cpl. Rex Denning, son of Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Denning of near Eddyville, who was in the North African invasion and was one of some 2,000 Iowans captured by the Germans in Rommel's surprise attack at Fald Pass. He was serving with an Anti-Tank company of an Iowa regiment with the 34th division.

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Gilbert Oscar Hols, son of Mr. and Mrs. Carl Hols of Oskaloosa, who had been reported lost in action at Corregidor a year ago is being held prisoner by the Japanese. He had been stationed at Fort Mills in the Philippine Island after assignment to overseas duty, but was with General MacArthur's forces to the last of the fight for those islands. He was one of the first volunteers in Mahaska county entering service on March 17, 1944. After receiving basic training at Ft. Sill, Okla., he was stationed at various army camps in the U. S. before leaving for the Philippines.

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Cpl. Dale Eugene Smith, son of Mr. and Mrs. Firm Smith of near Givin, may be a prisoner in Germany. He was in a prison camp in Italy but it is not known whether he was one of the Allied prisoners released when the Italians surrendered. There is a possibility that he might have made his way to Allied forces. He went through the North African invasion and much of the early fighting with an Iowa regiment of the 34th division.

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Frank C. Mason, Ship's Stew, Navy veteran of the first world war, son of Mr. and Mrs. S. C. Mason, 608 south Fifth street, was reported missing in action on August 1943.



Jesse Marvin "Bus" Burch, E. M. 2/c, son of Mrs. Ora Burch of Fremont, was reported missing in action last October after about two years service on Navy submarines. Details have not yet been released by the Navy department.



Pfc. Clarence Eli Grubb, son of Mr. Arthur Rogers, 1006 Third avenue west, who went overseas with the 34th division and was captured by the Germans in the fighting in North Africa last February, is reported as a prisoner of war of the Germans.



Ensign Eldin R. Arms of Naval aviation, son of Rev. and Mrs. Clinton Arms of Kennebec, S. D., and former Kletzing college student, was killed in action in the Pacific area, according to word received here October 26.

Hubert Hough Tells of His Experiences as Jap Prisoner

How he spent more than three years as prisoner of the Japanese, over a month of this in the hold of a prison ship while men "died like flies," was told by Yeoman First Class Hubert Dwight Hough, Oskaloosa, as he relaxed in a chair, happy to be home once again.

Yeoman Hough, a former Herald carrier who was liberated at Tokyo and arrived home last Saturday, plains to wed Miss Verla Scott, Oskaloosa girl in the near future. As he told of his experiences, Hough made it clear that his memory of his bride-to-be and their plans for the future was the one thing which kept him going through it all.

"The mental strain and despair under Japanese domination was terrific and hundreds cracked under the strain but I had my heart set on getting home to Verla and it kept me going," Hough declared. "We'll have a quiet wedding and then I'll report back to Great Lakes after a 90 day leave. I may stay in the Navy or I may get a job in Chicago. I don't know yet."

Saw Tokyo Burn

Hough won't forget in a long time, either, the devastation he saw in Tokyo as B-29 bombers left that Japanese metropolis a mass of flames and debris. "I watched Tokyo burn from my bed and thought how it helped make up for the many months under Jap domination. Those air guys really did a job."

The Oskaloosa sailor, who entered the Navy on June, 1933, had two and a half years service before war broke out, part of this in China but most of it working in the Navy department in the Maresman building in Manila.

Hough said he left Manila on Christmas morning, 1941 for Corregidor when the Japs approached that city and joined the Motor Torpedo Boat Squadron 3 in February, 1942. He was in on the battle of Corregidor, one of the historic battles of the war, and was taken prisoner on May 6, 1942.

We were held prisoner on Corregidor for two weeks and then taken by ship to Manila where they marched us down Dewey boulevard to show the Philippines their capture," Hough said.

Got Lucky Break

Hough was then placed, with other prisoners in Bilbid prison in Manila and then moved to Cabanatuan camp No. 3 for a month and a half. Then they were sent to Puerto Princesa on Palawan island above Borneo where they were set to work making airfield runways.

"They worked us for two years making runways for Jap airfields but finally in August, 1944, after we had built two runways and had started a third, they took 150 of us back to Manila," Hough said. "I got my first break in that deal for we heard later that the Japs herded the rest of the guys into an air raid shelter, tossed in gasoline and set it afire. Most of 'em



Hubert Dwight Hough.

were burned to death and those who tried to escape were shot."

Hough was in on the first bombing of Manila by American Grumman planes while held again in Bilbid prison. "It was a great show," the sailor declared. "They swarmed in from all angles and really gave it to the Nips."

Late in September 1944, the Japs put Hough's prisoner group aboard the prison ship which the prisoners called "Horror of Maru." That was the toughest of all for Hough who was a month in the hold of the ship with prisoners crowded in so tightly that they could hardly sit or lie down. The ship was destined for Formosa.

Many Died On Ship

"Many of the boys died on that trip and others went out of their heads," Hough asserted. "It was awful. There was no ventilation and they gave us only a bit of half cooked rice a day. They called in Lugao and it was worse than the name sounds. They gave us very little water but I was able to take a couple of canteens of water on with me. The hold was full of lice and insects and the Japs never ventured down there."

Hough declared that men died daily but the worst part of it all was when buddies became deranged from starvation, lack of food and water and the stinking smell of it all. It got so the boys would say, "shake your buddy and see if he's dead." One man was dead for several hours before the others knew it. Prisoners had to take their own dead above board and dump them into the sea.

"I went aboard that ship weighing over 150 pounds and when we reached port at Hong Kong, China, I weighed 110," Hough said. "It was really a tough deal."

Landed At Hong Kong

How the ship happened to dock at Hong Kong instead of Formosa was explained by Hough by the fact that an American sub attacked and sank an oil tanker in the convoy. This caused the convoy

to spread and head for the nearer port of Hong Kong where they arrived late in October, a month after the trip started.

Hough modestly asserted that he was once again just ahead of trouble since the tanker was moving just in front of his own ship.

Better Treatment

The convoy made several efforts to get out of Hong Kong but American subs kept it bottled up for several days. Finally the convoy moved out and wound up on Formosa where they were held in a military prison camp.

"Treatment got better there," Hough declared. "They must have been seeing the end in sight for them then. There wasn't much for us to do there and I gained some of my weight back. We saw the Grumman and B-29's coming over and could see them dropping their bombs. They used a smoke stack on an old sugar factory near our camp as a land mark. They zoomed in and turned to drop their bombs over this stack."

"We lived in a school and the food was better. They even fed us vegetables and some meat," Hough declared.

Taken To Tokyo

After a short stay there, the prisoner detail was placed aboard another ship and taken to Port Moji in southern Japan. This time it was a 28 day trip, once again cooped in the ship's hold, but Hough said conditions were better. "Only four men died on that trip."

After reaching Port Moji they were placed aboard a train with windows covered to make sure prisoners did not get a view of the terrain. They were taken to a camp in Tokyo area and put to work in a soup flavoring plant which was being converted to melting aluminum.

Hough pointed out that conditions continued to get better with improved food and quarters. "The plant was quite a modern affair and flavoring cans even had the name of New York on them," Hough said. "They had shipped a lot of it to this country."

Await For Rescue

It was while billeted there from February 12 to September of this year that Hough viewed the devastating air raids on Japan. He also said that shortly after V-J Day Japanese came in and took up all military police guns and ammunition, leaving the prisoners to do just about as they pleased.

Then it was a case of waiting for the final rescue and when U. S. ships showed up in the harbor, prisoners signaled from shore and were taken aboard. Hough left for home from Tokyo by plane on Sept. 8, arriving at Oakland, Calif., four days later. They he went via train to Great Lakes and on home.

"It's like a bad dream," Hough asserted.

Jap Coolies Friendly

Asked what he thought of the Japanese people, Hough said, "the coolie class were friendly. A lot of 'em worked in the same plant with us in Tokyo and we never had a bit of trouble with them. I'm convinced they were simply taken in by the military clique which gained control of the country. They believe in Hirohito,

Rex L. Allgood Describes Trip To Philippines

Sgt. Rex L. Allgood writes his parents, Mr. and Mrs. C. L. Allgood of near Eddyville telling them of his travels since he left the States in the spring of 1944. Here in part is his letter: "I will tell you a few of the places I have been since I left the States. I left Camp Stoneman, Pittsburg, Calif., on April 4, 1944. We went down to the river or bay and went up a ferry to Frisco. We got off it and went through a large storage place and right out the other side and up the gang plank. I don't remember the name of the ship. . . About ten o'clock we pulled out. Boy did we ever hate to see that Golden Gate pass out of sight. On the 12th we entered Pearl Harbor at Honolulu and docked, got right off the ship and on to a little old train and it took us up through the mountains and to the 13th Replacement Depot. "I stayed there until the 26th and then I and five other fellows were told to get ready to move,—

though. They've been taught to look up to him as their God."

Employees of the Herald, who remember Hubert as a knee high lad when he carried papers, have a particularly warm spot for this returning sailor. Harry Fitch, former circulation manager, remembers Hubert as one of the best carriers he ever had. There was the time young Hough came in seeking a carrier job but Fitch thought him too small for the job. To which Hubert replied "How do you know I am you haven't tried me yet." Fitch liked the boy's determination and directness and put him on a route. He made good,

that we were being assigned to a place, but they wouldn't tell us where it was. So we got ready and a station wagon picked us up. Boy did we ever get a break. Were assigned to the engineer office CPA and it was located right in the city limits of Honolulu. It had been a school before the war. . . We then moved to Hickam field.

"We got all ready—the first bunch was on the boat—we were going to hit Yap Island in the Carolines. Then they changed plans and decided to make a landing on the Philippines. Of course we didn't know that then. On the 21st of September we again loaded up at Pearl Harbor. On the 23rd we pulled out—we stayed on that boat for 45 days. I never got so tired in all my life as I did of that ship. On the 4th of October we entered the lagoon at Eniwetok—Pulled out again on the 5th. On the 9th we got to Manus after a nice time.

"We were dead still once for eight hours when our engines broke down and all we had was two little D E's which kept circling us but we finally got started again. When those engines quit on us we were just a little way from a group of Jap held islands. Just a good thing that there weren't any subs around. On the 25th we headed for Hollandia in New Guinea.

"Left Hollandia on the 29th and next stop to be Leyte. Well things went pretty good until we were about a day and a half from there. That is when that big naval battle took place between our fleet and the Japs. We were in a small convoy and didn't have any big stuff with us in case we run into trouble. We were headed right into it, so they radioed us to turn around and head back for Palau. Went back again for seven or eight hours. Then we got another message that our fleet had knocked hell out of the Japs, and what wasn't sunk

were trying to run away and for us to come on in.

"Well we got in and anchored in the gulf right off Dulag on the 4th of November. Then we went ashore the morning of the 5th and this is where we have been ever since. After the surrender came, it looked very much for a while like we were going to pack up and go to Japan and then they decided to leave us here to finish cleaning up the Philippines and evacuate them of all our stuff after all the Japs were taken care of. There is

a rumor that we might finish up by November or December and that we are going to pull out of here. Don't think that every one isn't hoping that we head for the States,—but that is to be seen—"

DELTA

Delta, Oct. 3—Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Crew have word that their oldest

Mr. and Mrs. Hubert Hough



Harry Fitch Studio—Herald Engraving

Mr. and Mrs. Verner L. Scott announce the marriage of their daughter, Verla Pauline, to Hubert D. Hough, Y1/c, U. S. N., on Sunday, October 7, 1945, at 2 p. m. in the lounge of the First Christian church with Rev. Edgar L. Knight performing the double ring ceremony. They were attended by Mrs. Melvin Briggs and Major Ralph E. Hibbs, M. C. United States Army.

The bride wore a white wool dress with a corsage of red roses and her bridesmaid wore a pink wool dress with a corsage of salmon roses.

The bride was graduated from Oskaloosa high school and has since been a dental assistant to Dr. W. W. Frevert. The bridegroom entered the Navy in 1938. He spent three years in a Japanese prison camp from which he was recently released and his best man was also a Japanese prisoner for three years.

Following the ceremony a reception was held at the home of the bride's parents for 25 relatives and friends. After a short wedding trip they will be at home at 623 north Market street until Hubert reports back to the Navy at the Great Lakes Naval Station.

Feb 1946 Paper

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Guilty Plea

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got out of Saiguchi - cji
No-Moto aluminum factory

1. Hough, R. H. 25 March 54
2. Inc. Governor, Bismarck X
3. Hough, L. C. X ?
4. Gottschalk, E. O. X ?
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X never found on returned
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Crossed off if known
Don't hold on from Prison

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23 July 1947
To: Discharge 2-14-48

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CORREGIDOR REVISITED

J. F. KATZEL

An American photographer visits Corregidor 25

years after General Wainwright surrendered there.

THE PENINSULA of Bataan and the island of Corregidor in the Philippines were busy places this spring. Some 500 veterans of MacArthur's and Wainwright's WW2 stand, with wives and Gold Star mothers, returned in April for the 25th anniversary of the five-month siege that ended in May 1942, with the surrender on Corregidor.

It was a gala occasion. The Filipinos had forgotten nothing. En masse they cheered the pilgrims and strewed their way with flowers. Individually, men and women, old and middle-aged, shared experiences and memories down to the last small detail of the days of the Japanese conquest. On April 9, all Manila was turned over to a giant parade. There were treks down the Bataan peninsula, and to Corregidor — and individual visits to other spots of personal importance—and to the American Military Cemetery.

Not part of the pilgrimage was photographer J. F. Katzel, of Denver, Colo., who had been with his camera to the war in Vietnam, then flew into Manila to record what would catch his eye. What caught his eye was Corregidor today. He went on an official tour of "The Rock," then returned for a private inspection. Katzel shot roll on roll of photographs of the rugged little island, plans for whose restoration have not yet come off, then recorded on tape his impressions of a 25-year-old battleground that remains almost untouched by man over the quarter century, but has been invaded chiefly by the forces of nature.

Katzel's impressions and mixed emotions come through in his brief, general description of Corregidor revisited, and in his few words accompanying those of his pictures that are shown here. He saw ghosts everywhere. Said Katzel:

"While walking alone on Corregidor with no one else on the island and photographing the various installations, I had the eerie feeling that the ghosts of the defenders were watching my every move. It was amazing to me that there was so much to see and photograph as there actually was. I can only hope that the decay proceeds no further. Your imagination, as it sees the ruin and dev-

astation, lets you believe that it happened only yesterday instead of a quarter of a century ago. Further decay and jungle growth will in time completely obliterate this heroic bastion of freedom. The feeling is very persistent that it was an island full of life and song, then turning to screams of pain and agony. It's not at all difficult, while sitting on the steps of the Battery Way, to imagine a Japanese fighter plane come screaming in at tree-top level to strafe the defenders and the installations . . . neither is it difficult to hear the running footsteps attempting to get out of the way of the incoming planes' machinegun fire.

"These sounds can definitely exist in your imagination when you are alone on the island. My first visit was with one of the guided tours from Manila. On my second visit I was alone and that's when the island came to life, the guns spoke, the craters caused by Japanese bombs spoke, the pockmarked walls spoke, the running feet on the steps leading to the barracks on the topside, the stones which made up the staff headquarters . . . all spoke of the life and the death that was here. Life is gone but death remains. I felt as though I were an intruder and even the click of my camera shutter was an intrusion into the past. If the decay and the jungle growth could be arrested and the remains of Corregidor frozen in time just as it is today, it would be a most expressive and impressive monument to those brave defenders who fought to the very last. Future generations could then know and see exactly how the island looked when our last shot was fired, but this cannot be, since decay and plant life will finally swallow up what's left.

"I was lucky to have had a chance to be alone on Corregidor. The visible signs of war indicate strongly the terror that must have been with the defenders, every minute of that terrible siege. Its final capitulation on May 6th, though a difficult pill to swallow, must have been a relief to those men and women. An unhappy defeat, certainly . . . but the five-month sounds of battle were for the moment gone."

THIS PHOTO shows the island of Corregidor, which lies principally east and west with the tail end of the island pointing to Manila. On the tail end of the island there are two important features. One is the wartime cemetery and the other is Kindley Field. I visited both the cemetery and the landing field. The landing field is just barely visible. The high grass and the jungle are now close to destroying it completely. The cemetery is the same way. It's buried deep in the jungle. The tombstones are moss covered and half buried under 25



years of leaves and branches. It's tough to see but very interesting. Mostly you'll find that the buried are half Filipino and half American, dating much earlier than 1941, going as far back as 1930. Next to Kindley Field on the north side of the island on May 5, 1942, was a proposed Japanese landing area. The landing took place there and was successful. The Japanese then worked their way west on the tail of the island toward the west entrance of Malinta Tunnel. The last stand by our American forces was made 50 yards west of the entrance to Malinta

Tunnel. This stand was made on May 6, 1942, in the morning, after five months' holdout on Bataan and Corregidor. Just beyond the Malinta Tunnel where the island narrows down is the Old Market Place. The surrender by General Wainwright to the Japanese took place there on the afternoon of May 6th, prior to General Wainwright's going to Bataan for the 'Death March.'

"Now we get to the main part of the island and the head of the Tadpole, the fat part of Corregidor, where the Topside Barracks and the parade grounds

and the various batteries are located.

"'Battery James' is on the north side of the island at the top of James Ravine. The Japanese tried an early landing in James Ravine but the attempt was given up by them. Battery James has four three-inch guns and they were designed to cover the channel between Cavite and Corregidor, and the channel between Bataan and Corregidor. They had a seaward range of 16 to 20 miles, the point being to prevent the Japanese Navy from entering Manila harbor."

(Continued on next page)



THIS PHOTO is inside Battery James. Note the devastation which shows through in the photo. It takes but little imagination to visualize the heavy shelling this battery took from Japanese bombardments. This fort was constructed of reinforced concrete and steel. The stairs leading to the top of Battery James made

it easy for me to visualize the hurried activity on these stairs by the defenders—carrying down the wounded, bringing ammo to the guns, and carrying out their assignments in the midst of battle. The batteries consisted of four 3-inch guns and were designed to cover the South Channel between Cavite and Corregidor,

and the North Channel between Bataan and Corregidor. These guns proved ineffective, of course, because the Japanese Navy never came into Manila harbor. Their main landings were on Bataan, after the one try at James Ravine. They swept the Bataan peninsula—and only then came back to Corregidor.”



THIS IS ‘BATTERY WAY’ which sits almost dead center in the large part of the island and was armed with four 12-inch mortars. It is by far the best preserved of the batteries on the island, although even here the irresistible jungle is moving in and would have taken over had it not been for the large expanse of very tightly set stone and concrete in the flooring of the gun pits and the 10-foot high, 3-foot thick walls surrounding the gun emplacement. Eventually Battery Way will return to the jungle if the advance of tropic vegetation isn’t arrested.

None of the mortars is operational. I’m sure the Japanese could find no way to have made them operational, so abandoned them where they were. You can still see telltale signs of the battle that raged here. Throughout all of the batteries one sees strafing scars, marks of artillery explosions, and of explosions within the batteries themselves from pieces of metal that flew against the walls and floors. You can see a line of bullet holes obviously caused by strafing Japanese fighter planes. You can see immense chunks of metal gouged out of the mor-

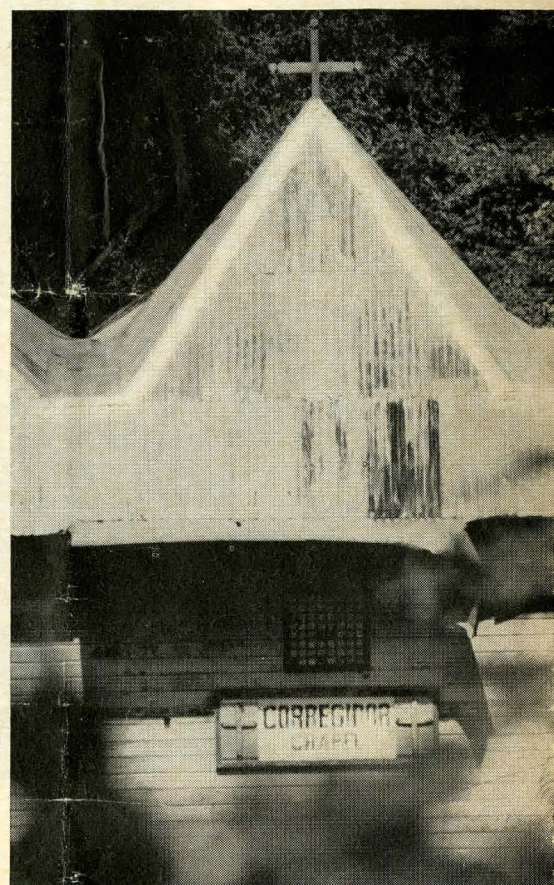
tars by heavy caliber artillery shells or bombs that must have killed the gun crew outright. I was told by Sergeant Guardacasa who accompanied me on my photographic tour that at the capitulation none of the mortars was standing upright, they were all blown off their mountings. Shortly after the war the Filipinos raised them to the upright position shown in the photo above. They did this with the intention of preserving these mortars as part of a shrine that is still to be started.”

(Continued on next page)

THE HELMET in this photo, while rusted out, is still in reasonable shape. The webbing on the inside is completely rotted out and the shell of the helmet was paper thin. It is not unusual to find mementoes of the conflict throughout the jungle, although this was the only helmet I found. I found many shells, from 30-caliber rifle on up to 3-inch and 12-inch mortar shells of the various batteries, both Japanese and American. In the tremendous explosions that must have occurred within the batteries themselves, shells and shell cases were blown into the jungle and there they lay for the last 25 years. Many are still undetonated."



THIS PHOTO shows what was left of the command post and the blockhouse of Battery James. Of the batteries on the island, Battery Way, Battery Geary, Battery Kysor were the only batteries that proved to be effective against the Japanese during the siege."



THIS CHAPEL was built by the Filipinos at the end of hostilities and is the sole addition of the last two decades—the only thing done on Corregidor to establish the island as a shrine. The chapel is now in the last stages of decay. There are no whole windows and the corrugated metal roof and siding are rusting out, while the ever-present jungle overruns it even to the extent of sending up plant growth through the floors. The pews are falling apart." THE END

Sharks, exposure claimed 480

Ship sinking survivors recall terror

By John Gorman

Chicago Tribune Press Service

INDIANAPOLIS—"He was hit and lifted right out of the water in the shark's mouth. He was screaming and hollering, but it was over in a second. Then we swam away from the blood."

Gus Kay, one of 316 survivors of the 1945 sinking of the USS Indianapolis, was recalling one of the grim and most unexpected enemies of the tragedy. He had just arrived at the Atkinson Hotel for the fourth reunion of the survivors held this weekend.

Kay, 48, who made the trip from Elmwood Park, can now speak unhesitatingly about his five-day ordeal 450 miles off the coast of the Philippines just 34 days before World War II ended.

But for Kay, who was a gunner's mate, and the other survivors of the July 30, 1945, disaster in which 880 men died, it has not always been so. The Indianapolis sank with 400 men below deck after being struck by two Japanese torpedoes.

AMONG THOSE left floating in the Pacific, waiting in lifejackets, rafts, or floating nets, another 480 died before rescuers arrived—drowned, died of wounds, or were killed by sharks.

"I still get nightmares about it," said Robert McGuiggan, 53, of 8643 N. Oakley Av. "Even today I get flashbacks—something will trip me off."

"It was the third day I saw my first shark, you see. We were all split off into little groups. My group was in a semicircle. This guy about three feet from me yells, and then he was gone—that fast. Then I saw the shark, about 10 or 12 feet long, swimming away. But there were guys disappearing all the time."

"At first it wasn't so bad; we thought that a radio message had been sent. The general feeling was 'Okay, here's 30 days' leave.' That's what you get when you lose a vessel. But by the second day we knew no message had been sent."

"WE COULD SEE the shark swimming beneath us. We were trying to hold on to the wounded and the guys without lifejackets. By the third day some of the men were beginning to hallucinate. They'd say they were going down to the ship to get a drink of fresh water from the spigot. We tried to stop them, but they'd dive and never come back up." McGuiggan was a gunner's mate then; he is a bricklayer now.

"We could feel them passing by underneath," he said. "I saw four or five guys get hit by sharks. There would be a splash, and then the guy would disappear. That was it."

Altho estimates vary as to the number killed by sharks, the figure cited by most here is the 70 to 80 ventured by a crew member, Dr. Giles McCoy, chairman of the Indianapolis Survivors Association.

The survivors were spread out over an eight-square mile area. All the sailors were aware of the sharks but had other problems.

"By the fourth day I had just about had it," said Dan Spencer, 60, another gunner's mate. "I was floating in that life jacket looking up at the sky. I told the guy next to me, 'I can't take it. I'm going to have a drink [of salt water].' But I looked into the sky and saw my wife and three kids. I told myself, 'Dan, one more day.' We were picked up the following day." Spencer is now a retired welder from Morris, Ill.

MOST OF THE MEN who survived were sleeping on deck, just coming on duty, or had just been relieved. The majority of the men who were below deck when the torpedoes hit went down with the ship.

Some survivors might have gone down with their shipmates had it not been for an alert Navy pilot on routine patrol Aug. 2, 1945.

"We were flying at 4,000 feet and we had a fouled-up antenna," said Chuck [Angel] Gwinn, who flew a PV-1 plane. "I had gone back to help the men untangle it. As I looked out the rear gunner's hatch, I noticed an oil slick. I thought it was from a sub that had just dived, so I did an 180-degree turn and headed back at about 100 feet."

"I was just about to drop the depth charges when I noticed some men waving in the water. I radioed back to the base that there were some men down at this location. I didn't know they were from the Indianapolis. I didn't even know if they were Americans or Japanese until the next day."

Some survivors still wonder who was to blame for their ordeal. The skipper, Capt. Charles McVay, was found guilty of negligence at a court martial, but his sentence was later remitted. None of the survivors questioned had anything but praise for their captain. In 1968 McVay committed suicide, according to Richard Newcomb, author of "Abandon Ship," which chronicled the tragedy.

Four shore-based officers were reprimanded for failure to report the ship overdue, but the Navy also lifted those reprimands after a hearing.

Philippines to celebrate World War II liberation

Continued from page 21

After we drove across the bridge to Samar to take photographs, two other vehicles pulled up with a dozen Japanese tourists — all men in their 30s and 40s, obviously too young to have fought in the war. One could only assume they were visiting the islands because their fathers or other relatives had been there.

Worth seeing in Tacloban City is the W. S. Price mansion where MacArthur established his first headquarters after the Leyte landing. Miss Esperanza Price, an adopted daughter of the late Mr. Price, led us to the high-ceilinged room where MacArthur slept, and the anteroom with the hole in the wall made by a shell

which missed him by about 10 feet on his first night in the sturdy home. It was built in 1908 by the same engineer who also built the fortifications on the island of Corregidor.

NEARBY IS THE white Leyte Provincial Capitol where MacArthur read a proclamation on Oct. 23, 1944, commemorating the return of the Philippine government from exile and handing it over to President Sergio Osmena. Impressive murals on the marble facade illustrate the historic landing on Red Beach and portray some of the military and government leaders.

Considerable construction work is going on just south of Tacloban City at

Palo, where Red Beach was located. In the center of Palo stands the town's large cathedral which was converted by Filipino-American troops into an emergency hospital in 1944. Inside the church is an ornate, hand-carved, 100-year-old altar.

Another "must" for visitors to the Philippines is a trip to Corregidor, the tadpole-shaped island at the entrance to Manila Bay which held out against the Japanese for three months under difficult conditions against overwhelming odds.

Military historians credit the historic stand that tied up the Japanese at Corregidor as providing a much-needed breather, enabling the Americans and Australians to recover from the devastating Pearl Harbor Day losses.

IT'S POSSIBLE to rent a helicopter to reach Corregidor from Manila, but most visitors use the hydrofoil or twin-hulled steamer which provide daily service.

Atop Corregidor, in view of the battle-damaged buildings, stands the impressive, yet simple, Pacific War Memorial which was financed by the United States Congress in 1964. In the center of the large rotunda is a circular altar. Visitors to this memorial describe the experience as truly emotional when one considers the casualties, suffering, and destruction of the defenders, some 13,000 of whom survived to surrender, then begin the Bataan Death March.

At Bataan, across from Corregidor, is a

Shrine of Valor atop 1,500-foot Mt. Samat. On a clear night, the 311-foot steel and concrete cross can be seen in Manila, 25 miles away. Thousands of Filipinos visit this memorial every spring during Bataan Week, from April 1-9, when expositions, parades, and other special events are held.

Back in Manila, 15 major hotels have been opened since last year. Among the new hostelryes are the 16-story Manila Garden (611 rooms), 20-story Century Park Sheraton (510 rooms), Manila Mandarin, Monarch, Philippine Plaza, Manila Peninsula, plus high-rise Ramada and Holiday inns.

WITH THE number of Manila hotel

rooms reaching 13,000, the Philippines are ready for a major increase in tourist travel. Due to government travel restrictions, only about 190 incoming international flights arrive in Manila each week, compared with more than 500 going into Hong Kong and Singapore.

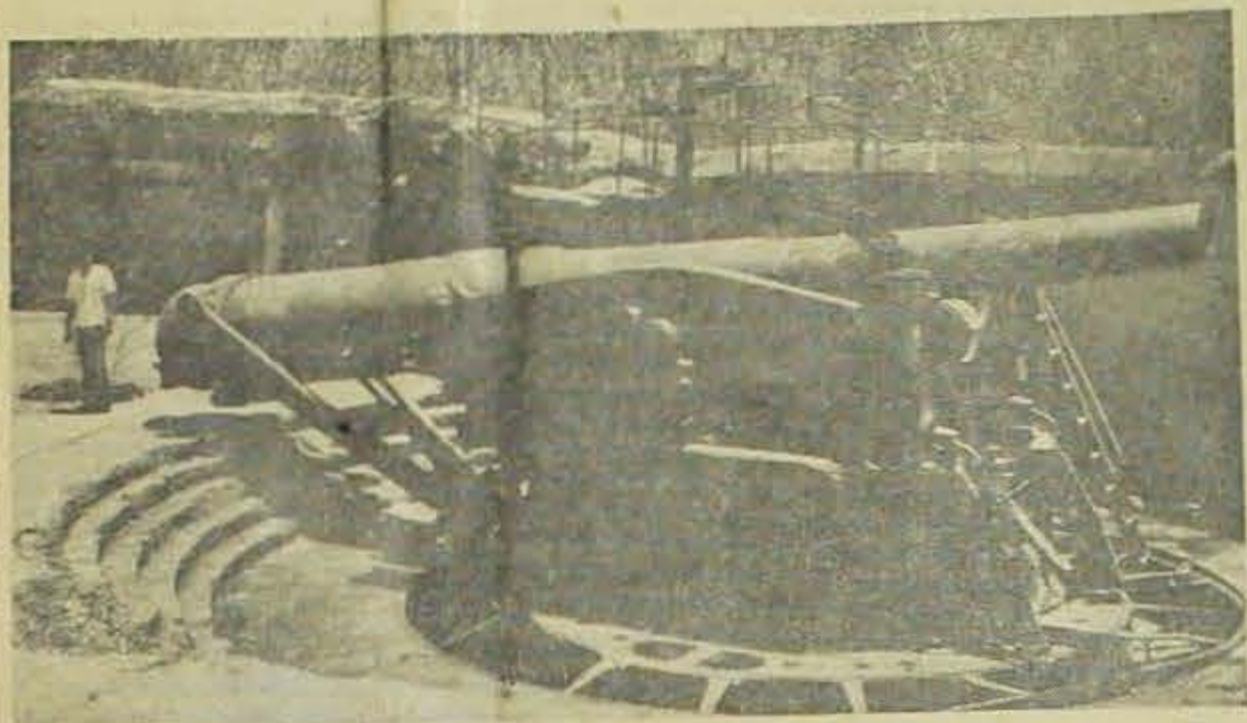
Most first-time visitors to the Philippines are likely to forget that English is the dominant language in the islands and are surprised to see several Manila daily newspapers in English.

The Reunion for Peace program should help to keep the Manila hotels near capacity this year as thousands of World War II veterans and their families are expected to make a nostalgic return to the Philippines.



Martin Sheridan Photo

Middleside Barracks stretched for nearly a mile on Corregidor, and housed thousands of officers and enlisted men, a hospital, service club, and two schools.



This is typical of the long-range gun batteries at Corregidor. Atop Corregidor, in view of battle-damaged buildings, is the Pacific War Memorial.

Philippines to host a peace reunion

By Martin Sheridan

LEYTE, Philippines—Oct. 20 will commemorate the 33d anniversary of the beginning of the liberation of the Philippine Islands by a huge naval/army force at Leyte under the command of Gen. Douglas MacArthur. Most of the battle scars have long since been erased. The palm-rimmed area at Palo, about four miles south of Tacloban City, which was designated Red Beach in 1944, is almost as idyllic as it was before World War II.

Offshore, the rusting remains of an old LCV landing craft protrude from the warm sea as a silent reminder of the Leyte landing where the first kamikazes appeared. With the help of villagers living near the beach where MacArthur landed, at least two Japanese gun emplacements can be located, even though they are well hidden by undergrowth. Otherwise, all is peaceful, with weekend picnickers from Tacloban City singing and playing their guitars or listening to their transistors along former invasion beaches.

Another major invasion is planned for this year. This time it's a Reunion for Peace, so designated by Philippine President Ferdinand E. Marcos, a former guerrilla fighter. He has invited all the servicemen who served in the Philippines during World War II, both Allied and Axis, to revisit the islands, "meet in brotherhood, and together recall the sadness of the past and appreciate the joys of the present, and draw fresh vigor for their dedication to the cause of peace."

INFORMATION ABOUT the Philippine reunion and specific tours can be obtained from Orient Marketing Services, 323 Geary St., San Francisco, Cal. 94102. (The phone number is 415-391-6578.) SITA World Travel, for instance, is offering a 17-day, 16-night package in a standard hotel for \$599 a person from San Francisco. Round-trip, Chicago-to-Manila, 14 to 21 day excursion fare on Philippine Airlines is \$1,343. The airline also has a 17-day San Francisco-Manila charter for \$550.

In addition, Philippine Airlines, Philippine Aero-Transport, and the Philippine National Railways is offering former servicemen and their families a minimum 30 per cent discount on domestic fares within the islands. For example,

the regular round trip tourist fare from Manila to Tacloban City is now \$52.80; \$79.20 for husband and wife under a family fare plan.

The Department of Tourism is promoting Reunion for Peace by negotiating with hotels, souvenir and other shops, and sightseeing tour operators for special discounts of not less than 30 per cent this year for the former GI visitors, all of which point to excellent travel values for those who qualify.

Those eligible for the special discounts include members of the armed forces — American, Australian, New Zealand, Japanese, and Filipino — who served in the Philippines during World War II, the immediate members of their families, inclusive of grandchildren, or their immediate survivors including grandchildren, regardless of whether the veteran died during or after the war. Allied forces who served in the islands after the war also will be eligible for the discounts "because their service contributed to the cause of peace." Their families and survivors also will be included.

Customs and immigration officials have been directed to expedite the entrance of all Reunion for Peace visitors, and to liberalize their travel to and from the Philippines by waiving visa requirements, among other things.

ON LEYTE the Red Beach area where MacArthur and thousands of troops went ashore has been beautified. The Philippine Airlines jet flight from Manila to Tacloban City took 70 minutes to cover the 350 miles. There's a new terminal building with air-conditioned waiting room, complete with television sets. It was a far cry from the rough dirt strip in use in the fall of 1944.

Private cars and jeepneys were available for hire at rates which were negotiable. The jeepneys are the custom-converted Willys Jeeps, with one-of-a-kind paint jobs and decorations, which provide the most inexpensive transportation in the Philippines. There are about 40,000 of them.

First point of interest was the new "S" shaped Marcos Bridge which joins Leyte and Samar, respectively, the eighth and third largest of the 7,100 Philippine Islands. It is 7,000 feet long and toll free.

Continued on page 24



Tribune Map

WASH POST 10 APR 77

Bataan Revisited

'Death March' Survivors Cite Failure Of Gen. MacArthur to Prepare for Siege

By Bernard Weidman
Special to The Washington Post

BATAAN, the Philippines, April 9 —It was a hot and dusty trek today to Mt. Samat on Bataan. But we mostly did it in air-conditioned buses—which were hot nevertheless. Nothing compared to the "Death March" made by 70,000 American and Filipino GIs 35 years ago, on April 9, 1942.

Today, nearly 200 American veterans, wives, and widows of Philippine campaigns and about 50 of their Japanese counterparts met at Mt. Samat and shook hands to heal the wounds of war. But mostly, they reminisced about battles lost and battles won.

Burt Ellis of Fredley, Minn., formerly of the 31st Infantry Regiment, looked out the window of the bus we were riding and pointed out battle scenes to his companions: "There were no houses on this road then."

Ellis, along with all other Allied troops on Bataan, surrendered and was forced to make the four-day Death March of more than 70 miles to internment camps in Tarlac Province to the east. Of some 60,000 taken prisoner, only 41,451 arrived at the camps. Only 20,308 came out alive at the end of the war.

Paul Nagurney of Niagara Falls, N.Y., the only surviving member of the 17th Signal Platoon, recalled the food in the camps: "The maggots in the rice. You had to close your eyes." He was transferred to an internment camp in Osaka, Japan, in 1944 and says, "It was worse than the Philippine camps. At least in the Philippines you could keep warm."

One of the former Japanese soldiers who escorted the GIs on the march was Masaru Takeshita. He says that he was carrying a machinegun, walking alongside the Allied soldiers, and did not understand why they could not keep the pace since they had no guns to carry.

The reason they couldn't was that they were malnourished from eating only half-rations and most were ill with dysentery and malaria. Gen. Douglas MacArthur, commander of all forces in the Philippines, withdrew his divisions—mainly raw Filipino recruits and American National Guardsmen—to the Bataan peninsula, hoping to tie down the Japanese in a six-month siege until reinforcements came. But he had failed to stockpile provisions for even a one-month siege. The troops ate all the horses of the 26th Cavalry Regiment, according to Nagurney.

Survivors who returned for the reunion here claim that MacArthur actually lost the Philippine campaign on the first day of the war—Dec. 8, 1941, on this side of the international dateline. They said that despite information on the outbreak of hostilities, he did nothing to protect his air forces.

The former governor of Indiana (1969-1973), Edgar Whitcomb, a B-17 navigator in 1941, explained: "We were confident that we could prevail in a matter of about six months—that we would have the situation well in hand . . . But most of our planes (50 B-17s) were destroyed on the ground at Clark Field the first day of the war, and we were relegated to ground troops from that time to the fall of the Philippines."

Whitcomb and 11,000 other troops surrendered on Corregidor a month after the fall of Bataan. MacArthur, who had escaped to Australia, ordered all his troops on Bataan and Corregidor to fight to the death. Isadore Hanken, a veteran of Miami Shores, Fla., says: "I hated MacArthur because he thought he was God."

The commemorative marker at Mt. Samat, which is topped by a 275-foot cross, reads: "On this ground gallant men chose to die rather than surrender." Some did, but most were too diseased, too poorly trained, and too poorly fed to have much stomach for fighting.

Had MacArthur accepted an earlier Japanese request to surrender his troops, many more would have lived, survivors say. They add that the stand at Bataan accomplished nothing, since the remainder of the country had already fallen under Japanese occupation.

In a speech at today's anniversary rites, U.S. Ambassador William H. Sullivan concluded, "There are no solutions in warfare . . . Warfare is not a proper instrument of national policy." Japan's charge d'affaires, Makoto Taniguchi, struck a different note when he said: "Every man needs a Bataan—an altar and a cross where he can pray." He went on to point out that "peace in our time" is indeed illusive.

Yet it was clear that among the veterans and widows of both sides, there were painful memories not yet stilled. As Whitcomb, who had been tortured for weeks in a Manila dungeon, said, "I just thank the Lord for making it possible for me to be here today and to be alive."



United Press International

At ceremonies in the Philippines marking the 35th anniversary of the fall of Bataan in World War II, a survivor of the 1942 'Death March,' Carl Mordim of Wisconsin, right, presents Philippine President Marcos with message from Wisconsin's governor. Below, Americans captured on Bataan start four-day march to a prison camp, in a wartime photograph.



WWII veteran returns to battleground

By JOANNE CARPENTER
Herald Staff Writer

Many memories of war are best forgotten, but one Oskaloosa man and his wife traveled to the Philippines recently to participate in the 35th anniversary of the bitter World War II Battle of Bataan.

Hubert Hough, 1611 9th Ave. East, was a young sailor with the U.S. Navy in 1942 when he was captured by the Japanese as a prisoner of war at Ft. Hughes on Carabao Island in the Philippines. He spent the next three years and four months as a P.O.W. at a prison camp on the island Province of Palawan.

He and many other American, Japanese and Filipino veterans were invited guests of Philippine President Ferdinand E. Marcos to "Remember Bataan" and "to give personal testimony to the final

end of the war."

Marcos, himself, was a lieutenant who fought at Bataan and led a patrol that destroyed a Japanese mortar position in the battle.

The Houghs were in the Philippines from March 31 to April 17. On April 9, the actual anniversary date of the fall of Bataan peninsula of Western Luzon, the main island off the Philippines, the groups of veterans were police-escorted to Mt. Samat in Bataan where special ceremonies were held.

"It was the first big reunion for peace program," Hough said. "It was his (Marcos) way of saying 'I'm sorry' for all of the lives lost and land destroyed."

When Hough and his wife Verla returned to the Philippines in March, Hough said he found "things the way I left them, only more people."

I feel sorry for them (the Filipinos). The Philippines

hasn't been rebuilt fully.

There are new buildings up but next to them are buildings that were bombed out and never rebuilt or cleared away," Hough said.

The only modern facility at Palawan was a commercial airport, the runway of which Hough helped build when he was a P.O.W. there.

"They are happy like they are. If it gets too modern it will ruin that part of the country," Hough said.

Since Hough was a Bataan veteran he and his wife were special guests of the government. Therefore, their baggage wasn't searched and they had no problems getting into or out of the country. They were invited to several luncheons and always had "constable protection."

"The President issued orders for us not to be searched. If anything would have happened to us (the veterans) it could have

started another war," Hough said.

While in the Philippines, Mr. and Mrs. Hough found many differences in customs between the American and the Philippine cultures. Mrs. Hough recalled that they and two other couples were all dressed up but were told by "immaculately dressed" bellhops in a Manila hotel that they "took no pride in their clothes." All clothes in the Philippines are custom-made and fit perfectly, according to the Houghs.

However, away from modern Manila, in the "barrios," (small villages) children of six or seven still aren't wearing clothes and adults even wear very little clothing. At each hut in the villages is someone making something. "Each house is a little store," Mrs. Hough said. Anything from key chains, wood objects and grass skirts are for sale there.

And things there can be purchased very reasonably because wages are very low. The Houghs said a professional person such as a nurse or a teacher is making top wages at \$1.10 a day. At that wage many can afford to hire domestic help at \$10 a month.

"They think Americans work too hard. School teachers there have someone to lay out their clothes, drive them to school, do their housework, pick them up from school and have the evening meal prepared for them," Mrs. Hough said.

But on the other hand, the Filipinos think Americans

are too fat and don't get enough exercise.

Mrs. Hough said the food in the Philippines was interesting and most of it quite good. "Some of it is delicious. We tried everything even though we didn't always know what we were eating. We couldn't ask

what we were eating either since the waitresses couldn't speak English."

Mrs. Hough said the diet consisted largely of fish and rice and fruits. "We usually got two salads — one was lettuce and fruit and the other was fish mixed with vegetables. Everything was

marinated and seldom ever cooked."

Would the Houghs ever go back again? "I could never go back again because my health isn't very good, so I'm glad that we went when we did," Hough said.

The Houghs said one of the special highlights of their

trip was getting reacquainted with a Mrs. Tinidad Hartman who was the wife of the late governor Higinio Medoza who was executed by Japanese during the war. Mrs. Hartman and the Houghs had kept in touch since the bleak World War II days.

The
Oskaloosa
Daily Herald

Life/Leisure



Veterans reunited

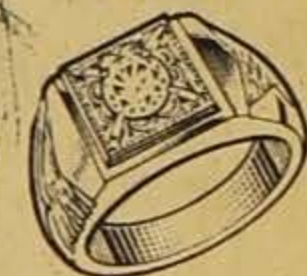
Preparing to board a Philippine Airline jet at San Francisco International Airport to return to the Philippines under that nation's Reunion for Peace program are Hubert Hough (far right) of Oskaloosa and three of his World

War II buddies (from the left): Andy Aquila of Los Angeles, Hyman Bernstein of Altamonte Springs, Fla., and Herbert Linton of Leesport, Pa. All four were POWs in the Philippines.



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Editorials

"WE SHALL NOT FORGET"

By: Sergeant Anthony

"My God, how could human beings do that to one another?", thought Henry Rosenbloom, V.F.W. Director-Chairman of the 1978 Memorial Day Program at Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery. He stood looking down at the huge tablet-like grave marker covered with the names of 123 men etched deep into its granite face. The men had been American Prisoners of War, executed by Japanese soldiers on Palawan Island, Philippines, during World War II. The massive 35 by 40 foot tomb is one of the

largest group burials of its kind in the United States.

The War Crimes Commission Report recounts that on Dec. 14, 1944, some 50 Japanese guards, angered by constant air raids by American flyers, forced their captives into the mouth of a cave and drenched the helpless prisoners with buckets of gasoline and set fire to them. The few who attempted to escape from the burning holocaust were machine gunned, then methodically bayoneted. The following day, the prison camp was taken

by American Forces.

As Henry Rosenbloom stood motionless before the tomb, his memory transported him back 34 years to the Philippines during 1944, where he, as a young man serving with the 5th U.S. Army Air Corps, had participated with the Philippine liberation. He could still recall the pungent odor of burnt gun powder, and the excited yells of joy from the islanders as American troops moved inland from the beaches.

A bird's mating call brought Henry back to the present. "I'll be

60," Henry said. "Most of these men here would be about the same age. What a terrible waste." He shakes his head as if to dislodge further thought on the subject. Slowly, he turns and continues his tour.

Mr. Rosenbloom is a life member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. He was selected by the Inter-Veterans Memorial Day Service Committee to direct the huge memorial program at the National Cemetery. The committee is composed of 14 veteran and patriotic groups in the greater St. Louis area who band together with single purpose of mind, to conduct a "befitting service of respect" to their comrade-in-arms interred beneath the hallowed ground at Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery. The committee, formed 23 years ago, states simply their motto, "We shall not forget". The program consumes a year's planning to arrange. Last year, the American Legion held the honors.

"It's strange," comments Henry. "I've been to this cemetery many times but I've never really seen it until today. The cemetery is absolutely beautiful, peaceful, and quiet." "I am awed by its enormity and serenity, not just its 309 acres and 65,000 interments, but by the lessons of history one can learn by walk-

(Continued On Page 24)



Group Burial

Pictured here is the group burial of 123 American Prisoners of War, executed during World War Two. (Re-interment Jefferson Barracks National

Cemetery, 1952.) The group burial is the largest of its kind in a U.S. Cemetery in the United States.

'Not Forget'

(Continued From Page 4)

ing through its narrow lanes. American history is there, and there," says the old warrior, as he points to headstones revealing a portion of passed life engraved on its face.

"I am as guilty as any one," continues Henry. "Like most people, Jefferson Barracks is out of sight and out of mind. Sort of off the beaten path, you might say. The people around St. Louis have no idea the

treasure they possess, right at their doorstep."

Ex-Union Gen. John A. Logan, serving as Commander-in-Chief of the Grand Army of the Republic (G.A.R.), a civil war veterans organization, issued special orders designating May 30 to be set aside for the purpose of paying homage to those who fell in battle. Since that conflict over 100 years ago and various legislation enactments, all honorable discharged veterans from all wars

are now permitted interment here.

"Yes, these epitaphs tell of 152 years of history," relates Director Rosenbloom, as he continues his stroll through the long even rows of white headstones stretching as far as the eye can see. Rosenbloom catches an object of keen interest and stops before a large specially designed tombstone. He reads to himself, "B-25 bomber, 417th Bomber Group, 673rd Squadron, 5th U. S. Army Air Corps, lost in the jungles of New

Guinea Island, May 22, 1944". He turns away with tears in his eyes. He feels a close kinship for these particular men.

He reaches into his pocket for a handkerchief, and removes his glasses to wipe his eyes. He is unashamed of his compassion. The names of the ten crewmen are also listed on the face of the stone.

"This aircraft was discovered by an oil exploration company 26 years after being reported 'missing and presumed lost,'" states the Director, "and interred here in 1971." "They were in the jungle all those years waiting to come home." He walks on.

"Over in that direction", says Henry while pointing, "are the grave sites of over 1000 Confederate soldiers who died during the Civil War. And over there, men of the Revolutionary War, the Spanish American War and World War I. "Every war, every branch of service, and the three thousand 'Unknown Soldiers'. "My God, what a terrible, terrible waste. Why can't people learn to live together?" he sighs deeply. "That is what Memorial Day Programs are all about. They will be remembered. The thousands interred here, and the thousands buried in the other two U. S. cemeteries in Missouri and all the hundreds of thousands interred in cemeteries throughout the United States. No sir!" he exasperates, "We will not forget".

"Over 5000 persons will attend the Memorial Day Service in the morning, but by closing time 25 to 30 thousand persons will have visited this very special place," Rosenbloom said. "They will walk between the long rows and see the final resting places of those awarded for a deed of bravery, above and beyond the call of duty, Congressional Medal of Honor recipients. They gave their country their most cherished gift of all, their lives, in the defense of their beloved flag. How can we, the living, give anything less?"

Rest on, embalmed and sainted dead, 'We Shall Not Forget'.

SHF Parish Picnic

Seven Holy Founders parish picnic will be held on Sat., May 27 on the school grounds at 6737 Rock Hill Rd.

VETERAN BEATS ODDS, RECALLS WAR HORRORS

By NICK LAMBERTO

Register Staff Writer

Thirty-three years ago Merle H. Hobbs of Marengo was told he only had six months to live.

For Hobbs, the forecast was the final bitter irony: He had lived through the sinking of the U.S. Cruiser Houston and 3½ years of starvation and deprivation as a Japanese prisoner of war.

He asked himself: Why the bitter dregs of a death sentence pronounced by friendly American doctors after all that?

"Guess I fooled them," Hobbs said with a broad smile during a recent interview.

"I had tuberculosis in the advanced stages, malaria, pellegra, dysentery, beri beri, round worms, hook worms — you name it."

But Hobbs refused to die, and after being hospitalized for 3½ years — three of those years at Iowa's Oakdale sanitarium — he became a full-fledged and reasonably healthy civilian again.

Remembers Comrades

But Hobbs often pauses to remember his fallen comrades of World War II, especially on Memorial Day and Veterans Day.

This year Hobbs and all other POWs and MIAs (missing in action) will be honored on July 18 in a national recognition day.

Only his determination to survive kept Hobbs alive during 18 hours in the sea and years of slave labor as a POW in Java, Singapore, Burma and Thailand.

Hobbs, born Dec. 20, 1921, enlisted in the U.S. Navy on June 4, 1940, shortly after his graduation from St. Ansgar High School.

World War II started in September 1939 when Hitler's Nazi troops marched into Poland. The United States entered World War II after the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941.

Almost three months later — on Feb. 28, 1942 — the Cruiser Houston and 12 other allied warships were sunk in a battle with a Japanese fleet in the Macassar Straits between Borneo and Java. Japan lost eight ships in the battle.

Iowans Survive

Of the 1,164 men aboard the Houston, only 346 survived. Hobbs and six other Iowans on the Houston were among the survivors.

The other Iowans who lived through the sinking and subsequent imprisonment were Harold McManus of Cherokee, William R. Miles of Cresco, John E. Hood of Des Moines, Dale J. Tiefel of Dubuque, Earl C. Humphrey of rural Mount Pleasant and Elmer L. McFadden of Washington.

Another Iowan — Lyle Roszell of Shellsburg — survived the sinking and the long swim with Hobbs, but he died of dysentery in a POW camp in Thailand.

"The heat was so intense I had blisters on my fingers from hanging over the side of the ship after our anti-aircraft gun took a direct hit," Hobbs recalled.

"We jumped overboard after the second abandon ship order and Roszell and I found each other in the dark.

"We found a life raft with 12 men on it and hung on that for a while.

"Then we took off by ourselves and started swimming toward land and almost made it, but the tide took us out to sea again.

"A Japanese whaleboat came by and the crewmen threw a line toward us. Two men swung boat hooks at us. Finally they picked us out of the water.

"I didn't realize how tired I was until then, after 18 hours in the water. I just flopped in the boat.

"We were taken aboard a destroyer and given a cigarette and some water, and then put aboard the whaleboat again.

Army POWs

"Then we were dumped into the sea again and later picked up by an army



Merle H. Hobbs in 1942
Lost 91 pounds as POW



Merle M. Hobbs today
He refused to die

landing craft. We were supposed to be Army prisoners, I guess."

Hobbs spent most of his time as a POW slave laborer in jungle camps. He helped build the so-called "death railroad" through the Burma jungle and the famous bridge on the river Kwai.

An estimated 116,000 POWs died building the railroad.

Hobbs weighed 178 pounds aboard ship, but during his captivity his weight dropped to 87 pounds.

Toward the end of the war Hobbs and other POWs managed to gain some weight back by scrounging and stealing food.

When he was liberated in September 1945, Hobbs weighed 121 pounds.

"Seven of us ate 12 dozen eggs, toast and bacon at Calcutta," Hobbs recalled. "We ate all the time. I gained 41 pounds in 31 days."

Hobbs' brother, Hilmer, 20, was killed in the Battle of the Bulge.

Married Brother's Widow

Hobbs married his brother's widow Feb. 14, 1946, while he was hospitalized in New York.

"We wanted to keep her in the family," Hobbs said. "Our courtship mainly was by letters."

At the age of 30, Hobbs went back to school for three years to learn watch making in Kansas City, Mo.

Then, after a year as an apprentice, Hobbs passed the state exams and opened a small jewelry shop at St. Ansgar, where he had been born and reared.

A year later he bought a larger store at Marengo and owned and operated that until his retirement on Jan. 15, 1978.

Since then Hobbs and his wife, Marilyn, have lived a leisurely life — golfing, fishing and visiting with sons Brad, Rock, Tracy and Robin, and four grandchildren.

Hobbs now weighs 186 pounds and stands 5-9½.

"People ask me if we ever tried to escape from those jungle camps," Hobbs said.

"There was no chance. You couldn't survive in the jungle. Even if you did, the hostile natives would have killed you.

"I'm lucky to be alive — in more ways than one."

Tempo



Filipino soldiers in a 1972 re-enactment of the Bataan Death March of World War II. Right: A war-time poster marks the drive on the home front to raise funds for food, clothing, and medical supplies for the POW's.



Survivors vs. the VA: The battle of Bataan goes on

By Beverly Siegel

ONE WINTER evening in early 1941, when he was 22 and working as a printer on the West Side, Paul Sarno won a lottery.

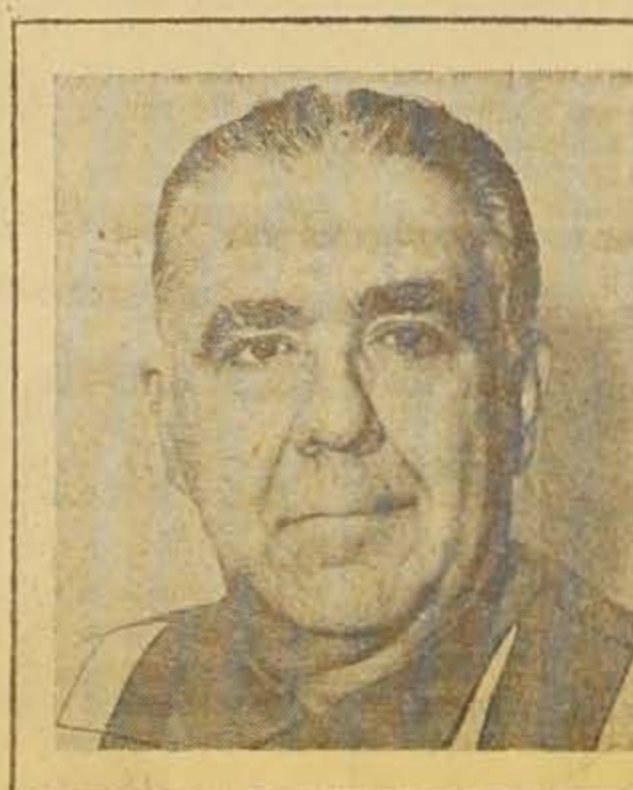
"It was the only time I've ever won anything," Sarno, who now lives in Elmwood Park, recalls wryly. What he won, courtesy of Uncle Sam and the draft, was a trip to the Philippines. What he would lose, as a staff sergeant under the command of Gen. Douglas MacArthur, was his freedom for three years — and his health.

Beginning Monday in Pittsburgh, the American Defenders of Bataan and Corregidor is holding its 35th annual convention. The late John Wayne — enshrined in innumerable celluloid sagas — may always be our national symbol of World War II heroism and bulldog courage against foreign foes, but the 2,000 survivors of Bataan, a peninsula on Luzon that juts around Manila Bay, and Corregidor, a small island off its southern tip, are the real thing. Each is a living testimony to human tenacity and the will to survive.

They were doomed from the start. On Dec. 8, 1941, a day after Japanese bombers decimated America's Pacific Defense Fleet at Pearl Harbor, Japan launched a devastating air assault on military installations on Luzon. With that, all possibility of an immediate, effective American counterattack was eliminated. By the end of the month, the Philippines were blockaded, and American and Filipino forces had retreated into Bataan.

THE BATTLE FOR Bataan began officially on Jan. 9, 1942. Japanese Gen. Masaharu Homma, having vanquished the British at Singapore, believed the capture of the peninsula would be an easy task. That it was not, despite the most adverse circumstances facing MacArthur's men, earned American forces their moniker, the Battling Bastards of Bataan.

"The 31st Infantry and the 4th Marines held off the Japanese until Gen. Homma came," Sarno reminisces. "Then we fought



"It was my fate to be in the prison camp, and it was my fate to survive. But I want to be compensated for what I went through. I just want from the government what I deserve."

Paul Sarno

to the last bullet and the last can of sardines."

Attempts were made to pierce the blockade with reinforcements, food, and supplies. But with the smashing of Germany and the liberation of Europe as the Allies' primary concern, those efforts were too little.

By March, President Franklin Roosevelt had decided that while the situation on the Philippines was hopeless, MacArthur was too valuable to lose. He was transferred — via an elaborate air and naval maneuver through the blockade — to Australia. His much-publicized pledge to return was to remain unfulfilled for three tortured years.

With MacArthur gone, the troops knew their only choice was prison camp or death. On April 9, the Allied troops surrendered unconditionally under Gen. Jonathan Wainwright. On May 6, Corregidor fell, and with it the last tattered pocket of resistance.

"THE AMERICANS trapped on the Philippines were heaved into a living nightmare

worse than war," Sarno says.

Although only about 600 Americans had been killed in action, of the 15,000-plus Americans and 65,000 Filipinos captured (sources vary as to the actual number), thousands were to perish as prisoners.

On Bataan they were herded into teams of 100 and marched up the peninsula, 125 miles in six days, without water, in 100-degree heat. For those who couldn't keep up, the Bataan Death March ended at the point of a bayonet alongside the road or in mass, unmarked holes in the Philippine bush.

Those who survived — and the men on Corregidor — eventually were loaded into boxcars and transported to prison camps. The normal daily routine included arbitrary beatings, near-starvation rations, and slave labor under a captor who freely acknowledged that he did not sign the Geneva Convention of 1929. As POW's, the Americans were denied adequate medical care, sanitation, clothing, and quarters.

Sarno was interned at the Cabanatuan prison camp at Nueva Ecija. He was there

for two years. The only water was rain, the only food, rice. Amoebic dysentery, dengue fever, and malaria were rampant. Sarno remembers lying awake at night and chasing rats away with a broom. He watched men die, and he buried them.

IN AUGUST, 1944, Sarno and 600 survivors were moved to the main island of Japan.

"The ship shouldn't have held more than 100," he recalls tersely. "It was a hell hole." The voyage lasted a month.

At the Oeyama prison camp in Japan — sick, emaciated, and always cold — they toiled in a mine until liberation.

"We had no blankets," Sarno says. "They gave us nothing. We hugged like man and woman to keep warm. In the morning you couldn't wash; the water was frozen."

"The guards were sadists. They'd make guys stand with their hands behind their necks, holding a bucket of water for eight hours. Or run around the prison yard 50 times after mining ore all day."

"One of the guards killed himself after we were liberated."

Back home, Sarno would wake up screaming in the middle of the night. The girl he left behind, now his wife, learned to live with it. Eventually the screaming stopped.

NOW, AT 62, captivity haunts Paul Sarno via a legacy of illnesses. He has been afflicted by cataracts, kidney malfunction, rectal problems, and rheumatoid arthritis, all of which, he thinks, are traceable to prison camp. He has had to undergo several operations, but he receives no health benefits from the Veterans Administration. His disability rating is zero.

A representative from the VA addresses the American Defenders of Bataan and Corregidor each year, but Sarno is one of the many who are unappeased and angry.

Veterans seeking compensation, he says, commonly are forced to submit to humiliating and impossible procedures, only then to be denied benefits.

Studies — by no less august a body than the National Academy of Sciences — show that POW Syndrome, marked by severe, per-

Continued on following page

Places to be



51 is their lucky number

Former Chicago Bears middle linebacker Dick Butkus (who wore numeral 51) will be honored at the Hemophilia Foundation of Illinois' All-Sports Spectacular at 6 p.m. Wednesday, May 21, in the Chicago Marriott O'Hare Hotel, 8535 W. Higgins Rd. Athletes attending the dinner will sign autographs during the cocktail hour. Friends of Butkus will pay tribute to him during the after-dinner program. Proceeds will go to research hemophilia, a disease that effects the blood's clotting mechanism, and to patient services. Tickets are \$30. Call 427-1495.

Artyvents

The North Shore Mental Health Association and its Irene Josselyn Clinic will benefit from a dinner and art exhibit at 7 p.m. Saturday, May 31, in the Terra Museum of American Art in Evanston. Tickets are \$50. Call Marilyn Eldredge at 441-5600. . . . Art Encounter will sponsor a champagne and dessert party at 9 p.m. Saturday, May 10, at the Zolla-Lieberman Gallery, 368 W. Huron St. The Northwestern Wind Ensemble and Bernie Beck, of the Piven Theater Workshop, will perform. Proceeds will go to art appreciation programs for senior adults, school children, and teachers. Tickets are \$15. Call 328-9222. . . . A champagne party at 4 p.m. Sunday, May 18, in the Mary and Leigh Block Gallery on Northwestern University's Evanston campus will benefit the Evanston Art Center. Chicago designers and Art Institute design students will present a fashion show during the benefit in the gallery at 1967 Sheridan Rd., Evanston. Tickets are \$25. Call Mrs. George J. Cyrus Jr. at 491-6387. . . . Students in the International Academy of Merchandising and Design, Ltd., will display their designs in a showing at 7 p.m. Wednesday, May 14, in the Holiday Inn Mart Plaza to benefit Chicago Children's Charities. Actress Arlene Dahl will be moderator. Tickets are \$25 and \$50. Call 642-4172 or 828-0202. . . . Young Audiences of Chicago will sponsor a benefit party at noon Sunday, May 4, in the North Shore home of Dr. and Mrs. LeRoy Pesch. The party agenda will include a silent auction. Young Audiences board members will entertain. . . . Christie Heffner will be hostess at a benefit Wednesday, May 7, for Voters for Choice, an organization raising funds to aid in re-electing members of Congress who favor a woman's right to choose an abortion. The evening will begin with a champagne reception at 7:30 p.m. and the opening performance of "I'm Getting My Act Together and Taking It On the Road" in Drury Lane Theater at Water Tower Place. Supper in the Playboy Mansion will follow. Tickets are \$100. Call Louise at 751-2121. . . . North Shore Unitarian Church, 2100 Half Day Rd., Deerfield, will sponsor an Arts and Crafts Festival from 1 to 10 p.m. Saturday, May 3, and from noon to 5 p.m. Sunday, May 4. Works by 48 fine and craft artists will be included, as will performing artists and a workshop in children's crafts. Tickets are \$2 for adults, 50 cents for children. For more information, call 234-2460.

Time well spent

Merchandise

Tempo

Survivors vs. VA: The ongoing battle of Bataan

Continued from first Tempo page

manent psychological scars and an array of physical disorders, is almost universal among POW's such as Sarno, who were interned in camps in the Pacific.

Specifically, nutritional and nerve disorders, intestine and liver diseases, dental and bone conditions, and infective and parasitic diseases have been confirmed to be the lifelong price one pays for having survived a Japanese prison camp during World War II. Yet the VA has mystifying formulas for determining whether an ailment is "service-related" — formulas that enrage veterans.

WRITING IN THE QUAN, the national publication of the American Defenders of Bataan and Corregidor, past national commander Arthur Bressi declares flatly: "There is no question that each of us can trace every damn ailment we have to prison camp. And we'll never understand the VA when they say 'tooth so-and-so is service-related while tooth so-and-so is not.' Now, where do they believe that other tooth was while the first was service-connected?"

Thirty-five years after liberation the wheels of justice for veterans of the Pacific Theater continue to turn at a glacial pace. Several years ago a congressional committee directed the VA to conduct a study of disability compensation and health-care benefits, after mountains of claims by POW's of the Pacific Theater no longer could be ignored.

The Veterans Committee told the VA: "It appears that, because of the inadequate state of medical knowledge of various hardships suffered during internment, including the long-term effect of dietary deficiencies and unsanitary conditions, and because of the strong desire of former prisoners of war to return home as quickly as possible after World War II, those repatriation camps may have discharged veterans without thorough examination and without close attention to their potential health problems." The results of that study are not yet known.

COMPOUNDING THE problem of inadequate medical data on the VA's side was a dearth of information from the veterans themselves. Patrick DeMauro, department service officer of the Veterans of Foreign Wars in Chicago, believes that the absence of VA contact repre-

Maywood parade passes too many by

By Mary Daniels

IN NOVEMBER, 1940, 122 young National Guardsmen marched from the old armory on Madison and Greenwood streets in Maywood to the Chicago & North Western Ry. station. Company B of the 192d Tank Battalion had been called to active duty.

They were sent to Ft. Knox, Ky. From there, 89 of the boys from Maywood went to Bataan.

Only 39 would return.

After the fall of the Philippines the next spring, a group of mothers, wives, and sweethearts of the men formed the American Bataan Clan, and organized the first parade in 1942 to raise funds for food, clothing, and medical supplies for the men they loved who were POWs in a tropical hell half a world away.

And for the last 37 years, there has been an annual Bataan Day parade in Maywood.

"We had lost a great number of men. To honor the ones who came back and to memorialize those that didn't, we continued with the parade after the war," said Josephine Becker, president of the Maywood Historical Society.

THE ROUTE has changed directions a few times, but the parade now forms at 5th Avenue and Bataan Drive along the Eisenhower Expressway and proceeds north to St. Charles Avenue and the North Western railroad tracks, retracing the route the young soldiers took so long ago.

representatives at military separation centers after the war — and the resulting lack of facts about veterans' benefits — contributed to the grievous situation that ensued.

"Some of the men who were discharged after the war didn't even know that there was a Veterans Administration or benefits of any kind," DeMauro says. "I was one of them."

Little information was forthcoming, and few men took the time to inquire. Moreover, in the dizzying rush to get home after the war, many

The 2½-hour, 120-unit parade "is just as long today as when it began," says Don Liedke, parade chairman for the last five years. Survivors of the Bataan Death March travel from wherever their post-war lives have led them, from all over the United States and Canada, to take part in the parade.

The problem is not so much in getting together the Bataan Day Parade. It's in getting people to watch it. "We need spectators," Liedke says.

"In 1942 or '43, there were an estimated million people along the parade route. Last year, I would say, there were maybe 5,000 along the entire route," he says.

Liedke, a fourth-generation Maywood resident, blames the decline in attendance on "a changing community."

"There's been a terrific turnover population-wise. There are now large numbers of blacks and Latinos in Maywood. They just have no connection with this thing."

"Even our village fathers don't know what we're talking about half the time," Mrs. Becker adds.

TIME WAS when the people of Maywood were unable to forget.

Sixteen years ago, the second Sunday of September was designated as National Bataan Memorial Day by Congress, she adds, "but to our knowledge, we are the only town in the country that commemorates Bataan Day."

ex-POW's — temporarily reinvigorated by the jubilation of liberation — laid no groundwork for future claims.

Nevertheless, it is the VA that stands responsible — and maddeningly unresponsive, the vet claims. Sarno says there were no suicides in the prison camps in the Philippines. But men who later became despondent over not getting compensated by the government have killed themselves.

"When I retire in three years, I'm going



The first Bataan Day parade in Maywood in September, 1942. The parade still lives, but the problem now "is getting people to watch it," says parade chairman Don Liedke.

As the Bataan Clan mothers "got too old" to organize the parade, always held on the second Sunday of September, the Veterans' Council assumed responsibility until 1973. The present organizing group, the Maywood Civic and Veterans' Association for the Preservation of Bataan Day, of which Liedke is this year's new president, took over then.

"It was ready to fall by the wayside at that time," recalls Mrs. Becker, who says she is the only member of the parade committee who still lives in Maywood. "Even now we are struggling to keep it going. Here again it

backtracks to people not knowing anything about Bataan, and not caring. I have pictures of the first parades where there wasn't room to walk on the sidewalks."

About five years ago the number of living Bataan survivors began to dwindle, and the purpose of the parade refocused. Now "it honors all POWs," Liedke says.

Bataan survivor George Dravo says only 15 of the 39 who returned from Bataan are still alive. What's left of the 192d still meets each year on Dec. 7. This year they will meet at the Argo-Summit VFW post.

to fight the VA tooth and nail," vows Sarno, who has worked for Wilson Jones Office Supplies Co. for 31 years. "I'll have time then to fight all day and all night, week in and week out, if that's what it takes. I'm going to demand that they give me disability benefits."

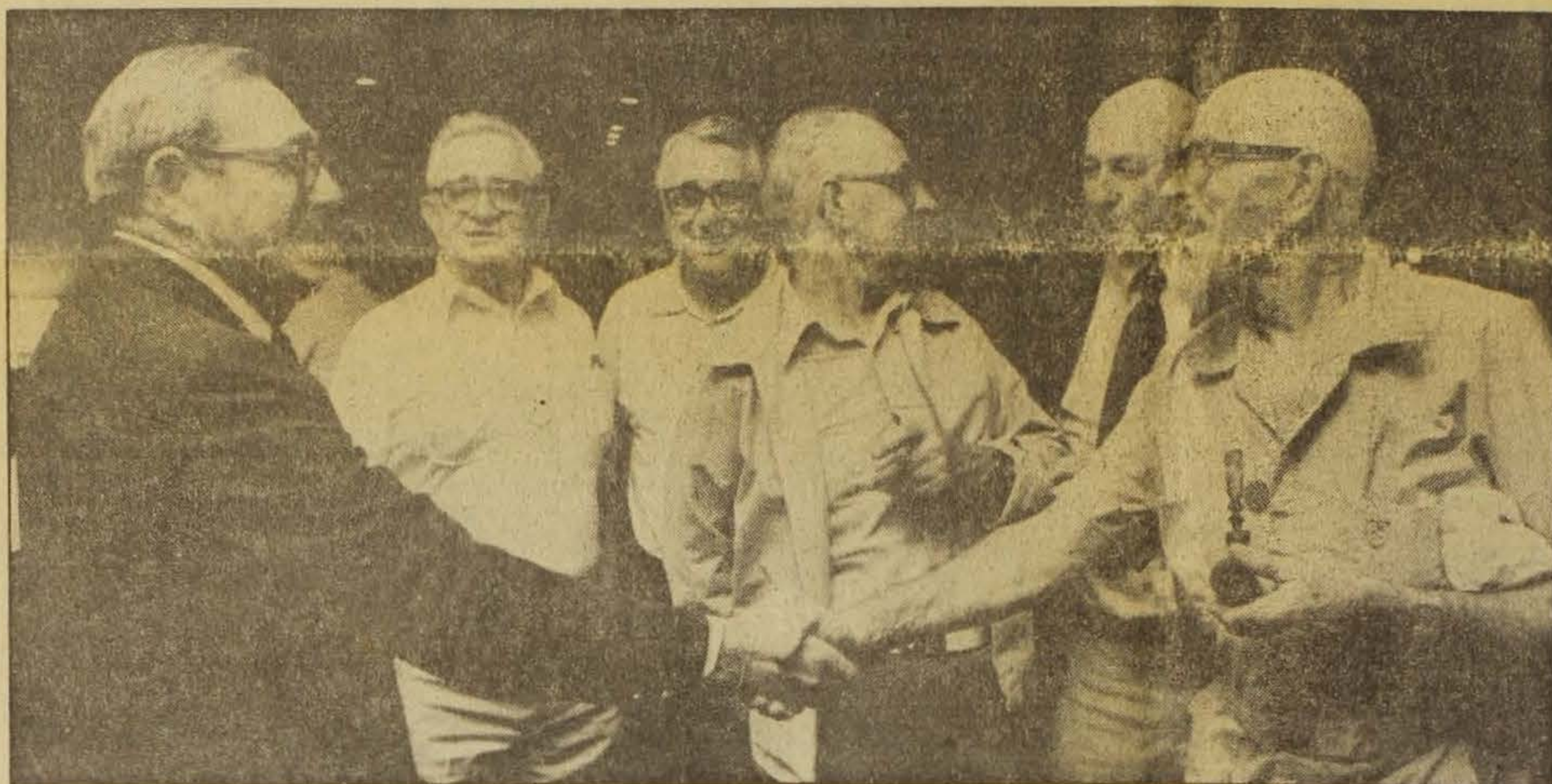
Sarno was a religious man before the war, and he continues to be. His faith, he says, as well as his desire to see his family and future wife again, helped him stay alive.

"It was my fate to be in the prison camp,

and it was my fate to survive," Sarno says. "But I want to be compensated for what I went through. I just want from the government what I deserve."

Meanwhile, survivors of America's most "popular" war, unassuaged by the vapid glory and ballyhoo that is theirs on the late show, continue to be haunted by the nagging refrain of a familiar chant:

"We are the Battling Bastards of Bataan. And nobody gives a damn!"



Staff Photo by Jay Mather

Ralph Levenberg, left, greeted Hyman Bernstein, right, who traveled from Florida to Louisville for a convention of The

American Defenders of Bataan & Corregidor. Levenberg, of Henderson, Nev., is Past National Commander of the group.

Veterans of hell Bataan survivors trade tales of grimness, not glory

By JIM RENNEISEN
Louisville Times Staff Writer

The gray-haired men wear overseas caps and swap "war stories," as people do at other veterans' conventions. But the one at the Galt House this week is different.

The people are different. The stories are different. Even the war seems different from the World War II remembered at other veterans' reunions.

These men don't have many medals, and there aren't any heroes that people ever heard of.

They don't talk about the Normandy invasion or driving Rommel out of Africa or great naval battles like Midway and the Coral Sea.

Their war stories, instead, are about surrender, imprisonment, guards' brutality, malnutrition, disease and the death of comrades.

They are the veterans of the tenacious defense of the Bataan Peninsula and Corregidor Island during the dark early days of U.S. participation in World War II. They are meeting to mark the 40th anniversary of the fall of Bataan. Most of them spent 3 1/2 years at

forced labor in the Philippines and Japan and emerged, feeble and emaciated, from the prison camps after the Japanese surrender in Tokyo Bay on Sept. 2, 1945.

They survived the infamous Bataan Death March that took the lives of some 1,500 prisoners on the jungle trails to the prison camps in the Philippines in the summer of 1942.

They survived the "hell ships," the tramp steamers pressed into service to carry thousands of prisoners to Japan in their cargo holds when the American invasion of the

Philippines was imminent.

They survived the insults, beatings, tortures and lack of food and medical care in the Japanese prison camps.

They are the American Defenders of Bataan & Corregidor, which has about 2,400 members throughout the country, out of about 6,000 persons eligible for membership.

Those eligible were among the small contingent of American troops and civilians who were sta-

See BATAAN VETERANS

Back page, col. 3, this section

Bataan veterans trade tales of grimness, not glory

Continued from Page One

tioned at far-flung outposts around the western rim of the Pacific Ocean when an ill-prepared America was drawn into World War II in December 1941.

As Tom Hackett, 71, of Asheville, N.C., noted, all of them are over 60, and their numbers shrink every year.

"This is a very unusual veterans' organization. When we're gone, it is gone. There won't be any more of us, Hackett said.

The convention, like most veterans' gatherings, provides an opportunity to renew old friendships and talk about programs and benefits.

But Past National Commander Ralph Levenberg, of Henderson, Nev., said there is another side to their meetings — an effort to give the American people an appreciation for their story.

"Bataan and Corregidor rate about a page and a half in the military histories," Levenberg said. "When we came back, the war had been won by somebody else. We didn't have anything to talk about. We hadn't done anything."

But, he added, the four months they stalled the Japanese war machine in the jungles of Bataan probably shortened the war by six months or more by giving America time to rearm after Pearl Harbor.

"The story needs to be told and retold over and over again, so it was not all in vain," Levenberg said.

A few Kentuckians figure prominently in the story. One unit sent to bolster Philippine defenses was a tank company from Harrodsburg that landed on Nov. 20, 1941, just 18 days before the Japanese assault.

"We didn't even get our guns

out" of the packing grease, said Grover Brummett, 62, of 8023 Blake Lane in Pleasure Ridge Park, who was assigned to the Harrodsburg unit.

Maurice E. "Jack" Wilson, 70, of Harrodsburg, like Brummett a member of the Kentucky company of the 192nd Tank Battalion, said that only 37 of the 66 men from Harrodsburg survived to the end of the war. The rest died in combat, in the death marches, in the holds of the hell ships or in the prison camps.

Wilson estimates that about 25 of them are alive today.

Despite the passage of years, the Bataan survivors' memories remain vivid.

Roy Diaz, 65, of Salinas, Calif., recalled the trip from the Philippines to Japan with 1,833 other prisoners in the narrow 60-foot hold of a tramp steamer.

He said the ship was at sea for 92 days in the middle of summer as it took a circuitous route to avoid American submarines. It stopped at Formosa (now Taiwan) to take on a cargo of rock salt that was dumped into the hold with the prisoners.

At least two of the ships carrying prisoners were sunk by American submarines, ex-prisoners said. The ships either were not marked as carrying POWs, or the American naval officers didn't believe the signs.

A lesson that many of the Bataan survivors cite from their experience is the need for military readiness in an uncertain world.

Speaking in support of a peacetime draft, Levenberg said, "The most traumatic experience anyone can ever go through is the loss of his freedom. . . . Lest this ever

happens to us again, we need a strong defense and trained people."

Another former national commander of the organization, Elmer Long of New Bern, N.C., was a Marine in Shanghai just before America entered the war. At that time, he said, the U.S. had only 17,000 Marines — a smaller force than the 18,000 police in New York City then.

"Defending the world" is the way he described the Marines' role then.

The Bataan survivors' wartime anger at the Japanese has cooled considerably, but these men have not forgotten what happened to them.

"I don't have any animosity toward anyone because of their race . . .," Levenberg said, "but I don't go out of my way to enhance the Japanese economy." But it's hard to avoid doing so these days, he added.

Tom Hackett, 71, of Asheville, N.C., who won the Distinguished Service Cross in the Bataan fighting and spent the rest of the war in prison camps, said, "As a Christian, I guess I have to forget it. You can't hold the fathers' sins against the sons."

Joe Power, 60, of 605 Marengo Drive, Middletown, has a special purpose in attending the convention. He is looking for a man named Tony, who saved his life in prison camp.

The man — he doesn't know his last name — was a New Yorker in his unit, the 803rd Engineers. Power said Tony was on a grave-digging detail assigned to haul bodies out of the camp's death ward.

Power said he was on a pile of bodies to be removed when Tony

saw "something move, maybe my Adam's apple."

"He squashed a piece of rotten banana and pushed it through my teeth," Power said, "and he carried me away to another ward where someone would take care of me. This fellow saved my life."

Elmer Bensing, 63, of 4708 Spen Lea Road in Shively, was another who barely survived the ordeal. Drafted Jan. 22, 1941, he was assigned to fill a vacancy in the Harrodsburg unit when it was sent to the Philippines.

Bensing, a normally sturdy young man, weighed only 80 pounds when he emerged from his long imprisonment. He said he was beaten so often and so badly that he had only six teeth left when he was discharged.

But ironically, his debilitated condition may have helped him survive.

Near the end of the war, he was made to work at a Japanese steel mill that was a target for American bombing raids. Too feeble to work, he was absent on a day the factory was virtually demolished.

When the Japanese surrender was signed, the prison camp guards threw open the gates and fled, but Bensing and others were too ill to leave. The American troops did not reach the camp until 18 days later.

But American planes flew over one day and dropped food by parachute for the ill and abandoned prisoners.

The prisoners, Bensing said, cut up the parachutes and fashioned a crude American flag that was soon raised on the camp's flagpole.

Awash with the emotions of that tremendous moment, Bensing said hoarsely, "As long as I live, I'll never forget that."

To our veterans...
May we never forget

The Oskaloosa Herald

25¢

OSKALOOSA, IOWA - FRIDAY NOVEMBER 11, 1988

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8 PAGES

POW recognized 46 years after war

By MARY PALMER
Herald Staff Writer

More than 40 years after the fact, Yeoman Hubert Hough has been recognized for his honorable service to the United States as a Prisoner of War. In ceremonies held at the Knoxville V.A. Hospital recently, newly designed medals were given to about 50 persons, only two of whom were prisoners of the Japanese. Hough was one of the two.

The medals, designed by the Army Institute of Heraldry, show an eagle surrounded by barbed wire and bayonet points, with the

coat of arms of the United States on the reverse. Brigadier General Neal R. Christensen, Iowa Army National Guard, was speaker for a luncheon and the ceremonies, which also recognized MIA's.

Hough, now 68, was born at Lacey, attended Oskaloosa High School, but joined the Navy in 1938 before he graduated. He served first in China, and then was transferred to the Marsman building, Navy Headquarters in Manila, the Philippines.

An article in the October 3, 1945, Oskaloosa Daily Herald, says he left Manila on Christmas morning, 1941, as the Japanese

approached, and joined a Motor Torpedo Boat squadron in February, 1942. He was in the Battle of Corregidor, watching Mac Arthur leave the islands. He was taken prisoner May 6, 1942, at Cavite Naval Base, and was part of the famous "Death March" for a brief time.

He was held first on Corregidor and then taken by ship to Manila, where they were paraded down Dewey Blvd. to show off Japanese prowess. His next moves were to Bilibid prison in Manila and Cabanatuan Camp No. 3 for short periods. He was then transferred to Puerto Princess on Palawan

Island near Borneo, where he worked for two years building runways for Japanese airfields.

In August, 1944, he was among a few transferred back to Manila while the rest on the island were killed. While in Bilibid for the second time, he was bombed by U.S. planes.

Late in Sept., 1944, he was placed aboard the Japanese prison ship called by the prisoners "The Horror of Maru" and spent a month packed into the hold while bound for Formosa. The article describes conditions of crowding, near-starvation, vermin, madness and death. He lost 40 pounds on the trip.

The ship docked at Hong Kong instead of Formosa because of an American submarine attack on the convoy. After several days in harbor, the convoy moved on to Formosa.

Treatment got better there, the article quotes Hough. He lived in a school building and got more food. Once again, American planes bombed near the camp.

The next trip was another month-long ship ride to Port Moji in southern Japan, followed by a train ride to a camp in the Tokyo area. Here, he was put to work in a soup flavoring plant converted to melting aluminum from February 12 to Sept. of 1945 and watched U.S. planes bomb the Japanese capitol.

Shortly after V.J. Day, the Japanese took all the military police guns and ammunition, and left the prisoners to do as they pleased. When the U.S. ships

showed up in the harbor, the prisoners signaled to them and were taken aboard. A headline in the Sept. 5 Herald tells of his release. He left Tokyo by plane on Sept. 6, arrived in Oakland, California, four days later, went to Great Lakes, and then home. He weighed just 110 pounds.

Asked all these years later what was worst about his years as a prisoner, his instant response is, "the food." Rice, and not much of that. What did he think of the Japanese people? The coolie class were friendly; he remembers working with them in the plant in Tokyo. He said the company was Ajinomoto, the same company now involved in the corn processing plants at Eddyville.

After his POW experience, Hough remained in the Navy for a time, being stationed at Great Lakes, the Naval Air Station at Ottumwa, and the Pentagon in Washington, among other places. He was discharged as a Lieutenant in 1949, for health reasons.

Some of his notes from prison camp helped the Navy to establish official records.

Following his service days, Hough worked first for Iowa Power and then in heavy construction. He built the home in which the family lives on Ninth Ave. East. Health forced his retirement in 1971.

Hough credited thoughts of his fiancé and their future with keeping him alive during the captivity. He married Verla Scott and they have two daughters, one living in Oskaloosa and one in Bettendorf.

In 1977, the Philippine government invited former POW's to a Reunion for Peace, and Hubert and Verla went. She became the first wife to visit the Palawan prison camp, which has been kept by the natives as a memorial. The flight from Manila took eight hours and they landed on a strip he had built. Now, tourist facilities are being constructed on the island.

Hough flies the flag every day, but not in bad weather or at night. He says Veterans' Day means just as much to him as V.E. Day or V.J. Day. They're all important.



Hubert Hough, whose cap recognizes him as Defender of Bataan and Corregidor

Southern Iowa

Ex-P.O.W. tells story in a book

By WANDA HUBERTY
Courier correspondent

DELTA — Quincy Rice was a bookkeeper in Wellman until March 15, 1944.

That date, like for many World War II veterans, changed his life.

The book he now keeps is not filled with numbers, but with details of his war experience.

After induction into the Army at Camp Dodge in March 1944, Rice left for basic training in California and eventually was assigned to the USS Vernon.

It docked in Liverpool, England.

Sept. 19 found them at Omaha Beach, France.

"There weren't many houses after D-Day," Rice said. "We saw a lot of sunken ships and a cemetery with 7,000 American graves."

Transferred to the 39th Infantry Regiment, he traveled by train through France and Belgium to front-line combat in Germany.

On Oct. 12, after heavy mortar and artillery fire, he "looked up out of my trench and saw four German rifles pointed at me."

"Outnumbered five to one" he and several others were captured.

It wasn't until November his wife, Gertrude Rice, back in Delta, Iowa with their surviving daughter and son, learned her husband was "missing in action."

It would be five months before she learned that he was alive and a prisoner of war.

The Americans, sometimes with Polish, Belgian, and French prisoners, were marched or sent by boxcar from one prison camp to another.

"Most of the prison camps were cold, filthy and overcrowded," he said.

"Food was usually a little bread, thin soup and ersatz coffee," Rice said. Sometimes they got a little meat of unknown origin.

"But I think our indomitable Yankee spirit hurt the Germans more than anything," he said. "They couldn't break our morale."

They began to get some Red Cross items including food, clothing, books and Bibles.

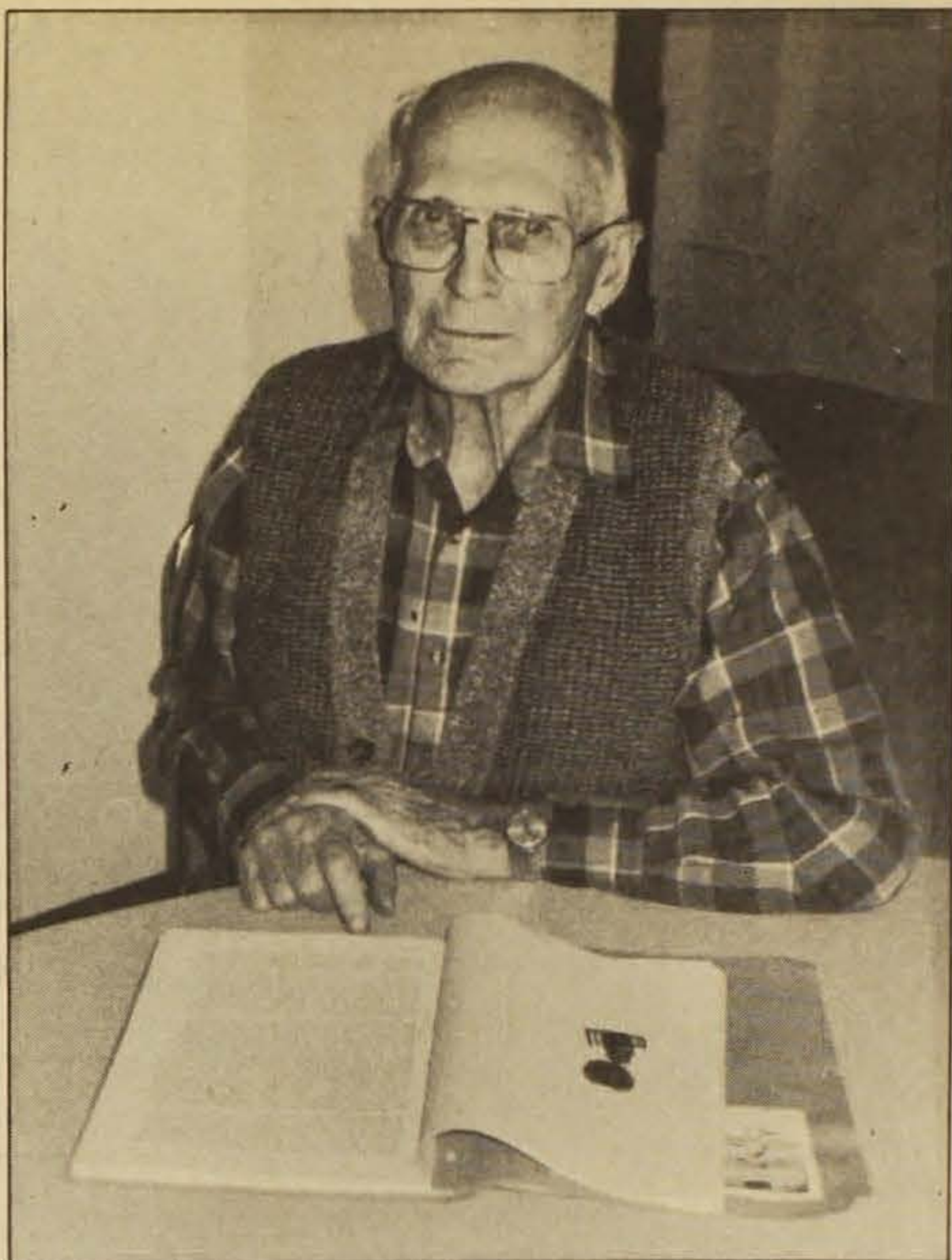
Rice kept a Testament and continually "made marks" that couldn't be understood by anyone but himself.

The marks recorded the history of his imprisonment.

At Stalag BII, Rice got blood poisoning from an infection on his arm, was treated by a civilian doctor and recovered.

At one point they were allowed packages from home.

Many of the soldiers asked for



Courier photo by Wanda Huberty

BOOKKEEPER: Quincy Rice of Delta has written a book about his war experiences.

At a glance

The number of Iowans who have served and have been killed since the Civil War are:

War	Served	Deaths
Civil	76,242	13,001
Spanish	5,859	164
WWI	114,242	3,576
WWII	286,000	8,398
Korean	85,314	532
Vietnam	115,000	843
Total	682,657	26,514

Source: Iowa Department of Public Defense

candy bars and cigarettes.

The prisoners' final move was to a camp near Lubeck where Red Cross headquarters was located.

They were not informed of the war's progress, but when they saw Germans moving equipment back from the front, "we thought something was up."

On May 3, 1945, they noticed the guards were no longer armed.

That afternoon a column of American tanks appeared and on May 6, 1945, the American prisoners were flown to Rheims, France where American cooks and food awaited them.

"I ate six full meals one day," Rice said. He estimated that he weighed only 135 pounds.

At Camp Lucky Strike, near St. Valeries, France he met Lloyd Hammes of Sigourney.

Hammes had been captured in Africa over two years before. The men came home together on June 15, for a two-month furlough.

On Oct. 26, Rice was promoted to sergeant. He became a civilian on Nov. 8 1945.

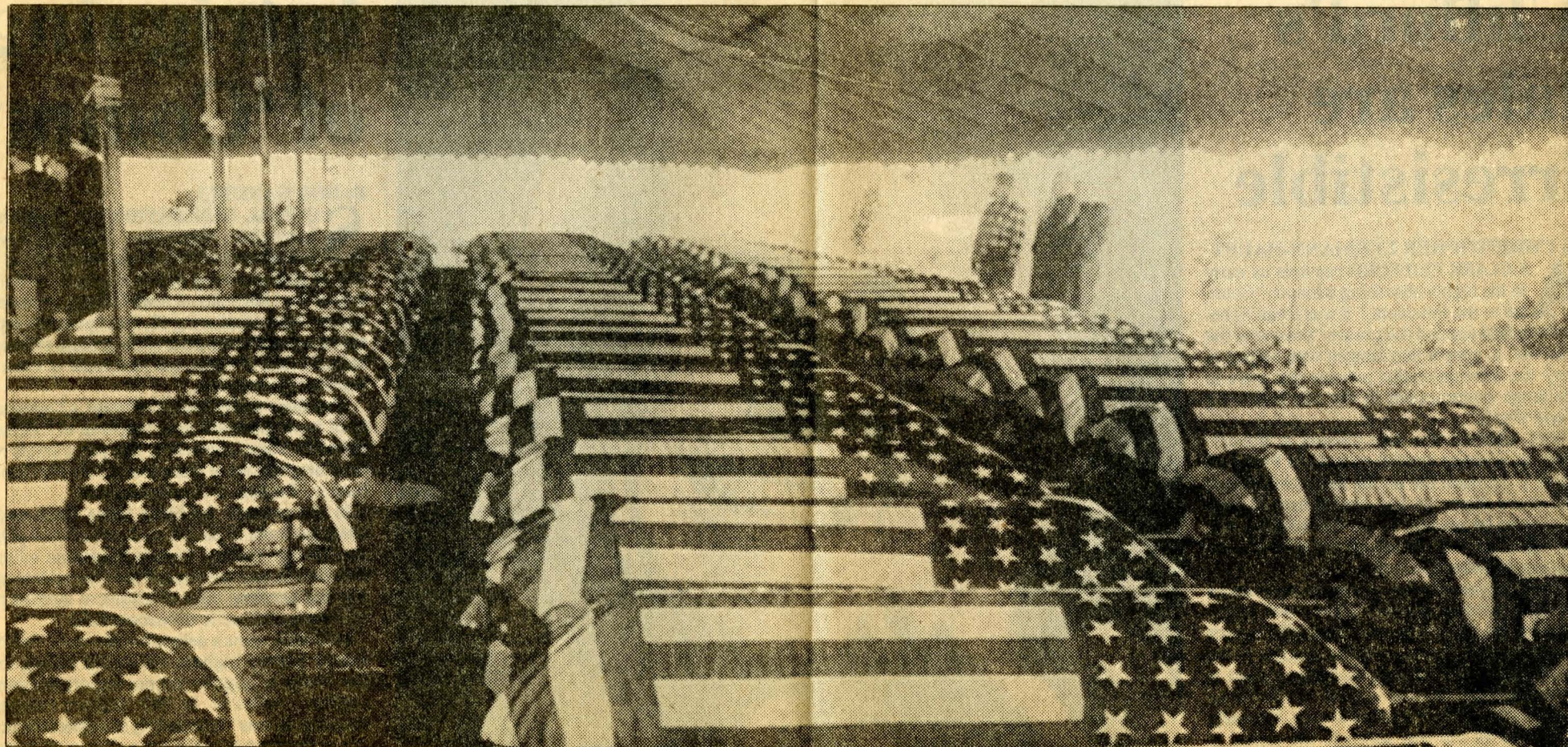
The Rices farmed near Delta and added three daughters to the family.

After retiring, he was postmaster at Delta for 12 years. Gertrude Rice died in January.

Besides his P.O.W. medal, Rice earned the Good Conduct Medal, ETO ribbon, Victory and Purple Heart Medals, and two stars for the Rhineland and Central Europe campaign.

"There are men who were prisoners longer and had it a lot harder than I did," Rice said.

THE FORUM



123 caskets of American servicemen killed in a Japanese prisoner of war massacre in the Philippines in December 1944 await a mass burial in February 1952.

Hell on a prison ship



"Prison Ship" by Iowan Don Thomas will be part of an exhibit at the Marine Corps Historical Center in Washington to commemorate World War II.

WARRENTAYLOR/The Register

Iowan's painting recalls WWII

By LARRY FRUHLING

Register Staff Writer

WINTERSSET, IA. — The painting, dredged up from a crevasse of mental anguish and physical agony, shows Don Thomas' friend with an uplifted canteen he is about to smash onto the head of a fellow American prisoner of war.

The man about to be bludgeoned had tried to steal the last swallow of water from the canteen. He was dead the next morning. His body was hoisted by a rope up through a hatch and thrown into the sea, as were the corpses of scores of other Americans who died on the wretched ship of starvation, thirst, heat and a hopelessness so deep that some prayed not for life but for death.

Thomas did the gloomy painting, "Prison Ship," in 1948 when he was a student at Central College in Pella. He was back in Iowa after his young man's dream of traveling the oceans had become a long-running nightmare of captivity by the Japanese. Later he would become an art teacher in Winterset schools.

Thomas was a prisoner of war for nearly all of World War II and a participant in one of the war's lesser-known episodes, the movement of Allied prisoners on unmarked Japanese "hell ships" that sometimes were bombed and torpedoed by unknowing American submarine captains and pilots.

The killing of Americans by Americans, no matter how inadvertent, was not a trumpeted

The prisoners were herded into their trenches, then doused with aviation fuel and set afire.

chapter in U.S. military history. Nor did many survivors of the ships come forth with their stories, Thomas says, because the memory was too horrid or because the experience had transpired in a mental blur of disease, hunger and thirst.

Painting "Prison Ship" was Thomas' way of purging his mind of the experience he could not talk about at the time. He spent 39 days in the hold of the little Japanese cargo ship on which he was taken from the Philippines to Formosa in the autumn of 1944, after already spending some 2½ years as a virtual slave to his captors.

The ominous figure with the uplifted canteen in the painting is a Texan whom Thomas had befriended while both were prisoners at Palawan, an island to which they were taken, with about 300 other Americans, after their capture at Corregidor.

The Texan may or may not have killed the man he is attacking for trying to steal the canteen and its precious swallow of water, Thomas says. "The man was probably half gone" when the attack occurred, Thomas says. "He was dead the next morning, but he might have been dead anyway."

No one raises a hand to defend the man being attacked. Crazy men attacking other crazy men was not a remarkable occurrence on the cramped, sweltering ship.

"I sat by and watched," Thomas says. "I didn't do a thing. To me it seemed like the right thing to do."

On the left side of the painting a group of weakened men try to attach another corpse to a rope so it can be hoisted out of the small ship's hold. The ship carried about 800 prisoners, divided between two holds that were filthy from the dust of the coal, the vessel's usual cargo.

Two or three died every day in each hold. Some succumbed after drinking from the buckets the Japanese lowered into the cargo bay as latrines. Others died after sucking sea water from the wet towels that were lowered into the hold to help the prisoners cope with the stifling heat.

The painting — which Thomas has not often looked at — was intended to capture the events of one particularly grotesque night on the hell ship.

The freighter was steaming alongside a Japanese tanker. The Japanese were trying to maneuver the shipload of prisoners to shield the tanker from an attacking American submarine; it didn't work. The tanker was torpedoed and set ablaze. The cargo ship was not hit, apparently because it was so small it wasn't worth attacking, Thomas said.

Smoke and fumes from the tanker found their way into the hold of the cargo ship; the panicky prisoners did not know immediately it was not their own ship burning.

"They didn't have the energy to scream," Thomas said. "Some were praying in a negative sense, that a torpedo would hit us and get it over with."

Thomas got an "A" for the painting from his instructor at Central College. "Prison Ship" now has been chosen to be part of an exhibit at the Marine Corps Historical Center in Washington, D.C. The exhibit will commemorate World War II, which, for the United States, began 50 years ago this Dec. 7.

At the beginning of the war, Thomas, who had joined the Marines in May 1940, the summer after graduating from Macksburg High School, was learning military communications in Manila, the Philippines.

He already had spent more than a year as a seagoing Marine aboard a heavy cruiser, the USS Houston.

The Houston, battered in several earlier engagements, went down on Feb. 28, 1942, during a fearsome fight with Japanese warships off the northwest coast of Java. Of the 1,084 men aboard, 720 died. Of the 364 survivors who were captured by the Japanese, 76 died in prison camps.

For Thomas, the war ended on May 6, 1942, when the United States surrendered Corregidor and the rest of the Philippines to the Japanese. By then Corregidor, the island fortress at the mouth of Manila Bay, had been battered by months of bombing and shelling, and its American and Filipino defenders were devastated by hunger and disease.

Thomas had been in a foxhole on Corregidor's coast, living on one meager meal a day, when the island was given up.

That night, Thomas and other prisoners sat around their small fires heating rations the Japanese had given them. For some reason the group was shelled and Thomas was wounded in the foot and was taken to a hospital, was patched up by an American doctor and was given an injection.

Several hundred sick and wounded Americans were in the hospital when he lapsed into unconsciousness that night, but when he awoke the next morning he was all alone amid a heap of bandages and other debris.

He began limping and crawling up an embankment to turn himself over to a Japanese soldier, whose rifle was aimed at him. Instead of shooting, the soldier directed Thomas over a ridge to a machine gun manned by other Japanese.

"I thought, 'Well, they're going to do it with the machine gun,'" Thomas said, but a Japanese sergeant put a cigarette in Thomas' mouth, lit it and helped him over to a group of other American prisoners.

"That was a startling thing because right around the point from me, at James Ravine, they were marching the prisoners off a cliff. It depended on which group of Japanese picked you up; I was fortunate."

Thomas was in several prison camps in the Manila area before he was transported to the island of Palawan in September 1942 as part of a group of 300 prisoners who served as slave laborers, clearing the jungle with primitive tools and building a landing strip for Japanese aircraft.

Initially, a few Americans managed to escape, then the Japanese decreed that if anyone tried to flee, the other nine men in his 10-member squadron would be executed.

"(Besides), there was no place to go, really," Thomas said.

Some prisoners did everything they could, including mutilating themselves, to avoid working on the airfield, maintaining their labor would aid the enemy.

"I was very good at making excuses," Thomas said. "I told myself I was building it for the Americans, and as it turned out, two months after it was finished, American Navy planes were landing on it."

"I knew it was healthy to work. You became very conscious of ways to stay alive."

In September 1944, two years after he arrived



Thomas, 69, remembers the day during World War II when another POW smashed a canteen against a prisoner's head to protect a few drops of water. He reconstructed the incident in his 1948 painting that captured the anguish and agony on the ship.

at Palawan, Thomas and the other prisoners were divided into two groups. The group in which Thomas was placed was destined for transport by "hell ship" to Japan for use as laborers in factories and on farms.

The other group stayed on Palawan, and on Dec. 14 the men in it were massacred by the Japanese, who sounded a false air-raid alarm, herded the prisoners into their trenches, then doused them with aviation fuel and set them afire with torches.

The bodies were mangled to make it look to the American liberation forces, then re-establishing themselves in the Philippines, as if the prisoners had been killed by American bombs.

About 140 died in the massacre. One of the few to escape the slaughter was a young Marine from Urbandale, Glenn McDole, later a state trooper and Polk County sheriff's deputy. Some 30 Japanese soldiers were hanged after the war for the atrocity, thanks in part to McDole's account of the slaughter.

Still ahead for Thomas was the ordeal of more than five weeks aboard the ship from Manila to Formosa, where the survivors were kept for three months to recover enough strength to be used as laborers in Japan, which, by then, was coming under increasing attack by American bombers.

For a time Thomas worked in a steel mill near Osaka, then he was sent to a village north of Osaka to help reclaim farmland from a lake and to plant rice. There, he began to regain his health, by eating clams he found on the lakeshore and in the water.

"That was just like magic," he said. "You ate

one clam, and you could just feel the energy go through your body. That was the most protein we'd had in prison camp."

Japan surrendered on Aug. 15, 1945, after the United States dropped atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, but Thomas and his fellow prisoners were not aware the war was over until a few days afterward.

Later, American airplanes began dropping supplies for the liberated prisoners. The Americans shared the bounty with the Japanese farmers in the neighborhood, and the farmers shared their vegetables.

"It was a real good relationship to end up with," Thomas said. "They were as hungry as we were."

Thomas got Thanksgiving dinner at Yokohama on the battleship USS Colorado, and was flown to the United States, and landed at a military airfield near Oakland, Calif. — after two of the four engines on the airplane caught fire during the flight.

He was discharged from the Marines as a sergeant in the spring of 1946, enrolled that fall at Central College, was graduated in 1950 and spent 33 years as an art teacher in Winterset schools.

He is now 69 years old, a fit-looking man with a good sense of humor who helped start the Winterset art center and a program to recognize the two years that George Washington Carver spent in Winterset as a young man.

Thomas never considered himself a hero, only "a survivor," and he was not mesmerized by television during the Persian Gulf War.

"To me they were glamourizing war," he says. "I didn't like it."

ON THE WEB

Look for restaurant and movie reviews at DesMoinesRegister.com/entertainment

TOPS ON TV



'Live by Request, Starring Elton John,' 8 p.m. on A&E
The enduring "Rocket Man" becomes the latest artist to headline this series of specials. The edition is televised from Hollywood as John accepts audience requests.

COMPLETE A POEM

How to submit

The Des Moines Register Web site will host a community poem of verse written about the World Trade Center tragedy.

Submissions from poets across Iowa and around the globe will be added daily on the Register site through Dec. 24. The poem can be reached, and poets can submit their verse, by going to www.DesMoinesRegister.com.

The community poem begins, "I see two towers, standing still." Writers whose verse is added to the poem will receive credit next to their work.

FAMILY TIP

Take snapshots

I took a photo of my daughter with each of her guests at her seventh birthday party. I ordered double prints so my daughter could use one set for her thank-you notes. She wrote a nice note on the back of each photo and mailed them to her guests. We received many nice compliments about this idea.

— B. W. Eureka, Calif.

© 2001 Tom McMahon
E-mail a favorite parenting tip to kidtips@aol.com or fax it to (925) 461-6080.

LEND A HAND



Help a teacher

Teacher's helpers are needed at Findley Elementary School to assist students with reading and writing skills. Contact Janis Ware-Cole at 282-5281.

For more volunteer opportunities or to share one, visit www.unitedwaydm.org.

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Reach out to Iowa families during the holidays by contributing to Embrace Iowa. Send contributions to P.O. Box 93413, Des Moines, IA 50393-3413. Remember, 100 percent of the money goes directly to the families.

JEANNE ABBOTT, Features Editor
515-284-8029 / e-mail: abbottj@news.dmreg.com

Part 2: View from the camps

Prison camps left memories of hunger, cold and suffering for the Iowans captured by the enemy. The experience also left lifelong scars.

Remembrance of War

How the experience changed the lives of Iowans.

What was it like to spend nearly four years in a Japanese prison camp? Gene Fleener hears that question all the time. It was so miserable that he can barely answer. He kept his sanity by remembering his grandfather's Iowa farm.

By MIKE KILEN
REGISTER STAFF WRITER

He is 79 and lives alone in a trailer on the east side of Des Moines. Photographs of a young Gene Fleener in uniform hang on the walls of the tight hallway leading to his bedroom.

Here's a picture of him not too long after he got out of the Japanese prisoner of war camp in 1945. His uniform swallows his skinny body.

In the bedroom, he has piled the bed with memories, mostly pictures, old soldier reunion newsletters and official documents.

He picks up three items. The first is a toothbrush, the bristles worn down to the plastic. He used it in POW camp.

Then the worn tin cup he drank from. Finally a piece of wood shaped like a foot, a thin leather strap fastened to the side with a bent-over nail. It is the wooden sandal he made and wore in camp.

He talks about it all without much wonder or enthusiasm, as if going through the required motions, even as his trembling hand holds items he used 56 years ago, as a young man, when all he could do to survive was play mental tricks, idealizing his grandfather's Iowa farm.

For 56 years people have asked him how he survived. Imagine responding to that. He did survive. Forty-four months of hell. "It's like winning the lottery," Fleener says of his survival. "You think it would be all good. But you don't come away feeling good."

People want to know what it was like to spend almost four years in a POW camp. They always have.

They want to hear the details, not just the war stories about "me and the boys on leave," the gun calibers and fighter plane models, the military tactics and textbook strategy.

They want to find out how a man can survive with a bayonet in his face every day, with little to eat, wondering on what day he will die.

When the Japanese boarded the American prisoners on the ship to take them to camp, they were given a list of 12 rules.

Prohibitions included talking in loud voices and using more than two blankets. Punishment was immediate death.

The rules document provided this grim consolation: "Navy of the Great Japanese Empire will not try to punish you all with death."

Then they promptly beheaded five soldiers.

It gets fuzzy at times, remembering all this, Fleener says, especially when his military career began with such enthusiasm.

Becoming a soldier seemed the thing to



DAVID PETERSON/REGISTER PHOTOS

Medal for bravery: Gene Fleener holds his Asiatic Pacific Campaign medal. He spent 44 months in a Japanese POW camp. Fleener wants to be remembered for the heroic effort by the Marines to defend Wake Island before his 1941 capture.

Inside



TRUTH:
The stories of Iowa heroes will be told in an Iowa State production.

POW IN GERMANY:
An Iowan captured by the Germans ate dogs and grass.
Page 6E

do, coming from the tiny town of Newburg, near Grinnell, where the only thing he wanted was to get away. He even changed his birth certificate to join the Marines at age 17 because they had nice uniforms. That was 1940.

Eighteen months later he was manning a large gun and shooting at Japanese dive bombers coming at him on tiny Wake

See WAR, Page 6E

About this series

When does war hit home?

In modern America, it happened on Dec. 7, 1941, and Sept. 11, 2001.

The balance of global conflicts in the last 100 years were fought on the soil of other nations.

Thousands of Iowans witnessed those conflicts: World War I, World War II, the wars in Korea, Vietnam and the Persian Gulf.

They fought, they served on the sidelines, they watched the enemy invade their country, they fled the oppressors.

Many of those witnesses walk past us every day on the sidewalks, silently sheltering their past.

No single experience can capture the love and hate, confusion and heartbreak of war.

But in the aftermath of Sept. 11, a few Iowans dug into their memories and their scrapbooks to share their stories with us.

The series ends on the 60th anniversary of the bombing of Pearl Harbor.

SUNDAY
War from the Other Side
How Dieter Konitzer fled the advancing Russians in the final days of World War II.

TODAY
View from the Camps
Gene Fleener spent 44 harrowing months in a Japanese POW camp.

TUESDAY
Letters from Home
Husbands at the front and their wives keep love alive during three wars.

WEDNESDAY
You Can't Kill Memories
At the Iowa Veterans Home in Marshalltown, old soldiers come to terms with their histories.

THURSDAY
Guns, Bombs, Starvation and Murder
Iowa's refugees spent years ducking bullets and grenades to survive.

FRIDAY
Witness to Attack
Bud Wise saw bombers attack Pearl Harbor, and John Clayburg watched the World Trade Center collapse.

Homemade cookies can have cut-and-bake convenience

COX NEWS SERVICE

The time has come for icebox cookies, which require a few minutes here and there rather than an entire afternoon and can last for weeks in the freezer before baking.

The secret is wrapping them tightly before you put the logs of dough in the freezer. If you bag them in those thick plastic bags and make sure they're totally airtight, they'll keep two to three months.

When you're ready to

bake, pull out your heaviest, sharpest knife. Serrated edges tend to tear the dough, so stick with a straight blade.

When cutting, hold the blade in one hand and place the palm of the other hand on top of the blade to guide the knife straight down. Follow recipe guidelines for thickness of individual cookies.

Most doughs will cut easily directly out of the freezer, but if you're having trouble, let the dough sit for five or 10 minutes to soften slightly. If the dough is too soft, the log

will flatten as you cut, leaving you with defeated-looking shapes.

The technique of rolling-freezing-slicing doesn't have to be limited to recipes that include the words "icebox" or "freezer" in the name. You can also just freeze the lump of dough, then just drop them from a spoon.

Raspberry Swirls

From "Cookies" by Natalie Hartanov Haughton

½ cup (1 stick) butter, at room

temperature

1 cup granulated sugar
1 teaspoon vanilla
1 egg
2 cups all-purpose flour
1 teaspoon baking powder
¼ teaspoon salt
½ cup raspberry jam
½ cup shredded coconut
¼ cup finely chopped walnuts

In a medium bowl, beat together butter or margarine, sugar, vanilla and egg until light and fluffy. Add flour, baking powder and salt, beating until blended.

Refrigerate until firm, several hours or overnight. Before rolling out dough, let stand at room temperature until soft enough to roll easily.

In a small bowl, combine jam, coconut and walnuts. Between two sheets of wax paper, roll dough into a 12-by-9-inch rectangle. Spread jam mixture evenly over dough to within ½ inch of edges.

Roll up dough, jellyroll fashion, starting from long side. Cut log in half for ease in handling.

Wrap and refrigerate until firm, several hours or overnight. (Dough may be stored in freezer several weeks.)

Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Grease baking sheets. Using a large, sharp knife, cut chilled dough into ½-inch slices. Place 2 inches apart on sheets. Bake 8 to 10 minutes or until edges are golden. Remove cookies from baking sheets; cool on racks. Makes 45 cookies.

See COOKIES, Page 2E

Remembrance of War

How the experience changed the lives of Iowans.



Words of Jesus: Visiting the World War II memorial at the Iowa Capitol, former POW Bruce Longstreet looks at a copy of the New Testament he used for comfort during the war.

Captured by Germans, soldier was forced to eat grass, dogs

The torture and inhumane treatment is hard for them to talk about.

The mass graves.

The eating of grass and dogs and sawdust-laden bread that gave them splinters in their mouths.

No single anecdote quite tells the story of the prisoner of war. It's the little things that surface.

Bruce Longstreet of Des Moines spent five months and lost nearly 100 pounds in a German camp after being captured during the Battle of the Bulge.

He remembers the war every time he buys toilet paper, which was rare in camp.

"I still buy toilet tissue by the case and the best I can get," he said.

Some items are more unusual. Longstreet is haunted by the memory of candy.

"We were taken out of box-cars by German guards and marched through the town. They spit on us and threw rocks at us. We were the criminals," he explains.

"When we were liberated and given rations with some candy in it, little German children were begging for our candy. I didn't give them any. I thought, you little bastards, you were throwing rocks at us a few weeks ago."

"As I grew older ... why didn't I give my candy to the children? That haunts me worse than anything I saw in prison camp."

—Mike Kilen



Memories: A World War II poster hangs in Bruce Longstreet's Des Moines basement.

Prison camps leave scars for Iowans

WAR, from Page 1E

Island, a scrap of land often used as a fuel stop for the military en route to Pearl Harbor.

He remembers seeing the teeth of one Japanese bomber.

"He was not smiling."

For 16 long days, Fleener helped hold off the Wake Island attack. He remembers being upset when he ran out of Life Savers.

"You pick these small things to think about," he says.

When it was time to surrender on Dec. 23, 1941, Fleener was so tired he put down his weapon and slept under a bush. He awoke to a bayonet in his face.

Japanese soldiers stripped him naked, put a rope around his neck and tied him to the next guy.

"If we'd have known what we were about to go through," he says, "we wouldn't have surrendered."

His account of the next 44 months is painful.

American soldiers sat naked for two days without food or water, he says. Their Japanese captors considered killing them all, then were ordered by superiors to give them water.

It was served in an old gas can. The Americans vomited it back up.

Days later, they were herded on a ship headed for the Shanghai prisoner of war camp. On board "they beat hell out of us," Fleener recalls.

The barracks was a series of bunks that slept nine, 2 feet apart. Forget rolling over or curling up.

"We slept at attention."

The barracks had heat only one hour each day. Guards would place their hands on the stove to make

sure it was cold.

In the summer, the heat was insufferable.

Mosquitos squeezed through the broken screens to spread malaria to the soldiers, who were thinning fast on a starvation diet and toiling nine hours a day hauling dirt to build a 40-foot-tall hill for a shooting range.

The only medicine was charcoal for diarrhea. If sent to the compound's hospital, many were sure to die.

That is where Fleener found himself after getting malaria and diarrhea, a combination the soldiers took as a death sentence.

He lay in the hospital bed, certain it was curtains, watching the man next to him, legs mere skin and bones, die later that night.

Fleener's buddy saved his life.

A fellow prisoner had secretly filled an old soy sauce bottle with water and buried it for emergencies. He cooled Fleener's feverish head with the water and broke the fever.

Fleener was forced to return to work but was too weak to shovel and haul dirt. Another prisoner, not much stronger, took his load.

"People don't know what you can do when you are forced," Fleener says.

He survived another harrowing event in camp.

While kneeling outside the barracks cleaning his boots, which had to be spotless, he heard footsteps.

At the time, prisoners were required to salute every Japanese soldier. Fleener acted as if he didn't see the guard and hoped he would continue to walk past him.

He looked up to see boots before him.

"What I am proud of is my dad was in World War I, me and my five brothers served in World War II and Korea, and we all came back."

—Gene Fleener



Injured on face: Gene Fleener recalls a Japanese soldier's bayonet slashing his nose, leaving it dangling and bleeding, as a POW in a Shanghai prison camp. "If we'd have known what we were about to go through," he says, "we wouldn't have surrendered."

"The SOB stopped," Fleener says. He leapt to his feet, saluting and pleading that he didn't see the guard.

"You're a liar," the Japanese soldier replied.

He swung the bayonet attached to his gun on each side of Fleener's face, providing a close shave, then slashed it across his nose, leaving it dangling and bleeding from his face.

Fellow Americans dared not intervene as Fleener bled.

As his nose healed unevenly during the long days, months and years that followed, his thoughts shifted from hope of war's end to thoughts of his past.

He remembered his grandfather's farm, the hallowed family ground and home to Fleeners since before the Civil War. It was a mind game.

Fleener's body, however, was failing. He had tuberculosis. His 165-pound body dropped 68 pounds.

One day, out of the blue, after he and fellow prisoners were moved to a coal-mining prisoner camp, the Japanese offered them cups of wine and sugar.

Confused and frightened, the prisoners drank it.

The Japanese walked away. They were never seen again.

Afraid that it was a trick and they would be shot, Fleener and his mates didn't move for three hours.

Then, cautiously, they raided the rice supply and ate it as fast as it could be boiled. American planes began to drop loaves of bread in empty torpedo cartridges.

The war was over. The worst was not.

Fleener came back to his little hometown and was disappointed.

"I put that place and the people



Garb: Sometimes forced to be naked, Fleener was given a sandals to wear during his POW stay. Much time was spent in the cold.

up on a pedestal," he says. "Nothing could live up to that."

Two of his fellow prisoners committed suicide.

He would be further discouraged in the following post-war months, especially when he went into town with his dad.

"Meet my son," his father would say. "He spent 44 months in a Jap prison."

Nothing was mentioned about fending off the Japanese for 16 days on Wake Island.

"Your ego is down on the floor," Fleener says. "In a sense it was a terrible time."

He spent a year in an isolated hospital room because he had tuberculosis. He faced difficult surgeries to reconstruct his nose. He suffered claustrophobia and says he drank too much.

Bit by bit, he worked himself out of the funk.

He went to college. He moved to California, was a salesman and owned a business.

He married a wonderful woman who died in 1975, an event he says led to the worst grief in his life.

Through the years, he noticed the lasting effects of war. He feels hungry, even after a full meal.

Today, in retirement in a Des Moines trailer, he has a bed full of memories. He picks them up one at a time, with little emotion.

Something is bothering him.

"Everybody wants to make you some sort of hero," he says. "I don't feel that way. I don't come away feeling good about these things."

"What I am proud of is my dad was in World War I, me and my five brothers served in World War II and Korea, and we all came back."

"Six of the 22 members of the Newburg American Legion post at one time were Fleeners. That's a helluva lot better than talking about a Jap prison camp."

Reporter Mike Kilen can be reached at (515) 284-8361 or kilenm@news.dmreg.com

Punishment was death

These are the rules George Fleener was given before boarding the ship to be transported to the Japanese prisoner of war camp.

**Commander of the prisoner escort
Navy of the Great Japanese Empire
Regulations for prisoners**

The prisoners disobeying the following orders will be punished with immediate death.

- Those disobeying orders and instructions.
- Those showing a motion of antagonism and raising a sign of opposition.
- Those disobeying the regulations by individualism, egoism, thinking only about yourself, rushing for your own goods.
- Those talking without permission or raising loud voices.
- Those walking and moving without order.
- Those carrying unnecessary baggage in embarking.
- Those resisting mutually.
- Those touching the boat's materials, wires, electric lights, tools, switches, etc.
- Those climbing ladder without order.
- Those showing action of running away from the room or boat.
- Those trying to take more meal than given to them.
- Those using more than two blankets.

Navy of the Great Japanese Empire will not try to punish you all with death. Those obeying all rules and regulations, and believing the action and purpose of the Japanese Navy, cooperating with Japan in constructing the "New order of the Great Asia," which leads to the world's peace, will be well treated.

Heroes tell their stories

Jane Cox was moved by World War II stories she heard across the kitchen tables in Iowa.

She used the words of 12 veterans in her script for "Heroes Among Us," a production at Iowa State University's Fisher Theater that opens Friday.

"Almost all of them told stories that were very vivid. You could see pictures in their mind," said Cox, associate professor of performing arts at Iowa State.

"These were typical people who never thought of being soldiers. They were willing to sacrifice anything to help the country and anybody they cared about. They have carried it in their hearts for a lifetime."

A common trait that surfaced in their memoirs was modesty.

"All said they were just trying to do their duty," Cox said. "They were determined to do their best and not let anybody down."

Many were left with lasting sensations about what they witnessed, from the battlefields to the home front, from military hospitals to liberated concentration camps.

"It was all very moving. We all stand on their shoulders."

'Heroes Among Us'

WHEN: 7:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday, 2 p.m. Sunday, 7:30 p.m. Dec. 14-15 and 2 p.m. Dec. 16

WHERE: Fisher Theater, Iowa State Center, Ames

TICKETS: \$10 adults, \$9 senior citizens, \$4.50 students and children. Call (515) 294-3347.

ELLEN HEATH, Sunday IowaLife Editor
515-284-8506/email: eheath@dmreg.com

INSIDE

TRAVEL

Tourists savor unusual view

Travelers to Costa Rica get a different perspective, zipping through the tree tops in a rain forest, attached to a cable by rappelling and spelunking gear. Page 3E



AN IOWA MOMENT

How Iowans went the extra mile to help others.

Recently, my car battery went dead at an Iowa City restaurant. A towing service jump-started it and sent me to a garage. But on the way, my car stalled in the road.

As I tried to raise the hood, a young man said he had a tow truck three cars behind me and could tow me to the garage.

At the garage, I asked how to pay him.

"No charge," he said.

I said, "You'll never get rich that way."

His response was, "I have other riches."

That's exactly what you would expect a guardian angel in Iowa City, Ia., to say.

— Ardis O'Dell,
Iowa City, Ia.

The Register will pay \$10 if we use your story about Iowans who went the extra mile to help you. Write about 50 words and send to: An Iowa Moment, The Des Moines Register, P.O. Box 957, Des Moines, Ia. 50304. Or send e-mail to eheath@dmreg.com. Include your address and phone number.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS

Actress **Heather Matarazzo** is 20. Rapper **Eve** is 24. Actress **Brittany Murphy** ("8 Mile," "Girl, Interrupted") is 25. Actress **Mackenzie Phillips** ("One Day At A Time") is 43. Actor-comedian **Sinbad** is 46. Actor **Jack Scalia** is 51. Actress-dancer **Ann Reinking** is 53. Lyricist **Tim Rice** is 58. Actor **Russell Johnson** ("Gilligan's Island") is 78.

TOMORROW

Read this, Iowa!

The All Iowa Reads project unveils the work that it thinks all Iowans should read in 2003.

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Iowa's ghost soldier

A Bataan Death March survivor returns to the Philippines to confront his demons

By JOHN D. LUKACS
SPECIAL TO THE REGISTER

Manila, Philippines — Memories pour from his mind like the amber contents of the cold bottle of San Miguel beer in his hand.

Harold Malcolm Amos, with one arm balanced on the handle of his bamboo cane and the other angled across the polished narra wood bar of the famed Manila Hotel's Tap Room, is telling a story in his own folksy style.

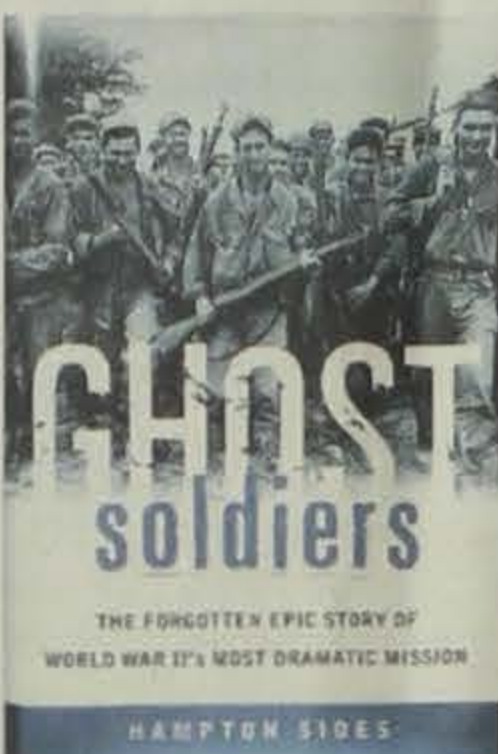
"Everyone was getting excited after we heard that Pearl Harbor was bombed. There were no passes off the post. They had to set up some operating rooms and first-aid stations. Everybody was on duty 24 hours a day," Amos recalls.

"And no more San Miguel."

Amos, 80, is a lifelong Afton, Ia., resident and survivor of the infamous Bataan Death March — the atrocity-filled evacuation of prisoners of war from one of America's bloodiest, yet least-known, World War II Pacific Theater battlefields.

Last May, he returned to the Pacific archipelago as part of a tour commemorating the 60th anniversary of the Fall of the Philippines. Accompanying him on the emotional journey was his daughter, Michelle Anderson, as well as several veterans and their families from across the country.

Amos and his former brothers-



Their story: "Ghost Soldiers," by Hampton Sides (Anchor Books, \$14.95 paperback) tells of the raid that rescued Amos from prison camp.

in-arms returned to the Philippines to participate in memorial ceremonies and dedications, to rekindle their love for the Filipino people and to reflect at the sites of battles and horrific atrocities.

But mostly, the old soldiers returned to exorcise ghosts that — to paraphrase Gen. Douglas MacArthur's legendary farewell speech — have yet to "just fade away."

After all, if any group of American veterans deserves an honorable discharge from the nightmares, flashbacks and residual effects of the horrors of war, it's the forgotten defenders of Bataan.

Their epic stand is a heart-wrenching history lesson compressed into a footnote — if that — in most school texts.

In the dark, early days of World War II, nearly 20,000 American military personnel were subjected to some of the most barbaric acts ever afforded prisoners of war. Beatings, executions and other atrocities



GARY FANDEL/THE REGISTER

Death March survivor and former prisoner of war: Harold Malcolm Amos holds his military medals from World War II, which include Bronze Stars for meritorious service and the Purple Heart, given to armed forces members who are wounded in action.



SPECIAL TO THE REGISTER

Staff Sgt. Amos posed in his full dress uniform.

Survivor

VETERAN: Harold Malcolm Amos
AGE: 80
HOMETOWN: Afton, Ia.
ENLISTED: With U.S. Army Medical Corps at age 18
ENDURED: Battle for Bataan, Bataan Death March, three years in Japanese prison camp
RESCUED: In the Great Raid, Jan. 30, 1945
RETURNED HOME: Late in 1945
FAMILY: Wife, Loraine, and seven children
LIFE IN AFTON: Ran a grocery store, served as city councilman, is currently mayor



THE REGISTER

See BATAAN, Page 2E

Pssst

The latest buzz across the state

Something special underfoot

When Jennifer and John Vollmer were married in 1994, she wanted a little something extra. So she and her mother, artist Nan Wilson, painted a floral design on a long stretch of heavy canvas to create an aisle runner leading to the altar.

Now, Vollmer and Wilson in Sioux City, Ia., are making 36-inch-wide, hand-painted aisle runners for other brides. Coated with polyurethane for protection, the canvas runners are quieter than paper runners. The custom-made runners cost \$30 per square foot, and Vollmer and Wilson have 14 styles to rent for \$10 per linear foot. They range from 25 to 75 feet long.

Check with wedding planners and consultants. The women's Web site is www.nanwilsonaisles.com.

Design goes to the dogs (and cats)

Does your cat seem stressed out? It could be because her whiskers whack against the side of her dish when she eats. Who knew this could be a problem?

But WetnOz International thinks it has the answer with its patented no-whisker-stress bowl (\$25), contoured to a cat's face and plenty wide to accommodate the whiskers.

WetnOz also makes dishes for dogs. One has a handle raised high on one side, so you can lift it without touching the slobbery, messy parts (\$30).

Dishes are made of stainless steel; handles and feet of rubber. Find the pet gear at Design Ranch in Iowa City or online at www.netnoz.com.

No grog in this nog

Just in time for holiday parties is Sharon Tyler Herbst's new book, "The Ultimate Liquor-Free Drink Guide: More Than 325 Drinks With No Buzz, But Plenty of Pizzazz!" (Broadway Books, \$15). The pages are filled with recipes for easy-to-make coolers, smoothies, nogs, punches, mocktails and more, jazzed up to look fabulous in the glass. Who needs booze when you can have Sugar-Bush Hummers, Hot Fluffernutters, Arabian Yansoons and Funky Monkeys?

Herbst also weaves quotes throughout the book, such as this from actor Peter O'Toole: "Being sober for so many years is getting interesting."



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1 THEATER: Shenandoah Shakespeare Express, 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Friday and Saturday in Grand Central Station, Central College, 812 University, Pella.

The Virginia-based Shenandoah Shakespeare Express will bring a trio of the Bard's works to Central's stage this week. The comical "The Taming of the Shrew" will be performed Thursday, followed by the bittersweet "The Tempest" Friday and concluding with the tragedy "Coriolanus" Saturday. The three plays give an excellent overview of Shakespeare's range, touching on everything but his histories. Free. (641) 628-5157.

2 COMEDY: Chonda Pierce, 7 p.m. Monday at First Federated Church, 4801 Franklin Ave.

Comedian Chonda Pierce will bring her popular stand-up routine to Des Moines this week. Pierce describes herself as a "cross between a nun and a Las Vegas showgirl," an interesting combination. She draws on her own sometimes painful life experiences to shine a humorous light on almost any topic. \$15 in advance, \$17 at the door. (515) 255-2122.

3 MUSIC: "Mass in the Time of War," 7 tonight at Westminster Presbyterian Church, 4114 Allison Ave.

The Westminster Oratorio Choir and Orchestra will perform Franz Joseph Haydn's classic work today as part of Westminster's Fine Arts Series. Randal Buikema will conduct the group, featuring soloists Rebecca Gruber, Jenny Beckman, Edwin Griffith and Scott La Graff. Free. (515) 274-1534.

4 MOVIE: "Wild Strawberries," 2:30 p.m. today in the Morgan E. Cline Hall of Pharmacy and Science, Drake University, 25th Street and University Avenue.

Master filmmaker Ingmar Bergman directed this 1957 Swedish film about a man dealing with his inner demons and inadequacies on a literal and figurative journey. Berman's films aren't the most exciting or understandable things put to celluloid, but they are compelling and thought-provoking, like David Lynch's films. Free. 271-2038.

No. 2: Comedian Chonda Pierce will be in Des Moines Monday.

5 THEATER: "Godspell," 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 1 p.m. Nov. 17 in Pote Theatre, Blank Performing Arts Center, Simpson College, 701 N. "C" St., Indianola.

Religious rock musical "Godspell" comes to Simpson this week, bringing the good word and good tunes with it. The musical will be performed using Jerzy Grotowski's "poor theatre," stripping stage and props to the bare minimum. Stephen Schwartz's songs, such as "All Good Gifts" and "Day by Day," are some of the most hummable tunes of all time. Adults \$8,

non-Simpson students \$7, (515) 961-1601.

6 MUSIC: 34th Annual Band Extravaganza, 7:30 p.m. Tuesday and Wednesday at Hancher Auditorium, University of Iowa campus, Iowa City.

The Hawkeye Marching Band, Johnson County Landmark Jazz

IOWA TOP

Cool things to do this week

By Josef Lawler of the Register staff

Band and the Symphony Band will perform as a part of University of Iowa's annual celebration. The selections will range from the works of Leonard Bernstein to "Mac the Knife," and the Hawkeye Marching Band will perform favorites such as the "Iowa Fight Song" and skits from halftime shows. \$4. (319) 335-1160

7 MIME: Baker's Dozen, 10 a.m. Saturday in the Valley High School Auditorium, 1140 35th St., West Des Moines

Mimes, they get no respect. Mime is actually one of the most difficult forms of acting, working with no stage and no props. Mime Troupe Baker's Dozen will show just how much one can express with absolutely no acting crutches. The show is aimed at a younger crowd, and anyone interested in learning more is invited to attend a mini-mime workshop after the show. \$4. 222-3455.

8 DANCE: "Dancers in Concert," 8 p.m. Saturday at the Des



No. 8: See the Central Iowa Dance Youth Ballet on Saturday

Moines Playhouse, 831 42nd St.

The Central Iowa Dance Youth Ballet will reprise three dances from the group's "Debut in 2002" from last April. Twenty-one dancers will perform the pieces as well as three new dances and the stage debut of "Summer Symphony," choreographed by Dianne Aldrich and Anton Labuschagne. \$5. (515) 279-0742.

9 THEATER: "Engaged," 2 p.m. today and 8 p.m. Thursday, Friday and Saturday in the Dows Fine Arts Center, Coe College, 1220 First Ave. N.E., Cedar Rapids.

William S. Gilbert is primarily known for the musicals he wrote with Arthur Sullivan, such as "The Mikado," but he wrote a few non-musical plays on his own. "Engaged" served as a model for Oscar Wilde's "The Importance of

Being Earnest," combining smart comedy and satire with farce. "Engaged" has languished in obscurity compared to Gilbert and Sullivan's collaborations, but it's a gem that deserves to be discovered. Adults \$7, seniors \$5. (319) 399-8800.

10 MUSIC: The Flying Pans, 3 p.m. today in the Krudener Center, Central College, 812 University, Pella.

The mighty drums of John Bonham have been replaced with steel drums as the Flying Pans pay a Caribbean tribute to Led Zeppelin. "Stairway to Heaven," "Kashmir" and "Whole Lotta Love" will be given the steel drum treatment courtesy of conductor Stan Dahl, the Flying Pans and special guest Chris Hopkins. Adults \$5, students and seniors \$2. (641) 628-5236.

Daring raid saved 'ghost soldiers' from certain death

BATAAN, from Page 1E

were commonplace; adherence to the rules of the conduct of war was rare.

Of the original American troops consigned to this fate, more than half never lived to tell their stories. But one Iowa native is among the handful of lucky ones who did. His story — an integral part of author Hampton Sides' 2001 best-selling book "Ghost Soldiers," is a true tale of the most daring rescue mission in American military history — and might be one of the most amazing.

Alamo of the Pacific

With Afton and the rest of America still mired in the depths of the Great Depression in June 1940, the 18-year-old Amos decided that

it was time for a career change.

"I was working in a grocery store and figured I could make more money in the Army than in a grocery store," Amos said.

Amos joined the U.S. Army Medical Corps and hoped to enter medical school after fulfilling his service commitment in the Philippines, but those plans, much like the bulk of the Navy's Pacific Fleet anchored at Pearl Harbor, went up in smoke on Dec. 7, 1941.

Having spent the previous evening at a dance, Sergeant Amos was resting in his barracks when he heard news of the attack on the other side of the international date line.

"I could not have cared less," Amos admitted. "I didn't even know where Pearl Harbor was. Then it came to me."

"I weighed 205 before the war and never had a bit of fat on me — strong as a bull. I think that's what got me through it — I was good and healthy."

Harold Malcolm Amos, former POW

After subsequent Japanese attacks decimated Filipino-American forces in December 1941, MacArthur ordered about 15,000 American troops and 90,000 green Filipino recruits to retreat into the Bataan Peninsula, a steamy jungle realm of rice paddies, nipa huts and colossal volcanoes, to fight a delaying action and wait for reinforcements.

But help would never come. Because of the War Department's White House mandate to defeat Nazi Germany first, the inexperienced and ill-equipped troops would be sacrificed.

Although surrounded, outgunned, starving and diseased, the "Battling Bastards of Bataan" held out for about four months in the face of overwhelming odds and a ferocious enemy. As a result, historians would later nickname their gallant stand, which completely upset the Imperial Japanese timetable for the conquest of Asia, the "Alamo of the Pacific."

"Nothing but bones"

Shortly after April 9, 1942, the young medic Amos found himself trudging along a dusty road flanked by Japanese guards with gleaming bayonets near Mariveles, a village on Bataan's southern tip. Each step of the 65-mile Death March proved to be a test of superhuman endurance as Amos slowly weaved through the

smoldering, battle-scarred jungle with very little food and water. Cracks of rifle fire echoed throughout the green hills. Some guards pumped bullets into those unable to continue; others delivered death with samurai swords.

"If somebody couldn't make it," Amos said, "the Japanese just took a saber, stuck it into 'em, gave it a little twist and went on up the road."

Sympathetic Filipino civilians caught throwing food or flashing the "V for Victory" sign got the same treatment.

Later, Amos realized the magnitude of the slaughter when he returned to Bataan in a prisoner work detail.

"There was nothing but bones, bones, bones laying alongside the road," Amos said. "Human bones ... Filipino and American bones."

Nearly 700 Americans and 10,000 Filipinos died on the Bataan Death March, but for those who survived, the nightmare was only beginning.

Amos spent the next three years caring for fellow prisoners of war in squalid Japanese prison camps, including Camp O'Donnell and Cabanatuan. By early 1945, as the tide of the Pacific war shifted in America's favor, most of the latter camp's inmates occupied shallow mass graves or had long since been shipped to slave labor camps on mainland Japan.



Amos visited the monument that marks the beginning of the Bataan Death March.

What remained inside the barbed wire of Cabanatuan on the night of Jan. 30, 1945, were about 513 living skeletons — the "elite of the damned," author Sides wrote in "Ghost Soldiers" — suffering from malnutrition, beriberi, dengue fever, dysentery and malaria, among other debilitating tropical diseases.

These men were the last remnants of the group that suffered the humiliating surrender on Bataan and the horrors of the Death March. They referred to themselves as "ghosts" and believed that their country had abandoned them to certain death at the hands of their fanatical captors.

The Great Raid

Little did Amos and the rest of his comrades know that lurking just outside the perimeter of the camp was a group of more than 100 American commandos from the elite Sixth Ranger Battalion, plus

groups of Alamo Scouts and Filipino guerrillas.

Led by Colonel Henry Mucci, the tiny strike force had quietly slipped through nearly 30 miles of enemy territory to complete its mission, the orders for which came straight from MacArthur's headquarters only days earlier.

Rescue the doomed ghosts of Bataan.

"I was just shootin' the breeze — that's what we did every night, see who could tell the biggest lie," Amos said. "Then a lot of shootin' started."

Shortly after dusk, in what became known as the Great Raid on Cabanatuan, Ranger sharpshooters systematically mowed down Japanese guards. Machine gunners splintered guard towers and barracks. As bullets hissed through towering clumps of cogon grass, Amos and his fellow prisoners hustled into drainage ditches for cover.

The Rangers then crashed the camp's main gate and assembled the startled prisoners for their long-awaited exodus. In fewer than 30 minutes, a convoy of men and wooden carts pulled by water buffalo began the long, perilous journey back to the American lines with an enraged Japanese Army in hot pursuit.

Several harrowing hours later, the ex-prisoners and their exhausted liberators arrived safely at their destination amid a flurry of popping flashbulbs and cheers. After several weeks of some much-needed medical attention — Amos weighed a scant 97 pounds at the end of his ordeal — and a visit from General MacArthur himself, the resurrected ghosts were sent home to the States.

"I weighed 205 before the war and never had a bit of fat on me — strong as a bull," Amos said. "I think that's what got me through it — I was good and healthy."

Exorcising the demons

Amos arrived back in Afton with little fanfare in late 1945, married and later operated his own grocery. He would raise seven children with his wife, Loraine. He also found time to serve as a city councilman before becoming mayor, a position he still occupies.

But Amos' semi-retirement was disrupted several years ago when Sides contacted him for an interview. The resulting book rose to a lofty No. 2 ranking on the New York Times bestseller list. Several Hollywood studios are interested in the film rights to the story.

Amos, meanwhile, is fast becoming a celebrity himself, participating in book signings, TV documentaries, reunions and other events across the nation. And perhaps most importantly, each event, each trip back to the Philippines, helps the former Bataan "ghost" exorcise his own six-decade-old demons.

His story completed, Amos finishes the remaining ounces of San Miguel and places his empty glass on the bar. "I can't ever think of anything that tastes better," he says.

Except, perhaps, for the unmistakable taste of freedom.

John D. Lukacs is a free-lance writer in western Pennsylvania.

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Here are the answers to the New York Times crossword puzzle and Jumble found in today's Opinion section.

JUMBLE

Answer :

BOILED SCURRY GUIDED
LIQUOR MORTAR ENGULF

They bet on the same horse because they were —

"MUTUEL" FRIENDS

PUZZLE ANSWERS

SAC	SHAMES	VETO	GABI
HUN	POPART	INERT	EVAN
ATE	ASPIRE	TOGREATNESS	
WORST	TONAL	SOTHERE	
POKE	CAROTENE	AUTUMN	
TAKES	AMISS	NOSH	ISEE
BREW	MOS	ACUTE	ACCENT
STEEPEEN	VALES	RIIS	
REN	SOLO	DORM	FBI
QUIT	SWHILE	ONE	ISAHEAD
SUNNI	HALO	PALS	RATES
YOUTO	AWAY	WITH	MURDER
DIM	LULL	ANTI	NOR
HEBE	MULEY	CANOPUS	
PLAYS	AROUND	SUP	SANK
CARP	SUNG	AVAST	MATEY
SUMNER	TIE	BEAMS	AURA
THORIUM	NANCI	PURIST	
AROSE	FROM	NHEASHES	CIA
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WWII vets deny they're heroes, but their stories say otherwise

Monday is Veterans Day, not that most citizens will bother themselves about it.

After all, military veterans are just a bunch of old guys with flags trying to stay in step at the front of the parade. Right?

Maybe you should meet a dozen Iowans who can tell you about places like Pearl Harbor, Bastogne, Tarawa, Guadalcanal and Normandy, some remarkable people who spent their late teens and 20s dealing with frozen feet, prison, starvation, shrapnel and that awful smell of death.

Bruce Longstreet and Dean Lettington, Harold "Curly" Norris and Robert Reiber, William Underhill and Gene Fleener, Bud Gormally and Bob Houser, James Bowman and Joe Viola, Ruth Smith Miller and Ray Schleih were all there. And, until the past couple of years, they haven't had much to say about their time in World War II.

Jane Cox, an Iowa State University theater professor, talked them into telling their stories for a book she was putting together — but they



JOHN CARLSON'S
I O W A

made sure she understood something.

"I'm not a hero," each veteran told Cox as she sat down at kitchen tables and in living rooms with her tape recorder.

"These are their stories, in their words," Cox said. "Some had never discussed their experiences with anybody before, even with members of their families."

There isn't much charge-the-machine-gun, jump-on-the-grenade stuff here. Mostly, it's about ducking bombs and bullets, doing a job and somehow surviving.

There's Fleener, a Grinnell Marine held as a prisoner of war by the Japanese for 44

months, and Longstreet, an infantryman who lost 100 pounds in a German prison camp after being captured during the Battle of the Bulge.

Houser, who ended up heading the Principal Financial Group in Des Moines, was a navigator on a B-17 and talks about his planes shot up and on fire. Underhill's bomber was crippled by flak and made a belly landing in Poland. The crew went through Ukraine, Iran, Egypt and Libya before making it to Italy.

Miller, an Army nurse from rural Clemons, told Cox about working in a bombed-out school, where gasoline was burned for warmth and helmets became personal latrines.

Longstreet, a New Sharon native, remembers a German interrogator who was a graduate of what was then called Iowa State College in Ames.

"He knew more about Des Moines and the state of Iowa than I did," Longstreet said.

"I never saw a bar of soap,

See **CARLSON**, Page 7B

Des Moines Sunday Register DM

11-10-2002

Iowa author says yes, WWII vets *are* heroes

CARLSON, from Page 1B

a toothbrush, toothpaste. I never saw a piece of toilet paper," Longstreet said of his time in the prison camp. "I never saw a blanket. I never saw any straw to sleep on."

There's Norris, who left Indiana at age 18 and helped hold off the Germans at Bastogne as a paratrooper with the outgunned 101st Airborne.

"We had been told to hold, and that's what we had to do," said Norris. "We woke up the next morning and were surrounded by two Panzers, a couple of SS divisions and I don't know what all. The Germans were making their big push. We were in there, and there was no way out. We just had to hold. Surrender? Not a paratrooper!"

To a person, they're modest and proud of their service. They're telling their stories because they want young Americans to understand what happened 60 years ago.

"I never knew anybody in World

War II who questioned why we were there," Longstreet said. "It was just our duty. We respected authority. We respected family, government — so many things differently than we do now...."

"It kind of sounds self-serving, and I don't mean it that way, but I think there are about three generations here who have no idea of the price that was paid for the things they accept as just commonplace today — the freedom that we all share."

The book goes on sale Monday. The title? Well, Cox doesn't entirely buy the "I'm not a hero" thing. Her book is called "Heroes Among Us."

Most of the veterans featured will be at Borders Books Music & Cafe at 4100 University Ave. in West Des Moines from 4 to 6 p.m. Monday — Veterans Day.

They'll be happy to sign a book and shake your hand.

John Carlson can be reached at (515) 284-8204 or jcarlson@dmreg.com

Then Keep Going North and You Come to Tokyo



Then Keep Going North and You Come to Tokyo



'We Shall Win, or We Shall Die'



War Bill Item, Cavite, Dec. 12

miles south of Manila. The
pines. It contained, among
and an arsenal.

When Tokyo is visited for the final accounting, the Cavite navy yard will be one item on the ledger. Jap bombs did this to Cavite, America's only naval base in the Orient beyond Pearl Harbor, eight miles south of Manila. This was one of the best harbors in all the Philippines. It contained, among other things, loading docks, naval radio station and an arsenal.

WHAT HAPPENED WHEN THE JAPS ROARED OVER MANILA BAY

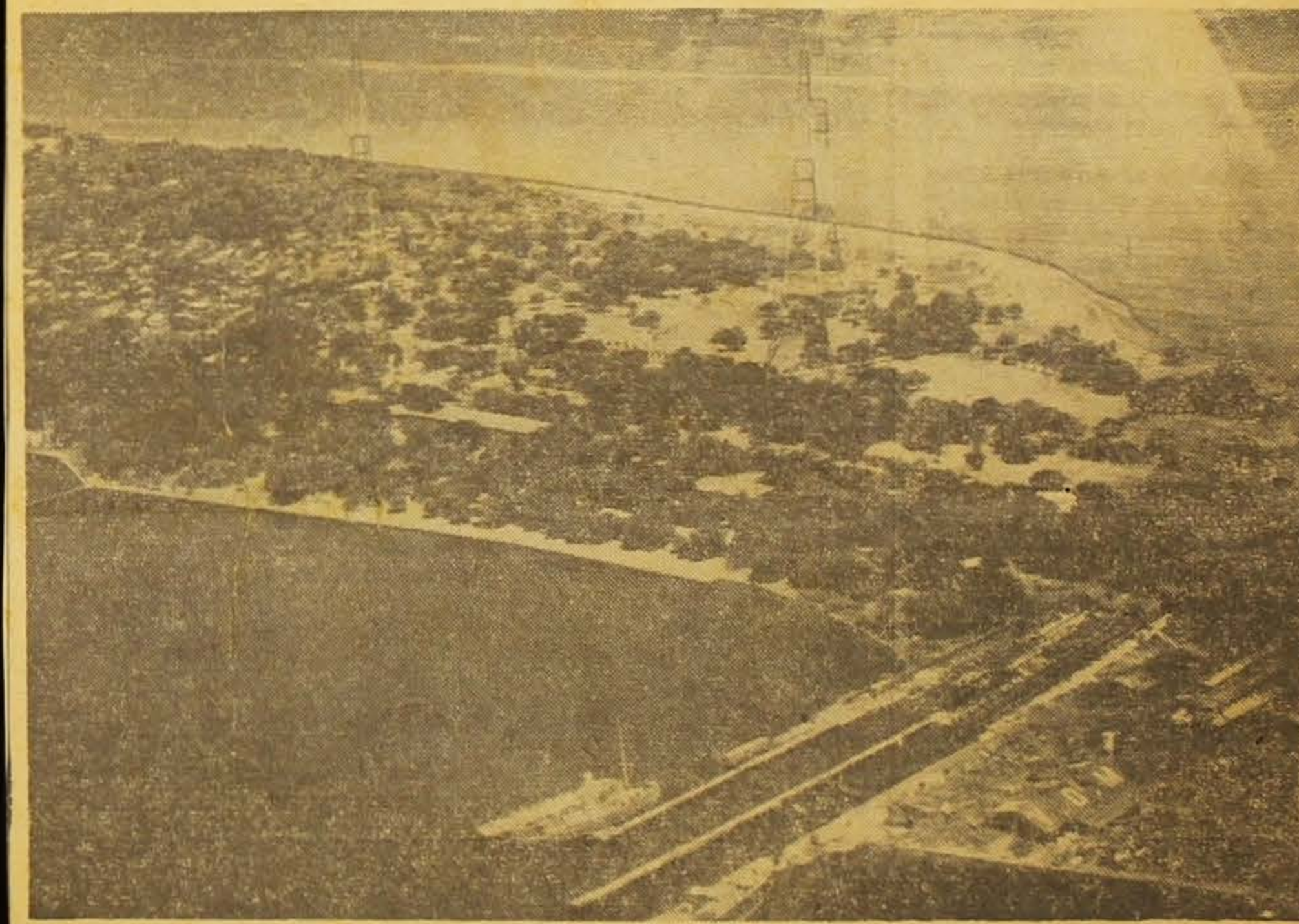
March 31, 1942



This is one of the first pictures to arrive in United States since the start of the war with Japan to show damage by Jap raiders on the navy yards at Cavite at Manila bay on Luzon in the Philippines. Barges are shown burning, the black smoke darkening the sky for miles after the attack which occurred when the war was only three days old. Monday, Francis B. Sayre, high commissioner to

the Philippines, released the names of more than 1,500 persons, mostly Americans, interned in Manila by the Japs. Sayre said he had little information besides the names and that no addresses were given. Picture, by United States Army Signal Corps, reached this country via Australia.—WIREPHOTO (P). ANOTHER PICTURE WILL BE FOUND ON PAGE 4.

U. S. GIVES THIS UP



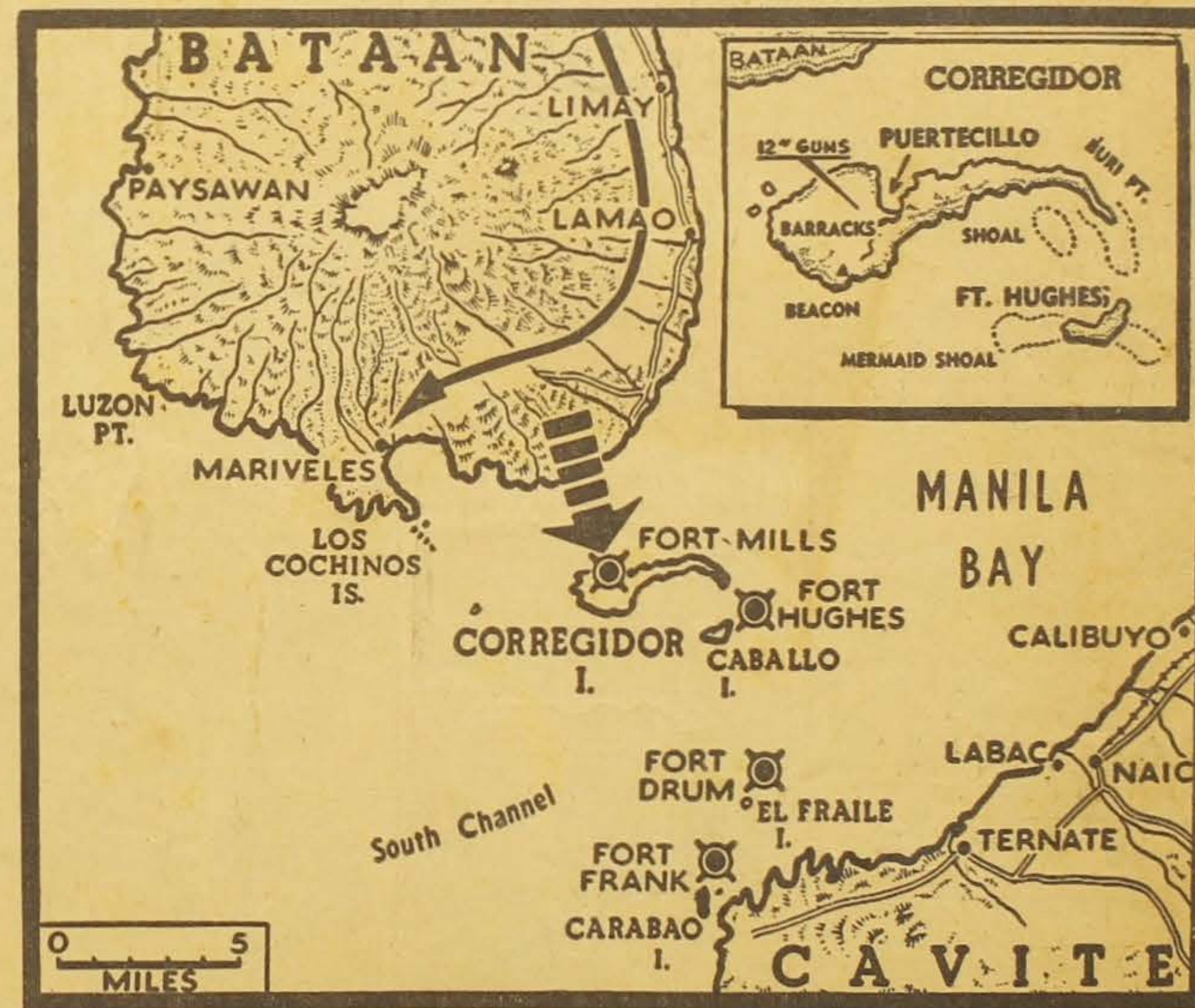
This closeup aerial view shows part of the great American naval base at Cavite, near Manila, which was evacuated in the face of the Japanese advance in the Philippines. Large building in center and slightly to the left is a hospital.—WIREPHOTO (P).

Japs Finally Capture Corregidor, Rock-Bound Gibraltar of the Philippines



The island of Corregidor, rock-hewn citadel at the entrance to Manila bay and last United States foothold in northern Philippines, Tuesday night was captured by Japanese landing parties. This is a general view of the island, its tadpole-like tail stretching out in the distance

toward the city of Manila. Within its caverns, some 7,000 American and Filipino troops had held out against terrific pounding by Japanese planes and guns. Now these valiant defenders are believed to be prisoners after battling the invaders among the rocks and along the beaches.



The attack on Corregidor began Tuesday midnight (Manila time), the Japanese apparently surging across the two miles of water that separates the island from Bataan. Map shows the three other American forts, guarding entrance to Manila bay. Black arrow shows how the Japanese took Bataan. Inset is closeup of Corregidor.

Corregidor, Bataan Recall Memories

By Horace Sutton

CORREGIDOR, The Philippines — The opening of both Hilton and Sheraton hotels in Manila during the new year is certain to make the capital a major tourist center along with Hong Kong, Tokyo, and Bangkok.



Sutton

One of the most compelling sights is sure to be the island of Corregidor which, with Bataan, has been etched into American history along with Bunker Hill, Bull Run, and Belleau Wood. It drew its baptism of fire on Dec. 29, just 25 years ago.

The great loop of Manila bay is guarded at its mouth by the island of Corregidor, four miles long and shaped like a tadpole. Bataan is a long arm, a peninsula that comes down almost to meet Corregidor. Its inner coast fends off the China sea.

Just 25 years ago a large force of American and Filipino troops were dug in along the wooded Bataan peninsula where they succeeded, at least for a time, in holding down General Homma, the Tiger of Malaya who had conquered Singapore. Bataan fell on April 9, 1942, but the fortress of Cor-

regidor, bristling with coastal guns and the headquarters of General MacArthur and the Philippine government until both were ordered out, held out for another 27 days.

Even before the Spaniards came, Corregidor was always Manila's rock. In Spanish time, it became a fortress.

In the Battle of Manila bay, the United States got Corregidor along with the rest of the Philippines, and during the early 1900s it proceeded to fortify it and establish it as a military post. It was unfortunate in view of later events, that the fortifications were erected to ward off a sea attack. The planners didn't count on an attack from nearby Bataan and they surely didn't see the emergent role to be played by the airplane.

Millions of dollars were poured into the defense of Corregidor and the remnants of the enormous barracks and the elaborate gun emplacements are a fair indication of the money that was spent. When the army finally awoke to the possibilities of an attack from the air, the diplomats had already laced them into the Washington Peace Treaty of 1922 which forbade further fortification.

Today trips by hydrofoil leave the piers of Manila bay not far from the Manila hotel, cruising across the huge bay in



about 45 minutes. Jeeps and trucks take visitors up the dusty road to Manila tunnel which the United States was allowed to build as a defensive measure. It became MacArthur's headquarters in December, 1941, and the government of the Philippines moved in too.

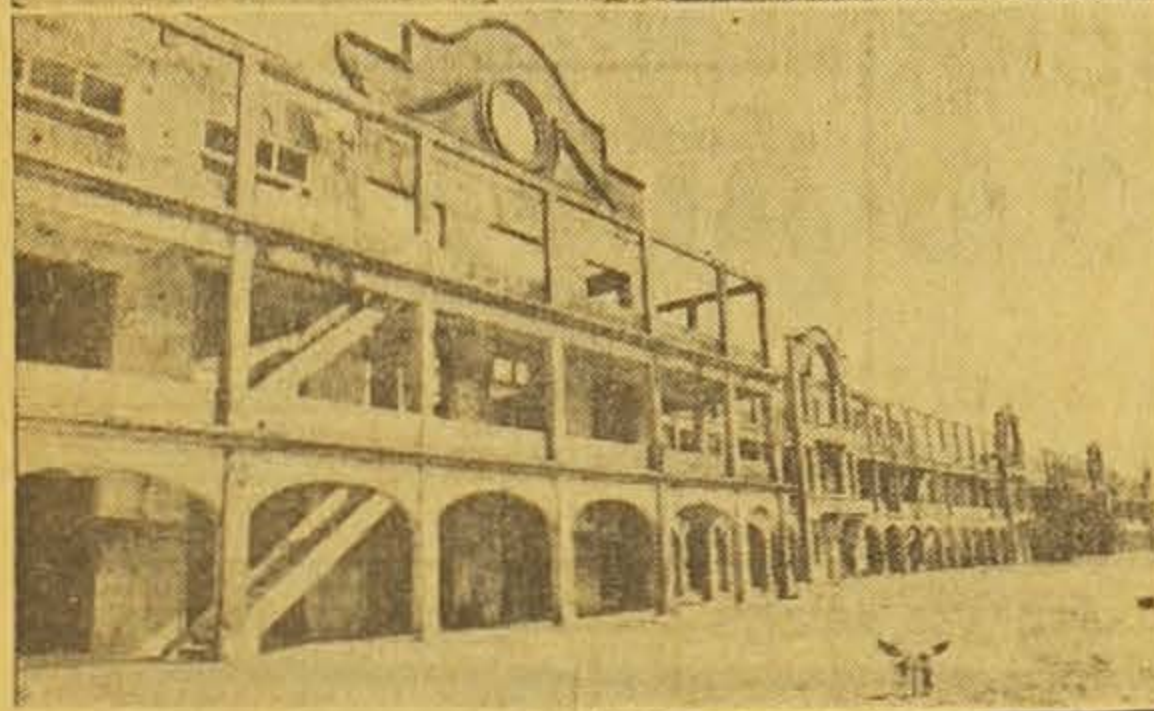
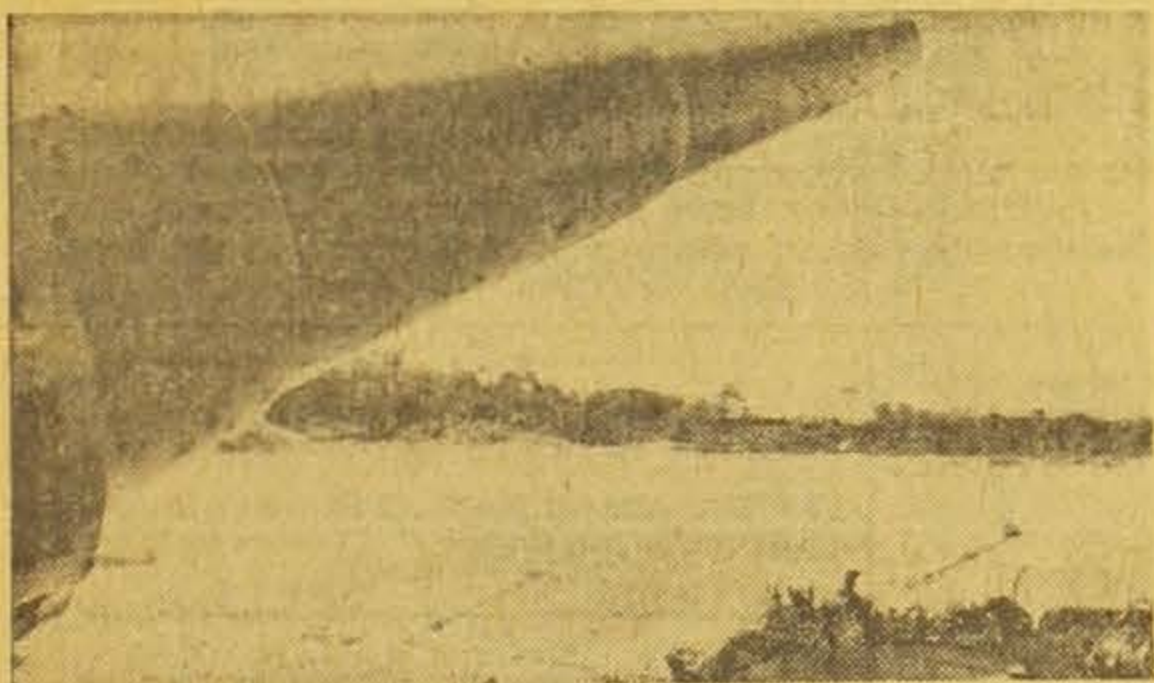
Visitors bounce over the jungle roads to look at what has become the wreckage of a military civilization. There were once 65 miles of paved road on the island, nearly 10 miles of electric trolleys, a golf course, an Army and Navy pier and an airfield.

The gun batteries are still in

place, and so are some of the huge coastal guns, rusted now and still pointing towards the sea from which the attack never came. Battery Hearn was fitted with a 12-inch rifle which could fire a 1,200 pound shell 16½ miles.

Japan lost some 20,000 men in the assault on Corregidor. Until the surrender, the Filipinos and Americans had lost only about 800. Of the 70,000 defenders who finally surrendered to Homma's forces, only 54,000 reached the concentration camp after the famed Bataan Death March.

If it can be kept in mind that Corregidor stood resolute from the first attacks before New Year's day 25 years ago until well along in the spring, it is possible to appreciate the bravery of the defenders under siege. Corregidor, in the tourist awakening of the Philippines, will join a list of famed battlefields of the world that already includes such celebrated names as Gettysburg, Waterloo, and the Normandy Beaches.



Still pointing toward the sea at Battery Hearn on Corregidor, The Philippines, is the long barrel of a 12-inch naval gun pitted with scars from flying bomb fragments. The guns which made Corregidor impregnable from the sea, left the island vulnerable to air attack. Topside barracks at Corregidor were destroyed in the initial attack by Japanese forces early in World War II. The decaying fortress, a major tourist attraction, is just a hydrofoil ride away from Manila.

(UPI Photos)

U.S. Fighting Ship Losses Total 58

NEW YORK, N. Y. (AP)—The United States has lost 58 fighting ships during the present war, review of official ship-loss announcements discloses.

Of this total, only one, the 1,190-ton destroyer Reuben James, was lost before Pearl Harbor. The James was torpedoed west of Iceland on Oct. 30, 1941, with the loss of 101 lives.

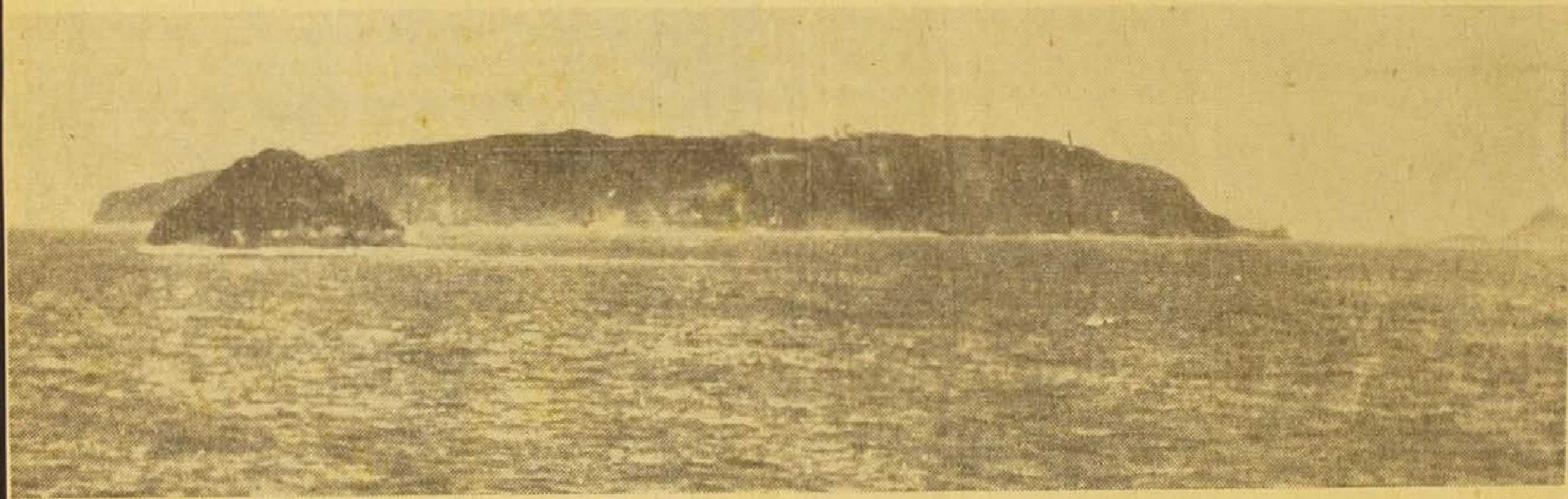
The Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor and subsequent enemy action in the Pacific and Atlantic resulted in the announced loss of 58 naval vessels whose known tonnage totalled 207,345 tons.

The house naval committee disclosed recently that the United states had 1,009,245 tons of fighting ships built since 1934 in service, with 2,646,606 tons more under construction as part of the nation's expanding two-ocean navy.

The following tabulation shows the announced United States naval losses (figures in parentheses representing the number of ships for which the known tonnage is listed):

Class and Name	Number	Tonnage
Battleships: Arizona	1	32,600 (1)
Aircraft carriers: Lexington, Yorktown	2	52,900 (2)
Cruisers: Houston , unidentified	2	9,050 (1)
Destroyers: Reuben James, unidentified, Cassin, Downes, Peary , Jacob Jones, Pope , Stewart, Edsall, Pillsbury , Sturtevant, Sims, Hammann, Blue, Jarvis	15	18,685 (14)
Submarines: S-26, Shark, Sea Lion, Perch	4	4,895 (4)
Target ships: Utah	1	19,800 (1)
Minesweepers: Penguin, Bittern , Finch , Pigeon , Quail , Tanager	6	5,260 (6)
Minelayer: Oglala	1	4,200 (1)
Auxiliaries: Calhoun, Little	2	2,120 (2)
Transport freighters: Liberty, Meigs	2	13,569 (2)
Oilers: Neches, Pecos, Neosho	3	18,800 (3)
Coast guard cutters: Acacia, Alexander Hamilton	2	3,346 (2)
Aircraft tenders: Langley	1	11,050 (1)
Gunboats: Asheville, Mindanao , Wake, Oahu, Luzon	5	3,210 (5)
Torpedo boats: Unidentified, PT-35 , QI , QII , QIV , QV	6	
Submarine tenders: Canopus	1	5,975 (1)
Navy tugs: Napa , Gannet	2	1,685 (2)
Patrol boats: Cythera, YP-389	2	200 (1)
Totals	58	207,345 (49)

MANILA BAY'S 'GIBRALTAR'



Shortly before the war department announced the loss of Manila to the Japanese, Tokyo sources reported that Gen. Douglas MacArthur himself and part of his forces have crossed Manila

bay to fortified Corregidor (above). Corregidor, a rock and jungle island about $6\frac{1}{2}$ miles long, blocks the outside entrance to Manila bay, more than 20 miles from the city proper.

Part 2: View from the camps

Prison camps left memories of hunger, cold and suffering for the Iowans captured by the enemy. The experience also left lifelong scars.

Remembrance of War

How the experience changed the lives of Iowans.



MARK MARTURELLO/THE REGISTER

44 months of hell as POW

What was it like to spend nearly four years in a Japanese prison camp? Gene Fleener hears that question all the time. It was so miserable that he can barely answer. He kept his sanity by remembering his grandfather's Iowa farm.

By MIKE KILEN
REGISTER STAFF WRITER

He is 79 and lives alone in a trailer on the east side of Des Moines.

Photographs of a young Gene Fleener in uniform hang on the walls of the tight hallway leading to his bedroom.

Here's a picture of him not too long after he got out of the Japanese prisoner of war camp in 1945. His uniform swallows his skinny body.

In the bedroom, he has piled the bed with memories, mostly pictures, old soldier reunion newsletters and official documents.

He picks up three items.

The first is a toothbrush, the bristles worn down to the plastic. He used it in POW camp.

Then the worn tin cup he drank from.

Finally a piece of wood shaped like a foot, a thin leather strap fastened to the side with a bent-over nail. It is the wooden sandal he made and wore in camp.

He talks about it all without much wonder or enthusiasm, as if going through the required motions, even as his trembling hand holds items he used 56 years ago, as a young man, when all he could do to survive was play mental tricks, idealizing his grandfather's Iowa farm.

For 56 years people have asked him how he survived. Imagine responding to that.

He did survive. Forty-four months of hell. "It's like winning the lottery," Fleener says of his survival. "You think it would be all good. But you don't come away feeling good."

People want to know what it was like to spend almost four years in a POW camp. They always have.

They want to hear the details, not just the war stories about "me and the boys on leave," the gun calibers and fighter plane models, the military tactics and textbook strategy.

They want to find out how a man can survive with a bayonet in his face every day, with little to eat, wondering on what day he will die.

When the Japanese boarded the American prisoners on the ship to take them to camp, they were given a list of 12 rules.

Prohibitions included talking in loud voices and using more than two blankets.

Punishment was immediate death.

The rules document provided this grim consolation: "Navy of the Great Japanese Empire will not try to punish you all with death."

Then they promptly beheaded five soldiers.

It gets fuzzy at times, remembering all this, Fleener says, especially when his military career began with such enthusiasm.

Becoming a soldier seemed the thing to



DAVID PETERSON/REGISTER PHOTOS

Medal for bravery: Gene Fleener holds his Asiatic Pacific Campaign medal. He spent 44 months in a Japanese POW camp. Fleener wants to be remembered for the heroic effort by the Marines to defend Wake Island before his 1941 capture.

Inside



TRUTH: The stories of Iowa heroes will be told in an Iowa State production.

POW IN GERMANY: An Iowan captured by the Germans ate dogs and grass. Page 6E

do, coming from the tiny town of Newburg, near Grinnell, where the only thing he wanted was to get away. He even changed his birth certificate to join the Marines at age 17 because they had nice uniforms. That was 1940.

Eighteen months later he was manning a large gun and shooting at Japanese dive bombers coming at him on tiny Wake

About this series

When does war hit home?

In modern America, it happened on Dec. 7, 1941, and Sept. 11, 2001.

The balance of global conflicts in the last 100 years were fought on the soil of other nations.

Thousands of Iowans witnessed those conflicts: World War I, World War II, the wars in Korea, Vietnam and the Persian Gulf.

They fought, they served on the sidelines, they watched the enemy invade their country, they fled the oppressors.

Many of those witnesses walk past us every day on the sidewalks, silently sheltering their past.

No single experience can capture the love and hate, confusion and heartbreak of war.

But in the aftermath of Sept. 11, a few Iowans dug into their memories and their scrapbooks to share their stories with us.

The series ends on the 60th anniversary of the bombing of Pearl Harbor.

SUNDAY

War from the Other Side
How Dieter Konitzer fled the advancing Russians in the final days of World War II.

TODAY

View from the Camps
Gene Fleener spent 44 harrowing months in a Japanese POW camp.

TUESDAY

Letters from Home
Husbands at the front and their wives keep love alive during three wars.

WEDNESDAY

You Can't Kill Memories
At the Iowa Veterans Home in Marshalltown, old soldiers come to terms with their histories.

THURSDAY

Guns, Bombs, Starvation and Murder
Iowa's refugees spent years ducking bullets and grenades to survive.

FRIDAY

Witness to Attack
Bud Wise saw bombers attack Pearl Harbor, and John Clayburg watched the World Trade Center collapse.

See WAR, Page 6E

Folds of POW flag hold memories of grim years

By Sue McMillin
GT Staff Writer

■ Veterans Administration chief criticizes press coverage of VA. Page B1.

At first glance, the flag Otto Schwarz was unfolding in the hotel lobby looked like any other American flag.

But with a gleam in his eyes and a voice thick with emotion, he explained why the finely stitched flag with 48 stars was not just another flag.

The slightly irregular stars were hand-cut and sewn to the blue background by American soldiers who had been held prisoner during World War II by the Japanese.

One of those prisoners was Schwarz, and on Tuesday he held the flag he had not seen for nearly 37 years, a flag used to save the lives of the victims of another war.

Schwarz, imprisoned for 44 months, is in Colorado Springs attending the 35th annual convention of American Ex-POWs.

"When the war ended we were in Indochina, and we had this American flag which we made by hand," he said. "We flew it over our camp and used it to rescue people and bring them into the safety of the camp. The Vietnamese wouldn't touch them while under the protection of the American flag."

The rescue of civilian Vietnamese by the newly freed POWs took place in 1945, before the POWs were flown back to the

See POW, Page A2



48 STARS: Doris Smith, wife of a late ex-prisoner of war, presents a flag made by POWs held by the Japanese during World War II to Otto Schwarz Tuesday at the 35th annual convention of American Ex-POWs in Colorado Springs.

DAVE TURNER/Gazette Telegraph

■ POW flag tells tale of war years

From Page A1

United States. At that time, the Vietnamese were fighting the French.

Shortly before the war ended, Schwarz escaped from the Saigon camp and lived with the French until he was captured by the Vietnamese.

"I finally convinced them that I was an American and they took me back to the camp," he said. "I guess I was actually held prisoner by Vietnam, too. I never thought about that before."

When the POWs were repatriated, the flag went home in its handmade carrying case with Jack Smith, the senior petty officer among the POWs.

But Schwarz, who lives in New Jersey, said he wasn't sure until recently that the flag had left Vietnam.

Smith died about 10 years ago and his widow, Doris Smith, kept the flag safely tucked away in her Long Beach, Calif., home.

"I knew someday I would have to give it away," she said. "But I

waited until they were better organized so that it would be well taken care of."

After he learned that the flag still existed, Schwarz said he had written to Mrs. Smith and "encouraged her to give it to a museum" in Houston that held artifacts from the cruiser USS Houston.

But he did not know she was planning to bring it to the convention and give it to him. She also brought some personal notes that Smith kept during his internment.

"I am surprised. This is a very emotional moment for me," he said. "I'm going to sleep on it (the flag)."

He said he planned to take the flag and notes within the next two weeks to the museum at the University of Houston. The museum is called the George R. Brown Cruiser Houston Memorial Room.

Brown is a Houston resident who financed the room, Schwarz said.

Among the notes was a work log kept by Smith from the time the Japanese surrendered until the POWs left the camp.

There was also a handmade pouch with notes on scraps of paper.

The POWs were on the USS Houston when it was sunk, and the 350 who survived were taken prisoner. They were imprisoned in Java and Singapore and were among the POWs who built the "death railroad" from Burma to Thailand.

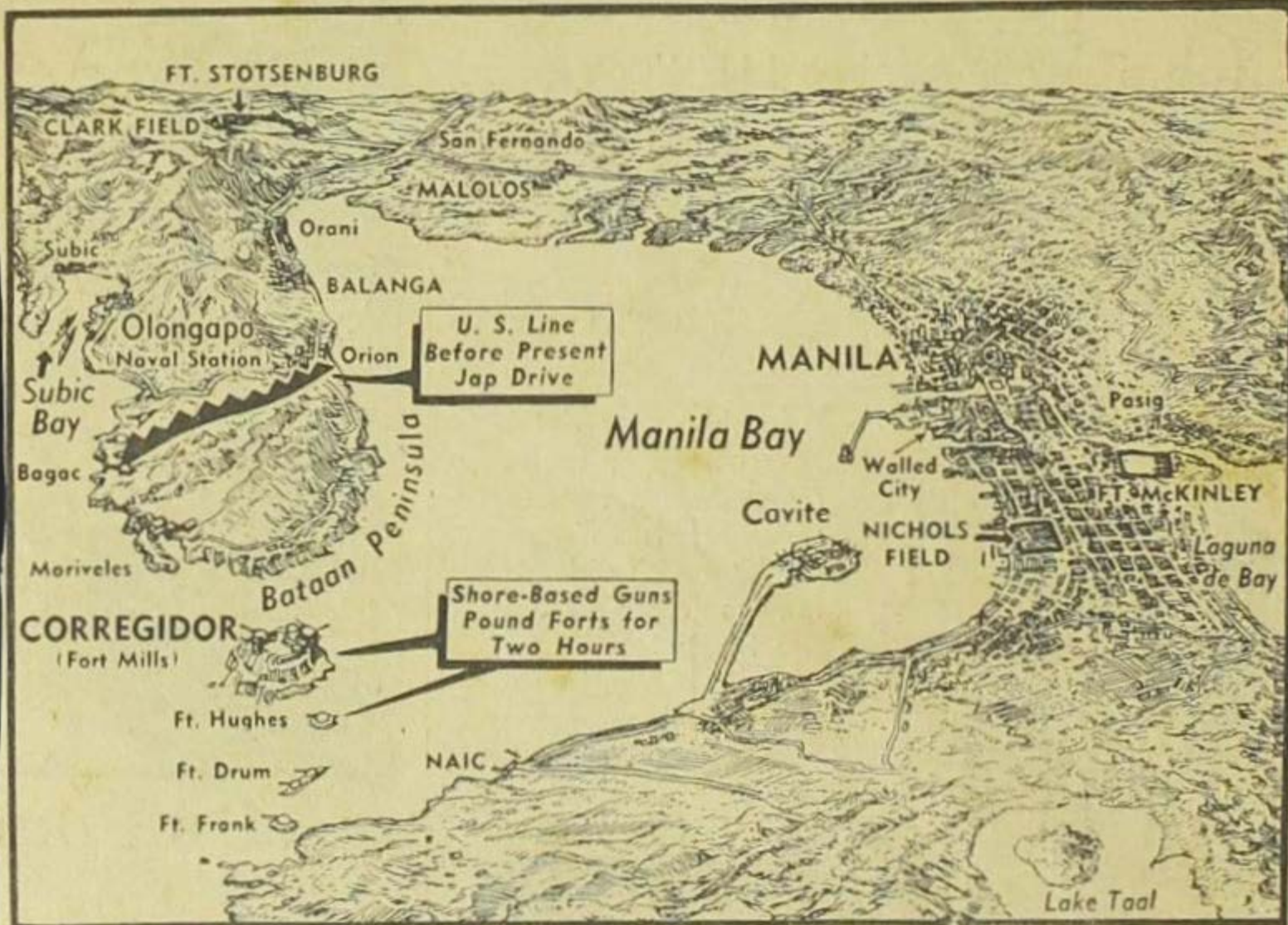
Although Schwarz did not help build the famed bridge over the River Kwai, he traveled over it on the way to Indochina. "Bridge Over the River Kwai," a film about the POWs who built the bridge and its bombing during the war, was released in 1957.

"It didn't look anything like the bridge William Holden was at," he said later Tuesday while showing slides of the railroad.

The POWs built in 14 months a railroad that British engineers had estimated would take between five and seven years to construct, he said.

About 100,000 people — POWs and those recruited by the Japanese to work on the project — died during construction.

HEROIC STAND ON BATAAN



Map shows historic Bataan peninsula where Japs have launched fierce drive, pushing back heroic American and Filipino defenders fighting against great odds. Also shown is Manila, where Japs' "new order" isn't going down so well. Philippine hatred for the invaders is growing in face of continued Nipponese brutality.

PRISON CAMPS IN TOKYO AREA



This is the first picture of prisoner of war camps in the Tokyo area, taken from a low-flying 3rd fleet carrier plane.

Note large PW printed on roofs of some of the buildings.—WIRE-PHOTO (P) via radiophoto from 3rd fleet in Sagami bay.

When Philippines' Fate Was Sealed

How the Japanese crippled the United States air strength in the Philippines is told by a correspondent who saw the battle of Luzon and most of the siege of Bataan before going to Australia.

By Clark Lee.

MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA (AP)—The fate of Luzon and Bataan was sealed some 10 hours after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor.

Our main bomber force was lined up on Clark field, 40 miles north of Manila on Luzon island, with the crews standing by awaiting orders to take off and bomb Japanese air and naval bases on the island of Formosa.

Most of the pursuit planes were at nearby Iba field.

The pursuits and some bombers had been aloft during the morning but had returned to the ground for orders. The time was 1 p. m. Dec. 8—the same day as the Pearl Harbor blow, but a different date because of the international date line.

While these instructions were being issued, the Japanese struck.

Fifty-four heavy enemy bombers roared over Clark at 10,000 feet and showered the grounded planes, runways and hangars with explosives.

Eighty-six Japanese Navy fighters came in their wake and strafed the planes, ground forces and anti-aircraft batteries in low-level attacks.

Roaring Hell.

Simultaneously other bombers and fighters dived on the parked planes at Iba.

They left a roaring hell of flames at both air-dromes. Some of our planes were saved, but the main strength of our air force was gone.

After midnight that night Japanese bombers came in over Manila bay and, aided by flares and fires set by fifth columnists on the ground, attacked Nichols field on the outskirts of Manila, where planes assigned to defend the Cavite naval base were stationed.

Earlier that day the Japanese air force had struck at American outpost airfields strung upon the western and northern coasts of Luzon, even some supposedly secret fields completed only a few days before.

At each some planes were destroyed on the ground in perfectly co-ordinated attacks.

Japanese planes had been flying over Luzon several nights prior to the war. They had been picked up by detectors and once a flight of pursuits attempted to intercept them, but missed.

Prepared.

The bombers used in the first raids apparently came from Formosa and Hainan and the fighters probably from two carriers.

On the same day the Japanese forces landed at Aparri and seized a large landing field which had been previously prepared by their agents. It was disguised as a ricefield.

Within a few days Japanese planes were operating from this field.

On Dec. 10, about noon, the Japanese attacked Cavite with devastating success.

Without anti-aircraft or pursuit interference, their bombers criss-crossed the naval base for several hours.

The first bomb hit the power plant, the second a fire station.

Damage was widespread, casualties were heavy and the Asiatic fleet thus lost its sole effective operating base in the Philippines.

American submarines continued to operate for some days in island waters, attacking several enemy ships, but it was found necessary to withdraw most of the fleet to Java.

Two weeks later the Japanese hit the Philippines in force, landing almost without sea or aerial opposition in southeastern Luzon and in Lingayen gulf.

Most of Gen. Douglas MacArthur's army was green and untested.

American officers did their best to fight the Japanese on the beaches, but the enemy's air control and overwhelming numbers quickly overcame the opposition.

Lacking effective air or sea support, MacArthur was forced to fall back on the strategy of a withdrawal into Bataan, which had been prepared years previously.

Were to Hold.

The force was to hold until reinforcements arrived, estimated to take 60 days.

Unfortunately the development of the Japanese air power and blows to Pearl Harbor made the dispatch of reinforcements impossible.

It is estimated that the defenders never exceeded 70,000 troops, including at the most 8,000 Americans, which comprised the 31st infantry, air corps men, sailors and marines, anti-aircraft regiments, supply troops, engineers and the medical corps and nurses.

These defenders of Bataan felt that help could have been sent, and that American forces could have fought their way through to relieve the peninsula.

When it did not come day after day, some officers began

to realize it was not coming. The majority of the army, however, refused to believe this.

Day after day heartening reports spread among the troops that help was on the way. The most frequent rumor was that aircraft carriers were landing planes to operate from Bataan airfields.

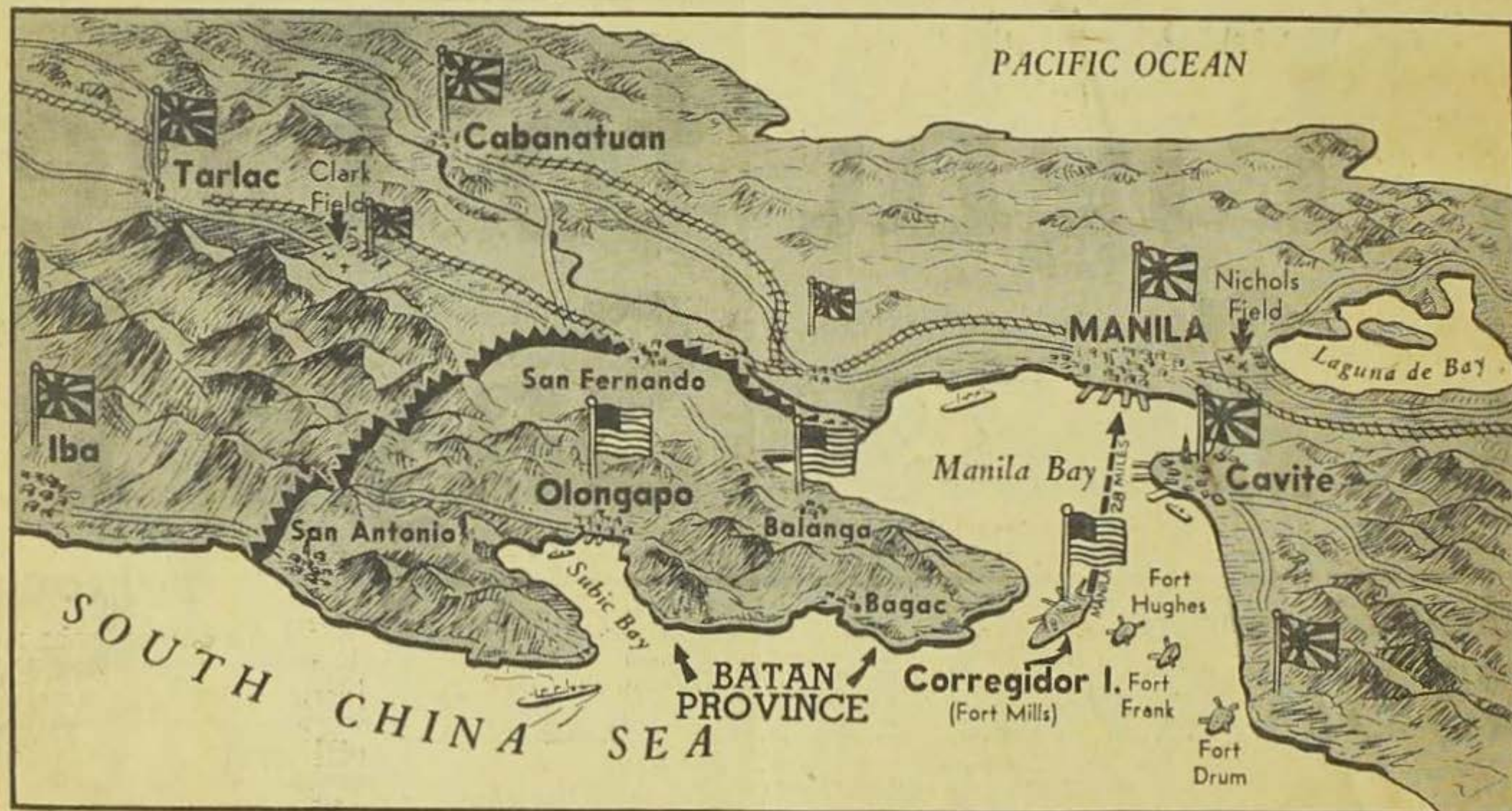
Men waited daily for reports that Tokyo was bombed. They momentarily expected reports of some smashing American victory.

American officers who knew the truth had the heart-wrenching job of sending young Filipinos to death on the battlefield in a lost cause. Young American officers who led them fought courageously until their own death.

HEIGHTENS TENSION

Collaborationists in Paris As

WHERE MACARTHUR'S MEN HOLD OUT



General MacArthur's last stand is being made in Batan province, the area inside the defense line in this map of the Manila bay section of the Philippines. U. S. still holds Subic bay and Olongapo naval station. Corregidor and the adjoining fortresses,

so long as they remain in American hands, prevent the Japanese from using Manila bay, vital link in the establishment of supply lines. The Japanese have based their planes on Clark and Nichols field, 30 miles away, for attacks on Corregidor and other forts.

Ex-POW Tells What It's Like to Stand at Attention for 53 Hours

"My head was pounding with the heat. Sweat poured down my face. My arms felt like ships' anchors. I counted the seconds until it ended — but I refused to give up."

Samuel B. Moody was trembling with excitement as he recalled 53 hours of pure hell when he was forced to stand at rigid attention for more than 2 agonizing days and nights in a Japanese prisoner of war camp in 1945.

"My lips cracked and bled," he said. "I couldn't keep my eyes open. My ankles swelled and burned. It was maddening. But I had made up my mind not to fall."

One by one, three Americans who were

undergoing the same torturous punishment with Moody collapsed — and were dragged away. But summoning every last ounce of his courage, Moody remained standing. "I wanted to beat my captors at their own game," he told *The ENQUIRER* as he remembered his grueling experience.

Moody, 54, was recently notified at his Clearwater, Fla., home that his heroic defiance was a world record. He had "stood at attention longer than anybody in history," said a spokesman for the "Guinness Book of World Records."

"I had nothing but hate for the guards," Moody recalled. "I decided I would aggravate them by standing for however long they wanted me to."

The ex-Army sergeant had been a prisoner in Narumi, Japan, about 10 months when his ordeal took place. The camp held about 200 American and 400 British prisoners — all captured on Bataan and Corregidor.

Moody — his weight shrunken from 160 pounds to 96 — and three buddies, Mickey Owens, a civilian, and Navy chiefs Ronnie White and "Red" Wagner, were caught stealing food while working in a Japanese factory.

"We barely got enough food," Moody said. "As punishment, the camp commander ordered us to stand at attention near the guardhouse."

The torturous stint began about 4 p.m. under a broiling sun. "Four guards on chairs faced us," Moody said. "When we moved, they'd hit us with sticks. Every 2 hours they'd change shifts and we'd get a chance to wiggle our fingers or shake our legs. Ronnie White collapsed that first



FREED: Sgt. Samuel Moody outside the POW camp after war ended.

night. A guard walked over and kicked him.

"Ronnie screamed, and was carried away unconscious."

"I thought the guards would give in when morning came. But three of us were still there that afternoon."

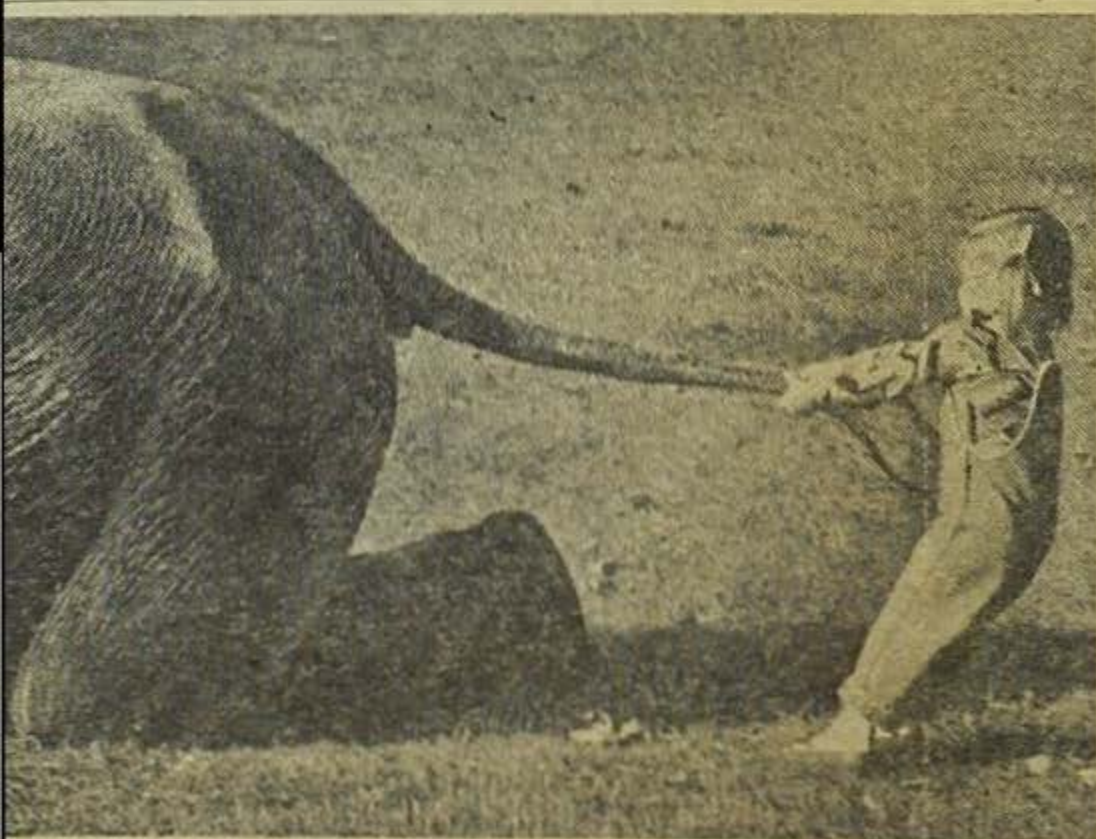
"Mickey Owens collapsed the second night, breaking his arm as he fell. They took him away. Two of us were still standing the next morning."

"But when the sun reached its hottest, Chief Wagner collapsed and was dragged to the barracks."

"The minutes crawled by. I daydreamed and even cracked jokes to myself. Finally, about 9 o'clock the third night, 53 hours after it started, the guards told me that I could go. But I was so numb that I couldn't even move."

"I felt like I was going to cry or pass out. Instead, I just collapsed into the arms of four Americans who helped me away."

— JOHN M. WEBB



Palawan POW Placque Dedicated

Memorial Service Held

Survivors of one of the most horrendous acts of modern war crowded into the new chapel in the Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery on Sat., May 13, to dedicate a placque to the memory of 139 American Prisoners of War massacred by Japanese soldiers on Palawan Island, Philippines, during World War II.

The bronze placque is a gift from the American Defenders of Bataan and Corregidor, an organization of ex-Prisoners of War, captured by the Japanese at the Fall of Bataan and the Fortress Island of Corregidor in Manila Bay, May 1942.

According to the Japanese Army schedule, the Philippine Island should have been occupied within a matter of a few weeks after their initial attack. However, the "Battling Bastards of Bataan" held out for five months; out-manned, out-gunned, low on food, water, supplies and ammunition, and with no hope of reinforcements. Commanding General Jonathan Wainwright surrendered with his troops on May 6, 1942.

On Dec. 14, 1944, Japanese guards, angered and fearful of air raids by American Flyers with the possibility of eminent invasion by U.S. land

forces, herded 130 U.S. soldiers, sailors and marine prisoners into cliff side and trench bomb shelters at gunpoint. There, while huddled in a false sense of safety and security, their Japanese guards threw buckets of aviation gasoline over the unsuspecting captives and ignited them with torches, burning them to death.

In 1952, 123 of the victims were repatriated to their native soil and buried in Section 85 at the Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery. They were interred in a 35 by 40 foot single grave, which is one of the largest such group burials in the United States.

Sixteen of the victims are buried elsewhere in private cemeteries. Eleven survivors of the holocaust managed to escape. They reached friendly Filipino guerrillas, who cared for and delivered them into the hands of American Forces. Two of the four living survivors were able to attend the dedication of the placque. They are Rufus W. Smith of Hughes Springs, Texas and Glenn W. McDole of Des Moines, Iowa. Both served with the 4th U.S. Marines.

Although 36 years have passed since that day in December 1944, both recall their experiences vividly. In

(Continued On Page 26)



P.O.W. Memorial

Miss Mary Grayson sings "My Buddy" at a placque dedication in the memory of the American Prisoners of War killed on Palawan Island during WW II. The dedication was held on May

13 at Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery. The flag shown in the photo was made by prisoners from a parachute which dropped into the prison compound with supplies.

Palawan P.O.W.

(Continued From Page 1)

1948, they attended the War Crimes trials in Japan as witnesses against the Japanese guards who were caught. Thirty-two of these guards were condemned to death; one was given a life sentence in prison.

The ceremony in the chapel was brief. Ex-P.O.W. Ben Guyton,

an Artillery Battery Commander on Corregidor, spoke over the American Flag made by prisoners from a parachute which dropped into their prison compound carrying supplies. A young lieutenant, who earned the title of the "Fox-hole Chaplain" on Bataan by serving the spiritual needs of the prisoners at various island P.O.W. camps, was the

keynote speaker. Miss Mary Grayson sang the song "My Buddy".

The gathering then proceeded to the gravesite of the 123 Palawan massacre victims. Due to inclement weather, the gravesite service was also brief.

As gusty winds whipped the flags of the United States Air Forces Color Guard, a bugler sounded taps. Over 150 persons stood in the rain to pay homage to their lost comrades.

After the gravesite service, members crowded around the huge tablet-like gravestone bearing the names of the 123 victims, pointing to names of men they once knew.



DAVE TURNER/Gazette Telegraph

UNFLAGGING MEMORY: Dorothy Dennig places a small flag Thursday on a wreath in memory of those who fought and died with her husband.

Ex-POWs eulogize comrades

By Diane Wengler
GT Staff Writer

They walked down the center aisle — smiling, tanned and relaxed as any tourist group visiting the Air Force Academy Chapel.

But as their four days together were drawing to a close, the composure dissolved to tears.

Their faces were shadowed with the horrors they shared decades ago as U.S. prisoners of war in often brutal conditions.

The men and women were attending a memorial service for "those that died, those who were incarcerated, and those who came back" during the conclusion Thursday morning of the 35th annual convention of American Ex-Prisoners of War.

As as about 200 from their ranks placed flags on the altar for their comrades who didn't make it home, they cried.

"I dedicate this flag to my crew, who didn't come back," said one man, his voice cracking.

"This is for my crewmates who were shot down Sept. 14, 1942, over Africa," another man said. "I was the only survivor."

"This is for the chaplain at Stalag 13, who helped us keep

See EX-POWs, Page A4

Ex-POWs remember those left behind

From Page A1

our sanity," said a third.

After a Scripture reading and a rousing version of "America," Col. Robert S. Delligatti, academy chief of staff, told the group, "In 23 years of service, this is my most humbling moment."

Delligatti thanked them for "participating in the search that has made us free," and told them of a priest who lost his hands when the Germans mined an ammunition dump during World War II.

"The surgeons were asking themselves, 'How can we tell him he has lost his hands? He's a priest,'" Delligatti said. "Then he awakened and said, 'You didn't take my hands, I gave them in the service of my country.'"

John Romine, national

chaplain for the former POWs, said he thought it was appropriate "for those of us who have seen the corners of hell" to be attending a service in the beautiful chapel.

Romine asked the POWs to stand up and call out where they had fought.

North Africa, Guam, Corregidor, England, Burma and Germany were some of the places shouted out by men, who often named their units.

"We did cover the world, and we did leave some of our comrades there," Romine said.

Romine said he had often asked himself why God would let so many suffer and die. But he said he concluded, "We fulfilled our purpose and touched lives that will never be the same."

In a moment of prayer, Romine said he heard

"thousands of voices calling from the grave. They said, 'Thank God, you didn't die.'"

Many of the POWs wore sweatshirts or vests embroidered with the names of their special fraternities, including "Stalag 17" and "Stalag Luft IV."

Before the ceremony, Romine said the POW group provides support for many still suffering from the horrors of imprisonment.

"There's the comradeship we have here," he said. "When we first came out of the camps, everything looked so great we wanted to forget everything back there."

"But as we get older, the hunger, the disease and the loneliness all comes back again," Romine said. "While we were young, we did OK, but when we get older... so it's therapy."

WE SHALL NOT FORGET

by Tony Fusco
Alias Sgt. Anthony

"It's strange", commented Henry Rosenbloom, "I've been to this cemetery many times but I've never really seen it until today. The cemetery is absolutely beautiful, peaceful, and quiet. I am awed by the enormity and serenity of this cemetery, not just its 309 acres and 65,000 interments, but by the lessons of history one can learn by walking through its narrow lanes. American history is there, and there", said the old warrior, as he pointed to headstones revealing a portion of passed life engraved on its face.

Henry Rosenbloom, V.F.W. Director-Chairman of the 1978 Memorial Day Program at Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery, stood looking down at the huge tablet-like gravemarker covered with the names of 123 men etched deep into its granite face. The men were American Prisoners of War executed by Japanese soldiers on Palawan Island, Philippines, during World War I. The massive 35 x 40 foot tomb is one of the largest group burials of its kind in the United States.

As Henry Rosenbloom stood motionless before the tomb, his memory transported him back 34 years to the Philippines during 1944, where he, as a young man serving with the 5th U.S. Army Air Corps had participated with the Philippine liberation.

Rosenbloom is a life member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. He was selected by the Inter-Veterans Memorial Day Service Committee to direct the huge memorial program at the National Cemetery. The committee is composed of 14 veteran and patriotic groups in the greater St. Louis area who band together with single purpose of mind, to conduct a "befitting service of respect" to their comrades-in-arms interred beneath the hallowed ground at Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery. The committee, formed 23 years ago, states simply their motto, "We shall not forget". The program consumes a year's planning to arrange. Last year, the



LEST WE FORGET: This old photograph of a 1904 grave when 33 bodies were transferred from Fort Bellefontaine vividly reminds us that 152 years of history are buried at Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery - men from the Revolutionary War, the Spanish-American War, the Civil War. Men and women who served their country in every branch of the service are buried there. On Memorial Day, Monday, May 29th, a Memorial Service will be held at 10 am. at the cemetery. The service is open to the public.

American Legion held the honors.

According to the Inter-Veteran's Director, a portion of the cemetery was originally part of the old Jefferson Barracks Army Post, established in 1826. The post graveyard, now the National Cemetery, was expanded by Executive Order in 1863, and the site was selected by General Henry W. Halleck during the Civil War. U.S. Cemeteries were conceived because of necessity caused by the war. Even the instructions for the Memorial Day Services originate from the war.

Ex-Union Gen. John A. Logan, serving as Commander-in-Chief of the Grand Army of the Republic (G.A.R.), a civil war veterans organization, issued special orders designating May 30th to be set aside for the purpose of paying homage to those who fell in battle. Since that conflict over 100 years ago and various legislation enactments, all honorable discharged veterans from all wars are now permitted interment there.

These epitaphs tell of 152 years of history, related Director Rosenbloom, as he continued his stroll through

the long even rows of white headstones stretching as far as the eye can see.

Rosenbloom caught an object of keen interest and he stopped before a large specially designed tombstone. He read, "B-25 bomber, 417th Bomber Group, 673rd Squadron, 5th U.S. Army Air Corps, lost in the jungles of New Guinea Island, May 22, 1944." The names of the ten crewmen are also listed on the face of the stone. "This aircraft was discovered by an oil exploration company 26 years after being reported 'missing and presumed lost'", stated the Director, "and interred here in 1971." "They were in the jungle all those years waiting to come home."

"Over in that direction are the grave sites of over 1000 Confederate soldiers who died during the Civil War. And over there, men of the Revolutionary War, the Spanish American War and World War One. Every war, every branch of service, and the three thousand 'Unknown Soldiers'.

"For many people, Jefferson Barracks is out of sight and out of mind. Sort of off the beaten path, you might say. The people a-

round St. Louis have no idea the treasure they possess, right at their doorstep." The thousands interred at Jefferson Barracks, and the thousands buried in the other two U.S. Cemeteries in Missouri, and all the hundreds of thousands interred in 117 National Cemeteries throughout the United States will be remembered on Memorial Day.

"The Inter-Veterans Committee now has their own distinguished Flag, symbolic of our association with this cemetery", said Director Rosenbloom. "When the stage is set, colorful flags of the 50 states of the Union will represent their native sons interred here. A tribute to the 3000 Unknown Servicemen here will be symbolized by a flag draped casket.

"It is a most profound and moving service. People from all across the country make special plans to attend the service.

"Over 5000 persons will attend the Memorial Day Service in the morning but by closing time 25 to 30 thousand persons will have visited this very special place."

40 Years After V-J Day, 2 Ex-POWs Decorated

By Eric Adler

World-Herald Staff Writer

About 11,600 U.S. and Filipino soldiers were surrendered May 6, 1942, to overwhelming Japanese forces on the Philippine island fortress of Corregidor.

World War II veterans Edward Hoffmann, 63, of Omaha and Frank DeVivo, 63, of Council Bluffs were among the captured men. They became prisoners of war for three years.

On the 40th anniversary of V-J Day, when Japan surrendered to Allied forces, the two men were decorated for their service.

They were awarded the Bronze Star Wednesday night by Strategic Air Command Col. Carl Eppig at the Disabled American Veterans Lodge, 4515 F St.

"It's 43 years late, but I suppose it's still kind of an honor," said DeVivo, 2306 Avenue B.

"I'm glad I got it," said Hoffmann,

2510 S. 46th Ave. "I'm sort of thrilled and proud of it."

The Bronze Star is awarded for meritorious or heroic military service in war. A recent law allows Bataan and Corregidor veterans to receive it.

Both Hoffmann and DeVivo applied for the medal about eight months ago, they said.

Hoffmann, a former corporal, said he can remember watching Lt. Gen. Jonathan M. Wainwright raise the white flag of surrender that May 6 night, 28 days after the Japanese captured the Bataan Peninsula and took about 37,000 American prisoners.

Then came the infamous "death march" to the prison camp of Bilibid, Hoffmann said.

"It was hell. They beat us up along the way, they didn't feed us much to eat and they threatened to kill us," he said.

DeVivo, a former private, remembers staying more than a month at Bilibid

and then being taken to two camps in Cabanatuan.

"They brought all the prisoners there who hadn't already died," he said. "We lost about 40 to 50 a day."

DeVivo suffered a wound at Cabanatuan that brought him the Purple Heart medal. He said he was stabbed in the groin with a bayonette after refusing to salute a Japanese soldier.

Hoffmann said he, too, was at Cabanatuan and was later taken to a prison camp in Palawan. He said he left there just before the Allied forces returned to the Philippines and before the Japanese slaughtered 300 Palawan prisoners.

Hoffmann said he was taken to two more Philippine prison camps and then to Tokyo, where he was used as a railroad worker.

DeVivo said that after leaving Cabanatuan, he was taken to another camp in October 1943 for one year and then to Japan, where he worked in copper

mines for eight months.

The men said they weighed less than 100 pounds when they were freed.

Freedom came after the second atomic bomb was dropped on Nagasaki and V-J Day was declared.

Both men said they have no regrets that the United States used the atomic bombs as a means to end the war.

"I know it's an evil thing to have," DeVivo said, "but without the atomic bomb, I never would have made it home."

POW medal

Brig. Gen. John L. Borling, Hq. SAC assistant Deputy Chief of Staff for operations, presents a POW medal to Frank DeVivo, a WW II U.S. Army veteran. Mr. DeVivo, a member of the 59th Coast Artillery Unit on Corregidor when the island fell to the Japanese, was a POW from May 6, 1942 until Sept. 13, 1945. General Borling was the guest speaker for the Veteran's Day ceremony at the Disabled Veterans of America Headquarters Nov. 11.



U.S. Air Force photo by Arnn. Jason Pettilio

Had an extra copy



Frank DeVivo, who endured three and a half years in a Japanese prison camp, is shown here with the Bronze Star he was awarded Wednesday night in recognition for meritorious service in the Philippines. — Nonpareil photo by Steve Glowacki.

Ex-POW: Difficult to be sympathetic toward Japanese

By TOM PETERSEN
Nonpareil Staff Writer

V-J Day has special relevance for Frank DeVivo. The day the Japanese stopped fighting was the first time in three and a half years that DeVivo was free from forced labor in a Japanese prison camp.

DeVivo, 2306 Avenue B, and Ed Hoffmann, Omaha, were awarded Bronze Stars Wednesday night in recognition for their meritorious service at Corregidor, Philippines. Col. Carl Eppig of Strategic Air Command and Orlo Natvig, the national commander of the American Ex-Prisoners of War, made the presentations at the regular meeting of the Omaha chapter of the American Ex-POWs.

DeVivo and his company had been fighting in Corregidor when Gen. Jonathan Wainwright surrendered the island to the Japanese in May, 1942. As a prisoner, DeVivo said he was forced to work various details for the Japanese, including in the copper mines, steel mills and shipyards.

"Coal mines were the worst," DeVivo said. "That's where you had to stand in water up to your waist, chipping at the walls, bringing down the coal for them. You had to do it or die, one of the two."

In 1944, DeVivo said, the Japanese attempted to transport prisoners from Corregidor to Japan, with a convoy of 37 ships out of Manila, Philippines. Allied submarines forced the convoy into Hong Kong, and destroyed all but eight ships, DeVivo said.

American planes then struck the ships in the harbor, unaware that some of the ships were carrying American prisoners.

"Our ships weren't marked," DeVivo said. "We lost two boatloads of prisoners in that mess, as far as I can tell. The ship I was on, we were the only one that got through. We got hit with machine gun fire but that's all. Nobody was hurt. None of the prisoners, anyway."

At that point, DeVivo said he weighed about 95 pounds, after weighing 180 pounds at the time of his capture.

V-J Day was never announced at the prison where DeVivo was held, 180

As ceremonies mark the end of World War II, local residents remember what it was like when the announcement came there would be no more killing. See Page 5A.

miles north of Hiroshima, but the surrender meant the end of the labor duties.

"After the fourteenth of August of '45 there was no more work," DeVivo said. "The guards were gone and we didn't know what happened. We had no idea what had taken place."

American planes eventually dropped supplies into the men, DeVivo said, "and we knew something wasn't quite right."

The prisoners were finally in American hands on Sept. 13, he said. Carried out on a stretcher, DeVivo had a broken vertebra in his neck from his treatment by the Japanese.

* Ex-POW: Difficult to be sympathetic toward Japanese

(Continued from Page 1A)

He returned to San Francisco in 1945 on a hospital ship and went on to Clinton for medical attention.

Despite the news blackout as prisoners for much of the war, DeVivo said the men never considered that the United States might be losing the war.

"We knew better than that," DeVivo said. "We could tell something happened every time the Japanese cut our rations down, and got a little more active with their vitamin stick" — a pick handle.

"That's what we called it, a vitamin stick," DeVivo said. "They made you move."

The war is still a very vivid memory for DeVivo, who has lived all his life in this area, aside from the five years he was in the war. He signed up for duty in 1940 with four friends, and was the only one to return five years later. He went on to work for Union Pacific Railroad, and retired four years ago.

"People don't understand what really went on over there. I've got some of my buddies, they'll talk to

me, but nobody else. You'll never forget it."

DeVivo talked without bitterness about his experiences, but also said he has a hard time feeling much sympathy for the Japanese affected by the atomic bomb.

"There's no way in the world that us guys who were over there have any sympathy for them," DeVivo said. "It's hard for anybody who's never been there to understand why we don't. We have our own reasons."

Jack Krejci, chapter commander, said Congress last year made all men who served at Corregidor and Bataan eligible to receive Bronze Stars. Some other veterans had applied for and received their medals by mail, Krejci said, but because the national commander was available, the medals were presented to DeVivo and Hoffmann out at the chapter's meeting. It just worked out that the presentations fell on V-J Day, he said.

Krejci said the Omaha chapter has about 250 members, including about 10 members from western Iowa. He said he expects other members who survived Corregidor and Bataan to apply, and be awarded the medals.