

6 December 1978

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Japanese Prisoner of War
Camps: Palawan, P.I., Manila, P.I.,
Hongkong, Joroku, Taiwan (Formosa),
and Tokyo.

To: The Ambassador of the Republic of China,
Embassy of the Republic of China,
2311 Massachusetts Avenue,
Washington, D.C. 20008

Subject: China War Memorial Medal -
Request for.

Reference: Page 47 American Legion
Magazine Sept. 1978
(Photostat attached)

I believe that I may be one of the few from this state of Iowa yet living eligible for the China War Memorial Medal during the early years before the capture of the Philippines in 1942. During this period all personnel were ordered out of the China area to Manila area and I ended up in the Staff of Admiral Harts, Commander in Chief of the Asiatic Fleet, Marsman Building, Port Area, Manila, P.I. I would say that all Americans that were in the China area before April 1942 became Japanese Prisoners of War and not many survived the ordeal.

I went to the China theatre in 1938. Assigned duty aboard the U.S.S. Blackhawk. In 1939 up and down the China Coast and in the ports of Shanghai, Hongkong, Tsingtao, Chefoo, Taku^{Bar} and Chinwangtao for rifle range practice. In 1940 was in the above listed ports but was assigned detached duty and worked at the American Consulate until ordered to Manila Commander in Chief's office prior to World War II. I was issued the China Service medal for the above period.

As a Prisoner of War of the Japanese: 3 October 1944 aboard Japanese freighter departed Manila - 11 October 1944 anchored Hongkong. Underway 21 October 1944 up the China coast and anchored 24 October 1944 Southern port of Taiwan (Formosa) Taken to a school house in Joroku, Taiwan. On 24 January 1945 taken to Northern port of Formosa, aboard ship and underway anchoring 10 February 1945 Port Moji Japan and ended up in Tokyo prison camp.

Enclosed attached copy of my letter to the records center for documentation of service and their reply.

I was in charge of the Toroku Taiwan Prisoner of War camp in 1944-45 and have the original roster of 294 men. It is estimated that only around 10 percent may be still living due to the general health of the men at that time. These men also would be eligible for the medal would they not?

In January 1977 tried to obtain passport for China when we were invited back to the Philippines for the 35th Bataan Day commemoration, 9th April, 1977 by President Marcos, who served on Bataan also. I revisited Palawan, the Puerto Princesa prisoner of war camp, We were given special tours in the Manila area and the U.I.P. treatment. In making preparations for the trip to the Philippines I said if I travel that far I wanted to return to China but was told by Senator Clark who was asked to help me with my arrangements that the China trip was out because not enough time to get my passport and papers in order and the second reason - a long tourist waiting list. I think if I had it to do all over again, I should have called or come to your Embassy and explained the situation.

I would like very much to be able to revisit North China. If ever a "Return to China Trip" is promoted and recommended by the Embassy for those who have worked and lived in China in the years before would like the opportunity to make the return trip if financial and health problems don't interfere.

Please see that my name is placed on the Medal list and I receive the Republic of China, China War Memorial Medal.

Respectfully,

Hubert D. Nough

Enclosures:

- (a) Navy Records Center -
correspondence and documentation of service.
- (b) Photostats of old money.
- (c) Photostats of pictures from album.

Attached photostats of six (6) folders of Chinese money. If you would want some of them you are more than welcome for the asking.

The story of the burned edge money.

Manila, Xmas 1941 five (5) of us Naval Personnel were left behind to clear out the files and maintain communications awaiting two (2) P3F planes to take us to Borneo to set up communications. One of the planes was shot down so the radio gear and the two (2) radiomen were sent on. Leaving Commander McDill, myself and the motor cycle messenger in Manila. Then Manila was declared an Open City. I went to my apartment and picked up my Chinese money thinking it might be needed if I were sent to China. I left my fascinating souvenirs from my China duty - the laces - dragons - tapestries - Jades and many many more too numerous to mention behind to the Japanese occupation of Manila.

Taking a Chris Craft motor launch from the Yacht Club left for Corregidor. Was assigned duty with the Motor Torpedo Boat Squadron on Bataan. I kept the Chris Craft and it was used to cross the channel to take the Commanding Officer for conferences. Later to meet the Subs at sea and exchange mail sacks. I was beaching the little boat in a bay on Bataan when the cove was dive-bombed and strafed. I salvaged a few pictures and some of my Chinese money that did not completely burn.

Bataan surrendered and that night left and went to Caballo Island. Later Corregidor surrendered and we were ordered to surrender also. Became Prisoner of War of the Japanese and was taken to Palawan, Island, Puerto Princesa Prison Camp above Borneo.

My belongings and gear were searched many many times but the records, important papers and money were wrapped in a separate bundle. When we were being searched I'd just drop it or give it a toss and pick it up later. Contact was made with the Filipino Guerrilla force and the money, records, and papers were sent to the jungle to be sent back to the United States after the war. I received the articles intact after the end of World War II. If only this money could talk.

I never got any of my Chinese silver dollars back to the U.S. Part of them were traded for food in the Prison Camp - the others were given to a Navy dentist to fix the other prisoners teeth. The silver was put to a good use.

Attached denominations of 20 cents, 50 cents, and one (1) Yuan paper bills used in the thirties as a memento for you. I have more just like these.

Photostats of pictures taken while in China from an album when it became full was mailed back to the U.S. in 1940. All my pictures taken from that time on were destroyed or lost in the occupying of Manila by the Japanese. Chose pictures that might be of interest to you and the staff.