**Augustin R. Gagnon**

Birth: 30 Sep 1915

Massachusetts, USA

Death:

6 Sep 2003 (aged 87)

Burial: Worcester County Memorial Park / Paxton, Worcester County, Massachusetts, USA

As a Machinist Mate 1st Class, Augustin Gagnon was held as a POW in the Philippine Islands. In December 1944, he was boarded onto the Oryoku Maru for transport to Japan. The ship sailed on December 13th and came under attack from American planes on December 14th.

As evening approached, the attack was called off. The next day the planes returned and continued the attack. When the pilots saw the large number of men climbing from the ship’s holds, they realized the ship was carrying POWs and called off the attack.

After the POWs were off the ship, the attack resumed and the ship was sunk by American planes at Subic Bay, Philippine Islands, on December 15, 1944. The surviving POWs were boarded onto the Enoura Maru which sailed on December 27th and reached Takao, Formosa, by the New Year. While docked it was bombed by American planes on January 9, 1945, killing many of the POWs. The surviving POWs were boarded onto the Brazil Maru which sailed on January 13th and reached Japan on January 29, 1945.

He was sent to Fukuoka #17 and used as a slave laborer in a coal mine. He was liberated from the camp at the end of the war.

Credit: Find a Grave: https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/65010919/augustin-r-gagnon