



Date and place of birth March 21, 1908. Brainerd, Minnesota.  
 Usual residence P.O. Box #203, Trommald, Minnesota.  
 Next of kin Father-Harry C. Wood-same address  
 Single or married \_\_\_\_\_  
 Prior service Enl USMC-10/2/28to10/1/34;10/2/34to10/1/38;10/2/38to3/31/42;  
 Appointed from USMC - MINNESOTA.

Appointed a Marine Gunner in the Marine Corps for temporary service, 1 April, 1942, to rank from 1 April, 1942. No. 37. Assigned to General Duty.

Accepted appointment (by despatch) April 1, 1942 with the ~~Marine Detachment, Naval Air Station, Georgetown, British Guiana.~~ 4th Marines.

On acceptance, assigned to active duty at

FOURTH MARINES, FT. MILLS, CORREGIDOR, P.I.

APR. 1942: 1, Joined Co. "I", 3d Bn, 4th Mar., and assigned to active duty.

19 June 1942, transferred to PRISONERS OF WAR AND MISSING PERSONS DETACHMENT, HQMC. (Missing in action.)

~~Awarded letter of commendation from the Commandant, U.S.~~  
 Awarded LETTER OF COMMENDATION FROM THE COMMANDANT, U.S. MARINE CORPS for, Citation: "Courageous action during a raid by enemy heavy bombers on 24 December 1941".

~~Appointed a Second Lieutenant in the Marine Corps for temporary service January 1943, with rank from January 14, 1943, No. 7, pursuant to the provisions of the Act of 24 July 1941 as amended.~~

~~(MIA - selected for this promotion but not appointed)~~

15 March 43, status changed from "MISSING IN ACTION" to "IN HANDS OF ENEMY"

SEP 1945: 12, arrived San Francisco, California via aircraft. (sick in U.S. Naval Hospital) 19, detached to *INS, SCS, Lt. Ladd, Ill.*

On 21Oct43, temporary grade of Marine Gunner changed to WARRANT OFFICER by Act of Congress approved 21Oct43, (Public No. 167 - 78th Congress) No change in temporary status.

EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
OFFICE OF THE NAVAL ATTACHE

IN REPLY REFER

TO NO. MM(80)

Peiping, CHINA,  
22 April, 1941.

From: The Naval Attache.  
To : Commanding Officer, U.S. Marine Forces,  
North China.  
Subject: Platoon Sergeant Cecil L. Wood, U. S.  
Marine Corps.

1. This letter is sent to express my satisfaction at the efficient and pleasant assistance afforded me recently at the port of Chinwangtao, China, by Platoon Sergeant Cecil L. Wood, U.S.M.C., in charge of the Marine Detachment at that place. The senior officials of the Kailan Mining Administration at Chinwangtao went out of their way to praise the intelligence and competence of this man, and my observations in that port confirmed their compliments.

J. M. CREIGHTON.

# United States Pacific Fleet

Flagship of the Commander-in-Chief



The Commander in Chief, United States Pacific Fleet,  
takes pleasure in commending


PLATOON SERGEANT  
CECIL LEROY WOOD  
UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

for service as set forth in the following

#### CITATION:

"For meritorious conduct in the performance of his duties while attached temporarily to the Headquarters Detachment, Submarines, U. S. Asiatic Fleet, in the Port Area, Manila, Philippine Islands, on 24 December 1941. During a raid by heavy enemy bombers, even after bombs were on their downward flight, he disregarded his personal safety in order that reports of the progress of the raid be forwarded to his commanding officer, thus enabling other personnel to take cover. Despite a direct hit within twenty feet of his assigned station and two others within a radius of one hundred feet, his warning resulted in no casualties to service personnel and greatly reduced the civilian casualties in the area. His performance of duty was outstanding and his conduct was at all times in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service."

Commendation Ribbon Authorized  
Combat Distinguishing Device Authorized

  
J. H. TOWERS,  
Admiral, U. S. Navy.

CLASS OF SERVICE

This is a full-rate Telegram or Cablegram unless its deferred character is indicated by a suitable symbol above or preceding the address.

# WESTERN UNION

1204

SYMBOLS

DL=Day Letter  
 NT=Overnight Telegram  
 LC=Deferred Cable  
 NLT=Cable Night Letter  
 Ship Radiogram

R. B. WHITE  
 PRESIDENT

NEWCOMB CARLTON  
 CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

J. C. WILLEVER  
 FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

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335PM DM HN

Harry C Wood,  
 PO Box 203,  
 Brommald, Minn.

127 Govt 5 Extra

Washington, D.C. 337PM May 13-42

The Commandate US Marine Corps regrets to advise you that according to the records of this Headquarters your Son a Marine Gunner Cecel L. Wood US Marine Corps was performing his duty in service of his country in Manila Bay area when that station capitulated. He will be carried on the records of the Marine Corps as missing pending further information. No report of his death has been received and he may be a prisoner of war. It will probably be several months before definite Official information can be expected concerning his status. Sincere sympathy is extended to you in your anxiety and you are assured that any report received will be communicated to you promptly.

T Molcomb Lt General US MC The Commandant US Marine Corps.

# Trommald Man War Prisoner Family Told

TROMMALD — Marine Gunner C. L. Wood, son of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Wood of Trommald, has been reported a prisoner of war, members of his family reported today.

The Marine was last heard from near Manila, P. I., but the report from the Navy Department to the family did not stipulate where the young man was held.



From:  
Name

Cecil L. Wood

Nationality American

Rank Marine Gunner

Camp Philippine Military  
Prison Camp # 2.

To: Mrs. H. C. Wood

P. O. Box 203

Tromald, Minn.

USA

俘虜郵便

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U.S. CENSOR

*Recd Jan. 16th  
455*

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From:  
Name

Cecil L. Wood

Nationality American

Rank Marine Gunner

Camp Philippine Military Prison Camp No. 2

To: Mrs. H. C. Wood

P. O. Box 203

Tromald, Minnesota, USA

俘虜郵便

比島俘虜收容所  
檢閱濟

CENSORSHIP  
EXAMINED  
By 827

*Sept.*

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From: Cecil L. Wood

Cecil L. Wood

Nationality American

Rank Am. Marine Gunner

Camp Philippine Military Prison Camp No. 2

To: Mrs. H. C. Wood

Box 203

Tromald, Minn.

USA

俘虜郵便

比島俘虜收容所  
檢閱濟

CENSORSHIP  
EXAMINED  
By 222

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IMPERIAL JAPANESE ARMY

1. I am interned at Philippine Military Prison Camp # 2.
2. My health is — excellent; good; fair; poor.
3. I am — injured; sick in hospital; under treatment; not under treatment.
4. I am — improving; not improving; better; well.
5. Please see that write or telegraph in care of Int'l Red Cross.  
\_\_\_\_\_ is taken care of.
6. (Re: Family); A merry Xmas and Happy New Year.
7. Please give my best regards to friends and relatives.

IMPERIAL JAPANESE ARMY

1. I am interned at Philippine Military Prison Camp No. 2
2. My health is — excellent; good; fair; poor.
3. I am — injured; sick in hospital; under treatment; not under treatment.
4. I am — improving; not improving; better; well.
5. Please see that Save the Sunday papers and magazines for me  
\_\_\_\_\_ is taken care of.
6. (Re: Family); Hope family is well.
7. Please give my best regards to my friends

IMPERIAL JAPANESE ARMY

1. I am interned at Philippine Military Prison Camp No. 2
2. My health is — excellent; good; fair; poor.
3. I am — injured; sick in hospital; under treatment; not under treatment.
4. I am — improving; not improving; better; well.
5. Please see that Mike is still with me & is doing well  
\_\_\_\_\_ is taken care of.
6. (Re: Family); \_\_\_\_\_  
The whole family
7. Please give my best regards to \_\_\_\_\_

From:  
Name

*Cecil L. Wood*

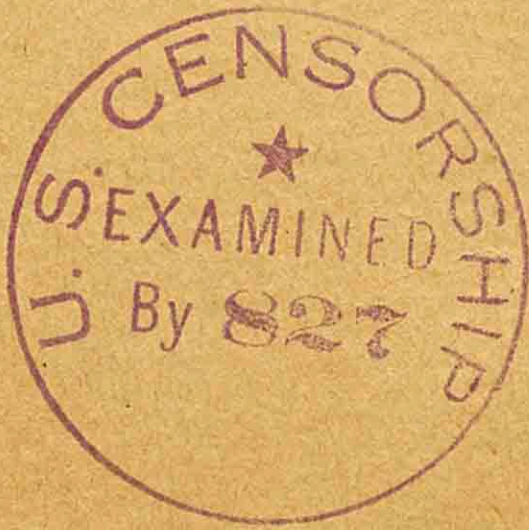
Cecil L. Wood

Nationality American

Rank Marine Gunner

Camp Philippine Military Prison Camp #2

*Sept.*



To: Mrs. H. C. Wood

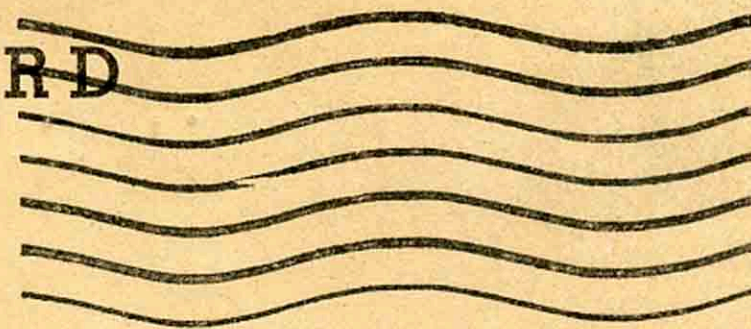
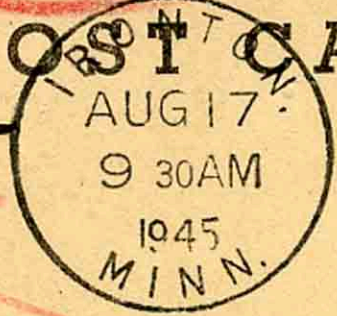
P.O. Box 203

Trommald, Minn. U.S.A.

Prisoner of War Mail  
~~Civilian Internee Mail~~  
(Cross out one.)

Postage Free

~~POST CARD~~



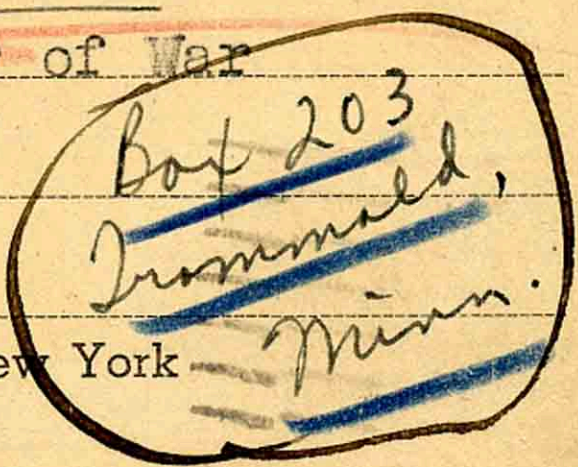
*Handwritten notes:*  
~~ARB NTC~~  
~~COMBAT LINES~~  
~~Post 9-20~~  
~~W-44~~  
~~332~~

Marine Gunner Cecil LeRoy Wood

(NAME)

United States Prisoner of War

Osaka Camp, Japan



Via New York, New York

IMPERIAL JAPANESE ARMY

1. I am interned at Phil. Mil. Prison Camp #2
2. My health is — excellent; good; fair; poor.
3. I am — injured; sick in hospital; under treatment; not under treatment.
4. I am — improving; not improving; better; well.
5. Please see that Write in care of American Red Cross  
 \_\_\_\_\_ is taken care of.
6. (Re: Family); \_\_\_\_\_
7. Please give my best regards to Family and Friends

FORM 2277  
JUNE 1944

From: Mrs. H. C. Wood  
Trommald  
Minn., U.S.A.  
 (FULL NAME AND ADDRESS)

Aug. 10, 1945  
 (DATE)

Dear: Roy \_\_\_\_\_:

All are well.

Glenn works on railroad.

All working.

Love,  
 Mother

RECEIVED  
 29 OCT 1945  
 GREAT BRITAIN  
 DEC 8 1945  
 GREAT LAKES  
 DEC 11 1945

Messages must be not more than 24 words. Type or hand print in block capitals.

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# WESTERN UNION

1204

SYMBOLS

DL = Day Letter

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NLT = Cable Night Letter

Ship Radiogram

A. N. WILLIAMS  
PRESIDENT

NEWCOMB CARLTON  
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

J. C. WILLEVER  
FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

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70 WASHINGTON, B.C. 959PM 8

*3017210*

MR. AND MRS HARRY C. WOOD,  
"PARENTS" PO BOX 203, TROMMARD, MINN.

PLEASED TO INFORM YOU OF THE LIBERATED FROM JAPANESE CUSTODY OF YOUR SON WARRANT OFFICER CECIL LEROY WOOD USMC HE IS REPORTED TO BE ON BOARD AN AMERICAN VESSEL 7 SEPTEMBER 1945 FURTHER DETAIL WILL BE FURNISHED YOU PROMPTLY WHEN RECEIVED YOU MAY SEND MARINE CORPS HEADQUARTERS A TWENTY FIVE WORD MESSAGE FOR HIM. EVERY EFFORT WILL BE MADE TO DELIVER THIS MESSAGE BEFORE HIS RETURN TO THE UNITED STATES.

A A VANDEGRIFT GENERAL USMC  
COMMANDANT OF THE  
MARINE CORPS

March 7, 1946

Quonset Scout

Page 3

# Marine CWO 'Alumnus' Of Six Prison Camps

Saw Action From Cavite,  
Imprisoned 40 Months



At one pay—\$10,355—most of us would like to draw that sum but few would be content to spend forty months as a Jap prisoner to earn it. Not content to stay but there anyway, CWO Wood, a company officer of the 1st Marine Guard Co. was an alumnus of six prison camps after his capture in the Philippines.

He had been stationed in China since 1938 but in Oct. 1941 was sent to the Cavite Naval Base in the Philippines and attached to the original 4th Marine Regiment. When the Japs invaded the islands he was on Fort Hughes, "a chunk of rock with a few mortar and anti-aircraft batteries." This was one of a chain of fortified island bases around Corregidor.

After the fall of Bataan in April 1942 they were under constant fire from the Japs on Cavite. For a month they were shelled at point-blank range from over a hundred artillery batteries, with air and naval attacks furnishing frequent interludes.

On the night of 5 May the enemy made an unsuccessful landing on Corregidor (unofficial estimate, 4,500 dead) but it was apparent that the next attempt would succeed and General Wainwright sur-

rendered. Despite the truce the enemy barrages continued until the

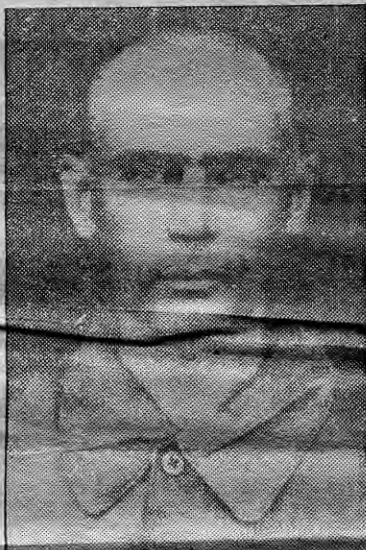


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CWO C. L. Woods as he appeared 23 months after entering the Jap prison camp. He had lost approximately 65 pounds.

Japs made the final landing under stilled American guns.

The prisoners from Corregidor and the neighboring forts were assembled on the mainland and then sent to Bilibid prison in Manila and from there Mr. Woods, with 80 other men, was jammed into a small freight car and shipped to a prison camp north of Manila. They were confined in the sealed car for several days with no food and little water. Sanitary conditions at the camp, or rather the lack of any sanitation, caused the death of over a thousand men in one month. Food consisted of small rations of rice and soup. "Put 'soup' in quotation marks," Mr. Wood said, "Just hot water with a few potato tops in it."

His next stop was a penal colony in Mindanao and in July 1944 he was put on board a ship and sent to Japan. 600 prisoners were crowded in a small hold and kept below decks until they landed near Nagoya, 62 days later.

At Nagoya they joined 200 other prisoners—Dutch and British nationals taken in the Dutch East Indies. Minor infraction of the rules resulted in beatings—not saluting Jap soldiers and civilians, breaking tools and attempts to build fires for warmth were the usual reasons. At the same time men were forced to write home, saying that they were treated well, had plenty of food and were in good health.

In the summer of 1945 living conditions were improved and they had a feeling the war was about over. Their camp was located in an industrial area and often Allied bombs fell on nearby factories. On 15 August the Japanese guards fell out in full uniform and, when the radio came on, faced away from the speaker for it was the Emperor announcing the end of the war. Several days later management of the camp was turned over to the prisoners—they were told that the Japanese and Americans were now friends, an idea the prisoners found hard to accept.

The surrender news was celebrated by a feast of the usual ration-rice and beans—but this time they had all they wanted. A cow that wandered by at the wrong



CWO C. L. Woods as he appears today.

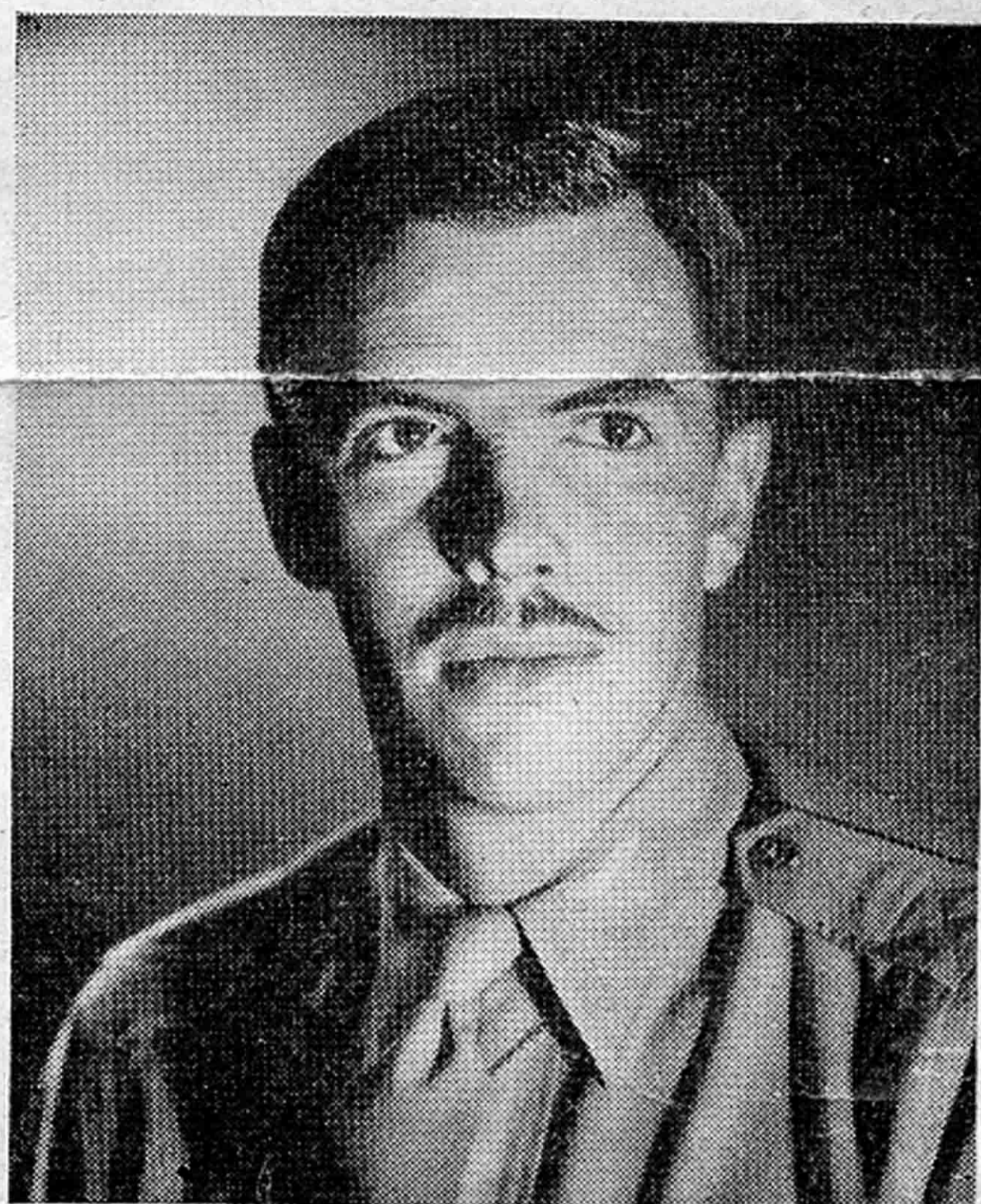
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The surrender news was celebrated by a feast of the usual ration—rice and beans—but this time they had all they wanted. A cow that wandered by at the wrong time became part of the celebration in the form of steaks. Navy planes soon found them and he was flown to a Navy base in Yokohama and in September, after six years and nine months overseas, landed in Oakland, California.

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# REPORT TO THE EDITORS

## Don't Forget How They Starved Us!



AS one of the two American medical officers who experienced conditions in both the military and the civilian prison camps on Luzon, I am anxious to have the American people understand, and never forget, that the Japanese applied a premeditated and systematic program of starving American prisoners to death. During thirty-four ghastly months I saw every manifestation of dietary deficiency merely by looking at people around me—the terrible pain and toe-dragging gait of beriberi, the hemorrhages from scurvy, the mental stupor and hardened skin of pellagra, the barrel-leg bloat and withered muscles of hypoproteinemia.

The first application of mass extermination began with the Death March after the fall of Bataan in April, 1942, and continued with horrible results until December of that year, when the Nips increased our rations a little and let Red Cross packages through, having decided to fatten us up to use as prison labor in work projects. For fourteen months after witnessing this bald admission that our diet was inadequate to keep us alive for long, I served on a Bataan labor detail, in Bilibid Prison hospital and at Cabanatuan. Afterward I spent the last eleven months in the Santo Tomas internment camp, where I saw a new system of starvation applied.

At first, malaria and dysentery plagues slaughtered our people. Quinine would have prevented the malaria deaths; sanitation alone, if we had been permitted to enforce it, would have wiped out the dysentery. With dietary deficiencies and beatings contributing, 1475 Americans and 23,000 Filipinos died in fifty-one days in Camp O'Donnell, where we were herded after the Death March.

Then the starvation program began its awful execution with the diseases of prolonged food deficiency. There was dry beriberi, bringing its burning, stinging and crawling sensations of the skin on legs and feet, its terribly painful neuritis, its paralysis of the muscles, which lifts the foot and made it necessary for those walking skeletons in our camp to take high steps to keep their toes from dragging. Also prevalent was the wet type of beriberi, bringing its dropsy, which waterlogs bulging legs, balloons abdomens and faces, and, before death, effects a bloating of the entire body—excruciating penalties for lack of vitamin B<sub>1</sub>, or thiamine chloride.

## Sickness and Death, and Not Even a Decent Burial

In due course, pellagra and ariboflavinosis set in. The symptoms were dermatitis, a coloring and thickening of the skin, swelling of the tongue, diarrhea, mental confusion and, at the end, usually severe dementia. Riboflavin, or vitamin B<sub>2</sub>, deficiency, commonly accompanied pellagra—cracking lips, sores of the nose, burning eyes, ulcers of the legs as large as half dollars.

Vitamin C deficiency caught up with us. Scurvy, with its breaking blood vessels in the skin, muscles and bones. The men's gums bled and their teeth loosened and fell out. Vitamin A deficiency, too—ulcering and scarring of the eyes; in some of the cases total blindness. And in the early days at Camp O'Donnell there was always the lack of water, resulting in severe cystitis, or inflammation of the bladder. One day I stood in line at a faucet for nine hours, only to see it turned off for the night when I was four men away.

In Cabanatuan alone, 2300 Americans had died by the end of 1942. One day sixty died. The emaciated cadavers were borne to the cemetery by prisoners almost equally cadaverous. The living lined the road, saluting the dead, dully contemplating when their turns would come. Out where the bodies were deposited en masse in graves that filled with water before they could be completely dug, gaunt arms, legs and torsos habitually protruded from the mud.

Of course we complained to our jailers. A typical result was the time I tried to requisition vitamin B for the Bataan labor detail. I was given four bottles of Lydia E. Pinkham's compound, which, according to the label, includes "one milligram of crystalline thiamine chloride"—the daily requirement of a child. Also I was given a supply of Dr. Williams' Pink Pills for Pale People. At Santo Tomas Prison truckloads of food donated by neutral agencies were turned away at the gate. Meanwhile, inside, we dragged about on bloated legs, shriveling away to skin, bones and hair. We ate the cats, dogs, pigeons and the vegetation—hibiscus, canna lilies and banana trees.

These stark facts about Japanese mass murder I have set down because I've noticed a tendency here at home to forget, even almost to forgive, the enormity of Japan's war crimes. I do not want the American people to forget.

—MAJ. LIVINGSTON P. NOELL, JR.,  
*Medical Corps, Army Air Forces.*



NO. 893

DATE

OCT. 11,

1955

Col. Davis pinning avo = 4  
bars on CWO Woods

# Bataan Survivor Back in Pacific

VALLEY CITY, N. D. — (U.P.) — Maj. Michael Dobervich, marine corps officer who survived the infamous "March of Death" on Bataan and later escaped from a prison camp, is fighting again in the Pacific and friends said Wednesday he had written, "We are at the Japs door and knocking it down fast."



**Dobervich**

The letter was to Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Van Ray, parents of marine Capt. Clarence Van Ray, Jr., former comrade of Maj. Dobervich and now a prisoner of the Japs.

Dobervich said he arrived in the South Pacific July 2.

After his escape, with a handful of others, Dobervich returned to the United States last year. He was graduated from the marine corps command and staff course at Quantico, Va., in June this year. He is from Fargo, N. D., and Ironton, Minn.

Gave my Father his dog tags before escaping



E. C. KNAUPT., SGT.  
PUBLIC RELATIONS SGT.  
MARINE RECRUITING STATION  
MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE.

REUNION IN MINNEAPOLIS,

The Marine Recruiting Office was the scene of a happy reunion recently when three members of the heroic defenders of the Philippines met unexpectedly. They are Lt. Colonel Michael Dobervich, (left), of Ironton, Minnesota; Warrant Officer Cecil Wood, (center) of Minneapolis; both of the U. S. Marines; and Lt. Colonel Mc Clish, (right), of the U. S. Army.

Lt. Colonel Dobervich and Wood were captured with the fall of Batan and Corregidor and were later transferred to Davao Prison. There they were subjected to the usual Japanese atrocities and brutalities, and were forced to humble themselves before their Japanese captors.

Lt. Colonel Dobervich and several others effected a daring escape and after thirty days in the jungles and swamps of the Philippines they joined forces with Lt. Colonel Mc Clish, the senior army officer in their particular sector. Lt. Colonel Mc Clish, having evaded capture by the Japanese, organized a large number of guerillas composed of Americans and native Filipinos.

This small band of Americans was the directing force of about thirty or forty thousand guerillas who gathered information, relentlessly fought the Japs and sabotaged all Jap efforts directed toward organizing industry in the islands. That they were successful in these operations is amply attested to by the recent Japanese statements wherein it was shown that all Jap troop movements were well known to the guerilla forces and they were constantly ambushed along the jungle trails.

Warrant Officer Wood, who remained at Davao, was later transferred to Yakkaichi, Japan, where he was put to hard work in a steel mill. They were closely watched at all times but still managed to sabotage the steel industry by slowing down production and damaging machinery. It was Warrant Officer Wood who returned Dobervich's dog tags as shown above.

U. S. M. C.

My Father was sick, in what passed as a hospital, with, Beri Beri, Malaria, and Dysentary, or he might have escaped with them. Major Dobervich came and saw my father and gave him his dog tags, which he returned after the War



**C L Wood returning Major Dobervich's dog tags to him**



**CL WOOD**

**Major Dobervich**

**Lt Col McGlish**