

Pers-53227-ada

23 October 1945

To: Director, American Prisoner of War Information Bureau
Provost Marshall General's Office
War Department, Washington, D. C.

Subj: Diary of Mr. Lee Wilson Wilcox.

1. Herewith are excerpts from a diary kept by one Mr. Lee Wilson Wilcox. It appears that Mr. Wilcox was a civilian employed as a plumber on Wake Island.
2. It further appears that the deaths recorded in Mr. Wilcox's diary are among the civilian prisoners of war. This information is accordingly forwarded to you for appropriate action.
3. Mr. Wilcox's original diary is also forwarded and it is requested that the diary be returned to Mr. Wilcox at the address indicated.

By direction of Chief of Naval Personnel.

WALTER W. PINKE
Commander, U.S.N.R.
Director of the Dependents Welfare Division

SOURCE: NARA RG 24, 470-55-10-6 Box #1

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Excerpts from Diary kept by Mr. Lee Wilson Wilcox.

- 3 January 1943 - Marine McDonald died this date from dysentery and was buried east end of runway.
- 11 January 1943 - Al Henson died this A.M. at 4:15. Service this P.M. Service very brief. Buried near...(?)...and Peterson.
- 12 January 1942 - All but 360 of the contractors have been sent to Japan today. Also the service men except 21 Marines who are to badly wounded to go.
- 12 January 1943 - MARK, Franklin died at 8:40 P.M. Japs came in drunk and laughed at the other patients in the hospital. Also made fun at dead Mark.
- 13 January 1942 - Everybody feels that US will take Wake back very soon. Japs have put heavy barb wire all around the beach. Also digging trench and machine gun pits.
- 26 January 1943 - John G. Niklaus of Germania, Pa. died at 2:15 A.M. (Brought to hospital on 25th with pleurisy pains. Services night of 26th.)
- 6 February 1943 - George E. Bailey died at 11:10 P.M.
- 7 February 1943 - Preparations were made this A.M. to bury George E. Bailey. The body left prison compound with 9 squad and 4 squad. Buried on hill beside the other 5 men. I put on my VFW emblem, last nite at service I called all veterans together and read the burial ritual out of the VFW Ritual. Oral Johnson gave a short service and a solo. "I Need Thee Every Hour" was sung.
- 14 February 1943- Charlie Miller of Enfield, Ill. died at 5:15 A.M. No medical attention or medicine for 3 weeks. Burial at same place on hill this afternoon.
- 17 February 1943- Julius Larson died at 1:30 A.M. today. Richard Pawlofske died at 5:45 A.M. today. Burial of both bodies took place about 1 P.M. Vet service for Larson this eve.
- 19 February 1943- Wayne Esmay died at 4 A.M. Burial at 12 noon. Very sudden.
- 20 February 1943- We will have burial service for Esmay this eve. I will give VFW service and Oral Johnson will give the regular service.
- 22 February 1943- This A.M. at 3 o'clock another veteran and Mason passed on. William Lindquist of Los Angeles. Burial took place at high noon.
- 25 February 1943- This morn at 1:05 we lost Loyd (G) McKeehan of S. F. Lumbar pneumonia as the rest of the boys seem to have.
- 27 February 1943- John H. O'Neil died this A.M. at 6:15. Burial at 12 noon in same place as other boys.
- 1 March 1943 - Jack Huntly died this afternoon at 5 P.M.
- 2 March 1943 - Buried Jack Huntly at noon today.
- 8 March 1943 - Thuron Dickson died today at 7 A.M.
- 9 March 1943 - Thuron Dickson died due to lack of medical aid and malnutrition. This morning at 2 A.M. we lost Don Williams and at 4:30 we lost Fred Kelley, Sam's brother.
- 10 March 1943 - This morning at 6:30 Cedric Grims (?) died suddenly.

- 12 March 1943 - Elmer Pucutti (?) died this A.M. at 8 o'clock.
- 15 March 1943 - This A. M. at 8 O'clock Andy Nygard died. At 9:30 A.M. Louis Greve (?) died.
- 18 March 1943 - Edwin Hart of Boise died at 10 P.M. today.
- 20 March 1943 - Clinton Stone died at 5 A.M. today. Ed Villa (?) died at 7 P.M.
- 21 March 1943 - Si (?) Miller died at 2:30 A.M.
- 22 March 1943 - Ralph McEvers of Portland died at 12:45 A.M. 26th man to die.
- 23 March 1943 - Laurence Proteau (?) died at 6 A.M. Frank Follette (?) died at 7:50 A.M.
- 25 March 1943 - Robbins died this eve.
- 26 March 1943 - Paul Robbins of Viola, Mo. died at 9:30 last night.
- 27 March 1943 - Kruet (?) Farstuedt (?) of Clackamas (?), Ore. died today at 5 A.M.
- 30 March 1943 - Ed Johnson died today at 5 P.M. Geo. Proteau died at 5 A.M. this date. Four days ago his son died. The old man was very weak and had a bad heart.
- 8 April 1943 - Orvil Kelso of Emmett, Idaho died at 5:15 today. Buried at noon.
- 23 April 1943 - Buried Lee Davis yesterday at 10 A.M.
- 25 April 1943 - (Easter Sunday) - Lorn Mance (?) just died on this Easter Sunday. Very bad throat, sick for 4 months. Voice failed yesterday. Death must have been a relief to his suffering. We buried him at 5 P.M. just below Lee Davis.
- 27 April 1943 - Frank Miller just died of lungs and chest illness. Sick about 2 weeks. Died 11:30 A.M.
- 29 April 1943 - Les Myers passed away at 10:30 P.M.
- 30 April 1943 - Owen Thomas passed away at 12:30 P.M. today, age 72. Buried Myers at 12:30 P.M.
- 1 May 1943 - At 7:30 this morning Theodore Hensel died.
- 4 May 1943 - 12:10 P.M. Geo. Walker died. He leaves a wife and daughter 4 years old.
- 6 May 1943 - Ed J. (?) Brown died at 11:10 A.M. this date and burial will be about 3 this P.M.
- 8 May 1942 - Babe Hoffmeister (?) was caught drunk and stealing in the old canteen this eve at 7 P.M. Japs put him in Contractors jail and no one is allowed to speak to him. He is on a very bad spot.
- 9 May 1942 - Today at roll call the Japs called 20 men out of rank and took them to the (?) yard. They then brought Babe up blindfolded. After reading a Jap paper they made him kneel and cut off his head.
- 4 June 1943 - This morning at 4:10 Norman Hill died.
- 4 July 1943 - Herbert Hadisty of John Day, Oregon, died at 6:05 P.M. He was sick for a long time, worms and bad stomach.
- 16 July 1943 - Buried Bill Miles today at the east end of run way, in marine casket.

9 December 1942 - Harold E. Jimison, Manitou Hotel, Bosie, Idaho, died at 5:32 P.M. Hurt one year ago today.

2 November 1942 - Hjalmar Peterson of Bosie died today at 3 P.M. We held service in cement shed. Japs buried him on hill north side of canyon.