



15044 Prisoners of war camp, Fukuoka #3, Tobata, Kyushu, Japan. Capt. Jack D. Gordon, (MC)

USA. 45/09/15

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Captain Jack D. Gordon Collection

Creator: Jack D. Gordon
Dates: 1941-1985
Quantity: .75 linear feet, 3 boxes
Acquisition: Gordon/Spector estate, November 11, 2005.
Location: 339999 (PAPERS 00001)
Citation: [Document Title]. The Captain Jack D. Gordon Collection, [Box #, Folder #], Pritzker Military Museum & Library, Chicago, IL.
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Biographical Note

Captain Jack D. Gordon (formerly 1st Lt.) served as a doctor with the Army Medical Corps in the Pacific Theatre of World War II. He was called into service on July 5, 1941. On December 13, 1941 he was ordered to leave Fort McKinley to join the Manila Hospital Center in the Philippines. He was then moved to General Hospital No. 1 on the Bataan Peninsula. Gordon was taken prisoner by the Japanese after the fall of Bataan in April 1942. Initially after the Japanese capture of Bataan, Gordon, the medical team, and invalid soldiers were left unguarded without provisions at General Hospital No. 1. In subsequent months they survived by foraging in the surrounding area and from handouts of local civilians. However, on July 5, 1942 the Japanese moved these American and Filipino prisoners to Camp O'Donnell. The estimated death toll for interned prisoners at Camp O'Donnell ranges from 10,000 to 29,000 individuals. Gordon remained at this camp until January 1943 when he was transferred to Cabanatuan Camp No. 1 in the Philippines. He was kept at this camp until March 1944. Finally, Gordon was sent from the Philippines to Japanese Fukuoka Camp #3 on the Island of Kyushu. He remained at this camp until his liberation on September 13,

1945. However, his services were still required by the Army Medical Corps in Manila, thus he was not evacuated to the United States until October 10, 1945.

In his early life, Gordon resided in Council Bluffs, Iowa. He graduated from Abraham Lincoln High School in 1933 and was a lieutenant colonel in the Reserve Officer Training Corps. He received his medical degree from the University of Iowa Medical College in 1939. Upon completing his internship, he was called into service with the US Army Medical Corps in July 1941. Capt. Gordon was honorably discharged from service on August 29, 1946.

Upon his discharge from the Army Medical Corps, Gordon returned to Iowa to pursue an advanced medical degree and taught in the Department of Internal Medicine at the University of Iowa. On February 26, 1946 he married Dorothy Elizabeth Greene of Los Angeles, California. Greene was a graduate of Mount Zion Hospital School of Nursing in San Francisco and served in the Army Nurse Corps for four years. She was stationed in England for most of World War II. Upon her discharge from service, she attended Lux College of Arts in San Francisco and completed her studies before joining Gordon in Iowa City. Gordon later joined the medical staff at Mount Zion Hospital in San Francisco.

In the next few decades, Gordon was the Assistant Chief of Medicine and a pioneer in the diagnosis and treatment of alcoholism in general hospitals. In October 1961, he was invited, as an expert lecturer, to attend a New Hampshire medical conference on the topics of alcoholism prevention, diagnosis, and treatment.

Scope and Content of the Collection

The collection contains personal papers of Capt. Jack Gordon as well as material pertaining to the POW experience in the Pacific Theatre during WWII and general coverage of events surrounding WWII. The bulk of the collection covers the years 1941-45, although there are some later materials concerning Capt. Gordon's postwar civilian life and subsequent studies of the POW experience during WWII. Capt. Gordon's personal papers include correspondence with his family during his internment, Western Union telegrams, a customs declaration, immunization records, and bank records. In addition, there are newspaper clippings referencing Capt. Gordon from various publications which discuss his time of internment, homecoming, and postwar civilian life as a teaching and practicing doctor.

Also included in the collection are special orders from a hospital in Clinton, Iowa, special orders from Philippines Department at Fort Mills, and an affidavit from Rizal, Philippines referencing the missing personal possessions of Capt. Jack Gordon. In addition, the collection contains documents and publications that pertain to WWII and Korean War prisoners. There are two Johns Hopkins University published studies from

the American Journal of Epidemiology which discuss the long-term health effects of WWII and Korean War internment on former POWs. There is also a copy of a transcript from a 1982 NBC broadcast special on the Bataan Death March.

There is a publication from the Naval Health Research Center which discusses all the prominent literature written on the long-term psychological and physical effects on POWs. Also, there are reports from the American Ex-Prisoners of War, Inc. National Medical Research Committee which examine conditions and aftermath of Di Ju Nana Bunshyo and the Fukuoka Military District in Japan.

Additionally, there is a collection of medical records/patient progress reports dated from 1944-1945, most of which are signed by Capt. Gordon. Majority of the patients were admitted for general weakness, fatigue, and various tropical diseases. The most common of which are as follows: dysentery, diarrhea, beriberi, fever, malaria, pellagra, pneumonia, and scurvy. Also included with the progress notes are some timetable/schedules in Japanese.

The collection includes a report from the Liaison & Research Branch of the American Prisoner of War Information Bureau from July 1946 which discusses Fukuoka Camp No. 3 on the Island of Kyushu, Japan. Also, there are two reports dated November 1945 from the Office of the Provost Marshal General concerning the Cabanatuan camps. In addition, there is an abstract for a proposed study on the mental and physical well-being of former Wake Island POWs. There is also a brief history of Wake Island. Furthermore, there is a copy of a Rehabilitation News bulletin dated November 20, 1970 (Vol. XV, No. 8) that focuses on POWs from WWII, Korea, and Vietnam.

There is a copy of "The Oryoku Maru Story" which includes a history of the POW ships Oryoku Maru, Brazil Maru, and Enoura Maru. It also covers the trials of the Japanese held responsible for crimes committed against the American POWs, a detailed description of the voyage from the Philippines to Japan and a list of POWs on board as well as survivors. There is also a publication abstract announcement of a book entitled "Surrender and Survival" that was published in 1985.

The collection contains some newspapers. There are copies of the San Francisco Times from the first month of American involvement in WWII, which roughly date from December 8, 1941 through January 2, 1942. In addition, there is a copy of the Los Angeles Times from August 15, 1945 announcing the Japanese acceptance of terms of surrender. Additionally, there is a May 1983 edition of the San Francisco Philippine News which contains a special section featuring a strategic history of the Bataan-Corregidor region during WWII.

There is an annotated bibliography of publications concerning the Philippines in WWII from December 8, 1941 through July 4, 1946 which was published by Cornell University in 1977.

Arrangement

The Collection arrived with no discernable arrangement and was rearranged in a more efficient working order by PMML staff. The primary collection is contained within two archival boxes and is accompanied by one box of newspapers and clippings.

Restrictions

Patient Medical Records and Progress Notes from 1941-45 (Box 1, Folder 7) are restricted until January 1, 2021 as per §552a.

Rights

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Related Collections

Maj. Gen. Harry Hill Bandholtz Papers (1891-1943)
Richard T. Lockhart Collection

Separations

Several newspapers accompanied this collection, and are currently housed separate from the main collection. These items are in the PML Rare Serials Collection, in alphabetical order, and include:

Title: *San Francisco Times*

Dates: December 8, 19, 22-27, 30, 31, 1941

Title: *San Francisco News*

Date: December 9, 1941

Title: *Los Angeles Times*

Date: August 15, 1945 (VJ Day)

Title: *San Francisco Chronicle*

Date: August 9, 1974 (Nixon resignation)

Title: *Philippine News* (San Francisco)

Date: 1985 (Corregidor Special)

Key Subjects

This collection is indexed under the following headings in the Library's online catalog. Researchers interested in materials about related topics, persons, or places should search the catalog using these subject headings.

Subjects

Bataan, Battle of, Philippines, 1942
Bataan, (Philippines : Province)—History
Prisoners of war—Philippines—Bataan (Province)
Prisoners of war—United States—Biography
World War, 1939-1945—Campaigns—Philippines—Corregidor Island
World War, 1939-1945—Personal narratives, American
World War, 1939-1945—Prisoners and prisons, Japanese

Detailed Description of the Collection

Box One

Folder One	Prisoner of War Correspondence
Folder Two	Restricted Special Orders, War Crimes Department, and Philippines Affidavit
Folder Three	Personal Civilian Records of Gordon
Folder Four	Newspaper Clippings
Folder Five	<i>NBC Reports</i> , "Bataan: the Forgotten Hell" (Dec. 5, 1982)
Folder Six	Naval Research Health Center POW Study
Folder Seven	POW Patient Medical Records (<i>RESTRICTED</i>)
Folder Eight	Reports on American POWs in Japanese Camps and Personal Journal

Box Two

Folder Nine *The Oryoku Story* and letter from Warren Wilson, MD

Folder Ten *The Philippines in World War II: an Annotated Bibliography*

Folder Eleven *Death March* by Donald Knox (publication abstract)

Box Three

Separated Newspapers and Clippings

WAR CRIMES OFFICE

When completed
this document must
be classified as
SECRET

Date: OCT. 12 1945

1. YOUR NAME: JACK D. GORDON

2. RANK: CAPTAIN SERIAL NO. 0381030

3. HOME ADDRESS 764 AVE. "D" COUNCIL BLUFFS, IOWA
PERMANENT
Street No. City State

4. AT WHAT ENEMY CAMPS AND HOSPITALS WERE YOU CONFINED AND WHEN WERE YOU AT EACH? (If never a prisoner of war or internee, then state principal places you have been from time to time while overseas).

1. O'DONNELL P.O.W. CAMP (P.I.) JULY 42 - JAN 43.

2. CABANATUAN P.O.W. CAMP (P.I.) JAN 43 - MAR. 44

3. KOKURA CAMP (FUKUOKA #3) JAPAN MAR 44 - SEP 45.

5. DO YOU HAVE ANY INFORMATION ABOUT ANY ATROCITIES AGAINST, OR MISTREATMENT OF AMERICANS, PRISONERS OF WAR, CIVILIAN INTERNEES, OR THE CIVILIAN POPULATION FOR WHICH YOU THINK THE PERPETRATORS SHOULD BE PUNISHED? (Answer by stating YES or NO in the spaces provided below).

- (a) Killings or executions NO
Yes or NO
- (b) Torture, beatings or other cruelties YES
Yes or No
- (c) Imprisonment under improper conditions YES
Yes or NO
- (d) Massacres, wholesale looting or burning of towns NO
Yes or No
- (e) Use of prisoners of war on enemy military works or operations YES
Yes or No
- (f) Exposure of prisoners of war to danger of gunfire, bombing, torpedoing, or other hazards of war YES
Yes or No
- (g) Transportation of prisoners of war under improper conditions YES
Yes or No
- (h) Public exhibition or exposure to ridicule of prisoners of war YES
Yes or No
- (i) Failure to provide prisoners of war with proper medical care, food or quarters YES
Yes or No
- (j) Collective punishment of a group for offense of others YES
Yes or NO
- (k) Any other atrocities not specifically mentioned for which you think the guilty persons should be punished YES.
Yes or No

IF ANY QUESTION IS ANSWERED YES, THEN STATE THE FACTS BRIEFLY ON REVERSE SIDE OF THIS SHEET.

(include name, nationality & whether military personel or not).

SAW IT YOURSELF? IF YOU DID NOT SEE IT, WHO TOLD YOU ABOUT IT?

1. THEFT OF RED CROSS SUPPLIES - FUKUOKA CAMP #3 JAPAN

The Japanese regularly took about 10% of food and clothing supplies. men were dying of pneumonia from exposure while the administrative staff were wearing semi-woolen underwear and home-knit sweaters.

2. I saw an amputation performed with the most motley collection of rusty instruments and after the surrender a complete surgical set was discovered in the Red Cross supplies in the camp.

Requisitions for sulfa-drugs were filled at the Japanese military Hospital at Kokura.

3. I witnessed the threat to H.G. Mackowitz, Lt. USN who was made to sign for Red Cross supplies of which the camp received about 10% of the entire 1942-43 issue.

4. I witnessed the most humiliating beating of Major John Bennett, Med. Corps, USA for "failure to cooperate" in "presenting" Red Cross supplies to the arrogant, stupid, cruel administrative staff of the above camp.

FORCING SICK PRISONERS TO WORK IN STEEL MILLS.

5. at above camp patients with dysentery, beri-beri, abscesses and even pneumonia were forced to go to work in order to keep work quotas up. These men were starved, beaten, exposed to winter without heat or adequate clothing. Japanese privates told American medical officers who could stay in and who must work,

HAVE YOU PREVIOUSLY BEEN QUESTIONED BY ANY MILITARY OR NAVAL AUTHORITIES ABOUT ATROCITIES OR MISTREATMENT? YES

If YES by WHOM, WHERE, WHEN Processing authorities, 29th Repl. Depot, Abohang, Philippine Islands

DID YOU MAKE A SIGNED STATEMENT? YES

Jack D Gordon
Sign your name here.

SER. No. 0-890455

CAMP RECORD No.

72.

NAME WILL S. GORDON

RANK 2ND LT.

ORGANIZATION U.S.A.

REGIMENT OR COMPANY

F.A. SPM

PLACE OF BIRTH JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI.

DATE OF BIRTH AUG. 12, 1913

DIAGNOSIS ON ADMISSION Entero-colitis, Bronchitis, Beri-Beri

ADMITTED FROM Kutai 10.

DATE OF ADMISSION Feb. 10, 1945

CHIEF COMPLAINT Diarrhea + cough 11 days.

FAMILY HISTORY MOTHER: MRS. HOPE B. GORDON 51, 687 JEFFERSON BLVD. MEMPHIS, TENN. Brother living. Sister " Father deceased cause pneumonia age 45

PAST HISTORY

Family well since a prisoner. Trichomonas infection + diarrhea 12 days.

PRESENT ILLNESS Diarrhea 11 days, watery + mucus, no blood. Cramps mild + nausea. General weakness progressing. Great wt. loss. at last 30 lbs. Severe cough developed same time. Stabbing pain left side. + soreness.

PHYSICAL FINDINGS Puffy face + extreme pallor.

ENT - Pella gross tongue.

CHF - Bronchitic rales. Parenchymal clear

Heart - normal.

ABD - no mass

EXT - Evidence of great weight loss, Swelling, + edema

SPECIAL EXAMINATION Stool exam - no amebae. Feb 7, 1945.

TREATMENT AND REMARKS Quinidine 4.0 grs. daily.

Vitamin B, 5.0 mgm. daily (H)

Multiple Vit. Pill.

APPETITE

DEFECATION

SLEEP

DATE	PROGRESS NOTES	DIET AND TRANSPORTATION
Feb 14.	Cough much improved. Diarrhea	
	is somewhat better. Genl condn same	
	Guandinine 4.0gms daily; Vit B ₁₂ inj;	Vit Capsule.
	and Glucose 20 c.c. 20% B.I.D.	J.P. Jordan
Feb. 16,	Trial of acetarsol. 0.5 gm daily.	J.P. Jordan
	no changes in diarrhea.	J.P. Jordan
Feb. 20.	Discontinue acetarsol. Diarrhea	
	continues unabated. Vitamin	medications
	+ Glucose as before. General condition	
	is much worse. Edema is gone, showing	
	great emaciation. now has loss	
	of appetite. chest unchanged.	
Feb 22.	Plasma 300 c.c. General condn poor.	
	J.P. Jordan	
Feb 23.	5:00 A.M. sudden collapse.	
	did died at 6:30 A.M.	
	Diag: Enterocolitis, acute	
	Malnutrition & Beri-Beri.	
	Cardiac Beri-Beri.	
	J.P. Jordan	m.e. USA
	J.P. Jordan	0-381030

DATE OF DISCHARGE

DIAGNOSIS OF DISCHARGE

DISCHARGED TO