

# **Diary of Manuel G. Nevarez**

## **Company C, 194th Tank Bn.**

**Written while held a Prisoner of War by the Japanese  
April 9, 1942 ~ September 9, 1945**



**Prisoner of War Medal**

# Reflections

It has been my sincere pleasure to have been a part of this project. Knowing Manny for these many years and spending countless hours enjoying his company.

Often we ponder the reasons why one person survives the horrors depicted within this book while others do not. It is my firm belief that God in his wisdom knows the attributes that each man possesses and thus some are called home while others are left to enhance the wonders of this world. Such is the case with Manny. At this writing he is well into his early 90's and going strong. The contributions he has placed upon this earth are many yet many of those may not be open to the naked eye. I am struck by the parallel of George Bailey in the movie "It's A Wonderful Life" and how different the world would have been without George. Such is the case with Manny. We may never know the full contributions he has given of himself or through his offspring. Somewhere in the future may spring forth a great statesman or scientist or other person of great stature who will look back and trace his or her ancestry to this great man. What a loss this world would have suffered with him.

As this book is a compilation of both the original and secondary books, the reader will find that the page numbers of the second book (Return to America) have been removed. This was necessary in order to keep from having to renumber each and every page and to allow for additional inserts if needed as has often been the case.

  
Charles "Rusty" Gilmore  
August 16, 2011

8/2/2011

# Forward

I graduated from High School in June of 1939. This was a hard time for employment and work was very scarce. To add to my meager income and show my pride in my country, I joined the Salinas' 40<sup>th</sup> Tank Company of the 40<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division of the California National Guard, in the summer of 1939.

In September of 1940 the 40<sup>th</sup> Tank Company was redesignated as Company C, 194<sup>th</sup> Tank Battalion. War was raging in Europe and Asia and as prospects loomed that the United States might be brought into the conflict, the US Army began to mobilize various units to augment the active forces. On February 10, 1941 Company C was activated into federal service.

Upon activation our unit was sent to Fort Lewis, Washington for formal training and indoctrination into the active forces. Our training at Fort Lewis lasted until early September. The unit had received excellent marks in training and as a result we were the first unit to be deployed overseas. On September 8, 1941 we were loaded on the Liner President Coolidge and headed for Manila in the Philippines. Our first assignment upon arrival in the Philippines was to protect the perimeter of Clark Field.

December 8, 1941, dawned clear and warm. There were a few wispy clouds but otherwise that Monday morning started like any other before it. It must be noted that the Philippines are east of the International Date Line and December 8<sup>th</sup> in the Philippines was December 7<sup>th</sup> in Hawaii 5000 miles to the west.

About 11:30 that morning, December 8, 1941, the air raid sirens sounded as waves of Japanese planes attacked the Philippines. Thus I was informed that Pearl Harbor had been attacked earlier and that we were at WAR.

The next couple of months are somewhat of a blur. We were ordered to Luzon to repel a Japanese invasion at Lamon Bay where we suffered our first casualties. As it became evident we were not going to be able to stem the advances of the Japanese, we along with the rest of the American and Philippines forces were ordered to Bataan. On April 9, 1942 after suffering the loss of 10 tanks and six men killed in action, Company C along with the rest of the defenders were surrendered. Thus begun the now infamous Bataan Death March.

We were ordered into columns of four and march north 70 miles to the railroad at San Fernando. During the 13 day march over 25,000 men were killed by their

Japanese captors. Men who stumbled and fell or lagged behind were bayoneted, beheaded or shot.

We were held at San Fernando for just over two weeks. During that time I was ordered to help clean out a warehouse. In doing so I found some small book like tablets and a pencil. Thus began my First Diary. That diary or journal described much of what occurred during the 13 day march.

After about 2 weeks at San Fernando, we were loaded into box cars and taken to Capas. From there we were marched to Camp O'Donnell. Camp O'Donnell was a hellhole and the beatings, killing and savaging went on continuously. In four months over 29,000 prisoners, 1,600 US Soldiers, 49 Sailors and 27,674 Filipinos died at O'Donnell. That I survived is nothing short of a miracle. While at O'Donnell my first Diary was discovered. I was beaten severely and barely managed to survive.

From Camp O'Donnell I was taken to Cabanatuan. Here I started my second Diary. It was short lived, as during a shakedown in early October, it too was discovered. Again I was beaten but not as bad as the first time. I had learned a lesson from the first and did not detail the Death March atrocities in the second.

In mid 1943, the Japanese started moving able bodied men from the Philippines to Japan to work in various mines and factories. We were loaded in the hold of transport ships, packed worse than sardines. The stench was almost unbearable. Men were forced to relieve themselves where they were and conditions were beyond description. The ships were set in convoys and headed for Japan. US Submarines, unaware that the ships contained US Prisoners, sunk many of them. In my convoy, I believe I was in the 3<sup>rd</sup> ship. The 1<sup>st</sup> ship was sunk with loss of many lives. We hold no animosity toward the US Submarines as they did not know what the cargo was.

The famous raid and rescue of prisoners from Camp Cabanatuan occurred in January of 1945 but by then I had been in Japan for some time.

Upon arrival in Japan, we docked at Tokyo, we were loaded into transports and taken to various steel mills, coal mines and iron mines. I was taken to an iron mine where I spent the remainder of the War. This Diary that follows, was written while I was held prisoner at this camp.

I would like to express my gratitude to my good friend Rusty Gilmore who spent many hours copying my original diary, putting this book together and then printing it.

Manual G. Nevarez  
February 2006

## **DIARY OF MANUEL G. NEVAREZ**

Written during World War II while being held a Prisoner of War by the Japanese

(Note: Except where required to correctly identify a location or event, no attempt has been made to correct for spelling or grammar from original writings)

1-28-44      Friday, had a very rugged day, a bit sick, worked hard, loaded 20 cars of dirt. Everything is still the same, waiting for the Yanks and Tanks.

*(Gap)*

2-15-44      Tuesday, went to work, had a hard day, as usual, nothing new.

2-16-44      Wednesday, got a slap by the Tayivan and it rained all morning and still had to work. Boy all of us sure were wet.

2-17-44      Thursday, had a hard day, had a little awakening to do because there was one of us missing at time to come home, but was alright after a wait about one hour and a half. Just that somebody changed companies and didn't report it and they checked up and found the missing man.

- 2-18-44      Friday, another hard day, still waiting for the day to come, sweating blood little by little.
- 2-19-44      Saturday, had a miserable day today, had a little fever and worked hard but made it alright.
- 2-20-44      Sunday, still a little sick but made it alright, nothing new.
- 2-21-44      Monday, felt a little better this morning and feel a lot better this night, had a good supper and thinking of home, hope the day will come soon.
- 2-22-44      Tuesday, I'm well again, hope to god I don't get sick again. The Japanese thing we are sabotaging because we don't work enough to finish their airfield.
- 2-23-44      Wednesday, the boys at the garage got caught bringing in food from the outside so they were warned if they were caught again their money would be taken away from them.
- 2-24-44      Thursday, had a hard day, loaded 22 cars, they are working us hard because they want to finish part of the field so they can use it.

- 2-25-44      Friday, we worked very hard because they are in a hurry to get through with a part of the field, the tayivan want 22 but they only got 20, we gypped out of one.
- 2-26-44      Saturday, today was the same but we haven't finished yet, made 21 loads, two boys had a fight, the reason I don't know, I guess they came home so tired, anything they say to each other, it annoys them and that made them fight.
- 2-27-44      Sunday, we are still trying to finish but we still got plenty more.
- 2-28-44      Monday, well we are still waiting for the day to come when we will be through. As for the Yanks and Tanks to come, nothing new.
- 2-29-44      Tuesday, Well we finished today but we changed our position to a different place but we are working as hard now.
- 3-1-44      Wednesday, we've a day a rest at last, had a good meal, felt very happy today all day, but always thinking of home.
- 3-2-44      Thursday, had a nice day of work, not pushing us, had it pretty good, nothing new.

- 3-3-44      Friday, nothing new except that work is still going on as before.
- 3-4-44      Saturday, had an easy day, loaded 15 cars and very easy in afternoon, I got a hold of a little P-40 fuel, drank a little, not enough to get any effect everything else is ok.
- 3-5-44      Sunday, today lots of things happened, two of the boys that were working with us got drunk on P-40 fuel, they sure were beat up by the Japanese and were told that we got no more meat and very little chow and anybody who got caught with P-40 fuel would get tied to a post for three days.
- 3-6-44      Monday, we sure had a swell day, we didn't work hard, we even had a break, came in at 4 PM, that was because the Tayivan had to get some kind of shot or some kind of test, heard a rumble we are supposed to leave here soon after the 1<sup>st</sup> of April.
- 3-7-44      Tuesday, not so bad today, worked very easy and heard today that a plane supposed to land, that's all.

- 3-8-44      Wednesday, a fair day, it didn't happen after all, I mean the airplane, I guess it wont be long now, everything the same.
- 3-9-44      Thursday, boy things sure changed today, when we came in from work we heard the rumor that we are going to be sent to Japan, I hope not that's all that really any good I mean news.
- 3-10-44     Friday, boy we are all excited because we saw 36 plane and thought something was up but to our surprise it was only an Army day for the Japanese.
- 3-11-44     Saturday, well at least it happened today at 4:20 PM an airplane landed and it was successful, no crashup, it landed three times to try it out and I guess it was alright, took off the third time and didn't return, but we not through yet.
- 3-12-44     Sunday, today is our day of yasome, I mean rest, the boys are sure in a rage because there is a shortage on tobacco, it has been this way for about two weeks now, I sure hope they get tobacco in soon.

- 3-13-44      Monday, went to work today, had pretty hard day, head a rumor today that the Yanks will be here by the 1<sup>st</sup> of April and also the we receive packages.
- 3-14-44      Tuesday, yes today we got our packages, I mean they got them because I didn't get any, Charlie and Gomey and all the rest got one and just to see Chare and Clyde open theirs, it sure made me unhappy but I guess I'll get mine later I hope.
- 3-15-44      Wednesday, I had a very lonely day always thinking why I don't get one but I wont give up hope and we quit working early, the reason I don't know.
- 3-16-44      Thursday, still wishing that they bring the rest of the mail to see if I got one or not, nothing new.
- 3-17-44      Friday, had a hard day because I got a bite on my and sure hurt.
- 3-18-44      Saturday, I just made it today, I went to sick bay and told me to come back in the morning to have it cut.

3-19-44 Sunday, they cut it alright, I went through a lot of hell, I cussed and sweated cold and had a hell of a morning, I didn't work.

3-20-44 Monday, not so bad today but still weak, rumor today that they might bring some more mail, I sure hope so, I didn't work today either.

3-21-44 Tuesday, I'm still on quarters, I hope I can stay until Saturday at least nothing else new.

3-22-44 Wednesday, still quarters today, I'm going to see the doc and if I get worse Q?, well I am still Q, nothing else happen, oh yes it did, I won a lot of money but I lost it all the same nite.

3-23-44 Thursday, another day on quarters, I getting better though ?, went to work next day, received letter today from home, made us all very happy and we are still expecting some more, I hope we get them soon.

*(Gap)*

3-29-44 Wednesday, nothing new except some more planes landed at the field and there's a rumor we might leave this place, where to, we don't know.

3-30-44 Thursday, not a bad day today, came home at 3:30 PM easy day.

*(Gap)*

4-9-44 Sunday, yes Easter Sunday, today we got our last red boxes, it 7 men to a box, we had a good Easter dinner, Gomey and I and we got a rumor that McAuther and Nimitiz is in Palaw and it won't be long until they will be here.

*(Gap)*

4-18-44 Tuesday, we are still building revetments, how-many we don't know, they have women and little girls working out the airfields laying sod, they supposed of have bombed mendings three days ago, I have time to don't know.

*(Gap)*

4-28-44 Friday, today one of the boys got caught with a note passed by a Filipino, he was not harmed much, just a few slaps on the face, but we expect it worse.

4-29-44      Saturday, today we got our day of rest at last, we are going to get American cigarettes and tobacco, both fresh and paste or powder

*(Gap)*

5-12-44      Friday, well today is my birthday and we had a hard day working out the airfield, just thinking of the things I would do if I was free but I guess just has to be a sad day for me, thinking of home all the time wishing this dam war would end sometime.

*(Gap)*

5-14-44      Sunday, we had a days rest today, the chow is very lanned now and getting worse every day and work getting harder too, boy the Yanks and Tanks better come soon or else.

5-15-44      Monday, had very hard days work, very tired, it was windy and got all dirty, there was a fight jut as we got in, Mascoto and Ross, he owed him \$150.00, I owe some too but not very much, I sure been having bad luck lately, in fact all month, I hope it changes some day, no rumors as yet, oh yes I just heard that Germans evacuated the Black seas.

- 5-16-44      Tuesday, they took inventory of our money, to check just how much money we had but the reason for this was that so much money was coming into that want check up or more or less put a stop to it.
- 5-18-44      Thursday, today had a very hot day and very hard working day, boy is it the chow getting scarce more and more every day, if this keep up any longer none of us will be able to do much work, not the way they want it done, no news.
- 5-20-44      Saturday, well it has come at last, I meant the rain & not the Yanks and Tanks and day before yesterday, a boy had another guy hit him with a pick handle so we would get a broken wrist so he wouldn't have to work and his wish did come through, he is on quarters now, he doesn't have to work for about 1 or 2 months and a day before that another boy stuck his arm under a car that was used for hauling the dirt out to the fill, boy work is so hard and chow so scarce that some times I wish I have the nerve to do the same, nothing new today.
- 5-21-44      Sunday, today it looks like rain but it didn't rain where we were working, it rained out in the distance, a rumor started today in fact some of the supervisors took the numbers of some of the men that he looked that were in good shape, for what reason I don't know, but I

imagine they will be going out some place, where we don't know yet, the boys have a lot of rumors of there but they don't know, details later on.

5-22-44 Monday, another rugged day that no rain yet and no rumors about the numbers of yesterday, today a son of a ? made us work until 6 PM and the rest of companies work until 6 PM and were although just waiting for us. They moved all their airplanes to another field, the reason we don't know as yet, but I think they are going to stop working on the field during rainy season.

5-23-44 Tuesday, well yes here it is the 23<sup>rd</sup> of May and still waiting for the Yanks and Tanks, never mind that we had a pretty cool day, it was partly cloudy but still worked hard just the same, Charley and talked about home today and sure lonely for home and we were planning on a camping tour for Charlie and I wish well be granted soon, no other news.

5-24-44 Wednesday, yes another day of hard work, had a light rain today and some of the boys tried to catch two caribou's but didn't succeed, there was nothing but pick and shovel men. News oh almost forgot there was something new, they stole some Red Cross chow from some of the

officers and enlisted men, they had their chow in the supply room, who stole it they didn't know. I guess they wont know.

5-25-44      Thursday, yes today was moving day alright but we had to work anyhow, had a nice dinner at noon today but never enough rice, just enough chow to keep you from starving, I sure was lonely today.

5-26-44      Friday, well Santa Claus is here again, the Philippine Red Cross donated some food and shoes and various other things, today I got 8 cigarettes, 2 pieces of chocolate bar and 1 Spam, can of peanuts, ½ package cigarettes, ½ soap, 5 tines of bananas, boy they sure came in handy, because I sure was hungry after a hard days work, there's a rumor that we might have the day off tomorrow because it Navy for the Philippines.

5-27-44      Saturday, yes today was Navy day alright but we had to work anyhow but tomorrow will rest and oh yes we got a good ration of chow, a big pig and some good vegetables, the food is betting better outside a lot we don't get enough rice.

- 5-28-44 Sunday, today we had a day off, had pretty good chow and got 4 little pigs and we receive our pay, I got \$2.80 for a whole month pay, the day was very sad thinking of home.
- 5-29-44 Monday, worked today, felt pretty good until noon and I really felt miserable but still worked today, the doctor have me Q's because I still had a little fever, but I still don't know if I feel so good yet, it rain at 8 PM and boy it sure did rain like I never seen before, it only lasted for about  $\frac{1}{2}$  hour or so.
- 5-30-44 Tuesday, still had a little fever, no work today.
- 5-31-44 Wednesday, I did go to work today, did a lot of sleeping and a lot of resting, nothing else new.
- 6-1-44 Thursday, yes another month and a hard days work, had to work today being that I couldn't get a little temperature so I could stay in, it wasn't so bad, I felt pretty good, it didn't rain, the rumor is that the Russians have driven the Germans out of Russia and they are turning for the rest of us, I hope they will come soon, it did rain about 6:30 PM, only for half hour.

- 6-2-44 Friday, rain like hell this morning just before we had to go to work but that only last for a half hour and we had to go to work, had a very muddy day and not so hard, oh yes today I got caught for Japanese guard dealing with other Japanese, but nothing was said about it, I sure was lucky and how.
- 6-3-44 Saturday, today was my unlucky day for me after all, just about the time for us to come home, I dropped a rock on my right foot and sure fix it up, I don't know if I have any broken bones or not, I guess it just sprained.
- 6-4-44 Sunday, I stayed in today on account of my foot, but they were going to send me out work until I went this morning and told the I couldn't, not with my foot the way it is and they cud down on the rations for the Q's men, down to 2/3 rations, the son of a ? yes I mean it too. Moven out all Philippinos and Spamen and out drawing blood and Navy moving in and Philippinos leaving out of Manila to their province and Japanese going to Ft McKindly and Price are very high in Manila, Rice cost \$500 for 68 kilos, sugar cost 600 peso and it didn't rain.
- 6-5-44 Monday, stayed in again, my foot not bad just swollen from the hit of the rock, nothing else, I might go to work tomorrow, I hope not.

- 6-6-44 Tuesday, I did go to work, it was awful hot and worked pretty hard, we caught a caribou and thought we were going to get it but no, they got it, yes the Japs. (*Today was D-Day in Europe*)
- 6-7-44 Wednesday, I had a good day today, a little tired, today we all got a package of tobacco which made all boys very happy and more than the rumors put out today was also good that we made a landing of Parachute troops on France and by sea too.
- 6-8-44 Thursday, things did happen today, Mike Mascato got caught today traden with the Tayivan, had a hard day very hot and lots of planes take off today, destination I don't know, I saw them go south east and Jimmy, a Mexican kid from Texas, the two as caught trading.
- 6-9-44 Friday, it sure was hot all day, working like hell, pushing us all the time like a bunch of slaves, they are trying to finish the rest of the field before the hare rains get here.
- 6-10-44 Saturday, a very bad day today because many of the boys got hurt, some by the Japs in charge of us, one other by the heat, they are sure giving us hell because they think we are doing sabotage by not putting

out as many loads they want, but how can do the work when we are hungry all the time and so hot that we get weak and can't put out no more, it rained at 8:15 PM, a rumor that we doing very good in France and that it wont be long now, they are driving Germans out of France.

6-11-44 Sunday, today is our day of not doing nothing, the boys just lying around doing a lot of rest, we sure need it and others playing cards, black jack, poker, the chow is still very poor, rained again 8:20 PM, three boys went to Bilibed today with broken arms and hand and others to Pasig for dental work, brought back good news for France, tow landings rage, and on Belgium and Holland , New Guinea.

6-12-44 Monday, stayed in today, had a bad foot, the boys had a easy day today, that what they said the supervisors did not beat up anybody today that they are taking it easy on the boys but the chow still lousy, it just started to rain again 7 PM.

6-13-44 Tuesday, went to work today, had it very easy, not so bad, nothing new except they are still fighting in France.

6-14-44 Wednesday, work was so so and so many of us are getting so tired of the work that some of the boys are breaking arms and fingers and only

last night one of the boys tried to break his arm but only bruised it, no luck.

- 6-15-44 Thursday, today they brought in two boys from out from the field, one with a broken hand and another got a pick stuck on his foot, Harvey and Boarg, work was usual, no rain.
- 6-16-44 Friday, boy things are really getting tuff when the chow is so bad that some of the boys are eating rats and cats, boy I'll have to be a lot more hungry than what I am in order to eat a cat or rat and I am so hungry that I could anything but I guess I'll starve, I hope not.
- 6-17-44 Saturday, rained like hell this morning, I mean rain, we had to work in the rain, we came in about 4 PM, but all soak and wet, two more boys with broken hands.
- 6-18-44 Sunday, a very gloomy Sunday, rain again, but we were lucky today, did get wet, but it rained all nite.
- 6-19-44 Monday, today worked all day, didn't rain all day but we had narrow escape, just as we got home it really came down but not mud on us today, a Tayivan boy died out at work about 11 O'clock this morning,

rumor as follows, more, the Tayivans refused to go to work today but they went to work the next day, they are worked day and nite.

6-20-44      Tuesday, no rain, got very cool today, didn't work very hard because we have a long track to haul out on, the show is getting a little better but still very little rice.

6-21-44      Wednesday, not so bad today, had air raid and we are all prepared with black out lights, the paper around our lights just in case.

6-22-44      Thursday, longest day of the year and we had a very wet one too, it rained about 3 PM and we worked in the mud and some of got wet, boy it pure miserable to work, good news today Guam has been taken and a big Navel Battle west of there but Guam has not been taken, mistake.

*(Gap)*

6-25-44      Sunday, we dint work today, Charlie and I cooked beans and potato soup, Vances send him in his package, we had a nice dinner, thinking of home of the good food we would be eating and wish the darn war

would be over soon, situation in Europe is very good for our side, we are making progress.

6-26-44 Monday, worked today and boy was it miserable, I'm out of shoes and I got to work bare footed, never had I been without shoes and it sure hard on my feet.

6-27-44 Tuesday, an easy day, but the chow is sure is bad, we got very little today, we got 2 whacks across the ass for not loading our cars, the other fellows in front of us were loaded because it was time to come home. We got it for not having our car loaded.

6-28-44 Wednesday, they say Suneberg fell the 26<sup>th</sup> of June, I sure hope it true, had a pretty hard day, hungry all day long, all of us talk just about chow and what we will eat when we are free again.

6-29-44 Thursday, not so bad today, 13 loads, were so hungry that some of the boys when we came home along the road they pick some kind of dobie weed to eat, what it is I don't know but that just to show how bad it is, I hope we get free soon and get us out of this hell hole.

(Gap)

- 7-4-44 Tuesday, worked hard all day and thinking of what we would be doing if we were free on this very day fourth of July.
- 7-5-44 Wednesday, Charlie's brother he had to work too on his birthday, we had some beans at noon to celebrate with ha ha, also thinking of the good time we had on his last birthday in the USA, they caught a boy stealing rice.
- 7-6-44 Thursday, another hard day work, good news and at the same time bad because there no water the Jowin plant in Manila had something wrong but we soon had water.
- 7-7-44 Friday, almost finished with the cut that they in a hurry with as used, had it easy, we are getting a little more chow, not very much, but it not quite as bad as it was, boy just made it home when it started raining
- 7-8-44 Saturday, everything the same except all of us are out of tobacco and is getting hard on us on the work, the chow the same.
- 7-9-44 Sunday, today we dint work, had a good day rest, Charlie Hennera and I had a good meal at noon, coconuts halla.

- 7-10-44 Monday, worked all day alone and no rain, not until we were ready to come home, boy we really got it, we all got soak and wet.
- 7-11-44 Tuesday, a very hard today because we had to work in the rain and slide around in the mud like a bunch of pigs and it sure was miserable and today they started build home shelters and trenches around our area where we are held prisoners, I guess it wont be long now, I hope, Tobacco 4:40.
- 7-12-44 Wednesday, it didn't rain today but we still had to work in the mud all day which hit more hard then when its dry, chow has not improved any, rumors that they caught some Americans, soup rations for today, salt port and salt fish, eggplant and dobie greens.
- 7-13-44 Thursday, rain all day but we didn't get very wet, worked in the mud, made 13 loads today, rations 2 small pigs, fish, eggplant and some camotes and pumpkins, at roll call tonight we were told that all sick men lame and lazy would leave for Cabanatuan.

- 7-14-44      Friday, we went out to work, it rain all day and we got all wet, made on load, eat dinner, out there after dinner, we came home, got here at 1:30 PM, 250 men left for Cabanatuan 10:30 AM.
- 7-15-44      Saturday, boy the place sure look lonely now but we still went out work, we beat the rain today but worked all day long, the chow is getting better.
- 7-16-44      Sunday, had an easy day work in the mud all day but so hard, today at noon they caught a boy going through chow line twice, he was punished by not giving him his noon meal for seven days (Balatagar Apodaco) and today I was struck by a officer and a hell of an argument about us Mexicans.
- 7-17-44      Monday, we finished our fill today and we are moving to other place today, make it bigger and every thing looking pretty good now, chow has been improving a lot since the 250 men left, ration, Pork & Salt Fish.
- 7-18-44      Tuesday, a good day, work kind of hard, rain on and off, just as we got home it sure did come down like a typhoon, I should have said nothing about the chow, the decrees in rice rations, how much I don't know but

we sure don't get enough rice because we are very hungry and work hard every day, rations about the same vegetables and a little meat.

7-19-44      Wednesday, a real bad day, made four loads in the morning and eat and in the afternoon got caught in a storm and I mean a storm, we got all soak and wet all of us shivering cold and with almost no clothing at all.

7-20-44      Thursday, rained all nite and nice and clear this morning and to work in the mud and part rain all day long, just dodging the rain, it was sure a hard day, they say Saipan and Marianna's were taken by the Americans and Japan & Palarrw was bombed.

7-21-44      Friday, very poor chow today and yesterday also two times we got rotten pig for rations and I've had to throw them away, another day for dodging the rain and work in the mud, it sure is hard for the guy that are punishing he still is not getting his chow, the American Officers are doing Elving this him, take what little food he gets and he still goes out and works.

7-22-44      Saturday, it rain all nite and still went to work this morning, worked until noon, eat out there, it was still raining when we got through

eating that they had a heart and brought us in at 2 O'clock PM and still raining strong, rations, not so bad caribou meat and vegetables.

7-23-44 Sunday, today it didn't rain much except for light showers, send a card home of 25 word message did do anything all day long, just washed a little, layed in bed and read, rations, meat and vegetables, getting little more rice today.

7-24-44 Monday, we didn't dodge very much rain today but it was sure muddy to work, it was not so bad, Charlie was struck by Jap guard on the hand and leg, hurt one of his fingers he had infected, rations, very poor today, just vegetables, chow is so poor, some of the boys are eating greens, so do I when I can get them but at dinner time just to see them eat those greens, it looks like a bunch of horses are eating grass, just think what starvation does to us guys, it wont be long now?

7-25-44 Tuesday, had a happy day today but still worked hard didn't rain in the morning, afternoon it did but didn't get wet, Charlie Sigala talked about our old times back home the thing we use to do and things we are going to do when we get back if we do get back. He talked about Rafy and me about Many Robles and about raising chickens and pigs,

goats and two cows ha, ha, ha!!! Rations, same as yesterday poor, oh, today they put blackout on the airfield.

7-26-44      Wednesday, another pretty good day, Charlie and I worked together again talked about home of my sisters & family and his family especially of Maria Consueld, it rained a little in the afternoon and didn't get wet, rations, little port and vegetables but little and very rice, boy we are almost starving, they caught another guy getting rice twice in chow line, the outcome I don't know , he was sentenced for three days without his noon meal or supper.

7-27-44      Thursday, a fair day until the afternoon it started raining about 4:30 O'clock and all of us got wet, should seen all of us like wet rats, it was sure a sorry sight to see, Herra got his fish cakes from a little Tayivan in charge the son of a - - ? - , Charlie and I still had a good day talking of old times, rations the same as yesterday, some Philipinos were caught stealing trees and other things, what they did was execute them.

7-28-44      Friday, boy everything is sure against us, it rained all nite and when it time to go to work in the mud and rain, Charley got a bad foot today, he didn't work with me, rations, meat and vegetables but very little,

rumors, Germany fell and some general revolting, all of the boys working out there with hardly no cloths and without shoes.

7-29-44 Saturday, talk about those son of - - ? being mean, it rained all nite still in the morning it was raining so we got payed and thought that we weren't going to work, just stay at the mess hall where we eat, all wet and cold until 3 O'clock and came home.

7-30-44 Sunday, got slapped by a Japanese superintendent, he sure hit me hard, had to work in the rain, still almost starving, Charlie is on Q's, he has a bad foot.

7-31-44 Monday, very good all the way around, no rain when we came home we get surprise, we get letter from home, boy everybody is sure happy and gay Charlie got 3, I got 2 so far.

8-1-44 Tuesday, a very nice day, no rain, worked pretty good but still in a rush, a lot of air activities, the chow is still the same, very little.

8-2-44 Wednesday, good day, worked like hell, when we were coming home they used the air raid flag and we also received commissary , everything very high.

- 8-3-44 Thursday, good sunny day but a little windy, work hard, chow is very serious now, that they are going to give us lugao for breakfast and for supper and team rice at noon and little vegetables, Herrera went to hospital, very sick.
- 8-4-44 Friday, a nice day but very sad, Herrera is very sick, the work as before, chow is getting worse and worse, Charlie is getting worse, Charlie day dreaming about his house and Rafy that if she still waiting for him, he sure will make her a very happy wife and make up for what he has done in the past.
- 8-5-44 Saturday, very bad day, worked in the rain all morning and part of the afternoon, Herrera still pretty bad, Charlie and I thinking of home and making plans.
- 8-6-44 Sunday, today was our day of rest but the dirty son of bitch make us go to work, the chow is still very bad, Herrera the same.
- 8-7-44 Monday, a fair day but worked like dogs just like slaves, chow is still the same today, we got under shirts from the Japanese, Herrera a little

better, rations, salt pork and vegetables, mean yesterday, Herrera is lot better.

8-8-44 Tuesday, they brought a phonograph and some records for us from Behbud and sure is nice to hear some state side music.

8-11-44 Friday, easy day but still had to work in the rain, rain like hell all nite and then it quits in the morning and we still go to work, Herrera well again.

(Gap)

10-1-44 Sunday, left Laspines detail and we were embarked on the boat 5:30 PM, were put down in a hole like animals (600) six hundred in a hole in the, in the other side I don't know, we had an awful time sleeping together with no room to move, very hard to go to the latrine.

10-2-44 Monday, if I ever thought that working out there at the field that it was a misery, this is sure a hell of them living in the boat just out all the way from the harbor, we got our first meal this afternoon about 1:30, we hadn't eaten since 11:30 AM yesterday, the boy here are passing out like flies, very little fresh air crowded lying on coal, gravel,

they been changing men from the other hole to this hole, then about 640 men just imagine what it like, we are supposed to get two meals a day and we are getting vitamin pills.

10-3-44 Tuesday, we had an awful nite last nite, we are still here in Manila Bay, it rained part of the nite last nite and morning, some of the boys are wet and sick and some are having a hard time, they a Red Cross boat came in, I don't know , I'm not sure they gave us about ten and five minutes up on deck out of 24 hours and one canteen of water a day, well we are just getting through eating it about 1:30 PM and we are pulling up anchor, sailing, don't know, they are sure locking us up, they have fasten the board up above with cables and a pike and little air is coming in, they left a little hole to put our chow down by rope and to pull our defecations out, here one man get very sick and after that are just as bad that shouldn't be in this here hole but they don't give a dam they put them down in the hole.

10-4-44 Wednesday, we sailed at 1:30 PM, stopped a Cabcalin and started out at 2 AM this morning, had awful nite, some of the boys sang a little, chow is fair but not so good less then half mess kit of rice, lousy soup, eat any of mine and dine in the afternoon, we are sailing along the coast line about ½ mile or little more from the shore, water is a

problem, we eat chow and it rained, some of us got all wet, we stopped at Subic Bay for about 1½ hours and we are off again, started again at 2:30 changed some more men from hole because it very bad there.

10-5-44      Thursday, we been off and we travel day and nite, out of water and plenty hot sweating out the Yank submarine.

10-6-44      Friday, today sometime the Yanks sunk a ole tanker and sure cause a lot of excitement, all the boys get in a turmoil, several boys have died, Charlie and Herrera are still holding on, water is very limited.

10-7-44      Saturday, everything is still pretty bad, water water is what we need, they don't even give a dam, for the chow, we have been going and haven't stopped yet last nite we had a hell of a nite, very scared and they be sunk and would make it, even so weak from lack of water and chow and fresher air.

10-8-44      Sunday, a very bad day, sweating it out and no water but a ¼ canteen cup of water, a very bad nite, everybody dust like a bunch of wild men, they this way because they scared and weak and as a nicb and thirsty.

10-9-44 Monday, still out at sea and things are getting worse and worse, still very little water and last nite for me the worst nite of all, some more died and one killed by mauty and the Yanks sunk another ship by submarine.

*(Gap of 8 Months)*

6-16-45 Saturday, had a very nice day at the shop, did a lot of welding, when we came home we were searched because somebody stole 8 pairs of socks and four towels, we had a shake down in our barracks and lots of the boys lost many things, we didn't get any supper until 11:30 PM but still they have not caught the thief.

6-17-45 Sunday, morning and a very nice day but we haven't had our breakfast until they get crook, who stole the stuff and I'm very hungry and we are cleaning our squad room, well they finally fed us but they did not catch the thief, we got all three meals in one at 3:45 PM, things are sure rugged and getting worse every day but we wont give up.

6-18-45 Monday morning, boy things sure did happen this morning, we fell out for roll call and there was four of the new men escaped and stood outside until 9 AM without breakfast, we went to work at 2 O'clock

PM, we had three meal, the others did two, we didn't do much at ship in fact we didn't do nothing, they are still looking for the guys that escaped.

*(Gap)*

- 7-14-45      Saturday, today at 7:02 AM we had a air raid, it lasted until 9 AM, we were taken up the hill from where we work to air raid shelter.
- 7-15-45      Sunday, the day is not so bad but a guy out of the new men got caught trying to steal cigarettes or chow and this morning R. O. Jensen died, lack of medical attention and food, they cut down on our cigarette issue because men are trading their food for cigarettes.
- 7-16-45      Monday, had an air raid last nite and the rest of the day was very quiet, worked pretty hard, received one cigarette.
- 7-19-45      Thursday, today I had a misunderstanding with a guy at the factory and we had a little fight but the guard stopped us, he hit me on the leg with his rifle and Percy got it too, he was trying to break it up and he got it because he thought he was fighting, we finish the fight at the barracks, I won.

7-20-45      Friday, we had a small air raid, we went to our fox hole, stayed there for about 1 hour, every else pretty good, nothing else new.

7-21-45      Saturday, today a very wet day didn't do much all day.

(Gap)

7-29-45      Sunday, had an air raid last nite and nite before we had air raid very often but we yet heard or seen an American plane, today 4 or five high officials of the Japanese Army to inspect our camp, they are here now, what the outcome will be I don know as yet.

(Gap)

8-8-45      Wednesday, had air raid all day long and Tuesday was the same way.  
*(This was two days after the 1<sup>st</sup> Atomic Bomb was dropped on Hiroshima and the day before Nagasaki)*

8-10-45      Friday, today just before quitting I got slapped around or mean boxed around like a Joe Lewis, last nite had and air raid.

- 8-11-45      Saturday, very quite day a little work, good health rumor we get two days off Sunday and Monday.
- 8-12-45      Sunday, today Sunday was very nice, went to church services and went down town for a load of wood.
- 8-13-45      Monday, had all day off, I don't feel good in all day, I got worse at nite had a fever.
- 8-14-45      Tuesday, still sick didn't go to work, a rumor guards are changing tomorrow.
- 8-15-45      Wednesday, today I feel better today no fever, standed a little of my chow again, the rumor came true, the new guards came at noon, payday today.
- 8-16-45      Thursday, Howard, one of the new men that suppose to be in the guardhouse was caught stealing rice, bungley rice beans, this morning things did happen, the special duty men were ready to go to work when a telephone call from town to let nobody go to work, right away all of us said the war is over, no work all day.

- 8-17-45      Friday, well at last our dream came true so far, the war is over, today just a few men worked, but work on the garden, today they told the boys that they would push cars at the mine, we will not do any more hard work and we will not go down town to work at shop.
- 8-18-45      Saturday, just laying around doing nothing just like we had always dream to do. Our dream and prayers were answered at last.
- 8-19-45      Sunday, today a very nice day everybody happy waiting for the Japanese Lieutenant to come to find out the truth about war.
- 8-20-45      Monday, today at 11:15 PM, we got the new everybody had been waiting fore 3½ years at last we were told today, the war was over, that we will be going home soon.
- 8-21-45      Tuesday, just laying around waiting for the order to move us out. Oh yes, 4 of the boys that had escaped about 4 months ago, they were brought here today from the place where they were held prisoner, boy they look hell, they sure were treated rough and today we went on a strike for more chow and we got it.
- 8-22-45      Wednesday, today we got a bull and not bull shit, they killed and boy it sure is good to get meat, not bones like the other time, before they

brought in a horse or cow, they would take the meat and give us the bones but this time is the other way around, received cigarettes today, we were told by our Captain that our Army of Occupations would take this island by the 26<sup>th</sup> of this month 4 to 5 hundred thousand American men and Chinese. China got half of the Mancho (*Manchuria*) and the other half to Russia and Lavoria (??) independent and Formosa to China.

8-23-45      Thursday, well at last we got our wish granted, I mean by this is that we are getting the food we can eat, we got a level bowl of beans and some good beef soup, we saw those planes come over us the think they were American planes but myself I don't know, Captain Sato came in today, what news I don't know yet, they had a meeting last nite.

8-24-45      Friday, a nice day every body happy, full of chow and lots of benjo, today the Japs put up big sign on the top of our roof, I think they are expecting American planes.

8-25-45      Saturday, it rain little yesterday and today it a little cloudy, still waiting to get our orders to move, I hope it come, we seen 12 planes, what they I don't know, they look like Americans but I don't know,

they were American Planes, everything the same, just waiting the day to come, I hope it soon, every since we took over the camp we been getting all we want to eat and yet some of the boys don't seem to have enough.

8-26-45 Sunday, today I went to church, we planes again but they don't come close to us, still laying around eating too and 4 boys that we had in the hospital left today for the Japanese hospital, later on we will leave, four planes came over our camp, I don't know if they so or not, I'm a little sick again, I hope I get over, I think I have Malaria.

8-27-45 Monday, nothing new except that the other boys have received help from the Yanks, I've been sick.

8-28-45 Tuesday, this morning at 5 AM little rain, left the main camp at Sundi to see the Red Cross committee, feel a lot better today. Today the American planes came and brought us our relief supplies. We were so glad that we all sat up all nite eating candy, fruit, cookies and smoking good American cigarettes, just like Xmas nite, boy it was a lot of fun while it lasted, lot of the boys got sick. Two men were killed by supplies dropped by the planes

- 8-29-45      Wednesday, today we held services for the two boys that were killed, we buried ton the top of the hill next to our camp in fact right out of our camp about 200 yards, we also received a complete uniform of khakis, shoes, socks, handkerchief, towel, shaving and toilet articles plenty of cigarettes and candy and food, everybody contented, Butte Barn not back yet.
- 8-30-45      Thursday, lucky again we got supply form B-29, food and candy and cigarettes and Beetle Brain came back and the rumors is that we fly to Manila when I don't know. Details later, they brought the same food and cigarettes and candy.
- 8-31-45      Friday, everything swell, nothing new except they said that they extend the signing until the end of September.
- 9-1-45      Saturday, we cleaned the camp up a little because sure was dirty, I'm still sick with a cold, everybody else is OK gaining pounds but I'm not.
- 9-2-45      Sunday, went to church, everything still the same, still waiting to go home.

- 9-3-45 Monday, had a dry run with our pack to see how much stuff we are going to take with us, our supply is running low, we want the B-29's to come and bring us a load of supplies or take us out, today they fix a radio phonograph and plays pretty good.
- 9-4-45 Tuesday, planes came this afternoon but no supplies. I guess account of the rain and low atmospheres, I guess they will come tomorrow, they better or else we out.
- 9-5-45 Wednesday, today we waited for our ration from the B-29's but he just came around and took our message and we also heard over the radio that some of the boys are already being taken out and for us to hold fast that would be taken out very soon, some of the boys in other camps, the boys are leaving for Tokyo, so that they can get home faster.
- 9-6-45 Thursday, well the B-29's didn't come today but I guess we will be leaving soon.
- 9-7-45 Friday, we got our news we have been waiting fore, we leave the 9<sup>th</sup>, camp 8 and our camp 9B.

There's a troop ship that's leaving next week, bound for we don't know where, but as long as it will take us away from Japan, we none of us bloody will care, just think of the millions were leaving behind, the bastards that have to live here, we'll leave them their rice and fleas and their lice and we will bid the goodbye with a cheer:

Bless em all, Bless em all, the long, the short, the tall, bless the one stars and bless all the two's bless all the honchos and bless all the fools, for were saying goodbye to them all, as back to their benjos they crawl, next week were a nation we'll be on the ocean so cheer up my lads bless them all:

Manuel Nevarez,

World War II Prisoner Of War

FOOTNOTE:

*Manuel Nevarez had two additional diaries that he kept in the three and one half years he was held as a prisoner of war but the Japanese confiscated them. The only reason he was able to salvage this one is because on one occasion he held it between his legs and on other occasions he buried it in the ground. The missing diaries included the 65 mile Bataan Death March of which he was a part. During the Death March many died from lack of water and starvation and if any lagged behind they were killed by the Japanese. After reaching Camp O'Donnell, the prisoner of war camp, the death rate reached 370 a week. The Japanese had expected about 25,000 to surrender but there were almost three times that many including Americans and Philipinos. For the Allies, their supplies had been exhausted and it was surrender or die.*

## PRAYER FOR PEACE

*Dismayed by the horrors of war, which is bringing ruin to peoples and nations, we turn to Jesus to thy most loving heart as to our last hope O' God of Mercy, with tears we invoke thee to end this fearful source O' King of peace, we humbly implore the peace for which we long from thy sacred heart thou dost shed fourth over the world divine charity so that discord might end and love alone might reign among men, during they life on earth thy heart beat with tender compassion for the sorrows of men: In this hour made terrible with burning hate, with bloodshed and with slaughter, once more may thy divine heart be moved to pity the countless mothers in anguish for the fate of their sons, pit the numberless families, now bereaved of their fathers, pity the orient over which broods such havoc and disaster. Do thou inspire rulers and peoples with counsels of meekness, do thou heal the discords that tear the nations asunder thou who didst shed thy precious blood this they might live as brothers, bring men together once more in loving harmony and as once before to the cry of the Apostle Peter, save us lord we perish thou didst answer with words of mercy and didst still the raging waves, so now design to hear our trustful prayer and give back to the world peace and tranquility and do thou o most holy virgin as in other times of sore distress be now our help our protection and our safeguards.*

*A-Men.*

# Return to America

**Company C 194th Tank Battalion  
WWII American POW  
Manuel G. Nevarez**



Photo taken November 1972

## Authors Note

It was only after many conversations and interviews with Dad that he agreed to record some of his stories. We began by his, of course, talking and I would write and sometimes he would record on his own. I would take the tapes home and listen to them and transfer them word for word to transcript. I tried not to edit the verbiage so that when you read this booklet those of you who know my dad, and have listened to his stories the words will read just like him talking.

I would like to acknowledge a number of individuals who assisted me in this effort, First, my Dad. Second, Mom, without her complete faith and devotion to Dad this book would have been impossible. Third, Rusty Gilmore, who spent many hours with my dad creating the first book containing the story of my Dad's diary while a POW WWII Philippines. And for saving my behind by sending me the software to put this booklet together when my computer was, well those of you with computers know what I'm talking about.

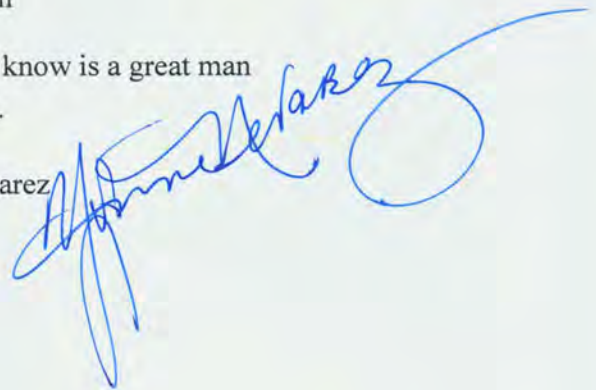
Fourth, Liz, Geoff, and Sam who over the past months and during Christmas vacation helped with my computer, tech questions, helped me edit, re-edit, and proof reading and final drafts. Fifth, my dog Soffie, who without complaint on her part let me vent verbally my many computer frustration on her (she was always present even for the interviews). And my personal thanks to anyone else that helped but is not mentioned here.

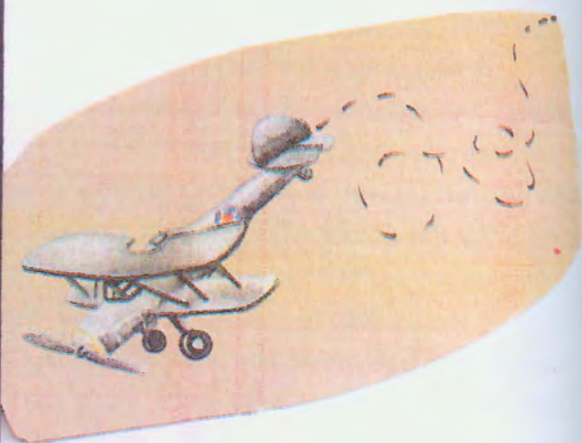
The newspaper articles and stories from Salinas provide by Dad's friend Anna Silva. Personal photos provided and used with permission by Manuel Nevarez and statements under caricatures have been paraphrased. Other photos and stories come from a variety of sources including Bataan Death March. Each is acknowledged individually. I took the present day photo.

## Dedication

This part of the booklet is for my dad whom I now know is a great man and I am so grateful to find out I always loved him.

Yvonne Nevarez

A large, stylized handwritten signature in blue ink, likely belonging to Yvonne Nevarez, is written over the printed name. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.







*"I was Lucky!"*



Lucky because I just stopped one in the leg. But Smith and Weinberg and Farley . . . they're dead. *Dead because we didn't have one more grenade to throw!*"

That's an American soldier speaking. Speaking your language.

He's asking for more guns to fight with. More tanks, more planes, more grenades to crack down on the enemy with.

*Well, let's give them to him!*

Let's loan 10% of our pay to the Government. Let's put it in War Bonds. Let's loan Uncle Sam the money to make *more* tools of war.

It's a loan because the money you put into War Bonds *now* comes back to you in ten

years with a healthy bonus of good interest! For every \$3 you lay aside for War Bonds pays back \$4!

So put at least 10%—not 6%, or 7%, or 8%, but 10% of your pay to work killing Japs and Nazis—and making money for you at the same time! Sign up in the Payroll Savings Plan *today!*

★ ★ ★ ★

#### WHAT YOU SHOULD DO:

*If you are . . .*

1. Already setting aside 10% of your pay in War Bonds through the Payroll Savings Plan—boost that 10% if you can.
2. Working in a plant where the Plan is installed, but haven't signed up yet—sign up tomorrow.
3. Working in a plant where the Payroll Savings Plan hasn't been installed, talk to your union head, foreman, or plant manager—and see if it can't be installed right away. The local bank will be glad to help.
4. Unable to get in on the Payroll Savings Plan for any reason, go to your local bank. They will be glad to help you start a Plan of your own.

**This Space Contributed in Honor of the  
194th Battalion's 2nd Anniversary by the**

## Sure It Makes You Mad!



**D**O YOU REALIZE that thousands of our good American soldiers are behind barbed wire—with Jap sentries marching up and down outside?

Do you know that American women and children, too, are in Jap concentration camps?

How long do you want them there—and what are you willing to do to get them out?

You can't do it by flag-waving, by slogans, and by cheers.

It takes planes—tanks—guns—bombs—shells—ships. And these don't grow on trees.

You—and you—and you—must buy these things. Not the Jap way, nor the Nazi way, nor the Fascist way. The American way—gladly. In War Bonds.

The easy way—just by saving a dime from every dollar every payday. **TEN PERCENT** of your pay. The management of your company will save it for you, and every time it adds up to \$18.75, they'll buy a **WAR BOND** for you.

You'll get interest on that money. It will increase every year, until for every \$18.75 you invest, you'll get \$25 in ten years.

And your money will buy the stuff to beat the Japs—to attack them—to bomb them, to make them wish to their heathen idols they'd never picked a scrap with Uncle Sam!

And the sooner you do your part, by backing up our boys, the sooner they will blast the Japs right out of their sandals.

Down will come that barbed wire, and out will come your fellow Americans. Home again—to a free, decent, clean country—the country we all love.

And you'll be sitting pretty, too. You'll have the clear conscience of having done your part, and you'll have built up financial protection for you and your family. So let's get going. Do your part. Ten percent—a dime from every dollar every payday.

Invest your share in **VICTORY!**

This Space Contributed in Honor of the 194th Tank Battalion by

# TYNAN LUMBER CO.

242 E. ALISAL ST.

PHONE 6431

# Here Is Company C, 194th Tank Battalion



STAFF SGT. CARL F. ABBOTT



CORP. JOHN N. ANDERSON



SGT. WILLIAM F. ANSON



SGT. FRANCIS ARAM



TECH. SGT. J. E. ARAM





PVT. WORLEY CASPERSON



PFC. ELWOOD CEDERBLOM



PFC. LLOYD COLE



PVT. ARTIE COPE



SGT. RUSSELL CUNNINGHAM



CORP. RAY DE CLOSS



PFC. EDWARD DE GOTTARDI



PFC. ROY L. DIAZ



PVT. ED DI BENEDETTI



CORP. MYRON E. DOLK



CORP. HENRY EATON



PFC. LEON A. ELLIOTT



STAFF SGT. CHARLES EMLAY



PFC. ROBERT EMLAY



SGT. JOE ERRINGTON



SGT. RICHARD ERRINGTON



PFC. KARL FITZGIBBONS



PVT. FRED MARRACH



PFC. WALTER MARTILLA



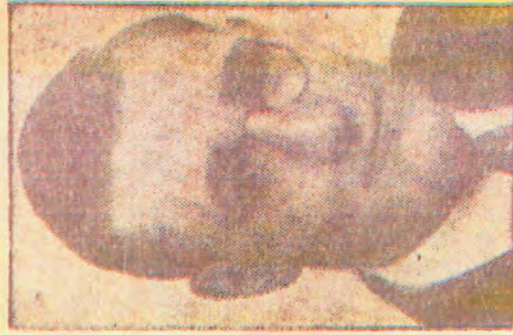
CORP. HAROLD McDONALD



PVT. JOSEPH MCKUSICK



PFC. JIM McLEOD



PFC. R. I. MILLER



SGT. ROBERT H. MITCHELL



CAPT. FRED E. MOFFITT



CORP. SALVADOR MONTEGO



STAFF SGT. EMIL MORELLO



PFC. FRANK MUTHER



PVT. MANUEL NEVAREZ



PVT. ROSSET E. OVERSTREET



PVT. THEODORE T. PARAS

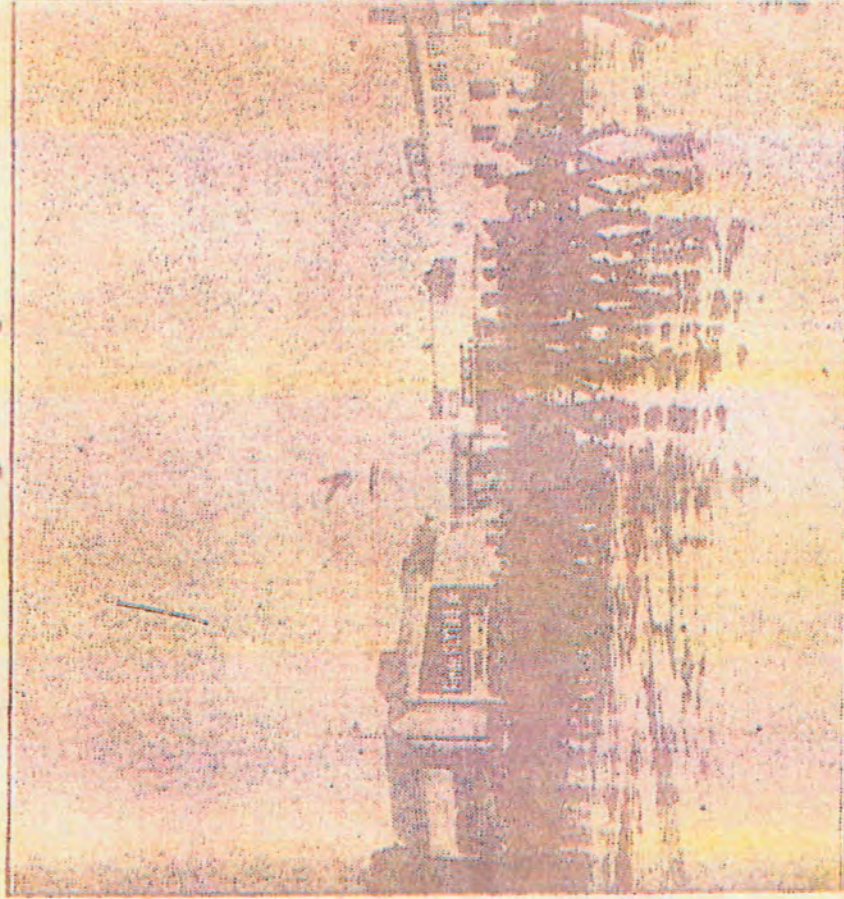


CORP. RAYMOND PEOPLES

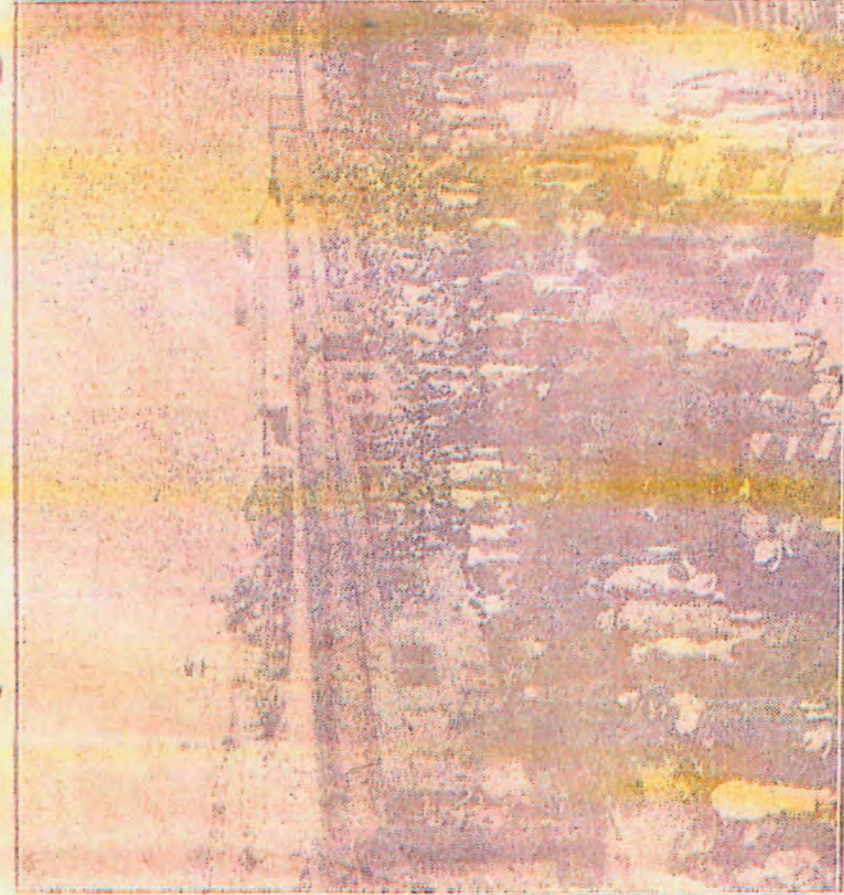


PVT. EUGENE RAWSON

# Tank Company Said Goodbye Two Years Ago



ON THE WAY TO DEPOT. It was raining when the Salinas Tank company left Salinas two years ago today. Led by the Junior college band, the guard unit is shown above marching from the armory to the S. P. depot.

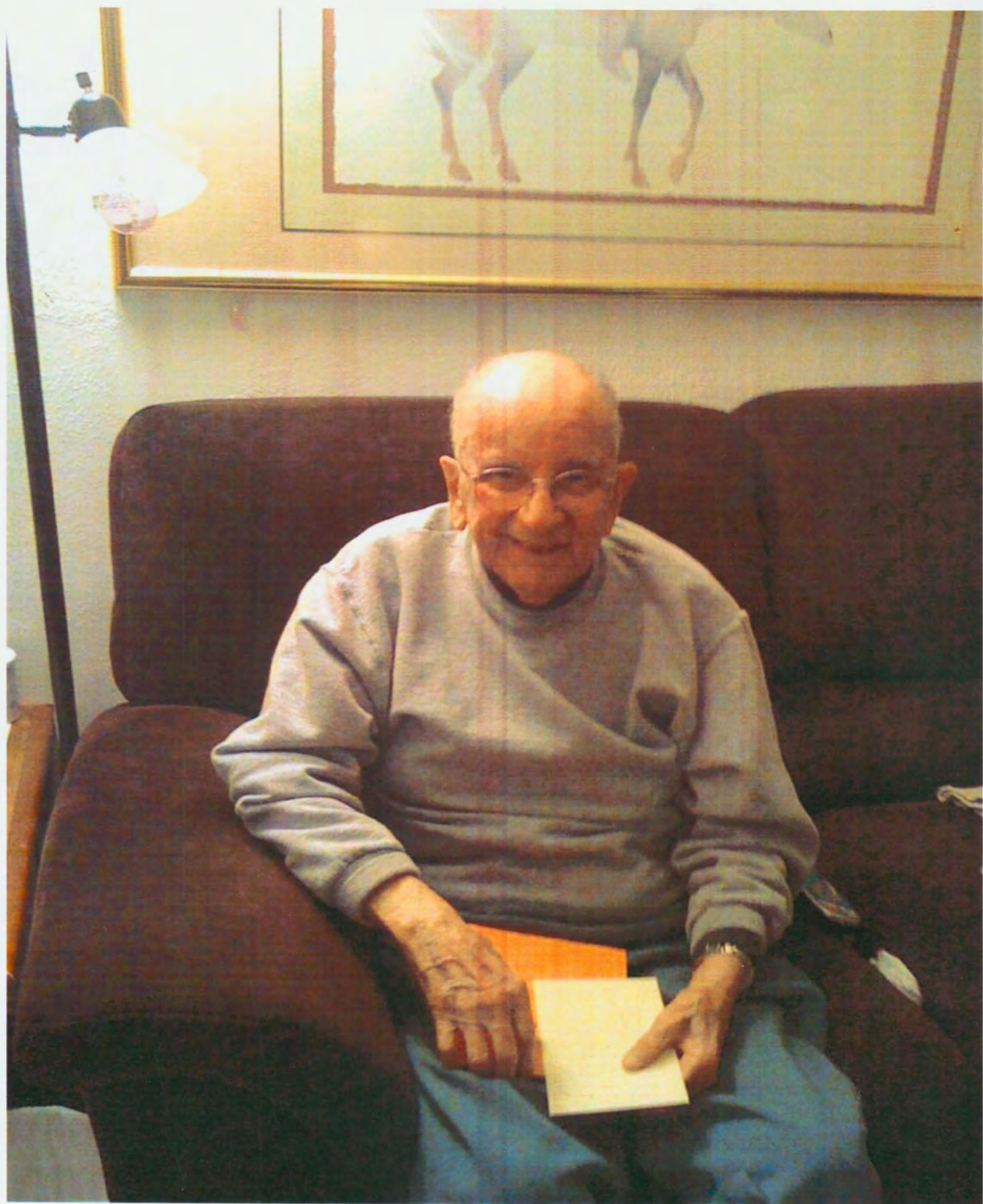


3,000 BID GOODBYE. More than 2,000 relatives and friends were at the special train to bid farewell to Salinas' own tank company as the troops left for Fort Lewis for training before moving across the Pacific to Britain.



My friend, David Jaramillo,  
21, died in a Prison Camp  
while in the Philippines





# An Interview with My Dad

(Recorded just as Dad said it)

1.a What did you know about the war before you went into the National Guard?

In the summer of 1939 (age 21) Manuel joined the 40<sup>th</sup> Tank Co. Infantry Division California National Guard, knowing that the WAR was raging in Europe and Asia and that the United States might be brought into the conflict

Manuel still wanted to add money to his meager income, about \$20 a week working at the Speckles Sugar Factory, and show pride in his country so he joined the Guard. Friends already in the Guard met up every Tuesday.

1.b What did your enlistment look like?

In 1941, February 10, Salinas National Guard Company C. was activated into Federal Services. United States Army and became Company C. 194<sup>th</sup> Tank Battalion. I trained in auto mechanics for the tanks and then transferred to traffic detail, 12 men got the new Harley Davidson 45 green motorcycles.

1.c. Where did you go from Salinas?

We were sent to San Luis Obispo for training, then to Boot Camp in Fort Lewis Washington, for formal training and indoctrination into active forces, with excellent marks in training Manuel's group was the first unit deployed overseas Where they continued with traffic control after a qualification test and took apart and put back together motorcycles and tanks.

1.d Where did you go after training?

Company C 194th Tank Battalion left on a day in September 1941, on Liner President Coolidge out of San Francisco Bay, Manila , Philippines , Fort Stotsenburg. After training at Fort Lewis, the unit was sent to San Francisco. Once there the unit was loaded onto the Liner President Coolidge, set sail for Manila in the Philippines. Assignment was to protect the perimeter of Clark Air Field, Sept. 23, 1941, from the

Japanese Army all equipment, guns, tanks, motorcycles went with us in the ships hold.

1.e How did you feel about being in the Army?

I felt different, more proud and grown up.<sup>4</sup> Mother, Father and all my relatives said good-bye as we went up to the plank with back pack, no rifle, boots, stockings, pants, shirt, and toiletries.

1.f When and where did you end up in the Philippines?

Fall of 1941. 65 miles North of Manila at Fort Stotsenburg.

1.g.I What was Army life like in the Philippines?

Army life in the Philippines was one of being on constant alert, and time went by so fast ( pause) most times life was a blur of events. Parts and Supplies were always scarce.

1.g.II What events happened while in the Philippines?

On Dec. 7, 1941, (age 23) in the Philippines: December 8<sup>th</sup> in Hawaii, Japanese planes attacked Pearl Harbor and we were told that Manila would be bombarded next. On Dec. 8<sup>th</sup> in Manila the Japanese planes attacked, and destroyed all American planes and had a large amount of casualties. After the attack on Pearl Harbor the Unit was ordered to Luzon. After Lamon Bay the Unit was ordered to Bataan. On April 9, 1942, Company C and Philippine defenders surrendered to the Japanese Army.... Thus the Bataan Death March. We marched to San Fernando, then to Capas, then to Camp O'Donnell, I was taken to Cabanatuan. In mid 1943, (25) we were moved to Japan by ship to work in slave camps.

2.a What happened after the attack?

*"Japanese soldiers on the ground—taken prisoners - Americans had to surrender....."* (I ask my Dad if he wants to stop, he says no and he keeps talking his voice is really quiet and very strong.)

After the plane attacks on Clark Field the Japanese soldiers were on the ground taking prisoners. Our unit was ordered to Luzon to repel the Japanese back and all forces were ordered to Bataan by General MacArthur as a last defense. Many battles were fought during the journey to Bataan through Manila, Bocaue, and the Calumpit Bridge. The tankers formed successive road blocks toward Guagua on Route 7. January 6, 1942 Company C and Filipino forces had 50% casualties on the Japanese and left the town of Lubao in flames. Continuing on to Bataan that night another battle took place near Renulus. Company C was on the Culo River and as soon as all forces were across the tankers withdrew and the bridge was blown up sealing off the Bataan. January 15, 1942 tanks sent to west coast of Bataan and then ordered to reopen the coastal highway to Moron. Company C lost two tanks to the use of land mines. By then the troops were suffering from malaria (dingy fever) and dysentery all due to lack of food and medicine. The end of January Company C covered the withdrawal of troops from Abucay main battle line towards Pilar Bagac Road. (Mt. Samat) US Forces inflicted at least 1500 enemy casualties. By February US and Philippine forces had the enemy at a stand still in spite of their supply, diseases and malnutrition problems. Company C was now on the east coast of Bataan a beach defense to ward off Japanese attempts to invade Bataan from Manila.

By the middle of March the troops subsided mainly rice. (my dad still enjoys rice today). Bataan forces were in dire straits with one-fourth of the troops in the hospital. In April the enemy began an all out offensive accompanied by constant bombing and shelling. and Maj. General Edward P. King made an attempt to stop the Japanese by sending in four tanks from Company C. One tank was blasted off the trail by anti-tank because of the thick jungle and trees. Company C had been in combat four months, lost 10 tanks, and six men killed in action. US forces situation was critical and Maj. General King ordered the destruction of all equipment and a cease fire. After 24-hours Japanese troops appeared. Company C had destroyed all their weapons, equipment and records.

## 2.b I When did you become a Prisoner of War?

I became a POW in May of 1942. Japanese warrior Bushido Code regarded soldiers who surrendered as contemptible and deserved to die. (April 9, 1942)

## 2.b II What did the surrender look like?

*“Physical abuse and murder high fatalities inflicted upon prisoners and civilians along the route by Japanese armed forces.” (Then Dad relaxes a little bit takes a few breaths and continues with...) The surrender looked like a horror movie. As soon as we surrendered the Japanese turned mean. Instead of going north my truck to Luzon we were lined up, looted of our possessions in columns of fours and marched north from Mariveles, (See Page 41) which is the southern most tip of Bataan. We marched for almost two weeks in tropical heat, witnessed beheadings, cutting of throats, shootings, bayonet stabbings, and rape. Disembowelment, rifle butt beating, and any food or water that anyone tried to give us the guards quickly killed. The march covered 62-85 miles depending on where the soldier was forced into the column. Before we reached San Fernando railroad depot approximately 25000 soldiers had died from the ordeal. After two-weeks, I found books and pencils and started keeping diary, at San Fernando were loaded into box cars. The heat was unbearable and many men died on the journey. The railroad cars were unloaded at Capas (See Page 42) where we marched again 3-5 miles in the blazing sun to Camp O'Donnell.*

## 2.c What was it like when you got to the prison camp?

*“Camp O'Donnell, at the march they took our uniforms and we put on anything we could find including blankets all sick with fever malaria... ....” (I wait for a while, not sure if my dad wants to go on ( pause) just glad that he wants to tell his memories at this time of his life. And then he continues, slowly) When I got to Camp O'Donnell I was like being in Hell. The beatings, killing, and savaging went on continuously. In four months 29,000 prisoners died. I received one blanket and nothing else. Request made by US doctors were denied. Because of that denial many prisoners deaths could have been prevented. That I survived the various means of torture, men strung up by their thumbs, men forced to kneel with their hands tied behind their backs to a 2 x 4 (board) and water torture. Severe body damage, atrocious deliberate starvation and the ever present lice, fleas, mosquito's, and flies is nothing short of a miracle. Only by the Grace of God, and my Child of Saint Mary of Atocha. (See Pages 43-44)*

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(Dad talks about his patron saint for awhile I love these stories, then goes back to Camp O'Donnell..... My dad shows me his Army prayer book (see page 45) , it's for Catholic's. I'm a little surprised to hear how much he really does pray.) In the garden pulling weeds, tomato's etc.. I'm so beat up, so tired thinking of mom and dad and my sisters got on my knees and prayed, I'm singing in Japanese. The guards that are watching hit me in the back with a rifle butt three times went the ground in pain and 1.. 2... 3...lots of work 1..2..3..4....no rest could not bend over for three days. Didn't tell the other guys because some of them were two-faced and would do anything for better treatment. The officers, Americans) were treated better-didn't have to work as hard....(Another break, I think Dad is asleep his eyes are closed.....) Every day burying men by the hundreds. We had to bury our own - the Philippines lost more men than us.

2.d What happened when they found your diary?

I would hide the diaries under my bunk, sometimes on my person. While I was in San Fernando I was ordered to clean out a warehouse. While cleaning I found some small book like tablets and two small pencils. One booklet I cut into four squares. Thus I started my first diary which described much of what occurred during the 13 day march. This first diary was discovered at O'Connell and I was beaten severely and barely managed to survive. I was take to Cabanatuan from camp O'Donnell and in October 1942 during a shakedown my second diary was found. I did not detail the march in my second diary and I believe that is why I was not beaten as bad as the first beating.

2. e Did the Japanese follow the Geneva Rule?

No we did not know about it. No the Japanese did not follow the Geneva Rules we did not know about the rules( pause) we were very sick. I had learned a lot of the Japanese language and I was able to tell the troops what was going on . When they found out I knew the language the Japanese cut rations to 1/2 for about a week.

2.f How long were you in the Philippines?

I was in the Philippines from September 26, 1941 through October 1943.

3. a How did you get from the Philippines to Japan?

Japanese Hell Ships( pause) we were jammed into Ships.

3.b How did you get food?

Rice was lowered down into the hull two times a day( pause) sometimes water.

3.c How many survived the trip?

Some ships lost hundreds of men ( pause) some ships were bombed ( pause) some survivors made it to shore and hooked up with American girls.

3.d How long was the trip?

Two weeks landed in Japan ( pause) walk off ship sprayed with disinfectant. Tokyo.

This is the continuation of the answer to the above four questions. When my dad remembers I just listen and keep writing. This was a good day.

“ I left Camp O'Donnell in the Philippines in October 1943 The Japanese started moving men that were strong enough to work in various mines and factories. We were loaded in the hold of transport ships thus began a new phase of captivity known as the '*Hell Ships*'. We were packed in unmarked freighters without any sanitary facilities and little food and water. Again men suffered from sheer terror and hardship. Many men died and were not removed until we landed. The conditions I was forced to go through are beyond description. I believe I was in the third ship. The first and second ship were sunk by US submarines. Some ships lost thousands of men and the ships that were bombed some of the survivors made it to shore and hooked up with American girls. We survivors hold no animosity toward the US submarines as they did not know what the cargo was on these Japanese ships. After two weeks on the ship we docked at Tokyo Japan. Arrive in Tokyo off boat ( pause) subways to mining, factory, rice factories ( pause) at the

Iron Mine ( pause) I got to work in the machine shop. The Japanese gave us an evaluation test to see what we could do. My test was on welding. Using carbide rock not saline. They gave me a cast iron kettle to see if I could weld it. Told them how to repair

Iron Mine ( pause) I got to work in the machine shop. The Japanese gave us an evaluation test to see what we could do. My test was on welding. Using carbide rock not saline. They gave me a cast iron kettle to see if I could weld it. Told them how to repair it.

*I found the following rooster @ [www.proviso.k12.il.us/bataan](http://www.proviso.k12.il.us/bataan)  
I have removed some of the names and they are not in order as they appear on the rooster. In addition, I ask that the families please forgive me for putting their loved ones name in print without permission. Respectfully, Yvonne Nevarez*

**Personnel of C Company, 194th Tank Battalion**  
**COVERING THE PERIOD 1 DECEMBER 1941 TO**  
**1 NOVEMBER 1945**

The following roster was compiled from our research. Since no known roster of the members of Company C, 194th Tank Battalion who served in the Philippine Islands exists, *this is not an accurate roster*. In most cases, we were unable to determine which National Guard members of the company were assigned to HQ Company. This roster will be corrected as needed.

To identify the original National Guardsmen who were assigned to Headquarters Company, they have been listed in the companies in which they originally were members.

**RAMP (Recovered Allied Military Personnel)**

## **Company C**

Assigned to  
**Headquarters Company**

**Officers**

## Company C Officers

Capt. Moffitt, Frederick C.	O&287376	RAMP	Unknown	California
1st Lt. Bradford, Ray	O&407492	Died	Bilibid Prison 11 Oct. 42	Missouri
2nd Lt. Needham, Robert F.	O&385930	KIA	Lucban, P. I. 26 Dec. 41	Washington
Riley, Frank E.	O&422826	RAMP	Shenyang Camp, Manchuria	Missouri
Cray, Daniel F., Jr.	20918420	Died	Cabanatuan #1 14 June 42 of dysentery	California
DeGottardi, Edward C.	20900701	RAMP	Ashio #8D, Japan	California
Diaz, Roy L.	20900673	RAMP	Nagoya Camp #5B, Japan	California

### 194th\_C\_Co\_Roster

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Yacob, George	39076623	Died	Cabanatuan #1 15 Sept. 42	California
Pvt. Cabral, Frank T., Jr.	20900694	RAMP	Hirohata Camp, Japan	California
Casperson, Worley L.	20900695	Died	Cabanatuan #1 3 Nov. 42	California
Condon, Frank H.	39156410	Died	Cabanatuan #1 10 July 42	California
Doerck, Robert E.	39156689	Died	Killed on Death March 9 April 42 of dysentery	California
Elliott, Leon A.	20900705	RAMP	Shenyang Camp, Manchuria	California
Foshee, Dorsey W.	20900710	Died	Cabanatuan #1 13 July 42 of dysentery	California
Garrison, Russell S.	39006535	Died	Cabanatuan #1 28 June 42 of dysentery	California
Hicks, James A.	20900719	KIA	Lucban, P. I. 26 Dec. 41	California
Jaramillo, David R.	20900723	Died	Camp O' Donnell 2 June 42 of dysentery	California
Lantagne, John C.	39002726	Died	Camp O' Donnell 26 May 42 of dysentery	California
Madero, Melvin R.	20900727	RAMP	Fukuoka #23, Japan	California
Manion, Jerome J.	39156756	RAMP	Fukuoka #7, Japan	California
Martella, Walter V.	20900730	Died	Bataan, P. I. 9 Jan. 42 of gangrene from wounds	California
Mac Donald, Robert	39156437	KIA	Sinking of Arisan Maru 24 Oct. 44	California
McLeod, Jim T.	20900736	KIA	Lucban, P. I. 26 Dec. 41	California
Nevares, Manuel G.	20900737	RAMP	Sendai #7B, Japan	California
Orendain, Frank J.	20900666	RAMP	Hirohata Camp, Japan	California
Parras, Theodore T.	20900739	RAMP	Sendai #6, Japan	California
Siebert, Harry V.	20934776	KIA	Bataan, P. I. 22 Jan. 42	Oregon
Sigala, Charles R.	20900747	RAMP	Maibara #10B, Japan	California
Smith, Armand P.	20900748	KIA	Sinking of Arisan Maru 24 Oct. 44	California
Stevens, Clifford G., Jr.	20900750	Died	Cabanatuan #1 12 July 1942	California
Suttie, Stanley G.	20900752	RAMP	Fukuoka #17, Japan	California
Thorp, Joseph M.	20900755	Died	Cabanatuan #1 4 Jan. 43	California
White, John H.	20900759	Died	Cabanatuan #1 9 Aug. 42	California
White, Kenneth A.	20900760	Died	Cabanatuan #1 13 Dec. 42	California
Wilson, Charles W.	20918529	Died	Shenyang Camp, Manchuria 20 Jan. 43	California
Young, Mansfield R.	20918133	RAMP	Kamioka Camp, Japan	California

4.b What was the weather conditions in Japan? Were you working slave labor again?

Severe cold winters. Summer was very hot typhoons. We worked hard sometimes we sweat blood. The weather conditions during the winter were severe and we kept on working so that we would at least get food rations. The daily prison routine for the Iron Mine camp I was at was to load railroad cars with dirt for the airfield. Always thinking of when Yanks and Tanks would come and rescue us. And thinking of home. We had P-40 fuel to drink. Tobacco was a luxury we were also fighting among ourselves when we did not have tobacco or when we were really exhausted from working. March of '44 rumors that we would leave this place but to where? May 12, 1944, my birthday (pause) wish "this darn war was over, want to go home". Worked in the rainy seasons and got sick a lot. Working in the mud dropped a rock on my foot could not work for a few days. Many accidents and broken bones.

4.c What state of mind were you in at the Philippine camp?

My state of mind while in the Philippine prison camp was sheer terror, we knew we were going to be killed and didn't give a damn. Very Patriotic.

4.d What state of mind were you in at the Japanese slave camp?

My state of mind while in the Japanese prison camp was hopeful we knew that we were needed for work and would not be killed. Until we were told that if the US invaded Japan we would all be put to death immediately.

SEDAI#7B, Japan US Prisoners, 1638.

4.e How long were you in slave camp and when did you know about the Americans bombing in Japan?

Prison routine continued from 1943 and 1944. We were constantly told that we would be killed if Americans soldiers stepped on Japanese soil. If the bombs had not been dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki we would have never been released. The Emperor of Japan during World War II was Emperor Hirohito.( I am constantly amazed at the details my dad remembers)

5.a What were the events following the bombing?

President Harry S. Truman gave order atomic attacks. The war was ended (pause) you are free (pause) guards were gone (pause) we were told not to go outside the camp because some of the Japanese did not know the war was over (pause) stayed for about a month (pause) then food , etc... was dropped.

Train from SEDAI to Tokyo

Train from Tokyo to ship in harbor

Ship USS Rescue to the Philippines

(Oh boy, I really thought this one was going to be the end and we would never get to the return but my dad, he looks at me says that's enough for today, Vonnie. I say okay, I love you daddy.)

5.b Where did you end up before going home to your parents? When did you get back to the USA? Who was there to meet you?

1945, just before we got into San Francisco we saw the Bay Bridge and we started praying and praying, singing and some us crying. I was crying, happy to see the bridge again the way we saw it when we first left San Francisco but anyhow it was sad. Then the ship docked at the dock Angel something, I don't remember the name of the dock anyway we got there and we saw all the people that were waiting for us, my mother my father, my sisters and all that and even my friend s that I left behind the were all there greeting us we were crying, I was I admit it they took us from there to the hospital.

5.c Did your mother know anything about where you where these past years?

During my time as a Prisoner of War my mother did not always know where I was. While in the Japanese prison camp I was allowed to send my mother telegrams and she was able to send me packages.

5.d Did your mom and dad know much or any news about the war?

Never had any news or mail while in Japan. Telegram sent from the Philippines because of the Geneva Rules. American Officers with the Japanese.

(Dad did not really remember talking about this with his parents. I'm not really sure if my grandparents understood what my dad went through, they were just glad to have him home.)

6.a What kind of treatment did you receive after you were home? How did people treat you after you got back?

I got a furlough to go see my parents in Salinas but first I went to the VA hospital, Letterman's, in San Francisco California. I was there for two weeks. then I went and visited my parents and friends. Thank God my visit in Salinas was for three weeks. All my family was very protective and when they could not stand the drinking they would call the VA.

6.b How did you feel after the war?

First few years felt great, we were number one! After treatments I started drinking then I was sent to Palo Alto (big breath & hesitation) I just kept drinking. Still in the Army. Palo Alto hospital just keeping me alive and keeping me off alcohol. Spent about a year in mental (pause) I was out of control.

6.c How did the VA take care of you?

Did a good job (pause) spent a lot of time in the VA hospitals after a month when return to states sent to Camp Beal and discharged (CDD) (see page 39) I had re-enlisted then I went to Fort Ord where I was discharged. Then I went home again. Drinking heavily. VA sent me to Palo Alto again, mental hospital, gave me drugs and ice coffin, and shock treatment, then (and dad just stops) (many Sundays later) Mostly I went to four mental hospital: San Francisco, Palo Alto, Van Nuys, and Los Angeles. All state hospitals too, could not be controlled had nightmares. My mother would call the VA in Palo Alto and they would come and get me. I remember one time staying at Agnes State Hospital, San Jose, For the criminally insane for a two week stay. I worked as an X-ray technician and developed film for two weeks then I asked for sick leave and never went back. Then I went back to my mother and father's stayed and looked for a job and we all went to work a Spreckles Sugar Factory and lived in Salinas.

Worked a season at Spreckles took off to San Diego doing odd jobs then about a year and a half later moved to Hollister worked with my father he had a contract with Ferrymore Seed Co. This is when I met your mother. I drove tractor and your mom was working in a Chinese restaurant and I asked her to a dance in San Juan Batista, then we went to Reno and got married. Then moved to San Bruno then to Brisbane, then to South San Francisco, then I started working at Sea & Ski Corporation. Worked for Sea & Ski for 31 Years. (Honest, this is exactly how he told the story)

6.d What medals did you receive for your service time during WWII.

Medal of Merit, Purple Heart, Bronze Star. President Citation

6.e What did you do for work when you got home?

Worked in the restaurant 'El Fara', fish canneries, sugar factory. Swift Meat Packing Co. The VA would no longer take care of me and sent me to a civilian hospital then back to Fort Ord. got a job at the canneries (pause) started drinking again and couldn't hold a job.

One afternoon in July just after finishing the questions dad told me the following: 31-32 years ago I quit drinking because I would go to work sick, go to bed sick and just had enough. Made up my mind I had enough. I had to do it. Put the wine to one side and said that's enough.

WWII American POW  
From the Philippines to Japan to the USA

Recording Audio Manuel G. Nevarez  
to Transcript by Yvonne Nevarez  
July 2010

Hello, this is a recording for my great of when I was liberated from Japan here is going to be a book about me coming back from Japan and Pearl Harbor, Nagasaki, and Hiroshima were bombed we see it and we didn't hear it we were so far away from it and when they bombed Nagasaki and Hiroshima everything changed July 1944 told that we (prisoners) would be killed if American soldiers stepped foot on Japanese soil

Japanese surrender to General MacArthur so made it official that the Japanese surrendered unconditionally and we were so happy we started jumping around and everything was going very good but we didn't realize that they Japanese gave us a radio to listen to the news and the news came on that Japanese foreign affairs minister Mamoru Shigemitsu signs the Japanese Instrument of Surrender on board USS Missouri, September 2, 1945 so then MacArthur authorized to communicate the best you can.

Some of the guys had gone out of the compound and changed into civilian clothes but then the radio said to not leave the camp or do anything that you would be sorry for because the Japanese a lot of them didn't know about it, some left to hitchhike to Tokyo

We were told over and over to not leave the camp - so after that here come some airplanes we did not know what kind they were. They pulled up in the air then came back and dropped some sand bags with some notes attached reading for every hundred men hold hands and then we were three hundred sixty and we ran out to the fields and there was about six to ten men and then a plane came down real low and then tipped his wing on the way back up to let acknowledge that they got the message. Here comes the B17 bombers and we saw the bomb bay doors open and they dropped all kinds of parachutes. Blue, white, yellow, red ones, with 55 gallon drums that came down with them. When they came down boy did we scramble for them. The drums were filled with all kinds of goodies, uniforms with ranks so we could get to

the position of what we were, toiletries, underclothing, radios, candy, and medicine, one prisoner got a box of candy and stuff out of the drum and was waving it around and we saw him get hit by a drum and it killed the poor guy. Some of the soldiers made a flag out of the chutes, red, white and blue and we had it up in one day. The next day we marched out to a village and there in the village were all kinds of animals, chickens, cows and would you believe it when they came back, I did not go, there was a bunch of hobo camps set up cooking their own food, we had a ball. After that the radio said we are sending in medical hospitals to help you and then ship you to the harbor of *SENDAI* (*Sendai #7B, Japan*) or something like that (Sendai POW Camp Group) and take us off the island, so we all got dressed up with our laundered clothes, shaved and cleaned up we were really happy and we jumped around like a bunch of kangaroos, then three or four days later here come some American Marines they got us all together, some of doctors that came with them examined us to see who they could take out of there - after all of us got orientated and they told us where we were going to and all that, the next day they loaded us on to the box cars on the train to take us to the medical ship that was in the harbor about a mile off shore, some boats came down off the ship USS Rescue and about 200 of us got picked up but before we got on the ship we were put in line and told to take all our clothes off and throw them into the ocean "boy that was brand new clothing but it was alright" because they had the ship all clean and we needed to be clean and then we were handed a G-string and in the G-string we went into the medical ship but before that we had to take a shower, we went through the medical doctors one on each side then another on at the end.

Then we were given tooth brushes and toothpaste but we didn't get any clothing yet we had to go through another line and this line was the shower line we had to go through and then another shower sprayed us with DDT, so everything was sterilized. We did that and then we had some food and we got clothing they took us to a hospital inside the ship and all the nurses, core man, and officers treated us like kings, we got anything we wanted food good breakfast in the morning. We got all new uniforms and new underclothes. Then we were examined and the ones that could go by train or go by boat we got all our stuff ready and I got the chance to go by boat to Tokyo. Because Tokyo was going to be the POW's war deportation center. We got to Tokyo and there was a big, big, line and a big infirmary - they would point

to us this line for you, and this line for you and one doctor would put a needle in your right arm and another doctor would punch a needle in your other arm – and then one in the butt and everything and we got it going and the doctor would say you go in that circle, you go on that side and the ones going to the right were the ones going by plane and the ones to the left went by boat. I got lucky again and this time went by plane so we took off from Tokyo Japan and we flew all the way to Manila, before we got to Manila we hit an air pocket and the whole plane dropped and we said “oh no, are we going to get it again” So then everything bounced back into shape and we were really going this time. And when we got to Manila we saw a lot of women with uniform and I said “what the heck happened did we have to get women into combat?” no they said they were *WACS* the navy called them that-I didn’t know what they called and that was it. And we were so happy again. And then we got in another situation where they examined us again and put us in a different category sorting us out by who could make it by ship.

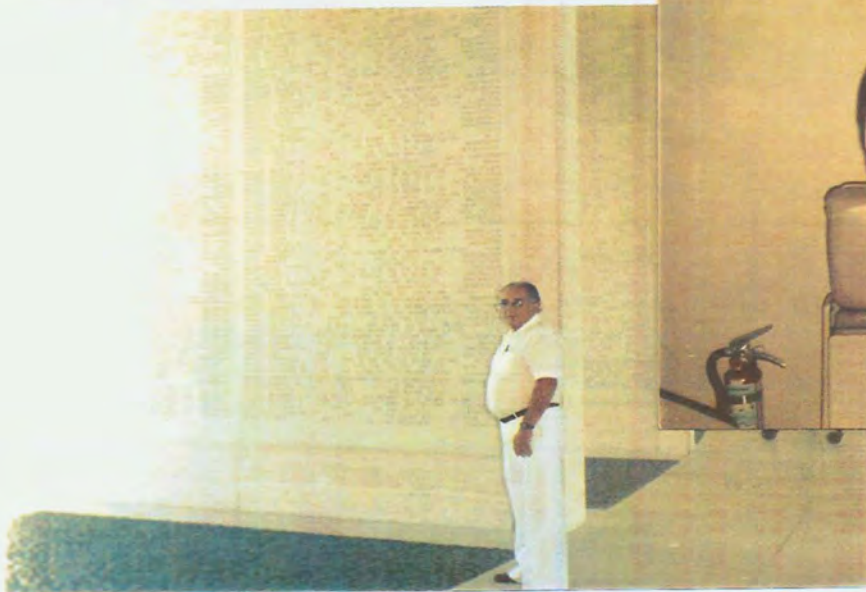
When we landed on Manila air space there was Army, Navy, and Marine all waiting for us in busses to take us to the destination where we belonged, Army, Navy, Marines etc... anyhow we got on the busses that took us to the barracks, Army base, Navy, etc... We were all happy and there we waited for the officer in charge of the separation. There we waited for the officers in charge of the separation and we sat around and talked and talked and this and that, anyhow we were separated and we all got situated real quick. But things got worse later on they were separating us by those who would fly and those who would go by boat and I happened to be on the (sailing and flying) list that was posted on the bulletin board and I was suppose to leave the island by boat and I said “darn it anyhow” I look on there and saw my name and scratched my name off three or four times until the next time when the MP’s were waiting for us (there was three of us that were doing this) behind the bulletin board and they caught us and said “okay guys come on” they took us to our barracks and we got our duffle bags and all our equipment that belonged to us and then the MP’s took us right up to the boat and then to the plank, we went, and that was the only way they get us to get on the boat because when we got on we got a 72-hour pass to get what we wanted in town, so we took the advantage of that 72-hour pass and we stayed out there and then we went AWOL for about six days then the MP’s caught us and we went back on the boat and away we went.

While we were out for three or four days were all singing and having fun happy to be going back to see our mother and father again HOORAY!!! About three days out to the sea the Navy decided to have a little exercise with the cannon and we didn't know that --- BOOM, BANG, BOOM, BANG, what the hell was going on and there were shouts of fear "Hey, the war is on again" And we all got down under our hammocks and waited to see what was going on. They were shooting the cannon at the tail end of a banner that was airplane sailing over head, but we didn't know that and then everything was over in about twenty minutes even less, then we said "yeah!"

Just before we got into San Francisco we saw the Bay Bridge and we started praying and praying, singing, and some of us crying, I was crying, happy to see the bridge again the way we saw it when we first left San Francisco but anyhow it was sad. Then the ship docked at the dock *Angel something*, I don't remember the name of the dock anyway we got there and we saw all the people that were waiting for us, my mother, my father, my sisters and all that and even my friends that I left behind they were friends of mine they were there greeting us with happiness all there greeting us, we were crying, crying all the time, I was, I admit it! Just like I said before, they took us from there to Letterman's' hospital to be jamming and going over again From here we to the, they gave us a, I got a three week furlough to go to see my mother and father at home in Salinas so we left there and got to Salinas and saw some of my friends again, thank God.



Alfredo, Alexandra, Manuel, Erma with Noreen, Roberto, Elizabeth (with the rabbit ears), and Yvonne. Outing at Virginia City Nevada. (1964)





## Seeking Father, Manuel G. Nevarez

Dear George,

My name is Yvonne Nevarez, thank you for talking with me on the phone today and telling me how to make a request for publication. Here it is, I am submitting this request for publication in The Quan in hopes of assisting my father Cpl. Manuel G. (Nevares) Nevarez, C Company 194th Tank Battalion, in his search AND hopes of contacting anyone and learning any missing data from his time in the US Army and as a WWII POW-Philippines and Japan: names of the persons in the photo (included photo taken at Ft. Lewis WA, August 1941) names of survivors of the Company C. 194th Tank Battalion, (formally Salinas National Guard), survivors of Bataan Death March, names of persons who were at Fort

Stotsenburg, Capas, Clark Field, Camp O'Donnell, and Camp Cabanatuan in the Philippines, survivors of Hanaoka Branch Camp, Sendai #7B Japan (Manuel was released Sept. 1945).

My family is recording my Dad's Diaries (first diary printed 2006) and are hopeful that there will be someone that has additional information or details about my dad, or had a family member serve in the same time and place. Please contact me at y\_von\_ne@yahoo.com by phone at 775-335-9627.

With great respect,  
Proud daughter of Cpl. Manuel G. Nevarez, US Army -  
Yvonne Nevarez-Smith  
335 York Way, Sparks, NV 89431  
(Lifetime member of The Quan Publication)

## J.R.Thornton, 31 Inf., Anyone Have Group Photo?

Dear Mr. Wallace;

I am looking for information on my uncle, Jesse Randall Thornton.

Pertinent info is: b 1915 d May 26, 1942 - ASN 14038410 According to letters J. R. wrote home (we have only 6):

Enlisted on 11 Feb 1941 at Camp Blanding, FL; 20 Feb 1941 a letter is postmarked from Angel Island, CA; Sailed for Philippine Islands on the 15th of March (?) (no indication when letter was written); Letter from Manila, PI postmarked 12 July 1941; Last communication we have from J. R. is a Christmas Card for 1941 postmarked 9 Nov 1941. Mom wrote J. R. on 11 Dec 41 was returned stamped "Returned To

Sender Service Suspended"

Missing in Action May 7, 1942 following fall of Corregidor (War Dept. letter to family dated May 8, 1942); Died May 26, 1942 as POW (per War Dept letter to family dated 27 Sept 1945)

Buried: Manila American Cemetery in Ft. William McKinley - Plot D row 15 grave 194 (U S Roster of World War II Dead, 1939-1945) and (Pro Patria Press July 1997 Newsletter of 31st Infantry Regiment Association)

The Pro Patria Press July 1997 Newsletter also shows J. R. as being captured after the regiments surrender with the Bataan Force in April 1942. He is listed as being in:

## "The Tragedy of Bataan" on PBS

The documentary "The Tragedy of Bataan" will be broadcast nationally on PBS stations next April 2011. The film was shown at the Reno Convention and produced by descendant Jan Thompson. The program has interviews with fifteen former POWs. More information will come in the next issue of The Quan.



## Seeking Info on Philip Albert

I am trying to find information on my father's experiences as a defender of Bataan and POW. His name was Philip Albert and he was a Marine.

Thank you.  
Mark S. Miller  
Irvine, CA  
ABBAOF5@AOL.COM or by phone:  
949-786-8533.

HQ 3d Battalion, 31st Infantry, Service Company (64 died in captivity) We have his Purple Heart Award, the Purple Heart Certificate, and the Grateful Memory Certificate signed by FDR.

According to records of the 31st Infantry there were group photos of each Company on Organization Day (13 August 1941) at Manila. Do you have any idea where or how I might find the ones of the Service Company for the 3rd Battalion? I have been channeled to the Museum at Fort Sill, Fort Drum, and Fort Carson as well as to the still pix division of NARA. No one has been able to assist thus far.

Robert T Dixon  
7947 Clark Road  
Blackshear, GA 31516 Cell 706 540 9692  
E-Mail: rtdixon@verizon.net



### NOTE:

Items for publication in the Quan may be sent to Editor, the Quan, 319 Charles St, Wellsburg, WV, 26070.

OR email to [thequan@comcast.net](mailto:thequan@comcast.net)  
Please make poems, stories, etc brief. Space is Limited



June 21-26, 2011  
Pittsburgh!

# Thank Roy, others for their service

I had a nice visit Saturday with Roy Diaz. Roy, 93, was at Salinas Valley Memorial Hospital for a daylong procedure.

I caught him at dinner time. We chatted about Memorial Day and he wanted to know what I knew about ceremonies the American Legion and Salinas Elks had planned for the day. Then he surveyed his dinner tray. "This is sure a lot more than I had to eat sixty-some years ago."

Roy Diaz is a survivor of the Bataan Death March. He takes no meal for granted.

If you're a regular reader of this space, you know the story of Company C of the 194th Tank Battalion, how citizen soldiers — most of them from the Salinas area — heroically covered the retreat of American and Filipino forces against the tough, battle-tested Japanese army in the battle for the Philippines, how they blunted the invader and, ultimately, made victory possible.

There were 114 men in Company C when, on Dec. 8, 1941, Japan launched its attack on the Philippines. Of that number, only 46 men survived the war. Only Diaz and three others remain of Company C.

On March 11, 1942, President Franklin D. Roosevelt ordered Allied commander Gen. Douglas MacArthur to leave Bataan for Australia, tacit admission that the battle would be lost. Under the cover of heavy artil-



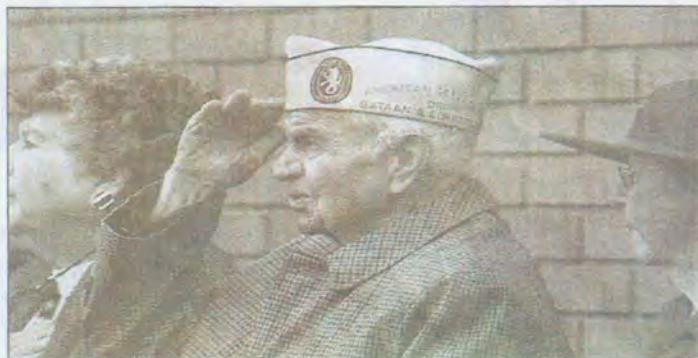
**JIM ALBANESE**  
Wayback Machine

lery and air bombardment, the Japanese finally broke through on April 3. And on April 9, Allied resistance on the Bataan Peninsula ended. Filipino and American regulars were rounded up and sent on a 90-mile death march to Camp O'Donnell, where many perished.

Diaz wound up on numerous work details all over the Philippines for the next year or so. In the fall of 1944, he was sent to Japan where he remained for the duration of the war.

He was liberated after Japan's surrender in September of 1945. But it was a long, circuitous route from Japan back to Salinas. It began when a landing craft ferried him and others to a hospital ship. His first American meal in almost four years was bacon and eggs. He also picked up a new set of duds, trading his threadbare Army fatigues for a Marine's gear. He still jokes about "joining" the Marines.

From the hospital ship, he was transferred to a destroyer. One morning he and his bunkmates had their shut-eye shattered when the tin can's anti-



FILE

Roy Diaz, the last Salinas survivor of the Bataan Death March, salutes during the passing of the colors at the Garden of Memories Memorial Day ceremony in May, 2009.

aircraft batteries opened up. "We're thinking, 'what the heck. The war's over,'" he said. When he got top side, he saw a plane towing a target as the gunners practiced. And, when the destroyer came into port, he discovered the port was — Yokohama, Japan.

Diaz eventually got some air transportation and slowly traversed to Okinawa and the Philippines. One of the craft in which he flew was a B-24 bomber. He was compelled to wear a parachute, as he was seated above the bomb bay doors and, as a member of the flight crew told him, accidents were known to happen.

After more than a month of frenzied travel, Roy Diaz finally reached the shores of North America, his port of entry wasn't San Francisco but, rather, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada.

He managed to get transportation to Fort Lewis, Wash., which was the pre-war home of the 194th, and eventually found a bus seat that took him back home.

When you observe Memorial Day today, also remember our living heroes like Roy Diaz, who not only endured unendurable misery and constant danger but returned to bless our community by living good lives. And don't forget the spouses, wives and sweethearts — such as Roy's beautiful bride, Lorraine — who stood up to the same fears and whose devotion sustained their loved ones.

► **JIM ALBANESE** is a former copy editor for *The Salinas Californian*. For comments or to suggest topics for future columns, E-mail him at [Wayback6676@yahoo.com](mailto:Wayback6676@yahoo.com).

Roy Diaz

17460 Corral Del Cielo Rd.

Salinas Calif.



## Leon A. Elliott

Leon A. Elliott, (Leonidas Athan Eliopoulos), 92, of Santa Maria, passed away Friday, May 7, 2010.

He was born Aug. 19, 1917, in Oakland, to Athans Eliopoulos and Antigone Xenoulis. He was raised in Prunedale by his father Athans and stepmother Eoanna Eliopoulos. He graduated from Watsonville High school in 1936, where he was on the football team. He also played trumpet starting his lifelong love of music.

He was an apprentice cabinet maker at Moss Landing Cabinet before he joined the Salinas National Guard. In Feb. 1941, his guard unit was called up and sent to Fort Lewis, Wash. They became a part of Company C 194th Tank Battalion (light). They were sent first to the Philippines where he was assigned as a motorcyclist. On Dec. 7th, at Clark Field, he saw planes flying toward the base and opening fire; the airplanes were identified as being from Japan. The soldiers knew they were at war.

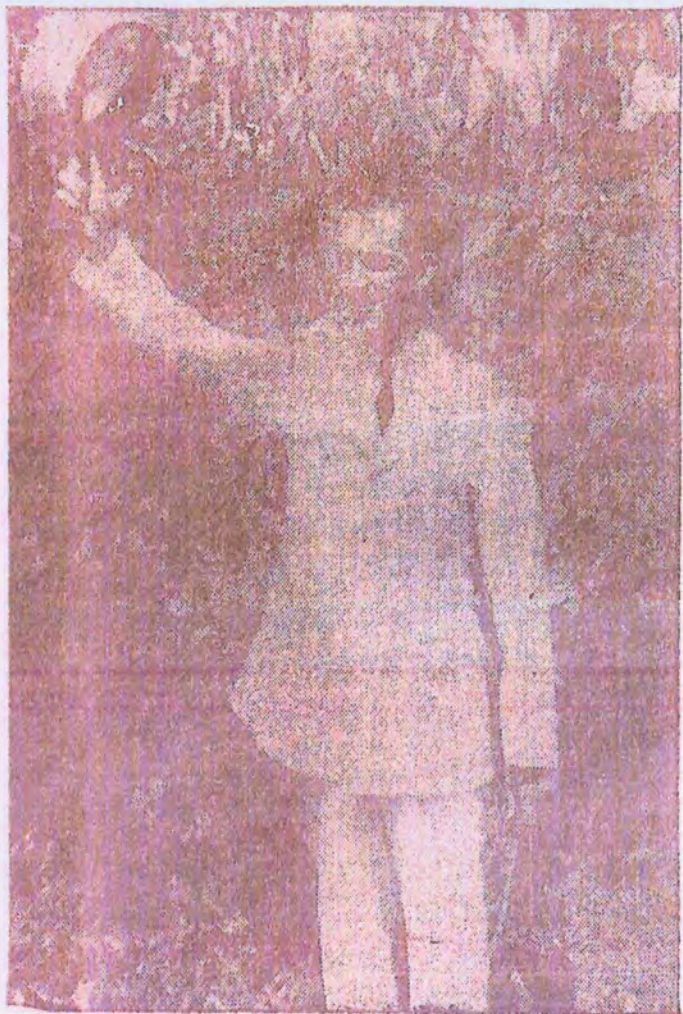
On a scouting mission later in December, the squad was in a M2 half-track when it was ambushed by Japanese soldiers; the men were able to repel the attack ensuring the maintenance of contact between elements of two Philippine Divisions. The squad reported back that the Japanese had overrun the island and the U.S. soldiers were forced to fall back to the Bataan Peninsula. They fought with skill and bravery as to delay the Japanese timetable for conquest by over five months before being ordered to surrender. Staff Sergeant Elliott maintained his spirit and bravery during captivity being recognized for exceptional distinguished and heroic service above and beyond the call of duty for the period 10 Feb. 1941 to 31 Dec. 1945. He survived the Bataan Death March and was imprisoned and endured over three years of torture, beatings, starvation and sickness including slave labor in a Japanese war factory. He was awarded the Silver Star for Valor, the Bronze Star, the Purple Heart, the Prisoner of War medal and others. He was near death after his imprisonment in Manchuria and remained hospitalized in the United States until 1948. Elliott was transferred to Fitzsimmons Army Hospital in Denver where he met his future wife, Sylvia Bedrick. The couple married Oct. 6, 1946, in the chapel of Birmingham VA Hospital in Van Nuys.

Leon attended El Camino Junior College and UCLA. He worked for 32 years for General Telephone as an assignment clerk and outside engineer in Santa Monica and then Santa Maria until his retirement in 1982.

In retirement, Leon returned to the skills he learned as a young man with his hobby of woodworking and was an avid golfer at the Santa Maria Country Club.

**Survivors:** Leon is survived by Sylvia Elliott, his wife of 63 years; his two sons, Leon David Elliott, of Kent, Wash. and Timothy Andrew Elliott of Chico; grandchildren, Marc Thomas Elliott and Emily Allia Hammad; his brothers, George Elliott, James Economides; sister, Patricia Antonopoulos; sister-in-law, Nada Elliott; his nephews, Christopher, Robert, Paul John, James, John, Nick and Tom; his nieces, Joanne and Stacey and numerous great-nieces and great-nephews.

He is preceded in death by his brothers, Sam and Richard, and brother-in-law, Roger.



**CAPT. L. E. (EDDIE) JOHNSON**  
Headquarters Company, 194th Tank Battalion.

Two years ago today on a rainy afternoon more than 2,000 citizens bade goodbye to members of the Salinas Tank battalion. None knew on that day how far those soldiers would travel on that mission or how long they would be gone.

Today we know how far those soldiers have traveled. Their mission for these United States carried them to the "imperishable pages of history" in the epic battle of the Philippines.

When the Salinas Tank company was formed 18 years ago on June 18, 1924, the city was told that "California—even all America—some day may sit up and take notice of them."

And Salinas was proud down through the years—in November of 1927 when the 40th tank company quelled the bloody riot at Folsom prison; again in August 1937 when the tanks roared to San Luis Obispo to participate in the fourth field maneuvers; and again in 1938, 1939 and 1940 in the mammoth war games all along the Pacific coast.

But Salinas was never to know its real pride until the battle of the Philippines. California—even all America—sat up and took notice then. Those 107 mechanics, clerks, farmers, businessmen and just fellows around town—not only endured the tortuous fight on Bataan but they wrote heroic pages of American history.



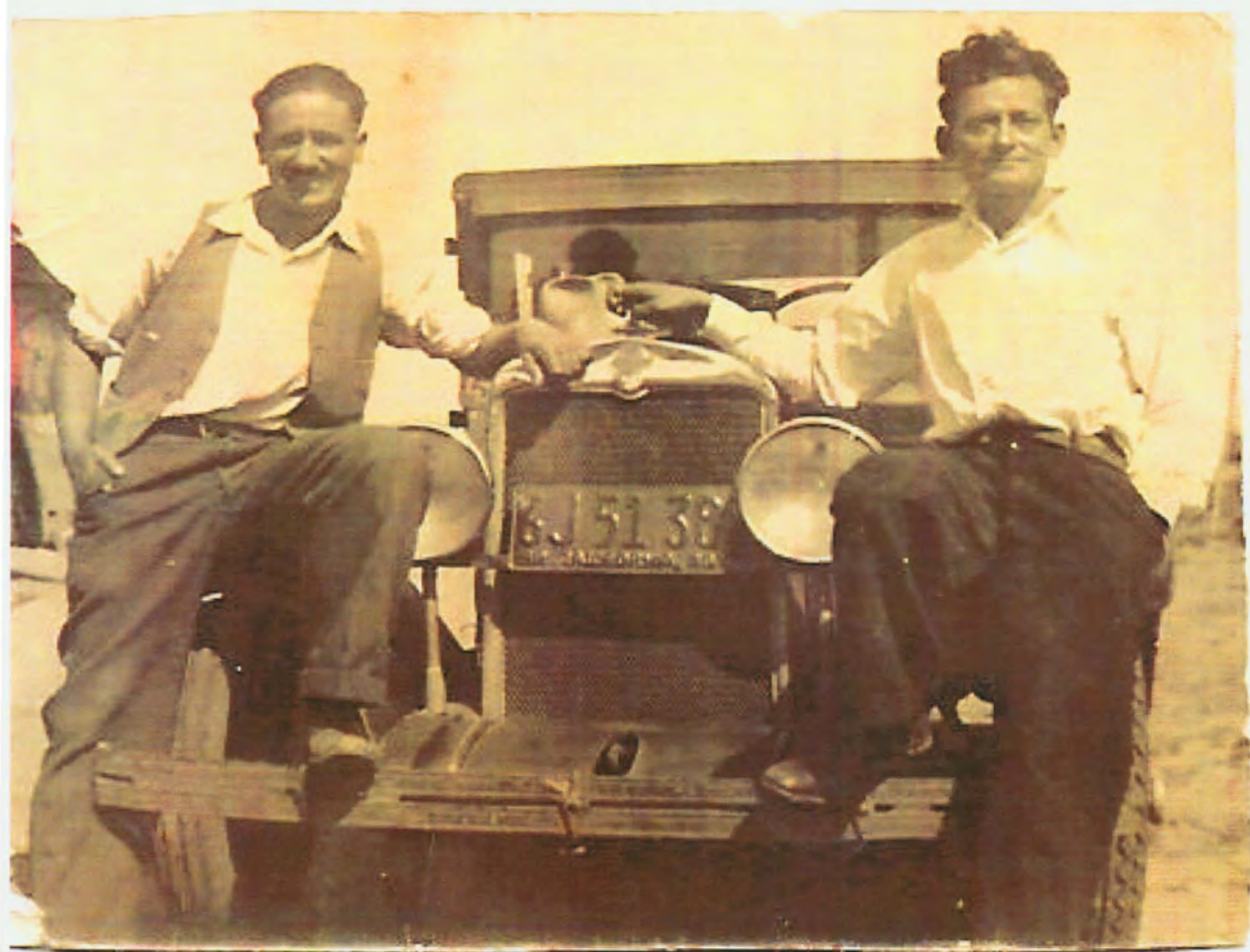
**CAPT. FRED C. MOFFITT**  
Company C, 194th Tank Battalion.

# These Salinas Boys Gave Everything on Bataan

**The Least You Can Do Is to Invest 10% of Your Income Every Payday in War Bonds!**

Sale of War Bonds and Stamps in Salinas During January Totaled \$300,381. **REMEMBER BATAAN! BUY MORE WAR BONDS!**

Monterey County's Quota of War Bonds for February Is \$560,300. **REMEMBER CORREGIDOR! BUY MORE WAR BONDS!**



# ENLISTED RECORD AND REPORT OF SEPARATION

## HONORABLE DISCHARGE

1. LAST NAME - FIRST NAME - MIDDLE INITIAL <b>Navarez, Manuel G</b>		2. ARMY SERIAL NO. <b>20 900 737</b>	3. GRADE <b>Sgt</b>	4. ARM OR SERVICE <b>Infantry</b>	5. COMPONENT <b>NA</b>
6. ORGANIZATION <b>194 Tr Bn Co C</b>		7. DATE OF SEPARATION <b>24 January 1947</b>	8. PLACE OF SEPARATION <b>Fort Ord, California</b>		
9. PERMANENT ADDRESS FOR MAILING PURPOSES <b>532 Williams Road, Salinas, California</b>		10. DATE OF BIRTH <b>12 May 1918</b>	11. PLACE OF BIRTH <b>Mexico</b>		
12. ADDRESS FROM WHICH EMPLOYMENT WILL BE SOUGHT <b>See 9</b>		13. COLOR EYES <b>Brown</b>	14. COLOR HAIR <b>Black</b>	15. HEIGHT <b>5' 7 1/2"</b>	16. WEIGHT <b>155 LBS.</b>
17. NO. DEPEND.	1				
18. RACE <b>WHITE</b>	19. MARITAL STATUS <b>SINGLE</b>	20. U.S. CITIZEN <b>YES</b>	21. CIVILIAN OCCUPATION AND NO. <b>Leborer</b>		

### MILITARY HISTORY



22. DATE OF INDUCTION <b>14 June 1946</b>		23. DATE OF ENLISTMENT <b>14 June 1946</b>		24. DATE OF ENTRY INTO ACTIVE SERVICE <b>14 June 1946</b>		25. PLACE OF ENTRY INTO SERVICE <b>Camp Basle California</b>	
26. SELECTIVE SERVICE DATA <b>1</b>		27. LOCAL S.S. BOARD NO. <b>Unknown</b>		28. COUNTY AND STATE <b>Unknown</b>		29. HOME ADDRESS AT TIME OF ENTRY INTO SERVICE <b>See 9</b>	
30. MILITARY OCCUPATIONAL SPECIALTY AND NO. <b>Basic - 521</b>				31. MILITARY QUALIFICATION AND DATE (i.e., Infantry, aviation and marksmanship badges, etc.) <b>None</b>			
32. BATTLES AND CAMPAIGNS <b>None</b>							
33. DECORATIONS AND CITATIONS <b>None</b>							
34. WOUNDS RECEIVED IN ACTION <b>None</b>							
35. LATEST IMMUNIZATION DATES				36. SERVICE OUTSIDE CONTINENTAL U. S. AND RETURN			
SMALLPOX <b>1945</b>	TYPHOID <b>1945</b>	TETANUS <b>None</b>	OTHER (specify)	DATE OF DEPARTURE <b>None</b>	DESTINATION	DATE OF ARRIVAL	
37. TOTAL LENGTH OF SERVICE				38. HIGHEST GRADE HELD			
CONTINENTAL SERVICE				FOREIGN SERVICE			
YEARS	MONTHS	DAYS	YEARS	MONTHS	DAYS		
<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>Sgt.</b>	
39. PRIOR SERVICE <b>10 February 1941 to 13 June 1946</b>							
40. REASON AND AUTHORITY FOR SEPARATION <b>Certificate of Disability for Discharge Sec 1 AM 615-361 &amp; approval CO Station Hospital Fort Ord, California</b>							
41. SERVICE SCHOOLS ATTENDED <b>None</b>						42. EDUCATION (Years) Grammar <b>8</b> High School <b>2</b> College <b>0</b>	

### PAY DATA

43. LONGEVITY FOR PAY PURPOSES			44. MUSTERING OUT PAY		45. SOLDIER DEPOSITS	46. TRAVEL PAY	47. TOTAL AMOUNT, NAME OF DISBURSING OFFICER
YEARS	MONTHS	DAYS	TOTAL	THIS PAYMENT			
<b>5</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>None</b>	<b>None</b>	<b>None</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>7.20</b>

### INSURANCE NOTICE

IMPORTANT IF PREMIUM IS NOT PAID WHEN DUE OR WITHIN THIRTY-ONE DAYS THEREAFTER, INSURANCE WILL LAPSE. MAKE CHECKS OR MONEY ORDERS PAYABLE TO THE TREASURER OF THE U. S. AND FORWARD TO COLLECTIONS SUBDIVISION, VETERANS ADMINISTRATION, WASHINGTON 25, D. C.								
48. KIND OF INSURANCE			49. HOW PAID		50. Effective Date of Allotment Discontinuance	51. Date of Next Premium Due (One month after 50)	52. PREMIUM DUE EACH MONTH	53. INTENTION OF VETERAN TO
Nat. Serv.	U.S. Govt.	None	Allotment	Direct to V. A.				Continue
<b>1</b>			<b>1</b>		<b>31 Jan 1947</b>	<b>28 Feb 1947</b>	<b>6.70</b>	<b>1</b>

54. 	55. REMARKS (This space for completion of above items or entry of other items specified in W. D. Directives)
	<p><b>LAPEL BUTTON ISSUED</b></p> 
56. SIGNATURE OF PERSON BEING SEPARATED <i>Manuel G Navarez</i>	
57. PERSONNEL OFFICER (Type name, grade and organization - signature) <i>W. J. Corwell</i> W. J. CORWELL 1st Lt. NA	

# Hanaoka

## Sendai #7-B

### **SENDAI No 7-Branch HANAOKA**

(FUJITA GUMI HANAOKA KOZAN)

Hanaoka Coal Company

AKITA-ken, KITA AKITA-gun

HANAOKA-machi, TSUTSUMIZAWA

### **Timeline:**

**01 Dec 1944:** Camp established as TOKYO Branch Camp No 9

**14 Apr 1945:** Jurisdictional control transferred from TOKYO POW CAMP 9-B to SENDAI POW Command.

Camp established as SENDAI 7-B. [existing Dutch POWs have new numbers assigned]

**14 May 1945:** Americans arrive [POW Numbers 1676 to 1875]

**15 Sep 1945:** Rescue effected

### **Labor:**

This was the copper mine for Kajima Corporation. Working conditions were dangerous and mistreatment a daily occurrence. Most slave labor was for the Fujita-gumi Construction Company. Details not yet determined.

### **Hell Ships:**

Many Americans known to have come from the Taiwan POW Camps on the Melbourne Maru. Most of these men had been sent from Manila to Taiwan on the Hokusen Maru.

Almost all civilians were from Wake Island, having earlier been sent to the Woosung POW Camp near Shanghai China on the Nitta Maru. These men were then sent as slave laborers at the Tokyo 2D and 5B Kawasaki Ship Yards before movement to Hanaoka. Most of the Aussies came from Tokyo #4 at Na-oetsu..

### **Rescue Rosters:**

245 Americans    43 Australians

### **Deaths:** (6)

5 Americans and one Australian. One man (William Fisher) killed during food drops.

One of the earliest and most severe mistreatment of prisoners of war became known to the world as the **DEATH MARCH**. All troops, both Filipino and American gathered at various points on Bataan after the April 1942 surrender to the Japanese and then were forced to march 55 miles from Mariveles on the tip of Bataan to San Fernando under conditions that no one believed could happen. There was very little food, no water and no medical attention to the sick and wounded. The sun beat down unmercifully on the marchers with a continuous drum by the Japanese guards to hurry. Around 70,000 men began the trek to the north, but only 54,000 arrived at Camp O'Donnell. No one was ever able to record the exact death toll since many were unaccounted for or just escaped. Approximately 600 of those who perished were American, and between five to ten thousand were Filipinos. Arriving at San Fernando, the troops were literally shoved and stuffed into small railroad cars with no room to sit down for last leg into Camp O'Donnell. They received no water, no food and the heat from the tropical sun was



relentless. Thus they came to the end of the road, suffering from every disease imaginable. They were dirty, unkempt, pale, bloated, and lifeless. They looked aged beyond their years and had nothing to look forward to except degradation. The United States had informed the Japanese government on December 18, 1941, that it (the US) is a party to the Geneva Convention of 1929 on Prisoners of War, and intended to apply the provisions to both captured armed forces and civilian internees which may be interned by the United States, and requested the Japanese government to apply those provisions to those captured or interned by the armed forces. On February 4, 1942, the Japanese government cabled that "IT IS STRICTLY OBSERVING THE GENEVA CONVENTION AS A SIGNATORY STATE AND WOULD APPLY MUTIS MUTANDIS PROVISIONS OF THAT LAW TO AMERICAN PRISONERS OF WAR IN ITS POWER."

Also on February 4, 1942, Japan cabled that, "ON CONDITION OF RECIPROCITY, JAPAN WILL APPLY GENEVA CONVENTION TO POWS AND CIVILIANS INsofar AS APPLICABLE, AND THEY SHOULD NOT BE FORCED TO PERFORM LABOR AGAINST THEIR WILL." These cables are very inconsistent with the manner that the Japanese military and civilians mistreated American prisoners of war in their power.

**Capas** is a 1st class municipality in the province Tarlac, Philippines.

The **Capas National Shrine (Paggunita Sa Capas)** in Barangay Navy [Capas, Tarlac](#), [The Philippines](#) was built by the Philippine government as a memorial to the Filipino and American soldiers who died in [Camp O'Donnell](#) at the end of the [Bataan Death March](#). This is an important site related to Veterans' Day in the Philippines (**Araw ng Kagitingan**), every 9 April, the anniversary of the surrender of the combined US and Philippine forces to the Japanese in 1942.

The area around where the Bataan Death March ended was proclaimed by President [Corazon Aquino](#) to become Capas National Shrine on December 7, 1991. The shrine encompasses 54 hectares of parkland, 35 hectares of which have been planted with rows of trees to represent each of the deceased. On April 9, 2003, a new memorial wall and [obelisk](#) was unveiled. The 70-meter obelisk towers above the grounds of the former interment camp. The obelisk is surrounded by a black marble wall engraved with the names of the Filipinos and Americans known to have died at the location. On the three large wall segments that almost encircle the obelisk, there are statistics about the total numbers of prisoners and deaths, together with poems for peace.

Nearby is a small museum and a smaller monument built by an American group calling themselves the "Battling Bastards of Bataan", honoring the American dead of the period. A few hundred meters from the Obelisk is a garden separated from the rest of the shrine by a creek, it is passable with the means of a hanging bridge. The relics of an old train and railings are also present in the Shrine.





El Santo Niño de Atocha

## **Patron Saint of Prisoners**

### **History of El Santo Nino de Atocha (The Holy Child of Atocha)**

The devotion to El Santo Nino de Atocha originated in Spain. Its origin may be related to Our Lady of Atocha, in Madrid, Spain, who is mentioned in the "Cantigas" of King Alphonse the Wise in the 13th century. During medieval times, the Moors held large areas and battles between the Christians and Moors were commonplace. The Moors invaded the town of Atocha. Following a certain battle, the victorious Moors held a great many Christians captive, and prevented the adult villagers from visiting as well as bringing the prisoners food or water. Fearing for the lives of the prisoners, their families stormed heaven with prayers for relief. One day, a child appeared, dressed as a pilgrim of that period, carrying a basket of food and a gourd of water. The Moors allowed the child to bring food and water each day. The prisoners were fed, but the basket and gourd remained full. The child was not known to the Christians nor to the Moors, so the people concluded that the child Jesus. In Artwork, the Holy Child often wears a brimmed hat with a plume and a cloak or cape ornate with the St. James shell. (During the Crusades, scallop shells were the symbol of holy pilgrimages and one European variety is still referred to as "the pilgrim" or "St. James' shell." Poets have written about their beauty and artists have admired their symmetry and grace.) In his left hand, He carries a pilgrim's staff to the gourd of water is fastened, a pair of shackles, and a few spears of wheat. In his right hand, He holds a basket which generally contains bread or flowers. He either wears sandals or is barefoot. The Child is said to roam the hills and valleys, particularly at night, bringing aid and comfort to the needy, and thereby wearing out his shoes. He is usually shown seated. The original statute of the Holy Child of Atocha was imported from Spain and now resides in the little town of Fresnillo, Mexico. El Santo Nino de Altocha is the patron saint of those unjustly imprisoned. He also protects travelers and rescues people in danger.

#### **Miracles of Santo Nino de Atocha**

One miracle, which was chronicled in 1829, tells of a woman who was wrongly sentenced to prison. She pleaded to the authorities that she had been wrongly imprisoned, but to no avail. To make matters worse, she could find no one who would come forth to help her prove her innocence. She prayed tirelessly to Our Lady of Atocha and the Blessed Infant in Her arms, for help. The more she prayed, the more it seemed help was not forthcoming. But this dear lady believed; with all her heart, she believed. So she kept praying.

Many miracles have been attributed to the Child Jesus under the title Santo Niño de Atocha. He has been the salvation of His people in all ages and locations. In Spain, he fed the prisoners of the Moors and saved them from starvation. He kept them out of harm's way as they traveled the dangerous roads. He saved them from snake bites, dehydration, starvation, and always brought them back to Mother Church. There is a tremendous devotion to the Santo Niño de Atocha to this day in many Hispanic countries.

—Bob and Penny Lord

# My Army Prayer Book



*Rev. Manuel S. Hernandez*  
*Co. 6. 1942 7th Div.*  
*August - 26/42*

FOR THE CATHOLIC  
SOLDIERS AND TRAINEES  
OF THE  
PHILIPPINE ARMY

# *Manny's Purple Heart Presentation*

## *2 December 2004*

### **Attention To Orders**

**Charles M. "Rusty" Gilmore,  
PER, MSGT USAF, Retired**

**Mike Elmore, Exalted Ruler Reno  
Elks Lodge 597**



### **Presenting Officer**

**Barrett V. Johnson  
Colonel, USAF Retired**



### **Military Honor Guard**

**PFC David G Kretchmen,  
USMC**

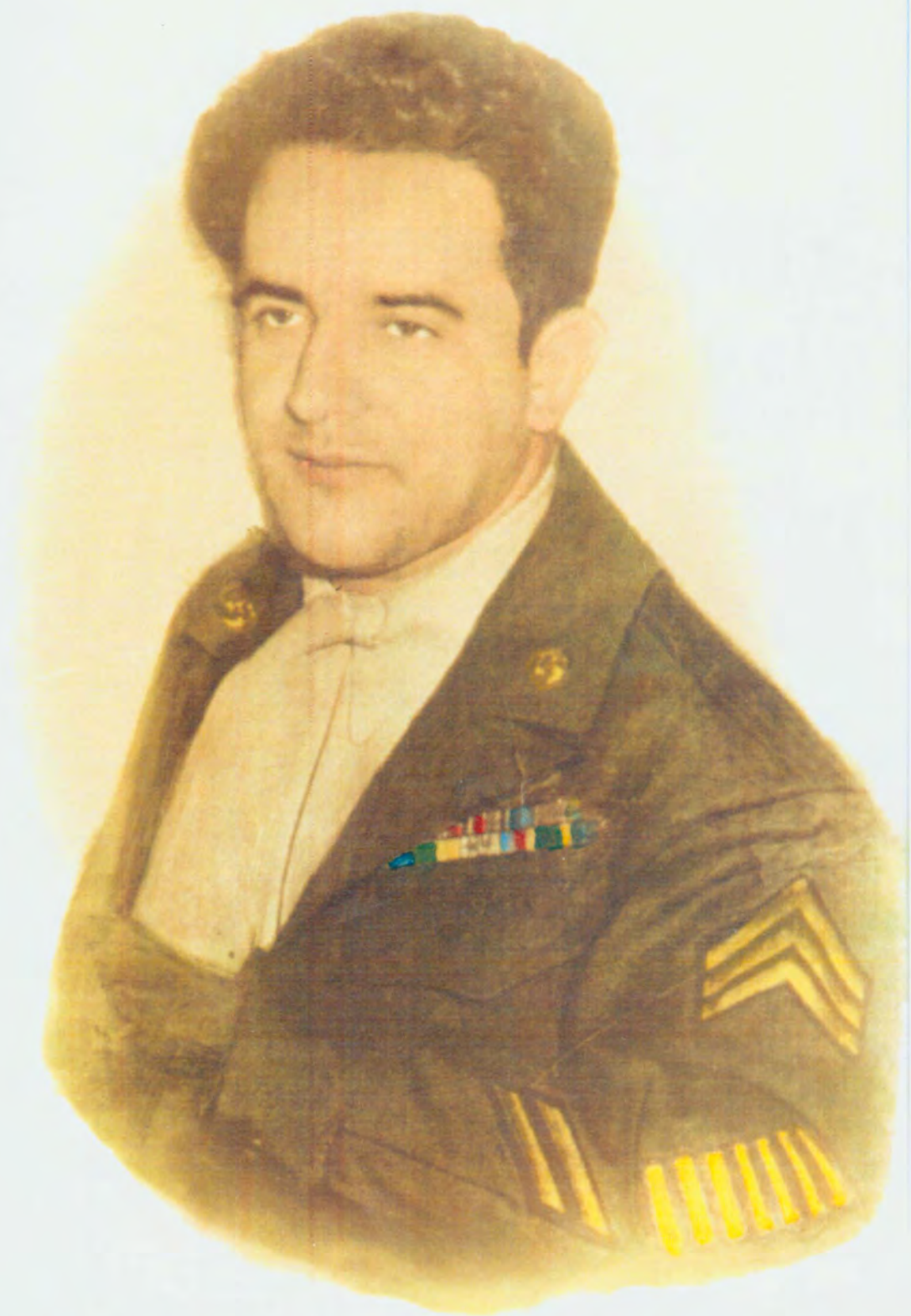
**Major Dennis B. Rapp,  
USAF Retired**

**Ensio J. Tololini  
Sergeant Major, US Army Retired**



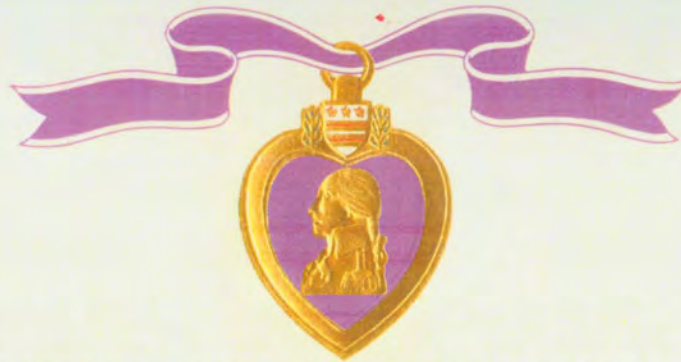
### **Congratulations**

**Mike Elmore,  
Exalted Ruler  
Reno Elks Lodge 597**



Sergeant Manual G. Nevarez ~ February 1947





# THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

TO ALL WHO SHALL SEE THESE PRESENTS, GREETING:

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT  
THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
HAS AWARDED THE

## PURPLE HEART

ESTABLISHED BY GENERAL GEORGE WASHINGTON  
AT NEWBURGH, NEW YORK, AUGUST 7, 1782  
TO

MANUEL G. NEVAREZ  
(THEN SERGEANT, ARMY OF THE UNITED STATES)  
FOR WOUNDS RECEIVED  
IN ACTION

FROM 7 MAY 1942 TO 12 SEPTEMBER 1945 WHILE A PRISONER OF WAR  
GIVEN UNDER MY HAND IN THE CITY OF WASHINGTON

THIS 18TH DAY OF NOVEMBER 2004

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "E. J. [unclear]".

THE ADJUTANT GENERAL



A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "R. L. Browne".

ACTING SECRETARY OF THE ARMY



# THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

TO ALL WHO SHALL SEE THESE PRESENTS, GREETING: THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT THE PRESIDENT  
OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AUTHORIZED BY EXECUTIVE ORDER, 24 AUGUST 1962 HAS AWARDED

## THE BRONZE STAR MEDAL

TO

CORPORAL MANUEL G. NEVAREZ, UNITED STATES ARMY

FOR

meritorious achievement during combat while serving in the  
South West Pacific theater of Operations from 7 December 1941  
to 10 May 1942. The actions of Corporal Nevarez were in  
keeping with the highest traditions of the military service  
and reflect distinct credit upon him, his unit and the United  
States Army.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND IN THE CITY OF WASHINGTON

THIS

17th

DAY OF

May

19

84

  
THE ADJUTANT GENERAL



  
SECRETARY OF THE ARMY



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL  
U. S. ARMY RESERVE COMPONENTS PERSONNEL AND ADMINISTRATION CENTER  
ST. LOUIS, MO. 63132

May 17, 1984

REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF  
Personnel Services Directorate PSE-AW  
Nevarez, Manuel G. 20 900 737  
JR/5/5.3/6

Mr. Manuel G. Nevarez  
330 York Way  
Sparks, Nevada 89431

Dear Mr. Nevarez:

By authority of the Secretary of the Army, you have been awarded the Bronze Star Medal for Meritorious Achievement in combat while serving the Southwest Pacific Theater of Operations between December 7, 1941 and May 10, 1942.

An appropriately inscribed certificate and Permanent Order pertaining to the Bronze Star Medal are enclosed.

The Commander, U. S. Army Support Activity, 2800 South 20th Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19101 has been authorized to forward this award to you. Due to the large volume of request being received, it may be approximately 90 days before you receive the award. If you have not received it at the end of this period, please forward a copy of this letter to the Commander, U. S. Army Support Activity at the address shown above.

This decoration is a testimony of your service to our country in which you can be justly proud. Congratulations and best wishes.

Sincerely,

*Thomas A. Brooks*  
Thomas A. Brooks  
Sergeant First Class, U. S. Army  
Chief, Awards Branch

Enclosures

Copy Furnished:

Commander  
U. S. Army Support Activity  
2800 South 20th Street  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19101

SERVICE des PRISONNIERS de GUERRE

俘虜郵便

NAME MANUEL G. NEVAREZ,

NATIONALITY AMERICAN

RANK PRIVATE

PHILIPPINE MILITARY PRISON CAMP NO. 4.

檢 比  
閱 島  
濟 俘  
所 虜  
收  
容  
所



To: Mrs. Alexandra Nevarez,

532 Williams Road,

Salinas, California.

U.S.A.

11135  
U.S. CENSOR

郵便はかき

IMPERIAL JAPANESE ARMY

1. I am interned at—Philippine Military Prison Camp No. 4.
2. My health is—excellent; good; fair; poor.
3. Message (50 words limit)

Received your letters, but no package as yet. Very  
glad to know the family is well. Give my regards to  
Aunt Cuca and Conpadre and family, Nettie Bertha.  
sisters and brothers-in-law. You receive my best love  
and kisses. Don't worry, Mom. Manuel Cisco Hernandez

Signature

# 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

A. N. WILLIAMS  
PRESIDENT

1201

# SYMBOLS

DL = Day Letter

NL = Night Letter

LC = Deferred Cable

NLT = Cable Night Letter

Ship Radiogram

The filing time shown in the date line on telegrams and day letters is STANDARD TIME at point of origin. Time of receipt is STANDARD TIME at point of destination

TA48

1945 OCT 4 PM 7 50

T-FB875 28 GOVT=WASHINGTON DC 4 922P

MR & MRS ALFREDO NEVARES=

532 WILLIAMS RD SALINAS CALIF=

I AM PLEASED TO TRANSMIT TO YOU THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE  
RECEIVED FROM PRIVATE MANUEL G NEVARES QUOTE GOOD HEALTH  
WILL BE HOME SOON REGARDS TO ALL LOVE UNQUOTE=

EDWARD F WITSELL ACTING THE ADJUTANT GENERAL OF  
THE ARMY.



**The Bataan Death March.**

## A-bomb stamp

# **Japan's crimes against humanity are many**

I'd like to applaud Mr. Storm for his letter of Sunday, Dec. 25 re: the atom bomb stamp.

So many Japanese actions are not mentioned today. One of the minor crimes of the Japanese in WWII was the killings on the beach in Buna, New Guinea, on Aug. 13, 1942.

European men, women and children were taken there and killed. A 16-year-old girl was last. Her death — a beheading — was botched. So these brave Japanese had to hold the wounded and frantic girl down on the sand, still screaming and crying out, while they finished the job of cutting off her head.

Hooray for Leonard Storm. Americans don't want to hear the Japanese cry about our "inhumanity."

**E. Cobbs, Herlong**



**My Actual Diary  
(Scale is 100%)**



**My POW Identification  
Patch, Worn on Clothing**



This Photo was taken in August of 1941 at Fort Lewis Washington, just before we shipped out to the Philippines. I am in the back on a motorcycle

Saturday

SEPTEMBER 19, 1987  
RENO GAZETTE-JOURNAL

CITY EDITOR: JOE HOWRY, 788-6305

## Special day helps POWs, MIAs cope with past horrors

By Steve Papinchak/Gazette-Journal

For Manuel Nevarez of Sparks, the infamous Bataan Death March was alive in his mind Friday, an official day for honoring the nation's prisoners of war and servicemen who are missing in action.

Images of brutality in the steamy jungles of the Philippines during World War II are very real for the former tank soldier, although he faced the horrors some 45 years ago.

Eating lunch in Reno's Idlewild Park with about 60 former POWs, Nevarez, 69, told of Japanese soldiers using rifle butts to literally knock the brains out of soldiers who faltered during the Bataan Death March, a 55-mile forced-march to a prison camp.

And he remembered what happened to escapees from barbaric prison camps set up after the 1942 U.S. surrender in the Philippines.

"When they caught someone who tried to

See POWS, page 3C



Michael Leschlein/Gazette-Journal

**STIRS MEMORIES:** Manuel Nevarez of Sparks, a World War II prisoner of war for 3½ years, holds a photograph he sent to his mother when he entered the service in 1941 at age 18.

## POWs

From page 1C

escape, they would bring their heads back," he said, shifting uncomfortably on a picnic bench. "They would hold the heads by the hair and parade them around the prison yard."

But along with the horrid memories, Friday's activities — part of the National POW/MIA Recognition Day — helped Nevarez remember that he's not alone.

"This is one of the most important days of our lives," he said. "It's important to be able to talk to guys who went through some of the same things I did."

"Just to be alive and able to talk about it makes your heart really feel good."

The gathering at Idlewild Park gave Nevarez and POWs from three wars the chance to share a barbecue lunch and some comradeship. A proclamation signed by Gov. Richard Bryan was read and fifth-grade students from Veteran's Memorial Elementary School in Reno

gave the POWs posters. Similar scenes took place across the country.

In Fallon, an evening candlelight vigil was scheduled, as was a speech by the Fallon Naval Air Station's Capt. Ray Alcorn, a POW in Vietnam for seven years.

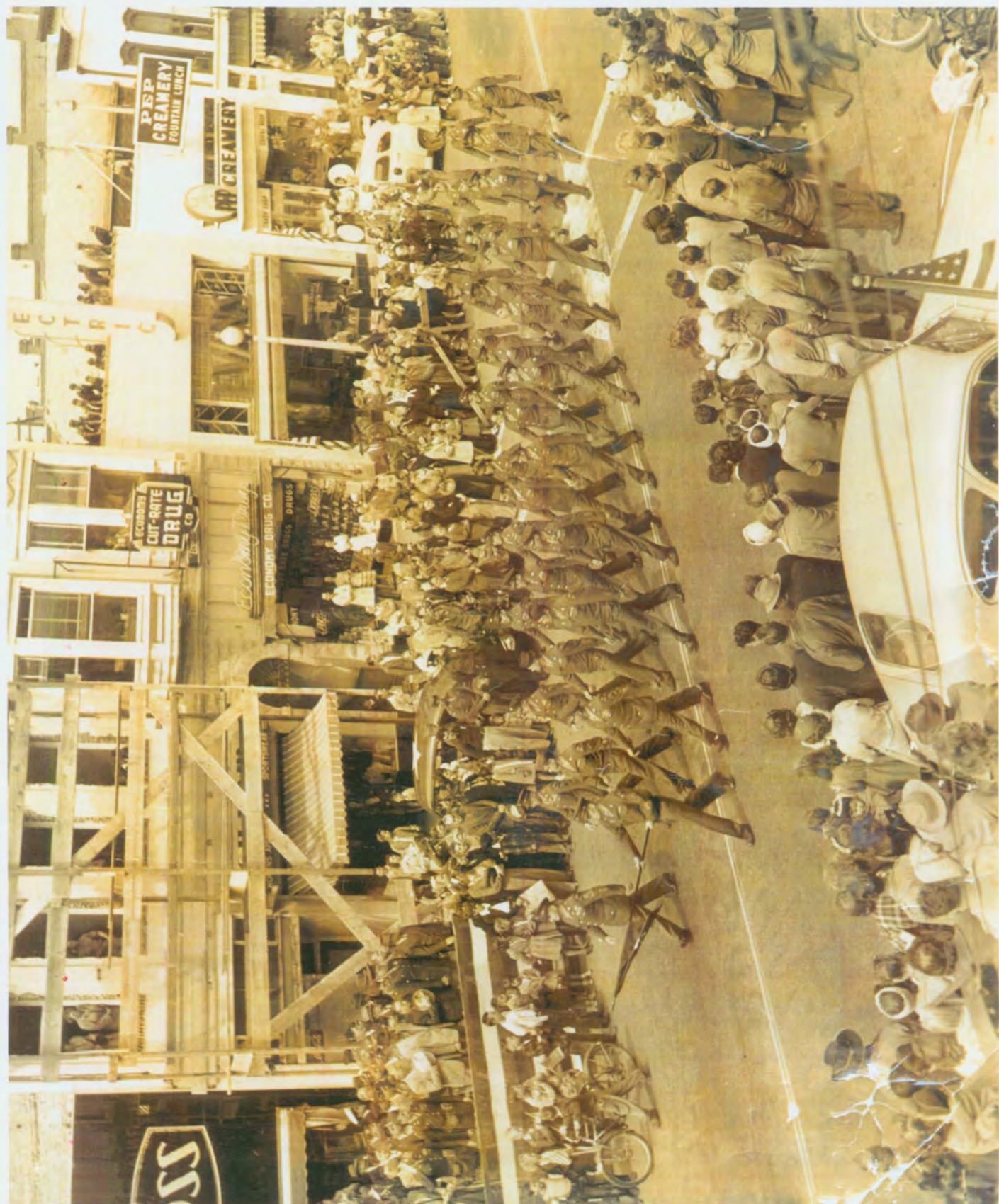
Also scheduled on the Fallon program was the release of 500 balloons in a ceremony honoring Vietnam MIAs.

Similar balloons were sent aloft Friday in Southeast Asia with messages offering rewards to natives who turn over missing American servicemen, said Tony Minetto, publicity coordinator for the Northern Nevada Vietnam Veterans of America.

Seven Nevadans are among the 2,413 unaccounted for Vietnam War servicemen.

Vietnam Veterans groups say bodies of U.S. servicemen are in warehouses and that missing Americans have been sighted in several Southeast Asian countries. Federal officials, however, say they haven't been able to substantiate those claims.





# CALIFORNIA NATIONAL GUARD



## The Medal of Merit is awarded

CORPORAL MANUAL G. NAVAREZ

COMPANY C, 194th TANK BATTALION

by direction of the Governor and under the provisions and pursuant to the authority vested in me  
by Section 640 of the Military and Veterans Code, State of California

### Citation

*During the period 8 September 1942 to 4 October 1945, Corporal Navarez distinguished himself while serving in World War II as a member of Company C, 194th Tank Battalion. His gallantry and personal sacrifice while in combat has won him a distinct place in the hearts and minds of all Americans, especially Californians whose pride in the California National Guard insures that the legend of Luzon will be passed to generations yet unborn. His will to fight, and subsequent will to live, demonstrated under the force of circumstances which can only be imagined by those not present, are to this day and beyond, a hallmark in the annals of American heroism. His service reflects great credit upon himself, the California National Guard and the State of California.*



WILLARD A. SHANK  
Major General  
The Adjutant General

# DEDICATION OF TANK MEMORIAL

BY CITY OF SALINAS



*Memorial Day Services*

BY SALINAS POST NO. 31  
THE AMERICAN LEGION

*May 30, 1947*

*Salinas, California*

# ... Program ...

INVOCATION . . . . .	Capt. The Rev. L. H. Farrell Sacred Heart Church
DEDICATORY ADDRESS . . . . .	Nelson Sewell Principal, Salinas Union High School
ACCEPTANCE ADDRESS . . . . .	George C. Taylor Mayor, City of Salinas
MARTIAL MUSIC . . . . .	U. S. Army Band C.W.O. Lee Douglas, Conductor
INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS . . . . .	Roy McKenney Commander, Salinas Post 31, American Legion Gene Sturtevant 13th District Commander, American Legion
MEMORIAL DAY ADDRESS . . . . .	Richard H. Chamberlain California Department Commander, American Legion
NATIONAL ANTHEM . . . . .	U. S. Army Band C.W.O. Lee Douglas, Conductor
BENEDICTION . . . . .	Rev. M. L. Kemper United Presbyterian Church
GRAVESIDE SERVICES, 9:30 A.M. . . . .	Firing Squad and Bugler Lt. Wm. W. Learned, U.S.A.



DEDICATION OF TANK MEMORIAL UNDER DIRECTION  
OF THE FOLLOWING:  
Judge C. S. Sorensen, *Chairman*  
Major L. E. Johnson, Donald Davies Jr., George C. Weight, F. E. Heple



MEMORIAL DAY SERVICES UNDER DIRECTION OF  
L. E. Johnson, *Chairman*  
Roy M. McKenney, Commander Salinas Post 31 American Legion



MAY 30, 1947

UNDERPASS PARK, SALINAS, CALIFORNIA



## ... Roster ...

Maj. L. E. Johnson  
Maj. F. C. Moffitt

Capt. T. I. Spaulding

1st Lt. B. E. Gwynn ★

2nd Lt. J. H. Hart ★  
2nd Lt. A. H. Hook ★

M/Sgt. J. E. Aram  
M/Sgt. F. W. Bickmore ★  
M/Sgt. W. G. Boyd ★  
M/Sgt. C. H. Thomas

1st /Sgt. E. Saccone

T/Sgt. A. F. Gillis  
T/Sgt. A. D. Lang ★  
T/Sgt. S. G. Lang  
T/Sgt. E. S. Morrello

S/Sgt. C. F. Abbott ★  
S/Sgt. C. R. Barnes  
S/Sgt. M. J. Bernard ★  
S/Sgt. W. E. Braye  
S/Sgt. G. D. Brokaw  
S/Sgt. F. T. Cabral  
S/Sgt. E. C. De Gottardi  
S/Sgt. R. L. Diaz  
S/Sgt. C. E. Emlay  
S/Sgt. J. P. Errington  
S/Sgt. J. S. Gamboa  
S/Sgt. W. A. Garrison  
S/Sgt. W. L. Glenn  
S/Sgt. T. J. Hicks  
S/Sgt. A. J. Holstein  
S/Sgt. J. C. McKusick

S/Sgt. M. R. Madero  
S/Sgt. F. J. Orendain  
S/Sgt. T. T. Paras  
S/Sgt. J. H. Smith  
S/Sgt. E. H. Stahl  
S/Sgt. H. J. Vick  
S/Sgt. C. R. Walker  
S/Sgt. F. T. Wilson

Sgt. J. N. Anderson  
Sgt. W. F. Anson ★  
Sgt. F. E. Aram ★  
Sgt. J. D. Brink ★  
Sgt. R. E. Cunningham ★  
Sgt. L. H. Elliot  
Sgt. R. L. Errington ★  
Sgt. H. K. Fitzgibbons  
Sgt. V. L. Gosney ★  
Sgt. W. F. Hall  
Sgt. K. D. Lewis ★  
Sgt. H. E. Lee ★  
Sgt. R. H. Mitchell ★  
Sgt. F. I. Muther  
Sgt. R. J. Peoples  
Sgt. N. R. Rose  
Sgt. G. W. Schlosser ★  
Sgt. W. B. Smith

Cpl. J. F. Alves  
Cpl. A. Cope  
Cpl. R. N. DeCloss ★  
Cpl. M. E. Dolk ★  
Cpl. O. H. Eaton ★  
Cpl. H. D. McDonald ★  
Cpl. M. J. Navarez  
Cpl. L. H. Rotharmel  
Cpl. C. R. Sigala  
Cpl. J. V. Speckens

Cpl. S. G. Suttie  
Cpl. J. M. Warnick

Pfc. R. G. Boles ★  
Pfc. F. F. Barretto ★  
Pfc. K. A. White ★  
Pfc. M. A. Cahill ★  
Pfc. D. E. Cedarblom ★  
Pfc. L. O. Cole ★  
Pfc. A. W. Eckert ★  
Pfc. R. E. Emlay ★  
Pfc. J. H. Fleener ★  
Pfc. E. M. Fontes ★  
Pfc. J. Gillis ★  
Pfc. C. M. Grayson ★  
Pfc. N. C. Heard ★  
Pfc. J. A. Hicks ★  
Pfc. F. F. Marbach ★  
Pfc. J. T. McLeod ★  
Pfc. S. J. Montero ★  
Pfc. R. E. Overstreet ★  
Pfc. E. E. Rawson ★  
Pfc. D. J. Reilly ★  
Pfc. A. P. Smith ★  
Pfc. E. G. Smith ★  
Pfc. J. E. Wilrodt ★  
Pfc. J. P. Zanani ★  
Pfc. E. P. Zingheim ★

Pvt. W. L. Casperson ★  
Pvt. E. N. De Benedetti ★  
Pvt. D. W. Foshee ★  
Pvt. W. M. Hennessy ★  
Pvt. D. R. Jaramillo ★  
Pvt. W. V. Martella ★  
Pvt. R. L. Miller ★  
Pvt. C. G. Stevens ★  
Pvt. J. M. Thorp ★  
Pvt. J. H. White ★

★ Deceased

## *. . . History . . .*

The 40th Tank Company, C.N.G., was organized by the War Department on June 18th, 1924, and thereafter became the Divisional Tank Company of the 40th Division.

In October 1940 its designation was changed to Company "C" 194th Tank Battalion.

By direction of the War Department this unit was mobilized and ordered to Fort Lewis, Wash., on February 10, 1941, there to enter training with other elements of the Battalion.

On September 8, 1941 this company sailed from San Francisco for duty in the Philippines. They were stationed at Ft. Stotsenburg, P. I., at the outbreak of war, December 7, 1941, and were among the first elements to be attacked by the Japanese.

Their valiant stand on Bataan Peninsula is now history. Through lack of reinforcements, shortage of foods and medicines, and faced with enemy opposition overwhelming in numbers they finally were forced to surrender on April 9, 1942.

The strength of the company upon arrival in the Philippines was one hundred and five, of this number the ravages of war and prison camps took to death fifty-eight, leaving forty-seven who have returned to their homes and loved ones.

Salinas will long remember and revere the names of those who made the supreme sacrifice, and will forever be grateful for the return of those who survived the hectic years of hardship.

COMPANY "C" 194TH TANK BATTALION



Manual "Manny" G. Nevarez  
March 2004

# The 194th Lives On In Our Hearts

(Jim Albanese – Copy Editor for “*The Salinas Californian*”)

Major L.E. Eddie Johnson found the irony delicious, if somewhat dangerous.

A B-29 bomber made several passes over the target area before dropping its load. In the ground, Johnson and other prisoners of war at the Rokuoshi camp in the Japanese Alps on the island of Honshu, watched as parachutes blossomed in the sky.

Attached to each chute was a food container. It was September 10, 1945. World War II was over.

As Johnson watched one of the containers broke loose and plummeted to the ground, just missing the emaciated prisoners. To think that we've gone through all this, only to be killed by a box of American chocolate bars, Johnson thought.

Johnson and some of his fellow inmates represented one remnant of Company C of the 194<sup>th</sup> Tank battalion, manned almost exclusively by soldiers from the Salinas Valley. There were 114 of them when Japanese forces attacked the Philippines on December 8, 1941. By the end of the war only 46 remained alive.

More than half perished in combat, the infamous Bataan Death March and more than three years of privation in Japanese prison camps.

In September 1941, the men were posted at Fort Stotsenburg north of Manila as part of Gen. Douglas MacArthur's army. On December 7-8, 1941, Pearl Harbor was bombed and, three hours later, Japanese planes destroyed MacArthur's air arm on the ground at Clark Field.

For its Philippines campaign, Japan designated Gen. Masaharu Homma's 14<sup>th</sup> Army of 50,000 battle-tested veterans as the spearhead and gave it 90 days to complete its mission.

The Salinas unit saw its first combat on Christmas Day 1941 covering MacArthur's retreat down the Bataan Peninsula. The Salinas tankers

were pounded for 10 straight days without a break, a hot meal or sleep. They blunted every Japanese attack and permitted MacArthur's main body to retreat to prepared lines across the unfordable Pampanga River. The company held a bridgehead on the opposite side until January 6, 1942, allowing the main body to rest, regroup and dig in. Maj. Johnson rode the last tank covering the retreat across the Pampanga.

In the end, the American and Filipino fighters on Bataan were worn down by attrition. Rations were cut first in half, then to one quarter. By the end of March, 24,000 men, weakened by inadequate food and medicine, were hospitalized.

The Japanese finally broke through on April 3, and on April 9, Allied resistance on Bataan ended. Some of the Allied troops escaped to Corregidor and few fled into the jungle to wage an effective three-year guerrilla campaign.

But most of the Filipino and American regulars were rounded up and sent on a 90 mile death march to Camp O'Donnell.

Corregidor held out for another month before it succumbed, but not before making the Japanese pay a high price. It would still be three long, bloody years before the issue was decided, but by extending Japan's projected 50-day Philippines campaign into five months, the foundation for victory had been laid.

The town didn't forget its heroes. Near the mausoleum in the Garden of Memories cemetery is an M-5 tank, not exactly the kind used by the 194<sup>th</sup> – Its main combat weapon was the lighter M-3 tank. But it's the thought that counts. And those thoughts are inscribed on a plaque on the tank: ***"The Metal of These Expendable Heroes of Bataan Was Mightier Than the Metal of Their Tanks' May Time Never Tarnish the Memory of Their Sacrifice."***

# 11 Days to Stay Alive

(Janice Austin – The Salinas Californian, May 18, 2004)

*"It took me 11 days," said north Salinas resident Frank Muther of the Bataan Death March in the Philippines in March 1942. "Some guys made it sooner, some later."*

He said that he and two brothers from Salinas escaped, then were recaptured.

*"We had to do the whole thing over," he said. "Being the last ones out on that march, we saw a lot more bodies on the road than most."*

More than 10,000 lives were lost on the 70 mile stretch, as Japanese soldiers forcemarched American and Filipino troops to where they would be crammed into boxcars and transported to camps to be held as prisoners of war.

Ill and malnourished already, soldiers were forced to march in the hot sun while being denied food and water.

Muther relates that he was given just two rice balls during those 11 days.

*"We were pretty well starved out," said Muther, now 84. "We had malaria and dysentery and dengue fever."*

Beatings and bayonet jabs common place. Muther bears a scar on his back from such a jab. Any POWs who fell behind were shot.

*"If you fell down, they'd just kill you," Muther said. "You had to stay on your feet to stay alive."*

At night they were marched into courtyards.

*"One night we got in late and walked over something soft. When we got up the next morning, we saw that they were dead bodies."*

Muther spent 44 months as a prisoner of war, with the last two years in Japan where he was put to work building bridges and shoveling coal while suffering beatings, starvation and torture.

His weight dropped to 120 pounds. He contracted cerebral malaria and beriberi.

Muther still has the diary he kept that shows what the men talked about. One page lists books he would read when he got home. Another lists places he would visit.

"You had to do something," he said, "All you thought about was food."

Frank Muther enlisted in the National Guard and trained as a radio operator in Company C, 194<sup>th</sup> Tank Battalion. Company C from Salinas was sent to the Philippines in October 1941. The United States entered World War II on December 7, 1941 (December 8, 1941 in the Philippines) immediately following the attack on Pearl Harbor.

Of the 105 men from Salinas Valley's Company C who were dispatched to the Philippines, only 47 returned.

# NOTES

Claude Albert Dewberry was a member of the medical detachment of the 194th Tank Btn. Along with his unit he was ordered to surrender and survived the Death March, Camp O'Donnell, Cabanatuan (Camp 1), Davao, Cabanatuan again, Bilibid, and the sinking of the Oryoku Maru. He died when the Enoura Maru was bombed by USN aircraft. I have been asked by his family to gather as much information as possible from anyone who knew him or knew anything about him. [Bob](mailto:Bob) Mullauer@home.com  
[Mullauer@home.com](http://Mullauer@home.com)

**Braye, William E. .... Spouse: Geraldyn**  
**1130 East 8th North, Mountain Home, ID 83647**  
**Phone: (208) 587-9764**  
**E-Mail Address: [gbrave@qwest.net](mailto:gbrave@qwest.net)**  
**Trip Back to Philippines**  
**C Co., 194th Tank Bn**

## **Trip Back to the Philippines**

*Posted January 27, 2000*

**Just returned from P.I. where I worked with History Channel crew doing a documentary on the Death March. We did the Memorial Cemetery located where Fort McKinley used to be, went to corregidor, then Bataan, located the exact spot where Colonel Miller, CO, 194th Tank Bn read the surrender with tears streaming down his cheeks (I was with him). Then went to Mt Samat, Lamo, San Fernando, Balanga (twice), Capas and Camp O'Donnell.**

**Interesting trip and a surprise to see all the increase in the tall buildings in Manila. We stayed one night at the Manila Midtown Hotel and the last night at the Manila Hotel. Every barrio was built up along the route so that part had changed. It still had the smell of the tropics and outside of Manila, areas rather unkept; lots of debris. Not much rest to do any shopping or looking around, tourist style, we walked and did everything the Director asked. I found out that any relative or person wishing info on deceased can contact the Superintendent of the Historical Monuments in Manila and receive information of the burial location together with a**

photo of the gravesite (the lettering and dates will be painted black-  
because the marble crosses are white and the engraving is difficult to read.

Elliott, Leon A. .... Spouse: Sylvia  
3233 Arbor Lane, Santa Maria, CA 93455  
E-mail Address: [Rosslyn18@earthlink.net](mailto:Rosslyn18@earthlink.net)  
Cabanatuan, "Tattori Maru" and Mukden  
194th Tank Battalion

Saccone, Ero ("Ben") .... Spouse: Beatrice  
55 Geil Street, Salinas, CA 93901  
Phone: (831) 422-9491  
Email Address: [pow47@aol.com](mailto:pow47@aol.com)  
Company "C" 194th Tank Company

**31 August 2000**

**Request for help finding information**

My grandfather, **Ferris G. Spoor** was a Captain (S-2) with the  
194th Tank Btn. He was a Major at some point and Lt. Colonel  
later.

Do your records have any information regarding him?

My father is constantly in search of this information and I am as well.

Any assistance is appreciated.

John Spoor

[LJSpoor@email.msn.com](mailto:LJSpoor@email.msn.com)

# In Honor of Salinas' Heroic Tank Squad

(By Burton Anderson)

August 15, 2001 marked the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of V-J Day, Victory over Japan and the end of World War II. It is a fitting time to remember Salinas' National Guard outfit. Organized as the 40<sup>th</sup> Tank Company in the 40<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division in 1924, it was changed to Company C 194<sup>th</sup> Tank Battalion in September 1940. With war looming in Europe and Asia, the U.S. Army was short of men and equipment and began inducting National Guard outfits into federal service. Company C was inducted into the Army on February 10, 1941. That week 127 men marched up Main Street to the SP (Southern Pacific) depot and entrained for Fort Lewis, Washington. Unbeknown to many, it was the last time they would ever see Salinas. When the war was over there were only 47 survivors.

After training they were loaded on the Liner President Coolidge and headed for Manila on September 8, 1941. The battalion had received excellent marks in training and perhaps that was the reason it was the first armored outfit sent overseas.

December 7, 1941 (December 8 in the Philippines) found Company C defending the perimeter of Clark Field. In two days they fought off Japanese raids and downed a Zero fighter, Company C was ordered to Southern Luzon to repel a Japanese invasion at Lamon Bay, and in the battle suffered its first casualties. It became evident to General MacArthur that they could not stem the Japanese tide and the U.S. and Philippine Army was ordered to Bataan. Supplies in Manila were not moved to Bataan and this caused the troops extreme suffering. Hunger and disease grew worse. The combat situation deteriorated: 6,000 troops were sick and wounded and 40,000 refugees needed care.

The promises of relief columns and supplies never materialized. General King surrendered on April 9, 1942. Company C, in four months of combat had lost 10 tanks and six men killed in action or died of their wounds.

The survivors of the Bataan campaign were ordered into columns of four and marched north 70 miles to the railroad at San Fernando. During the march they were beaten, bayoneted, starved and denied water as well as killed for simply lagging behind. The atrocities committed during the 13-day death march are almost beyond imagination and too numerous to detail here.

At Capas the prisoners were unloaded and marched 3 ½ miles in a blazing sun to Camp O'Donnell. This was a hellhole and the beatings, killings and savaging went on continuously as well as the toll from malaria, dengue fever, beri-beri and dysentery.

In four months 1,600 U.S. soldier, 49 sailors and 27,674 Filipinos died at O'Donnell.

In 1943 the Japanese began shipping able-bodied prisoners to Japan. The ships were unmarked and became targets for U.S. submarines. In the sinking, 5,000 Americans were lost.

After the voyage to Japan the prisoners were split up among steel mills and coal mines and forced to work with barely enough food to maintain their strength. Some prisoners were sent to Korea and Manchuria and worked there until liberated after the hostilities.

This ended a glorious and tragic history of Company C 194<sup>th</sup> Tank Battalion that was inactivated in the Philippines April 2, 1946. These men were heroes. This article is dedicated to their memory, and we need never forget their sacrifices..

*(For a more detailed history of Company C, 194<sup>th</sup> Tank Battalion visit [www.dedot.com/mchs](http://www.dedot.com/mchs))*

# **A History of the Salinas National Guard Company 1895-1995**

**by Burton Anderson**

In cooperation with the Monterey County Historical Society

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It has been over 60 years since the surviving members of Company C, 194th Tank Battalion, were liberated from Japanese prison camps. In honor of those indomitable men, I am writing a three-part history of the company in peace and war. It is also a tribute to those fallen Company C tankers who died during World War II in the service of their country; in combat and their brutal prisoner of war ordeal.

The Salinas company was organized as Troop C, Cavalry, National Guard of California on August 5, 1895. It was the first guard unit formed in the Central Coast region and was headquartered in the new brick armory at the corner of Salinas and Alisal Streets in Salinas, California. The commanding officer was Captain Michael J. Burke, assisted by 1st Lieutenant J.L. Matthews and 2nd Lieutenant E.W. Winham. the armory was dedicated on August 15, 1896 and housed the company's equipment including supplies, ammunition and its single shot Springfield 45-70 carbines left over from the Indian Wars.

Other than routine training with its horses, the troop wasn't called into active duty until April 1906, after the San Francisco earthquake, when it was deployed to the city and bivouacked in Golden Gate Park. The troop facilitated law and order in the devastated area for a month and one day. After the crisis was over the troop returned to Salinas and resumed its normal operations.

On May 1, 1911 the National Guard of California integrated Troop C into the 1st Squadron of California Cavalry; the other troops in the squadron were A Bakersfield, B Sacramento and D Los Angeles.

The next duty involving Troop C occurred as a result of Pancho Villa's raid on Columbus, New Mexico, March 9, 1916. President Wilson immediately sent U.S. Regular troops into Mexico in pursuit of Villa. He later called 75,000 National Guard troops into federal service, including the entire 1st Squadron of Cavalry to patrol and secure the U.S. Mexican border. On June 24, 1916 Troop C marched up Main Street to the Southern Pacific depot to entrain for mobilization at Sacramento. The troop's horses, wagons, and equipment were loaded on a freight train leaving simultaneously. After assembly at Sacramento, Troop C was shipped to Nogales, Arizona where it performed patrol and guard duty. The troop didn't encounter any hostile action but in performing its duties it endured many hardships, notably from heat and fatigue while carrying out countless hours of surveillance. After the punitive expedition terminated, Troop C was released from federal service and returned to Salinas on November 18, 1916, with just a few of its horses.

The Troopers barely had time to resume their civilian occupations when the United States declared war on Germany, April 6, 1917. On August 12, Troop C was again inducted into the army and entrained with its horses, wagons and equipment for assembly at Arcadia, California and then onto Camp Kearney, San Diego County. At Kearney the cavalry was dismounted and converted to Company B, 145th Machine Gun battalion in the 40th Infantry (Sunrise) Division. The reason for the change was that the introduction and use of machine guns on the Western Front had inflicted unbearable slaughter on infantry and cavalry, thereby rendering horse cavalry obsolete and drastically changing infantry tactics. The company trained until August 1918 when they were shipped to France with the 40th Division. The war was over before the 40th saw any action and it was returned to the U.S. in March 1919. Company B was released from federal service May 20, 1919 and returned to Salinas and deactivated.

In 1920 the U.S. Army underwent a reorganization and the National Guard became a permanent part of the Army Reserve. Due to the success of tanks in World War I, the Army organized one tank company in each of the 18 National Guard Infantry divisions scattered across the United States. Salinas was selected as the site of one of these tank companies and on June 18, 1924 the 40th Tank Company was authorized and equipped with eight light tanks of French Renault-design left over from World War I. The 40th became the first tank company formulated in California and recruited men from the surrounding cities and counties as far away as Watsonville, Hollister and King City.

The old armory was inadequate for a mechanized outfit and was vacated by the guard and converted to other uses. In 1924 the new 40th Tank company occupied the Lacey Building at the corner of Market and Monterey Streets in Salinas. Later in the decade the 40th moved to another building in the 100 block of Monterey Street that eventually became the home of the *Salinas Index Journal*.

The need for a permanent armory became compelling and the city council and various community organizations launched a campaign to construct a new armory between Salinas Street and Lincoln Avenue. Seeded by the city's purchase of the land for \$40,000 and \$10,000 in cash from the community, the federal government and the state provided the balance of funds to construct the building at a total cost of \$250,000. The tank company moved in November 1, 1932 and at that time consisted of 65 officers and men commanded by Captain Frank E. Heple; assisted by 1st Lieutenant Harry J. King, 1st Lieutenant L.E. Johnson, 2nd Lieutenant Fred E. Moffit. The 40th continued to be equipped with the six-ton Renault tanks, three of which were in Salinas and five at Camp San Luis Obispo where their annual two week training was carried out.

The next call to duty for the guard came in July, 1934 when the 40th Tank Company was mobilized for duty during the Longshoreman's strike on the San Francisco waterfront. The strike had turned violent and Governor Rolph sent in the National Guard. The 40th spent eight days in San Francisco and was then immediately sent to Camp San Luis Obispo for their annual two week field duty.

In 1937 the tank company received the new M2 A2 light tank which was to serve during the remainder of peace time and during training at Fort Lewis, after its induction into federal service.

When Germany went to war in 1939, and its tanks overran Europe, the U.S. Army suddenly woke up to the fact that horse cavalry was no match for armor. Due to the lack of tanks in the regular army, on September 7, 1940 a contingency plan ordered the formation of four National Guard Tank battalions from the 18 widely dispersed National Guard Companies. The 40th Tank company designation was changed to Company C, 194th Tank battalion on September 9, 1940. The Battalion Headquarters Company and Company A were from Brainerd, Minnesota and Company B from St. Joseph, Missouri. The Battalion was not called into service immediately, but there were ominous signs that the battalion was going to be called up in the near future.

The order came in January, and on February 18, 1941 Company C was inducted into the Army and entrained to Fort Lewis, Washington with 103 officers and men. The men were told that they would be in federal service for only a year until the regular Army had time to train and field an armored force. As it turned out, February 18 was the last time some of the boys would ever see Salinas.

At Fort Lewis Company C was brought up to full strength in April 1941 with draftees, and due to the fact that some of the Company C officers were too old in grade for field duty they were left behind in Salinas and Captain Fred E. Moffit assumed command of the Company. Some of the other officers were assigned to the Headquarters Company of the 194th including Captain L. E. Johnson as G-2 (intelligence) and Lieutenant Ben F. Gwynn and Ted Spaulding. Company C consisted of three platoons of five tanks each, with First Sergeant E. "Ben" Saccone the top enlisted man.

The regular Army officers, for the most part, did not have a very high opinion of the National Guard, and the commanding general at Fort Lewis made life difficult for the 194th. The battalion was short many essential items, even adequate uniforms. During their training period, Company C and the 194th were rotated to Fort Knox, Kentucky--the base of the newly created U.S. Armored Force. At Fort Knox the 194th was rated the best tank outfit in the Army by the Training command.

The gathering war clouds in the Pacific caused the U.S. Government to begin reinforcing the Philippines in July 1941 since it was assumed Japan would strike the Philippines first, in case of war with the United States. A force of 35 new B-17 bombers and 107 P-40 fighters were flown or shipped to the islands, and were based primarily at Clark Field. In addition, the Army decided to reinforce ground troops with two tank battalions.

Perhaps because the 194th was the best available tank battalion, the order was given for the 194th to embark for the Philippines--the 194th was moved to San Francisco. On September 8, 1941 the battalion (Maj., later Lt. Col. E.B. Miller of Brainerd, Minnesota, commanding) was loaded on the Liner *President Coolidge* at Fort Mason and sailed under the Golden Gate Bridge at 9 PM. In the hold of the Coolidge were 54 new M3 (Stuart) 14-ton tanks, 19 half-tracks and other combat vehicles. There were three companies of the 194th on board (Headquarters, A & C) since Company B of St. Joseph, Missouri was detached at Fort Lewis and shipped to Alaska.

On September 26, 1941 they arrived in Manila and had the distinction of being the first U.S. Armored Force deployed overseas in what was to become World War II. The battalion of 410

the B-17s and P-40s were neatly parked and the crew was having lunch. The result was that one-half of the Far East Air Force was destroyed on the ground in the first hour of the attack. The disaster at Clark Field was to seal the fate of the Philippines in spite of the heroic battle the American and Filipino troops waged on Luzon and Bataan for four months. Company C was heavily engaged in this battle from the first minutes of the attack until the surrender of U.S. and Philippine forces at Bataan, April 9.

When the Japanese struck Clark Field on December 8, 1941, Company C tankers were in defensive positions around the perimeter of the field. They had just finished lunch and were cleaning their mess kits when they heard the roar of airplane engines and saw an approaching formation of high flying bombers. They thought the planes were U.S. reinforcements until the bombs started falling. The attacking force consisted of 53 bombers followed by 34 fighters. Ironically, the first bomb hit the mess hall where the pilots were having lunch causing heavy casualties. C Company soldiers ran to their tanks and halftracks and commenced firing in spite of the bombs falling all around them. The enemy bombers smashed the neat rows of B-17s and P-40s lined up on the runways and then the fighters strafed everything that was left. At the end of the raid some 40 minutes later one-half of the U.S. Far Eastern Air Force was destroyed. In all 55 men killed and over 100 wounded but miraculously Company C suffered no casualties even though they were firing from exposed positions.

The fighters flew so low it seemed a shotgun could bring one down. At one point a "green" Lieutenant grabbed a PFC's arm and yelled that shooting at the planes would give away their position--as if it mattered at that point. The GIs ignored him and blazed away with everything they had. Private Earl G. Smith was credited with downing one of the nine fighters shot down that day.

Company C spent the night of December 8th loading 30 cal. machine gunbelts from rifle ammo clips since they had fired most of their ready machine gun ammo. The next day the company was ordered to bivouac two miles North East of Clark Field, except for the executive officer's tank which remained at the field to maintain radio contact with the company. On December 12th they were detached from the 194th Tank Battalion and ordered to join the South Luzon Force under the command of Brig. Gen. Albert M. Jones. The mission of the South Luzon troops was to protect Manila from an invasion from the south. They left the vicinity of Clark Field and marched South during a dark and stormy night, about 40 miles, to a barrio near Manila. Then on the 13th they made a daylight dash to Muntinlupa and on the 14th moved into a readiness position on 2000 foot Tagatay Ridge. The company remained in this area from December 15th to the 24th. During this time they ran reconnaissance and patrol hunted presumed fifth columnists who were flashing mirrors by day and setting off flares at night near our ammo dumps. No one was ever captured but after shooting up some suspected native huts the suspicious activities ceased.

The Japanese landed 7000 troops at Lamon Bay at 2 AM on December 24th and they proceeded inland in the direction of Lucban. Company C moved into position to nearby San Pablo on Christmas Eve to assist the Filipino 1st Infantry Regiment.

On the morning of December 26th, Brig. Gen. Jones, escorted by a Company C half-track, was reconnoitering North of Lucban when it came under fire from an enemy advance guard. The half-track was manned by Sgt. Keith D. Lewis, Sgt. Leon Elliott, PFC Jim Hicks, Pvt. William Hennessey, and Pvt. Fred Yeager. The half-track was hit but the crew, commanded by Sgt. Keith Lewis was able to back off and provided covering fire as they retreated, enabling Gen. Jones and his driver to escape unharmed. For this action Sgt. Lewis and his crew were recommended by Gen. Jones for the Distinguished Service Cross but nothing came of it until after the war when Sgt. Lewis and his crew were finally awarded the Silver Star, but by then only Sgt. Leon Elliott was still alive.

In the afternoon of the same day the 2nd platoon was ordered to reconnoiter down a one track mountain trail near Lucban toward the enemy. A Filipino Major assured the platoon leader that the enemy only possessed small arms. The tankers set out and promptly ran into an antitank gun and some concealed field pieces. The lead tank was hit, mortally wounding Lt. Needham and PFC. Robert G. Bales. Staff Sgt. Emil S. Morello, in the second tank, drove around the disabled tank and ran over the antitank gun. Sgt. Morello's tank was also hit, wounding Private Eddie DiBenedetti, hit in the neck by a flying rivet. (This incident prompted the War Department to change from riveted to welded doors in new tank production.) Another tank, commanded by Sgt. Glenn Brokaw was hit and PFCs Jim Hicks, McLeod, and Seifort were killed and Brokaw seriously wounded. (This was the second action that day for Jim Hicks, as he volunteered to drive Brokaw's tank when the regular driver became ill.) In all, five tanks were hit and immobilized by the time firing ceased. Sgt. Morello, DiBenedetti and four wounded stayed buttoned up inside their tanks not daring to move since the Japanese tanks, unaware that anyone inside was alive. In the morning the enemy left the area and Sgt. Morello opened the hatch and began tending the casualties. He gathered up five wounded and they escaped through coconut groves and rice paddies. Sgt. Morello, with the help of a Filipino guide they hired (from their pooled resources) for 100 Pesos, showed up in Manila five days later with all the wounded still alive after fleeing through enemy infested territory. He left DiBenedetti in a Catholic Hospital in Manila and with the other wounded made their way by Banca to Corregidor. Later, during February, Sgt. Morello was able to rejoin the company at Lamao on Bataan. For this action Sgt. Morello was awarded the Silver Star.

The day before, December 25th, General MacArthur had ordered the implementation of Orange Plan-3 which provided for the withdrawal of all Philippine and US forces into Bataan as a last defensive position.

In compliance with the order Company C commenced withdrawing from South Luzon on December 29, acting as the rear guard for Brig. Gen. Jones troops. They moved to Tagatay Ridge and on the 31st, led by 1st Sgt. "Ben" Saccone, they made a sleepless 100 mile, night dash to Bocaue in six hours where they rejoined the rest of the 194th Tank Battalion.

Manila had been declared an "Open City" on December 24th and troops heading North were to bypass it. However, Company C, on the night of the 31st, was unsure of the route around the city and decided to go through central Manila. In all the chaos it didn't seem to matter that the city was off limits. In the dark one of Company C's tanks hit the Jose Rizal statue while trying to avoid hordes of fleeing civilians. The tank threw a track on impact and bent an idler. The crew

worked all night trying to fix it but by daylight they saw it was hopeless. They disabled the tank and tried to hitch a ride with some Filipino troops in Bren Gun Carriers. None would stop until the tankers leveled their 45 cal. sub-machine guns at the convoy and they got a lift; they were the last armored troops out of Manila.

From Bocaue the company headed for the Calumpit Bridge over the Pampanga River on Route 3. This was a vital structure since all traffic fleeing Manila toward Bataan had to pass over this bridge. It was here that the tankers witnessed 100-150 empty Filipino trucks in headlong flight from Manila, where there were ample supplies in the warehouses. Had these supplies been moved while there was still time (12/10-12/23) the U.S. and Filipino forces could conceivably have held out longer on Bataan and with far less suffering.

All the South Luzon forces were across the Calumpit by 2:30 am January 1st, followed by Company C in the rear guard, and the bridge was blown up. From there the tanks moved through San Fernando at the critical junction of Route 3 and Route 7 from North Luzon. Again the tankers formed successive road blocks, during the next 3 days, toward Guagua on Route 7.

On the night of January 6th, Captain Moffitt leading two tanks and two half-tracks, assisted by four self-propelled 7 mm guns and the 31st infantry, ambushed 750-800 enemy troops. Our forces inflicted 50% casualties on the enemy and left the town of Lubao in flames. Had the Japanese not been stopped there our retreat into Bataan would have been cut off.

Moving toward Bataan on January 7th another night battle took place near Remulus. Captain Moffitt's half-track took a direct hit from an enemy shell that took off PFC William Hennessey's left foot and wounded PFC Martella; he died within a few days due to gas gangrene and Hennessey died at Camp O'Donnell after the surrender on Bataan. In the same battle Sgt. Carl F. Abbott scored a direct hit on an enemy tank before his tank was hit and disabled, however he escaped injury and the tank was retrieved the next day.

The withdrawal toward Bataan continued and by the night of January 7th Company C was at the Culo River guarding the left flank of the Layac Bridge which was the gateway to Bataan. As soon as all forces were across the tankers withdrew and the bridge blown up, temporarily sealing off the Bataan Peninsula.

The retreat into Bataan to a bivouac south of the Abucay Main battle Line afforded the troops a slight lull from battle. They had been in action for 30 consecutive days and were exhausted. To add to their misery Maj. Gen. Wainwright ordered the food ration cut in half to only 30 ounces per day per man.

In the first month of combat Company C had lost seven tanks and six men killed in action. This necessitated reorganizing the company into three platoons of three tanks each (instead of four prewar strength) plus one command tank. The remaining tanks were long past the 400 hour scheduled maintenance and had been run so hard the rubber track plates were worn down to the metal. Fortunately, some replacement parts were available from the Service Command area in Southern Bataan.

The next significant action involving a platoon of Company C was when Gen. Wainwright sent three tanks to Bagac on the West Coast of Bataan on January 15th. The following day they were ordered to advance north to reopen the coastal highway to Moron. The tanks were moving in advance of the main line and as they rounded a curve the lead tank (Staff Sgt. Frank Muther) was fired on at point blank range by an antitank gun. Incredibly, the round went right over the turret and in returning fire the C tank knocked out the enemy gun. Two tanks following 600 yards back hit land mines placed by the Japanese after the lead tank went by. This use of land mines was a favorite tactic used by the enemy. Muther's tank was able to turn around and withdraw past the disabled tanks and the platoon got out without any personnel casualties. The disabled tanks were towed out the next day and used for spare parts. This incident was a case where a general ordered tanks out alone ahead of Infantry that nearly became a suicide mission. Throughout the campaign tanks were not properly deployed by the generals who tended to regard them as mobile pill boxes. In reality tank crews have poor external visibility and need to be supported by Infantry to defuse mines, knock out snipers and act as lookouts for the buttoned up tanks.

By the middle of January the lack of food and medicine caused malaria, dengue, (dingy fever) and dysentery to take a heavy toll on the malnourished troops. Especially critical was the lack of quinine to treat a virulent form of malaria prevalent on the Bataan Peninsula. The constant hordes of flies and mosquitoes made their problems worse, as well the fact the troops had not received any mail since the war started. Occasionally they could get some news via short wave radio from San Francisco, but otherwise they listened to Tokyo Rose for entertainment.

On January 26th company C covered the withdrawal from the Abucay Main Battle Line toward the next defensive position at the Pilar-Bagac Road. (The only satisfactory road across Bataan). As Company C was moving across an area called Hacienda Flats the US Forces inflicted at least 1500 casualties on the enemy. The Japanese retaliated by a heavy bombing attack during which a dud bomb went through the fender of Muther's tank but didn't explode. Another tank stalled on a bridge and had to be pushed over the side to prevent a roadblock. Captain Moffitt was wounded in the leg by a flying timber while crossing a bridge just as it was blown up.

By February 8th the U.S. and Philippine forces had fought the enemy to a standstill in spite of their supply, disease and malnutrition problems. There was a lull in infantry action but the Japanese kept up the relentless shelling and bombing of our lines. Company C was on the East coast of Bataan and used mainly for beach defense to ward off any attempt by the Japanese to invade Bataan from Manila Bay. During early March the platoons of Company C were assigned to various positions, not necessarily together. The 3rd platoon under the command of 1st Sgt. "Ben" Saccone defended a beach position around the Lamao on Manila Bay.

By the middle of March the food ration was cut again down to 15 ounces a day per man. The troops subsisted mainly on rice supplemented by anything they could scrounge including worms, snakes, monkeys and an occasional native caribou. General Wainwright (an old cavalry man) had to order the slaughter of 250 horses and 42 mules from his beloved 26th Cavalry Regiment. In spite of the extra meat the Bataan forces were in dire straits with one-fourth of the troops in the hospital with disabilities associated with disease and malnutrition.

Toward the end of March the Japanese resumed their offensive after being reinforced by "crack" Imperial Marines released after the fall of Singapore. On April 3rd the enemy began an all out offensive accompanied by constant bombing and shelling. To counter this offensive Maj. Gen. Edward P. King (in command after Wainwright moved to Corregidor) made one last effort to stop the enemy across Southern Bataan.

In an attempt to stop the Japanese on April 7th, four tanks from C Co. 2nd platoon were sent from Lamao over the mountain trails to the vicinity of Mount Samat in south and central Bataan. The tanks were to support the Philippine 45th and 57th Infantry, Philippine Scouts, who were opposing the enemy coming down Trail 20. On the morning of April 7th, the Filipinos were in head-long flight and the tanks moved down Trail 8 to try and stem the tide. At the junction of Trail 6 the lead tank encountered antitank fire which blasted it off the trail knocking out the tank officer. PFC Ray Peoples took over command of the tank and with the others covered the withdrawal under intense enemy fire. The retreat was made more difficult by the hundreds of troops and vehicles clogging the narrow trail. The tanks managed to regain their starting point without further casualties except Sgt. Morello's tank which suffered an engine lockup and had to be towed to the shop at Cabcaben.

Meanwhile the 3rd platoon under the command of 1st Sgt. "Ben" Saccone, with two tanks and two half-tracks was ordered to attempt an enveloping maneuver by moving to the west coast of Bataan via the coast road to Mariveles and on to the Pilar Bagac Road. They were in the vicinity of Mt. Samat when they encountered fierce resistance at an enemy road block. (It was virtually impossible for the tanks to get off the trails because of the thick jungle and trees.) The platoon was out of radio contact with the battalion headquarters and were unable to assess the situation so they reversed their march and made it back to Mariveles where they rejoined the rest of the Company.

These two actions were the last for Company C which by April 8th had been in combat for 4 months, lost 10 tanks and had 6 men killed in action.

Major General King, on April 8th, acknowledged that the situation was critical and that further resistance would result in the massacre of his troops including 6000 sick and wounded and 40,000 refugees. The troops still on the line were less than 25% effective and couldn't last for more than a day. Consequently he ordered the troops to cease fire and to destroy their equipment when the code word "Blast" was given. This occurred at 7 AM April 9, 1942 and hostilities ceased.

As it turned out the US and Philippine troops were doomed from the start of the war by the lack of air power, supplies and reinforcements. However, due to the heroic efforts of units like company C, the Japanese advance was critically slowed. General Homma had expected to take the Philippines in three months and the U.S. gained precious time needed to go on the offensive in the Pacific.

After the order to cease fire on, April 9, 1942, there was a 24-hour lull before the Japanese troops appeared. During this time Company C was ordered to destroy their weapons, equipment and records. More salient to the starving troops the Quartermaster Corp. distributed their remaining

food supplies to any men fortunate to be in the vicinity. They were completely unaware that as prisoners of war they would not be humanely treated. (The Japanese warrior Bushido Code regarded soldiers, who surrendered, as contemptible and deserved to die.)

The Japanese commander arrived on horseback, April 10th, and among other things was amazed to learn how few tanks had been opposing them. General Homma had estimated U.S. tank strength at 600 to 900 and afterwards acknowledged that the tanks and artillery were the primary reason that the Japanese offensive timetable was seriously delayed.

The rumor was that the Japanese would load the prisoners into trucks and travel north to a prison camp on Luzon. This proved to be an ugly deceit as the men were looted of their personal possessions and lined up in column of fours and marched north from Mariveles, which is at the southern tip of Bataan. Along the way the Japanese picked up U.S. and Filipino troops until by the time they reached Lamao April 11th, there were an estimated 55,000 Filipinos and 10,000 Americans in the column. The troops had not had any food or water since April 10th and weren't allowed anything to drink until the night of the 11th, in spite of the oppressive heat and humidity. anyone stepping out of line to try and drink from roadside ditches was bayoneted, shot or had his skull crushed by a rifle butt. Friendly Filipinos tried to give food and water to the marching men but the guards quickly killed the Filipino or the GI, and in some cases both; at the very least a severe beating was administered. Any hope of humane treatment as prisoners of war vanished after these incidents. In many cases a wounded or ill soldier owed his life to a buddy who would help him along, since stragglers were usually killed. The march took 10-13 days and covered 62-85 miles, depending on where the soldiers were forced into the column. As the march approached San Fernando, Co. C Tech Sgt. Don Lang was helping his sick and exhausted brother, Staff Sgt. Sid Lang, to remain with the column. The guards executed Don Lang on the spot for aiding a straggler, but somehow his brother survived. This was the first execution to a GI of Company C in a gruesome practice that included three more executions at Cabanatuan prison camp.

Accurate figures of the death toll during the march are unobtainable but it is estimated that about 10,000 Filipinos and 600-1000 US soldiers died before the ordeal culminated at the railroad depot in San Fernando.

At San Fernando the prisoners were loaded into 6 x 18 foot boxcars, as many as 110 to a car and the doors locked. The heat and crowding were unbearable and along with the fact that some men were terminally ill caused near hysteria. Men died on the journey and since there was no way to dispose of the bodies the corpses added to the terror of the situation.

The railroad cars were unloaded at Capas and the prisoners were marched 3.5 miles in the blazing sun, again without water, to Camp O'Donnell. The brutalizing and starvation continued at O'Donnell, and it quickly became apparent that to remain there meant certain death. Ben Saccone flatly states that if he had remained at O'Donnell he would have died.

When the Japanese called for volunteers to go on bridge and equipment repair details, Co. C GI's seized upon the opportunity to get away from O'Donnell. The lucky ones left in late April and among them were Ben Saccone, Frank Muther, Joe and Richard Errington, John Anderson, Roy

Diaz, William Braye, Dick Walker, Carl Abbott, Ray Peoples and Mel Madero. They were taken back to the battlefields and worked on bridges and equipment repair details from April to September. Some of the other C Company soldiers worked on the prison farm where they temporarily, at least, escaped the horrors of O'Donnell.

At O'Donnell, aside from beatings and shootings, the prisoners died from a variety of causes, including beri-beri wet and dry), malaria, dengue fever, amoebic dysentery, yaws, Guam blisters and malnutrition. Many of these deaths could have been prevented if the Japanese had given the U.S. prison doctors even the simplest of medicines, but all requests were denied.

A U.S. prisoner who worked in the camp office at O'Donnell recorded the deaths of 1600 U.S. soldiers, 49 U.S. sailors, 27,674 Filipinos and 857 civilians in the period April 11, 1942 to August 4, 1942.

O'Donnell was closed down early in 1943 and the prisoners transferred again by the minuscule railroad cars, and then forced to march 10 miles to Cabanatuan camps 1 and 3. There they were joined by some soldiers that had been in field hospitals on April 9th, and after capture were taken to Bilibid Prison in Manila at bayonet point past jeering Filipinos to the railroad station. (Sgt. Elliott who was in this march suspects that the Japanese ordered the Filipino civilians to humiliate the bedraggled Americans.)

At Cabanatuan new perils arose such as pellagra, scurvy, dobie itch, worms, pneumonia, TB, blindness, bacillary dysentery and diphtheria.

To discourage prisoners from running away the guards formed the internees into groups of ten. If anyone escaped the remaining members of the ten were executed and their heads impaled on bamboo poles, as a gruesome reminder of the consequences of an escape.

Various means of torture were applied for any real or imagined infraction of the camp rules. Men were strung up by their thumbs in the hot sun; forced to kneel with their hands tied behind their backs to a 2X4 and water-tortured where water was forced into their bodies. Sometimes these treatments resulted in death but at the very least, the men suffered severe body damage. All these atrocities occurred in addition to the deliberate starvation and the ever present lice, fleas, mosquitoes and flies.

The brutal horrors of the prison camps are too many to detail here but the deaths and beatings went on all during the time of incarceration. The dead were buried in shallow graves dug by their fellow prisoners at O'Donnell and Cabanatuan. After the war the bodies were exhumed and reinterred in the U.S. National Cemetery near Manila; many were never identified and they repose in graves simply marked "unknown."

Beginning in September of 1942 the Japanese began moving prisoners to Japan for work in mines and factories. Thus began the phase of captivity known as the "Hell Ships." These ships were unmarked freighters and men were packed into covered holds without any sanitary facilities and little or no food or water. Again men suffered and some went insane from sheer terror and

hardships in the holds where even dead bodies were not promptly removed. Men became so desperate for water they even drank urine in an effort to stay alive.

Another jeopardy presented itself when the unmarked ships were targeted by U.S. planes and submarines. One ship, the *Enoru Maru* was torpedoed in October 1944 between the Philippines and Formosa. The Japanese shot the desperate men as they tried to escape from the hold; of the 1800 men aboard only 9 survived. Another freighter, the *Oryoku Maru* was bombed in Olangapo Harbor on December 13, 1944 and again on December 15. There were 1620 men on board and only 490 survived.

The surviving members of Company C were scattered all over Japan, Korea and even Mukden, Manchuria where Sgt. Leon Elliott and Sgt. John N. Anderson were imprisoned. The remnants of the tank company were survivors and by being able to work they at least received enough food to stabilize their bodies. The ration for a workers was 500 grams (a little over one pound) of rice per day, while a non-worker received only 250 grams a day.

The prison routines continued all during 1943 and 1944 when prisoners in a camp on Kyushu witnessed an air raid by B-29s on July 4, 1944. From that date on, the Japanese became apprehensive of an invasion. The internees were told in no uncertain terms that if the U.S. invaded Japan they would all be put to death immediately.

Upon the surrender of Japan and the liberation of the prisoners in August 1945 by U.S. and Russian armies, the men were gathered up and sent, in most cases, to the Philippines for preliminary examinations, medical treatment, new uniforms and an attempt to straighten out pay records. By various means they were sent home to an Army Hospital nearest their home town where they were eventually discharged. At stateside hospitals young U.S. Army doctors couldn't believe the former prisoners stories and had never heard of some of the ailments. The doctors kept asking for records and proof of their claims; in spite of the fact the men said their records had been lost in the Philippines. It got so bad some of the former prisoners were accused of being psycho and placed in mental wards.

To some men, even after discharge, their ordeal still wasn't over as they had difficulty in readjusting to civilian life. Depression, alcoholism and difficulty finding jobs caused a toll on survivors. Many a former prisoner owes his successful recovery to a strong and understanding woman.

To further add to their problems the Veterans Administration, in the following decades, was not entirely sympathetic to the claims for disability since all their documentation had been lost and they couldn't substantiate their claims. A host of problems weren't resolved until the decade of the 90s. The resentment of having some chair-bound bureaucrat tell a veteran he couldn't prove his story and therefore wasn't eligible for benefits still lingers in the surviving veteran's minds.

Company C, 194th Tank Battalion, was officially inactivated April 2, 1946 in the Philippines and thus the chapter closed on a heroic outfit. The combat and prisoner of war ordeal had taken a heavy toll on Company C and out of 107 men who left Salinas on February 18, 1941 only 47 returned. During the time the company was in combat it earned three Presidential Unit Citations

34th Infantry Division (Minnesota, Iowa and North Dakota) was the 1st U.S. Army division to be sent abroad, arriving in Ireland in January 1942.

These deployments of the National Guard underline the critical importance of the citizen soldier available at any time for a call to arms and may we never forget that reality.

A Company C half-track manned by Sgt. Keith Lewis, Sgt. Leon Elliott, Pvt. James Hicks, Pvt. William Hennessey and Pvt. Fred Yeager was escorting BG A.M. Jones on a reconnaissance near Piis, Luzon on Christmas day (not the 26th) when they were ambushed by a Japanese patrol. The half-track crew fought off the enemy and successfully extricated themselves and BG Jones. For this action all the above men were awarded the Silver Star, some posthumously.

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The author wishes to thank Chief Warrant Officer Ero "Ben" Saccone, Staff Sgt. Frank Muther, Sgt. Leon Elliott, Cpt. Stack, 149th TB CNG, Brig. Gen. Hayden Fields, and Command Sgt. Maj. Andrew Tyra Jr. for their input into this article.

A slightly different version of this article appeared in *Coastal Grower* as a three part series beginning Winter 1995.

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#### **194th Tank Battalion, Company C, Salinas Unit.**

Names of the 58 dead listed on the memorial plaque at the Garden of Memories on Abbott Street. Source: *The Californian*, December 13, 1991, Dave Nordstrand, author.

First Lt. B. E. Gwynn, 2nd Lt. J.H. Hart, 2nd Lt. A.H. Hook, M. Sgt. F.W. Bickmore, M. Sgt. W.G. Boyd, T. Sgt. A.D. Lang, S. Sgt. C.F. Abbott, S. Sgt. M.J. Bernard Jr., S. Sgt C.E. Emlay, Sgt. W.F. Anson, Sgt. F.E. Aram, Sgt. J.D. Brink, Sgt. H.E. Cunningham, Sgt. R.L. Errington, Sgt. V.L. Gosney, Sgt. E. D. Lewis, Sgt. H.E. Lee, Sgt. R.H. Mitchell, Sgt. G.W. Schlosser, Cpl. R. N. DeCloss.

Cpl. M.E. Dolk, Cpl. O.H. Eaton, Cpl. H.D. McDonald, Pfc. R.G. Bales, Pfc. F.F. Barretto, Pfc. M.A. Cahill, Pfc. D.E. Cederblom, Pfc. L.O. Cole, Pfc. A.W. Eckert, Pfc. R.E. Emlay, Pfc. J.H. Fleener, Pfc. E.M. Fontes, Pfc. J. Gillis, Pfc. C.M. Grayson, Pfc. N.C. Heard, Pfc. J.A. Hicks, Pfc. F.F. Marbach Jr., Pfc. J.T. McLeod, Pfc. S.J. Montero, Pfc. R.E. Overstreet, Pfc. E.E. Rawson, Pfc. D.J. Reilly.

Pfc. A.P. Smith, Pfc. E.G. Smith, Pfc. J.E. Willrodt, Pfc. J.P. Zinani Jr., Pfc. E.P. Zingheim, Pvt. W.L. Casperson, Pvt. E.N. DiBenedetti, Pvt. D.W. Foshee, Pvt. W.M. Hennessy, Pvt. D.R. Jaramillo, Pvt. W.V. Martella, Pvt. R.L. Miller, Pvt. C.G. Stevens, Pvt. J.M. Thorp, Pvt. J.H. White, and Pvt. K.A. White.

Names of the 47 who survived, as listed on the plaque. (Many have since died.)

Maj. L.E. Johnson, Maj. F.C. Moffit, Capt. T.J. Spaulding, M. Sgt. J.E. Aram, M. Sgt. C.H. Thomas, T. Sgt. A.F. Gillis, T. Sgt. S.G. Lang, T. Sgt. E.S. Morello, S. Sgt. E.R. Barnes, S. Sgt. W.E. Braye, S. Sgt. G.D. Brokaw, S. Sgt. F.T. Cabral Jr., S. Sgt. E.C. DiGottarde.

S. Sgt. R.L. Diaz, S. Sgt. J.P. Errington, S. Sgt. J.E. Frost, S. Sgt. J.S. Gamboa, S. Sgt. W.A. Garrison, S. Sgt. W.L. Glenn Jr., S. Sgt. T.J. Hicks, S. Sgt. A.J. Holstein, S. Sgt. J.C. McKusick, S. Sgt. M.R. Madero.

S. Sgt. F.J. Orendain, S. Sgt. T.T. Paras, S. Sgt. J.H. Smith, S. Sgt. E.H. Stahl, S. Sgt. H.J. Vick, S. Sgt. C.R. Walker, S. Sgt. F.T. Wilson, Sgt. J.N. Anderson, Sgt. L.A. Elliott, Sgt. H.K. Fitzgibbons.

Sgt. W.F. Hall, 1st. Sgt. E. Saccone, Sgt. F.L. Muther, Sgt. R.J. Peoples Jr., Sgt. N.R. Rose, Sgt. W.B. Smith, Cpl. J.F. Alves Jr., Cpl. A. Cope, **Cpl. M.G. Nevarez**, Cpl. L.A. Rotharmel, Cpl. C.R. Sigala, Cpl. J.V. Speckens, Cpl. S.G. Suttie and Cpl. J.M. Warnick.

# THE WILL TO SURVIVE

By Alix Lopez

This is a recollection of historic events that should elicit memories of when the world was at war, beginning with the early dark days of World War II when Japan and Germany were trying to create superior races of their own. This report pertains to events that took place towards the end of World War II and specifically the "Death March" on the Bataan Peninsula in the Philippine Islands. This report is an attempt to honor the brave men from the 200th and 515th Coast Artillery (AA), the Old Two Hon'ored from New Mexico. These men had "the will to survive", fighting for America's freedom. Without their courageous efforts, we might be living under Japanese rule today.

In May 1933, The Japanese consolidated their military position in Manchuria (a province in China) to obtain for themselves a monopoly of foreign influence over China's affairs. Fighting against the Japanese, Chiang Kai-Shek's Nanking government fended off the Japanese as best as he could. Meanwhile, the United States was preaching against Japan's activities, without helping China in any way to stop them. ("International Relations", The New Encyclopedia Britannica, Vol.21, Encyclopedia Britannica, Inc., 1988, p. 763.)

On July 7, 1937, Chinese and Japanese troops fired on each other at Marco Polo Bridge, near Peking. History would reveal later how ruthless and inhumane the Japanese soldiers were towards the Chinese people. The Chinese were massacred, mutilated, and the women were raped. This also shows that the Japanese had no conscience and no mercy towards any of their adversaries. ("International Relations", The New Encyclopedia Britannica, Vol.21, Encyclopedia Britannica, Inc., 1988, p. 763.)

International reactions to this war varied. The Soviet Union and Great Britain were both incensed by Japanese warfare against China. Germany, on the other hand, was already Japan's friend as well as Italy's. ("International Relations", The New Encyclopedia Britannica, Vol.21, Encyclopedia, Inc., 1988, p. 763.)

On July 26, 1939, the United States announced that the U.S.- Japanese Treaty of Commerce and Navigation of 1911 would come to an end in six months if the Japanese did not withdraw its forces from China. An end of this Treaty would result in cutting off the system from which Japan had been importing from the U.S. most of the oil, metals, machinery, etc., being used

for their war efforts. ("International Relations", The New Encyclopedia Britannica, Vol.21, Encyclopedia Britannica, Inc., 1988, p. 763.)

By September 1940, Japan still had not brought the war with China to an end, and by this time had seen an opportunity to take advantage of situations in Europe. Germany's victories over the Netherlands and France in the summer of 1940 had further encouraged the Japanese premier, Prince Konoe, to territorial aggrandizement in Europe, as Hitler was successfully doing. Japanese troops entered northern Indochina in pursuance of an agreement extorted in August, from the Vichy government of France. The United States uttered an ardent, but ineffectual, protest against Japan. ("International Relations", The New Encyclopedia Britannica, Vol.21, Encyclopedia Britannica, Inc., 1988, p. 775.)

The principal belligerents of World War II were the Axis Powers - Germany, Italy, and Japan. They opposed the Allied Powers - France, Great Britain, the United States, the Soviet Union, and to a lesser extent, China. From November 1940, United States President Roosevelt's advisors based their strategic plans on the "Get Hitler First" principle. In other words, if the United States became involved in war simultaneously against the Axis Powers, defensive operations would be conducted in the Pacific, while an offensive force would be mounted in Europe. It was set up this way because the U.S. knew that Germany was the strongest of the Axis Powers. ("International Relations", The New Encyclopedia Britannica, Vol.21, Encyclopedia Britannica, Inc., 1988, p. 778.) On July 2, 1941, the Imperial Conference of Japan decided to press Japanese forces southward, even at the risk of starting a war with Great Britain and the United States. On July 26, in achievement of a new agreement with Vichy, France, Japanese forces began to occupy bases in southern Indochina. ("International Relations", The New Encyclopedia Britannica, Vol.21, Encyclopedia Britannica, Inc., 1988, p. 775.)

In September 1941, when negotiations with the Dutch of Indonesia for an alternative supply of oil provided no satisfaction, the Imperial Conference of Japan decided that a war must be undertaken against the United States and Great Britain, unless an understanding could be reached in a few weeks time. ("International Relations", The New Encyclopedia Britannica, Vol.21, Encyclopedia Britannica, Inc., 1988, p. 775.)

General Hideki Tojo of Japan had desperate talks with the United States in mid-October, 1941. Americans wanted the Japanese to follow their demands, but Japan would not concede. In general, it would mean renunciation of the Tripartite Pact (which would have left Japan diplomatically isolated); the withdrawal of Japanese troops from China and Southeast Asia (a

humiliating retreat from an overt commitment of four years' standing); and an open-door system of government for trade in China. ("International Relations", The New Encyclopedia Britannica, Vol.21, Encyclopedia Britannica, Inc., 1988, p. 775.)

On November 26, 1941, Cordell Hull, the United States Secretary of State sent a message to the Japanese bluntly requiring them to evacuate China and Southeast Asia and to recognize no Chinese system of government other than that of Chiang Kai-Shek. After receiving the message, General Hideki Tojo could see no further point in talking to the Americans. After Hull's message, the United States Secretary of War, Henry Stimson, recorded in his diary that "the question was how we should maneuver [Japan] into...firing the first shot without allowing too much danger to ourselves." ("International Relations", The New Encyclopedia Britannica, Vol.21, Encyclopedia Britannica, Inc., 1988, p. 775.)

Since peace with the United States seemed impossible, Japan set in motion its plans for war, which would not only be waged against the U.S., but also against Great Britain. By the end of 1940, Japanese strategists had decided that any war to be waged would only be contesting a single enemy. ("International Relations", The New Encyclopedia Britannica, Vol.21, Encyclopedia Britannica, Inc., 1988, p. 775.) In that case, if the enemy should indeed be the United States, the Japanese Navy, with a strength equivalent to 70 percent of the U.S., would first have to destroy the United States fleet in Far Eastern waters and to occupy Luzon in the Philippine Islands and Guam in the Mariana's. ("International Relations", The New Encyclopedia Britannica, Vol.21, Encyclopedia Britannica, Inc., 1988, p. 776.) This was the only way to cripple what the Japanese foresaw to be its main opponent in a Pacific war of domination. ("International Relations", The New Encyclopedia Britannica, Vol.12, Encyclopedia Britannica, Inc., 1988, p 758.) Chief of the Combined Fleet, Admiral Yamamoto Isoroku planned an operation to which all 6 regular aircraft carriers, 2 battleships, 3 cruisers, and 11 destroyers were allocated, and would be a surprise attack scheduled for December 7, 1941 (December 8 Japanese time), on the main United States Pacific Fleet at its base in Pearl Harbor, located in the Hawaiian Islands. ("International Relations", The New Encyclopedia Britannica, Vol.21, Encyclopedia Britannica, Inc., 1988, p. 776.)

On December 7, 1941, Pearl Harbor was attacked by the Japanese, in accordance with their plan. The Japanese fired at the American Pacific Naval Fleet from "Zeros", which the Japanese Navy called their best fighter planes. Amongst the Zeros, were the "strafers", whereby the Japanese could fire from these low-flying airplanes using machine guns. The United States'

base, at that time, accommodated 70 U.S. fighting ships, 24 auxiliaries, and some 300 planes. All 8 battleships were hit (3 of them sunk, 1 capsized, and another was heavily damaged); 2 destroyers were sunk, and 9 other ships were sunk or crippled. To add to this atrocious deed, 140 aircraft were destroyed and some 80 or more damaged. The casualties resulted in 1,145 servicemen wounded and 2,330 killed. These numbers were apart from the civilian losses resulting in 100 deaths. Though most of the military's combat equipment had been destroyed, three U.S. Pacific Fleet carriers were saved, benefiting from being out at sea at the time of attack. ("International Relations", The New Encyclopedia Britannica, Vol.21, Encyclopedia Britannica, Inc., 1988, p. 776.)

On the same day, December 8, 1941 by U.S. time, Taiwan-based Japanese bombers struck Clark Field and Iba airfields in the Philippines. This time, they destroyed more than 50 percent of the United States Army's aircraft except six P-40s, which were their best fighter planes. ("International Relations", The New Encyclopedia Britannica, Vol.21, Encyclopedia Britannica, Inc., 1988, p. 776.) A couple of days later, further raids destroyed more U.S. fighters and the Cavite Naval Yard, also in the Philippines. In addition to the Filipino-American ground forces, there remained few fighter planes, about 30 submarines, and a few small boats for the defense of the Philippine Islands. ("International Relations", The New Encyclopedia Britannica, Vol.21, Encyclopedia Britannica, Inc., 1988, p. 777.)

Within days of this attack, the United States and all the Axis Powers were at war. Despite the vast initial advantage the Japanese gained by the surprise attack on Pearl Harbor, they eventually lost crucial sea battles at the Coral Sea and Midway in May and June 1942. ("International Relations", The New Encyclopedia Britannica, Vol.12, Encyclopedia Britannica, Inc., 1988, p. 758.)

United States' strategy in the Pacific was to use naval and amphibious forces to advance up the chain of islands from Clark Field towards Japan, while smaller land forces cooperated with Chinese and British efforts on the Asian mainland. ("International Relations", The New Encyclopedia Britannica, Vol.21, Encyclopedia Britannica, Inc., 1988, p. 777.)

On December 10, 1941 Japanese troops, led by Lieutenant General Masaharu Homma, began to land in Northern Luzon, a tropical island in the Philippines where the Bataan Peninsula is located. A main assault was later made by the Japanese on December 22 at Lingayen Gulf, 100 miles north, northwest of Manila Bay together with an invasion in the southern Mindanao Islands. Manila Bay (located in the Bataan Peninsula) fell to the Japanese on January 2, 1942, though by that time, U.S. and Filipino forces,

under the command of General Douglas MacArthur, were ready to hold the Bataan Peninsula (located across the bay from Manila), and also Corregidor Island (in the bay). ("International Relations", The New Encyclopedia Britannica, Vol.21, Encyclopedia Britannica, Inc., 1988, p. 777.) Gen. MacArthur decided to meet the Japanese at their points of landing. This operation deviated from the original war plan which called for American forces to withdraw into the Bataan Peninsula in case of an attack. Inexperienced troops failed to stop the Japanese at these points, so MacArthur had to revert to the original plan of withdrawing the Filipino-American forces into the Bataan Peninsula. Resource-[http://home.pacbell.net /fbaldie/Outline.html](http://home.pacbell.net/fbaldie/Outline.html)., Downloaded January 13, 1999.)

By January 2, 1942, Japanese forces were in place in Northern Luzon for the attack on Bataan. Filipino-American forces decided to stall the Japanese advancement on Bataan by forcing them to use an abundant number of their troops and resources in the capturing of the Philippine Islands. This would buy the necessary time needed to rebuild the American Pacific Fleet and the American Bases in the Philippines, which had been crippled by the Pearl Harbor attack. (Resource [http://home.pacbell.net /fbaldie/Outline.html](http://home.pacbell.net/fbaldie/Outline.html)., Downloaded January 13, 1999.)

On March 11, 1942, General MacArthur was ordered to Australia. In addition, Lt. General Jonathan Wainwright took MacArthur's place on Corregidor as Commander of the Philippine forces with General Edward P. King, Jr. who took Wainwright's place as Commander of the Filipino-American forces on Bataan. This all took place after General MacArthur was ordered to Australia. (Resource-<http://home.acbell.net/fbaldie/Outline.html>., Downloaded January 13, 1999.)

"The Battling Bastards of Bataan," who were mostly from the 200th and 515th Coast Artilleries (AA) of New Mexico, continued to hold their ground without reinforcements and without being re-supplied. The training of the Filipino artillerymen, so vital in any military action, did not take place until the outbreak of hostilities. Many of these Filipino troops were illiterate and lacked the ability to communicate with the American troops. (Resource-<http://home.pacbell.net/fbaldie/Outline.html>., Downloaded January 13, 1999.)

Weapons used by the 200th and 515th Coast Artilleries (AA) such as the British Enfield Rifle and Browning Automatic Rifles (BARs) of World War I were obsolete. Most of the ammunition was old and corroded. AA shells lacked the proper fuses, as did many of the 155mm artillery shells. Tanks, trucks, and other vehicles were in short supply, as-well-as the gasoline

needed to power these items of warfare. (Resource-<http://home.pacbell.net/fbaldie/Outline.html>., Downloaded January 13, 1999.)

Uniforms consisted of fiber and steel helmets, canvas shoes, short sleeve shirts, and short pants. These "uniforms" were hardly suitable for the jungles of Bataan and the surprisingly cold nights. (Resource-<http://home.pacbell.net/fbaldie/Outline.html>., Downloaded January 13, 1999.)

Philippine forces in Bataan consisted of 20,000 regulars and 100,000 totally raw recruits most of whom were enlisted into the military within three months preceding the war. In addition to the Philippine Army, Bataan's forces consisted of 11,796 Americans and several regiments of Philippine Scouts who had been part of the United States Army in the Philippines for many years prior to the war. Adding to the number of military servicemen in Bataan were civilians who had fled from the advancing Japanese armed forces. They entered Bataan of their own free will, yet had to be fed from military supplies. (Resource-<http://home.pacbell.net/fbaldie/Outline.html>., Downloaded January 13, 1999.)

Forced to feed such a large number of servicemen and civilians, food became an immediate and critical problem on Bataan. Tons of precious rice were left in the warehouse upon the withdrawal into Bataan which were destroyed by the Japanese. Food rations consisted of rice and fish, or what little meat could be found. Most of the food came from horses, mules, caribou, or water buffalo. Occasionally, monkeys, snakes, etc. supplemented the diet which only showed how low food supplies were. The food supply, stored on Corregidor, often never found its way to the front lines of Bataan, being stolen by hungry rear area soldiers while the food was enroute by trucks. Hijacking of these trucks was a result of these starving men. (Resource-<http://home.pacbell.net/fbaldie/Outline.html>., Downloaded January 13, 1999.)

Since the food was stored on Corregidor, these troops had the advantage of being healthier and in better physical condition when they were captured by the Japanese. These men also had fewer cases of malaria and other diseases. Such differences between the troops from Corregidor and the troops from Bataan was to have a major impact on who was to survive the Prison Camps that were to follow. (Resource-<http://home.pacbell.net/fbaldie/Outline.html>., Downloaded January 13, 1999.)

On Corregidor, there were 15,000 American and Filipino soldiers, along with anti-aircraft and coastal defenses. In addition, there was the Fourth Marine Regiment, that had arrived from China in December, 1941. Their mission was beach defense on Corregidor. (Resource-<http://home.pacbell.net/fbaldie/Outline.html>., Downloaded January 13, 1999.)

Of the 11,796 American soldiers on Bataan on April 3, 1942, about 1,500 were wounded or sick and in Bataan's two hospitals. Relatively few men had made their way across the shark-infested waters to Corregidor. Of the 66,000 Filipino troops, Scouts Constabulary, and Filipino Army units, it can be said that approximately 2,500 remained in the hospitals on Bataan; 1,700 escaped to Corregidor; and a small number remained on Bataan as work details for the Japanese after the surrender. (Resource-<http://home.pacbell.net/fbaldie/Outline.html>., Downloaded January 13, 1999.)

On April 3, 1942, General Homma launched his long awaited final push to take Bataan. His troops easily broke through the final line of resistance of the Filipino-American troops on Bataan; he accomplished this only because of the deplorable state of the defending forces facing them. Then on April 9, General Edward P. King, Jr. surrendered his forces on Bataan after the Japanese had broken through the final line of resistance. The situations that compelled General King to surrender to the Japanese are many. The main reasons, however, were that only two days' rations remained for the troops; medication was exhausted and in need to treat the countless number of Bataan defenders suffering from the deteriorating effects of malaria; and ammunition of every type was about to become non-existent. Judging from these conditions, Gen. King opted to surrender in order to prevent a "slaughter" of his men. Later in a gathering of his men at Camp O'Donnell, Gen. King told them, "You did not surrender, I did. That responsibility is mine and mine alone." (Resource-<http://home.pacbell.net/fbaldie/Outline.html>., Downloaded January 13, 1999.)

Those captured after the surrender of Bataan were in the general area of Mariveles, a town at the southern tip of the Bataan Peninsula. Large fields outside Mariveles were used as staging areas for the thousands of captives. Although American trucks were available to transport the prisoners, the Japanese decided to march the "Battling Bastards of Bataan" to their destinations. This march became known as the "Death March". (Resource-<http://home.pacbell.net/fbaldie/Outline.html>., Downloaded January 13, 1999.)

The "Death March" was really a series of marches which lasted from five to ten days. The distance a captive had to march was determined by where on the trail a captive began. After the first day of marching in 130-140 degree temperatures, without food or water, men started to drop out of line. Japanese guards would then rush up and shout commands in Japanese to get back up and into line. When their shouting failed, the POWs were shot or beaten, usually to death. The Japanese guards also carried rifles which had bayonets at the end of them. (Resource-<http://home.pacbell.net/fbaldie/Outline.html>., Downloaded January 13, 1999.)

Such actions kept the prisoners on their feet and forced them to march on longer. As each day and night passed without food and water, marchers became desperate and would break from the line, running to anything that resembled water. These men would lap up "water" from puddles alongside the road. The puddles, however, were used by the caribou to coat themselves as a protection from the flies that constantly lingered on them. Needless-to-say, this water was not potable and drinking of it soon brought on cramps, diarrhea, and eventually dysentery. Several thousand men died on the "Death March". Some of these men were from the 200th and 515th Coast Artilleries (AA) from New Mexico. These men formed the Old Two Hon'ed which was a brotherhood bond of men from all regiments coming from New Mexico. Of the 1,800 New Mexicans, 510 were Hispanic, 74 were Native American, and 1,216 were Anglo. Approximately a dozen New Mexicans died on the march, along with other men from different areas of the United States. Many died because they were in no physical condition to undertake such a march. Others died from diseases such as Beriberi, dysentery, and malaria. Starvation was amongst the atrocities endured by the POWs, who were given little food or water. These prisoners were also repeatedly beaten and treated inhumanely. (Resource-<http://home.pacbell.net/fbaldie/Outline.html>., Downloaded January 13, 1999.)

This unbearable treatment, only to those who know, continued even after reaching San Fernando, Pampanga, P.I., a distance for most marchers of over 100 kilometers. Upon reaching San Fernando, the captives were then forced into 1918 model railroad boxcars (40 x 8 in size) which had been used in France during World War I. With over 100 men in each car, the Japanese closed the doors on the prisoners. There was no room inside these boxcars, even for sitting or kneeling. Men died standing up in these sweltering cars. Arriving in Capas, Tarlac, P.I., almost four hours later, the men were detrained, and with no remorse of any kind, directed by the Japanese on another ten kilometer walk towards Camp O'Donnell. (Resource-<http://home.pacbell.net/fbaldie/Outline.html>., Downloaded January 13, 1999.)

Official figures estimate that between 44,000 and 50,000 Filipino-Americans arrived at Camp O'Donnell after completing the "Death March". Between 12,000 and 18,000 men were unaccounted for after the march. What happened to these prisoners is unknown, though a safe guess would be that around 1,000 Americans and 10,000 Filipinos died on the march. The death toll did not cease upon reaching Camp O'Donnell on April 24, 1942. Instead, during the first 40 days of the camp's existence, about 21,600 Filipino and Americans lost their lives. (Resource-<http://home.pacbell.net/fbaldie/Outline.html>., Downloaded January 13, 1999.)

Camp O'Donnell did not have the sanitation sub-structure or water supply to hold such a large number of prisoners. The majority of deaths were a direct result of malnutrition and diseases since Bataan, and for many prisoners new diseases were contracted while in O'Donnell. The Japanese continued to murder and mistreat their captives, all the while showing no mercy. Due to the high death rate in Camp O'Donnell, the Japanese transferred all POWs to Cabanatuan, north of Camp O'Donnell, on June 6, 1942. Left behind in O'Donnell were 500 prisoners to caretake and perform funeral detail; they too were sent to Cabanatuan on July 5, 1942. (Resource-<http://home.pacbell.net/fbaldie/Outline.html>., Downloaded January 13, 1999.)

Shortly after reaching Camp O'Donnell, Corregidor fell on May 6, 1942. General Jonathan Wainwright decided his situation was hopeless and surrendered Corregidor to the Japanese. Gen. Wainwright avoided a so called "bloodbath" that would have certainly occurred had the Japanese fought their way from the beach to Malinta Tunnel where most of the defenders of Corregidor had withdrawn. After two weeks of the famous Japanese "sun treatment" for the now prisoners of Corregidor, they were taken across Manila Bay to Manila and then by train to Cabanatuan Prison Camp. These men, including men from the 200th and 515th, were here in this camp when the POWs from Camp O'Donnell arrived in June 1942. Based on the high death rate that ensued in Cabanatuan, the Japanese allowed American medical personnel to treat the prisoners. The conditions of the prisoners arriving from Camp O'Donnell was such a shock to their fellow servicemen from Corregidor. In no time though, they too were feeling the full effects of Japanese captivity. (Resource-<http://home.pacbell.net/fbaldie/Outline.html>., Downloaded January 13, 1999.)

Cabanatuan, for most prisoners, ended up being a temporary camp. The Japanese had a policy (which was a violation of the Geneva Convention) that prisoners were to be used as a source of labor. Most of these prisoners were sent to slave labor camps throughout the Philippines, and also in China, Japan, and Korea. These prisoners worked in mines, factories, and ships in the Port Areas until the end of the war. Each prison camp after Cabanatuan subsequently has a story all its own. (Resource-<http://home.pacbell.net/fbaldie/Outline.html>., Downloaded January 13, 1999.)

Left behind in Cabanatuan, were approximately 511 prisoners too sick to move. Unfortunately, most of them never recovered and died. Relatively near the end of the war, men who had survived in Cabanatuan were placed on ships, suitably called "Hell Ships", to be sent to other POW labor camps. The "Hell Ships" sailed from Manila to their various destinations in Japan, Korea, and China. The Japanese never marked these ships to indicate that there

were prisoners on board. Most of these ships became targets for American planes and submarines. They were bombed and torpedoed by the Americans, sadly killing most of the POWs aboard ship, while others met their deaths by drowning at sea. The conditions on these ships are in describable and far worse than the conditions endured on the "Death March" or in the prison camps. (Resource-<http://home.pacbell.net/fbaldie/Outline.html>., Downloaded January 13, 1999.)

In the last full year of World War II (1944), President Roosevelt won reelection to a fourth term, though he died on April 12, 1945 having served less than three years of his term. Vice-President Harry S. Truman was sworn in as the 33rd President later that day. He presided over the victory in Europe, gave the order to drop the first Atomic Bomb on Japan, and accepted the Japanese surrender. (Resource-[http://comptons2.aol.com/encyclopedia/ARTICLES/19338\\_A.html](http://comptons2.aol.com/encyclopedia/ARTICLES/19338_A.html)., Downloaded January 13, 1999.)

The final act in this long bitter drama came in 1945. The Philippines were liberated, and Iwo Jima and Okinawa were conquered. (Resource-[http://comptons2.aol.com/encyclopedia/ARTICLES/19338\\_A.html](http://comptons2.aol.com/encyclopedia/ARTICLES/19338_A.html)., Downloaded January 13, 1999.) Each POW camp, labor camp, etc., was individually liberated in 1945. The prisoners had endured the whims of their brutal captors, and the uncertainty of when, if ever, their captivity would end. (Resource-<http://home.pacbell.net/fbaldie/Outline.html>., Downloaded January 13, 1999.)

Air fleets of B-29s blasted Japanese cities on an increasingly large scale. The United States Army Air Force moved in close enough to bombard coastal cities. Then on August 6, 1945, the first Atom bomb was dropped on the city of Hiroshima, and also on the city of Nagasaki. Many people believe that both targets were effective, and therefore promoted Japan's surrender. About 75,000 people in Hiroshima and 40,000 in Nagasaki died from the effects of the Atomic bomb. Japan's request for peace was granted on August 14, 1945 (August 15 Japan time). The formal terms were signed on September 2, 1945, which was celebrated as V-J (Victory over Japan) Day. (Resource-[http://comptons2.aol.com/encyclopedia/ARTICLES/19338\\_A.html](http://comptons2.aol.com/encyclopedia/ARTICLES/19338_A.html)., Downloaded January 13, 1999.)

After the prisoners were released, they were sent to various medical hospitals for physical examinations. Many of their ailments, due to malnutrition and systemic fevers, went undiagnosed. More importantly, the psychological scarring they absorbed was not recognized until years after the Vietnam War when the United States government recognized "Post Traumatic Stress Disorder" or PTSD as a legitimate disorder. Each of these men has and will carry scars for the rest of their lives, and indirectly, so do

their families. (Resource-<http://home.pacbell.net/fbaldie/Outline.html>., Downloaded January 13, 1999.)

Germany has acknowledged their war crimes and has made restitution to the victims. Japan, on the other hand, has denied everything. Even in their history books and in their school books, they have rewritten history in an effort to falsely state that they were the victims of World War II, citing the bombings in Hiroshima and Nagasaki as proof of their victimization. (Resource-<http://home.pacbell.net/fbaldie/Outline.html>., Downloaded January 13, 1999.)

The courageous men of the 200th and 515th Coast Artilleries AA from New Mexico were given credit after World War II for "battling off" the Japanese on Bataan so the United States could rebuild their forces after the attack on Pearl Harbor. They destroyed Japan's timetable in preventing them from attacking Australia. For these reasons they were honored with the following citations:

1. Presidential Unit Citation (Army), Streamer embroidered CLARK FIELD (200th Coast Artillery cited; WD GO 14, 1942)
2. Presidential Unit Citation (Army), Streamer embroidered MANILA 1941 (515th Coast Artillery cited; WD GO 14, 1942)
3. Presidential Unit Citation (Army), Streamer embroidered BATAAN (200th and 515th Coast Artillery cited; WD GO 14, 1942)
4. Presidential Unit Citation (Army), Streamer embroidered DEFENSE OF THE PHILIPPINES (Military and Naval forces of the Unites States engaged in the defense of the Philippines cited; WD GO 22, 1942, as amended by DA GO 46, 1948)
5. Philippine Presidential Unit Citation, Streamer embroidered 7 December 1941 to 10 May 1942 (200th and 515th Coast Artillery cited; DA GO 47, 1950)

(Dorothy Cave, Beyond Courage, Las Cruces, New Mexico: Yucca Tree Press, 1996, p. 421.)

After World War II, however, little was made of the plight of the brave men on Bataan who gave their lives to preserve our freedom. They did this without complaint, proper weapons, food, medication, and water. They were the "forgotten" warriors who surrendered to the Japanese only because they were forced to do so. Old Two Hon'red gave their lives to save our freedom and many died, but even those who survived the brutality of the Japanese lost the essence of life, their youth, and their idealism on Bataan. They never

their families. (Resource-<http://home.pacbell.net/fbaldie/Outline.html>.,  
Downloaded January 13, 1999.)

Germany has acknowledged their war crimes and has made restitution to the victims. Japan, on the other hand, has denied everything. Even in their history books and in their school books, they have rewritten history in an effort to falsely state that they were the victims of World War II, citing the bombings in Hiroshima and Nagasaki as proof of their victimization. (Resource-<http://home.pacbell.net/fbaldie/Outline.html>.,  
Downloaded January 13, 1999.)

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3. Presidential Unit Citation (Army), Streamer embroidered BATAAN (200th and 515th Coast Artillery cited; WD GO 14, 1942)
4. Presidential Unit Citation (Army), Streamer embroidered DEFENSE OF THE PHILIPPINES (Military and Naval forces of the Unites States engaged in the defense of the Philippines cited; WD GO 22, 1942, as amended by DA GO 46, 1948)
5. Philippine Presidential Unit Citation, Streamer embroidered 7 December 1941 to 10 May 1942 (200th and 515th Coast Artillery cited; DA GO 47, 1950)

(Dorothy Cave, Beyond Courage, Las Cruces, New Mexico: Yucca Tree Press, 1996, p. 421.)

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lost their faith, though, that America would come to their rescue, nor did they lose their faith in themselves and in God. As Americans, we owe them a debt of gratitude for our lives. For this very reason, they must be recognized and remembered in the annals of history, and also memorialized so no one forgets the sacrifices they gave for their country-The United States of America.

# ALSO POW'S

The following are Men who were in the same POW Camp, in Japan, as Manny. These men all signed his Diary. Most, if not all, are also Bataan Death March Survivors. Due to fading some names are questionable and possible alternate spellings are shown in parenthesis.

Henry Adams  
812 Kaliki Street  
Honolulu Oahu Hawaii

Ben Algoso  
4 Arauga Sampaloc  
Manila P. Islands

Henry G. Allen  
379 Patterson Ave  
Atlanta, Georgia

Manuel Almeraz  
510 South Ruby Street  
Deming New Mexico  
% Federico Almeraz

Capt. Ralph Amato  
5309 South East Francis Street  
Portland Oregon  
H 5 Infantry P.S.

Santiago S. Analla  
Escondida Rancho  
Tinnie New Mexico  
200 CAC 2nd Hq.

Nino Anchibeque  
810 West Pacific  
Albuquerque New Mexico

Sixto O Aramda  
P.O. Box 23  
Deming New Mexico

Sixto Aranda  
P.O. Box 23  
Deming New Mexico

Valentine Archuleta  
Blanco New Mexico

Manuel A. Armerjo  
307 Montezuma Street  
Santa Fe New Mexico

Alfred Baca  
437 West Santa Fe  
Albuquerque New Mexico

Juan Baca  
Espanola New Mexico  
200th B. Bty (E)

Felimon U Balorio  
Uling Nagra Cebic (P.I. ?)

Robert F. Bardin  
Canal Point Florida

Tony Barela  
1713 South 2nd Street  
Albuquerque New Mexico  
200th

Antonio "Tony" Barelo  
1713 South 2nd Street  
Albuquerque New Mexico

Joe Berostiny  
% Myers Pharmacy  
West View Pennsylvania

Capt. R. E. Bibea  
% W. D. Rogers  
R.F.D. #3 Lexington,  
Kentucky

Capt. A. C. Birdenstein  
4132 Flora Blvd  
St. Louis Missouri

Wayne B. Blankenbaker  
Mount Ayr Indiana

Frank J. Blanns (Bunns) Jr.  
2111 Edison Highway  
Bakersfield California

Frank S. Bollinger  
Box 66  
Cardiff California

Glenn Bowers  
627 Chestnut Ave  
Long Beach California

Glenn Bowers  
627 Chestnut Ave  
Long Beach California

James C. Boyd  
Box 67  
Alto Texas

Therman Brittain  
Center Texas

Cymone Brooks  
1205 1/2 La Cieniga  
Los Angeles California

Nestro Bustamante  
San Jose New Mexico

Lester Cale  
4017 Riverage Road  
Cleveland Ohio  
192nd

John J. Calkins  
% Sisco M.D.  
Reeders Pennsylvania

Marcos S. Cardenas  
P.O. Box 753  
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De Kalb Texas

Manuel Carrillo  
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913 North 2nd Street  
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200 CAC Battery 3

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St. Lewis Missouri

Seth R. Charevet  
2822 1/2 Huron Street  
Los Angeles California

Ben Chavez  
Cevollta New Mexico  
City name ????

Albert Clibon  
2026 North Tejon Street  
Colorado Springs Colorado  
Chbon ??

Milam Cloud  
Rt 1 Gen Del  
Appalachia Virginia

Gilbert R. Coleman  
229 E. Warner Street  
Ventura California

Wayne W. Colvin  
821 West 27th  
Cheyenne Wyoming

A Arnold Combs  
N. Semrnary Street  
Bloomfield Indiana  
Saminary Street ???  
17th Ord.

Richardo Cordova  
1701 W. Marble Ave  
Albuquerque New Mexico

Richard Cordova  
417 Furinsh Ave  
San Antonio Texas  
59 CMA

Josr (Joer?) Cordova  
Taos New Mexico

Aburey C. Costell  
Box 43  
Carrallton Georgia  
Corrallton

Virgil Cox  
Blum Texas

Dean H. Craft  
323 South Mulberry (Ct?)  
Albuquerque New Mexico

Anthony Dattorro  
270 Woonasquatucket Ave  
Providence Rhode Island  
(1st Letter of Street name in Question

Thomas J. De Graff  
75 Aer Lima Ave  
Portland Connecticut

Harry E. De Remcs Jr.  
R.F.D. 2  
Williams Sport Pennsylvania  
De Remes jr. Williams Port, PA

Armando Del Frate  
1724 West Central Ave  
Albuquerque New Mexico

Benedicto C Del Vaca  
Pina Blanca New Mexico  
Der Vaca, De Vaca

Wiley J. Dessaner  
609 N. Oregon Street  
El Paso Texas

Salomon L. Diaz  
504 South 7th Street  
Gallup New Mexico

Salomon L. Diaz  
504 South 7th Street  
Gallup New Mexico

Lt. Dixon  
Nat Aust Indep Corp A.I.F. G. W. P.  
% 8 Gould Street  
Brighton Beach, Victoria Australia

Roy M. Drake  
Elksview West Virginia

George Drauo  
1508 South Fourth Ave  
Maywood Illinois  
Dravo ?? Drarro ?? Dravs ??

Clelan A Dusey  
Box 177  
Industrial City Missouri

Pete Espinosa  
Gallup New Mexico

Herman Fafoya (Tafoya?)  
504 Calle 3rd South  
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Earnest J. Fleming  
Rt 2  
Julesburg, Colorado  
% Mrs. Harold Pedgeon

James E. Frost  
651 East Market Street  
Salinas California

1st Lt. John B. Fry  
P.O. Box 234  
North Pleasanton Texas  
Or % Adjutant General, Wash. D.C.

John Funes  
1818 Perez Street  
San Antonio Texas

Benny C. Garcia  
Route 3, Box 821  
Albuquerque New Mexico

Evans R. Garcia  
P.O. Box 203  
Hot Springs New Mexico

Cruz Garcia  
307 Water Street  
Las Cruces New Mexico

Bernardo Garcia  
110 East Fist Street (First? Fest?)  
San Antonio Texas

Cleofas Garcia  
Soham New Mexico

George W. Garside  
19 Falmouth Street  
Lawrence, Mass

Phitarco Garza  
Box 395  
Hargile Texas  
Plritarco?? Phetarco

Willie L. Garza  
1615 North Farr Street  
San Angelo Texas

1st Lt. F.A. Keith E. George  
Promise City Iowa

William F Glaab  
Narrowsburg  
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Major 60th CA Robert D. Glassburn  
% AGO  
Washington D.C.

Clyde D. Gomez  
2124 San Ferando  
San Antonio Texas

Alberto M. Gongales  
Tularosa New Mexico

Agustin Gongalez  
2210 Maney Street (Money St?)  
Corpus Christi Texas  
Alt: 709 Sam Rinking

Pete A. Gonzalez  
Los Lunas New Mexico

Anbtolio (Ambtolio?) Gonzalos  
P.O. Box 135  
Dellne (Delline?) Texas

Sam Preston (Dreston?) Gribble  
Rt 1, Box 24  
Galefulle (??alefulle) Texas

Carmen Guerra Jr.  
Encinal Texas  
200th Bty (F)

Carmen Guirra  
P.O. Box 872  
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2333 Fulton Street  
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Duluth Minnesota

James Harvey  
19 Francis Street  
Fitchbury Mass

Claudr (Clauds?) Hatch  
Fruitland New Mexico

Alberto Herrera  
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Murry A. Holland  
Haynesville Louisiana

Boyce Hyatt  
Brainerd Minnesota

Elvin E. Jackson  
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Imperial Texas

Robert Jeromrs  
M Bar 8  
Billings, Montana  
LN: Jerome ?

Tony Jimmez  
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Asnsas Pass

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% G.S. Emert  
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Mike Medina  
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Medwick

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Deming New Mexico

Louis D Mendoza  
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Grbent C. Mier  
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Gibent?? Gabent??

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H. Miller  
% Building Surveyors Dept  
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G. Joe Minder  
North Creek New York

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Gabriel Montano (Montaino?)  
Albert New Mexico

Alexjandro Montes  
Gen Del  
Hatch New Mexico  
Montes Alexjandro ??

Austin Moore  
Vallejo California

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% J. M. Morris  
Randle Washington  
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1709 1/2 Ave B ???

Sirenio C. Ruiz  
1709 1/2 Ave B  
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Belen New Mexico

Jose M. Sanchez  
Jefferson Street  
Gallup New Mexico

Steve Sanchez  
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Jimmie Sapnto (Saputo?)  
1932 E. Fort  
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Jose Sena  
Santa Rosa New Mexico

J. N. Shanks  
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Manila P.I.

Kelly H Shirley  
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Jesus M. Silva  
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Valentin Slifopley  
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235 South 46th Street  
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Joseph E. Smith  
5465 Holland Street  
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Elmar Smith  
117 West 2nd  
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Lt. Col. R. B. Smith  
624 Terrell Road  
San Antonio Texas

Clifford E. Sneyd  
807 Caton Ave  
Adrian Michigan  
1850 Wyoming Ave, Detroit, MI

Sidney G. Snow  
Haynesville Louisiana  
Onage

Prageder (Pragedes?) M. Soera (S  
210 Elaxera (Ela??ra)  
San Antonio Texas

Gene Speranza  
435 Oak Street  
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Orlando Stevens  
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Albuquerque New Mexico

Lt. Stanley J. Stolinski  
73-18 52nd Drive  
Maspeth New York  
% Purchasing Branch, US Army, Manila  
or Elks Club, Manila

Bob Strasbers (Strasters?)  
327 Shelmerdine  
Salt Lake City, Utah

John Strompolis  
4318 West Wilcox St.  
Chicago Illinois

F. K. Swartz  
1325 15th Street  
Sacramento, California

William R. Taylor  
Jredell Texas  
Joedell ?

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Dionisio Trujillo  
Las Vegas New Mexico

Juan A. Trujillo  
Trujillo New Mexico

Pete H. Tschudi  
1308 Rufer Ave  
Louisville Kentucky  
1308 Rufes Ave??

Bernard Valencia  
Gen Del  
Glonieta New Mexico

Ray Vandenbroucke  
818 South 9th Ave  
Maywood Illinois

Abehimo (Abehino) Vigil  
% Jutitas Ranch  
Springer (Springs? Springe? Springas)  
New Mexico

Conrado G. Vigil  
Box 19  
Vequita New Mexico

Raymond Villa  
Rt 1, Box 5  
Yorktown Texas  
Villa Raymond ??

Joseph A. Wand (Hand?)  
415 Grant Street  
Laredo, Texas

Malcolm L. Wascom  
Mt. Hermon Louisiana

Capt. E. D. Winstead  
Route 1 Box 21  
Wilson North Carolina

E. M. Young  
167 Fair Oak Street  
San Francisco California

# Reflections

It has been my sincere pleasure to have been a part of this project. Knowing Manny for these many years and spending countless hours enjoying his company.

Often we ponder the reasons why one person survives the horrors depicted within this book while others do not. It is my firm belief that God in his wisdom knows the attributes that each man possesses and thus some are called home while others are left to enhance the wonders of this world. Such is the case with Manny. At this writing he is well into his early 90's and going strong. The contributions he has placed upon this earth are many yet many of those may not be open to the naked eye. I am struck by the parallel of George Bailey in the movie "It's A Wonderful Life" and how different the world would have been without George. Such is the case with Manny. We may never know the full contributions he has given of himself or through his offspring. Somewhere in the future may spring forth a great statesman or scientist or other person of great stature who will look back and trace his or her ancestry to this great man. What a loss this world would have suffered with him.

As this book is a compilation of both the original and secondary books, the reader will find that the page numbers of the second book (Return to America) have been removed. This was necessary in order to keep from having to renumber each and every page and to allow for additional inserts if needed as has often been the case.



Charles "Rusty" Gilmore  
August 16, 2011

8/2/2011