

topeka KS  
paper

# From Japanese Prison Camp

See DES PRISONNIERS DE GUERRE

From:  
Name

Charles C. Underwood

Nationality AMERICAN

Rank Captain

Camp Philippine Military

Prison Camp No. 1.



To: Mr. & Mrs. E. N. Underwood

916 Polk St.

Topeka, Kansas

U. S. A.

Above is the address side of a post card from Capt. Charles C. Underwood, prisoner of war in a Japanese prison camp in the Philippines, to his parents, Mr. and Mrs. E. N. Underwood, 916 Polk Street, Topeka. The postcard is the first word from Captain Underwood that his parents have received since before the fall of Bataan. The message on the reverse side of the postcard follows—(part printed here in capitals is what captain filled in with a typewriter; mixed capitals and lower case type was printed on the cards furnished the prisoners of war):

1. I am interned at THE PHILIPPINE MILITARY PRISON CAMP No. 1.

2. My health is—fair. (Excellent, good, poor, scratched out).

3. I am—uninjured; (sick in hospital; under treatment; not under treatment, scratched out).

4. I am—improving; (not improving; better; well, scratched out).

5. Please see that EVERYTHING IN AMARILLO IS TAKEN CARE OF AND THE PAPER AND JIMMIE KNOW OF MY WHEREABOUTS AND CONDITION is taken care of.

6. (Re; Family); ALL MY LOVE TO YOU ALL AND JIMMIE, TOO. DON'T WORRY.

7. Please give my best regards to HER AND TO GENE HOWE, ERNIE AND EDITH AND THE RELATIVES.

## The Topeka Da

gated rates. Describing sponse as encouraging, reported that 110,000 of the borrowers now are making monthly payments in ex amounts due, thus "not only fitting them and the corporation but supporting the anti-inflationary program."

During the twelve months ending May 31, nearly 78,000 persons have paid in full to bring their accounts in full to bring the number of paid out loans to 861. Total payments on principal during that period amount to \$272,419,000, highest figure for a year of HOLC operation. and sales contracts still outstanding aggregate \$1,460,500,000.

Despite the large price paying either on or ahead of schedule, however, Fahey said a considerable number continue to require constant servicing of them current in their and to help them build substantial equity in their ties."

HOLC personnel number about 3,500, which is 30 per cent fewer than last year and contrasts to the operations of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, which reported a decrease in administrative expenses down from a high of \$10,712,000 last year.

### Loss Totals

He reported that sales resulting from book losses capitalized houses, and other property he said balance tax on cost income before taxes.

## HOLC Seeks To Sell Public

of the Treasury since William H. Woodin) can go on forever buying up necessities of life at high producer prices and selling them at lower consumer prices. And as there are more consumers than producers, the pressure from consumers is great to be

# Takes His Car With Him To the Philippine Islands

Charles Underwood, son of Ernest Underwood, an official in the State Highway Department, claims to be the only American Army officer in the Philippines with a car with a Texas license.

Young Underwood, who left Topeka to attend the University of Missouri's school of journalism and then assume a position with the Amarillo (Texas) Globe-News, wrote last week from Manila that his car arrived in the Islands after a two-and-one-half-months journey from San Francisco.

Underwood says that work in the Philippines is very interesting because of the defense drive there. He reports that Army officers are working twice as hard as they did in peace time.

The young reserve officer was in a party recently which escorted Mr. and Mrs. Henry Luce about the Island. Mr. Luce is the editor



UNDERWOOD AND HIS CAR

of Life and Time magazines, and Mrs. Luce is the well-known woman playwright who publishes under her maiden name, Clare Booth.

Charles C. Underwood

Lieutenant Infantry  
United States Army

## KANSAN FIGHTING ON BATAAN

Parents Hear From Lieut. C. C. Underwood of Atchison.

TOPEKA BUREAU  
THE KANSAS CITY STAR  
(By a Member of The Star's Staff.)

TOPEKA, April 1.—Lieut. Charles C. Underwood, native Kansan with General Wainwright's heroic forces on Bataan peninsula, still was alive and "fighting like hell" six weeks ago.

Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Underwood of Topeka and Atchison received a letter from their son today. It was mailed from the front February 15, one year from the time the young man left Ft. Sam Houston for the Philippines. He could not tell his father and mother exactly where he was or what he was doing. He did say his unit was "doing real well" and accomplishing the objectives assigned it.

Lieut. Underwood was born at Atchison. His father has long been a Republican leader in Kansas and represented one of the Atchison districts in the legislature several terms

CITY, DECEMBER 20

## War Deve

(By the Assoc.

American troops withdrawn from Bagulo, Philippine summer capital, before Japanese advance; another Japanese spearhead drives twenty-five miles from Lingayen gulf coast to Binaloan, only 110 miles north of Manila; another column drives fifty miles from Aparri in Northern Luzon; Japanese continue to pour troops ashore as Americans fight grimly; Hong Kong falls to Japan.

United States submarines sink two and possibly four more Japanese ships; army bomber sinks a Japanese submarine off California coast.

Kuching, Sarawak capital 475

## HONEY USED FOR ULCERS.

Moscow (AP)—Honey is being used successfully in the Soviet Union to treat stomach ulcers, says the newspaper Evening Moscow. About 250 patients suffering from ulcers have been treated in the Ostoumov, Basman and Moscow garrison hospitals, the paper says. About 250 grams of honey were given the patients for periods of fourteen to eighteen days. In many cases pains disappeared after the first day. About 80 per cent of those treated had their ulcers healed by the honey treatment. The article says honey was used during the war in treating wounds and that considerable research and experiment has been since conducted along these lines.

## TOPEKANS HEAR SON IS SAFE

Mr. and Mrs. E. N. Underwood, 916 Polk Street, received a radio-gram Saturday from their son, Charles C. Underwood, who is stationed in Manila, P. I., that he is safe and well and has just been promoted to lieutenant. Lieutenant Underwood attended the Holy Name School in Topeka and was graduated from the journalism school of Missouri University. He went to camp from Amarillo, Texas, where he has been a member of the staff of the Amarillo Globe-News, of which Gene Howe is editor. He has been in Manila since April.

TRUCK KILLS OWNER



## Respect No Standings Records

From purely circumstantial evidence, it looks as though Uncle Sam is trying to transport his Texas Panhandle boys as far from their native Plains as possible. But they are still breaking records wherever they go.

Perhaps the most unusual out of this week's crop of mail belongs to Charlie Underwood, a former member of the Globe-News family (advertising department) who is now with the U. S. armed forces in Manila, Philippine Islands.

"Submitted is my claim, with photo for proof, of taking an Amarillo car and Potter County license farther than any other of our local citizens," he writes. "My car came this past week-end, more than two and a half months after I left it in San Francisco.

"Of course, we have to get Manila plates and such, so I wanted to get this picture while some of the Texas atmosphere remained.

"I'm liking it over here a lot. Although we are working about three times as hard as has been the custom in the Philippines, the work is interesting and for the most part pleasant. And I had a swell trip over here.

"That, and the fact there's many side trips as well as exploring Manila itself is making this stay mighty nice. No one here seems to know how long we'll be here—if it will be more than two years or not. This depends a lot on the international conditions, I think.

"We are still in the midst of a rainy season here, which would turn the Panhandle into a small sea. It is the only time of constant moisture and lasts from middle of June into October. Then it is dry again until this time next year they tell me.



CHARLIE UNDERWOOD

"Except the small European-American colony, Manila is almost sans white women. All the army and navy wives and families have been sent back, or are in the process of being sent back, to the States. But as they say about the little "brown sisters"—"These girls sure have a healthy tan, don't they?"

"To capitalize on the practice blackout which was staged here last week, the local press put on some advertising specials. Most outstanding was a double truck of about 2 by 6 ads with every other one a reverse.

"Engraving costs are very cheap and many of the ads make use of all the modern practices known. So you can see the fourth estate is pretty much on its toes. I've picked up a couple of good ideas already. In my work I come in contact with many of the local press.

"Also one night I was in an Army-Navy party to escort Claire Booth Luce (Mrs. Life-Time, as well as being pretty well known, of course, in her own right) and a young fellow White, who had been called back to the States by Time to handle their Far Eastern desk. These two joined Mr. Luce and they took the clipper back. But we fairly showed them the town "as an average soldier or sailor sees it."

"I often wonder how the war scares, conscription, etc., are affecting business and in turn advertising back in the States, particularly Amarillo."

A former Kansan, Underwood worked in the editorial department four summers while attending the University of Missouri School of Journalism. He came here immediately after graduation. He was called into service due to his reserve officer status.



**PRISON BARRACKS**—An American soldier tries to alleviate some of the suffering of a fellow American prisoner in the barracks at Tokyo Military Camp, Hitachi, Japan.

Muscotah friends of the E. N. Underwood family of Topeka, who have been concerned for the welfare of Capt. Charles Underwood, who was taken prisoner at the fall of Bataan, will be relieved to know that he has been heard from through a message from Provost Marshal General Lerch, from Washington. The telegram read: "The following enemy propaganda broadcast from Japan has been intercepted: 'At present I am in fair health and getting along all right. Naturally I wonder how you and all my friends are. Please tell me any news about Amarillo and Topeka and school. You know, to us here, letters and pictures are mighty cheering, so please thank my friends for remembering me. My fondest hope is that we will be together again soon. Love. Your son, Capt. Charles C. Underwood.' This broadcast supplements all previous reports." Charles was formerly connected with the Amarillo Globe and his family had about given up hope that he was alive. He had been a prisoner in the Philippines, but it is thought from the broadcast that he has been transferred to Japan.

Sunday's Topeka Capital contained a cut of a post card received by the E. N. Underwoods from their son, Capt. Charles C. Underwood, who is in a Japanese prison. It is the first word from him since the fall of Bataan. Part of the card was a form, saying his health was fair, he was uninjured, and was improving, and part was typewritten by Charles, asking that everything in Amarillo be taken care of and that the paper where he formerly worked and his girl friend be told of his whereabouts and condition. He sent love and regards to his relatives and friends naming them, and mentioned Gene Howe, his former employer, adding "Don't worry."

Aug. 20, 1943  
Lt. (j.g.) Charles Beven arrived Friday from Norfolk, Va., on a 15-day leave. He has just returned from two months' trip to the Mediterranean and Sicily. While gone he made a plane trip from Oran to Algiers.

Carter of the fourth generation was the youngest child. . . . The group was happy when they learned through a letter from Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Underwood of Topeka, that they had recently received a message from their son, Charles, who was a prisoner in a Jap camp near Manila. . . . Present were Mr. and Mrs. Spencer Underwood and Ann, J. C. Underwood, Mrs. Edward Carter with children, Carole, Dorothy and Donald, Kansas City, Kas.; Miss May Barnes, Mrs. John H. O'Dougherty, Kansas City, Mo.; Mrs. Dorothy O'Dougherty, Lola O'Dougherty, Mr. and Mrs. T. N. Longfellow and sons, Dale and Neil, Mr. and Mrs. Henry O'Dougherty and daughters, Lola, Avis and Fran, all of Bedford, Ia.; Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Myers, Bendena; Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Oswald and daughter, Clarice Bell, Princeton; Darlene Ramsey, Maryville, Mo.; Mrs. Cecil Underwood and daughter, Patricia, Olympia, Wash.; Mrs. O. C. Auchard, jr., and son, Biff, J. C. Underwood, Billy Warren Underwood, Mrs. Warren Underwood, Mr. and Mrs. Leslie Underwood, Gail Underwood, Atchison; Mrs. Alice Fishwick and son, Harry, St. Joe; Edna Fishwick, Omaha, Neb.; Mrs. Courtney Underwood, and Hope and Courtney, jr., Mrs. Joe Reid, Miss Elsie M. Underwood, route 4; Mrs. Robert Longfellow, Los Angeles, Calif. . . . Two servicemen are in the Philippines, one in Paris, one in Italy, one on Guam, two in Germany.

## Former Local Boy Honored

Capt. Charles C. Underwood, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Underwood of Topeka, formerly of Atchison and Muscotah, was in command of a train load of American prisoners of war released from a Jap prison camp this week, which arrived Yokohama Wednesday.

Capt. Underwood had been a prisoner of the Japs since the fall of Bataan. He attended the Atchison public schools as a boy in Atchison, and after his graduation from high school enrolled in the Missouri university School of Journalism, where he was graduated in 1939.

Immediately after graduation, he became a reporter on the Amarillo, Texas, News-Globe and later transferred to the advertising department. He was employed there when he entered the army in 1940.

Press dispatches state that Capt. Underwood took the Allied prisoners of war from Sandai camp by train to Yokohama, where they were greeted by a 22 star-studded "brass band" headed by Lt. Gen. Robert L. Eichelberger, commander of the U. S. 8th army, and including Lt. Gen. Charles P. Hall, 11th corps commander, Lt. Gen. Oscar W. Griswold, 14th corps commander, Vice-Adm. T. S. Wilkinson, Third Amphibious Force commander.

The United Press, in announcing the arrival of the Allied prisoners of war under Captain Underwood's command, reported the train was met at the half-way point on the trip by Japanese, who politely served them tea.

The Associated Press, in a dispatch from Yokohama, reported American prisoners of war, newly released from the Japanese prison camp where they had starved and suffered, stopped their train to aid Japanese victims of a train wreck.

Whether the train was the one which Capt. Underwood commanded is not known.

Capt. Underwood left the States April 21, 1941, going directly to the Philippines, where he served as an infantry officer. During the battle of Bataan he was in command of a motorcycle squadron of dispatch riders.

Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Underwood heard from their son infrequently during his imprisonment, and last January received a short wave broadcast that was relayed to them. His father, formerly with the Kansas highway commission, is employed in the Gibbs clothing store in Topeka. For several years he was associated with the O. J. C. Clothing company in Atchison.

A letter from Mrs. Ernest Underwood of Topeka says her son, Ernest, jr., is in Pearl Harbor, and they have had later word of their son, captain Charles Underwood, who was in a prison camp, than the card received in August, mention of which was made in this column. Three weeks later, he sent another word to his girl friend in San Antonio, in which he asked her to notify his mother that he had received her last Christmas cable, which was the only word he'd had from home since December 7, 1941. A lieutenant who is a friend of Captain Underwood's was transferred to a new camp in Japan, and writing to a friend in Amarillo, Texas, said Captain Underwood was in good health and the letter was dated April 28, 1943, while the cards received were dated January, 1943.



Charles Underwood, who attends Missouri university, was manager of the new president of the student council there in a recent election campaign. His candidate was elected by a big majority. "I'm looking for Pendergast to call me in any time," he writes his father, Ernest Underwood. Charles Underwood works during vacations on the Amarillo News-Globe.

## DAILY CAPITAL

### Takes His Car With Him To the Philippine Islands

Charles Underwood, son of Ernest Underwood, an official in the State Highway Department, claims to be the only American Army officer in the Philippines with a car with a Texas license.

Young Underwood, who left Topeka to attend the University of Missouri's school of journalism and then assume a position with the Amarillo (Texas) Globe-News, wrote last week from Manila that his car arrived in the Islands after a two-and-one-half-months journey from San Francisco.

Underwood says that work in the Philippines is very interesting because of the defense drive there. He reports that Army officers are working twice as hard as they did in peace time.

The young reserve officer was in a party recently which escorted Mr. and Mrs. Henry Luce about the Island. Mr. Luce is the editor



UNDERWOOD AND HIS CAR

of Life and Time magazines, and Mrs. Luce is the well-known woman playwright who publishes under her maiden name, Clare Booth.

## KANSAS News from Over the State

### Kansan Fighting on Bataan.

**TOPEKA** — Lieut. Charles C. Underwood, native Kansan with General Wainwright's heroic forces on Bataan peninsula, still was alive and "fighting like hell" six weeks ago.

Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Underwood of Topeka and Atchison received a letter from their son last week. It was mailed from the front February 15, one year from the time the young man left Ft. Sam Houston for the Philippines. He could not tell his father and mother exactly where he was or what he was doing. He did say his unit was "doing real well" and accomplishing the objectives assigned it.

Lieut. Underwood was born at Atchison. His father has long been a Republican leader in Kansas and represented one of the Atchison districts in the legislature several terms.

Atchison, Mo.

Atchison boy exploited in Topeka Journal: Evidence that their son, Lt. Charles C. Underwood, 24-year-old Kansas with General Wainwright's heroic forces on Bataan peninsula, was alive and still "fighting like hell" six weeks ago, was deposited the other day in the mailbox of his anxious parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Underwood, 916 Polk. It was a letter, written and approved by his own hand, as censor, and dated February 15 — the first word they had received since his cable the day before Christmas. "This is written under hurried conditions, but I want you to know I am feeling fine and am confident with the trust in God, steady nerve and secure trigger finger everything will come out for me and the United States over here," he said. "Rumor has it that if this letter gets to message center by noon today, it has a good chance of eventually reaching the states, and it is the first chance I have had of writing since I cabled December 24. Of course, I can't tell you what I'm doing, where I am or anything about our war over here. We've got one, though, as I presume you well know. Once in awhile I get a chance to hear short wave broadcasts from Frisco stations. Living conditions are not as pleasant as my life and apartment in Manila—but it could be worse." He said he had been promoted from second to first lieutenant and expected to be a captain before he was through. A former newspaperman, working on Gene Howe's Amarillo Globe, Lieutenant Underwood received his military training at Fort Sam Houston in Texas before going to the Philippines early last fall with the first boatload of soldiers to join from the old 31st Infantry in the islands. Born in Atchison, the young officer attended Kansas schools, was graduated from the University of Missouri, where he majored in journalism. His father, now with the state highway department, has long been a Republican leader in Kansas and represented one of the Atchison districts in the legislature several terms.

Topeka Capital: Lt. Charles Underwood, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Underwood, Topeka, has been fighting on Bataan. Since the surrender, there's been no word of or from him. Often, as Mrs. Underwood leaves the table at meal time, the tears cannot be stayed. When her husband tries to comfort her, says "He's going to be alright," Mrs. Underwood just winks her tears back and shakes her head. "I'm not worried about his being alive," she says; "I just remember every time I sit down to eat, how Charles liked to eat—and the papers say all our boys have been on such short rations."

# Charlie Underwood Is Prisoner of Japanese

*Amarillo Globe*  
Dec. 14, 1942

Capt. Charles C. Underwood, who was a member of The Amarillo Globe-News advertising department before he answered the call to colors, is alive, a prisoner of the Japanese.

For months, following the fall of Corregidor, the young officer had been listed by the War Department as "missing in action," but official news of his capture sent by the adjutant general's office to his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ernest N. Underwood of Topeka, Kans., was relayed here this morning.

And so ends months of suspense, tinged only occasionally by doubt, for every member of The Globe-News family.

"'Little Charlie' is all right. He'll take care of himself."

That has been the oft-expressed fervent hope at The Globe-News office.

The army officer was known among fellow workers as "Little Charlie," to distinguish him from The Globe-News circulation manager, Charlie Underwood. The two Charlie Underwoods of The Globe-News are not related.

Capt. Underwood, a lean, lanky, effervescent and likable young man, who made friends easily had been associated with The Globe-News since his school days at the University of Missouri. He spent his vacations on the editorial staff. After he was graduated and commissioned a second lieutenant in the reserves, he was connected with the advertising department until Feb. 15, 1941, when he was called to active duty. He was stationed at Fort Sam Houston and when assigned to the Thirty-First Infantry he was transferred to Manila, April 21, 1941.

It was last Christmas that his parents received a radiogram announcing the officer's promotion to a first lieutenant. He later was



CAPT. CHARLES UNDERWOOD

made a captain and the last direct word the Underwoods received was a letter, delivered last Feb. 15. The letter was written hurriedly from the field in Bataan.

"We've been in terrible suspense," Mrs. Underwood said to friends here. "Every contact I've tried to make through the Red Cross the letter came back. I finally did get a 25-word message on the Gripsholm this last trip. I hope he got it."

The news from Washington did not give the location of the prison camp where Capt. Underwood is held.

Two Amarillo young men, Brack Garrison and Gayle Neal, both marines, are in a Japanese prison camp from which radio programs are broadcast twice daily. Both of the Amarilloans have been "on the air" since their capture at Guam.

## Capt. Ernest Underwood Listed as Jap Prisoner

The first news that Mr. and Mrs. Ernest N. Underwood, 916 Polk, have had of their son, Capt. Charles Calvin Underwood, since February 15, came Friday in a telegram from the adjutant general's office in Washington stating that he had been captured by the Japanese after the battle of Bataan and Corregidor.

"We've been in terrible suspense," Mrs. Underwood said Saturday. "Every contact I've tried to make thru Red Cross the letter has come back. I finally did get a 25-word message on the Gripsholm this last trip. I hope he got it."

## Underwood Writes From Japanese Prison Camp

There was rejoicing in the Underwood family yesterday.

Mr. and Mrs. Ernest C. Underwood had not heard from or of their son, Capt. C. Underwood, Thirty-first Infantry, except for a brief note while the fighting was in progress, since Bataan fell to the Japanese, until yesterday.

A form post card, filled in in typewriter, signed in ink by Captain Underwood, was received by his parents yesterday. The correspondence side of the postal card was headed, "Imperial Japanese Army, Philippine Military Camp No. 1."

The postal card then informed, by filling in blank spaces:

"I am interned at the Philippine Military Camp No. 1.

"I am uninjured.

"My health is fair.

"I am improving."

Then followed several personal messages, including regards to Gene Howe (Amarillo Globe where young Underwood was a reporter before he was commissioned in 1941).

## CITY COMMISSION

Captain Charles Calvin Underwood is not dead, but is a prisoner of the Japs. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Underwood, of Topeka, formerly of Atchison and Atchison county. This morning's Topeka Capital: Mr. and Mrs. Ernest N. Underwood, 916 Polk street, yesterday received a telegram from the War Department informing them their son, Capt. Charles Calvin Underwood, is a prisoner of the Japanese in the Philippine Islands. This was the first word they had received from Captain Underwood since last February when he wrote a letter stating that he soon was to be promoted from lieutenant to captain. He is an infantry officer and presumably was in the battle of Bataan.

Captain Underwood attended Holy Name grade school here and was graduated from Holton high school and Missouri university. He was employed on the Amarillo (Tex.) Globe News when he went into service as a second lieutenant. After training at Ft. Sam Houston he was assigned to the 31st infantry and sent to Manila April 21, 1941.

Last Christmas his family received a radiogram announcing his promotion to first lieutenant and Mrs. Underwood thinks that his promotion to captain must have come after the battle of Bataan.



## reed, Son on Way Into Yokohama, His Father Here Learns

Good cause for excitement on the part of E. N. Underwood, 916 Polk, was a telephone call Tuesday afternoon from Amarillo, Tex.

His son, Capt. Charles C. Underwood, was leading a group of prisoners out of a camp at Sendai, Japan, to Yokohama, he learned in a telephone conversation with the city editor of the Amarillo Globe-News, where Captain Underwood was employed before entering service.

Word of Underwood's release was received by the Amarillo paper's wire service and an immediate telephone call was placed for his father in Topeka.

Captain Underwood, graduate of Holton high school and of the University of Missouri, was made a prisoner on Bataan where he was with the Thirty-seventh Infantry, and was taken to Tokyo in April, 1944, his father had previously learned. Information from Amarillo was first news of his release.

## Survivor of Death March Visits Here

Maj. Charles C. Underwood, survivor of the infamous death march from Bataan after the surrender to the Japanese, was back in Topeka to visit his parents Mr. and Mrs. E. N. Underwood, 916 Polk, yesterday.

Underwood credits his slenderness with giving him the strength to make the torturous journey along with the fact that he marched two days of the time in a coma.

"It was the 200-pounders who had a hard time," he said. "They were stripped of half of their weight in a short time and they were the ones who died quickly."

Lieut. Col. William Dyess, the flier who escaped from a Jap prison and told the first story of the notorious march, was a close friend of his, Major Underwood said, and that all the things were true which he told.

He said he was fortunate to be in a group which was not as ill-treated as some others and the Japs did not punish his group beyond denying food and water.

Small rations but a steady diet was the story of the Japanese prison camp.

The group was released on September 7, but prior to that time they had taken over command of the camp and were being given supplies by air from occupation forces.

After spending several days in Topeka with his parents, he will return to Brooke General Hospital in Houston, Texas.

## Each Bond a Fare Home for Men in Forces Overseas

### McFarland and Major Underwood Speakers at First 8th Loan Rally

Five million dollars for Victory Loan bonds will be that much toward the purchase price of tickets home for men still overseas, Dr. Kenneth McFarland, superintendent of schools, said at a rally Tuesday in the municipal auditorium.

"If we understand the job our fighting men did for us, then we can do our job for them," he told retail merchants and their employees who inaugurated the Shawnee county campaign.

Maj. Charles C. Underwood, survivor of the Bataan death march, was an additional speaker, relating briefly some of his experiences abroad. He is a son of Mr. and Mrs. E. N. Underwood, 916 Polk.

"I am so grateful to be alive and to be back," Major Underwood said, "that if there is anything I can do to get another American boy home, then I want to do it."

**SPEAKING FROM** a stage lined with Victory Loan drive officials and decorated with banners which read "We Back Them Up, Let's Bring Them Back" and "They Finished Their Job, Let's Finish Ours," Major Underwood told of his experiences in Japanese prison camps.

"I pray to God," he said, "that no other American will have to go thru the torture we had. If we had known how long we would be slaves to the Japs, I think we would have laid down then and died."

He said that with the large amount of back pay which had stacked up during his years in prison he planned to buy first a car and then "a good share of war bonds and salt them away for an investment."

**DR. MCFARLAND** stressed the need of faith in democratic ideals and an understanding of the problems of one world.

"Peace," he said, "it not the absence of war. It is a victory which has to be achieved and often is more difficult to win than military victories."

"This is our last chance, and if another Henry Cabot Lodge arises to set down a peace which we have won, his name and not Hitler's will go down as the man who brought an end to civilization."

Pointing out that still too many

(Turn to Page 2, Col. 3)

## Foulks Appointed to

Ernie Underwood of Topeka, who describes himself as a "retired Northeast Kansas farmer", was a courthouse visitor yesterday.

His son, Lt. Col. Charles C. Underwood, flew to Ft. Leavenworth from Ft. Sam Houston, Tex., with a group of generals. Monday Ernie met his son at the Ft. Leavenworth airport and drove him to Topeka for an overnight visit with his parents. Yesterday Colonel Underwood was driven back to Ft. Leavenworth by his father.

Colonel Underwood, formerly a resident of Atchison, and a former reporter on the Amarillo Globe-News, has been in the army 20 years. He is in the public relations section. 772 y 23 rd. 1961

T-T

Another Globe-News alumnus here I was anxious to see is Charlie Underwood. Charlie worked for three years as a summer cub reporter on the Globe-News prior to World War

1966

II and then joined the staff, only to be seized by the Army before he could actually get into daily newspaper work. He was shipped out to Corregidor, was captured by the Japanese and was in a Jap prison camp for almost four years. Charlie looks none the worse for the wear. He is a towering 6-foot-2 officer, obviously healthy. He said that his teeth survived captivity and he only needed two fillings when he was rehabilitated. His weight was down to about 100 pounds and he had gone through the malaria mill, but he is obviously in good health now and works long and difficult hours for the Army out here.

T-T



# Maj. Charles Underwood Tells bout Being in Jap Prison

Maj. Charles C. Underwood, son of Mr. and Mrs. E. N. Underwood Topeka, formerly of Atchison, recently returned to the United States from Japan where he was liberated September 7 from a prisoner of war camp.

He flew to Topeka last week for a visit with his parents who live there at 816 Polk. After completing his visit he went to San Antonio, Texas, where he married Miss Geneva Sullivan, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Alva Sullivan of Bristow, Okla. The ceremony was quietly solemnized in the chapel of Ft. Sam Houston. Following a wedding trip to New Orleans and Mexico City he will report to Brooke General hospital, Ft. Sam Houston.

Major Underwood, a member of a widely known Northeast Kansas family, was graduated from Missouri university in 1939, and worked on the Amarillo, Texas, News-Globe. He received his commission in the army in June, 1939, and went on active duty January 4, 1941. On May 8, 1941, he landed in the Philippines.

He was a member of the 31st infantry regiment and wears several overseas service stripes, the Combat Infantry Badge, the Purple Heart, the American Defense Ribbon, the Asiatic-Pacific ribbon, the Philippine Defense ribbon and a Presidential Unit citation with two oak leaf clusters.

While in Topeka Major Underwood spoke at a bond rally and gave the following interview which appeared in a Topeka newspaper:

## SPOKE AT RALLY

Still lean from three years of near starvation in a Jap prison camp and yellow from malaria cured with atabrine, Maj. Charles C. Underwood is back in Topeka with his own tale of horrors of the Jap "Death march from Bataan."

A birthright of Missouri stamina, some toughening in Kansas and Texas, and a slender build which enabled him to carry on in spite of a ration of a handful of grain three times a day, are what Maj. Underwood said put him in the small group of survivors of the march and subsequent years in prison.

"I marched at least two of those days in a coma," Maj. Underwood said, with an editor's note that this and a few cans of food he had with him helped to ease the march.

## NO FOOD

For three or four days, he said there was no food, but even more painful than this was one lengthy waterless stretch which lasted from 4 p. m. one day until the middle of the next morning.

"I don't know why we were not given water," he said. "We ate two meals during that time."

Now smiling, full of life, and gaining weight until he is back within 20 pounds of his normal 155 pounds, Maj. Underwood said that at one time he weighed as little as 100.

"It was the 200 pounders who had a hard time of it," he explained. "Most of them were stripped of half their weight in a

ONE OF FIVE

Official government figures put the survival rate of death march (Continued on Page Eight)

## Maj. Charles Underwood

(Continued from Page One)

prisoners at one out of every five.

"I managed to stay on my feet all the time," Maj. Underwood said. "It was just too bad if you didn't, because those who fell were left by the road to die. I saw the Japanese guards bayonet prisoners who tried to give food or assistance to the men who were dying."

Maj. Underwood said he was a close friend of Lt. Col. William Dyess, the famed flier who escaped a Japanese prison and told the first story of the death march. "All the stories are true," Underwood declared. He said he was fortunate to be in a group which was not as ill treated as some others, and the Japs did not punish his group beyond denying food and water.

After serving also in Camp O'Donnell, where between 23,000 and 27,000 Filipinos and about 17,000 Americans died, Maj. Underwood took a detachment of 300 hand-picked workers to the copper mines in Hitachi, about 150 miles north of Japan.

"Theoretically," he explained, with a heavy accent on the word, "these men were chosen because they were in condition to work." The physical examinations given them were extensive to find the men who were in the best condition. Once set apart these men were given much better treatment, Maj. Underwood explained. "We had wool clothes and shoes," he said. The food in that camp was at least a steady if not a substantial diet, Maj. Underwood said, although he was amused at the notion of getting too much rice.

## HANDFULS OF GRAIN

"We seldom got rice—that was for civilians. Our diet was a double handful of grain," he said. Occasionally fish was available, and he

said the food, starting as an acceptable diet, thinned gradually as the American forces neared the homeland.

It was while he was in Hitachi that Maj. Underwood was awakened as the earthly reverberations of a full-fledged angels' chorus. "That's it, boys, we'll be out of this place in three months," Maj. Underwood told his men when he first heard Admiral Halsey's bombardment last May. Without being told he and the men knew it was American ships off the coast who were firing on the town, and that when our ships were that close at hand the war was near to an end. News of Jap surrender came the same way, he said. "The detachment of workers came back about 2 o'clock one afternoon, Maj. Underwood recalled. Usually they worked from 7 a. m. to 6 p. m., but they said they were told at noon to put down their tools immediately and return to camp. "On the way back they said they saw Japs huddled in small groups. Some were laughing, most were crying."

"Another unusual thing happened," he said. "It was a beautiful day, the kind that meant a constant air raid alarm. But four raids came over in the morning, and after the all clear was sounded at about 11 a. m. there were no more raids during the day." The men got the official news of the surrender several days later and took over the camp immediately. They were released September 7. However, planes flew over immediately following the surrender and dropped huge quantities of food so that the men were able to eat all they wanted.





# SH FORCES

Front Page, Amarillo News Globe 12 Dec 1942

## THOUT FIGHT IR POUNDING

ented fighter-bomber attacks and  
marshal Rommel's fortified line east of  
s Afrikan Corps into a fresh with-  
les west of that strategic center, the

## otor Hit

ERS IN NORTH AFRICA,  
British artillery have broken  
theast of Med Jez El Bab,  
e the French high command  
on of an entire troop train  
g between Sfax and Sousse.

man said. "Our troops then called  
upon American air support and  
when the fighters and bombers came  
the Italians ran and we took the  
column."

The spokesman said six light arm-  
ored cars lay in wait for the Axis  
troop train after the track had been  
mined.

"The coaches piled one on the  
other when the mine exploded and  
only 18 Germans escaped the mur-  
derous fire of the hidden French-  
men."

In the north there was no action  
in the Allied lines except for artil-  
lery fire.

The spokesman said the Germans  
now form a line running north and  
south some distance east of the  
Medjez-El-Bab toward Pont-Du-  
ras, a communications hub 28  
miles southeast of the former city  
and 35 miles below Tunis, the capi-  
tal.

orce in

## Strike Stops Newspapers

NEW YORK, Dec. 14 (AP)—A  
strike that kept this city's leading  
newspapers from the general public  
continued today as negotiations be-  
tween representatives of publishers  
and the Newspaper and Mail Deliv-  
ers Union snapped following all-  
night conferences without an agree-  
ment being reached.

The conferees began their meet-  
ing at 10:40 o'clock last night and  
ended it at 6:20 this morning, with  
Louis A. Waldman, union attorney,  
declaring "we have reached no  
agreement."

Waldman indicated that settle-  
ment of the dispute was not expect-  
ed in the near future.

Morning papers affected were the  
Times, the Herald Tribune, the  
Daily News and the Daily Mirror—  
representing a total daily circula-  
tion closely approaching 4,000,000.

The city-wide strike materialized  
last night when the independent  
union and the publishers' associa-  
tion of New York City failed to  
agree on terms for renewal of a  
contract which expired July 1. Since  
then negotiations had been in pro-  
gress.

Afternoon papers in the publish-  
ers' group are the Sun, the Post,  
the World-Telegram and the Jour-  
nal-American.

—V.—

## Strip-Teaser Is Out of the WAAC

FORT DES MOINES, Ia., Dec. 14  
(AP)—The WAAC strip-teaser is out  
of the women's army.

The glamorous girl who was billed

## Charlie Underwood Is Prisoner of Japanese

Capt. Charles C. Underwood, who was a member  
of The Amarillo Globe-News advertising department be-  
fore he answered the call to colors, is alive, a prisoner of  
the Japanese.

For months, following the  
fall of Corregidor, the young  
officer had been listed by  
the War Department as  
"missing in action," but of-  
ficial news of his capture  
sent by the adjutant gener-  
al's office to his parents, Mr.  
and Mrs. Ernest N. Under-  
wood of Topeka, Kans., was  
relayed here this morning.

And so ends months of suspense,  
tinged only occasionally by doubt,  
for every member of The Globe-  
News family.

"Little Charlie" is all right. He'll  
take care of himself."

That has been the oft-expressed  
fervent hope at The Globe-News  
office.

The army officer was known  
among fellow workers as "Little  
Charlie," to distinguish him from  
The Globe-News circulation man-  
ager, Charlie Underwood. The two  
Charlie Underwoods of The Globe-  
News are not related.

Capt. Underwood, a lean, lanky,  
effervescent and likable young man,  
who made friends easily had been  
associated with The Globe-News  
since his school days at the Uni-  
versity of Missouri. He spent his  
vacations on the editorial staff. Af-  
ter he was graduated and commis-  
sioned a second lieutenant in the  
reserves, he was connected with the  
advertising department until Feb.  
15, 1941, when he was called to  
active duty. He was stationed at  
Fort Sam Houston and when assign-  
ed to the Thirty-First Infantry he  
was transferred to Manila, April  
21, 1941.

It was last Christmas that his  
parents received a radiogram an-  
nouncing the officer's promotion to  
a first lieutenancy. He later was



CAPT. CHARLES UNDERWOOD

made a captain and the last direct  
word the Underwoods received was  
a letter, delivered last Feb. 15. The  
letter was written hurriedly from  
the field in Bataan.

"We've been in terrible suspense,"  
Mrs. Underwood said to friends  
here. "Every contact I've tried to  
make through the Red Cross the  
letter came back. I finally did get  
a 25-word message on the Gips-  
holm this last trip. I hope he  
got it."

The news from Washington did  
not give the location of the prison  
camp where Capt. Underwood is  
held.

Two Amarillo young men, Brack  
Garrison and Gayle Neal, both ma-  
rines, are in a Japanese prison  
camp from which radio programs  
are broadcast twice daily. Both of  
the Amarilloans have been "on the  
air" since their capture at Guam.

## Betty Barton Winner Of News Tip Contest

Betty Barton, 2700 Tyler Street,  
is the winner of the \$5 first prize  
in this week's news tip contest. She  
called in a tip on the gang fight  
with Jehovah's Witnesses on Polk  
Street Thursday evening.

## Chinese Force

# Tragic Beatings, Discouraging Thoughts, Hunger in Jap Prison Camp Eased by Sight of U.S. Planes

(Editor's Note— This is the third of four installments of a vivid story of a fight for existence in the Tokyo Military Camp in Japan, taken from the diary of Maj. Earl R. Short, U.S.A., Japanese prisoner from the fall of Corregidor until Aug. 27, 1945. Short has just returned to San Antonio on leave of absence.)

By FORREST L. SMITH  
Evening News Staff Writer

Cold and hunger and death, persist, but the prisoners are given their first sight of American

gangrene throughout his stomach. Now have him back in a small box.

"The Dutch sub-lieuts. are in charge of the Dutch but still have to work in the mine. The system isn't working and all sorts of complications are arising. Tomorrow is a holiday and today brought 10 music instru-

someone else will probably be beaten.

"On 19th I will start taking light duty detail to the mine for one week. I rotate with the other two duty officers, Nealson and Underwood. Had another Shinto funeral on 12th for two Dutchmen, Bree and Edwards. Lost four men during winter, all Dutchmen. However, we sent

planes, and hope for freedom revived.

Feb. 13, 1945: "Wind storm didn't materialize. Had 10" snow on 8th. Still on ground. Cold persists. Another Dutchman died on 11th. Pneumonia. S. Bree, Dutch, navy.

"Now have a grinder and have to grind all grain and make bread of it. Same calories so guess it doesn't matter. They don't like it and neither do I.

"Air raid alarms almost every day, now, sometimes as many as 4 or 5. Haven't seen any planes. Everything considered, I believe we can at least equal V.A. Forge, but the winter won't be much longer. Have had 14 pneumonia cases in last month, only one fatality.

"Japanese started burning beri patients with cotton alcohol to cure them. Actual a torture to make them their beri-beri and go to work. Protest to C. O. to no avail.

"Japanese assigned Lt. to relieve Capt. Underwood. Said Charlie argued much and doesn't carry instructions. Hope it gets soon so drains will be we can get everything.

## PLANES OVERHEAD

Feb. 18: Had six alarms. Three during the day, local and on one occasion American carrier planes over. First time we saw them. We're hoping it's long. Snow of 8th still.

Feb. 27: "Saw 16 planes in distance on 25th. They were American. Next supposed to start getting more do hope so. Have been hell on the beach had it's advantage's disadvantage.

March 3: "Another (No. 88, named Edwards) 6.20 a.m. first. Took previous day for appendicitis but turned

SAN FRANCISCO, Oct. 16 (AP)—The transport Joseph T. Dickman docked here today with 1,438 former prisoners of the Japanese, including 658 United States army men, 569 British imperial forces, forty-four Canadians, and 157 United States civilians.

None faster. That's why millions de-

Aspi

ers fed and the war rocky now. feces. don't morning and our Don't here today. is a prison like eat but over two enough of per day. gry. Took i, but it's no matter. this sum is remitted individual Red in camp: Dec. 22, 44, 5, 328 boxes; es. news we have appears that ver this sum. There are also re may leave ll papers will i, so will sign and other pa—So long. and from men Tokyo hospital all P.W.s from Japan in 11-ship e of the 11 were an. Four surviv- ip carrying 1,800. the info is false. est friends would



# SAN ANTONIO EVENING NEWS

SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 1945

## Drop Food to Starving Prisoners



**STARS AND STRIPES**—The above group of American prisoners at Tokyo Military Camp, Hitachi, Japan, display the flag they made from parachutes the navy used for dropping food to the prisoners. Maj. Earl R. Short is shown with helmet at feet, seated in center of first row.

Camels, 36 cigars and 1 emergency (indiv.) emergency ration kit (canteen). They came in low and then roared back up into the sky. P.W.'s were swarming onto the roofs with towels and sheets. They literally went wild.

"All previous times we had seen them they were destruction-bent and chased us to our shelters with M. G. fire. Empty shell cases and bullets dropped in our camp. On those occasions my state of excitement was low because I had work to do and because I have long since learned to disregard danger.

"Today, with the planes coming low and the pilots waving, I could barely hold a match to a cigarette, my voice was unsteady and a huge lump came to my throat. It is hard to realize that 3 years and 8 months of misery, privation, sickness, starvation and death have past and left me here.

A sick steer in camp provided their first meat in over three months. Army and navy planes continued to drop more food, candy, cigarettes, newspapers and magazines. "We are having a

August 27 also found the prisoners well in charge of the situation.

### TAKES OVER CAMP

"I am now running the camp without interference from the Japs. They are saluting us and complying with every request. Theoretically, they are still in charge but not actually. Japs have given up administration and have burned all records to TRY to avoid prosecution."

Aug. 29: "More navy planes and cigs and candy. We always turn out and give them a big show with sheets and towels. They still give us a thrill. More Americans land in Yokahama."

A report that the prison camp housing 634 Chinese forced labor, which was near the American camp, was in a "sad state," brought action.

"Today I went over to visit the camp with a view to assisting them in some way. The latrines were filthy and running over. Feces running across the paths and being walked in. Men were filthy and had no bath facilities (lost 200 men in less than 1 1/2 days). Kitchen and barracks description.

"Ration was flour only. Skin diseases rampant. Several consumptives not isolated. I sent for tools and set them to work with a promise that if they complied with my recommendations I would send them food after two days and also bring pressure to bear on the Japanese in their behalf. Selected some of my men to supervise."

Two days later, "inspected the Chinese camp, and found the improvement almost unbelievable. Got a lot more food from the Japs for them, and also gave them some of our supplies. . . ."

### MAKE TROOP FLAGS

"The silk parachutes the planes dropped were in different colors, so our tailor is making one troop flag 4 1/2' x 9' for each nationality here. American, Dutch and British. It is now past midnight and he is still working on them. Have one Dutchman in the mine hospital near death from malnutrition."

### Armistice—

Sept. 2: "Armistice signed today. Had details by Japanese. Took over camp. Great satisfaction."

## CAPTIVES WAVE TOWELS, SHEETS AT NAVY PLANES

The camp was in a condition of feverish activity the next few days, as the liberated men prepared to leave. It was a happy and thankful group of men who on the morning of Sept. 5, left camp "with colors flying at head of each column."

Three days of waiting in the little Japanese town for news of a boat. "Men running everywhere, but no trouble. . . ." Details dispatched to Tokyo, Yokahama and Sindai to acquaint American authorities with their plight finally brought results.

Sept. 8: "Entrained at 6 a. m. Charlie stayed to bring out camps No. 1 and 2 Sindai next day. Tokyo burned out signals. Marvelous reception at Yokahama station. Band, beautiful nurses and WAC. Lt. Gens. Eickelberger and Hall—talked to both. Talked to Gen. Marquat, Capt. Orris, M., very nice and helpful."

### TALKS TO GENERALS

Sept. 9: "Talked to Gens. MacArthur, Sutherland, Casey and Willoughby. Gen. Sutherland said he would be glad to have me come back to work after leave. Charlie came back with camps 1 and 2, and we immediately went to Atzuki airstrip to enplane for Okinawa. Weather was bad and couldn't leave tonight."

Sept. 10, and Okinawa at last. "Gave us coffee, doughnuts and coca cola for first time—again saw many friends and learned fate of many more. . . ."

Another lap, and Clark Field on the 13th, with Manila "looking a wreck."

Sept. 27: "Whirlwind stay in Manila. Rain and mud at the camp terrific. Saw Gen. Marshall and got a car to use for duration. Looked up friends in Manila whom Japs didn't kill—Manila certainly a wreck. Finally boarded U.S.S. Dyckman on 25th, sailed 26th. Now somewhere between P. I. and Guam. Ran into Chris, Connie, Tex, Pray and many others at Manila. Many others I didn't run into and never will. Promoted to major as of Sept. 2."

And so ends the diary of this man, who, with his men, wouldn't say "Die," in spite of 44 months of "hunger, pain, fear, hate, heat

# Hiking in Coma Eased Horror of Long Death Trail

—Underwood Says

## Topekan Is Recovering From Prisoner Years in Japanese Mines

Still lean from three years of near starvation in a Jap prison camp and yellow from malaria cured with atabrine, Maj. Charles C. Underwood was back in Topeka Monday with his own tale of horrors of the Jap "death march from Bataan."

A birthright of Missouri stamina, some toughening in Kansas and Texas and a slender build which enabled him to carry on in spite of a ration of a handful of grain three times a day are what Major Underwood said put him in the small group of survivors of the march and subsequent years in prison.

"I marched at least two of those days in a coma," Major Underwood said, with an editor's note that this and a few cans of food he had with him helped to ease the march.

FOR THREE or four days, he said, there was no food, but even more painful than this was one night water was stretched until it lasted from 4 p. m. one day until the middle of the next morning.

"I don't know why we were not given water," he said. "We ate two meals during that time."

Now smiling, full of life, and gaining weight until he is back to within 20 pounds of his normal 155 pounds, Major Underwood said that at one time he weighed as little as 100.

"It was the 200-pounders who had a hard time of it," he explained. "Most of them were stripped of half their weight in a very short time, and they were the ones who died quickly."

Official government figures put the survival rate of death march prisoners at one out of every five.

"I managed to stay on my feet all the time," Major Underwood said, "it was just too bad if you didn't, because those who fell were left by the road to die. I saw the Japanese guards bayonet prisoners who tried to give food or assistance to the men who were dying."

MAJOR UNDERWOOD said he was a close friend of Lt. Col. William Dyess, the famed flier who escaped from a Japanese prison and told the first story of the death march.

"All the stories are true," Underwood declared. He said he was fortunate to be in a group which was not as ill treated as some others, and the Japs did not punish his group beyond denying food and water.

After serving also in Camp O'Donnell, where between 23,000 and 27,000 Filipinos and about 17,000 Americans died, Major Un-

(Turn to Page 2, Col. 4)

# HIKING IN COMA EASED HORROR OF LONG DEATH TRAIL

(Continued From Page 1)

derwood took a detachment of 300 hand-picked workers to the copper mines in Hitachi, about 150 miles north of Japan.

"Theoretically," he explained, with a heavy accent on the word, "these men were chosen because they were in condition to work."

The physical examinations given them were extensive to find the men who were in the best condition. Once set apart these men were given much better treatment, Major Underwood explained.

"We had wool clothes, and shoes," he said. The food in that camp was at least a steady, if not a substantial diet, Major Underwood said, altho he was aroused at the notion of getting too much rice.

"We seldom got rice—that was for the civilians. Our diet was a double handful of grain," he said.

Occasionally fish was available, and he said the food, starting as an acceptable diet, thinned grad-

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workers

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ood recalled

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ing and, after the all clear was

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were no more raids during the

day."

The men got the officials news

of the surrender several days

later, and took over the camp im-

mediately. They were released

September 7. However, planes

flew over immediately following

the surrender and dropped huge

quantities of food, so that the men

were able to eat all they wanted.

Major Underwood, who went

overseas in May, 1941, was with

the Thirty-first Infantry, the only

white infantry regiment in the

Philippines at that time. Along

with the seven overseas service

stripes, he wears a combat infan-

try medal, the Purple Heart, the

American defense ribbon, the

Asiatic-Pacific ribbon, the Philip-

pine defense ribbon, and a Presi-

dential unit citation with two Oak

Leaf clusters.

At the time he entered the

service he was working on a

newspaper in Amarillo, Tex.

After spending several days in To-

peka with his parents, Mr. and

Mrs. E. N. Underwood, 916 Polk,

he will return to Brooke general

hospital, Fort Sam Houston, Tex.



## BELIEVES ENEMY STILL DANGEROUS



MAJ. CHARLES C. UNDERWOOD

\* \* \*

\* \* \*

## Japs Waiting Until We Relax To Strike Again

Japanese believe in a good old American adage, too. It's "If at first you don't succeed, try, try again."

And that's what they plan to do to gain their objective of a greater Asiatic sphere, believes Maj. Charles C. Underwood, a survivor of the

death march on Bataan, who is back in Amarillo for the first time since April of 1941.

"What if we did lose the war," a Japanese officer told the former Amarillo newspaperman. "we've sown much discontent in East Asia. In a few years America will go back home, become soft and then we'll fight again. We'll fight again and again until we finally gain control."

The Jap had spent seven and a half years in the United States, attending universities.

"Right now the Japs are as polite as they were brutal," said the officer, who was liberated from a prison camp in Japan, Sept. 7, "but in my opinion they will pursue the same course Germany did after World War I if they get the opportunity."

Major Underwood, whose parents, Mr. and Mrs. E. N. Underwood, live in Topeka, Kan., was a member of The News-Globe editorial and advertising staffs before he went on active duty as an infantryman in June of 1939. He was married recently to Jimmie Sullivan, formerly of Amarillo. The couple returned here a few days ago for a brief visit before going to Kansas City.

## Listed as Jap Prisoner

The first news that Mr. and Mrs. Ernest N. Underwood, 916 Polk, have had of their son, Capt. Charles Calvin Underwood, since February 15, came Friday in a telegram from the adjutant general's office in Washington stating that he had been captured by the Japanese after the battle of Bataan and Corregidor.

"We've been in terrible suspense," Mrs. Underwood said Saturday. "Every contact I've tried to make thru Red Cross the letter has come back. I finally did get a 25-word message on the Grip-

sholm this last trip. I hope he got it."

Captain Underwood attended Holy Name grade school here and was graduated from Holton high school and Missouri university. He was employed on the Amarillo (Tex.) Globe News when he went into service as a second lieutenant. After training at Ft. Sam Houston he was assigned to the 31st infantry and sent to Manila April 21, 1941.

Last Christmas his family received a radiogram announcing his promotion to first lieutenant and Mrs. Underwood thinks that his promotion to captain must have come after the battle of Bataan.

mation column, Capt. Underwood

M. C. The leading American medals are: The army Medal of Honor, which is the highest army decoration. It is awarded by the President with the authorization of Congress to officers and enlisted men for distinguished gallantry and intrepidity at risk of life "beyond the call of duty"; the navy Medal of Honor, highest decoration of the navy, awarded in the same way and on the same terms as the army medal.

Both medals originated in the first year of the Civil war. The army Distinguished Service Cross ranks next after the Medal of Honor for valorous services. It was established by President Wilson in 1918 for men or women in the army who distinguished themselves by "extraordinary heroism against the enemy."

The navy Distinguished Service Medal, established in 1919, rewards persons, military or civilian, who in positions of great responsibility render outstanding service to the United States government. The army Distinguished Service Medal, awarded for the same services, was instituted in 1918.

The Distinguished Flying Cross was instituted by Congress in 1926 for the army, navy and marines, for those who have distinguished themselves by heroism or extraordinary achievement while participating in an aerial flight.

The Navy Cross is awarded for deeds not sufficiently conspicuous to warrant the Medal of Honor; the army Silver Star, for gallantry in action; the Soldiers' Medal, for heroism during times of peace, including lifesaving. It is given to members of the navy and marine corps as well as soldiers.

The Purple Heart, established by George Washington, in 1782, was revived in 1932. It is a citation for those wounded in action. There are also gold and silver lifesaving medals for those endangering their lives in water to save others.



# Diary Stark Record of Death-Haunted Captivity

## Tale of Death, Misery Told

(Editor's Note—This is the first of four installments of a vivid story of a fight for existence in the Tokyo Military Camp in Japan, taken from the diary of Maj. Earl R. Short, U.S.A., Japanese prisoner from the fall of Corregidor until Aug. 27, 1945. Short has just returned to San Antonio on leave of absence.)

By FORREST L. SMITH

Evening News Staff Writer

They're just two dirty, water-stained notebooks, dirty from being handled by grimy hands and water-stained from being buried and dug up so often, but to Maj. Earl R. Short each page represents an eternity.

Short, whose wife has made her home at 910 Colita St., since she was evacuated from Manila in April, 1941, recently arrived in San Antonio to begin a long-awaited rest.

Overseas since October, 1938, Short, then a captain, was wounded the night before Corregidor surrendered to the Japanese and remained a prisoner of war from that time until Aug.

of death and misery, but 1941. Evacuated by mistreatment and session—shows, among other things, that a total of 2,463 prisoners died at Camp Cabanatuan, I., from June, 1942, to March, 1943.

All but 92 of the deaths occurred from June through December. In January, 1943, according to the diary, deaths suddenly decreased when large numbers of the prisoners were sent to other camps, and the remaining prisoners received increased, although still small, allotments of meat and milk.

Deaths decreased, but the misery the prisoners still suffered made each day seem like a lifetime. In spite of leaving friends and seeing familiar places under strange domination, it wasn't with too much apprehension that Short wrote in his diary on March 24, 1944:

"Left Bilbid 7:30 a. m. marched to Pier No. 3. Streets deserted. Not like old times. Boarded old 5,000 tonner at 9 a. m., sailed at noon. Three hundred of us in one hold 63x42 feet. Corregidor and Bataan look same as when we left."

From then until they reached Formosa three days later there was "nothing to do but wait." At least "the food on the boat was very good; i. e., better than Bilbid and Cab."

On April 9, they "arrived Osaka after wet, rough, cold miserable voyage. The next day found us under a cold, dark viaduct to wait five hours for train. En-



**RECALLS UNHAPPY YEARS**—Maj. Earl R. Short, U.S.A., of San Antonio, muses through one of his diaries which describe the desperate plight of prisoners of war in Tokyo Military Camp, Hitachi, Japan.—Evening News Photo.

trained at 4 p. m. for Tokyo. Gave us supper of rice and seaweed with a little wooden box."

The story doesn't change much after they reached the Tokyo Military Camp, situated outside of Hitachi, Japan.

The entry on April 20: "Spent 10 days drawing clothes, being examined, filling in forms, hearing lectures, and getting ready to go to work. Two hundred and sixty-two men went to work in the mines. Officers do not have to work unless they want to and the eight of us do not wish to work in the copper mines."

"Food is good except for protein, and we fear that soon we will have more deficiencies as a result. No heat in barracks except about half gallon of charcoal each day at 5 p. m. Lasts about two hours. Suffering from cold. Many men suffering from cramps and diarrhea due to change in food, water and climate. All in all treatment is better than we expected."

"Captain Nemoto and his assistants have done a good job. The regular interpreter is an old school teacher whose English is

not so good. A temporary interpreter is a fellow named Sherow-she, aged 28, who is with the mining company. A fine lad, intelligent, understanding, and a big help to us."

April 30, and a holiday has taken place. "Yesterday the Emperor's birthday, hence our first holiday. As a special consideration we were permitted to purchase 1 orange (officers 2) each at 6.6 sen. We are supposed to be able to buy 5 cigarets per day (officers 10). So far in 20 days we have had 4 day's issue. All have been out for days."

"No pay since last Feb. but still have money because nothing to buy."

"Chris and Robby have been working on the caloric values of our ration—about 2800 per day and very short on protein. I think we will have vitamin deficiencies. Ration consists of barley, rice, soy beans, gobo, potatoes, some meat, few green vegetables, fish, soy paste, radish pickles, etc."

The next entry, that of May 6, must have taken courage to write. "Two years ago today we at Corregidor surrendered. It's

## Major Short Home for Rest

been a hard, very hard two years. Only about half of the original prisoners are still alive.

"Got 50 cigs 4th. Mostly gone now. Still no meat or meat substitute except for a few soy beans. My feet and hands are beginning to tingle and burn with dry beri-beri. Helped carry a sick man down to the mine. Cherry blossoms at that level are in luxuriant bloom. Up here they are just beginning."

"Have finished Oliver Wiswell and am now reading Rebecca. Some letters have arrived in the camp. Don't know how many or whether I will get one. Since the war I have had one ten-word radiogram from my wife—dated May 43—re'd Sept. 43."

One month in Hirachi can be a long time, according to the entry of May 11: "Arrived this camp one month ago today. Seems an age. Still no meat or fish since last 1st. Had a pleasant surprise on 9th. Some Red Cross food and comfort kits came in. Don't know how much yet. We hear there is more to come."

"The Japanese still have it in their warehouse and I suppose it'll be the same as always. Letting us wait."

it out. Started working the men in two shifts today. Late shift 4 p. m. to 2 a. m. We now get up at 4:30 a. m. Makes a hell of a long day with nothing much to do."

Finally the Japs came through, according to the May 20 entry: "Released the Red Cross food and comfort items to us on 16th, i. e., 20 out of 30 boxes of food (80 individual boxes). The eight of us got fraction over two individual boxes. We will drink 1/2 canteen cup of coffee ea. day for 12 days. Still no mail from home since the war started."

May 27 brought good news. "Our only rumors come from the mines. Some of the civilians there have told about bombings of Japan. We hope they are as true as they are persistent."

More good rumors on June 9: "We have heard from two different sources that England and America landed on the continent. If such is true it shouldn't be too long now."

The June 17 entry verified the landing, stating "The Japanese claim 8 of our divisions completely destroyed, but we believe differently."

June 18: "Heard three landings have been made on Saipan." Then, "Today, July 4th, everybody working in the mines. Air raid alarms on since about 10 this morning for 1st time since June 15th. Hope they're really getting down to business. Another year of this will drive me insane."

"Found out we have Come On Yanks—"

## Underwood Writes From Japanese Prison Camp

There was rejoicing in the Underwood family yesterday.

Mr. and Mrs. Ernest C. Underwood had not heard from or of their son, Capt. C. Underwood, Thirty-first Infantry, except for a brief note while the fighting was in progress, since Bataan fell to the Japanese, until yesterday.

A form post card, filled in in typewriter, signed in ink by Captain Underwood, was received by his parents yesterday. The correspondence side of the postal card was headed, "Imperial Japanese Army, Philippine Military Camp No. 1."

The postal card then informed, by filling in blank spaces:

"I am interned at the Philippine Military Camp No. 1.

"I am uninjured.

"My health is fair.

"I am improving."

Then followed several personal messages, including regards to Gene Howe (Amarillo Globe where young Underwood was a reporter before he was commissioned in 1941).



April 22  
Thursday Evening

# Topekan's Son Fights 'Like Hell' In Philippines

## Lt. Chas. Underwood, Censor, Approves His Own Letter Home

Evidence that their son, Lt. Charles C. Underwood, 24-year-old Kansan with General Wainwright's heroic forces on Bataan peninsula, was alive and still "fighting like hell" six weeks ago, was deposited the other day in the mailbox of his anxious parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Underwood, 916 Polk.

It was a letter, written and approved by his own hand, as censor, and dated February 15—the first word they had received since his cable the day before Christmas.

"This is written under hurried conditions, but, I want you to know I am feeling fine and am confident with the trust in God, steady nerve and secure trigger finger everything will come out for me and the United States over here," he said.

"Rumor has it that if this letter gets to message center by noon today, it has a good chance of eventually reaching the states, and it is the first chance I have had of writing since I cabled December 24.

"Of course I can't tell you what I'm doing, where I am or anything about our war over here. We've got one tho, as I presume you well know.

"Once in awhile I get a chance to hear short wave broadcasts from Frisco stations. Living conditions are not as pleasant as my life and apartment in Manila—but it could be worse."

He said he had been promoted from second to first lieutenant and expected to be a captain before he was thru.

### A Texas Newsman

A former newspaperman, working on Gene Howe's Amarillo Globe, Lieutenant Underwood received his military training at Fort Sam Houston in Texas before going to the Philippines early last year with the first boatload of soldiers from American soil to join the old 31st Infantry in islands.

Born in Atchison, the young officer attended Kansas schools, was graduated from the University of Missouri, where he majored in journalism. His father, now with the state highway department, has long been a Republican leader in Kansas and represented one of the Atchison districts in the legislature several terms.

## Jap Cruelty, Neglect of Prisoners To

### DIARY TELLS OF CHRISTMAS TIME IN PRISON CAMP

(Editor's Note—This is the second of four installments of a vivid story of a fight for existence in the Tokyo Military Camp in Japan, taken from the diary of Maj. Earl R. Short, U.S.A., Japanese prisoner from the fall of Corregidor until Aug. 27, 1945. Short has just returned to San Antonio on leave of absence.)

By FORREST L. SMITH

Evening News Staff Writer

The first few months in camp were bad, but they were just a taste of what the prisoners were to experience in the months to come. Rules and regulations were more stringent. Work conditions were gradually becoming more intolerable. Sick men were running rampant through the camp, due in part to lack of food. Extreme cold would have been a relief, but the prisoners were dressed in few clothes. In 1944, and for the first time, the prisoners were given 350 grams of rice per day. As a result, no one was free. The 14th, 17th and 18th, issued rations. They just issued officers we will do 15 of manual labor a week or reduced to 390 grams of food. "We are now working."

Things improve by July. Many men are still sick from malaria and more are coming in with beri-beri every day. We have not had any fish for six days now. Our issue of vegetables was nothing but white radishes—some as small as my lower leg including the root. I imagine eating nothing but rice and maize for five or six days with nothing else, and I am sure of that. Oh well—

#### INTER DREADED

"Four more days until Christmas. Getting old 32—had fruit for 3rd time. I had been in Japan—I had strawberries in two small peaches. TOO. Please are p. Little we can eat our bedding. 30 of our men for 150 Dutch rats from Java. I had in excellent Dutch like we. We are trying to get out of it and I am sure they will love they will. F.D.R. is in



**TOKYO MILITARY CAMP**—Prisoners at Tokyo Military Camp, Hitachi, Japan, were ordered to pose for a picture displaying Red Cross boxes. Many men purposely emptied their boxes. In the background, the copper mines where the prisoners worked.

Honolulu conferring. Also that things are going well for us in France and Russia. Christmas day July 24th."

Sept. 3rd brought back memories. "England at war 5 years today. Wedding anniversary coming up 11th. Nine years. Wish I could do something for the little angel this time but suppose will have to wait until next time."

Not much to look forward to Oct. 21. "We have just finished binding up a lot of radish tops and gabi stems with rice straw and hung them up to dry under the eaves of the buildings. Our winter vegetables and greens. Beri-beri and Edema increase. 199 men to work today. Made one man go who was very sick—had been vomiting and had had no sleep."

"Expect a crisis concerning work soon. Unless conditions improve we will lose some men this winter. They took one of our six thin blankets away yesterday. Each man has only one pair of rubber shoes which he gets wet in the mine each day. Very few have any socks left."

"If you ever did anything, Uncle, do it now!"

#### TREATMENT WORSE

The major must have been hurt Oct. 27, for the next day he had another issue of food. Tasted fine. One of the other officers would eat theirs, so I ate all four portions."

Treatment getting worse! "Tomorrow, Nov. 18, is a general holiday, but they will probably torment us with inspections, etc. Treatment is getting worse. Slappings are frequent. Ice on the ground last two mornings. Each room of 14 or 16 men gets about 1 1/2 quarts of charcoal per day."

"We DREADED through the day, half frozen, looking forward to 7 p. m. roll call outside, barefooted, so that we can retire to bed. Even then the bedding is so flimsy it's hard to keep warm. Capt. Neilson and I sleep to-

gether and thereby get along very well so far.

"Since being prisoners of the Japanese we have experienced all of the sensations to the nth degree—hunger, pain, fear, hate, heat, cold, joy, etc. Found out yesterday we have all of the winter clothing we are going to get. One suit each, under and outer. Many are very thin and in bad shape."

#### CHRISTMAS IN PRISON

"If we get through this winter in these crackerbox huts, with these clothes, on this food, we'll be tough enough for anything."

December, and memories of other happier holidays and the thought of more to come eased their suffering. Even Christmas eve, with its Christmas carols, unexpected Red Cross boxes and permission to stay up until ten o'clock, wouldn't have been bad had it not been for several recent deaths among the prisoners and the fear of more deaths to come.

Dec. 26: "Xmas Day spent same as any other day. Men had to work in the mines. We are supposed to celebrate Xmas on 31st."

The first entry of 1945, written on Jan. 5, describes their celebration of the Japanese New Year.

"Had holidays Dec. 31, Jan. 1, 2 and 3 (i.e., men did not work in the mines). We five officers had to work harder than on regular work days. Dec. 31 was supposed to be our Xmas, and we got some extra fish (total 30 grams per man) and sugar (10 grams total)."

#### DUTCH PRISONERS DIE

"Had funeral services at 12 noon for the two Dutchmen who died 16th and 17th. Today sent their ashes to Tokyo... other three days spent washing and cleaning and trying to keep warm. We have had no charcoal now for 12 days. Burn wood in the rooms without stoves and the smoke is terrific. Many of the men are already stone blind, including myself. Hope it's only temporary."

"Every day we cut wood from the hillside and now supply the entire camp. Now heat the bath every day. The bath is one of the few pleasant things about this place. We had two tangerines per man for Xmas. Bad weather ahead until end of March. Be glad when it's over."

#### COLD, HUNGER INTENSE

Intense cold and hunger, beri-beri, pneumonia and death—that was the story of February, 1945.

Feb. 6: "Temperature has been 14 degrees F. for four days now. Considerable suffering. Three inches of snow on ground and nothing but thin rubber shoes and one pair of cotton socks. Over 80 pair of shoes are worn out and many men in the snow. In the snow, we stand in roll times as long as morning and exercise and lectures by Japanese corporals."

"Fuel shortage now. No bath for four days. Ran out of wood in kitchen last night. No wood outside to cut. Water pipes are freezing. Drains are frozen. Have lost two men already at another ready to go now in situation."

"Just notified of a big winter storm coming up. Had one last September and barracks almost went down. Don't know what this one will bring."



BELIEVES ENEMY STILL DANGEROUS



MAJ. CHARLES C. UNDERWOOD

\* \* \*

\* \* \*

# Japs Waiting Until We Relax To Strike Again

Japanese believe in a good old American adage, too. It's "If at first you don't succeed, try, try again."

And that's what they plan to do to gain their objective of a greater Asiatic sphere, believes Maj. Charles C. Underwood, a survivor of the

# Relax To Strike Again

Japanese believe in a good old American adage, too. It's "If at first you don't succeed, try, try again."

And that's what they plan to do to gain their objective of a greater Asiatic sphere, believes Maj. Charles C. Underwood, a survivor of the

death march on Bataan, who is back in Amarillo for the first time since April of 1941.

"What if we did lose the war," a Japanese officer told the former Amarillo newspaperman, "we've sown much discontent in East Asia. In a few years America will go back home, become soft and then we'll fight again. We'll fight again and again until we finally gain control."

The Jap had spent seven and a half years in the United States, attending universities.

"Right now the Japs are as polite as they were brutal," said the officer, who was liberated from a prison camp in Japan, Sept. 7, "but in my opinion they will pursue the same course Germany did after World War I if they get the opportunity."

Major Underwood, whose parents, Mr. and Mrs. E. N. Underwood, live in Topeka, Kan., was a member of The News-Globe editorial and advertising staffs before he went on active duty as an infantryman in June of 1939. He was married recently to Jimmie Sullivan, formerly of Amarillo. The couple returned here a few days ago for a brief visit before going to Kansas City.



# Military, civilians who lived through WW II tell their sto

CONTINUED FROM 6A

change the war and save many American lives, probably including ours because we were destined to be sent to the South Pacific after the Japanese were driven out of Southeast Asia.

— Herbert (Herb) Collier

My father, Anastacio, was 23 years old and working the farm in Staples, Texas, when his country beckoned him to serve in the armed forces. The year was 1941 and my father was the only son of six to be drafted. With hardly any formal education, a limited knowledge of English and with much courage, my father answered his country's call.

At home, my Mamagrande Susana wept unceasingly every day until my father's return four years later. She and my grandfather, Juan, would often spend entire nights in front of the Blessed Sacrament at the Church of the Sacred Heart of Mary in Martindale in fervent prayer for the safe return of their son. Mamagrande Susana cried so much that her left eye dried up and withered. That was the story our mother, Rafaela, told us to explain our grandmother's blind eye.

My father is 86 years old now. He speaks about his experiences as if they happened just yesterday. We know we have a hero living among us. We never let him forget how thankful we are.

— Stella Juarez-Garcia

I remember the day the war started in September 1939 for those of us living in Scotland, in the United Kingdom. My father, who had fought in the trenches of WWI, told us. I had never seen him as sad as he was that day. As a child, there was a certain degree of excitement about it. The war also meant 5½ years of blackouts, never showing lights after dark. It meant ration books and carrying gas masks and identity cards, and it meant running to the air raid shelter when the siren went off, to wait with baited breath until the 'all clear.'

Throughout, we never learned to hate German people — only Hitler and the Nazis. I immigrated to North America in 1954 and met the love of my life. We will be married 50 years next year. I'm glad my parents taught us not to hate because my dear husband was born and raised in Germany.

— Wilma Heberling

rious Nazi concentration camp at Buchenwald to Gotha, where a C-47 flew us (my first plane ride) to LeHavre, France — and Camp Lucky Strike. After a couple weeks there — and a three-day pass in Paris — I boarded a liberty ship and was transported to Boston. While I was in mid-Atlantic, World War II in Europe officially came to an end.

— Harry Nixon

For the last three years of World War II my family had lived in a small village tucked below the South Downs in West Sussex. On V-E Day, my mother and I were on our own. My father had died the previous year and my brother was working in London. Earlier in the day we had been part of a crowd that packed Chichester Cathedral for a service of

thanksgiving. But late that evening my mother had an inspiration, one I thank her for to this day. After dark we would walk up to the crest of the Downs. A chain of low chalk hills that sprawl along the south coast of England, they have been watch posts and guardians for the English throughout history. The cathedral, its proud spires

floodlit, seemed to float above the town. We sat in the dark for a long time.

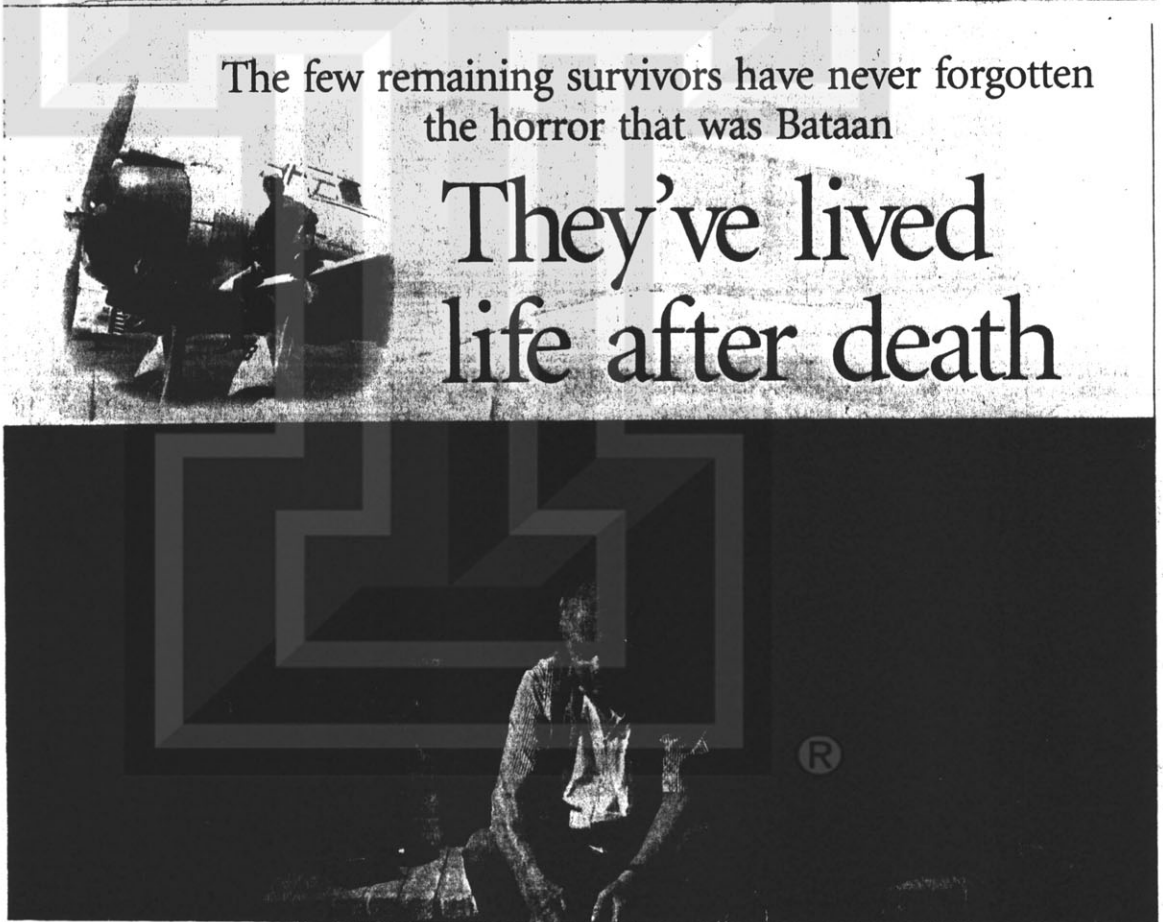
For me, a teenager, it was a time to look forward. For my mother it was another chance to lay the ghosts of war to rest. The future held no guarantees. But at that moment on that quiet hillside soaked in English history, we dared to hope.

— Allison Ramos

To read  
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The few remaining survivors have never forgotten  
the horror that was Bataan

They've lived  
life after death





The few remaining survivors have never forgotten  
the horror that was Bataan

# They've lived life after death



BILLY CALZADA/STAFF

William J. Mitchell now can relax and play with his dog Beagle. In the early 1940s, though, he was an Army Air Corps crew chief (top image). After the Philippines fell, he was one of the thousands of GIs who were forced on the Bataan Death March (lower image).



BY SIG CHRISTENSON  
EXPRESS-NEWS MILITARY WRITER

**M**ost of them are dead this V-J Day, but a precious few have lived to old age.

Their faces, angular at the start of the war, then gaunt behind the razor wire, now are soft and round, their hair thinning and gray. They know what it is to savor a good meal, the gift of freedom and the miracle of survival.

And, as time has eroded youthful vitality and left them frail, they haven't forgotten their torment.

Sixty years after Japan's surrender made history of World War II and its most indelible images — the wreckage at Pearl Harbor, Marines raising the flag at Iwo Jima, a mushroom cloud rising over Hiroshima — other, more awful scenes from that brutal war haunt a dwindling number of old men.

Perhaps the worst memories belong to survivors of the war's most miserable patch of earth, Bataan. In those terrible images, GIs feverish with dysentery dig rows and rows of graves. Swollen bodies lie in streams from which dying soldiers drink. Japanese guards track down a man who then watches his twin brother's execution by firing squad.

"It was just hell," said William J. Mitchell, an 84-year-old Universal City

See BATAAN/8A

## Today's Weather

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On May 7, 1945, I had a memorable experience, which was not apparent at the time. I was the pilot for one of the 50-60 aircraft flying French workers from Germany into Reims. General Eisenhower's headquarters was located there. A Jeep carrying three MPs armed with machine guns directed my C-47 to follow them to the far side of the airfield. As I cut my engines, I noticed another C-47 on my right wing. As that C-47 cut its engines, five high-ranking German officers stepped off the airplane, got into staff cars and were escorted away by several Jeeps loaded with armed MPs. I had been used to shield the German surrender team from view! A few hours later the American Forces Radio announced that the war in Europe was over.

—Robert Awe

The war in Europe officially ended May 7, 1945. My war ended three weeks earlier. On April 15, I was liberated from a prisoner-of-war work detail at Glauchau, Germany, near Leipzig and Dresden. An almost five-month period of incarceration was over, as Gen. Patton's Third Army liberated our town — and me — along with 19 other U.S. POWs. After liberation, it was back by truck through the noto-

William J. Mitchell now can relax and play with his dog Beagle. In the early 1940s, though, he was an Army Air Corps crew chief (top image). After the Philippines fell, he was one of the thousands of GIs who were forced on the Bataan Death March (lower image).

BILLY CALZADA/STAFF

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"It was just hell," said William J. Mitchell, an 84-year-old Universal City

See BATAAN/8A

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Today's Weather  
Isolated t-storms  
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*The Japanese viciousness was rooted in bushido, the ancient code of Samurai warriors.*

*It was radical by American standards, but not to generations of Japanese who brooked no embarrassment.*

## Bataan survivors have lived life after death

CONTINUED FROM 1A

retiree and Bataan Death March survivor who was imprisoned for 3½ years in the Philippines, Manchuria and Japan. "You stepped out of line for whatever reason, the Japanese would bayonet you or shoot you, and that's the way we lost a lot of men on the march."

For those who survived, life after war required another, quieter brand of heroism: that of moving on, of enduring nightmares and fighting through wounds both physical and psychological while raising families and making a living and greeting each anticlimactic morning of the rest of their lives.

This weekend, Mitchell will be fishing. John E. Olson won't mark the day but has written three books about the war. Abel F. Ortega was at a local hospital visiting his wife, Naomi, the mother of their seven children. A devout Christian, he said the treacherous years of prison life reinforced his faith.

Sixty years ago, just before being pushed at gunpoint into the cargo hold of a Japanese freighter, Ortega saw a can on the ground. A voice told him to pick it up. Inside the cramped cargo hold he wound up under a wind socket.

"When it rained, rain would trickle down in that shutter and I had that can there and I would catch the water. All the others were crying for water," Ortega, 85, said, adding that he traded sips for scraps of rice the next 39 days. "It was a blessing for me. And that's just once instance."

Their ordeal began in the months after Pearl Harbor as their outposts, starved for food, medicine and ammunition, fell under the Japanese juggernaut. The clash of East and West was

lery from the small rocky island of Corregidor, which hadn't yet fallen.

They quickly understood the nature of their enemy. No one got water that day, despite a long march in the tropical sun. Those who tried to get water or fell back, sat down or collapsed were killed by bayonet, bullet or sword.

That viciousness was rooted in bushido, the ancient code of Japanese Samurai warriors. It was radical by American standards, but not to generations of Japanese who brooked no embarrassment.

Losing "face" was as much a cause for punishing guards as their despised enemy, death preferable to dishonor.

"It's something you more or less have to accept in the historical sense than try to explain," said historian and columnist T.R. Fehrenbach, author of "This Kind of War," an acclaimed account of the Korean conflict.

"I listen to people trying to explain Osama bin Laden. How do you explain people who want to blow themselves up? You can't by the dictates of your own culture."

Bushido meant deprivation for civilian and military prisoners, but there was a different standard. Then 14, Liz Irving was imprisoned with her parents, schoolteachers Roscoe and Mamie Lautzenhiser, "enemy aliens" rounded up in Manila.

Unlike the GIs, the 4,000 civilians and military nurses in Santo Tomas Camp got three



ORTEGA

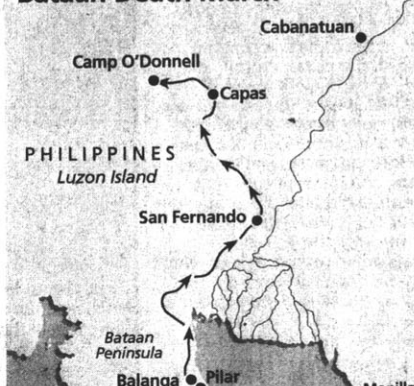


PHOTOS BY BILLY CALZADA/STAFF

Abel Ortega Sr. was a captive of the Japanese in the Philippines during WWII. He walked in the infamous Bataan Death March and was liberated from the Maibara prison camp in Japan in 1945. He holds a Japanese samurai sword.



### Bataan Death March





Seeing the utility of their captives, Japan transported 35,000 allied troops from the Philippines and elsewhere to 130 Asian prison camps, where they worked in mines, shipyards and munitions factories, according to the POW Research Network Japan, formed in 2002 to research Japanese POW camp atrocities.

In Cabanatuan, a Philippine camp where Americans were held after the Death March, food was so scarce that one U.S. commander, Maj. Chester L. Johnson, counted the grains of rice allotted to each man. Japan coped with the loss of indigenous workers through the use of slave labor, but usually did little to keep their captives alive. Men slept on bamboo floors. Punishment was severe, arbitrary and frequently fatal. Organized in groups of 10, American POWs in Cabanatuan tied their legs together at night to ensure no one escaped. If one fled, the other nine were shot.

The Death March began with the surrender of 70,000 U.S. and Filipino forces on Bataan. They were forced to walk 55 miles from Mariveles, on the southern end of the peninsula, on April 9, 1942, to San Fernando. From there, they were taken by rail to Capas and marched the last 8 miles to Camp O'Donnell. By then, the group was much smaller: Many escaped; between 7,000 and 10,000 perished.

Joseph D. Lajzer, Joe Alexander, Olson, Ortega and Mitchell were on the march. The men, who live in the San Antonio area, dodged incoming U.S. artil-

lery fire after three men caught in a breakout were killed. In the future, room monitors elected by their peers would be executed. The escapes stopped.

"Of course, nobody wanted to be elected room monitor after that," said Irving, 78, of San Antonio.

Living this way left a lifelong impression. Ortega, who suffered nightmares from his captivity but later fought in Korea, planted small U.S. flags on headstones for years at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery. After the war, Lajzer picked fights if people touched or bumped him. Beaten repeatedly by guards, one who smashed his left knee with a digging tool, he refused to take off his flight cap at an NCO club in Alamogordo, N.M.

"He dared them to take it off," said Lajzer's wife, Adelina, who delivered a baby girl, Katherine, in 1950. "I got fed up with all the fighting on any old thing. I told him that we were finished, but he loved his little girl and he was not about to be finished."

That anger ran deep, eight years into his past. As the march began a small cadre of guards disgusted by the concept of surrender and prone to inflict pain had to keep watch day and night on groups of 100 to 500 Americans. Olson said the troops could have overpowered the Japanese in a mass breakout if they had been strong enough, but they'd been weakened by the four-month siege that led to their surrender.

Still, he tried. Olson and a buddy, Capt. Charles "Shorty"

Langdon, decided they would flee to the mountain provinces of Luzon. On the second evening of the march they slipped away from the formation as it trudged down a gravel road. Just as they slid down an embankment, into a gully, someone cried, "Guard! Guard! My friend can't go any further!" The guard beat one of the prisoners in the pitch-black night. Olson and his friend overheard it all.

"Shorty, I'm afraid they're going to get us, and we'd better get back into the column," Olson said.

A half-track driver, Ortega saw bodies all along the road to San Fernando. One night, a Filipino soldier next to him built a fire to cook his rice. A Japanese guard bayoneted him. In another incident, several Filipinos were tied to a haystack and burned alive. Later, a GI fell out of the ranks and was run over.

Five days passed before El Paso native Ortega, got his first bite to eat — a rice ball. Over the 12 days of the march he perhaps ate three full meals. Water was so scarce that men died of thirst, but others perished after drinking.

Mitchell and other GIs were told not to drink from the streams they crossed during the march, because the dead bodies had contaminated the water with cholera. Filipino troops who drank despite the warning

tumbled off the road, delusional. Then they were shot or stabbed.

A young Army captain, Olson was handed the grim task of tallying the dead as American POWs were herded into Camp O'Donnell at the end of the march.

Inside a red binder he keeps a photocopy of the original list of the dead, the first to fall a young lieutenant, Robert O. Bennett. Olson broke down the deaths from May through July 1942, and listed the cause.

Nearly two in three of the 1,316 dead suffered from dysentery.

Now 87, he wore a khaki armband with writing in English and Japanese identifying him as the personnel adjutant. The Japanese warned that he would be "suitably punished" if his daily census count differed from one done by the Imperial Army.

One day, Mitchell was ordered to watch a firing squad kill nine Americans who had dug their own grave. They stood at the edge of the mass grave, hands tied behind their backs.

"All we could do is stand at attention and salute them," he said. "We just had to salute."

Hunger was as common as violence, and the lines between the two often blurred. Lajzer, a Toledo native and retired Air Force technical sergeant, was forced to stand at attention while a guard beat him with a fist. His crime was eating rice after 8 p.m.

Liberation in the wake of Japan's Aug. 15, 1945, surrender, followed by a formal ceremony aboard the USS Missouri on Sept. 2, wasn't the end for the American POWs. Most stayed inside the wire awaiting the arrival of U.S. forces. Olson, a West Point graduate who had learned Japanese, joined an Army outfit charged with finding POWs scattered in 10 camps.

Planes dropped food and medical supplies into the camps, but the dying didn't stop. Lajzer, in his book "3.6 Years of Hell," recounted the tale of a starved prisoner who made a list of recipes to try out back home. The aspiring chef was one of four

men killed during a B-29 food drop as cans smashed through the thatched roof of a hut.

Japan's atrocities did not go unpunished. Lt. Gen. Homma Masaharu, commander of the Philippines' invasion force, was executed in 1946 for his role in the Death March.

Lt. Gen. Hikotaro Tajima was hanged for executing three airmen on Bataan. A 1948 tribunal in Tokyo, held separately from other trials, led to the hanging of seven officers.

Peace, secured at last, would neither last nor leave the world more secure. The Axis powers fell, soon replaced by the Iron Curtain and the threat of mutually assured destruction. Debate has long raged over use of the bomb, which killed 70,000 to 100,000 people on Hiroshima and 40,000 on Nagasaki.

Some say the decimation of both cities was a barbaric act, but those favoring it note that President Truman made the decision in large part because of the bloody, suicidal battles that lay ahead in a final U.S. invasion of the home islands.

In Bataan, Army Rangers backed by Filipino guerrillas liberated 511 American POWs at Cabanatuan on Jan. 30, 1945. The event, detailed in "Ghost Soldiers" by author Hampton Sides and new movie "The Great Raid," aimed to spare the men from sharing the fate of 150 soldiers burned and machine gunned to death a month before on the island of Palawan. A "kill-all" order issued by Japan's War Ministry and sent to prison camps throughout Asia on Aug. 1, 1944, called for extermination of the POWs, Sides said.

"Whether they are destroyed individually or in groups, and whether it is accomplished by means of mass bombing, poisonous smoke, poisons, drowning, or decapitation, dispose of them as the situation dictates," stated Tokyo's memo. "It is the aim not to allow the escape of a single one, to annihilate them all, and not to leave any traces."

Today, many ex-POWs still harbor bitterness toward Japan. They and their families filed a

class-action lawsuit years ago against two dozen Japanese firms that used slave labor. The case is in the courts, unresolved.

"We're asking for an apology from the Japanese government for mistreatment, and we're suing the companies for slave labor," said the 78-year-old Alexander, a former Kelly AFB civilian worker who joined the Army at 14 after running away from family who said he'd land in prison.

Olson returned determined to cobble together an official record of the war and the Philippine Scouts he served with before the surrender. Japan's conquests were driven by a need for raw materials, he said, but that was another generation.

"There's no use in holding it against Japanese today," he said.

But Irving, whose teenage years were spent in prison, is weary of the debate over Truman's order to drop the atomic bomb. The argument, she said, conveniently overlooks Japan's misdeeds in the Philippines.

"I get kind of tired about hearing about the poor people in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, because they've never mentioned hundreds of thousands of civilians that they deliberately massacred in Manila as the Americans were coming in," Irving said.

Thirty V-J Days passed before Lajzer ate rice. He'd think about how much of it was available in America and how little he had in prison — sometimes just six grains for every meal.

His nightmares are over. Back in the day, Lajzer dreamed of running on the tops of houses as Japanese guards chased him. Today he sleeps well, goes to church twice a week, and savors his two grown children, three grandchildren and one great-granddaughter, now 3.

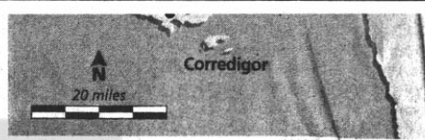
At the end of Lajzer's suffering is a simple philosophy:

"Smile, you'll look better," Lajzer said. "There a lot of people in this world who need to smile a lot more."

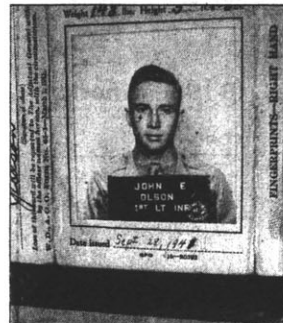
sigc@express-news.net



Liz Irving was a civilian prisoner of the Japanese in the Philippines during WWII. She was a teenager whose parents were schoolteachers. She was held at the Santo Tomas internment camp, which was liberated on Feb. 3, 1945. The drawing was sketched for her by a fellow prisoner on Christmas Day 1943.



MARK BLACKWELL/STAFF



John E. Olson was a prisoner of war after the fall of the Philippines early in World War II. He survived the Bataan Death March and has written several books relating to his experiences.

