June 14 every year is Bessang Pass Day — by virtue of Proclamation No. 515 of President Garcia in 1938. The day was so designated to impress upon all Filipinos, particularly the young, the significance of Bessang Pass in Philippine history.

The nation should hold appropriate programs on Bessang Pass Day: (1) to show to the world that we Filipinos will fight and die to regain every inch of Philippine ground illegally occupied by foreign aggressors; and (2) to express our eternal gratitude to the Filipino and American guerrillas — regular soldiers and civilian volunteers — who fought in the fierce battles which culminated in the capture of Bessang from the Japanese Imperial forces on June 14, 1945.

Bessang Pass should be remembered by every freedom-loving Filipino because like Bataan, Corregidor, and other battlefields during World War II, it proved beyond doubt the caliber of Filipino soldier. Every Filipino citizen — man, woman or child — must know the battle for Bessang Pass and take pride in it, because it is a stirring example of how Filipino soldiers and “green guerrillas” so inadequately equipped and trained in warfare, could fight a well-trained enemy on a most difficult terrain.

The capture of Bessang Pass on June 14, 1945, was one of the glorious achievements of the Filipino and American officers and men of the USA-FIP, NL (U.S. Army Forces in the Philippines, North Luzon) — a guerrilla force of over 20,000 officers and men under the overall command of Colonel (now retired brigadier general) Russell W. Volckmann, a graduate of the U.S. Military Academy and a veteran of the Battle of Bataan.

All the five infantry regiments of the USAFIP, NL — the 121st, 15th, 66th, 11th and 14th — and their supporting engineers, signal, quartermaster, ordinance, and medical units contributed to the victory in Bessang Pass. It was the 121st Infantry, however, which had the most number of troops engaged in the operation. One of its units, the “L” company under the command of Lt. Emilio Narcisse, continuously operated around the Bessang Pass area from January to June 14, 1945. After participating in the battle which resulted in the liberation of San Fernando, the capital town of La Union, on March 23, 1945, all three battalions of the 121st were employed in the operations to capture Bessang Pass.

CONVENTION NOTES

We are interested in making this a real fun convention. We need your help for making plans. Arrangements can be made for golf, deep sea fishing, sightseeing, Disney World trip. Drop a line to headquarters indicating what you wish to do in your free time. As usual, the evenings will be taken up with Quan parties, etc.

Plan this convention as part of your vacation. We can assure you the meetings will be cut to a minimum. For those in the mid-west, the mileage from New York to Clearwater is the same as Chicago to Clearwater. Lets have a good turn out from the mid-west and south central states. Many of our members from these states haven’t attended any of our conventions as yet. Too bad if they only knew what they were missing.

Seasons
Greetings

A belated best wishes for seasons greetings. Due to some personal commitments, your editor was late in assembling the printed material and delivering it to the printer. I was finishing a year of being president of the mid-atlantic conference of the painting and decorating contractors of America and was responsible for the convention which was held in November.

In order to avoid the Christmas mail I decided it would be best to hold up mailing until after the New Year.

We do hope the coming year will be a successful one, one in which you will enjoy good health. Thanks to those who remembered us with greetings.
RUDOLPH PFEIFERS WED 60 YEARS

BRICK TOWNSHIP--Mr. and Mrs. Rudolph Pfeifer celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary at a dinner party Thursday at El Greco.

The couple, married Aug. 1, 1914, in St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church, West New York, resides at 473 Admiral Rd., Forked River, Lacey Township. They moved to Forked River six years ago when Mr. Pfeifer retired and sold his sheet metal and roofing business.

Mr. Pfeifer is a former president of the North Jersey Roofing Contractors. He is a member of the Old Guard of Ocean County, the Square Club of Ocean County, and Mosaic Lodge, F&AM, Ridgefield Park.

Until a year ago, Mrs. Pfeifer was an active bowler. In 1930 she was the top winner in the All-State Bowling events and was elected to the Bowlers Hall of Fame. She has bowled in tournaments throughout the nation, and at the time of her retirement from the sport, had an average of 196 for the season.

They are parents of a son, William Pfeifer, Hillsdale. The couple has two grandchildren and two great grand children.

1975 CONVENTION—CLEARWATER, FLA.
Come—Bring A Friend
TIRED MARY
BY MARY GRAYSON

Something for Everyone. That’s what the San Antonio convention had. Jerry and Kay McDavid had the headaches and we had the fun. The convention started for us at the Newark airport. Here we ran into Larry McQueeny. He was also on his way to the convention. Since Larry was in the seat behind us (praying) it was a little pre convention get together. (See, Al Senna, some people are willing to take a chance by flying with us. Bill will just have to take his bets to Larry McQueeny from now on.) We got there on time to the convention by confusing the airlines. We left on a Wed. instead of our usual Thur. but it worked. Is that any way to treat an airline? You bet it is!

When we arrived in San Antonio general Bob Franklin was there to meet us and greet us. (But where were Ralph and Betty Kean?) They were to be greeted and greeted too. But no could find') When we arrived at the hotel the floor that half of the convention had already arrived. Being hardy or foolish souls they had arrived on Sun (and had already been asked to leave). By arriving late you always have a few extra days to confuse the management before they catch on to you.

One of the real thrills of the convention for me was that it also served as a get together for me with my good friend and fellow performer Mickey Blaser. We used to perform together in New Jersey. Since Mickey was then performing at the Sheraton Kings Inn near Houston, she flew over to spend a few days with me. So Wed. nite was my treat nite. After meeting Mickey at the airport we went to was left of the Western Bar-B-Que at the Tropicano. We missed the food but we did not miss—the following dallying or dancing (or both). There was something about switching partners among the swinging set composed of Agnew and his brother, Dotty and Pat Patrizio, Mary and Andy B (as in Baumgartner), and Mary and Freddy Gombos. Mary B was to get Arlie I think. She did not have my score card with me I lost track of the players positions in the game. I was only an observer in a dishonorable situation (in which my position on the team through an economy move. Freddy Gombos figured if he traded me for his Mary that he would not have to have anything remonogrammed since both we both had the same initials. Do you call that smart or cheap? (You certainly can’t call it love!) Enough of this dalliance—now to the dancers! Francis and Gladys Mace. Francis has lost interest in having the convention at the Sunshine Club at May’s Landing, New Jersey. He would rather stream thru Florida next year. (Well I always knew that this had been a streak in him). Swede and Terry Emeric, Bob and Eve Neil, George and Mary Piceirillo, John and Virginia Rowland, John Ray and his Ray of Sunshine Mary, Joe and Helen Potter, and All and Pauline Gimm. (It’s not true about Al Cimini streaking. When I met him in the hall he only had half of his clothes off. He was heading for a swim. He said.)

Back to Dalling—Got in a fast chat with Leo and Jaguar Johnson. They had to leave the convention early as they became double grandparents right before the convention. Their son had twins. So her daughter-in-law was going back to the hospital. (I’d go back to the hospital too, if Bill had twins.) So Terry and Leo were going home to take over the child spoiling early. A hurried hi to Harold and Margie Kipps.

And it is as usual one of our joys at convention time; to be able to get together with the Field of Kentucky, and Larry Raines and Sally Froener. Bunny hopped in with the full Fields brood this time. His bunnies being, Eloise (head bunny) and Janis and Lisa. Sally and Larry had added attractions with them this year. Sally had a doll (Blaine) Millett of the army nurses corp. And Were Just Wild About Sally. And Larry was joined by his daughter Gail Raines. And Gail is just as darling as the letters that she writes to us on occasions.

And after the party was over Mickey and I went to the local lunch wagon to feed the faces that missed the Bar-B-Que. Nothing could be Feiner (or safer) than being escorted to the dinner by Feiner and his dog. (Feiner’s name is Harold. But the dog would not give her name. Bad image you know.) Also talking at the dinner were Sally Gromer and our escort home was Frankie Boy DiPasquale. (All those men. Enough to make Margie Hausman turn green with envy.) Incidentally, I was informed by one of my friends?? that I was not very smart to invite a girl friend to the convention who was younger and better looking than me. True. I must be getting careless in my old age.

Thur. was a day for sight seeing for Mickey and I. One of the sights that we saw was Helen Senna dining along the river walk. And now I know why Al Senna gambles. Helen lies. She told us if we sat in a certain spot that a water taxi would come along that we could take back to the hotel. And it never happened. I really think that that was a rotten way to try to get us from attending the Quan party. But we caught on to her game and walked back to the hotel and still made the Quan party that nite. But we saw the Laimo where Davey Crockett got cracked and then we went to the Quan party where the following people got crocked.

John and Martina Aldred (There is no hope for these two. They are friends of the Kentucky Fields), Pat and Peggy Hitchcock (fully recovered from their Kansas City headache) Dom and Andria Giantonio John and Mary LeClair, and wasn’t that that old wolf from Conn. Arthur* (Now that will take care of you New England boys.)

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FONTANA

The eleventh consecutive reunion of Batan- Corregidor veterans at Fontana Village, N. C., August 25-28, 1974, begins our second decade of enjoyable, dues-free meetings. There were 118 veterans - 256 counting wives, relatives and friends who are always welcome.

Lots of good stories in the village theater when each vet introduces himself and family. Jerry Okonski, who came for the first time, was the earliest arrival - five days ahead of time - beat me one full day. For years our chairman, Wayne Carringer, has been telling us about somebody’s appendix being removed aboard a Jap PW ship in Taiwan by Dr. Hewlett without anesthetic. Well Okonski was the one. He said it took four men to hold him until he passed out. Last thing he remembered was the Jap guards grinning.

Sam Moody told about a mean Jap guard, who was being sent for the first time, and was found to have misconduct, asking for a note so he could surrender to US troops. He got a note saying: “Take care of this Jap - permanently.”

Colonel Ray O’Day brought us up-to-date on the senior officers, the Wainwright Travelers, of whom less than 10 remain and many unable to travel anymore. “Chit Chat” now goes out to over 11,500. Our old friend, Jim Conley, from nearby Andrews, N. C., was in the hospital there with a heart attack. Jim was one of the 100 Rangers who liberated those 500 sad sacks left at Cabanatuan in early 1945. He had told us this story several times at Fontana. There were four of our group present who had been liberated by Conley and the other Rangers: Richard Beck, Clarence Bower, Art Hilhorst, and Ray Holland and they all drove over to see Conley. Later they passed the hat and sent over over $72. Friday, on my way home, I stopped by the Andrews Hospital, but could not see Jim because a sign on the door read: “Family only.” So I gave my card to the nurse telling her I was a B-C friend; whereupon she took me in to see Jim, who sat up and told me just how much better he was since seeing B-C friends. He was scheduled to leave the hospital the next day.

For several years, we have wanted to hear the first-hand story of our nurses—those wonderful Angels of Bataan. And we really heard it done to perfection by Madeline Ullom, who told us about prewar Manila hospitals and the first few days of the war. Then Hattie Brantley told us about the unprepared rush to Bataan - in starched, white uniforms soon traded for size 46 coveralls. Remember that gas mask we carried? When a phosphorous shell landed near the Bataan hospital, the gas alarm rang. Dr. Weinstein put on his gas mask for the first time and became panic struck because he was already blind. He was much relieved when

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JANUARY, 1975-3
Ah but there is more; cause Were just Wild About Harry’s (both of them) Liskowsky (from Mass.) and Menozzi (from Pa.). Also their wives Millie and Bea. (Okay fellows you sort out the women. You know how I am. Always mixing up the wrong wives with the wrong husbands.) Did not get Danny De Nobile mixed up this time. He was dancing with Hoan. And Hoan is his wife. And I was dancing with Frankie Di Pasquale and I’m Bill Grayson’s wife. (Now I think that I’m straightened out but do you readers feel a little confused! I put this kind of stuff in my column instead of a crossword puzzle).

Quickies at the Quan Party: Just got a chance for a hurried hi and a short chat with Nick and Mary Bosco, John and Delores Bennett, Hymie Bernstein (Not fishing or pool sharklng this trip), Alex and Rose Benishake, and the Chicago Clan Nick Prayzyuk and Richard Beck, and their nearby neighbors William and Becky Wright, from Rantoul, Ill. (And they are all right because they gave me a pen when they found me trying to write with my finger nail in the coffee shop. Then they found out that I could not write period.) And Wanda and Dwight Woodall (You remember the Woodalls? They are the people from Kansas who belong to the New England chapter. They joined the chapter at the Kansas City convention because Marge Hausman told them everybody did.) Since both the Woodalls and the Wrights were new (at least to me) at the Kansas City convention, we must be doing something right. They like us. Which brings up an indirect plug for our next convention, “Try It, You’ll Like It.” (And No Wanda as an out of state member of the New England chapter you do not have to put up the air fare to the next convention for Marge Hausman).

But all was not fun and games; for before the party we had to hold a Cheer him, Cure Him or Bury Bunny party. Bunny Fields made the mistake of getting very ill when his "best" friends were around. The following friends attended the combination Gay Wake party; His soon to be widowed Eloise, his concerned friends (They were concerned that they would have to pitch in for flowers) Bill Grayson, and Larry Baines and his cousin and her husband. You can tell that he was in bad shape, the relatives were called in. However, we would have had no trouble if only Bunny would have consented to die in Texas since his cousins son is a funeral director. We decided on the $80.00 burial for Bunny. We were going to sew handles on his suit and carry him that way. (This joke? comes to you through the courtesy of Balckie Brennan. So if any of you die at the Brennan’s you know what is in store for you.) We were looking for honorary pall bearers but we could not figure out which of his friends was the honoriest. Eloise was measuring his slacks so that she could shop around for a replacement at the convention. Why waste time? You really didn’t expect her to have to drive back to Kentucky all by herself did you? Someone had to spell her at the sheel. Besides, being a widow she would have to start worrying about finances—someone had to help pay for the gas going home! (Bidding on Bunnie teeth will begin as soon as his eyes are closed. I have first bid. I just hope the V.A. does not repossess them.)

When we finally did get to the Quan party (After leaving instructions were to deliver Bunnie’s teeth in case he passed on while we were partying) for awhile I encountered shades of Atlanta. But with the help of John and Dolly Goodrow We Shall Overcome. In Atlanta we had to set up our own tables but here there was an added attraction, we had to find them first. But with John doing the set ups and Dolly doing the grindimg and cons-fiscation (Okay so she steals. First thing you know she will be going into politics!) we were all set to join the festivities. There were two choices in these. You could attend the fashion show put on by Bob Franklin and his wife Encarnacion (hope I spelled that right) or the Quan Caper. The fashion show which featured Filipino fashions was playing to a full house so I chose the Quan Caper. (Besides the Filipino fashions were just dazzling and I could not afford any of them).

And Look Ma Were Dancing; Ken and Mary Curley, Bouncing Barney Grill and Clara Mae (Bickford) Billello to the strains of Green Moss, Miss. from the Army Nurses Corp. Sharp Sally Fromer and Sally Blaine Millet (In addition to his other charms Sol has added dancing in the Fred Astire manner) and the Jitterbug Chump of the South Pacific (For those of you who did not get his name last time it is Frank Margiotta) and did Jose Gutierrez don dancing shoes and twirl his wife around the floor and I missed it?

After the Ball Was Over It was showtime. Mickey and I show nuff did put on a show. Among those attending our show nuff were Arnold Bocksdal who entertained at the piano until show time. (Mickey relieved Arny of his piano playing at show time and a burglar relieved him of his money later). It just wasn’t poor Arnie and Pegs convention.) Peggy and Blackie Brennan also attended. (Blackie always believes there is safety in numbers. The boys would not get him when there’s a crowd around) Peggy did a “little” shopping at this convention (That’s why Ben and Helen Steven’s car pulled away looking like a U Haul truck). And Aggie Akullian, Dotty Patrizio, Mary G (Gomos) and Mary B (Baumgarter). They requested “Dolly” and really I was going to give the gal a rest this convention. Instead of Dolly I was parking on “Mame.” But if they insist, I can’t resist. (Wonder how much I get paid for poetry?) So Dolly attended another convention. Rose and Vic Dengelegi (Vic is one of my favorite fans because he shares my love for operetta airs and he is one of the few people who encourages me when I start singing

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MINUTES OF MEETING
GENERAL E. P. KING, JR.
CHAPTER

On August 3, 1974, a picnic was enjoyed at the Gilliland plantation, near Snellville, Georgia. Rain was falling outside but spirits were bright indoors. After a feast of the usual picnic "goodies", including watermelon grown by Paul, the meeting was called to order by Commander Warren Baggett. He announced that the Florida State Chapter has invited the General King Chapter to participate in a joint meeting with them at Lake City, Florida, October 25 to October 27, 1974. The invitation was unanimously accepted. Detailed information will be sent to members.

At the invitation of Eunice and Warren Baggett, it was agreed that the December meeting of the General King Chapter will be held at their home again this year specifically December 14.

Carl Allen reported he had visited Dan Conrad at the Dublin V.A. Center. We miss Dan very much and hope he can enjoy better health real soon.

After the business meeting was adjourned, we returned to socializing, and were told the joyful news that soon we shall be hearing wedding bells. On September 14, Felix Powell and Rochelle Simmons will be married at the Cherokee Heights Baptist Church, Macon, Georgia. We wish them every happiness.

Respectfully submitted,
Carl H. McWilliams

CLOTHING

Annual clothing allowances totaling more than $7.2 million have been awarded thus far this year to 48,000 service-disabled veterans, the Veterans Administration reported today.

Officials noted the agency granted $7.6 million last year to 50,750 veterans. The clothing allowance is $150.

PL 92-525, enacted in June 1972, authorizes clothing allowances for service-disabled veterans whose prosthetic or orthopedic devices such as artificial limbs and wheelchairs tend to wear out or tear clothing.

Except for military retirees not on VA compensation rolls, eligible veterans receive the allowance automatically each year after initial application. Retirees do not have to waive any portion of retirement pay to receive the allowances.

VA officials explained that military retirees who elect retirement pay in lieu of VA compensation must apply each year, because the agency does not maintain current records on these veterans.

The agency urged eligible service-disabled veterans interested in clothing allowances to contact the nearest VA office, or representatives of local veterans service organizations.
TIRED MARY (cont.)

them. And do doesn’t even own a dart gun.). Tom Hackett who requested Mickey to play
and me to shut up. Not really. We can get around that you see Mickey and I also sing
together. So Tom, We Wish You Love.

And over on the side lines chatting and therefore missing my special rendition of
"We Love You Truely" (as requested by Al Senna) were Sol Fromer and Sally Blaine Mitlatt. And bless his little ole bouncing bubbles Bunny and Eloise Fields showed up.
(Bunny recovered just so that he could see me perform again!) Also attending the show
were George and Millie Deckert, and Jean and Sid DeBriere (from the strawhat circuit)
They were my fans in Kansas City who asked me to sing. And you just can’t get fans like
that all the time. Not in this organization! Among those who did not attend the show
because they were in the swimming pool were Lou and Gigi Curtis. And Mr. Bataan (Al Senna showed wife Helen to their room and then showed his true colors. He was dancing
putting on the show! The convention committee is going to miss that guy. He always went
out of his way to keep the show moving (in more ways than one). And I can tell you
working for Honcho Vater is no picnic. Not only that but wait until you discuss pay with
him! You will never believe the excuses that he will come up with for not raising your
salary! He has run out of phases now so, I am going to see what is in my next check.
Moths.

And After the Ball Was Over Vic Dengelegi was locked out of his room. (Not by Rose.
She was with him). He said it was something with the lock. But it could have been
something with the rent.

Friday, was goodbye day (more poetry. Wonder what Hopcho would pay for
poetry?) for Mickey and I. Mickey had to go back to her job entertaining at the Kings
Sheraton Inn near Huston. (The plug was for Mickey. Not the Sheraton.) Mickey called
me when she arrived back home to Tell me to Thank you All for being so nice to her. (But
I told her, when you are nice you nice, and we are just nice people). She especially
wanted me to Thank the following: Lou Curtis for the courtesy of putting her bags in the
cab for her (Boy they make me tote my own. It pays to be young and beautifuL) Al mini
and me to shut up. Not really. We always believe in advertising you know. (To A) Senna
for inviting her to date with our table. (I add my Thanks to that too Jerry)

And to Jerry McDevitt for a quiet unnamed favor. (I add my Thanks to that too)
Jerry. And to all our fabulous gals who were as nice as we have always said they are.
Moths.

Friday I took the day off to see what Mickey and I had missed the day before. I took a
water taxi and went to see the LA Villita. I did not see it with it commercial face on.
And I found it rather nice that way. To Browse around unhurried and uncrowded. I visited the
non denominational church in LA Villita and several small quaint shops. Got back in time
to chat with Ann Bressi. We conversed our first loves in both the human and the canine
family.

Friday mite was the banquet blast. They did it again. They gave away our table.
(Chuck Bloksis hates me.). Ah but this time we were winners. We got to sit in the main
room overlooking the swimming pool. Other Main Liners were Tex Gould (He Left his
house on because Stella insisted on coming along instead. Spill sport. I thought that
you were supposed to be Mrs. Goodsport Stell. But when I think about it you were.
Because when Tex added the monacle to his ten gallon hat it was a little much.) With Tex
and Stella was the gentleman who made us feel "Wanter" at our first convention.
Providence, R.I) Tony Di Meo. (Now you know who to blame). It was nice to chat with
him again, and give our belated Thank You's (for your attention to us there) to him. But
just not let it be sooo long between conventions Tony. Now that we found you again.

Marie Batavick kept confusing Bill about who was her husband. She finally settled on
keeping Elias to end the confusion of Bill. (One confused member in a household is
equal.). The Vice squad was represented by Bill and Ann (Vice that is), Mr. Bataan (Al
Senna) showed wife Helen to their room and then showed his true colors. He was dancing
around the room with not one but three (Three Count them) women. And all at one time
too. But husbands Andy Baumgartner, Arkie Akullian, and Pat Parizio are taking steps
to prevent this swinging at the next convention. They are going to put "All Took" signs on
their wives.

Got a chance to chat with John and Kay Sander. They had a lovely anniversary
present. A trip to Hawaii. (How come we only go to McDonalds for ours Bill? I guess I
should have caught on the first anniversary when he changed from singing Catfish to You
Deserve a Break Today. (Kay is still hanging in there politically. But the country is
better off got turned off, because the fellow I worked for for Gov. only avoided going to
prison himself by turning states evidence against his pals, and the president that I
worked for was forced to resign. So I quit.

Talking about crooks—Honcho Joe Vater got a pen for his anniversary present. How
come? Everyone knows that he can’t write. Wife Helen was given a charm to match hers.
And so to bed.

(Continued on Page 6)

Virginia Chapter to Hold Annual Convention

The month of December is a special one for members of Virginia's A.D.B.C. First, it
was December that sent most of them to the Pacific War with all its trials and
tribulations; second, December is the traditional month the chapter commemorates that special period with its
convention.

The Hotel Chamberlin will again hold the convention this year, December 6-8. The Quan Party is scheduled for the group
as well as the banquet for Saturday. And as always, the Sammy K. Trio will play their brand of dance tunes.

Commander Dewey Smithwick indicated that this will be the best con
vention to date for good reasons. The chapter has grown under the leadership of Past Commanders Paul C Harmon and
Harold E. Feiner. Their unselfish dedication to the membership has made the chapter a close-knit family.

Ex-POW's Group Sets Fund Drive

Filipino men and women imprisoned by the Japanese Imperial Army during World
War II have organized themselves into an association.

The newly-formed association, called
"Association of Survivors of Japanese Prisons," launched on Nov. 10 a mem
bership campaign at the residence of Col. Vic O. Novales (ret.) at 210 P. Tuazon
boulevard, Cubao, Quezon city.

The association's first project calls for
the honoring of other prisoners of Japanese garrisons who died while suffering
the brutalities of prison life.

Many were imprisoned in Fort Santiago, Old Bilibid, Airport Studio, New Bilbid in
Muntinlupa. Correctional Institution for Women, and other Japanese garrisons
throughout the Philippines because they participated in the organization of un
derground activities during the dark years of the occupation.

Many died unknown in the torture chambers of Fort Santiago and interred in
common graves at the North cemetery.

Most of the Filipino military prisoners
were liberated by the US First Cavalry
under Gen. William Chase from Japanese strongholds south of the Pasig. The
surprise strung by the American liberation
forces on the Japanese was so effective
that the lives of so many malnourished and
sick military prisoners were saved. -TA

PLAN YOUR VACATION IN CLEARWATER

JANUARY. 1975-5
TIREDF MARY (cont.)

The next day Sally Fromer, Sally Millett (of Were Just Wild About Sally fame) Larry Raines and daughter Gail, Vern (Henson) Hively, Col. Bill Grayson and I went for a ride on the water taxi. We dropped by the 1836 Club for a drink and wound up spending the afternoon. It was really delightful. We had our own private party (Wasn't planned that way. Just happened.) We had a private balcony overlooking the river, a private dance floor, our own private bartender, and even our own private jute box. (It not only played our kind of music. It played it free.) So Sally and Sally Mary and Bill had our own private ball (in our own private balcony) And the drinks were delicious. The women were delightful (They had to be three of us were born in Missouri, Sally, Verna and I.) And Gail Raines is always delightful even if she wasn't born there. Then we went to the Hilton to enjoy a delicious lunch at their room overlooking the river. After such a great afternoon there was just one way of topping it off and that was by going to the site parade. We were furnished with a seat. Everyone but everyone was there. Mr. Bataan was hot dogging it Texas-style—a foot long—and in Texas that is a long foot. He was in dogging with one hand and passing out coffee to the Gold Star parents with the other.

I haven't seen a nite parade since the last Mardi Gras that I attended in New Orleans. It was a complete Dambou parade. (No electrical shortage. Just custom.) And in Saint Louis I attended many vied prophet parades which were lighted entirely by lights. So I found this nite parade a charming combination of both. We had a special marching unit of our own. The "Curts Cuties" led the parade. With leader Lou Curtis playing Dixie (That boy known how to influence people doesn't he?). The chorus line of the Dixie Ding-a-Lings consisted of Jeannie Cavanaugh, Louise Sachwald and Samantha Schulman. And of that version of the scandals was not enough how about the clown who "dropped everything" for Helen Senna in the parade? (Maybe Al has his problems.) Another too was a guy ambling and tries to took the "All Too" gals. Last year there was that with the airline pilot. This year the thing with the clown. However there is absolutely no truth to the rumor that Rudy Pfeifer was streaking in the parade. It was Sue Pfeifer! (She was running backwards). Among those behaving themselves at the parade we met Brice and Barbara Martin of Corpus Christi, Tex. After the parade we went to the Adios Amigo party. (Okay the Farewell party. I never get to practice my Spanish!) Among those Amigos that we wished Vaya Con Dios were: Ida and Harold Feiner, Dot and Johnny Hassler, Helen and Honcho Joe Vater, Toxie and June Nicholson from Kenner, La. (They agree that New Orleans, my favorite city, would be a wonderful place for a convention. How about that fellows?) and Phil and Mildred Arslanian. (Gretcher is in great shape except for arthritis. If you don't know who Gretcher is then you have not been reading my column.)

In the process of saying goodbye we were glad to meet and say hello to the following people: the Rices from Texas who are Blackie Brennans friends (Some people have absolutely no taste in friends!). Bill and Gerry Miller and their dog Coca. At the time that I was talking to them I did not realize that he was the same Bill Miller that I had had some correspondence with regarding his motel, The Oak Motor Lodge. Sorry about that Bill. (The plug is free. Like my job.) And a real treat for Bill Grayson-Roy Diaz from Silanas, Calif. who was in prison camp with Bill in Davoo and in Japan. (Wonder if Ray knows that Bratt from Ohio. Billy.

After the fairwell party Blackie Brennan plied me with Scotch then tied me— (more poetry) up to a 10 yr. contract with him as my agent for the sum of .01. (Just wait until he tries to explain that to the Internal Revenue boys). But there is one good thing about it—now Honcho rather can't fire me for 10 yrs no matter how late or lousy I am without discussing it with my agent! Ah the power of fame.

And in the course of events (This or Others) we ran into Gordon and Gerry Morris again (we first met them at Philley convention), Col. Ray O'Day and please felias and gals throw in a prayer or two for his Hda who is encountering new problems in her fight for better health.

And Down By The Riverside Bob and Phyllis Balsitz from Dayton, Ohio, and Dale and Olive Ann Minger from Iowa.

Introducing the younger set: Marie Cavanaugh introduced me to Zola and Lou Sachwalds daughter and Dick Dewitch equaled up the score by introducing me to his son.

We were lucky. The next morning we did not have to leave early so Gail Raines and I took in 1101 Clock mass at San Fernando Cathedral. However I rather missed Bauman's Blessed Blast that we have on Sat. afternoons. Please make it to Florida next year father. It isn't quite the same without you.) Then we just had time to have a few quickies with Sally Fromer before we had to say "Vaya Con Dios" to another convention lunch. And a special "Thank You to Bill Fracklin for getting us to the Hall Hotel, and Kay McDavit was wonderful in a ball and Jerry McDavitt for his special efforts in my behalf once I got to the hotel. But it was home James time again — G.L. Deckert was our James to the airport. And what a charmin James he was. Over a few drinks before enplaning (okay so before we got on the plane—since I have an agent I'm getting

The Editor "The QUAN"

Joseph A. Vater Esq
18 Warbler Drive
McKee Rocks Pa. 15136 USA
Dear Mr. Vater

Through I am sure the good officers of Art Bressi I am receiving "QUAN".I enjoy reading it. For some time I've sent to Art what medical references I had gleaned regarding Far East POWs 41-45.

Today Number 2 / Vol 29 QUAN has arrived here. It contains what seems to be, a layout, to be a most valuable paper by Col. D.H. Wills-"Research of Medical Evidence ..." i.e. the August 1974 issue.

Could I ask that you send to me ten further copies of this August 1974 QUAN please? I would send them to those here who have influence in FEPOW claims for pensions, both medical and lay and legislative.

In the Bibliography to the article, ref. no. 39, the J.H. Walters MD named has been investigating and treating UK FEPOWs for nearly thirty years, and was one of the "FEPOW S of Medical Evidence" of our specialist FEPOW (i.e. Vetran's) Ward in a famous London hospital. He has been a real 'friend' to FEPOWs. Sir Philip Manson-Bahr (NOT Nahr) was one of Britain's most eminent tropical doctors.

May I send to you Christmas greetings. Should you visit Britain we are only 1.40 hours by fast train from London (Waterloo) and do call here as my guest. There are special bus / rail connections from London Airport, obviating going into London centre.

5 October saw our annual FEPOW reunion in London—a full house at Royal Festival Hall—some 3,000 including some wives.

Sincerely

G.P. Adams

Died

Procopeni Mascalo
325 No Reno St.
Las Angeles, Cal, 90026

Also for Quan curiosity: Wish to report to all readers with a heart problem: on my own book, by my own inclination, when nothing else prescribed, prescription, or otherwise, was of the least bit of help: I found vitamin B-1 (thiamine) tablets bordering on the miraculous in relief of symptoms of heart pain, and helping me to walk around, without which symptoms become severe, when missed even for one meal. Heart patients please take note: you owe a trial - the least you can do: you will be happy with the results. Takes about 3 weeks. (At least one week.) of 150 mg. 1 meal before takes effect - lots longer if you miss meals without taking one - my experience.

Sincerely Regards
Ben Vaitkus
TIRED MARY (cont.)

...we straightened out the nations political problems. (See how easy it is Washington? Takes only a few minutes we a few great minds!). We figured out that Japan had won the war. (How else would a nation that was defeated be taking over a nation that had won?). And we found a drummer for our orchestra (More on that later in the column. I like to make you read it to the bitter end—even if only out of curiosity).

Coming home on the plane it did again—We had to fly around O'Hara Airport 4hr. before we could land (Of course I don't live in Chicago—we live in N.J. but that's the way the planes go but sharing the aggravation were—John and Gertie Hryn of Eau Claire, Wisc. and Walger and Sylvia Utter from Amery, Wisc. They had double trouble, they had to meet connecting planes.

But if you think we were late in airwing home—how about Larry McQueeny? He didn't get home until 3 days later. There is a town in Texas named McQueeny so be moseyed down to check it out and found a most gracious population.

However, I don't think the trip home was too boring for Col. Bill Grayson. He was surrounded by women (We had a 3 seat across deal) His wife on one side and two younger women on his other side (I got off. I got on) who found him nice to chat with. Next convention I'm bringing one of those "All Took" signs to hang around his neck.

Convention Comments —

I would like to see San Antonio again when there is not a convention. Because at a convention I either have to miss some of the sights or some of the people. Can't work both sides of the street (Marge Hawsman has one side). I took in some sights so I missed talking with the following people—Harold Amos and his wife (Harold was an banquet tables partner of our in Cleveland) Jim and Jerry Cantwell, Sam and Lillian Carr, and Lou and Helen Cusans (To find out what's new at the Menaguri). I would like to have talked to the Brossards from Lafayette, La. I had a darling land lady by the name of Brossard when I lived a short while in New Orleans. (Any kin?) To Richard and Dot Hibbs from New Orleans; to fellow Missourians Raphael and Ruth Cherry from O'Fallon, Henry and Lorraine Sublett from Bourbon (a town I know well. Also a drink likewise) and Joseph and Mary Upchurch and Ralph and Mary Louise Yoder from my birthplace St. Louis, Mo. And certainly to John and Dorothy Long from East Saint Louis, Il. since I started my singing career at Johnny Perkins Palladium there! And I am sure any guy taking basic training at J.B. could tell you when St. Louis died on Sat. nite East Saint Louis became alive—and stayed alive until late Sun. And I would like to have had more chattering with the flittering Gold Stars who give such class to our conventions—Sara Brazeau, Betty Clogston, Betty Elliott, Eugenia Hryciak, those two cookies from Florida John and Gladys Cooke, the new Gold Star President Lena Santos and a new added glitter Leslie Warren. And ain't she Supthin' (Leonia Gastinger). She has gotten so many new nurses to come to the convention that I don't know them all—Among those I've met I noticed Adele Foreman was behaving herself (yes but she was having fun!). Evelyn (Whitlow) Greenfield having fun and Bonnie Young (acting it) but would like to have said hello to fellow Missourian Dorothy (Daisy') Engel from Hamilton, Missouri. And Bill would loved to have chatted with Minnie Breeze Stubbins since Guy Stubbins visited with Bill in St. Louis. It's a kindness to know him, he is confined to a wheelchair but would liked to have been (I don't think the trip home was too boring for Col. Bill Grayson. He was surrounded by women (We had a 3 seat across deal) His wife on one side and two younger women on his other side (I got off. I got on) who found him nice to chat with. Next convention I'm bringing one of those "All Took" signs to hang around his neck.

And it was so nice to see the widows of our former members taking their places at our conventions. Just for a hurried hi off to Terry Tighe.

This section of the column is devoted to Ask Mary—suggestion box. It has been suggested for the good of the order by Lou Curtis that we form our own orchestra and have an entertainment spot in our conventions. (I'll but that! He promised to let me perform. Well we just blew it!! We now have 2 piano players, Herm Hausman (Herm you had better buy your girls step ladders and only introduce the boys to rich gals) and Arnie Boxsel. G.I. Deckert has promised to play the drums. (And Hank Wilay to maybe to if he keeps on practicing) I am sure there are many more of you who could contribute to the entertainment. (I know a girl singer!) So get in touch with Lou Curtis Box 87 Woodbury, Conn. 06798. (guys can just send a card saying "I will" but I wouldn't suggest that the guys put it just that way!) It would be great to have a group of our own. (Look what it did for the Beatles) (Well I think like the Beatles and Corngold ban on from the parade grand stand returned. We realize that it was taken in error but if you should find it among your possessions would you please send it to Jerry McDavitt? The banners are quite costly and it could just be slipped in a large envelope and sent to him. So help stem the inflation by returning it. (The above were public service announcements).

After Convention Commique—

Harold and Ida Feiner are now grandparents! Seems like just yesterday that daughter Laurine was attending N.Y. N. J. and Enos Gould Chapter picnics at Crooked Lake in New York. Now here she is presenting Harold and Ida with a lil' girl picnic of their own to spoil with the lovely name Erica Joy. However grandpa and grandma recovered sufficiently to go to a reunion of the 17th Tank Ordnance at Regis and Fern Thierie's in Indiana. Their son who use to also attend Crooked Lake picnics is a police officer now. (And that's no piclent!). And the dog wound up being a very lucky dog! She is

Peralta given Legion of Honor

President Marcos made a surprise visit to the sickbed of former Defense Secretary Macario Peralta, Jr., yesterday to award him the Philippine Legion of Honor, degree of commander.

The President said that as the ancient roots of nationhood are being re-established, the tradition must be set up so that "never shall the Filipino people forget their heroes, living and dead."

He addressed the ailing former defense secretary, one of the country's leaders in World War II: "Therefore, General Peralta, receive by my hand the homage of your people and the gratitude of the President of the Republic."

Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos went with her husband to the Quezon city home of General Peralta, who was overcome by emotion.

He thanked the President not only for the decoration but also for taking the trouble of coming to his home.

The former cabinet secretary, 61, is said to be suffering from cancer of the pancreas. He has lost much weight and has been bedridden the last two months.

After the Allied forces surrendered to the Japanese in 1942, then Lt. Col. Peralta organized remnants of the 61st Philippine Army Division on Panay Island, at the same time recruiting new men.

Later, he was to establish the first radio contact between the Philippines and the Southwest Pacific Command.

Eventually, he took command of the 6th Military District with jurisdiction over Panay, Romblon, and Guimaras.

He developed contact with guerrilla leaders in Negros, Leyte, and Samar, and was acknowledged one of the most aggressive of all the guerrilla fighters in the nation.

He forced Japanese troops to confine themselves to their garrisons.

His outfit was one of the best examples of a completely Filipino patriotic effort.

The President said: "We broke tradition by coming here, and hope to establish a precedence for the Armed Forces of not waiting for formal parades in granting recognition to the country's heroes. It is a small matter and service to the nation for me to come here. I personally want to come and see the general."

After the war, General Peralta became deputy chief of staff of the armed forces. He helped mold the general staff and provided the defense and Army leaders with wise counsel in the administration of military affairs.

He helped formulate policies which serve as guides for the Armed Forces of the Philippines up to today.

Small Bits

Lloyd M. Montgomery, 63, Wellington St., Houston, Texas 77022 sends his regards to all his friends. Please write Lloyd if you know him, he is confined to a wheelchair and cannot get out.

JANUARY, 1975—7
Tired Mary (cont.)

doing what Freckles liked to do best. She is traveling with them on their trip.
And I would like to Thank Sam and Lillian Carr. When I referred friend Bunny to them with a V.A. problem they came up with the necessary help and answers pronto (Bunny is Service Officer in Kentucky and takes his work very seriously, Thank God.) Also would like you to pray for Ed Gaffeny who worked very hard for Veterans. He was one of Bunny's personal friends. He was struck and killed by a car in Calif. It was a great personal loss to Bunny and bad break for the Veterans (who already have so many). Also while you are on your knees remember Adolph Meyers. Leonia Supthin says she is quite ill.

Well that just about winds up another one Honcho. (If you don't like it—please don't bug me. See my agent) And "You All" don't forget to get your reservations in early for the next convention before the "All Took" sign is hung up—Because conventions wouldn't be so much fun without all you wonderful guys and dolls in attendance.
Much Love As Always
Tired Mary

Clearwater, Florida

Site of the 1975 Convention

SAVE $62.00 per person. Fly with the New York / New Jersey Chapter.
Round Trip Fare $115.27 per person
(Regular Fare - $177.27 per person)
Newark to Clearwater and return - Sunday May 4, to Sunday May 11, 1975.
RESERVE YOUR SEAT TODAY!!!!!

The N.Y./N.J. Chapter will arrange a Group Flight to Clearwater, Fla. for the 1975 Convention. To determine how many members are tentatively interested in the Group Transportation, we ask you to fill in this form and mail it to Austin M. Patrizio. This is just a survey and you are not committed at this time. An tentative reservations reserved now will be notified in February, 1975 of Transportation Details. Above prices are subject to change in May, 1975.

Return to: Austin M. Patrizio
414 Richmond Place
Leonia, New Jersey 07605

I am tentatively interested in joining the Convention Group Flight from Newark to Florida, May 4 - 11, 1975.

Name __________________________
Address ________________________
City ______ State ______ Zip ______

No. of Adults __________ No. of Children __________

VA Loans

More than 11,700 veterans and servicemen were released from liability for their GI loans last fiscal year, and the Veterans Administration is urging others to request releases when purchasers assume loans on homes bought with GI loans.

The agency issued 9,270 releases in fiscal year 1973, and has given 57,300 over the years. The GI loan program was established shortly after World War II.

"There's a good reason for obtaining a release," VA officials explained, "since without it, the seller could be held financially liable should the purchaser default on mortgage payments."

It was noted that as last fiscal year ended (June), some 8.5 million veterans and servicemen had received home loans valued at $105.2 billion since the inception of the program. More than half, or 4.5 million loans, have been repaid.

VA grants releases provided the veteran's loan is current, the prospective purchaser agrees to assume the veteran's liabilities and the purchaser is a good credit risk with sufficient income to meet assumed mortgage payments.

Officials pointed out, however, that a release does not automatically restore GI loan eligibility the veteran used to purchase the home being sold. Under the law, veterans may qualify for restoration if VA has been relieved of liability and if the property was disposed of for what is described as "compelling reasons."

As soon as a purchaser agrees to assume the loan on a home, the veteran should apply for a release from the VA office which guaranteed the loan, officials advised.

Check Your Policy

Make certain the right person is beneficiary on your GI insurance policy, is the Veterans Administration reminder to five million veterans covered under its government life insurance program.

Otherwise, you may add to emotional stress of survivors when it is discovered the intended beneficiary was not named on the policy, it was explained by VA.

In such cases, VA is obligated by law to pay insurance proceeds to the beneficiary of record. Most of the agency's insureds are World War II veterans who carry National Service Life Insurance.

The problem of insurance benefits going to an unintended recipient arises in most instances because the veteran simply never gets around to changing his beneficiary, said VA.

In a typical case, the veteran named his mother as beneficiary when he first took out his policy. When he married, he forgot to notify VA that he wished to change his beneficiary. Besides emotional stress, the result often is unwarranted financial hardship, especially for his widow and young children.

VA urges any veteran who wishes to assert or change his beneficiary to contact the VA insurance center to which he pays his premiums — either in Philadelphia or St. Paul. Be sure to provide as much information as possible, including policy number, full name and address, the agency advises.
National Commander Jerry McDavitt, was the guest speaker at the annual banquet of the FILIPINO-AMERICAN ASSOCIATION of SAN ANTONIO, on JULY 4, 1974, at the ST. JOHN BERCHMANS CAFETERIA, 1147 CUPPLES RD., SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS. Commander MCDAVITT also inducted the new officers for the ensuing year. The affair was a gala one for more than 300 attending. Many lovely FILIPINO dresses and shirts were worn by those attending. Many lovely picture of the new officers and Col. MORGAN.

LA GRONE

Funeral services for Harry John LaGrone, 56, of R. 1, Killeen, Texas were held recently. LaGrone died Sept. 8, 1974 in the U.S.V.A. Hospital in Temple, Texas of lung cancer. Burial was in Killeen with full military honors conducted by the U.S. Marine Corps.

He was a lifelong resident of Killeen. He served with the U.S. Marine Corps in World War II in the Asiatic-Pacific area and was captured by the Japanese forces at Guam, Marianas Islands, and was held captive from Dec. 10, 1941 until Sept. 13, 1945, most of that time in Zentsuji, Japan.

Surviving are his widow; three sons, two daughters, four brothers, three sisters, and two grandsons.

Former Zentsujians who attended the services in Killeen for Harry John LaGrone were Max H. and Nathalie Martin, William H. and Edna Stewart, Ralph N. and Sibyl Baggett, Peter and Clarice Brown, Warren A. and Ruby Williams of the Lost Battalion were there, also Mrs. Caroline Bonham, widow of Col. Roscoe Bonham, Mrs. Jeffie Chambers, widow of Lt. Col. D.S. Satterwhite, and Mrs. Ruth Miller, widow of Albert R. “Boogie” Miller. Lonnie Mills was a member of the honor color guard from the VFW.

Elbert C. “Chick” Perkins came by later.

DEADEYES’ VISIT LEYTE

Seven members of the famous “Deadeyes” of the 99th Infantry Division headed by Edmund Biggs visited Leyte recently on a sentimental journey.

The American visitors were entertained by civic leaders of Tacloban city and Dulag with a beach party and program featuring Igorot dances at Blue beach in Dulag.

It was on Blue beach where the valiant “Deadeyes” made a historic landing on Oct. 20, 1944, simultaneously with the 24th Infantry Division on nearby Red beach in Palo led by Gen. Douglas MacArthur.

Aside from Biggs, other members of the group were Fred Tincher, Robert Williamson, Richard Van Etten, Joe Fritz, Louie Duhamel and Henry Gozytyla and his wife Mary. They came from various parts of the United States.

During their week-long sojourn, the visiting Americans were escorted by Mrs. Trinidad Abesamis, Juliet Bayona and Benjamin Abogadie, Jr., of the Department of Tourism.

Asked about his impressions of the country today, Biggs, a former sergeant said cheerfully, “I see that the Filipinos are happy and contented. They have given us so many wonderful receptions down here in Leyte, for which my colleagues and I are deeply grateful.”

Tincher of Indiana recalled he was only in his early twenties when he first landed on Blue beach and observed the people did not seem to have changed a lot.

“They’re still the same friendly and hospitable people I knew 30 years ago,” he said.

To Mrs. Gozytyla, who accompanied her husband, their visit was “a happy experience full of lasting memories.” She described their stay in Olot, where they were guests of the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, as “simply unforgettable.”

Williamson said they were lucky to have survived the war and glad to see the Philippines again.

NEW GROUP FORMED UNDER TEXAS STATE CHAPTER ADB&C

....on Sunday, July 21, 1974, a group of El Paso Area Survivors of Bataan & Corregidor met at 3:30 P.M. at the American Legion Post No. 58, on Vulcan St., El Paso, Texas:

Present were:

Mr. & Mrs. Jesse White (24th Pursuit)
Mr. & Mrs. Louis Mendoza (200 CAC)
Mr. & Mrs. Gregoria Villasenor (515 CAC)
Mr. & Mrs. Winston Shillito, Jr. (515 CAC)
Mr. & Mrs. Milton M. Uphoff, (31 INF)
Mr. & Mrs. David J. Duran (200 CAC)
Mr. & Mrs. Jerry McDavitt (National Commander24 FA-PS)

Johathan Burns, (200 CAC)
John H. Ritchey (28 MAT SQDN)

The group voted to form a sub-chapter of ADB&C under the Texas State Chapter. The following officers were elected:


The group voted to hold their next meeting the second meeting in Sept. 1974. Kay & Jerry McDavitt helped the group organize. The next morning Jesse White & Jerry McDavitt appeared for forty minutes at the Randy James T.V. Talk Show, July 22, 1974 and were invited to return to the program next time in El Paso. There was a great need for Veterans Assistance on V.A. claims in the El Paso area and Jesse White is already on the job to assist two very needy survivors of Bataan & Corregidor. Now the El Paso area is set for a great opportunity to help their buddies and they plan to do just that, Jerry McDavitt.

ESTON DUMOND

Services for Eston (Frank) DuMond, 52, formerly of 8561 Melmanor Drive, La Mesa, a retired plant manager at Helix High School was held at Meldrum Memorial in Mesa, Ariz.

DuMond, who died in a hospital in Mesa where he had been living the past two months, was a native of Thatcher, Ariz., and served in the Air Force 22 years, retiring as a master sergeant. He was a Japanese prisoner for 3½ years during World War II and survived the Bataan Death March.

Survivors include his widow, Lois; a son, Harry; and a daughter, Mrs. Claudia Bultez, both of Lemon Grove; his mother, and a sister.

JANUARY, 1975 - 9
Another Losing Battle for the Heroes of Defeat ...

"Courage is a quality God has seen fit to dispense with utmost care... The men of Bataan and Corregidor were His chosen favorites."

Major Gen. E. P. King Jr. (U.S. Army, Ret.)
Clearwater, Fla.

By ALTON SLAGLE

They call themselves the Forgotten Few. They're scattered across the country, only 2,200 men strong now, but they're concentrated here on the verdant green carpet that is central Florida because that was their dream back in the hellish days of war and imprisonment. Now they're getting old and tired, and their dream has seemed to turn into a nightmare of bureaucratic indifference.

They are survivors of one of history's cruellest episodes: the battles of Bataan and Corregidor, and the infamous Bataan Death March in the Philippines.

Those who can afford it are retired. For others, there is no money for retirement; they must work to support their families, even though their bodies are too weak, too ravished by the effects of three and a half years of disease, deprivation and mistreatment in Japanese prison camps.

Forgotten Men

"Bataan?" "Death March?" They're pretty young waitresses spoke hesitantly.

"Did you ever hear those words before?" This was Samuel B. Moody talking. Samuel B. Moody, U.S. Army (retired), now 54, a sergeant at the beginning of the war, a sergeant at the end of 1,244 days in the Japanese prison camps, the only enlisted man to testify at the War Crimes Tribunal in Tokyo, later an Air Force career master sergeant.

With Moody in a comfortable restaurant here were two other survivors of Bataan, of the march, and of the camps: Jack Bishop, 52, retired Navy chief, retired Washington security specialist, service officer of the American Prisoners of War, a Clearwater resident; Tom Hackett, 62, retired Army major and lawyer, a veteran of the 60th Coast Artillery, now living at Vero Beach, Fla., and a past national commander of an organization called the American Defenders of Bataan and Corregidor.

Janet, the waitress, looked puzzled. The words were new. But she would ask. Who?

"My manager." He didn't know either.

"We were just young American boys, all 18 to 20, the first time away from home," Moody recalled. "I was in the Army Air Corps, a mechanic. I'd never fired a gun in my life. They said, 'you're now infantry,' and put us right on the front line.

"When we surrendered, the Japanese were shocked. They had made no plans for us to surrender. They had no place to take us, no food for us. Gen. King, one of the nicest men you'd ever meet, said, 'I'm going to surrender my men; they can't go through this anymore; they're dying of starvation, they're sick, they're bewildered.' He spoke of Maj. Gen. Edward P. King Jr."

The Cruelty Was Casual

"Then the march."

"We were stripped. Our wallets were taken away, our watches, pictures, everything. If anybody had a war souvenir he was immediately killed."

"If the march had only lasted a couple of days, it would have been fine," Moody looked thoughtful. "Probably, nobody would have died. But it was so disorganized. Just mass frustration. No food. No water."

For Moody it lasted 10 days, and covered 120 miles. More than 10,000 persons perished.

"The Japanese were hitting us over the head, taking our helmets. If you're in the tropics and don't have something to cover your head, you get sick." The temperature soared to 120.

"You can live with anything in the tropics," added Bishop, "but you've got to have salt and water. You dehydrate."

Then came the boxcars. A hundred men in a space for 20. Men died on their feet and remained upright in the crowd.

And then the prison. O'Donnell first, after a 12-mile hike. "No food for three days," said Moody, "then a bowl of rice. And maggots. You can't eat. After a couple more days you shut your eyes and swallow, and gag. You sleep on slit bamboo. Each night you'd say good night and the next morning they'd say, 'OK, now everybody up, and you'd say, 'Hey, fellas, come on,' and he'd be dead and you'd say, 'Holy Christ, if I stay here I'm gonna die.'"

From O'Donnell there was Bilibid. That's after Moody went temporarily blind for lack of vitamins. Bilibid, in Manila, in its best days one of the world's worst prisons, masqueraded as a hospital. Then Cabanatuan, the main camp, where the Americans ran their own kitchen but had little food to cook, where men died at the rate of 100 a day. Moody's weight dropped from 180 to 96. Bishop went from 140 to 74.

It was the same with everyone.

Then, as the war turned against the Japanese, and the Americans approached the Philippines, the prisoners were shipped to Japan. The ships were unmarked, the men unable to move for 33 days, packed like cargo in the holds. Thousands were victims of American torpedoes. Those who survived the journey shipped in Japanese coal mines, iron foundries, factories, farms. Only 10 Per Cent Survived

Finally, the atomic bombs fell, and it was over. Of 36,853 American troops captured on Bataan and Corregidor, some 3,600 survived.

"We came home in troopships," Moody recalled. "We got baloney sandwiches, coffee and oranges." Then there was a night locked in a ward at Letterman General Hospital in San Francisco. The music came from a dance—for German prisoners.

The men were young. They sprang back quickly from the effects of the diseases and the beatings. They were asked to re-enlist, to form the basis of a new peace-time Army. Most did. Their physicals were waived so there would be no problem.

But that waiving is one of their problems today. The men are out of the service, many retired after more than 20 years. They're getting old, and the effects of the diseases they suffered in prison are, they believe, disabling them. But the records to prove they were sick are missing.

Walter Chatham is such a man. He was a member of the 28th Bomb Squadron when Bataan fell. On the marsh, shrapnel ripped into his right hip. A Japanese guard shoved him over a bridge and he landed on his neck and shoulders 40 feet below in a dry river bed. He escaped, was recaptured six months later and suffered for his escape—blackjacks, baseball bats. His arms swelled until the skin split. Then beriberi, starvation, a palpitating heart. Malaria, dysentery. His weight went from 210 to 89 pounds.

"I HOPE YOU CURED ME, DOC, BECAUSE I want to stay in the service," he said after his liberation. He stayed in until 1961, and always shunned sick call. He wanted to get in his time before they discovered he had a bad heart and was blind in one eye.

Finally, after 22 years' service, his disabilities were discovered and he was discharged. The Air Force gave him a 40 per cent disability.

One pending bill, House Resolution 14560, introduced by Rep. Robert Michel (R-III.), would provide former PWs care for all diseases and injuries on the presumption that they are service connected. Another would provide for presumption of service connection for 10 years after discharge, rather than the present one.

Howard insists that "we've looked into this from time to time, and the VA has a pretty liberal attitude" toward former PWs. "But we just couldn't justify a sort of blanket service connection."

Counselor Backs Vets

Robert Potts, a VA counselor employed by the state of Florida, insists that the complaints voiced by Moody and other Bataan survivors are legitimate. He claims the services fattened up the prisoners, "threw pills at them" and discharged them, then insisted that because they were in good health at the time of discharge, their problems can't be service connected.

The VA, he said, needs guidelines on the results of prolonged dietary deficiencies and the long-range effects of tropical diseases.

According to studies that are available, 10 to 15 years have been lopped off the lives (Continued on Page 11)
Another Losing (cont.)

of Bataan prisoners. This, said Potts, is bound to affect them psychologically as they worry about their families and their jobs.

Moody founded the American Defenders of Bataan and Corregidor while still at Cabanatuan, and was later its national commander. A post-service insurance job took him to Europe where he remained seven years, until he was felled by two heart attacks.

"We're not hollering for ourselves," he said. "What we're concerned with here is that we know so many men who need, and who have nothing. Like this guy who called me up one night just three weeks ago and said, 'Sam, I can't go on. I think I'll end it at you of Bataan and that we know so many men took him to Europe where he remained who have all ignored,"

"I've got had Dysentery, jaundice, lead poisoning, diphtheria. We've got was on my discharge is wounded in his certificate? They want affidavits from doctors and war buddies. Half of them are dead."

"I was the only officer who survived in my outfit," Tom Hackett added.

Bishop is in constant pain. His diet is carefully controlled, and he can drink but little. In his bulging medical file is a letter from the VA's regional office in St. Petersburg, dated last June 13. It mentions his 50 per cent disability, and says:

"The records show that you were treated in service for dysentery, scurvy, pelagra, dengue, lead poisoning, jaundice, malnutrition, atvita, beriberi, diphtheria and cholera, but they were not found at the time of your last examination. If these conditions recur, you may reopen your claim by submitting medical evidence of such recurrence. The malaria, nervous condition and beriberi heart disease claimed by you are not shown by the evidence of record. You should, therefore, submit statements from doctors who examined or treated you during service."

John T. Nicholson, now retired from the Navy and living in Tarpon Springs, Fl., has been unable to work most of the time since he retired from service because of a nervous condition coupled with a bad heart. He has been offered 50 per cent disability, "but all they do is take it out of my Navy pension, so it doesn't make any difference."

"We've never asked for anything," said Bishop. "I think that's our own fault. We've always taken a back seat. I've never walked in and said, I'm entitled to this, I want this. We've never begged and we're not about to beg now."

A lot of pride is involved. Henry Brunett is 62, a quiet, unassuming man who retired as an Air Force master sergeant after 30 years of service. Like other Bataan survivors, he waived his first re-enlistment physical. Now he is living on one kidney, and his back is developing a hunch from the beatings he took in prison.

He lives on a small Air Force pension and whatever tips he can get bagging groceries at the MacDill Air Force Base commissary. He has no VA benefits, said Moody. "Every time he goes to the VA he gets a runaround, gets confused and goes home."

"In all fairness to the VA," said Moody, "they have to take care of hundreds of thousands of retired military, plus all of the wounded and mentally sick. You do have vets who are very demanding."

Moody believes the plight of the Bataan survivors could be eased if each was given a thorough physical, perhaps on one day set aside just for former PW's, and if each was given 100 per cent service-connected disability payments "because everybody had the same things in prison."

Legislation to provide for full service-connected disability for PW's has been introduced in Congress regularly, and just as regularly has been vetoed down. Gene Howard, on the staff of the House Veterans Affairs Committee, said the committee, after listening to veterans and to VA and private doctors, has felt that this would not be good legislation because it would be discriminatory to servicemen who suffered the same diseases but were never captured.

"A month after they retired me, the Veterans Administration called me," Chatham said, "I went down for a physical, and that's the last time I had a physical from the VA." He filed a claim for his bad heart, and since then has had two heart attacks.

"I tried to get service-connected disability out of it, and I'm still trying, because the trouble all started in prison camp. All I'm asking the VA to do is give me 100 per cent service-connected disability. That amounts to about 75 per cent of his military salary as an aircraft engineer.

Chatham, 54, lives in Orlando, Fl. He has six children, has lost two wives to cancer, and is married again.

Harry Mock, 54, 91st Bomb Squadron, 27th Bomb Group, was paralyzed and delirious when he was thrown in a prison "zero ward." That's the last stop before the grave. Moody tells about it in a book he wrote after the war entitled "Repeive from Hell" ($2, available from him, Apt. 211, 1012 Pearse Drive, Clearwater, Fl. 33315).

One morning, Mock was listed as dead. "We stripped the clothes from Harry's scrappy body," wrote Moody. "We placed him in a blanket and carried him to a large burial ditch. Several bodies were in the hole. Harry's body was dropped gently into the hole and we began to push dirt into the crevice. Harry groaned. His eyes opened...He looked up...and lifted an aching arm towards us..."

He recovered enough to work in the coal mines in Japan. But now his stomach is shot. So are his nerves, and he has difficulty holding down his job as a used-car salesman. He takes medicine to eat, medicine to sleep. And, he said, every time he goes to the VA for a physical, he gets a wait, a quick interview and a prescription refill.

"I've been going to the VA since 1946," he said. "I've never had a full physical examination." Private treatment has cost him thousands of dollars over the years, and he can't afford it. "I'd like a full physical examination from the VA now, and if there's anything that could be done medically or surgically, I'd submit to it."

Tired of Run-Around

"I'm getting teed off," said Daniel J. Mahoney, 62, who fell into Japanese hands while a member of the Army's 75th Ordnance. He re-enlisted, in the Air Force, after the war and now works as a bridge tender because his legs "are raising hell with me," and he can sit on the job.

He tried to get a VA physical, he said, and ended up in an eight-minute session with a psychiatrist because his records listed him as a chronic alcoholic.

"I take a couple of beers now and then," he complained to the doctor. "I don't drink any hard liquor at all." After making the 180-mile drive from Daytona Beach to St. Petersburg for the "physical," he wrote the VA in Washington. But the letter was sent back to St. Petersburg, and "now I'm still waiting." He wants treatment for arthritis of the knees which he insists is a result of forced labor and beatings. But the VA has ruled: "further examination of the veteran with reference to arthritis of legs would serve no useful purpose."

Mahoney's medical record shows a "history of trouble to left knee in World JANUARY, 1975—11
Another Losing (cont.)
War II while a prisoner of war" with some arthritic change."
"You get so down in the dumps when they think you're lying, and you're not," he said.

Wilfred A. Gagnon, 51, had just started his second enlistment, in the 31st Infantry, when he was captured. At Cabanatuan, he got so sick with a variety of tropical diseases that they "put me in a sick area, where I WORKED ON THE BURIAL DETAIL." For a time he was burying 100 men a day, 10 to a grave.

"When they heard the Americans were getting victory after victory, they would torture you more," he said. "Once, a Jap took the sharp part of a hoe and started beating me over the head with it. I was knocked unconscious. They kept beating and kicking me. There was a lot of that."

He spent the last year and a half of the war in Kyushu, Japan, working barefoot. He spent ten months in Mindanao, the isolated field in Mindanao where I WORKED ON THE BURIAL DETAIL."

CHAMPUS

The hearty image of the Spanish-American War soldier charging up San Juan Hill behind Teddy Roosevelt is perpetuated today among many of the 1,200 surviving veterans of America's shortest war.

Though the official war against Spain lasted only four months — from April 21, 1898, to August 12 of that year — the conflict period extended into 1902, and more than 289,000 Americans participated.

As of Oct. 31, 1974, a total of 1,241 Spanish-American War veterans were on VA benefits. In addition, 265,732 widows of Spanish-American War veterans were on VA benefits.

Service disabled military retirees should apply well in advance of August 1 for a $150 annual clothing allowance in order to receive it in their September 1 checks, the Veterans Administration advised today. Military retirees need not waive any portion of retirement pay to qualify, VA explained.

Service disabled veterans are eligible for allowances if their prosthesis or orthopedic devices (artificial limbs, braces, wheelchairs, etc.) tend to wear out or tear clothing.

Military retirees who do not draw VA compensation must apply each year, because the agency does not maintain current records on retirees who elect military retirement pay in lieu of VA compensation.

CHAMPUS is for widows, widowers, and orphans of veterans who died of service-connected causes and for wives, husbands, and children of veterans totally and permanently disabled by service-connected conditions, provided these dependents and survivors are not eligible for the armed forces' CHAMPUS program or Medicare.

Full information on CHAMPUS, including a copy of the CHAMPUS pamphlet and forms for applying for a CHAMPUS identification card, is available at all 171 VA hospitals.

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Other eligible veterans, however, including military retirees on the agency's compensation rolls, automatically receive allowances each year after initial application.

CHAMPUS

About 112,700 family members have established eligibility for the Veterans Administration's CHAMPUS medical care program, the agency said today.

Include are 39,652 wives, 18,043 widows, 54,920 sons and daughters, 82 husbands, and 6 widowers.

In addition, some 13,000 applications currently are being processed for determination of eligibility for the care, which is mostly by private physicians and non-VA hospitals.

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ROBERT CALL

I sadly inform you that Robert Perry Call, who was a member of A.D.B.C., Life membership No. 316 passed away July 15, 1974 of cancer. He was buried at sea July 19 off the coast of West Palm Beach Fla. He was accorded military burial with full honors. Burial was accomplished from the deck of the Coast Guard Cutter "Cape Fox", commanded by Lt. (JG) Thomas A. Rummel. Lt. Rummel presented me a nautical map marking the exact spot where Mr. Call was buried so that I can visit the precise location.

Fontana (cont.)

someone removed the cardboard from the eyepieces. When the Bataan nurses got to Corregidor the night before Bataan surrender, Madeline picked up the story on Corregidor. Then Leona Sutphin told us about going out on a submarine just before Corregidor fell. When the skipper learned there were 13 women on his sub, he said: "Thirteen women on my ship; we'll never get to Australia." Madeline resumed the Corregidor story and told how Chief Nurse Maude Davison blocked the hospital entrance against Jap guards. All of the 67 captured Army nurses were interned at Santo Tomas and liberated there in February 1945.

Two more banquets to go. My account of our past ten reunions at Fontana was patiently endured by all. The Public Relations Director of Brown, University, Curtis Norris, told the amazing story of a P-40 with the old insignia being shot down over the China coast by two American Flying Tigers on Dec. 8, 1942. The old, battered P-40 flew out of Bataan to an island field in Mindanao. From there it bombed Japs in Manila, but received severe damage. Eight months later, a P-40 renovated from parts of several damaged planes flew out of Mindanao, dropped a bomb on Taiwan and disappeared over the China Sea. Could this be the same plane?

Next year, same place, Fontana Village, N. C., August 24-28, 1975.

Best wishes to all...Benson Guyton

Fourteen Omime Machi Vets At Fontana August 25-28, 1974

We had our usual good sized meeting of the Omime Machi group. Six were here for the first time.

234 Hymie Bernstein
265 Walt Chatham (Ruby)
468 Charlie Dowdy (Louise)
289 Jim Eagle
394 Frank Forloines (Mary)
203 Ben Guyton (Jane)
386 Homer Harris (Mildred)
276 Billee Holliman (Earl's widow)
278 Willard Irwin (Ruby)
282 Bill Mattson (Joyce)
421 Bob MacMillan (Carolyn)
202 Jerry McDavitt (DKay)
441 John Scott (Martha)
261 Roscoe Word (Mildred)

As you all know, Jerry McDavitt is National Commander of ADBC and I am adjutant. Walt Chatham is Assistant Editor of the XPOW Bulletin. Homer Harris told about returning to Japan for the war trials. Jerry McDavitt told about the ADBC convention in San Antonio in April and the XPOW convention in Las Vegas in July. Again we had a group picture made by the Fontana photographer with the flag made from parachutes dropped by B-29s in Japan. Several Omime Machi Vets who have been to Fontana several times were unable to attend this year for various reasons. If all the old hands return next year, we shall
Bessang Pass (cont.)

The Japanese Imperial Forces that defended Bessang Pass and its vicinity totaled about 4,000 officers and men. They belonged to the Tora or Tiger Division of Lt. Gen. Yoshara Ozaki under the overall command of General Tomoyuki Yamashita. The "Tiger of Malaya" retreated with thousands of Japanese troops to the mountains surrounding the Loo valley in the heart of the Mountain Province even before the landing of General Douglas MacArthur's liberation forces, particularly the U.S. Sixth Army under the command of Lt. Gen. Walter Krueger, in Lingayen gulf on Jan. 9, 1945.

From Suyo, Ilocos Sur, the road to Bessang Pass is characterized by narrow sharp curves or turns flanked by deep gorges and thick vegetation of pines and other jungle plants. During rainy weather, the road is knee-deep in mud and often blocked by landslides rendering it impassable for days. On account of the terrain only small companies of USATFP NI soldiers could operate on the mountain rests and ridges.

According to General Krueger, the battle for Bessang Pass was "one whose magnitude and decisiveness far surpassed the U.S. Army's 32nd and 25th Infantry division's battles for Villa Verde trail and Balete Pass, respectively." Indeed, the capture of this vital pass split wide open the backdoor of General Yamashita's final defense line and thereby sealed the fate of Japanese forces in North Luzon two months before Japan offered to surrender in August, 1945.

Strategically located on a high, commanding terrain surrounded by scraggly and mountain peaks towering over 5,000 ft. high, Bessang Pass was well-organized and manned by the Japanese. Col. Solomu Terau, chief of staff of the 19th Japanese division who surrendered to the USATFP, NL after Japan surrendered on Sept. 2, 1945, declared that the 73rd Infantry of his division with a strength of about 2,000 officers and men were charged with the defense of Bessang Pass. This unit emplaced mountain guns and other artillery pieces in all commanding grounds around the pass. The Japanese 79th Brigade and the 357th Independent unit also had around 4,000 troops at the Bessang area at the time.

Three days before D-Day on Luzon (Jan. 9, 1945). The five regiments of the USATFP, NL engaged their guerrilla troops in the destruction of bridges, enemy air fields and wire communication and enemy ammunition dumps. They blocked all highways and roads and ambushed Japanese convoys throughout the Cagayan Province, Ilocos Sur, Ilocos Norte, Abra, Mt. Province, Nueva Vizcaya, Isabela and Cagayan.

was assigned the mission to liberate San Fernando, the capital of La Union. Initially its 1st and 2nd battalions, commanded by Majors Eduardo Borge and Diego Sipin, respectively, the 3rd battalion under the command of Major Conrado B. Rigor was assigned the mission to secure the area from Tagudin to Cervantes, Ilocos Sur.

On Jan. 21 and 24, its "L" Co., under Lt. Emilio Narcise attacked the Japanese garrison at barrio Bitalag, Tagudin, Ilocos Sur and killed all the fleeing enemy at barrio Cagayan. After this operation the company went up Highway 4 and attacked the enemy at Suyo, midway between Tagudin and Bessang Pass. Suyo fell on Feb. 5 and three days later, pushing farther towards Bessang the officers and men of "L" co., captured Butac, a sitio just west of the pass. Companies "K" and "M" joined Co. "L" in a co-ordinated attack and dislodged the Japanese at Mt. Kimposa, T. Tapao and Suyo along Highway 4 toward Cervantes. However, before the battalion could continue up to Bessang, Major Barnett ordered companies "K" and "M" to rejoin the 1st and 2nd Battalions of the regiment in the battle for San Fernando (La Union).

From captured Filipino constabulary soldiers Lt. Narcise learned that 150 Japanese with mortars and mountain guns had fortified Bessang Pass into a formidable defensive position. With his whole Company "L" he proceeded to Cervantes on Feb. 20 and successfully attacked the Japanese garrison thereat killing over 50 Japs. Apaitlano ambushed the enemy that came from Bessang Pass. Lt. Domingo Cadogan's platoon also attacked another enemy position at Mt. Magun while Sgt. Daniel Garcia's platoon attacked Mt. Mauting, capturing both positions on March 7. Two days later, however, the Japanese counterattacked and recaptured the two peaks.

Realizing the increased enemy activity, Colonel Volkmann created a provisional battalion composed of "A" Co., 11th Inf. commanded by Lt. Francisco Balaman and "D" Co., 66th Inf. commanded by Lt. Domingo Prudencio. Capt. Serafin Elizondo as battalion commander. According to Lt. Tenredo M. Guraay, battalion adjutant, this unit tried to stop then enemy's movements from Cervantes to Bessang Pass. The battalion engaged a strong enemy force at barrio Dain, west north-west of Cervantes, holding and Bessang Pass on Highway 4.

Commanded by Major George M. Barnett AUS, and later, by Major Eulogio Bulao, the 121st Infantry was committed to the Bessang area on March 27, 1945. The 1st battalion under Major Eduardo Borge withdrew toward Butac to encircle the enemy's southern flank, while the 2nd battalion under Major Diego Sipin pushed eastward generally along the axis of Highway 4. The 3rd battalion under Major Conrado B. Rigor, was held in reserve, while the provisional battalion under Capt. Elizondo remained in position in the Cervantes alley northeast of Bessang Pass.

Encountering the enemy on March 29 at Lamagan ridge, a high ground west of Bessang, the 1st Battalion, sustained its first casualties. The 2nd battalion moved with great caution as there were enemy outposts guarding at every bend of the road leading to Bessang Pass.

LOST DOCUMENT

Don't let a lost birth certificate or marriage license deter you from seeking benefits, the Veterans Administration may advise eligible veterans, dependents and survivors.

Officials said less formal proof of marriage and birth have been acceptable since 1971 when this information is needed to establish claims for bigger checks.

Formerly the VA required all statements of marriages and births to be supported by formalized documentary evidence, it was noted.

It was also pointed out a veteran's or widow's certified statement of marriage now is sufficient on applications for compensation and education benefits for veterans, widows and orphaned children — provided neither he nor his wife has been married before and VA has no contradictory information on file.

A certified statement also is acceptable regarding birth of a child of a veteran's marriage and as proof of age and relationship.

BLOOD PRESSURE

An alarming number of persons identified as having high blood pressure are jeopardizing their future health by dropping out of treatment, Dr. Gerrit Schepers of the Veterans Administration said in Washington, D.C., today.

Newly named to head hypertension screening in the medical service of the agency's Central Office, Dr. Schepers disclosed that almost 60 per cent of the 25,000 veterans identified through VA screening as needing treatment have not returned to the VA clinics.

About the same percentage is "lost to treatment" in nonveteran screening programs, according to Dr. Schepers.

Because the VA hypertension screening is an early warning system, Dr. Schepers believes Vietnam veterans have a better chance than their earlier counterparts to live a longer life, free of heart attacks, kidney disease, stroke, and other results of high blood pressure.

Techniques are available to bring the disease under control before it does permanent damage, but ways must be found to keep those in need of treatment from dropping out, he said.

Extensive VA study shows that medication reduces the risk of development of heart and blood vessel disease, kidney conditions, and stroke by about 37 per cent over a five-year period, even in moderate and mild degrees of hypertension.
Deaths of 355,000 veterans during fiscal year 1974 — 206,000 with World War II service — has prompted the Veterans Administration to encourage 29 million living veterans to make certain their dependents are aware of the death benefits to which they may be entitled.

The FY 1974 death total was 30,000 more than the previous year, and 36,000 higher than the 297,000 veterans’ deaths recorded in FY 1970. The World War I veteran population was decreased by almost 10 percent with the deaths of 166,000 veterans.

Veterans families should be informed of survivor’s benefits, such as dependency and indemnity compensation for service-connected death or nonservice-connected death pensions for widows. The latter may apply only to surviving children if the widow’s income makes her ineligible for VA pension benefits.

Burial benefits for wartime and certain peacetime veterans include a maximum $250 burial or cremation allowance, plus a plot allowance not exceeding $500 for veterans buried outside national cemeteries. In lieu of these benefits, there is an $800 burial allowance for veterans who die of service-connected disabilities.

Cremated remains presently are interred in reduced-size gravestones at national cemeteries. New cemeteries planned by VA’s National Cemetery System include columbaria for these remains.

Burial flags and headstone or grave markers also are available for many deceased veterans upon application to the VA.

Veterans service organizations or local VA offices should be contacted for information and assistance in applying for benefits. Such documents as military separation papers, divorce decrees, guardianship or child custody evidence, birth, marriage and death certificates should be accessible to validate claims.

OBITUARY

Emmert Loring Manson, 67, Capt (DC), USN (RE), died October 10 in Honolulu of lung cancer.

A survivor of the Bataan Death March, Capt. Manson was a prisoner of War at Cabanatuan in the Philippines for 9½ years.

He retired from the navy in 1965.

Survivors: Wife, Jean; Two sons and a brother.

Robert L. Fannin Sr.


BOOK

Captain John W. Whitman on active duty at Fort Benning is writing a book on Infantry battles of Bataan. All who fought Infantry actions please contact him at 220 Oakley Drive, Apt. 23, Columbus, Georgia, 31906 giving name, grade and organization at that time.

Mr. Bob Kimsey, Iowa State Chapter American Defenders of Bataan & Corregidor

Route 1

Grimes, Iowa 50111

Dear Bob:

Many thanks to you, Cdr. Frisch, and the Editor of the Quan, for printing news, date & place, etc., of the annual picnic.

I have missed several years of attendance because I could get no information on the exact date. I even called the caretaker of Walnut Woods State park, only to receive a denial of such an event, then learning later it did take place!

I hope the editor of the Quan will print the following: Of all the goings on among State and National Conventions and gatherings, I have never found any more enjoyable as this setting in Iowa, a great state, and attended by wonderful people.

As a matter of fact, in one respect in particular, this annual event is the greatest: mongo beans, all you can eat. Every time I go, I get so full of mongo beans, there is no room for desert or anything else!

Lee Mayberry

Oubra “Lee Mayberry reports on the Oct. 6, 1974 meeting. Feature Speaker for the evening was National Commander Col. Jerome McDavitt. Some 32 members were in attendance, there were few dry eyes in the crowd when Col displayed “his” Flag which was made in P.O.W. Camp. Col. was the guest of Joe Upton.

Lee also reported on a new Memorial Chapel to be built at the Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery. This area became a National Cemetery in 1866, its name derived from Jefferson Barracks which was established as a military command on the eastern boundary of the great expanse of territory bought as a result of the Louisiana Purchase during the Administration of President Thomas Jefferson.

Some of the men serving at Jefferson Barracks were Jeff Davis, Robert E. Lee, Ulysses S. Grant, and William Tecumseh Shuman.

Grace Corliss

Grace Corliss, wife of Frank passed away July 20, 1974 at Standford Hospital of a massive hemorrhage in the brain. Burial was in Broolrine, Mass. Survived by husband, Frank and daughter, Susan.

TRAVEL

If you’re a veteran with a yen to travel or establish residence overseas, you’d better check first with the Veterans Administration.

Under the law, VA cannot provide certain benefits in foreign countries, the agency advised. Knowing what benefits are available could become crucial to a veteran’s well-being, it was stressed, especially if medical problems arise.

Before traveling outside the U.S., a veteran should obtain a statement of his service-connected disabilities from the VA office which maintains his medical records.

In an emergency, an eligible veteran is entitled to VA-paid hospitalization for service-connected conditions if he or a representative presents the VA statement to the embassy or consular office within 72 hours after hospitalization begins, together with an application for medical benefits. Notification of outpatient treatment must be made within 15 days.

Care for veterans with both service-connected disabilities and non-service-connected disabilities is available only in the Philippines at the Veterans Memorial Hospital in Manila. As in the United States, however, veterans with nonservice-connected disabilities are eligible on a space available basis, and only if they are unable to defray expenses.

Only veterans who are retired servicemen are eligible for medical benefits from military hospitals and clinics.

Education benefits are available overseas to eligible veterans, eligible wives, widows and children pursuing degrees in VA-approved foreign schools.

Compensation and pension checks also may be mailed to most overseas addresses but GI home loans are not available to veterans living in foreign countries.

To insure prompt receipt of checks, veterans traveling in foreign countries should maintain stateside mailing addresses, where possible.

Martin J. Graham


Miss Adolpha Meyer

Miss Adolpha Meyer, aged 69 of Cherokee Village (Sharp County), a retired captain in the Army Nurse Corps, died 6-23-74. She served on Bataan and Corregidor during World War II and was a prisoner of the Japanese for 33 months. She was a past worthy matron of the Eastern Star and a member of the American Legion Auxiliary. Survivors include a brother, Henry W. Meyer of Cherokee Village. Burial was Wednesday at Arlington National Cemetery.
TAKE NOTICE

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DISABILITY
By ARTHUR BROSSI
The over all policy of the American Defenders of Bataan and Corregidor remains that all Prisoners of War who were interned by a foreign power in excess of six months are entitled to disability compensation commensurate with both time and conditions to which they were subjected. In our own circumstances where in most of us were incarcerated 39 months or more, that disability should be 100 per cent. The ADB & C is aware that there were many contributing elements which resulted in our plight and in order to accelerate our efforts to help deserving members to compensation rightfully theirs, we offer editorial comment.

George Catlett Marshall, who had much to do with the plan which channeled the U.S. military efforts into Europe during W.W.II, appeared before a Veterans of Foreign War convention following World War II and, in substance, stated "... if an American was removed from his loved ones, transported to a foreign country where he served only one minute in defense of that foreign land, there was no way his country could compensate him ..." and while only conjecture, General Marshall might have concluded that... and while in that country he was taken prisoner of war and subjected to the most horrendous conditions imaginable for over 39 1/2 months ...

It is discouraging when, following an appearance before the Veterans Administration, an entry by the examining physician is made into the medical records of a deserving POW indicating "no evidence to sustain service-connection or prisoner-of-war relationship at this time." At this late date in life, we have no ready means of proving that the routine physical examinations given us at collecting points following our repatriation were only superficial. Entirely too many of us agreed to and accepted those examinations because of our anxiety to return to our loved ones. Another large group of us agreed to less than a serious examination for the purposes of re-enlisting or continuing a career in the military. Perhaps at this point, a goodly portion of any blame belongs to us. We would plead, however, that no one could have known the insidious residuals that would result some thirty years later from the suffering, torture, privation and endless mal-nutritive diet to which we were subjected.

There was no precedent to which we might make reference and in keeping with the times, we just did not anticipate those inevitable residuals; in short, we just were not informed. Who, at the time, could have informed us that because of three and a half years in prison camps we might never escape the horrible nightmares. Who, at that time, could have told us that after we had been committed to circumstances of combat which were our lot, and particularly from March 14, 1942 on, when it became sustained warfare and siege, just how badly the recurring dreams would be? Who could have told us that the fear instilled in us by a satanic guard would in spite of assurances and safeguards of family, manifest itself time and time again in later years? Who could have told us that after we had lived in fear every day for over one thousand one hundred twelve days and more, that there would be no way known to erase those disturbances which today are entirely too common in many of us?

We are familiar with the processes employed by the Veterans Administration. We agree that many of our Buddies receive adequate treatment and we admit freely and readily that many receive courteous and sympathetic treatment. Yet, there are incidents whereby many POWs prefer and seek treatment from his family or private physician and it would be to these circumstances we address ourselves. But some of the stories of treatment—or lack of treatment—at V.A. facilities make us extremely sad.

The ADB & C worked hard to have Public Law 91-376 entered into our National Statutes and you can understand our pride when this was accomplished. In our opinion, however, the liberal interpretation the V.A. claims it exercises in POW cases decidedly is lacking. At this late stage in life there are many POWs who need help to either establish a claim to disability or who need an increase in the amount they now receive.

In what impresses as almost glowing tones, the VA reiterates their willingness to "accept layman's testimony" in support of a claim. That could almost be interpreted to mean that the VA recognizes and accepts the inescapable fact that prisoner of war conditions under the Japanese never were a bed of roses. Following World War II, we were led to believe that all Americans knew of the now infamous Bataan Death March and the losses of well over thirty-three percent of the men in prison camps. Yet when an attempt is made to introduce "layman's testimony" there is the feeling that VA still insists that a man prove he was a prisoner of war. Further, there seems to be that inescapable finding that whatever ailments the POW claims, they must be visible and immediately evident. That "layman's testimony" unfortunately for us, carries no weight at all, and the burden of proof still lies with the Veteran POW. We can provide much evidence, proof and findings to be made part of the POW Claim File but where do we find a VA Doctor who has the time to read this massive amount in printed form? By the same token, where do we find Appeal Boards who have the same time?

Among our membership we have many learned members of the Medical Profession who remained in service; men who submitted medical findings based on actual ex-

QUESTIONS TO QUAN
Quan
Q—I am the widow of a World War II veteran who died as a result of a service-connected injury before using his GI home loan entitlement. I have not remarried. Am I eligible for this Veterans Administration benefit?
A—Yes. If they are not currently married, widows of veterans of World War II and later periods who died of service-connected causes, as well as widows of servicemen missing in action or prisoners of war for more than 90 days are eligible for this benefit.

Q—What should I do before I move next month to make sure I get my Veterans Administration pension checks at my new address?
A—Notify the VA regional office where your records are filed, giving your name, claim number and old address. You also should notify your post office, but no the Treasury Department.

Q—If I'm hospitalized for my service-connected disability, will the Veterans Administration increase my compensation?
A—Yes. If you're hospitalized 21 days or more, your disability rating will be increased to 100 percent. Compensation at the increased rate will continue until you're discharged from the hospital.
DISABILITY

experience. To date we have not been able to correlate all printed information on the subject. We are grateful to the many Doctors who remained in uniform and who contributed efforts to helping many deserving men into a disability status. These dedicated men contributed much to recognizing the evils that live after—but they are too few to take care of the many who need and deserved this kind of help. Who can forget the contributions made by our Doctors Jack Swartz, Jim Gillespie, William Glattly, Walter Koslecki and Dear Old Charlie Brown, to name but a few? These indeed represent the few to whom many are indebted. Unfortunately, many of us did not have access at the time to these fine representatives of our military medical profession.

Without exception, and for many years, the VA constantly reminded the entire Veterans population how considerate they were, particularly in the plight of Ex-POWs where they even look for ailments not complained of by the patient. We applaud the VA for that type statement but it remains somewhat of a mystery to us how that VA Doctor looks for an ailment not complained of when that Doctor of today never ever heard of Balaan or Corregidor. We question whether the VA today has even one Specialist who can claim expertise concerning prisoners of war. Also we believe deeply and sincerely the VA lacks one specialized group or Board with the knowledge and background that is critically essential to adjudicate Prisoner of War cases.

How, at this late date do we convince a VA Doctor that legs which will not support the body for any length of time got tired thirty years ago when the rice or other diet we were forced to eat just did not have the vitamins and sustenance in it to give us that kind of strength? Most of us, we recall, got our vitamins from the club carried by a very erratic guard whose whims were dictated by even more erratic superiors. By all known medical dialogue we did not receive more than nine hundred (900) calories daily over that long stretch yet we cannot convince the VA that the energy we had to use because of some erratic guard, the residuals and damage cannot be calculated. We talk much today about hyper-tension and we could easily convince the VA that we hold original membership in this exclusive society; but how we convince the VA that the fear of three and a half years of hell just cannot be changed simply because we returned to our homes and loved ones?

Finally, the ADB&C was made aware that during a recent appeal case, the three man V.A. Board consisted of one Doctor and two lawyers instead of what, in our opinion should have been TWO Doctors and perhaps ONE lawyer. We find it rather strange that in the case of a very deserving POW, the merits of his case rest not on a physical ailment but rather on the legal aspects of whether or not the law provided eligibility for disability. Someplace along the line something needs overhauling.

We suggest the VA establish a commission to study the establishment of a special examination board of Doctors qualified in the detection of POW ailments. This board move to central points where all former POWs would receive examinations and be evaluated for disability pension.

We urge our membership to contribute written materials about POW findings. In the event we can be of such service, we shall try to supplement an individuals medical records. We can only plod along, seeking justice but in any event we shall expend all efforts in any cause concerning any one of our membership.

FAKE GUERRILLA

APALIT, Pampanga, Dec. 5 — A fake guerrilla outfit members are all officers—their "backpay" is supposed to be donated by American millionaires — was exposed recently by Apalit municipal officials here.

Nine persons with ages ranging from 53 to 76 were lectured on, instead of arrested, by Mayor Oscar T. Tetangco.

They were released with the pledge they will voluntarily "demon" themselves to being mere civilians.

A custody receipt for each of them was signed by the mayor before 1st Lt. Carlos A. Gamibe, 172nd PC company commander, who investigated them.

The "guerrilla" officers gave their names as Vicente C. Balboa, 60, of San Vicente, Apalit, a "lieutenant colonel;" Truieo B. Reyes, 73, "brigade commander;" Jose P. Reyes, 64, "regimental commander;" Leodegario C. Quiroz, 53, "lieutenant colonel;" Mariano T. Balaglas, 55, "lieutenant colonel;" Agustin D. Garcia, 66, "colonel;" Augusto P. Reyes, 58, a United States pensioner of San Juan, Apalit, Pampanga. Reyes is the overall division commander.

They are members — rather officers — of the Sayson Intelligence Command, Apaliteno division.

Reyes, who claims to be an ex-USAPFFE man and a genuine guerrilla, told Mayor Tetangco his outfit's claim with the US government is valid, but cannot be disclosed due to it's being "confidential" in nature.

The brigade commander said the backpay he and his officers await will come from American multi-millionaires in the form of "donations."

SICK LIST

We hope these men are by this time out of the hospital and on the road to recovery. Bill (better half of tired Mary) Grayson; "Blackie" Brennan and Dave Allen. Hang in there fellows hope to see you in clearwater.

STILL YOUR BEST BARGAIN IN ADB&C. (The Secretary will process it for you)

LIFE MEMBERSHIP

LIFE MEMBERSHIP RATES

<table>
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<td>$45.00</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>60 or over</td>
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REPLY

More than a million persons, who will receive income questionnaires with Veterans Administration pension checks for November, must return them by January 1, instead of the customary January 15 deadline.

VA officials explained that the new deadline was set to relieve the annual logjam in preparation of January checks when pensioners returned the questionnaires near or after the former January 15 deadline. Pensioners are urged to promptly complete and return the questionnaires.

Under the law, VA mails questionnaires to veterans on non-service-connected pension rolls, windows of veterans receiving pensions based on the non-service-connected death of a husband, and certain parents who receive monthly checks because of the service-connected death of a veteran or serviceman.

Officials noted that most pensioners must file questionnaires each year. There are some exceptions, it was noted. Those 72 years old or over who have been on pension rolls during the last two consecutive years are exempt from routine reporting; however, they must report income changes when they occur.

It was also pointed out that some beneficiaries who normally are exempt will receive questionnaires this year because of cost of living increases in their annuities.

According to VA, thousands of beneficiaries missed the former January 15 deadline over the years. Prompt return of questionnaires by the new January 1 deadline will avoid delays in next year's checks, the agency said, stressing that a special effort is needed this year by the late filers to comply with the new deadline.

VA DAILY AUDIO NEWS SERVICE

(202) 737-9833

JANUARY, 1975—17
NUTRITION

Until recently more soldiers died from illness and disease than from enemy bullets. Thousands of men died in prison camps. In recent conflicts the advances in sanitation, medical care and nutrition enabled most POWs to survive. The improvement in nutrition may be seen from these glimpses of how our countrymen fared in our past four years.

OUR CIVIL WAR 1860-1865

The defeated side in every war loses something—usually all his documents. Hence, it’s never easy to reconstruct what actually went on in his prison camps. However, conditions were so bad at the prison camp of the Confederacy at Andersonville, that nothing can conceal the fact that this must be the worst POW prison in modern times. Camp Douglas, his counterpart in the North was somewhat better but not much. In both, nutritional diseases were the main enemies of the POW.

Becoming a prisoner on either side in the War Between the States was no shortcut to survival. Nearly ten times as many men died in the prison camps on both sides as those who died on the battlefield at Gettysburg. The soldier in the Union Army who was captured fared little better than the Confederate. Of some 194,000 Union soldiers imprisoned by the Confederacy, 36,400 died. Of the nearly 220,000 Confederate soldiers imprisoned by the Union, 30,151 died.

Andersonville

Though all prisons were filthy, terrible places, one stands out among them as the “worst of all prisons”... Andersonville. The camp consisted of a tent city sprawled over the hillsides astride a swampy, sluggish creek outside the town of the same name southeast of Columbus, Georgia. The seeming openness of the prison shown in some contemporary photographs belies the fact that it had a reputation for being virtually escape-proof. This may have been due to the heavy guards or, what seems more likely, it was because the prisoners were too sick and weak to run away.

One of every four Union soldiers captured by the Confederates enjoyed the vicissitudes of Andersonville. While it is true that the POW's chances of surviving incarceration were slim no matter which side he was on or where he was imprisoned, such records as survived the collapse of the South put the infamous reputation of Andersonville on a sound footing. Other prisons were bad at times, but in this stockade in Sumter County, where a pine forest had been chopped down and a prison compound erected within the twenty odd acres, the wretchedly enclosed fifty thousand men and boys who suffered, died or survived in fourteen months.

Of every 1,000 men who were sick (and everyone was at one time or another), 831 suffered from diseases of nutritional origin. Diarrhea and dysentery were responsible for 505 deaths out of 1,000 ill and scurvy for 326. Droopy, monia and pleurisy were prevalent and usually fatal. During the 14 months that this infamous prison existed, the first six months were the worst, if, indeed, such comparisons can be made. Then scurvy, the nutritional disease with a long incubation period, hit... and deaths from this disease trebled. The effects of scurvy were seen in all its stages: apathy and general malaise to the characteristic purple, funfold, bleeding gums, and loose teeth, emaciated limbs, flexed and painful extremities, spontaneous hemorrhages from mucous canals, swollen parotids, and purplish ulcers. All this a hundred years after Dr James Lind described how to prevent the disease.

As John Ransom, a Union prisoner held at Andersonville, wrote in the diary he kept throughout his captivity. “Can see a dozen most any morning lying around dead. A great many are terribly afflicted with diarrhea, and scurvy begins to take hold of some. Scurvy is a bad disease, and taken in connection with the former is sure death. Some heavy dropy as well as scurvy, and the swollen limbs and body are sad to see."

Nearly one of every three Union prisoners who died in captivity died in Andersonville. The South was not totally to blame for the lack of proper food for the prisoners. Many guards and Confederate soldiers fared little better. After the Union had blockaded the South, food was hard to come by, and as always the case, when a warring nation endures privation, the POWs suffer first.

Camp Douglas

Food was plentiful in the North during the Civil War. Unlike the Rebel guards who starved along with their prisoners, the Yankees who watched the prisons were wellfed. But that didn’t mean the Rebel prisoners fared any better. As we said, the man who’d choose between POW camps had a bitter choice indeed.

The principal camp for prisoners of the Union Army was at Camp Douglas, near Chicago. This sprawling prison was named after the famed U.S. Senator from Illinois, Stephen A. Douglas. Just why one would want a prison camp named for him is not plain for the Yankee prison was an awful place. The prisoners starved there not because it was inevitable but because of burial commanders and a food-supply system of incredible inefficiency. In fact, the President of the U.S. Sanitary Commission, a position something akin to our present Surgeon General of the Public Health Service, commented harshly in his report after visiting Douglas. In the month of February 1863 alone ten per cent of the prisoners died. Scurvy and diarrhea were the principal causes.

WORLD WAR I

After the Civil War, all western nations realized that some international agreement governing the treatment, including feeding and health care of POWs was necessary. The first effort to accomplish this goal was the International Convention held at The Hague, Netherlands in 1899 and again in 1907. There rules of conduct that gained some recognition in international law were agreed upon. These were a great forward step, although during World War I, when POWs were numbered in the millions, there were many charges on both sides that the rules were not being faithfully observed.

By the beginning of World War I, advances in the general knowledge of nutrition and nutritional diseases (Lind was finally recognized) and sanitation made a great difference in the life of the POW. Then there was another factor. This was a gentlemanly war. It was more of a dispute with guns. It was a war nobody wanted. Yet the prison camps still lacked much.

Under very unfavorable conditions as in Palestine, both captives and captors suffered together. Turkish POWs along with British troops experienced epidemics of malaria and influenza as well as attacks of dysentery. Once again the POW became familiar with hunger, thirst and exhaustion and suffered severely from pellagra. Pellagra was attributed to the actual or relative deficiency in the biological value of protein in their diets. There were epidemics of diarrhea and dysentery with scattered cases of typhoid and paratyphoid fevers throughout most camps.

In many German camps the food ration allowance was dangerously low, for Germany like the Confederacy was under blockade. A large part of the diet was wholesome and edible; consequently, malnutrition was prevalent. The estimated caloric intake per man during the months of April to September, 1917 was only 846 calories a day!

With the shocking revelations of the widespread existence of these starvation diets, the American Red Cross jumped into the breach, saw the need for its services abroad, and quickly went into action for the Americans held by the Central Powers. As a result (and perhaps because the Germans held so few Americans) the Yankee POWs became the best fed, best clothed, most pampered POWs in history.

In 1918 during the last 6 or 7 months of the war, when our men in German prisons numbered 3,000 the American Red Cross set up a commission in Switzerland to help

(Continued on Page 19)
SURVEY

We are conducting a Survey to establish information regarding Disability Pensions of our members. The information and facts are important, if you wish to with hold your name and address that's ok.

Name __________________________

Address _______________________

Last Rank _______ Discharge Date _________

VA Disability _______ Percent Military Disability _______

Percent _______ Date of 1st Disability Pension _______

Percent _______ Your Last Increase _______ Present _______

Nature of Disability __________________________

Are you able to work full time _______ Part time _______ Not at all _______

When did you have the last review of your pension _______

raised percent _______ lowered percent _______

Were you satisfied with VA treatment _______ personal _______ professional _______

Do you think you are entitled to additional pension? _______

If you haven't gone to the VA for treatment or examination please state why.

It is important that every member return the above information, do it today. We receive conflicting reports from members on VA Treatment. We compliment those VA installations who are doing the job the Veteran is entitled to, but we want the facts on those not doing their job. Use additional paper if necessary. Mail today to Art Bressi 21 Winding Hill Dr., Mechanicsburg, Pa. 17055.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS: This great nation is on the eve of its BICENTENNIAL celebration, and whereas, we of the American Defenders of Bataan and Corregidor have played a significant part in the preservation of this great nation; and

WHEREAS: April 6th and May 9th marks the anniversaries of the end of the epic struggle of American forces and Phillipine forces on Bataan and Corregidor; and

WHEREAS: Bataan and Corregidor symbolize the spirit which moves men of different races and different creeds to fight shoulder-to-shoulder for their freedom, Be it hereby resolved that the governor, the House and the Senate of the great state of — declare April 6th, Bataan Day and May 9th Corregidor Day, and that encouragement be given to the holding of appropriate services in schools and churches and in other gatherings so that the nation can honor these gallant defenders by making an effort to perpetuate their ideals.

Resolution submitted by John M. Emerick

Nutrition (cont.)

feed and clothe them. As the American soldiers arrived at the prison camps, each one filled out a card giving his name, rank, hometown and place of imprisonment. The card was then sent to the prisoner. Each week thereafter every American prisoner received a 20 pound food package including several pounds of meats, canned vegetables, bread, butter, sugar, milk, salt, fruit, jams and, of course, soap and cigarettes. These packages constituted full rations, equaling approximately 3,500 calories per day. Germany only had to supply potatoes and fresh vegetables. These rations were sent by the American Red Cross to the American prisoners only, though the packages contained sufficient rations for the Americans to share with their British or Belgian comrades.

The POWs from our allies suffered the usual fate of POWs, however. In several German prisons abhorrent conditions were present. Hygienic requirements were ignored. Most prisoners were infected with typhus. Body lice were common; not a far cry from the days of Andersonville for the French and British prisoners of the Germans.

WORLD WAR II

Conditions in prisoner of war camps during World War II had come quite a way from the previous war; at least they had in Europe. To be sure, the conditions for the detention of American POWs were not as carefree as one might suspect if they had seen only the TV serial, "Hogan's Heroes," nor were the prisoners as well fed as the men who spent World War I in German camps. There are few reports of malnutrition, perhaps because the Germans themselves did not lack food during the conflict. As tales filtered back of the plight of those taken prisoner in the Orient, the captives of the Germans had reason to be thankful. In the Pacific, it was Andersonville all over again, or nearly so.

After the first World War in which the Hague rules proved insufficient, the International Red Cross, which was formed in 1863 to protect the victims of war, proposed a more comprehensive code of conduct to protect the POW. Forty-seven governments were invited to meet at Geneva in 1929. It was from this gathering that the "Geneva Convention with Relation to the Treatment of Prisoners of War" evolved. Only two major powers, ominously as it turned out, Japan and Russia, did not sign the covenant. The U.S.S.R. announced in 1941 that they would observe the terms of the Hague Convention of 1907, which did not provide for neutral inspection of prison camps, exchange of prisoners' names and correspondence with prisoners. In 1942 Japan belatedly promised to abide by the Geneva rules. By the terms of the convention, every prisoner
Nutrition (cont.)

was entitled to adequate food and medical care. The United States and Great Britain fully honored the Geneva Convention throughout the conflict.

Most Americans and Commonwealth soldiers and civilians who were unlucky enough to fall into the hands of the Japanese agree that how one fared depended largely on the Commander of the Camp. The film, “The Bridge on the River Kwai,” is considered by those who know as a classic case history of the Japanese conduct. For them the only rule was the rule of convenience. The POW’s experience, with every nutritional disorder known, is not unlike the suffering at the hands of the North Vietnamese.

In explanation, it can be said that in Japanese hands, wherever he was, the POW was always at the end of the food supply chain. Then too, Japan had the oriental outlook. They didn’t expect their soldiers to surrender and looked upon them as solders to surrender and looked upon against their will. The POW’s experience, with every nutritional disorder known, is not unlike the suffering at the hands of the North Vietnamese.

M.H. Churchill, author of one of the first scientific studies ever done on the nutritional aspects of POW life, said that men manifested wide individual variation in adjusting to the diets the Japanese provided. Many who couldn’t adjust, died. Men and women, too, subsisted largely on polished rice, barley gruel, clear vegetable soup, beans, and occasionally cooked root vegetables. Their protein intake appears to have been less than 30 grams a day. Thus, nutritional factors caused various degrees of hepatic damage. Men lost between 20 and 98 pounds and there was a high incidence of all deficiency diseases such as beriberi, scurvy, pellagra, and exotrophicism. Malaria and other infectious diseases were widespread, too.

There was little provision for medical care in enemy prison camps. In some camps inmates had to purchase and prepare their own food and the available food was insufficient. The history of the way Japan treated our POWs is the story of another age.

KOREA

Survivors of the Korean prison camps displayed a relatively high rate of morbidity. There were two POW exchanges arranged by the armistice negotiators in Korea for which medical surveys were performed. The first exchange, referred to as “Little Switch” took place over a 2-week period between April 21 and May 3, 1953 and 194 U.S. military personnel in need of immediate medical treatment were released with this group. The second exchange took place between August 4 and September 6, 1953 and during this period 3,596 of our men were released, thus designated “Big Switch.”

Of the 3,732 prisoners for whom medical records were available, 3,460 were between the ages of 20 and 34 years old. The average prisoner’s weight loss during captivity was about 23 pounds. There was evidence of malnutrition during the early months of captivity in 67 Americans repatriated from North Korea during Little Switch although all had gained weight in prison camp after the initial starvation period.

Most prisoners were heavily infested with intestinal parasites. Thirty-four men showed signs of lung diseases, of whom 19 had parenchymal infiltration and 8 were positive for tuberculosis. This represents a low incidence compared with usual rates in soldier prison camps outside the United States.

Of 2,139 men examined, 21 showed signs of shigella and 3 men showed evidences of salmonella. Evidences of nutritional deficiencies consisted of pellaginous dermatitis, smooth sore tongue, optic neuritis, and enlarged thyroid.

Some cases of malaria and emebhia were developed by our men. Bacillary dysentery in Korean POW camps followed the historical pattern shown in confined population groups. Already, when brought to the camps, the POWs showed a high level of infection which contributed to its rapid spread. Treatment was complicated by the fact that almost all of the cases were due to the sulfonamide-resistant shigelae.

Outbreaks of diarrheal disease were caused by a variety of enteric pathogens. The majority of all men held in North Korea had diarrhea and dysentery during captivity and many had malaria. Most had clinically evident disease conditions or malnutrition and some required extensive treatment and hospitalization.

Treatment of the American prisoners of war had come a long way by the Korean Conflict. Through the food given our men was not the most nourishing, they were being fed. Hospitals were available for those in serious need of medical care.

Reprinted from Nutrition Today May / June 1973

CHARLES WALTER

Charles Allen Walter, 52, of 3890 Dawn-Mar St., died 9-25-74 at Harrisburg Hospital. He was the assistant sales office manager for Cleveland Brothers Equipment Co. and was a member of the Allison Hill Republican Club and the Epsyworth United Methodist Church.

A veteran of World War II he was a survivor of the Bataan death march and was held as a prisoner-of-war for four years.

He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Anna E. Walter; a daughter, Mrs. Snadra L. Palmer, at home; and two grandchildren.

CHARLES A. WALTER, SERIAL RA 7 021 114, who enlisted in U.S. Army Air Corps March 4, 1940 and was assigned to the 699th Aviation Ordnance Company, WALTER was cited a number of times as having been wounded. Anyone who recalls WALTER is asked to write to Mrs. Anna WALTER, 3890 Dawn-Mar Street, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

Do anyone of you have a current address on a ELVIN McGOWAN, 19002025 who allegedly was a buddy to WALTER. Last address on McGOWAN shown as 3748 West 9th Street, Los Angeles.