

Dear Mr. Vater:

Reference your note on lower part of page wherein six of us former POWs, St. Joseph, MO, are shown in the picture with President Truman. I do not have any better picture than the one I sent you. Ethan Campbell, shown in picture, worked for the St. Joseph, MO, NewsPress (the local newspaper). Ethan made those arrangements to meet with President Truman. Ethan passed away in 1990. He had a bad case of malaria while a POW, and I believe that shortened his life.

Notice other side of this page. That original document hangs in a frame on the wall of my home. Also notice that I soon will observe my 86th birthday anniversary. I am fortunate to still be among the living! I did not contract malaria while a POW; about three-fourths of the POWs did contract malaria, and it was a killer without proper medicine!

Sincerely,

William S. Allen
William S. Allen
707 09 7104

P.S. Malaria badly affected the lives of those while POWs and those that survived after being POWs.

July 19, 2004

Dear Mr. Vater:

I am enclosing ^{a copy} made by my daughter Brenda on her computer. Perhaps that will be sufficient.

Sincerely, *William S. Allen*
William S. Allen

I never saw an original of said picture.
WSA

Copy of picture referred to is at the Brooke County Public, due to copyright is unavailable on this site.

Note - the original of this document hangs in a frame on the wall of Mr. Allen's office. Mr. Allen joined the Missouri National Guard while a student at St. Joseph, Missouri Junior College, and he graduated from Junior College Spring 1940. That MO National Guard unit was taken into active Federal service (U.S. Army) February 1941. The Unit was split and most of the fellows were sent to Alaska. 32 of those MO National Guardsmen were sent to the Philippines. We were at Clark Field, P.I. when the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor. 7 of that 31 are now alive. Most died as prisoners of war of the Japanese. (above written Spring 1992). William S. Allen, Attorney at Law, 9606 West 95th Street, Overland Park, KS 66212-5101. 913 888-7112. (Retired)

Update of above Note. One of the 32 MONG fellows from St. Joseph, MO, was killed by a Japanese sniper on Bataan before our surrender. 16 died while POWs of the Japanese. 15 returned to St. Joseph, MO after WWII ended. Three of us, including William S. Allen, are still living. Dated August 8, 2003, the 85th anniversary of William S. Allen's birth!

The Imperial Japanese troops never kill those who surrender to them. Stop this futile fighting and surrender. General MacArthur has deserted you.

General MacArthur left the Philippines March 17, 1942 on orders issued by President Roosevelt.

COPY

Soon after Mr. Allen arrived in Japan in January 1945 as a prisoner of war (P.O.W.), the Japanese military guards began telling us (the P.O.W.s) that they had orders to shoot all of the P.O.W.s if the Americans invaded Japan. "We believed the American plan of battle was to invade Japan. Thus we (the P.O.W.s) were under the "death sentence" for several months. The Japanese changed their minds when the two atomic bombs were dropped on Japan in August 1945. Mr. Allen believes the atomic bombs saved his life, in addition to many other Americans who would have been killed in an invasion of Japan.

Japanese Propaganda Leaflet
Picked up by William S. Allen
on Bataan, Philippine Islands
March 20, 1942.
Americans on Bataan surrendered
to Japanese April 9, 1942.
Mr. Allen was a prisoner of war
of the Japanese about 3 1/2 years
and was liberated in Japan after
the war ended in August 1945.
Above leaflet was dropped from a
Japanese military airplane during
the waning days of the ^{/Bataan} campaign.

Mr. Allen made the "infamous Bataan Death March", soon after the surrender to the Japanese.

The Japanese bombed us, the American Military Forces, at Clark Field about 60 miles north of Manila, within 10 hours after they bombed Pearl Harbor. Japanese airplanes came from Formosa, now known as Taiwan, about 600 miles north of Philippines.

On Sep 21/44, the American Naval Forces began bombing Manila area, Philippine Islands. Mr. Allen, as a P.O.W. of the Japanese, was wounded by one of those American Naval bombs. After WWII ended and Mr. Allen was repatriated, he was awarded the Purple Heart due to that wound. Mr. Allen has the Purple Heart insignia on his Kansas auto license tag!