

The Death March

The story reached its tragic climax with the horrors and atrocities of the 65 mile “DEATH MARCH” from Mariveles to San Fernando. Denied food and water, robbed of their personal possessions and equipment, forced to march under the hot sun and halt in areas where even the most primitive sanitary facilities were lacking, then clubbed, beaten, and bayoneted by their Japanese conquerors, General King’s men made their way into captivity. Gallant foes and brave soldiers, the battling bastards had earned the right to be treated with consideration and decency, but their enemies had reserved for them even greater deprivations and deeper humiliation than they had suffered on Bataan.

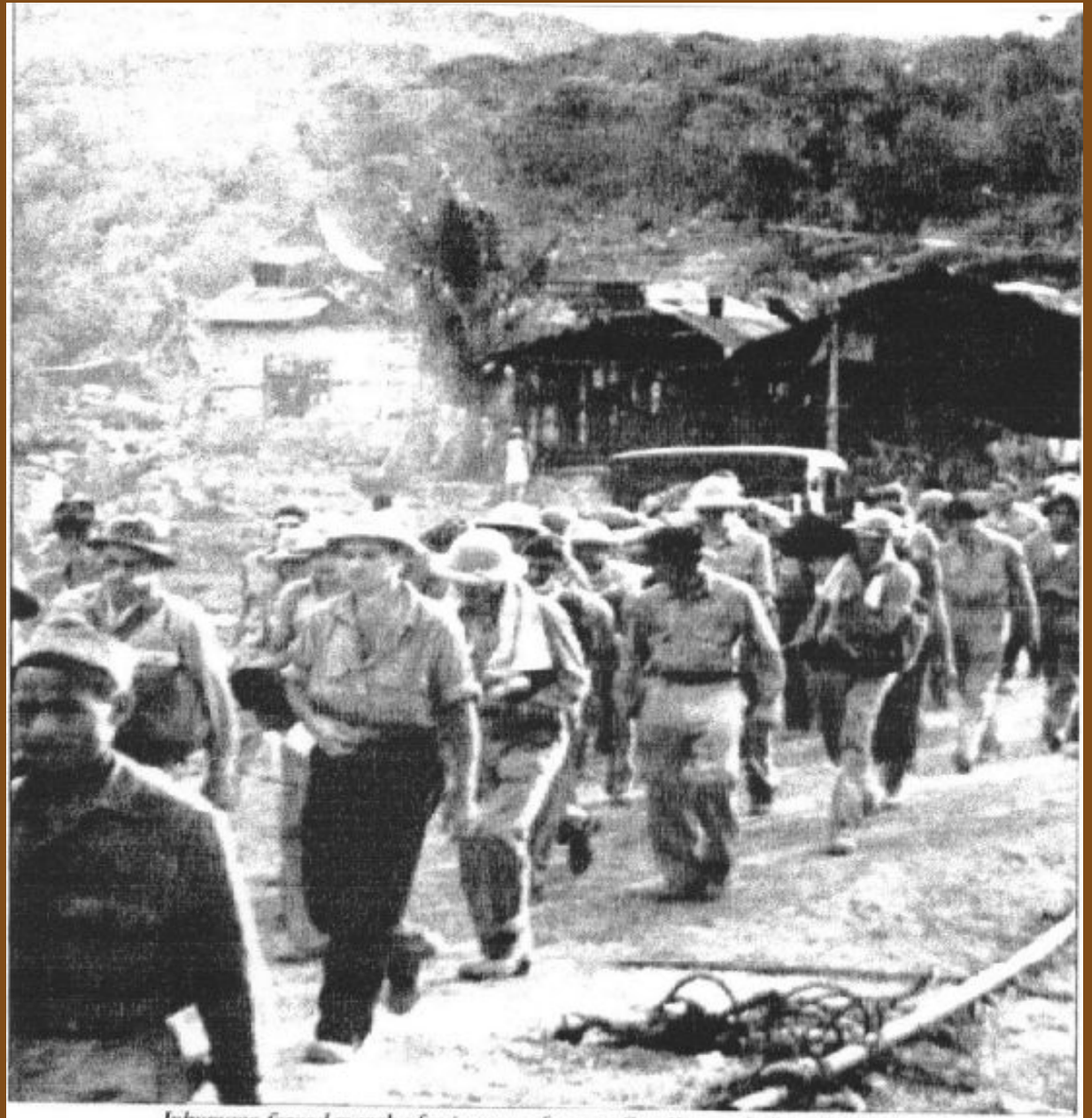


There were approximately 9300 Americans on the Death March. It is estimated that from 600-650 died on the march. There were approximately 66000 Filipinos on Bataan with approximately 50,000 arriving at Camp O'Donnell. It is estimated that 10,000 Filipinos died on the Death March. There is no exact count of either Americans or Filipinos arriving at Camp O'Donnell or dying on the Death March. Purely an estimate.

[Listen to Mr. Jackfert](#)

Few Want To Talk
About The March,
The Events Were
Too Horrible To
Describe

No one can adequately describe their sufferings during the Death March. Each will say “you really had to be there” in attempting to relive the horrid events. Near Cabcaben the men were shelled by their own guns from Corregidor. Prisoners were shot and beaten for attempting to obtain a drink of water. An American was beheaded near a rice mill at Lubao. One of the death march participants describes a friend being run over by the tracks of a number of Japanese tanks.



Inhumane forced march of prisoners of war to San Fernando from Mariveles.

[Listen to Mr. Jackfert](#)

Tired, Exhausted,
Hungry, Thirsty,
Mistreated,
Humiliated, And
More
The March Continued
For A Number Of
Days For
Approximately
65 Miles In The Hot
Blazing Sun

Once again while on the
march the men were forced
to raise their hand as a sign
of defeat for the Japanese
cameraman.

[Listen to Mr. Jackfert](#)



"The Death March"

They Attempted
To Help Each
Other Even If
It Could Have
Meant Their Own
Death

Lack of food, water, and rest periods, many of the men on the death march just keeled over from weariness and had the fortunate help from some of their comrades by being carried on a make shift stretcher.

[Listen to Mr. Jackfert](#)



No food, no water, no rest, not even allowed at times to assist the sick.



Carrying their friends who were too sick to walk.

Rest Periods Were Few And Far Between

The men on the death march were continually prodded by bayonets to hurry. Rest periods were very infrequent even though the sun was blazing hot and the humidity very high.



The hot sun blazed down on the marchers and rest periods were practically nil.



[Listen to Mr. Jackfert](#)

Too Sick To Continue, Many Just Laid Down And Died

Seven to 10,000 troops died on the march with approximately 700 of them being American. No one was ever able to know the exact death toll since many unaccounted for just escaped.

[Listen to Mr. Jackfert](#)



Too sick to continue while others lay down to rest and died.

A Few Had Their Hands Tied Behind Their Back

The Final Few Miles Of The
Journey, They Were Packed
In Steel Railroad Cars With
Hardly Any Room To Stand
Up

A number of the men on the death march had their hands tied behind their backs with rope. As they neared Camp O'Donnell, where they were to be interned, a large number of them had to be carried into the internment facility.

[Listen to Mr. Jackfert](#)



Some of the prisoners of war had their hands tied behind their back.



Finally they arrived at Camp O'Donnell, tired, hungry, sick, and demoralized. The march began on April 9 and ended on April 24, 1942.

Camp O'Donnell, The End Of The Line

This is Camp O'Donnell, a former Philippine Army base, where those on the death march were initially interned. Thus they came to the end of the road suffering from every disease imaginable. They were dirty, unkept, pale, bloated and lifeless. They looked aged beyond their years and nothing to look forward to. Thousands died at this camp. One of those interned at this camp made the following observations of the camp facilities: "Those of us who were still in fairly good health would volunteer for the burial detail. I can still smell the horrible smell of rotting flesh that permeated the air around the camp and the eternal humming buzz of millions of black and blue blowflies. There were few that were strong enough to carry the dead.



After a 55 mile march from Mariveles to San Fernando, the troops were then loaded into small boxcars, literally packed in with no room to sit down for the last leg of their journey to Camp O'Donnell. The death toll here was staggering from lack of medicines, shortages of food and brutality of the Japanese troops.

[Listen to Mr. Jackfert](#)

Harassment Continued For The Cameraman And Propaganda Purposes

The POWs were forced to pose on many occasions for the propaganda camera. On one occasion they staged a sit down as if they were being fed, and on the other they had to salute the men near the camera.

[Listen to Mr. Jackfert](#)



Japanese propaganda photos taken at Camp O'Donnell.

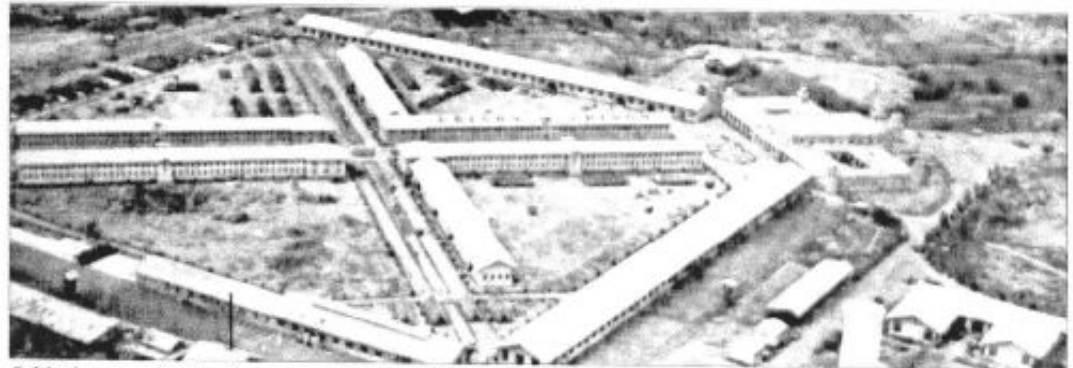


Bilibid Prison

A civilian detention center, it was used as a hospital for the sick and wounded from Bataan. Conditions in this facility were horrendous. A group of us from Mindanao arriving in Manila on October 6, 1942 were interned here for two nights.

We were aghast at the sights of our comrades in this facility. Our group departed on October 8 on the Tottori Maru for Japan and slave labor.

[Listen to Mr. Jackfert](#)



Bilibid prison in Manila was used as a make-shift hospital for the sick and wounded American prisoners of war. The facilities in this compound were horrendous and unbelievable.



The seriously sick and wounded American prisoners of war at Bilibid prisoner of war camp. The death toll here was extremely high due to malnutrition and lack of proper medication.