

Bryan Man Recalls WWII POW Experience

By TED BORISKIE
Staff Writer

The stories of POW releases provide more than just news to Bob Boriskie; they provide memories.

Boriskie, 4208 Maywood, Bryan, spent 3½ years in a Japanese prisoner of war camp during World War II.

He was captured on May 6, 1942 along with about 400 other men on Fort Hughes, a small island a half mile off the coast of Corregidor in the Philippines. The prisoners were sent to Bilbid prison in Manila and later assigned to work on the docks loading Japanese ships.

"The Filipinos were constantly trying to prove they were still on our side," he said. "Once they had a Japanese Appreciation Day featuring Tojo in a parade down the middle of Manila. We were given the day off and had to stand on a side street while the parade passed. There was a Filipino band

marching behind Tojo and when they passed us the bandleader gave a command for 'eyes right' and the band broke into 'Stars and Stripes Forever.' Fortunately for the band, the Japanese never figured out what it all meant."

On July 6, 1944 the POWs were transferred to camps on the Japanese mainland.

"Over 800 of us made the trip in a compartment that was 60 feet by 40 feet," he said. "Six men died and we had to take turns sitting down."

"The trip showed us the effectiveness of the Allied submarine blockade of Japan. We left the Philippines in 28 cargo ships with seven destroyers. When we finally reached Japan there were seven cargo ships and two destroyers left. None of the 13 American officers from my camp made it. Over half the POWs died on the trip."

In Japan the prisoners were split up and sent to several dif-

ferent camps. Boriskie was sent to a camp outside Kamioka, a small mining town on the island of Honshu. He shared the camp with 600 other prisoners, a mixture of American, Dutch, Japanese and Burmese.

"We worked in lead mines along with a number of Korean slave laborers," said Boriskie. "We depended on the Koreans for all of our war news. The Japanese guards believed that Japan had landed on the United States' west coast and the only thing keeping them from moving east was the Rocky Mountains. We knew we were winning the war, though."

The men were working in the mines one morning when a tremendous roar came barreling through the mountains.

"We thought a munitions factory had blown up but the next day one of the Koreans told us a single bomb had been dropped

on Hiroshima, destroying the city and killing 80,000 people. We tried to figure out what kind of bomb it was and decided it must have been compressed liquid oxygen.

"After that the guards really became brutal. Some of them had families on Hiroshima and Nagasaki."

"We figured the Allied forces were close to landing. The guards had told us that when the Allies landed, all prisoners would be killed, but we wanted them to come anyway."

"One day the guards told us that it was a Japanese holiday and we wouldn't have to work. We didn't work for the next two days and then the Japanese commander told us that Japan had come to terms with the Allies and that we were to remain under Japanese guard until the Allies arrived. When we awoke the next morning, the Japanese were gone. I guess they just went home."

"The next day an American plane flew over and dropped a message saying that supplies would be dropped the next day."

"On the following day a B29 flew over and dropped supplies, mostly clothing and C-rations. We couldn't believe the size of the plane. The largest plane any of us had seen was a B15."

"The villagers, who had previously hated us, spat on us and thrown bedpans on us, were now terrified. They brought us all the supplies that had undershot or overshot us, including single sticks of gum."

"The next day a convoy of Army trucks came to take us home. There was no cheering, no real expressions of joy. We couldn't adjust to the thought of going home. We just couldn't believe it."

"We were taken to Yokohama where they had these big pots of stew waiting for us. We had lived on two bowls of rice a day for so long our stomachs were shrunk, so we couldn't eat much. After a rice diet, the stew was so rich we would eat a bowl of it, throw up, go back for another bowl, eat it and throw up again."

"After starving for so long, food was so important we would butter pieces of bread and carry them around in our pockets."

"The next day we left Yokohama for Guam where we stayed a day for medical examinations. I found that I had gone from the 184 pounds I had weighed when I was captured down to 112."

"We put in at Oakland and were taken directly to the naval hospital there. Everyone had some degree of beri-beri. After a couple of weeks at Oakland we were moved to hospitals near our home towns."

Boriskie was sent to the Corpus Christi naval hospital where he stayed for a month before he was awarded 120 days leave.

"The hardest thing to adjust to was the changes that took place while we were gone," said Boriskie. "Shirley Temple and Judy Garland had grown up, Deanna Durbin wasn't popular and we had a President none of us

had ever heard of."

"My mother had saved all the wartime issues of Life Magazine so I spent my first couple of months home reading Life."

"When I was in the hospital at Corpus Christi, a group of entertainers came to the hospital. I walked into this room where some guy was singing. Somebody told me his name was Frank Sinatra and I asked 'Who's he?' They said girls were crazy about him and I couldn't believe it. He was as skinny as we were."

Ten Free Courses Offered

The Memorial Student Center Council and Directorate is offering 10 programs in its Free University series.

"Adventure In Auto Economy" will be presented by Dr. Robert Fletcher on Thursdays at 7 and 8:15 p.m. in Room 101 of the Mechanical Engineering Shops.

Pastor Hubert Beck will head two programs, "Audio-Visual Workshop of Life" at the University Lutheran Student Center Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m. and "The Life That Changed The World" on Mondays at 7:30 p.m. in Room 105-A of the Zachry Engineering Center.

"English Debating Style" will be studied by Lincoln Union Mondays at 7:30 p.m. in Room 302 of the Library.

Dr. James H. Copp will lead a study of "Ethnic and Race Relations" on Tuesdays at 8 p.m. in Room 129 of Bolton Hall.

Gertrud Adam will teach "Gourmet Cooking" Thursday at 7:30 p.m. in the Lone Star Gas Blue Flame Room.

Offered

"Human Sociobiology" will be taught by Dr. Johannes Vanoverbeek Wednesdays at 8 p.m. in Room 146 of the Physics Building.

"Speech Impediments" will be discussed by Jo Ann Reeves and Jim Robinette on Wednesdays at 8 p.m. The group will meet at 304 Borderbrook.

Dr. J. H. Hinojosa will study "Urban Planning." Call 845-1046 for time and place.

FOR
BEST
RESULTS
TRY
BATTALION CLASSIFIED

CAMPUS

TONITE — "MIDNITE FLICK" — 12:00 P. M.



CAMPUS

NOW SHOWING
p.m. - 3:35 - 5:30 - 7:15 - 9:15
John Wayne In
"TRAIN ROBBERS" (PG)

Skyway Twin

DRIVE-IN
EAST SCREEN AT 6:45 P. M.
2 Walt Disney Hits
"NAPOLEON & SAMANTHA"
At 8:25 p. m.
"SCANDELOUS JOHN" (G)

WEST SCREEN AT 6:45 P. M.

"ONLY KILL THEIR MASTERS"
At 8:30 p. m.
"DIRTY DOZEN" (PG)

CIRCLE DRIVE-IN

TONITE AT 6:45 P. M.
"M*A*S*H"
"FRENCH CONNECTION"

QUEEN

STARTS TODAY
4:30 - 7:00 - 9:15 P. M.
SATURDAY
12:00 P.M. - 2:25 - 4:30 - 7:00 - 9:15



PALACE

TODAY
1:30 - 3:30 - 5:30 - 7:30 - 9:30
Robert Redford In
"JEREMIAH JOHNSON" (PG)

Take two years off this summer.

With the Army ROTC Two-Year Program.

Army ROTC usually takes four years of college. But you can do it in two.

If, for example, you couldn't take Army ROTC during your first two years of college.

Or if you just didn't want to take Army ROTC before. But now you recognize the benefits.

You start the Two-Year Program by going to our six-week Basic Camp the summer following your sophomore year.

Camp—a little classroom work; some challenging physical training—replaces the Basic Course you would have taken during your first two years of college. You're well-paid for this six-week catch-up.

Then, after camp, you complete your Advanced Course during your junior and senior years.

Maybe you'll decide that the chance to get real management experience earlier than most people will be worth a lot later on.

Maybe you can use the \$100 per month subsistence allowance you will get for up to 10 months of each school year.

Maybe qualifying for two careers simultaneously—military or civilian—is insurance against job uncertainties.

Or, maybe the opportunity for an Army ROTC scholarship is exciting.

The Army ROTC Two-Year Program is another chance for a better career, through Army ROTC.

Talk over the Two-Year Program with the Professor of Military Science at your school.

Or use this coupon. There's no obligation.

Army ROTC. The more you look at it, the better it looks.

ALLEN Oldsmobile Cadillac
SALES - SERVICE
"Where satisfaction is standard equipment"
2401 Texas Ave.
823-8002

Keepsake
TRADITIONAL WEDDING RINGS

Watch & Jewelry Repair
Engraving
Diamonds Set In
Senior Rings
Seiko & Bulova Watches

Embrey's Jewelry
"The Friendly Store"
North Gate 846-5816

Ponderosa Specials

- Friday Evening Fish Fry — \$2.00
- Sunday Noon Lunch \$2.00
- Special Weekend Rates for Parents & Students

Call 846-5794

Ponderosa Motor Inn

heritage
THE heritage EMPLOYMENT AGENCY
1706 Texas Ave. • Room 205 • Bryan, Texas 77801
713-822-9125
"SERVICE IS OUR PRODUCT"

Army ROTC
P.O. Box 12703
Philadelphia, PA 19134

Tell me more about the Army ROTC Two-Year Program.

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ County _____
State _____ Zip _____
College you're attending _____ Phone _____

COL 3-02-12