THE BATTALION

Friday, February 16, 1973

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Bryan Man Recalls WWII PO Experience

By TED BORISKIE Staff Writer

The stories of POW releases rovide more than just news to Bob Boriskie; they provide mem-

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

He was captured on May 6, 942 along with about 400 other and a half mile off the coast of Corregidor in the Philippines. The prisoners were sent to Bilibid son in Manila and later asmed to work on the docks loadng Japanese ships.

"The Filipinos were constantly rying to prove they were still on our side," he said. "Once they had a Japanese Appreciation Day the middle of Manila. We were ren the day off and had to stand died on the trip." a side street while the parade

gave a command for 'eyes right' and the band broke into 'Stars 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 en on Fort Hughes, a small feet by 40 feet," he said. "Six men died and we had to take turns sitting down. "The trip showed us the ef-

fectiveness 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 esturing Tojo in a parade down American officers from my camp made it. Over half the POWs

In Japan the prisoners were

marching behind Tojo and when ferent camps, Boriskie was sent on Hiroshima, destroying the city they passed us the bandleader to a camp outside Kamioka, a and killing 80,000 people. We small mining town on the island of Honshu. He shared the camp and Stripes Forever.' Fortunately with 600 other prisoners, a mixture of American, Dutch Javanese 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 were 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 facday one of the Koreans told us ed. There was a Filipino band split up and sent to several dif- a single bomb had been dropped I guess they just went home.

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for time and place.

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 Naga-

"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 tory had blown up but the next arrived. When we awoke the next morning, the Japanese were gone.

> "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 had ever heard of. 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 shrunken, 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

"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."

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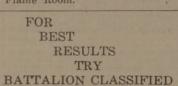
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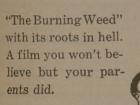
lations" on Tuesdays at 8 p.m. in Jim Robinette on Wednesdays at Room 129 of Bolton Hall. Gertrud Adam will teach "Gour-

days at 7:30 p.m. in Room 302 beek Wednesdays at 8 p.m. in Room 146 of the Physics Building. of the Library. Dr. James H. Copp will lead "Speech Impediments" will be a study of "Ethnic and Race Re- discussed by Jo Ann Reeves and

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