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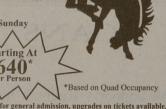
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Page 14 • THE BATTALION

PINION

Thursday • September 15,1

SALUTE POWS, MIAS FOR SACRIFICE

Students should respect At night, Hopmann would remove his ring and bury it in the ground, again fightheroes by observing commemorative week

MATT

SEGREST

or those of you who did not know, this week is POW-MIA Week, and Friday has been designated as POW-

Guest Columnist

MIA Day. These times are set apart during the year in order to honor our Prisoners of War and our soldiers still Missing in Action. I would daresay that most Americans and even more so most college students do not have the proper respect and appreciation for these American heroes. Hopefully, I can relate to you the significance and importance of honoring these men of perseverance and courage by telling you stories about two Aggies who were POWs.

* * *

On April 21, 1942, the most famous Aggie Muster was held on Corregidor Island in the South Pacific. General George F. Moore, Class of '08, was the commanding officer, and responsible for initiating this most endearing of Aggie traditions. Fourteen days later, on May 6, 1942, Corregidor Island was overtaken by the Japanese, triggering the infamous Bataan Death March. The march of U.S. soldiers from Corregidor to the Bataan POW camp was one of World War II's most treacherous events.

One of the survivors of this March and of the POW camp was an Aggie by the name of Urban C. Hopmann, '39. Upon be ing captured by the Japanese, Hopmann tore some cloth from some old clothes, and carefully sewed his Aggie Ring into his uniform blouse. This is where he safely hid his ring during the day from Japanese soldiers seeking American treasures.

ing to keep his most prized possession. When he would awake the next morning, again the ring would return to his blouse.

This routine went on for three-and-ahalf years until Hopmann was finally liber ated. Urban C. Hopmann visited Texas A&M University last year, as one of only two living survivors of the Bataan March.

With a strikingly clear and vivid memo-, he recalled the torturous time as a POW, but said with conviction in his heart

and pride in his soul:

With a strikingly clear and vivid memory, he

with conviction: "They got my gun, they got

"They got my gun, they got my watch,

A second Aggie hero is Col. Jim Ray,

was flying a mission to bomb a bridge be-

tween Hanoi and China in the Northeast

section of North Vietnam. Tragedy struck,

however, when Ray's F105 B Model bomber

was shot down. Ray ejected from his fiery,

out-of-control plane, and upon reaching the

Class of '63. During the Vietnam War, Ray

but they never got my Aggie ring.

my watch, but they never got my Aggie ring."

ground was taken captive by the North Vietnamese. For the next "six years, m months, and four days," Col. Ray was prisoner in 12 to 13 different POW cam including the disgraceful "Hanoi Hilt Ray was subjected to brainwashing tempts, propaganda and torture that

make one's skin curl. POWs underwe sleep deprivation and countless beati and even were hung by their arms until their arms popped out of socket - an init for which Ray still has operations today.

Col. Ray told me that he would keep himself going by joking to himself and those around him:

T've had sophomores in the Corps of must be one of t Cadets give me worse than this!"

Both Col. Ray and Mr. Hopmann und went life as prisoners of war, somehow vived and went on with their lives. Whe asked what made them able to keep go an not to quit, each replied with the sa K answer: 1) Prayer and a faith in God, at 2) the training and lessons they learned a proud son of the Fightin' Texas Aggie Corps of Cadets.

This Friday, to recognize and honor here like Hopmann, and Ray the Corps will be holding an informal wreath laying ceremony on the Simpson Drill Field. The ceremon recalled the torturous time as a POW; but said will begin promptly at noon. I do not want this be just a Corps event, but I'm told that w University-wide event-i else. Even mor is for everyone for whom these POWs put their line We're so surre

on the line, and for everyone's liberty that tising gimmicks America's MIAs fought to preserve. Having this ceremony is the least week do to honor those with the courage and pa

families who mourned for them. These brave men paid dearly for the tives that are b freedom that you and I so enjoy - give

them the honor they deserve. POWs and MIAs - you are not forgotte

> Corps Commander Matt Segrest senior business management may





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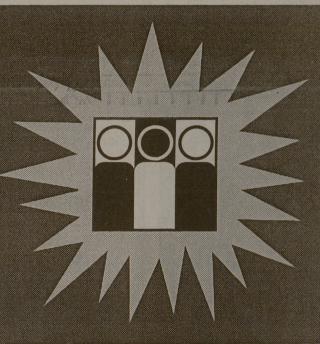
Study Abroad Information Session

Location:

Representative: Steve Seaworth Andrew Osborn Fri. Sept. 16

11:30 - 1:00 Table - MSC Main Hallway 2:30 - 3:30 507 Rudder

or further information please contact: Your Study Abroad Office on campus rathe Institute for Study Abroad, Butler University, 4600 Sunset Avenue. . tN 46208, Tel: 317/283-9336 or 1/800-858-0229.



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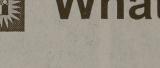


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