



Col. E. E. Laird, former Assistant General Counsel for the State Public Utilities Commission is home after five years' service, nearly four of which were spent in Japanese prisons. He is on a 90-day sick leave from Fort Lewis, Washington, visiting with relatives and friends. Lt. Col. Laird is a survivor of the Bataan death march and is the husband of Mrs. Lorene Christenson Laird. He arrived in San Francisco October 15, 1945, aboard the U.S.S. General Howze.

Col. Laird entered the army November, 1940 as a captain. In October, 1941, he was sent to the Philippines as a casual officer of the quartermaster corps and in December was ordered into the field as a line officer with the 1st Philippine division made up of native Filipinos.

Laird fought throughout the Bataan campaign and was taken prisoner on April 7, 1942, when General Wainwright surrendered. Along with other Americans, he was forced on the Bataan death march and then was interned at Camp O'Donnell and Cabana-

uan, successively. He was among 1500 officers and enlisted men who were crowded into the hold of a ship in November, 1942, and taken to Umeda camp near Osaka. In January, 1943, they were moved to Zentusuji where they remained until June, 1945, and then were put in a camp at Roshu on Honshu Island.

"At Osaka both officers and enlisted men were forced to work as longshoremen shoveling coal into railroad cars," Laird relates. "At Roshu Roki we did agricultural work, clearing land. One morning in August we had no work. The officer in charge of the work party inquired to see why the guards hadn't shown up and was told that the senior committee had just sent word there would be no more work. Several days later we were told that the war was over and left the camp."

While life was bleak and communication with the outside world was entirely cut off after the men were interned at Roshy Roki, they exercised their native Yankee ingenuity to light-

Eugene Concrete Pipe & Products Co.

P. O. BOX 947 - EUGENE, OREGON