

en the boredom. Until the final camp they had access to "black market newspapers," which some of the officers were able to translate. For some reason the Japs told them when the D-Day landing was made in France, and also announced the end of the war with Germany.

One of the most novel pastimes was to air their blankets in the compound when there was a bit of sunshine and to pick off the bugs, including bed-bugs. The officer said, "A contest was held to see who could pick off the most bugs, but no one was in running until he had 100."

Beds were 27-inch wooden shelves, 18 inches from the floor, without springs or mattresses. Books were among the men's most cherished possessions, some of which they had smuggled in. Others had been brought by the mercy ship, the S.S. Gripsholm, or given by the American embassy to the Zensuji

camp, the first prison camp established in Japan. At that camp programs were put on every Sunday night by groups of officers, British, Dutch, Australian, and American. Dicken's "Christmas Carol" was produced on Christmas in 1943 and 1944.

While Laird was in prison his mother died, but aside from missing her upon his return, "Just to be back is wonderful."

Another one of our discharged boys is James W. Schriver. He was discharged from the Navy just recently after more than three years in both European, Atlantic and Pacific waters. Before he entered the Navy in September, 1942, Schriver was a field auditor for the Public Utilities Commission, with headquarters at McMinnville.

After entering the Navy he trained for a year in the United States in radar
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