Independence Man Survives Prison Beatings, Starvation; Home Seems 'Hardly Real'

(Editor's Note: Slowly recovering his health at his home in Independence is Chief Radioman Don Barnum, son of Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Barnum, who was taken prisoner by the Japanese when they overwhelmed the pitiful defense of Guam on Dec. 10, 18il. Long years of mistreatment and starvation have left their mark. But by the time his furlough expires in January, Barnum hopes to be ready to resume his naval career which already spans 16 years.)

"It still hardly seems real" to Chief Radioman Don Barnum, that he actually is home. But, almost unbelievably, he is. And his story, requested by the Statesman, provides an outstanding addition city of Portland appealed. to the historical sagas of life and death which made up World War II.

Barnum was on Guam when war broke out, and his story starts from there. It is not easy for him to tell it. But he tells it well.

for defense," he recalls glumly but without rancor. "They took over without too much trouble. We were kept on Guam for a month. Then 450 of us, in addition to civilians and six nurses, were loaded on the Argentina Maru for a trip to Japan.

On Starvation Diet "We were on starvation rations on Guam, and were pretty well run down when that trip started. We were taken to Zent-

suit, a sort of a clearing-house prison from which work parties were sent out, and some of us were sent almost immediately to Osaka for stevedore work. We were there three months.

"Food was poor and scarce. If we hadn't stolen or illegally-purchased extra rations we all would have suffered a great deal more. And I might say this was true for all the years we were in

"At Osaka we got rice, a very

prison camp operated by a steel mill near Kobe. Four hundred survivors of Bataan and Corresidor joined us there. They were in far worse shape than we were. Food dropped off even more, with the additional mouths to feed, and the winter of 1942-43 was really tough. Men would fall by the mill rear Kobe. Four hundred arrangements were made to take us to Tokyo. A small guard of Jap police protected us en route. We reached Tokyo safely and, to our indescribed joy, were delivered into American hands."

Swiss consul finally came to the camp and arrangements were made to take us to Tokyo. A small guard of Jap police protected us en route. We reached to trial in absence of defendant provided he is represented by his attorney. Valley Credit Service vs Wade F. Smith and wife: Valley Credit Service vs Sampel P. Kent; Merchants Credit Bureau vs V. I. Maddox; satisfaction tough, Men would fall by the roadside going to and from stevedove work. They were beaten were ready for peace two years with guns. Many were skin and bones. Most everyone lost at tinue the war, but everything in least 35 to 40 pounds in weight. the country was firmly in the Deaths were common.

"Things finally got so bad that, in order to get any work done, the was scarce, from the time we dental deaths were numerous, too, or think quickly, they were so weak. There never was sufficient medicine to combat beri-beri, malaria and other illnesses the prisoners from the Philippines had. Lived in Barns

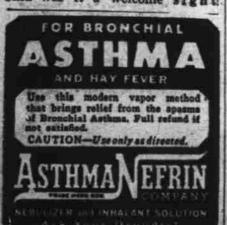
"Things got a little better after long after summer was on in full resembling barrs, 240 to a barn. There was a little heat from coke stoves night and morning. We slept in bunks in tiers of two. To keep warm with available blankets, two men often slept in one

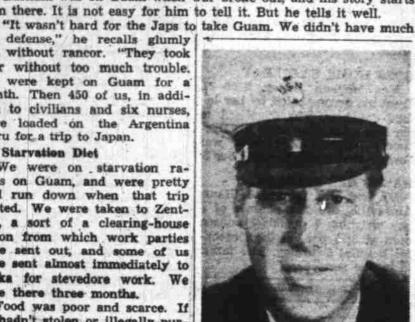
"Last June we were sent to Fushiki about 300 miles north of Kobe-150 of us in each small ing up. There wasn't room to to him seems like a bad dream.

"Fushiki was almost a prisoner's paradise. There were beans, rice and corn rotting on the ground and we'd steal it. But for each four sacks we'd steal, the Japs would steal back three. They were afraid to do the stealing direct themselves. There was no brutality at Fushiki and we got more things than in any of the previous three and a half

Then Came VJ-day "Then came VJ-day. It was August 15 last. The Japs brought

out all the tooth paste, toilet paper, soap and other things they apparently had stored. They even went down town three times daily to get us vegetables and foodstuffs. We stopped all work and veritable lived the life of Riley. "It was a week later that American navy planes flew over. And was it a welcome sight!





Don Barnum

little fish and some vegetables They dropped us their own (the boiled in soup. It could not have crews' personal cigarets, and they

we were transferred to Himeji, a of those few days before the prison camp operated by a steel Swiss consul finally came to the

And that is Barnum's story. He believes the Japanese civilians ago. "They didn't want to conhands of the military. No one could do anything about it."

Barnum also says that while all Jap army quartermaster depart- the news received in prison was ment got us food. But it always Japanese propaganda, "there was more truth in their stories of givwent to Himeji in 1942 until we ing our navy and army a bad left there in June 15, 1945. Acci- time than we were willing to believe. But the Jap civilians were because the men could not move far more gullible than anyone

Receives 200 Letters

The naval radioman while in Japan received more than 200 letters and 70 pictures from his family, including his wife, Doris, and the army helped supply us, about son, Richard, both of Independa year and a half after we went ence, as well as his parents and to Himeji. But clothing always other relatives. He has two brothwas too late-we'd get winter ers, Lee of Salem and Gordon L. clothing long after cold weather who served in the Tunisian camstarted and had to wear it until paign and now has returned to San Francisco from duty on an force. We lived in two barracks LST in the Pacific, and a sister, Mrs. S. J. Patterson, whose husband served as chief radioman in the 2nd battle of the Philippines.

One Red Cross box and personal package were received each year in the Jap prisons. Much of their contents, as well as Barnum's clothes, were traded for food to sustain life.

"And I'm home with my fam-Pullman which was blacked out. ily even in time to watch my son We almost suffocated. The men grow up," Barnum said slowly in slept in baggage racks or stand- concluding the story which even

> Rome inherited from Greece the use of masks in the drama.

Arguments on Portland Zone Suit to be Heard

Arguments of attorneys will be heard in the state supreme court here Tuesday in a suit brought by Orin O. Page, to nullify a Portland ordinance changing zoning district No. 1 to zoninz district No. 3, which permits the establishment of business places.

The Multnomah county circuit court, with Judge Walter Tooze presiding, held for the plaintiff and issued a restraining order. The

Slated Monday

Services for Charles H. Taylor, resident of the Sunnyside district for the past 38 years, who died at his home Friday, will be held from the Clough-Barrick chapel Monday at 10:30 a.m.

Born in Jollytown, Pa., in 1863, he went west as a young man and farmed in Oklahoma, Washington and Oregon. He was a member of the First Christian church of Salem for over 30 years and also Grange.

Survivors include the widow. two daughters, Mrs. Glen Barnett of Murrysville, Pa., and Mrs. Lyle Rea of Salem; four sons, Sol B., Paul H., D. B. and Crales L. Taytor, all of Salem; a brother, Morris Taylar of Pinebank, West Va.; six grandsons and a granddaugh-

Public Records

sustained us alone. Our treatment was not as brutal as in some stories. I've heard, but we took our beatings with clubs, belts and gun butts. The Japs just couldn't understand us. Since we had to work, we tried to do the best we could. But they wanted things done exactly their way, with no regard to what we thought was efficiency. The guards were undeducated and very stubborn. But a least we could get by with more than could the Jap civilians, both in getting food and in minor rule infractions.

Food Even Worse

CIRCUIT COURT

Bertha McMahan vs Southern Pacific Co., and Western Paper Converting Co., answer by Western Paper Converting Co., answer by Western Paper Converting Co., and Western Paper Converting Co., CIRCUIT COURT orders restitution of premises involved

to plaintiff.
Melva Hoss vs James Hoss; com-

judgments. Edward N. Taylor vs Helen M. Tay-PROBATE COURT Anon Schaffers estate; inheritance tax determined at \$535.46.

N. P. Williamson estate; inheritance tax determined at \$605.32.

JUSTICE COURT State vs Bertrand Victor Boeve; plea of guilty to charge of driving automobile with defective clearance MUNICIPAL COURT

Eric Frederick Otto, Houlton, Ore.; riolation of basic rule, 35 MPH; \$3.50 MARRIAGE LICENSES

James B. Haley, 30, finance business, 1015 N. 21st st., and Betty Simmons, 25, finance business, route 4, both of

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'Holly' Jackson Says---

What do you know—last night my wife gleamed in untold ecstasy "Holly, Holly, the baby has another tooth," but on closer examinstions we found one of those new diamonds I just unpacked. My wife has just got to keep that baby out of the store or it's going to eat me out of business.

Better hurry in before something else happens these are sure fine diamonds and if you want one I sure wouldn't argue with you.



Interest Rises

Interest in the organization of another American Legion post in Salem, to be chartered by veterans of World war II, was enlivened following a meeting of the younger group with Capital post No. 9's executive committee, ac-Taylor Funeral cording to Post 9 Commander L N. Bacon, Saturday. Opinions and ideas concerning the possibility of forming a second post were exchanged, and the younger veterans were assured of help by the World war I Legionnaire committeemen.

The World war II group was headed by Joseph Felton, who at a previous meeting was named temporary head. Other active veterans in the interest of a new post are Rupe Park, Dow Lovell, B. N. Mason, Wilbert Collette, James McHone and Eric Allen. held membership in the Liberty They are to meet with others and

the decision whether to ask for a charter will be reached within a few days, it was announced.

Invited to Legion Meantime, Post No. 9 commander announced Friday that all war veterans, whether Legion members or not, are invited to attend the regular post meeting at Le-gion hall, 8 p.m. Monday. The program includes entertainment, refreshments and an oldtime American Legion songfest, in which it is desired that the younger men participate.

To Bring Vets "We hope that every member of the post will bring at least one World war II veteran to the meeting," Commander Bacon said after the arrangements had been completed.

BUSINESSMEN TO VISIT

PORTLAND, Ore., Oct. 13-(AP)-The first goodwill tour since the war began will be taken by Portland businessmen Thursday when they visit Salem.

During the period between 1690 and 1700 New York carried on a dian pirates, sending them liquor and arms for oriental luxuries.

State Guard to **Give Ribbons** For Service

Ribbons representing one, two and three years of service in the Oregon State Guard will be presented to officers and men in a ceremony scheduled for 8 p.m. Monday at the Salem armory. Brig. Gen. Raymond C. Olson will award the ribbons. The ceremony is open to the public.

Olson announced Saturday that Captains William H. Roach, Custer E. Ross and Harry S. Schenk, all of headquarters, had been transferred to the reserve list. Schenk and Ross are Salem residents; Roach is in Pendleton.

At the same time he annouced a number of other changes in the state guard organization, including the following:

Troop D cavalry, Dallas, with the exception of Capt. Wilmer D. Powell, First Lt. Emmett C. Hublarge trade with British East In- bard and Second Lt. Ora H. Mc-Crae, mustered out.

Albright W. Tilse appointed

second licutement, infantry, com-pany D, 8th battalien, Newberg. Resignation of Capt. Robert H. Clarke, company A, 13th bat-talion, Lebanon, accepted.

The first appearance of the Ottoman Turks in history dates from Liquid, Tablets, Salve, Nose Drope

1227 A.D.

Cold Preparations

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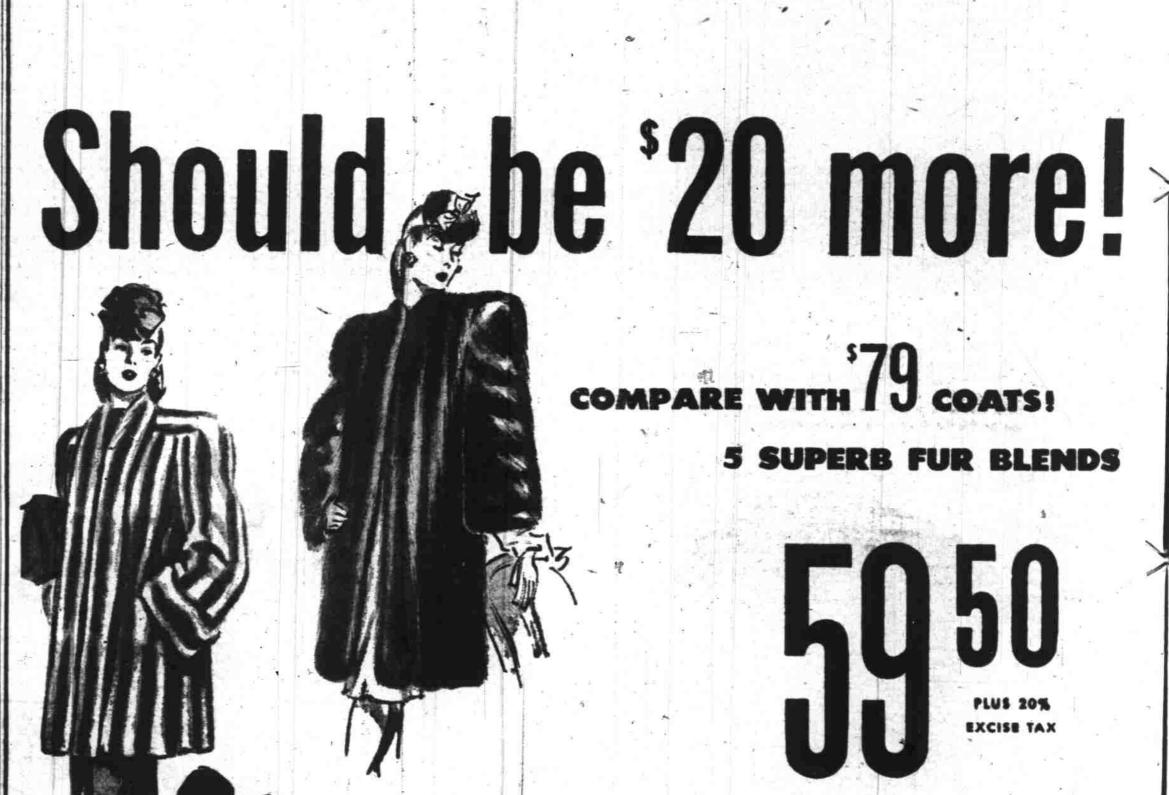
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