

### 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 overran the island defense of Guam on Dec. 16, 1941. 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 18 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 to the historical saga 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.

"It wasn't hard for the Japs to take Guam. We didn't have much for defense," he recalls glumly but without rancor. "They took over without too much trouble. We were kept on Guam for a month. Then 430 of us, in addition to civilians and six nurses, were loaded on the Argentine 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 Zentsuji, 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 Japan."

"At Osaka we got rice, a very little fish and some vegetables boiled in soup. It could not have 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 efficient. The guards were uneducated and very stubborn. But at least we could get by with more than could the Jap civilians, both in getting food and in minor rule infractions."

**Food Even Worse**  
"After three months at Osaka, we were transferred to Himeji, a prison camp operated by a steel mill near Kobe. Four hundred survivors of Bataan and Corregidor joined us there. They were in far worse shape than we were. Food dropped off even more, and the additional months to feed, and the winter of 1942-43 was really tough. Men would fall by the roadside going to and from stevedore work. They were beaten with guns. Many were skin and bones. Most everyone lost at least 35 to 40 pounds in weight. Deaths were common. "Things finally got so bad that, in order to get any work done, the Jap army quartermaster department got us food. But it always was scarce, from the time we went to Himeji in 1942 until we left there in June 15, 1945. Accidental deaths were numerous, too, because the men could not move 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 the army helped supply us, about a year and a half after we went to Himeji. But clothing always was too late—we'd get winter clothing and had to wear it until long after summer was on in full force. We lived in two barracks resembling barns, 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 bunk. "Last June we were sent to Fushiki about 300 miles north of Kobe—150 of us in each small Pullman which was blacked out. We almost suffocated. The men slept in baggage racks or standing up. There wasn't room to move around. "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 years. Then came V-J-day.

"Then came V-J-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 food-stuffs. 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!

**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 son, Richard, both of Independence, as well as his parents and other relatives. He has two brothers, Lee of Salem and Gordon L., who served in the Tunisian campaign and now has returned to San Francisco from duty on an 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 family even in time to watch my son grow up," Barnum said slowly in concluding the story which even to him seems like a bad dream.

**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 examinations we found one of these 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.



Don Barnum

### 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 Ora O. Page, to nullify a Portland ordinance changing zoning district No. 1 to zoning district No. 3, which permits the establishment of business places.

### Taylor Funeral 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 held membership in the Liberty Grange.

### Public Records

**CIRCUIT COURT**  
Bertha McMahan vs Southern Pacific Co., and Western Paper Converting Co.; answer by Western Paper Converting Co. alleges company has no control over tracks in question, but that the tracks fill a shipping need in Salem, cities various city ordinances granting franchises on front street.

**MARRIAGE LICENSES**  
James J. Halsey, 30, finance business, 1015 N. 21st st., and Betty Simmons, 25, finance business, route 4, both of Salem.

**MUNICIPAL COURT**  
Eric Frederick Otto, Houston, Ore.; violation of basic rule, 35-MPH; \$3.50 bail.

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### Interest Rises In World War II Legion Post

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, according to Post 9 Commander I. 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 committee.

**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 large trade with British East Indian 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 announced 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. Hubbard and Second Lt. Ora H. McCrae, mustered out.  
Albright W. Tilse appointed

### second lieutenant, infantry, company D, 8th battalion, Newberg. Resignation of Capt. Robert H. Clarke, company A, 13th battalion, Lebanon, accepted.

The first appearance of the Ottoman Turks in history dates from 1227 A.D.

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