

Army Nurse Visits Here

Army Nurse Internee Cites Jap Treatment In Island Prisons

By NADINE PALMERTON

One of the army nurses who escaped from Bataan the night before it fell but who finally became a prisoner of the Japanese at Corregidor, was a visitor in Klamath Falls Saturday and Sunday.

Lt. Dorcas Easterling, army nurse corps, was a prisoner at the Santo Tomas prison camp for three years and recently returned to the United States. During her internment she was given camp detail at the hospital dispensary.

"We were treated much better than the officers at the other camps, but one thing that really took down our ego was having to bow down to the Japanese at 5:30 every evening," she recalled.

Lt. Easterling is from Abbott, Tex., and enlisted in the army nurse corps in 1940. She left

for overseas on October 4, 1941, and arrived at Fort William McKinley on October 23. She served there until December 7 and then moved to the hospital unit on Bataan where she helped take care of the wounded. In a thrilling last-minute escape from Bataan, she was taken to Corregidor where resistance held until May 8, 1942. After the Japanese captured Corregidor, they stayed there as prisoners until July 2, taking care of the wounded under the direction of the army medical staff. The food was poor, consisting mainly of fish and rice.

After being taken to Santo Tomas, Lt. Easterling was changed to civilian status but was given camp detail at the dispensary hospital.

As described by the army nurse, Santo Tomas was run like a small city with an internment committee consisting of three Americans and three British chosen to represent the camp, and these in turn were all under a commandant. This was done so that everyone wouldn't be running to the commandant with minor grievances, she explained.

During her three years as a prisoner, Lt. Easterling remembered that only one comfort kit from the Red Cross and one medical supply kit, which the Japanese rationed to the Americans, were brought into the camp.

Malnutrition and starvation were the serious problems, and only two meals a day were to be obtained. Breakfast consisted of mush and there was usually rice for dinner.

After the prisoners were liberated on February 3, 1945, the army nurses continued to work there with the wounded soldiers brought in. The day after they were liberated, the camp was shelled by Japanese guns and



Lt. Dorcas Easterling (above), of Abbott, Texas, who recently visited Klamath Falls on tour with RKO studios, spent three years as a prisoner of the Japanese at the infamous Santo Tomas camp.

there were 35 deaths and a number of casualties.

After leaving Santo Tomas, Lt. Easterling went to Manila, Leyte, and then to San Francisco.

Worn on the lieutenant's blouse are the Presidential Unit Citation with two Oak Leaf clusters, the Bronze Star for distinctive distinguished service, the American defense ribbon with one star, the Asiatic-Pacific ribbon with two stars, the Philippine defense ribbon with three stars, and the Philippine liberation ribbon with one star.

Lt. Easterling was in Klamath Falls on tour with RKO studios in connection with the movie, "Back to Bataan," made under army supervision. This movie,

which will open Saturday night in Klamath Falls, includes a reproduction of the death march and the liberation of the prisoners at Cabanatuan.

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OWNERS QUERY CITY COUNCIL ON PAVING JOB

Several property owners appeared before the city council at its Monday night meeting to inquire how soon paving could begin on Orchard avenue. Residents of the 2300 block have already posted their money at the city hall, and the council authorized City Engineer E. A. Thomas to proceed with plans and ask for bids so that the job in that block can be completed this month.

A representative of the 2200 block on Orchard also appeared and asked for information on how the work could be financed in the 2100 and 2200 blocks. City Engineer Thomas explained how the work could be paid for under a bond issue or by cash, and he recommended the cash basis as being the less expensive.

Because of the absence of the mayor, Ed Ostendorf, Councilman Rollin Cantrall was named mayor pro-tem. Councilman J. J. Keller was also absent.

A petition was read from the residents of the lots adjacent to the alley between 9th and the end of Washington street asking that the thoroughfare be closed. It was pointed out that the driveway was not wide enough for garbage trucks or fire trucks and was now only a nuisance. The matter was referred to the street committee and the city engineer for investigation.

The names of Oscar Shive and George McIntyre were submitted and approved for appointment on the bond committee to take care of the two vacancies.

A motion was made and carried which authorized the police judge, Harold Franey, to ask for bids and obtain the labor for cleaning and painting the council room and the corridors in the city hall.

Councilman Paul Landry introduced a resolution arranging the date of the hearing for the condemnation of a house on Fulton and one on Oregon avenue. Hearing was set for August 6 at 8 p. m., and the council will decide what is to be done.

The first reading of an ordinance which will require all tents or canvas-covered structures to be made flame resistant if they are for use for public assembly was heard.

The June report of the plumbing inspector was read with 18 calls reported.

City Engineer Thomas asked permission from the council to change plans for a storm sewer which will serve the area on Jefferson, Washington and Lincoln along 9th and 10th streets.

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7TH WAR LOAN PUTS KLAMATH SECOND

Klamath county copped second place in the "big ten" race as it completed the 7th War Loan drive by over-subscribing its E bond quota by 11.7 per cent. Preceded only by Washington county, Klamath county bought \$1,718,598 worth of E bonds between April 9 and July 7.

Results of other "big ten"

counties with a quota over a million dollars, place Multnomah third with a total of 109.7 per cent of the quota subscribed. Clatsop was fourth with 104.1; fifth was Clackamas with 103.2; sixth was Marion with 100.4. The remaining "big ten" counties not making their quota are Lane with 92.2; Lane, 91.2; Umatilla, 87.7; Jackson, 85.1.

Total E bond sales for the entire state amounted to \$58,030,000, which is 5.5 per cent above its 55 million dollar quota. Total sales on all bonds for the state was \$204,405,442.

Although Klamath county went over its quota only 11.7

per cent this time as compared to the 35.5 per cent standing of the 6th War Loan, sales throughout the state were not as high this time with only 17 of the 36 counties making their quotas as compared to 30 counties who filled their quotas for the sixth.

Davis Appointed Liquor Supervisor

PORTLAND, July 17 (AP)—R. D. Davis, who resigned from the western defense command in 1944, has been appointed a supervisor of the hard liquor enforcement division of the state liquor control commission, Ad-

ministrator Ray Conway announced today.

Long in enforcement work, Davis was sergeant in the Klamath district when the state police department was organized in 1931. He resigned in 1935 to become chief criminal deputy under Sheriff Lloyd Low of Klamath county, serving until 1937.

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