

Vivid Picture Of Jap Prison Life Portrayed

Letters Tell Story Of Privations and New Found Freedom

The two letters following have been received in the last few days by Mr. and Mrs. F. R. Olin from their daughter, Mrs. Vincent Gowen, who with her two children, Geoffrey and Ann, and her husband, has been held captive by the Japs since the fall of the Philippines. The letters are enlightening as to the conditions under which American prisoners have been forced to exist:

Manila, P. I. Bilbid Prison, Feb. 7, 1945. Dearest Mother and Dad, "We sent a short message a few days ago but can now write. I went go back too far, for we can tell you everything when we get home, which won't be long off now. There's a rumor we are to fly to Leyte and be shipped home from there.

"We had a very simple Christmas at Camp Holmes but were quite happy knowing the end couldn't be far now, then like a bolt of lightning we were all ordered to Manila on the 26th of December. I have never had such a ghastly trip. 35 to 40 in each small truck, plus all our luggage and 5 Japanese guards. I couldn't even move a muscle most of the time. We were brought here to Bilbid Prison, the most awful and the filthiest hole you could imagine. The war prisoners (American) were across the hall but we couldn't contact them. We arrived at 12:30 at night and woke up in the morning (if we slept) eaten alive with bed bugs. I killed 300 on our nets and blankets! We finally made the place habitable with Geoff making a comfortable chair and stool. He's very handy. We've had no newspapers or radio of any kind for months (and then it was only Japanese lies), so it has been a long, long wait. The Americans came in unexpectedly the evening of February 4th just after we'd been given our release by the Japanese. When we saw the tanks coming in Quezon Blvd, we couldn't believe our eyes. It's been one continuous exciting hour after another. The noise is terrific. The city was burning Monday night and oil and ammunition dumps exploding constantly so on an hour's notice we were loaded on trucks and sent up to Angtibay. While we were gone Filipinos got in the building and looted everything we had! Geoff and Vincent have what they stand in. I have little more. We have lost everything probably as the Japanese are retreating up the mountain trail. They had already taken most of our things.

"We came back to Bilbid yesterday afternoon and a regular battle royal was going on all around us last night. I have dengue fever at the moment and feel lousy. Vincent had letters today. We received two from you before telling of Milly and Betty's babies. I am so thrilled and anxious to see them. Most anxious about the boys. I hope they are still safe. Was heavenly to see American soldiers and Old Glory waving. I never want to see a Jap again in my life. All the events lately make us glad and grateful we are Americans. You can't imagine how we've longed for Uncle Sam's shores! We shall see you soon. And is it heavenly to eat something besides corn and rice." Love to all, Frances.

Manila, P. I. Feb. 11, 1945. Dearest Dad, "This is supposed to be a birthday letter. I was so ill on the 9th with Dengue I couldn't write, and I'm only just able to sit up today. I had my biggest birthday present of the war—freedom, so I can say it was a happy one. Three have gone by since I expected to celebrate and now this one I was ill. The night we were evacuated from

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TB UNIT VISIT ANTICIPATED

Final details regarding the coming visit of the tuberculosis X-ray unit will be under discussion next Monday at the meeting of the Columbia County Public Health association in St. Helens. The association is to meet at the Congregational church that evening March 5, at 6:30 p. m. for a dinner which will be followed by a business meeting.

A state public health official will be present, according to Mrs. Violet Young, publicity chairman, and will explain details of the visit. Although the date is not definitely set, it is thought that the unit will enter this county March 28.

Anyone who is interested in the work of the county association is invited to attend Monday evening's meeting.

Mention was also made that all funds from the sale of Christmas seals has not been turned in. Those having funds from this sale are urged to send them in so a complete tabulation of results may be made.

Fish Bill Gets Consideration

In reply to a telegram sent last week by the Nehalem Valley Rod and Gun club, Manley J. Wilson, state representative, in a letter to the club reported that House Bill No. 378 probably would be acted upon early this week by the Joint Committee on Game and Fisheries of the house.

Representative Wilson stated in his letter:

"Contrary to the reports that appeared in the newspapers, there is a great difference of opinion regarding the provisions of this bill with a great deal of opposition developing from Tillamook county as well as from Lincoln county. Efforts are being made to compose these differences by amendments to House Bill 378 and by other bills which are to be introduced which would protect the spawning grounds and provide further regulation to fishing on the coastal streams.

"I sincerely hope that members of the two Committees will be able to work this problem out and submit a satisfactory proposal to the House, as I believe that sooner or later such a program will necessarily have to be put into effect."

Church Advance Meetings Intended

District superintendents of the Oregon and the Washington Evangelical conferences will be in Vernonia Sunday, March 4, according to announcement by Rev. Allen H. Backer, Evangelical minister. Rev. C. P. Gates of the Washington conference will be the speaker at the 11 a. m. service and a special meeting is planned for 2:15 that afternoon with slide pictures at that time and also at 7:00 o'clock in the evening. Rev. P. P. Petticoard of the Oregon conference will speak at one of the day's services.

A pot-luck luncheon will be served at noon in the church social hall. Teachers and officers of the church are urged to attend.

SEWING TO CONTINUE
Red Cross sewing of kit bags will continue as usual this Fri. Mrs. Harry Culbertson announces. Material for 25 more of the bags has been received and when completed will be followed by hospital sewing. The work will begin at 1 o'clock.

WELFARE AID DUE
Mrs. Eva Tice, county welfare official, will visit Vernonia Tuesday, March 6, to aid anyone with problems they may have. Anyone wishing to see her may do so that day at the bank building.

County News

TIGERS HOLD COUNTY TITLE
CLATSKANIE — Clatskanie is the undisputed basketball champion of Columbia county, and also has a chance to go to the "B" tournament at Salem.

The choice will be made by a play-off of the two "B" districts. They are composed of: (1) Columbia, Clatsop, Tillamook and Washington counties; (2) Clackamas, Multnomah, Polk, Yamhill and Marion counties. The winner of district (1) plays the winner of district (2) for the trip to the Salem "B" tournament March 15-17.

Clatskanie traveled up-river to top St. Helens in an overtime tussle, 32-34, in the last league game of the season. By winning this game the Tigers claim county championship, having won seven games and lost one.

INFANTILE PARALYSIS DRIVE NETS \$406.01
RAINIER — The infantile paralysis drive for Rainier netted \$406.01, after all expenses were deducted.

The employees of the VanVleet Lumber company alone raised \$104. The Rainier grade school netted \$39.47, and the high school \$27.94. A dance given by the committee raised a little over \$50 of the fund and boxes placed in business houses added to the total.

The \$406 reported does not include \$22.86 raised by the Rainier theatre or collections in boxes on the rural mail route, which will be added to the final amount credited Rainier.

INDUSTRIAL SAFETY TRAINING CLASSES

ST. HELENS — Industrial safety training classes for the foremen and other employees of the St. Helens Pulp and Paper company and the Fir-Tex Insulating company have been inaugurated.

Classes are held once a week for five consecutive weeks, each lesson taking two hours. The objective of the courses is to train leadership in accident prevention work through the organization of an active safety plant organization.

PARALYSIS FUND IS OVERSUBSCRIBED

CLATSKANIE — The community of Clatskanie responded well in the infantile paralysis drive recently closed here with practically \$900 sent in from this locality.

Ward Robertson was local chairman and issued the financial statement for the drive as follows: money from boxes and individual donations \$223.72; organizations \$97; 7th Special CB \$100; dance \$64.04; grade school \$33.58; Avalon Theatre \$200.92; high school \$31.20; Girl Scouts \$78.20 making a total of \$826.66.

\$130 Subscribed Sunday

Red Cross Sunday at the Evangelical church was successful to the extent that \$130 was subscribed to that organization by members of the congregation. The amount was raised through 25 people.



"TELL THE FOLKS back home I'm safe"—An American fighting man at an advanced position in Germany rests on a captured anti-tank gun to send word to his family through a Red Cross field director.

THOSE WHO ARE IN IT

GETS CROSS AWARD
With the 15th AAF in Italy, 1st Lt. Marshall C. Makinster, 23, son of Mrs. W. H. Chalker of Rainier, Oregon, is a pilot of a B-17 flying fortress operating from an advanced base in Italy. He recently was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for "extraordinary achievement in aerial flight." Presentation of the decoration was made by Colonel Paul L. Barton, group commander. Lt. Makinster also wears the Air Medal with two oak leaf clusters, awarded for "meritorious achievement in aerial flight."

HERE ON FURLOUGH
Pvt. Henry T. Hudson of Ft. Lewis arrived Sunday to spend a 15-day furlough visiting his parents, Mr. and Mrs. O. M. Hudson. Hudson is attached to the medical department checking recruits and overseas personnel.

RAY JUSTICE HERE
Ray Justice spent a few days last week end here, leaving Monday on his return to army duty. He has been stationed at Topeka, Kansas and Mrs. Justice has been there with him. She returned also and plans to reside here. Ray expects to be sent to overseas duty upon returning. He is tail gunner on a Liberator bomber.

ENLISTS IN MARINES
Daniel H. Rollins, 17 son of Mrs. Emma C. Taylor of Wilark, enlisted in the marine corps February 26. He is now awaiting orders to go to San Diego for boot training. Rollins is a student of Vernonia union high school where he is a football, basketball and track letterman.

HOME ON LEAVE
Ellis Austin, Aer. M. 2c, son of Mrs. A. L. Austin arrived home a few days ago on a 20-day leave.

TRAVELS 16,000 MILES
RIVERVIEW — B. W. Bassett, QM3c, son of Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Bassett, who left the states last October writes that he has traveled 16,000 miles of the Pacific ocean. He has been at Manus Island, Hollandia, Finschaven and New Guinea. He also was in the Luzon invasion.

HERE ON LEAVE
RIVERVIEW — Melvin Powell, AMM2c, arrived here Thursday evening on a 30-day leave from San Francisco. He accompanied his parents to St. Helens Sunday to visit his aunt, Gladys Peterson.

GETS SPECIAL TRAINING
Lt. Harry Culbertson, Jr. spent two weeks during February at Orlando, Florida, where he received special training at a weather school. He had been stationed at March Field, California, previous to going to Florida and may have been assigned to return there.

CPL. WORKMAN ON LEAVE
Cpl. Robert Workman, who is attached to a military police company, is at home on the Rocking W ranch for a 12-day furlough. His station is now at Brigham City, Utah, and the trip home was coincidental with a trip made in line of military duty.

HERE FROM TEXAS
KEASEY — Pvt. Joseph Lindley arrived at his home near Keasey Saturday from Camp Swift, Texas. He has a 10-day furlough.

GETS DISCHARGE
KEASEY — Lloyd Osborn, son of Mr. and Mrs. O. B. Bittner, who formerly resided here, has received a medical discharge from the army.

GETS TRANSFER
In a telegram received here Wednesday morning by Mr. and Mrs. Tom Turner, from Pvt. Geo. Turner, he told them that he was being transferred to Killene, Texas from Santa Barbara, Cal. where he has been stationed since being here on furlough.

Loggers Capture District 14 Leadership; Win First Bout with Gresham Tues.

The Vernonia high school Loggers notched two important victories since the Eagle last came off the press. Coach Orile Robbins' boys won the District No. 14 championship by convincingly trouncing their old rivals, the defending, champion St. Helens Lions, 43 to 28, before a record-breaking crowd Friday night. The loggers took a 7 to 0 lead in the opening minutes and were never in danger. The entire starting lineup scored heavily in the following order: Nance, Byers, Rollins, Sturdevant and Larson. The same evening the Rainier Columbians obligingly eliminated the Scappoose Indians from title consideration.

Tuesday night an old fashioned donnybrook was offered a capacity crowd as Gresham and Vernonia opened an inter-district three-game playoff series to determine who will get the coveted trip to the state tournament on March 15, 16 and 17. It was early evident that both teams had visions of the pot of gold at the end of the basketball trail as they battled at breakneck speed throughout the 32 minutes to leave the score Vernonia 37, Gresham 36 at the gun. Both teams seemed to feel the pressure of championship play which was evidenced by erratic floor play by both teams and a foul shooting slump which hit the local squad.

The game started fast as Gresham jumped into an early lead on two quick baskets by Owens and Tucker, the scoring aces of the Gophers. The Loggers, without the services of the floor general, Freddie Larson, who was used only a few minutes due to two badly cut fingers, fought back determinedly to knot the count at 12 to 12 at the quarter. Logger hopes looked slim as the teams left the floor for the intermission after a disastrous second quarter. A Gopher scoring spree sent the visitors out in front 24 to 18.

FINAL DIST. 14 STANDINGS

Team	Won	Lost	Pct.
Vernonia	4	2	.666
St. Helens	3	3	.500
Scappoose	3	3	.500
Rainier	2	4	.333

A reorganized Logger team came out for the second half and by a third-period rally tied the boys from the base of Mt. Hood and took a 30 to 29 lead at the three-quarter mark. The last quarter saw the overflow crowd on its feet throughout as the two teams battled on exactly even terms during the last eight minutes. Tuesday's victory puts the Logger machine out in front in the race for a state tournament berth. Coach Robbins takes his determined squad to Gresham Friday night where they will try to cinch the series and make unnecessary a third game on a neutral floor.

St. Helens 28	43	Vernonia	
Barker 20	F 7	Sturdevant	
Huntzinger 4	F	10	Byers
Huston 1	C	8	Rollins
Day 1	G	12	Nance
Snider 1	G	6	Larson
Urie 1	S		
Referees:	Johnson, Gordon.		
Vernonia 37	36	Gresham	
Sturdevant 9	F	14	Owens
Byers 6	F		Jacobson
Rollins 8	G	14	Tucker
Nance 8	G	4	Ham
Larson C			Ambrose
Riley 2	S	2	Butzen
Parker 4	S	2	Ritchards
Referees:	Eilers, Molitor		

Results of the drive sponsored here a week or so ago for the collection of clothing for Russian relief were available this week. The collection totaled 980 pounds and was shipped to Portland Tuesday of last week by the Nehalem Valley Motor Freight.

The drive was sponsored locally by the American Legion and Auxiliary and the results were more successful than was anticipated when the drive began.

Auction Successful
NATAL — The Columbia county Red Cross chapter will benefit by \$223 as the result of the Natal Grange auction sale held there last Sunday. Articles were contributed for sale by many people and lunches were sold, which further swelled the fund which will be turned in. The Natal Grange expresses its thanks to everyone who participated in the affair.

Gas Pump Broken
Vandals were responsible for breaking into the Big Eddy gas pump last Thursday night and for causing general damage on the premises. No word has been received as to parties responsible and difficulty was experienced in obtaining the services of policemen to attempt an investigation into the vandalism.

Tourney to Name County Champion
Washington grade school's basketball team will go to St. Helens Friday and Saturday to participate in this county's championship play. The tournament is being held to name a team which will go to Hill Military Academy March 9 and 10 for basketball games between championship teams located in Oregon counties north of the Willamette valley.

Ten counties will participate in the Hill tourney.