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*R.D.W / C.I. : C.T. Bruce*

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*801-2-158*

*Charles T. Bruce*

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ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE  
RECOVERED PERSONNEL DIVISION  
ROUTING SLIP

8/28 1945

FROM c/c

TO:

Director \_\_\_\_\_  
Asst Director \_\_\_\_\_  
Executive Officer \_\_\_\_\_  
Asst Ex. Officer \_\_\_\_\_  
Legal Officer \_\_\_\_\_

Administrative Branch \_\_\_\_\_  
Alot & Benefits \_\_\_\_\_  
Plans & Operations \_\_\_\_\_

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PS \_\_\_\_\_-Section \_\_\_\_\_

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201 Files \_\_\_\_\_  
Liaison Officer \_\_\_\_\_

Finance Branch \_\_\_\_\_  
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FOR:

Approval \_\_\_\_\_  
Information \_\_\_\_\_  
Initials \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature \_\_\_\_\_  
Appropriate Action \_\_\_\_\_  
Correction \_\_\_\_\_  
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AG-KD Form No. 5 (7-23-45)

DBJ

**CONFIDENTIAL**GENERAL HEADQUARTERS  
UNITED STATES ARMY FORCES, PACIFIC

## CHECK SHEET

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Note No.	File No.	Subject: American Military Personnel.
	From: 441st CIC Det.	To: Recovered Personnel Date: 26 Aug. 45 Thru: OGCIO <i>rua</i>

1. This office has received the following information submitted by the 440th CIC Detachment, relative to above Subject:

a. 2d Lt. Robert Lehrer, O-339233, a pilot of the 17th Pursuit Squadron, is reported to have been apprehended by the Japanese in August or September 1943 and sent to Japan at an undetermined date.

b. Sgt. Ronald Hutchinson, 19012770, is reported to have been captured in Bacolor, Pampanga, and sent to Japan at an undetermined date.

c. 2d Lt. Henry C. Conner, O-429144, is reported to have been captured by the Japanese in Bacolor, Pampanga, at an undetermined date, and to have been subsequently recovered. His present address, according to the AG Section, United States Army Forces, Western Pacific, is:

2d Lt. Henry C. Conner, O-429144  
c/o Mrs. Marguerite Conner  
174 North Grove Street  
East Orange, New Jersey

2. For your information.

*cut 1/19/46*  
B.P.G.  
E.P.G.†

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DOD Directive No. 5200.9  
27 Sept 1968

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Authority MP4 283078



American Military Personnel.

441st CIC Det.

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Thru: OGCIO

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E.P.G.

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*W. P. G.*  
*Do not file*  
*EPG*

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DOD Directive No. 5200.9  
27 Sept 1958

## NOTES FROM MY DIARY

That little walk we had from the docks to the Penal Colony, Davao, 27kilometers, was about all the exercise any of us wanted for one afternoon. That was October 23, 1942.

The 1000 prisoners who came from Luzon to Davao, Nov 1, 1942 have shown 200 percent improvement to date, December 16, 1942. They were in a bad state of health.

April 4, 1942, 10 men escaped.

Effective August 1, 1943 the Japanese are going to pay all outside details at this prison camp at the rate of non-coms, 15 sen and privates 10 sen per day for satisfactory work.

October

~~November~~ 25, 1943, two men escaped today, Brown and Pease. 22 men in guard house for ten days, also, the barracks leader because of the escape.

One thing about this camp is that everyone pulls guard duty. The Camp Commander even pulled guard when one of his bay members slept in for tenko (roll call).

December 25, 1943, The Japanese gave us magazines to read during the Xmas holidays. That is the only reading we had for some time, except for some papers given us to read.

January 7, 1944, There is to be library started. All books and magazines taken up last August, but only the books on religion returned.

The men are making their own vitamin B-1. (soured rice)

January 29, 1944, The letters written for the Japanese were re-written. They contained most disastrous scenes during P.I. war. The first ones had not enough dope for them.

February 5, 1944, Prize given for best stories on P.I. war. Tailor shop is making 300 shirts out of flour sacks for the Japs.

January 5, 1944, The Japanese have requested that we take good care of the Japanese Pesos that we have in our possession because no Pesos will be replaced when they are worn out.

February 16, 1944, We got tobacco leaves and peanut brittle candy at intervals, perhaps once a week. Tobacco sells at 50 centavos to 4 pesos per hand. Candy sells to officers at 15 centavos a piece.

We have not even averaged a pack of smokes a week that have been issued by the Japanese.

February 17, 1944, Wilmer Evers died today. 440th Ord. Co. The first death since January of 43, in this camp.



August 16, 1944. We left Davao on 6-6-44, and had a three months trip to Japan. We all lost from 15 to 20 lbs, due to the lack of water and food. We spent all but a few days on board the ships, and a great many were spent below decks, in the hold. We arrived at our new destination on 8-4-44. We are now located in a camp close to Osaka. Our work will be in a copper factory at which the camp is located. Our first days here were spent taking Japanese Army drills and learning the Jap commands. We also have learned some Japanese terms which will be used about the camp and the ~~factory~~ factory. At camp the Jap Sergeant-major was called "Herman" who knocked us all over the beach for not learning Jap commands as quickly as he thought we should. Same procedure at roll-call formations. Our food is not plentiful, but we are now getting 500 grams of rice, with soup. Occasionally we get beef bones. We are to get 300 grams of rice when we go to work at the ~~factory~~ factory.

October 29, 1944. There has been an epidemic of intestinal disorder, but is about over. We are eating half barley and half rice. We seldom get meat of any kind. Fish are rare, and beef bones are cooked for the soup once a week. The bones are cooked three times, and then sent back to the factory to be made into bone meal, which we do not get.

November 26, 1944. Our ration is short. One kilo of rice is now replaced by one kilo of comoties, therefore, we get less in volume. We did get some beans, but not now. Fuel is scarce for cooking. We use coal and some wood. It is quite cold, but we cannot have fires in the barracks. ( 7 degrees above centigrade) Red Cross food boxes came in last night. 1980 individual boxes. There are 613 men in camp. The Japanese say that 10 per cent goes to hospital, 50 percent is saved for emergency, the rest is to be given to workers. Captain Belinky is our only Medical Officer. We keep hoping for the end of this subdued life, to be a free man again will be the beginning of another life.

November 30, 1944, There are cigarettes in the commissary, and we got curry and fish powder last night. We get 10 sen per day, and this is what becomes of it: A package of cigarettes (10) 25 sen, curry powder 25 sen, fish powder 40 sen, tea 2 yen (1/2 lb.) horse radish 1,30 yen, in other words a man works two and a half days for a package of cigarettes, and he works on a small ration of food. D

December 11, 1944, On the 7th there was an earthquake about 2 pm. causing considerable damage to factory and buildings. Our barracks still standing, but badly shaken. We still have to carry water from village for our cooking and drinking. We mix some sea-water for cooking rice. No bath water. Our third day that fires are permitted, but very little fuel. Five sacks of charcoal issued for 613 men, for 15 days. Hospital and 16 rooms, 40 men to a room, to be heated. We see ice in the mornings, snow in the mountains,

December 19, 1944, McGinity died two nights ago, beri-beri



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and malnutrition. We seem to have a balance for all things, regardless how adverse the conditions. For instance, no water since the earthquake the 7th to wash our hands or even the mess equipment. We do have a fire now so we can sterilize our mess-kittles over the fire. Workings hours increased by one hour. First snow three nites ago. Since McGinity died, we get two vitamin tablets per day.

January 31, 1945. Ernie Meyers died on January 27th, from beri-beri, malnutrition, diarrhea. Today, and Englishman died from beri-beri and malnutrition. We get half a bundle of wood issued from the factory for each day. Many days we get no wood, and then enough for a small fire.

February 6, 1945, On the 2nd, a Dutchman died, fell at the factory, received fractured skull and internal injuries.

February 10, 1945, We were to get  $\frac{1}{2}$  box of Red Cross tomorrow, but we won't get it, we are being punished because some men have been trading at the factory. The doctor didn't get any bandages this morning, same reason. It is so cold most of us sleep with all our clothing on.

February 13, 1945. We got Red Cross yesterday,  $\frac{1}{2}$  box per man, but all the cigarettes and corned-beef were withheld by the Japanese. We were still ordered to sign the cards for a full box. Little snow but cold winds.

February 26, 1945, Yesterday Remys body was removed, died from beri-beri and malnutrition, 6th man. Many men have beri-beri, swollen hands, faces, feet, and legs. All of the men are very thin and not a chance to do anything, but merely exist on the ration we get. A bowl of rice, or mixed rice, barley, and millet, and a small amount of soup, sea-weed, radishes, turnips, the tops for greens, or Chinese cabbage. Regularly we get a half bowl of rice, and a piece of bread with soup for our meal. Very little meat. Very little wood for our small fires. One fire for each room of 40 men. We sleep on straw mats, some of us sleep together and take hot canteens to bed with us in order to keep warm. The building is like a barn but not as warm. No salt issue. Shehan caught bringing in salt from the factory. He stood at attention before the guard house, and the Nips made the men going by slap him as going past. One man caught stealing from our kitchen by one of the stick-guards. He got a beating by the Nips, and three hours standing at attention. Many men have pneumonia. ~~xxxx~~

March 2, 1945, Richardson died today. Tim Hardy yesterday. Causes, beri-beri, and malnutrition. They were working two days before they died.

March 7, 1945, Many men very sick. There are many who should be in the hospital, but are working. 240 men in the hospital, on camp light-duty, and factory light-duty. One has to be very sick to get into the hospital. Cap. Belinky cannot

admit a patient himself. The Jap Medical Corporal is the one who decides on the status of each sick man. The men in this camp are looking much worse that they did six months ago.

March 8, 1945, Chester H. Brumley died today of pneumonia and malnutrition. March 11, 1945, Gerlita died, pneumonia, ber-beri, malnutrition. March 12, 1945, Rumsey died of pneumonia and malnutrition. March 14, 1945, "Blackie" Harrison died, pneumonia, ~~malnutrition~~ malnutrition, Heyas working 7 days before his death. The Japs have cut the light duty ration 70 grams of rice per day, and have added that amount onto the heavy-duty ration. It is impossible for a sick man to get well on such a ration, so he has to voluntarily go to work. A man who is sick and is working under these conditions soon is in a bad way. Thus, we have men dying of ber-beri, malnutrition, etc. After three years of short rations a man has used all his natural reserve to combat any sickness or infections. Perhaps the coming of summer will help him one way or another. Dalton died, pneumonia, malnutrition.

March 22, 1945, Frank H. Driver, died of pneumonia and malnutrition.

March 24, 1945, Englishman, Edwards, died of chest trouble and head injuries from his guard on his detail at the factory. Received Red Cross today, one-fourth of a box per man. Many of the men will have their seats by morning. We are allowed fires only during meal time.

April 6, 1945, Received letters in camp, 260. First letters since we arrived last September. Cigarettes issued yesterday. They are very scarce. Long time since issued. One Month. Every one smoking tea. Yen not worth the paper it's printed on. You can't buy anything. 175 Cigarettes cost about 200 Yen. We get no rice now. It is all barley. Many men sick at the stomach because of it. Meat very seldom.

April 14, 1945, Train wreck at factory. Seven men hurt. Cappy Hurlbert died shortly after wreck. Curry powder, fish powder, orange powder, coffee, tea ~~is~~ seldom in the commissary.

April 24, 1945: Straight rice for meals now but short ration. Part of rice is deducted and weight is made up by substituting beans. Camp light duty and hospital get two thirds ration. Factory light duty and heavy duty get full ration. Men are looking generally better now that spring is here. Seem to be putting on a little weight. A very hard winter with short rations, little clothing, and little heat. Fires would never have been kept if we had to use only fuel issued us. We had to steal wood at factory and smuggle it in. It was necessary in order to have enough to keep warm.

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April 29, 1945: Red Cross issued yesterday. One third box per man. Last of this shipment. Work at factory very inefficient. Materials handled many time by hand when so unnecessary. Work at factory is varried. Repair railroads, machine shops, carpentry shops, acid tanks for making Sulphric acid, furnaces for smelting copper and for making Cobalâ: Men have to work in much gas and acid. Many men have chest troubles. Wheeler stodd at attention for eight hours steady for being close to Nip kitchen and away from his detail.

June 4, 1945: Arrived at new camp June 1, Toyama, to work in steel mill.

June 25, 1945: Clifton S. Uckerman died of Pneumonia and malnutrition. No medicine.

July 18, 1945: Curry powder and white pepper today. One G.I. spoonful per man. Twelve Sen each. Each man earns ten sen per day. We get 17 and 23 cigarettes for privates and Non coms. every ten days supposedly.

#### A Snopsis of the boat trip made from the Philippines to Japan

We left the Dapecol Penal Colony on June 6, 1944. We were tied in trucks, about 30 men to a truck. If we had to go to the latrine during the couple of hours ride that was tough luck.

We boarded a freighter and were placed in the hold with scarcely enough room to stand. June 17, 44 arrived at Zamboanga. Colonel McGee escaped from boat and made his way to the States. We had to trade off for a place to sit or lie down, one hour to a man. Some who were not so fortunate had to stand all the time. Lt. Mills escaped from boat off Mindanao shore about three miles. All men were confined below decks. Two meals per day only. Cebu City June 21, 44, departed. We were put below decks from Cebu to Manila, five days. No one permitted to smoke during this time, even if he had something to smoke.

Got on boat to leave Manila on July 2, 44. We left Manila Bay on July 16, 44, and were not permitted to come up on the decks during that time. When it rained, they would put the tarp over the hatches, and we would practically suffocate. Very little drinking water, and short rations. If there were any infractions of rules by an individual, the whole 1200 of us would suffer for it. Takao, Tiawan on July 23, 44. Two men lost on the trip, one from heat exhaustion. The doctor took his thermometer out of his bag down in the hold where he kept his sick patients and it was 110 degrees F. One Lt. lost just before reaching Manila died because they would not let anyone up on the deck. He died purely of heat exhaustion. Arrived at Moji on September 2, 1944. We had been on the ocean for three months steady. We had no means of taking a bath, washing, or cleaning our mess equipment. It was often we had to eat our meals right next to a five gallon can which was full of filth and flies because the Japs would not permit anyone to go on deck to use the latrines. We always

had to herve our chow down in the hold. We didn't have room to move hardly. One had to walk all over everyone else when he tried to get anywhere.

Most all of the men lost from 15 to 20 lbs., some even more, during this three months of Hell(92 days in all). Furthermore the ships we traveled on were unmarked in any way which would indicate that they were prisoner-of-war ships. It is a marvel that anyone came out of it alive, we still wonder ourselves how we did it. Most of us feel as if some one were leading us by the hand.

The above notes were taken from my diary, and are the true facts and dates of events as I took them down from day to day.

*Charles T. Bruce*  
Charles T. Bruce  
Pvt 1cl Sp 2cl  
Hq & Hq Sq, 5th AB Grp.  
United States Air Corps

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## WAR PRISONERS' ORDERS

APRIL 3, 1945

STARTING TOMORROW THE TIME TABLE WILL BE CHANGED  
AS NOTED BELOW.

- |    |            |       |
|----|------------|-------|
| 1. | REVELLE    | 05.30 |
| 2. | BREAKFAST  | 06.30 |
| 3. | TENKO      | 07.00 |
| 4. | ASSEMBLY   | 09.00 |
| 5. | DINNER     | 12.00 |
| 6. | SUPPER     | 18.00 |
| 7. | TENKO      | 19.00 |
| 8. | LIGHTS OUT | 21.00 |

BY ORDER OF THE COMMANDER.

9 P.O. Aldridge

~~23~~

21

21

20 P.O. Smith

19

18 C. C. Jones

17 R. C. Green

16 P.O. Smith

20 P.O. Smith

INSTRUCTIONS (ORDERS)

JAN 15, 1945.

1. THERE ARE PERSONS NOT OBEYING ORDERS THROUGHLY OR NOT AT ALL. HENCEFORTH REMEMBER THAT IF THERE IS A PERSON DISOBEYING, THE PERSON CONVEYING THE ORDER AND THAT PERSON WILL BE PUNISHED.
2. MAKE AN OBEISANCE TO THE CAMP AUTHORITIES PERFECTLY.
3. THERE ARE PERSONS WHO DO NOT OBSERVE TIME STRICTLY ESPECIALLY AT ASSEMBLY TIME. HENCEFORTH STRICT OBSERVANCE OF TIME MUST BE DONE.
4. LIGHTSOUT MUST BE DONE STRICTLY WITH THE EXCEPTION WHEN THE MEN ARE GETTING READY TO GO TO WORK OR 30 MINUTES AFTER COMING HOME. ON OTHER OCCASIONS GET THE PERMISSION FROM THE O.D. WHEN NEEDED. LIGHTS MUST NOT BE ON AT ALL DURING THE DAY.
5. THERE ARE PERSONS SMOKING AWAY FROM THEIR ASH TRAYS OR FIRE BOXES. HENCEFORTH MEN BEING CAUGHT WILL BE PUNISHED AND PROHIBITED TO SMOKE.
6. CLEANING OF BARRACKS MUST BE DONE THREE TIMES A DAY, AT 7:00 A.M. , 1:00 P.M. , and 7:00 P.M. ..
7. THE RESPONSIBLE PERSON MUST INSPECT THE EMERGENCY WATER DRUM EVERY DAY AT 7:00 A.M. and 4:00 P.M. SEE THAT THE DRUM IS FULL OF WATER AND NOT FROZEN OVER.
8. WE PROHIBIT THE USING OF THE KANTERA (LAMPS) IN THE ROOMS AND WHEN NOT NECESSARY. FROM NOW ON CARBIDE WILL BE ISSUED TO THE MEN WHEN THEY ASSEMBLE FOR WORK AND WE PROHIBIT THE TAKING OF CARBIDE TO THE ROOMS.
9. THE ABOVE ORDERS MUST BE STRICTLY OBSERVED, IF CAUGHT DISOBEYING THESE ORDERS, THEY WILL BE PUNISHED THEN AND THERE AND WOULD LIKE EVERYONE TO REMEMBER IT.

23-10-1  
14-1-45  
E. M. L. Brien 8

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