

DIARY OF CPL. L. ARHUTICK
NICHOLS FIELD

File "Diary of Cpl. L. Arhutick, [17th Pursuit Sqd'n] Nichols Field, 1941-1944," Box 11, Entry 1054,
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Handwritten in red ink:
A large diagonal line is drawn across the page.
Below the line, the word "Check" is written in a cursive script.
To the right of "Check", the name "James" is written in a cursive script.
Below "James", the name "O'Connell" is written in a cursive script.
A large, loopy scribble is present in the lower-left quadrant of the page.

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DIARY OF CPL. L. ARHUTICK
 17th PURSUIT SQD'N
 NICHOLS FIELD, P. I.
 1941.- 42 - 43 -44

In the past three thousand years of her Prond history Japan had never declared war against any country without warning. This diary takes in the present time upon the entrance of the United States of America, into the Second World War, beginning December 8, 1941.

Dec. 8, 1941 - Without me knowing Japan declared war on the U. S. A. Hawaii was bombed. Over the radio on Monday morning at 6 - AM we heard this news. None of us could believe it. We went to work at our regular time. Patrols were sent out all day long, and at 3 - PM they started to come back to Nichols. Some had engaged Japanese planes, and had bullet holes in them.

We evacuated our barracks at 6 - PM, and moved out to gun positions surrounding the field. I fell asleep at dark. It is only fair if you stop to think that Japan at that time was actually forced to declare war against the U. S. A. Study deeper in the cause of Japan's step, which was never her choice.

Suddenly I woke up. I got up on my knees and faced the hangars, instinctively; as I did the world seemed to blow up in my face. We were bombed by either one or two, high - flying bombers. I later learned they came in on a radio beam, and also, flares were sent up around the field. This took place at about 10 P.M.

Dec. 10 - 41 - At 11:40 A. M. Nichols was bombed and dive-bombed by the Japs. I'd just finished coming through the chow-line, when I heard planes diving. Our own ships had been flying around all morning, and I thought these were ours as well. There were low hanging clouds; (about 300 ft) I'd taken a bite of my sandwich, when I noticed these planes were low and still diving. I looked up, and just then the first planes broke through the clouds and he started to fire, hell-for-leather. I noticed he was a white - man, big, and blonde-headed, then I threw my self on the ground. The planes flew over my head, and I ran to the edge of the field and went down flat again.

There was a B-18 setting on the edge of the field, about 100 yds. from me. This had 20 - 100lb. bombs in it. It had engine trouble, and hadn't been able to take-off with the other two B-18s that left just 10 minutes before we were raided.

One of the Japanese planes strafeing the field, set it one fire. When the B-18 exploded, the flames and smoke went up about 300 ft, almost catching the Jap plane.

Shrapnel flew over my head, vert low, and I was lifted completely off the ground.

The raid lasted till 12:00 noon. Our own planes came to our rescue shooting down, three, Jap planes. There was a bit of damage down on the field, and a lot of our ships were caught on the ground. Thirteen out of fifteen ships were washed out.

The 35th Pur. Sqdn left emmasse, on the train.
 Dec. 15 - 41 - Been working practivally day and night, and got the day off today. Went to Manila, overnight, and got tight and had a good time.

DIARY OF CPL. L. ARHUTICK, 17th PURSUIT SQD'N, NICHOLS FIELD, P. I.
1941 - 42 - 43 - 44 (Continued)

Dec. 24 - 31 - Evacuated Nichols at 1 - AM today. Been driving the station-wagon all day. Neilson and Nichols destroyed by our own man, with all supplies. All our equipment was taken to Pier 7. We boarded ship at approximately midnight. At daybreak Dec. 25 - 41, 34 landed at Marvalles.

Dec 25 - 41 - All Christmas Day was spent in moving our stuff off the boat to our new camp. We had no Christmas dinner.

Dec 26 - 41 - Spent from noon till after midnight moving equipment to Del Pilar. I drove the truck for twelve hours straight, and when we made camp, I fell out of the drivers seat to the ground and sent to sleep.

Jan 1 - 42 - Working at Pillar Field. Ships going in and out, and were always watching for bombers.

Jan 15 - 42 - Moved back to Cabcabbin Field. Being bombed and strafed by the Japs everyday. No rest for the wicked.

Jan 29 - 30 - 31 - We've been turned into the 71st Infantry. Rifles and ammunition have been handed out to all the men. Its funny to be carrying a fifle. Put on beach duty at Boa-Boa-Point. Beach lined by us with barbed wire. Machine gun pits also put up. Had a rough time moving 50 - cal. ammunition up to the beach, over the hills. Eating rice now.

Feb 2 - 42 - Going on three day rest today. Moving all our equipment with us, and the Filipino Army are taking over our position.

Feb 4 - 42 - We're off again, with only two days rest. Supposed to be 50 Japs made a landing at Sasiam Lake. We packed up bag and baggage, and left at 1 0'clock. Sweated out 6 dive - bombers all the way. Arrived at Sisiam at 30'clock and unloaded. At 3: 15 P.M., we started down a narrow trail leading to the beach, five kilometers away. I was carrying 200 rds of 30 cal. ammunition, slung around my neck; plus my rifle, gas mask etc. We advanced about 150 yds into the woods, when suddenly machine guns opened upon us. Ambushed ---.

We formed a line immediately, and opened fire. We couldn't see anyone. In a lull in the firing, a bullet just grazed my helmet, coming from the rear. I told my Buddy, and we went around to the opposite side of the tree we were behind, and proceeded to keep a sharp watch. About 10 minutes later our effort were rewarded by seeing leaves and empty cartridge cases, falling out of a tree, twenty yards in our rear, and bit to our right. He was a Japanese sniper.

We stayed there till dawn the next day, after having been reinforced during the night by a company of Filipinos.

Feb 5 -42 - We advanced our line at dawn. I was in the left flank. We advanced to within a kilometer of the beach, when we were ambushed again. Our center and right flanks were on the hill that the firing began.

We received orders to go down the hill and continue towards the beach. The section of the line I was in dropped down the hill and we reached the beach without any resistance. We'd been there about 10 minutes when 4 machine-guns, and a half - doz. snipers opened a cross-fire on us. We opened fire at random, but 15 minutes later, received orders to pull out and get back to where the rest of our line was held up. We left some Filipinos there who had been killed.

We dropped back, and reached our old position, and the rest of the men. We had to go up the hill, and when I reached the top where the trail was. I found out we were moving back to our C. P., also that a Jap sniper had a bead on the trail and had already killed 2 men and wounded 2 others. I jumped out on the the trail, ran about ten steps then stepped into the woods. Safe, for the time being. The men behind me were held up, and a Lt. in charge of the Filipinos got a rifle and went through the woods back up the trail. A few minutes later we heard a rifle fire once and the Lt. came stalking up the trail, and said it was alright to proceed. He got the sniper, but I still don't know how he spotted him.

We reached our C. P. at dark tired, hungry, and then found out there were a couple of snipers near the camp. We had some cold coffee, and a can of tomatoes a piece, and then I fell asleep.

Feb. 6, 1942 Next morning, we had a sandwich, and coffee. Artillery from Corregidor, opened upon the beach. At 2:30 we advanced again, to be stopped. We pulled back before dark.

Feb. 7 - 42 Artillery again pounded the beach for hours. Meantime the 45th and 57th Filipino Scouts reinforced us. We advanced again, and at two pts we were stopped just short of the beach.

Feb. 8 - 23 - 42 We surrounded the Japs into two groups right down on the beach. We gave them a chance to surrender, but it was refused. My outfit held a section on the right facing the water, (N). The same day Japanese planes flew over and dropped supplies, but we intercepted them all.

That night a Japanese landing party tried landing by sea. It was approximately mid-night full moon. From midnight till 3 A. M., they tried to land but we held them off. We had help from the artillery, and also two P-40's from my own Sq'dn, bombed, and strafed the landing barges. The artillery and planes are really the ones who stopped them.

The next morning, there were about 20 barges floating aimlessly around. One was near the beach, and a couple of the fellas swam out and looked at it. There was nothing there but some old bread, a rifle, and plenty of blood.

The artillery sank all the barges they could.

When the first landing began, a Japanese navy vessel threw a couple of shells at the beach where we were; but the lights at Boa-Boa Pt. picked it up, and the guns from Corregidor drove it out of range.

Feb. 15, 42 Two air planes (Japs) came over early this afternoon and laid a smoke screen, which the trapped enemy came through. A lot of them broke through our line, and scattered into the woods. We were rounding them up every day after that.

Feb 24, 42 After 19 days we finally cleaned that beach up. There were two thousand casualties there, of which one was a German N.C.O. and two Japanese women, dressed in uniforms. We suffered losses, but not as great as this.

Feb 28, 42 After a few days in rest camp we went on beach duty back of Mariveles. It was rough getting our supplies in there because of the hilly country. We had to bring in fresh water by pack mule.

We'd been on a rice diet for quite sometime past. Here we were lucky enough to get carabao meat, and we even shot and ate monkeys for as long as the monkeys lasted, which wasn't long.

Mar. 15 - April 9, 42 On March 15, 1942, three Japanese dive-bombers attacked Mariveles Field. They flew right over our positions, and one of the men on a 30 Cal-gun, shot one down. The other two came back and raised hell, bombing and strafing.

The plane that was shot down landed in the harbor, and a launch from Corregidor picked up the pilot. Later the plane was sank by the artillery.

Shortly after that a Japanese sea-plane came around to look for the downed plane, but one of our guns on the southern most tip, shot him down too. After that the planes stayed further away from the shore. Watery rice, and a bit of gray.

We went on two meals a day. One in the morning, one in the evening. After going from my gun position to the kitchen, and eating, then going back again, I was hungrier then when I left, chow was that short. Watery rice, and a bit of gray.

Life was much the same, day after day. Sometimes we'd swim, but most of the time we just layed around.

Corregidor, Drum, and Hughes Forts, were catching hell every day by bombings and shelling from Cavitee, and all along the shores opposite us, across the harbor.

April 9 42 The day of surrender. The first we knew of the surrender. The first we knew of the surrender, was shortly after 2'oclock. We received orders to destroy our guns and positions, which we did in quick time. At 3:30 P.M. we had chow; the cooks prepared every thing we had on hand. It was the first time I'd been full in a long time.

Our officers came back and told us to be ready to march at 6:00 P.M. Those who didn't give up took off before then; a few went to Corregidor, but what was left, gave up.

At 6:00 P.M. we began to march down to K-192, where the Japanese had ordered us to assemble. We reached Marvells Field, strung out in single file, when a Japanese dive-bomber began bombing and strafing us. What a mess. We reached K-192 just before dark, where we bedded down.

The next morning, there were Japs all over the place.

We were all marched down to Marvells Field, line up and searched. The Japanese took films and pictures there. We numbered about 1000 men. April 10, 1942 We were told to march to San Fernando, some 120 k. away. That trip is a nightmare.

I started out with the rest of the men, and picked up a half-dozen small cans of milk, and a large can of salmon. I had a fever when I started, and didn't get far.

April 11-12-42. Had my milk all drank up in two days time. Made up to K. 129. Water was hard to get.

April 13-14, 42 I just got through Cabcabaun, when Corregidor opened fire on the Japanese there. Some of our own men where killed there in the artillery exchange.

I made Balanga the day of the 14th. We were all lined up there, and given rice. I had no mess kit, so all I got was a handful. First real food I'd had in three days.

At all the water stations, we all made a mad dash for the pumps. The Japs, tried stopping us by hitting us with their rifle butts, but it was no use.

Many of the men fell by the wayside for lack of food and water. Many more were rick.

April 15, 42 Marched from K. 111 to K. 81, and got some sugar cane. One fellow was shot.

Received food from the Filipinos.

April 16-42 Finally arrived at San Fernando, My feet were sore. Shoes all worn out, and I was so weak, I couldn't have gone much farther. It seemed heaven when we hit there.

We were fed rice and brown sugar while at San Fernando, and got all the rice we could eat.

I helped the sick fellows out, and could get in and out the gate. Made a bit of money and smoked and ate well until we left April 19-42.

A Filipino boy was bringing me cigarettes and pork chops, fried chicken, etc. I paid him well, but hope to meet him again.

April 19-42 Left San Fernando at 9 O'clock this morning, by train. On our way to Conception, Tarlac, where Camp O'Donnell was at.

At all the stations, the Filipinos threw candy, rice, bananas, etc., into the box cars. I was lucky, and got some.

We arrived at Tarlac at 1 O'clock, and marched about 2 1/2 K. to O'Donnell.

Upon arriving there, we were searched, and one blanket I carried all the way from Bataan, was taken from me. I'd been tempted to throw it away on that march; wish I had now, because I never got it back.

April 20 - 42 We're put into companies, and bedded down in old bamboo barracks, full of lice and bugs.

Fed sweet potatoes, and margarine, three times a day. Couldn't eat mine. Saw the fellows from my outfit, that were left. Many more were dead. Had a couple of bad attacks of malaria. Last one, I went to the hospital. God, it was awful. Men were dying by the fifties and sixties, on our side. Filipinos, by the hundreds.

I was in the hospital three days. The last night I was there, the fellow on my left side, died of dysentery and malaria. The next morning and officer on my right side, died of the same thing. Weak as I was, I got out of there.

Each day was much the same there. Occasionally, I caught a detail, but most of the time, I just laid around.

Met Dale Irvine there. He was from Bay City too, talked to him a lot, about home, and what we'd do after the War. He was in the 17th Bomb Group.

May 13-42. Left on truck driving detail today. Before I left, I won 475 pesos and a 15 Jewel Hamilton wrist watch. All I had left, when we left on detail, was 65 pesos, a \$20 bill, and the watch.

At 1 O'clock in the afternoon, we left O'Donnell on trucks. There were 68 of us in the group. We were on our way to San Fernando, We stopped a couple of time along the way, and the Filipinos gave us Pop-cycles, and candy.

We arrived at San Fernando about 3 O'clock that afternoon. We were split up into smaller groups there. The group I was in, numbered 13. At 4 o'clock, we were given cars and trucks to drive. I drew a Ford truck with a large box. We left shortly after words for Cabanatuan.

I drove the truck till about 10 o'clock that night, when the lights went out. We abanded the truck.

I was told to drive an ald Studebaker. The was tied close with rope.

A couple of times we stopped along the road, and the Japanese with us, brought us cakes and fags.

A couple of K. from Cabanatuan, I drove off the road, and knocked the battery out of its case. It was bad driving, but I couldn't help it, because I didn't known the road.

I was pulled the rest of the way to Cabanatuan behind a truck.

We arrived at Cabanatuan shortly before midnight, We were well fed, and then showed where we were to sleep. I was dead tired, and fell asleep right away.

The next morning I awake at 6 o'clock when we had to stand revielle with the Japs. We had rice and soup shortly after.

Our camp was at a schoolhouse. Behind the schoolhouse was a track, and a wooden grand stand.

The trucks and cars were parked here.

May 15 - 42, We were given Japanese names; mine was Nickachee.

While I was there, I got acquainted with a fellow by the name of Bob Bradely. We became good friends.

I was the only one with money, and I bought ice cream for all 13 of us, just about everyday while I was there.

There was a small store, right across the road from us; I use to buy candy eggs, (boiled mainly) cigarettes, pancakes, and bananas. I was eating well and had variety, as well as all the rice and soup I wanted, three times a day.

When we weren't driving, we had to do K. P.

I was at Cabanatuan about 20 days, when I was moved to Bon Bon, a small town 25 K. from Cabanatuan. There was one other American there.

We lived in a small 4 room house. Five soldiers, and we two prisoners. I was on K.P. most of the time I was there.

I drove the truck to Cabanatuan one day, and when we arrived there, we went to the schoolhouse where I had been before I went to Bon Bon.

Reported there, and then the Jap and myself went downtown.

I got a haircut first, then we went to a hotel and had dinner. We also had a few bottles of beer. It didn't cost me a thing.

Later we went to the market, I bought a quart of whickey and a can of milk.

The Jap bought some gin.

We left Cabanatuan, and got back to Bon Bon at 6 o'clock. We had supper and about 7 o'clock, there were about 10 Japnaese soldiers at the house where lived, including one officer, who could a bit of English, speak.

I got drunk as hell, and had to be helped to bed.

One day was much the same as the next. I was on K.P. most of the time, and had plenty to eat and smoke.

June 5, 42 Drove to Cabantuan today, and coming back got wet. Caught malaria again, and it was the worst attack yet.

June 6, June 30, 42. I laid up with malaria for ten days, in which time I did no work.

On June 16, 42, I was sent to Cabantuan. I was treated there for malaria, and got a bit better, but never had any strength. I didn't want to work because I always felt bad.

On June 25, 42, the Japs sent me back to the prison Camp at Cabantuan. It was Camp #1. I went straight into the hospital there.

I had a couple of packages of cigarettes, a can of mild, some catsup, and a couple of pesos left.

I'd sold my watch to a Japanese officer before I went to the Hospital, but I spent most of the 40 pesos. I received, before I got sick. June 26, July 15, 42 I got better in the hospital after a few days, but was subject to frequent attacks of malaria from then on.

While in the hospital, I saw "Hack". I'd got a few more cigarettes by trading garrison belts, pens, watches, and other kit for the fellows. Kept myself in smokes this way. Also managed to keep "Hack" in smokes and salt.

I became quite well acquainted with Capt. Comstock, a medical man in the hospital. He did a lot for me while I was there.

Also Bob Bradley came in off of detail, while I was there. He'd got a bad leg. Later he got a job in the cookhouse just before I left to go to the other side.

My birthday on July 4, wasn't a very bright one. I had a coconut that day; roasted.

All in all, I did quite well in the hospital, while I was there.

"Dutch" Bergman, from my outfit died while I was in the Hospital, also Walden.

Charles Bueadan, from Bay City, also died while I was in there. Must see his relative, when I get back.

Fellows died about 30 to 40 a day. They used to carry them out from the hospital.

While I was still in the hospital the deaths were brought down to 4 and 5 a day. That was after hundreds had already died.

July 15- Oct 6 - 42

I moved out of the hospital on July 15-42 over to the other side of the camp. It was much better there, because you got a bit more to eat. I was able to get out and get a bit extra, as well, in the way of sugar, chile, beans and etc.

There were quite a few books there and I could always occupy myself. Also when we went on details we received a bun. They were dam good.

Just before I left the hospital, I witnessed the execution of two of our fellows. They were shot for going over the fence and buying food from the Filipinos, and the other, for trying to escape. They were men.

One had my last \$20 bill, when he was shot.

Guerrillas raided the Japanese guardhouse a couple of time.

We were getting food, through the commissary. It was quite cheap. It cut out a lot of the profiteering going on, in the way of canned goods and candy.

We were in groups of ten men. If one escaped, the other nine were to be shot.

Three officers tried to escape on night and were caught. They took the beating of their lives, and later two were shot.

We had our own men patrolling the fences at night to prevent escapes.

Time passed swiftly on the whole, and it wasn't too bad with the exceptions of the times I had malaria.

We were put into a group numbering 800 men. We'd heard various rumors about going to Mindino and out on various details:

Oct. 6 - 42

At about 2 A. M. we 800 men were all gathered together. We were given rice coffee, some lugow rice, and a big rice ball.

We had all our kit packed, and after eating we were assembled about 2:30 A. M. and marched out of camp. At the gate we received two buns per man.

We marched to Cabanatuan. It started to rain, but I had a rain-coat. We reached Cabanatuan at 6 A. M. There were men there from camp three.

We all got on the train about 9 A. M. We were told we were on our way to Japan, where we'd get better food, and treatment. There were 50 men to a small boxcar, and it was hot.

Some of the men passed out, it was so hot. That trip ended at Manila at about 4:00 P. M., Oct 6 - 42.

From the train station we marched down to the pier. The Filipinos lined the streets to watch us. We must have looked like a bunch of dirty tramps, but their faces showed as if we'd let them down, badly, which we had. Some of them showed the V for Victory sign, knowing we'd be back.

We arrived at the pier about 5 o'clock, tired and hungry. The Japs fed us rice and salted fish, all we could eat. It was really a feast for us, and boy I ate all I could.

Later we went into the pier and washed and found a place to sleep. The place was crowded with other prisoners, and I ran into some of my friends and fellows from my squadron. It was a happy re-union.

The next day Oct. 7-42, we got on the boat. We were 2,400 strong, and a lot of Japanese sick men and soldiers. We spent that night on the boat and sailed the next day.

I slept below decks, forward. A lot of the fellows slept on the deck.

We had bread the first couple of days out. Most of us ate it all in one meal. Fresh water had to be sweated out for hours.

The third day out an Submarine threw two torpedoes at us. Luckily the both missed us. The Japs threw a couple of shells from the forward gun, but nothing was hit.

At the time this happened, I was 30 ft. in the hold. What mess. I was 30 ft. from the door, and I couldn't make it. The Japs were tramping over us, and each other to get out of the hold. It was a panic, if ever there was one.

Were feeding on biscuits and water now. Three bags a day. They have a few pieces of candy in each bag. I'm making out all right. The weather is a bit colder.

Oct. 12, 42 Landed at Formosa today. Allowed a bath on the dock. It was really good to get one, after not washing so long.

Oct. 15, 42 Pulled out of Formosa today and are on our way again. Weather fine.

Oct. 13 - Nov. 11, 42-Landed at Osaka today after a fairly decent trip. Glad to get off boat. 17 men died on the way over. Got on train at

8:30 P.M. after having to set out in the cold for a couple of hours. Almost froze to death. Saw a group of Limeys march past.

Train trip was really nice. We rode on steam heated car, and it was wonderful. All the fellows stripped ~~down~~ to pick lice & fleas out of their clothes.

Nov 12 - 42 Arrived at Yokohama Stadium at about 4:30 P. M., and after all the tecnalities we finally got in. The British really treated us fine on our arrival.

Nov. 13 - Dec. 18 - 42 This period, I spent sick. Malaria. Finally got better and went to work at the new shipbuilding works. Cold, and work was hard, because of our physical weakness. Eating rice and veg. and not to bad. Christmas just a week away.

Dec. 24 - 25 - 42 Received a British Red Cross Parcel, Christ. Eve. Enjoyed it more than any previous Christmas present. War helps one to appreciate small things. Christmas Day. A very good dinner today. Pork steak (small) boiled potatoes, carrots, and cabbage, fried onions, and bread. Also a couple of small oranges and fags from the Japs.

Rumors about the war are favorable to us. Homesick.

Dec. 26 - 31 - 42 - Work again. Same old slavery. Oh yes, wrote a card home on Dec 23, 42. Received 1.50 Yen for my months work. Am going to special Eng. to work. Bought fags of Jap guard. Two packs for 50 Yen.

New Years Eve. Allowed to say up late. Chow getting low. Looking forward to end of war this year.

Jan 1 - 15 - 42 Chow has been low and everyone is taking in their belts. Have pork stew, good but very little of it.

Had an argument with one of the English fellows, and they are full of alabis and wind. Stubborn as hell.

Jan 16 - 31 - 45 Changed over to Saw Mills. Easy job. Weighed in at 145 lbs and lucky to weigh that much.

Issue of ci., toothpowder, brush, and a couple of buns. First issue in a long time. Rumored Germany is finished, and a big Naval battle in the Pacific.

Received Typhoid injection on Jan 9 - 42.

Feb - 43 - Chow low and sure am hungry. Pay up. Sick most of the time and got off.

Mar - 43 - Cold and wet. Bad working weather.

April 1 - 15 - 43 - Working at Peanut Oil Factory. Damm good job. Smuggling in oil, peanuts, and soap. Gaining a bit of weight. Work harder.

Cox got slapped badly through a mis-understanding. No fault of his. Role on Freedom !!!

April 16 - 30 - 43 - Working right along. Bringing in Peanuts and oil. Almost got caught. Hamilton and I have been bringing in stuff and spitting it. Please end this war.

May - 43 Changed over to Assano Dock works by the Dr. Damm it, why can't they leave the jobs alone.

June - 43 Rumored Turkey in the war on the Axis side. No good. No Cigarettes or issues of any kind. Still working at Assano on the Drillers and Reaming gang.

July 1 - 15 - 43 Earthquake today, at 2 P.M. It was a bad one. Birthday today, July 4, 23 years old, and had to work. Chow low to boot

July 16 - 31 - 43 Had a fight with Bowen. British lad. It was a pretty even scrap. Bad to fight on this chow.

Looking forward to Christmas and freedom.

Aug - 43 - Kit insp. on 19th, and had to get up at 4 A. M. Lasted till 10 A. M. tired.

Sept. 1 - 15 - 43 Heard Yanks landed on Italy today. Wont' be to long now. Japs are treating us badly. Rumors are good.

Sept. 16 - 30-43 Someone pinched my blouse today. The thieving gets worse everyday.

Oct. 1 - 15 - 43 - The Japs burned ten fellows on the back. They expect to cure them. Very little medicine here. Rumors Russians are in Poland, and we have the Gilbert Is. back.

Oct. 16 - 31 - 41 - Rumored Japs lost their No. 1 battleship off Formosa.

Nov. 43 Rumored we've re'taken Wake Is. Bun issue on 23rd.

Dec 1 - 15 - 43 Fag issue today. One of the fellows talked to a guard and he's tied up out front of the guards.

Dec. 16 - 31 - 43 24th, the Red Cross stuff left from last year was raffled off. I won a can of milk and biscuits. Received our parcels at 8 P.M. We really sweated them out. American Parcels. There were 2 parcels for 3 men. Burrel Kinser and myself, split. Had a show later. I was a bit homesick. Lights out at 11 P.M.

Christmas Dinner - 43 - Gravy, spuds, veg. salad, bread and meat. Firt Time I've been full since last X'mas.

No concert on the 31st by Camp Commanders.

Jan 1 - 15 -44 Hoping to get our freedom this year. Japs treating us worst everyday.

On the 3rd I had 4 yrs. in the Army. What a place to spend an anniversary.

Jan 16 - 31 - 44 Received personal parcel on the 17th. Following articles in it: 2 bars soap, 1 toothbrush, 1 can cancy (half empty) 1 can of malted milk tablets, 1 tooth powder, 1 suit of underwear, 1 tube shaving cream, 3 handkerchiefs, 2 prs socks, 1 bath towel, and 1 face towel.

Gen. Marshall sent X'mas greetings to all P. O. W. s.

Heard Berlin declared open city on 29th of Jan - 44

Feb. 1 - 15 - 44 Working at Peanuts again. Gld to get back. Rumored Turkey's in the war again, but on our side this time.

Feb - 16 - 28 - 44 - Heard we took truck Isl. on the 23rd. Should take P. I. next. Had 3 letters from home.

Mar. - April - 43 - Nothing New work.

May 1 - 15 - 44 - Moved to Brick works today. Big camp being broken up.

June - 44 Went to Shinagawa on 25th 27th, operated on by Jap Dr. for hemaroids. Nothing but plan butchery.

July - 44 Spent July 4, my birthday, in bet. Left Shinagawa on the 20th and back to Brick works. Japs making fire breakers in case of bombings. They're useless, because all the houses are wooden firetraps. There is very little fire fighting equip. to be seen Aug - 44 What monotony. Just plant work. Sept - Oct - 44 Sick and work, sick and work, etc. Chow pretty low.

Reed and Tom put in cook house.

Nov - 44 - Cold weather again. Stealing coal to put in the stove at night. Japs don't give us enough to keep the stove going good for 30 minutes.

Dec - 44 - Bombings going on hard and heavy over Tokyo way. Photo sam over every day.

Seen a lot of our bombers on Nov. 27. We were almost burned out. Packed and standing by to leaver, but fire under control. Saw 3 of our bombers go down, 1 Jap. Our pilots machine guned by Japs, as descending in parachutes.

Bombings getting so heavy we can hear them in Yokohama.

Christmas again and Red Cross parcel per man. Sax and I mucked in.

So on to New Years.

Jan - 45 - Beginning a new year and new hopes again, for freed and all it means.

We know Germany is a bout finished.

Still working away, day in day out. Don't ever work in a Brick Works !

Feb - 45 - New officers in camp. Good fellows all Air Corp.

Learning to play bridge, and reading.

Mar - April - 45 - Received Red Cross after big fight with Nips. Major Boyle wouldn't sign receipt until stuff was actually in our office. Then Japs got something like 12 parcels for themselves.

Heard Germany surrendered on April 28-45.

May - 45 - On May 8-45, we got confirmation that Ger. was finished. Boy we're really sweating out the end here. Air raids coming more and more often.

May 28 - 45 - At 6:30 A. M. the first air raid sirens went. We still went to work. Action begin at about 9:30 A. M. What a sight flight after flight of bombers. We were burned out. Incendiary bombs dropped in the work. The raid lasted till shortly after 11:30 A. M. Boy oh boy. Yokohama was no more after ONE raid.

The stevedores were bombed out and came to our camp. All were safe. On May 30, the Peanut boys came in. They said. Yokohama was a mess. We were getting good chow.

June - 45 - Moving on 3rd up north to 5-B. Don't know much about that camp. May run into Hack or someone I know.

30 March 48

I certify that I have this date copied the Diary of Cpl. L. Arhutick, 17th Pursuit Sqd'n, Nichols Field, P. I., 1941-42 -43-44, now on file at Archives Section, Recovered Personnel Division, PHILRYCOM.

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 Information Unit, Checking Sec
 Records Division