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TITLE DIARY _ _ _ _ _

ORIGIN CAPT. LOHR LOS BANOS, LAGUNA _ _ _ _ _

DATES MAR 1941-APR 20 42 _ _ _ _ _

AUTHENTICITY ORIGINALS, UNSIGNED _ _ _ _ _

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DIARY OF
CAPT. LOHR
LOS BANOS, LAGUNA

MY Monthly Report of March, Nineteen and Hundred Forty-Two.

March has come. The days of Spring time has come back again into the pages of my life. Not springtime of calmness, brightness, pleasures and happiness, but springtime which is disturb by artillery fires, bombardments, emotions and lonesomess. Leaves of trees, grasses ferns, and shrubs are in their verdured green colors. Flowers beginning to bloom, weather becoming windy and skies dreary and blue. The condition this month is satisfactorily and it is just a continuation of hardships, sacrifices with less food to eat, cigarettes, continues fatigue alerts and little hour of sleep and rest.

Action have continued, but there was a noted changed of tide of Japs are gaining territories and Malays in the Pacific, every situation in the Philippines remained unchanged. There are continous rearing of planes and artillery bombardments. Firing line still held its position for both fighting units. There is a noted strengthening at our bay.

March 20th 1942

Japanese Gen. Shimo failed to comply with his promise to capture Bataan in 20 days beginning last March 1st. This day is the termination of his ultimatum, but they haven't come. These damned Japs are bluffers. We are ready every-day at anytime to defend Bataan at all cost.

March 23rd.

We heard Gen MacArthur's arrival in Melbourne. Australia. His mission is to organize the allied Forces of the Far East ready for offensive against Japan.

Of positions of both Armies in the Front, while we the beach defenders of Bataan made and still continously strengthening our beach defense. In food there is not much to write. It is shortening and becoming humbale. The same kind of food and how it is cooked daily. Amount given to us is less than privously. Sometimes watering with regards to Lugao. No sugar and salt. And sometimes ones a week or none at all.

April 1, 1942-

American transport are reported to be in the Philippine waters now. Perhaps they're here now, 'cause at 10:00 a. m. last March 31st they left Mindoro towards north. 3000 Japanese killed and captured here in the Front. Wow, good news fellows.

April 2, 1942

There was a slight air raid this noon here in Lamac and Limay. One Japanese bomber was destroyed by our anti aircraft in Lamac. It was heard that our convoy are having a fight with the enemies. I hope they're making their landings now.

Diary (continued)

April 4, 1942

The Japanese are trying hard to take Bataan. There are planes dominating the skies of this unfortunate Bataan province. Artillery shells reaching now as far as K.P. 149. Last night Japanese lunches appeared in North of Lamao and shelled, but their shells could reach us far as the middle of the bay only.

April 5, 1942-

At about 2 p.m. Japanese barges come again. They shelled the bay area of Limay and Lamao going northward. Perhaps they're now attempting to make a landing here. So everyone is ready and alert. I guess I shall engage the flock 'em Japs soon.

April 6, 1942

Early at dawn Japanese over Pampanga to Cavite made their activities of fire crackers and flares more active this day. Also their artillery's and Air Force. They make their attacks more intense. Some of troops in the firing line retreated. They can't resist the Japanese shells and bombs.

April 7, 1942

Japanese forces have advanced to north of Limay. Everybody in the sector become lonesome about our bad situation. We were all at alert and ready for any eventuality.

April 8, 1942

Retreating forces is continuous. The Japanese still continue their gains of territories. Planes continue dropping bombs at us. We are preparing for order to retreat. We form our line on Alangan creek. At 5:00 pm the Japanese bullets reached us. Our officer in charge ordered us to withdraw. Every body ran for his life., leaving anything that make himself heavy. Oh, nothing was now important than the safety of our lives. I took refuge along the beach until we reach KM 164 at dawn with out tasting any bit of food. Good I was able to find Manong Carte and our other companions on the way.

April 9, 1942

This was the day of our Surrender to the Japanese Army. Oh, how plenty and strong they are? There's no question about their might. They were kind and helpful to us. This day I was taken by them to drive a truck up to Mariveles. The officer I went with was kind and friendly giving me food and cigarettes. At 9:00 A.M. I parted from him & joined my comrades walking along the dreary road. With loads of little clothing and ration and with intense heat, coldness and tiredness, What a picture was the provincial road of Bataan? It was freightful pityful, and fearful to anyone away from the Front. We spend 4 days walking up to O'Donnell Camp. From Orani to Capaz, Tarlac, we were however given a ride. The saddest part of our travel was when a Japanese soldier on our way took my cash of two hundred fifty five bucks and my Gruen wrist watch valued at one hundred twenty bucks.

W. J. ...

Diary (continued)

The saddest part of our travel was when a Japanese soldier on our way took my cash of two hundred fifty five bucks and my Gruen wrist watch valued at one hundred twenty bucks.

Personal Diary here in our Prisoners Camp, Camp O'Donnell, Tarlac.

April 13, 1942

At 5:00 p.m. we arrive here in O'Donnell camp all walking from Capaz, Tarlac, where we were brought by train from San Fernando, Pampanga. We were assembled and inspected. All Army weapons were taken away from us. At dark Captain Sayanosi, C.O. of this camp speak before us promising our early release if we behave with, and the friendly relations of Japan and the Philippines & the freedom of the latter. After him, Gen. Francisco also spoke before us about the rates and regulations of this camp, stressing on the the point that whoever attempt to escape will be shot to death. It was about 8:00 p.m. when they brought us to our barracks. I sleep well tonight feeling very tired, but happy because I know I am now safe.

April 14, 1942

I wake up feeling weak and exhausted in strength. Given 2 rations of small Lugao this day. We were organized to Companies. I am in Co A, I sleep twice at daytime. Now I feel stronger.

April 15, 1942-

Condition of the day is fair. We cleaned our barracks and its surroundings this morning. I still feel weak due to the little rations we ate, but it is better now 'cause it is 3 rations. There are new arrivals again among our brothers who were in Bataan.

April 16, 1942

Condition as usual. Ration the same, that is 3 time a day of ball camote and rice. Little work about improvement of sanitation around barracks. Took hold of a paper "The Tribune" all good news. My bodily health is fair but I feel very weak and dizzy/ Perhaps due to no bath. We lay on bed for most part of the day.

April 17, 1942

Ration as usual. Water the greatest problem we have here in the camp. I took a bath this morning when I went to take water in the creek west of our camp. This creek is wher we take drinking water for bath, for washing. Oh how dirty. I help in the making of Identification papers. I had a short noon nap only today. Did not have fatigue, but help fetch water and work on our papers.

April 18, 1942-

The temperature early this morning was biting. It was very cool. This noon it is fair and this afte noon windy and cloudy. 3 men were added to our bedding. They're Pangasinan people. I was made in charge of my seven other companions. Barracks condition improving a little. Some of the sick were brought to hospital and disposing of waste matter is little bit improved.

Diary (continued)

Then it comes to food and water, there is always a rush or commotions among us. Oh, my life here in the prisoners camp is but a continuation of hardships, lamentations, sorrows and isolations.

April 19, 1942 - Sunday

This day is as usual. We wake up early for physical checking and prepared for inspection. But the inspecting officer failed to come. We ate our little breakfast of rice alone about 9:00 a.m.

April 20 1942 -

I did not sleep well last night. This day is very warm. I could not rest and was not able to have a nap at all. Ration 3 times a day of fist-like balls of rice and little salt only. This noon I help distribute our rice, so I got more. My section is detailed to guard for tonight. We get more water for drink today.

I am very tired of this concentration camp now. I wish to go out and live normally. It is hard to be a prisoner.