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TITLE DIARY _____

ORIGIN COL JOSEPH L. BANSOVI _____

DATES 11 DEC 41- 13 DEC 44 _____

AUTHENTICITY CERTIFIED COPY OF ORIGINAL _____

SOURCE UNKNOWN _____

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(2)

*Diary of
Corporal Joseph J. Bandoni*

(3)

999-2-2

EXTRACT FROM DIARY OF CPL JOSEPH J. BANDONI

Page 7:

Some of the Boys that died out of Battery are Calkins-7/13/42 and O. Rourke-11/26/42 Holton Geo-6/25/43 Carson-5/27/42 Phelps 8/1/42 Flowers 9/11/42 Miller 9/20 42 Wilson 8/2/42

Page 9:

We have had a few escapes One got away 2 shot, Hinkly friend of mine tried the same Caught died 5 days later Starved him to death. Norman Hinkly - Hinkly Maine.

Page 10:

July 4/1943, One died another escaped. His no 812, I hope he makes well so long as they shoot no one else in his place, had (2 hr start. It takes a man to stay and take it- a coward to run away.

Page 11:

9/6/43 - No 744 Name of Savage out 200 attempted escape and caught, Shot out at field all men had to witness it. His last words were "Tell them I died smiling..

CERTIFIED TRUE EXTRACT:

Ruth H. Essary
RUTH H. ESSARY
Captain WAC

(4)

DIARY OF
CORPORAL JOSEPH J. BANDOVI

afterwards.

* W A R *

Yes war and all its pangs of suffering and sorrow, broke out on the Philippines Dec. 8, 41, the Feast of the Annunciation of Our Blessed Mother. Clark Field Bombed with 54 bombers high of 27,000 ft. Clark Field partly destroyed. Casualties about 300 Dead & wounded. I remained in Battery Area which was about 200 Yds from Clark Field about 3 days. 7 planes downed first raid by 200 CA. Moved better area few blocks away Dec. 11, 1941.

Dec 11, 1941 Sgt. Guest, England Sgt. Mechili, Ruben Garcia Jarmillio and others saw last action, few others wounded. I came very close of getting it myself, four bombs fell within radius of 10 ft. of me, some of wounded around me. We lost some of the best men of the Battery. So 200 shed some of its first blood a day never to be forgotten.

Dec 15 Moved Hacienda Gomez 8, Kls from Stotsenburg. Remained here until Christmas Eve 1941. Left Pampanga for Hormosia 100 Ks South. Nothing but 2 cheese sandwiches for Christmas dinner. Antiaircraft batteries kept busy total 55 planes shot down.

Jan 3, Hays & I went back to Stotsenburg for Communication wire. Brought back plenty of food.

Feb 28 moved to Bataan. Few weeks later assigned to Gun batteries out post. Separated from gun battery duration of war. Most of time I was stationed on high hill in Bananna plantation. Chow still good plenty to eat. During this period Bataan & Corrigador bombed several times a day.

March - Moved another O.P. had to walk over 1 mile 2 times day to eat. Only 2 meals a day - First time food showed shortage. So the men started hunting Lizards, Monkeys, and Horse Meat. Wrote letter home in March sent supposedly by Sub, also \$10,000 Insurance compulsory to all men left for U.S. Remained on this O.P. Lamao Point.

April 1, 1942 Japs started last drive on Bataan. Heavy Bombing of all areas, heavy shelling both sides.

April 6, 1942 Front lines broken told to move toward Marvellis.

April 7, last day of fighting on Bataan. On evening of 7 told to take off on our own. Last words were, try to get to

5

Diary of Cpl Joseph J. Bandom (cont)

Corregidor. But I failed. Ferrari, Ed Condova, & I remained in Mts 3 days during this time met up with 8 officers out of 42 PI. With no food few cigarettes we all made it to top of Marvellis Mts. On morning of 12th Heard of Surrender of Bataan. With no other alternative no food we chose to Surrender. No man could live long in those Mts, in those 3 days no sight of wild life was seen. Personal surrender for me was on 12 Apr 1942. I felt relieved, I thought my days of worry was over. Japanese asked or rather forced me to drive a truck, for them. And so out of war back into it again. Only to learn that I was to hand Amunation to Japs coastal guns which at this very moment we blasting Corregidor. I was fed well, did nothing but drive, but the Idea of hauling Amunation to kill my own men got me. For the first time in my life I was determined to take my truck and Japs in it over some hill, take my life or maybe escape. Several times as I made these hauls I ran into artillery fire from Corredidor big guns. Once shaparnal piercing the truck. Some day back home this story will we heard of - "The March to O Donnell". American Soldiers marched 9 & 10 days to their death. I saw many on the side of the road, perhaps some of my buddies. God only knows, they marched 100 Kls. to a concentration Camp in Providence of Tarlac, to die like dogs. Over 1,000 died a few days later 15,000 Filipinos also dug their graves. Drove about 3 weeks then fell sick, Malaria got me. Out of 75 Japs 50 also fell sick same as I finally I induced them to take me to American Hospital No. 1. in Bataan still in tact. Again I see American faces again American food, I guess thats all I needed for it was 2 weeks later I was up and around. Helped around Hospital Corregidor is still holding out. Left hospital some time in June. Went to Manila & to Bilibid. I met De Venzelo here after not seeing him for long time. But we seperated again. I was again placed on a truck drivers detail. We drove trucks to Cabanatuan Concentration Camp 137 Kls from Manila A nice camp, up in Mts, clean, Cool, food fair. Took baths in rain. I met up with some boys in battery, Barney Duran, Hays, Plomteraux, Harold & Charlie Gannon, Taylor Norkee, Foster several others. I also got to Camp 3 few Kls from us, where Frank Franchini Most of Battery "A" and 200 was. On this detail I bought and sold food and also brought in some medicine. Once bought 635 pesos of medicine for men dying of Malaria & disintary. 1,000 tablets of quinine at 20¢ tablet. 800 Sulphthysol at 50¢ tablet. Men were dying at Camp 1 - 20 to 30 a day. Some of the Boys that died out of Battery are Calkins and O,Rourke 7/13/42 - 11/26/42 Holton Geo - 6/25/42/ Carson - 5/27/42 Phelps 8/1/42 Flowers 9/11/42 Miller 9/20/42 Wilson 8/2/42 Taken off truck detail. Soon after left for Nicolas Field detail. This detail is claimed to be the hardest of all in Luzon. Up to date 10 or 12 have died but those sent which were almost dead amount to about 100. These men have been run

Diary of Cpl Joseph J. Bandom (cont)

down account of food, which is not enough to feed a baby. We have read in books of men, beat up starved, Pellegra, scurvey all sorts of eatchs soars and ulcers appearing all over the body, men becoming so that they fear nothing, just a soon stick a leg under a toro or dump car so that they may get out of here mained rather than dead. All men it has proven in this camp can take so much and no more, a few have been fortunate with little money and Jap friends are able to get something but still all of us are running down slowly. About 4 died from beatings food is rice 3 times a day and fish soup.

Dec - 42 began to pay us average of ¥ 3.00 per man.

Dec - 25 - Received first Red Cross boxes. Food which saved many of the men lives. With substationd food the work would not be hard. We are building a runnez 1 mile long cutting into a hill in places 20,25 ft high nothing but a Shovel and pick, with help of blasts, going through almost solid sand rock. Pushing cars such as ones used in mines 2 men all day long 6 to to 6 in evening is the grind. During the rain season up to knees in mud, rain or snow makes no difference. We have had a few excapes One got away 2 shot, Hinkley friend of mine tried the same Caught died 5 days later Starved him to death. Norman Hinkly - Hinkly Maine. Spanish boy out of H, 200 CA died last night from beatings received in field day before. 300 more men came June 8, 42. Many have gotten sick 3 died, 2 injured in cave in.

June 28, 1 man beat to death, died in Camp last night. One is now tied by his thumbs because he refuses to work. But he is to sick to work. No use telling these ignorant Japs.

July 4/1943, One died another excaped. His No 812, I hope he makes well so long as they shoot no one else in his place, had 12 hr start. It takes a man to stay and take it - a coward to run away -

July 18, 1943. Due to all these happenings the Japs had a investigation. Now we have a new Japanese Officer in Charge. Less work more food no harsh treatment, so is the promise. Rumors of War seep in every once in a while which helps our Moreal, Fighting heavy in Solomons, New Guenea, Aluetuens. Europe - We took Africa, Tunis - Parts of Sicily.

July 20/43 - Another boy was burnd alive at work. I happened to be only few Yds away. Some feeling have a man pleading for help a ton of dirt and rocks on him can't do much for him, died 1/2 later broken back & Legs.

Diary of Cpl Joseph J. Bandon (cont)

July 22, 43 - Bombed Rome -

July 27, 43 Have not worked 7 days - to much rain. Mussolini quits dictatorship -

8/8/43 - Mothers birthday and my thoughts are home too how I miss her. I know she is thinking and worrying about me, I sure have caused some of her gray hairs. I only hope she will forgive me for all the suffering I have caused her.

8/15/43 - I too have a birthday, hope to be last one here in this Camp - Have worked last 22 days with no rest day.

8/22/43 - Received P.I. Red Cross food & Clothes.

8/28/42 Black Out tonight- Food prices jump sky high- Papsha-
P 1.00 peso each Eggs 25 each -

9/4/43 Camp conditions better -

9/6/43 - No 744 Name of Savage out 200 attempted excape and caught, Shot out at field all men had to witness it. His last words were "Tell them I died smiling.

9/8/43 - Today concludes a year in this camp. Time sure passed fast sick 4 days in all.

9/12/43 - Sunday day of rest-

9/17-43 - rain -

10/1/41 - More rain -

10/14/43 Philippines Independence given to them by the Japanese. Burma got hers few Months ago. Some Independence I can see the Japanese doing such a thing, food goes up chow smaller - Corn Beef - 82 pesos 2 lbs Hills Br Coffe 80 pesos Small can milk 8 pesos Pork Sausage 7 pesos Kelo Gallon states cooking oil - 100 pesos

9/21/43 - Jackson out Navy Badly injured sent to hospital - Chicken Wilson one of my best friends left me with a bad leg. Joshison took my razor or meskit knife out his wrists attempting to get out of here. Barella in Hospital with swollen feet. Some P.I. Red Cross food came in.

10/29/43 - Pay day is once a month - got P 4.05 - average of 15¢ day.

11/14/43 - Day of rest - Heard of Exchange ship returned - with parcels for us - I hope for mail. Quite a few men have left for Bilbid out of 800 once now 600 - 100 still sick,

Diary of Cpl Joseph J. Bandom (cont)

11/18/43 - 5 days rain 5 days rest - all surroundings areas under 1 ft. water, no chow - Hard tack and cold soup. No lights for 3 days.

11/19/43 Junior's Birthday - I miss him, But I still have a picture of him.

11/22/43 - A day of all days Today came in Red Cross food parcels. Butter - Cheese Milk 2 bars Candy 4 spam, 3 corn beef - 2 Coffee, 7 packs cigarettes - in 1 box we are supposed to get four of same.

12-6-43 - December - Rain Cold in Tropics believe it or not -

12/25/43 - Another Christmas in this camp and yet no Yanks - We got 2 - Box of Chow - had Boxing matches, songs music - No Chaplin - I made Cake for Christmas.

Jan - 1 - 44 - Received more gifts of fruit and Cookies, Candy Cloths, thanks to them.

Jan-6-44 - Another Red Cross food box - also got in plenty of medicine. B-1 - Sulf drugs - Seems funny no to go to sick call get something besides a few words and an asprine - or sympathy.

Jan 13 - 44 - Most men building revelements and completing west end of runway.

Jan-23-44- Another day of rest

Jan-10/44 Another Red Cross Box Got word from Timothy Smith.

Feb-22-44- During a span of a mans life something happens which you almost lose your life - I had the pleasure of pulling a Japanese Pilot out of his wrecked plane which crashed some 20 Yds from us - He was badly injured. The plane no more it lay in 3 parts

Feb-25-/44- Got another letter from Timothy Smith at Las Penas Detail. Got word of the Battery 70 out of 187 died 70 gone to Japan Choffin, Squan H. Tovato, J. Romero Wilcoxson, E. A. Chova Hays, Montoya, Padilla, Louis Romero, Dunneugan Noffke, Muller, Bohn Cata C. Gannon, Clements, Bohn Cata, Gannon H. Hudges, Johnson Klimpole, Kindle Joe Silva & Zender.

3/12/41 - Last of Red Cross boxes 1/Q of box per man - 2½ Pks Luckies-

March 15/44 So after 2 Yrs got parcels and letter from home - I can say I was never happier - Out of 600 in camp 450 got packages Hankerchiefs - shorts 2 shirts, tooth

Diary of Cpl Joseph J. Bandom (cont)

Brush Soap prunes candy socks, medicine, towel, fruit Cake-
all I really needed & got. Hope some day to repay all who
made this possible.

March-28-44- Letters from home - 14 letters in all - and all
is well. Can't express joy of words from home.

4/9/44- Easter Sunday and annaversitey of fall of Bataan.

5-7-44- Nothing much has happened Lately- work same but the
men are slacking down again, food is very scarce now. Eggs
P 1.10 each - Peanuts - 300 pesos Canteene cup. Our rice
ration smaller and nothing but goards in soup - no fish or
meat -

5/21/44- Sunday again, and thanks to God a day of rest.
Nothing much has happened to change this place. It has been
very hot and again pelegra and scurvy braking out on the
men. Are now getting shots for disentary, colerrea, typhoid.
Men are slowly slipping wearing themselves away.

5/28/44 We received red cross food and cloths today. Beans
peanuts, oil limes, candy, shoes, shirts pants.

6/6/44 News came in that we started at last our push across
the Channel, and our landings were a great success. Also our
troops pushed into Rome perhaps it is the beginning of the
end of Germany.

6/21/44 - The first time we have seen so many planes on
Nicholas field about 45 persuits, 8 large bombers and 6 trans-
ports. Rumor are we are fighting in Celebis and Central
Pacific Islands.

6/22/44 - Today we rested. Last night was our first true
black out. Planes are now patrolling the air, many army
tracks along highway, war seems to be coming to Philippines.
Rumors are, fighting in Maronias and landing on Guam - Big
sea battles and air.

6/29/44 - One of the men passed away tonight about 9:30.
Died of complete exaustion, Malnutrition in otherwords all
wore out.

6/30/44 - Another man passed out and is crazy, I think there
will be more & more, most of the men have that wild stare and
look like skeletons. What else can a man expect after 2 yrs
of Rice and fish soup.

7/5/44 - Two men were hurt today one seriously. 10 men went
to Bilibid all wore out too sick to work.

Diary of Cpl Joseph J. Bandon (cont)

7/10/44 - One of the boys got tired living today, so about 2:00 A.M. this morning he decided to go out of the compound, into the Japanese Galley, stealing chow - He had a bad reputation of stealing, 3rd offence already, Was shot at 6 P.M. same day, after having a Japanese court which sentenced him to death, his name (Peck.)

7/13/44 - 200 men left for Bilibid - more or less breaking this detail up. Most of the men that left were sick and not fit for work. Applegate left one of my best friends. This leaves us with about 345.

7/26/44 - Had a black out last night and no work today. The field has about 180 planes on it and more coming in. Clearing everything for action. The Yanks must be hitting something close by. These are not practice blackouts any more. The field is being made ready for action very soon.-

7/30/44 Received more letter from home, most were back dated Sept to April - 43 - others came of early part of 44 - 25 words, cards.

8/8/44 Mother's birthday again, hope she is happier this yr. than last, by now I miss her.

8/13/44 - 17 days of work and finally a day of rest - I mentioned one yr ago in this diary of food prices being sky high. Which proved how little I knew of how high food prices may go, during war and how valueless money can be, especially this Japanese Money.

One yr. ago	Eggs	.25 (ea)	Now	2.10
	Papaya	1.00	"	8.00
	Mungo beans	.35 cup	-	45.00 gunta
	Peanuts -	.50	-	50.00 "
	Coconuts -	.15	-	1.70
	limes 5 for 1 cnt.		-	5¢ (ea)
	Avocados --	.55	-	1.65

(etc)- -

Work has changed lately one day all trucks getting rocks, next continue on runaway. Now building underground caves, all indicating that the Japanese have felt the squeeze and are speeding up work out in field, they don't know which way to turn. The men are in bad condition. One yr. ago, I remember so well it was raining hard just at quitting time, we started running from the field and ran all way in. to Pasig, about 3 mile run. Now most of the men fall out just to run across the runaway about 50 yds. We are so rundown that all men are swelling from beriberi. Rice is Moldy, soup is nothing but goards in morning and noon, evening we may get about 20 lbs of pork, 8 squash a bushel of rotten comettes for 345 men - Pay is worth now, a Coconut -

Diary of Cpl Joseph J. Bandom (cont)

and some salt. smoking is something of past - These Japanese won't even give us a half chance to live.

8/15/44 - My day of birth - which I care little, but I know mother is thinking of me, so I to will think of her. This makes second birthday in this camp, 3 in concentration camp 4th in Army.

8/21/44 - Had quite a shakeup in camp - Opt. Smith and 3 other officers all going to work in gally or in Mess. which will put end to much of crooked work rice stealing and food stealing which was going to far -

8/31/41 Perhaps this, next to the day we are free will no doubt be the happiest days of my life. On the 31st of August about 3 in the afternoon we received word out in the field that our work in Nichols field had finally secured. After lacking 8 days of being 2 yrs of work. I can't express and no one will be able to tell the happiness of the men. So on the 1st of Sept. I shook the dust, bed bugs and all else, left Pasig for good. Leaving memories behind that have been printed on my mind, never to be forgotten as long as I live. We were placed in trucks and on afternoon of the 1st were in Bilibid Hospital. I was checked over and found to have the bug of disentry, placed in isolation ward. Separated from all my friends, but in a few weeks with good medicine will be back with them. Food is poor but we get plenty of vitimus and care.

Sept 21, 1944- Philippines received a all out air raid bombing which was a great success.

Sept 22, 1944 - Another raid, completely destroying all they wish to destroy. first American planes sighted on 21st 65 in formation, all objectives were dive bombed. 300 planes participated in raid. Our loses very few.

Sept, 23/44 Brought in 200 Limies who came from Signepore on board ship since June, were bombed just outside of Manila all lives lost except 200, which were brought to Bilibid.

Sept 30/44 24 hundred to leave on draft the 1st.

Oct - 11 - Plomteaux left for Japan on draft-

Oct - 15 - American planes again bomb Philippines - no opposition-

Dec.13-1944 Donati and many 200th GA left to Japan

CERTIFIED TRUE COPY:

Ruth H. Essary
RUTH H. ESSARY
Captain WAC