

P.S. W. K. I. - W. J. Hinke

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Folder 6

File: 999-2-11

Title: Diary

Origin: Lt W. J. Hinkle

Dates: 10 June 1942 ~~to~~ 14 Oct 44 Classification: None

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Extracted by *W. J. Hinkle* Date *9-2-45* Microfilmed *R[#] 81* Date _____

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ARCHIVES FILE NUMBER 999-2-11 _____

TITLE DIARY _____

ORIGIN LT W. J. HINKLE _____

DATES 10 JUNE 1942 to 14 OCTOBER 44 _____

AUTHENTICITY CERTIFIED COPY OF ORIGINAL DIARY _____

SOURCE UNKNOWN _____

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Extracted from Diary of
Lt. W. J. Hinkle
31st Infantry

Wednesday, Mar. 30th '43, DPC.

Supposed to be paid again today.

A Jap guard in a tower shot & killed Sgt. McAfee (M.C.) today in the other compound. Mac was digging camotes on the outside, had a poss, etc., & someone tossed him a canteen of water. The Jap guard says Mac was trying to get away - in broad daylight under the guard tower!! The duty bastard shot him 3 times, twice in the back, once in the chest. They didn't bring him to the hosp. but buried him right away. Mac was from Chicago & I knew him pretty well. Some day we'll even it up for you Mac. It was cold-blooded murder - no getting out of it; Mac was wearing only a pair of shorts & a pair of clackers" - no canteen; & going to escape! Nuts!

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Ruth H. Bessary
RUTH H. BESSARY
Capt Wac

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Extracted from the Diary of
1st Lt. Walter Hinkle
Infantry

Feb 16 - Today at 4:00 A.M. occurred the first death since Jan. 19, 1943. Pvt Evers died of Haemoplegia. Nothing was able to save him. He had many transfusions, & was given plasma a number of times.

Apparently the work in the rice-fields is going to stop as far as the Amerc's are concerned. They've brought the plows in & are now bringing in the carabao. Brought in 30 yest.

Well - a 30 man detail went to Davao today to unload the RC stuff, so I guess it's really true! Man, I hope so, I, & the rest of us, could sure go for some good canned chow. And gee - wouldn't it be swell to get some mail from the folks & Pete! But I suppose that's asking too much of our captors. Bastards!

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Infantry

June 10 - 1942
Impalutao, Mindanao, Force Gen. Hosp.

Became godfather of Sgt. Chas. Callahan, who was baptized by Father Houseman. Other sponsor was Miss M. Estrada, R. N. Charles desired to become Catholic, after he saw the courageous work of the priests during the war. A fine lad - good lyric writer. Later sent to Japan w/specialists # 35 Ridgeview, W. Va.

Monday, Sept. 22, 1941

Usual work today, & after 5 p. m., Capt Paul Wing (Shot & killed while trying to burn his car in Iloilo - sometime in April [1942] during invasion) pilot of IMAC, invited me for a flight over Iloilo in the Sikorsky S-43, which naturally, I took! It was the first time I'd seen the tropics from the air, & it was quite interesting to see the palm groves & the maize of rice paddies. Iloilo seems spread out all over the place! What really was beautiful was the very crimson sunset, with the mountains in the foreground - it was really a sight.

Wednesday, Sept. 30, '42. Mind.

280 Americans left Malaybalay today, including Charles Callahan. They were air mechanics, technicians & engineers. Suspect they are being taken to Japan. Good luck fellows - God keep you safe.

Wed. Nov. 4, 1942 - DFC.

About 1000 Amercs from Luzon arrived today, most in very bad shape. Terrible cases of malnutrition, beri-beri, (swollen, aching feet, swollen testicles), scurvy, dysentery, traucoma. Brought tales of terrible misery from Cabanatuan. Food there was pretty bad - very little salt, few vegetables, little fruit, no meat. Amercs treated each other like dogs - "Hell with you, buddy - I've got mine!!" Men w/money able to buy good food - but would not share it. Hosp. conditions reported as terrible. M. C. men were selling medicines to our men! This included Drs. & Corps men, who always were fat & healthy. Said 80 to 60 Amercs died every day in camp from malnutrition. Tommy Bush died this day. Newt Mathews killed in action. Hooker is here - looks like hell, beri beri, lost 70 lbs. Magee & Sneddon here too as are Al Wolfe, Irv Mandelson, Mark Goldstine, Gordy Myers, Art Holmes (full of gangrene). May I never again in my life be a witness to such a horribly pitiful sight, as is presented by this group of men who actually are skin & bones - who can barely walk, yet who are being forced to work - who are acidly bitter toward the world & who just don't give a damn any more.
We've moved to the "hosp"

Diary of 1st Lt. Walter Hinkle, cont'd

Sunday, Dec. 6, '42 - DFC

Went to mass.

Have been chiseling milk from Jim Campbell, diluting it heavily & putting some on rice. In this way, I can eat plenty of rice - I can't stomach the banana blossoms, cassava & camotes etc! In return, I give Jim a cigarette or butt whenever I get any.

Got a ripe papaya today & 3 tangerenes. Upon opening the papaya, discovered many "wormy inhabitants!!!" However - this was a minor detail - merely scraped out the worms & went ahead, & it was a delicious papaya. A year ago, I would have become sick to my stomach at the sight of the worms - but, war, & lack of good things to eat does amazing things to a man.

Monday Dec. 7, '42 DFC

Mr. Honda brought me 6 eggs today. Jim will scramble 4, & we'll split. The other 2 will be hard boiled for me.

Dentist looked my teeth over & said they're in good shape. A few very minor "creases", but he's not going to fix 'em here.

Tues. Dec. 8, '42 DFC

Lt. Schnyles, 200th C.A. Died at noon today of heart failure; Had an abscess in his throat.

Tuesday, Dec. 14, '43 DFC

100 man detail to leave today for? Col. Colvard going w/ them. J. issued us; each, 1 G-string, 1 "Guest Size" Kolykos tooth paste, some toilet "tissue". The above detail did leave, under supervision of J. Navy. Perhaps they'll be treated better & get better chow - the Navy has a better reputation for this anyway.

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Extracted from the Diary of
1st Lt. Walter Hinkle
Infantry

Sept. 24 - 8:27 a.m. - A. R. Alarm. - 10:15 a.m. Temp. "All Clear"
- Last nite 200 British & Dutch POW were brought in. They are survivors out of about 1200 POW who were on Jap. Ship heading for Nippon. About 90 miles out of here, hugging shore, w/convoy when US dive-bombers came over. Sunk 2 Cruisers & the POW Ship. (Un-marked Ship). About 1,000 POW lost, rest picked up by Jps. fishing boats. Then planes strafed fish boats (next day) & many of the POW were wounded. They say that about 500 of the POW were paralyzed w/ dysentery anyway. (This gang has been lying in the bay since July!!)
- Went to Mass. Confession & Communion.
- Learned that Peralta has been active w/63rd Inf guerillas on Panay. Radio contact w/Australia too!)

Sept. 26 - 1:25 p. m. - Secure.
News - Philippine Islands declare war on US!! Pres. Laurel w/ok of Cabinet declare war because of b'bing Manila & because Iloilo, Samar, Leyte & Cebu were again worked over, & because Legaspi had been b'b'd & sh'd.

- Mip paper says US has 15 carriers "believed" to be operating off of Mindoro! Jeepers, not far!
- I was to be operated on tomorrow or Friday, but now an order has come out that only absolute emergencies will be done, so's to keep the no. of disabled down to a min. Dr. Langdon says if things stay quiet for a little while, he may try & have the order modified so I can go in.

Sept. 27. - "Alert" Alarm in afternoon - Now secure.

Sept. 28. - Wrote & signed Post Cards to folks today, but fully expect to get home before cards do! Msg. was "Everything fine. Rec'd radio-gram - chins up, don't worry now. Saw Health - "Excel."

Friends of John Powell. Morale High. Regards All. Love to you & Bileen, from "Walter J. Hinkle".

- Find myself hoping it stays quiet for a while, so's I can have operation.

Sept. 30 - It seems they're getting ready to move out the drafts! We'll see.

- The news of importance in this: we begin, today, having 2 meals a day! At 8 a.m & 3 p.m. Reason - shortage of wood for fires in galley. No cut in rations.

Pay Paid P35

October 1st. - One of the drafts pulled out today at 3:00 p.m. About 665 men left to board ship, presumably for Japan. They're to go to Lubang, by barge, & then get on ship from there. Gee - it's a funny feeling to say "so long" to your friends & realize that they may not reach their destination, but may be killed by bombs & guns from our planes! We hope & pray they have a safe voyage - at the same time we hope our forces are very near at hand. The feelings associated with this parting have been very complex in this respect.

Diary of 1st Lt. Walter Hinkle, cont'd

- The other draft (Doc Davis') is rumored to leave day after tomorrow.
- Our 2 meal a day program is no good. You can't tell me we're getting as much to eat now as we did for 3 meals. All of us are sure we've had a cut of 1/3. Firewood shortage surely can't be the reason.

Oct. 4 - No news, just very cool weather & almost steady rain. Stump's been giving me lots of trouble & haven't been sleeping well.

- On the 2nd a number of officers came in from Las Pinas. Among them was (is) Al Lawhon who came over w/me on USAT., W. We were together in "E" Co, 31st, & good friends. He looks good & feels pretty well. Had a long chat w/him last nite & we had a good time going over our Manila memories. Al rec'd a flesh wound in calf of leg in Bataan; doesn't bother him now tho'.

Oct. 7th - Haven't kept up diary last few days. Haven't felt very much like writing. Not getting much sleep nites, & little chance of making it up during day-

- On Oct. 5th, had inspection by Dr. Nogi. His inspections usually precede a move. what????)

- Yest. received 2 more letters from Mom & Dad! Both dated Jan. 44. (Old mail dugout of dark corner!)

- About 10 cases of bacillary dysentery of some sort here in SOQ. Hope it gets under control.

Oct. 10th - A draft of 150 off. & to E.M. in from Cab't'n. yesterday. 200 more to come today. All to join present Japan draft & do leave Wed. or Thurs. Also, 88 Navy corpsmen, 3 Drs, & 1 Phrm. going. Further, dope has it that Army is to take over Bilibid after draft leaves. If this is true, & I fear it is, this will no longer be a pleasant place, because our Army medics can't hold a candle to the Navy, in attitude, discipline, appearance, industry. Anyway, I'm not looking forward to the change.

- My IJA boy says "Patients stay here. After fighting all finish here - patients still here." (Good-hope his right!).

- Russ Patterson (Evanston, & RRC Ft. Sher.) came in from Cab't'n & we had quite a get-together. Looks good. Glenn Wohler in too. Gave me letter & papers to try to get thru for him.

- Yes - the Corpsmen (88) from here are going. The 3 best ones from our ward except. CK. Fast (~~the~~ duty) he stays. The 2 left are "dupas", slupid as hell!

Wed. Oct. 11 - Well - the draft (1800 men) left today at 1:00 p.m., Japan bound. I sure got tears in my eyes when I said "good-bye" to Doc Davis. That really hurt. Roy Gray went too. (14 out of our ward. Hated to see him go especially.) All the "good-byes" went to the core of my heart, for I kept thinking - "Will they make it? Will I ever see them alive again?" So many friends on this draft - Col Deter, Maj. Davis, Dr. Osborne, Dr. Rader, Al Lawhon, Russ Patterson, Glen Wohler, Roy Gray, Dennis Shea, I. H. "Andy" Anderson, H. "Jughead" Byrd, Jim Dobbs, Jack Jenkins. Good luck, & God guide & bless all of you.

Diary of 1st Lt. Walter Hinkle, cont'd

Oct. 12 - Thoughts were with Dziadzia today, & so many happy memories came back to me.

- We've been on "alert" since yesterday aft. Much IJA air activity, too.

- Oh, Oh - 247 officers came in today from Cabanatuan. Another draft in the making. So many friends on this on, & more are coming tomorrow & following days. Maj. Howard Fahl, (Capt. Fahl of "G" Co.) is here & it was great to see him again after 3 years. (3 yrs!!) He looks thinner but well. Says "Ev" (his wife) has been living in Mex. City & likes it there. Others I have seen of this group today include, Cols. Thayer, Greathouse, Maj's Coe, ~~thers~~, Mandelson, Utke, "Poppy" Knowles, Fred Roth, & lots more. Looks fairly well, however.

Oct. 14 - At midnite last nite another draft of officers arrived. A lot more friends in this one. McNair, Bill Prickett, Speck, Thayer, Utke, Magee, Burlando, Padre Houseman. Took some coffee over to Mc & Bill. Mc tells stories of cliques & graft at Cab't'n. Graft on corn issue, e.g. They're all hoping for another raid to occur, to keep them from going to Japan. Each draft thru here has had this hope, & it has been ours too. Golly, we ought to get a raid sometime again. Visitors over all day, same stories over & over, but it's been like old home. We went to Mass this a.m.

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