

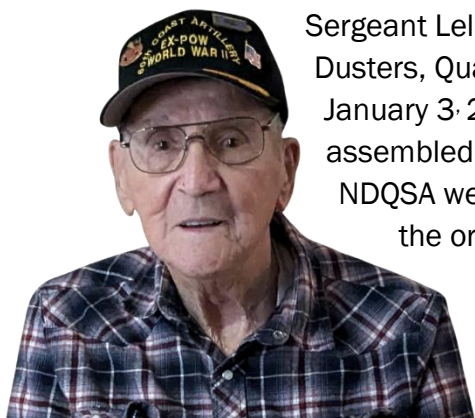
Leland Chandler

World War II Veteran

60th Coast Artillery Corregidor

Japanese Prisoner of War

Honorary Member



Sergeant Leland Chandler is an honorary member of the National Dusters, Quads & Searchlights Association (NDQSA) and as of January 3, 2025, he was 102 years old. This is a scrapbook assembled in honor of Chandler to preserve his legacy on the NDQSA website for posterity. Sergeant Leland Chandler was one of the original 'First to Fire' air defenders of Corregidor. For six months he fought against the onslaught of Japanese aircraft and used his three-inch anti-aircraft artillery gun in a direct fire role to sink enemy barges assaulting the island. Eventually Chandler and his fellow artillerymen were reduced to close-quarters battle and even hand-to-hand combat with the enemy until ordered to surrender. Taken to Osaka, Japan on one of the infamous "Hell Ships", he endured 3 1/2 years as a POW suffering disease, starvation, and extreme cruelty until released at the end of the war. Of the 400 men sent to Osaka only 53 survived. He is one of only a handful of living veterans with three Presidential Unit Citations. We are honored to tell his story.

Editor: Richard Burmood

NDQSA Newsletter Article January 2025 (extracted)

The following article was written by Vila Gingerich and published in the Jamesport Missouri Tri-County Weekly on December 04, 2024. She has given NDQSA permission to use it. Her article has been edited for space and our pictures have been added to complete the story. Our website (<https://ndqsa.com>) has this scrapbook telling more of Chandler's story. It contains more pictures of his visit to Fort Sill and expands on his wartime story with historical information about the battle of Corregidor and the Osaka POW Camp #3-D where he was incarcerated.

Engraved Bench Purchased in Honor of Veteran and Former POW Leland Chandler

By Vila Gingerich — Jamesport Tri-County Weekly — December 04, 2024

On Saturday, Leland Chandler traveled from his home in Galesburg, Illinois, to the Country Heritage Furniture store in Jamesport. The purpose of the visit was to receive an engraved maple bench dedicated in his honor, a bench which will be moving on to its permanent home in the Air Defense Artillery Museum at Fort Still, Oklahoma. Chandler, who turns 102 next month, was accompanied by his daughter Lynn Woodworth and his son Alan Chandler and wife Memory.

Rick Liebendorfer of Lock Springs, veteran of the Air Defense Artillery and the NDQSA (National Dusters, Quads, & Searchlights Association), helped arrange the purchase of the bench. He and Steve Hostetler, owner of Country Heritage Furniture, were on hand to meet Mr. Chandler and listen to his stories.

Leland Chandler was born January 3, 1923, in central Illinois. He enlisted in the Army in 1941, at the age of 18, volunteering for the Coastal Artillery, now known as the Air Defense Artillery. He was sent to the Philippines, where he served as a crewman on a 3-inch anti-aircraft gun M3 with H Battery, 60th Coast Artillery, on the sandy beaches of Corregidor Island.

“When we got off the boat, the American dependents were getting on,” Chandler recalls. “The women and children were being evacuated from the island. We knew that meant we’d soon be fighting the Japanese.”

After the bombing of Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1942, Chandler’s division faced months of combat from Japanese aircraft. The Japanese eventually landed on Corregidor Island, and hand-to-hand combat began. On May 6, 1942, the American and Filipino forces were outnumbered and forced to surrender. Chandler, then 19, was taken to Japan as a prisoner of war with the rest of the surviving military personnel and forced to work in a steel mill camp in Osaka.

Chandler and the other POWs spent the next 3½ years as captives, working twelve-hour days in order to receive a daily handful of rice. “After that, I never wanted to see rice again,” Chandler declares with a laugh and a shudder.

The guards forced the prisoners to speak Japanese, or risk punishment. “My number was 385,” Chandler says, then repeats the number in Japanese. “It took me a while to catch on that every time someone fell out of line, everybody’s number changed. The guards slapped

me around when I used the wrong number, so when I finally caught on what was happening, I learned real fast how to count in Japanese!”

Due to hard work, grueling conditions, and little food, the number of prisoners kept dwindling. Chandler’s weight dropped to under 90 pounds. One night, he was awakened by the sound of a voice speaking.

“I thought it was the guard telling us it was time to get to work,” he says. “But then I knew the Good Lord had sent an angel down to tell me I would make it out of there.” After that, Chandler held onto the hope of someday going home.

One day an American B-52 bomber flew over. “These guys had never seen one,” Chandler’s daughter Lynn says. “And when the bomb bays opened up, they thought they were getting bombed by their own people.” Instead, the bomber dropped barrels of fruit cocktail, clothes, and chocolate. “They kept the Hershey chocolate and gave the ex-lax chocolate to the guards,” Lynn says, laughing. “The guards didn’t know what ex-lax was, but the Americans sure did. Dad says they didn’t see a guard around for three days!”

Japan surrendered to the Allies on September 2, 1945, thus ending World War II, and Chandler and the other POWs were liberated. “Out of 400 POWs,” Chandler says, “Only 53 of us came out.”

They made their way north to where they knew American troops were stationed. When they arrived, a band was playing “California, Here We Come.” “That was the first contact we had with America in four years,” Chandler says.

The newly liberated soldiers were able to send telegrams home to their families. Chandler’s parents had been informed of his capture and his release, and they received an occasional form letter from the camp, but this was the first time they had heard from him personally.

Eventually the group was sent home to the States, traveling on a destroyer that was not equipped for such a large group of starving passengers. “We started to run out of food and water,” Chandler says. “So they really had to push it hard to make it to Hawaii.”

Once home in Illinois, Chandler met and married a young lady named Ruth. He was told he would not be able to father children, due to injuries inflicted by the Japanese guards. “I have three boys and two girls,” he says. “I proved them people wrong.”

Chandler’s daughter Lynn looks across at her father and smiles. “Growing up with this man has been nothing but an adventure,” she says. “We have always camped, traveled—we even lived in Turkey for two years—and we’ve lived a full life.”

After honorable discharge from the Army, Chandler worked as a firefighter until his retirement.

Chandler had long wanted to visit the home of the Air Defense Artillery, formerly the Coastal Artillery, in which he had served. In August 2024, he traveled to Fort Sill with his wife, three of his children, and several grandchildren.



ADA School visit by Leland Chandler, WW War II veteran Aug 12, 2024

During this visit, the family donated Chandler's service mementos to the Fort Sill museum. The memorabilia included Chandler's service dress uniform; awards and decorations, including a Bronze Star and two Purple Hearts; and a scrapbook made by his mother and aunt throughout the years of his service and capture. The family also donated the telegrams his parents received from the Army when Chandler was captured and liberated.

"We knew it would be far too hard to try to divide Dad's stuff up between all of us children," his daughter Lynn says. "We all agreed it wouldn't be right to split it up, so we decided to keep it all together and donate it to the museum." The staff at Fort Sill were delighted to get the artifacts. "I shook hands with ten generals that day," Chandler says. "And they all asked questions." "Everywhere we went," Lynn says, "they were coming out of the offices, they were coming down the halls, standing out there wanting to shake his hand."



3-inch anti-aircraft gun M3 with crew-ADA museum Fort Sill, OK
This is the same weapon system Leland Chandler served on in Corregidor

While touring the museum, Chandler and his daughter noticed there was no place to rest. Four of the Chandler children — Ann Duff, Alan and Memory Chandler, Lynn and Gordon Woodworth, and Andy and Julie Chandler—decided to purchase a special bench in their father's name, which will make tours of the Fort Sill Museum more doable for visitors with mobility issues.

Rick Liebendorfer heard about the honor bench during a board meeting of the Air Defense Artillery Association. He told the other board members that he knew of a furniture store in his area that might be able to help. He contacted Steve Hostetler, and soon the bench was ordered and delivered to Country Heritage Furniture in Jamesport, Missouri.

Chandler still lives alone and cooks his own meals, with one of the children checking in on him every day. “The doctors say my heart isn’t good,” he says, “that I could go at any time. So I just keep on living my life naturally.”



Chandler presented with his NDQSA Honorary Membership Certificate by Rick Liebendorfer



He is the last survivor of the 60th Coastal Artillery and one of the last survivors of the of ex-POWs from Bataan and Corregidor. He'll turn 102 on January 3. “I’ve had a good life,” Chandler affirms. “I was married to a good lady for 75 years. I have great children who look out for me. I think I’ve done okay.”

Leland Chandler has done more than just okay. From a young man who felt the call to serve his country, to a POW who never lost hope, to a father who gave his kids a full and adventurous life, Chandler has inspired many to live their best lives.

Some additional pictures from that day.



Leland with three of his family and the SGT Leland Chandler Memorial Bench



Chandler's NDQSA Honorary Membership Certificate, a coin, and the DQS red hat



Chandler and NDQSA Rick Liebendorfer



Chandler with NDQSA Certificate

Leland Chandler visit to the Air Defense Artillery School and the ADA Learning Center on August 12, 2024

The ADA Commandant and Chief of the Air Defense Artillery posted on their Facebook page, 13 August 2024 "Yesterday, was a privilege and an honor as we met and listened to former POW, SGT Leland Chandler, World War II veteran, talk about his time in Japan and the many challenges he faced during his three years as a prisoner of war. Mr. Chandler is one of the original 'First to Fire' Air Defenders who refused to lay down their arms until given a general order in the Philippines. This is the origin of our branch motto, which every ADA Soldier learns early on. He is the living embodiment of our branch heritage.

Original Army Air Defender visits Fort Sill at 101-years-old

By Keith Pannell August 14, 2024



Leland Chandler, center, a 101-year-old veteran of the World War Two Battle of Corregidor, with the 4th Battalion, 60th Coastal Artillery, poses in front of a painting by Don Stivers, *First to Fire* scene from that battle with Col. Glenn Henke, right, Air Defense Artillery Commandant and Command Sgt. Maj. Giancarlo Macri, Air Defense Artillery Command Sgt. Major, during Chandler's visit Aug. 12, 2024. (Amber Osei)

Leland Chandler, 101-years-old, wanted to see the home of Air Defense Artillery Aug. 12. Col. Glenn Henke, Air Defense Artillery Commandant, was happy to play host and talked with Chandler in the commandant's office.

"Mr. Chandler is one of the original 'First to Fire' Air Defenders who refused to lay down their arms until given a general order in the Philippines," Henke said. "This is the origin of our branch motto, which every ADA Soldier learns early on. He is the living embodiment of our branch heritage."

Like many 18-year-olds, when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor in 1941, Chandler felt the call to serve his country. So, the young man from Table Grove, Illinois joined the Army.

But Chandler knew he didn't want to be in the infantry, so he volunteered for the Coastal Artillery, the precursor to today's Air Defense Artillery.

"I had a friend who went to basic training at Chanute Air Force Base in Illinois. But it was cold there," Chandler said. "The Army guy told me there was one other opening, but it was in the Philippines, and I said, 'I'll go there!'"

Chandler was stationed on the island of Corregidor as part of H Battery, 60th Coastal Artillery, where he received a quick basic training and then trained on the M3 3-inch anti-aircraft guns that lined the sandy beaches.

"When we got off that ship, the American dependents were in line to board our ship, as a sergeant told us we would be fighting the Japanese soon," he remembered.

After bombing Pearl Harbor, the Japanese overran Guam and set their sights on the Philippine Islands. Corregidor is the largest island that guards Manila Bay. Chandler and his battle buddies knew a fight was coming.

"The Japanese pilots knew how high our 3-inch shells could go, so we never reached them those first few days," Chandler remembered. "Then a submarine showed up with new shells and we shot down seven planes in one day!"

Once the Japanese landed on Corregidor, Chandler and his fellow artillerymen engaged in close-quarters, hand-to-hand combat with the enemy.

"They would fall down like they had been shot and then shoot us in the back when we passed by," he said. "Our captain told us to bayonet each body we found."

However, history shows Japanese troops, using heavy artillery and Naval bombardment, forced the surrender of the remaining American and Filipino forces May 6, 1942. The surviving military personnel were taken prisoner.

Chandler and the rest of the surviving coastal artillery Soldiers were made to collect the dead, cremating the Japanese and burying the Americans. Then, they were shipped to the

Japanese mainland on what the Americans called “Hell Ships,” packed so tightly they could hardly move.

“They housed us in Osaka, in a steel mill,” he said. “They told us if their mainland was bombed, they would kill us all.”

Chandler said they endured starvation, beatings and torture. He has the scars to show for it.

Then, one day a silver American B-29 Superfortress bomber roared over and the prisoners were gobsmacked because they had been captive three-and-a-half years and had never seen a B-29.

“The bomb bay doors opened, and we thought our own guys were going to bomb us,” Chandler laughed. “But they dropped metal barrels that held dried food, clothing and Hershey candy bars. The guards were on the other side of the fence, and they didn’t like us eating the candy bars because now they were the ones with no food.”

Chandler and his fellow prisoners were liberated in August 1945 after Japan’s surrender. He admits to having animosity toward the Japanese people for about three years. Then, one day, he went to church with his new bride, Ruth, and the pastor preached forgiveness.

“I stood up and I said, ‘I forgive the Japanese. It’s over with, I don’t want to hear any more about it. It’s done.’”

Mistreatment by Japanese guards left Chandler with numerous injuries and doctors told him he wouldn’t be able to father children. However, in true Leland fashion, he and Ruth have five children and "dozens" of grandchildren, several of who joined him on the trip to Fort Sill.

In 2015, Chandler and eight other former prisoners of war participated in the Sixth American POW Delegation to Japan. During the visit, Chandler and the other former prisoners shared their stories with the Japanese representatives and engaged in discussions about the importance of reconciliation between former adversaries.

“It’s absolutely critical for Soldiers to understand the history that shaped the ADA branch,” Henke summed. “Leland’s story as both a World War II Air Defender and POW survivor remind our Soldiers of the heavy price paid by those who came before us. His will to survive his experience and continue to serve America following the war should be sources of inspiration.”

NDQSA link to the U.S. Army article of this visit: <https://www.army.mil/article/278918>

Some additional pictures from that day.



Walking with Dave Christensen, Air Defense Artillery Branch Historian and his staff in Snow Hall



Meeting some of the ADA school staff with Correy Twilley, Curator of the ADA Training Support Facility in the background



Talking with Col. Glenn Henke, Air Defense Artillery Commandant in his office.



Discussing Corregidor and the 60th Coast Artillery in the ADA Training Support Facility lab and classroom



Leland and his family visit the ADA Training Support Facility and Museum



Richard Russell of NDQSA saying goodbye to Leland at the end of the visit

More pictures of Chandler's visit to Fort Sill August 13, 2024, are also on The official Facebook page of the Air Defense Artillery Commandant and Chief, ADA School, Ft. Sill, OK <https://www.facebook.com/AirDefenseArtillerySchool/posts/pfbid0DJCEwNGHfEgCNBYqAhU1CdEimDMWdqkxwQYLBZshQVBJT9iYvBTrCsUKr1MHRBCU>

Caution to Readers

- The above two scrapbook accounts of Leland Chandler's are of visits to places he wanted to be and accompanied by his family. They are pleasant and uplifting.
- What follows is an earlier interview that is darker in relation to his treatment as a POW.
- The scrapbook will then provide some historical relevance to the battle of Corregidor, the American forces surrender, the Japanese Hell Ships transport to Japan, and the Prisoner of War camp where he was interned for over three years.
- Leland Chandler's personal experiences may or may not have been these, and for that we should rely on his words in his interviews. They are historically relevant to his wartime experience and his conditions of imprisonment because we can find him on the POW roster with his fellow ADA unit members.
- Short extracts and source links are provided for military researchers.

Veterans Day a time to remember

Tom Loewy - The Galesburg Registered-Mail

November 12, 2014



Leland Chandler survived three-and-a-half years in a prisoner of war camp

We carve monuments of stone, fly flags and watch parades, all in the attempt to honor soldiers.

That inscribed marble, fluttering red, white and blue, and those who stand to cheer also serve as a stark reminder of a basic horror. Though none of us want to admit it from afar, war is inhumane.

War is insanity.

But for one veteran, days like Tuesday are important no matter what they might symbolize.

“Veterans Day, Memorial Day, those days are good,” Leland Chandler said Tuesday. “I think they should be federal holidays — both of them. I don’t think our people do enough to honor our veterans.

“If you drive up and down Henderson Street today, half the businesses are open. Do they do that to honor veterans or just to make a little more money?”

Chandler saw most of World War II from inside a prisoner of war work camp in Osaka, Japan. The 91-year-old spent three-and-a-half years cutting steel and trying to learn Japanese and struggling to survive.

His journey to the Yodogawa Steel Mill started when he enlisted in the U.S. Army Feb. 3, 1941.

“I was 19 years old and it was one month to the day after my birthday,” Chandler said. “My mother had to sign off on my going in. I was in the 60th Coast Artillery.

“That day I got a train ticket to California. Three days after I got there my name was on the bulletin board and I was sent to the Philippines. Back in those days, we didn’t have boot camp or training or anything.”

By December 1941 Chandler was on Corregidor Island at the entrance to Manilla Bay.

“I remember Thanksgiving Day – November 28 and we were all just sitting down to eat when the general alarm sounded. The Japanese fleet was on the move and we were sure they were going to attack us.

“They sailed on by and kept sailing. It was part of the attack on Pearl Harbor in Hawaii.”

The Japanese attacked Corregidor on Dec. 20, 1941.

“General Jonathan Wainright had taken over command of the Allied forces from Douglas MacArthur – and he told us we could eat full rations and he was honest with us. He told us no one was coming to help us and we had to hold Corregidor for as long as we could.

“We repulsed the first two attacks. And on the third one we were outnumbered 100 to one. We held out until May 6, 1942. That was the day we surrendered.”

For two days Chandler and his fellow soldiers piled dead Japanese soldiers for cremation.

“We smiled as we did it,” Chandler said. “It didn’t bother us. We smiled because they were the enemy and they had been trying to kill us.

“And they were terribly mean to us.”

Some 40 nurses were taken prisoner with the remaining American soldiers on Corregidor. They were lined up, raped and brutalized in front of the POWs.

“I will never forget the sight of that,” Chandler said. “Those nurses could have left that island before the surrender. But they stayed with us. They stayed and that is what happened to them.

Chandler and the other POWs were first taken to Manilla.

“The Japanese marched us down Dewey Boulevard in Manilla and all along the way the Japanese soldiers murdered every single pregnant Filipino woman,” Chandler recalled. “They said they carried the babies of American soldiers.”

From Manilla, Chandler was transferred to Cabanatuan Camp No. 1.

“They sorted out the healthiest of us and transferred to Cabanatuan Camp No. 2,” Chandler said. “Then they lined us up and took about 1,000 of us on to Cabanatuan Camp No. 3.

“There they put us on a ship for Japan. We were kept in the hold with the livestock.”

The ship was bound for Japan, where roughly 36,000 POWs were imprisoned during the war.

“We had to stay in Formosa on that ship for three days,” Chandler said. “U.S. subs were out sinking those ships. They were unmarked and the U.S. only knew they were headed back to Japan. We sunk a lot of those ships.”

It is estimated 11,000 POWs were killed in the sub raids on unmarked Japanese ships.

Once in Japan, Chandler was taken to Osaka. He was then one of 400 men selected to work in the Yodogawa Steel Mill.

Chandler was prisoner No. 386

“If you didn’t work, you didn’t eat,” he said. “And if you couldn’t learn Japanese, they cut out your tongue. They beat you until you learned how to speak to them. We worked 12 hours every day.

“I broke my arm working and the men I worked with covered for me so I could still eat and recover.”

Chandler said he never wished he died on Corregidor.

“I got to that camp and I decided I wanted to live,” he said. “My father had carried a small Bible with him during World War I and my grandmother gave that to me. I hid it and kept it and I read it whenever I could.”

Of the 400 men who went into the Yodogawa Steel Mill in 1942, just 52 lived long enough to walk out of the prison on Sept. 10, 1945. Chandler weighed 85 pounds when he left the work camp.

The camp, Chandler later learned, was owned by the Mitsubishi Corporation.

“After the atomic bombs were dropped in August, no one came for us,” Chandler said. “The guards first stopped carrying guns. Then they stopped carrying clubs. Then, one day, they

just never showed up. We confiscated a train because we heard Yokohama had been liberated. We had just one engine and couldn't get through the mountains.

"Eventually another engine came and we went into Yokohama Station and couldn't stop until we hit a retaining wall. Luckily, none of the POWs were killed.

In 1946 Chandler found himself in a hospital in Galesburg trying to recover. He met his wife, Ruth, in town. They will celebrate 66 years of marriage Dec. 4. Four of his grandsons have done tours of duty in Iraq or Afghanistan. Or both.

"When we were liberated, I hated the Japanese," he said. "I struggled with that for a long time. I went to church and listened to ministers talk about forgiveness. But I remember working on a fire base and telling my driver to run over a man because he was Japanese.

"It took me about 25 years. And finally I said 'That's it.' I couldn't hate anymore. I decided to forgive and today I have no ill feelings."

Time has healed some of his wounds, but taken the men he knew in the steel mill.

"Of the six guys I worked with, I'm the last one," he said. "We used to write and then we tried to stay in contact with their wives. They are all gone now.

"And I'm pretty sure, of the 52 men I walked out of that camp with, I'm the last one. And I want to share my memories of what I saw. That's why I think Veterans Day is important."

Tom Loewy is a reporter/columnist for The Register-Mail. Contact him at tloewy@register-mail.com or 343-7181, ext. 256. Follow him on Twitter @TomLoewy

Veterans Day a time to remember – 2014 Interview with Leland Chandler

<https://www.galesburg.com/story/news/2014/11/12/tom-loewy-veterans-day-time/35956742007/>

Interview by Tom Loewy of The Register-Mail November 12, 2014

Historical Material — The Siege of Corregidor

The Siege of Corregidor by Louis Morton

https://corregidor.org/chs_army/morton_01.htm

Wainwright Papers - The Moore Report Part A

Organization of the Coast Artillery in the Philippines

https://corregidor.org/chs_moorerpt/moore1.htm#1AA

Both are excellent collections of military information and timelines

History battle report of Battery 'H' 60th coast artillery (A. A.)

by Capt. Warren A. Starr

https://corregidor.org/ca/btty_hartford/hartford_2.htm

Describes the positioning and actions of

Leland Chandler's AA Battery – H/60th Coast Artillery

The United States Coast Artillery of Manila and Subic Bay

https://corregidor.org/btty_histories/control/open.htm

Corregidor – A well-developed website of heritage records,
personal stories, unit histories, and other archived material.

This website is privately supported by

The Corregidor Historic Society,

The 503d PRCT Heritage Battalion

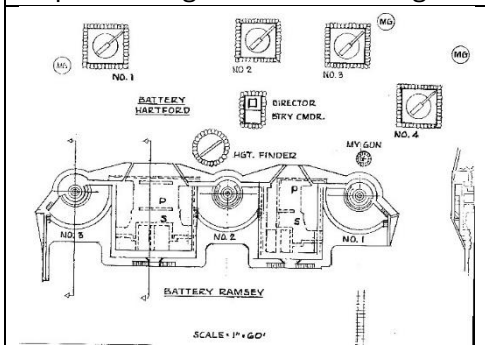
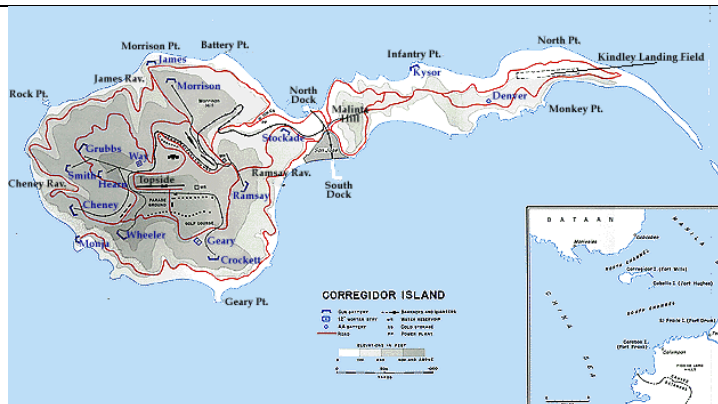
and a group of like-minded individuals

who believe that websites are the

History and Heritage Resources of the Future.



Artist Don Stivers, *First to Fire*
Depict 3" AA gun crew on Corregidor



Battery 'H' / 60th coast artillery
emplacement



Corregidor looking west – note elevation



3-inch antiaircraft gun M3 crew



60th Artillery Regiment insignia

Chandler scrapbook extract

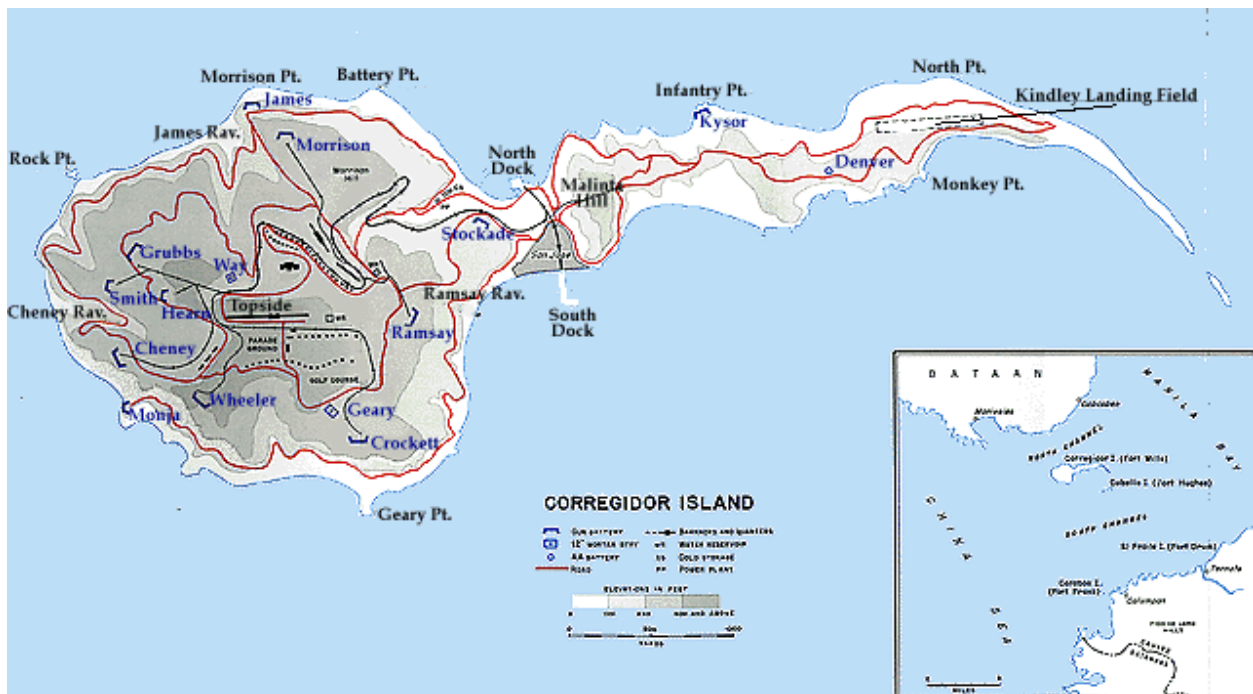
The Harbor Defenses of Manila and Subic Bays: The Harbor Defenses of Manila and Subic Bays consisted of four fortified islands (Corregidor, Caballo, El Fraile, and Carabao) at the entrance of Manila Bay and one fortified Island (Grande) at the entrance of Subic Bay. Headquarters of the Harbor Defenses was located at Fort Mills on Corregidor.

Personnel: The troops assigned to the Harbor Defenses of Manila and Subic Bays prior to the war consisted of approximately 150 officers, 2000 American enlisted men and 1200 Philippine Scouts. These were divided among four Coast Artillery regiments and Harbor

Defense Headquarters, Military Police, Ordnance, Medical, Quartermaster, Chemical Warfare, and Engineer detachments.

Antiaircraft: Antiaircraft equipment consisted of 3-inch guns with a vertical range of 27,000 and 32,000 feet (depending on the type of ammunition used), .50-caliber machine guns, and 60-inch Sperry searchlights. Defending Corregidor from air attack were 24 of these 3-inch guns, 48 machine guns and 5 searchlights. Another battery of 3-inchers was emplaced on the southern tip of Bataan to tie in with these on Corregidor. Ammunition for the antiaircraft weapons was less plentiful than that for the seacoast guns, and there was a critical shortage of mechanically fuzed 3-inch high explosive shells. Late in 1941 two radio direction finding sets were received. Anti-aircraft war plans provided for an area defense which included the four fortified islands of Manila Bay and the southern tip of Bataan.

Corregidor: One regiment, the 60th CA (American), manned antiaircraft weapons while the other three, the 59th CA (American), 91st CA (PS), and the 92d CA (PS), manned seacoast artillery batteries. This number of personnel was insufficient to provide complete manning detail for all the armaments and no troops were available for beach defense except by dual assignment of the Coast Artillery. The state of training of these troops was excellent.



Battery 'H' of the 60th coast artillery (A. A.) – This is Leland Chandler's unit

On November 28, 1941 At 7:30 P.M., received orders from the Battalion Commander to move to field alert position at Battery Ramsay. We were to move the gun position and men to a field camp in the near vicinity of Battery Ramsay; be prepared to fire for effect; and for noon mess in the field at noon of the following day, Nov. 29th. This move was made. The

gun battery was moved and placed in firing position, occupying a position on, and in front of, parapet of Battery Ramsay; the men moved to living quarters in pyramidal tents at the south end of the Ramsay parapet; and the field kitchen located at the east side of the Middleside incinerator. We were in position; guns oriented, synchronized, ready for instant action; and noon mess served at noon of the 29th.

Battery Ramsay, 6" D.C. Seacoast Gun Position, was not manned and was not to be used in the immediate future. The Director and Height Finder were located on the Parapet; the four 3-inch guns located in a shallow, half-moon line immediately along the edge of the cliff of Ramsay ravine and in front of the parapet of Battery Ramsay. The guns were well camouflaged by a covering of low brush of the same height. The parapet of Ramsay was clear of brush and necessitated camouflage to cover operations in the area.

Four .30 calibre machine guns were installed, one at either end of the line of guns; and two, one at either end of the parapet, camouflaged in the edge of the low brush. The power plant unit was emplaced below ground level on the edge of Ramsay cliff. Protecting walls to guns and equipment were built above the ground, as the ground was very stony, and frequent large boulders prevented excavation below ground level. Director and Height Finder were protected by two rows of sand bags, shoulder high, surrounded by a row of dirt-filled powder cans, and the whole sloped to the outside ground level with dirt fill. The 3-inch guns were protected by a dirt wall three feet in thickness and six and one-half feet in height, encircling the guns and allowing sufficient room for operation of the piece. These walls were built over the end sections of the spider-mount out-riggers.

December 7, 1941, received a flash message that Pearl Harbor had been raided by the Japanese; that a state of war existed with Japan; and that we should be prepared for instant battle action. We had been on full time alert status since November 29th, by order of the Harbor Defense Commander.

May 6, 1941, at 11:20 A.M., orders were received from Battalion headquarters to destroy all equipment; that the Fortified Islands were being surrendered at 12 o'clock noon and to await further instructions at the battery position. All speed was made in attempting to destroy everything possible.

At the surrender, H battery had 117 men, three were previously killed in action, ten (?) wounded in action, and one wounded, not in action, but in line of duty.

The battery fired about 875 rounds of 3-inch ammunition, and obtained observed hits on 14 planes. Equipment lost included one 30-calibre machine gun and materiel of the field kitchen.

Battery Ramsay was completely out of firing order at the surrender. All three 6-inch D.C. Guns had been hit by bombs or artillery and the fire control system badly damaged.

Historical Material – The Hell Ships of WWII

<https://www.adbcmemorialsociety.org/History>

American Defenders of Bataan and Corregidor Memorial Society

Chandler scrapbook extract

The Hell Ships of WWII

While the nightmarish horrors of the Bataan Death March and Camp O'Donnell have captured popular notoriety, survivors of Japanese POW camps typically recount their time aboard POW transport ships, the "Hell Ships", as being the most terrible experiences of their captivity. Hell Ships were Japanese cargo ships that carried Allied POWs to locations throughout the Japanese Empire to be employed as forced labor supporting the war efforts of the Japanese military and civilian corporations. Because the transports were unmarked, many were attacked and sunk by Allied submarines and aircraft with the result that over 21,000 Allied Prisoners of War and Asian forced laborers perished at sea. The Hell Ships remain one of the least known tragedies of the Pacific War.

Aboard the Hellships

Conditions aboard the transports were appalling. Hundred or event thousands of men, wearing little more than rags, were packed, "like sardines in a can" into unlit, unventilated, cargo holds. In the tropical heat the holds were sweltering. In winter, traveling the icy seas to Japan, they were freezing. Food, and especially water, were in short supply for the POWs; but the crews and guards were not restricted in their use. If the men were lucky, water was rationed in canteen cups; if not, water was dispensed by the spoonful, or the POWs went with none at all. Food, when delivered, often consisted solely of small amounts rice, or on trips to Japan, millet, a hard grain particularly ill-suited for men suffering from diarrheal diseases. Sanitation was almost non-existent. Relatively healthy men could wait in long lines to climb the ladder to the deck to use primitive wooden "benjos" hung over the sides of the ship, but those sick with dysentery were unable to climb or wait. Often, the prisoners were denied access to the deck and were forced to use small overflowing waste buckets. Dysentery spread rapidly as waste flowed throughout the spaces where men ate, lay, and slept.

Illness and Disease--Part of the Toll

Starvation, dehydration and dysentery took an appalling toll. Analysis of POW deaths in Japan that at least half of the 1100 plus American POWs who died in Japan, did so in large part due to deprivations suffered aboard the Hell ships.

Historical Material — POW in Japan

Leland Chandler – Yodogawa Branch Camp (Osaka 3-D)

POW Camps in Japan Proper

<http://www.powresearch.jp/en/archive/camplist/index.html>

POW Research Network Japan carries out research and studies on the Allied POWs and civilian internees by Japan during World War II.

Yodogawa Branch Camp (Osaka 3-D) detailed information

http://www.mansell.com/pow_resources/camplists/osaka/Yodogawa/yodogawa.html

Yodogawa Branch Camp (Osaka 3-D)

Established as Yodogawa Branch Camp of Osaka POW Camp in the site of Yodogawa Steel Company in Momoshima-cho, Nishiyodogawa-ku, Osaka City on November 22, 1942.

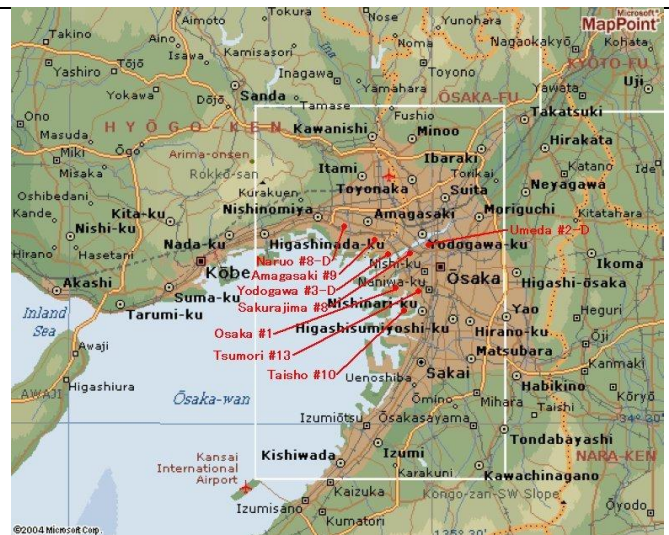
Renamed as Osaka No.3 Branch Camp in February 18, 1943.

Renamed as Osaka No.3 Dispatched Camp on March 10, 1943.

Closed on May 18, 1945.



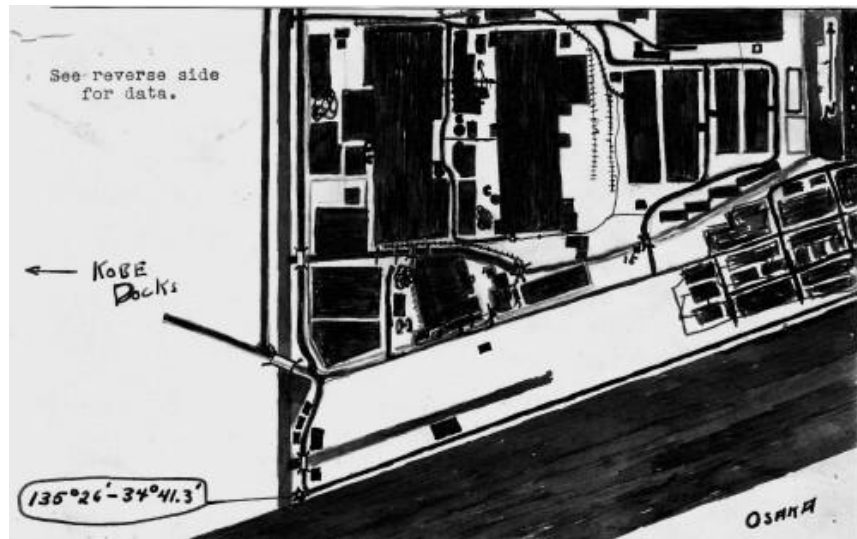
Aerial Sept. 1948- courtesy of Japan Map Archives



Yodogawa Branch Camp (Osaka 3-D)

Google Maps: 4°41'37.7"N 135°26'11.4"E

Chandler scrapbook extract



Labeled snippet from September 1942 aerial photo of the Osaka Harbor

Yodogawa Branch Camp (Osaka 3-D) was between Osaka and Kobe on the south bank of Yodogawa River. Adjacent to last bridge going out to bay.

It was first occupied 26 Nov 1942 with approx 400 Americans (300-Army; 40-Navy; 60 Marines.)

Camp size: 60 ft x 80 ft with tin fence. It had one barracks building.

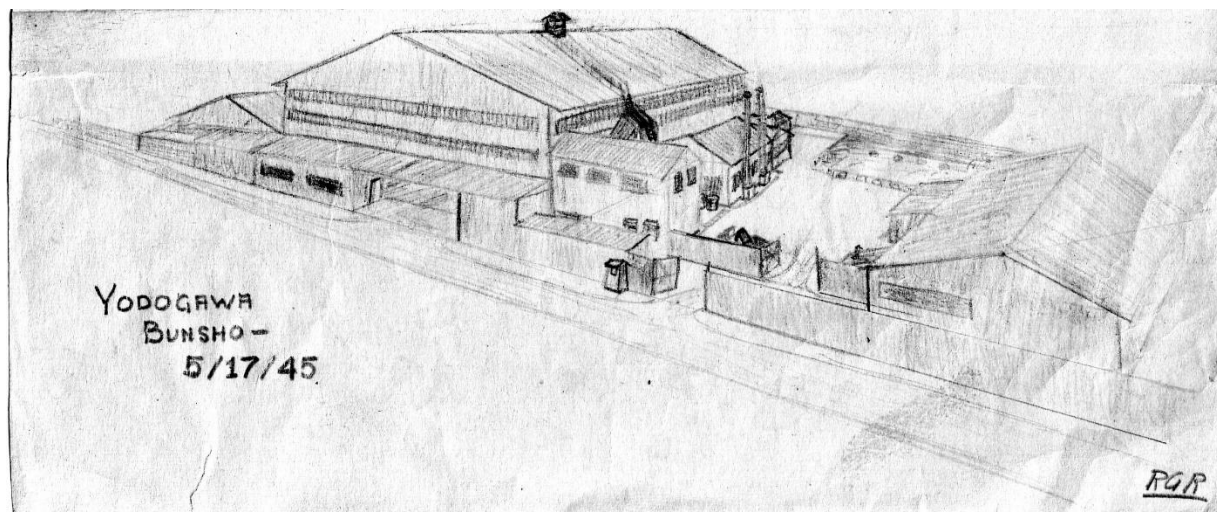
The POWs were used by Yodogawa Steel Company.

109 POWs died while imprisonment.

Prisoners of War worked in a steel mill in Osaka (Yodogawa Bunsho).

Slave labor. Four hundred men were housed above a factory where sheet iron was fabricated into gasoline drums. Much of the work was carrying iron ore and pig iron on and off ships in the harbor in baskets balanced on a shoulder pole called a yo-yo basket. Much of this iron was used in making bombs to drop on their friends. Other work was around dangerous slag and hot furnaces.

Sketch below by Robert Graydon Ragan, Cpl, 4th Marines (Source: NARA)



Sketch of the Yodogawa Steel Mill

Japanese Guards:

Testimony of PFC Raymond Baggett, 280323, St Louis, MO

Jap CO= Col. Mori?- Baggett uncertain of spelling

Guard: Okamatsu aka "Beast of Burden"

Baggett states he saw Chief commissary Steward Virgil Byrd [USS Quail] beaten to death, 11 May 1943 by Okamatsu. Byrd was beaten unconscious 3 times, revived and beaten again. Kicked each time he fell unconscious... finally kicked to death. Entire camp was present during the entire beating and was forced to watch.

Crime? Byrd sold an extra pair of shoes to a Japanese workman.

Hell Ship Leland was transported on:

Nagato Maru- departed Manila 6 Nov 1942- arrived Moji on Nov 25, 1942. Men from this ship were also sent to Tokyo #2-B Kawasaki (Mitsui), Hirohata and Tanagawa.



7 November 1942:

Departs Manila with two unidentified ships. NAGATO MARU is carrying about 1,500 IJA troops on deck and 1,600 American prisoners-of-war (POWs), many survivors of the “Bataan Death March.” About 550 POWs are crammed into each of NAGATO MARU’s three holds.

11 November 1942: Arrives at Takao, Formosa. 17 POWs die en route. [1]

E 14 November 1942: Arrives at Mako, Pescadores.

18 November 1942: Departs Mako.

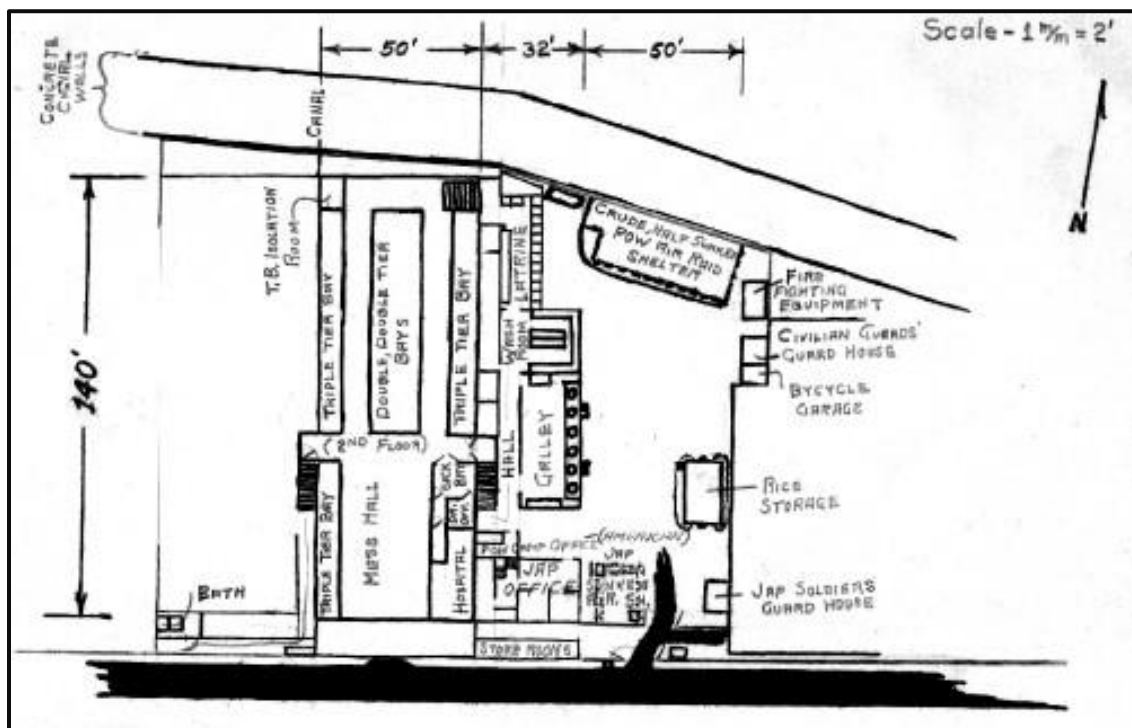
19 November 1942: Arrives at Kirun, Formosa.

20 November 1942: Departs Kirun.

24 November 1942: Arrives at Moji. 3 more POWs die en route. Disembarks POWs for an Osaka POW camp.

Work Locations and living conditions: Information extracted from POW diaries linked. Much information relies upon Major William B. Reardon diary because he is the same camp as Leland Chandler and came on the same ship.

http://www.mansell.com/pow_resources/camplists/osaka/Yodogawa/yodogawa.html



Sketch of the POW living area

26 Nov 1942: Our group of 400 (400) arrived at our final destination this day. [Ex **Nagato Maru**] For record purposes we have under the very able leadership of Major William B. Reardon a total of 46 officers, 45 of which are Army personnel and 1 Naval officer; the balance 354 men are all enlisted personnel including all branches of the service.

27 November 1942: Doctor examined half our number. He found beri-beri plentiful, pellagra, pneumonia, flu, and much dysentery and diarrhea. Medicine soon we hope. A hospital has been established and 38 patients were entered.

30 November 1942: The doctor completed his exam the A.M. and parted by again saying, "Medicine and adequate housing soon." All we can do is wait and hope. Weather is still cold. Only two troops went outside today for physical drill. Men were driven out. Yamada Choi came with his big sword and kicked men out of the blankets. Sick as well as well men. I caught his arm and protested [and] finally managed to get some men excused when I swore they had malaria. He could not talk English and I never learned Japanese. He did understand the word Malaria and evidently was impressed by it.

3 December 1942: Yesterday I picked up a line on what our work might be. We were not brought here for recuperation but to fill in the blank spaces the men who have gone to war have left in the factories. I imagine we will have to do real labor, carrying, piling, to and fro assisting in the manufacture of articles usable against our country, Cruel and unjust as hell. Yet what can we do?

6 December 1942: Promises of cigarettes, baths, better food still just mere words. We are one month dirty. Soon, however, our skin will shed and so the dirt will disappear. More exercise and cold and soup and rice. The last time we had a chance to clean up was before we left Cabanatuan on Nov 6, 1942.

7 December 1942: All men able to work went to the various jobs today, 232 strong for a Japanese factory owner who had leased our services. Clothing scarce, cold as the Devil and only soup and rice under their belts. Hours are long and the work is dreary and amounts to manual labor. The officers too participated.

9 to 13 December 1942: Period of four days during which we moved from our former quarters, in a corner of the foundry form room, to a new second floor in another building. A floor had been built over piles of tin in a steel warehouse. It was a corrugated iron building that was full of holes and extremely dirty. We are warmer than the first quarters but we are allowed no fires. Everyone is cold, lousy, hungry and half sick. Pellagra and scurvy are prevalent. Men are on labor parties carrying loads in baskets, moving pig iron [and] loading or unloading barges.

30 December 1942: My birthday - 38 years old. Lt. Hall was taken out of sick bay and disciplined- accused of hitting one of the guards. (Hall was taken by the Lt Yamado Choi from the sick bay out into the factory area near the big blast furnace. Here he was beaten first with Yamado's fist and then with his saber. A day or two previous, Hall had been in a working party at the big blast [furnace]. One of the foremen struck at Hall and to protect himself, Hall put his arms in front of his head. The foreman reported that Hall had offered resistance. Hall was not allowed to explain. He was beaten in front of the Japanese and made to write a letter of apology addressed to the Camp Commander. I was also required

to write a letter of apology. I had to apologize because I had a man like Hall under my command. I knew Hall and I know that he would never have made an attempt to fight.

7 January 1943: Rations were cut and the men noticed the cut. Cut plus troubles and rumors of troubles cause difficulties. [Most likely, the Japanese became aware of the loss of Guadalcanal at this time].

8 January 1943: Another man died, 1:00 P.M., January 7th. [Burney, Duncan L. Jr.] Cold in the morning without a fire. Chow consists of a bowl of rice and a bowl of very weak vegetable soup with one dried fish for four hundred men.

Today 380 men

Sick 118

Work (262?) [sic]

No 234 Burney, Duncan L. Jr., Corp, 6948618, 60th CAC B Btry, age 27

[NOK} Mr. Duncon L. Burney, 123 E. Smith St, Greensboro NC

Tracer was slapped and beaten, accused of not carrying out Japanese orders.

Received a report that thirty-eight men had died at Camp Meda [Umeda].

The major information contained in these POW diaries is a record of who died. After Doctor Frank Richardson arrives in the camp his diary becomes the daily camp journal of treatment and recording deaths.

If discovered, a diary will bring swift and harsh punishment from the Japanese commandant.

END OF Leland Chandler Scrapbook

Editor: Richard Burmood