

VFW OBJECTIVES:

- TO ENSURE THE NATIONAL SECURITY through maximum military strength
- TO ASSIST THE WIDOWS AND ORPHANS and the dependents of disabled and needy veterans.
- TO SPEED THE REHABILITATION of the nation's disabled and needy veterans.
- TO PROMOTE AMERICANISM through education in patriotism and constructive service to the communities in which we live.



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.

Post 2894

Meetings

2nd Wednesday of month – 7:00 pm
Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) Lodge,
110 Kempsville Rd, Chesapeake, VA

Post Address:

VFW Post 2894
PO Box 15842



Chesapeake, VA 23328

Email: cdrpost2894@vfwva.org

Web Site: <http://myvfw.org/va/post2894>

Visit us on FaceBook

POST OFFICERS

Commander..... Chris Mulholland
Sr. Vice Commander..... José Vazquez
Jr. Vice Commander..... Mark Rios
Adjutant..... Matt Hostetlar
Quartermaster..... Mike Kust
Chaplain..... Andrew McMenamin
Surgeon..... Bob Gregory
Staff Judge Advocate..... Matt Hamel
Service Officer..... Jim Ireland

AUXILIARY OFFICERS

President..... Sandy Dunbar
Sr. Vice President..... Christina Zinn
Jr. Vice President..... Bea Oakley
Secretary..... Barbara Mulholland
Treasurer..... Donna Kust
Chaplain..... Diane Hostetlar
Conductress..... Anne Thompson
Guard..... Jean Dozier
Patriotic Instructor..... Kevin Mulholland

NATIONAL

www.vfw.org

STATE

www.vfwva.org

VFW VA DISTRICT 2

www.vfwwebcom.org/va/dist2



IN MEMORY OF THE FALLEN OF BATAAN AND CORREGIDOR

by Chris Mulholland

Our Post's biggest event of the year, the Bataan Death March Memorial Walk, is coming up on April 27th. For the past several years we have remembered six local servicemen from South Norfolk and Norfolk County (now known as Chesapeake) who were captured by the Japanese at Bataan or Corregidor and died as prisoners of war (POWs). The Post Newsletter of April/May 2016 (Vol. V, Issue 2) carried their stories. All six were US Army soldiers:

- **Corporal James Beasley**, Coast Artillery Corps
- **Private Hilbert B. Caplan**, 7th Chemical Company (Aviation), US Army Air Force (USAAF)
- **Private Harry Day, Jr.**, C Company, 803rd Engineer Aviation Battalion, USAAF
- **Private Junius D. Moore**, 7th Chemical Company (Aviation), USAAF
- **Private First Class Charles F. Mott, Jr.**, 31st "Polar Bears" Infantry Regiment
- **Corporal James R. Shy**, Quartermaster Corps

Since then, a more extensive effort has been undertaken into identifying all of the Gold Stars from South Norfolk and Norfolk County who gave the ultimate sacrifice during the war against Nazi Germany and Imperial Japan. This past fall, two more were found listed in the book, "Gold Star Honor Roll of Virginians in the Second World War", ed. W. Edwin Hemphill [Virginia World War II History Commission, 1947]. Both of these Gold Star Heroes were US Navy sailors: **Seaman 2nd Class Andrew Lee Overton** and

Lieutenant Junior Grade Francis Xavier Philip Golden. Here are their stories:

Lieutenant Junior Grade Francis Xavier Philip Golden, US Navy, was born in 1907 to Robert Emmett Sr. (1871-1941) and Genevieve Agnes (Kelly) Golden (1873-1950) in Richmond, Virginia, as the youngest of four children: Robert Emmett Jr. (1900-1970), Thomas Thorpe (1903-1996) and Helen Louise (1904-2001). Sometime before 1927, he joined the US Navy Reserve and received serial number 100941. The Richmond City Directory of 1927 lists him as "USN^r".

In 1930, Francis and his family were living in Cincinnati, Ohio (1930 US Census) where his father was the editor for a local magazine.

The question is, if Francis was born and raised in Richmond, lived in Ohio and listed his brother, Thomas, in Richmond, as his next of kin, what was his connection with Tidewater and why is he listed in the "Gold Star Honor Roll of Virginians" as coming from Norfolk County? That clue is



Francis Xavier Philip Golden

revealed through the 1935 City Directory of Norfolk that lists him as an "Investigator Alcohol Tax Unit US Bureau of Internal Revenue". He was a "revenoor"!

(continued on page 8)

HISTORY OF MEMORIAL DAY

Three years after the Civil War ended, on May 5, 1868, the head of an organization of Union veterans — the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) — established Decoration Day as a time for the nation to decorate the graves of the war dead with flowers. Maj. Gen. John A. Logan declared that Decoration Day should be observed on May 30. It is believed that date was chosen because flowers would be in bloom all over the country.

The first large observance was held that year at Arlington National Cemetery, across the Potomac River from Washington, D.C.

The ceremonies centered around the mourning-draped veranda of the Arlington mansion, once the home of Gen. Robert E. Lee. Various Washington officials, including Gen. and Mrs. Ulysses S. Grant, presided over the ceremonies. After speeches, children from the Soldiers' and Sailors' Orphan Home and members of the GAR made their way through the cemetery, strewing flowers on both Union and Confederate graves, reciting prayers and singing hymns.

Local Observances Claim To Be First: Local springtime tributes to the Civil War dead already had been held in various places. One of the first occurred in Columbus, Miss., April 25, 1866, when a group of women visited a cemetery to decorate the graves of Confederate soldiers who had fallen in battle at Shiloh. Nearby were the graves of Union soldiers, neglected because they were the enemy. Disturbed at the sight of the bare graves, the women placed some of their flowers on those graves, as well.

Today, cities in the North and the South claim to be the birthplace of Memorial Day in 1866. Both Macon and Columbus, Ga., claim the title, as well as Richmond, Va. The village of Boalsburg, Pa., claims it began there two years earlier. A stone in a Carbondale, Ill., cemetery carries the statement that the first Decoration Day ceremony took place there on April 29, 1866. Carbondale was the wartime home of Gen. Logan. Approximately 25 places have been named in connection with the origin of Memorial Day, many of them in the South where most of the war dead were buried.

Official Birthplace Declared: In 1966, Congress and President Lyndon Johnson declared Waterloo, N.Y., the "birthplace" of Memorial Day. There, a ceremony on May 5, 1866, honored local veterans who had fought in the Civil War. Businesses closed and residents flew flags at half-staff.



Supporters of Waterloo's claim say earlier observances in other places were either informal, not community-wide or one-time events.

By the end of the 19th century, Memorial Day ceremonies were being held on May 30 throughout the nation. State legislatures passed proclamations designating the day, and the Army and Navy adopted regulations for proper observance at their facilities.

It was not until after World War I, however, that the day was expanded to honor those who have died in all American wars. In 1971, Memorial Day was declared a national holiday by an act of Congress, though it is still often called Decoration Day. It was then also placed on the last Monday in May, as were some other federal holidays.

Some States Have Confederate Observances: Many Southern states also have their own days for honoring the Confederate dead. Mississippi celebrates Confederate Memorial Day on the last Monday of April, Alabama on the fourth Monday of April, and Georgia on April 26. North and South Carolina observe it on May 10, Louisiana on June 3 and Tennessee calls that date Confederate Decoration Day. Texas celebrates Confederate Heroes Day January 19 and Virginia calls the last Monday in May Confederate Memorial Day.

Gen. Logan's order for his posts to decorate graves in 1868 "with the choicest flowers of springtime" urged: "We should guard their graves with sacred vigilance. ... Let pleasant paths invite the coming and going of reverent visitors and fond mourners. Let no neglect, no ravages of time, testify



to the present or to the coming generations that we have forgotten as a people the cost of a free and undivided republic."

The crowd attending the first Memorial Day ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery was approximately the same size as those that attend today's observance, about 5,000 people. Then, as now, small American flags were placed on each grave — a tradition followed at many national cemeteries today. In recent years, the custom has grown in many families to decorate the graves of all departed loved ones.

The origins of special services to honor those who die in war can be found in antiquity. The Athenian leader Pericles offered a tribute to the fallen heroes of the Peloponnesian War over 24 centuries ago that could be applied today to the 1.1 million Americans who have died in the nation's wars: "Not only are they commemorated by columns and inscriptions, but there dwells also an unwritten memorial of them, graven not on stone but in the hearts of men."

To ensure the sacrifices of America's fallen heroes are never forgotten, in December 2000, the U.S. Congress passed and the president signed into law "The National Moment of Remembrance Act," P.L. 106-579, creating the White House Commission on the National Moment of Remembrance. The commission's charter is to "encourage the people of the United States to give something back to their country, which provides

them so much freedom and opportunity” by encouraging and coordinating commemorations in the United States of Memorial Day and the National Moment of Remembrance.

The National Moment of Remembrance encourages all Americans to pause wherever they are at 3 p.m. local time on Memorial Day for a minute of silence to remember and honor those who have died in service to the nation. As Moment of Remembrance founder Carmella LaSpada states: “It’s a way we can all help put the memorial back in Memorial Day.”

[From the Department of Veterans Affairs
www.va.gov/opa/speceven/memday/history.asp]

Red Poppies

In 1915, inspired by the poem “In Flanders Fields,” Moina Michael replied with her own poem:

*We cherish too, the Poppy red
That grows on fields where valor led,
It seems to signal to the skies
That blood of heroes never dies.*

She then conceived of an idea to wear red poppies on Memorial Day in honor of those who died serving the nation during war. She was the first to wear one, and sold poppies to her friends and co-workers with the money going to benefit servicemen in need. Later a Madam Guerin from France was visiting the United States and learned of this new custom started by Ms. Michael. When she returned to France she made artificial red poppies to raise money for war orphaned children and widowed women. This tradition spread to other countries. In 1921, the Franco-American Children’s League sold poppies nationally to benefit war orphans of France and Belgium. The League disbanded a year later and Madam Guerin approached the VFW for help.

Shortly before Memorial Day in 1922 the VFW became the first veterans’ organization to nationally sell poppies. Two years later their “Buddy” Poppy program was selling artificial poppies made by disabled veterans. In 1948 the US Post Office honored Ms. Michael for her role in founding the National Poppy movement by issuing a red 3 cent postage stamp with her likeness on it.

COMMANDER’S CORNER

As of this writing, our Post membership is at 120%! We’re at the top of all posts in Virginia and within the top 42 worldwide! Thanks to everyone! And welcome aboard to our new comrades!

Our Post’s largest event of the year, the **Bataan Death March Memorial Walk** is coming on **April 27th**! It’s our way of recognizing the heroes of Bataan and Corregidor as well as honoring all the men and women who served during World War II and Korea. We’re expecting to have six WWII combat vets as well as 3 Korean War vets. We’ll also have military displays and family friendly activities. We’re ALWAYS looking for sponsors so please don’t be afraid to ask around! Please plan on coming to our event on Saturday, the 27th, to help us make this another successful event.

Our post elections are just around the corner on April 10th. We’ve got a great slate of officers for the coming year thanks to the work of Kimball Thompson.

Our annual Post Awards Ceremony is on May 8th. We’ve invited a number of dignitaries from around the area to attend and help honor our award winners.

For Memorial Day, don’t forget to set aside the weekend of 18-19 May for the Buddy Poppy Drive, and the 27th for the ceremony in front of City Hall.

We are well on the way to duplicating our success from the last three years as an All-American Post! If you know of anyone who is eligible for the VFW and would like to give back to the community while helping veterans, please encourage them to consider joining our Post.

For those who participated in the St. Patrick’s Day Parade in Norfolk, thanks for your support!

And, as always, kudos to all of you for your service to our country! Semper Fidelis!

Chris Mulholland, Commander



PRESIDENT’S CORNER

Hello Everyone, the Auxiliary has two new members, Frank Hunt and Carolyn Jordan. Frank’s father was in WWII and Carolyn’s father was in the Korean conflict. We welcome both Frank and Carolyn and hope they enjoy working with us for the VETS.

The Auxiliary was able to help a Vet who is going through some problems and her electricity was shut off. We paid her bill and got her electricity restored. Some of the other contributions we made this year went to the Dept. President’s Special Project which was the Boulder Crest Retreat for Military and Veteran Wellness. On Thanksgiving we made a donation to Operation Holiday Joy (they deliver Thanksgiving meals to junior enlisted military families who are in need).

The Auxiliary is putting together a basket of (surprise) for the raffle at the Bataan Memorial Walk/Run to be held on April 27. The members have been very creative and this will be a one of a kind basket.

At the April meeting we will hold election for officers to serve from June 2019 to May 2020.

The Auxiliary was instituted on April 8th, 2015. We have learned so much and when we go to District Meetings and Department Meetings we continue to learn. Filling out reports are important because it shows what we do for our Vets and their Families.

Thank You for supporting the VFW Auxiliary, our community and our Youth.

Thanks to all for the work you do for the Veterans.
Sandy Dunbar, President



8TH ANNUAL BATAAN DEATH MARCH MEMORIAL WALK, 27 APR 2019

Keep your calendar clear for the eighth annual Bataan Death March Memorial Walk on **Saturday, April 27th** at the Dismal Swamp Canal Trail in Deep Creek just off Route 17. Since Post 2894 is hosting this event, we would like to see all the members come out and help in any way you can. We will also be receiving assistance from crew members of the USS Bataan (LHD-5), the Marines of Northwest Security Group, the Chesapeake Police, Sheriff, and Fire Departments, and more as we host this commemorative event. The flyer for this event can be found at the end of this newsletter. **PLEASE SHARE WITH FRIENDS, NEIGHBORS, FAMILY – EVERYONE!**

We are also looking for sponsors. If everyone in the post asks at least one business for their support, we can really make this a successful event. We have three levels of sponsorship:

- **Legion of Merit Sponsor** - \$1000 (or \$1000 of In-kind) Donation: Large name or company logo on our tee shirts and banner as well as special recognition in media and in the closing ceremony.
- **Distinguished Service Sponsor** - \$500 (or \$500 of In-kind) Donation: Name or company logo on our tee shirt and banners
- **Meritorious Service Sponsor** - \$250 (or \$250 of In-kind) Donation: Name or company logo on our tee shirt



You can find more information on the Facebook page at

www.facebook.com/pages/Chesapeake-Bataan-Death-March/464188050284397

JROTC CEREMONY, 15 MAY



Every year, the JROTC cadets of the six high schools in Chesapeake gather for a night of recognition and awards. The VFW Award is presented to two cadets from each school who have exhibited outstanding achievement and exceptional leadership abilities. This year's event will be at Indian River High School at 6

pm and is open to the public. All Post members are encouraged to come out and honor these enthusiastic and patriotic youngsters.

COMRADE ORGANIZES HEALTH FAIR FOR VETERANS

On March 2nd, 2019, Comrade Ireland coordinated and supervised another health fair for veterans that treated more than 50 veterans in need. He worked with VFW Post 3160 (Oceanview) to host the fair and then coordinated the more than 100 volunteers needed to work the event. He arranged for the Lions Club to bring their hearing test truck as well as used eyeglasses that could be given to veterans with the right prescriptions. The veterans were able to attend more than 15 different stations, five of them manned by medical doctors with a variety of specialties. These included a podiatrist, dentist, optometrist, mental wellness professional, and a chiropractor. Comrade Ireland was able to talk these physicians into volunteering their personal time to look over the veterans and provide them with advice, scripts, or referrals as required. Comrades from posts 2894 and 3160 as well as auxiliary members and college students from ECPI volunteered their assistance. The volunteers arrived early in the morning and remained there until after 2 pm. They personally escorted each veteran, handed out gift bags and refreshments, and served lunch. Mission BBQ provided lunch for all the veterans and their families while Post 3160 Auxiliary fed all the volunteers. Comrade Ireland also arranged for a veteran from VFW Post 2894 to go through the screening process who would then provide feed-back on his treatment and the overall performance and conduct of the volunteers. It turned out to be a very positive experience! Bravo Zulu, Jim!!

OTHER POST NEWS

- **Members' Son Graduates From Basic Training.** Post

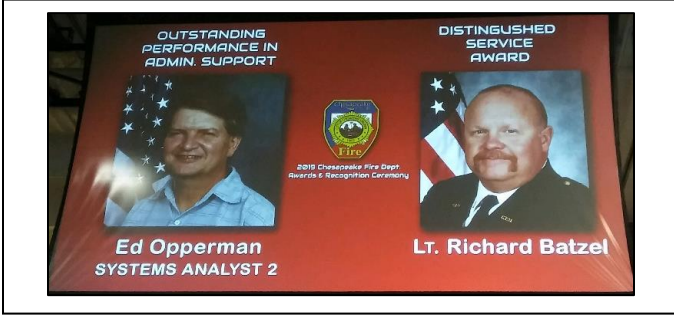
Comrade Craig and Auxiliary member Denise Devonshire traveled to Fort Lee, Virginia on January 23rd to attend the graduation of their son, Tyler, from Army Advanced Individual Training (AIT). Tyler proudly follows the footsteps of his father as a US Soldier. Tyler was a member of the 832nd Ordnance Battalion



Tyler (center) with his dad, Craig, and mom, Denise.

where he learned about the procurement and maintenance of weapons, weapon systems, and ammunition. Tyler will be reporting to Fort Riley, Kansas, for his first duty station soon. Congratulations to Tyler and the entire Devonshire family!!!

• **Comrade Earns Fire Department Award.** Post member Ed Opperman works for the information technology



(IT) division in the Chesapeake Fire Department. On 22 February 2019, he was recognized with an award for “Outstanding Performance in Administrative Support” when he and Lt. Richard Batzel saved the CFD over \$500,000 with their initiatives in technical improvements throughout the department. Great job, Ed!

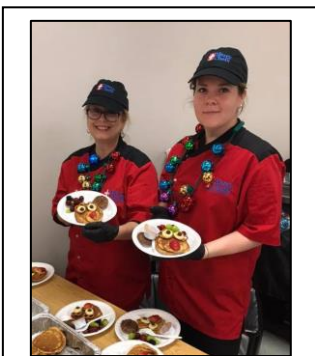
• **Post “Sailor” Joins the “Army”!** Post comrade

Kimball Thompson, a retired Navy helicopter pilot (who JUST recently retired! Congrats!), is an active member of the Great Bridge Battlefield & Waterways History Foundation (GBB&WHF). He is also a member of the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) and through them joined the 7th Virginia Regiment, a Revolutionary War reenactment unit. Kimball recently received his Continental Army uniform – just in time to don for a fundraising event at the new GBB&WHF museum and visitor center on February 8th, 2019. He also served as an honor guard during a recent dedication of a memorial in Virginia Beach for Admiral De Grasse of Revolutionary fame. *So now, our “sailor” is a “soldier”!*



• **Comrade Helps Others Through Food.** Post comrade

Becky Waters retired from the Navy as a Senior Chief and then graduated from the Culinary Institute of Virginia. She began working with Mercy Chefs, an organization which provides free meals to those in need – from professionally prepared, restaurant quality meals served to victims, volunteers and first responders in national emergencies and natural disasters to nutritionally rich meals served in low income communities and among homeless populations within the United States. In December 2018 she assisted in providing a Christmas dinner for a local elementary school. In February 2019, they fed a small, local private school with a health-conscious lunch.



Becky Waters (left) holds up a “Christmas” plate she and others from Mercy Chefs prepared in December

• **Comrade Lecturers at Regional Conference.** Post

member Ron Mayfield, a disabled US Navy veteran, got the opportunity to ski at Wintergreen Resort courtesy of Wounded Warriors and Wintergreen Adaptive Sports. Ron is an accomplished disabled athlete, having won many medals in sports such as power(ed wheelchair) soccer, swimming, and hand-cycling.



Ron Mayfield (in green) skies downhill with an aide

• **Comrade Presents Gold Star Flag.** Post Service

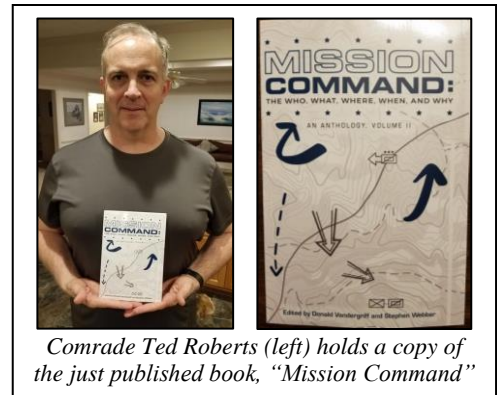
Officer Jim Ireland coordinated the extensive repairs of the home of a Gold Star Mom, Mrs. Caldwell. At the completion of all the repairs, he presented her with a Gold Star flag. Here’s his email: *Chris, I stopped by Ms. Caldwell's house yesterday and presented her with a Gold Star Flag from VFW Post 2894 as we have helped complete her home remodel in partnership with Home Depot Virginia Beach, Hampton Roads Realtors Association and Habitat For Humanity, SE Hampton Roads. I also helped her learn how to operate her new HVAC system. She said the company was going to charge her \$85 to send a representative to her home to show her how to operate the system. She was very happy with her remodel, her Gold Star Mom Flag and all of the people that made it happen. She said the family loves it. She invited her entire family to her home for New Year’s Eve and had a great New Year’s Party dancing and celebrating the new year and her new remodel! Thanks for your and Gary Dunbar's help! Jim*



Mrs. Caldwell and Jim Ireland

COMRADE IS A CO-AUTHOR OF A NEW BOOK!

Comrade Ted Roberts, an active duty Lieutenant Colonel in the US Air Force, and an instructor at the Joint Forces Staff College in Norfolk, co-wrote chapter 3, “Purple Aufstraktatik: Mission Command in a Joint World”, of a newly released book titled, “Mission Command, The Who, What, Where, When and Why: An Anthology II”, edited by Donald Vandergriff and Stephen Webber. Ted’s coauthor of the chapter is LtCol Doug “Lucky” Luccio, USMC. The book is now available on Amazon. It is described as: “In this second volume of the Mission Command



Comrade Ted Roberts (left) holds a copy of the just published book, “Mission Command”

Anthology, a team of new and returning authors offers diverse perspectives on the concept of Mission Command. Drawing from their first-hand experience as leaders as well as rigorous scholarship, they provide insight as relevant to the future of national defense as it is to how the reader will lead his or her own team.”

ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE

Post members participated in the 52nd St. Patrick's Day Parade in Ocean View, Norfolk on Saturday, March 16th. They rode in the back of a “deuce-and-a-half” belonging to the Military Vehicle Preservation Society of Tidewater (MVPST).

Everyone had a great time. This was Comrade Ron Mayfield's first St. Patrick's Day Parade and afterwards he said he had never been in such a great event. Everyone along the route thanked him for his service. We are now talking with the MVPST about them joining us in the Chesapeake Christmas Parade in December as well as rejoining us at the 4th of July parade in South Norfolk. *Erin go Bragh!!*



The “Crew” at the end of the parade.

POST COMMITTEES – YOU CAN HELP!

If you are looking to get involved and help the Post improve its work for and with veterans, think about joining one of the recently established committees. Contact one of the members of the committees you're interested in and let them know you'd like to help:

- **Bataan Death March Committee:** Ann Jones, Grace Schweers, Becky Waters, Brad Waters, José Vazquez, Anne Thompson and Bob Gregory.
- **Budget Committee:** José Vazquez, Mark Rios, Mike Kust, and Carl Dozier.
- **Awards Committee:** Brad Waters, Mark Rios, Tony Gravina, Joe Hammers, and Elizabeth Van Velzen.
- **Membership Committee:** José Vazquez, John Guill, Mark Rios, and Gary Dunbar
- **Building Committee:** Carl Dozier, José Vazquez, Becky Waters and Chris Cameron.
- **Visiting Committee:** Chaplain Andy McMenamin
- **Health Committee:** Surgeon Bob Gregory
- **Scholarship Committee:** Carl Dozier, Joe Hammers, Elizabeth Van Velzen, Andy McMenamin, and Kimball Thompson.

COMMUNITY SERVICE REPORTS

All of us are contributing to our community in many different ways. Some are Scout leaders, others active participants in church

activities; some are coaches, others board members; you've attended funerals for veterans; visited them in hospitals, etc. etc. All of these activities are reportable as community activities by Post members. The VFW Department of Virginia has an on-line reporting system (<http://va.vfwportal.net/public/index.php>, password is “post2894”) where you can add the entries yourself, or – if you're uncomfortable doing so – drop me an email telling me what you've done and I'll make the entries myself. Chris Mulholland

CHAPLAIN'S FOXHOLE

Prayer for Armed Forces Day

For our Commander-In-Chief and our political and military leaders that they may tirelessly seek peaceful settlements to international disputes; we pray to the Lord:

That the Lord may preserve the members of our Army, Navy, Marines, Coast Guard and Air Force from all harm; we pray to the Lord:

That even in war, we may keep clearly before us the defense of all human rights, especially the right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness; we pray to the Lord:

That the families, relatives and friends of our military members may be strengthened in this time of concern and anxiety; we pray to the Lord:

That the Lord may help families with men and women in the armed forces to cope with daily challenges in the absence of their loved ones; we pray to the Lord:

That our homeland will be preserved from violence and terrorism; we pray to the Lord:

That the nations of the world will seek to work together in harmony and peace; we pray to the Lord:

That the hearts of all men and women will be moved to pursue true peace and justice; we pray to the Lord:

That violence may be overcome by peace; that weapons of destruction be transformed into tools of justice, and hate give way to true charity; we pray to the Lord:

That grateful for and inspired by those veterans who have given their lives for our country we may bravely face the challenges ahead; we pray to the Lord:



Prayer for Memorial Day

God of power and mercy,

You destroy war and put down earthly pride.

*Banish violence from our midst and wipe away our tears,
That we may all deserve to be called your sons and daughters.*

Keep in your mercy those men and women

Who have died in the cause of freedom

And bring them safely

Into your kingdom of justice and peace.

We ask this though Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

SAFETY CORNER APRIL IS NATIONAL DISTRACTED DRIVING AWARENESS MONTH

Drivers today are more distracted than ever. From texting to eating to settling sibling disputes in the back seat, there are countless distractions that can fatefully take your focus off the road. It's no wonder that in 2013 as many as 424,000 people were involved in accidents relating to distracted driving.

National Distracted Driving Awareness has been celebrated every April since 2009. As such, many organizations and public personalities have launched road safety campaigns and initiatives to raise awareness of the dangers of distracted driving.

Calls Kill

The National Safety Council (NSC) launched a country-wide campaign, Calls Kill, to illustrate that hands-free cell phones are not risk-free, and no call is worth a life. The NSC urges drivers to take the Focused Driver Challenge to not use a cell phone while driving, even a hands-free device. Participants are then encouraged to share it on their Facebook walls. The NSC writes, "In your post, state why you've taken the pledge, tag the National Safety Council and tag three friends you want to stay safe. Please use #CallsKill." Visit nsc.org/CallsKill for more information.

Scary Statistics About Distracted Driving

Think about the time it takes you to enter an address into a map app on your phone, or type a message to a friend telling them you're running a few minutes late. In your mind it only takes a second or two, but in reality, it takes *at least* five. To put that into perspective, if you were going 55 mph, that's like driving the length of one football field without looking. In fact, texting while driving makes a crash 23 times more likely. (By the way, texting while stopped at a stop sign or red light counts, too.) And if texting weren't bad enough, one in five people have admitted to surfing the web while driving. In these scenarios, dangerous would be an understatement. Even though technology has caused us to become more and more distracted, it has also evolved to provide us with solutions to this epidemic.



Being distracted, even while backing out of your own driveway can have fatal consequences. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration cites an average of 210 fatalities and 15,000 injuries due to back up incidents every year, the majority of those being hurt fall under the age of five years old. In an effort to improve backup safety, new NHTSA regulations require all new cars to have back up camera systems for rear view safety, allowing the driver to see a 10-by-20 foot area behind the vehicle from a dashboard display.

So don't text and drive!

+ SAFETY CORNER **+** **MAY IS NATIONAL WATER SAFETY MONTH**

As the weather warms up, pools are preparing to open and crowds are gearing up to head to the beach. National Water Safety Month is the perfect time to ensure you and your family are prepared to spend a fun, safe day by the water. And the American Red Cross can help!

Swimming is the most popular summer activity. While the best thing you can do to help your family stay safe is to enroll in age-appropriate swim lessons, it is also important to

Make Water Safety Your Priority

- Swim in designated areas supervised by lifeguards.
- Always swim with a buddy; do not allow anyone to swim alone. Even at a public pool or a lifeguarded beach, use the buddy system!
- Ensure that everyone in the family learns to swim well. Enroll in age-appropriate Red Cross water orientation and Learn-to-Swim courses.
- ***Never leave a young child unattended near water*** and do not trust a child's life to another child; teach children to always ask permission to go near water.
- Have young children or inexperienced swimmers wear U.S. Coast Guard-approved life jackets around water, but do not rely on life jackets alone.
- Establish rules for your family and enforce them without fail. For example, set limits based on each person's ability, do not let anyone

play around drains and suction fittings, and do not allow swimmers to hyperventilate before swimming under water or have breath-holding contests.

- Even if you do not plan on swimming, be cautious around natural bodies of water including ocean shoreline, rivers and lakes. Cold temperatures, currents and underwater hazards can make a fall into these bodies of water dangerous.
- If you go boating, wear a life jacket! Most boating fatalities occur from drowning.
- Avoid alcohol use. Alcohol impairs judgment, balance and coordination; affects swimming and diving skills; and reduces the body's ability to stay warm.

Prevent Unsupervised Access to the Water

- Install and use barriers around your home pool or hot tub. Safety covers and pool alarms should be added as additional layers of protection.
- Ensure that pool barriers enclose the entire pool area, are at least 4-foot high with gates that are self-closing, self-latching and open outward, and away from the pool. The latch should be high enough to be out of a small child's reach.
- If you have an above-ground or inflatable pool, remove access ladders and secure the safety cover whenever the pool is not in use.
- Remove any structures that provide access to the pool, such as outdoor furniture, climbable trees, decorative walls and playground equipment.
- Keep toys that are not in use away from the pool and out of sight. Toys can attract young children to the pool.

Maintain Constant Supervision

- Actively supervise kids whenever around the water—even if lifeguards are present. Do not just drop your kids off at the public pool or leave them at the beach—designate a responsible adult to supervise.
- Always stay within arm's reach of young children and avoid distractions when supervising children around water.

Know What to Do in an Emergency. If a child is missing, check the water first. Seconds count in preventing death or disability.

- Know how and when to call 9-1-1 or the local emergency number.
- If you own a home pool or hot tub, have appropriate equipment, such as reaching or throwing equipment, a cell phone, life jackets and a first aid kit.
- Enroll in Red Cross home pool safety, water safety, first aid and CPR/AED courses to learn how to prevent and respond to emergencies.

FOR FAMILIES IN NEED, NATIONAL HOME HELPLINE IS JUST A TOLL-FREE CALL AWAY

The National Home Helpline is the gateway to help for military and veterans' families, providing connections with supportive services and resources in communities all across the nation as well as referrals to our on-campus programs.

And our war heroes can take comfort in knowing that their call will be answered by a caring professional who understands the unique challenges faced by today's military and veterans' families.

The toll-free Helpline is answered Monday through Friday between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Eastern Time.

1-800-313-4200, help@vfnationalhome.org

QUARTERMASTER DESK

Post 2894 Annual Dues are \$30.

Annual dues can be paid via mail (see our address on front of newsletter) or to the Quartermaster at one of our meetings.

LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP

You can become a VFW Life Member by paying a one-time fee as listed in the table below, or making an initial \$45 payment and then paying the remainder over an 11-month installment plan. You will be issued an annual membership card and can elect, upon receipt of the first monthly invoice, to pay via check, credit card or ACH Debit. The applicable Life Membership fee is determined from the schedule using the applicant's age on Dec. 31 of the installment plan year in which the application is submitted, regardless of actual date of birth. A permanent Life Membership card will be issued upon completion of this agreement.



Age	One-Time Payment	Installment Payment
18-30	\$ 425	\$ 38.64
31-40	\$ 410	\$ 37.27
41-50	\$ 375	\$ 34.09
51-60	\$ 335	\$ 30.45
61-70	\$ 290	\$ 26.36
71-80	\$ 225	\$ 20.45
81 & over	\$ 170	\$ 15.45

<http://www.vfw.org/Join/Dues-Structure>

Life Memberships can be paid online at www.vfw.org, via mail, or in-person at the meetings.

IN MEMORY OF THE FALLEN OF BATAAN AND CORREGIDOR

(contd from page 1)

After a few years in Norfolk County, Francis was activated (or volunteered?) into the Navy on February 5, 1941 as Lieutenant Junior Grade (Lt(jg)). Because of the increasing tension with Japan in 1940-'41 he was sent to the Western Pacific as an intelligence officer and was probably attached to the US Asiatic Fleet Headquarters. However, just as possible, he could have been a member of the staff of Commandant 16th Naval District (COM16), which had responsibility for all Navy activities in the Philippines.

Seaman 2nd Class Andrew Lee Overton was born on July 13, 1921 in Nanesmond, Virginia. Not much information is available about his parents other than that his mother "Nellie O. Daughy" lived at 4100 1st Street in East Portlook [sic], Norfolk in 1945. An Andrew Lee Overton born in 1893 and married to a Nellie, died in 1929 in the Fentress area of South Norfolk and may have been Andrew's father.

Andrew enlisted in the Navy on November 16, 1939 in Raleigh, North Carolina, and after completing training in Norfolk on February 21, 1940, was sent to the Pacific. He sailed from the West Coast to Pearl Harbor aboard the USS NITRO (AE-2) an ammunition ship once commanded by John S. McCain, Sr., grandfather of Senator John McCain. The NITRO made regular trips from San Francisco to Pearl Harbor and the Far East. She was specially built to refrigerate and carry explosives and ammunition and was "configured to accommodate 10 officer and 250 enlisted passengers".

After arriving at Pearl, Andrew was transferred on May 26, 1940 to the USS COLORADO (BB-45), a battleship built after World War I. He remained on board until October 12, 1940 when he was reassigned

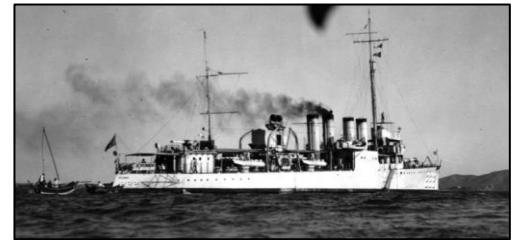
to the US Asiatic Fleet in the Western Pacific. On October 20, 1941, the Asiatic Fleet relocated their headquarters from China to Manila, Philippines.

The men assigned to the Asiatic Fleet, "were an unusual breed. Most had served with the Atlantic or Pacific Fleets for then-standard 2½-year tours. Many were single, without strong family ties. Hand-picked in many cases for transfer to the Asiatic Fleet, where they might be expected at any time to represent the United States far from home, they were well-drilled, disciplined and—of necessity—resourceful. Since the Japanese invasion of China in 1937, they had been on a virtual war footing." [DESRON 29 history website]

Andrew sailed to China aboard the USS CHAUMONT (AP-5), a US Navy transport ship that made regular trips between Hawaii, Shanghai, and Manila. Upon arrival in the Western Pacific, Andrew reported aboard the USS BULMER (DD-222). The BULMER was a Clemson-class destroyer assigned to the South China Patrol where the crew had front row seats to Japan's barbarity against the Chinese. The BULMER was part of Destroyer Squadron 29 (DESRON-29) which was "manned by rock-hard veterans of the China Station who, under relentless, nerve-racking pressure, fought them [the Japanese] with fierce determination and courageous abandon against fearful odds..." [Winslow, W.G.]

Many of the sailors in the Asiatic Fleet contracted malaria during their travels around the "Far East". That maybe why Andrew was transferred to "USNH [US Naval Hospital] Canacao P.I. for treatment" on November 17, 1941. Canacao Hospital was part of the Cavite Navy Yard.

On December 5th, Andrew was released from the hospital and returned to the BULMER but he must have had a relapse because he was readmitted to the hospital on Sunday, December 7th.



USS BULMER (DD-222) anchored off Tsingtao, China 1928

By October 1940, both Asiatic Fleet and COM16 were located at Cavite Naval Base, also known as Cavite Navy Yard, Naval Station Sangley Point, or Sangley Naval Base. The name "Sangley" was a local or colloquial term coined by Filipinos for Chinese merchants (xiang-li) who had used the area since the earliest history. The base was the US Navy's only major overhaul and repair facility west of Honolulu. Cavite itself is a peninsula which extends into the eastern portion of Manila Bay and lies across from the Bataan Peninsula. Just southeast, in the mouth of the bay, lies Corregidor Island.

Due to the International Date Line, the bombing of Pearl Harbor occurred on Monday, December 8th, 1941, Philippine time. That same day, the first Japanese forces landed in the Philippines at Lubang Island, about 42 miles southwest of Corregidor.

The first enemy action at Manila came at about 1 am on Tuesday, December 9. One enemy bomber appeared over the city and dropped bombs on the Army airport, Nichols Field, starting fires that burned until shortly before daylight. No further enemy action was seen during the rest of the day, but the all-pervading silence was reminiscent of the lull preceding a storm at sea.

The day of the first heavy Japanese bombing raid on Manila was Wednesday, December 10. "The Japanese bombers withheld fire until clear of the city and the port area. Then, as they passed over the break-water, heading toward the Navy Yard, they began bombing and machine-gunning the thirty ships anchored, more or less closely together, on the route they were taking. The first bombs fell into the bay, but the enemy was efficient and laid a swath of fire about 2,000

feet wide over the heaviest concentration of shipping. A Filipino freighter, the *Sagoland*, was the only ship actually sunk, but other ships were damaged...The raiding planes saved their heaviest bombs for the Navy Yard at Cavite. They had taken the ships in their stride and were over Cavite in what seemed a few seconds later. Chief Mate Logan of the SS GEORGE G. HENRY recounted: *'I shall never forget the bombing of the Cavite Navy Yard, first by the formation of planes that bombed the ships, and the second time by another formation of about 27 planes, which sneaked in from somewhere south of Corregidor. Both of these formations had come from Formosa, about 600 miles to the north. The detonations at Cavite were tremendous. When other officers ... and I came out from behind the midship house, the fires at the Navy Yard were already raging around the warehouses and dry docks. The fuel dumps had been hit. We found afterward that the carnage was indescribable. The Navy Hospital was obliterated.'*" [International Esso Tankers website]

The Navy Hospital at Canacao (Cavite Point) was severely damaged in the December 10th bombing and Andrew Overton may have been wounded during the attack.

"...when the Japanese onslaught began across a wide area, from the Far East to Pearl Harbor, BULMER lay anchored in Manila Bay, along with BOISE (CL-47), LUZON (PR-7) and several other ships of the Asiatic Fleet... The next day, BULMER was underway with her crew at general quarters patrolling the waters south of Corregidor. [Navy History of USS BULMER]



Cañacao Naval Hospital (1927)

History of USS BULMER]

On December 15, the BULMER escorted the tanker SS HENRY through the minefield at the entrance to Manila Bay but returned to escort the USS SEADRAGON (SS-194) as it sailed on the 16th with selected members

of the Asiatic Fleet staff embarked in their evacuation to Java. The BULMER was never to return to the Philippines and S2C Overton was left to fend for himself.

When Japanese forces landed on southern Luzon Island on Christmas Eve, 1941, US forces began the evacuation to the Bataan Peninsula on the other side of Manila Bay. Andrew was evacuated from Cavite in late December or early January across the bay to Bataan or maybe to Corregidor Island and was probably given a rifle to assist with the battle as an infantryman. He could just as likely have served as an artilleryman since several artillery pieces at Corregidor were manned by sailors of the Asiatic Fleet after their ships were destroyed.

Lt(jg) Golden was one of those who were left behind when the key members of the Asiatic Fleet staff were evacuated on the SEADRAGON on December 16th.

In late December or early January, Francis evacuated to Bataan or maybe to Corregidor Island. Bataan was eventually "surrendered" on April 10, 1942 while Corregidor managed to hold on longer and was "surrendered" on May 8th. Francis and Andrew became prisoners of war.

If they were surrendered at Bataan, they were likely two of the 60,000-80,000 American and Filipino POWs forced into captivity via the infamous "Bataan Death March" - characterized by severe

physical abuse and wanton killings, and later judged by an Allied military commission to be a Japanese war crime.

During the march, prisoners received little food or water, and many died. Prisoners were subjected to severe physical abuse, including beatings and torture. On the march, the "sun treatment" was a common form of torture. Prisoners were forced to sit in sweltering direct sunlight, without helmets or other head covering. Anyone who asked for water was shot dead. Some men were told to strip naked or sit within sight of fresh, cool water. Trucks drove over some of those who fell or succumbed to fatigue, and "cleanup crews" put to death those too weak to continue, though some trucks picked up some of those too fatigued to continue. Some marchers were randomly stabbed by bayonets or beaten.

Once the surviving prisoners arrived in Balanga, the overcrowded conditions and poor hygiene caused dysentery and other diseases to spread rapidly. The Japanese did not provide the prisoners with medical care, so U.S. medical personnel tended to the sick and wounded with few or no supplies. Upon arrival at the San Fernando railhead, prisoners were stuffed into sweltering, brutally hot metal box cars for the one-hour trip to Capas, in 110 °F heat. At least 100 prisoners were pushed into each of the trains' unventilated boxcars. The trains had no sanitation facilities, and disease continued to take a heavy toll on the prisoners.

According to Staff Sergeant Alf Larson: *"The train consisted of six or seven World War I-era boxcars. ... They packed us in the cars like sardines, so tight you couldn't sit down. Then they shut the door. If you passed out, you couldn't fall down. If someone had to go to the toilet, you went right there where you were. It was close to summer and the weather was hot and humid, hotter than Billy Blazes! We were on the train from early morning to late afternoon without getting out. People died in the railroad cars."*

Upon arrival at the Capas train station, they were forced to walk the final 9 miles to Camp O'Donnell. Even after arriving at the camp, the survivors of the march continued to die at rates of up to several hundred per day, which amounted to a death toll of as many as 20,000 Filipino and American deaths. Most of the dead were buried in mass graves that the Japanese had dug behind the barbed wire surrounding the compound. Of the estimated 80,000 POWs on the march, between 5,000-18,000 Filipinos and 500-650 American died enroute.

The total distance of the march from Mariveles to San Fernando and from Capas to Camp O'Donnell is variously reported by differing sources as between 60 and 69.6 miles.



It appears that both Andrew and Francis eventually wound up at POW Cabanatuan Camp #1. Cabanatuan would become famous for the large raid by US Army Rangers who liberated the camp on January 31, 1945. Unfortunately for Andrew and Francis, they had been removed from the camp just one month before.

Cabanatuan was located near Cebu Village and became the largest American POW camp in the Far East. It consisted of 100 acres of land, mainly surrounded by a high barbed wire fence, that originally served as a training site for the Philippine Army. The complex housed three separate camps and all were in shabby condition. Camp 3 had a working water supply, Camp 2 had water, but it was a thousand yards away, and Camp No. 1 had no working water supply at all.

On May 26, 1941, the first Americans from Bataan arrived. They were the sick and wounded who had been left behind on Bataan. Six thousand men from Corregidor joined them three days later and they were sent to Camp 3. Another fifteen hundred men from Corregidor arrived and were assigned to Camp 2, but because of water conditions, the Japanese shifted them back to Camp 1 where water had been

restored. The amount of men at the camp by the first week of June was about 9,000 at Camp 1 and nearly 6,000 at Camp 3. As the Japanese started to send men out in work details, Camp 3 closed in October 1942, and the 3,000 men were transferred to Camp 1. During 1942, conditions in the camp remained deplorable with flies spreading dysentery and mosquitoes breeding and transmitting malaria. Because the men at Camp 1 started out in worse physical condition than the men from Corregidor who were mainly housed at Camp 3, they succumbed to disease and vitamin deficiency problems faster. By July of 1942, about 1300 men of Camp 1 had died and 32 at Camp 3 passed away. Andrew and Francis were still alive.

For the men at Cabanatuan who were gravely ill, a hospital existed, but it was just made up of wood frame shacks with bamboo shelves for beds. This hospital was located in the southern third of Camp 1. The prisoners referred to this area as "Zero Ward," because those were the chances of getting out alive. The doctors mainly stayed by the dying men, offering encouragement as they rarely had medicine to dispense. The ward housed a primitive operating room, but it wasn't used much as the doctors had no equipment. In July 1942 a staggering 786 deaths occurred, mainly men under thirty. These men had no wives or children to count on them, faced a real test in life for the first time, did not possess the money some of the older men had, and also lacked the maturity to deal with difficult circumstances.

In 1943, conditions improved some, because of a black market and a farm set up at the camp. A slow moving group of caraboa-pulled carts brought supplies in from the town of Cabanatuan. Sympathetic Filipinos and members of the Manila international community used the carts to smuggle in notes and money. During this time, recreation and entertainment programs were developed.

Then in 1944, conditions became worse again, as the Japanese cut down on rations and cracked down on smuggling. Prisoners were shipped out to camps in Japan and Manchuria and other surrounding areas to work in Japanese industries as the Japanese's labor supply had diminished due to the war.

Francis and Andrew were about to enter another circle of hell.

During the first week of December 1944, they were taken from their prison camp and placed on board the *Oryoku Maru*, a Japanese passenger cargo ship which was commissioned by the Imperial Japanese Navy as a troop and POW transport ship. The *Oryoku Maru* left Manila on December 13, 1944, with 1,620 POWs (1,556 American, 50 British and Dutch, 7 Czech, 4 Norwegians and several other nationalities) packed in the holds, and 1,900 Japanese civilian and military personnel in the cabins. A US Army colonel, in his official report, wrote:

Many men lost their minds and crawled about in the absolute darkness armed with knives, attempting to kill people in order to drink their blood or armed with canteens filled with urine and swinging them in the dark. The hold was so crowded and everyone so interlocked with one another that the only movement possible was over the heads and bodies of others.

As she neared the naval base at Olongapo in Subic Bay, US Navy planes from the USS HORNET (CV-12) attacked the unmarked ship, causing it to sink on December 15. About 270 died aboard ship. Some died from suffocation or dehydration. Others were killed in the attack, drowned or were shot while escaping the ship as it sunk in Subic Bay where a 'Hell Ship Memorial' is located.

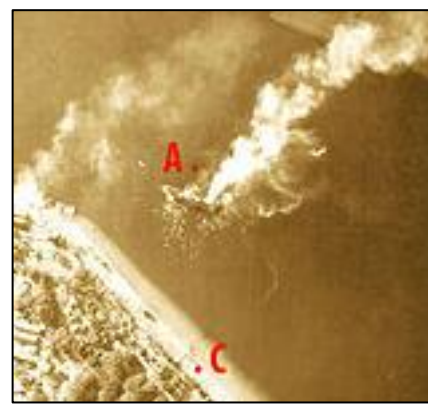
Andrew and Francis were "lucky" enough to survive this.

They were then held for several days in an open tennis court at Olongapo Naval Base. While there, the prisoners were afforded no sanitary conditions whatsoever. Prisoners experienced severe mistreatment, and several deaths occurred. The group of prisoners was

then moved to San Fernando, Pampanga. While in San Fernando, 15 weak or wounded prisoners were loaded on a truck, believing they would be taken to Bilibid Prison for treatment. In the 1946 war crimes trial, these POWs were reported to have been taken to a nearby cemetery, beheaded, and dumped into a mass grave.

The remaining prisoners were then transported by train to San Fernando, La Union. There, about 1,000 of the survivors were loaded on another Japanese ship, the *Enoura Maru* while the rest boarded the smaller *Brazil Maru*. There is no record as to which ship Francis or Andrew were assigned to. The *Enoura Maru* had previously been used

to transport horses and the hold was filthy with manure. On its last trip the *Brazil Maru* had carried coal. Neither hold was cleaned out before the POWs were forced down into them. Some of the POWs were so hungry that they ate grain that had been dropped by the horses when they were feeding, and which was now mixed in with the manure. All of the POWs on the *Enoura Maru* were crammed into the second hold aft of the bow. The POWs suffered terribly from hunger, thirst and the filth that pervaded the holds of the two hellships. Diseases broke out and many of the men were violently ill.



Oryoku burning after attack on Dec 15, 1944. Photo by Hellcat from USS HORNET shows POWs swimming in the water.

Both ships reached Takao (Kaohsiung) harbor in Formosa (Taiwan) on New Year's Day. Once in Takao the deprivation continued as the Japanese celebrated their New Year holiday for four days and left the POWs to fend for themselves. The prisoners had little food or water from January 1 - 4, and thirty-four died on the *Enoura Maru*, and five on the *Brazil Maru*.

By January 6, ten more had died on the *Brazil Maru* and the remaining 230 were transferred across the harbor to the *Enoura Maru* while 37 British and Dutch were taken ashore. Some 240 POWs from the second hold on the *Enoura Maru* were moved up into the first hold to join the men from the *Brazil Maru*. This made a total of about 470 men in the first hold to include Andrew and Francis.

General MacArthur's invasion force was about to land in the Lingayen Gulf in the Northern Philippines on January 9, 1945, and the US Navy was tasked with striking air bases and harbors primarily in southern Formosa and in Northern Luzon from which the Japanese could attack the landing ships.

On the morning of January 9, American aircraft - again from the USS HORNET - carried out an attack on the ships in Takao Harbour.

The *Enoura Maru* was hit several times - maybe as many as five, according to some of the surviving POWs. One of the bombs went right down into the forward hold, and according to survivor POW Colonel Beecher in his postwar memoir: "The bomb that did all of the damage



Bombing of the *Enoura Maru*

had apparently hit the ship just on the edge of the forward hold and what we had gotten [in the second hold] was the scattered fragments. The force of the explosion knocked heavy wooden hatch covers and steel beams loose and rained them down into the hold. Of the nearly

500 prisoners in the forward hold over 250 were killed outright and many others died later of their wounds. Our total casualties were approximately 270 killed and 250 wounded. . .”

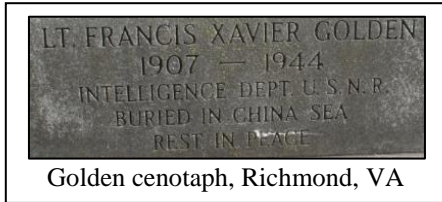
In the second hold, POW John Wright detailed the injuries: “There were broken arms, broken backs, broken legs, hemorrhages and decapitations. Many men were badly bruised and shocked. The steel beams and heavy wooden planks of the open hatch had been blown loose by exploding bombs and had fallen on the prisoners below. It looked like a lot of men had been crushed. . . The hatch covers did the heavy damage; the steel splinters and fragments did the rest.”

Devastation was everywhere. Col. Beecher wrote: “Marine Gunner Ferrell, one of my battalion officers, was sitting - holding his head in his hands. One of his eyes had been blown out. One of the doctors bandaged Ferrell up and gave him a sedative which was the strongest thing he had. Ferrell had no treatment for that eye with the exception of occasionally washing it out. He sat for days suffering, tortured by the terrific pain.”

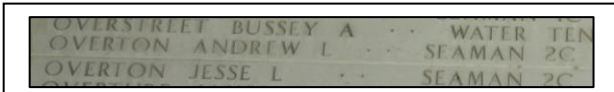
All of this suffering was greatly aggravated by the lack of medical help from the Japanese over the immediate hours and the days that followed. The surviving military doctors, corpsmen and others within both holds did what they could to prolong life and assist those who were wounded, but it was largely a losing battle, especially for those men who had suffered serious wounds. The men were weak and fragile before the bombing. They were much worse afterward with many just clinging to life. With no medical aid from the Japanese they were doomed to die.

Surviving POW Amoroso wrote: “The Japs provided no medical supplies for the care of the wounded, and just left us in that hold with those hundreds of mutilated bodies for two days.” Many of the injured died in the next few days.

Seaman 2nd Class Andrew Lee Overton was one of those killed outright in the bombing or who died in agony during the following days. Francis survived.



Golden cenotaph, Richmond, VA



Overton cenotaph, Tablets of the Missing, Manila, Philippines

Finally on January 12th they began to remove the dead from the ship. The stronger and mostly younger men were called upon to help remove the bodies. They placed the bodies – their comrades, friends of years, or days, or just hours before, into a rope cargo net lowered into the holds. Few were now recognizable even to close friends. The net then lifted these lifeless remains into cargo lighters brought alongside the damaged *Enoura Maru*, and over the next two days more than 300 POWs were buried on the outer spit of Kaohsiung Harbor in a mass grave.



Brazil Maru

Francis was then placed aboard the *Brazil Maru* along with 889 other POWs. The ship left Takao on January 14 and did not arrive in Moji, Japan until January 30. During the 16-day voyage, 440 POWs died and their bodies thrown overboard. **Lieutenant Junior Grade**

Francis Xavier Philip Golden was one of those who died on January 16, 1945 and his remains lay on the bottom of the South China Sea.

Within three months after arriving in Japan 150 additional men died in prison camps. Of the 1,620 POWs who had started their journey to Japan on the *Oryoku Maru*, only 403 survivors were eventually found and liberated from camps in Kyushu, Korea, Manchuria, and Taiwan in August and September 1945.

Approximately 5,000 American men died on hell ships in transit from the Philippines to Japan. The total is over 20,000 men lost when considering all Allied prisoners on Japanese hell ships traveling in the Pacific. If not killed by friendly fire in the fog of war by Allied planes and submarines, they died in the filthy holds of the freighters carrying them to Japan for forced labor. The ships carried no special markings. The inscription on the Pacific War Memorial on Corregidor provides the best final benediction for the men who died as POWs:

*“Sleep, my sons, your duty done,
for Freedom’s light has come;
sleep in the silent depths of the sea,
or in your bed of hallowed sod,
until you hear at dawn the low,
clear reveille of God.”*

Neither Andrew’s or Francis’ body was ever recovered and their names are engraved on the Tablets of the Missing at the Manila American Cemetery and Memorial in the Philippines. Francis’ family erected a cenotaph in his memory at the Mount Calvary Cemetery in Richmond, Virginia.

REST IN ETERNAL PEACE!

APRIL MILITARY HISTORY

- 1 1863 US adopts conscription for Civil War
- 1893 USN establishes rate of Chief Petty Officer
- 1945 Okinawa: 60,000 U.S. soldiers and Marines land on Easter Sunday
- 1945 US First & Ninth Armies meet to form Ruhr pocket
- 1954 US Air Force Academy established
- 1954 US Army forms first helicopter battalion, Fort Bragg, NC
- 1991 Warsaw Pact officially dissolves
- 2 1827 Construction of 1st U.S. Naval Hospital begins, Portsmouth, Va
- 1865 Battles of Petersburg/Ft Gregg/Sutherland’s Station, Va: Robert E. Lee forced to evacuate Richmond
- 1917 Wilson asks Congress to declare war against Germany
- 1982 Argentina invades Falkland Is, initiating 72-day losing war with Britain
- 3 1865 Union forces occupy Richmond & Petersburg, to tune of “Dixie”
- 1948 Harry Truman signs Marshall Plan
- 4 1776 First USN victory at sea: USS ‘Columbus’ captures HM Tender ‘Hawke’
- 1862 Yorktown: First serious fighting of Peninsular Campaign
- 1865 Lincoln sits in Jeff Davis’ chair, in Confederate White House
- 1942 Bataan: Fil-American forces fall back after Japanese break through
- 1943 4th Marine Div activated at San Diego
- 1949 North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) formed
- 5 1951 Julius & Ethel Rosenberg, atomic spies, sentenced to death
- 1986 Berlin: 2 US servicemen & Turkish woman die in terrorist bombing
- 1991 Iraq: US begins relief air drops to Kurds in north
- 6 Army Day and National Tartan Day
- 1862 Battle of Shiloh, Day 1: Confederate success
- 1866 Union vets form Grand Army of Republic
- 1917 US declares war on Germany, entering WWI
- 1945 Okinawa: Massive kamikaze attack on US fleet sinks 6 ships

- 7** 1862 Battle of Shiloh, Day 2: Grant defeats Confederates
 1942 USN agrees to accept black Americans for general service
 1943 Japanese inflict heavy losses on Allied shipping around Guadalcanal
 1945 First Navy Nurses land on Iwo Jima: Lt, Jg, Ann Purvis & Ens Jane Kendeigh
 1980 President Jimmy Carter breaks relations with Iran over hostage crisis
- 8** Feast of St Walther Gautier of Pontoise, Patron Saint of POWs
 1865 Lee's retreat cut off near Appomattox Court House
 1956 Parris Is, SC: 6 Marine recruits drown during unauthorized night exercise
 2015 VFW Post 2894 Auxiliary founded
- 9** 1865 Appomattox: Robert E Lee & Army of Northern Virginia surrender
 1898 Lt Andrew Rowan leaves for Cuba with "a message for Garcia"
 1942 Bataan: 75,000 U.S. & Filipino troops surrender to Japanese
- 10** 1918 Near Toul, in eastern France, 104th Infantry begins 4 day determined defense against German assault, to become 1st American regt awarded Croix de Guerre
 1945 Allies liberate Buchenwald concentration camp
 1963 USS 'Thresher' (SSN-593) sinks east of Cape Cod, 124 die
- 11** 1863 Battle of Suffolk, VA
 1898 Pres McKinley asks for Declaration of War against Spain
 1899 Treaty of Paris: Spain cedes Puerto Rico, Philippines, Guam to US
 1900 USN accepts first submarine, USS 'Holland', originally designed for Fenians
 1942 American merchant mariners are authorized to receive DSM
 1951 Harry Truman fires Gen Douglas McArthur
- 12** 1861 Confederates shell Fort Sumter, initiating Civil War
 1911 First US naval aviator: Lt Theodore Ellyson
 1916 Battle of Hacienda Santa Cruz de la Villegas: Maj. Charles Young, senior black officer in US Army, leads squadron of 10th Cav ("Buffalo Soldiers") to rescue white 13th Cav, besieged by Mexicans
 1924 Off Balboa, Panama, 19-year old hooker Madeline Blair found aboard USS 'Arizona' (BB-39), plying her trade since ship left New York 1 month earlier
 1942 Bataan: Japanese massacre 400 Filipino officers
 1966 First B-52 raids on North Vietnam
 1981 First US space shuttle launch (Columbia)
 1993 Bosnia: USS 'Theodore Roosevelt' (CVN-71) & NATO initiate no-fly zone
- 14** 1818 US Army Medical Corps formed
 1865 Abraham Lincoln mortally wounded by John Wilkes Booth in Ford's Theatre, on Good Friday
 1898 USS 'Solace' commissioned, first hospital ship in USN since 1865, and only purpose-built hospital ship in history of fleet
 1912 RMS 'Titanic' strikes iceberg, 11:40 pm
 1945 Tokyo fire bomb raids: B-29s damage Imperial Palace
- 15** 1861 Ft Sumter surrenders
 1861 Lincoln calls for 75,000 volunteers
 1865 Stars and Stripes are again hoisted over Ft Sumter
 1947 Former Army 2nd Lt Jackie Robinson begins playing for Brooklyn Dodgers, integrating modern Major League baseball
 1952 First test flight of prototype B-52
 1986 US bombs terrorist bases in Libya, following Berlin disco bombing
- 16** 1916 French Army forms Escadrille Americaine
 1945 US troops enter Nuremberg
 1945 USS 'Laffey' (DD-724) survives 6 kamikaze hits, off Okinawa
- 1946 US launches captured V-2 rocket, White Sands, NM
 1947 Congress grants Navy Nurses full commissioned status
- 17** 1846 Battle of Cerro Gordo: Winfield Scott defeats Mexican Army
 1861 Virginia is 8th state to secede from Union
 1864 Grant suspends POW exchanges over Confederate refusal to treat black troops as soldiers
 1961 Bay of Pigs: 1,400 Cuban exiles land to overthrow Castro
- 18** 1644 Thousands of Pamunkey and allied Indians raid Virginia Colony, killing 500 settlers, initiating 32-months' long Second Tidewater War, in which colonists triumph
 1775 Paul Revere, Samuel Prescott, & William Dawes make "midnight ride"
 1934 US Army stops issuing sabers to cavalry
 1942 Doolittle Raid: 16 B-25Bs off CV Hornet strike Tokyo and other targets
 1942 WWII edition of "Stars & Stripes" begins publication in England
- 19** 1775 Battles of Lexington & Concord -- "The Shot Heard 'Round the World"
 1783 Congress orders hostilities with Britain at end, 8 years after "The Shot Heard 'Round the World."
 1909 Canonization of Joan of Arc, Patron of Soldiers, & Women in Military Service
 1919 Leslie Irvin of US makes 1st free fall parachute jump
 1941 US Marines begin construction of airfield on Wake Island
 1989 USS 'Iowa' (BB-61) gun turret explosion, 47 die
- 20** 1789 George Washington sworn in as 1st President, Federal Hall, NY
 1861 Union forces burn and abandon Gosport (Norfolk, Va) Navy Yard.
- 21** 1836 Battle of San Jacinto: Texas secures independence from Mexico
 1898 US declares war on Spain
 1914 US Marines and sailors occupy Vera Cruz, Mexico
- 22** 1944 New Guinea: U.S. Army troops land near Hollandia
- 23** Feast of St. George, Patron of Soldiers
 1861 Robert E Lee named major general and commander of Virginia state forces
 1945 Allies in Italy reach Po River
- 24** 1863 War Department issues GO No 100, The Law of Land Warfare, first US ROE.
 1943 US 7th Inf Div. trained for desert warfare, sails from San Francisco to Alaska
 1944 1st Boeing B-29 arrives in China over Himalayas -- "the Hump"
 1980 "Desert One": US operation to save 52 hostages in Iran fails, 8 die
- 25** 1862 Farragut occupies New Orleans, La
 1875 Combat on Pecos: Lt. John Bullis and Black Seminole Indian Scouts SGT John Ward, Trumpeter Isaac Payne, & PVT Pompey Factor rout 25-30 Lipan Indian raiders, for which Scouts are awarded Medal of Honor
 1914 First USN air combat mission: Lt. Patrick Bellinger conducts a reconnaissance over Veracruz, receiving some damage from machine gun fire.
 1945 Last Boeing B-17 attack against Nazi Germany
 1945 US & Soviet forces meet at Torgau on Elbe River
 1960 USS Triton completes first submerged circumnavigation of globe
- 26** 1607 English colonists land at Cape Henry, VA
 1805 William Eaton and Lt Presley O'Bannon attack Derna, Libya and phrase, "to the shores of Tripoli" enters national lexicon.
- 27** 1773 British Parliament passes Tea Act, leading to Boston Tea Party
 1778 John Paul Jones begins 2-day raid on Whitehaven, U.K.
 1813 Toronto captured by Americans under Gen Zebulon Pike
 1861 Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson assumes command at Harper's Ferry

- 1945 US 5th Army liberates Genoa
- 28** 1945 US 5th Army reaches Italian-Swiss border
- 1956 French leave Vietnam
- 1965 US Marines land in Dominican Republic, stay until Oct '66
- 1967 Mohammad Ali refuses induction into army
- 1971 Samuel Lee Gravely, Jr., promoted to Rear Admiral; first black admiral in US Navy
- 29** 1863 Battle of Chancellorsville begins
- 1945 US liberates Nazi concentration camp in Dachau
- 1970 US & South Vietnamese troops invade Cambodia
- 1975 Last US personnel pull out of Vietnam
- 30** 1492 Ferdinand & Isabella agree to bankroll Columbus
- 1798 US establishes Department of the Navy
- 1900 US annexes Hawaii
- 1908 1st Co., Signal Corps, 71st Reg, NYNG, formed to conduct aeronautical operations; now 106th Rescue Wing, oldest Air Guard unit.
- 1945 American & Soviet forces link up at Torgau in Germany
- 1980 Terrorists seize Iranian Embassy in London
- 1942 Battle of Coral Sea, Day 2: USS 'Lexington' (CV-2) sunk
- 1945 V-E Day; Germany signs unconditional surrender
- 1952 US conducts first H-Bomb test, Eniwetok Atoll
- 9** 1831 Alexis de Tocqueville arrives at Newport, RI, for 10 month tour
- 1926 Lt Cdr Richard Byrd & CMM Floyd Bennett fly over North Pole
- 10** 1676 Bacon's Rebellion begins in Virginia
- 1775 Benedict Arnold, Ethan Allan, & Green Mountain Boys capture Ticonderoga
- 1862 Confederates torch & evacuate Norfolk and Pensacola Navy Yards
- 1960 USS 'Triton' (SSN-586) completes first submerged circumnavigation
- 1968 Vietnam War: Paris peace talks begin, as does Battle of Hamburger Hill
- 11** 1862 CSS 'Virginia/Merrimac' scuttled in James River
- 1938 First USCG award of DFC, LT C. B. Olsen, for rescue at sea
- 12** 1607 Foundation of Jamestown, Virginia
- 1789 NYC Revolutionary War veterans form Society of St Tammany
- 1943 Trident Conference: Roosevelt and Churchill plan strategy
- 1975 US merchant ship 'Mayaguez' seized by Cambodian forces
- 13** 1908 Navy Nurse Corps is established
- 1943 USN Bureau of Navigation becomes Bureau of Naval Personnel
- 14** 1653 Massachusetts Council declares that 1/8th of each militia company be available to march on 1 day's warning.
- 1801 Tripoli declares war on US, initiating First Tripoli War (1801-1805)
- 1804 Lewis & Clark Expedition sets out from St Louis
- 1836 Mexican President Santa Anna, prisoner of Texans, signs Treaty of Velasco, conceding Texan independence.
- 1845 USS 'Constitution' lands Marines at Danang, Indochina
- 1856 USS 'Supply' delivers 50 Turkish camels to US Army at Indianola, Texas
- 1942 US Army forms Women's Army Auxiliary Corps (WAAC)
- 1945 US offensive on Okinawa, Sugar Loaf Hill captured
- 1975 US raids free Cambodian-held ship 'Mayaguez' with heavy losses
- 15** 1862 Ben Butler issues famous "Woman Order," and proves every woman in New Orleans is a lady
- 1939 Dupont introduces nylon; within year Japanese sales of silk to US fall 30 percent
- 1940 First successful test flight of American helicopter, Vought-Sikorsky US-300
- 17** 1987 USS 'Stark' (FFG-31) hit by Iraqi missiles, 37 sailors die
- 18** 1775 1st USS 'Enterprise' enters service, prize taken by Benedict Arnold on Lake Champlain
- 1861 Battle of Sewall's Point, VA
- 1917 Congress passes Selective Service Act
- 19** 1951 UN begins counter offensive in Korea
- 1958 NORAD formed
- 1967 US bombs Hanoi
- 20** 1912 Battlecruiser SMS 'Moltke' reaches Hampton Roads, on only visit to US by German capital ship
- 1930 Pres. Hoover reviews US Fleet off Virginia Capes
- 21** 1861 Richmond, Va, designated Capital of Confederacy
- 1881 Clara Barton founds American Red Cross
- 1917 Leo Pinckney first American drafted during WW I
- 1944 West Loch, Pearl Harbor: ammo-laden LST blows up, 6 LSTs lost, 200 killed, "2nd Pearl Harbor"
- 1968 USS 'Scorpion' (SSN-589) sinks off Azores, 99 die

MAY MILITARY HISTORY

- 1** 1862 David Farragut captures New Orleans
- 1898 Battle of Manila Bay: Adm Dewey orders, "You may fire when ready."
- 1931 Empire State Building opens
- 1960 Francis Gary Powers' U-2 spy plane shot down over Sverdlovsk
- 2** 1863 Stonewall Jackson wounded by own men at Chancellorsville, dies May 10th
- 1945 Berlin formally surrenders to Red Army
- 1945 German forces in Italy surrender
- 3** 1846 Mexican army invades Texas
- 1861 Lincoln orders expansion of Army by 23,000 and Navy by 18,000
- 1943 US 1st Armored Div captures Mateur, Tunisia
- 1946 Military Tribunal in Tokyo begins war crimes trials
- 4** 1946 US Marines recapture Alcatraz from rioting prisoners
- 1970 Ohio National Guard kills 4 students at Kent State
- 1942 Battle of Coral Sea begins
- 5** 1814 British attack Ft Ontario, Oswego, NY
- 1862 Cinco de Mayo: Mexican forces defeat French at Puebla
- 1862 Peninsular Campaign: Battle of Williamsburg, VA
- 1864 Battle of Wilderness: Germanna Ford/Wilderness Tavern
- 1908 Great White Fleet reaches San Francisco
- 1942 Philippines: Japanese troops land on Corregidor
- 1945 Oregon: Japanese balloon bomb kills pregnant woman and 5 children
- 1965 First large US ground units arrive in South Vietnam
- 6** 1937 Hindenburg disaster, Lakehurst, NJ, 36 die
- 1941 Bob Hope stages his first USO show, March Field, California
- 1945 Axis Sally makes her last broadcast
- 1962 USS 'Ethan Allen' (SSBN-608) fires first nuclear warhead from submerged sub
- 7** 1942 Battle of Coral Sea begins
- 1954 Dien Bien Phu: Vietminh overrun French after 55-day siege
- 1989 Panama: Manuel Noriega seizes power after losing election
- 8** 1886 Confederate veteran John S. Pemberton invents Coca Cola
- 1911 Birth of Naval Aviation: USN orders first airplane, a Curtiss A-

- 22** National Maritime Day
- 1959 Benjamin O Davis Jr. (USMA '36) becomes first black Army general
- 1985 US sailor Michael L Walker arrested for spying for USSR
- 23** 1775 Virginian Patrick Henry says "Give me Liberty or give me death!"
- 1862 Valley Campaign: Stonewall Jackson takes Front Royal, Virginia
- 24** 1764 James Otis coins phrase "No taxation without representation!"
- 1861 Benjamin Butler declares fugitive slaves Frank Baker, Shepard Mallory, & James Townsend "contraband of war"
- 25** 1787 Constitutional Convention opens in Philadelphia
- 1961 JFK pledges US will put man on moon by 1970
- 26** 1945 US fire bomb raid on Tokyo
- 27** 1607 Battle of Jamestown: English settlers repulse attack by 200 Indians
- 28** 1830 Congress authorizes Indian removal from Eastern states
- 1980 First 55 women graduate from U.S. Naval Academy
- 29** 1945 Okinawa: 1st Marine Division Captures Shuri Castle
- 30** 1868 First "Decoration Day" [now "Memorial Day"], designated by GAR CINC Maj Gen John Logan
- 1958 Unknown soldiers of WWII & Korean War entombed in

Arlington National Cemetery

1962 USS 'Arizona' Memorial dedicated in Pearl Harbor

31 1900 Boxer Rebellion: Multi-national relief forces reach Peking

FROM THE EDITOR

If you are interested in submitting articles, photos, updates on events, for inclusion in the newsletter, please send them to me at: 505 Piping Rock Drive, Chesapeake, VA 23322, 757-482-4981 or cdrpost2894@vfwva.org.

If you know of a business or anyone who would like to help sponsor Post 2894, please let them know that their help will be recognized in the newsletter.

The primary means for disseminating the newsletter is via e-mail. If you prefer a 'hard-copy' via 'snail-mail' (a 'paper copy' via 'US Postal Service' for you old(er) farts!) please let know.

Semper fidelis, *Chris Mulholland*

YOUR AD
COULD BE
HERE!!!

Chesapeake VIRGINIA

8th ANNUAL BATAAN DEATH MARCH MEMORIAL WALK



ALCIDO "BULL" SYLVIO BERNINI
Command Master Sergeant
United States Army Retired



DAN CROWLEY
Corporal
United States Army



JOHN MIMS
Master Sergeant
United States Army Retired



1-mile walk 1100 am
5-mile walk 1000
16-mile walk 0700

27 APRIL 2019
Dismal Swamp Canal Trail
Chesapeake, Virginia 23322



Sponsored by
VFW Post 2894
SSG Jon K. Dozier Memorial

For more information, visit <http://walkchesapeake.wixsite.com/chesapeakebataan>
Register by April 19 at <http://walkchesapeake.wixsite.com/chesapeakebataan/register>

POST 2894 CALENDAR

<u>APRIL</u>	
1	Easter / April Fool's Day
6	Army Day / US enters WWI
8	Anniversary of Post 2894 Auxiliary founding (2015)
10	Post Meeting, 1900 – Officer Elections/ Quarterly Audit
15	Income Tax Day
25-28	Virginia International Tattoo
27	8 th Bataan Death March Memorial Walk – Dismal Swamp Park

<u>MAY</u>	
3	Mickey Casady's 101 st Birthday!
5	Cinco de Mayo
8	Post Annual Awards Ceremony, 1900 / VE Day (1945)
10	Military Spouses Day
12	Mother's Day
15	Peace Officers' Memorial Day/ JROTC Awards Ceremony, IRHS, (1800)
18	Armed Forces Day
18	District 2 Convention, Post 8545 Smithfield
18-19	Buddy Poppy Drive
27	Memorial Day Ceremony, City Hall, 1100

**OR YOUR AD
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VFW SSG Dozier Post 2894
PO Box 15842
Chesapeake, VA 23328



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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED