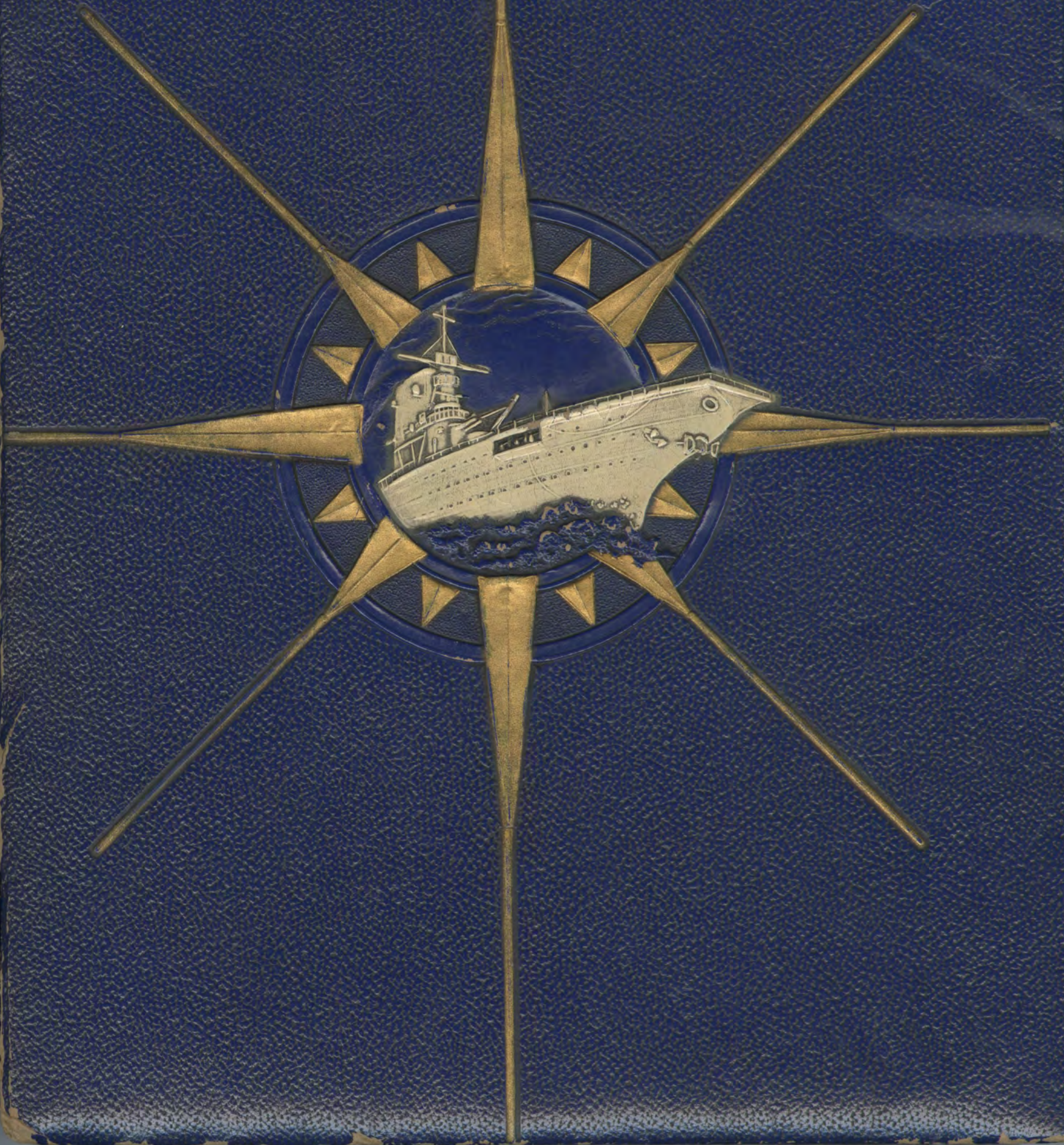












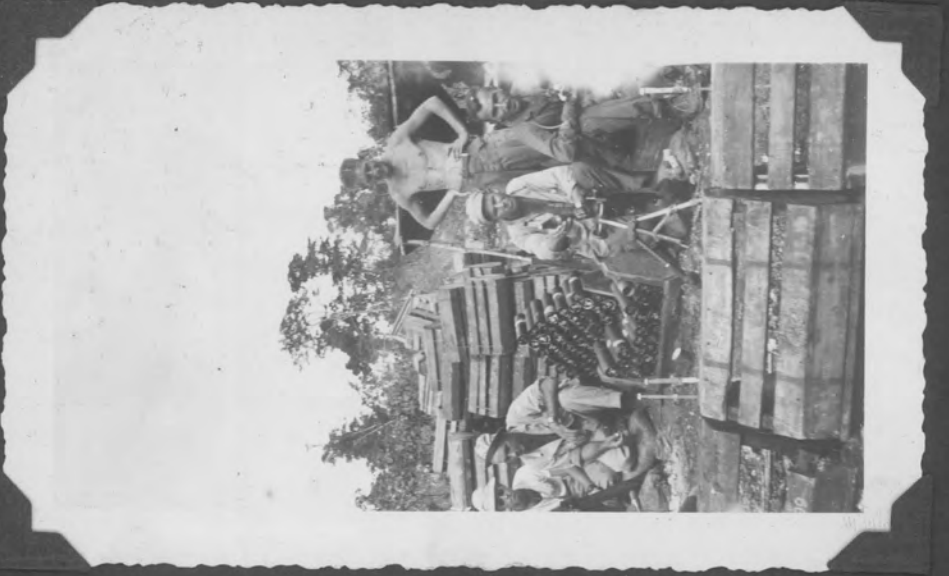






George Montheart



































Proud Lufkin Dad— Has Jap Flag Captured by Soldier Son

About the proudest dad in Lufkin Monday was W. L. Bruce local business man, and he had just cause for elation his friends agreed, as he displayed a Japanese flag which had been snatched from it staff following a battle in which the Yankees had been victors.

Sergeant Doyle E. Bruce a Lufkin man, now fighting in Hollandia, in a letter to his father explained that he had taken the flag from its position over an outpost. The flag bore the names of more than a hundred of Young Bruce's buddies and as Mr. Bruce explained "makes a souvenir which any man should treasure."

Inscribed on the flag aside from the names is "Company A, 163rd Infantry, 41st Division."

In the list of names and addresses on the flag were men from Tampa to Tacoma and from Brownsville to Bangor among whom was the commanding officer, Captain Edward L. Reams.

The last communication from his son was received by Mr. Bruce on May 10.



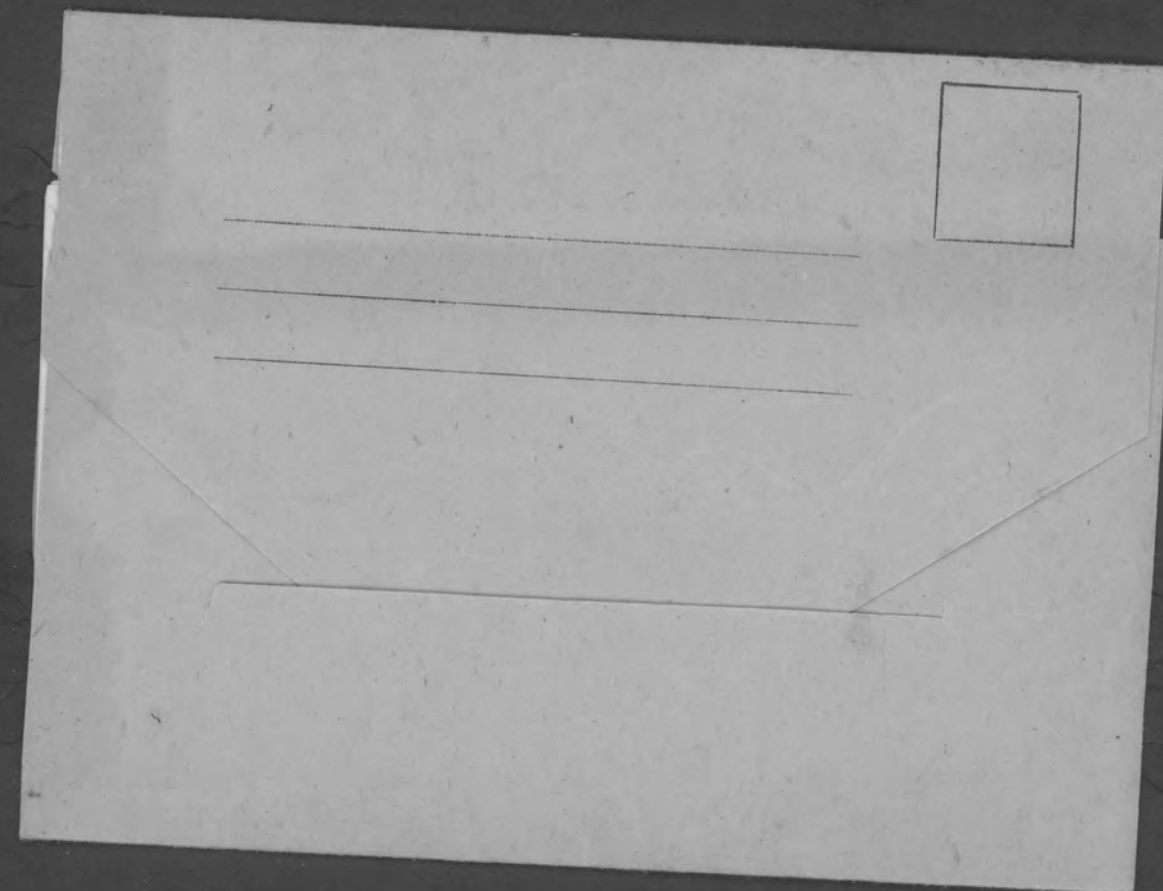
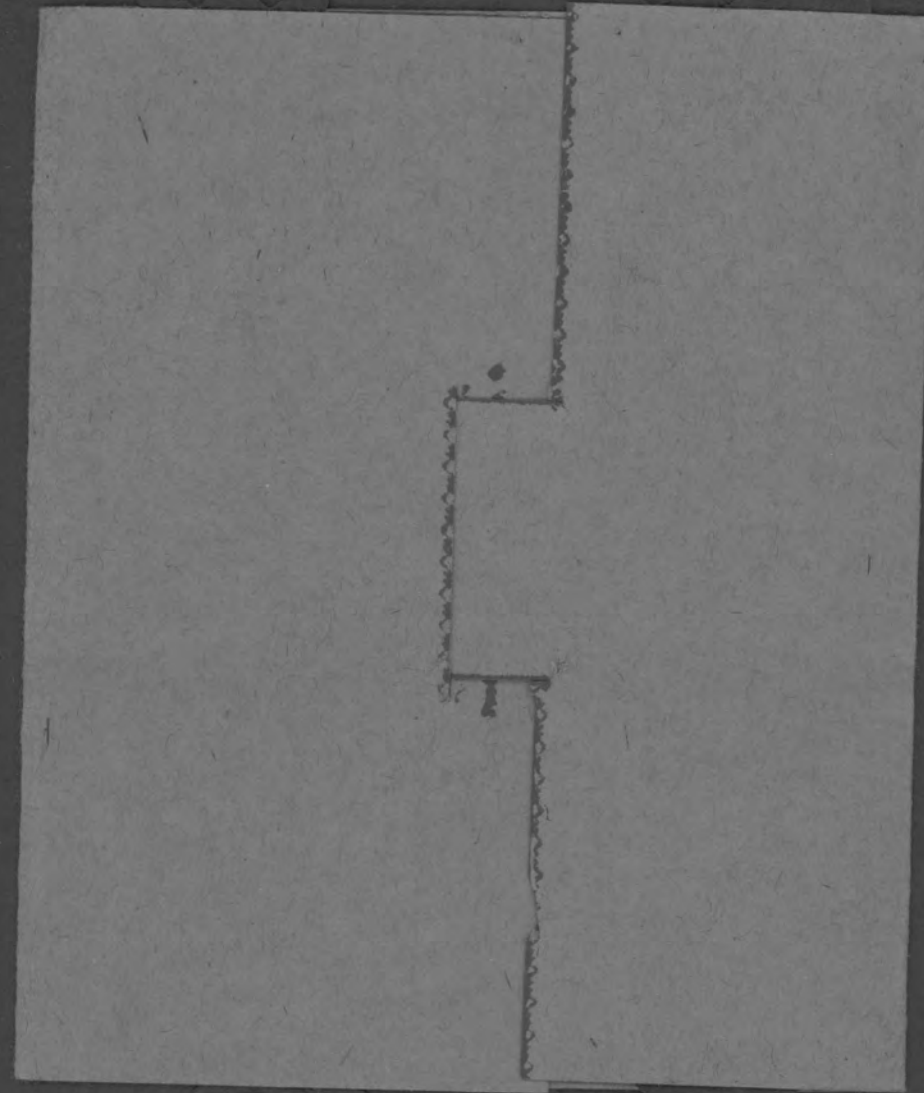


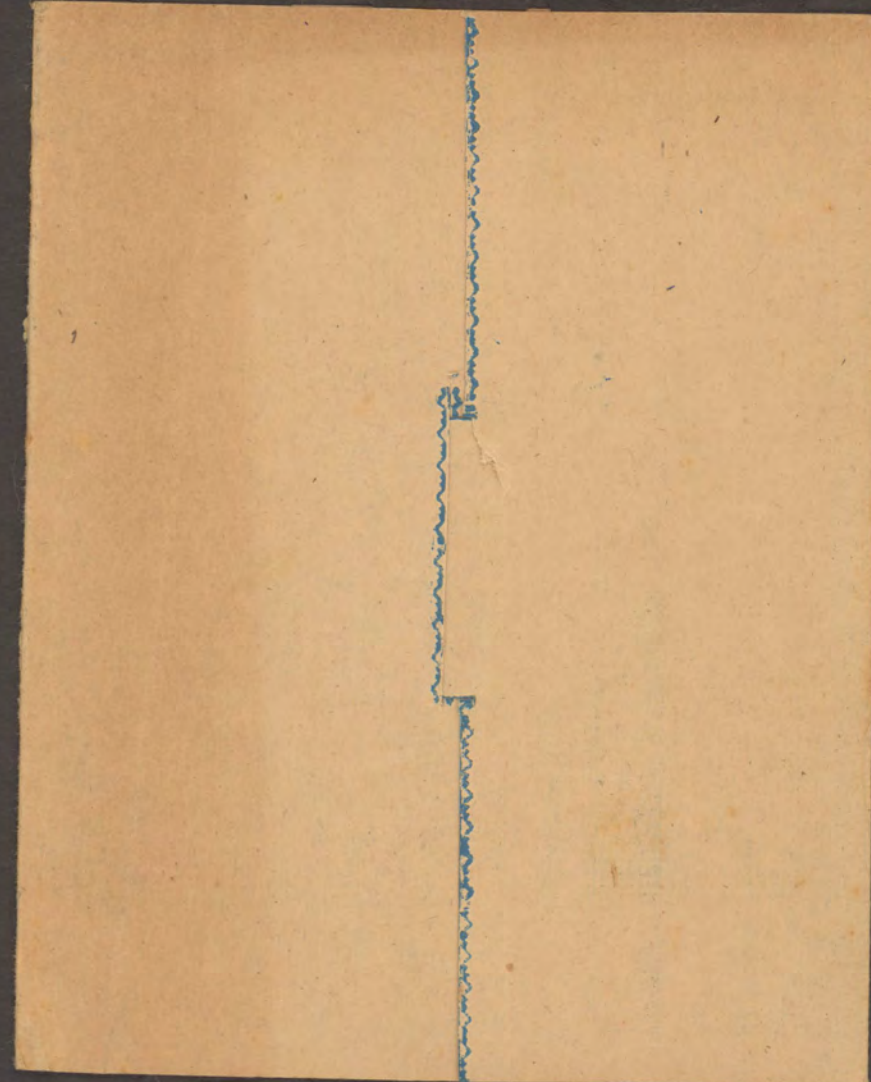
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P.M. JONES



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A PRETTY VIEW OF AUCKLAND CREEK, GLADSTONE

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Brisbane. Phones: B 7178, B 4445; Res. Twg. 952





STRANGE DEATH IN TRUCK

U.S. Soldier's Body Found By Boy

THE body of a fully-dressed American soldier was found in a railway truck, containing timber, at North Carlton station yesterday morning by a 12-years-old boy who climbed on to the truck.

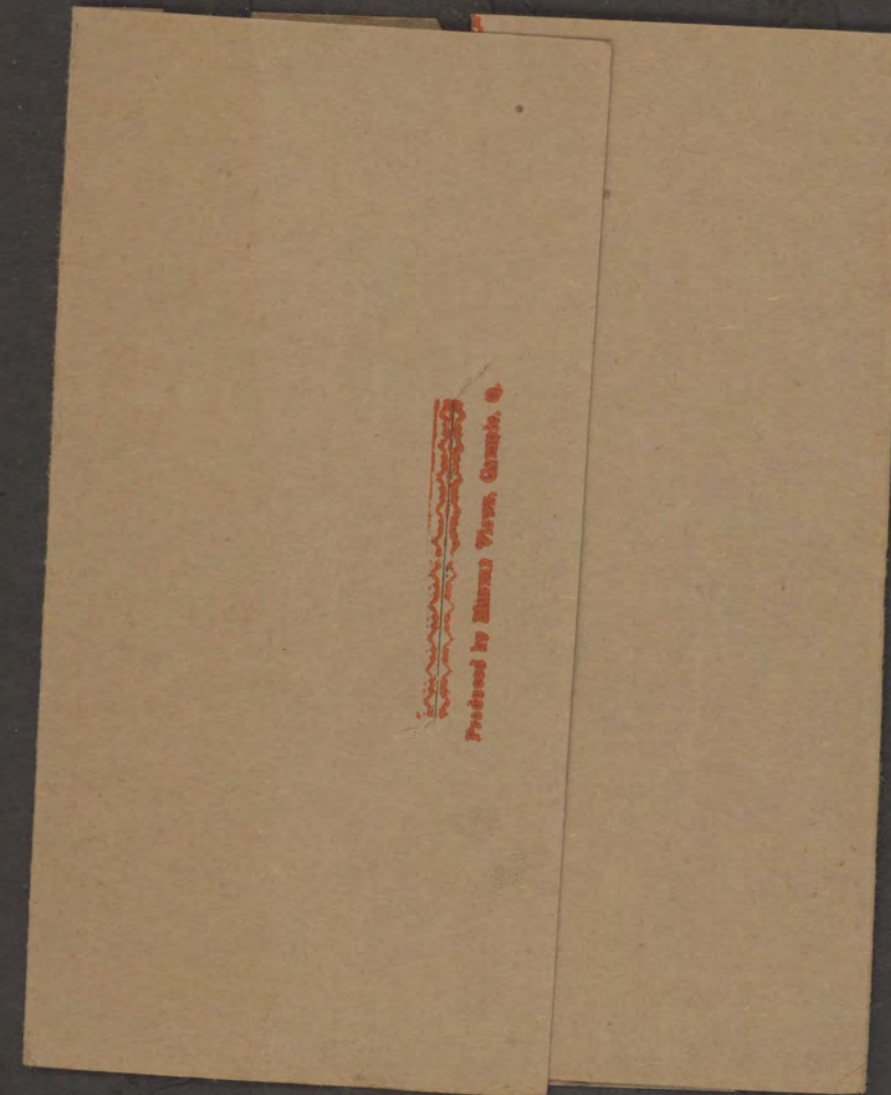
The body was lying on its back, with arms and legs folded, in a space in the truck 7ft. long and only 2ft. 6in. wide.

Although the police at first suspected murder, they now believe that the man died as the result of an accident while asleep in the truck.

In a pocket of the dead soldier's uniform was a leave pass in the name of Pte. Seth Willingham, attached to a Signal Corps in the U.S. Army camped near Melbourne. Willingham came from East Texas.

The truck was the only one consigned to North Carlton, shunted in from a goods train at 10.30 a.m. yesterday. A consignment note showed that it left Wesburn, near Warburton and it probably was in the Melbourne goods yard all day Sunday.

Police have not yet ascertained when or where the man entered the truck. They believe that while he was asleep some of the timber must have crushed him to death.



Fuzzy Wuzzy Angels Of Kokoda Track



AS a result of the great public interest in the "Fuzzy Wuzzy Angels of Owen Stanley Track" more than £130 will be available for comforts for native carriers.

On the advice of the Army for whom the natives are working so loyally, The Courier-Mail has arranged with the Australian Comforts Fund and the Red Cross Society to send special comforts to Papua. Both these organisations are already serving the "Fuzzy Wuzzies," and have undertaken to send special comforts with the proceeds of the sale of the "Fuzzy Wuzzy" cards and direct contributions sent to The Courier-Mail.

The verse, written by an Australian soldier, is reproduced for those who were unable to buy a card because the supply was exhausted or who failed to keep a copy of the original publication on October 31.

Many a mother in Australia, when the busy day is done,
Sends a prayer to the Almighty for the keeping of her son;
Asking that an Angel guide him, and to bring him safely
back—

Now we see those prayers are answered, on the Owen Stanley
track.

Though they haven't any haloes, only holes slashed through
the ear,
And their faces marked with tattoos and with scratch pins in
their hair,

Bringing back the badly wounded, just as steady as a hearse,
Using leaves to keep the rain off, and as gentle as a nurse;
Slow and careful in bad places on the awful mountain track,
And the look upon their faces makes us think that Christ
was black.

Not a move to hurt the carried, as they treat him like a saint,
It's a picture worth recording, that an artist's yet to paint.
Many a lad will see his mother, and the husbands wee 'uns
and wives,

Just because the Fuzzy Wuzzies carried them to save their
lives

From mortar or machine gun fire or a chance surprise attack
To safety and the care of doctors at the bottom of the track.

the mothers in Australia, when they offer up a prayer,
Mention these impromptu angels with the fuzzy wuzzy hair.

AUSTRALIAN MOTHER ANSWERS WITH A FUZZY-WUZZY PRAYER

THE now famous verse, "Fuzzy Wuzzy Angels," was written by a Digger as our troops were advancing over the Owen Stanley Ranges last October. It ended thus:—

MAY the mothers of Australia,
when they offer up a prayer,
Mention these impromptu angels
with the fuzzy-wuzzy hair.

Here is "An Australian Mother's Answer," which was written by the mother of a Digger as a tribute to the natives of New Guinea, whose loyalty and endurance inspired the original verse:—

WE the mothers of Australia,
as we kneel each night in prayer,
Will be sure to ask God's blessing
on the men with fuzzy hair;
And may the Great Creator, who
made both black and white,
Help us to remember how they helped
to win the fight.
For surely He has used these men
with fuzzy-wuzzy hair,
To guard and watch our wounded
with tender loving care;
And perhaps when they are tired,
with blistered, aching back,
He'll take their yoke upon Himself
and help them down the track.

AND God will be the artist, and
this picture He will paint,
of a fuzzy-wuzzy angel with the
halo of a saint,
And His presence shall go with them
in tropic heat and rain,
And He'll help them tend our wound-
ed in sickness and in pain.
So we thank you Fuzzy-Wuzzy,
for all that you have done,
Not only for Australia, but for every
mother's son.
And we're glad to call you friends
although your faces may be
black,
For we know that Christ walked
with you on the Owen Stanley
track.

TELLING THE WORLD:
When they advertise in America,
—they advertise. Take this ex-
ample of a simple explanation of the
qualities of asparagus sold by a large
department store in New York:—
"...our asparagus has known no
equal. We do not cut it. We tell
it. Enormous shoots! White as a
debutante's shoulders! Tender as
the flesh of peaches! Cool as ane-
mones in a fairy grotto! The fresh-
ness of its flavour is the freshness
of dawn."

SEPTEMBER 8, 1945

41st Infantry Division

Nickname: Jungleers Division.
Previously called "Sunset" from
shoulder patch, the troops of the
41st adopted the new name after
campaigning in New Guinea.

Shoulder Patch: The patch is
semi-circular, has a red background
with sun and 12 orange rays against
blue (representing the ocean). The
patch symbolizes the sun setting in
the Pacific and derives from the
fact personnel come from the
Northwest.

Song: "41st Division Marching
Song" by Pvt. Frederick Valdez.
(Additionally: "First in Old Manila"
for 162d Inf.) Songs are in SIS file.

Source: Ore., Wash., Idaho and
Mont. National Guard units. (This
war.)

Philippines the 41st has set a com-
bat record which is among the fore-

Otis Belin, Pacific War Veteran, Killed on Biak

A veteran of three years service
under Gen. Douglas MacArthur,
Staff Sgt. Otis B. Belin, 25, was
killed in action June 19 on Biak
Island, his brother, Robert Belin,
2714 Jensen drive, has been noti-
fied.



Staff Sgt. OTIS B. BELIN

Just three days before his com-
pany started to the Marianas,
Sergeant Belin wrote his brother,
"So far I have been able to take
care of myself, but keep your
fingers crossed."

During action in the New Guinea
area, Sergeant Belin was awarded
the Silver Star for gallantry in
action. His brother said the gov-
ernment had written him he would
receive the Purple Heart in a few
days. An employee of the Houston
Textile mill before he enlisted in
the Army in October, 1940, he took
basic training at San Antonio and
advanced training at Tacoma,
Wash., and was sent overseas three
years ago.

Other survivors include three
brothers, Johnnie Belin, of Hous-
ton, Wilbur Belin, Bank, Ark., and
Tech. Sgt. O. J. Belin, in the Air
Force at Midland.

BERTHING CARD

DECK

ROOM No. 37

RETAIN THIS CARD

Breakfast: 6:45 a.m.
Dinner: 11:30 a.m.
Tea: 5:00 p.m.

MESSING CARD
Mess Hall, "R" Deck
AMIDSHIPS
FIRST MESS

REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that in accordance with the
Selective Service Proclamation of the President of the United States

DOYLE EDWARD BRUCE

(First name) (Middle name) (Last name)
4001 TEXAS Houston Texas
(No. and street or R. F. D. No.; city or town, county and State)

has been duly registered this 16 day of Oct, 1940

(Signature of registrant)

Registrar for 10 (Precinct) (Ward) (City or county) (State)

BE ALERT (Keep in touch with your Local Board.)

Notify Local Board immediately of change of address.

CARRY THIS CARD WITH YOU AT ALL TIMES

D. S. S. Form 2 16-17105

The person named herein whose Order No. is 2458

Has been classified by Local Board ☒ Board of Appeals ☐

In Class 1 until awaiting physical examination

Notify your employer of this classification

September 10, 1941 (Date)

This card may be cut on dotted line for convenience in carrying.

D. S. S. Form 57





CLASS OF SERVICE
This is a full-rate Telegram or Cablegram unless its deferred character is indicated by a suitable symbol above or preceding the address.

WESTERN UNION
A. N. WILLIAMS
PRESIDENT

1201
176
1945 APR 17 AM 7 47 Ship Radiogram

SYMBOLS
DL = Day Letter
NL = Night Letter
LC = Deferred Cable
NLT = Cable Night Letter
Ship Radiogram

The filing time shown DA08 is on telegrams and day letters is STANDARD TIME at point of origin. Time of receipt is STANDARD TIME at point of destination

D.TY428 48 6 EXTRA GOVT=ATTEMPT TO DLR FM TYLER UNSFL WUX
=WASHINGTON DC 16 920P IT==
MRS' EVIE MAE BRUCE=
=LUFKIN TEX=
=THE SECRETARY OF WAR DESIRES ME TO EXPRESS HIS DEEP REGRET THAT YOUR SON SGT BRUCE DOYLE E WAS SLIGHTLY INJURED ON MINDANAO 19 MAR 45 CONTINUE TO ADDRESS MAIL TO HIM AS FORMERLY OR UNTIL NEW ADDRESS IS RECEIVED FROM HIM=
J A ULIO THE ADJUTANT GENERAL.
795
DOYLE E 19 45.
THE COMPANY WILL APPRECIATE SUGGESTIONS FROM ITS PATRONS CONCERNING ITS SERVICE

CLASS OF SERVICE
This is a full-rate Telegram or Cablegram unless its deferred character is indicated by a suitable symbol above or preceding the address.

WESTERN UNION
A. N. WILLIAMS
PRESIDENT

1201
DA14
1945 JUN 3 AM 7 52

SYMBOLS
DL = Day Letter
NL = Night Letter
LC = Deferred Cable
NLT = Cable Night Letter
Ship Radiogram

The filing time shown DA14 is on telegrams and day letters is STANDARD TIME at point of origin. Time of receipt is STANDARD TIME at point of destination

D.FA802 NL PD=FT MCDOWELL CALIF 7
MISS BETSY ROSE BRUCE=
=CITY HALL LUFKIN TEX=
=WILL BE HOME IN ABOUT A WEEK ARRIVED TODAY LOVE=
=DOYLE.



Belin
K.I.A. B12K 1944 (Junc)





BACK ROW L to R (1) ZIMMERMAN, (2) BENSON, (3) BILL RAMSEY, (4) GENE LEYDEN,
(5) LEONARD RETTIG, (6) LUTHER MAYBERRY, (7) CORTEZ, (8)-----,
(9) GOAR KOZING, (10) JOHN BARBER, (11) BEYERS, (12) JACK ANDERSON, (13)-----,
(14)-----,

MIDDLE ROW L to R (1) VINCENT SMITH, (2) HATHCOCK, (3) INDIAN CHIEF, WALLACE
C. FOURSTAR, (4) ED MILLS ? (5) THOLIN, (6) JACKSON (7) ALFRED DARLING,
(8) ?-----, (9) CARL TAPP, (10)----- (11)-----
(12) ISADORE MORRILLO, (13) LEWIS GORDON, (14)

FRONT ROW SITTING L TO R (1) DOYLE BRUCE, (2) DONALD SCHUMACHER, (3) M.D
SHORTY GRIFFITH, (4) GORDON VIRNOCHE, (5) FRANK VIVIRITO, (6)-----,
(7)----- (8) CITCHY,-----, (9) ED M. SEIDLECKLI,-----,
(10) EDDIE MILLINO, (11) GAMES,-----.

Army seeks B-17 crew's next of kin

Plane disappeared in '42, found in '86

ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — The Army wants to find the next of kin for six crewmen who died when their B-17 was lost on a 1942 patrol over the Coral Sea.

Although the aircraft was found and the crew list confirmed after several research missions to Papua, New Guinea, in 1986 and 1987, relatives of six of the eight crewmen haven't been found, said Shari Lawrence of the U.S. Total Army Personnel Command.

"The many years since the incident have made the locations difficult," she said in a statement.

The six crewmen are:

□ 2nd Lt. Jim Sam Grant, born Jan. 28, 1918. Last known next of kin: father Walter C. Grant, Malvern, Ark., and mother Marian P. Grant, Tuscon, Ariz.

□ 2nd Lt. Robert R. Meyer, Jr., birthdate unknown. Last known next of kin was father Robert R. Meyer, Birmingham, Ala.

□ Staff Sgt. Elton J. Rose, birthdate unknown. Last known next of kin was wife Gladys Strickland Rose, Coleman, Texas.

□ Sgt. Joe A. Carter, born May 10, 1910. Last known next of kin was mother Hazel Williams, La Jolla, Calif.

□ Sgt. Edward L. Hargrove, birthdate unknown. Last known next of kin were wife Evelyn W. Hargrove, Albuquerque, N.M., and grandfather, Manuel E. Flores, El Centro, Calif.

□ Sgt. Paul Reimer, born June 21, 1918. Last known next of kin was mother Eva Reimer, Reedley, Calif.

Anyone with information may call Doug Howard collect at (703) 325-7960 or (703) 325-0811.

Captured Japanese Flag



One of the largest, if not the largest, conventions ever held in Kalspell was the annual reunion of the 41st Infantry Division here last weekend. Over 800 people from all over the United States came to renew old acquaintances and recall their good times and bad ones during World War II in the South Pacific. This shot shows some of the men from G Company of the 163rd Regiment. The captured Japanese flag was signed by all the members of the unit on New Guinea, May 10, 1944 while the company was between invasions of Aitape and Wadketsem. Front row - Clint Claypool, Illinois - Gordon Virnoche, Wisconsin - George Smilanick, Minnesota, back row - Ross Brandt, Virginia - Wm. Ramsey, raised in

Kalspell but now in Washington - Dale Bruce, Texas. Company G was a Glasgow, Montana Company of the 163rd Regiment but men from other states came into the outfit as replacements for killed and wounded. The Kalspell Company was F, and George Ostrom recalls the town closing down on the day word was received here of four deaths of local boys at the same time. [Ostrom was Master of Ceremonies for the Divisions Saturday night banquet, and he took this photo.] Buck Torstenson was a company commander and was Host for this year's convention. Fran Roe, Bert Eklund, and Jerry Burrell were co-chairmen and they did a super job according to those in attendance.

Nation

3rd, 45th, 36th Divisions' Losses Highest

WASHINGTON, April 13.—(AP)—Three infantry divisions which spearheaded the 1944 drive through Southern France after fighting in the Mediterranean suffered the heaviest American army losses of the war.

Official but preliminary figures released Saturday by the army put the 3rd, 45th and 36th (Texas) divisions at the top of the list of casualties suffered by 88 divisions which saw battle action.

Altogether 33,547 men of the 3rd, a regular army unit, were killed, wounded or were missing in action, in fighting in North Africa, Italy, France and Germany. Included were 6,571 killed.

The 45th had 27,207 casualties including 4,030 killed, and the 36th a total of 28,718, of whom 4,265 were killed. Both these were national guard outfits.

In the number of men who met death in action, three other divisions took heavy losses also. They were the 29th, with 4,612 killed; 4th division, 4,581, and 9th division, 4,474 killed.

The casualties were disclosed in a general report of activities of the army ground forces during the war.

Total casualties of all army divisions from Pearl Harbor to V-J day were 731,814. Of these 144,460 were killed in action, 532,299 were wounded and 35,355 were listed as missing.

Much of the heaviest losses were taken by the infantry divisions. The casualties of the 3rd more than doubled its original strength of 14,037, the difference being accounted for by a stream of replacements.

Of the armored divisions, the 1st suffered 9,438 casualties and the 3rd 9,620. The 1st cavalry division which fought dismounted in the Pacific counted 8,883 killed, wounded and missing.

Heaviest suffered of the airborne divisions was the 82nd with 7,677 total casualties. The 101st recorded 7,588.

Total casualties by divisions:
Infantry—First 20,893, Second 15,208, Third 33,547, Fourth 21,205, Fifth 11,654, Sixth 8,851, Seventh 15,179, Eighth 12,642, Ninth 22,185, 24th 11,518, 25th 9,865, 26th 9,825, 27th 9,396, 28th 12,590, 29th 19,366, 30th 16,638, 31st 2,417, 32nd 14,124, 33rd 4,328, 34th 20,906, 35th 14,179, 36th 28,718, 37th 10,070, 38th 6,905, 40th 6,146, 41st 5,624, 42nd 2,954, 43rd 10,650, 44th 4,899, 45th 27,207, 63rd 4,230, 65th 11,882, 66th 14,511, 69th 14,944, 70th 3,543, 71st 676, 75th 4,118, 76th 2,924, 77th 13,701, 78th 7,608, 79th 13,580, 80th 14,946, 81st 27,433, 83rd 14,393, 84th 6,506, 85th 9,413, 86th 753, 87th 5,485, 88th 15,101, 89th 978, 90th 18,099, 91st 9,027, 92nd 3,200, 93rd 194, 94th 5,895, 95th 6,221, 96th 16,834, 97th 933, 98th 0, 99th 5,344, 100th 4,752, 102nd 4,629, 103rd 4,144, 104th 6,357, 106th 2,648, Americal 6,818.

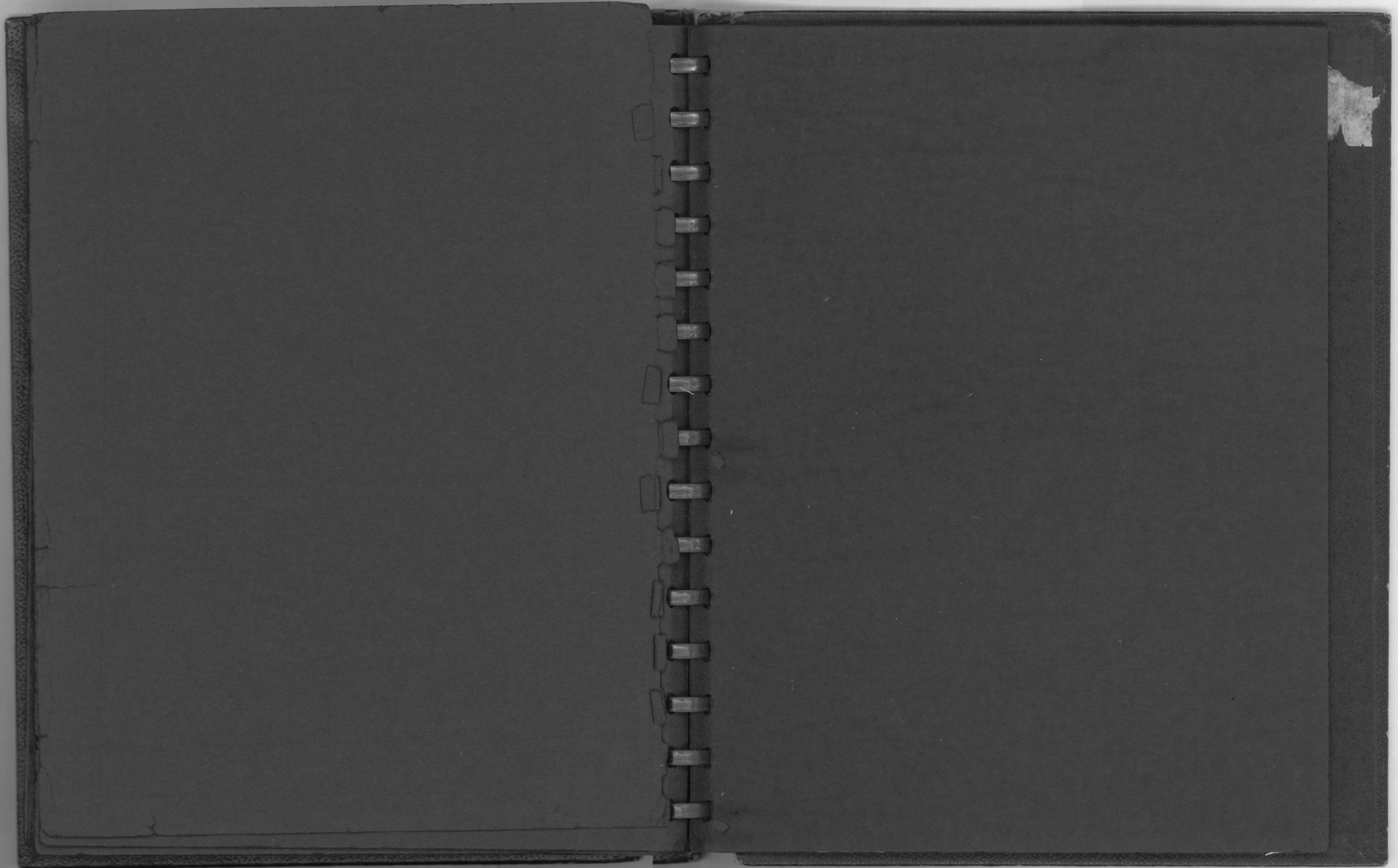
Airborne divisions—11th 5,124, 13th 13, 17th 5,420, 82nd 7,677, 101st 7,588.

Armored divisions—First 9,438, Second 7,119, Third 9,620, Fourth 6,207, Fifth 3,279, Sixth 5,530, Seventh 5,278, Eighth 14,944, Ninth 3,199, 10th 4,281, 11th 3,197, 12th 3,042, 13th 496, 14th 2743, 16th 14, 20th 173.

Cavalry division—First 8,883.
Mountain division—10th 4,130.



ART GUILLEN
45



The Jungleer,

As requested by your photographer in Baltimore here is photograph of G-162. There were also two other men there not pictured on Saturday night, having left early, Dr. Hargis Westerfield and Irving Sprague.

Mary Ruth Brandt

Left to right: Front Row Kneeling — Ross Brandt, Ridgeway, VA; Will Ramsey, Port Orchard, WA; Ed Higgins, Davenport, IA; Sam Pringatore, Forest Park, IL; Norman Process, Crivitz, WI; Back Row — Paul Hamlin, Libertyville, IL; Bill Brandon, New Castle, PA; Bert Osen, Glasco, MT; Doyle Bruce, Lufkin, TX; Paul Zusky, Akron, OH.



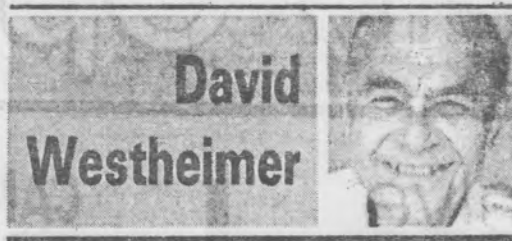
When hell could have broken loose

Tomorrow is Nov. 1. It should be a day of giving thanks because on this day 39 years ago nothing happened.

Nov. 1, 1945, was the planned D-day for Operation Olympic, the invasion of Japan (already being prepared when the first atomic bomb was dropped). Were it not for the bomb, which caused the emperor to make the decision to call for surrender, Adm. Raymond Spruance's Fifth Fleet would have begun landing Gen. Walter Krueger's Sixth Army on the beaches of Kyushu, the southernmost island of Japan.

The Fifth Fleet had 2,900 vessels, including nine battleships, 20 carriers, 88 destroyers, 295 troop transports, 95 attack cargo ships and 555 LSTs (Landing Ship, Tank) as well as hundreds of other craft (including one bearing crosses for American graves). The fleet was to land 650,000 American troops and 61,000 vehicles.

The American force would have been opposed by Japan's Second General Army, commanded by Field Marshal Shunroku Hata and headquartered in Hiroshima, target of the first atom bomb. The Japanese had a defense plan called *Ketsu-Go*. Existing records show the plan anticipated the invasion almost exactly when and where it was to happen. By D-day it was expected 990,000 defenders would be in place on Kyushu, including volunteer soldiers from the civilian population. Actually, every male between 15 and 60 and every female between 17 and 40 were expected to "volunteer" for the Volunteer Combat Force, the *Kokumin Giyu Sento-Tai*. The population had been provided with an illustrated manual, *The People's Handbook of Resistance Combat*, showing them how to fight soldiers and tanks with bamboo spears, suicide explosives and their bare hands.



Although all that was left of their navy were 19 destroyers and 38 submarines, the Japanese had been hoarding fuel and aircraft and were feverishly building more planes. They expected to have at least 10,000 to use in suicide attacks, including a new type, the *Tokka*, "Wisteria Blossom."

For surface attacks the Japanese had more than 3,000 Navy *Shinyo* and Army *Maruhachi*, explosives-packed motorboats to be rammed into American ships. They had underwater suicide craft, too, the *Kaiten*, "Stupendous Dragon," the *Kairyu*, "Sea Dragon," and *Koryu*, "Dragon Larva." About 1,000 would be available by D-day.

Most bizarre of the planned suicide defenses were the *Fukuryu*, the "Crouching Dragons." Crouching Dragons were men in diving suits with long, explosives-tipped poles who would wait on the bottom to attack landing craft passing above them. Four thousand were in training at the Yokosuka midget submarine training center.

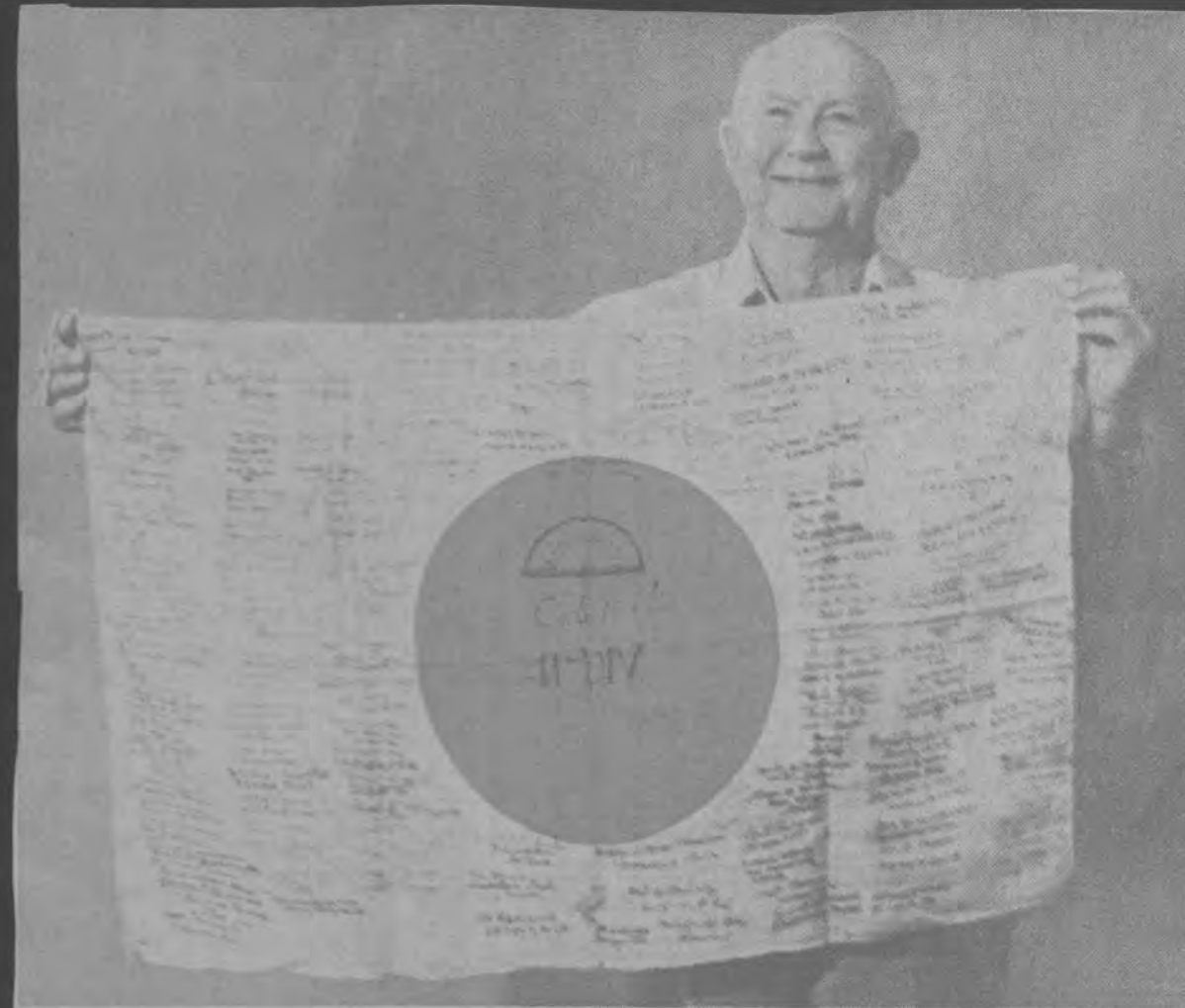
But the deadliest threat of all waited ashore. Using techniques perfected on Okinawa, the Japanese were honeycombing the anticipated landing areas with bomb- and shell-proof defenses which would have to be taken in hand-to-hand combat. They hollowed out hills for

troops and guns, built concrete field gun positions and dug networks of tunnels in several underground lines of defense from the beaches themselves to the high ground several kilometers inland. And they would die at their positions rather than surrender. (This is the theme of my novel, *Lighter Than a Feather*.)

What would this have cost us? U.S. Army Chief of Staff George C. Marshall estimated, from a quarter-million to a million casualties. But that was assuming two operations, Olympic first and then Coronet, the invasion of the Tokyo area. The Japanese had decided to stake all on the defense of Kyushu, and Coronet would not have been necessary. Our War Department estimated 31,000 casualties for the first 30 days of Olympic.

Japanese losses would most certainly have been devastatingly higher. In the millions, with most of them not even combat-related. By the summer of 1945, Japan was running out of food, fuel, medicine — everything needed to sustain life and health. In July, for example, the daily rice ration was down to about one and a half cupsful, and by D-day Japan would have had only a four-day supply left. Civilians might have died in the thousands attacking U.S. troops and tanks on Kyushu, but they would have died in tens of thousands throughout Japan of starvation, disease and exposure.

The atom bomb was unarguably a dreadful thing. But war itself is a dreadful thing, and the one against Japan would have been even more so without it. Not only because of the thousands of Americans who would have died in the invasion (I know men who were to have landed on the beaches of Kyushu) but also "or the millions of Japanese who would have perished had the conflict been prolonged for another six months, as it would have been.



Lufkinite Bruce Doyle holds his souvenir Japanese flag covered with signatures from the men of his company during World War II in the South Pacific. (Staff Photo)

Souvenir flag keeps veterans close together

By ANDREW BENSON
Staff Writer

Anytime Doyle Bruce wants to remember World War II, he needs only to look at the flag.

Bruce, a long-time Lufkin resident, captured a Japanese war flag from one of the enemy during a campaign with the U.S. Army's 41st Infantry Division, which was stomping around with the Australians in the South Pacific in 1944.

While resting in a coconut field in New Guinea, Bruce, surrounded by 80 or 90 fellow members of G company, thought he'd do something which would bring the company closer together for the time they would eventually become miles apart.

"I just took it on myself to get it signed," Bruce said.

So he spent his afternoon seeing to it that members of the

FEATURES

company, Americans from cities and towns scattered across the country, would become immortal on the souvenir from World War II.

The flag is tattered now, and some of the signatures have faded a bit over the years. Bruce carried the flag through World War II's South Pacific in his knapsack, and later, he carried it to the reunions of the 41st Infantry Division, which was part of the 163rd Infantry attached to the Australian command.

The flag has become a highlight of the reunions.

"They were really excited See Souvenir, Page 2

about it," he said. "I guess there weren't many people who got a flag signed by a whole company like that."

Now the members of the 41st Infantry are interested in the flag for the infantry's archives. Bruce said he will give it up but keep a photocopy of it for himself and make copies for others.

Bruce was 26 at the time he fought in World War II and got the flag signed by his company. Now 67, he is a retired masonry contractor and bricklayer in Lufkin.

A native of Nacogdoches County, he is a member of the Jasper VFW Post No. 6380 and attends reunions of his old infantry division regularly. The 1984 national convention of the division will be held in Australia.

"I don't know whether I'll get to make it, but I'm going to try to," Bruce said.

And chances are if he makes it, the flag will make it, too.





WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING ABOUT THE MEMORIAL

"No event in our history is more deserving of commemoration on those hallowed National Mall grounds. But then, no event in our history better illustrates the character of the American people, or better defines the core values of our nation."

— Stephen Ambrose, historian and author

"Critics say it doesn't belong there, but in actuality it will improve the Mall. It fits the site like the proverbial glove."

— Benjamin Forgey,
Washington Post architecture critic

The design is "an eloquent statement worthy of the subject and the site."

— The Commission of Fine Arts

"A few malcontents are keeping this country from saying a long-overdue thank you to the WWII generation. It's time for protestors to leave the courtroom and to join hands and hearts with the millions of the fellow Americans to pay homage while we still can."

— Ray G. Smith, National Commander,
American Legion

"It's appropriate and timely that our nation honors those ordinary Americans who preserved our freedom and literally helped save the world from tyranny. They changed the course of history. To deny them their site on the Mall's central axis is to deny the historical significance of their sacrifice and achievement."

— Tom Hanks, actor and National
Spokesperson, WWII Memorial campaign

"It is right that the World War II Memorial will be the only 20th-century event commemorated directly on the central axis of the Mall, sitting squarely between the two memorials that are associated with the great American wars of the 18th and 19th centuries: the Washington Monument and the Lincoln Memorial."

— Witold Rybczynski, author, writing in
the Wall Street Journal

"I hope that, in the not too distant future, this magnificent monument to the brave men and women who, at home and abroad, participated in World War II will be completed at a site befitting the honor they earned and the debt they are owed. Let us do it now, before there are no World War II veterans alive to see it."

— Thomas F. Borchert, Charter Member of
the World War II Memorial Society,
writing in the Los Angeles Times

