

Today Ruth Stewart Will Be a Bride

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Relatives and a few close friends only have been invited to the ritual and the couple will be unattended. Tomorrow they will board a plane for Washington, D. C., where they plan to spend about three weeks before leaving for Lieutenant Russell's home in Fort Worth, Texas, to make another sojourn and then return to this city.

The bride-elect, whose family formerly made its home in Seattle, attended the College of the Pacific in Stockton, where she was a member of the Epsilon Lambda Sigma sorority.

Her husband-to-be is the son of Dr. and Mrs. Phil R. Russell of Fort Worth, the latter of whom arrived in San Francisco a few days ago and will be present at the nuptials.



LIEUTENANT AND MRS. ROY DAVIS RUSSELL
They were united Thursday after three and a half years

HERE'S A DRAMATIC STORY OF BATAAN, ESCAPE, A WEDDING

By MILDRED BROWN ROBBINS

On Christmas day four years ago come December 25, and almost a full year before the attack on Pearl Harbor, Mr. and Mrs. John G. Stewart and their daughters, Ruth and Mary, entertained a few young men at a holiday dinner at their home on Laguna Honda boulevard. In the party was Roy Russell, a tall handsome young man from Fort Worth, Texas, who was due to receive his wings in the Army Air Forces the following May.

It didn't take Roy and Ruth long to discover that each was the only person in the world for the other and when Roy, by that time Lieutenant Russell, left for the Philippine islands in June, Ruth's picture was in his wallet and her promise to wait for him ten years if necessary in his heart.

They communicated regularly, of course, until the fall of Bataan and Corregidor and then came a complete blackout, except for two prisoner postcards giving Ruth the small comfort that he was alive at least. Ruth continued to write but, thanks to the care of the little brown sons of heaven, Roy never received a line.

Under the Japs

Exact details of the young man's harrowing experiences during the three and a half terrible years that followed are not for publication at this time. But the Purple Heart decoration he wears attests to wounds received and the slight limp is mute reminder of a 20-mile tramp made with a dislocated hip.

Then on the 22nd of last October Ruth opened The Chronicle to find a long story about 83 American officers and men who had been Japanese prisoners in the Davao Penal Colony on Mindanao. They had been rescued and were in Australian hospitals. The release from General MacArthur's headquarters told how the men were being shipped north from the Philippines when their convoy was attacked by an American submarine and sunk. This had taken place nearly a month before the story had been O. K.'d.

Ruth didn't know it then but Roy had been on board that horror ship. The Japanese guards had fired on the men crowded in the holds who were trying to escape, others were hunted down and killed in the water as they sought to swim for shore two miles away. Some were picked up by enemy patrol and at least 30 were later brutally executed.

A Telephone Call

But Roy made it to land along with 82 others and with them was cared for by Philippine guerrillas until picked up and taken to Australia by American submarines and planes. Word of his rescue was immediately sent to Roy's parents, Dr. and Mrs. Phil R. Russell in Fort Worth, who telephoned the joyous news to Ruth here.

A week ago Friday Roy arrived in San Francisco and less than a week later on the anniversary of that fateful day, December 7 to be exact, he and Ruth were married. Roy has regained a good deal of that weight he lost in the hands of the Japs, looks well, feels well and is beautifully tanned. But there is a deep quiet about him, he doesn't talk much, and he seems to be making a conscious effort to adjust himself to things as they exist here.

It was a small simple wedding
Continued on Page 2, Col. 1

More About Escape From Jap Camp

Continued from Page 1

ceremony, solemnized in the attractive apartment of family friends, Mr. and Mrs. Elgin Stoddard, at the Fairmont Hotel. Ruth's father gave her hand in marriage and Mrs. Russell flew up from Texas to witness her only son's nuptials. Both young people were unattended and the bride chose to wear a dressmaker suit in a becoming aquamarine shade and brown accessories.

People There

Dr. Ezra Allen Van Nuys read the ritual and at the reception which followed, Ruth's only sister, Mary, presided over the tea table. Roy was pleased as punch that his former flying school classmate, Major J. P. Anderson was able to fly in from his base at Victorville to offer his congratulations and also that his close friends, Lieutenant and Mrs. J. C. Prizer were able to be on hand for the event.

Friday the justweds boarded a plane for Washington, D. C., to spend a short time before joining his parents in Fort Worth for Christmas—the first they've had together in four years. Then they'll return to San Francisco for a month and after that—Uncle Sam will decide.

Like all good stories this has a happy ending, an ending that is just a beginning for Ruth and Roy.

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From Where I Sit

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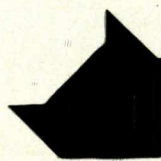
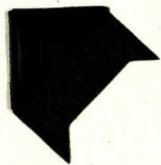
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SF Chronicle
Sunday Dec 10 '44





—Associated Press Wirephoto.
a toast to his bride, former Ruth Miriam Stewart of San Francisco, after they were married Thursday in San Francisco.

Lt. Roy D. Russell of Fort Worth, Army officer who escaped from a Japanese prison camp in the Philippines, drinks

Lieutenant Russell and Miss Stewart Are Married

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 7 (AP).—In the presence of immediate relatives and a few intimate friends, Miss Ruth Miriam Stewart, San Francisco, became the bride of Lt. Roy Davis Russell, Army Air Corps, of Fort Worth, here Thursday afternoon.

The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John C. Stewart, 691 Laguna Honda Blvd., San Francisco, and the bridegroom is the son of Dr. and Mrs. Phil R. Russell, 1837 Hill Crest, Fort Worth.

The wedding, a simple ceremony, was solemnized at 4:30 p. m., in the Fairmount Hotel apartment of Mr. and Mrs. Elgin Stoddard, atop fashionable Nob Hill. The service was read by the Rev. Ezra Allen Van Nuys, Presbyterian pastor.

An altar of bronze, yellow and gold dahlias was improvised in the Stoddard apartment and the young couple repeated its wedding vows before it.

The bride was attired in a smartly tailored green wool suit, with accessories of brown, and wore a corsage of orchids and bouvardia.

She was given in marriage by her father. Mr. Stoddard served as best man. At the wedding reception, also for relatives and intimate friends, which followed the ceremony, Miss Mary Arline Stewart, sister of the bride presided at the urns.

Receiving the guests with the bride and bridegroom were Mr. and Mrs. Stewart, Mrs. Russell, mother of the bridegroom, who came by plane from Fort Worth to be present at her son's wedding, and Mr. and Mrs. Stoddard.

The bride, whose family formerly made its home in Seattle, attended the College of the Pacific in Stockton, Cal., where she was a member of the Epsilon Lambda Sigma sorority.

Lieutenant Russell received his advanced education at the University of Texas, and obtained further schooling at Texas A&M College.

He became a member of the Army Air Corps in the fall of 1940. Following the outbreak of the American-Japanese war, Lieutenant Russell was taken prisoner by the Japanese and was placed in an enemy prison camp, from which he later escaped. Details of the way in which he made his harrowing escape can not be disclosed for military reasons.

Lieutenant Russell and his bride planned a wedding trip to Washington, D. C., leaving San Francisco this weekend by plane. They plan to spend more than a fortnight in the nation's capital before starting west to visit the bridegroom's parents in Fort Worth. After their sojourn there, they will return to San Francisco.

Lt. Roy Russell's Wedding Due Thursday in California

Lt. Roy D. Russell, one of 83 officers and men rescued several weeks ago after a Jap prisoner of war vessel had been sunk by an American submarine off the Philippines, will be married Thursday in San Francisco to Miss Ruth Stewart, to whom he has been engaged since he left for overseas duty in June, 1941.

Lieutenant Russell's mother, Mrs. Phil R. Russell, 1837 Hill Crest, still was trying Monday to get a plane reservation for the West Coast so she might attend the ceremony. His father, Dr. Russell, is in Chicago attending a professional meeting and can not be present for the wedding. The couple plan to be married at 4:30 p. m. Thursday at the home of Miss Stewart's parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Stewart, in a simple ceremony with only a few close friends and relatives present.

Dr. and Mrs. Russell received word Oct. 23 that their son was among the first group of American prisoners of war rescued from the Philippines. They had heard from him only occasionally through the International Red Cross since he was reported missing in May, 1942, and a prisoner a year later in May, 1943. Based in Philippine Military Prison Camp No. 2, he wrote to say that his health was excellent, and asked his parents to send flowers to Miss Stewart and to "tell her I'm thinking of her."

Lieutenant Russell and Miss

Stewart met in California while he was in training there at Moffett Field and at Stockton, where he received his commission shortly before sailing for the Philippines. After their marriage Thursday, they will go to Washington, D. C., where Lieutenant Russell will receive further orders, and then are expected to come to Fort Worth for a short visit.

Calvary Presbyterian
West Side Church, Fillmore at Jackson
Worship of Holyday, 11:00 A. M.
"THE GIFT OF GOD"
Dr. Van Nuys
"LET
CAROLS
RING"Dr. Van Nuys
CANTATA
"For Unto Us a Child Is Born"
CHOIR—THREE SOLOISTS
STRING QUARTET
AND FLUTE
Prof. Krueger directing
Meditation by Dr. Van Nuys
"The Angels Sing"
Cable 2-28, Box 24, Powell-Jackson cable



St. Worth
Star Telegram
12-21-44

HOME AGAIN—It was a happy reunion at Municipal Airport Wednesday night for Lt. Roy D. Russell, who recently escaped after 28 months in a Japanese prisoner of war camp, and his parents, Dr. and Mrs. Phil Russell. Left to right, Mrs. Phil Russell, Lieutenant Russell, Dr. Russell and Mrs. Roy D. Russell, bride of two weeks. (Staff Photo).

Lt. Roy D. Russell Is Home After Escape From Japs

BY SAM KINCH.

Lt. Roy D. Russell got a hero's welcome when he came home Wednesday night to spend his first Christmas here since 1939.

Relatives, friends and civic leaders waited more than three hours to greet the 25-year-old Flying Fortress pilot, who spent his last two Christmases in a Japanese prisoner of war camp.

Russell and his bride of two weeks, the former Ruth Stewart of San Francisco, landed at Municipal Airport at 10:20 p. m.

On hand to greet them were his parents, Dr. and Mrs. Phil Russell, 1837 Hill Crest, his uncle and aunt, Dr. and Mrs. Roy Russell, and a group of close friends.

President Homer Covey of the Chamber of Commerce, and H. S. Foster, assistant general manager of the chamber, extended that body's greetings.

Mayor McCrary and Amon Carter were at the airport when the plane first was due at 7:10 p. m. They made a second trip to the airport at 10:40, but missed the reception by 20 minutes because of an error in reports of the arrival time. Then they went to the Russell home, where the city's welcome was extended.

In the party at the airport were friends who were with the lieutenant at his last Christmas here.

There was Mrs. Kenneth Sears, at whose wedding in 1940 Russell was to have been best man but was called to Air Force training a week before the ceremony.

She had little John Russell Sears to show Russell, and word from her husband, a seaman, first class, in Honolulu, with whom Russell played football at old W. C. Strippling High School.

Mrs. J. W. Sears, whose kitchen the two boys raided in years past, also was there.

Another "mother" was Mrs. W. A. Moncrief, whose cake was mentioned by Russell in a letter to his parents while he was overseas (One of the cakes was at the Russell home waiting for the flier Wednesday night.)

Mrs. W. A. Moncrief Jr. was on hand, with a message from her

ensign husband who was a constant companion of Russell. She had their oldest son, Bill, at the airport early, but had to take him home to bed and returned alone.

Others included Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Hickman, Mr. and Mrs. C. C. French, a neighbor boy, Edson Bush and his companion, Mayme Stokes.

The parents of the flier were not as nervous as might have been expected. Mrs. Russell attended the wedding in San Francisco, and Dr. Russell was able to meet the couple in Chicago last week, so both had gotten in a few words with him before Wednesday night.

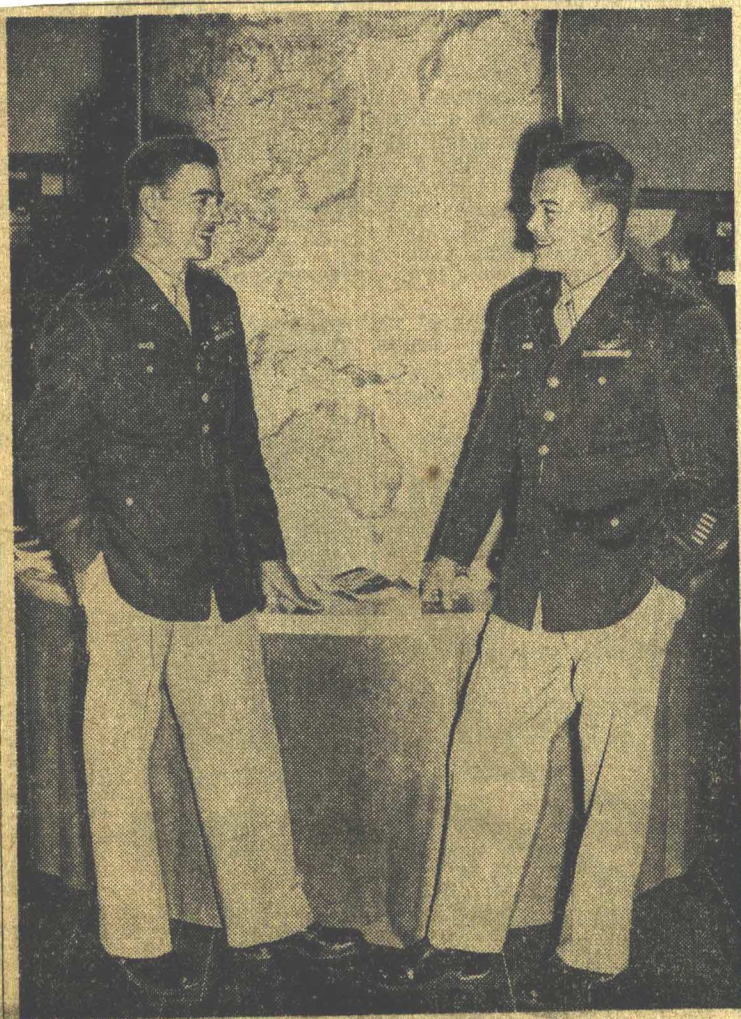
Lieutenant Russell, behind whose lips military secrecy has temporarily sealed one of the war's most thrilling escape stories, was husky looking, although he said his 175 pounds lack about 15 pounds of being up to normal. He got down to 138 while a prisoner.

Russell was one of 83 Americans who survived the American torpedoing of a Japanese ship on which the prisoners were being moved. He swam to an island and was rescued.

He and his bride will be here until Jan. 2, when he is to report to McCloskey General Hospital for checkup on a leg injury he received in the ship sinking.



REUNION AT MUNICIPAL AIRPORT—Lt. Roy D. Russell, back after escape from a Japanese prisoner of war vessel, was the central figure of this family reunion. On his left is his aunt, Mrs. Roy Russell, and at his right is his mother, Mrs. Phil Russell. Third from right is his uncle, Dr. Roy Russell; second from right is his father, Dr. Phil Russell, and at extreme right is his bride of two weeks, the former Ruth Stewart of San Francisco. (Staff Photo).



BACK FROM JAP PRISON—Back in the States after two years and four months together in a Japanese prison camp in the Philippines, Lt. Harvey T. Denson, 25, of Granger (left) and Lt. Roy Russell, 25, of Fort Worth, son of Dr. and Mrs. Phil R. Russell, 1837 Hill Crest, are together again at McCloskey General Hospital at Temple. The two were rescued from the Japs when the ship on which they were being transported from Davao to Japan was torpedoed by American submarines.



Lt. Russell Tells of Prison Ship Escape

*H. W. Smith
Star Telegram
12-22-44*

BY W. L. REDUS.

Eighteen days and 19 nights in the smothering hold of a Japanese ship, after 28 months as a prisoner of war, ended for Lt. Roy D. Russell of Fort Worth when an American torpedo blasted the vessel apart off the Philippines last Sept. 7 and threw him into the water.

The 25-year-old Flying Fortress pilot, who had been in the hands of the Japs since the Mindanao surrender on May 10, 1942, told the story of his escape Thursday after arriving here for his first Christmas in five years with his parents, Dr. and Mrs. Phil Russell, 1837 Hill Crest. With him was his bride, the former Ruth Stewart of San Francisco, who waited three and a half years for their marriage two weeks ago.

From the exploded ship, Russell made his way ashore, where he was befriended, fed and hospitalized by Filipinos until he and other American survivors were rescued by submarine.

Kept Below Decks.

The "hard labor gang" which had been used by the Japs to build airfields on Davao boarded the "hell ship" last Aug. 20 for transfer north beyond range of American bombs, Russell related. The 750 men were confined in the stifling heat of the holds, with hatches covered, throughout the voyage.

For food and drink, they had less than a canteen of water and two cupfuls of rice a day each.

"About 4:30 p. m. on Sept. 7," Russell said, "we heard the Japs firing machine guns into the water about the ship. Presumably they were firing at torpedoes.

"Then a torpedo struck. That is my last recollection until I woke up in the water. I had a deep gash in my head, a shrapnel wound from the torpedo in my leg, and a sprained hip.

Patrols Were Sniping.

"I immediately began swimming away from the wreck to avoid any Japanese machine gun fire. I had got hold of a piece of floating wreckage and with it I rode with the current out to sea. I stayed offshore until dark, because I could see Jap patrols on the beach to capture or shoot the escaped Americans as they landed.

"After eight hours in the water, I reached shore after dark and hid in a coral cave."

The next morning he was driven out of the cave by the cold and lack of clothing—the men on board the ship had stripped down to their shorts because of the close heat. After forcing his way through dense jungle for 200 yards, he reached a prosperous-looking farmhouse in a clearing.

"From my patrols early in the war," Russell said, "I recalled that the people in this area were friendly, prosperous farmers."

Filipinos to Rescue.

Using two sticks for crutches because of the pain from his wounded

(Editor's Note: In this story, told exclusively to the Star-Telegram, Lt. Roy D. Russell gives the first detailed account of his escape from a Japanese vessel carrying American prisoners and tells how, with the aid of friendly Filipinos, he managed to leave a Jap-infested island and rejoin American forces.)



LT. ROY D. RUSSELL.

leg, Russell made his way to a road and there collapsed.

He was picked up 30 minutes later by four Filipinos, who said they already had found some escaped Americans and were looking for more. He was taken to a guard post and fed, and then moved into the hills with the other rescued Americans.

"From there," Russell continued, "we were taken to a Filipino camp where there was a hospital. The 13 American wounded were its first occupants. A Filipino surgeon, not connected with the Army, walked 70 miles to treat us. Despite the bad weather, the Filipinos from miles around brought food to us."

After three weeks, the Americans were told they were leaving for a rendezvous point. The others, recuperating from their wounds, rode carabaos provided by the Filipinos, but his sprained hip forced Russell to walk the 20 miles barefoot and in the rain.

"And was I glad to do it?" Russell added.

Sent to Australia.

At the rendezvous point, the Americans were picked up by a submarine and moved to a northern naval base, where Russell was hospitalized for two weeks to recover from malaria.

One of his first acts was to notify his parents and his fiancée who had waited so long in uncertainty as to whether he was dead or alive.

From the naval base, Russell was sent to Brisbane, Australia, for hospitalization for his leg wound.

When the Japs invaded the Philippines, Russell was a member of the 28th Bombardment Squadron of the 19th Bomb Group, stationed at Clark Field. He made one flight before his ship was destroyed and then the squadron, with no planes left, moved to Bataan when Clark Field was evacuated on Dec. 24, 1941.

Three squadrons were taken from Bataan to Mindanao in the hope that they could be evacuated to Australia to return with more planes. While they were on Mindanao, the airmen acted as infantry troops in the secondary line of defense.

Even Cutthroats Helped.

They were at an airfield when the surrender came on May 10. Ordered to surrender troops intact, they were moved to Malaybaly, former Philippine training center, and remained there until October.

Then they were transferred by boat to the Davao penal colony.

"When we arrived there still were some Philippine civil prisoners there—murderers and cut-

throats, who helped us in every way they could," Russell said.

They were at the Davao prison until March 1944, during which time the only hint of the war's progress they received was from the gradual deterioration in their treatment by the Japs.

"Last March," Russell related, "650 of us—the hard labor gang—were moved to Lasang and put to work by the Japs on construction of airports. We worked only after making written protest to the Japs against being forced to help build enemy installations. None of us worked voluntarily."

Davao Camp Moved.

"Soon the Americans were bombing that area, and in May we got a rumor that the Davao camp had been moved north. Less than two months later, we were told that we also were going to be moved north because of the military situation."

When he was blown into the water from the prison ship, Russell said he could see bodies in the sea but did not glimpse any survivors of the crash.

He had the highest praise—and warm gratitude—for the Filipinos who helped him and have helped many other Americans to escape.

In the 28 months he was a prisoner, Russell received no letters from home. He was permitted to write only form postcards to tell his family that he was still alive.

About 60 per cent of the prisoners, he said, received no mail during the entire time. But in February, 1944, when the Gripsholm arrived with supplies, the prisoners received belated Red Cross Christmas packages.

Packages Welcome.

"It was nearly two months late, but it certainly was a fine Christmas," Russell said. "The arrival of those packages boosted morale immensely."

He said that in 1943 the prisoners also received two packages each, one from the Canadian and one from the South African Red Cross.

"I wish I had means of describing the feeling of gratitude and appreciation the boys felt for the few packages the Red Cross managed to get to them despite the great difficulties," Russell said.

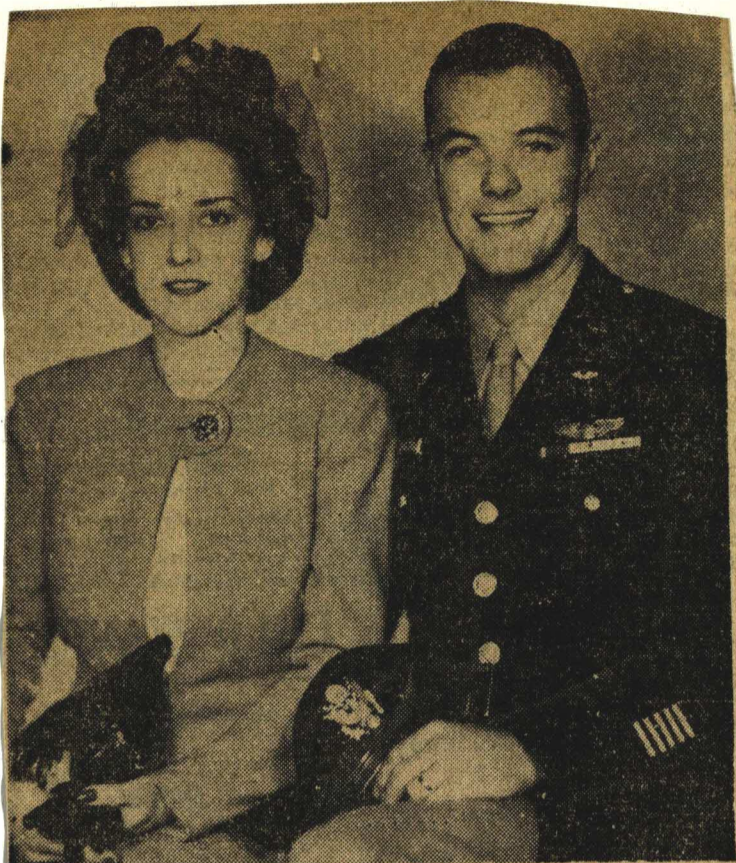
Russell arrived home still 15 pounds underweight, although 37 pounds heavier than the low point of 138 he reached in the Jap prison camp. Technically still hospitalized, he reports to McCloskey General Hospital at Temple on Jan. 2.

He reached the United States on Dec. 1 aboard a transport, lost no time in marrying the sweetheart who had waited for him, and arrived here by plane Wednesday night after 10 days in Washington.

The change in climate has troubled him some, but it has its good points, too. He has had a cold "practically ever since I crossed the darned equator." But he hopes the Christmas weather in Fort Worth will be cold.

"Maybe it will keep down my malaria," he said.

LASANG



Lt. and Mrs. Roy D. Russell, after a trip to Washington, spent three days in Dallas last week and will leave Feb. 5 for San Francisco to visit her parents, Mr. and Mrs. John A. Stewart, and for Lieutenant Russell to be reassigned. They have been guests here of his parents, Dr. and Mrs. P. R. Russell, 1837 Hill Crest. The couple married Dec. 7 in San Francisco after the lieutenant's escape from the Philippines. (Underwood and Underwood Photo)

Names of All Prisoners Rescued in Philippines

MACARTHUR'S HEADQUARTERS, PHILIPPINES, Oct. 22 (Delayed) (AP).—Here are the names of the first 83 American prisoners of war to be rescued from the Philippines. They were on a torpedoed enemy transport and were hidden by guerrillas until removed from the islands.

Lt. Col. John McGee, Minot, N.D.
 Maj. W. C. Chenoweth, Louisville, Ky.
 Maj. Harry O. Fischer, San Antonio.
 Capt. Robert G. Blakeslee, Glens Falls, N. Y.
 First Lt. William P. Cain, Columbia, S. C.
 First Lt. Richard L. Cemok, Los Angeles.
 First Lt. James D. Donlon, Antioch, Cal.
 First Lt. Fred J. Gallagher, Tucson, Ariz.
 First Lt. James Gardner, Glasgow, Scotland.
 First Lt. John P. Gillespie, Sigourney, Iowa.
 First Lt. Ralph R. Johnson, Springfield, Ohio.
 First Lt. Theodore Pflueger, Rochester, Mich.
 First Lt. John C. Playter, Joplin, Mo.
 First Lt. Bert Schwarz, Forest Hills, N. Y.
 First Lt. Felix Sharp, Jacksonville, Fla.
 First Lt. Morris Shoss, Houston.
 First Lt. C. A. Steinhauser, Seaside, Ore.
 Second Lt. Eugene P. Dale, Enid, Okla.
 Second Lt. Harvey T. Denson, Granger, Texas.
 Second Lt. Francis E. LeClear, Lansing, Mich.
 Second Lt. Roy D. Russell, Fort Worth.
 Second Lt. Harry J. Skinner, North Bend, Ore.
 Second Lt. Murray M. Sniddon, Glendale, Cal.
 Second Lt. Paul S. Snowden, Sapulpa, Okla.
 Second Lt. Edward S. Thesniowski, Cohoes, N. Y.
 Second Lt. James K. Vann, Winona, Mo.
 Master Sgt. George Robinett, Eugene, Ore.
 Tech. Sgt. Donald F. Gillen, Glendale, Cal.
 Staff Sgt. Joseph P. Coe, Plateau, Ala.
 Staff Sgt. C. C. Johnstone, Lakewood, Ohio.
 Staff Sgt. Cecil H. McClure, Dallas.
 Sgt. S. V. Mistralla (no address).
 Sgt. John W. Booth, Perham, Minn.
 Sgt. Peter J. Golino, Gallup, N.M.
 Sgt. James R. Greene, Altamont, Illinois.
 Sgt. William I. Vaskell, Barrington, R. I.
 Sgt. Robert J. Kirscher, Paradise, Cal.
 Sgt. James McComas, Brainard, Minn.
 Sgt. Donald I. McPherson, Lincoln, Neb.
 Corp. R. E. Billick, Nampa, Idaho.
 Corp. O. E. Clem, Dallas.
 Corp. William T. Frederick, Ojai, Cal.
 Corp. Calvin E. Latham, Resburg, Idaho.
 Corp. B. J. Lorton, Medford, Ore.
 Corp. E. A. Motsinger, Webb City, Mo.
 Corp. Ralph Person, Seattle.
 Corp. Marcus N. Sumkins, Buda, Texas.
 Corp. John Stymediki, Detroit.
 Corp. Otis E. Radcliff, Scotland Neck, S. C.
 Pfc. Jesse Bier, Lawrence, Mass.
 Pfc. Hayes H. Bolitha, Butte, Mont.
 Pfc. Paul L. Browning, Centralia, Wash.
 Seaman 1st Class Charles B. Claybourn, Washington, D. C.

Pfc. Verle D. Cutter, Denver.
 Pfc. Jack M. Donohoe, Reno, Nev.
 Pfc. Isaac B. Hagine, Freeport, Pennsylvania.
 Pfc. William S. Horabin, Rt. 8, Albuquerque.
 Pfc. Roy J. Hughes, St. Louis.
 Pfc. Lawrence P. Ingly, Lubbock.
 Pfc. Joseph Jones, Oakhill, Ohio.
 Pfc. Joseph P. Lamkin, Proctor, Minn.
 Pfc. J. J. Mackawski, Brooklyn, N. Y.
 Pfc. Lewis H. Moore, Gadsden, Alabama.
 Pfc. D. P. Olinger, Denver.
 Pfc. Buster Parker, Clear Creek, W. Va.
 Pfc. Denver R. Rose, Houston.
 Pfc. Omar A. Schoenborne, Redwood City, Cal.
 Pvt. John R. Bennett, Hempstead, L. I., N. Y.
 Pfc. Victor L. Mapes, St. Cloud, Florida.
 Pfc. Michael Pulice, Carlsbad, New Mexico.
 Pvt. Walter N. Alexander, Spokane, Wash.
 Pvt. Willard E. Hall, La Grande, Oregon.
 Pvt. William E. Biddle, Vincennes, Ind.
 Pvt. Marbo A. Caputo, Ft. Edward, N. Y.
 Pvt. Walter E. Gardner, Jamaica, New York.
 Pvt. Donald J. Granz, Fresno, California.
 Pvt. Francis Hoctor, Biddeford, Maine.
 Pvt. Lyle Hudson, Ogden, Utah.
 Pvt. Glen E. Kuskie, Long Beach, Cal.
 Pvt. Cletis Overton, Rolla, Ark.
 Pvt. Lawrence Tipton, Dayton, Ohio.
 Pvt. Harold W. Wilson, Nutwood, Ohio.
 (The list contains only 82 names and it is assumed that Lt. John J. Morrett of Springfield, Ohio, mentioned in the Saturday night report as acting as the group's spokesman, is the 83rd.)

Japs Fire on Men Trapped in Ship

NEW YORK, Oct. 22 (A.A.P.).—Japanese guards deliberately fired on Americans who, trapped in the hold of a sinking ship, were endeavoring to escape, says an announcement issued from General MacArthur's headquarters.

The ship—a Japanese transport—had been torpedoed by an American submarine, says the Associated Press' correspondent at MacArthur's Headquarters.

"It has been revealed that 83 American officers and men who had been prisoners in the Philippines for 2½ years, were recently rescued, and are safe in New Guinea," the correspondent continues.

"All are in good condition, except five men, who are recovering from bullet and grenade wounds.

"These men were among American prisoners who were being shipped northwards on the Japanese transport.

"Others who escaped from the transport were hunted down or killed as they swam. Some who reached the beach were executed by the Japanese.

"Filipino guerrillas cared for the 83 survivors until they were picked up and taken south by submarines and planes. Three Americans were found dead from stab wounds on the beach. Two had their hands tied behind their backs.

"A large number of Americans went down with the ship. The enemy losses were also heavy.

"Lieutenant Richard Cook and Staff Sergeant Joseph Cole elected to remain with the Filipino guerrillas.

Inhuman Treatment

"The Americans had been prisoners in the Davao penal colony since the fall of Bataan and Corregidor.

"The commandant of the prison ordered a large group last February to work on an airfield. They were housed in four little barracks.

"For the first two months they received 500 grammes (1.1lb.) of rice daily, but by August this amount had been reduced to 300 grammes (two-thirds of 1lb.).

"In addition they received squash, also a water reed called pagong, a little fish, and very limited quantities of salt.

"Despite the hard work in the blazing sun, guards armed with clubs several times went among them to force them to do more work.

"After one alleged attempt to escape the prisoners had their shoes taken from them, even those doing pick and shovel work among stones, which badly cut their feet."

83 YANK PRISONERS SAVED FROM JAPS

Many Brutally Murdered by Jap Captors

(By United Press)

GEN. DOUGLAS MAC ARTHUR'S HEADQUARTERS, LEYTE, Philippines, Sunday, Oct. 22. — The rescue of 83 American officers and men from the Japanese by Philippine Guerrillas and removal of all but two to hospitals in Australia severa weeks ago was revealed tonight in an announcement which also disclosed that an undetermined number of American prisoners of war were brutally murdered by the Japanese.

A special announcement by Gen. Douglas MacArthur said that all the men except one were survivors of a group of American prisoners of war who were being transported from the Philippines to Japan when their convoy was attacked by a United States submarine, which sank their transport and at least two other ships.

The enraged Japanese immediately began a wholesale massacre of the American prisoners, machine-gunning them as they sought to escape the sinking ship and shooting them as they swam for shore.

Two of the 83 survivors, First Lt. Richard L. Cook of Los Angeles and Staff Sgt. Joseph T. Coles, Case, Ala., elected to stay with the Philippine Guerrillas, who assisted them after they reached shore, the special release disclosed.

"All of the men are in good condition, except five recovering from bullet and grenade wounds. None is listed as serious," the announcement said.

The men will soon be sent back to the United States from the military hospitals.

Revealing the story of the men who escaped from Japanese hands were aided by Filipino Guerrillas and lived for more than two years in Japanese-occupied areas, MacArthur told a grim story of cold-blooded murder.

The Americans, after performing forced labor on an enemy airfield in

the Southern Philippines, were being shipped north when their convoy was attacked by an American submarine. Their transport and at least two other enemy ships were sunk.

Deliberate Murder
"The Japanese guards deliberately fired on the Americans trapped in the holds and seeking to escape from the sinking ship.

"Others were hunted down and killed in the water as they sought to swim for shore two miles distant. Some were picked up by enemy patrol boats and at least 30 were later brutally executed.

"After escaping death from such savagery and hours of hardship, 83 of the American officers and men made shore and were cared for by Philippine Guerrillas until picked up and taken south by submarines and planes.

"One of the soldiers died after his rescue and was buried in the cemetery in a small Philippine town by his comrades and the Guerrillas."

On the following day, the special announcements continued, three Americans were found dead of stab wounds on the beach. Two had their hands tied behind their backs.

Lt. Col. John H. McGee, Minow, N. D., who had escaped earlier from a prison camp but was not aboard the vessel, joined the survivors while they were with the Guerrillas and took command of the group, MacArthur said.

"A large number of Americans on the enemy vessel went down when it sank or were brutally killed in cold blood by the Japanese officers and men. Enemy losses were also heavy."

Some of the Japanese survivors were killed by the Guerrillas when they refuse to surrender and a number of prisoners were captured, the announcement said.

February, 1945





