VOLUME ONE

Robert F. Augur's
World War II Story

1st Lt. Robert F. Augur, circa 1941. Photo likely taken after he arrived at Ft. Mills on Corregidor in February of 1941. His initial duty was with the fort's guard battalion in charge of 900 Filipino prisoners. By summer he was assigned to Battery C of the 92nd Coast Artillery as an executive officer of one of the island's 155m gun enplacements. The insignia on his left lapel is of the 92nd CA. He was 30 years old in this photo.

This family went West, 60 (now 92) years ago!

By Warren F. Gardner
Editor emeritus

Go West, young man!

Whether Frank M. Augur was heeding Horace Greeley's oft-quoted advice, or whether he was merely responding to the glowing reports sent back by his father-in-law is unclear, but in any event on July 8, 1924, the Augur family, consisting of parents and six children, ranging in age from 14 to one year, set forth from Meriden in an open touring car bound for Vancouver, Wash.

To drive some 3,000 miles across country in a three-year-old Oakland touring car in the days when there was no interstate highway system, when gas stations were few, when tires were unreliable, and cars themselves unpredictable, took a lot of courage, or at least confidence.

Vancouver at last! On August 15, 1924, the Frank M. Augur family arrived in Vancouver, Wash., 38 days after they left Meriden in the touring car shown above.

Left to right: Frank Augur, holding Dorothy, age one year; Barbara, Hazel, Clarence and Ruth.; standing Mrs. Augur and son, Robert Augur, Age 14.

But that is what the Augur family did, all eight of them -- Frank and Nellie Symonds Augur, and Robert, Barbara, Hazel, Clarence, Ruth and Dorothy. They loaded the car with all the gear it would hold -- tents, a gasoline stove, cooking utensils, suitcases, pails and other equipment, and set out for the West Coast. A few years earlier, Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Symonds, Mrs. Augur's parents, had left Meriden and settled in Vancouver, Wash. Symonds had been superintendent at the Connecticut Co. trolley barns on Pratt Street.

Old Meriden family

Frank Augur's father, Julius Augur, was a Civil War veteran who ran a meat and grocery market at 23 Lewis Avenue for many years. Frank Augur worked for his father, but the enticements of the Pacific Northwest outweighed the prospects of putting up grocery orders, so 60 years ago, when he was 41 years old, Frank Augur stowed the last gear aboard the overladen touring car and trailer and, having counted the children and got them aboard too, he took off for the West Coast. For practice on the night before they left, the family all slept outside their home, the old Smith house at 321 West Main Street. Frank Augur's mother, Nettie Eliza Smith Augur, was the sister of Dr. E.W. Smith. With the car all loaded, the family waved goodbye to family and friends, among them the mayor of Meriden, and set off. Thirty eight days and some 3,000 miles later they arrived in Vancouver, Wash.

Diary of a Trip

A diary of the trip kept by Robert Augur, the elder son then age 14, reveal a partial listing of the towns they passed through or stopped at; of camp grounds, some with and some without sanitary facilities; of roadside stops where they pitched their tent in a field for the night and then moved on like gypsies. It spoke of a time the left wheel of the trailer worked loose in Amsterdam, N.Y. clewed up so that hub and bearings had to be replaced. Not long afterward, when the trailer broke down again, it was sold, its burden being added to the already overloaded car. There was a succession of flat tires, tires being les sturdy and roads being more rugged than today.

A hundred miles a day

Looking back over the expedition of 60 years ago, Barbara Augur Smith, second oldest of the children, wrote recently: "Our daily average was only 100 miles a day, sometimes less, depending on car problems, the roads and the weather. The campgrounds varied from crowded and green to dry and dusty, especially the school grounds which had outside toilet facilities and a well with a hand pump or a standing faucet. I can picture the gasoline cook stove sitting on the ground and a pot of potatoes and peas boiling away. The alkali water made a scum on the aluminum pan that was hard to scour off.

"Because we had a baby in diapers, laundry was a problem. I have fond memories of the diapers hanging from the cross bars of the open touring car, flapping in our faces as we drove along. Lots of flat tires due to bad roads; sometimes just two ruts across the plains. When we rode down Michigan Boulevard in Chicago, a policeman stopped us for something, but I guess he felt sorry for us and didn't give us a ticket.

"As we neared the Rocky Mountains and I saw them on the horizon I was afraid we were running into a storm, but I was told those were mountains and we had to cross them. Then down through Idaho and into Oregon. After the long stretch across the Midwest and the Plains states, the green of the Columbia River Highway was like a cold drink of water to us. Our route closely followed what is Route I-90 now."

Honored for Bravery

After remaining for a while in Vancouver, the Augur family chose Portland, Ore., as their home. It was from there that Robert Augur enlisted in the U.S. Army. In May of 1942, Lieut. Augur won the Distinguished Service Cross for bravery during the heavy Japanese bombardment of Fort Mills in the Philippines during World War II. He survived a Japanese prisoner of war camp, but suffered the loss of a leg. When a large Liberty ship was launched in 1942 his mother was invited by the Propeller Club of Portland to christen the ship in honor of her son.

The Depression years were a period of lean times in the Pacific Northwest as in the rest of the nation, but the Augur family saw it through. Frank Augur died Dec. 12, 1955; Nellie Symonds Augur died May 27, 1969.

From Eight to 46

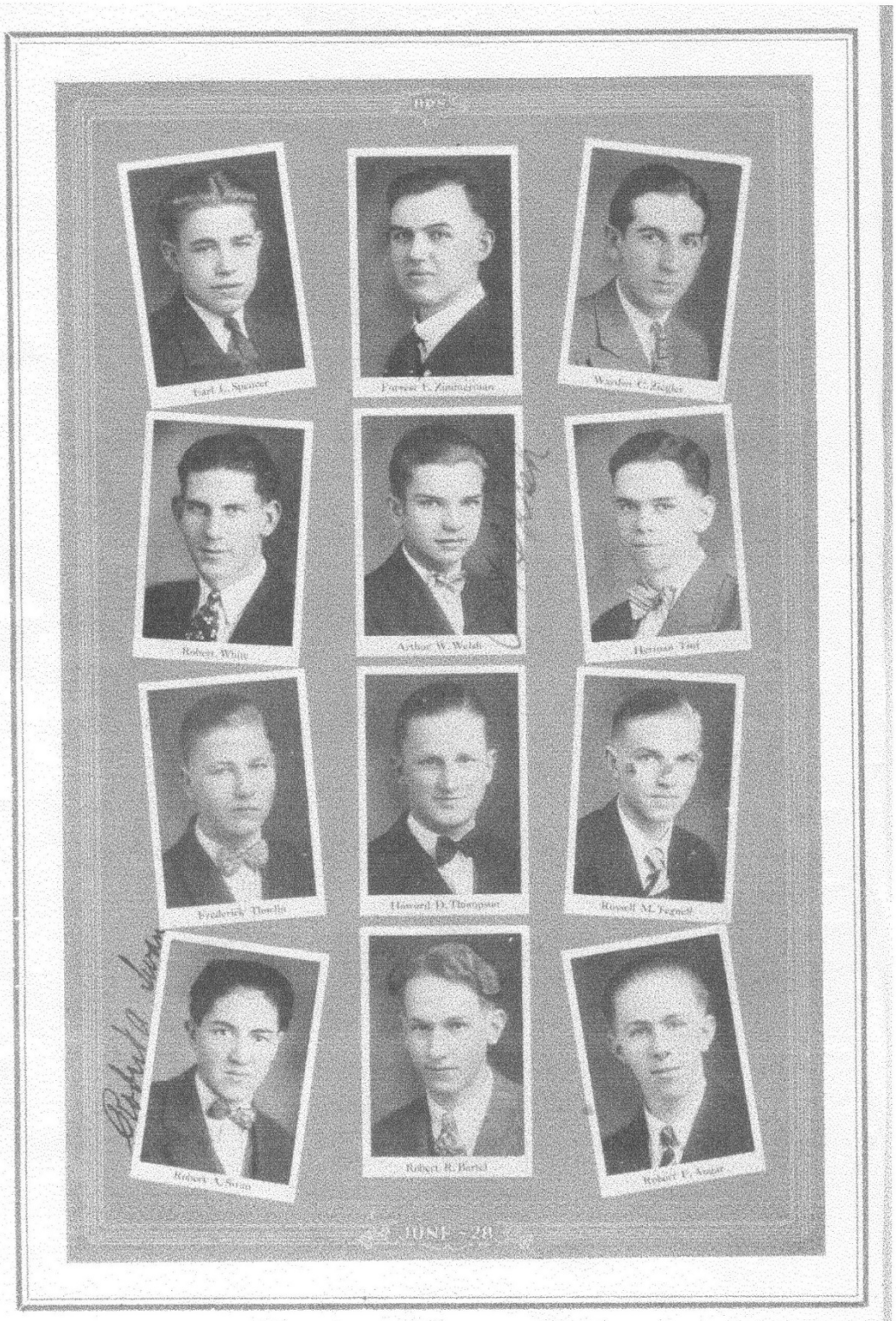
"The original eight Augurs have increased to 46 with all the grandchildren," Wrote Mrs. Smith. The family which left Meriden 60 years ago this weekend included, besides the parents, two sons, Robert and Clarence Augur of Portland; Mrs. Barbara Augur Smith of Lincoln City, Ore.; Mrs. Stanley (Ruth) Truman of Portland; Mrs. Hazel M. Ladd of Tigard, Ore., and Mrs. Dorothy Augur Patterson of Canby, Ore.

In the days of interstate highways, fast cars and ready overnight accommodations for vehicles and passengers, driving from coast to coast is no longer a feat. But to make the trip 60 years ago in a three-year-old touring car carrying eight passengers ranging in age from 41 to one year, was a test of endurance, confidence and stamina which characterized the Augur family's generation.

Updating the Story

This story was written by Warren Gardner, editor emeritus of the *Record Journal*, in Meriden, Conn., and a cousin of Frank Augur. The story appeared on July 6, 1984, meaning that 92 years have now passed since the eight members of the Augur family made the epic cross-country journey in an open-sided 1921 touring car. It was an incredible and amazing trek that came less than 50 years after the last wagon trains rolled over the Oregon Trail.

Four of the Augur children on that adventure, all born in Meriden, have been Rose Villa residents over the past four decades -- Robert, Hazel Ladd, Ruth Truman and Dorothy Patterson. While three are now gone, Dorothy still lives at The Villa. She and her husband, Edward (Pat) Patterson, moved here 25 years ago. Pat passed away in 2003.



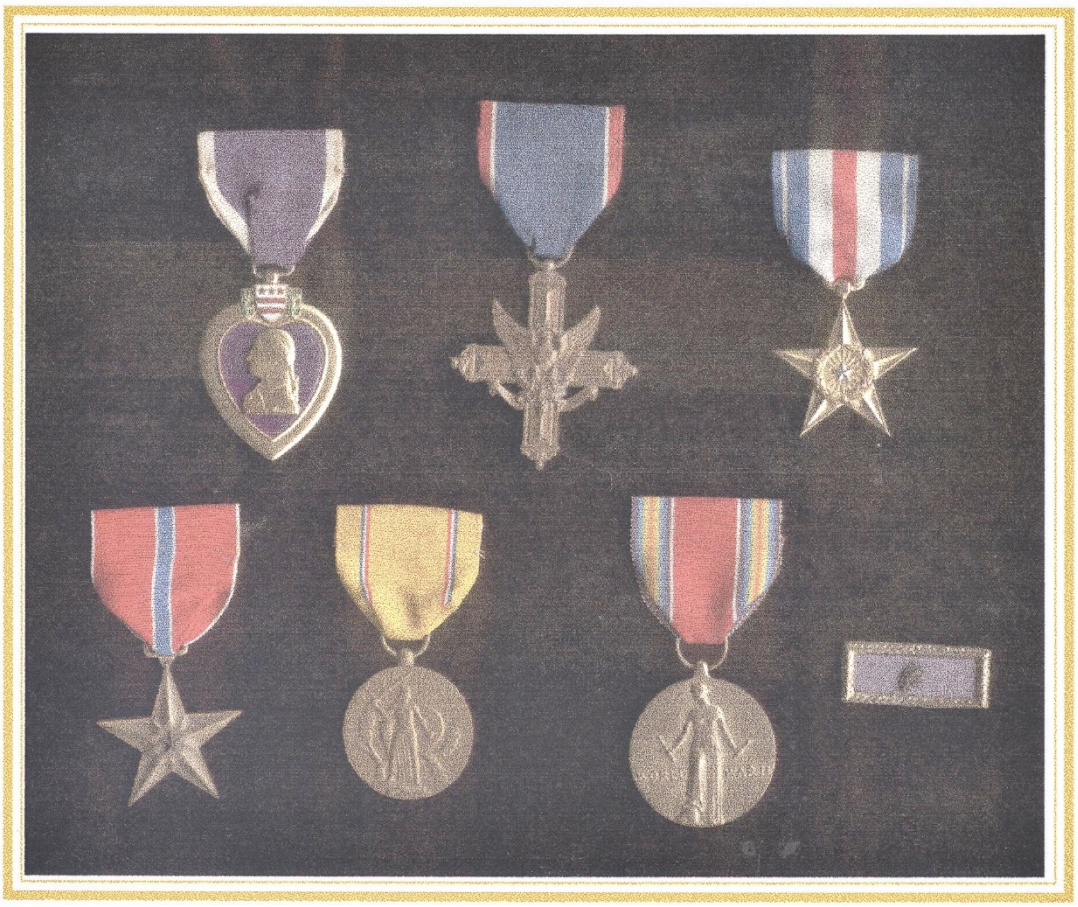
Page from June 1928 'Poly Tech,' yearbook of Portland's Benson Polytechnic High School. Robert Augur's senior class picture is bottom right.

2nd Lt. Robert F. Augur

Circa 1940. He joined the U.S. Army's Cadet Military Training Corps while still in high school. After graduating from Portland's Benson High School in 1928, he spent a month every summer training at Vancouver Barracks. While working in the freight busiess after graduating from high school, he continued to train for a career in the military by taking correspondence courses and attending regular bi-weekly evening training sessions. He eventually received his reserve commission as a 2nd Lieutenant and was ordered for duty as an artillery officer at Ft. Stevens near Astoria in December, 1940. A month later, his orders sent him to The Philippines. He left from San Francisco on January 18, 1941. *(Photo: Bruno Studios, Portland)*

Capt. Robert F. Augur, circa 1945. He was promoted to the rank of Captain on April 2, 1945. He arrived back in the United States on February 26, 1945, after being liberated by U.S. Forces from Old Bilibid Prison in Manila 17 days earlier. After returning to the U.S., he spent six months in Army hospitals in Utah recovering from his injuries. He toured the U.S. later in 1945 to help promote War Savings Bond sales.

After retiring from active duty, Bob and Anne spent a year in Washington, D.C., where he served as Director of Veterans' Activities for the Republican National Committee and National Executive Secretary of the Republican Veterans' League. He retired from both positions on Nov. 30, 1946, and returned to Oregon. This picture was taken while he was in Washington, D.C.



Bob Augur's World War II Medals

Purple Heart
Distinguished Service Cross
Silver Star
Bronze Star
American Defense Medal
World War II Victory Medal
Presidential Unit Citation with Oak Leaf Cluster

Also - Philippine Defense Ribbon with bronze star,
Asiatic-Pacific Theater Ribbon with 3 campaign stars; American Theater Ribbon;;
Philippine Liberation Ribon with 2 bronze stars

Filed 0340/5
md

SECRET

CSEP
May 5, 1942
5:00 A. M.

WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER

INCOMING MESSAGE

Photocopy of original communique from Gen. Johnathan Wainwright, commander of U.S. forces in the Philippines, recommending the Distinguished Service Cross for Lt. Robert Augur. The message was typed at the War Department in Washington, D.C., from a a May 4, 1942, radio message sent from Corregidor just two days before the island fortress fell to the Japanese.

From: Ft Mills
To: Adjutant General

No. 397, May 4th, 1942

For Agwar additional awards of distinguished service cross made by this headquarters as follows: General orders no 3* April 2* 1942 1st Lieut Robert F. Augur 0-301982 CAC repeat CAC. General orders no *5 April 29th 1942 repeat April 29th *42 1st Lieut James E. Seator *-890451 CE

Wainwright

FILE MAY 18 1942

* Came (thirty fouw)
(twenty fifqh)
(tkirty five)
(ninetren forty two)
Service will be made on request

Action Copy: TAG (DECORATIONS AND AWARDS CE NO 2)

Info. Copies: File
BPR

84 A G O
MAY 5 1942
Received

This communication will be returned to The AGO when it has served its purpose.

CM-IN-1136 (5/5/42) AM 6:01

239

The making of an exact copy of this message is forbidden. Only such extracts as are absolutely necessary will be made and marked SECRET. This copy will be safeguarded with the greatest care and will be returned to TAG without delay.

REGRADED CONFIDENTIAL. PARAPHRASED VERSIONS REGRADED UNCLASSIFIED ORDER SEC ARMY BY TAG/9M-5

SECRET

COPY No.

THE MAKING OF AN EXACT COPY OF THIS MESSAGE IS FORBIDDEN

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND740008
BY ERC NARS, Date 5/14/85

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND740008
By NARS, Date

5-18-42 mm

Indexed
Noted in Orders
Index + file
5/16/42

DECORATIONS AND AWARDS BRANCH,
MILITARY PERSONNEL DIVISION, AGO.

Initials _____
Date _____

RECORD OF AWARD OF DECORATION BY AGENCY OTHER THAN WAR DEPARTMENT

Last Name	First Name	Middle Initial	Serial No.	Grade
AUGUR	ROBERT	FRANK	0-401 982	1st Lt.

Organization	Foreign	Others
COAST ARTILLERY CORPS 92nd CA		

Headquarters	Station or APO	G.O. No.	Section	Date
US FORCES IN THE PHILIPPES,	FORT MILLS, P.I.	34		25 April 42

Type of Award	Posthumous
DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CROSS	NO

Oak-Leaf Clusters	Number	Posthumous

By Command of	Amended	Revoked

DO NOT WRITE IN COLUMN BELOW

Type of Personnel
Country Serving
Major Code
Type Organ
Parent Unit No.
P. U. Type
Residence
Arm or Service
Grade
Component
Nativity
Race & Citizen
Citation Date (Day, Month, Yr.)
Award (Recomm., Recv'd)
Approval Date (Day, Month, Yr.)
Citation Station
Approval Station
Posthumous
Foreign Award (Country, Type)

CITATION

For extraordinary heroism in action at Fort Mills, Corregidor, Philippine Islands, on April 12, 1942. When heavy enemy artillery fire had caused several casualties and had started dangerous fires in his battery emplacement, Lieutenant Augur Voluntarily and without hesitation left his shelter during the hostile bombardment to remove the wounded to covered positions and to attempt to extinguish the fires which threatened the battery ammunition and powder dumps. The unselfish courage demonstrated by this intrepid officer in the face of terrific hazards resulted in the preservation of his battery position from probable destruction and in saving several of his men from further injury or death. During the performance of his heroic exploit Lieutenant Augur was sererely wounded by an enemy shell, requiring the subsequent amputation of his left leg.

Next of kin: Mr. Frank N. Augur, (Father),
5910 Nr 12th Avemue,
Portland, Oregon.

copy
3-10-45
APF

OFFICIAL COPY

PERFECTO CEBECA, 497-61-88, Native Coxswain.
BENNIE KRUPA, 311-31-05, Electrician's Mate Second Class.
CONRADO MANGLICMOT, 497-62-64, Native Seaman First Class.
MAXIMINO PULIDO, 154-06-01, Officer's Cook Third Class.
THOMAS E. SMALLWOOD, 380-70-91, Storekeeper First Class.
IVAN M. STEFFER, 372-12-31, Metalsmith First Class.

4. Pursuant to the provisions of paragraph 11, Army Regulations 600-45, August 8, 1932, the following-named enlisted men are hereby awarded the Purple Heart for wounds received in action at Fort Mills, Philippine Islands, on April 10, 1942:

CECIL A. BERRY, 6250182, Staff Sergeant, Headquarters Squadron, 27th Bombardment Group.
FORREST L. ALSON, 6549911, Sergeant, Battery E, 60th Coast Artillery (AA).
ANTONIO LLANADO, 18243, Corporal, Company K, 4th Infantry (PA).
R. C. TALLONGHARI, Corporal, Philippine Army Air Corps.
THADUS J. SKOWRONSKI, 12024806, Private, Company L, 31st Infantry.
BRAULIO VIRAY, Private, Company C, 26th Cavalry (PS).

5. Pursuant to the provisions of paragraph 11, Army Regulations 600-45, August 8, 1932, the following-named officers and enlisted men are hereby awarded the Purple Heart for wounds received in action at Fort Mills, Philippine Islands, on April 10, 1942:

CHESTERIA PEYTON, 0-307473, Captain, 57th Infantry (PS).
LEE E. STEVENS, 0-890085, Captain, Quartermaster Corps.
EDUARDO TACDOL, 6611927, Sergeant, Battery A, 91st Coast Artillery (PS).
WILLIAM T. RICHEY, 6282452, Corporal, Headquarters Company, Philippine Department.
JAMES W. SHEARER, 6981805, Corporal, 28th Materiel Squadron, Air Corps.
QUINTIN O. MAGANTAY, Private First Class, Company E, 43rd Infantry (PA).
CHARLEY BAILEY, 14038418, Private, Headquarters Company, 31st Infantry.
DAVID O. DODDS, 19017907, Private, Detachment Medical Department.
JAMES L. ELKINS, 14042534, Private, Battery H, 60th Coast Artillery (AA).
JOHN SANTAK, 6885362, Private, 19th Aerial Bombardment Group.
BRUCE A. SAYERS, Private, Company E, 31st Infantry.

6. Pursuant to the provisions of paragraph 11, Army Regulations 600-45, August 8, 1932, the following-named officer and enlisted men are hereby awarded the Purple Heart for wounds received in action at the places and on dates indicated:

SAMUEL A. MADISON, 0-21952, Captain, 59th Coast Artillery, at Fort Drum, Philippine Islands, on March 15, 1942.
EUFRACIO BARTOLO, 6738368, Private First Class, Battery C, 91st Coast Artillery (PS), at Fort Mills, P.I., on April 11, 1942.
DONALD W. CROSSAN, 180362 84, Private First Class, Battery E, 60th Coast Artillery (AA), at Fort Mills, P.I., on April 11, 1942.
V. G. MARTIN, 36075004, Private, Headquarters Company, 1st Bn, 31st Infantry, at Fort Mills, P.I., on April 11, 1942.
ALBERT C. RAPSTAIN, 18042350, Private, Battery E, 59th Coast Artillery, at Fort Drum, P.I., on March 15, 1942.

7. Pursuant to the provisions of paragraph 11, Army Regulations 600-45, August 8, 1932, the following-named officers and enlisted men are hereby awarded the Purple Heart for wounds received in action at Fort Mills, Philippine Islands, on April 12, 1942:

ROBERT F. AUGUR, 0-301982, First Lieutenant, 92nd Coast Artillery (PS).

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

TO ALL WHO SHALL SEE THESE PRESENTS, GREETING: THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AUTHORIZED BY EXECUTIVE ORDER, 24 AUGUST 1962 HAS AWARDED

THE BRONZE STAR MEDAL

TO CAPTAIN ROBERT F. AUGUR, UNITED STATES ARMY

FOR meritorious achievement during combat while serving in the South West Pacific Theater of Operations from 7 December 1941 to 10 May 1942. The actions of Captain Augur were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect distinct credit upon him, his unit and the United States Army.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND IN THE CITY OF WASHINGTON
THIS 27th **DAY OF** September **19** 85

Donald J. Delandro
THE ADJUTANT GENERAL

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
WAR OFFICE

John O. Marsh, Jr.
SECRETARY OF THE ARMY

DA FORM 4980-5, APR 84

HEADQUARTERS
PHILIPPINE COAST ARTILLERY COMMAND
Fort Mills, Philippine Islands

GENERAL ORDERS) 9 April 1942
:
NUMBER.....22)

1. Under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, War Department August 8, 1932, the Silver Star is awarded by the Commanding General, Philippine Coast Artillery Command, for gallantry in action to the following-named officers and enlisted men:

*** *** ***

ROBERT F. AUGUR, O-301982, First Lieutenant, 92nd Coast Artillery (PS), Fort Mills, P. I. For gallantry in action at Fort Mills, Philippine Islands, March 25, 1942. During the course of a heavy bombing attack by enemy on Fort Mills, when a large barracks in the Kindley Field area was set afire, First Lieutenant AUGUR, voluntarily and without regard for his personal safety, left a place of shelter and aided in fighting the fire, during which time ammunition was exploding in the area and two flights of planes dropped several strings of bombs on the island. Place of residence: Portland, Oregon.

*** *** ***

By command of Major General MOORE:

L. J. BOWLER,
Colonel, C.A.C.
Chief of Staff.

OFFICIAL:

/s/ L. J. Bowler
L. J. BOWLER
Colonel, C.A.C.
Acting Adjutant General

Incl #1

December 7, 1983

ROBERT FRANK AUGUR

Born April 18, 1910, Meriden, Connecticut, at 4:00 AM, and have been an early riser every since.

Married to Anna Christina Anderson on April 29, 1945 in Portland, Oregon. Anne was born in Sidney, Montana on February 20, 1911.

Graduated from Benson Polytechnic High School in Portland with majors in math an electric science, qualified for, but did not attend, Oregon State University at Corvallis.

Qualified for and accepted commission as 2nd Lieutenant, Coast Artillery, U.S. Army. Called to active duty with Army on December 2, 1940, as First Lieutenant, Coast Artillery Unit Commander, detailed to Ft. Mills, on Corregidor, Philippine Islands where was assigned to command Battery of 6-inch Coast Defense guns manned by Philippine Scouts (a part of the Regular U.S. Army). After the Japs hit Pearl Harbor and we went to war in WWII, I got by pretty well on Corregidor, avoiding being hit by bombs dropped from above, but as the Japs reached points close enough to shell the island from Bataan my luck ran out on April 10, 1942, and I was caught by shellfire and lost left leg above the knee. Our luck got progressively worse and finally Corregidor was overrun and captured by the Japs. I then spent some 33 months as a prisoner of war on Corregidor and in Manila.

Repatriated and returned to oregon, retired from the Army and back to work again as a civilian.

Did a short stint with the Republican National Committee in Washington, D.C. After the fall elections returned to Oregon and went to work in the Trucking industry. Put in better than thirty years of full time for several companies, working out inter-company rate agreements and division, handling claims of different types and handling freight traffic matters generally before calling it quits in 1981.

(Personal resume he wrote in 1983)

The Oregonian Sunday Magazine, July 19, 1942

Augur of Corregidor---He Scorned Enemy Shells to Save His Men

Portland Lieutenant Won D. S. C. for Heroic Act

THIS IS ONE of a series of articles in which The Oregonian Sunday magazine from time to time will tell the story of northwest men who have been cited for heroism.

BY ELLEN MILLS EWING
Special Writer, The Oregonian

FOR EXTRAORDINARY heroism in rescuing wounded men and extinguishing fires at one of the Manila bay forts during heavy enemy bombardments, Lieutenant Robert F. Augur received the D. S. C. and this citation from Lieutenant-General Jonathan M. Wainwright:

"During particularly heavy shelling, several projectiles from enemy artillery landed near Lieutenant Augur's unit. Several men were wounded and a number of fires were started.

"Voluntarily and without hesitation, Lieutenant Augur dashed from his shelter while the heavy shelling was still in progress. He succeeded in moving the wounded to covered positions and then extinguished the fires.

"The unselfish courage of this intrepid officer in face of terrific hazards resulted in saving the lives of several of his men."

HERO:

Seriously Wounded While Saving Men

An anti-aircraft officer in the coast artillery, Lieutenant Augur was seriously wounded April 12, presumably the date of his heroic action. A short time later his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Frank M. Augur of 1936 S. E. 41st avenue, received word that he was making a normal recovery, although the nature of his wounds was not revealed. Since the fortress fell to the Japs there has been silence.

The story of Lieutenant Augur, who left his civilian job as claims clerk for a freight company to join the embattled forces on Corregidor, is a half-told tale of heroic courage—another finger in the dike which held off for so long the irresistible yellow tide. And there is another story. His letters to his mother, full of a young man's pride in country and in self, presaged gallant defeat against overwhelming odds. Those letters were the prelude to the oft-told story of too little, too late; of men pushing themselves beyond human endurance, staving off the inevitable surrender a little longer that the Allied Nations might strengthen their defenses.

LIEUTENANT R. F. AUGUR
"Unselfish in his courage."

February 16, 1941

Dear Mom: Seventeen freight and troop transports are due here within the next few months, bringing additions to the garrison in and around Manila. The state of readiness for any eventuality here on this rock is surprising. Our battery has a crew sleeping right alongside their searchlight post every night, with part of the crew standing watch—all ready to go into action within 30 seconds if necessary.

Born in Meriden, Conn., 32 years ago, Lieutenant Augur received his preliminary military training in the C. M. T. C. After graduation from Benson Polytechnic, he spent one month every summer at Vancouver Barracks, drilling, learning the groundwork for his later job. He was, as his "Mom" puts it, a born officer. Even as a little fellow he had a knack of getting the rest of the kids to fall in line. He had a keen sense of humor and an even keener sense of fairness and small frys' squabbles had a way of landing in his overalled lap.

He liked uniforms, too. Wooden swords and makeshift Sam Brown belts figured prominently in his childhood. He always squared his shoulders when he donned his make-believe uniforms, and it used to tickle his mother to hear him say, soberly, "You got to play fair when you play soldiers, Mom."

There are scads of ammunition scattered around this rock and food supplies are cached underground. There is enough ammunition cached behind each gun position to keep it firing full speed for a full day and this island is supposed to be able to hold up under siege, without outside assistance, for at least six months. We do not intend to be caught napping.

When Bob Augur grew a little older he graduated to cub scout activities. Still later he became assistant scout master. The family numbered eight—mother, father, four sisters and a brother. Bob was the oldest of the brood. Augur Sr. was in the meat business, earning a comfortable livelihood, but nothing fancy. When Bob enrolled at Benson he took on a paper route to make things easier. He was keen on sports, but homework and the paper route didn't leave much time. He was never heard to kick about it, though.

March 23, 1941

Dear Mom: We are right in the middle of what is called the "war condition period." Everything is on the alert, just as it would be in the event of actual war, with gun crews standing by and observers scanning the sky all day and night. There were any number of night air raid alarms, all in fun, of course.

YOUTH:

Stepped From School Into Depression

Young Augur graduated from Benson into the depression. Jobs were scarce and the market was glutted with hopeful high school youths. It was quite a time before Bob turned up a job at the railroad, working in the freight shed. He kept right on with his C. M. T. C. activities and digested countless correspondence courses to prepare himself for his commission as reserve officer. He joined a club of mountain-climbing enthusiasts and made several treks to Mount Hood, Mount St. Helens and Mount Jefferson. He took up skiing and he played a good fast game of handball.

April 20, 1941

Dear Mom: Another transport is due Tuesday morning with over 1000 troops for us. Apparently more troops are expected on the transports arriving later, for there are several new barracks buildings going up at various spots on the islands. When this transport sails for New York it will take a capacity load of women and children out of here, and the next transport will have another load for the Pacific coast. We'll be left a bunch of bachelors, with the exception of eight nurses on duty here at the hospital.

The natives on the island are being evacuated, too. There are over 5000—living on all sides of us.

A little experience under his belt. Bob Augur got a job as claims clerk for the Acme Freight company. Nights he devoted to the "book work" of officer training. Eventually he received his reserve commission of second lieutenant and was a regular at the biweekly get-togethers. December, 1940, he reported at Fort Stevens, Washington. He was ordered to active duty at the Philippines and sailed from San Francisco on January 18, 1941.

June 3, 1941

Dear Mom: The air corps has been ordered to stay around this place for three-year tours of duty. The 60th is the anti-aircraft regiment of the post and they have taken for their slogan, "Keep 'em falling!" Of course, the officers who thought up that one are taking quite a kidding about what they are going to use to knock them down with.

It seems the Japs have been fooling around out here, going into Indo-China, just across the China sea from Manila. Anyway, with a considerable part of the Jap fleet cruising around, and no one knowing for sure just where it is, we on the island are a little bit on edge. Last Wednesday, just after chow, the post siren started wailing. We all went out on the tear and in about two minutes the battery was ready for action. We thought

When this Oregonian Sunday Magazine feature was published, it had been more than three months since Lt. Augur's family had learned that he had been wounded in the defense of Corregidor and more than two months since the island fortress fell to the Japanese. It would be another nine months before they learned that he was alive and being held in a Japanese prison camp in the Philippines. The family did not learn that his leg had been amputated as a result of the April, 1942 action until after he was liberated on Feburary 4, 1945.

it was the real thing.

AUGUR:

Placed in Charge Of Prison Detail

Lieutenant Augur's initial duties on the island were with the guard battalion, in charge of some 900 Filipino prisoners on Corregidor. They were a nasty bunch, in for everything from murder down. Their sometimes abortive, sometimes successful attempts at escape were frequent and it was no picnic for the officers. It took 53 stitches to re-attach an ear to the battered head of one of Lieutenant Augur's men after three escaping prisoners got through with him.

July 20, 1941

Dear Mom: This place is getting to be more and more of an armed camp. For the past week the army and navy have been busy out in the channels laying both contact and controlled mines. The channel is closed except for a crooked course through the north channel and all boats going or coming are escorted by destroyer patrol.

After the hitch at guard duty Lieutenant Augur was selected for training as an aerial observer. He and two other officers left for Manilla and a three months' course. Augur finished with flying colors, but his vision proved poor for the job.

He was kept in the hospital for 30 days and his recalcitrant orbs thoroughly checked, but nothing much could be done. They decided to ship him home. The lieutenant, however, was determined to serve his hitch and serve it well. He went before the board and vehemently asserted that while his eyes might not be up to an aerial observer's standard, they'd do all right on the anti-aircraft battery. He was allowed to stay.

August 3, 1941

Dear Mom: All the women have been evacuated. The last transport took the remaining three. Now we are all alone.

With all the defense work that is supposed to be under way back there in the states, it's funny that we haven't seen any of those marvelous guns and things they are supposed to be making in such tremendous quantities.

Boatloads of officers and men were arriving at the islands pretty constantly. There was a great deal of reshuffling of army personnel and, although a state of emergency existed, formal white mess jackets with their accompanying gold thingamabobs were still ordered worn on ceremonial occasions. Lieutenant Augur and his mates were particularly happy when the army relaxed its uniform regulations and allowed shorts to enter the picture for field duty.

September 1, 1941

Dear Mom: They are now in the process of getting in some new gun positions and in order to get guns for them they are going around stripping present positions. Like, for instance, that battery of 155-mm. guns that I have! I have just one left now, vintage of 1918. I would surely like to see some of those new guns the magazines talk so loudly about.

Mother Augur, always her son's particular pal, is indulging in one admittedly hopeless daydream. Maritime day, her name proposed by the Propeller club, Mrs. Augur launched her first Liberty ship at Oregon shipyards. It was the noon launching, complete with newsreel cameras, microphones and corsages. Two of her daughters acted as maids of honor and a grand daughter toddled along as flower girl. Although she knows it's asking the impossible, she wishes there were some way for Lieutenant Bob to see the newsreel of that launching.

September 15, 1941

Dear Mom: The most important piece of news lately has been the acceptance of the Philippine army forces into the United States army. It will be no cinch to take these boys and mould them into a fighting unit.

The last week or so the 92d has been out of gasoline and all their vehicles have been standing still down at the garage. It seems there is a certain allowance for gasoline and when that allowance is used up transportation just stops rolling until more gas is allotted from somewhere.

Another transport is due in tomorrow morning and it is rumored the 92d is getting another batch of officers, so maybe after a while we will get up to our authorized strength for a change.

MOTHER:

Anxious to Learn Her Son's Fate

Mrs. Augur, anxious to learn her son's fate, has written to each of several ex-Corregidor nurses who have since landed at San Francisco or Australia. Arrangements have been made through the International Red Cross for the periodical exchange of all information concerning prisoners of war in the hands of the Japanese, but this is a slow process, running into months.

In the meantime, like so many war mothers, Mrs. Augur has kept up her hopes and her courage by being busy. She does her own housework, sews for the Red Cross, works with the sugar rationing board, helps sign up young fellows at the armory. She wanted to be an air raid warden but her calendar of years numbered five too many. Last year she donated some of her blood to the police department's pool, but her blood count was one point too low this year, so repeat service was denied her.

The whole Augur family is buying bonds, far more than the average 10 per cent of salary. They feel, Mother Augur says, that bonds are a kind of talisman for her son's and America's fate.

On National Maritime day. Mrs. Frank M. Augur, the hero's mother, participated in the christening of a Liberty ship.

Oregon Journal, May 5, 1942

DECORATED—Lieutenant Rober F. Augur of Portland, who has been awarded Distinguished Service Cross for 'exceptional heroism' on Corregidor.

Portlander Wins Cross

Lieut. R. F. Augur Honored For Bravery Under Fire

WASHINGTON, May 4.-(AP)-The war department announced today that the award of the distinguished service cross to First Lieutenant Robert F. Augur of Portland, which was announced last week, was made for extraordinary heroism during a heavy artillery bombardment of the island fortresses of Manila bay.

A department communique said Lieutenant General Jonathan M. Wainwright, commanding in the Philippines, had sent the citation for the decoration, reporting that Augur had rescued several wounded men and extinguished some fires in the midst of a bombardment.

Several shells exploded near Augur's unit during particularly heavy shelling, the citation said, and Augur without hesitation dashed from his shelter, brought the wounded men to protected positions and then went back to extinguish the fires.

"The unselfish courage of this intrepid officer in the face of terrific hazards resulted in saving the lives of several of his men," the citation said.

Augur Is Graduate Of Benson Tech School

Robert F. Augur, 32, who was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross today by the war department, is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank M. Augur of 1936 S. E. 41st avenue.

He graduated from Benson Tech and became a member of the reserve officers corps shortly thereafter. He was called into active service December 1, 1940, and was transferred to the Philippines one month later. Augur, for several months before the fall of Bataan peninsula, was in command of a unit of Philippine Scouts.

His parents have received no word from him since early December of last year, although during April a war department message said he had been wounded during a particularly heavy shelling of the island fortress. A few days later, another message said he was showing improvement. It was not revealed in the message whether Augur had been wounded during or after his rescue of fellow soldiers.

Oregon Journal, April 29, 1943

Lieut. Augur Jap Prisoner In Philippines

Word has been received that First Lieutenant Robert F. Augur of the army is a prisoner of the Japanese in the Philippines, by a telegram received by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Frank M. Augur, 1936 S. E. 41st avenue, from the adjutant general's department.

Augur was one of the anti-aircraft defenders of Corregidor. Before Corregidor fell, dispatches said he was wounded there and was decorated with the distinguished service cross.

Augur went to the Philippines about a year before hostilities began and was in charge of a group of native scouts.

The Oregonian, April 29, 1943

Parents Hear Son Living

The war department Wednesday conveyed by telegram to Mr. and Mrs. Frank M. Augur, 1936 S. E. 41st avenue, the welcome news that their son, First Lieutenant Robert Frank Augur, one of the heroes of Corregidor, unreported since he was seriously wounded April 12, 1942, now is reported to be a prisoner of the Japanese.

Major-General James A. Ulio, adjutant-general, notified the parents that their son was reported a prisoner of the Japanese government in the Philippine islands, and indicated that further details would be sent.

Lieutenant Augur was one of the first Oregon men to receive the distinguished service cross, awarded by Lieutenant-General Jonathan M. Wainwright for the young officer's extraordinary heroism in rescuing wounded men and extinguishing fires during heavy enemy bombardment.

Augur, a graduate of Benson high school, entered active service as a reserve officer in December of 1940 and was sent to the Philippines in February of 1941. A coast artillery anti-aircraft officer, he also had command of a Philippine scout detachment at Corregidor.

His younger brother, Clarence S. Augur, also a Benson high school graduate, now is a navy seaman second class at Camp Farragut, Idaho, where he has just completed his basic training.

The Oregonian, February 6, 1945

Oregon Hero of Corregidor Freed From Manila Prison

LT. ROBERT F. AUGUR
Hero rescued at Manila prison.

"Safe, well and happy, at last."

Those six words ended an unhappy, but hopeful vigil of almost three years' duration Thursday for Mr. and Mrs. Frank M. Augur, 1936 S. E. 41st avenue, for they brought the message that their son, 1st Lt. Robert F. Augur, one of the heroes of Corregidor's last stand, had been liberated by Gen. Douglas MacArthur from the confines of Billibid prison at Manila.

The Augurs had held high hopes that their son was alive, because in mid-January they had received a card from him dated April 29, 1944, the fifth received since Corregidor fell on May 6, 1942, saying he was in good health and spirits.

Printed Card Received

For a year after the war with Japan started there was no word from Lt. Augur. On April 18, 1942, the war department notified the parents that their son had been seriously wounded on April 12 at Corregidor.

There was no further word concerning him until April 28, 1943, when Maj. Gen. James A. Ulio, the adjutant general, revealed that he was being held a prisoner in the Philippines. It was not until September of 1943 that word first came from Lt. Augur himself, on a printed form postcard.

Lt. Augur holds the distinguished service cross for extraordinary heroism in rescuing wounded men and extinguishing fires under deadly Jap fire o Corregidor, presumably at tl time he was wounded.

The Oregon Journal, April 18, 1945

WAR HERO DECORATED—Lieut. Frank Augur, 5910 NE 12th avenue, receives congratulations from Col. Robert M. Hardaway, commanding officer at Bushnell General hospital, Brigham City, Utah, shortly after being presented with the Distinguished Service cross. Augur, now receiving medical treatment at the hospital after being liberated by Yanks in the Philippines, was decorated for courage on Corregidor in April, 1942, when he left his shelter to remove the wounded and extinguish fires threatening battery ammunition and powder dumps. During the work he was wounded by an enemy shell, requiring the amputation of his left leg. (Army photo.)

The Oregonian, February 6, 1945 -- Front Page

PARENTS OF OREGON HERO

PORTLAND, Ore., May 4.—Mr. and Mrs. Frank M. Augur, Portland, whose son, Lieut. Robert F. Augur, has been awarded Distinguished Service Cross for bravery under fire in rescuing wounded. (Story Page 6.)—(Associated Press Wirephoto.)

The Oregonian, March 9, 1945
Front Page

LT. ROBERT F. AUGUR
Jap prison far behind him now.

His spirit unbroken by nearly three years of imprisonment in the Philippines, 1st Lt. Robert F. Augur was back home in Portland Thursday with the assertion that "it's like beginning life all over again" as he greeted members of his family after an absence of four years.

Grandfather, mother, sisters, nieces and nephews greeted Augur, twice a hero of the bitter fighting on Corregidor and one of the first Oregon men to win the distinguished service cross in this war, as he stepped from a United Air Lines plane. He was freed from the infamous Bilibid prison in Manila a month ago by Gen. Douglas MacArthur's victorious Yanks.

"The Japs tried to break our morale by clumsy propaganda. They told how badly things were going at home, strikes, shortage of manpower. They boasted how Japanese industries were expanding. They sank the Lexington a hundred times.

"But their morale-breaking tactics did not succeed. We knew we had not been forgotten. We knew MacArthur was returning, we heard of Nimitz' victories. A day after the landing on Leyte, we heard of it and we knew it was progressing satisfactorily."

Lt. Augur came home on crutches. On Corregidor, April 12, 1942, he rushed from his shelter to save wounded comrades lying exposed to Jap artillery shelling, and was himself hit in the left knee by fragments of a bursting Jap 105 millimeter shell. The leg was amputated at the knee and a few days later, he was cited for the distinguished service cross.

Additional details on page 11.

The Oregonian, March 9, 1945

Liberated Yank Prisoner Tells of Troops' Arrival

(See Story On Page 1, Also)

"We were tickled to death to see the Yanks, but we hardly recognized them," said 1st Lt. Robert F. Augur, who modestly depreciates the army's citations twice announcing his heroism on Corregidor, as he came home to Portland Thursday and told of the day of his liberation from ancient Bilibid prison in Manila after nearly three years of imprisonment.

"Their helmets were new, they had new-type guns, their bazookas were strange, but they were Yanks. One poked his head inside the prison enclosure and asked if there were any Japs inside. We set up a yell."

The excitement of the liberation was something no words can edequately describe. On February 3, the prisoners heard the prolonged drone of motors, knew they could not be Jap engines, thought they might be tanks, but certainly American.

Guards Leave Prison

The Jap prison guards pulled out, leaving a four-man detail with a machine-gun, and those four soon followed. The prisoners, starving from meager rations, rushed for the food stores, gorged themselves. Then came the liberating infantry.

The American prisoners had long known they were coming. A day after the landing on Leyte, word filtered into Bilibid. Notorious Cabanatuan prison had long had a secret, home-made radio receiver. Spare parts had been smuggled into Bilibid, enough to make a one-tube set. That, and underground reports, kept prisoners informed, and hopeful.

The Japs tried to break our morale, but the Americans knew they were lying. Even the Japanese-published Manila newspaper which they were permitted to receive for a time disproved the Jap propaganda.

Jap News Studied

"Here is how we would interpret the Japanese news," said the artillery officer. "One day they would report that the Yanks were attempting a landing on some island. The next day they would report that the Japanese had driven the Yanks into the sea, annihilating them. That word annihilate is one of their favorites. A few days later they would boast how they were bombing our positions on this same island.

Lt. Augur, a tall, muscular young man who left Portland in December of 1940 to answer the call as a reserve officer, looks little the worse for his nearly three years of imprisonment, except that he lost a part of his left leg on Corregidor. But his weight declined from a maximum of 166, shortly after the first of two shipments of Red Cross supplies reached Bilibid prison, to a low of 117. Now he is back to 141, and still gaining.

"I'm tapering off now on my eating," he said with a grin.

Shipment Saves Lives

That Red Cross shipment, and the second one which followed in 1943, saved many lives among the dying prisoners.

"You can say for me that one of the finest things that happened for us was the inclusion of vitamins in that second shipment. Many were going blind, of some strange disease, and some lost sight in one eye, which they never will regain. But, after those vitamins came, the blindness gradually disappeared.

Bataan's infamous death march, Augur did not witness. Wounded on Corregidor, his leg was amputated at the knee, and he was moved from the hospital on Corregidor, with many others, to Bilibid on July 1, 1942.

"The Jap treatment at Bilibid was not so much cruelty as neglect," he said, recalling the lack of medical supplies. But he saw enough of Jap cruelty and heard enough testimony which cannot be doubted, that he is willing to say: "Anything that has been printed about the cruelty of the Japs is probably something less than the actual truth.

Workers Beaten

"I saw men brought into Bilibid from work gangs so badly beaten that they died before the next day."

Following his liberation, Lt. Augur, with other rescued prisoners, was flown to Letterman General hospital, San Francisco. There, they greeted some of the nurses who had tended their wounds on Corregidor three years ago and who escaped the island fortress at the last moment. He came to Portland Thursday, by United Air Lines plane, with 1st Lt. Dean K. Wood of Seattle, infantry officer who also was wounded on Corregidor and was a companion at Billibid. Wood continued on to his home.

Greeting the veteran at Portland airport, quietly but happily, were his mother, Mrs. Frank M. Augur, his grandfather, C. S. Symonds of Vancouver, Wash., three sisters, Mrs. Orval Ladd, Mrs. Keith Smith and Miss Dorothy Augur. His father was enroute to the family home to join them, and another sister, Miss Ruth Augur, yeoman 3d C in the Spars, was to arrive Friday from Sault Ste. Marie, Mich.

Oregon Journal, March 9, 1945

First Freed Portlander Home, Tells of Nip Camp

By FLORENCE DANNALS

Still unable to realize that the long nightmare of three years' imprisonment in Bilibid is ended, 1st Lieut. Robert F. Augur, who arrived here Thursday from San Francisco where he underwent routine hospital checkups, got his first good night's sleep and eagerly awaited some of his mother's home cooking today.

"Ever since we docked in San Francisco we've been on a round of parties and good times. It doesn't seem real yet," he commented.

Remarkably healthy and in fine spirits after the ordeal he's been through, he talked willingly about the rigors of prison life and his rescue by American soldiers.

Augur was mobilized in December, 1941, as a reserve officer in the C. M. T. C. and went to the Philippines in January, 1942. During the fighting on Corregidor, he received the Distinguished Service cross when he rescued buddies in the coast artillery who had been wounded and were lying under the fire of Jap guns. He received the Purple Heart when he was struck by shell fragments in the left knee and was convalescing from the amputation of his leg in the Tunnel hospital when the Japs took Corregidor. He remained there until July, then was moved with other hospitalized prisoners to Bilibid, where he remained until the Yanks came.

Neglect Worst

"We didn't suffer much from brutality—more from neglect," he summed up his three years. "But the work parties are the ones who really suffered. They were under the control of Jap civilians. The civilians are a little nastier than the Jap soldiers, if possible. Some of the effects of this brutality were evident when workers returned at night to the camp so badly beaten that they died before sunrise.

"The civilians at Pasay airport gave the most trouble," Augur said, explaining that these contractors work with the army and are supposed to be under military discipline, but apparently make and follow their own rules.

"American medical officers were in charge of the prisoners, subject to the Jap medical officer's rule. They administered all treatment with the exception of three operations, performed by Japanese doctors, who just butchered those men." Supplies were scarce except for the life-saving boxes from the American Red Cross, which came through in November, 1942 and 1943. Filipinos were able to smuggle in some food, news and newspapers and a very little medicine, but "the Japs pinched them off about a year and a half before we were liberated."

The only mail ever received was that on the 1943 ship, and the few prisoner of war cards which the men were allowed to send out were under "peculiar censorship. The Japs didn't cross out a word they didn't like. They just tore up the card."

Vitamin supplies which came through the Red Cross were instrumental in preventing many prisoners from going blind due to vitamin deficiency, Augur said.

Augur knew that the day of liberation was at hand when the Jap officer in charge called American medical officers together and told them he was evacuating. He left a machinegun squad, which deserted the camp the next morning. The first inkling the prisoners had that the Americans were there was when one Yank footsoldier "hungry for more Japs," pushed his rifle butt through the prison wall and yelled for the Nips to come out.

Food Shared Fairly

The prisoners refused to deprive their liberators, who had marched with light packs from Lingayen, of food, but broke into their own food stores and quadrupled rations. They received their first army chow several days later.

Augur will report in 10 days to Bushnell General hospital, Brigham City, Utah, where after more hospitalization, he will receive a 60-day leave. "Then anything can happen," he said, wondering about whether he will be mustered out, or assigned to an administrative post in the army.

Reunited with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Frank M. Augur, 1936 SE 41st avenue, today he met his sister, Yeoman 3/c Ruth, in the SPARS, who came from Sault Ste. Marie, Mich. Other sisters, Dorothy, Mrs. Orval Ladd and Mrs. Keith Smith, live in Portland, while a brother, Seaman 1/c Clarence S., is stationed at Treasure Island.

REUNITED AFTER FOUR YEARS are members of the Augur family who Thursday night welcomed home 1st Lieut. Robert F. Augur after his three years' internment in Bilibid prison. Seated with him are his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Augur, and standing are his sisters, Dorothy, at home, and Yeoman 3/C Ruth, with the SPARS at Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., who arrived this morning to visit her brother.

6. RECEPTION FOR INCOMING OFFICERS: a. A reception for the incoming officers and their families will be held at the Corregidor Club on Thursday, March 6, 1941 at 9:15 PM, followed by dancing. This reception may be considered as taking the place of the exchange of formal calls between resident and incoming officers, except that each incoming officer is required to call on his seniors in the direct chain of command, and that each resident officer is required to call on any senior arriving and assigned to duty in the direct chain of command.

All officers except those whose duties interfere will attend. Uniform "E" will be worn, except that those officers who have not yet received their military mess jacket will wear uniform "D". All ladies are requested to attend.

Persons to be in the receiving line are requested to be at the Corregidor Club not later than 9:00 PM, in order that they may be in their places by 9:15 PM. Regimental adjutants are requested to assist in the formation of the receiving line. The Secretary, Corregidor Club, will arrange for music, transportation and refreshments.

The receiving line, arranged in the order in which the line will be formed, consists of:

General and Mrs. Geo. F. Moore,
Miss Anne Moore,
Colonel and Mrs. Paul D. Bunker,
Colonel and Mrs. Theodore M. Chase,
Chaplain (Lt. Col.) and Mrs. Perry O. Wilcox,
Lt. Col. and Mrs. LeRoy M. Edwards,
Major and Mrs. Dwight M. Deter,
Major and Mrs. Joseph E. Kramer,
Lieutenant Spencer A. Carlson, USN,
Lieutenant Gill M. Richardson, USN,
Captain Frederick C. Amos,
Captain Frank F. Kriwanek,
Captain H arold M. Shumate,
Captain Ben E. King,
Captain Jesse B. Funchess,
1st Lt. and Mrs. William L. Metcalfe,
1st Lt. and Mrs. John H. O'Toole,
Miss Margaret Parr
1st Lt. James T. McKissick,
1st Lt. William G. Thompson,
1st Lt. and Mrs. Robert W. Callaway,
1st Lt. Brewster G. Gallup,
1st Lt. Frank W. Bovee,
1st Lt. George W. Pearcy,
1st Lt. John C. Hultquist,
1st Lt. and Mrs. Jack W. Taylor,
1st Lt. Emil E. Merkel,
1st Lt. John W. Haines,
1st Lt. Robert F. Augur,
1st Lt. Robert E. Rouze,
1st Lt. George J. Treacy,
1st Lt. and Mrs. Albert P. Wilcox,
1st Lt. Charles S. Dronberger,
1st Lt. and Mrs. Leslie O Doane,
1st Lt. and Mrs. Amos H. Norton,
Nurse (2d Lt.) Eula R. Fails,
2d Lt. and Mrs. Richard F. Taylor,
2d Lt. William N. Delano,
2d Lt. Harry J. Harding.

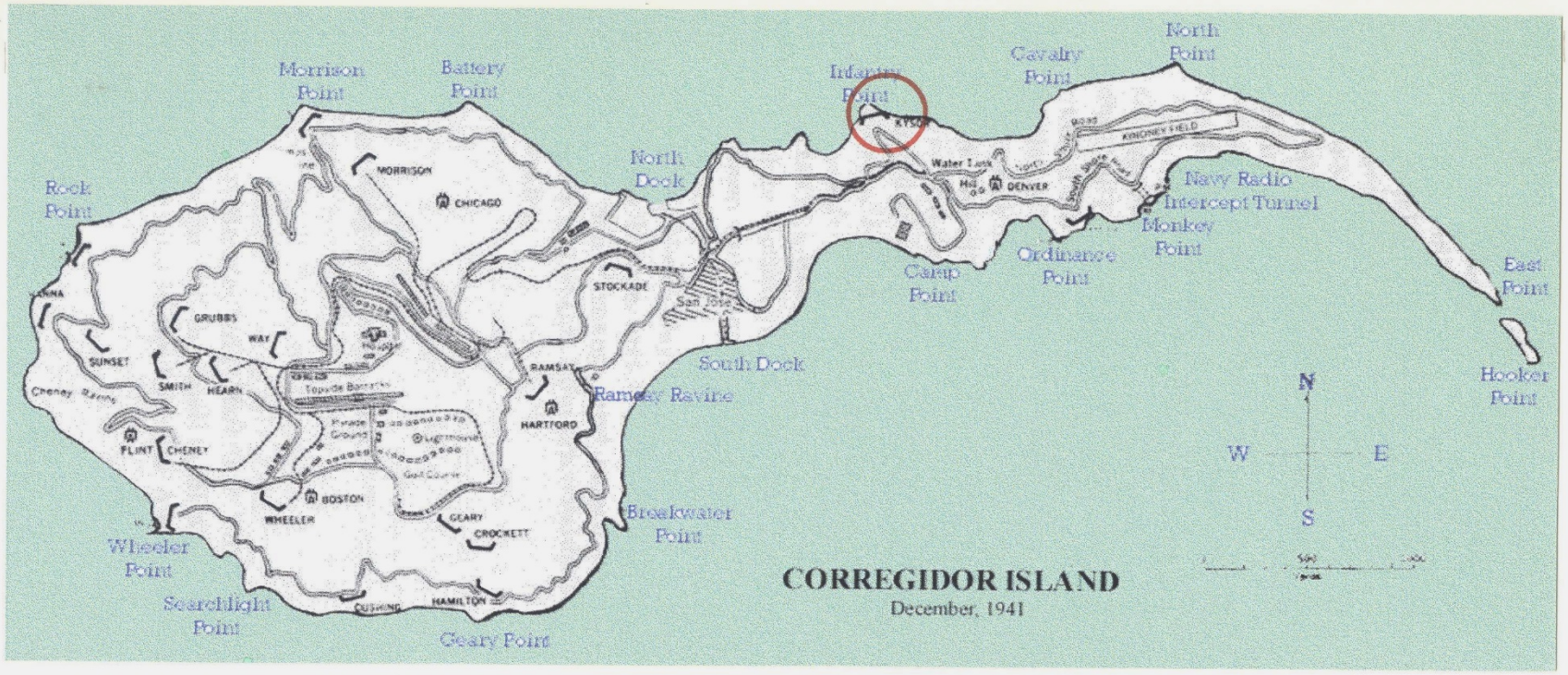
b. SPECIAL STREET CAR: A special car for the Corregidor Club will leave Kindley Field at 8:30 PM, and go through to the Corregidor Club station. A return car will leave the Club at 11:10 PM.

c. COLORS AND GUIDONS: Commanders of organizations responsible for national and regimental colors and guidons will have them delivered to the Corregidor Club by 6:00 PM, Thursday, March 6th. The Provost Marshal will have the guard take the national and regimental colors to the Topside Guardhouse for safekeeping after the dance. The Guard will report to the Club at 11:30 PM, Thursday, March 6, for the colors. The national and regimental colors will be removed from the Topside Guardhouse by 8:00 AM, March 7th. The guidons will be removed from the Club by 8:00 AM, March 7th.

COMMAND PERFORMANCE — Corregidor was building to a war footing as early as March of 1941. But much of the old Army social protocol was still in place, at least in the spring and summer before war came to the South Pacific. Lt. Augur and many of the other junior officers at Ft. Mills chaffed at having to don their white military mess jackets with the gold braid and buttons, white gloves, etc., etc., and attend events such as this command performance reception welcoming newly arrived officers. Uncle Bob said as much in letters home to his family. These orders are the second page of an official bulletin from Headquarters Harbor Defenses of Manila and Subic Bay dated March 3, 1941. It is informative to read the strict order and organization of these military "social" events, down to who stands where in the reception line.

92ND COAST ARTILLERY IN REVIEW

Archive photograph of the 92nd Coast Artillery's 155mm tractor-pulled guns passing in review on the Ft. Mills parade ground on Corregidor. Photo was likely taken during the summer of 1941, prior to the outbreak of war in the Philippines. The 92nd had nineteen of the mobile guns in emplacements as part of the island's defenses. Lt. Augur commanded two of the weapons as executive officer of Battery C. Those two guns were located in Battery Kysor on Infantry Point on the north side of the island, facing the Bataan Peninsula. The 155s had a range of nearly 10 miles.



CORREGIDOR

Corregidor is the largest of five islands strategically located at the entrance of Manila Bay in The Phillipines. It is four miles long, one and a half miles wide at its widest point, and is 30 miles southwest of the capital city of Manila. Made up of 1,735 acres of rocky headlands and hills, Corregidor lies two miles across the bay entrance's North Channel from Bataan Peninsula and seven miles from Cavaite Peninsula to the south. From the air, Corregidor resembles a tadpole with its head thrusting westward into the South China Sea, and its tail curling east and south back into Manila Bay. Its highest point of 628 feet at its western end is the site of a lighthouse built in 1830 by the Spaniards..

Also known as "The Rock," the island stands as a memorial for the courage, valor and heroism of its American and Filipino defenders who courageously held their ground against hopeless odds during the darkest days of World War II.

When war came to the Philippines on December 8, 1941, some 3,800 American and Filipino troops were stationed on the island. Withstanding a seige by vastly superior forces on land, sea and in the air, The Corregidor garrison held out for 149 days, including 27 after the valiant defenders of Bataan had been overrun.

The gritty defense of Bataan and Corregidor threw off completely the Imperial Japanese Army's timetable for conquest in the South Pacific and ultimately scrubbed its plans for the invasion of Australia.

The red circle in the upper center of the map marks the location of Battery Kysor, the 155mm guns Lt. Augur was commanding the day he was critically wounded in attempting to rescue members of his gun crew.

THE ROCK

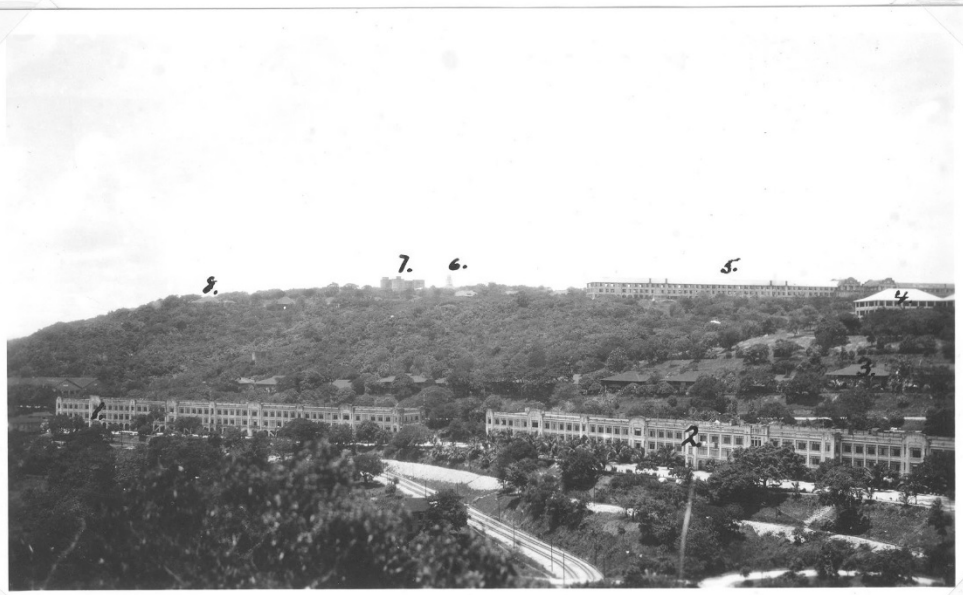
The long strip of land visible through the haze in the middle of the picture is Corregidor. This is the view of "The Rock" from Bataan, two miles across Manila Bay's North Channel, that Japanese gunners would have had as they unmercifully bombarded the island and its defenders for 27 straight days before it fell on May 6, 1942. This photo was taken by D.L. Drachenberg, one of Lt. Augur's comrades at Old Bilibid Prison, when Drachenberg returned to the Philippines in 1963. By that time, the native hardwoods of Bataan had been logged off and replaced with the cogan grass in the foreground. Lt. Augur's gun emplacement, Battery Kysor, was located just to the left of the narrow strip of land in the center of the island, facing Bataan.

"Corregidor needs no comment from me. It has sounded its own story at the mouth of its guns. It has scrolled its own epitaph on enemy tables. But through the bloody haze of its last reverberating shot, I shall always seem to see a vision of grim, gaunt, ghastly men, still unafraid."

GEN. DOUGLAS MCARTHUR, WHEN HE LEARNED OF CORREGIDOR'S SURRENDER

"Before the war, Corregidor was just a name on a map; during the war, it became to us a symbol of the matchless courage and fortitude of the American fighting forces; now, Corregidor has become a Tradition."

A DUTCH NAVAL OFFICER, HELD IN A JAPANESE PRISON, AFTER THE WAR TALKING ABOUT CORREGIDOR



Rare panoramic view of Ft. Mills on Corregidor prior to the outbreak of war in the Pacific in 1941. The two sections of Middleside Barracks stretch across the lower center of the picture. Topside Barracks (No. 5) can be seen along the ridgeline on the right. Topside, with only half of it in the picture, was nearly a mile long and one of the longest barracks buildings in the world. Between the post hospital (No. 4 with the white roof on the right), and Middleside is Officers Row (No. 3), where Uncle Bob was billeted. Nos. 6, 7 and 8 are respectively the fort's signal tower and lighthouse, water towers, and the commanding general's residence. The view looks southeast. Beyond the hill is the main parade ground and golf course. The island is covered with thick foliage in this picture. After the nearly five-month shelling and aerial bombardment by the Japanese, Corregidor was virtually denuded of vegetation.

Pre-war view looking south along Corregidor's "Middleside" barracks. Uncle Bob's first assignment after being posted at Ft. Mills was with the 60th Coast Artillery housed in the barracks in the middle of the picture. His quarters were as he puts it, "in a choice location" on the top floor at the far end of the building in the center of the picture. The two-track trolley line that traverses the island curves through the center of the picture.

Three rare color photographs taken on Corregidor in the months before war came to the Phlippines in December of 1941. Top left, Lt. Augur stands next to the 1940 Chevrolet Coupe he purchased in Portland and took with him when he shipped out to the Philippines in January, 1941

The battery of Philippine Scouts commanded by Lt. Augur being inspected (below) and in close order drill (left). The Scouts were incorporated into the regular U.S. Army in the summer of 1941. They fought gallantly alongside their American counterparts during the defense of Bataan and Corregidor. These likely were some of the men at Battery Kysor who Lt. Augur helped rescue during a heavy artillery bombardment, and then in turn carried him from the field when he was seriously wounded.

Uncle Bob's first assignment on Corregidor was to command a unit of Filipino soldiers who served as a guard battalion for 900 civilian prisoners who were on the island under a joint arrangement between the United States and Philippine governments. They provided work details for collecting garbage and building roads. Many were hardcore convicts with murder records. Here the officer of the day checks the prisoners inside the island's stockade after a day of work. They soon will be marched inside the solitary confinement building behind them and locked in individual cells. The toughest of the prisoners are the ones in stripes.

Ft. Mills, Corregidor, September, 1941. Small detail from Battery E, 92nd Coast Artillery, commanded by Lt. Robert Augur. The detail is ready to march off to relieve the previous guard mount. Battery E is made up of regular Filipino army troops. Its senior sergeant, Claudio, is on the right. The battery's barracks are behind the trees in the background.

91st Coast Artillery

Col. Joseph F. Kohn.
Lt. Col. E. Carl Engelhart.
Lt. Col. Floyed E. Mitchell.
Lt. Col. Will K. Stennis.
Maj. Lawrence A. Bosworth.
Maj. Joe C. East.
Maj. Robert F. Haggerty.
Maj. Stanley H. Hankins.
Maj. Ervin C. Somerville.
Capt. Jerome S. Byrne.
Capt. Bert B. Backstrom.
Capt. Robert F. Barton.
Capt. John H. Davis.
Capt. Edward P. Freiman.
Capt. John McCulick.
Capt. Charles B. Gay.
Capt. Herman C. Haumann.
Capt. Howard N. Irish.
Capt. Philip H. Lehr.
Capt. Roy W. Massie.
Capt. John B. McCluskey.
Capt. Allen W. Mayhew.
Capt. William H. Owen.
Capt. Alvin O. Oyen.
Capt. Richard T. Pullen.
Capt. Carlton H. Preble.
Capt. Frederick J. Roth.
Capt. Richard A. Smith.
Capt. Francis G. Smith.
Capt. David M. Snell.
Capt. James E. Traw.
Capt. Roy M. Vick.
Capt. Robert J. White.
Capt. John M. Wright, Jr.
1st Lt. Karl Ek.
1st Lt. Dwayain K. Ford.
1st Lt. Robert W. Hey.
1st Lt. Frank B. Jonelis.
1st Lt. Raymond D. Minogue.
1st Lt. Thomas Merrick.
1st Lt. Richard I. Rouse.
1st Lt. Morris L. Shoss.
1st Lt. Roger W. Swain.
1st Lt. Clayton C. Shupp.
1st Lt. George Schnicke.
1st Lt. Leonard Schuey.
1st Lt. Hugh E. Wandel.

.....

92nd Coast Artillery

Col. Napoleon Boudreau.
Col. Octave DeCarre.
Lt. Col. Lloyd W. Biggs.
Lt. Col. Albert D. Miller.
Maj. William C. Ball.
Maj. Albert W. Braun.
Maj. Lawrence K. Meade.
Capt. Frederick C. Amos.
Capt. Frank W. Bowee.
Capt. Earle H. Carle.
Capt. Alfred J. D'Arezzo.
Capt. Stephen C. Farris.
Capt. Neville L. Grow.
Capt. Harold A. Jimerson.
Capt. George Kappes.
Capt. Alonzo E. Langworthy.
Capt. Fred E. Rose.
Capt. Edgar H. Rosenstock.
Capt. Robert I. Wheat.
Capt. Charles E. White.
Capt. Iwan J. Weaber.
Capt. Jules D. Yates.
1st Lt. Robert F. Augur.
1st Lt. Chester K. Britt.
1st Lt. Charles F. Coffey.
1st Lt. William N. Delano.
1st Lt. Edwin J. Kalbfleish.
1st Lt. Dean R. Keating.
1st Lt. Ray G. Lawrence.
1st Lt. William E. Lewis.
1st Lt. Charles F. Monteith.
1st Lt. Jack E. Post.
1st Lt. Donald A. Rowden.
1st Lt. William H. Shoup.
1st Lt. William W. Stecker.
1st Lt. George A. Sense.
1st Lt. Emil M. Ulanowicz.
1st Lt. Irvin M. Vetesnik.
2nd Lt. Royal S. Gulden.
2nd Lt. Frank T. Hardt.
2nd Lt. Robert L. Chourn.

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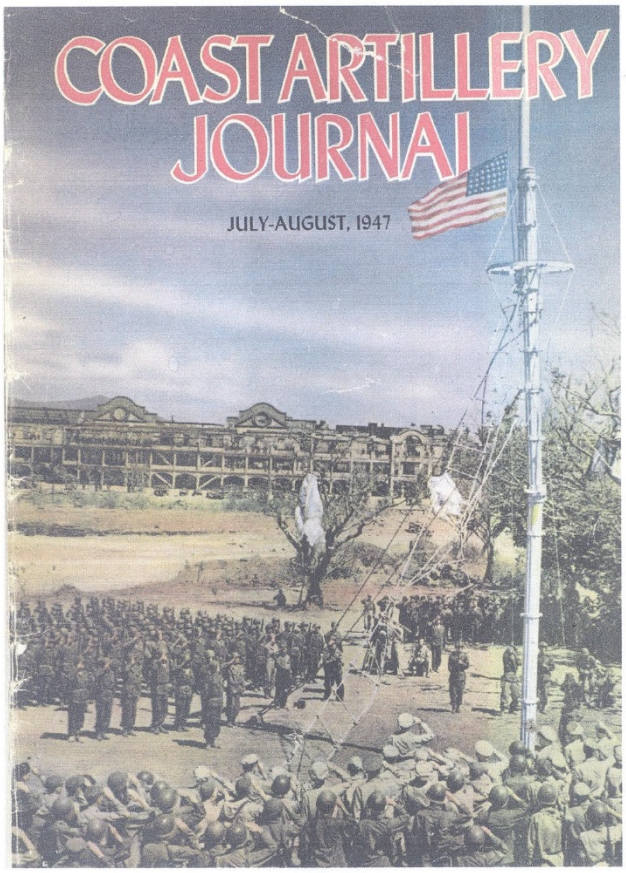


A seventeen-page article from the July-August 1947 edition of *Coast Artillery Journal* tells of the gallant four-month defense of Corregidor by U.S. and Philippino troops, a heroic stand that put a serious crimp in Japanese plans for domination of the entire Western Pacific. The article by Col. William C. Brady, Coast Artillery (Retired), is based on his operations office and personal diaries, giving an accurate account of life during the 129-day siege of the island that plugged the sea entrance to Manila harbor. You can read the full text of the article in an accompaning PDF.

FORT MILLS (Harbor Defense Arty)

CORREGIDOR

Battery	No. Guns	Cal.	Type	Troops	Range Yds
Smith	1	12"	BCLR	F-59	29,000
Hearn	1	12"	BCLR	A-59	29,000
Cheney	2	12"	DC	D-59	17,000
Wheeler	2	12"	DC	C-59	17,000
Crockett	2	12"	DC	B-59	17,000
Geary (2 Pits)		12"	4-M, '08 4-M, '90 Mortars	H-59	14,000
Way (1 Pit)	4	12"	4-M, '90 Mortars	E-60	14,000
Grubbs	2	10"	DC	C-91	13,500
R.J.43	1	8"	BC		24,000
Ramsey	3	6"	DC		14,000
Morrison	2	6"	DC	G-91	14,000
Hamilton(South)	3	155mm	Pan GPF	C-1st PA	17,000
Ordnance Pt.	3	155mm	Pan GPF	E-92	17,000
Stockade	1	155mm	GPF	A-91	17,000
Kysor(North)	2	155mm	GPF	C-92	17,000
Levagood	2	155mm	GPF	D-92	17,000
Rock Pt.	2	155mm	GPF	B-91	17,000
Sunset	4	155mm	GPF	D-91	17,000
Monja	2	155mm	GPF	G-92	17,000
Hanna	2	3"	P.M.R.F.	B-1st PA	10,000
Cushing	2	3"	P.M.R.F.	Hq-1st PA	10,000
Keyes	2	3"	P.M.R.F.	Hq-1st PA	10,000
James	4	3"	P.M.R.F.	A-1st PA K-59	10,000

FORT MILLS AND SO. BATAAN (Antiaircraft)

Battery		No. Guns	Cal.	Type	Troops	Vertical Range, Feet
Albany	(A-60)	5 (Searchlights)		Sperry 60"	A-60	
Boston	(B-60)	4	3"	AA	B-60	32,000
Chicago	(C-60)	4	3"	AA	C-60	32,000
Denver	(D-60)	4	3"	AA	D-60	27,000
Erie*	(E-60)	5 (Searchlights)		Sperry 60"	E-60	
Flint	(F-60)	4	3"	AA	F-60	27,000
Globe	(G-60)	4	3"	AA	G-60	27,000
Hartford	(H-60)	4	3"	AA	H-60	27,000
Indiana	(I-60)	12	.50	AAMG	I-60	
Kingston	(K-60)	12	.50	AAMG	K-60	
Lansing	(L-60)	12	.50	AAMG	L-60	
Mobile	(M-60)	12	.50	AAMG	M-60	
Cebu*	(C-91)	4	3"	AA	C-91	27,000

*[illegible]

Christmas cards, 1941, from the Philippines. Uncle Bob sent a package of Christmas greeting cards, including this one, home from Corregidor for his mother to forward to other members of the family. The cards were likely shipped before Thanksgiving. The siege of Corregidor began December 8 so Christmas celebrations on the island were indeed somber that year. The greeting cards were decorated with various island scenes like the one to the right.

Wishing you a Merry Christmas
and a Happy New Year

Robert Frank Augur

Lieutenant Coast Artillery
United States Army

Milwaukie Review, April, 1969

Clackamas County Man Credited In New Book

A Clackamas County veteran of the World War II battle for Corregidor, Robert F. Augur, of 5414 SE Thiessen Road, is credited in a new book. The book is "Corregidor: The Saga of a Fortress," by James H. and William M. Belote. Published by Harper and Row of New York, it went on sale recently.

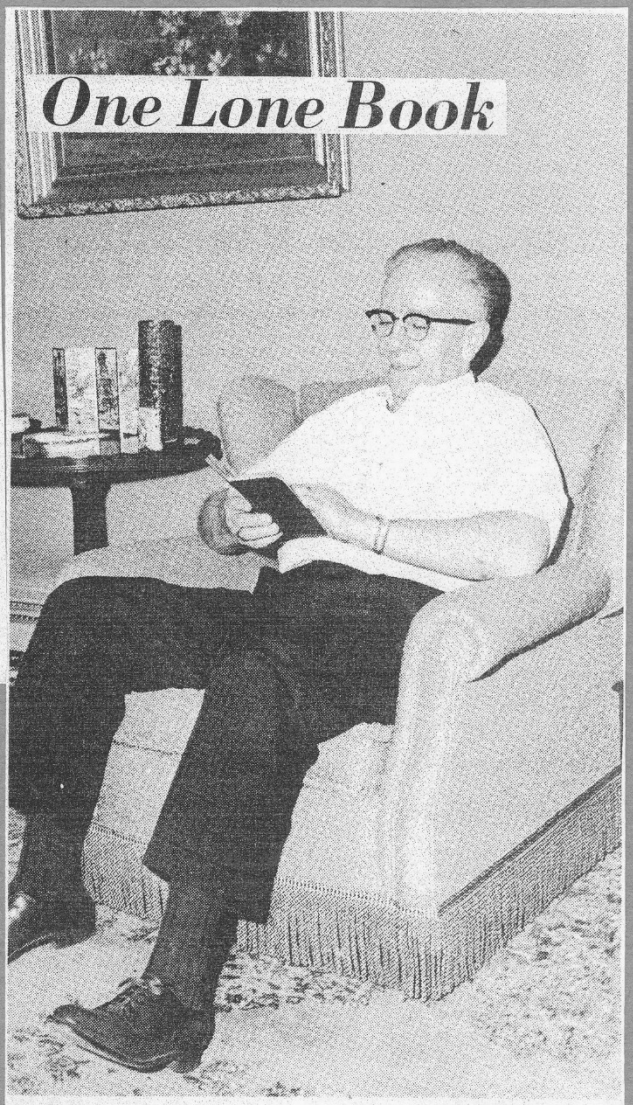
Augur served on Corregidor as a lieutenant and executive officer of a battery of heavy guns manned by Philippine Scouts. Corregidor, an island fortress, was located two miles off the Bataan Peninsula at the mouth of Manila Bay. The Japanese kept it under siege for almost six months.

After Bataan fell on April 9, 1942, Augur and his men engaged in hot artillery duels with Japanese batteries for the next month. Finally, realizing further resistance was impossible, General Jonathan M. Wainwright surrendered Corregidor on May 6, 1942. Augur became a prisoner of war for three years.

Augur is among several hundred Corregidor survivors consulted by the authors in seven years of research. Their book relates in detail how the siege of Corregidor gained precious time for America's later Pacific campaign. It also describes the recapture of the island in February, 1945, following a combined parachute and seaborne landing.

The authors are World War II veterans and professional historians.

One Lone Book



ROBERT F. AUGUR, 5414 SE Thiessen Road is shown here with a weathered notebook, his only possession, other than clothes on his back when he left Corregidor after being a prisoner of war during World War II. Augur was consulted by authors James H. and William M. Belote for their recently released book on the fortress.

The **"Black Book"** that was Uncle Bob's constant companion from the beginning of World War II in the Pacific, through the 129-day Japanese siege of the island of Corregidor and his 32 months as a prisoner-of-war in Manila's Old Bilibid prison. It measures 3 1/2 x 6 1/8 inches and has 108 pages. To read what he wrote in the book during four months of constant Japanese artillery and aerial bombardment and the nearly three years of imprisonment, open the accompanying PDF **"Black Book."**

END OF VOLUME ONE

Robert F. Augur's
World War II Story

NOW READ
VOLUME TWO
PDF