

JAPANESE PRISONER OF WAR CAMPS

During World War II, 1941-1945

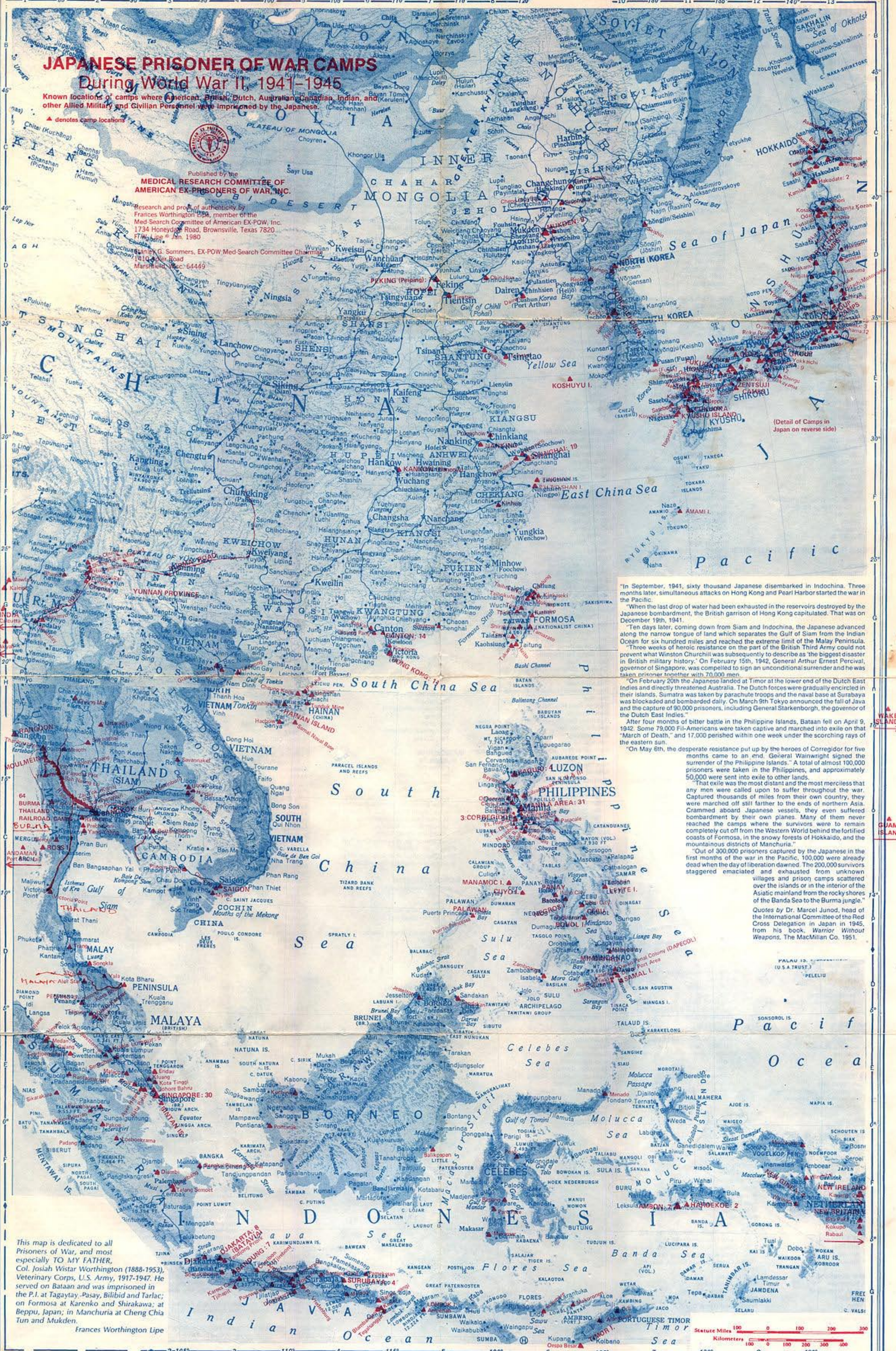
Known locations of camps where American, British, Dutch, Australian, Canadian, Indian, and other Allied Military and Civilian Personnel were imprisoned by the Japanese.

▲ denotes camp locations

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In September, 1941, sixty thousand Japanese disembarked in Indochina. Three months later, simultaneous attacks on Hong Kong and Pearl Harbor started the war in the Pacific.

When the last drop of water had been exhausted in the reservoirs destroyed by the Japanese bombardment, the British garrison of Hong Kong capitulated. That was on December 18th, 1941.

Ten days later, coming down from Siam and Indochina, the Japanese advanced along the narrow tongue of land which separates the Gulf of Siam from the Indian Ocean for six hundred miles and reached the extreme limit of the Malay Peninsula.

Three weeks of heroic resistance on the part of the British Third Army could not prevent what Winston Churchill was subsequently to describe as "the biggest disaster in British military history." On February 15th, 1942, General Arthur Ernest Percival, governor of Singapore, was compelled to sign an unconditional surrender and he was taken prisoner together with 70,000 men.

On February 20th the Japanese landed at Timor at the lower end of the Dutch East Indies and directly threatened Australia. The Dutch forces were gradually encircled in their islands. Sumatra was taken by parachute troops and the naval base at Surabaya was blockaded and bombarded daily. On March 9th Tokyo announced the fall of Java and the capture of 90,000 prisoners, including General Starckenborgh, the governor of the Dutch East Indies.

After four months of bitter battle in the Philippine Islands, Bataan fell on April 9, 1942. Some 79,000 Filipinos were taken captive and marched into exile on that "March of Death," and 17,000 perished within one week under the scorching rays of the eastern sun.

On May 8th, the desperate resistance put up by the heroes of Corregidor for five months came to an end. General Wainwright signed the surrender of the Philippine Islands. A total of almost 100,000 prisoners were taken in the Philippines, and approximately 50,000 were sent into exile to other lands.

That exile was the most distant and the most merciless that any men were called upon to suffer throughout the war. Captured thousands of miles from their own country, they were marched off still farther to the ends of northern Asia. Cramped aboard Japanese vessels, they even suffered bombardment by their own planes. Many of them never reached the camps where the survivors were to remain completely cut off from the Western World behind the fortified coasts of Formosa, in the snowy forests of Hokkaido, and the mountainous districts of Manchuria.

Out of 300,000 prisoners captured by the Japanese in the first months of the war in the Pacific, 100,000 were already dead when the day of liberation dawned. The 200,000 survivors staggered emaciated and exhausted from unknown villages and prison camps scattered over the islands or in the interior of the Asiatic mainland from the rocky shores of the Banda Sea to the Burma jungle.

Quotes by Dr. Marcel Junod, head of the International Committee of the Red Cross Delegation in Japan in 1945, from his book, *Warrior Without Weapons*. The MacMillan Co. 1951.

This map is dedicated to all
Prisoners of War, and most
especially to MY FATHER,
Col. Josiah Wistar Worthington (1888-1953),
Veterinary Corps, U.S. Army, 1917-1947. He
served on Bataan and was imprisoned in
the P.I. at Tagaytay, Pasay, Bilibid and Tarlac;
on Formosa at Karenko and Shirakawa;
at Beppu, Japan; in Manchuria at Cheng Chia
Tun and Mukden.

Frances Worthington Lipe

