

Primary Sources Packet: Capture

Document One

Henry Lee, "Death March"
The English Association

So you are dead. The easy words contain
No sense of loss, no sorrow, no despair.
Thus hunger, thirst, fatigue, combine to drain
All feeling from our hearts. The endless glare,
The brutal heat, anesthetize the mind.
I can not mourn you now. I lift my load,
The suffering column moves on. I leave behind
Only another corpse, beside the road.

Primary Sources Packet: Capture cont.

Document Two

Photograph, *The March of Death*, May 1942

National Archives and Records Administration (532548)



Primary Source Packet: Capture cont.

Document Three

Raymond H. Knapp, Testimony of Illegal Acts By Japanese in Philippines, 1945 (excerpt)
National Archives and Records Administration (Record Group 331, Box 1994)

"It was my thought that the safest way to make this march was to keep at the head of the column and to make the march in as short a time as possible. The reason for my decision was that it soon became apparent to me that the Japanese were not going to feed us on the march nor permit us to secure any water, and that stragglers would be bayoneted or otherwise killed along the march. We would often pass an American-made Artesian well. The Japanese guards would let a few Prisoners of War get water in their canteen cups and then refuse to let anyone else near the well under the threat of death. Such treatment increased my desire for water tremendously as it did all the other Prisoners of War. For practically all of the Prisoners of War, the entire march was made without water and without food. While we were at Balanga, we Prisoners of War were lined up in a chow line, and we could see food cooking and could smell it. While we were supposedly waiting for the chow line to begin moving, the Japanese guards had another inspection. The Japanese guards claimed that they found a 45 automatic in the duffle bag of an American Officer. We were immediately marched out of the chow line, no one at all having been fed, and were marched into a neighboring field. There we were given about a two hour 'sun treatment' still without water or food. The heat in the field in our dehydrated bodies was almost unbearable. Immediately after this cruel treatment, we were again formed into a column and, those of us who made it, marched for twenty-two hours without a break to the end of the march at San Fernando, Pampanga."

Primary Source Packet: Capture cont.

Document Four

Grady T. Ellis, Testimony of Illegal Acts by Japanese in Philippines, 1945 (excerpt)
National Archives and Records Administration (Record Group 331, Box 1994)

"I walked with about 100 other prisoners in a group, which was originally formed from the regular companies but after a few days became very disorganized. Many of the men would fall out along the line of march and would be shot or bayoneted [sic] by the guards and left to die. If any of our men were caught trying to help a faltering soldier he would also be shot, bayoneted [sic] or clubbed with the butt of a rifle by the Japanese guards. We were forced to march nine days without food except that given us by the Filipinos along the way. On one occasion we marched for two days and nights without a break, and at one point we were kept in a wire stockade for three days, two of which it rained and then resumed our march which took a total of fourteen days."