

(See SCHOOLS Page 3A) Virginia Gaines of Seadrift. this city.

Victoria Hero, With A Chest Full Of Medals and Minus Leg, Home

Was Prisoner Of Japanese

By CHESTER EVANS

One of Victoria County's leading heroes of World War II slipped quietly into town last week after more than eight years of service in the United States armed forces, three years and four months of which time were spent in the confines of a Japanese prisoner of war camp.

He is Junious G. Carroll, 29, son of Mrs. Sadie Rucker of 712 East Forrest St. A machinegun sergeant, Carroll served with General Jonathan Wainwright on immortal Bataan and Corregidor, where he was captured May 10, 1942.

Sgt. Carroll brought home with him a memory of Jap prison camp atrocities that'll live with him always and a chest full of decorations, including the prized Combat Infantryman's Badge, the Philippine Defence Ribbon with four battle stars and a Distinguished Unit Citation with two oak leaf clusters.

But, unfortunately, he also brought home with him only one leg. He lost a part of the other



SGT. JUNIOUS CARROLL

leg—below the left knee—when a coal mine in which he was forced to labor caved in upon him.

Sgt. Carroll, of course, has had countless experiences. One of the most unique, perhaps, was hearing

the terrific explosion of the second atomic bomb and the resultant earth tremor, although it was exactly one month later before he knew what it was. "We were at Kuishuy Island, Prison Camp 17, when we heard the blast and felt the ground shake at Nagasaki 25 miles away," Carroll told me. "At the time we thought it was the explosion of a huge ammunition dump or factory. That was on August 8, 1945. We learned on September 8, when a newspaper war correspondent visited our camp, that it was the atomic bomb," he recalled.

The Victoria youth is now hale and hearty—except for his left leg—after regaining all his lost poundage under the care of U. S. Army hospital dieticians at McCloskey General Hospital at Temple and Percy Jones General Hospital at Fort Custer, Mich., where he was discharged from the service a week ago—August 17.

He reported in at McCloskey last November for a reamputation (they took off two more inches of bone). He has been recuperating at Fort Custer since.

Carroll would not tell me of the numerous Jap atrocities he en-

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Junious Carroll 1

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