



**DR. PAUL B. STEVENS**

# Survivor Tells Brave Defense of Wake Island

By **LU SPEHR**

Out of 1200 civilians employed on Wake Island when the Japanese struck, 800 helped the Marine Corps repel the invasion as long as it was practical for the tiny garrison to hold out.

Dr. Paul B. Stevens, 1385 North Hill Avenue, who was secretary to Dan Teeters, general superintendent of the civilian construction program, relates the story of the civilians' part in the battle. He compiled an official list of all the civilians who took part.

## **Had No Guns**

"The civilians were not permitted to take either guns or a camera when they landed on Wake and their only arms during the battle were hand grenades," Dr. Stevens said. "Even the military was short of arms and ammunition. I know

# Wake . . . .

(Continued)

of 12 sailors who had neither rifles or sidearms.

"We sheltered in ammunition dugouts about the island and resisted as best we could from Dec. 8 until the 23rd, when we were ordered to surrender. It was 10 hours after the order went out before it reached my dugout because the communication lines had been snipped.

"The Marines were armed with three-inch and five-inch guns and they were firing at point-blank range. They sank a transport, four destroyers and two cruisers and the Japs admitted losing 5700 men in the attack while American losses were under 100, with about one-third of them civilians."

## **Held for Three Weeks**

The Japanese held Dr. Stevens on Wake for three weeks after the surrender in a party, which buried dead and built barbed wire entanglements and then was taken to Shanghai, where he was held prisoner until last June. He was then moved to Sendai Camp near Omori Bay where he was employed in the mines when liberated.

	Arrived	Departed
U.A. (Wilmington)		5/16/41
Honolulu	5/21	5/23
Wake	6/1/41	1/12/42
Yokohama	1/21	1/22
<u>Shanghai</u>	1/24/42	5/9/45
Woo Sung	1/24	12/6/42
Kiang Wan	12/6	- 5/9/45
Nanking	5/9	5/9
Pekin	5/14	
T S Feng Tai	5/14	



Moukden	Arrived	Departed
Fusan	6/30	6/30
Susa	7/1	7/2
Sheminoseki	7/2	7/2
Osaka	"	"
Kobe	"	"
Yokohama	7/3	7/3
Tokyo	"	7/4
Sendai	"	"
Camp # 11	7/4/45	9/2/45

See back of 1306R

9-12-45 - Left camp at 5 P.M.

Dinky to +

boarded train at 10 P.M.

9-13 Arrived at

Siogama at 10 A.M.

We were met by

U.S. M.P.'s - Ambulances

Army Nurses - white

women with shoes  
on, The first we had  
seen for more than  
4 years. We were

to docks & we boarded  
Hospital ship "Rescue"  
at 11 AM. Were bathed,  
dehooused, & issued new  
clothing. Then fed  
bread, butter & jam;  
Soup & milk = all  
we wanted. Then  
we filled out forms  
and were interviewed.

9-13

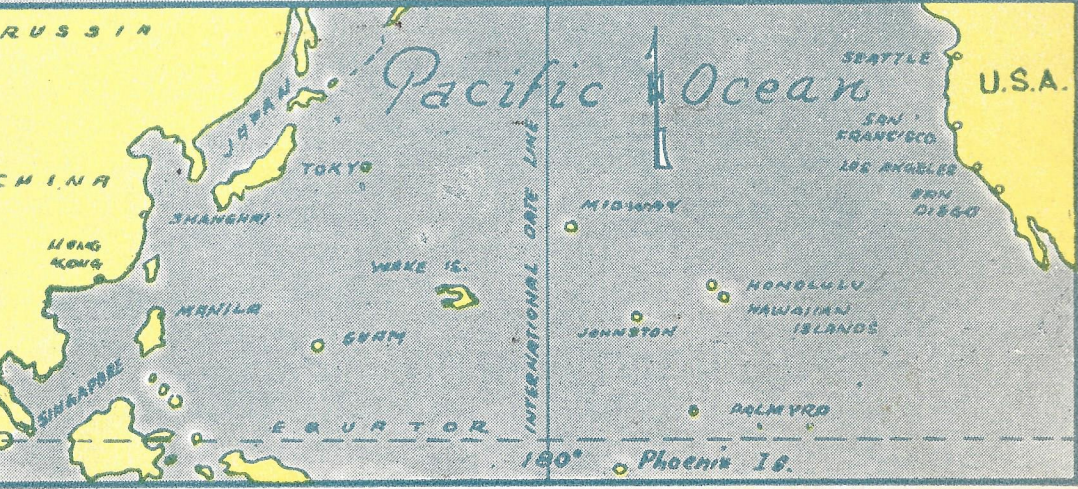
More soup, bread,  
butter, jam, etc  
and at 10 PM, were  
transferred to A.P.D. #128  
Most hospitable crew  
welcomed us with  
Ham & eggs, ice  
cream, coffee &  
then put us to bed.  
Asteruous, happy day.





S O U V E N I R M E M O R I A L S

TOYS FOR DEFENSE



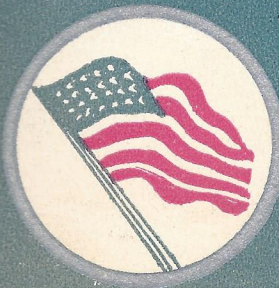
- MIDWAY  
1190 MI.
- HONOLULU  
2496 MI.
- SAN FRANCISCO  
4896 MI.
- CHICAGO  
6804 MI.
- WASHINGTON D.C.  
7385 MI.

DRAWN BY GEO. F. CORTES

# WAKE ISLAND

PACIFIC NAVAL AIR BASE CONTRACTORS

- HAWAIIAN DREDGING COMPANY, LTD.
- RAYMOND CONCRETE PILE COMPANY
- TURNER CONSTRUCTION COMPANY
- MORRISON-KNUDSEN COMPANY, INC.
- J. H. POMEROY AND CO., INC.
- W. A. BECHTEL COMPANY
- UTAH CONSTRUCTION COMPANY
- BYRNE ORGANIZATION





NO DISTANCE OF PLACE OR LAPSE OF  
TIME CAN LESSEN THE FRIENDSHIP OF  
THOSE WHO ARE THOROUGHLY PER-  
SUADED OF EACH OTHER'S WORTH.

—*Robert Southey.*

N. D. TETERS

General Superintendent

Wake Island







TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN.

This is to CERTIFY that the below named man has PAST his apprenticeship as a BARBER.

PAUL B. STEVENS

Being unable at this time to contact the BARBERS UNION, we the undersigned have taken the responsibility to pass judgement on his work. He is a willing worker, has had no serious CASUALTIES, and has had very few repeaters on his bench of fortune. He has gained the confidence of the BARBERS to where they now permit him to use his OWN leather belt for a strop. We also notice he is very critical of work, men do on themselves. Medically Inspected and PASSED as Capable. Being a good cribbage player is one of his ambitions and has taken a few lessons of late SIGNERS.

E. S. Fox

J. V. Castleton

L. J. Black



Cortez, Colo.

Sept. 21, 1945

Dear Children:

Just a few hours ago the following telegram from Washington was brought to my door.

"Am pleased to inform you of the liberation from Japanese custody of your son Paul B. Stevens physical condition unstated stop you may send free through the Amer. prisoner of war information bureau this office 25 word message the body of which must not



exceed 12 words the  
remaining 13 words  
essential for address &  
code symbols every  
effort to effect delivery  
of this message before  
returned to U. S. will  
be made

Leuch the provost  
marshall."

Of course I'm rejoicing  
& praying that the  
return to complete  
freedom may soon  
come. "A new man  
in Christ Jesus."

I've many notes to  
write. I'm well.

Love, Mamma