

HENRY “DUKE” JOBE JR.



US ARMY 1941-1946

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Henry Jobe, Jr. was born 20-DEC 1922 in Cairo IL. His mother was Ada Leona Hall (1898-1938). His father was Henry Jobe, Sr (1892-1953). He had four brothers: Fred, Clarence, Leon and Thomas and two sisters: Leona and Alice. His family later moved to 1441 St. Louis Ave in St. Louis MO.

His occupation according to the 1940 census was delivery boy. He had completed a grammar school education. After his service, he was a Teamster and truck driver.

Henry enlisted on 29-JAN 1941 months before Pearl Harbor. He served in the 60th Coast Artillery Regiment (Anti-Aircraft) on the island of Corregidor at Fort Mills in the Philippines. His service number was 17016184.

Jobe was assigned to a 3-inch antiaircraft gun M3 on Corregidor. When Corregidor fell on 6-MAY 1942, he was captured by the Japanese. He was officially reported as missing in May 1942 and later as a prisoner of war in May 1943. He would be placed on a prison ship bound for a POW camp on Formosa.

REGISTRATION CARD—(Men born on or after January 1, 1922 and on or before June 30, 1924)			
SERIAL NUMBER N. 280-A	I. NAME (GIVEN) Henry Jobe		ORDER NUMBER 13001-A
II. PLACE OF RESIDENCE (CITY) 1441 St. Louis Av. St. Louis City Missouri			
III. PLACE OF BIRTH Cairo Illinois			
IV. DATE OF BIRTH Dec. 20 1922			
V. NAME AND ADDRESS OF PERSON WHO WILL ALWAYS KNOW YOUR ADDRESS Mabel Jobe - - sister - same as above.			
VI. EMPLOYER, TRADE AND ADDRESS not employed - returned veteran.			
VII. PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT OR BUSINESS			
VIII. I AFFIRM THAT I HAVE VERIFIED ABOVE ADDRESS AND THAT THEY ARE TRUE.			
D. S. S. FORM 1 (Revised 6-1-42)		Henry J. Jobe	

Henry was interred in Taiwan POW Camp #1 (Taihoku) Formosa 25-121. In 1942 the Japanese began bringing Allied POWs to Taiwan from various parts of Southeast Asia. These POWs were captured at the surrender of Hong Kong, Singapore, the Philippines, and the Dutch East Indies. They were brought to Taiwan and Formosa to work as slaves for the Japanese war effort.



The POWs suffered terribly at the hands of the Japanese in all of the 14 POW camps on the island. They never had enough food to eat and were always hungry. They had to work long hours every day and were not allowed to rest even if they were sick or injured. If they did not fulfill their quota of work each day, they were beaten by the Japanese. Beatings from the guards were frequent, and medicines, although available, were held back by the Japanese, causing the deaths of many men. Henry would tell neighbors and friends they were often served "fish heads."

Henry's father had not been informed of his liberation until contacted by the Globe-Democrat. His father, plainly shaken commented: "Gee, that's swell! I was afraid maybe he had been killed in an air raid."

Henry was interviewed when he was liberated, and the story ran in the St. Louis Globe Democrat. The article reported: "Japanese treatment aboard a prison ship was so bad, PVT Henry Jobe Jr prayed the vessel would be sunk by a submarine." He was onboard the prison ship for thirty-nine days with over 650 fellow prisoners and civilian internees in the hold of the ship. "Thirty-eight died and many went crazy," Henry told the reporter. Henry was with more than 1000 Allied prisoners and internees, many of them no more than living skeletons who arrived in Manila after being liberated. Many of the prisoners were still too weak to stand after being liberated and provided two weeks of good food.



Henry served until 15 May 1946. After his service, he married his wife, Mary, and they had two daughters: Diane and Debbie. They lived at 344 Shepley Drive in Glasgow Village in North County, St. Louis MO.

He died 12-SEP 1980 and is buried at Jefferson Barracks in St. Louis MO.

The Battle of Corregidor

The Battle of Corregidor was fought on May 5–6, 1942, and was the culmination of the Japanese campaign for the conquest of the Commonwealth of the Philippines during World War II.

The fall of Bataan on 9-APR 1942 ended all organized opposition by the U.S. Army Forces Far East to the invading Japanese forces on Luzon, in the northern Philippines. The island bastion of Corregidor, with its network of tunnels and formidable array of defensive armaments, along with the fortifications across the entrance to Manila Bay, was the remaining obstacle to the Japanese Imperial Army of Lieutenant General Masaharu Homma. The Japanese needed to take Corregidor, for as long as the island remained in American hands, the Japanese would be denied the use of Manila Bay, the finest natural harbor in the Far East.

Corregidor, officially named Fort Mills, was the largest of four fortified islands protecting the mouth of Manila Bay and had been fortified prior to World War I with powerful coastal artillery. Its widest and elevated area, known as Topside, held most of the fort's 56 coastal artillery pieces and installations.

Middleside was a small plateau containing battery positions as well as barracks. Bottomside was the lower area, where a dock area and the civilian town of San Jose were located. Americans called it "The Rock" or even the "Gibraltar of the East", comparing it to the fortress that guards the entrance to the Mediterranean Sea between Europe and Africa.

The tunnel system under Malinta Hill was the most extensive construction on Corregidor. It contained a main east-west passage 826 feet long with a 24-foot diameter, in addition to 25 lateral passages, each about 400 feet long, which branched out at regular intervals from each side of the main passage. A separate system of tunnels north of this housed the underground hospital. It had 12 lateral tunnels and space for 1,000 beds. The facility could be reached either through the main tunnel or by a separate outside entrance on the north side of Malinta Hill. The Navy tunnel system, which lay opposite the hospital, under the south side of Malinta was connected to the main tunnel by a partially completed low passageway through the quartermaster storage lateral.

East of this was Malinta Tunnel, the former location of General Douglas MacArthur's headquarters (Lieutenant General Jonathan M. Wainwright's headquarters during the battle, after MacArthur relocated to Australia on 12 March 1942). Reinforced with concrete walls, floors, and overhead arches, it also had blowers to furnish fresh air, and a double-track electric tramway line along the east-west passage. The Malinta Tunnel furnished bombproof shelters for the hospital, headquarters, and shops, as well as a maze of underground storehouses.

The defensive arsenal on Corregidor was formidable, with 45 coastal guns and mortars organized into 23 batteries, some 72 anti-aircraft weapons assigned to 13 batteries and a minefield of approximately 35 groups of controlled mines. The two 12-inch guns of Batteries Smith and Hearn, with a horizontal range of 29,000 yards and all-around traverse were the longest range of all the island's artillery. Jobe was assigned to a 3-inch antiaircraft gun M3 on Corregidor.



On December 29, 1941 the defenders got their first taste of aerial bombardment on Corregidor. The attack lasted for two hours as the Japanese destroyed or damaged the hospital, Topside and Bottomside barracks, the Navy fuel depot and the officers club. Three days later, the island garrison was bombed for more than three hours. Periodic bombing continued over the next four days, but with only two more raids for the rest of January, the defenders had a chance to improve their positions considerably. To the amusement of the beach defenders on Corregidor, the Japanese dropped only propaganda leaflets on January 29th.

On 3-FEB 1942 USS Trout (SS-202) arrived at Corregidor with 3,500 rounds of 3-inch anti-aircraft ammunition. Along with mail and important documents, Trout was loaded with 20 tons of gold and silver previously removed from banks in the Philippines before departing. On March 12th, under cover of darkness, Gen. MacArthur was evacuated from Corregidor, using four PT boats bound for Mindanao, from where he was eventually flown to Australia. He left Lt. Gen Jonathan M. Wainwright in command in the Philippines.

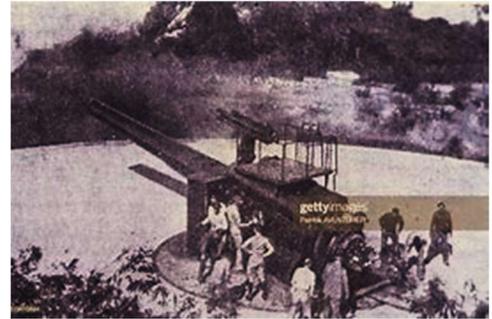


From December 29th to the end of April 1942, despite incessant Japanese aerial, naval and artillery bombardment, the garrison on Corregidor, which consisted of the 4th Marine Regiment and combined units from the United States Army, the US Navy, and locally recruited Filipino soldiers, resisted valiantly, inflicting heavy enemy losses in men and aircraft.

The defenders were living on about 30 ounces of food per day. Drinking water was distributed only twice a day, but the constant bombing and shelling often interrupted the distribution of rations. When the bombardment killed horses of the Cavalry, the men would drag the carcasses down to the mess hall for consumption. The continued lack of proper diet created problems for the garrison, as men weakened and lacked reliable night vision. From Cebu, seven private ships, under orders from the army, loaded with a supply of food, sailed towards Corregidor. Only one reached the island.

Japanese artillery bombardment of Corregidor began immediately after the fall of Bataan on 9-April. It became intense over the next few weeks as more guns were brought up, and one day's shelling was said to equal all the bombing raids combined in damage inflicted. After an initial response from a 155 mm GPF battery, Lt. Gen. Wainwright prohibited counterbattery fire for three days, fearing there were wounded POWs on Bataan who might be killed.

Japanese bombing and shelling continued with unrelenting ferocity. Japanese aircraft flew 614 missions, dropping 1,701 bombs totaling some 365 tons of explosive. Joining the aerial bombardment were nine 240 mm howitzers, thirty-four 149 mm howitzers, and 32 other artillery pieces, which pounded Corregidor day and night. It was estimated that on May 4th alone, more than 16,000 shells hit Corregidor. From April 28th, a concentrated aerial bombardment by the Japanese 22nd Air Brigade supported by ground artillery on Bataan from May 1–5, preceded landing operations.



On the night of 4-MAY a submarine returning to Australia from patrol evacuated 25 persons. Among the passengers were Colonel Constant Irwin, who carried a complete roster of all Army, Navy, and Marine personnel still alive; Col. Royal G. Jenks, a finance officer, with financial accounts; Col. Milton A. Hill, the inspector general, 3 other Army and 6 Navy officers, and about 13 nurses. Included in the cargo sent from Corregidor were several bags of mail, the last to go out of the Philippines, and many records and orders.

Japanese propaganda to its home population repeatedly declared in this period that Corregidor was about to fall, followed by weeks of silence when it did not happen. Imperial General Headquarters finally declared that the resistance was becoming a serious embarrassment.

On 5-MAY, Japanese forces led by Maj. Gen. Kureo Taniguchi boarded landing craft and barges and headed for the final assault on Corregidor. Shortly before midnight, intense shelling struck the beaches between North Point and Cavalry Point. The initial landing of 790 Japanese soldiers quickly bogged down due to surprisingly fierce resistance from the American and Filipino defenders. Corregidor's batteries exacted a heavy toll on the invasion fleet. It was a bloodbath. Observers at Cabcaben described the scene as "a spectacle that confounded the imagination, surpassing in grim horror anything we had ever seen before." The beleaguered garrison on Corregidor fought valiantly.

The Japanese landing was difficult because of the strong sea currents between Bataan and Corregidor, as well as the layers of oil that covered the beaches from ships sunk earlier in the siege. They had considerable trouble landing personnel and equipment. However, the sheer numbers of the Japanese infantry, equipped with 50 mm grenade launchers (knee mortars), eventually forced the defenders to pull back from the beach.

The second battalion of 785 Japanese soldiers was not as successful. They landed east of North Point, where the defensive positions held by the 4th Marines Regiment were stronger. Most of the Japanese officers were quickly killed, and the huddled survivors

were hit with hand grenades, machine guns, and rifle fire. Nevertheless, some of the landing managed to unite with the first invasion force, and together they moved inland and had captured the Denver Battery by 01:30 on May 6.

The Americans launched a counterattack to eject the Japanese from the Denver Battery, and this saw the heaviest fighting between the opposing forces, virtually hand to hand. A few reinforcements made their way to the 4th Marines, but the battle became a duel with old World War I style grenades against deadly accurate Japanese knee mortars. Unless reinforced, the battle would soon go against the Marines.

By 04:30, Colonel Howard had committed his last reserves, consisting of about 500 Marines, a few sailors, and the soldiers of the 4th Battalion. These reinforcements tried to join the battle as quickly as possible, but Japanese snipers had slipped behind the front lines and any movement was very costly. To make matters worse, another 880 Japanese reinforcements arrived at 05:30. The 4th Marines held their positions, but the Americans were losing ground in other areas. The Japanese had a problem of their own: several ammunition crates never made the landing. As a result, several Japanese attacks and counterattacks were made using bayonets.

The defenders' final blow came at 09:30, when three Japanese tanks were landed and immediately went into action. The men of Denver Battery withdrew to the ruins of a concrete trench a few yards from the entrance to Malinta tunnel. At the same moment, Japanese artillery delivered a heavy barrage. Aware of the consequences if the Japanese captured the tunnel, where about 1,000 helpless wounded men lay, and realizing the Malinta tunnel could not hold out much longer, Wainwright knew that more Japanese would be landed at night. He decided to sacrifice one more day of freedom in exchange for several thousand lives.

In a radio message to President Franklin Roosevelt, Wainwright said, "There is a limit of human endurance, and that point has long been passed." Colonel Howard burned the 4th Marine Regiment's flag as well as the national colors to prevent their capture. Wainwright surrendered the Corregidor garrison at about 1:30 p.m. on 6-MAY 1942, with two officers sent forward with a white flag to carry his surrender message to the Japanese.

The Japanese losses from January 1 – April 30 and from the initial assault landings on May 5-6, were about 900 dead and 1,200 wounded, while the defenders suffered 800 dead and 1,000 wounded.

Corregidor's defeat marked the fall of the Philippines and Asia, but Imperial Japan's timetable for the conquest of Australia and the rest of the Pacific was severely upset. Its

advance was ultimately checked at the battle for New Guinea, and at Guadalcanal, the turning point in the Pacific War.

Aftermath

About 4,000 of the 11,000 American and Filipino prisoners of war from Corregidor were marched through the streets of Manila to incarceration at Fort Santiago and Bilibid Prison, criminal detention centers turned POW camps. US Army and Navy nurses (the “Angels of Bataan and Corregidor”) continued to work on Corregidor for several weeks and were then sent to Santo Tomas. The rest were sent off in trains to various Japanese prison camps. General Wainwright was incarcerated in Manchuria. Over the course of the war, thousands were shipped to the Japanese home islands as slave labor. Some were eventually freed at the Raid at Cabanatuan and during the battle for Manila's liberation. While most of the Allied forces on Corregidor surrendered, many individuals continued fighting as guerrillas.

General Masaharu Homma, who conquered the Philippines in five months instead of the projected two, ended up being relieved of his command.

