

## **E Battery Soldiers of the 2nd Battalion 131st Field Artillery of the Texas National Guard, The Lost Battalion, WW II**

*Researched and written by Marianne LeButt, July and August of 2022*

*Note: all information that is in brackets [ ], has been added by this researcher for clarification*

This Narrative is regarding E Battery of the 2nd Battalion 131st Field Artillery of the Texas National Guard also known as "The Lost Battalion" during World War II, which consisted of 4 Officers and 95 enlisted men. The main focus of this Narrative is regarding the 61 men of E Battery who were in the Fukuoka 2b Nagasaki camp in Japan and were later liberated from the Fukuoka 6 POW camp in Mizumaki near Orio, Japan in September of 1945. However, at the end of this Narrative I have also included information about the other 34 enlisted soldiers of E Battery.

The four officers and 95 enlisted soldiers of E Battery landed in Java in early 1942. When the Japanese Imperial Army captured Java in March of 1942, all the soldiers of Battery E then became prisoners of war. They were in various POW camps in Java including Surabaya and Batavia. 71 enlisted men and 3 officers of E Battery were later sent to the Fukuoka 2b Nagasaki camp in Japan via Singapore in late 1942.

The following is about the 61 soldiers who were among the 71 enlisted men of E Battery who were sent to the Fukuoka 2b Nagasaki Camp in Japan then moved to the Mizumaki Fukuoka camp 6, in between the time these 61 men left Java as POWs in late 1942 and when they were liberated in September of 1945 from the Mizumaki near Orio, Fukuoka 6 Camp in Japan (*Note: A list of the names of all of these 61 soldiers is at the end of this Narrative*).

In late October of 1942 these 61 men were among the 79 enlisted men of E Battery of the 2nd Battalion, 131st Field Artillery, and also 3 of their officers Lt. Hollis Allen, Lt. William R. Slone and Lt. Millett Straughan, who left Java for Japan via Singapore. (*Note: E Battery's Commander, Captain Thomas Dodson and 16 enlisted men of E Battery were sick with beriberi disease and did not leave with them*). These 79 soldiers and 3 officers all departed Batavia, Java in "Java Party 5g" that left Batavia on the Japanese freighter ship the **Oyo Maru** on 28 Oct 1942 and arrived in Singapore on 1 Nov and disembarked the ship on 2 Nov 1942.

William Visage of E Battery, in an oral history interview, related the following regarding what the men experienced on the four-day voyage. (*Source: University of North Texas Oral History Program*). "We were all in the hold [of the ship]. Crowded - there wasn't enough room to lay down. Your knees were jammed up against each other and laying on each other." He also stated there was not enough food or water to drink and it was very hot.

After arriving in Singapore, these 79 enlisted men of E Battery, along with 3 of their officers, spent about 4

weeks in the Changi POW Camp there. 8 of the men of E Battery were sick and stayed in Changi. The other 71 of the 79 enlisted men and their 3 officers then departed Singapore for Japan on 28 Nov 1942 on the Japanese passenger ship the **Kamakura Maru** which arrived in Nagasaki, Japan on 7 Dec 1942. The men were then transported by ferry to the Fukuoka 2b Nagasaki camp on the island of Koyagi. During their stay at that camp, they all did forced labor there in the shipyards where ships were being built. These 3 officers and the 71 enlisted men of E Battery spent over 2 years in this POW camp.

In April 1945, the three E Battery officers - Lt. Hollis Allen, Lt. William Slone and Lt. Millett Straughan were transferred out of the Fukuoka 2b Nagasaki camp on the island of Koyagi. The three of them were sent to a POW Camp in Mukden, Manchuria from which they were later liberated in August 1945. Also liberated there was E Battery Commander Captain Thomas Dodson (who left Java about 1 year after the rest of E Battery men) and who was sent to the Mukden Manchuria Camp from a Formosa POW Camp. *(Note: See the other Narrative I wrote titled: "E Battery Officers, 2nd Battalion 131st Field Artillery, Texas National Guard, The Lost Battalion, WW II revised 18 Sep 2022" to learn about these four E Battery Officer's experiences as POWs).*

in June of 1945, about 2 months after their 3 officers of E Battery left Camp 2b for Manchuria, the enlisted men of E Battery were transferred from the Fukuoka 2b Nagasaki Koyagi camp to other POW Camps in Japan. (Only 2 soldiers were not transferred: Nolan Kalich who died there 3 Dec 1943 and Raymond Wuest who remained there until liberation). 61 of the soldiers of E Battery were transferred to Fukuoka Camp 6 in Mizumaki, near Orio and were later liberated there in September 1945. The other 8 men were sent to other POW camps in Japan.

In June of 1945, the 61 enlisted men of E Battery at the Fukuoka 2b Nagasaki camp on the Island of Koyagi, were put on a train in Nagasaki and travelled about 125 miles northeast to the Fukuoka POW Camp 9 in Mizumaki near Orio. *(Note: On 15 Aug 1945, the camp number was changed from Camp 9 to Camp 6).*

Discipline at this camp was strict with limited food consisting of mostly rice, occasionally some fish and meat and some vegetables in the summer months. The POWs became malnourished which caused them much physical discomfort while trying to expend energy each day working in and around the coal mine there.

The following is a summary of information from various soldier's interviews about the Mizumaki near Orio POW Camp. The camp consisted of 16 barracks for the men, two hospital barracks, a messroom [where the men ate meals], a bath house and some storage buildings. Each barracks contained about 68 men and had 8 upstairs rooms and 8 downstairs rooms which were infested with lice and other bugs. They slept on straw mats on the floor. Food was limited and some of the soldiers stated that they would pick weeds and grass to supplement their diets when the vegetables in a garden they were permitted to grow in the summer months diminished.

Australian soldier Francis O'Neill related the following in an Affidavit at the end of the war: "Our camp was situated about 2 miles from the town of Orio. There were steep hills immediately behind. In front was a river

and then flatland covered with small peasant farms. About a quarter of a mile away was a coal mine. The mine railway line ran parallel to and only a few yards from the camp fence. The whole camp was surrounded by a wooden fence with wooden spikes on top and an electric wire also ran around the top of the fence and there were sentry boxes at intervals."

British Lt. Derek Humber related the following in a report made at the end of the war regarding food the POWs were given in the camp: "The basic ration of food was rice, bread and some beans. Also soup for the morning and evening meal which consisted of turnips boiled in water and once or twice a week a small amount of meat or fish for the midday meal. By 1945, the miners were receiving 420 grams of rice, 200 grams of bread, and 2 bowls of very thin soup [a day]. Workers not down in the mine received 400 grams of rice and 170 grams of bread and the same soup. Sick people received 300 grams of rice and 100 grams of bread. It was not surprising that the sick were so long in recovering. The diet was completely lacking in vitamins. The average weight loss of the men varied from 25% to 33%."

The POWs at the Camp were forced to work long hours in and around the coal mine there. The conditions in the mines were very hazardous. The tunnels were not properly timbered and in certain parts there was not sufficient timber and in other areas the timber was rotten with decay. After blasting operations no inspection was made to ensure the tunnels were safe before POWs were sent back to work where blasting had taken place. There were many injuries.

Paul Stein of E Battery describes what it was like for the men of E Battery that worked inside the coal mine. (*Source: University of North Texas Oral History Program*). "I worked in a coal mine that was near the town of Orio. It was very dangerous. It was an old mine that had been worked for years and to get to the face of the mine where the coal was, we went down one level, then to the 2nd level then to the third level down which was a long way down. All down there was honeycombed long passageways. The Japanese would drill holes and they dynamited the face and loosened the coal. They had small rail cars and we would put the coal in these cars. It was dangerous, there were cave ins because the wooden supports would fail. It was such an old mine that the wood was rotten and they would cave in. We had a lamp light on our headgear and it ran from a battery on our belts. We had quotas. We were down there so many hours and they blew air in down there. They had strings hanging down and you watched them and if a string did not move in the breeze, it was because we weren't getting enough air, the air was bad and we would start to move up. We worked 8 or 9 hours a day. We were really filthy coming out of the mine covered with coal dust."

Peter Evans of E Battery also described what it was like in the mine in an oral interview (*Source: University of North Texas Oral History Program*). "The coal mine was run on 3 shifts, day evening and night shifts. We wore a headgear, soft hats [not hard hats] with a miners light on it and a battery you wore on your belt that weighed about 2 pounds. Before going into the mine, we had to take our hat off and bow at a Shinto shrine. In the mine we were in groups of 10 each. The day shift started at 5 am. In the mine there were 3 layers, the bottom third

level was about 1000 feet underground. We were issued a rake and a devise that was made out of basket material in the form of a shovel which we would use to put the coal into the coal cars which were on tracks. The coal was loosened by drilling holes and filling them with dynamite. They would rush us back in there to get the coal and you would nearly die with a headache all the time because of the fumes from the nitroglycerin."

When World War II ended with the surrender of the Japanese Army on 15 August 1945, the United States Army made plans for liberating POWs held in Japan. Because of Intelligence information that there was severe malnutrition of the POWs in the camps in Japan, the U.S. Army started conducting flights of parachute drops of needed supplies into the POW camps. Contained in these drops were much needed food, clothing and medical supplies. Their first operation however, was to identify where the POW Camps were. To compound the difficulty in identifying camps, the U.S. Army did not know the exact [GPS] coordinates of some of the camps and also was unaware that in mid-August 1945, the Japanese had renumbered some of their POW Camps. U.S. Army B-29 bombers made numerous fly overs attempting to identify POW camps in Japan. They painted in large white letters under one wing of the bombers "PW SUPPLY MISSIONS" so the POWs could identify the planes. The POWs then saw those fly overs and would mark the top of the roofs of their barracks in big white paint "PW" and other markings so the U.S. bombers could spot where they were. The B-29 bombers first dropped numerous leaflets into the POW Camps giving instructions to the POWs to stay in their camps until the U.S. Army liberated them. Also leaflets telling them that food and supply drops would be made to them. Then the bombers made parachute drops of many bundles of food and supplies into the camps. When they did, the bombers took aerial "strike photos" of the Camp.

The U.S. Army "Tactical POW Supply Mission Report" 1945, that is in the USA National Archives in Washington DC, states that U.S. B-29 bombers made two parachute drops of food and supplies into the camp the 61 soldiers of E Battery were in - the Mizumaki near Orio Fukuoka No. 6 POW Camp. These two Reports are:

1. "POW [Supply Mission] Report no 81. Date Flown: 7 Sep 1945. Camp name unknown. Camp is located approximately 2 miles west of briefed target POW camp No. 9, Fukuoka. Camp consists of approximately 28 barrack type buildings enclosed by a fence. Markings on their roofs are: "USN PW HOLLAND 1100 MEN." 40 bundles were dropped." Strike photo was attached.
2. "POW [Supply Mission] Report No 62. [By a different U.S. bomber plane].Date Flown: 8 Sep 1945. Fukuoka Camp 12, coordinates 3351N - 13041E. Camp located 2 miles from Orio between 2 hills and adjacent to a railroad and a river. Approximately 30 barrack type buildings. Signs on roofs read: "USN, PW, HOLLAND, 1100 MEN." Strike photo was attached.

*(Note: Regarding the above two Reports, as mentioned above, the U.S. Army did not know exactly the location of where all the POW camps were and didn't know about some of the camp number changes in August 1945 by the Japanese Army. Regarding the 1st report above - the Report stated they didn't know the camp name number and*

*didn't put the coordinates but it appears they were looking for Fukuoka Camp 9 not knowing the Japanese three weeks prior had changed the number of the Mizumaki near Orio Camp from Camp 9 to Camp 6. Comparing this 1945 aerial "strike photo" with a later 1949 aerial photo, that is in the Japanese Archives, of Mizumaki, Fukuoka confirms that this Report and strike photo are of POW Fukuoka Camp 6 in Mizumaki near Orio. Regarding the 2nd report above - they wrote that they thought it was Fukuoka "Camp 12" however the GPS coordinates they gave are exactly the GPS coordinates for Mizumaki near Orio where Fukuoka Camp 6 was located).*

Regarding the markings the POWs painted on their barrack roofs for the bombers to see: "USN" means U.S. Navy and "PW" means Prisoners of War. It was the American U.S. Navy POWs (survivors of the sinking of the **USS Perch** and **USS Pope** ships) in the camp who painted these letters on a barracks roof to indicate there were U.S. Navy men among the POWs there. It was the Dutch soldiers who painted "Holland 1100 men" on top of their barracks.

On 14 September 1945, a U.S. Army "POW Recovery Team" entered the Fukuoka Camp 6 in Mizumaki near Orio and liberated the POWs there. In the Camp they found 1,064 POWs including 117 British, 138 American and 761 Dutch soldiers. We can only imagine the emotional feeling the 61 men of E Battery felt on that day after enduring 3 and ½ years as a Prisoners of War. A U.S. Armed Forces photographer took numerous photographs at the Fukuoka No. 6 Mizumaki near Orio POW Camp on the 14th and 15th of September 1945 when they entered the Camp and liberated the POWs. These 23 photos give a good understanding of the POW Camp the 61 men of E Battery were liberated in. In one of these photos is Pvt. Carl Ray Woodward of E Battery and in two other photos is Sgt. Farris Gilliam of E battery. Also, there is a group photo of the 138 Americans in the camp of which almost a half of them were the 61 men of E Battery (*Source USA National Archives, Washington, DC*).

Also at the USA National Archives, is a 16 Feb 1946 communication from the "General Headquarters, United States Army of the Pacific" which stated: "Transmittal of Fukuoka Camps name lists. "In this name list of POWs, the U.S. Army liberated from the Mizumaki near Orio Fukuoka No. 6 Camp are listed all 61 men of E Battery.

On the 17th of September, the powerful Makurazaki Typhoon with over 100 miles an hour winds moved across Okinawa and then the Island of Kyushu Japan where the Fukuoka 6 Mizumaki Camp was located. In an interview with E Battery soldier James Farrar, he described the powerful winds the men in the camp endured and said that the typhoon blew down several of the buildings in the camp including the mess hall. E Battery soldier Roger White in an oral interview stated the following about September 17: "The night before we left [for Nagasaki] we had one of the worst typhoons Japan had ever seen and we thought, this is it boys, I don't think we are going to make it. But we did". (*Source: University of North Texas Oral History Program*).

On 18 September, the soldiers of E Battery and other POWs from the Mizumaki Fukuoka Camp 6, were put on a train by the U.S Army POW Recovery Team and traveled about 125 miles southwest to the Dejima Docks at the Nagasaki Harbor. As they approached Nagasaki, unaware that an atomic bomb had been dropped on Nagasaki

on 9 August 1945, they were shocked at the devastation they saw. Scorched barren landscapes in the distance outside of Nagasaki and no buildings standing when they traveled the outskirts of Nagasaki except for a few brick chimneys that were seen among the ashes in the distance. The Dejima Docks in the harbor of Nagasaki, where their train was headed for, sustained much blast damage to many buildings, not the total devastation of the city of Nagasaki which was north of the harbor.

In the USA National Archives in Washington DC is the following Report: From "The United States Pacific Fleet Commander of Cruiser Division Number 4. To: "Commander of the USA Fifth Fleet 18 September 1945. Subject and Enclosures: Lists of Prisoners of War and Civilians evacuated at Dejima Docks, Nagasaki, Kyushu on 18 September 1945." On this 18 September list in the Commander's Report is listed the names of the E Battery men from the Mizumaki near Orio Fukuoka camp 6. The list gives their name, their service number, rank and their physical condition whether good, fair or unfit.

Another Report at the USA National Archives by the: "Commander of the Fifth Fleet, United States Pacific Fleet To: Chief of Naval Operations, Subject: Commander of the Fifth Fleet Action Report, The Occupation of Japan 15 Aug to 8 Nov 1945:

"In this Report, the Commander discusses the U.S. Navy's processing and evacuation by U.S. ships from Japan of the POWs brought to Nagasaki Harbor by U.S. Army Recovery Teams who had liberated them from POW Camps. He states regarding Nagasaki Harbor: "The release of the Prisoners, the medical examinations, delousing, processing and screening has all been conducted in a remarkably smooth and efficient manner by 22 Sep 1945. Photos Attached."

The "photos" that the Commander said were attached to his Report are photos taken at Nagasaki Harbor by U.S. Navy photographers of all the phases of processing that the POWs went through there, including captions under each photo describing the photos. Viewing these photos gives insight into what the soldiers of E Battery from the Fukuoka 6 Mizumaki near Orio experienced when they were brought by the U.S. Army Recovery Team to the Dejima Docks at Nagasaki Harbor. When the POWs arrived by train from their POW Camps, they were greeted by U.S. Navy personnel and a U.S. Navy band playing songs popular in the 1940's: "Hail, Hail the Gangs All Here, California Here I Come, Piccadilly and other favorites that brought tears of joy to the faces of the Prisoners.

"All of the POWs arriving there were then given coffee and donuts by the Red Cross, then showered and were sprayed with DDT. After that they were given a medical examination by Navy Doctors, and if, in fair or good condition, proceeded to the clothing line where they were issued all new clothing and uniforms. Then they were given a Red Cross sack full of personal necessity items. After they completed the process, they were taken to the Dejima docks and were transported by smaller Navy boats, LCVP, (landing crafts), out to U.S. Navy ships in the Harbor to leave Japan.

The men of E Battery from the Mizumaki Camp, after processing at the Dejima Docks were put on Navy ships in

the harbor. Roy Hinton was put on the hospital ship the **USS Haven**. Only a very small number of them were put on the destroyer, the **USS Wadsworth** and a couple of them were among the 11 American Army and Navy men who were put on the cruiser the **USS Biloxi**. The vast majority of them were put onto the aircraft carrier the **USS Lunga Point**. The **USS Lunga Point**, loaded POWs on the 18th and 19th and sailed for Okinawa arriving there on the 21st. The **USS Wadsworth** and **USS Biloxi** loaded on the POWs on the 18th and sailed for Okinawa the same day and arrived there on 20 September 1945. *Note: in oral interviews, the following E Battery men stated the following (Source: University of North Texas Oral History Program).*

--- William Visage: He stated he was put aboard a ship and that the others were on what he called a LST [note: a LST in WW II is what would be called a small aircraft carrier. Visage was referring to the Lunga Point].

--- Roger White: "Then our group was put on an aircraft carrier the Lunga Point, she was a beauty to us. What they had done, they had taken all their airplanes and put them down on the third deck below and on the second deck below, where the airplanes normally stayed, they had put cots. That is where we slept. The galley was down at one end and they told us we could have anything we wanted to eat." In Okinawa, "We never got to land. They just took us by ferry to this troop carrier [note: it was the **USS Haskall**]. Then they took us to Manila."

--- Peter Evans: Regarding leaving on a ship from Nagasaki to Okinawa: "We were taken aboard one of those little aircraft carriers [**USS Lunga Point**]. We were taken to a harbor, Buckner Bay... At Buckner Bay we were transferred to another ship the **USS Haskall**."

--- Cecil Minshew: At Nagasaki harbor - "At the harbor they put us on ships. They put me on **USS Wadsworth**."

--- Rufus Choate - In a letter Rufus wrote to the daughter of E Battery soldier Archie Shelton on 29 Sep 2003, Rufus Choate wrote: "We left the coal mine camp by train which took us back to Nagasaki where US navy ships were docked. As we left the train at Nagasaki, the first of us off the train at the head of the line were sent to a destroyer [note: that was the **USS Wadsworth**]... The next in line were sent to an aircraft carrier [note: that was the **USS Lunga Point**]. My group went to Okinawa and then by aircraft to the Philippine Islands where we stayed two weeks before boarding a troop ship for home. The group on the aircraft carrier [**USS Lunga Point**] went to the Philippines Islands by sea and were about two weeks behind us."

In regards to the vast majority of E Battery men from the Mizumaki near Orio camp who were transported from Nagasaki to Okinawa on the U.S. Navy aircraft carrier the **USS Lunga Point** the following describes their experience.

According to a book about the **USS Lunga Point** during WW II written by Lt. Linton Smith, aide to the Executive Officer on the **USS Lunga Point**, printed in 1946 under the authority of Captain Washburn Commander of the **USS Lunga Point**, Lt. Smith wrote:

"Nagasaki. "On the afternoon of 15 September, we got underway [from Okinawa] for Nagasaki, Kyushu to take on a load of POWs. We arrived early on the morning of the 17th. We were greeted there by a typhoon though, that gave us a pretty rough time on our first night, with some gusts of winds up to 80 knots [92 miles an hour] being felt. We commenced taking on board POWs as passengers on the 18th and finished on the 19th when we got underway in the afternoon with 760 POWs sleeping on cots on our hanger deck. We took them straight to [Buckner Bay] Okinawa [arriving on the 20th] where we disembarked them for further transportation [the **USS Haskell**] on the 21st (*Note: Buckner Bay was what the U.S. Navy called, in 1945, the Nakagusuku Bay, Okinawa*). In this book there are 4 photos showing some of the POWs that boarded the **USS Lunga Point** on 18 September on the top flight deck and the hanger deck below on cots and a photo of the **USS Lunga Point** arriving in Okinawa.

At Okinawa, a very small number of the 61 men of E Battery from the Mizumaki near Orio Camp who arrived on the **USS Wadsworth** and **USS Biloxi** were flown from Okinawa to Manila. The vast majority of them who were on the **USS Lunga Point** were transferred directly from the aircraft carrier to the troop carrier the **USS Haskell** which left Okinawa on the 21st of September and arrived in Manila in the Philippines on the 25th of September. The men in E Battery were then taken to the U.S. Army Processing facility there, the 29th Replacement Depot, where they were given further medical checks etc. and processed for departure to the United States.

#### **Return Home to USA of the 61 soldiers of E Battery who were at the Mizumaki near Orio Fukuoka POW Camp 6**

**The SS Marine Shark** - 24 men and two officers of E Battery were on the ship the **SS Marine Shark** that left Manila, Philippines on 10 Oct 1945. The ship had various delays in the ocean on the way due to boiler and engine problems. The **SS Marine Shark** reached Pearl Harbor in Hawaii on the 23rd of October and left on the 24th. The ship was originally destined for San Francisco, however the Captain first decided to divert the destination to Seattle, Washington for repairs but later decided to proceed to San Francisco as planned. The Marine Shark sailed under the Golden Gate Bridge and into the harbor where they were welcomed by a cheering crowd. They disembarked the ship on 1 November 1945 (*Note: There is a photo of the **SS Marine Shark** and many soldiers on deck as the ship arrived, that was printed in the newspaper the "San Francisco Examiner" on 2 Nov 1945 page 12. I could not find a passenger list for the **SS Marine Shark**. In oral interviews of three E Battery men, William Visage, Peter Evans and Roger White they all stated they returned on the ship the **SS Marine Shark**. (Source: University of North Texas Oral History Program).*

Also, in 1945, some newspapers from various Texas towns printed the names of various soldiers, from their area of Texas, arriving on various ships and the dates of arrival. The newspapers cited the source of their information was the Army War Department. The following list of men on the Marine Shark that I saw named in the various newspapers.



**List of 24 of the 61 E Battery men from the Fukuoka 6 Mizumaki Camp who returned to the USA on the ship the SS Marine Shark**

Earl Adams	George Lynn	Paul Stein
Francisco Cuellar	Ronald Moses	Robert Stubbs
Allen Cumberledge	Cecil Powers	William Visage
Teddy Drake	Coy Preslar	Arlee Wetsel
Peter Evans	Barton Robertson	Roger White
Walter Farmer	Novle Rogers	Orville Williams
Troy Gilbreth	Clyde Shelton	Carl Ray Woodward
Harold Holder	Marvin Snelling	Milton Zimmerle

(Also aboard were Officers: Lt. Hollis Allen and William R. Sloane from the Mukden Manchuria Camp)

**The MS Klipfontein**

The **MS Klipfontein** ship passenger List of 22 men of the 61 men of E Battery from the Fukuoka Camp 6 in Mizumaki who were onboard. The ship the **MS Klipfontein** left Manila, Philippines in late October and arrived in Seattle, Washington on 28 October 1945. The E Battery soldiers were then processed at an Army facility there and then traveled by train back to Texas. The men named on the **MS Klipfontein** passenger list were:

Juan Aleman	Horace Hanks	Robert Savell
Rufus Choate	Leo Hargett	Cletus Tucker
Carl Clements	Arnold Martin	Thomas Watson
Robert Cook	Joachin Mendoza	David Williams
Eddie Donaho	Cecil Minshe	Angrus Winn
James Farrar	Lawrence Norris,	David Woods
Joe Fender	Rodolfo Rosas	
Farris Gilliam	Alejandro Salinas	

--Two other of the 61 E Battery men: John S. Davis: arrived in San Francisco 31 October 1945 on the ship the **USS Perida**. Thomas Woody: arrived in San Francisco 20 October 1945 on the ship the **USS Bolivar**.

-- The other 13 men of E Battery were not on the Passenger List of the **MS Klipfontein** so they did not arrive on that ship. They very well could have also been on the **SS Marine Shark** but were not listed in Texas newspapers that I viewed. I did not view all Texas newspapers to try to find them, only some newspapers. Or, they may have been on another ship.

**Full List of all of the 61 men of E Battery who were in the  
Mizumaki near Orio Fukuoka POW Camp 6**

Earl Adams	Paschell Gosler	Alejandro Salinas
Juan Aleman	Horace Hanks	Robert Savell
John Campbell	Leo Hargett	Archie Shelton
Rufus Choate	Roy Hinton	Clyde Shelton
Frank Cieplinska	Harold Holder	Marvin Snelling
Carl Clements	George Lynn	Henry Spalding
Robert Cook	Arnold Martin	Paul Stein
Francisco Cuellar	Joachin Mendoza	Robert Stubbs
Allen Cumberlandge	Cecil Minshew	Cletus Tucker
John Davis, Eddie Donaho	Ronald Moses	William Visage
Teddy Drake	Oris Mygland	Thomas Watson
Clarence Eaton	Carl Noddin	Arlee Wetsel
Peter Evans	Lawrence Norris	Roger White
Walter Farmer	Luz Ortiz	David Williams
James Farrar	Howard Plant	Orville Williams
Joe Fender	Cecil Powers	Angrus Winn
Hugh Garland	Coy Preslar	David Woods
Troy Gilbreth	Barton Robertson	Carl Woodward
Farris Gilliam	Novle Rogers	Thomas Woody
George Gonos	Rodolfo Rosas	Milton Zimmerle

*(Note: In addition to the 61 E Battery enlisted men in the Mizumaki Fukuoka Camp 6 who are listed above, the following men were also in this camp: Of the 2nd Battalion 131st Field Artillery: James Gilmore and Herbert Lucas of F Battery: Carol Woodall and Thurman Rhine of HQ Battery; and Efram Valadez of Service Battery. Also, there was one survivor of the **USS Houston**, Navy man Marion Conner. Also, two civilians: Patrick Aki of Hawaii who was a young tugboat worker who was captured on Wake Island in 1942 and David Hicks of Texas an employee of the Adjutant General's Corps).*

**List of the other 34 soldiers in E Battery that were NOT in  
the Mizumaki Fukuoka Camp 6 with the 61 men named above**

--- The following are 8 soldiers of E Battery who left Java with the other 79 enlisted men of E Battery who were in Java Party 5g. They also were on the ship the **Oyo Maru** that arrived in Singapore on 1 Nov 1942. These men were sick upon arrival in Singapore and thus unable to leave for Nagasaki, Japan on 28 Nov 1942 with the others.

They stayed at the Changi, Singapore POW camp. About 5 months later, 6 soldiers of these men were sent overland by train on 5 May 1943 to Thailand to work on the Thailand Burma railroad. They were: William (Billie) Thomas who died of beriberi 27 Oct 1943 there and was buried at the Kanchanaburi Hospital Camp Cemetery no. 2 in Thailand. The other five men returned to Singapore in late 1943. They were: Ben Keith, Everett Miller, William Robinson, Richard Shields and Lavern Staver. Lavern Staver died at Changi, Singapore on 25 May 1945. Ben Keith, Everett Miller, William Robinson and Richard Shields were liberated at Changi, Singapore in September 1945. Two men who were left behind in Singapore in 1942 never went to Thailand. They stayed in Changi, Singapore and were liberated there in September 1945 with the other 6 men mentioned above. They were: Vere Morrison and Curtis Van Cleve.

--- The following 10 soldiers who were among the 71 soldiers of E Battery in Java Party 5g who were at the Fukuoka 2b Nagasaki camp on Koyagi Island in Japan, but were not part of the 61 men who were sent to the Mizumaki near Orio Fukuoka 6 Camp in June 1944. They are: 2 soldiers never left the Koyagi Island Fukuoka 2b Nagasaki camp . They were Nolan Kalich who died in the camp on 3 Dec 1943 and Raymond Wuest who was liberated from that camp in September 1945. The other 8 soldiers at the Fukuoka 2b Nagasaki Koyagi were sent to other POW Camps in Japan and were liberated from those camps in September 1945. They are:

Liberated from the Omori, Tokyo Main Camp were: Frank Fujita, Jimmie Martinez and Ramon Martinez.

Liberated from the Moji Fukuoka Camp 4 were: Calixto Garcia and Henry Sharp.

Liberated from the Kokura Fukuoka Camp 3 near Yawata was Munroe Woodall.

At the Hakozaki Fukuoka Camp 1: liberated was Dayton Mayo. Donald Heleman was transferred from Hakazaki Fukuoka Camp 1 to Omuta Fukuoka Camp 17 where he died 12 August 1945.

--- The following are 16 soldiers of E Battery who were left behind when the 79 soldiers of E Battery left Java in Java Party 5g for Singapore arriving there 1 Nov 1942. 1 soldier: Abelino Hernandez died in Java on 2 Feb 1943. 7 soldiers: were liberated from Camp 1 Batavia, Java in September 1945. They are: Odell Campbell, Udell Carter, Eldred Costlow, J. B. Croft, George Killiam, Cecil Lofley and Walter Starnadar. They were flown out of Batavia on the 16 and 18th of September 1945 on military transport planes and transported to Calcutta, India and then back to the United States. 2 soldiers: W. F. Matthews and Cephus Barker left Batavia, Java for Singapore in Java Party 26 in January 1945 on the ship the Kinta Maru where they were both are listed on the list of men liberated at Changi, Singapore in September 1945. After arrival in Singapore, W. F. Matthews went to Thailand to work on the Thailand Burma railroad for about 6 months and was then sent back to Changi, Singapore. It is unknown if Cephus Barker also went to Thailand for a while or remained in Changi the whole time.

The other 6 soldiers were: Joe Neal Holder, Thomas Lawson, Robert McMahon, Frederick Perez, Jack Eudy

Turner and Edward Wismann. They left Batavia, Java in Java Party 20 and arrived in Singapore on 21 May 1944 on the Kiska Maru. Two weeks later, on 3 June 1944, they left Singapore on the **Miyo Maru** for Japan. Enroute, the convoy was in a typhoon lasting 4 days. On 19 June the ship arrived in Takao (Formosa). Because the Miyo Maru was badly damaged in the typhoon, it could not continue to Japan so the POWs were transferred to the ship the **Tamahoko Maru**. Near Japan, the convoy was being tracked by U. S. submarines. About 40 miles southwest of Nagasaki, the **Tamahoko Maru** was hit by a torpedo and sank on 24 June 1944. The other Japanese ships in the convoy did not stop to pick up the surviving POWs in the water who were clinging onto rafts and wreckage. After about 7 hours in the water, a Japanese whaling ship saw the POWs and took them aboard and transported them to Nagasaki. Of the 772 American, Dutch, Australian and British POWs aboard the **Tamahoko Maru**, only 212 survived. Of the 6E Battery soldiers onboard the **Tamahoko Maru**: Thomas Lawson, Robert McMahon and Edward Wismann died when the ship was sunk. Joe Neal Holder, Frederick Perez and Jack Eudy Turner survived and were taken to Fukuoka 14b Camp in Nagasaki. One year later, on 30 June 1945, they were moved to the Fukuoka 5b Camp in Omine, Kawasaki where they were liberated in September 1945.