

## Officers of E Battery

Captain Thomas Dodson, Lt Hollis Allen,  
Lt. William R. Slone and Lt. Millett Straughan

*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 Research Report is regarding the four Officers of E Battery of the 2nd Battalion, 131st Field Artillery Texas National Guard, also known as the "The Lost Battalion," World War II. They were Commanding Officer Captain Thomas A. Dodson, 1st Lt. Hollis G. Allen, 1st Lt. William Reuben Slone and 2nd Lt. Millett A. Straughan who were in Java when the Japanese captured the Allied soldiers there in March of 1942. These Officers, along with their men of Battery E and the rest of the men in the 2nd Battalion, 131st Field Artillery then became prisoners of war. Much has been documented about the 2nd Battalion, 131st Field Artillery on Java prior to and after the Japanese took control. This Research Report focuses on what happened to the above named 4 Officers of E Battery in between the time they left Java as POWs, (three of them in 1942 and Captain Dodson in 1943), and when they were liberated from the Mukden, Manchuria POW Camp in August of 1945.

### Part 1

#### Lt. Hollis G. Allen, Lt. William R. Slone and Lt. Millett A. Straughan

These three Officers of Battery E, also Army Air Force Officers Major William K. Horrigan and Lt. Robert E. Michie, 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 Changi, Singapore on 1 November. They disembarked the ship on 2 Nov 1942. They spent about 4 weeks in Changi then departed Changi, 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 then were transported to Fukuoka POW Camp 2b on the island of Koyagi, five miles out from Nagasaki. In addition to their Officers: Allen, Slone and Straughan, also aboard the **Kamakura Maru** were 85 soldiers of Battery E of the 2nd Battalion, 131st Field Artillery. At the Koyagi Fukuoka Camp 2b, these men did forced labor in the shipyards there.

These 3 Officers and the 85 men of E Battery spent the next 2 and 1/3 years in Fukuoka POW Camp 2b. In May of 1945, all the 85 soldiers of Battery E except for 1 or 2, were transferred to other POW Camps in Japan of which 63 of these soldiers of E Battery were transferred to Fukuoka Camp 9d in Mizumaki, near Orio and were liberated there in August 1945 (*Note: About 3 weeks before the Camp was liberated the Japanese changed the number of the Camp to Fukuoka 6b*).

However, one month prior to these 85 soldiers being transferred out of Koyagi Camp 2b to other camps in Japan, their Battery E Officers Lt. Hollis Allen, Lt. William R. Slone and Lt. Millett A. Straughan and the two AAF men Lt. Robert L. Mitchie and Major William K. Horrighan left Camp 2b before them in April of 1945. 2nd Lt. Millett A. Straughan of E Battery, in an August 1945 War Crimes Affidavit reporting abuses such as beatings etc., by Japanese guards, stated: "I was captured on the island of Madura on March 10, 1942. After my capture, I was moved to Camp Camal, Madura where I was held until April 1, 1942. Then I was moved to Surabaya, for the time of 206 days. I left for Batavia on 23 October. From here I left Java to Camp Changi Singapore by boat arriving 2 November 1942, and leaving 28 November 28, 1942 for Camp Fukuoka #2b [Kyota], Nagasaki, Japan arriving there on 7 December 1942, at which time we were held until 25 April 1945, moved to Mukden, Manchuria, arriving on 29 April 1945. I was in this camp until my liberation in August 1945 by Russian ground forces." (Note: Lt. Slone and Lt. Hollis Allen were also moved to Mukden at the same time as Straughan).

1st Lt Hollis Allen of E Battery, in his book, "The Lost Battalion, the story of the 131st Field Artillery in World War II", in regards to when he, Slone and Straughan left Camp Fukuoka #2b [Kyota], Nagasaki stated the following: "On 19 April 1945 all of the officers except the Doctors were ordered to get ready to leave the camp as the Japanese did not want us to be around when the Americans [eventually] landed. They thought we would be able to lead our men against them. At two o'clock in the morning we were loaded aboard a boat and taken to Nagasaki and then boarded a train for Fukuoka [Prefecture] Japan to the [port of Moji 134 miles northeast of Nagasaki]." Then Allen discussed how they went by ferry to Pusan [Pusan is the Korean pronunciation of the port city of Buson] Korea, then by train to a POW Camp he says: "The Japanese named Mukden Manchuria Hoten - Manchuko but we always called it Mukden, Manchuria".

Lt. Hollis Allen, in his book, describe what life in the Nagasaki Fukuoka 2b camp and the Mukden Camp was like for himself and his fellow officers of Battery E: Sloan and Straughan. Also, he describes their experiences in Mukden, Manchuria when they were liberated in August of 1945 including U. S. planes making parachute drops of food and supplies to them in the camp.

## **Part 2 - Captain Thomas A. Dodson Commander of E Battery of the 2nd Battalion, 131st Field Artillery.**

Captain Thomas A. Dodson was left behind in the Java when the 85 men including Officers Allen, Slone and Straughan of E Battery left Java for Nagasaki, Japan via Singapore on 28 Oct 1942. Captain Dodson was left behind with a small number of other men in E Battery because they had beriberi disease and were too sick to travel.

About 1 year later, Captain Thomas A. Dodson left Batavia, Java, (along with Army Air Force Lt. James P. Ferrey , Ensign Herbert A. Levitt of the US Navy and a survivor of the sinking of the **USS Houston** and a civilian, Haakan

Pedersen, who was the Captain of the Merchant Marine ship the **USS American Leader** who had survived the sinking of his ship). The 4 of them left in "Java Party 17" on the Japanese ship the **Makassar Maru** which left Batavia on 26 Sep 1943 and arrived in Changi, Singapore 30 September. They disembarked the ship on 1 October. A few weeks later the men in Java Party 17 boarded the ship the **Matsue Maru** on 21 Oct 1943 and left Singapore harbor on 22 Oct 1943 and arrived in Takao, Formosa on 6 Nov 1943. Officers aboard the ship, including Dodson, Ferry, Levitt and the civilian Pedersen, were removed from the ship along with some other British and Dutch officers before the ship proceeded onto Japan. These officers then were transported to the Shirakowa POW Camp in Formosa, arriving there on 8 Nov 1943. Shirakowa was a special camp the Japanese had for American, British, Dutch and Australian high ranking officers - Generals, Colonels and many Majors, Captains and Lieutenants they had captured in various places in the Pacific.

In a Formosa (Taiwan) POW name list as of Nov 1944 is listed: Captain Thomas Dooley, Lt. James Paisley Ferry, Ensign Herbert A. Levitt and civilian Haakan Pedersen with a notation that Pedersen left 9 Oct 1944 [for Manchuria via Japan].

In an Associated Press (AP) newspaper interview in San Francisco when he arrived back to the U.S. that was printed in the 12 Sep 1945 Ft Worth Starr Telegram newspaper pg. 3, Dodson stated that in Formosa, he met: "Colonel Thomas Dooley of McKinney, Texas one of General Wainwright's aides and was allowed to write letters which were miraculously delivered to his wife..." (*Note: Dooley was a Major at the time, he was not promoted to Colonel until after his liberation*). Major Thomas Dooley was an aide to General Jonathan Wainwright. General Wainwright became commander of the U.S. Forces in the Philippines after General Douglas MacArthur left for Australia to take over command of the Allies South West Pacific Area in March 1942. General Wainwright along with his aide Major Thomas Dooley became prisoners of war on 9 Jun 1942 when the Japanese Army captured the U. S. forces in the Philippines.

The mentioning by Captain Thomas Dodson of meeting General Wainwright's aide Major Thomas Dooley of McKinney, Texas when Dodson arrived in Formosa, led to the discovery that Major Thomas Dooley kept a diary of his war years and the diary was published in 2016 by Jerry E. Cooper which Cooper named "Bataan and Back." Some entries in Captain Dooley's diary gives insight into Captain Thomas Dodson's relocation from the Shirakowa POW Camp in Formosa to the Mukden, Manchuria POW Camp.

The following are excerpts from Major Thomas Dooley's Diary.

"8 Nov 1943. About 32 POWs arrived in small hours of the morning. Three Americans in this group. [Note: This would be Captain Thomas Dodson commander of E Battery, Lt. James P Ferrey an Army Air Force officer and Ensign Herbert A. Levitt, U.S. Navy of the **USS Houston**. Haakan Pederson was not an officer, he was a civilian that is why Dooley only mentioned 3 American officers [*Note: Another diary kept by Col. N. Galbreath who was also in the Shirakowa Camp stated the following: "31 new P.W.s from Java arrived last night via Singapore.*

*Instructed not to discuss news with us. Four Americans, one Army, one pilot, one ensign from Houston, one merchant marine skipper”].*

One year later in October of 1944, the Japanese fearing the Americans would invade Formosa and that the Japanese Army would then lose their valuable POW high ranking officers, made the decision to move all of them to Manchuria. They moved them to Manchuria in 3 "Special Party" Groups. All the Allied Generals first, all the Allied Colonels second and all the Majors and Lieutenants in the third "Special Party Group".

Dooley's Diary entries continued:

"Oct 7, 1944 Notification received this date that all Colonels will leave between the 10th and 12th.

Oct 9, 1944 All Colonels plus 3 civilians - Capt. Petersen [Haakan Pedersen], Mr. R. Webb and Mr. Joel had left by 4:45 am.

Oct 11, 1944 All officers moved into old Colonels Barracks. Our room - Pugh, Captain Thomas A. Dotson, Dooley, [himself]. Lt James P Ferrey, Bob Brown, Levitt, Col Earl Halstead. Next door - Dean Sherry. Next door 11 Dutch, 8 Australians, 3 English".

*[There is a 4 month gap in his diary of dates Oct 12 1944 to Feb 18 1945].*

"19 Feb 1945 Left Shirakawa Camp [Formosa] at 4:50 pm. Marched to Kagi, entrained approximately 10:00 pm".  
*[Note: in addition to Captain Dooley, Captain Thomas Dodson, Ferry and Levitt were in this group that left Shirakawa Camp on 19 Feb].*

"20 Feb Taihoku about 9 am marched to Camp #1.

21 Feb To Keelung [port in Formosa] about noon. Marched to pier and waited about 4 hrs. [Transported] by crowded lighters to the [ship] **Melbourne Maru**. [boarded] into hold about 6 pm. Anchor up at midnight.

22 Feb, About 8:30 am ran aground on sand bar. Turned back to Keelung.

23 to 27 Feb [5 days] Laid in hold [of the **Melbourne Maru**] in the harbor.

27 Feb Transferred to the ship **Winchester Maru** [AKA the **Taiko Maru**] and sailed."

28 Feb to 8 Mar [Dooley makes brief entries about voyage including sailing up the China coast then northeast].

9 Mar 1945 Landed at Moji [Fukuoka Prefecture Japan] taken to a theater building, spent a cold night.

10 Mar Entered at Moji station, 2 and 1/2 hours train ride south. Walked about 2 kilometers to camp Myata [Fukouka Camp 12 later known as Myata 9b], arrival at 5:30 pm. Bitter cold.

[There is a gap in diary entries from 11 Mar to 24 April 1945.]

25 April 1945 Left mining camp #12 Myata by train northeast . Arrived Fukuoka [port of Moji] 3 pm, rest in park. Moved on the Packet ship [a ferry] about 7 pm.

*[I will relate the following before continuing with Major Thomas Dooley's diary].*

Lt. Hollis Allen of E Battery, in his book stated the following regarding his and Lt. William Slone and Lt. Millet Straughan and Lt. Michie and Major Horrigan's journey of 134 miles from the Nagasaki Koyagi Camp 2b to the port of Moji in April 1945: "We were marched out a spit of sand and told to sit down and wait for some other men who were to join us. We waited all day long before the rest of them showed up and sure enough, there was my Battery Commander and several of the men we had left in Java. They were a hard-looking bunch. I was not permitted to talk to them but I managed to slip over where my Battery Commander was and sit down without being seen. Late that afternoon we marched down to the docks and boarded a ferry. I could then talk freely with my Battery Commander. He gave me a rundown on where he had been and I found out he had been in Formosa with all of the main officers."

The following is from a newspaper article that was in the Fort Worth Star Telegram newspaper on 12 Sep 1945 pg. 3 that was an AP (Associated Press) interview with Captain Thomas Dodson in San Francisco when he arrived back to the U.S on 11 September.

When discussing after he left Formosa and traveled to Japan to the Myata, Fukuoka POW camp and then 29 miles from there to the port of Moji, Captain Dodson told the AP reporter:

"Early this year [1945] he was put on another transport and taken to Pusan, [Buson] Korea on his way to the Hoten Manchuria Prison Camp from which he was liberated by a humanitarian team last month [Aug 1945]. On the voyage from Fukuoka [to Pusan, Korea] he met three Lieutenants from his outfit who told him that the 85 members of the old battery [Battery E] had been working in the shipyards at Nagasaki the last time they have been heard from. The lieutenants were W. R. Slone of Abilene, Hollis G. Allen of Jacksboro and M.R. Straughan of San Antonio. The word [they related] was that the 85 men [who Slone, Allen and Straughan had left behind in the Nagasaki Kyota 2b Camp in April 1945] had fared well for prisoners through 1943 but not so well in 1944." Dodson added that after they all left for Manchuria in April 1945 nothing had been heard about his 85 men in E-Battery. He said "I hope they got through the atomic bombing with safety since they were on an island in

Nagasaki Bay". [Note: not known to Captain Dodson at the time of this interview is what I had mentioned above, that the 85 men of battery E, except one or two, had left Camp 2b Kyota Nagasaki in May of 1945 for other camps in Japan, one month after Allen, Sloane and Straughan had left that camp for Manchuria.]

At the port of Moji - Dodson, Slone, Hollis Allan, Straughan, Ferrey, Levitt, Horrigan and Michie then left the port of Moji, Fukuoka in Japan on 25 Apr 1945 on the Japanese packet ferry the **Fukuji Maru** and arrived the same day 25 April in Pusan, Korea and were taken by train to the Hoten POW Camp Mukden, Manchuria .

I will now continue with the entries of Major Thomas Dooley's diary in which he describes how the eight of them traveled on the packet ferry the **Fukuji Maru** to Korea and then to the Mukden, Manchuria Hoten Camp.

"25 Apr 1945 Shipped moved out 8:45 pm. Arrived Posan [Posan is Korean pronunciation of Bosan] 4:45 pm, moved into theatre building for night.

27 Apr Train left Posan station travelling northward at 8:45 am. [to Mukden in Manchuria].

*[There is a 4 month gap in entries in Dooley's diary from 28 Apr to 15 Aug 1945].*

Aug 16 and Aug 17 1945 Captain Thomas Dooley mentions he was in Branch 2 Camp Mukden when the POW's there learned that the war was over. [Note: also, there were Dodson, Allen, Sloane, Straughan, Ferry, Michie, Levitt, Horrigan and Pedersen. Pedersen had been moved to Mukden from the Cheng Chia Tun Camp he had original been sent to in Manchuria.]

"21 Aug Note from General Wainwright to Johnny Pugh and myself. "Hope we fly home soon." Then Dooley says: "Hoot Horrigan [Lt. William K. Horrigan], Johnny Pugh and Bob Brown and I had a pleasant lunch together.

*[Note: Captain Thomas Dodson of Abilene Texas and Major Thomas Dooley of McKinney Texas spent almost two years together and shared Officer quarters together in both Formosa and the Mukden Manchuria POW camps]*

### **Part 3 - Liberation of the Hoten Mukden Manchuria POW Camp**

On August 15, 1945 the Japanese agreed to surrender to the American Army. At the time of liberation, there were about approximately 1,600 POWs in the Hoten Mukden Camp. This number also includes Officers in a smaller satellite camp at Cheng Chia Tun. Also a few dozen at the Hsian Camp, approximately 100 miles northeast of the Hoten camp, which held several dozen British, Dutch, and American VIP prisoners, including Generals Jonathan Wainwright and Arthur E. Percival, the American commander in the Philippines and the British Singapore commander respectively.

The U.S. Army was determined to find General Wainwright and liberate him as soon as possible so, on 16 August 1945, a six man Office of Strategic Services (OSS) U. S. Intelligence agency team parachuted into Mukden [*Note, the OSS is the equivalent of today's CIA*] In addition to starting to coordinate the evacuation of the POW's at Mukden, they immediately began efforts, which was their main mission, to find General Wainwright. After finding out where he was, one member of the team left by train on 18 August for Hsian and on 26 August he returned to the Mukden airfield with General Wainwright and the other VIP Generals. On the 27th of August, General Wainwright and other Allied Generals including British General Percival were flown out of Mukden. Before they left, Wainwright requested his aides Major Thomas Dooley and Lt. Col. John Pugh be brought to the airfield from the Hoten Camp in order to leave with him.

In the meanwhile, the Soviet Army had moved into the area. The first Soviet Army troops had arrived in Mukden on 21 August. On the 21st and 24th of August, the OSS team flew out 48 men needing immediate medical attention. On 29 August 1945, a nineteen man U. S. POW Recovery Team arrived in the Mukden Camp from Kuming, China to reinforce and assist the initial OSS team. As mentioned above, General Wainwright and other Allied Generals were flown out on 27 August.

On 30 August 1945, an Army plane flew 58 Officers including 6 American Brigadier Generals and some Dutch and British Generals from Mukden to Kuming, China. Captain Thomas Dodson was aboard this plane. Additional high ranking Allied officers were flown out between Sep 2 and 7. The remaining 1,383 American, Dutch, British and Australian POW officers and enlisted men however, left the Camp by train from Mukden to the port of Darien, Manchuria.

The first train load of 753 POWs left Mukden on September the 10th and boarded the U.S Navy ship the **USS Relief** on the 11th. The Mukden roster list for the men who left Sept 10 included: Lt. Hollis Allen, Lt. William R. Sloan and Lt. Millett Straughan all of E Battery. Also, Army Air Force Officers Major William K. Horrigan and Lt. James P. Ferrey and civilian Haakan Pedersen Captain of the American Leader. On September the 11th, the 2nd train load of the remaining POW's left Mukden for the port of Darien and boarded the US Navy ship the **USS Colbert**. Among this group was Army Air Force Lt. Robert E. Michie and U.S. Navy Ensign Herbert A. Levitt a survivor of the **USS Houston**. The **USS Relief** sailed from Darien for Okinawa on 12 September and the **USS Colbert** departed on the 13 September for Okinawa.

The following are excerpts from Commander J. C. Sever of the **USS Relief**'s September 1945 War Diary regarding the evacuation of POWs from the Mukden, Manchuria POW Camp:

"On 11 Sep 1945 the **USS Relief** received on board Recovered Allied Military Personnel... The ship laid along the docks at Darien, Manchuria and the POWs were brought by train to her from the Japanese military prison camp at Mukden, Manchuria 200 miles to the northward. On the night of the 11th, 753 surviving personnel came

aboard the Relief. When they arrived, the scene was dramatic and poignant. From out of the darkness beyond the docks the first of them stepped into the glare of the dock floodlights, then a whole procession. They all carried their worldly possessions on their backs or in duffle bags. The entire ship's company manned the rail to greet them and the ship started stateside music playing over the ship's public address system - the Marine Hymn, Stardust, Dixie, etc. The Relief was the first American ship they had seen in over 3 years. There were Americans, Dutch, British and Australians". Commander Severs goes on to talk about what the American military POWs wanted to know about the U.S. and about the war, etc. He said: "Senior Officer of the group was Colonel Lawrence Sprague of the Far Eastern Air Force, Colonel Churchill and Captain Arthur Wermuth known in the early days of the war as "One Man Army of Bataan."

"The ship sailed at 5:30 am on the morning of 12 Sept and set a course for Okinawa. During the cruise every attention was paid for the convenience of the passengers". He goes on to name what those were and talks about how the POWs talked about their experience as POW's with crew members and other things the POW's experienced aboard the Relief. "The Relief stood into Buckner Bay, Okinawa on the 16th of September and preparations were made to disembark the POWs but foul weather prevented unloading that day. A typhoon was closing in on Okinawa from the southeast and the Relief got underway during the afternoon and retired to the westward to ride out the storm. The typhoon was intense and caused extensive damage to the shipping in Okinawa's harbors. The Relief however, in spite of the overload of passengers rode out the storm at sea and suffered no damage. The next day, the 18th she returned and the unloading of the POWs was effected" [*Note: The USS **Colbert** on which Michie and Levitt were on sustained damage during the typhoon and 10 servicemen died when they were washed overboard*"].

#### **Part 4 - Return Home to USA**

##### **Captain Thomas A Dodson, Commander of E Battery**

Captain Thomas Dodson left Mukden, Manchuria 30 Aug 1945 on an U. S. Army Plane along with 58 other Dutch, British and Australian high ranking officers, including 6 American Brigadier Generals, and was flown to the U.S. Army base Kuming airfield in Southern China. While there, he was promoted to Major. In a telegram sent to his wife in Texas, Major Dodson told her he was leaving Kuming Airfield on September 5. Major Dodson was then flown to Manila and then to Honolulu, Hawaii. Excerpts from an article 9 Sep 1945 in the Ft. Worth Starr Telegram, Texas newspaper relate:

"Army Sends Wife by Plane to Meet liberated Officer."

"Mrs. Dodson received a phone call from General Marshall's office extending her an invitation and a priority to fly to San Francisco Sunday to meet her husband. She left on American Airlines on Sunday. She stated: "A



Lieutenant Livingston whom I talked to, stated my husband should arrive in San Francisco next Tuesday" *[Note: General George Marshall was the U.S. Army's Chief of Staff in Washington DC].*

Major Dodson flew from Hickam Field, Hawaii on a C-54 and arrived at Hamilton Field near San Francisco on 11 September along with 26 other officers including the six American Brigadier Generals he had left Mukden, Manchuria with. Major Dodson had a joyful reunion there with his wife after not seeing her for about 4 years. According to an article in the Oakland Tribune, the music of the Stars and Stripes Forever and other marches floated across the field as the men greeted their family members. The article named the Brigadier Generals as Chynoweth, Drake, Funk, Pierce, Seals and Vachon. In addition to giving the names of the other men who arrived on the plane, they listed: "Major T. A. Dodson".

Major Dodson was then sent to Walter Reed Army Hospital in Washington, DC. for treatment *(Note: Shortly before the Mukden Camp was liberated in August, Captain Hollis Allen, in his book, wrote: "My Battery Commander was in a very bad condition due to malnutrition")*.

A newspaper article dated 30 September in the Texas Abilene Reporter News said the Dodson returned home to Abilene where his mother lived on September 29, 1945. "But you should have seen him when he arrived in San Francisco early this month. He looked like a walking skeleton then" said his wife who met him on the west coast and who has remained with him constantly since his return to the states. The article also mentioned that when he arrived in U.S. Dodson weighed 119 lbs. and that "Major Dodson disclosed that the 131st Battalion had been officially awarded a unit citation with two Oak Leaf clusters. This information was given him during his recent stay in Washington DC. This means that every man of the Battalion is entitled to wear this decoration. Major Dodson also has been awarded the Purple Heart medal."

After returning to the United States, Major Thomas Dodson was very involved in planning the first reunion being held on 29 October 1945 of the men in the 2nd Battalion 131st Field Artillery, which was attended by the men who had returned and the families of those soldiers that had not yet returned from overseas.

#### **Lt. Hollis Allen of E Battery**

After being liberated from the Mukden Manchuria POW camp in August of 1945, Lt. Hollis Allen left the camp with Lt. William R. Sloan, Lt. Millett Straughan all of E Battery. Also, Major William K. Horrigan, Lt. James P. Ferrey and civilian Haakan Pedersen. He traveled by train to the port of Darien, Manchuria where he boarded the Navy ship the **USS Relief** which took him to Okinawa. They arrived there on 16 September but were unable to disembark due to a strong typhoon. The **USS Relief** went back out to more open seas to ride out the typhoon and 18 September disembarked the POW's at Buckner Bay in Okinawa. From there Captain Allen flew on an

Army B-24 aircraft to Manila in the Philippines for processing there. There, at the 29th Replacement Depot, he quartered with some of the officers he had known at Mukden, Manchuria.

On October 10th he boarded the ship the **SS Marine Shark** and left from Manila. The ship had a few delays on the way due to engine problems and had to stop in the ocean a few times. The Marine Shark finally reached Pearl Harbor in Hawaii on the 23rd of October and left on the 24th. The ship was originally destined for Seattle but went to San Francisco instead and arrived in San Francisco on 1 November. The soldiers on board were processed in an Army Barracks. Lt. Hollis Allen left by train about 6 November for processing at Brooks General Army Hospital in San Antonio Texas. He returned home to Jacksboro, Texas on November 11, 1945 four years after he had left for overseas. *[Note: Some of the above information above is from Hollis Allen's book regarding what he wrote about traveling from Mukden, Manchuria back to Texas including him saying he was on the **USS Relief**, flying from Okinawa to Manila and him describing the voyage from Manila to San Francisco].*

In his book, Allen said he could not remember the ship he was on from Manila to San Francisco but said: "At Pearl Harbor none were allowed to leave the ship except for the Officer who had been named One Man of Bataan *[Note: The "One Man of Bataan" Captain Hollis Allen mentions was Captain Arthur W. Wermuth dubbed the "One Man Army of Bataan." Research data found about Captain Wermuth was that he was a POW in the Mukden Manchuria camp; that he left there by train to Darien, Manchuria then to Okinawa on the USS Relief, then returned to the United States on the **SS Marine Shark**, arriving November 1, 1945, in San Francisco].*

#### **Lt. William Reuben Slone of E Battery**

Lt. Slone left the Mukden, Manchuria POW camp on 10 September by train to the port of Darien, Manchuria then was on the U.S. Navy ship the **USS Relief** to Okinawa. He flew from Okinawa to Manila and arrived there on 21 September. On 10 October 1945 he left Manila on the ship **SS Marine Shark** and arrived in San Francisco on 1 November. On 3 November he flew from San Francisco back to Dallas, Texas.

The following are excerpts from two newspaper articles regarding Lt. Slone:

-- Article in the San Angelo Standard Times 6 Nov 1945 pg. 9. States that: "Lt. William R. Sloane arrived 1 Nov on the ship the **SS Marine Shark**".

-- Article in the Abilene Reporter News newspaper 9 Nov 1945 pg. 11. In this article Slone describes his experiences as a POW. He mentions being captured in Java then went to a POW camp near Nagasaki then in April 1945 he was moved to a Camp in Manchuria. "There he met Captain Thomas Dodson Commander of the Unit [Battery E] for the first time since they were separated in Java [in 1942]. Major Dodson had lost track of most of the boys and it was refreshing for him to hear about them. Dodson weighed only 115 lbs. at the time."...

"Captain Sloan arrived in Okinawa and from there he was flown to Manila arriving there on 21 Sep." "From San Francisco he caught a plane to Dallas Texas where he was met with Major Dodson." [Note: Lt. Slone was promoted to Captain shortly after he was liberated.]

#### **Lt. William R. Straughan of E Battery**

Lt. Straughan left the Mukden Camp by train on September 10 and traveled to Okinawa on the Navy ship the **USS Relief**. It is unknown if he flew or went by ship to Manila in the Philippines to the POW processing center there. In a Ft. Worth newspaper of 8 October, it was stated that Lt. Straughan sent a telegram to his family that he would be home soon. He is not listed as being at the 29 October reunion of the 131st Field Artillery, so he arrived back in the U.S. after Oct 29. That means he didn't fly to U.S. from Manila or he would have been back in late September or early October. It is unknown if he was on the ship the **SS Marine Shark** with Lt. Hollis Allan and Lt. William R. Slone that arrived in San Francisco 1 Nov or came the U.S. on another ship.

#### **Major Thomas Dooley**

Captain Thomas Dodson of Abilene Texas and Major Thomas Dooley of McKinney Texas spent almost two years together and shared Officer quarters together in both Formosa and the Mukden Manchuria POW camps. Therefore, I included the following about Major Dooley's return to the United States.

The following are excerpts from Major Dooley's Diary:

"26 Aug 1945. General Wainwright party arrived in Mukden having had a long tiresome trip from Hsian, Manchuria.

27 Aug. [Dooley states he and Lt. Col John Pugh and Major Burton R. (Bob) Brown] - "met General Jonathan Wainwright. Took off at Mukden airport and arrived in Siam [Thailand]".

In the rest of his diary, Major Thomas Dooley of McKinney Texas, discusses how he flew with General Wainwright to Manila, then to Okinawa, then to Yokohama Japan on 31 August. There he and General Wainwright went to the New Grand Hotel in Yokohama where General Douglas MacArthur then embraced the emaciated General Wainwright who he had not seen for 3 and one half years. Then on 2 September 1945, Major Dooley boarded the ship the **USS Missouri** in Tokyo Bay and was with General Wainwright and General Percival, who General Douglas MacArthur introduced and had stand right behind him to witness his signature, when General Douglas MacArthur formally accepted the surrender of the Japanese.

Major Dooley wrote in his diary:

2 Sep 1945 "Up early for the memorable day." "Surrender impressive with General MacArthur's speech splendid. In the wardroom after the ceremony, I thanked General MacArthur personally for his invitation to me to attend." *[Note: Shortly after he was liberated, Major Dooley was promoted to Lt. Colonel. The following is information from Washington DC area newspaper articles and also a newspaper interview with Major Dooley when he returned to his home town in McKinney, Texas].*

After General Wainwright and his staff: Brigadier General Lewis Beebe his chief of Staff, Lt Col Thomas Dooley, Lt. Colonel John Pugh and Sgt Hubert Carroll (of Paris, Texas who was Wainwright's orderly) arrived in San Francisco on 9 September 1945 and were in a welcoming parade there, they flew to Washington DC and were in another parade. When in Washington DC, Lt. Col. Dooley accompanied General Wainwright to meetings at the Pentagon with General George Marshall the Army's Chief of Staff. Also went with General Wainwright when he went to speak at the House of Representatives and the Senate. Lt. Colonel Dooley was at the White House with General Wainwright when President Truman awarded General Wainwright with the Congressional Medal of Honor for Valor. He then was with Wainwright when General Wainwright returned to his home town of New York City and rode with him in a welcoming parade attended by about 4 million people. Lt. Col. Dooley returned to his home town of McKinney, Texas on 17 Sep 1945.