

THE ASIATIC-PACIFIC THEATER

1.1. **KENNY, RICHARD** **SGT, 59th Coast Artillery**



Sergeant Richard Kenny was captured at Corregidor and sent to one of the POW camps on Luzon. Later, in the process of being transferred on a Japanese “Hell Ship” along with other POWs to another camp on the island of Luzon the ship was tragically torpedoed and sunk on 24 October 1944 by an American submarine on the assumption that the ship was carrying ammunitions. He received the Purple Heart and the Medal of Valor posthumously.

SGT Kenny, 26, was survived by his parents M/M Samuel Kenny, five brothers all in the service, and six sisters. He is listed on the Tablet of the Missing, American Cemetery, Manila.

1.2. **WARD, DONALD** **CPL, 803rd Engineer Aviation Battalion**



The 803rd was stationed at an airfield in Panpanga 60 miles outside of Manila, The Philippines Islands. By the end of January 1942, almost two months after the attack on Pearl Harbor, the Japanese forces had captured nearly all of Luzon, The Philippines. It fell completely on 9 April 1942 when the Japanese took the Bataan Peninsula.

CPL Donald Ward was one of 75,000 prisoners (American and Filipino) taken by the Japanese after the surrender. The prisoners were malnourished, ill and weary from the final battle of the Bataan Peninsula. They were forced without food or water to march northwards nearly 100 miles that became known as the Bataan Death March. CPL Ward, no doubt, was in that 100 mile Death March where beatings were commonplace, and some of those who could not keep up were bayoneted. The exact number who died is not known. The best estimates of the death toll are between seven and ten thousand, 2,330 were Americans, the remainder were Filipino troops.

CPL Ward, 24, survived the Death March but died of malaria in the Japanese prison camp in the Philippines on 29 November 1942. His parents M/M Ernest Ward of Fleming survived him. He is buried in the American Cemetery, Manila.

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1.3. WILBUR, CHARLES

SGT, 48th Material Squadron, Army Air Force



SGT Charles Wilbur was stationed in Manila. He was also in the Bataan Death March and later sent directly to the POW camp in Mukden, Manchuria where he died of dysentery on 28 December 1942.

SGT Wilbur, 25, was survived by his wife, Joan Hendrickson Wilbur, his parents, M/M Carl Wilbur, three sisters and three brothers, one in the Army. He is buried in the King Ferry Rural Cemetery.

2. Guadalcanal

The Solomon Islands are a group of islands in the South Pacific Ocean. Among the islands is Guadalcanal, the scene of fierce fighting between Allied and Japanese forces during 1942 and 1943. The six-month battle for Guadalcanal was one of the most vicious campaigns of World War II. Each side depended on its navy to land supplies and troop reinforcements. In a series of naval battles the Allies, despite being short on supplies, finally gained control of the waters surrounding Guadalcanal and cut off Japanese shipments. By February 1943, the starving and demoralized Japanese had evacuated Guadalcanal.

The battle for Guadalcanal was waged from 7 August 1942 to 9 February 1943. The Marine and Army casualties were 1,600 killed and 4,700 wounded.

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2.1. DALEY, WILLIAM

1LT, 35th Infantry Regiment, 25th Infantry Division



The Marines began an assault on Guadalcanal on 7 August 1942. In November 1942 the battle for Guadalcanal still raged on land and sea. The Marines after four months of constant combat had secured a lodgment around Henderson Field about six miles wide and five miles deep and were to be relieved by the U.S. Army's XIV Corps under General Patch which included 1LT William Daley's 35th Infantry Regiment, 25th Division.

The 25th Infantry Division's first objective was to secure the high ground beyond the lodgment five miles southwest of Henderson Field known as Mount Austen. The assault began 7 January 1943. Although the Japanese hold on the island had become untenable, they nevertheless continued to fight desperately. 1LT Daley's 35th Infantry led the attack on Mount Austen where some of the fiercest fighting (as it was described by one author) of the Pacific took place. Not until 23 January was Mount Austen secured. During this period 1LT Daley was killed in action on 11 January 1943.

1LT Daley, 25, was survived by his parents LTC George Daley on active duty at Camp Crowder, MO and his mother. He was a former member of Co. I, 108th Infantry New York State National Guard located in Auburn, NY. He is buried in the Woodlawn National Cemetery, Elmira, NY.

2.2. DZIURZYNSKI, THADDEUS

SGT Tech 5, Quartermaster Corps, Provisional Service Command



Although Guadalcanal had been secured by February 1943, the Japanese conducted heavy air attacks all through the Solomon Island Chain during the first half of 1943. SGT Tech 5 Dziurzynski could well have died on 16 July 1943 of wounds received during one of the air attacks or by enemy fire from holdout Japanese soldiers. However, official records do not detail the circumstances of his death except to say he died on 16 July 1943 on Guadalcanal from multiple shrapnel wounds

for which he was awarded the Purple Heart posthumously. He had also been at Pearl Harbor when it was attacked.

SGT Dziurzynski, 20, of Auburn was survived by his parents M/M Joseph Dziurzynski, a brother and three sisters. A solemn high mass was said in his honor at St. Hyacinth's Church. He is buried in St. Joseph's Cemetery, Fleming.