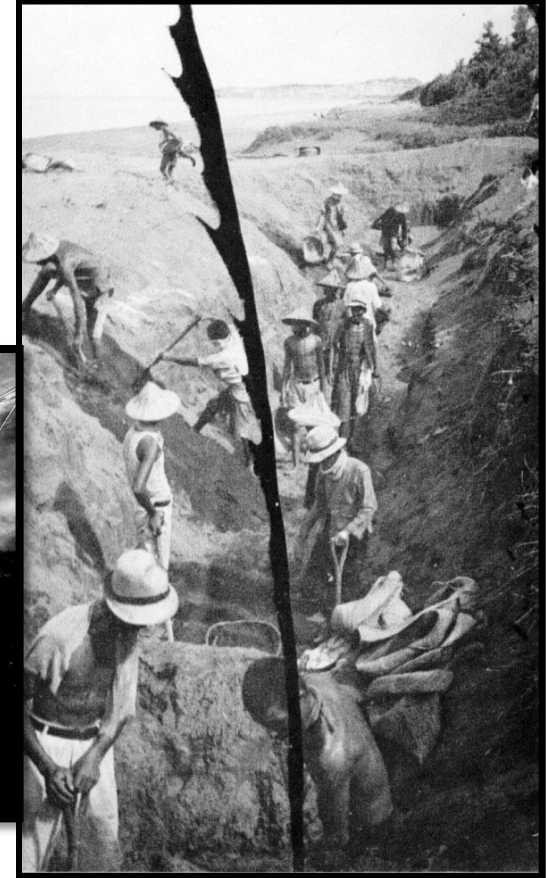




The *Enoura Maru* Project



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Overview



- Historical Background
- Timeline
- Breakdown of the Missing
- Challenges
- The Project



Historical Background

The “Hellships”

- Throughout the war, POWs were shipped from other areas back to Japan for use as laborers
- The term is based on the horrible conditions on board, poor treatment, poor health of the POWs
- Ships used were not always marked as POW transports; attacked by US aircraft and submarines

“Hellships” from the Philippines

- In the Philippines, over 20,000 Allied POWs were held
 - Primarily at Cabanatuan, Davao, and Bilibid Prison POW camps
- Prior to December 1944, two major sinkings in Philippines resulted in over 2,400 deaths at sea
- December 1944: in Manila, 1,621* POWs board *Oryoku Maru*







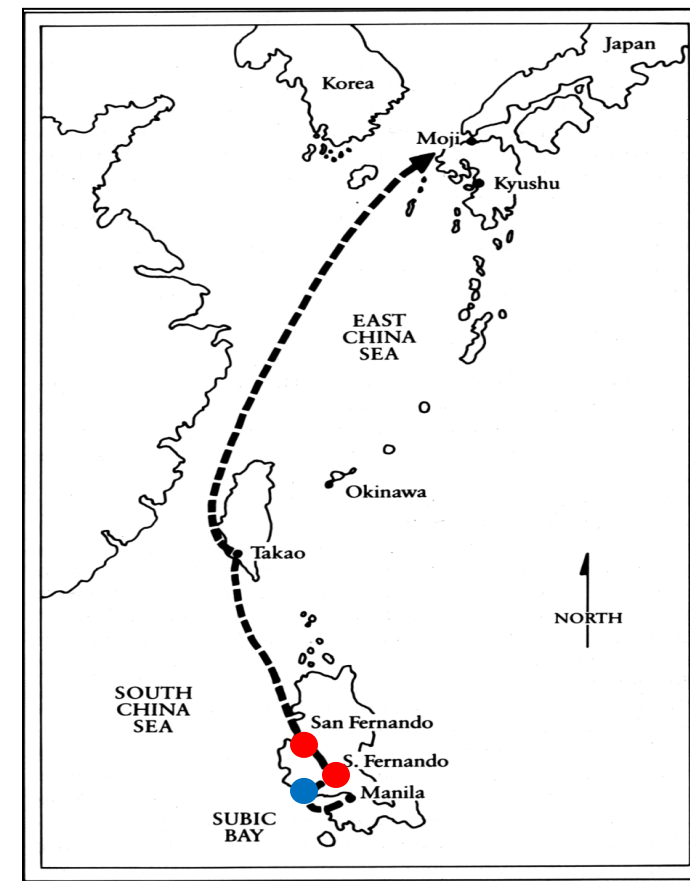
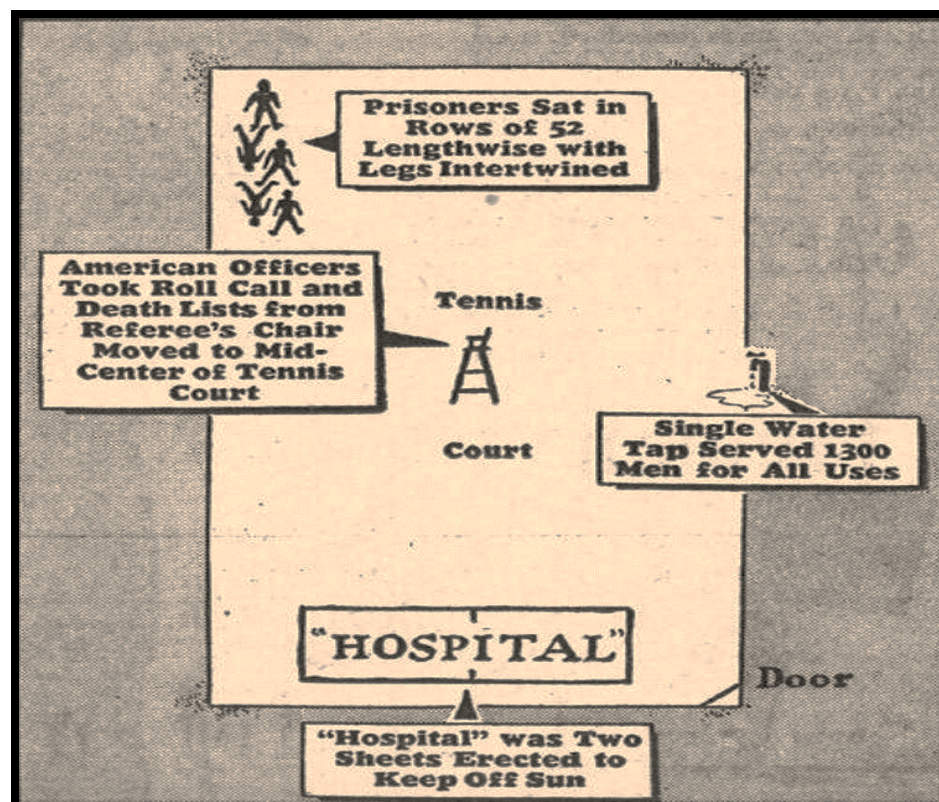
Transfer on Land

December 20, 1944: survivors taken to San Fernando, Pampanga

- Held in provincial jail; 15 wounded prisoners are executed

December 27: Transfer to San Fernando, La Union

- Board *Enoura Maru* and *Brazil Maru*, resume voyage





Route to Takao, Formosa (Taiwan)

December 27, 1944 – January 1, 1945: Journey to Takao

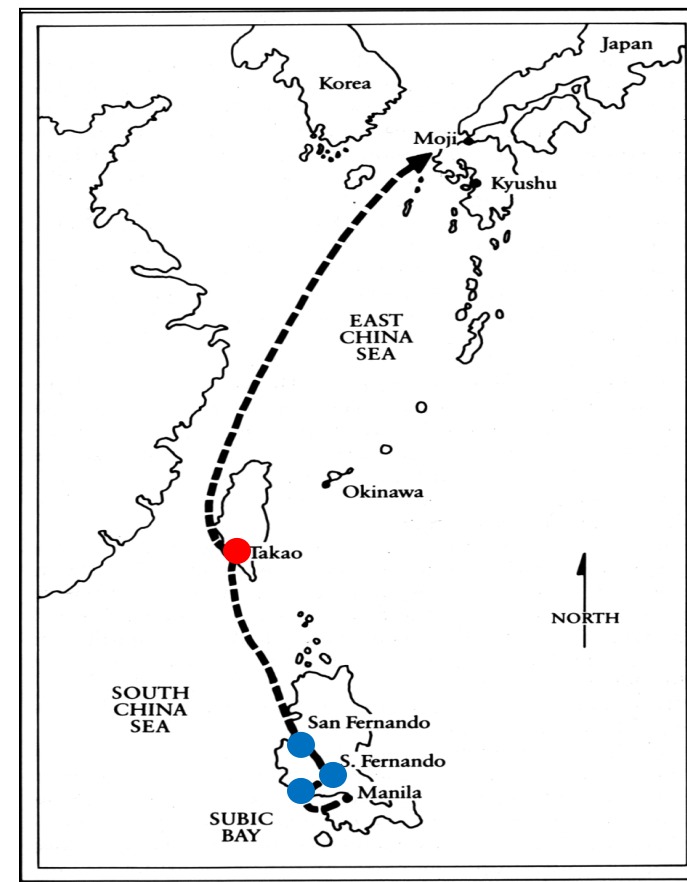
- Deaths during journey; burials at sea
- Deaths that occurred prior to arrival are turned over
- On arrival, all placed aboard *Enoura Maru*

January 9: US aircraft attack *Enoura Maru*

- Explosion kills ~300 POWs

January 12: Japanese allow transfer of dead ashore

- Reports of cremations, then mass burials on shore





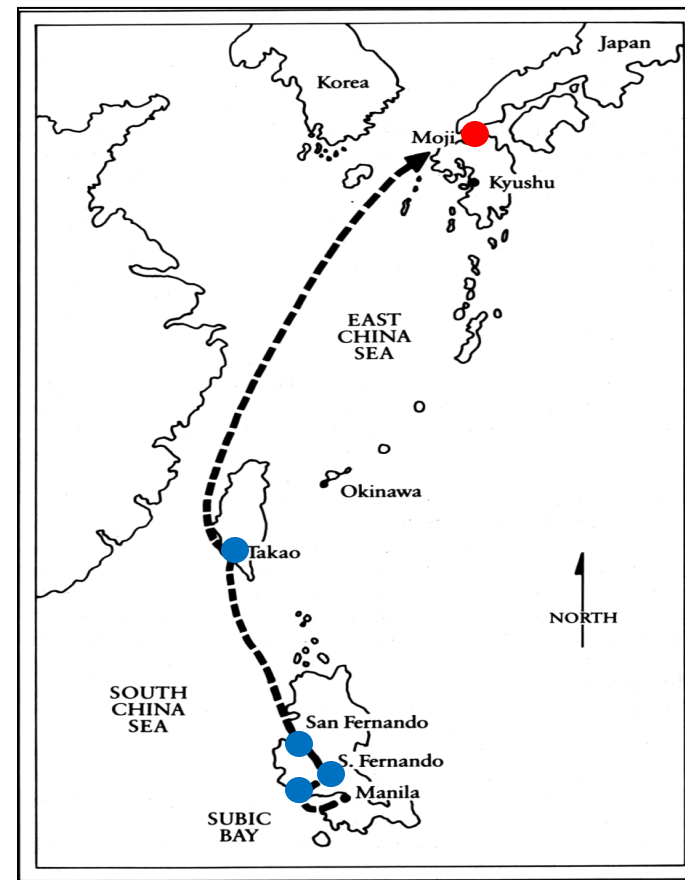
Aboard *Brazil Maru* to Japan

January 14, 1945: Survivors continue on *Brazil Maru*

- Deaths from illness, wounds from January 9 attack
- Burials at sea until 3 days from Japan

January 29: Arrival at Moji, Japan

- About 500 of original 1,619 came ashore
- Some deaths just after arrival
- Approximately 300+ survive the war





Breakdown of the Missing

Unresolved casualties by nationality	
Nationality	Number Involved
American	944
British	20
Dutch	5
Czech	5
Norwegian	4
Australian	1
Canadian	1
German	1

Unresolved US casualties	
Branch of Service	Number Involved
Army	757
Navy	117
Marines	44
Civilians	25
Merchant Marines	1

Unresolved US casualties	
Ship	Estimated Number Involved
<i>Oryoku Maru</i>	~280
<i>Enoura Maru</i>	~400
<i>Brazil Maru</i>	~270



A voice would say, "I think he passed out last night. I believe I saw him with the dead on the deck, way down under."

As soon as there was a definite assertion, it would give birth to contradictory ones. "The hell you did! He was in the next bay to me. A bomb fragment got him."

From someone else: "How could a bomb have got him when I saw him swimming away from the ship?"

- The POWs attempted to record casualties
 - Conflicting reports, incomplete information



Challenges: Postwar Recoveries



Oryoku Maru

- August 1946: Navy salvage team conducts exploratory dive in Subic Bay
- Remains disintegrated on contact
- Wreck deemed too unstable and dangerous for further exploration
- Ship partially demolished for safety reasons

Enoura Maru

- Recoveries in Takao, May-June 1946
- Those who died more than 3 days from Takao were buried ashore at Fukuteikin Cemetery

Brazil Maru

- Those who died more than 3 days from Moji were buried at sea
- Remains brought ashore were reported cremated



Declassified in accordance with Executive Order 13526



<u>CASKET #1</u> <u>UNKNOWN</u>	<u>CASKET #5</u> <u>UNKNOWN</u>	<u>CASKET #9</u> <u>UNKNOWN</u>	<u>CASKET #13</u> <u>UNKNOWN</u>
X-365A	X-397	X-437	X-472
X-365B	X-399	X-438	X-473A
X-366A	X-400	X-439	X-473B
X-366B	X-401	X-441A	X-474
X-367	X-402	X-441B	X-475
X-368A	X-404	X-442	X-477
X-368B	X-405	X-443	X-478
X-369	X-406	X-444A	X-479
X-370	X-407	X-444B	X-481A
X-371	X-408		X-481B
		<u>CASKET #10</u> <u>UNKNOWN</u>	X-481C
			X-481D
<u>CASKET #2</u> <u>UNKNOWN</u>	<u>CASKET #6</u> <u>UNKNOWN</u>	X-445A	<u>CASKET #14</u> <u>UNKNOWN</u>
X-372	X-409	X-445B	
X-373A	X-410	X-446	X-481E
X-373B	X-412	X-447	X-481F
X-374	X-413	X-448	X-482
X-375	X-414	X-449	X-483A
X-376	X-415	<u>CASKET #11</u> <u>UNKNOWN</u>	X-483B
X-377	X-416		X-483C
X-378	X-417		X-483D
X-379A		X-450	X-483E
X-379B		X-452	X-483F
<u>CASKET #3</u> <u>UNKNOWN</u>	<u>CASKET #7</u> <u>UNKNOWN</u>	X-453	X-484
X-380	X-418	X-454	
X-382	X-419	X-455	<u>CASKET #15</u> <u>UNKNOWN</u>
X-383	X-420	X-457	
X-384	X-422	X-458	X-485A
X-385	X-423	X-459	X-485B
X-386	X-424	X-460	X-485C
X-387	X-425	X-461	X-485D
X-388	X-426	<u>CASKET #12</u> <u>UNKNOWN</u>	X-485E
X-389			X-485F
<u>CASKET #4</u> <u>UNKNOWN</u>	<u>CASKET #8</u> <u>UNKNOWN</u>	X-462	X-486
X-390A	X-427	X-463	X-487
X-390B	X-428	X-464	X-488
X-391	X-429	X-465	
X-392	X-430	X-466	<u>CASKET #16</u> <u>UNKNOWN</u>
X-393	X-431	X-467	
X-394	X-432	X-468	X-489A
X-395A	X-433	X-469	X-489B
X-395B	X-434	X-470	X-489C
X-396A	X-435	X-471	X-489D
X-396B	X-436		X-489E
			X-489F
			X-490

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The Project



Receive Approval to Disinter the *Enoura Maru* unknowns

- 2018: DPAA disinterred X-546A, purportedly one individual
 - At least 4 DNA sequences were found, Capt Schade identified (skull)
 - $407 - 1 = 406$
- Test against the selected missing from the three ships, due to discrepancies
- Test against resolved individuals because of commingling
- DPAA is collecting DNA reference samples for ~1,000 associated casualties
- 60% reference samples required before DPAA can propose disinterment



Additional Ways Ahead



San Fernando Cemetery

- Waypoint for POWs after *Oryoku Maru*; 15 believed executed
- DPAA is routing a disinterment memo for 12 related unknowns

Japan Unknowns

- Determine whether unknowns recovered from Japan may be associated

Present-Day Remains

- Investigate any remains reported in Subic Bay, Takao, Japan
- So far, DPAA has investigated reports from Subic Bay, with negative results



Questions?



Memorial Marker to *Enoura Maru* Unknowns, Takao