

## STORY OF BLOOD, SWEAT AND TEARS FROM SURVIVOR OF DEATH MARCH

Young Soldier Describes Orgies of Infamous March of Death on Luzon  
and the Fury of The Atomic Bomb at Hiroshima

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Cpl. David B. Clolinger walked with death along the gruesome and bloody trail that was the infamous death march of April, 1942. For seven days and nights American bled, died, staggered and crawled for 82 miles. David was a Jap prisoner for 41 months and nine days. And he lived to tell about it.

From a group of 1,100 American prisoners bound for Japan, only 200 survived when our planes bombed the Jap prison ship. The chaplain credited with that immortal classic, "praise the Lord and pass the ammunition," was lost. David was one of the 200 saved.

Early in August of this year he heard the noise and felt the tremors as the island empire rocked when the first atomic bomb was dropped at Hiroshima. David was only 20 miles from the scene. "We could tell by their actions that something had happened and that this thing would soon be over," he said.

Cpl. Clolinger, spending 90 days at his home in Stover, enlisted in the regular army at Jackson on Feb. 1, 1941. He was in the infantry and arrived at Luzon in the Philippines on April 22, 1941. He was in Manila on Dec. 7, 1941.

The young soldier was taken at Bataan on April 9, 1942, and tired, sick Americans started the death march two days later. "The Jap treatment was outrageous," David said. "We had a little rice and soup, sometimes. But the Japs didn't give us any food. What we got, we took. Filipinos along the road would throw us bags of rice. The Japs killed many of them. They would shoot them, bayonet them or hit them."

After they reached their destination, David remained there only a week and then was returned to Bataan. In late 1944 he left for Japan and that's when the prison ships were bombed. He was liberated on September 3 of this year.

During the long period as a prisoner on Bataan, he worked hard. All the American prisoners put in long hours digging ditches, carrying ammunition and laboring for the Japs. David now weighs 161 pounds but the treatment from the Japs brought his weight down to 95 pounds.

David, a machine gunner, was wounded before Bataan fell. He well knew General Jonathan Wainright, one of Bataan's heroes. The soldier is 24, single, and the son of H.C. Clolinger.

He will report to San Antonio on January 22 and will be sent to the Brooklyn Hospital for a final checkup before he is discharged. David has the Presidential unit citation with two oak leaf clusters, the Expert Infantry Badge, Purple Heart, Good Conduct, the American Defense, the Asiatic-Pacific, and two campaign stars. He wears seven overseas chevrons, each designating six months overseas since Pearl Harbor.



Someday a clerk will enter a strange remark on the payroll. It will be under the name of Cpl. David B. Clolinger and will read: "Last paid to include Dec. 30, 1941." He'll be paid in full soon.

The young Stover soldier was a farmer when he entered the service and will resume that occupation when he is discharged. It was a long, hard way from the death march of Luzon in the Philippine Islands to a peaceful farm in the second district of Tallahatchie County. And he fought for it and he deserves it.