The gruesome details of thousands of O. U. and other state men of prison life under the Japs has been told over and over, but this a historical series of incidents of a group of twenty-three Oklahomans who lived through it and now can tell the story.

They lived through it in spite of the Bataan Death March, starvation rations at the hands of their Japanese captors, incredible cruelty and numerous reasons which ordinarily made men die.

Now those back home, that is the twenty-three who lived, can sit at home, can visit with friends, can enjoy these good United States, and talk and eat and sleep. They can carry forward now with their plans for the completion of a national charter for this grim band of "Zentsujians" of which the Oklahomans' chapter was the first branch. Their little "dreamed-up" organization is well on the way to becoming national overnight. For those who survived it meant life, this prison-made organization of theirs—indeed, it finally meant freedom from Jap prison.

Hundreds died around the Oklahomans every day in their prison camps as they moved from one to another. Then the Oklahomans in little bunches talked, desperately and quietly. Then they to another. Then the Oklahomans in little bunches talked, desperately and quietly. Then they erected a flag pole. Some sobbed, some cheered, some stood silently, too full of emotion to speak as their flag was raised.

Major Hines says he kept thinking through the ceremony of the days and nights they were crowded into box cars, jammed together too tightly to lie down.

The prison camp ceremony was finished. Days later they saw an American truck winding its way around the mountain road. Americans! Even two American nurses. An American sergeant was running toward them. Suddenly he stopped and stared. He seemed to think it incredible any human beings could look so all right.

The prisoners stared back.

"Why in the world don't you guys say something?" he yelled finally. Then Americans met Americans.

Alumni in the News

They Fought to Live

The prison life continued. It was August 17, 1945, that the Americans were given the order: "No more work." Something was in the air—the Oklahomans knew it. But the Japs refused to talk.

On August 22 the Jap second lieutenant came to the camp to see the American colonel. "You are now the guests of the emperor," he said through an interpreter. "We can now give you more food, and some clothing."

"All the Oklahomans could think of was: No winter here again without beard or clothing. (They had been captured in light kikakis and in shorts.) Then the Oklahomans ran for cover with the other Zentsujians.

American B-29's were coming over—low because the camp sat in a narrow valley between the mountains. They dropped tons of food in big metal drums.

The men gathered up the shattered food and supplies, Major Hines recalls, and existed hopelessly.

They secretly declared they would stand together and form a "survivors' club." Dysentery, malaria, and disease of every kind swept the camp; together, they crowded into box cars, jammed together too tightly to lie down.

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Druggists Service Center

One of the interesting reconversion projects that is attracting attention in Oklahoma is the Druggists' Service Center in Oklahoma City. The man who visualized and built into a reality this service center for returning veterans of World War II is Everett (E. E.) Duncan, 23pharm, who as executive secretary of the Oklahoma Retail Druggists Service Center speaks with authority for the Oklahoma University Pharmaceutical Alumni Association.

The Oklahoma Retail Druggists Service Center at 223 N.W. 3rd Street is now engaged in numerous activities designed to help returning pharmacy veterans to become reestablished in civilian life. Having served in the Army, he feels that a pharmacist may roll a few pills if he chooses to do so, examine items, or pick up recently issued literature and catalogue information. Chemical analysis work is also available to them at the laboratory. Here, too, the practical side of compounding and dispensing medicinal products can be shown to prospective veterans who wish to enroll under the G.I. Bill of Rights in various pharmacy schools.

The office is also working with the various state and federal veteran service bureaus for on-the-job training or refresher courses and other benefits. For the approximately 60 O. U. pharmacy alumni who went directly into service upon their graduation and registered with the Pharmaceutical Alumni Association, they hope to have retail drug stores certified in all sections of the state for the on-the-job training as refresher courses so that they may choose the locality in which they wish to serve.

These courses will be particularly helpful to every pharmacist who has been out of touch with commercial pharmacy.

Reading left to right are: E. E. Duncan, secretary of the Oklahoma Retail Druggists Service Center; Joe R. Davis, 23pharm, chief pharmacist who just released and going on a job; and H. Childs, who just has slipped into his civvies and is going to enroll in a College of Pharmacy the second semester of this year.