

Prisoner of war bowl

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Aluminum bowl with Japanese characters on the bottom. The bowl belonged to Colonel James C. Hughes, whom the Japanese held as a prisoner of war (POW) during World War II. Hughes had few possessions while in the camps; this bowl was among them. The etching on the bowl indicates that he used it while in Tarlac, a province in the Philippines. Tarlac was home to Camp O'Donnell, a prisoner of war camp that was the end destination for men on the Baatan Death March. Born in Topeka, Kansas, in 1888, Hughes served in the Mexican Border Conflict, World War I, and World War II. In 1942, he was captured by the Japanese on the Bataan peninsula and spent the next 41 months in various Japanese POW camps. He was liberated by Russian forces at Camp Hoten, Manchuria, in 1945. Hughes died in 1964 and is buried in Arlington National Cemetery.

Date: between 1942 and 1945

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