

Prisoner 56 patch

White cotton patch with black numbers and Japanese characters embroidered on one side. Col. James C. Hughes wore this patch while being held as a Prisoner of War in the Philippines during World War II. Hughes served in the United States Army. Born in Topeka, Kansas, in 1888, Hughes served in the Mexican Border Conflict, World War I, and World War II. During the latter conflict, he commanded a Philippine regiment (Filipino soldiers led by American officers), which surrendered in 1942 on the Bataan peninsula. Hughes spent the next 41 months in various Japanese Prisoner of War camps. The "56" on this patch refers to the prisoner number Hughes wore between 1942 and 1943 while in Karenko, a camp for high-ranking officers in Taiwan. 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

Callnumber: 1971.73.237

KSHS Identifier: Museum ID: 310801

Item Identifier: 310801

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