

National Museum of the Pacific War

Nimitz Education and Research Center

Fredericksburg, Texas

Interview with

Mr. Charlie Slover

Date of Interview: _____

National Museum of the Pacific War

Fredericksburg, Texas

Interview with Mr. Charlie Slover

Previously taped by Mr. Slover.

Mr. Slover: Doug, this is Charlie Slover. I made up a tape from some notes that I made here that I hope is what you were talking about wanting on the Corregidor job. If you'll just hold on, I'll...you'll hear it and if you don't like it, you might let me know or if there is anything else I can do to change it or to help you...why, any way I can...I'll be glad to do so. Just hold on now.

I was a member of the 503rd Parachute Regimental Combat Team that jumped on Corregidor on February the 16th, 1945. We jumped to retake it from the Japanese who had captured it in 1942 in the Invasion of the Philippine Islands. We'd broken camp the night before and spent the night sleeping beside the air field to be ready to fly from Indira (sp?) to Corregidor the next morning. I remember it rained that night and we had to cover our parachutes to keep them dry. We were issued our ammunition and K-rations and loaded into the C-47s.

There were about twenty-four paratroopers in each plane. I believe it was about a two hour flight to Corregidor from Indira. We were to jump on two drop zones – the drill field and a miniature golf course. My drop course was the miniature golf course. The C-47s went over one behind the other over the drop zones. The zones were so small that we could only jump about eight

paratroopers at a time. As we approached Corregidor from the sea, I could see some parachutes in the water and some on the 300-ft. cliff going up from the ocean up top side to the drop zone. By the time I jumped it was already established that we had to jump past the drop zone and blow back into it since the winds were so high that morning.

Intelligence stated there were about five hundred to eight hundred Japanese soldiers on the island. So we jumped two thousand paratroopers. One battalion came in amphibious in the mid-section of the island about two or three hours after we had jumped...first few days were very rough.

By the end of the operation and certainly after the end of the first two weeks, records show that over five thousand Japanese soldiers had been killed in the retaking of Corregidor.

After we'd been on the ground about two weeks, Colonel Jones, our Commanding Officer, sent for me. He had a four-door sedan he wanted me to deliver to General Hall. General Hall was the Commander of the 11th Corps. I asked where General Hall was and Colonel Jones said he was somewhere north of Manila.

I drove the sedan down to the beach and got a landing craft to carry me around to Subic Bay. I drove the car off of the landing craft and immediately got stuck in the sand. About that time some tanks were coming by further up the beach. One of them hooked on and pulled up to the road. Then I headed east with two five-gallon cans of gas; my rifle and my shaving kit. After awhile I decided I should turn north, so I did at a crossroad. I was stopped by a soldier

who asked where I was going. I said I was trying to find General Hall's headquarters. He said I should go back and try another route since the road ahead was full of Japanese soldiers. So I turned around; went back and went further east and just as I was getting into Manila I turned north. And finally I found the 11th Corps headquarters in a school around Baguio the next night. I reported in about 5:00pm and told them my mission and asked to see General Hall. They said he was sleeping and to come back around 9:00pm. I found out that headquarters worked all night to get in the battle reports and to plan the next day's activities. I came back after going to the mess hall and eating my first fresh eggs in a long time.

General Hall was one of the nicest gentlemen I ever met. We talked quite awhile about the Corregidor operation and then I told him about the car. He went out and looked at it. Painted on the trunk was, "Compliments of the Rock Force." This was the name we used for our operation on Corregidor. I opened the trunk and there four spare tires in it. They weren't new but they sure would do in a pinch. The next day I was flown back down to Corregidor. The car was General MacArthur's command car that he had used before Corregidor fell and it was returned to him.

(end of interview)

FINAL copy
CD – #OH179 - Mr. Charlie Slover
Transcribed by: K. Matras
Houston, TX
November 12, 2014