

Don't miss Communion.	University of Notre Dame	(Seriously ill) brother
Every reception brings you	Religious Bulletin	of Bill Hamilton, (Cav.)
closer to God and more worthy	April 10, 1945	Two Special Intentions.
of His blessings.		Pray for Peace.

Notre Dame Man Rescues Notre Dame Men.

"Please excuse the dirt on this note, Father, for it is being written in combat."

This is the postscript on a letter written on a piece of scrap paper. The letter came to Notre Dame from Manila. It was thoughtfully written by Lt. John F. Finneran, '33, of New York. It announced to Notre Dame and the Holy Cross religious that their fellow religious, priests, brothers and sisters, had been rescued by the 511th Paratroopers from the Los Banos and other internment camps.

This rescue was the climax of that eventful December 7, 1941. On that day the missionaries were on shipboard only one day out of Manila bound for their first mission in Bengal, India. The Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor forced the ship to return to Manila "temporarily." The stopover lasted for three years. It was filled with peril and starvation. Fathers Jerry Lawyer, '35 and Bob McKee, '36 wrote home after they were freed. Their letters tell the story of their rescue and their sufferings.

"Dear Mother and Father: Yesterday we were heroically and dramatically rescued from the Los Banos Internment camp and brought here 17 miles south of Manila.... What a break! You have read all about our rescue. Just allow me to thank those God-sent American troops and Philippine guerillas. They did a marvelous job even tho we were kept flat on our stomachs during the battle.

"We were gradually starving to death -- so weak we could hardly stand. Then, too, we didn't know what those Japs would do in their desperation. Thanks for your prayers. It was our Dear Blessed Lady who did it. Our new camp is wonderful. Food -- food -- good American food -- bread -- believe it or not, sugar -- meat. O God, what a difference from starvation. All of us are gaining strength and in a few weeks we will all be normal....

"We were taken to Los Banos on the 8th of July, 1944. Before that time we were vagabond missionaries -- Father McKee and I -- going from one job to another. We picked up Tagalog language sufficiently to exercise the ministry and were convinced that we did more preaching -- administering the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, Extreme Unction than we would have done in India. My last job was the parish of Tardo, Manila (150,000 souls). I was there seven months. Father McKee had just come to join me for several weeks when the Japs picked us up... You may hear from Lt. Finneran of the parachutists who rescued us. He is a Notre Dame man, class of '33. We are having a great time. Keep us in your prayers. Jerry" (Fr. Lawyer, CSC)

"First Bread in About Three Years."

"February 23rd we were heroically rescued from Los Banos, as you already know. What a physical and mental relief to be under the Stars and Stripes again, and not to have any more nightmares about food and protection. More about that when we meet. I want to forget most of it... Yesterday I shaved for the first time since last July 8th -- feel like a new man. Had three pieces of meat for my supper, the most in eight months. What a treat! Today we get our first bread in about three years -- I can't wait... A Notre Dame man, Lieutenant Finneran, is treating us royally... I am a bit on the thin side, but the good U.S. food is fast changing me... My mind is still in a whirl after the battle, so this letter is a bit jumpy.... Bob" (Father McKee, CSC)

One Holy Cross Brother was shot by the Japs. Offer your Mass tomorrow for him.