

## MARION RUSSELL LAWTON, 1918-1986

### A Register of His Papers, 1936-1985

- Creator:** Lawton, Marion Russell 1918-1986
- Collection Number:** Mss 260
- Title:** Manny Lawton Papers
- Abstract:** Manny Lawton, Clemson alumnus (class of 1940), author, and lecturer. Served as battalion military advisor with the Philippine Army until Allied forces fell to the Japanese during WWII. Survived the atrocities of Bataan, only to subsequently spend 3 ½ years as a prisoner of war. Lawton's ability and willingness to share his experiences give great insight into the struggles of imprisoned soldiers during wartime.
- Quantity:** 1.15 cubic feet consisting of 56 folders; 1 oversized folder containing 11 newspapers/articles; 1 oversized box containing 1 scrapbook and 1 photo album; 146 photographs; 90 slides; and 5 badges/medals.

#### Scope and Content Note

The papers include audiotapes with accompanying summaries and interview transcriptions, clippings, correspondence, manuscripts and drafts for his book *Some Survived*, badges/medals, miscellaneous material, photographs, a Clemson Alumni Distinguished Service plaque, press releases, scrapbooks, slides, and speeches.

The subject files in the collection date from 1936-1985. The audiotapes date from 1973, 1977, and 1978. The clippings date from the early 1940's through 1985. The correspondence files date from 1942-1982. The dated manuscripts and drafts of *Some Survived* date from 1977, while several are undated. The medals date from 1967, 1968, and 1982. The miscellaneous material has several items that are dated circa early 1940's, 1976, and 1982. The photographs date from 1936-1985.

The correspondence files and clippings are arranged chronologically. The manuscripts, miscellaneous material, photographs, postcards, POW medical issues, press releases, speeches, and veteran's affairs files are arranged alphabetically.

Two audiotapes contain recordings taken from the American Defenders of Bataan and Corregidor annual meetings at Fontana, NC. One recording made in 1973 is of Vietnam POW Col. Bobby Bagley, who was shot down and subsequently spent five and a half years as a prisoner of war. Another recording made in 1978 relates the wartime experiences of Sgt. Phil Brodsky. Sgt. Brodsky spent time in various Japanese prison

camps during World War II, and was one of only nine survivors of the Arisan Maru maritime disaster. In addition, there is a written transcript of an interview with Capt. Mark Wohlfeld dated 1978. This individual was involved in a daring escape attempt while a prisoner of the Japanese during World War II. There is no audiotape available for Wohlfeld's interview.

The files containing clippings cover war related topics such as the Oryoku Maru disaster and the Bataan Death March, as well as stories written about Manny Lawton's career. Lawton himself penned many articles for various newspapers; several of which are included. Clippings related to Lawton's 1982 appearance on NBC's *Bataan-The Forgotten Hell* documentary are also present.

The correspondence files include a copy of the May 6, 1942 memo sent to Washington, DC announcing that Corregidor had fallen to the Japanese; a copy of General Dwight D. Eisenhower's message to Allied forces announcing the start of "Operation Overlord;" original laminated POW mail sent from Lawton to family; correspondence sent to Lawton's parents from concerned friends; material related to the writing and publishing of Manny Lawton's book *Some Survived*; and Lawton's appearance on NBC's *Bataan-The Forgotten Hell* documentary, which aired in 1982.

The manuscripts contain various early drafts of what was to become the published work, *Some Survived*.

The photograph files contain photocopies of Manny Lawton's Clemson College cadet photos; 10 photos of the surrender of Japanese troops in 1945; Bataan Day observances in 1967 and 1982; a meeting with Senator "Sonny" Montgomery of Mississippi in 1980; miscellaneous photos; and a photograph of Lawton receiving the Clemson Alumni Distinguished Service Award in 1985. In addition, there are 90 slides depicting the 1967 Bataan Day observances.

There is one postcard file dated January-February 1946 that details Manny Lawton's time spent in the western part of the United States during his return home after liberation.

There are two files related to POW medical issues. One file contains a study entitled "Neuropsychiatry In WWII" dated 1972. The other file contains several articles and studies written by Dr. John Nardini; one of which is entitled "Survival Factors In American Prisoners Of War Of The Japanese" dated 1952.

The press releases files contain transcripts of Lawton's appearances on both ABC and NBC telecasts.

The speeches file contains material that Lawton presented to audiences in 1967, 1969, and the early 1980's.

There are two veteran's affairs files that contain statistics, legislation, and testimony dated 1979-1982.

### **Additional Collection Information**

Cite as: [description of item such as "Letter from John Smith, Clemson, SC to Michael Jones, Columbia, SC"] box number, folder number, Mss 260, Manny Lawton Papers, Special Collections, Clemson University Libraries, Clemson, SC

### **Biographical Note**

Manny Lawton was born on March 5, 1918 in Garnett, SC the son of Brewton Sams and Marian Smith Lawton. He was one of four children: Adelaide, Ella, and Paul being his siblings.

Lawton attended Clemson College, where he majored in General Science. While at Clemson, he was a member of the First Regiment Staff as well as the Reserve Officer Training Program.

Upon graduation in 1940, Lawton was sent to the Philippines where he served as a battalion military advisor for the First Battalion-31<sup>st</sup> Infantry, Philippine Army. Manny Lawton eventually rose to the rank of Major.

American and Filipino forces surrendered to the Japanese on April 9, 1942. Lawton took part in what is now termed the "Death March", in which thousands of American and Filipino prisoners perished. He subsequently spent three and one-half years as a POW, not only enduring wretched treatment in various prisoner camps, but also survived inhumane conditions aboard the Oryoku Maru transport ship while en route to Japan.

Following liberation in 1945, Manny Lawton was awarded the Bronze Star, Purple Heart, American Defense Ribbon with one Bronze Star, Asiatic-Pacific Ribbon with two Bronze Stars, Philippine Defense Ribbon with one Bronze Star, and the Distinguished Unit Citation with Oak Leaf Clusters. He was also awarded the Philippine Defense Medal and the Presidential Unit Citation from the Philippine Government.

Lawton married Margaret (Peggy) Leech of Beaverdale, Pa in February 1947. They had three children: Marion Russell Jr., Doris, and Brewton. Upon his retirement from the Army, Lawton settled in Estill, SC, where he was a partner with the Walker & Lawton Lumber Co. from 1950-1960, and owner of Estill Feed Mill from 1960-1975.

A supporter of the Republican Party, Lawton was Precinct Chairman of Estill's Republican Party in 1964, Chairman of Hampton County Republican Party in 1965, and a SC Delegate to the Republican National Convention in 1968.

Lawton was a member of the U.S. Department of Commerce Coastal Plains Regional Commission from 1974-77, Federal Highway Administration from 1978-1981, and Veterans Administration from 1981-83.

Lawton enrolled at the University of South Carolina's school of Journalism in 1976 in preparation for his book, *Some Survived*. In 1984, Lawton published the book *Some*

Survived, which chronicled the harrowing experiences of POW's during internment by the Japanese.

Manny Lawton was a member of the American Legion, Lions (past President), Disabled American Veterans, and the Clemson Alumni Council (past Director).

In 1985 Lawton received the Service Above Self Award from the Charleston Rotary, and the Distinguished Alumnus Award from the Clemson Alumni Association.

Manny Lawton died on March 19, 1986 in Charleston, SC. He is buried along with his wife Peggy (1917-2000) at the Black Swamp Cemetery in Hampton, SC.

### **Related Material**

Lawton, Manny *Some Survived* Algonquin Books, 1984.

### **Collection Indexed Terms**

This collection is indexed under the following terms in the University Libraries' online catalog. Researchers desiring materials about related topics, persons, or places should research the catalog under these headings.

### **Subjects:**

Lawton, Manny, 1918-1986

Prisoners of War—United States—Biography

Prisoners of War—Philippines—Biography

World War, 1939-1945—Prisoners and prisons, Japanese

World War, 1939-1945—Personal narratives, American

World War, 1939-1945—Concentration camps—Philippines

### **Document Types:**

\* All ATT

Audiotapes

Clippings

Manuscripts

Photographs

### **Correspondents:**

Lawton, Manny (1918-1986)

### **Administrative Information**

#### **Acquired from:**

Brewton Lawton in 2001.

Formerly accession number 01-121

### **Processing Information:**

The Manny Lawton Papers were processed by Carl Redd in 2004.

## **Collection Separation List**

### **Artifacts**

Defenders of Bataan and Corregidor Medal 1942-1982  
1968 Republican National Convention Delegate Badge  
Member Badge Bataan Day 1967  
Guest Badge Bataan Day 1967  
POW/MIA Button 1982  
Clemson Alumni Distinguished Service Award 1985

### **Oversized Folder**

#### **11 newspapers, and 1 certificate**

1. *The Evening Bulletin* (Philadelphia) "Operation Touchdown" (Valley Forge patients taken to University of Pennsylvania football games), November 6, 1946
2. *The Quan* "Pilgrimage" Special, August 1966
3. *The Quan* "Bataan Pilgrimage", February 1967
4. *The State and Columbia Record* "Ordeal of Bataan Revisited After 25 Years", March 26, 1967
5. *The Sunday Times/Philippines* "Bataan, 1942, To the Battle of Manila, 1945", April 9, 1967
6. *The Philippine Daily Star* "Bataan Memorials", April 10, 1967
7. *The Allendale County Citizen* "Remnants of Wainwright's Army Revisits Bataan-Corregidor", June 8, 1967
8. *Surfer's Paradise Mirror* "For You the War is Over", June 11-17, 1969
9. *Hampton County Guardian* "Estill Bataan Survivor Relates POW Reunion 'Welcome Back from Dead' Tale", October 15, 1975
10. *The Manila Evening Post* "40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Supplement", April 15, 1982
11. *The Charlotte Observer* "To Hell and Back: Survivors Story", April 8, 1985

1 Certificate of Membership--Defenders of Bataan and Corregidor, July 26, 1981

### **Oversized Box**

1 Photo Album-Peggy Leech Lawton's Valley Forge General Hospital photo album, early to mid 1940s  
1 Scrapbook-clippings that chronicle the Oryoku Maru maritime disaster, early 1940s

### **Photographs**

1. Black & white photos depicting Bataan Day Observances-1967.  
forty-four 3.5 x 4.5  
one 5 x 8  
three 2.5 x 2.5  
eight 8 x 10
2. Black & white photographs depicting Bataan Day Observances-1982.  
twelve 5 x 7  
forty-three 3.5 x 5

3. Black & white photographs depicting Manny Lawton being presented with the Clemson Alumni Distinguished Service Award-1985.  
one 8 x 10
4. Black & white Clemson Cadet photographs (Manny Lawton) 1936-1940.  
one 3.5 x 5  
one 5 x 7  
two 8 x 10
5. Black & white photographs depicting Lawton and Mississippi Congressman "Sonny" Montgomery.  
two 8 x 10
6. Miscellaneous black & white photographs.  
seven 3.5 x 5  
one 4 x 6  
one 5 x 7  
one 8 x 10
7. Black & white Manny Lawton solo photographs.  
one 8 x 10  
two 5 x 7
8. Black & white photos depicting the surrender of Japan, 1945.  
ten 2.5 x 3
9. There are ninety slides depicting the 1967 Bataan Day Observances, as well as several miscellaneous scenes.

**Detailed Description****Box**

1

**Folder****Folder Title****American Defenders of Bataan and Corregidor**

- 1 Bataan Day Observances, 1967-I
- 2 Bataan Day Observances, 1967-II
- 3 Bataan Day Observances, 1982
- 4 Fontana, NC Reunion, 1985
- 5 Newsletter-October 6, 1980 and January 26, 1982

**Audiotape Abstracts/Transcripts**

- 6 Col. Bobby Bagley-August 28, 1973  
Capt. Mark Wohlfeld-August 1977  
Sgt. Phil Brodsky-1978

**Clippings**

- 7 Oversized Scrapbook Clippings early 1940s
- 8 1961-1985
- 9 Articles written by Manny Lawton, 1966-1982
- 10 Lawton's Appearance on NBC's *Bataan-The Forgotten Hell*, 1982

**Correspondence**

- 11 Notification That Corregidor Had Fallen to the Japanese, May 6, 1942
- 12 Lawton POW Letters Addressed to Home, 1942 and 1944
- 13 Dwight D. Eisenhower Announces the Launch of "Operation Overlord", 1a.m. June 6, 1944 (photocopy)
- 14 September, 1945
- 15 Oryoku Maru Incident Timeline, September 12, 1945
- 16 October, 1945
- 17 November-December, 1945
- 18 Undated
- 19 January 1946; September 1967; April 1968; August 1973; November 1974; January 1976; and December 1984
- 20 Microfilm POW Rosters- March 16, 1971
- 21 Microfilm POW Roster
- 22 Correspondence Regarding Lawton's Book *Some Survived*, 1976-1977
- 23 Lawton's Appearance On NBC's *Bataan-The Forgotten Hell*-1982

**Manuscript-Some Survived**

	24	Early Undated Index to Chapters
	25	Chapters 1-9 early drafts, August 24, 1977
2	1	Draft pp 1-75
	2	Draft of Chapters-"The Death March," "The Fall of Bataan," "Loyalty and Courage," "March 1944 Brings Two Big Events," "Ten Men Escape"
	3	"Another Escape", pp 90-104
	4	"Another Tragedy at Sea-The Arisan Maru"
	5	"Back To Cabanataun", pp100-106
	6	"The Oryoku Maru Story", pp105-165
	7	Unpublished Drafts-"Never Say Die," "Victor Mapes and His Will to Endure"
	8	Unpublished, Untitled Draft-Chronologically Post Liberation
		<b>Miscellaneous</b>
	9	Court Proceedings <i>The Oryoku Maru Story</i> -Trial of Japanese Officers, February 25, 1947
	10	Drawings and Sketches, early 1940s found in Miss Leech (Peggy Lawton) file
	11	Ronald Reagan Declares July 9, 1982 National POW/MIA Recognition Day
	12	USC School of Journalism, 1976
		<b>Photographs (photocopies)</b>
	13	Bataan Day Observances 1967-I
	14	Bataan Day Observances 1967-II
	15	Bataan Day Observances, 1982
	16	Clemson Alumni Distinguished Service Award, 1985
	17	Clemson Cadet Photographs (Manny Lawton), 1936-1940
	18	Lawton Meets with Mississippi Congressman "Sonny" Montgomery-August 13, 1980
	19	Miscellaneous
	20	Solo Photographs, early 1980s
	21	Surrender of Japan, 1945
		<b>Postcards</b>
	22	From Manny to Home, January-February 1946
		<b>POW Medical Issues</b>
	23	Articles by Dr. John Nardini
	24	<i>Neuropsychiatry In WWII</i> , 1973

**Press Releases**

- 25 ABC World News Tonight, April 11, 1982
- 26 NBC's *Bataan-The Forgotten Hell*, 1982

**Speeches**

- 27 Manny Lawton Penned Speeches, 1967; 1969; and early 1980s

**Veterans Affairs**

- 28 Legislation and Testimony, 1979-1981
- 29 Unclassified POW Statistics, June 1982

3

- 1 User Tape 1; Bobby Bagley, User Tape 2; Manny Lawton, Phil Brodsky, and unidentified veterans
- 2 Original and Backup Duplicates \*Do Not Use
- 3 The Lawton's Wedding Album, February 15, 1947