
FROM BATAAN TO IWO JIMA-
HOOKSETT'S BUD LOCKE AND
RENE GAGNON

Our Hooksett Hero's

ARTHUR J LOCKE

AUGUST 3, 1915- MAY 4, 2007

AFTER GRADUATING FROM CONCORD HIGH SCHOOL, MR. LOCKE JOINED THE U.S. ARMY IN 1934. HE SERVED WITH THE 15TH INFANTRY REGIMENT, THE "CAN DO" REGIMENT, IN THE CHINA EXPEDITIONS.

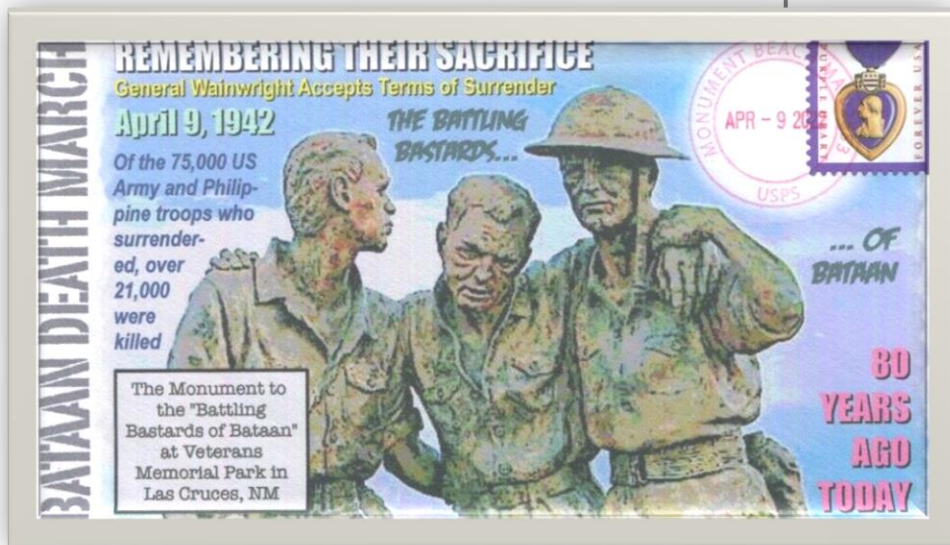
IN OCTOBER 1941, HE WAS TRANSFERRED TO CLARK AIRFIELD IN MANILA IN THE PHILIPPINES AND WAS STAFF SERGEANT THERE WHEN THE JAPANESE BOMBED PEARL HARBOR.

AFTER THE SURRENDER OF BATAAN, HE WAS TAKEN PRISONER OF WAR, SUFFERED AND SURVIVED THE INFAMOUS BATAAN DEATH MARCH AND WAS TRANSPORTED TO JAPAN, WHERE HE WORKED AS A STEVEDORE AND LABORER IN KOBE UNTIL AUGUST 9, 1945.

"KOBE HOUSE P.O.W. NO. 13," WHICH HE PUBLISHED IN 1998, IS MR. LOCKE'S PERSONAL ACCOUNT OF HIS EXPERIENCES AS A JAPANESE PRISONER OF WAR,

APRIL 1942





Reported 'Missing' 3 Days After Family Gets Letter

Sgt. Locke of Hooksett Saw 'Hot Action' on Bataan

Special to The Union.

HOOKSETT, Aug. 17—Three days after they had received a delayed letter from their son, Sgt. Arthur J. Locke from "In the Field, Philippines," Mr. and Mrs. A. T. Locke of Hooksett today had word from the War Department that the 27-year-old local man is "missing in action."

A veteran of Bataan, Sergeant Locke asserted in his letter, which was dated February 27, that he had seen "some action. Can't say when or where * * * but it was plenty hot for a awhile."

According to his family, the Hooksett man was stationed at Clark Field, P. I., at the time of the Japanese invasion of the islands. He left the United States for the Philippines Sept. 12, 1939.

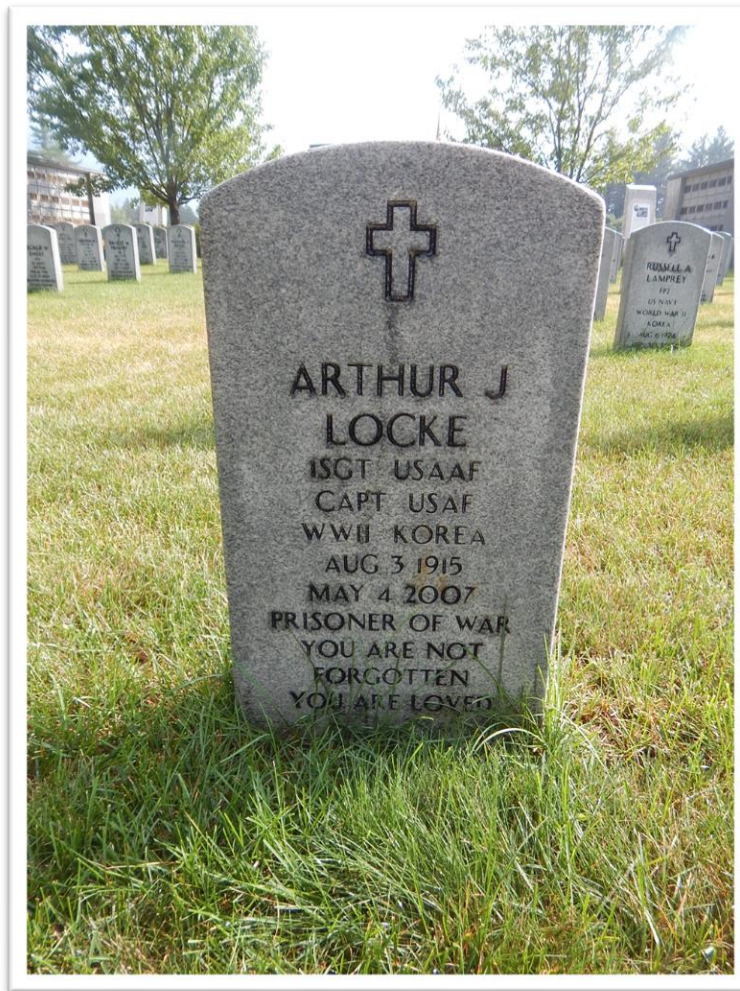
Last word, until the recent letter, had been received from him December 3 of last year.

Believed to be the only local person to have seen action in the Philippines, Sergeant Locke enlisted in the Army eight years ago, shortly after his graduation from Concord High school.

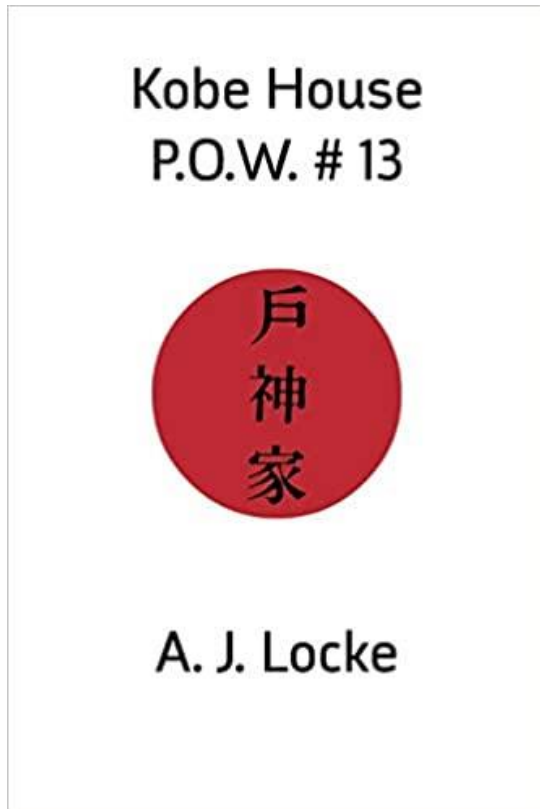
He has one brother, Henry, living



SGT. ARTHUR J. LOCKE



ARTHUR BUD LOCKE



- 1st Sergeant Arthur "Bud" Locke was based at Clark Field in the Philippines, as part of the USAAF's Far East Air Service Command, in 1941. He was taken prisoner with many others in the Japanese invasion of the Philippines, experienced the Bataan Death March, and was transported to a POW work-camp in Kobe, Japan, from which he was liberated at the end of the war. This is the story of his war

RENE GAGNON

MARCH 7, 1925 – OCTOBER 12, 1979

GAGNON WAS INDUCTED INTO THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS RESERVE ON MAY 6, 1943.[3] HE WAS SENT TO THE MARINE CORPS RECRUIT DEPOT PARRIS ISLAND, SOUTH CAROLINA. ON FEBRUARY 19, 1945, PFC. GAGNON LANDED ON THE SOUTHEAST SIDE OF IWO JIMA WITH E COMPANY, 2ND BATTALION, 28TH MARINES, ON "GREEN BEACH 1", WHICH WAS THE CLOSEST LANDING BEACH TO MOUNT SURIBACHI ON THE SOUTHERN END OF THE ISLAND. ON FEBRUARY 23, PFC. GAGNON WHO WAS THE BATTALION RUNNER (MESSENGER) FOR EASY COMPANY, ON APRIL 16, 1981, AND HIS REMAINS WERE RE-INTERRED IN SECTION 51, GRAVE 543 OF ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY ON JULY 7. INSCRIBED ON THE BACK OF HIS ARLINGTON HEADSTONE ARE THE WORDS:

FOR GOD AND HIS COUNTRY, HE RAISED OUR FLAG IN BATTLE
AND SHOWED A MEASURE OF HIS PRIDE
AT A PLACE CALLED IWO JIMA
WHERE COURAGE NEVER DIED¹





Flag Raising



Mt Suribachi



1945



1965





- Dedicated to the Hooksett's Citizens who served in World War II

