

John Paul Campbell, Jr.
United States Army 3605759
131st Field Artillery, 2nd Battalion
E Battery "Lost Battalion"
WW II

[December 26, 1941. Transcript of letter from John Paul Campbell Jr. to his mother. NOTE: On November 21, 1941, the Second Battalion, 131st Field Artillery (Texas National Guard) boarded the army transport *Republic* at San Francisco and joined a convoy bound for the Philippines. The *Republic* was sailing west of Hawaii on December 7, 1941, when the troops learned of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. The convoy, still proceeding toward the Philippine Islands, which were under attack from another Japanese force, received orders to sail to Brisbane, Australia; the ships arrived there on December 22. Six days later, the battalion was ordered to board a Dutch ship, the *Bloemfontein*, and sail to Surabaya, Java, to provide ground support for an army air force unit. The 131st Field Artillery, 2nd Battalion arrived on January 11, 1942, the same day the Japanese began invading the Dutch islands.]

O'er the Sea
December 26, 1941

Dear Mother,

Due to our rigid censorship, I'm only able to write that I it safely across and am being well taken care of. Whenever they give permission, I'll write you where I am and all the details of the crossing.

I do hope the two -----shortly after I left the States. But I've received no other mail since before I left ----- suppose it will eventually catch up with us.

I'm asking you not to worry about things. I feel sure it'll be over soon, and I will come back home safely. Now don't fail to write often. I'm as anxious to hear from home. Use the same address: -----.