

**1945 May 14-20**

## **Martha Bullert, Guest of the Emperor**



Martha Bullert

*(La Crosse Tribune, 1945 May 15, page 4)*

It is a shame that **Martha Bullert of La Crosse** never wrote an autobiography. This single woman--scholar, educator, a survivor of a Japanese internment camp--had many tales to tell about her extraordinary life of adventure and world travel. Her three years as a "guest" of the emperor of Japan were just one chapter. She combined the wanderlust of the fictional Indiana Jones with the eloquence of the real Martin Luther King Jr.

At the beginning of World War II, there were foreign nationals living in countries around the world conducting business, exploring, going to school, visiting, preaching, and any of a multitude of other things.

Usually there are some warning signs that a war is about to occur. There may be tensions between countries, an incident that sparks saber-rattling, or rumors of impending invasion or attack.

An exodus of civilians and government dependents is often a precaution in case war breaks out. But some choose not to leave for a variety of reasons, and some who want to leave are unable to for a variety of reasons.

What happens when a war does break out, and there are civilians in the way? If they are fortunate enough not to be killed in the initial combat, the conquering force may *intern* them. Internment is confinement until the war is over. It is a state of limbo in which the interned people survive as best they can under the control of another country in that country, or in a conquered territory, and hope that they can return to their homeland after the war. They are not prisoners of war, but they also are not free to come and go as they please because their captors fear they would provide intelligence to the enemy or even commit sabotage.

Where one was interned and by whom during World War II had a large impact on the conditions they lived under.

Thousands of civilians were interned (those imprisoned were a different category) by the Germans in European countries. Despite the lack of freedom, living conditions were bearable and certainly better than those of prisoners of war.

Being interned by the Japanese was a more challenging and potentially dangerous situation, although still better than the Japanese treatment of prisoners of war. About 12,100 American were interned by Japan during the war:

- China = 6,000
- Philippines = 5,000
- Japan = 1,100

In addition, there were 8,000 British and British Commonwealth internees, primarily in China, Hong Kong, and Singapore. Those interned in China had it better because they were under the control of the Japanese Consul General, rather than the Japanese military.<sup>1</sup>

One of those interned by the Japanese military in the Philippines was Martha Bullert of La Crosse.<sup>2</sup>

Martha Bullert was born on February 11, 1909, in St. Paul, Minnesota. She was the fourth adopted child, and the only girl, of a farm couple named John and Ernestine (Rucks) Bullert. Martha Bullert graduated from Arlington (MN) High School. Her adoptive parents died within the next few years; her father in 1929, and her mother in 1935.<sup>3</sup>

In 1927, Bullert came to La Crosse to attend the La Crosse State Teachers College. She earned her bachelor's degree in physical education in 1931.<sup>4</sup>

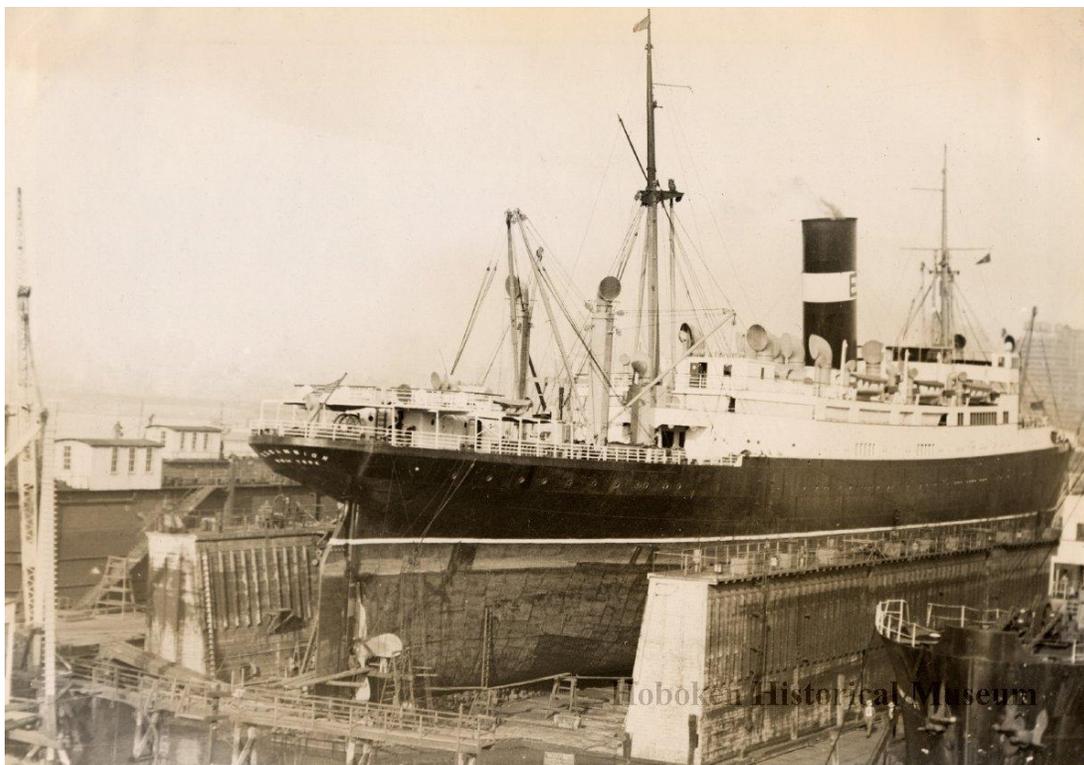
Her first job was with the [Y.W.C.A.](#) in La Crosse as the industrial secretary.<sup>5</sup> As the recreational leader for business and industrial groups at the Y.W. C.A., she directed basketball, volleyball, gymnastics, indoor tennis, and baseball programs.<sup>6</sup>



(*La Crosse Tribune*, 1931 December 20, page 2)

After two years at the Y.W.C.A., Bullert left La Crosse for New York City to attend [Columbia University](#). She majored in administration and biological science and minored in English. Bullert earned a Master of Arts degree from Columbia and started studying for a doctorate.<sup>7</sup>

In 1938, Martha Bullert left the United States to be a teacher in Iran.<sup>8</sup> She sailed from New York City on the [S. S. Excambion](#) on October 25. After crossing the Atlantic Ocean, the ship sailed through the Mediterranean Sea with stops at Marseilles, France; Naples, Italy; and other stops in Italy before arriving in Alexandria, Egypt. By early December 1938, Bullert had arrived in Resht, Iran. She was to be a teacher in the American school there for five years.<sup>9</sup>



*S. S. Excambion* in a Hoboken, New Jersey dry dock (1932-1939 ca.)  
(Hoboken Historical Museum)

Her school in Iran was operated by the Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions. Bullert's stay in Iran was cut short, however, when an unfriendly Iranian government took over the schools and forced foreign teachers to leave.<sup>10</sup>

The Presbyterian Board directed her to a position in China, but that did not work out because of the war. In a letter to Mrs. Frank H. Burgess dated February 24, 1941, Bullert described her circuitous journey that ended in the Philippines.

I was transferred to China but by the time I was on my way it was impossible to locate there. I left Resht [Iran] Aug. 1, 1940, and had four months of hair-raising travel through Baluchistan [province in Pakistan], India, Ceylon, the Malay Straits, Java and Bali, then back to Singapore and finally I landed in the Philippines in time to hang up my Christmas stocking. I was on a Dutch freighter that sailed around all the torpedoes and submarines and stopped every place there was or had been a port. In Java the boat went into dry-dock for repairs so I took a week's trip to Bali, a most interesting place. I spent a month and a half in India and saw everything. Since I could not get into China I was 'loaned' to the Philippines and here I am, enjoying it.<sup>11</sup>

Bullert joined the faculty of [Silliman University](#) at Dumaguete in the Philippines.<sup>12</sup>

The Japanese attacks on Pearl Harbor and the Philippines would soon end her enjoyment. Bullert sent a [radiogram](#) to Gabriella Brendemuhl, a teacher at the La Crosse State Teachers College, in the middle of

December 1941 that read: "Safe, yet duties manifold. Christmas love and New Year peace to all. Inform friends."<sup>13</sup>

Like everyone else in the Philippines, Bullert and her students were caught up in the war. The university had 500 male students enrolled in the [Reserve Officer Training Corps](#) (ROTC) program. Within two weeks of December 7, 1941, all but six of them had been killed. The rest of the 1,700 students at the university were either in military training or other war activities. A group of American women, including Bullert, helped dry butchered beef on a coconut plantation to feed the American and Filipino defenders of the island of Corregidor. When the Japanese closed in, Bullert was with a group of people who fled to the hills and lived in the jungle for a time before being captured by the Japanese.<sup>14</sup>

Thus began three years of captivity in Japanese internment camps for Martha Bullert. First they were taken back to Dumaguete to live on the university grounds.<sup>15</sup> In her four months at Dumaguete, Bullert was the chief cook. She was a cook again at Bacolod for her seven months there.<sup>16</sup> Both Dumaguete and Bacolod were on the island of Negros in the Philippines. The Bacolod camp was established in the Bacolod North Elementary School in Bacolod City on June 5, 1942.<sup>17</sup>

The Japanese decided to consolidate smaller camps in larger ones. [Santo Tomas University](#) was in downtown Manila, and it had been converted into an internment camp holding more than 4,000 civilian internees.<sup>18</sup> Martha Bullert was among a group of internees who arrived there on about March 10, 1943. At Santo Toma, she cared for a boy whose mother died when he was just one year old.<sup>19</sup> That boy was Robert Douglas White, the son of Max Douglas White (1905-1978). Bullert also resumed cooking duties here.<sup>20</sup>

Besides the lack of freedom, those in the camp suffered from overcrowding, a lack of privacy, malnutrition, and disease. There were also rumors that the Japanese would execute all prisoners if American forces got too close.

Conditions got worse as the war went on. The internees were allowed to conduct classes for the first two years in the camp. Early on children through the age of 19 were allowed three small meals a day, and adults could have two. When food rationing was later instituted, everyone over 10 years old had just two meals a day.<sup>21</sup>



Shanties in the courtyard of Santo Tomas for the overflow of internees  
(National Archives)



Hair washing at Santo Tomas  
(West-Point.org)

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## U. S. TROOPS ENTER MANILA, RESCUE 3,000 WAR CAPTIVES

# Yanks Fight Into Heart of Capital Of Philippines

## Hard-Hitting 1st Cavalry Spearheads March Into Manila; Santo Tomas Prison Camp Quickly Captured

By C. YATES M'DANIEL

General MacArthur's Headquarters, Luzon, Monday, Feb. 5 (P)—American troops reached the heart of Manila yesterday and raised the Stars and Stripes over the great Philippine capital for the first time in more than three years.

Gen. Douglas MacArthur was denied the satisfaction of entering the capital immediately. A dynamited bridge on the northern outskirts forced the leader of the liberation troops to turn back and find another route into the city.

Yanks of the hard-hitting First Cavalry Division, in a wide encircling move by dark, entered the city Saturday night against harassing sniper fire and quickly captured Malacanan Palace and the large Santo Tomas concentration camp where thousands of Americans and British civilians may be interned.

Associated Press Correspondent Russell Brines, with the First Cavalry, said 3,000 Santo Tomas internes were liberated. They were mostly American women and children interned there since April 1, 1942. Brines said "room by room" fighting occurred within the former university.

(The Wilkes-Barre Record, Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, 1945 February 5, page 1)

When American troops landed in the Philippines, General Douglas McArthur made it a priority to rescue internees and prisoners of war. Internment camps at [Bilibid](#), [Cabanatuan](#), Santo Tomas, and [Los Banos](#) were all liberated within the span of a month in late January and early February 1945.<sup>22</sup>

McArthur ordered the 1st Cavalry Division to liberate Santo Tomas. Three columns of American troops, supported by a tank battalion and Marine Corps fighter planes, set out just after midnight on February 1, 1945. They covered 100 miles in 66 hours, fighting their way through Japanese roadblocks and the streets of Manila, to reach the Santo Tomas camp late in the day on February 3rd. The dramatic thrust climaxed when a Sherman tank broke through the gate of Santo Tomas. The 1st Cavalry set up artillery inside the camp to deter Japanese counterattacks. Seventeen internees and several American soldiers were killed in the resulting artillery duels that last several days. A couple of starving internees also ate themselves to death. The rest of the 3,700 civilians were finally free.<sup>23</sup>

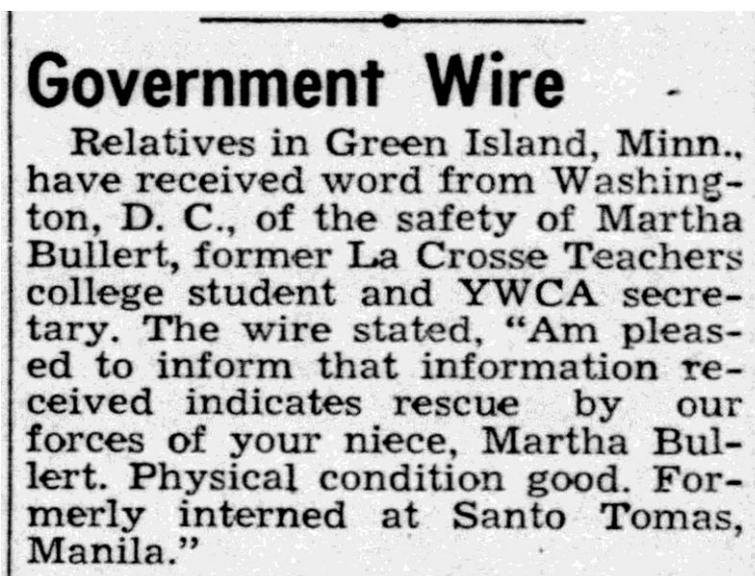


1st Cavalry Division insignia  
(U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command)



Two American civilians, Lee Rogers and John C. Todd, photographed by Carl Mydans after their release  
(Prisonphotography.org)

The news that Santo Tomas had been liberated raised the hopes of Martha Bullert's friends in La Crosse. The Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions in New York had learned that Bullert's name was listed with those in the prison; they assumed she was now safe.<sup>24</sup> The United States government made it official.



(*La Crosse Tribune*, 1945 February 23, page 4)

While she was still in the Philippines after being freed, Bullert wrote a letter to her friend, Miss Orrie M. Bigham of 116 South 17th Street. Bullert wrote:

. . . I can but say that that loneliness was not my lot, fear was ever distant and hope was fervent and undaunted. Life's experiences . . . have been not only exciting, interesting, harassing, perilous and full of those things which make gray hair white but also conducive to maturity and mellowness. Some of my earlier experiences and travels I long to share with you . . . The days of these last 37 months, however, I shall hold as my own--wishing them onto no one, for they are incomprehensible to anyone who was not among us. From them gleam a spiritual growth, happy that they too were my lot, glad for the strength given me by the Power Almighty to keep one hand close to the soil and the other reaching for the stars. On the upper tower of Santo Tomas is a symbol known to all Christianity--a cross. It is here that I have seen bayonets reaching upward, but the cross was ever higher. I shall never speak again of this experience. My memory will dim all but the bayonets below the cross. Herewith closes a chapter.

She added that she weighed 113 pounds, but her health was good.<sup>25</sup>

On April 10, 1945, Martha Bullert boarded the naval transport ship *S. S. Admiral E. W. Eberle* with other freed internees and prisoners of war for a trip back to the United States. It docked at San Pedro, California on May 2, 1945.<sup>26</sup> After seven years of traveling and living in foreign lands, 36-year-old Martha Bullert was back in the United States.

Despite what she wrote in her March letter about never speaking about her internment experience again, Bullert was interviewed by the *La Crosse Tribune* and spoke at a Y.M.C.A. function in May 1945.

## Imprisonment By Japanese Adventure Not To Be Missed As Martha Bullert Tells It

"I wouldn't have missed a day of it!"

With American spunk like that to deal with, it's no wonder the Japs can't get the Americans down. Martha Bullert, Teachers college graduate and former YWCA staff member here, is home from just exactly three years of imprisonment in the Philippines—showing a bayonet wound in her arm, definitely lighter in weight, but with a close-up story of the Pacific war that should be in the history books. And she wouldn't be home if the Americans were 14 hours late in delivering, Santo Tomas. The execution hour was set.

Why the bayonet wound? She didn't move fast enough to suit a Jap guard. "They treated us like children. We had to line up for roll call every afternoon and if we didn't bow just exactly right we got a slap or a poke with a bayonet."

Her story of prison days is only rivalled by the miracle of delivery from Santo Tomas. She knows plenty about Japanese prisons because she was in three of them—first at Dumaguete, then at Bacolod and finally at the famous Manila camp.

Miss Bullert just happened in on the war it seems. When she left La Crosse Oct. 25, 1938, it was to go to New York and prepare a year for Presbyterian mission work. She was assigned first to Iran and later transferred to Silliman university in Dumaguete, Negros island, P. I.

"We took to the hills in January, 1942, when we heard the Japs were coming. Manila had fallen. We took unhusked rice with us, built our own huts of bark and palm leaves, cooked with wood, planted gardens and existed the best we could. I was one of 23 Americans. When the Japs captured us we had to come back to Dumaguete and we were imprisoned in the houses. Three of us were put in the house we lived in when we were teaching. But it had been stripped of every furnishing and we had to bring in boxes. Then the Red Cross sent in some cots."

### Natives Aided Them

It was then that the Americans really began to know the high-mindedness of the Filipinos, according to Miss Bullert. An underground developed. "Filipinos would pass on the road, whistle and drop chickens and other foods and we could go out and get it after they had passed. Filipino banana sellers would come to the door. We would buy and when we got our change we'd find we had more money than before we bought."

It was by friendly trickeries such as this that the prisoners managed to exist at all, for the Japanese furnished the prisoners

no food. After seven weeks of imprisonment in Dumaguete the prisoners were taken to Bacolod. There Martha was chief cook. "It was loads of fun. The newspaper stories you read about the Pacific war are all correct, but they don't tell the fun. At Bacolod it was like running a home for a big family and living on a shoe string. Everything was divided and all food and money the prisoners had were pooled."

### Aie Wormy Potatoes

Then, in the Japs' scheme of concentrating prisoners in larger and larger camps, the Bacolod camp was moved to Santo Tomas and it was here that the La Crosse woman spent the longest time. "Food? Well, it's surprising how



—Tribune Photo

Martha Bullert, released Santo Tomas war prisoner, arrived back in La Crosse Monday night after seven years of adventures that would fill half a dozen books. She is the house guest of Misses Gabrielle and Cornelia Brandemuehl, 2516 Edgewood place.

good worms taste. When some Jap officers were leaving they threw some wormy sweet potatoes to us and we ate them, skins and all. Outside of that, we had the peeling, stem and root of the banana plant, the leaves of hibiscus trees and any other green we could get. The banana peelings were mixed with the 200 grams of ground corn rationed daily to each prisoner. The peelings gave no food but they made bulk. Some of the old men couldn't take this nor the greens and they got beri beri and pellagra. Some men gained 10 pounds in three days because of water in the tissues. Many died even after we were liberated."

And when liberation finally came the prisoners were so surprised they didn't know what the big Texan was talking about when he said "You're free people." Everybody was blank. Were these really Americans? "It was an American tank all right that pushed through the gates at 7:30 that night and kept its lights on to spot any fleeing Japs. They got a Jap lieutenant right near the front door but the commandant and a few aides got away."

### Men Rejoiced Too

It was a time for merrymaking on both sides, as Miss Bullert tells the story. "The American boys were so used to seeing fuzzy-wuzzy black women that they couldn't believe their eyes when they saw white women once more. It's funny how you like to talk to someone who's your own. We sat in fox holes with the boys talking to them during the Jap shelling for 10 days after the liberation. When MacArthur came and Old Glory went up—well there never was any crying in prison days, but when they saw the flag both men and women wept openly."

What does Miss Bullert want to do now? "I want to forget it all—until I lose the bitterness. But I will always keep the friendships I made in prison days. When you suffer like that with someone, you're friends for keeps."

## Released Jap Prisoner Talks To Round Table

No words can describe the thrill of stepping off the gangplank and being home in the United States again. Martha Bullert told members of the Round Table club Friday night at a YWCA dinner. Miss Bullert, a former member of the club, was among some 3,700 liberated Americans returning this spring from Jap prison camps in the Philippines and she arrived in La Crosse May 14.

In a talk lasting more than three hours she took her hearers back over the trails she followed around the world — by train, steamer, camel caravan, army truck, bus, plane and lighter, the last a small ocean-going craft used in the south seas.

She did not spare her audience the facts, even though they made clear the suffering and degradation many of the internees had to endure at the hands of the insufferable Japs. Neither did she add undue glamor to the scenic wonders of the places she visited.

The former La Crosse girl told how the beautiful campus of Silliman university in Dumaguete, Negros island, where she taught, was dug up to give room for raising vegetables, and how every leaf was used for food, how even hungry dogs and cats, too, finally disappeared. She related how friendly students from the university disguised in ragged clothes smuggled in portions of food.

Miss Bullert described the Japs as wild dogs, "not so bad when left alone and not molested, but ruthless savages when cornered." She told of the first Christmas in prison when the few toys the children had were mended and adult's clothing was cut down for the children to wear. And she conveyed some of the joy of deliverance.

"When the first American planes flew over we counted 80. Then the Japs told us any caught looking at the sky would be punished. Any caught was taken outside the camp, and, with a Jap standing guard, was made to stand and look at the sun for hours. Two who did this were carried back and thrown inside the gate, too exhausted to stand, their eyesight ruined."

It was not hard for the healthy ones to readjust themselves, she concluded, but many things had been denied the children, who now have come into a strange new world where everything is different and they have much to unlearn.

Club members and guests of the evening were Mmes. W. G. Wendt, Walter Smart, L. M. Hetland, A. W. Fitzpatrick, Harry Woods, A. J. Nelson, W. E. Schlicht, R. R. Brabant, Gladys Lubke, A. W. Rice, Dorothy Genz, L. H. Pynn, Eldridge Maxwell, Gertrude Bahwell, Ray Pfafflin, Aletta M. Wojahn, Elizabeth Lenz and Beatrice Ray, Misses Mary S. Martin, Marian L. Simonson, Gladys Grube, Vivian M. Beardsmore, Kathryn Matiak, Minnadell Berry, Lois Woods, Shirley Nelson, Ruth Skailand, Bess Grube, Gretchen Schwarz, Blanche Shonat, Marie Bauer, Ann Harmacek, Lucille Albrecht, Laurel Opheim, Charlotte Begun, Adele Wallin, Jennie Hodge, Elsie Engelke, Adelheide Holter, Bernadette Heymann, Helen Strand and Phyllis McCallum.

(La Crosse Tribune, 1945 May 28, page 3)

Bullert spent much of the rest of 1945 visiting friends and relatives and lecturing in Wisconsin and Minnesota.<sup>27</sup>

She returned to La Crosse and started living with Miss Jessie Caldwell at 113 North 22nd Street in January 1946.<sup>28</sup>

In the fall of 1946, she joined the biology department at the La Crosse State Teachers College. Bullert was involved in promoting international study. She was also a member of the La Crosse County Community Council, the American Association of University Women, the Business and Professional Women's Club, Delta Kappa Gamma, the YWCA board, La Crosse Education Association, La Crosse Safety Council, the American Association of University Professors, the National Education Association, and the Wisconsin Education Association.<sup>29</sup>

During this time, she was also a frequent speaker at schools, civic organizations, and other events where she shared experiences from her travels. Bullert frequently spoke about life and customs in Iran and the Philippines.<sup>30</sup> She talked about her time in the internment camp, once saying: "To most, it was an acid test of faith--to some it was death--to all it was the loss of material possessions, hunger, torture and suffering. But it had its pleasantries to remember." Bullert remembered the sacrifice of the men lost to win the war, and she urged her audiences to help win the peace. "We must respect traditions--we must strive for stability, love courage, keep faith. If each of us touches one soul, and that soul in turn touches another, we will have a link around the world."<sup>31</sup> She championed the home, church, and school as the vital components of every community. Bullert said, "Brotherhood used to mean an ideal. Now it means a condition of survival for all civilization." Bullert recognized the increasing role of the United States in the world after World War II, and she championed world brotherhood. She intoned, " And let us judge our foreign neighbors not by the color of their skin but by the beat of their hearts. Let us use understanding as our guns, tolerance as our bayonets."<sup>32</sup>

Bullert's interest in the world made her leave La Crosse on June 10, 1949 for Europe. After visiting friends in New Jersey and New York, she boarded a flight from New York to Brussels, Belgium. She spent the next three weeks traveling through Europe. Then Bullert attended a three-week summer school session at the [University of Utrecht](#) in the Netherlands. In September 1949, she started working on a doctorate at the [University of Zurich](#) in Switzerland.<sup>33</sup>

## Europe



Europe  
(Mapland.com)

In a letter from Geneva, Switzerland, Bullert wrote that Europe was still suffering the after-effects of World War II. Basic necessities, as well as luxuries, that Americans took for granted were still being rationed. Thousands of homeless displaced persons were waiting for a chance to return to their former homes or start a new life in another country overseas. The Europe she observed was a place where, "The closeness of boundaries and traditions gives one a feeling of living in many worlds, rather than one world. Differences are vast, unrest and hatred are deep in men's hearts in this war-torn world."<sup>34</sup>

Bullert majored in international relations at the University of Zurich, and her sojourn in Europe was a practical immersion in it. She had tea with Queen Julianna of The Netherlands at a YWCA event in the Netherlands, as well as visiting other people in the Netherlands where she celebrated Christmas. She witnessed Indonesian students celebrating the end of 350 years of colonial rule by the Dutch. Her exposure to post-war Europe strengthened her views on internationalism. "The responsibilities to heal mental wounds of men, to reconstruct material losses and to build a world of peace and security go beyond the bounds of a home and a city. They reach across borders of nations and across oceans."<sup>35</sup>

It was late 1951 when Bullert returned to La Crosse.<sup>36</sup> She was again a sought-after speaker on the lecture circuit for her views on international relations and her travels.<sup>37</sup>

Bullert spent two years working on her doctorate degree in Geneva, Switzerland.<sup>38</sup> It appears that she did not complete her Ph.D.<sup>39</sup>

In 1952, Bullert left La Crosse to take a job working for the United States Army at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri. She was the director of the Edwards Service Club at Fort Leonard Wood until her retirement 20 years later. In 1968, she and her long-time friend, Martha Hoffman, bought a home in Waynesville, Missouri.<sup>40</sup> Even though she lived in Missouri for the rest of her life, Bullert considered La Crosse to be her home. She would visit Jessie Caldwell at 113 North 22nd Street several times a year and spend every Christmas with her former housemate.<sup>41</sup>

At that time, [Fort Leonard Wood](#) consisted of 93,000 acres and a population of 50,000 troops. Her job at the service club was to provide "a homelike atmosphere and recreation, warmth and coziness," according to a letter to friends. They had a variety of recreational facilities, entertainment, and snacks when the budget allowed it. She said she felt mother-like in her relations with the troops. She wrote in 1954, "We have lots of La Crosse men here at present and somehow when I spot them there is a special place for them in my heart!" On a trip back to La Crosse in October 1954, Bullert was given two birch logs at the Bill Hauser farm in Sand Lake Coulee. Friends helped her gather fallen pine cones at the North Bend (Jackson County) Cemetery. The logs and pine cones were turned into yule logs for Christmas at the service club by Pvt. Donald J. Van Loon of Onalaska, Pvt. Charles Huber of La Crosse, Pvt. Jerry Schuttenhelm of La Crosse, and Pvt. Arthur C. Mahlum of Holmen.<sup>42</sup>

Bullert was active in many community activities while living in Missouri. She continued her lecturing and traveling. At home she was a gardener and made handicrafts.<sup>43</sup> An example of her craft creations were Christmas crib figurines made from her own molds. She gave sets to friends in La Crosse, and she also donated a set to Stoffel Hall.<sup>44</sup>

A rich and eventful life ended on December 4, 1996, when Martha Bullert died in her home at Waynesville, Missouri. She was 87 years old. In her last act of caring and service, she willed her body to the Washington University and Barnes Hospital in St. Louis for transplants and study.<sup>45</sup>



Martha Bullert  
(Courtesy of J. Lee, Find A Grave.com)

In one of her speeches, Martha Bullert said, "You can't comprehend freedom until you have lost it. Strive to make our flag mean all that it should mean to the whole world. As long as men stop to ask themselves, 'Am I my brother's keeper?' there will be strife and war. When they have learned to say, 'I am my brother's brother,' there will be peace."<sup>46</sup>

Sadly, mankind seems no closer to that ideal than it was when Martha Bullert said those words 72 years ago.

Jeff Rand  
Adult Services Librarian  
La Crosse Public Library  
jrand@lacrosselibrary.org

#### Sources & Notes:

<sup>1</sup> Jonathan F. Vance, ed. *Encyclopedia of Prisoners of War and Internment* (Santa Barbara, California: ABC-CLIO, 2000), 51.

<sup>2</sup> A previous article in this series told the story of Leonard Nichols of La Crosse, who was also interned in the Philippines.

<sup>3</sup> J. Lee, "Memorial Page for Martha Bullert (11 February 1909-4 December 1996), *Find A Grave*, accessed 2020 May 22, <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/181748162/martha-bullert>.

<sup>4</sup> "Two Teachers College faculty members," *La Crosse Tribune*, La Crosse, Wisconsin, 1949 June 12, page 10.

<sup>5</sup> *La Crosse Tribune*, 1949 June 12.

<sup>6</sup> "Martha Bullert is New Recreational Leader at 'Y,'" *La Crosse Tribune*, La Crosse, Wisconsin, 1931 February 8, page 5.

<sup>7</sup> *La Crosse Tribune*, 1949 June 12.

<sup>8</sup> "Martha Bullert Is Honor Guest At Events Here," *La Crosse Tribune*, La Crosse, Wisconsin, 1938 October 10, page 4.

- <sup>9</sup> "La Crosse Teacher Reaches Resht, Iran To Take Up Duties," *La Crosse Tribune*, La Crosse, Wisconsin, 1939 January 12, page 8.
- <sup>10</sup> "Martha Bullert, In Philippines, Wires Friends Telling Of Safety," *La Crosse Tribune*, La Crosse, Wisconsin, 1941 December 19, page 7.
- <sup>11</sup> *La Crosse Tribune*, 1941 December 19.
- <sup>12</sup> "In Philippines," *La Crosse Tribune*, La Crosse, Wisconsin, 1941 December 24, page 4.
- <sup>13</sup> *La Crosse Tribune*, 1941 December 19.
- <sup>14</sup> "Teacher Tells Of Experiences Following Pearl Harbor Day," *La Crosse Tribune*, La Crosse, Wisconsin, 1948 December 13, page 3.
- <sup>15</sup> "Imprisonment By Japanese Adventure Not To Be Missed As Martha Bullert Tells It," *La Crosse Tribune*, La Crosse, Wisconsin, 1945 May 15, page 4.
- <sup>16</sup> "Martha Bullert Writes First Letter After Being Freed," *La Crosse Tribune*, La Crosse, Wisconsin, 1945 March 1, page 12. In her letter, Bullert spells Bacolod as Bucolad. Her length of time at the Bacolod and Dumaguette camps is quoted from her letter. A later article in the *La Crosse Tribune* (1945 May 15) states that Bullert was confined at Dumaguette for seven weeks.
- <sup>17</sup> J. Lee, *Find A Grave*.
- <sup>18</sup> "Scenes From Hell: Marie Adams-Internment of American Civilians in the Philippines, 1945," *National Archives*, accessed 2020 May 23, <https://www.archives.gov/exhibits/eyewitness/html.php?section=6>.
- <sup>19</sup> *La Crosse Tribune*, 1945 March 1.
- <sup>20</sup> J. Lee, *Find A Grave*. Robert White wrote that he had "little or no personal memories of the camp . . ."
- <sup>21</sup> "Central High School Students Hear Talk By Martha Bullert," *La Crosse Tribune*, La Crosse, Wisconsin, 1947 October 16, page 2.
- <sup>22</sup> Peter R. Wygle, "Santo Tomas Raid," *1st Cavalry Division Association*, accessed 2020 May 23, <https://1cda.org/history/santo-tomas-raid/>.
- <sup>23</sup> Wygle, *1st Cavalry Division Association*.
- <sup>24</sup> "Martha Bullert Believed Safe," *La Crosse Tribune*, La Crosse, Wisconsin, 1945 February 18, page 4.
- <sup>25</sup> *La Crosse Tribune*, 1945 March 1.
- <sup>26</sup> J. Lee, *Find A Grave*.
- <sup>27</sup> *La Crosse Tribune*, 1949 June 12.
- <sup>28</sup> *La Crosse Tribune*, 1949 June 12.
- <sup>29</sup> *La Crosse Tribune*, 1949 June 12.
- <sup>30</sup> "Iran Women's Struggle Told YWCA Club," *La Crosse Tribune*, La Crosse, Wisconsin, 1947 January 23, page 16. Also: "Teacher Tells Of Experiences Following Pearl Harbor Day," *La Crosse Tribune*, La Crosse, Wisconsin, 1948 December 13, page 3.
- <sup>31</sup> "Thoughts In Men's Hearts Will Determine World Peace Prospects, Traveler's Opinion," *La Crosse Tribune*, La Crosse, Wisconsin, 1946 March 3, page 10.
- <sup>32</sup> "'Spiritual Living' Called Day's Need In Both Nation And World," *La Crosse Tribune*, La Crosse, Wisconsin, 1947 April 13, page 8.
- <sup>33</sup> *La Crosse Tribune*, 1949 June 12.
- <sup>34</sup> "Martha Bullert Writes Of Study In University of Geneva," *La Crosse Tribune*, La Crosse, Wisconsin, 1949 September 11, page 11.
- <sup>35</sup> "Passing Parade Of Varied Experiences Leaves Mark On Ex-City Tutor In Tour Through Europe," *La Crosse Tribune*, La Crosse, Wisconsin, 1950 February 6, page 5.
- <sup>36</sup> "Public Schools Observe Week," *La Crosse Tribune*, La Crosse, Wisconsin, 1951 November 13, page 14.
- <sup>37</sup> "Martha Bullert Community Council April Speaker," *La Crosse Tribune*, La Crosse, Wisconsin, 1952 March 30, page 11. Also: "Vernon County Teachers Set Westby Event," *La Crosse Tribune*, La Crosse, Wisconsin, 1952 March 30, page 16.
- <sup>38</sup> "Traveler Views Unrest In Asia," *La Crosse Tribune*, La Crosse, Wisconsin, 1952 July 2, page 16.
- <sup>39</sup> J. Lee, *Find A Grave*.
- <sup>40</sup> J. Lee, *Find A Grave*.
- <sup>41</sup> "Christmas Crib Ceramics Her Own Handwork," *La Crosse Tribune*, La Crosse, Wisconsin, 1965 January 3, page 9.

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<sup>42</sup> "Martha Bullert Director Of Missouri Service Club," *La Crosse Tribune*, La Crosse, Wisconsin, 1954 December 13, page 13.

<sup>43</sup> J. Lee, *Find A Grave*.

<sup>44</sup> *La Crosse Tribune*, 1965 January 3.

<sup>45</sup> J. Lee, *Find A Grave*.

<sup>46</sup> *La Crosse Tribune*, 1948 December 13.