

Honoring a Veteran for Memorial Day



Howard Raymond Williams

born 17 Jan 1917

Daykin, Jefferson County,
Nebraska

Registering for the Draft



On September 16, 1940, the United States instituted the Selective Training and Service Act of 1940, which required all men between the ages of 21 and 45 to register for the draft. This was the first peacetime draft in United States' history. Those who were selected from the draft lottery were required to serve at least one year in the armed forces. Once the U.S. entered WWII, draft terms extended through the duration of the fighting.

Registration Card

29

SERIAL NUMBER 2524	1. NAME (Print) Howard Raymond Williams <small>(First) (Middle) (Last)</small>	ORDER NUMBER 29
2. ADDRESS (Print) Kimberly Twin Falls - Idaho <small>(Number and street or R. F. D. number) (Town) (County) (State)</small>		
3. TELEPHONE none	4. AGE IN YEARS 23 <small>DATE OF BIRTH (Mo.) (Day) (Yr.)</small>	5. PLACE OF BIRTH Dayton Nebraska <small>(Town or county) (State or country)</small>
6. COUNTRY OF CITIZENSHIP U.S.		8. RELATIONSHIP OF THAT PERSON Brother
7. NAME OF PERSON WHO WILL ALWAYS KNOW YOUR ADDRESS Mr. Harold Wayne Williams <small>(Mr., Mrs., Miss) (First) (Middle) (Last)</small>		
9. ADDRESS OF THAT PERSON Twin Falls - Idaho <small>(Number and street or R. F. D. number) (Town) (County) (State)</small>		
10. EMPLOYER'S NAME Transient labor		
11. PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT OR BUSINESS Kimberly, Twin Falls - Idaho <small>(Number and street or R. F. D. number) (Town) (County) (State)</small>		

I AFFIRM THAT I HAVE VERIFIED ABOVE ANSWERS AND THAT THEY ARE TRUE.

REGISTRATION CARD
D. S. S. Form 1 (over) 16-17105

Howard Williams
(Registrant's signature)

REGISTRAR'S REPORT

DESCRIPTION OF REGISTRANT					
RACE	HEIGHT (Approx.)	WEIGHT (Approx.)	COMPLEXION		
White <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	6'	180	Sallow		
	EYES	HAIR	Light	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Negro	Blue <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Blonde	Ruddy		
	Gray	Red	Dark		
Oriental	Hazel	Brown <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Freckled		
	Brown	Black	Light brown		
Indian	Black	Gray	Dark brown		
		Bald	Black		
Filipino					

Other obvious physical characteristics that will aid in identification:
Scar on right side of neck.

I certify that my answers are true; that the person registered has read or has had read to him his own answers; that I have witnessed his signature or mark and that all of his answers of which I have knowledge are true, except as follows:

Registrar for **W. Dorothy Mendenhall**
(Signature of registrar)
Kimberly Idaho
(District) (Ward) (City or county) (State)

Date of registration **Oct 16 - 1940**

LOCAL BOARD No. 1
Twin Falls County
Twin Falls, Idaho
(STAMP OF LOCAL BOARD)

(The stamp of the Local Board having jurisdiction of the registrant shall be placed in the above space.)

Arrival in Salt Lake City, UT for Induction



PHOTOGRAPHED the they boarded the train last night for Salt Lake City is Twin Falls area No. 1's fourth contribution to the United States draft army. Members of the contingent received final orders during a brief ceremony yesterday afternoon, and arrive in Salt Lake City this morning for first induction activities. Appearing, left to right, are: Gene Shirley, named leader of the group, Floyd Smith, Alvie Knight, assistant leader; Albert Barnhill, Joseph J. Froelich, jr., Ross Hachiya, Irvin Christian, Wendell Eller, Clarence Haugsdal, Clifford Clements, Lloyd T. Smith, Roland Kruckenbetz, Howard R. Williams and Robert C. Lechliter. (News Photo and Engraving).

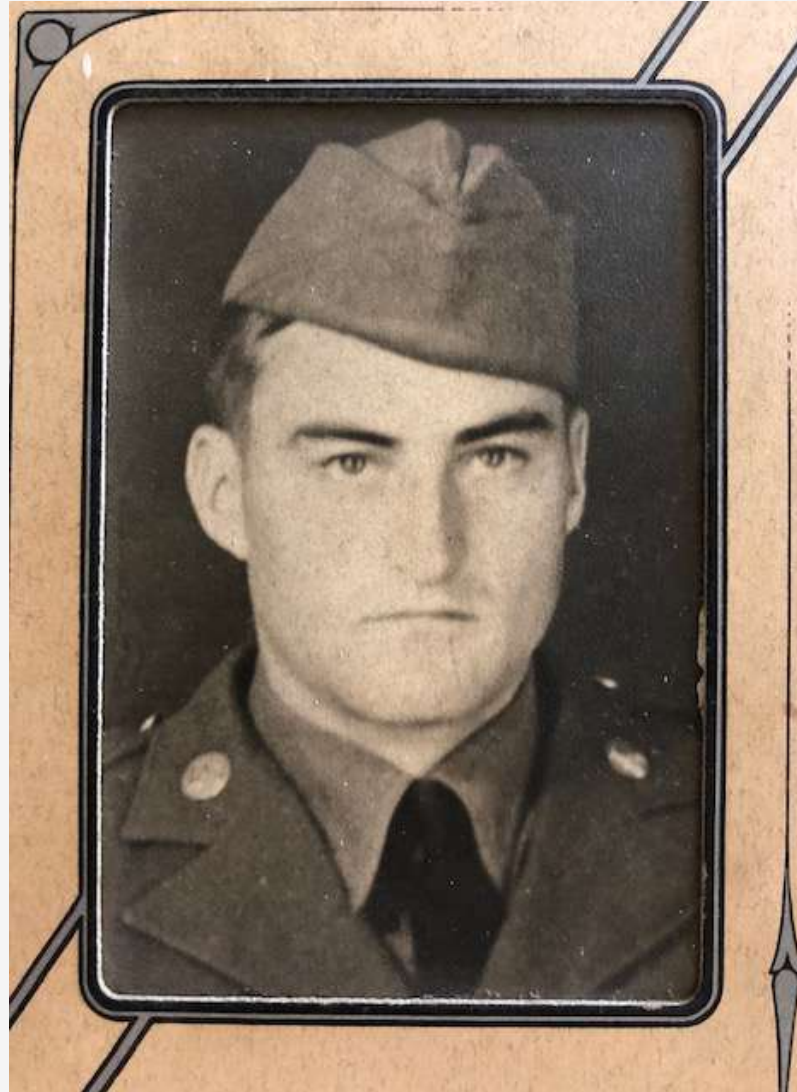
Twin Falls News

Twin Falls, ID

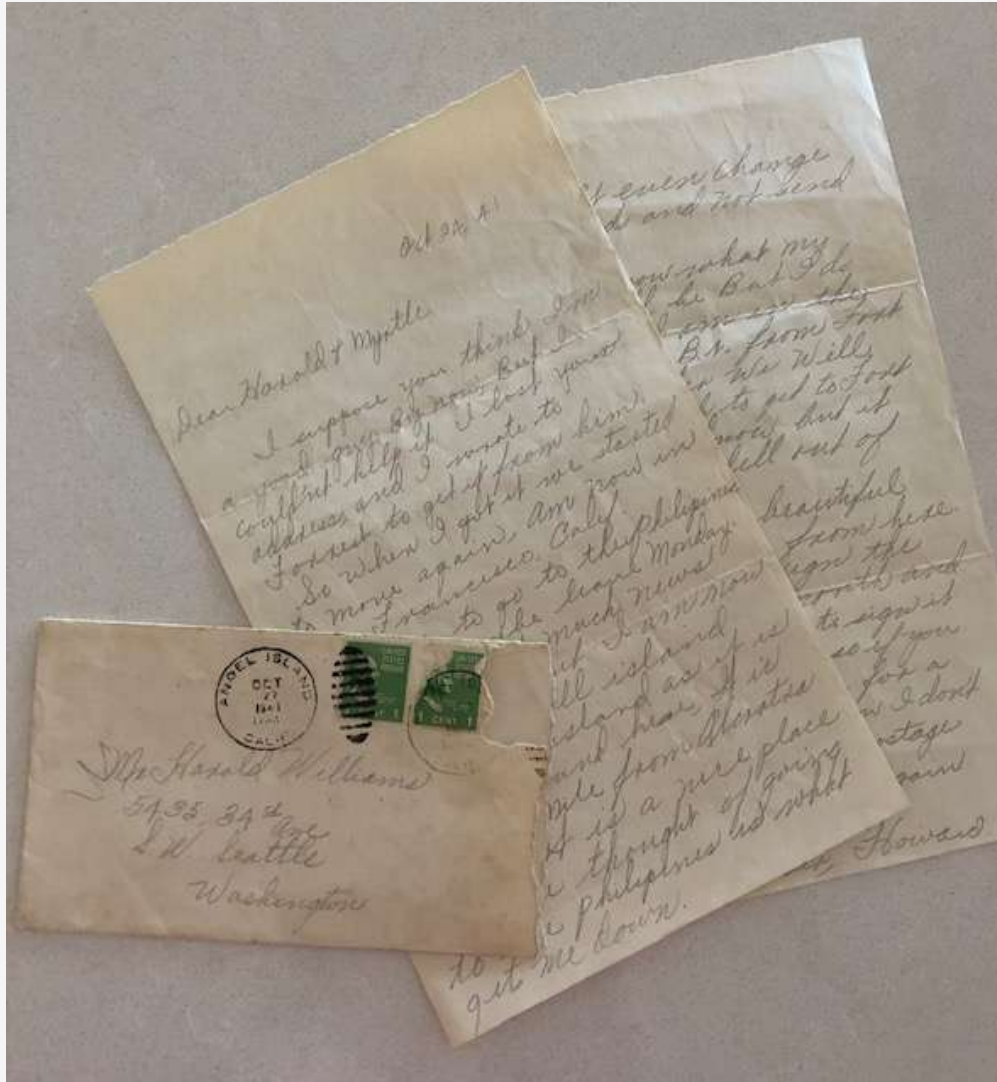
21 Mar 1941

Howard is second
from right

Pfc. Howard R. Williams



Letter from Howard 24 Oct 1941

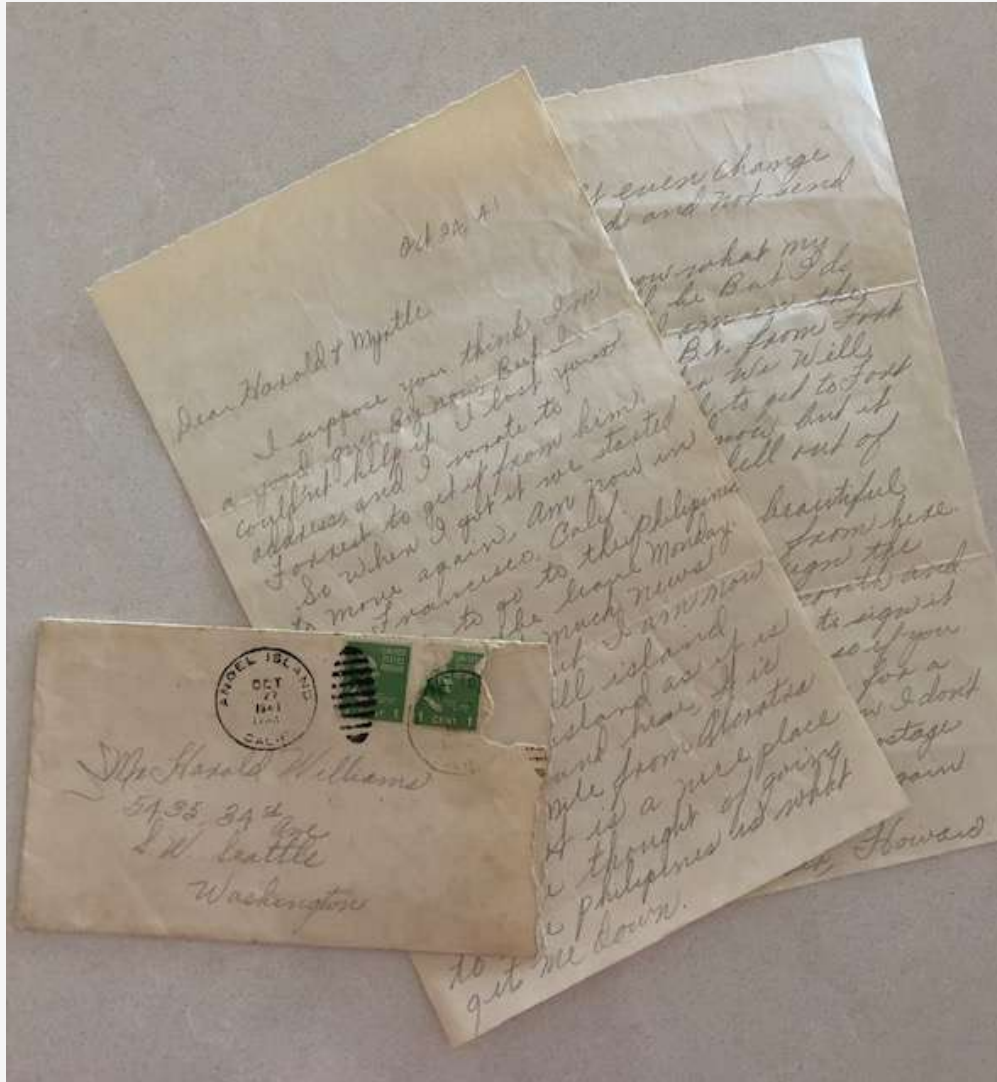


He writes from McDowell or Angel Island which was a major embarkation center during WWII. It is a mile from Alcatraz and Howard says in his letter “I sure have a beautiful view of Frisco.”

He says he will leave Monday for the Philippines and say “...the thought of going to the Philippines is what gets me down.”

San Francisco to the Philippines was 7,000 miles.

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Reported Missing May 1942

The last word received from Howard by his family was 18 Jan 1942.

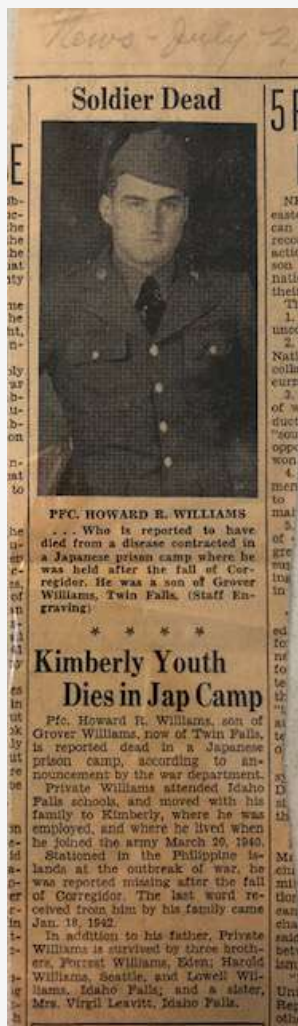
Howard was reported missing after the fall of Corregidor.

Corregidor was the largest of four fortified islands protecting the mouth of Manila Bay and was fortified with powerful coastal artillery. The Battle of Corregidor was fought May 5-6, 1942, and was the last major engagement of the Japanese conquest of the Philippines.

Notification of Death 20 Jul 1943

The Times-News, Twin Falls, ID

Pfc. Howard R. Williams, son of Grover Williams, now of Twin Falls, is reported dead in a Japanese prison camp, according to announcement by the war department.



Major Richard M. Gordon

Retired U.S. Army Maj. Richard M. Gordon was a defender of Bataan and is a survivor of the Death March, Camp O'Donnell, Camp Cabanatuan and three years' captivity in Mitsushima, Japan. As the founder of a group known as the "Battling Bastards of Bataan," whose motto is "In Pursuit of Truth," Gordon has worked hard to dispel some of the myths surrounding the infamous Death March.

Maj. Gordon and other BBB members worked one-on-one with next of kin of Bataan veterans who did not survive the war to try as best as possible to explain to them the circumstances of their relatives' death, and to try to find a surviving veteran who knew their relative when they were still alive.

My Research

I corresponded with Maj. Richard Gordon in June 2001.

He reported Howard's date of death as 24 Oct 1942. This is the official information taken from the rolls of the American Battlefield Monuments Commission (ABMC).

Howard's death was recorded by an American officer but the information did not make its way back home until July 1943.

Major Richard M Gordon

Interment with full military honors, Arlington National Cemetery.



Timeline

Howard

World War II

24 Mar 1941 Howard enlists in the Army

27 Oct 1941 Howard leaves for the Philippines

7 Dec 1941 Japanese attacks Pearl Harbor

8 Dec 1941 Eight hours later, Japanese invades

Luzon

18 Jan 1942 Last known letter rec'd from Howard

9 Apr 1942 The Americans capitulate to the Japanese.

The largest surrender in U.S. history

The Japanese force-marched the troops 65 miles north to a temporary enclosure called Camp O'Donnell.

600 Americans and 10,000 Filipinos died during the week-long walk know as the Bataan Death March. Survivors of the march were taken to prison camps, the largest one was Cabanatuan with 9,000 men.

May 1942 Howard reported missing

6 May 1942 Corregidor fell

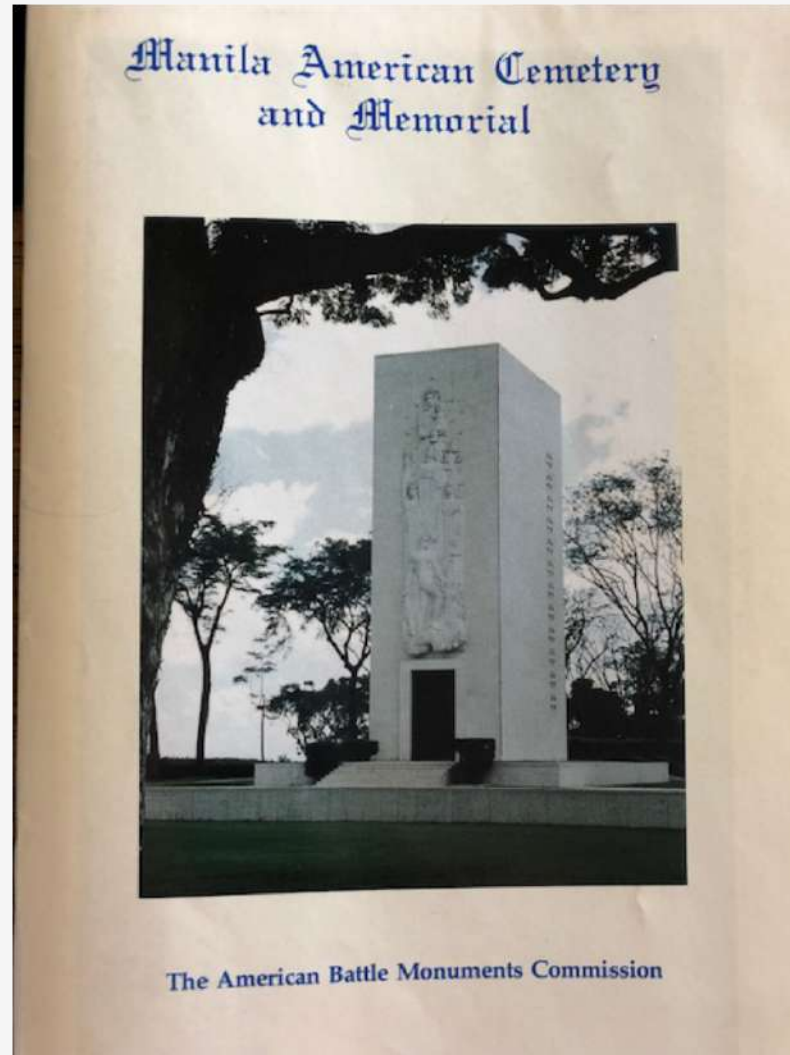
24 Oct 1942 Howard dies in a prison camp

20 Jul 1943 U.S. Army reports that Howard died of
dysentery at the age of 25

American Military Cemeteries

American Battle Monument Commission (ABMC) administers, operates and maintains 26 permanent American military cemeteries and 32 federal memorials, monuments and markers, which are located in 17 foreign countries, the U.S. Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the British Dependency of Gibraltar; four of the memorials are located within the United States. These cemeteries and memorials, most of which commemorate the service and sacrifice of Americans who served in World War I and World War II, are among the most beautiful and meticulously maintained shrines in the world.

Manila American Cemetery and Memorial



Manila American Cemetery and Memorial

The Manila American Cemetery and Memorial in the Philippines occupies 152 acres on a prominent plateau. It contains the largest number of graves of our military dead of WW II, a total of 16,859, most of whom lost their lives in operations in New Guinea and the Philippines. The headstones are aligned in 11 plots forming a generally circular pattern, set among masses of a wide variety of tropical trees and shrubbery.

Manila American Cemetery and Memorial



Aerial View



Important Facts about America's Overseas Military Cemeteries

More than 218,000 individuals who died in WW I or WW II are buried or memorialized within ABMC cemeteries and memorials around the globe. ABMC.gov is searchable for deceased veterans.

Families were given a choice in regards to burial location: bring their loved one home for burial, or have them buried in a permanent overseas cemetery managed by the U.S. government.

From WW I, approximately 30% of families chose overseas burial. Slightly fewer families chose overseas burial following WW II.

Burials within ABMC cemeteries are arranged without regard to rank, race or creed.

Flanders Field American Cemetery is the smallest ABMC site with 411 honored, and Manila American Cemetery is the largest with 53,486 honored.

Presumed Dead: Manila American Cemetery



Presumed dead or known to be dead without physical traces are listed on marble walls.

Unknown Dead: Manila American Cemetery



Thousand of headstones mark recovered remains whose identities “are known only to God.”

Headstones with names marking remains



Grave of Howard R. Williams

Photo sent to me by
Major Richard M. Gordon