



2LT ROBERT L. SAXTON
Class of 1940
Enshrined 2023



Robert L. Saxton was commissioned a Second Lieutenant upon graduation from Xavier University on June 6, 1940. He was a four-year member of the Clef Club, and as a senior was the Business Manager of the Masque Society. No other information is available regarding 2LT Saxton's participation in extracurricular activities, or of his ROTC activities.

No information is available regarding his military service between his commissioning in 1940 until his service in the Philippines in 1943. It can be surmised that he completed Field Artillery Officer Basic Course and was assigned to duty on the Philippine Islands, which was a US territory.

2LT Saxton served in the 24th Field Artillery Regiment, Philippine Scouts, in the Philippines during World War II. He was captured during the Japanese invasion and interned on the islands until December 1944.

The Xavier Newsletter dated September 10, 1943, states that 2LT Saxton's parents received notification that he was a prisoner in a Japanese Military Camp and had been captured in the fall of Bataan.

Given this information it can be surmised that he was one of the 60,000 - 80,000 Pilipino and American forces that surrendered on Bataan and subsequently made the 65 mile "Bataan Death March" in which over 7000 Prisoners of War (P.O.W.s) died or were executed. This theory is further supported by a second undated card received by his parents stating that he was interned at Philippines Island Military Prison Camp No.2 at Davao Mindanao, Philippines, which was located along the rail lines from San Fernando.

A second article in the Xavier Newsletter reported that the Saxtons received information from a former P.O.W. who had seen 2LT. Saxton in February 1944. Further, 2LT Saxton's name appears on a camp roster for the Philippine Davao Penal Colony #502 as of April 15, 1944.

2LT Saxton is listed on the manifest of the Japanese ship named Cyroku Maru for transportation of P.O.W.s to Japan in December 1944. Sadly, on December 14, 1944, the Cyroku Maru was attacked by Allied Forces while still in the Philippines. Most of the P.O.W.s were killed in the attack and those that survived were loaded onto the Brazil Maru which then transported them to Japan.

Japanese records on P.O.W.s were not always accurate as some P.O.W.s have multiple dates of death. So, a final Japanese report indicates that 2LT Saxton was killed several weeks after the Cyroku Maru attack in another Allied attack on the Encura Manu P.O.W. transport ship.

2LT Saxton's remains have never been identified and he is one of the 72,273 WW II Soldiers, Sailors and Marines still listed as Unaccounted For or more commonly called M.I.A. "Missing in Action." He was given a date of death as January 9, 1945, based upon all available information.

2LT Saxton is memorialized on the Walls of the Missing in the Manila American Cemetery, Fort Bonifacio, Philippines. (Source: Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency)

IN MEMORY OF
★★★★★
ROBERT L. SAXTON

RANK

SECOND LIEUTENANT, U.S. ARMY

UNIT

24TH FIELD ARTILLERY REGIMENT, PHILIPPINE SCOUTS

DATE OF DEATH

JANUARY 9, 1945

COMMEMORATED IN PERPETUITY AT

MANILA AMERICAN CEMETERY

TAGUIG CITY, PHILIPPINES



"Time will not dim the glory of their deeds."

— GENERAL JOHN J. PERSHING
