Scenario 1

December 1941. You are part of an Army medical team at a field hospital on the Bataan Peninsula. Clark Field was bombed two and a half weeks ago. The hospital is overwhelmed with wounded soldiers in addition to the patients who were already admitted. Most of those were sick with tropical diseases. You are going to train some Filipino volunteers as medics. Because of the Pearl Harbor bombing, you have limited medical supplies. What basic information on expected illnesses and treatments should be presented to this new group of medics? What else can these medics help with?

Scenario 2

January 1942. You are a nurse at Camp Limay, Hospital Number 1, on the Bataan Peninsula on the Philippine Island of Luzon. You work in a surgical unit, treating soldiers with battle wounds. Miss Walters, the Chief Nurse, has told you that soon you will have to wash and reuse bandages as much a possible. If the hospital continues to use supplies at the current rate, they will run out by late February. Normally, a pressure cooker is used to sterilize surgical equipment. Now, liquid Lysol is used because there is often no power for the pressure cooker. As you assist a surgeon in removing shrapnel from a patient’s leg, you notice a sweet smell coming from the next table. The patient there has a head wound in addition to a mangled arm that is slick with a watery discharge. What other symptoms do you look for in that patient to suggest a diagnosis? Describe a treatment plan for the diagnosis.

Scenario 3

March 1942. As a cook, your job is to feed the 95 guys assigned to your battery. Your kitchen is a folding table in a clearing in the rain forest on the Bataan peninsula. As you cook, exotic birds fly by and monkeys chatter overhead. As you dig into the last of the rice, you realize each man will get one cup of rice today, and nothing else. If more supplies don’t arrive tomorrow from Corregidor, you’re not sure what they’ll eat tomorrow. The army has already slaughtered and eaten the horses of the Filipino Calvary. You’ve noticed everyone, not just yourself, has lost weight. And a lot of the guys seem to be getting sick more often. You wonder how long the troops can keep fighting on so little food each day. You try not wonder what happens if they can’t fight anymore. What will you prepare for tomorrow?

Scenario 4

November 1943. Your buddy, the one from down the street who signed up for the Guard with you, is sitting next to your cot. He looks miserable. He told you that when he woke up, he was aching all over. His back hurts and legs are very sore. He thinks he won’t be able to stand on his feet all day. All POWs must go on work detail, a work crew, or move to the hospital. He doesn’t want to go to the hospital — says he’ll get even sicker there. When you get back from work detail in late afternoon he is shaking even though it’s 80 degrees. He hasn’t eaten much in the last 24 hours. What does he have and how can he be treated?
Scenario 5
**May 1942.** You are an Army engineer, a prisoner of war, and have just arrived at Camp O’Donnell, a prisoner of war (POW) camp. The rainy season will soon start and will last until October. The camp contains old huts without plumbing, filthy latrines, and way too many men — perhaps as many as 10,000. Soil drainage is poor and in wet weather, the camp becomes a bog with knee-deep mud. When you dig, you hit water after only 2 feet. The Japanese have provided a few shovels and other tools for digging, but there is only an occasional bag of lime for disinfectant. Cholera and dysentery are sweeping through camp. What can you do to improve the health of all POWs in the camp?

Scenario 6
**November 10, 1942.** Your home right now is a hut in Cabanatuan, a miserable Japanese POW camp on the island of Luzon in the Philippine Islands. You haven’t had three square meals a day since this war started almost a year ago. You tend to have a good night’s sleep if the guys have a good round of “Dinnertime.” It starts when someone says, “Oh god, you can’t believe my wife’s apple pie. Instead of a top crust of pastry dough, she covers the top with 2 inches of butter and brown sugar and oats. While that’s baking she makes ice cream. She uses a quart of heavy cream, a quart of whole milk, eight eggs, and four cups of sugar. When she serves it, she puts a big spoonful of whipped cream on the ice cream and pie.”

Then, someone else describes his favorite meal. After a half hour or so, you can fall asleep. Last night sleep just wouldn’t come. Your legs were hurting real bad. The bottom of your feet tingled. It seemed as though if you kept your legs up in the air and rubbed your feet, you felt better. Today, the guys are teasing you — they say you have the Cabanatuan Shuffle. The shuffle is the motion that happens when you take a step and swing your arms out to the sides. If you didn’t swing your arms, you’d fall over.

Your feet hurt so much you want to cut the sides of your shoes. Mando, your buddy, won’t let you do it. He says when this passes, your shoes will be ruined, and who knows if you’ll ever get another pair. Gosh, your legs and feet hurt. But if you stop walking they hurt more. What can you do?

Scenario 7
**November 1942.** You are a doctor in the Bilibid Prisoner of War (POW) Camp when a diphtheria epidemic sweeps through the camp. You have the diphtheria patients quarantined, and you know that there is an anti-toxin that can easily save the lives of your patients. The Philippine Red Cross is willing to supply these medicines, but the Japanese will not allow them access to the camp. How can you get this anti-toxin for your patients?
Scenario 8

**April 1943.** You are on a work detail outside your prison camp, working in rice paddies. A carabao, a type of water buffalo native to the Philippines, is being used to work in the flooded fields. This day, however, the carabao breaks a leg as it stumbles off the path between rice paddies. The Japanese guard is forced to kill the animal. After the guards have eaten their fill of the carabao, they let the prisoners on the detail pick at the carcass. In addition to diarrhea and a skin rash, your mouth and tongue are red and swollen. You also experience memory loss at times. Is there any part of the carabao that might be able to help with your symptoms?

Scenario 9

**February 1944.** For the past several years you’ve been in a prison camp, never getting enough or the right things to eat. You figure you weigh almost half of what you weighed when you went into the service. Now, suddenly you’re gaining weight rapidly. However, you feel bloated instead of fit. Your ankles have disappeared under the swelling, and your stomach bulges. You are tired all the time and your memory begins to fail. What disease do you possibly have, and what can you do about it?

Scenario 10

**Early January 1945.** For unexplained reasons, the guards at Cabanatuan Prisoner of War Camp have left. You are one of the 500 prisoners left in the camp, unguarded. Your buddy Bob wants to escape, but you remind him that the area is still occupied by the Japanese and you are both too weak from disease and starvation. Neither one of you can see at night.

However, you are not so weak that you cannot plunder the food that the Japanese left behind. On the Japanese side of the camp, you find rich condensed milk, cases of canned goods, sugar, rice, ducks, pigs, salt (the first you have had in almost 3 years!), and medicines. Within days, your night blindness has dramatically improved. Why has this happened?

Scenario 11

**Late January 1945.** You are on the island of Luzon in the Philippines in the US held town of Guimba. The Army has a base here behind American lines. You are part of the medical recovery team. The team will soon examine several hundred former prisoners of war who were held at Cabanatuan Prisoner of War (POW) Camp from June of 1942 until January 30, 1945. You will help plan how each patient and former POW should be examined. That is, what types of problem or disease do you expect to see? What types of treatment will they need? Although each man will have a unique set of medical problems, you assume that each will need some very basic care. As former prisoners, for almost three years they lived with poor sanitation in a tropical climate.

What is the basic care you envision for each liberated prisoner? Describe a basic treatment plan that each prisoner will receive when liberated.
Scenario 12

August 1960. You wonder why the dreams started up again. Even your wife mentioned it’s been over fifteen years since you walked out of that POW camp in Japan. It seems like when there’s more pressure at work, it starts up. The same dream keeps coming back — the one where you’re coasting downhill on a bike and it doesn’t have brakes. Just as you’re about to fly over a cliff, you wake up startled. You sit up so fast, you feel dizzy. You notice your hands are sweating, and you feel shaky. As you lay in bed, trying to fall back asleep, you wonder if you’re too hard on the kids. Do all parents yell at their kids? Do they yell like you do? Why are you so tired all the time? Food doesn’t even taste good, is something wrong with your appetite? You begin to think, what’s wrong with me?