

International Repatriations
South Dakota State Historical Society Museum
Corey Christianson, Registrar

ARTIFACTS:

1979.191: Bayonet Knife, Mauser. Philippines. Per the Collections Management System (CMS): “Mauser knife-bayonet taken from insurgent soldier who was creeping up on a South Dakota outpost at 11 p.m., April 25, 1899, at the Second Pelutan trenches. Col. Frost said to [Chaplain] Daley, ‘Get that knife, Chaplain, it will make a good relic.’”

- Taken off a body.
- Unneeded to tell the South Dakota story and covered by The Hague Convention, Article 23.
- To be returned to the Philippines.

1979.389: Case, Cartridge. Germany. Per the CMS: Stamped onto back: “Adolf Kerst/Kirn/1915.”

- Has name of individual to whom it belongs.
- Unneeded to tell the South Dakota story and covered by The Hague Convention, Article 23.
- To be returned to Germany, hopefully to the family.

1998.096.001: Flag, Japanese. Japan. Per the CMS: "From Mr. Kilian's file: "These two flags, taken by me in combat on Okinawa in the battles for Shuri Castle, and the Yaeju Dake Escarpment relate to World War II. I was a platoon leader in the 382nd Infantry Regiment. These flags were carried by Japanese field soldiers in their packs." **The museum only accepted one flag.**

From Mr. Kilian's file: "I was a 2nd Lt., an Infantry Platoon Leader. We were in savage ground fighting, living in fox holes by night and inching forward through mud by day. In my company, we had a 127% casualty loss; replacements coming into the lines at night would often be dead before daylight, before I even knew their names. The period from late April through early June, 1945 was worst. Most casualties were from rifle and machine gun fire, grenades, mortars and artillery. I was also wounded but was able to stay on duty. The flags were taken from the packs of dead Japanese soldiers on the field, of which there were large numbers. Okinawa was one of the worst battles of WW II...The Japanese had them tucked in their packs like handkerchieves."

- Taken off a body.
- Unneeded to tell the South Dakota story and covered by The Hague Convention, Article 23.
- To be returned to Japan, to the Obon Society, whose mission is to reunite flags with the families of the original bearer.

2014.017.001: Flag, Japanese. Japan. Per the CMS: "Items were brought back from the Pacific Theater by James Corbin Walton, Sr. of Webster, SD who served in the U.S. Army during WWII."

- Taken off a body.
- Unneeded to tell the South Dakota story and covered by The Hague Convention, Article 23.
- To be returned to Japan, to the Obon Society, whose mission is to reunite flags with the families of the original bearer.

2022.009.001: Flag, Japanese. Japan. Per the CMS: “Fred C. Halbur, father of donor, served in the United States Corps of Engineers in the Army for 3.5 years during WWII, and spent 18 months in the Pacific Theater.”

- Taken off a body.
- Unneeded to tell the South Dakota story and covered by The Hague Convention, Article 23.
- To be returned to Japan, to the Obon Society, whose mission is to reunite flags with the families of the original bearer.

D.402: Window Pane. France. Per the CMS: “Piece of leaded glass from Verdun Cathedral, shattered by German fire.”

- Church relic.
- Unneeded to tell the South Dakota story and covered by The Hague Convention, Article 47 and 56.
- To be returned to France, and specifically the Cathedral.

E.047: Dagger, Swordfish. Philippine War. Per the CMS: “Found by [George] Rahskopf on a dead Filipino soldier at Bagbag.”

- Taken off a body.
- Unneeded to tell the South Dakota story and covered by The Hague Convention, Article 23.
- To be returned to the Philippines.

E.059: Pillar, White Marble. Philippines. Per the CMS: “Pillar from destroyed Cathedral at San Fernando.”

- Church relic.
- Unneeded to tell the South Dakota story and covered by The Hague Convention, Article 47 and 56.
- To be returned to the Philippines.

E.065: Fieldglass Case, Leather. Philippines. Per the CMS: “Field glasses taken from body of Philippine officer killed at Meyacauayan Bridge.”

- Taken off a body.
- Unneeded to tell the South Dakota story and covered by The Hague Convention, Article 23.
- To be returned to the Philippines.

E. 076: Tile, Cathedral San Fernando. Philippines. Per the CMS: “Section of the tile floor of the Cathedral at San Fernando.”

- Church relic.
- Unneeded to tell the South Dakota story and covered by The Hague Convention, Article 47 and 56.
- To be returned to the Philippines.

H.495: Statue, Chateau-Thierry Boy. France. Per the CMS: “Obtained by American troops at Chateau-Thierry, France, July 1918.”

- Looted art.
- Unneeded to tell the South Dakota story and covered by The Hague Convention, Article 47.
- To be returned to France, hopefully to Chateau-Thierry.

J.678: Belt, Military. Philippine War. Per the CMS: “Belt taken from body of insurgent officer at Black House 4 by Ulysses C. Jones, Co. I.”

- Taken off a body.
- Unneeded to tell the South Dakota story and covered by The Hague Convention, Article 23.
- To be returned to the Philippines.

JUSTIFICATION: Convention (II) with Respect to the Laws and Customs of War on Land and its annex: Regulations concerning the Laws and Customs of War on Land. The Hague, 29 July 1899.

The United States agreed in 1900, and again in 1902.

Regulations: Art. 23

Art. 23. Besides the prohibitions provided by special Conventions, it is especially prohibited

- (a) To employ poison or poisoned arms;
- (b) To kill or wound treacherously individuals belonging to the hostile nation or army;
- (c) To kill or wound an enemy who, having laid down arms, or having no longer means of defence, has surrendered at discretion;
- (d) To declare that no quarter will be given;
- (e) To employ arms, projectiles, or material of a nature to cause superfluous injury;
- (f) To make improper use of a flag of truce, the national flag or military ensigns and uniform of the enemy, as well as the distinctive badges of the Geneva Convention;
- (g) To destroy or seize the enemy's property, unless such destruction or seizure be imperatively demanded by the necessities of war.

Regulations: Art. 47

Art. 47. Pillage is formally prohibited.

Regulations: Art. 56

Art. 56. The property of the communes, that of religious, charitable, and educational institutions, and those of arts and science, even when State property, shall be treated as private property.

All seizure of and destruction, or intentional damage done to such institutions, to historical monuments, works of art or science, is prohibited, and should be made the subject of proceedings.