

RECOVERY TEAM NO. 56
HQ. AMER. DIV. ARTY
APO 471

24 September 1945

SUBJECT: Report of Recovery Team 56

To : HQ. XI Corps
APO 471
Attention: Recovered Personnel Det.

1. Report on Asano POW Camp (Yokohama)
a. Location: Yokohama Mitsuzawa Shitamachi #29, approximately 2 miles Northeast of Asano docks. Coordinates 564.9-1396.3 on Central Honshu Map, scale-1/50,000.
b. Description of camp; The Asano POW camp is a branch of the Tokyo Internment Camp Omuri. It is an Army Prisoner of War Camp and especially built to house POW's. The camp was opened May 1944 and closed May 1945. Ten days after the camp was closed it was bombed and completely destroyed by American B-29's. The Asano Camp was composed of 3 or 4 stucco buildings with tile roofs. The buildings were approximately 60 feet long and 30 feet wide. Observation of the ruins showed that there was running water, kitchen, latrine and associated items. There was no fence or enclosure around the camp.

2. No records found.

3. No burial plots found.

4. Summary: It is known that American and Korean Prisoners of war were kept in the camp. There were approximately 100 Americans, no knowledge of the number of Koreans. The Prisoners both American and Koreans worked in the Asano Dry Docks, which is a Ship repair shop and in the Nippon Steel Company factories which are in the same area. The president of the Japanese ship repair company is Jiro Masaki. We were unable to talk with him because he was not there at the present time but we did talk with Hiroshi Shinozaki who was in charge of the labor department. It was from him that we learned that Prisoners of War worked there which led us to believe there must be a Prisoner of War Camp in the near vicinity. He had no record of the prisoners of war who worked there. He claimed that the Japanese Army kept the records. The work performed by the POW's was hard labor, painting, and welding.

We were told that the working hours of the American Prisoners of war was from 0800 to 1600 hours. They were allowed 1/2 hour off for dinner. The Korean Prisoners of war worked from 0700 to 1800 hours. They also had 1/2 hour off for the noon meal from 1200 to 1230 hours.

The above information was obtained by a thorough search of the Asama POW Camp and by talking with Hiroshi Shinazaki and Japanese native civilians.

2d Lt. Robert H. Dolder
Team Leader, Team 56