DOCUMENTARY

MILITARY AND CIVILIAN PRISONERS OF WAR UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF THE IMPERIAL JAPANESE ARMY

ATROCITIES--SEVERE MISTREATMENT--SLAVE LABOR

1931-1945

COMPILED AND NARRATED BY EDWARD JACKFERT PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER AMERICAN DEFENDERS OF BATAAN & CORREGIDOR, INC.
International Military Tribunal For The Far East Gathers War Crimes Evidence Against Japanese Armed Forces
FINDINGS OF THE WAR CRIMES TRIBUNAL

Altogether, over 5,000 Japanese civilian and military personnel were arrested for the calculated repreisals of state and individual acts of brutality which had taken over a half million Asiatics and Westerners. Most of those apprehended had committed crimes against Western nationals, who represented less than a tenth of the victims. About 4,000 of the suspects of brutality were brought to trial. Of the 4,000, some 800 were acquitted, some 2,400 were sentenced to three years or more impisonment, and 809 were executed. Tojo and seven of his ruling hierarchy were sentenced to hang. Generals Yamashita and Homma were tried by the War Crimes Tribunal in Manila. Yamashita was found guilty of permitting brutal atrocities at the end of the war in the Philippines. Among the major charges against him were responsibility for the brutalities at Pasay School and the Palawan Massacre, as well as widespread slaughter of Filipino men and women in Manila. General Homma was charged for being responsible for Japanese actions as the beginning of the war-----the Bataan Death March and Camp O’Donnell. So as the U.S. war crimes process ended---except those condemned to death---the severest punishment for those found guilty of the most cruel and savage acts, was 13 years in prison. In the year 1958, the United States authorities freed the last of the war criminals in Sugamo prison. The retribution for those that died, and those who suffered in prisoner of war camps had run a short course.
The Hague Convention of 1907
The 1929 Geneva Convention On Prisoners of War

PARTICULAR BREACHES BY JAPAN

1. Inhumane treatment, contrary in each case to Article 4 of the said Annex to the Hague Convention. In addition to the inhumane treatment alleged in Sections Two to Six hereof Inclusive, prisoners of war were murdered, beaten, tortured and otherwise ill-treated, and female prisoners were raped by members of the Japanese forces.

2. Labor furnished by prisoners of war shall have no direct relation with war operations. Work done for the State shall be paid for in accordance with the rates in force for soldiers of the national army doing the same work, or if none exists, according to rate in harmony with work performed. The pay remaining to the credit of the prisoner shall be delivered to him at the end of his captivity.

International Military Tribunal For The Far East
Japanese Leadership During World War II Having Authority In The Formulation Of Military Policy And Convicted Of War Crimes

War Crimes Trial defendants. Hideki Tojo is at center

Tokyo, Japan
January 6, 1948
General Wainwright discusses surrender terms with General Homma on May 6, 1942. General Homma threatened to continue fighting unless General Wainwright surrendered all U.S. forces in the Philippine Islands. This came about and all forces surrendered effective May 10, 1942.
THE FOLLOWING INSTRUCTIONS WERE RECEIVED BY GENERAL WAINWRIGHT GOVERNING CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH THE SURRENDER OF FORCES UNDER HIS COMMAND WOULD BE ACCEPTED ONLY IF FAITHFULLY CARRIED OUT.

TO YOUR TROOPS OPERATING IN OTHER PARTS OF THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS THE ORDER SHALL BE GIVEN TO DISARM VOLUNTARILY IMMEDIATELY AND TO TAKE THE UNDER STIPULATED STEPS.

THOSE REMAINING IN THE NORTHERN LUZON TO ASSEMBLE AT BAYOMBONG ON BONTOC AND THE COMMANDING OFFICER TO PRESENT HIMSELF TO THE JAPANESE COMMANDING OFFICER OF BOTH REGIONS TO PRESENT THEMSELVES TO THE JAPANESE ARMY IN ILIGAN AND NOTIFY OF THEIR SURRENDER.

THOSE REMAINING ON BOHOL ISLAND TO ASSEMBLE IN THE VICINITY OF LOAY AND THE COMMANDING OFFICER TO PRESENT THEMSELVES TO THE JAPANESE ARMY IN CEBU AND NOTIFY OF THEIR SURRENDER. THOSE REMAINING IN LETTOS AND SACALI ISLANDS TO ASSEMBLE IN THE VICINITY OF TACOLOBAN AND CATABO CAN RESPECTIVELY AND THE COMMANDING OFFICER TO PRESENT THEMSELVES TO THE JAPANESE ARMY IN LEGAZPI AND NOTIFY OF THEIR SURRENDER.

THE ORDER SHALL BE CARRIED OUT WITHIN FIVE DAYS. IT IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED TO BURN OR DESTROY OR DISPOSE ARMS, MATERIELS, VESSELS AND ANY ESTABLISHMENTS, EITHER PART OR WHOLE.

PORTABLE AND EASILY MOVABLE WEAPONS TO BE GATHERED ALL TOGETHER IN THE VICINITY OF THE ASSEMBLY AREA OF THE TROOPS. HEAVY ARMS MATERIALS AND ESTABLISHMENTS TO REMAIN INTACT AND THE LOCATION THEREOF TO BE REPORTED WITH A SKETCH.

VESSELS IN THE WATERS OTHER THAN AROUND CORREGIDOR ISLANDS TO THE PORT OF CAGAYAN.

DEFENSE LOCATIONS, ESPECIALLY THOSE AREAS WHERE IN LAND MINES, OR SEA MINES WERE LAID TO BE REPORTED WITH A SKETCH AND THE ACTUAL SPOT TO BE DISTINCTLY INDICATED WITH SOME SUITABLE MARKS, IF SUCH IS AT ALL POSSIBLE.

JAPANESE WAR PRISONERS IF ANY TO BE HANDED OVER IMMEDIATELY FURTHER ORDERS WILL BE GIVEN IF EACH IS NECESSARY.

RADIOGRAM RECEIVED
NR 1 10/13 AM OR 85 FM RX MAY 10

SHARP

ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT OF A CLEAR MSG ON SURRENDER SIGNED SHARP BUT DOUBT HIS AUTHORITY TO ORDER ANY SUCH THING STOP TO SATISFY ME I MUST HAVE MACARTHUR'S OKAY OTHERWISE IT MAY BE TREASON. STOP I DO NOT EVEN SEE A SMALL REASON WHY THIS UNIT SHOULD BE SURRENDERED BECAUSE SOME OTHER UNIT HAS GONE TO HELL OR SOME CORREGIDOR SHells SHOCKED TENTS ARE INJURED WITHOUT PROPER VERIFICATIONS WHICH CAN READILY BE OBTAINED BY AIRPLANE STOP MASS AIDED BANDITRY CERTAIN STOP REQUEST CLEAR HAND END

CLEAR MSG

CHRISTIE
Approximately 700 Americans & Several Thousand Filipinos Died On The March
Camp O’Donnell
By the end of April 1942, 9,300 Americans and 45,000 Filipinos were interned at this camp. During its existence approximately 1,500 Americans and 25,000 Filipinos died at this camp due to lack of food, medicines, lack of sanitary conditions and executions.
By the end of April 1942, there were approximately 9,300 American and 45,000 Filipino prisoners of war at Camp O’Donnell. Evidence adduced by the war crimes tribunal indicates that approximately 2,000 Americans and 25,500 Filipino POWs died at the facility from starvation, lack of medical supplies, poor sanitation and executions.
Major Richard Gordon, who was there, estimated that 3,000 prisoners of war died at Cabanatuan during its existence from starvation, lack of medical supplies, mistreatment, poor sanitation and executions.
BILIBID PRISON

One to four deaths daily at this POW facility.
ARGENTINA MARU
Transported 430 U.S. Marine Prisoners of War To Japan On January 10, 1942
The Nitta Maru transported 1100 Marine and Civilian Prisoners Of War From Wake Island On January 12, 1942 To Yokohama, Japan And Then To A Pow Camp In China

Five Americans beheaded and 98 executed by machine gun fire.

Marines & Construction Workers Repulse Japanese Forcing Them To Request Additional Firepower

Civilian Construction Workers Heading For The Nitta Maru And A Prisoner Of War Camp
PALAWAN MASSACRE

145 American POWs Torch By Japanese Imperial Army
HEALTH SHIPS

3,700 AMERICANS LOSE THEIR LIVES
The International Red Cross communicated to the Japanese government on February 24, 1942, that those ships carrying prisoners of war should be escorted with sufficient vessels and those unarmed ships should have special markings on it. The only ship known to have special markings on it was the AWA MARU, a large passenger-cargo ship which left Port Moji, Japan on February 17, 1945 carrying 2,000 tons of Red Cross supplies to Singapore and Indonesia for prisoners of war in those areas. The special markings were white crosses on each side of her hull and lighted white crosses at night. There was reason to believe that the ship carried military cargo under the protection of the ship. On the return trip, the ship loaded with 2,000 Japanese passengers and a cargo of scarce rubber was torpedoed by an American submarine, using radar.
Shinyo Maru transporting POWs
Torpedoed September 7, 1944

82 POWS SURVIVE
750 POWS ON BOARD
1800 American POWs Aboard

ARISAN MARU transporting POWs
Torpedoed On October 24, 1944

4 Survivors
ORYOKU MARU
Transporting American POWs To Japan
December 14, 1944

1,619 American POWs Aboard

Over 300 American POWs Killed
Oryoku Maru

Over 300 American Pows Killed
A total of 1122 American POWs died during the Oryoku Maru debacle.
BRAZIL MARU--CONVERTED TO A TROOP TRANSPORT

On the final leg to Japan, 15 died on the Brazil Maru enroute --Only 419 survivors reached Port Moji, Japan.
LOCATIONS OF PRISONER OF WAR CAMPS IN JAPAN DURING WORLD WAR II

THERE WERE OVER 80 POW CAMPS ON THE MAINLAND OF JAPAN. IN ADDITION, THERE WERE POW CAMPS IN KOREA, CHINA, MANCHURIA, PHILIPPINES, MALAYSIA, AND OTHER AREAS OF SOUTH EAST ASIA.
THIS IS A LIST OF 68 JAPANESE INDUSTRIES THAT POWS AS SLAVE LABOR DURING WORLD WAR II

VIOLATION OF ARTICLE 31 OF THE 1929 GENEVA TREATY ON PRISONERS OF WAR
I was interned at Malaybalay, P.I. on May 10, 1942. Departed the camp the first part of October on the Tomohoko Maru for Manila, arriving there on October 6---boarded the Tottori Maru on October 8 and sailed for Formosa and Japan---Submarine shot two torpedoes at us and luckily for us missed. Left Formosa on October 31--stopping at Pusan, Korea--arrived Kawasaki Nov 12, 1942.
Tokyo Area POW Camp #2
Kawasaki, Japan

Our quarters was an old vacant office building of the Mitsui Co. Each room had four sleeping areas. The bed was wooden slats without any padding whatsoever. The building was not heated and highly uncomfortable during the winter season. The place was rampant with vermin—fleas, bedbugs, lice, and mosquitos. Each POW had less than two feet of sleeping space. Our washing facilities were outside—very uncomfortable trying to keep clean.

Violation Of Article 10---1929 Geneva Convention
Violation of Article 9
1929 Geneva Convention
On Prisoners of War
VIOLATION OF ARTICLE 11 OF THE GENEVA CONVENTION ON POWS
Violation Of Article 14 Of The Geneva Convention On Prisoners Of War

23 Deaths Due To Malnutrition

Dr. Curtin & Sick Call
At Tokyo Area POW Camp #2, we received our first Red Cross parcel on December 25, 1942. Thereafter, we received such parcel sporadically, most on some special occasion such as Christmas or New Year. The Red Cross parcels were greatly appreciated, getting rid of our hunger pangs for a short time.
PUNISHMENT AND HARASSMENT OF PRISONERS OF WAR

There was a continual harassment and punishment of almost all prisoners of war some time or another and in some form or another beatings. Many were physically beaten with a stick or the fist by one of the civilian or military guards in our camp. On occasion several were beaten on the head causing their face and head to swell up like a large pumpkin. Throwing our personal belongings on the floor and making us stand at attention for several hours was quite common.

VIOLATION OF ARTICLE 2 OF THE 1929 GENEVA CONVENTION
VIOLATION OF ARTICLE 9
GENEVA CONVENTION
AND THE RULES OF WAR
Records
Air Force Reveal
That There Were
464 Participating
In The Raid On
Kawasaki On May 25, 1945

Not Allowed To Leave Our
Quarters, We Heard The
Thunderous Explosions And
Fires Lit Up The Sky

The Raid Destroyed
The Financial,
Governmental, And
Commercial Areas Of
Kawasaki, As Well As
Factories And Homes

It Was A Frightful Situation
Knowing The B-29s Had
Struck So Close To Our
Camp Compound
Tokyo Area POW Camp #2 Destroyed By B-29 Raid
July 25, 1945--22 American POWs Killed

22 POWs Killed By A Direct Bomb Hit On Their Shelter
1. Tokyo Area Prisoner Of War Camp #2 destroyed by B-29s on July 25, 1945.
2. Power plant fifty yards from POW camp.
3. Mitsui Co. warehouses where POWs were utilized as slave laborers.
4. Mitsui Co. office building across from POW camp quarters.
6. Showa Denko chemical complex where POWs were used as slave laborers.

**22 POWs killed during air raid on July 25, 1945.**
Due to the destruction of Tokyo Area POW Camp #2, the Japanese authorities transferred 153 of us to this camp--identified as the Nissin Flour Mill Camp---they refused to move us away from an area susceptible to B-29 bombing, thus violating Section 9 of the 1929 Geneva Convention On Prisoners Of War
Nagoya PW Branch No. 1--Kamioka
Located On The West Coast Of Japan Approximately
100 Miles North Of Nagoya
CAMP 17 - OMUTA, JAPAN--OVER 1700 POWS INTERNED HERE
302 POWs Died At CAMP 17 FROM MALNUTRITION DISEASES
OMORI POW CAMP NEAR TOKYO
POWS AT THIS CAMP PERFORMED DIVERSIFIED SLAVE LABOR FOR THE LOCALS
CONDITIONS IN THE CAMP WERE HORRENDOUS
These prisoners of war were rescued on August 29, 1945 from Omori prisoner of war camp near Tokyo. They were taken to the hospital ship Benevolence for medical treatment and recuperation. Their medical condition stemmed from the lack of food, no medications, horrible sanitary conditions, and brutal mistreatment at the hands of the Japanese guards and civilians that controlled the camp.
USAAF B-25Bs aboard USS Hornet en route to attack Japan, April 1942
Three Of The Doolittle Crew Executed
Five Given Life Imprisonment

VIOLATION OF 1907 HAGUE CONVENTION
AND 1929 GENEVA CONVENTION ON PRISONERS OF WAR
In accordance with regulations issued by Prime Minister Tojo, two American fliers whose plane was shot down near Osaka, Japan on July 18, 1945, were sentenced to death--with the approval of General Hata, Commander of the Second Army Corps.
Actual damage to Tokyo area during the May 25, 1945 air raid.

Prior to May 1945, eleven allied airmen in the Tokai Military District were subjected to trials, sentenced to death, and executed. Then Tojo issued an order omitting trials to speed up the executions.

Subsequently, Tojo’s orders to hasten the death of B-29 fliers resulted in 27 fliers executed without trial prior to this order in the Tokai Military District. In the Central Military District, 43 airmen were executed without any legal proceedings.

At Fukuoka, Japan eight airmen were executed on June 20, 1945, then on August 12, 1945 eight more American airmen were executed. Three days later another group of eight Americans were executed—the day Japan surrendered.

97 American airmen murdered from April to August 15, 1945.
May 25, 1945
464 B-29s Raid
Tokyo & Kawasaki

The B-29s dropped three thousand two hundred sixty-two tons of incendiary bombs which destroyed the financial, commercial, and governmental districts in the Kawasaki area. The air force proclaims that 19 Japanese planes were shot down during the attack.
17 tortured to death -- 62 torched to death

Tokyo And Kawasaki Bombing Damage
VIVISSECTION OF AMERICAN FLIERS CAPTURED MAY 5, 1945 NEAR TAKITA, JAPAN

The pilot of the plane, Capt. Marvin Watkinsd (Identified with the red star), was the only crew member surviving and returned to the United States. Eight of the crew were used as guinea pigs in vivisection experiments by Japanese doctors at Kyushu Imperial University Hospital and died soon after the vivisection experiments.
INTERNATIONAL TRIBUNAL FOR THE FAR EAST

Testimony given before the tribunal relating to the deaths of eight airmen used in vivasection experiment by Japanese doctors.

Eight deaths due to vivasection by Japanese doctors.
DECAPITATION OF AIRMEN

In addition to the many decapitations with a sword of airmen in the Tokyo and Fukuoka areas of Japan, this same procedure of executing captured airmen was quite prevalent in territories occupied by Japan. Another method was saturating them by gasoline and burning them alive after many beatings and other methods of torture.
The Siam--Burma Railway 1942 was constructed by prisoners of war and native area civilians. The Bridge Over The River Kwai destroyed by Allied bombing near the end of the war.

In June 1942, 61,000 British, Australian, American, New Zealand, Danish and Dutch prisoners of war as well as an estimated 250,000 laborers from Siam, Burma, and Malaya were put to work by the Japanese Imperial Army to construct a railway line 415 km long to link direct from Singapore through Malaya and Thailand to a railway network in Burma. The railway line was built over dead bodies of some 16,000 allied POWs and 75,000 Asian laborers. It was completed on October 17, 1943.
Actual photo of POWs constructing the River Kwai Bridge.

Part of railway very difficult to construct.

Physical condition of POWs constructing the railway.

Chungkai war cemetery contains graves of 7,000 Allied POW slave laborers of the railroad.

16,000 Allied prisoners of war and 75,000 Asian laborers died while performing slave labor on the railway.
MASSACRES

Massacres of prisoners of war, civilian internees, sick and wounded, patients and medical staff of hospitals and civilian population were common throughout the Pacific war. Prisoners of war were in some instances massacred shortly after capture. There were over 100 massacres by Japanese troops during World War II.
TORTURE AND OTHER INHUMANE TREATMENT
The Red Cross insignia entitles one protection under the 1929 Geneva Convention as well as the laws of war. During the Japanese Army massacre of Hong Kong, Japanese troops entered the Military Hospital at St. Stephens College and bayonetted the sick and wounded in their beds, and raped and murdered nurses who were on duty there. During the battle of Northwestern Jehore in Malaya (January 1942) an ambulance convoy containing sick and wounded was captured by the Japanese soldiers. The personnel and wounded were removed from the ambulances and killed by shooting, bayonetting and burning alive after having been saturated with oil. At Katonga in Malay (January 1942), an ambulance convoy was fired upon by Japanese machine gunners. The personnel and wounded were taken from the convoy, tied together and shot in the back. The Alexandra Hospital at Singapore, Malaya was captured by the Japanese forces on February 13, 1942. The Japanese troops went through the first floor of the hospital and
bayonetted everyone on the floor. They entered the operating room where a soldier was under chloroform undergoing and operation, and bayonetted the patient, the surgeon and the anesthetist. They then went to the second floor and other parts of the building and removed the patients and medical personnel and massacred them. When the Japanese troops entered Soebang, Java, in March 1942, they removed a nurse and her patients from the Military hospital and massacred them with women and children of the civilian population. These massacres, in disregard of the laws of war respecting the treatment to be accorded to military hospitals and their personnel and patients illustrate the attitude of Japanese soldiers and their officers towards the law of war during World War II.

International Military Tribunal
For The Far East
Report
250,000 Persons Slaughtered

THE RAPE OF NANKING---1937
The Rape Of Nanking
A Mother Mourns Her Dead Child
THE RAPE OF NANKING
USING HUMAN BEINGS FOR BAYONET PRACTICE
MURDER NEAR THE CITY OF SHANGHAI
The Japanese military turned to acquiring women outside mainland, Japan, especially from Korea and occupied China. Many women were tricked or defrauded into joining military brothels. Others were kidnapped. Along the front lines the military often directly demanded the local leaders procure women for the brothels. Moreover, when the locals, especially Chinese, were considered hostile, Japanese soldiers carried out the “Three Alls Policy”. Which included indiscriminately kidnapping and raping local civilians.
Japanese guards stand over Chinese prisoners that were later killed in hypothermal experiments by Unit 731. Unit 731 conducted experiments with cold, bubonic plague, and other forms of biological and environmental torture on Chinese and Russian POWs. The unit was cited in the Tokyo War Crimes Trials but never were brought to trial.

Manchuria
Winter 1941
100,000 Filipinos Slaughtered In Manila

MANILA MASSCRE--FEBRUARY 1945
EXTENT OF THE ATROCITIES

The extent of the atrocities and the result of lack of food and medical supplies is exemplified by a comparison of the number deaths of prisoners of war in the European Theater with the number of deaths in the Pacific Theater. Of United States and United Kingdom forces, 235,473 were taken prisoners of war by the German and Italian Armies, of these 9,348, or 4 per cent died in captivity. In the Pacific Theater, 132,134 prisoners were taken by the Japanese from the United States and United Kingdom forces alone, of whom 35,756 or 27 per cent, died in captivity.

Report Of The Far East Military Tribunal
Responsibility For War Crimes Against Prisoners

International Military Tribunal For The Far East
Responsibility For War Crimes Against Prisoners

Prisoners taken in war and civilian internees are in the power of the Government which captures them. This has not always been the case. For the last two centuries, however, this position has been recognized and the customary law to this effect was formally embodied in the Hague Convention No. IV in 1907 and repeated in the Geneva Prisoner of War Convention of 1929. Responsibility for the care of prisoners of war and of civilian internees (all of who we will refer to as prisoners) rests therefore with the Government having them in possession. This responsibility is not limited to the duty of mere maintenance but extends to the prevention of mistreatment. In particular, acts of inhumanity to prisoners which are forbidden by the customary law of nations as well as by conventions are to be prevented by Governments having responsibility for prisoners.
SECTION ONE

Inhumane treatment—Prisoners of war and civilian internees were murdered, beaten, tortured, and otherwise ill-treated, and female prisoners were raped by members of the Japanese forces.

Violation Of 1907 Hague & Geneva Conventions
Location of Tokyo Area POW Camp #2, Kawasaki, Japan---POWs compelled to work in unhealthy climate and dangerous war zone, without sufficient food and clothing. Chemical plant (6), power plant (2), refinery--a frequent B-29 target (5). warehouses & dock.
SECTION TWO-Continued

Copper Mine

Many Coal Mines

Zinc Mine

Zinc Smelter

Lead Mine
Refusal and failure to maintain prisoners of war, whereas, the structural and sanitary condition of the camps and labor detachments failed entirely to comply with Hague and Geneva Conventions.
SECTION FOUR

Excessive and illegal punishment of prisoners of war.
SECTION FIVE

Mistreatment of the sick and wounded, medical personnel and female nurses.
SECTION SIX

Humiliation of prisoners of war, exposing them to insults and curiosity of inhabitants, such as parading them on local city streets.

Placing food on table for photo purposes only.

Forcing general officers to perform menial tasks to embarrass them.

Capt. Charles Matzen--Severe malnutrition.

Lt. Ed Ericson, air corps pilot with severe malnutrition.
Refusal or failure to collect and transmit information regarding prisoners of war such as location of camps and lists of prisoners of war and then deliberately destroying records at the conclusion of hostilities. Japan failed to notify U.S. as to names of those interned by its military.
SECTION EIGHT

Refusal and failure to maintain prisoners of war with insufficient food, clothing, and proper housing as required by treaties.
SECTION NINE

Employing poison, contrary to the International Declaration respecting Asphyxiating gases signed Japan and China on July 29, 1899 at the Hague and article 171 of the Treaty of Versailles.

In the wars of Japan against the Republic of China, poison gas was used. This allegation is confined to that country.
Killing enemies who, having laid down their arms or no longer having means of defense, had surrendered at discretion.
SECTION ELEVEN

Destruction of enemy property, without military justification or necessity, and pillage.
SECTION TWELVE

Failure to respect family honor and rights, individual life, private property, and religious convictions and worship in occupied countries, and deportation and enslavement of the inhabitants thereof.
SECTION THIRTEEN

Killing survivors of ships sunk by naval action and crews of captured ships.

SHINYO MARU
Torpedoed while transporting 750 prisoners of war to Japan--only 82 survived--those attempting to survive by swimming to the shore were machine gunned by Japanese armed forces.

ORYOKU MARU
Bombed by Naval planes while transporting 1,619 American POWs to Japan--approximately 300 died during the first attack--survivors attempting to swim to the shore were machine gunned by Japanese armed forces.
SECTION FOURTEEN

Failure to respect military hospital ships and unlawful use of Japanese hospital ships.

AWA MARU
Attacks, and especially attacks without due warning upon neutral ships resulting in the unnecessary and deliberate loss of life.
24,465 Americans were interned by Japan during World War II---37% died in various prisoner of war camps---only 11,107 survived the beastly mistreatment afforded them.

This is a view of one of many burial services of POWs who died at the Hitachi Copper Mine prisoner of war camp from malnutrition.
MY VIEWPOINT

During the month of October 1945, most of the prisoners of war from Japan and the Philippines had been transported to the United States. They had been given hurried medical examinations and then permitted to go home to their families. Many decided to stay with the Armed Forces, having limited skills for civilian employment. Some found employment at various industrial plants, while a few opted to pursue a college education under the G.I. Bill Of Rights. For most, it was difficult to adjust to the new world of freedom. Many became depressed at losing the companionship they had developed with their comrades through the defense of the Philippines, and later, as prisoners of war. As the prisoners of war became older, the residual effects of malnutrition and brutality at the hands of their captors began to affect them both mentally and physically. This group, at no time, wanted special consideration because they had been prisoners of war, however, they believed that they had developed special problems which was caused by their
MY VIEWPOINT

Internment as prisoners of war, and that these problems should be recognized by our government. Many had been on the Death March under conditions so horrible that it was beyond description. Then there was O’Donnell, Cabanatuan, and Bilibid where hunger, diseases, and death was rampant among these prisoners of war. Then there were the Hell Ships. Helpless, but not hopeless, they were squeezed into the filthy allotted space in the bowls of the ships and were locked in for safe keeping. Maybe there was still some physical strength for work or perhaps they would serve as barter should the Rising Sun need them for such. Devoid of any comforts, without food or water and not even courtesy to mark the ship as carrying PRISONERS OF WAR, they sailed through the battle infested waters to Japan. A few did not make it. After days, months, yes, years of constant struggle just to stay alive while being utilized as slave laborers with nothing but hope, faith, and courage unmatched, and a deep seated conviction, that before the end, help would come.
MY VIEWPOINT

They suffered through endless days of slave labor, hunger, sickness, and then the bombing raids. To have it end like that, to have the last hope of life so cruelly and dramatically withdrawn, heaped even more insult to their humiliation. There was much thought about the need of seeking strength through a Divine Being, to die as the men had lived. As their life continued, there was not even an apology from the government that so mistreated them and utilized their bodies as slave laborers in furthering its war efforts. Then a peace treaty between the United States and Japan was consummated in the year 1951. A clause was inserted in the peace treaty (14b) which waived all reparation claims against Japanese nationals. This included those corporations that utilized American POWs as slave laborers. It was plain to see that with the “Cold War” under way and a hot war waging on the Korean Peninsula, United States foreign policy sought to mold Japan as a bulwark against communist encroachment in Asia. In a “Quid Pro Quo” deal, it is apparent that Japan
agreed to ally with the United States in exchange for a soft treaty. Since that time, Washington has sided with Japan whenever they have been named defendants in reparation lawsuits. So American prisoners of war became sacrificial lambs of our nation by being eliminated from seeking reparations from Japan for violation of their human rights during World War II. The legislative bodies of Canada, Great Britain, Isle of Man, Netherlands, Norway, New Zealand, and Australia have compensated their former prisoners of war interned by Japan by awarding them substantial sums of monies for the unusual circumstances of their internment. The United States is the only nation, to date, that has not legislated likewise. The total sacrifice of patriotic men and women such as the those who fought so bravely at the onset of World War II can never be measured nor can we fully comprehend their precious gift of freedom.

S/EDWARD JACKFERT
PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER OF THE AMERICAN DEFENDERS OF BATAAN & CORREGIDOR, INC.
THE END