

R E S T R I C T E D

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS  
SUPREME COMMANDER FOR THE ALLIED POWERS  
LEGAL SECTION  
INVESTIGATION DIVISION

INVESTIGATION REPORT  
IN THE CASE OF  
PRISONER OF WAR CAMP  
INVESTIGATIONS

NAGOYA BRANCH CAMP NO. 10.

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INVESTIGATION DIVISION

9 Jan 1946

Memorandum to the Officer in charge:

SUBJECT: Investigation of Prisoner of War Camp, Nagoya Branch Camp No. 10.

1. By direction of the Chief, Investigation Division, 1st Lt. Joseph G. BREAUNE and 1st Lt. Richard H. WILLS, Jr., accompanied by T/4 Hiroshi L. OKADA as interpreter, proceeded to Takaoka City, Toyama Prefecture, Honshu, Japan, and made an investigation of Prisoner of War Camp, Nagoya Branch Camp No. 10, between 1 January 1946 and 7 January 1946.

2. Information contained herein was obtained through a physical inspection of the camp and interviews with the following persons:

KAWA, Kozo, No. 14 Fushiki-Minatomachi, Takaoka, who was employed at the Camp as an interpreter by the Fushiki Kairiku Unso Co., which used the prisoners as laborers.

KANAI, Shizuo, No. 248 Nakagawa, Takaoka, also employed by the Company as an interpreter.

OSHIMA, Yoshijiro, Fushiki, Takaoka, employed by the Company as Chief of the Civilian Office Staff at the Camp.

HAYASHI, Shigeo, No. 272 Fushiki yata, Takaoka, a civilian doctor who visited the camp.

YOSHINO, Hiarki (kei), Shinminato, Rokudoji No. 935, Takaoka, a civilian doctor who visited the camp.

ICHIKAWA, Tomio, Nomachi, Takaoka, a civilian woman employed as a cook for the Japanese Army staff at the camp.

3. The S-2 of the 2nd Battalion, 136 Infantry Regt, 33rd Division and the 42nd Area CIC Office were contacted but no pertinent information was obtained.

4. Data concerning Nagoya Prisoner of War Camp No. 10.

A. Location and description.

The camp is located at Toyama ken, Takaoka shi, No machi, in a building formerly occupied by the Nihonkai Rentan Seizo Kabushiki Co., manufacturers of coal-brick. The property was rented by the Fushiki Kairiku Unso. Co., a transportation company operating on both sea and land, in June 1945 and was converted into a Prisoner of War camp by them. The main building consisted of a frame structure, dirt floor and a tile roof; additional frame structures were erected to serve as latrines, washrooms, hospital and guard quarters and the whole area was fenced with a wooden fence 10 feet high. The camp was ready for occupancy 20 June 1945 when the prisoners arrived and operated as such until their liberation in September 1945. (See Exhibit A for a detailed plan of the camp).

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Although the Takaoka area was not subjected to aerial bombardment, there were many plants producing war materials in the city. The Nomachi railroad station is only 100 yards from the camp and several factories are within one-half mile from it. The prisoners interned in the camp were employed by the transportation company, loading and unloading ships, trucks, and freight cars in a dock and factory area which would constitute a military target for air-raids.

B. Camp Personnel:

The camp was commanded by 2d Lt TODA, Toshio, 33 Uranoshima, Higashiotoka, Fukimura Chitagun, Aichi Ken, a man of 42 who had retired from the Army prior to the war and was called back to active duty. His staff consisted of two Sergeants, one Superior Private, and one Private, and six civilian guards. In addition to these, a guard detail of 9 men and one NCO was furnished by the Army and was rotated weekly. The company maintained a labor and liaison office at the camp, with a staff of six, to keep records on the number of prisoners employed, wages, hours, and supplies furnished by the company. All the records kept by this office were destroyed shortly after the surrender, on orders received from Lt. TODA. (See Exhibit "B" for a complete list of personnel).

C. Prisoner Personnel:

Approximately three-hundred prisoners were received at Camp 10 on 20 June 1945, from Osaka. Most of the 150 Americans were Marine Corps and Navy personnel, many of whom were captured at Corregidor and Guam. The balance were English, Australians, Dutch, Chinese, and Indians. Many of these were crews of merchant ships which had been sunk, and some few had been captured by the German Navy and turned over to the Japanese for internment. There were no commissioned officers in the camp. The Camp Commander was SANDERS, Philip Earl, Chief Boatswain's mate, USN, whose home address is Bellaire, Ohio. (See Exhibit C for a partial list of prisoners).

D. Quarters:

The prisoners slept on wooden platforms, three, four and five men to each platform. Each man had a straw mat and four blankets, but no mosquito nets.

Since the camp was occupied only during the summer months, there were no heating facilities. Electric lights were furnished, and were turned out at 9:00 P.M. each night, with the exception of those in the latrines, which burned all night. The two latrines were separate buildings on either end of the main wing and were connected to the quarters by a hallway. Each latrine contained 14 Japanese-style stools, without covers, which were set over the pits about 4 feet deep. The latrines also housed a washroom, which had one faucet and buckets as wash basins. A 10x12 concrete tub with a fire-box under it, furnished warm water for bathing, but there was very little soap available. (See Exhibit "A" for a detailed plan of the quarters).

E. Rations:

The prisoners' diet consisted primarily of rice, wheat, beans, and green vegetables. They never received meat or fresh fruit; received fish about once every 10 days and potatoes about once every 2 weeks. Many of them suffered from beri-beri and scurvey, due to malnutrition. Water was supplied by a well within the camp and was plentiful, though not purified in any manner.

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The prisoners were not allowed to purchase extra food nor was any received through the Red Cross. X

Three hot meals, prepared by a kitchen staff of prisoners, were served each day; lunch was delivered to work details by the camp. The prisoners used their own mess gear or that issued to them by the Japanese Army. Water was heated in vats in the kitchen for washing mess gear, but there was usually no soap for that purpose.

F. Clothing:

Clothing was Army issue, with the exception of shoes, and no special clothing was issued for work details. Part of the men had their own shoes and others wore "tabi-s." There was a tailor and a cobbler among the prisoners who repaired clothing and shoes with material furnished by the company.

G. Hygiene and Sanitation:

Kitchen waste was taken outside the camp and buried. Human waste was used as fertilizer and the latrines were cleaned out bi-weekly by the prisoners. No fly control methods were utilized except the use of a disinfectant powder in the latrines. Water from the kitchen and bath was drained outside the building into an open ditch, and that, coupled with the presence of surrounding rice paddies, caused many mosquitoes in warm weather. A three or four man detail of prisoners who were too weak for outside work was maintained to clean the quarters and latrines.

H. Medical Care and treatment:

As best could be determined, there was no regular medical care provided nor was there sufficient hospital space for bed patients. A small dispensary and hospital with 10 beds was built just off the main wing of the quarters, with Superior Private TOMURA, Chomatsu, in charge. He was assisted by two prisoners who were medical technicians, and on two occasions, civilian doctors were called in. Dr. HAYASHI, Shigeo, who examined 25 or 30 men, stated that over one-half of those examined suffered from beri-beri, one had dysentery, and two or three had piles, while seven or eight had bad cases of "jungle-rot" on their feet. He neither gave nor prescribed medical treatment since his examination was supposedly made to determine fitness for labor. His report was made to TOMURA, to whom he recommended that foods containing vitamins C and B be given the prisoners to clear up the beri-beri cases. An American medical officer, Capt. BERNSTEIN, who was interned at Camp No. 6, nearby, visited Camp 10 on one occasion prior to the end of the war and several times afterward.

Medical supplies were furnished by the Army, and on several occasions the company purchased some on the civilian market. No supplies were ever received from the Red Cross.

The lack of adequate medical care and supplies is well illustrated by the fact that during the 2½ months the camp was in operation, there were 9 or 10 deaths. Two were the result of dysentery, and one the result of an industrial accident. The cause of the balance of the deaths could not be determined by these agents.

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I. Special Services:

No equipment was furnished for athletics or recreation, though the men were sometimes allowed to go swimming in the river after work hours, or on their day off. There was no canteen established, but the company furnished a few such items as tooth brushes, soap, combs, and razor blades. Each man was allowed three cigarettes a day; paying 35 Sen for a package of 10. Religious services were sometimes conducted by the men inside the Camp without interference by the Army.

J. Work:

Approximately 200 prisoners were employed each day by the Fushiki Kairiku Unso. Co. in loading and unloading cargos of coal, beans, and rice, from ships, trucks, and freight cars. The work detail was divided into two groups: one walked a mile to the docks while the other went by train to docks about four miles distant. They left camp at 0730 and returned at 1700 and were given two 15 minute rest periods during the day. The daily wage was 1 yen, which was paid to the Army. Two days off were allowed each month. No choice was given concerning outside labor, and non-commissioned officers performed the same labor as Privates. No evidence of mistreatment on work details was found. (See Exhibit "D" for outline of labor area).

K. Safety Precautions:

Fire-fighting equipment consisted of casks of water inside the camp and there was no alarm system. Two ditches with a capacity of forty men each were dug as air-raid shelters, the balance of the prisoners were to be marched to a railroad tunnel one-half mile away, in the event of a raid.

L. Punitive Measures:

The only instances of disciplinary punishment determined were two cases involving the theft of food by prisoners while working. In each case the prisoner was given one week confinement, but his diet was not restricted. The guardhouse was built to accomodate six men and was in the building which was occupied by the Japanese Army guard detail. Prior to the time these agents visited the camp, this building was destroyed.

M. Miscellaneous:

The prisoners were allowed to exercise their right to elect a spokesman, who made numerous complaints concerning lack of medical care and supplies, insufficient food, and the working of men when weak or ill. However, there is no evidence that any of their complaints ever produced results.

No correspondence with relatives was either sent or received while the camp was in operation, nor did the International Red Cross or Swiss Representative visit the camp prior to the cessation of hostilities.

N. Summary:

Due to the fact that the building used to quarter prisoners at Camp 10 was re-converted into a coal-brick factory prior to the time these agents examined it, it was impossible to get an accurate picture of living conditions within the camp; however, it was obvious from the investigation made that the quarters were totally unsuited for housing during inclement weather and that insufficient sanitary precautions were taken concerning drainage, waste disposal, and insect control.

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Although insufficient information was obtained to charge anyone particular person with deliberate laxity in medical treatment, it is significant to note that during the 2½ months the Camp was occupied, 9 or 10 of the 300 prisoners died. Two of these died from dysentary and at least twelve others suffered from beri-beri, indicating that malnutrition was prevalent and the prisoners in a weakened condition.

O. Undeveloped Leads:

1. Interrogation of 2d Lt. TODA, Toshio, who was the CO of the camp from 20 June 1945 to 20 Aug 1945.
2. Investigation to determine if Capt. BERNSTEIN, U.S. Army, who was interned at Nagoya Branch Camp No. 6, made a statement concerning medical care and the treatment of prisoners at Camp 10.
3. Investigation to determine if SANDERS, Philip Earl, Chief Boatswain's Mate, USN, who acted as Camp Commander and spokesman for the prisoners, made a statement concerning conditions within the camp.

*Joseph G. Breau*  
JOSEPH G. BREAU, 1st Lt., CMP,  
Investigating Officer  
Legal Section, GHQ, SCAP.

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RICHARD H. WILLS, Jr., 1st Lt., CMP,  
Investigating Officer  
Legal Section, GHQ, SCAP.