

R E S T R I C T E D

S SATORU MATSUI, after having been duly sworn testified at Dai Hiwako Seisai Building on 20 February, 1946, as follows:

Q. Please state your full name, age and address?

A. SATORU MATSUI, 30, Fukuoka-koen, Takawa-gun, Itoda-machi, Miyama 1565 Sanchi.

Q. What is your present occupation?

A. Construction laborer.

Q. Religion?

A. Buddhist.

Q. What was your duty at POW Camp #5?

A. I was employed as a guard (civilian) but prior to the termination of the war, I worked in the office.

Q. How long were you at this Camp?

A. From 28 Dec., 1943--24 Aug., 1945.

Q. What kind of work did the Prisoners do at Camp #5?

A. Healthy POW's worked in and around the mine. The weaker ones worked in the vegetable gardens and around the Camp.

Q. Were there any POW's killed in mine accidents?

A. Yes, there were two that I remember. One of these were killed when the coal car transporting the workers to the shaft started off with a jerk thereby throwing the PW under its wheel. The other PW was killed in a mine cave in.

Q. What type of clothing and shoes did the POW's possess and what system of exchange were there?

A. When clothings and shoes were worn and beyond repair, they were exchanged. The army had a contract with the mining Co. that the Company was to furnish clothings and shoes if the they ran short, the army issued their supplies to the POW's. As for blankets, each man was given 3-4 apiece.

Q. What were their hours of work and days off?

A. There were three shifts; (1) 0700--1600, (2) 1700--2130, (3) 2130-- 0500. They had every Monday off of each week.

Q. Did you ever see Red Cross packages handed out to the Prisoners?

A. Yes. They were passed out several times the greatest amount being distributed on the Christmas of 1943 and 1944. The Camp Commander was very strict about these and would not let any Jap. personnel touch it except for the man in charge.

Q. Who was the Commander of your stay there?

A. Captain Sakiyo Kaneko and later in August of 44, 1st Lt. Takaaji Okada took over.

Q. What system was used to give POW's small canteen items?

A. The Company sent small canteen items to the Camp Commander and he in turn passed them out to the POW's.

Q. How did the POW's think of Kaneko?

A. They didn't have much respect for him because he would get drunk and strike them with his fists. He also permitted the guards to strike prisoners after receiving his permission to do so after the reason was given. 1st Lt. Okada on the otherhand was liked and respected by the POW's because slapping and other mistreatment was discontinued.

Q. Were the POW's ever put in solitary confinement cells and for how long?

A. Yes. Captain Kaneko would place a POW in solitary for (3) three days on most cases but some stayed in as long as ten (10) days. According to Japanese military law, any man placed in solitary would receive only half ration.

Q. Did any POW die as a result of solitary confinement?

A. No.

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- Q. What did the POW food diet consist of?
- A. The ration consisted mostly of rice and wheat and some vegetables and cardines. Some bread was prepared when flour was available. The POW had as much food as the Jap civilians but this was not sufficient for the POW'S.
- Q. Was there any Japanese doctor stationed at the Camp?
- A. There was no military medical personnel but there was a civilian doctor from the mine Company that visited the Camp once everyday until all patients were examined. In emergencies, the POWs were taken to the Company hospital for consultation.
- Q. Was there ever a shortage of medical supplies?
- A. I don't know.
- Q. How many deaths were there in POW Camp #5?
- A. I heard that there were 11 or 12.
- Q. Have you anything further to add?
- A. No.

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(Signature of Witness)

February 1948



Pat. [unclear] Shep's [unclear] Baby Face Camp Longcaut Whiskers