

To:- Allied Authority whom it may concern.

From:- Wing Commander G. Matthews, R.A.F.  
Senior British Officer P.O.W.  
MIYATA (Fukuoka 9) Kyushu, Japan.  
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Subject:- MALTR E ATMENT OF PR ISON ERS OF WAR BY  
LIEUTE NANT SAKAMOTO, CAMP COMMANDANT  
MIYATA CAMP, AND SERG EANT KU RIHARA  
3rd in Command.

1. I wish to report the above officer and NCO., of the Japanese Army for crimes against British, Dutch, American, and Australian prisoners of war at Miyata Camp and Fukuoka sub-camp No. 1. Without exaggeration it can be stated that their reign of terror, combined with their direct contravention of almost every clause of the Geneva Convention of 1929 deserve the severest punishment that can be meted out. When hostilities ceased the Camp Commandant obviously received the strictest instructions to treat the prisoners well, but in spite of this, several cases of beating took place after 15th August 1945. With regard to maltreatment during the war there is evidence to show that the Japanese authorities at Fukuoka were aware at least of the reputation of Lt. Sakamoto, but they deliberately closed their eyes to his misdemeanours as he was obtaining results in the way of production of vegetables and in keeping up the output of coal.
2. 45 British Officers of the 3 services left Zentsuji in Shikoku on 25.6.45. and arrived in Miyata on 26.6.45. They were informed on arrival by the Commandant through the Japanese Interpreter, that if they failed to obey orders they would be bayoneted to death. The following day all these officers were ordered to work and the day after that they commenced agricultural work at the mine farm, which involved leaving the Camp at 0700 hrs. and returning about 1745 hrs. seven days out of eight. During the first 3 or 4 days in Miyata Camp these officers were subjected individually to a series of beatings by the guards with rifles, sticks, fists and feet, for the most trivial offences, or for no offence at all, doubtless on the instructions of Lt. Sakamoto with the idea of licking the new officers into shape. The guards were drawn from the 195 Regiment: some of them were of the lowest type who welcomed a chance to beat prisoners, knowing that they could not retaliate. Incidentally, we have never yet seen any orders which set out the rules and regulations of this Camp.
3. The following is a selection of some of the worst cases of ill-treatment for all of which SAKAMOTO must be held responsible and in some of which KURIHARA was directly involved.

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It is pointed out that these cases apply only to British personnel; the Dutch prisoners-of-war in this Camp have been treated as badly or even worse, on various occasions. The individual items which follow are given under 3 headings viz: Those witnessed by officers ex Zentsuji at Miyata, those witnessed by officers ex Taiwan at Miyata, and those by officers ex Fukuoka at Fukuoka No. 1 Sub-Camp.

- A. (i) BY ZENTSUJI OFFICERS. Officers have throughout their time here been ordered to work, in direct contravention of the Geneva Convention of 1929, and, we were informed at Zentsuji, directly contrary to the instructions of the Japanese P.O.W. Information Bureau, which controls the treatment of war prisoners. The work the officers were forced to do was not confined to farm work but included loading sacks of rice and coal for the Camp (elderly officers up to 59 - some with hernia being selected for this), moving pit-props at the mine, and emptying latrines in the Camp. Much of the work was supervised by boys of 16 or upwards who carried sticks and were continually using them. The work was carried out almost invariably at high pressure. The only English spoken by some of the guards being "Hur ry up". Officers had to work in water in paddy-fields which caused many cuts and sores which took weeks to heal up.
- (ii) Although not under the control of SAKAMOTO the food question must be mentioned here. Officers were allowed 360 grams (13 ozs) of rice and 190 grams (6½oz) of flour per day. The work was so arduous that this ration (approx. 1900 calories) was quite insufficient and during their first fortnight here the Zentsuji officers lost an average of 2.8 Kilos (6.16 lbs), and the Fukuoka officers 4.5 Kilos (9.9lbs) per officer. No extra food could be obtained but work could have been reduced. Several applications to the Japanese Interpreter for this to be done were ignored.
- (iii) In spite of protests to the Japanese Interpreter all Japanese Military and civilians, were permitted to administer corporal punishment for any offence, real or fancied.
- (iv) All Japanese, including boys of 16 had to be saluted at all times, even in the dark.
- (v) Hospital patients and cripples received only 360 grs. (13oz) of rice per day.
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- 70 23



- (vi) On the 6th August SAKAMOTO attended the sick parade of the Japanese doctor and ordered 46 men to be discharged from hospital. Some of these men could hardly stand. They were all called out on working parade in the camp the following day. Witness - Capt. Hilfmann, Dutch M.O.
- (vii) The sick were frequently sent to work down the mine. One man was sent to the mine with a temperature of 104°. Witness - same.
- (viii) Major P.W. William Powlett M.C., was severely beaten with the flat of the butt, and the butt end of a rifle for failing to salute a guard the day after arrival in the Camp. When the senior officer (myself) protested against this he was kicked in the stomach by the guard commander who had ordered the beating.
- (ix) Major William Powlett was beaten on the head and body with a pick-helve by the same guard commander when reporting the number of officers leaving the Camp as a working party. His report was correct. His head was split open behind the ear, and one rib was cracked.
- (x) Lt. Neville Simpson had his eardrum pierced by a blow from a guard.
- (xi) Major I.S. Graham sustained a similar injury on the 19th August 1945, after we had been notified of the cessation of hostilities.
- (xii) Just prior to 7th August 1945 the camp suffered a reduction of 10% in the rice ration. The Senior Officer prisoner (myself) made every effort to see the Camp Commandant to point out that the food was insufficient, but all efforts failed. He was never once able to obtain an interview with the Camp Commandant up to the time of the Armistice. He approached several members of the Camp Staff including KURIHARA but no satisfaction was obtained. On roll-call on the evening of 7th August all British officers, except those ex Fukuoka were ordered to remain behind. Between 90-100 officers were involved. They were given a long harangue by Sgt. KURIHARA on the sins of Britain e.g. slavery in India, China, and were



informed that they were all to be beaten because the senior officer had attempted to see the Camp Comd. (SAKAMOTO) to make a complaint. A request was made that the sick and elderly officers (two of 59 years of age) should be allowed to fall out. This was refused. All officers were ordered to assume the on the hands down position and they were beaten on the posterior with bamboo sticks and poles by KURIHARA assisted by some of the guards. The whole affair lasted about 40 mins. It is the general opinion that this was carried out by orders of SAKAMOTO, so that he would not be worried by complaints from the prisoners. One sick officer was struck on the base of the spine and he fainted. He was carried into the bathroom by the guards and they revived him by throwing buckets of water over him. During the talk the officers were made to hold their hands above their heads for a prolonged period during which they were belaboured by the guards if their hands dropped an inch or so. Officers received 3-10 strokes each and some received severe bruises on hip-bones, spine and buttocks.

(xiii) On the 17th Aug. after the cessation of hostilities 4 Dutch O.R 's. were beaten in the above manner by Cpl. KURIHARA for making music in their huts.

(xiv) On one occasion 5 officers received contradictory orders regarding falling-in for a work party. They arrived a few minutes late on parade. Lt. Woodcock, R.E. was attacked by KATSUKI a civilian member of the staff who struck this officer ~~with~~ his fist cut his chin necessitating 2 stitches. Skipper Cowlink was then attacked with a saw and his cheek deeply cut.

(xv) While naked in the bathroom on 5.7.45. Capt. J.H. Walsh was attacked by the guard commander (vide viii and ix above) with a pick-helve and hit 3 times across the head and twice across the mouth.



Abrasions were caused on the mouth and much blood lost and also swellings on the head. Reason given was that this officer had not saluted quickly enough. Capt. Walsh is 50 years of age.

(xvi) Also on 5.7.45. the same guard comd. for allegedly the same offence attacked Capt. S.A. Lambert (aged 48) who was sick in his room. The guard kicked him in the abdomen and off his feet. When struggling up he was again attacked. Capt. Lambert was in great distress for 4 days after the occurrence.

B. (i) BY OFFICERS EX-TAIWAN. On 11th June 1945 Capt. Radcliffe, senior officer of the Taiwan party was badly beaten by a guard for being late in saluting. He was beaten for 45 mins. He fainted twice and while unconscious he was badly kicked about. He was then put into a cell in guard-room where he was hit on the head with sticks by the guards. He fainted again and when he came to he asked for water. They flung a bucket of urine over him. Capt. Radcliffe was in hospital for 2 days after this occurrence. He was Senior British Officer in the Camp at the time.

(Report attached marked A.)

(ii) Lieutenant E. B. Thomas and F. N. Furness were brutally beaten with sticks and the flat of a bayonet while working on the farm. Capt. Radcliffe accompanied these officers to the Japanese office on return to the camp to protest about this treatment. Their protest was overheard by the Camp Comdr. ( SAKAMOTO ) who without waiting for any explanation came into the general office and attacked all three officers with his fists saying that they had not worked hard enough.

(See reports attached marked B and C.)



C. BY OFFICERS EX-FUKUOKA.

- (1) Lance-Bombardier CHILTON was brutally attacked by Lt. SAKAMOTO at Fukuoka No. 1 Sub-Camp. The NCO. was beaten until he fell down. SAKAMOTO then kicked him in the body and behind the left ear until the NCO lost consciousness.  
(Report attached Marked D.)

From the behaviour of Lt. SAKAMOTO and Sgt. KURIHARA it is observed that they are two varying types although both appear to be consumed with hate for the Allies and are therefore the last persons to be in authority over prisoners-of-war. SAKAMOTO was promoted from the ranks for bravery in the field and obviously has a reputation for getting things done. He is ill-educated, a boor, and completely ruthless. KURIHARA is better educated, but is a complete hypocrite. He has many high sounding phrases about protecting the prisoners from dangers outside the Camp, but he makes no effort to control his violent temper and he has stolen more Red Cross food supplies than any other Japanese in the Camp. He had a stock in the building in which the guards are housed, and he was observed by the Dutch Orderly to be consuming a tin of meat a day then there was none available for the prisoners-of-war. Guards leaving the Camp were given Red Cross butter, meat and fish, as an iron ration. KURIHARA's brother has recently been staying in the vicinity and he took away a large package when he left a few days ago. SAKAMOTO, on the other hand, has never been known to misappropriate Red Cross Supplies.

5. The officers from Zentsuji wondered on arrival at Miyata why no-one smiled or looked pleasant. They soon discovered that the vast majority of prisoners were under a spell of fear. It is difficult for an outsider to appreciate the state of mind reached by these prisoners after months of physical and mental torture for which these two war criminals were chiefly responsible.

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*Shanthi*  
my Lr. R.A.F.



C.

No. 9 Camp,  
Fukuoka District,  
J A P A N.

August 25th 1945.  
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Statement by LT. F. N. FURNESS, 1st Bn. The  
Manchester Regt.

On June 22nd 1945 whilst working out on the Farm Party, I was very badly beaten up by a guard named Yama, as I refused to give him an American Red Cross Cigarette. I was struck on the head with the flat of his drawn bayonet several times, and my head cut open. I was also struck across the left ear with a thick bamboo stick, and on the back and forearms until blood was drawn. The marks are even now still showing on my arms and my hearing has been definitely impaired.

On the return of the Party to Camp I was ordered by Capt. Radcliffe the senior British Officer in the Camp, to attend at the Camp Office along with Lt. Thomas, and the Dutch Camp Interpreter, in order that a complaint could be made to the Nippon Sgt. who was in charge of the working party but who was not present on the day of the assault.

Capt. Radcliffe was making his report to the Sgt. when the Camp Commandant, Lt. Sakamoto came into the office and before any explanation could be given he proceeded to strike all three of the British Officers present and when his temper had died down somewhat he stated that Lt. Thomas and myself had been beaten because we would not work, and if we didn't work he would give us no food. I can add that for the month of June I was presented by the Nippon Authorities with 50 Cigarettes for being a hard worker on the Farm.

*F. N. Furness*  
.....Lieut.  
1st Bn. The Manchester Regt..

Witness:

*Harold Radcliffe*  
.....Capt. R. A.  
(Senior British Officer).

MR FURNESS

WITNESS.

*Harold Radcliffe*



Fukuoka Camp No. 9.  
27th August, 1945.

REPORT ON BEATING OF OFFICERS BY CAMP COMMANDANT.

On June 22nd 1945, when working on the farm, I was attacked by a guard named Yama, who thrashed my bare back with a bamboo and raised many bloody weals. On return to the Camp, Capt. Radcliffe, the Senior British Officer in the Camp, who had interceded at the beating and who had received several blows himself, decided to report the matter to the Camp Commandant direct. Capt. Radcliffe, Mr. Furness, whose head had been split open by the same guard, and I, went to the Nipponese Office, accompanied by the Dutch Interpreter. Capt. Radcliffe then started to make his report to the Nipponese Sergeant; there was much interruption from other Nipponese NCO's., and others who were in the office, which attracted the attention of the Camp Commandant. Capt. Radcliffe endeavoured to explain the position to him, but although he must have seen my lacerated back which had been bared for exhibition, his only action was to strike Capt. Radcliffe, Mr. Furness, and myself violently in our faces, and to say that we would be punished if we did not work hard. Capt. Radcliffe received about 6 heavy blows in the face and Mr. Furness and I about 4. He then dismissed us. His attack was quite unjustified, and he did not listen to the complaint either before striking us or afterwards.

Lt. THOMAS

WITNESS

Witness:

.....Lieut. R. E.

.....Capt. R. A.  
(Senior British Officer).

D.

REPORT ON ILL-TREATMENT OF NO. 1614712 L/BDR. CHILTON, F.  
DURING CAPTIVITY AS P.O.W. IN JAPAN.

On a certain day in the first quarter of 1944 at No. 1 sub-camp, Kasii, Fukuoka P.O.W. Camp, the undersigned officers were witnesses to a brutal assault on the above-mentioned L/Bdr. Chilton by the Camp Commandant, Sakamoto, Lt. L/Bdr. Chilton was marched into the camp before the Commandant, who thereupon attacked him, and incidentally other members of the working party, with a bamboo pole and fists, beating him over the head and body until he was felled to the ground. The Commandant then kicked him in the body, and finally kicked him behind his left ear, until he lost consciousness. The Commandant then ordered two Nipponese guards to pick him up and carry him into the hut and throw him on the bed.

.....Capt. R. A.

.....Lieut. R. A.

CAPT CRAIG

WITNESS

27th August, 1945.



Fukuoka,  
P.O.W. Camp No. 9,  
(Camp Comdr) Sakemoto (Chui),  
12th June, 1945.

At about 1900 hrs. on the 11th June 1945 I was sitting in my room writing up the officers work book for the following day. Lieut. J. H. D. Wickham came in to tell me that he was sick and would not be going out to work the next day. I was requesting the particulars of this officer, my back was towards the window, when a sentry walked past the window outside the hut. As I was occupied writing, I was a little late in saluting him, but I did salute. The sentry called all the officers of the room outside, although all the officers with the exception of myself had saluted promptly and correctly, and beat them up brutally with sticks. He beat me for 45 minutes. During the time he was beating me he was shouting to the B.O.R's., in the next hut that I, their Captain, was no good and had not saluted him. I was so badly beaten up I fainted twice, and during the faints I was badly kicked about. After my beating I was put in Jail, where I was beaten over the head with sticks by the sentries. I fainted in Jail and after asking for water as I was in a very weak condition, one of the sentries got a bucket of urine and flung it over me. That was all the water they would give me. I was in such a bad condition that I had to go into hospital for two days after this treatment. I complained to the Camp Commander through the Nipponese Interpreter about this treatment, and also to the Nipponese Sergeant Major, but it was of no use. They would not listen to complaints. I was Senior British Officer in this Camp at that time, and this is only one of the numerous unjust beatings I received in this Camp.

*Harold Ractliffe* Capt. R. A.  
Senior British Officer.

Witness: ..... *new* ..... Lieut. R. A.

CAPT. RACTLIFFE & WITNESS.