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407	P.A.C.	148

NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS ADMINISTRATION

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RG 407 Records of the Adjutant
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PHILIPPINE ARCHIVES COLLECTION

POWS/Civilian Internees

Oryoku Maru - Jap Atrocities
Against POWs

Box 148

148

"PA"

FILE : 3105-1-A
TITLE : Camp History and Statements
ORIGIN : Kamioka, Japan
DATES : 1943 to 1945
AUTHENTICITY : Original, signed
SOURCE : Recovered Personnel Team #53

Screened by RPP

3105-1-A
Camp
Kamioka

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ARCHIVES FILE NUMBER 3105-1-A

TITLE Camp History

ORIGIN Ka mioka

DATES 1943 to 1945

AUTHENTICITY Originals Signed

SOURCE Recovered Personnel Teams No 53

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To the Officier Commandin P.O.W. camp.

Sir,

Of late the number of casualties through mine accidents has increased alarmingly. In a speech made by you to part of the Prisoners of War in this camp yesterday you warned the men to take good care in the mine because in many instances the accidents happened only through carelessness on the part of the injured persons themselves.

We beg, however, to disagree with you in this respect and wish to point out to you that the mineworkers) for one thing - are not equipped with the normal protection all miners have. If men are hurt by stones falling from the ceiling we think that carelessness of the miners working there is out of the question, moreover most men have had some seven months of experience and will be more aware of threatening dangers than when they started working in the mine.

For your guidance we are giving some figures :

12 persons had wounds

45 persons wounded at the hand or arm

32 persons wounded at the feet or leg

5 persons with internal injuries.

Added to this we might recall to your attention an accident in which two of our men were buried alive.

Cases in which our men escaped death or serious injuries by sheer miracle we will not even take in consideration.

Our requests for mine caps have been met with not outspoken refusals but with vague promises with the result that so far none of the men have been supplied with the normal protective equipment which might prevent injuries of the head which should be at least something.

The above includes us, much to our regret, to lodge a serious protest with you as commanding officer and on behalf of the Prisoners of War working in the local mine under dangerous conditions.

Should there be any carelessness on the part of our men, this may be due to the fact that the physique of the majority of the men is below normal and therefore need more rest. Contradictory to promises made at the time the workers will not enjoy their weekly restday during August and September. To this we also regret having to protest firstly because such measure is a serious infringement upon our religious conceptions which prescribe the Sunday as a day of rest, and secondly because physically the workers cannot do without one restday a week.

Kindly requesting you to take due note of the above,

We are, Sir,

Yours respectfully,

(signed) G.H. Theunissen, W.A. Bedet W.F.H. Semmelink

Dutch

W. O. M. G. M. B.

W. O. M. G. M. B.

POW Commander

Kamioka, 11th March 1943.
sub Camp #1

Dear Sir,

These last few days you have deemed it necessary to send men to work in the mine who were considered unfit for duty by the physician of Messrs. Mitsui.

On several occasions we have pointed out to you that the responsibility for actions of this sort lies entirely with you.

Admittedly on some occasions men, who were only simulating ~~injury~~ stayed inside, but the duty officers of your camp have done all they can to send these men to work and we have been successful in this respect, also due to the fact that we have continuously done our utmost to try and keep up the morale of the troops despite the bad conditions prevailing here.

Apparently the number of thirty dead out of a total of 300 is not yet sufficient and although in a recent speech to "so called sick" and "lazy men" 1) (during which speech 3 men fainted) you promised that the more men worked the more and better food would be issued so far this promise has not been fulfilled.

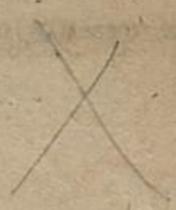
The above leads us to request you to kindly relieve us from our duties as duty officers also in view of the fact that - whereas we are offering and giving full collaboration - no cooperation or confidence whatsoever is received by us from your side.

Yours faithfully,

(signed) A.W. Bedet.

W. Semmelink.

1) who without exception were inside on doctor's orders



To The Officier Commanding Prisoner of War Camp

O S A K A

Kamioka, 12th. January 1943.

Dear Sir,

Since my last letter to you, viz. that of 28th December 1942, two weeks have passed.

In that letter I expressed my expectations that further death would occur and to my deep regret what I expected has come true : seven more men died of which 5 within the last 24 hours.

So far my last letter has had no result whatsoever. To the contrary : we were informed that the rations would be reduced. The number of sick men amongst our troops is alarming and the physical condition is visibly getting worse, so that the death rate will continue to increase..

Whatever the direct causes of these death may be I am convinced that the physical resistance of the men has been reduced to the very minimum by undernourishment during the last 9 months.

Under these circumstances I consider it my duty to raise a violent protest against the fact that these prisoners of war who have never done manual labour before and who have not yet acclimatized are worked extremely hard in the local mine in insufficient food whereas clothes and shoes are entirely insufficient as well.

Once again I wish to point out to you that under the circumstances further cases of serious illnesses resulting in more deathcases cannot be avoided.

In conclusion I must once more recommend the above to your attention and express the hope that conditions in this camp will be altered drastically.

I am, dear Sir,

Yours respectfully,

(signed) G.W. Theunissen

KAMIOKA, (Japan) September 3rd. 1945.

STATEMENT

On September 2nd. 1945 1st Lieutenant Furushima Taro handed over to 1st. Lieutenant G.H.Theunissen, N.E.I. Army and 2nd. Lieutenant L.E. Goldsmith of the U.S. Army EIGHT rifles which belonged tot the Japanese Guards of the Kamioka P.O.W.camp.

On examination of these rifles it was found that these eight rifles had been tampered with and that the firing-pins had been filed off deliberately, rendering them unfit for use.

G.H. Theunissen
G.H. THEUNISSEN
1st. Lieut. N.E.I. Army

.....
(Furushima Taro)
Commander Kamioka P.O.W.camp.

L.E. Goldsmith
L.E. GOLDSMITH
2nd. Lieut. U.S. Army.

Witnesses:

W.A. Bedet
W.A. Bedet
1st. Lieut. N.E.I. Army.

J.G. Rose
J.G. ROSE
1st. Sergeant Sign. Corps. U.S. Army.

KVHIOKV

Prisoner Of War Camp

Kamioka, Japan.

September 2, 1945.

ESTABLISHMENT OF MILITARY POLICE:

1. M/Sgt. Smith will exercise full authority as Provost Marshal and have complete control over this military police.
2. Absolutely no one will leave this camp at any time unless, in LARGE PARTIES under supervision of one of the three commanders of the camp, or their subcommanders. These parties will move as a military body of men direct to trading centers and return direct to camp.
3. One large party of Officers have permission to go for daily exercise but at no time will these Officers be permitted to trade for or procure foodstuffs or any other items whatsoever from either Japanese or Koreans and at all times will remain as a military group of men.
4. No Commander in this camp will give authority for any men or group of men to leave this camp unless it is specified in these orders.
5. The Military Police of this camp will have authority over any and all members of this camp and are only subject to orders to the three commanders of this camp i.e. Lt. Theunissen, Lt. Goldsmith, 1st Sgt. Pase.
6. The Japanese Army will exercise absolutely no authority whatsoever over the foreign military police of this camp.
7. Any violation of these orders will be punished according to the decision of the three group commanders.

G. H. THEUNISSEN
1st. Lt. N. E. I. Airforce.

L. E. GOLDSMITH
2nd. Lt. C. A. C. U. S. Army.

J. G. PASE
First Sgt. Signal Corps.
U. S. Army

commander and in the end all officers were forced to manual labour identical to that given to privates and N.C.O.'s.

The great death-rate in this camp may be ascribed in no small part to the behaviour of the said Lieutenant Furushima. This man even went so far in his attempts to make life for the prisoners as miserable as possible that he made false statements as to the progress of the war in order to try and disturb the minds of the men under his care.

Kamioka, Japan, August 24th. 1945.

(signed) G.H. TREUNISSEN

1st. Lieutenant Netherlands East Indies Army

(Air Force)

Officer commanding Netherlands Prisoners of War at
Kamioka Sub-camp

(signed G.A. Jackson

Surgeon Lieutenant R.N.V.R.

R E P O R T concerning 1st Lieutenant FURUSHIMA TARO, Nipponese Commander of Nagoya Prisoner of War Camp. Kamioka Sub-Camp.

As commanding officer, responsible for the welfare of a detachment of 300 prisoners of war of Netherlands nationality, I deem it my duty to report on the behaviour and actions of the above Japanese officer in his capacity of commander of the prison camp mentioned above.

This officer has to account for the following events and facts :

1. On several occasions members of the Japanese staff have badgered, persecuted and terrorised hospital patients, even those who were dying.
The commander himself informed patients that it would be better if they were dead, as they were useless as workers. No steps were taken by him, when patients were beaten by Japanese sick orderlies or other staff-members.
2. Men suffering of dysenteric and diarrhoea were stood outside camp in three feet of snow with the temperature several degrees below zero.
During an inspection by a representative of the Swedish Legation - our protective power - all sick men were moved out of their bunks and out of camp until the inspection ~~was over~~ party had left. In the course of the inspection all sorts of wrong information were given to this representative as to the camp and prevailing conditions in order to try and create a more favourable impression.
3. Workers, excused from work by the Japanese doctor, were sent to work by the commander, who frequently attended sickparade and attempted to intimidate and influence this doctor.
4. Fresh foodstuffs such as vegetables, fish or meat, were kept in storage until they had become completely putrid.
5. On many occasions the Japanese Commander overruled the arrangement by which our men were granted 4 rest-days a month.
6. Prisoners who had committed a slight infringement on camp rules, were punished in a inhuman way. A man would be beaten up with sticks until unconscious, brought to and beaten again. All the staff used to attend such occasions and indulge them. Various ancient forms of torture would be practised on the culprit, after which he would be locked up in the cell with no clothes on, no matter what the outside temperature might be. ~~None~~ prisoners of war afterwards died as a result of this treatment.
7. Theft of rations, sugar, fish, oil, cigarettes, soap, medicine, clothes and personal belongings was committed by staff-members under the eyes of the Japanese commander. Stealing of Red Cross articles issued to us, as e.g. musical instruments, razors, pencils, soap, clothing, etc. etc. was done by his authority.
Contrary to a guarantee, given to us by the Supply Officer of P.O.W. Head-quarters, Red Cross supplies were never handed over to the officer in charge of the prisoners, but withheld from them till the last possible moment.

Many attempts were made ~~to~~ ^{to} try and ~~create~~ ^{create} a presentation between

- 3 September, 1945 -

Received medicine, foodstuffs, and clothing, tobacco, candy, dropped from plane and picked up in the Nagoya, Funatsu area. This camp divided all supplies and equipment in proportional amounts.

- 4 September, 1945 -

Plane dropped medicine, foodstuffs, clothing, tobacco, candy and miss; items in this camp. All supplies proportionally divided with Funatsu Camp.

Naval Gunner Hoyt and Sgt Kellet arrived here from Toyama to evacuate sick also brought information concerning our future evacuation.

M/Sgt. Smith made Provost Marshall over entire Allied Forces in this camp.

Sgt. Thompson, P.E., U.S.M.C. made acting 1st Sgt. of the 1st Detach. of Americans.

(大阪俘虜收容所)

KAMIOKA, JAPAN

5 September, 1945

Statement

I, as non-commissioned officer in charge of the 1st Detachment of Americans in this camp personally witnessed the torture by fire of the following named men:

NAME	RANK	Ser. No.	Service	Type of Torture	Location
Thomas, Wm.	S/Sgt	14042312	Sig. Corps	Burn	Ear & Neck
Swisher, Morris D.	MM 2/c	25-611-11	USN	Burn	Stomach & Arms
Riggs, Selby B.	QM 4/c	28-735-15	USN	Burn	Arms
Blevins, Geo, Jr.	Cox	26-603-62	USN	Burn	Stomach & Hands
Lee, Cleovis M.	Sgt.	20843475	Army	Burn	Neck
Cohen, Ray E.	Sgt.	269014	USMC	CUT	Face (left side)
Lippard, John B.	Corp.	273486	USMC	BURN	NECK
Fite, James T.	Corp.	6928527	Air Corps	BURN	NECK
Bennett, Owen B.	Pvt.	18052388	Army	BURN	Hands
Chaffin, Chas. R.	Pfc.	20500756	Army	BURN	NECK
HUFF, Vernon G.	Pvt.	19052687	Army	BURN	Stomach & Hands
Myers, Lewis E.	Pfc.	6579731	Army	BURN	NECK
Pruett, Ernest G.	Pvt.	18038602	Army	Burn	Hands

This torture was done by Japanese soldiers under command of 1st Lt. Furushima cho tori

(大阪俘虜收容所)

Joseph G. Pase
1st Sgt., Sig. Corps, USA