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115

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMAND IN MOTOYAMA
MOTOYAMA, JAPAN

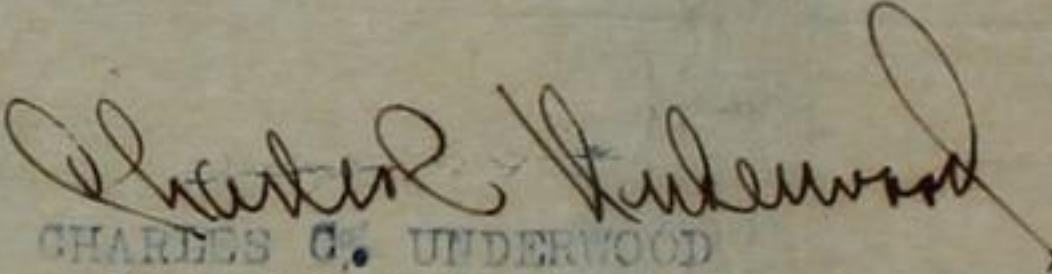
September 4, 1945

R E P O R T : -

1. Five members of this Command confined in guard house yesterday were released today at 11:15 A. M. They were worked in interior camp duties from 7:00 AM until release time.

2. Confiscated rifles, with bolts removed, were given to Civilian Agency to be turned in.

3. Evacuation of camp is scheduled for 7:00 A. M. tomorrow. Camp will be left in good order on departure of this Command.


CHARLES G. UNDERWOOD
Captain, Infantry
Army of the United States
Provost Marshal

Extracted

(12)

September 4, 1945.

subject: Chinese Forced Labor Camp.

To : Whom it may Concern.

By August 28, 1945, 13 days after the surrender, the command of this camp of mixed nationalities was virtually in our hands, regardless of the fact that no orders had been received to that effect. This was brought about in 13 days by a gradual increase of liberties, requests, and demands on our part. The Japanese were very cooperative and jittery and were very worried that we would let the prisoners get out of hand. We, however, were confident that they would be easily controlled. Not one infraction of our orders was reported.

About 800 yards from our camp is a camp of 634 Chinese forced labor. During the past year our men have been in more or less steady contact with members of the Chinese camp and we knew that their living conditions were bad. During the past year they have had about 200 deaths. On August 28th we had a report that the conditions in their camp were even more deplorable since the surrender.

At receipt of this report we considered our position sufficiently strong to lend some assistance to the Chinese. I therefore informed the Japanese Commanding Officer that we intended to inspect the Chinese Camp next day, August 29th.

Conditions were indeed deplorable. Latrines were overflowing. Feces was running down the hillsides and foot-paths. Feces was two inches deep in the latrine stalls. Maggots were crawling everywhere in millions. Drainage ditches were clogged with filth of every description. The kitchen was filthy and swarming with flies. The ration was three soggy buns per meal and a watery soup--about one part radish tops to 100 parts water. The kitchen manager was being changed every two days by order of the Japanese. Most of the men had never had a bath during the entire past year and the one cheap suit of each man was the same as every other thing--filthy. Every fourth man was suffering from a severe skin infection (pyoderma). Our camp doctor, Major James H. Bahrenburg M. D., found one case of advanced syphilis, six cases of acute beri beri, five cases of tuberculosis who were not isolated, and one man both of whose legs had been amputated due to infection. Forty five men were quartered in a room 18'x27' in double-decked bunks without interval.

Treatment of all cases was started immediately. The following steps were taken:

- A. Chinese leaders were assembled and all deficiencies were pointed out to them. They were told that we would apply pressure to the Japanese mine officials for the necessary supplies and food and that we would send the necessary tools for digging latrines, sumps, etc. They had no tools.
- B. Leaders were told that after two days, August 30, 1945, if satisfactory progress had been made in cleaning up the camp prisoner of war food, tobacco, and sweets would be donated for all the 634 Chinese. (Most satisfactory method of dealing with orientals.)
- C. Permanent mess officer was appointed.
- D. Old building was designated as sick room and Chinese carpenters were ordered to tear down perimeter fence to remodel same.
- E. Twenty ex-service men were chosen as a guard to maintain order and to prevent friction with the Japanese.
- F. An Army Warrant Officer, Holley L. Wilkinson, was designated to maintain constant watch over the camp and to assist and advise the Chinese leaders in every possible way.

S. J. ...

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We visited the managing director of the mine and ordered the necessary food and supplies, all of which were delivered almost immediately.

Upon our second inspection, August 31, 1945, we found a remarkable improvement. All deficiencies had either been corrected or were in the process of being corrected. We then sent meat, various other foods, cigarettes, and sweets in accordance with our previous promise.

Since our original visit the camp has shown a steady improvement. Food is now satisfactory. Bodies, clothing, buildings, latrines, and grounds are now in a satisfactory state of cleanliness. Morale is much higher. Sick men have been placed in one place and tuberculosis patients have been isolated.

The Chinese have cooperated well. We inspect the camp daily and if found satisfactory we send additional food, tobacco, and sweets, etc.

Earl R. Short
EARL R. SHORT,
Captain, Infantry,
Army of the United States.

Estimated
(16)