



January 15, 1946

Mr. Orville R. Stanford  
120 12th Street  
Manhattan Beach, California

Dear Orville:

During the course of the Nakamura trial, Tanaka came to court to testify for the defense, and was promptly picked up on that old Apprehension request. You recall the difficulty we had in locating him. However, he is in Sugamo at the present time, and I am preparing charge and specifications against him and also against Ryu.

In this connection I am enclosing herewith a rough draft of questions that I would like you to answer before a Military Summary Court at the Army post nearest to your home. I am sure they will prepare the papers containing your testimony of the questions and your answers. I would appreciate it very much if you would do this as soon as possible and return them personally to me. I am enclosing a copy of the affidavit you signed on August 2nd, which may be of assistance to you in the answering of the questions. I would suggest that two separate affidavits be made - one relating specifically to the incidents about Tanaka, and the other specifically to the incidents of Ryu.

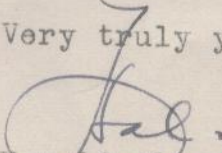
Things in Tokyo are less attractive than they were when you were here last Fall. Restrictions of travel have increased and there are many more places and areas that are now off limits, and there is hardly a Japanese hotel which one is permitted to go to - so you see, you did not miss anything by not remaining behind.

I think the outcome of the Nakamura case was a good one. It was a little bit more than you had anticipated. He received 12 years at hard labor. What helped in the severity of the sentence was the pattern of beatings and misappropriation of Red Cross supplies at 15-D.

I trust this letter finds you in the best of health and I would certainly be glad to receive some personal note from you as to how things are going with you.

With kindest personal regards, I am

Very truly yours,

  
Harold Alper

P.S. Include the Davis beating that took place during Nakamura's command. You make no mention of it. Ryan says he left 100 on Feb 25 1945 before Nakamura came on March 1. Is that correct?





ORVILLE STANFORD, 120 Twelfth street, Manhattan Beach, photographed while giving testimony as a prosecution witness at recent trial of Tomoki Nakamura in Yokohama, is shown above, at right, as he examines tongs alleged to have been used in beating prisoners of war. Standing is Chief Prosecutor Harold Alper of Newark, N. J. Former prisoner of war, Stanford was one of seven volunteer civilian witnesses at the war criminal trials.

# Witness Finds Japanese Responding to Democracy

By LAREE SPRAY

\* court.

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Democracy is being taken in stride by the Japanese people, Orville Sanford, 120 Twelfth street, Manhattan Beach, revealed on recent return from Japan where he had testified as a volunteer civilian witness in five war criminal trials at Yokohama.

He found the cleaning up and rebuilding of Tokyo progressing rapidly, with no indication of food shortage, particularly in the staples rice and sweet potatoes, although fish was available only in smaller seaside centres due to lack of adequate refrigeration in larger cities.

Winter temperature would shortly solve this problem for the metropolitan areas, which also can anticipate additional supplies from the country's bumper crop this year.

Ready response to the new order by the younger generation he attributed to the freedom enjoyed under democratic government and the large number of Nisei now in Japan.

## Fading Feudalism

Sanford's opinion that true democracy will well be on the way in Japan in another generation is based on observation of the fading tendency toward long-established feudalism and outward signs, at least, of the masculine attitude towards women which, while not admitting equality, indicates a greater tolerance.

Testimony of Sanford and six other witnesses resulted in death sentences for three of the defendants and a 25-year, hard-labor sentence for another. Fate of Nakamura, found guilty, had not been disclosed.

Reaction of defendants to sentences imposed, he said, was calm and fatalistic with even a touch of humor in joking remarks made about their disposition by the

Prior to the trials, he visited the prisons to interview the defendants against whom he was to appear and was immediately recognized. Kuysan, who received the death sentence and who was described by Sanford as the most brutal of all war criminals given hearing at these trials, pleaded for mercy.

## Embrace Knees

When Sanford approached him, he dropped to the floor, embraced the 'witness' knees and tried to kiss his hands.

Commenting on the trials, which are being conducted under Supreme Command Allied Power at general headquarters in Tokyo, he said: "I think they are doing a fine job.

"The war trials are being con-

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# SOUTH BAY MAN JAP WITNESS

• Continued from Page 1-A

ducted as fairly as any hearing could be anywhere and, if anything, the defense attorneys seem to handle their cases more expertly than the prosecution."

Prosecution, under Col. Alvin C. Carpenter, is jointly handled by military and civilian counsel, he said, legal defense of the accused Japanese by the 8th Army.

Sanford barely missed death while in Japan by declining to accompany Emerson G. Loewe, Freeport, Ill., another volunteer witness, on a trip by jeep to Yokohama through the necessity of interviewing a prisoner in Sugamo prison in Tokyo. Ten minutes after Loewe started out, he was dead as a result of accident to the jeep.

Sanford, who flew by an Army C 54 to and from Japan, is the first volunteer witness to return to this country.

## In Philippines

He was a captain in the United

### In Philippines

He was a captain in the United States Corps of Engineers during the war and one of four surviving officers of 65 taken prisoner at Tacloban, Philippine Islands. He had been reported missing.

In dispatch from general headquarters in Japan, it is revealed that Sanford was first witness to appear against Tomoki Nakamura.

"Stanford knew the accused well and identified him for the Tribunal," reads the dispatch. He gave an eye witness account to the allegations in each of the specifications. He told how the prisoners received only two issues of meat in six weeks. The total amounted to only two kilos for 150 prisoners. When this allotment was divided, it left about the portion of the size of a thumbnail for each individual. One guard commented that 'this isn't enough for my very good friends' and that he would order some horse guts. Every man was 30 to 40 pounds underweight. They were in such a weakened condition that a slight scratch would quickly turn into a serious infection.

"Chief Prosecutor Alper submitted a pair of heavy fire tongs into evidence. Stanford identified them as being the type used to beat prisoners. He told that civilian guards under the command of Nakamura applied pick handles to the prisoners until they lost consciousness.

#### Lectured On Law

"Mrs. Nakamura who was observing the trial of her husband, explained that he is a graduate of two American universities, St. Johns and Northwestern. He holds the degree of master of law. Before being called into the Japanese Imperial Army, he lectured on international law at Nippon University in Tokyo. She claimed that when she asked him while he was camp commander to bring

home some Red Cross supplies, he indignantly refused, saying that as a teacher of international law he could never do such a thing.

"Evidence brought out during the trial indicated that Nakamura, the camp commander, had a morbid sense of humor. He once addressed newly arrived prisoners who were standing in open straw sandals and rags in the cold while he was wearing good Red Cross boots and warm clothes. Now, he said, his conscience would not let him plead guilty to the charge of his having misappropriated Red Cross supplies. Apparently, it is true that he never actually went into the warehouse to obtain these supplies, prisoners, under pressure, turned them over to him.

"This is said to be the first case against a prisoner of war camp commandant in which he is charged with the cruel and inhuman acts of his subordinates without those subordinates having already been convicted. The defense counsel objected to this but was overruled when Alper pointed out that where authority is delegated over prisoners of war to civilian guards, the commandant is responsible for all acts of misfeasance and malfeasance just as much as he accepts credit for the accomplishments of his prisoners at the factory of their enforced labor."

# POW CAMP OFFICER PLEADS NOT GUILTY AT CRIMES TRIAL

YOKOHAMA, Sept. 25—Tomoki Nakamura, former prisoner of war camp commander now a War Crimes defendant at trials held in Yokohama courthouse, testified yesterday that he was not guilty of charges of being responsible for mistreatment of prisoners and misappropriation of Red Cross supplies. He said his "conscience would not let him plead guilty" since he did not actually take the supplies, but merely forced prisoners working in the warehouse to give them to him.

Prosecution witness Orville Stanford, former captain in the Engineer Corps, testified that Nakamura inspected newly arrived prisoners while clad in Red Cross clothing and boots. The prisoners were usually clad in rags and open straw sandals.

The witness also identified a pair of heavy fire tongs as the type used to beat prisoners. He told that civilian guards under Nakamura used ~~the tongs~~ on the prisoners until they lost consciousness.

Stanford further testified that rations of meat to prisoners amounted to two kilcs for 150 persons or a portion the size of a thumbnail for each person.

Mrs. Nakamura, speaking for the defense, said that her husband was a graduate of both St. Johns and Northwestern University and had taught international law at Nippon University in Tokyo. She claims that when she asked Nakamura to bring home some Red Cross supplies while he was camp commander, he refused, saying that as a "teacher of international law" he could never do such a thing.



1 August 1946 )  
Tokyo, Japan )

I, Orville Stanford, 1st Lt. GE. AUS, was taken prisoner at Tacloban Leyte 26 May 1942 - was interned at Tacloban from 26 May 1942 to September 18 1942, was sent to Bilibid Prison, Manila. Bilibid Prison from September 21, 1942 to October 6, 1942.

October 6, 1942 was shipped on board "Tattori Maru" for Japan. Arrived Hdqtrs. Camp Shinagawa Nov. 12, 1942. On 1st July 1943 was transferred to #10-D Camp at Tsurumi - Station - Yokohama.

Camp #10-D was opened 1st April 1943 with 40 men and 1 officer (Lt. Larkin) 1st July 1943 I was sent there alone from Shinagawa to assist Lt. Larkin in Camp Administration. 1 July 1943, ten men arrived from Basebau Stadium Camp, Yokohama.

From 1st July 1943 until Sept. 8, 1944, camp strength was 50 men and 2 officers.

Upon my arrival at #10-D Camp, the Jap staff consisted of Lt. Owomori (Gunso) Yamasaki and Head Guard Ru-san.

Yamasaki was very lax in camp administration, allowing his staff to steal and barter our rations to the Japs outside. Yamasaki was relieved as Camp Commander by Sgt. Tanaka in Dec. 1943.

Sgt. Tanaka had a stores and clothing inventory and found that several of the POW's had bartered their shoes and clothing with the Japanese workmen. As the result the guilty men were punished by being slapped and made to hold weights tied to sticks at arms length. The camp sailed along fairly well with the occasional slappings by Suzuki and Rui until the summer of 1943 when Sgt. Tanaka caught some of the men cooking white rice. (white rice was very seldom issued to us) Obviously it was stolen. The entire camp was made to stand at attention while Sgt. Tanaka questioned one man at a time when he called in Pvt. Paul Yates. Yates confessed to assisting several men break out of camp and rob a Jap store house. Yates named the other men implicated. The ten guilty men were stood at attention in front of the guard house and the balance of the men were excused. (camp strength at this time was 52 men). I remember some of the men found guilty - Paul Yates, Richards, Davis, Goss, Whitby, Smith, Loftus, Scullion. They were made to hold wts. and were beaten very severely by Suzuki - Rui - and Tanaka, but no one suffered any after effects.

On Sept 8, 1944 we received a draft of 100 Americans from the Philippines, also one British doctor from Shanghai, which brought the camp strength to 150 men and 3 officers.

These men from P.I. were in a weakened condition but Riu made them assemble in the yard and put them through very strenuous calisthenics for about 2 hours. I tried to intervene but was told to mind my own business.

The next incident that happened was in Nov. 1944 when our clothing store was broken into and some clothing was stolen. (11 pr. Jap army trousers, 10 Jap Army jackets, 3 Jap Army sheets and 50 Company work shirts). Although our Red Cross clothing was stored in the same place none was taken. When Sgt. Tanaka found the store broken into he suspected the POW's, so the entire camp was made to stand at attention from noon until 7:00 P.M. while he questioned the ten men implicated in the previous robbery. They were also beaten and pummeled around very severely by Suzuki and Riu. By evening Sgt. Tanaka found that the store robbery was an outside job, done by the Jap workmen in the plant.

Sgt. Tanaka was very fair in giving us 11 our Red Cross food, but he did take one odd shirt for himself and allowed Suzuki and another Jap one each. He also used three blankets and let Suzuki take three blankets home.

In late December 1944 or early Jan. 1945, Lt. Owamori was releaved as Officer in Command of our camp and was replaced by Lt. Nakamura. Lt. Nakamura took from our Red Cross stores 10 blue cotton blankets. And when Camp 3-B broke up and moved north in April, Lt. Nakamura had a five man detail from our camp go to his quarters at 3-B camp to assist in moving his personal effects to our camp. These five men came back and reported to me that they had loaded on a push cart 20 boxes of Red Cross food and several pr. of shoes. On several occasions I was in Lt. Nakamura's office and saw several Red Cross parcels, also I saw parties given to the Japanese staff. They ate Red Cross Food.

Lt. Nakamura was Commander of our camp #10-D from early 1945 until 4 June 1945 - At such time we were evacuated to Ashio #9-D.

  
O. R. Stanford

Tohyo 7<sup>th</sup> Oct 1966.

Dear Orville:

Am enclosing a few letters I received addressed to you including one from England which I opened, this being in connection with Larkin's information which you wrote for. Sorry there is no information with reference to Nakamura. The case still hasn't gone back to trial but we may go on by the end of this week.

Hope you have found things in good order on your return. I will take care of Takavashi on receipt of the package that is being sent.

We are apparently going into the rainy season here which makes things sort of wet & gloomy.

Everything else is OK.

Let me know if you will be at the Manhattan Beach address in the future. There may be a few things I'd like you to take care of for me. Best of luck!

Hal.

14 Nov 1946  
Hq. 47th Bomb Group  
Biggs Field, Texas.

Dear Cheif;

Received your letter yesterday and was really glad to hear from you and also glad to get those clippings.

Boy, I'll bet your revenge was sweet when that Jap got down on his knees to you. Listen, Is that the big Jap Guard that we called "JEW-SAN"? In the paper it was spelled KUYSAN, But I thought maybe it might be him. And the Jap Officer that used to make me shine his Red Cross shoes, What happened to him ?. And did you ever find out about TANAKA and that other mean Devil that used to cause us so much hell ?.

Gee, I will be tickled Pink to get those pictures, Maybe I can use one of them in my book. I am going to use some pictures of a friend of mine taken in Japan when he weighed ~~175~~ 97 lbs and also one of him as he is today weighing about 200.

Say, Why don't you send me a few snaps of yourself ? I would sure appreciate it very much. We are having some negatives reprinted and will send some to you in my next letter.

I also hear from Howard every now and then and I've heard from Baker a couple of times. I have the Addresses of most of the old Gang. If you want any of them let me know.

The Book is progressing pretty good But I don't have time to work on it like I should. I can hardly wait until I can see it on the Market. Have been working on it so long that it seems as if I'll never get it finished. But it wont be too long now.

When you answer Cheif, Write me a real long letter and let me know haw you're doing and what you're doing and etc. Also tell me about the Jap Trials, Did you get to testify against any of them that I know ? And did you see any of those Steel Mill Workers ? Was the Steel Mill or our old Camp ever hit by Bombs after we were moved out ?.

Well, Im in an awful big rush right now so will sign off. Let me hear from you real soon with a real long letter

YOUR FRIEND

Dale

LEGAL SECTION, SCAP  
PROSECUTION DIVISION  
APO 500, C/O POSTMASTER  
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

28 February 1947

Mr. Orville Stanford  
120 12th Street  
Manhattan Beach, California

Dear Orville:

I don't know whether you know it, but Alper has gone back to the States and I have been assigned to take his cases.

I trust that all has gone well with you in your business affairs and that you and your family are in good shape.

I would like to trouble you to get the addresses for me of the following named former Prisoners of War so that we can communicate with them and secure statements from them. The matter is extremely urgent, as the defense section has requested us for this information and we are bound to attend to it.

My best regards, and let me hear from you quickly.

Sincerely,

*Max*  
Max Schiffman  
Prosecutor

P.S. I am enclosing a copy of a letter previously sent to you by Alper which may be of some assistance to you.









