

POW/C.I.: Leonard J Birchall

Folios 3

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Diary

This will be a continuation of previous work & starts on July 6, 1944, my birthday. There was very little to mark this special day but on the evening of this day I received a gift from the cooks consisting of two bottles shell hair brushes. I had many of the men wish me a happy birthday and this made me feel very good. The next morning I ate a bit of pancake & had a small can baked in previous night. At 11:30 a.m. I was called to the office along with the Doc. We were then told that we were to be transferred to N.G. Camp & the Doc was to carry on to Shingora Hospital. This was to take place at 7:00 P.M. and we were to start packing at once. They parted a guard on his own then on and his instructions have about five or six to a house. He managed to separate most of our things and I gave a lot of my

personal property to go. Ake-san, one of the
gunzaka warned me to leave all the things
behind that I value and I was torn between
the desire of keeping my few valued possessions
with me or leaving them to the mercy of
the Pies in our camp. By the time I
was half finished packing I had resigned
myself to my fate and decided to allow
that the Gakuge could take whatever
they wanted as I would not worry.
This was the best policy as I later found
out. I made suitable arrangements regarding
my private belongings, such as my purse,
and then we had lunch. I had a Redross
box, two bit bags & a harness which
was a bit load while the dog had a
large wooden box and a rucksack. We
packed all this into a 37 for Sedan,
along with five Japanese and parcels
like pro-cucio, to Japan and somewhat
surprised that it would not be for
much longer. We arrived at Jimari
camp, as the G.O. is called, and I
believe that I have described this place

be or. We had to carry my baggage which was
a big job for the Nor. & S. We went into the
barracks & I met all a ppl. Walworth the
one who had us slaves & treated as his
previous visits. He was promptly told
by the interpreter from our camp that
I was being sent to S. P. Camp for discipline
I was then told by this ppl. that I
was going to receive special punishment
He informed me that if I ever wanted to
fight I could fight him. I intend to
accept this offer when this is over as
he is beyond description. He searched
my kit & removed everything that
he thought I would value. All my
pictures, letters and anything written
or printed was removed. Some days
later I received back my dictionary
Shakespeare & Poetry book my letters,
pictures & my tin wash was a
surprise. This was gone with but one
has to know these people to understand
to what extent they will
go to satisfy this infantile brain.

From here on I shall only enter the odd
bits as to great a risk is involved in
maintaining a stable shore. This means that the
punishment would be meted out to all men
and I dare not involve or make myself
responsible for such a thing. The officers here
number about 35 and are used in two
divisions; 1/2 do coaling & the other 1/2
work in the post office sorting out P.O. W.
mail. The post office was discontinued a few
days after my arrival here and so these
officers, 11 in all, do spare men. After about
a week we were sent out to work on
the railway jobs as checkers. This was not
too bad but the foremen on the jobs did
not appreciate us doing no manual labour.
After four days of this they stopped us
going out to work as the companies could
not use us. A word about the type of work
the men do on the jobs.

The unroad railway cars & in
some cases load them. Occasionally

They have to load the trucks but this is usually done in Korean days. The men work in gangs of about four or five and they have set amounts of tonnage to move per man per day. The rates are 25 tons of iron, or 20 tons miscellaneous, or 18 tons of iron. The men can be called upon to do 25% extra per day and no more & they get paid 10 cigarettes per extra ton. They get no food from the company & their food from the camp is very little. This leads to excessive stealing of foodstuffs whenever the chance is available & we get paid for the rations the men can get it. A lot of good work is done by our men in the handling of the docks at these jobs.

The sick are next placed in an infirmary, not called an infirmary, for sick & convalescent prisoners. This job has to do with the cutting up of scraps of fur & sewing the pieces into

six different patterns, combing one set.
Each prisoner is supposed to sew up one
set every two days. A lot sewing for two
days, I was put to cutting out the pieces.
These patterns & pieces are to be used as
water proofing of army kit. After a few days
in this job Webster visited us & had
a "tako". Our officer named "Spotty" who
cannot sew very well was called to
account for not having produced enough
sets. He claimed that he was too nervous
to sew & is now working outside with
the men on 25 for per day. This man
is a Captain, U.S.A. On Aug. 7th I
received my first beating. I was
told to practice saluting captives as
my salute was no good. I did this
& then reported to Capt. Webster. He was
in the midst of a tantrum and was
beating up Sgt. Res. After he finished
with Sgt. Res. he set to on me. He gave

me a few good ones & then sent me away.
There was no reason or excuse for this and
as it usually the case there never is. On
the 15th Aug. Mr. Paulman & Dr. Weinstein
arrived from Shinjogawa. Their only ailment
was the protection of prisoners from the
mad practices of the hands of Japanese doctors.
They were both beaten up two days in
a row, had to do ten articles of scrubbing
every day for two weeks, and empty sinuses
every afternoon. This Dr. Weinstein was a
lecturer on surgery at Harvard since his
ideas of surgery differ from those of
unauthorized Japanese surgeons. His treatment
this Dr. Weinstein was put at the hands of
at the hands of Lt. Watanabe. On this 2nd
I celebrated my daughter's 3rd birthday by
having a bit of sweet tea. As to the cause of
his change of opinion in regard to the
doctor was resigned, or not having the
proper attitude for some unknown
reason. I was left in his place. May

the Leds have mercy on the stomachs
of the prisoners. Actually I am a cook,
nothing more. As work in three
shifts of three cooks each. For instance
two others & myself start at 11:30 P.M.
or go to 6:00 A.M. the next day. We
start again at 12:00 noon the next
day until 9:00 P.M. We start again 6:00 A.M.
the next day until 12:00 noon & back
again 11:30 P.M. and infinitum. I don't
think I shall last long in this job.
I am having a deal of trouble with the
has her as I practically have to sleep
in a box. The powder I get and
eat. I believe the cause of this to be the
rats which overrun the entire camp. My
family underones a suppa treatment
every last night to counteract the bad
fish which we receive at the same
rate and now (Sept 5) I have broken
out with weeping sores probably brought
on by excessive scratching in the hidden

Sept 5th we are allowed to send home
a 100 word message to our families, i.e.
all Americans & Canadians. The rules for
writing are so strict that it is very difficult.
We are not even allowed to mention postal
numbers or anything about mail received
from home. There is an inspection on Sept
7th and it is making life hell for this
being. We had to stand on tanks from
9:00 P.M. to 10:30 P.M. last night (Sept 4th)
while our list arrangements were
inspected by Uetawabe. It ended up in a
special session for Capt. James: all his
officers were lined up and given special
instructions & Capt. James stood at ease
when he should have been at attention.
This officer is 64 years old but his main
broke his sarobum & gave him a
brutal thrashing. Such is the animal.
we have in charge of us. 100 new
prisoners arrived from the Philippines
and I have never seen such a large

groups of men in such poor shape. In
two days time our twenty had to be
sent to Shinagawa hospital. Nearly all
of them are suffering from mist beri beri
and cannot wear shoes. I would give
anything to have a picture of them
or to be able to let the Allies
see these men as it would tell the
story better than any other way I
know - Oct. 7th all officers were
taken out of the kitchen and placed
to work in the leather shop. This
was done by order of the Japanese
Capt. in charge of the kitchen and no
reason given. I must say that I
prefer it in the leather shop as the
work in the kitchen is delaying hell
with my health. One officer by the
name of De Moore, a Lt. who
gave a terrific beating by the animal.
He had an Xmas card given to
him by another prisoner which had

the word "Jap" on it. This was
against all tradition etc and hence
the backing. To top this, the Japanese
Navy officer at night asked this
officer where he received the abrasions
& the officer said from the Jap. Watanabe.
Fifteen minutes after this N. Moore was
taken outside by Watanabe and given
a terrific beating, no reasons given. Oct 20.
I received a Col Ross message from home
in which I have "congratulations on
promotion". I immediately expended all
my cigarettes on about extra food
to celebrate this event. As the message
is dated Feb. 20, I can't tell to what
they are referring but one can guess.
St. Mary's, Maj. Frankcom & I had
a few "Ira Roids"; "Baked Potatoes" &
White Rice with Orange. Such a part
of never did see. Nov. 1st was a
gala day. One large American Kees
Island came over early in the afternoon

and pandemonium broke out. We actually could see the aircraft as it was setting up a large vapor trail and the P.A. fire was on it. One point I noticed was that the warning & the appearance of the aircraft came at the same time. According to the men, it was like a circus in town. Everybody was running around doing nothing & wondering what the next thing will be. A second alarm came at about 700 P.M. but this time no P.A. & I think it was a false alarm.

Nov. 21st The past two days have brought up a question of morals and since it is likely to have far reaching results I am setting the facts & arguments as they appear. Yesterday a detail of twenty officers were taken out to unload Red Cross supplies and I was the senior officer on the detail. We were told before we went out that...

it was not here, perhaps we were to visit
& some of the officers started to check out
their pockets with intent to steal while
on the job. - Then told one of these
officers, the Thompson A. S. S., that I
did not think it was the right thing
to do, but to no avail. We went to
Shiason. Railway yard & found five
railway cars full of tin soldered
food barrels. These are the same thing
we have always had, four barrels in
a large cardboard box with two
metal bands around it. The total
weight is 50 lbs. per box. We worked
during the morning and loaded the
tracks before lunch. After lunch we
started again. During the unloading
the Thompson opened one box, whether
or not he took anything out of it I
could not say. Soon after this the
officers working in another car
got into one of the boxes. The

first indication I had that anything was wrong was when I saw the Japanese examining an open box. They grabbed one officer Lt. P. Perkins U.S.A. and he had some of the articles in his pockets. I was standing near a truck when two other officers came around and took some of the Red Cross articles out of their pockets & placed them in the truck to hide them. There were five officers involved but only four admit it: Lt. P. Perkins U.S.A., Lt. Kirk U.S.A., Sgt. Quinn R.A.A.F. & Sgt. Thompson R.A.A.F. Perkins was the only one caught by the Japanese but that was fortunate only in the reflection on the officers. The net result is that Comdr. Maher U.S.N. has decided to put in a report on the matter when he returns to the United States.

We now come to the question as to whether or not the crime committed by these officers is greater than what we are all guilty of doing everyday. The offenders raise the case that this is no different than accepting extra food from the kitchen with the full knowledge that it is taken from the camp ration. It is not an easy thing to judge & which I was one of the first to cry out about this crime (?) I am now seeing that it is not as bad as some of the things which we condone every day. I am now certain that I will not be too anxious to press this case very far. The net result of it all is that Perkins was sent out to work while the others were let off by not having been caught. Since all the parishmat members fell on to Perkins the crime now becomes the "being caught" and not the actual stealing. Sure is our justice.

Christmas 1944 came upon us rather in a rush and what with the producing of a pantomime "Cinderella", in which I had the the honor of playing the part of Buttons, it was a very busy time. We received one Red Cross parcel per man which made the season a real success. All the "Old Gold" cigarettes and "Camel" cigarettes had to be stripped of their wrappers before we could have them because of the Japanese spy complex. The celebration the occasion I started smoking once more which is a very sad mistake.

Our lunch & dinner at night was not out of the ordinary but we supplemented this with "white man's food" and all was well. We had too performances of our pantomime and it was a huge success. At the strength house a Tokyo film which had some costumes which saved the day. For New Year Day

the men working at the Mitsubishi put on a small revue. Then I had another call on Master of Ceremonies and the show consequently was a flop. The big thing which helped out the general feeling in the camp was the unexpected men transfer of Sgt. Detwiler. He was sent to HB which is in the north of Japan. He left on Jan 12 and the camp is one of -poppiest in Japan.

Jan 15th I was made a Barracks commander and believe you me it is a thankless job. The only consolation is that I am relieved of all other jobs and this keeps me out of the leather bags.

The camp has housed two waves and one wave for two years. In return for looking after these pigs for two years we are given an ration in all their of spring their food consists of an handful of garbage every day. This garbage is collected by a civilian outside and since the civilians

eat but then we do you can easily see
that there is very little to eat in the
garbage. It consists mostly of dirt &
broken china ware.

The air raids are increasing in
frequency and intensity but the Japanese
are getting uninterested about it. We are
now allowed to remain in bed & do
not have to get dressed. The B29
aircraft is a wonderful sight to us.
The vapour trails left by them give them
a ghost-like appearance but how we
all rejoice in seeing them. One of them
was shot down just over our camp
and it crashed out in Tokyo Bay
in full view of the tent-tops in the
jungle. A load of gloom came over us
and we suffered a loss almost
as great as any of the immortality
beamed. This is the only one we have
ever seen come down. We counted as
high as 74 over here one afternoon

and saw five Japanese fighters like the
last.

We have one character in camp worth
mentioning by the name of Mansfield. He
is a definite mental case. He cannot
resist the temptation to steal Red Cross
parcels from the store houses. He has been
in the civilian jail twice for this same
offense and just lately he did a
repeat performance. They put him in
the guard house here but foolishly
enough they have the Red Cross parcels
stored just outside his cell. He stole
eight more parcels while in his cell
of which he ate five and hid the
other three giving full directions
for succumbing prisoners written
out in order that they may partake
of his spoils with the compliments
of Mansfield. Since this time he has
stolen four more and he now has
to be tied up every night.

A momentous occasion was the arrival of four new pigs followed shortly by the arrival of eleven more food on the top of Snow. I did not. Two officers are in charge of the pigs and their interest in their charges is second to none. The whole camp has been down to admire our new members and are very sympathetic about the snow not getting any food for five days. This has been due to the snow not allowing the garbage collectors to carry on his good work. We are allowed only five blankets and since we have no hat of any kind we too suffer intensely from the snow. I have managed to find an old mukluks covers with overlap necks and this is now being used as a sleeping bag. I now find that I can get by on four blankets and the fifth has gone to the aid

of a newly arrived Chinese officer who
is in hospital for his illness.

We received our second shipment
on March 1st and only just
in time. Hourly fire officers are being
sent to other camps March 1st and I
lost my room mate Lt. Magrath in this
draft as well as Doc. Kaffner. We believe
this may be due to a complaint we
lodged with the Swiss consulate repre-
sentative, who visited us, regarding officers
being forced to work along with the
main. I am one of the fortunate who
are remaining here. I am a prisoner, but
only time will tell. I am never
grateful to them. This is a fact that
is another one of their jobs. I was busy
as a beaver for the first few days
but it will get better as time goes
on. We were given 11 bundles of seed
clothing which worked out to 55 men per
bundle and gave seed man at last one

article of this thing.

The night of March 9th 1945 is one never to be forgotten. We had a real air raid during the night in which a tremendous fire was started. We watched the exhibition from our windows and while it was an impressive show it also made one realize what is yet to come before the finish. The raid was perfectly executed by the allies and the Japanese appeared to be completely at a loss as to what to do. The whole sky over the bombed area was a bright red and we could see the aircraft working in & out of the searchlights to drop their bombs. The noise of the A.A. fire was terrific and the sky was dotted with red streaks as the shells burst. At the continual stream of aircraft came pouring in, we noticed that the rate of the A.A. fire diminished. The raid lasted about four hours and at the end of it the entire northern sky was as red as

a summer sunrise. This fire lasted for five days. In the morning after the rain the working parties were sent out about an hour later. The two parties that work at a steel mill couldn't get through the burnt out areas, Okinawa P.R. Station was burnt out & so they come back as well. The only party that did any work was the Shinjima P.R. station. The steel workers had some bad stories to tell about dead bodies all over the place, people half burnt, refugees all crawling the streets etc. It was a sight that none of them wished to see twice.

Evacuation of Tokyo started right after this rain and we believe that some of the P.O.W. Camps in Kawanishi are affected. The evacuees in the Bonachan (95) from 30 camps who have been here for some time were suddenly moved back to their own camp and the news is that their

camp is being broken up due to the bombing.

The last week in March saw the start of evacuation in Omore. I believe that the population of Tokyo is being reduced to four million which is half its former population. We were told to send out a party of salvage men about 100, to get what we could and here again we saw a ghastly sight. The Japanese army were going into houses, pulling the wooden supports, tie a rope to the roof and pull down the house. Whole sections were being demolished in this way. We were allotted two such sections and 100 prisoners were sent out every day to collect lumber. We now have enough lumber to build an entire new camp. During this period we have had many acid rockets shot into the vicinity of our camp. This situation can always be known

when the wind is in the correct direction
The Japanese authorities do nothing about
these castles and we were in a set
up on the beach behind our camp where
it stayed for a week. It was a daily
occurrence to go down to the fence to
see how "Tollis" was doing and a watch
was only two feet from the fence
we could watch the changes taking
place quite accurately.

We had another terrific raid
the night of April 3rd. This time it was
high explosives mostly with a few
incendiaries to light up the targets:
Yokohama & Kawasaki took a rap
as well. I woke up about 2:30 a.m. when
the shouting started near the
when the second miss came along
so I hit the slope. One had in camp
was using the aerial at this point
so he dove straight ahead making
a change of clothing necessary. All

went well until a plane floated over the camp so this time I went out into the ditch. The bombs hit all around us but I believe our location was known to the pilots which is consoling even if it is untrue.

There is a new P.O.W. area opening up just north of us in the Senda area and a few of our camps are going to be sent up into this area. I believe the Sotayo area is going to be cut in half with all the northern camps coming under the new H.Q. Seven of our Japanese U.C.O's are being sent up to this new H.Q. and since they are our most reasonable ones, we hope to lose them.

April 4th, 19 prisoners arrived from Ofuna but these men along with the 35 p.B-29 prisoners are being held in a

special compound where we cannot
talk to them. So far we have no idea
what is going to happen to them. I
believe that the Japanese are trying to
use these 13-29 men in order to form
a charge of indiscriminate bombing
against the U.S.A. Fate of their treatment
makes one shudder and I pray that
if any of our boys are shot down
that they are dead before they reach
the ground.

Speculation is running rampant
regarding whether or not these people
will quit with Germany or not.
The way our standard of food has
decreased since the bombing of
Tokyo I believe we will be in
for a rough time if we stay
here and the people fight on.
We are lucky to have a bit of
vegetable green butter in soy a
far soup now and to even that

is getting hard to get.

We received a case of red
Coca good amount. It was a
lot of personal parcels. These parcels
were ones sent to individuals by
relatives etc. at home. They were never
given out to their proper owners and
have been kept in the Japanese stores
here for over a year. The Japanese got
into them and took everything of
value, clothes tobacco etc and now
finally they sent them out to the
various agencies for general distribution.
I have since received news from the
Shingawa Hospital off by St. Denis,
that a parcel addressed to me was
sent there and split up. I am
sure that I have no parcels over
the matter. They then the stores
by the Japanese. I am a firm believer
in the story & shall do my best
under these circumstances and I

feel certain that our parcel did more good owing to the material than it would be if we had sent it. The secret is that I cannot find out how to send it.

We had a daylight raid about 150 B-29's the beginning of April, date uncertain and another large night raid on the night of April 13th. This night raid lasted well over two hours and it is said that the entire western part of Tokyo & North East of Hiroshima were hit most of the night and it was spectacular to say the least. There was also a large amount of H.E. dropped during this raid. Hence we can expect more successes on our part. The Emperor has ordered a nine day period of national wide prayer in the spirit of prayer for the ultimate victory of the Emperor was divine.

On April 13th we received news that F. D. Roosevelt died of cerebral hemorrhage. How true this is we do not know but the news comes from a very reliable source. We, the live ghosts, cannot appreciate how this will affect the war in general but speculation is running high.

April 15th I received a card from my father addressed Wing. Com. I hope that my wife celebrated this promotion in to line with true Birchall philosophy having at least one doctrinal bottle of Mums. These things are so far remote from this life that one has a very hard time to even recollect them.

The night of April 15th is one I shall never forget. Shortly after "big hit-out" (9:00 P.M.) the sirens went so we went to sleep in case we had to have sleep later on.

about 10:30 P.M. it started by a
load of incendiaries. I went to a line
due south of us. We got up in the
the snow and then I noticed that each
load of bombs was coming further
north each time. Suddenly a load
seemed to burst right overhead
which convinced me that I had better
get ready for a quick march. I loaded
a bit of my gear, got fully dressed & packed
in a ditch. The fire was all around
us by this time and it was as
bright as daylight. All P.A. fire &
searchlight action seemed early in
the raid and we saw very little
of the Japanese fighters. The incendiaries
were odd to watch. They burst about
500 to 1000 ft above the ground
and seemed to shatter down a
lot of glowing pieces. These pieces
must have been part of the main
outer casing because long before

they touched the ground we could
see the terrific white flare up on
the ground in the area under
these rocks. It was quite dark
a terrific noise followed rapidly.
The civilians in this area came
over to our island and we
could see them wading around
out in the water behind our
camp. Some of them swam over
to the north tip of the island where they
remained all night. One very noticeable
thing was the friendly disposition of
the guards throughout the raid. We
were allowed out into the ditches
where the majority of us stayed. Since
all smoking is forbidden during these
raids, we had a large attendance in
the barjaco where cigarettes held full
sway. Many of the men in this camp
are nervous from shell shock such
as the effects of Corregidor etc &

it was essential to keep up a running water
to keep them at ease. The activities failed
early in the night but all the night
the lights were on
like a system.

The raid lasted over two days
but as the activities increased in the
the camp, a lot of us went back to
bed. One of the girls spent the night
in our bunk. He was still shocked on
Soregular & he felt a lot safer now than

The next day we found out that our
water supply and electricity had failed.
Since we had to start a water system
to bring tanks of water from the
mainland. I went on one of the
details just to see what I could do on
the mainland. It was horrible
beyond my poor scope of description.
There was a solid beam of light
from the south to the north along
the main boat. It was a very good road

their few belongings in a large handkerchiefs
such as they use in this country and a
more public sight I have never seen
were

any organization
or refuge help in "evacuation" and they
wandered along like dumb animals.
In the majority of cases they were shocked
by the fire as by grubbing in the ruins
for their belongings and their clothes
showed signs of burns. About 80%
had no shoes or socks. I saw many
cases of people with terrific burns
even little babies & children with
no medical aid in any place. These
people stared at us with vacant
looks as if they had lost all their
bearings and were had given up in
despair with trying to deal with the
situation. I felt sick at heart &
was glad to be back at the camp.

News has arrived in the camp
that no. 110. P-2-W. camp was burnt

out. No prisoners were killed but some
received serious burns. We can expect this
or our camp will be the best
of the Japanese and we will be
very much. We have requested many
times to move this camp out of here
which they refuse to do.

Food is at a premium and we
are fortunate to get one cup of tea
per day with this water shortage. We
are out of vegetables and since the
fish market was burnt out we have
been told no fish for some time to
come. There are vague rumors of
dog meat which I would personally
welcome but the some of the boys
are finicky because the dogs in
this camp have a bad habit of
feeding on the cadavers washed
up on the beach.

The morning of April 19th we had
a warming blast at about 10:00 A.M.

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followed very quickly by the short blasts
soon we heard the A.A. fire but due to
low clouds we could not see the bombers.
In fact we were over our unit in front
of them. There was a very heavy
burst of machine guns. Out of the
blue came four American P-51 fighters
They came over our camp at an
altitude as low as we ever expect. It
was a beautiful sight and it threw
the Japanese into complete panic.
One guard dropped his rifle and jumped
into an air raid shelter. This was about
all we saw of the raid but it was
plenty. We are still trying to figure
out their motor & I hope to know
when I get back, whether or not the
boys intentionally bombed this camp.
The morale of the camp has raised
100% since this show & is well worth
the effort even though it may not
have been intentional.

MAY 8th 1945.

Our last incineration raid burnt out camp #110 as is noted previously. At that time a rumor came in that during the fire the prisoners of this camp were all assembled in one place and a lot of them were killed. This was one of the soldiers, presumably the 1st. tried a gun over this head to stop this but when a final 'roll call' was held one prisoner was missing. They found him amongst the civilians dead in death. This was a Redhead. We have now had a death report of a Redhead from this camp on about the same date which gives a little strength to the story.

* Today three prisoners came in from a camp in Wake on their way north. They said incinerations had in their camp there and some prisoners were killed by the fire. We were not allowed to talk to them as that our information is rather sketchy. They were civilians on Wake island but have been doing sturdore work in the area.

There are two factions in some way. One

* There was killed when an incident was through the roof of this tent

for human treatment of the prisoners, headed
by Sgt. Gauri & Gano are independent. The
other is headed by Sgt. Gauri & Gano
The prisoners are given at 200000
for many necessities with rice & at
Khinagure hospital but I don't
here, Sgt. Gauri is winning. He is the
first and head of discipline as we
have met. It is said was beaten very
badly on the night of May 1st by
Kurland but Gauri came in & stopped
it. He said he would stop this in future.
May 10th '45

There were two camps in his to-day to return
supplies, No 30 & 130. I was very glad to see the
bats from 130 especially old bats. They are being
moved north on the 12th and it is now
rumored that 6 camps at last are on their
way. A story has now started that there is
going to be a move of all Gauri camps
into one large camp about 100 miles north

of Tokyo. There is nothing to substantiate this
rumor but I'm with it. The news is
not

Today I believe we are, as you say,
certainly raged some sections to the point
I have never seen such a reaction. There's
little or no activity compared to what
I have seen and the result seemed a bit
dependent. The news of the various
camp moves was seen from the news
as well as news of a V.I.V. to show.

I had a bit of a concert
to night and also some 30 men
were allowed to broadcast home. There
were some things, Paul & Scott. We are
now speculating what is going to
happen to me regarding our general
statement and the state of the world.

I used to wonder what would
be our reaction to the fall of Germany.
Now I know, and I hope to see it.

can see no visible signs or changes in
the camp. This may be due to the fact
that for days a "fog" has been covering
things, our source of news is very meagre
and the fall of Germany was very
gradual. With all these points in view
we can all "hew" the fact of Germany's
ultimate end was nothing to arouse
emotions in us. The train of thought
shifted from "When will Germany finish?" to
"What are these people going to do?"

May. 12th

Moves started to-day when 131 men
came in from 10, 30 & 130. These
camps are snowing north to-day and these
men have no idea of their disposition. The office
says that the main parts of these camps have
gone to a place named "Henoka" and is
now under the "Lendel" area command.
Be all. This as it may, the rumors
are running wild about the place. To war

All the news this was well received in a few days. This now seems to be a bit of evidence to the rumor that we are all going to

whether or not. May 26th a man was killed at work (Shibaura) when he was crushed between a box-car and a track. This is the first fatal accident in this camp or in our last camps but I consider it very serious. It has not been this far. The Japanese are the worst people in the world to work with having no regard for personal safety. This accident was typical as it was due to utter carelessness on the part of the engine driver. Pte Constable of the Royal Scot. was the unfortunate victim and he was one of the real assets in this camp. We placed the coffin in the bath-house for the night with a guard & the funeral was carried out the next day. I have written this up in my other journal as open in previous. May 23rd we had another little rain

Starting about 1:00 A.M. May 25th. There were
terrific fires started all around us and
one incendiary landed just across the canal
from our camp.

shot down were four Japanese bombers, one
of the B-29 landed just behind the camp
in very shallow water. The Japanese had the
prisoners in. They picked up
all they could around the wreck. Strange
as it may seem, the damage did not
seem very serious the next day.

The next day, May 29th we had a
daylight raid in this area around
noon but we could not see the aircraft
from here, however the Japanese seemed
quite excited about it.

There was another terrific raid
on the night May 25-26. This time they
really burnt out a large area but
we counted about 8 B-29 shot down
Two of these landed within three
miles of the camp. One load of

incidental burst just across the cord
from her & burst out a section other.
but most of the fire went to north
also
down.

May 28th the list came out of the
party moving on the 30th. There are 293
men & 7 officers. They are going to fight
to the mining. I believe I want a baggy
two days getting out. the other things etc. in
order & recorded. We had a small stan-
put on by the Americans the night of
May 28th & I was a sapper in our M.C.
for the last 15 minutes. The show was
a flop but it all helps no matter how
bad.

The baggage moved out for the dispatch
on the morning of May 28th & then we
had a real raid about 11:00 P.M. We
counted 250 B-29 & many fighters,
presumably P-51. The bombers were
in groups of 10 to 15 & they set a

terrible fire arising due west of us.
Cin. had landed about 100 yds from
the camp & some of the bombs went

all out as the main gas supply was
in Shinagawa which had a boat
and right on the garage where they
are working. The fire did not burn the
files & now the garage is the only
thing left standing. All day long we
heard the noise of the fire engines.
There was a real moral raiser for us
as we did not see a single B-29
shot down, actually the baggage was
not burnt but we do not know
at this rate whether or not the
stuff will reach its destination or
not. incidentally we have gone well
over a month with no cigarette
issue & the situation is very grim.
They were seen in the air one day to the
Japanese.

The 300 men left this camp at 5:00 P.M. on May
30th. Rumor now here is that all P.O.W. from this
this area are about to be evacuated to the north.
There are a lot of P.O.W. from this area are now
moving out of the north.

A new camp had been forming up in the
vicinity of Lake Suwa. The evacuation was
through a mountain pass to the north &
south. It was said to be a camp of
about 250 men in a line. Lake Suwa is
about the west of Tokyo. I have been
there but just what the work is to do
we don't know but we are to leave on
the night of June 4th. Com. just is coming
on well but this is to another camp.
It was also told that Hayashi is to be the
new camp commandant we are meet
again.

June 3rd. The men started coming in
from other camps and they were from
the Kawasahi area. They all had

the same story about the fire having
blown out all the factories and that
everything is nearly finished in that section.
The main crew arrived and what is

125 men + 1 officer from 5D, 37 men from
1B, 6 men + 2 officers from 24D and
13 men + 2 officers from Shinagawa. This
crew has 20 Dutch, Indian, Chinese, 1
Chiraman, 4 coloured men, Americans,
Samoans, English etc. These are in
for fun. We have 18 men still in
Shinagawa but we also have a lot of sick
bome, salt etc from all these camps.
One man has been in hospital since
all winter, he now has amebic dysentery
but he is going soon though he has to be
carried all the way.

June 4th some men arrived in from
the Theodore & Brickyard Yokohama
with all the news from there. The Oil
factory & Theodore camps were burnt

Some ant. pens. what we can gather so
is most of Yokohama. All the prisoners are
safe & living at the present. They are all
showing no ill in a few days time so we
can expect to be all well in 11

We left the camp at 7:30 P.M. 232
strong and went to the Amori station. The
area we went through was completely flat
and I have never seen an area so flat so
badly before. We travelled by electric car
changing at one station until we arrived
at the main station. Here we were all
placed into two coaches & a small
baggage car, 106 in one coach, 94 in
a second coach, & 32 in the baggage
car. This meant sitting in the aisles &
being jammed so that some men could
not even sit down.

The ride in this fashion lasted for
7 hours and in the dawn we could
see we were well into the mountains.

We arrived at our small station and were formed up into groups of 58 each. The town folk were all out but it was only a small place of about 800 population. We were then loaded into 8 trucks and taken away. I

The truck ^{ride} was about 1 1/2 hours and all up hill into the mountains. For the first time we heard that we were going to do mining. The road was very poor and not even up to the standard of our back roads hence we were very glad when we came to the camp.

Our job was very short lived when we saw our camp. This camp was built in four days and one can readily imagine what that is like. There is nothing except the two barracks if one may call them that. The boarding is spaced with 1/2 inch between boards, usual dirt floors, and parts of the roof not shingled. We are settled in. The cool house consists of four open rows

potholes on floors only, no bath or wash house & the latrine is a ditch along along one side of the camp. The water supply is a small mountain stream which we are allowed to visit three times a day in 1 hour periods. It appears that the supplies have got to arrive & so we have to borrow from the company in order to eat. Our ration for the time being is to be 20 lbs of rice & 20 lbs of meat which is 3.8 lbs of dry rice & 20 lbs of meat & vegetables picked by the men out in the mountains. This is really starvation diet and the men started to show the results of this in 24 hours. The nights are very cold up here but since our baggage had not arrived we had two blankets per man. All in all it was a very sorry arrangement that went to bed on the night of the 5th. We had to sign a general declaration to state that we would not escape & if we did we would accept any punishment they wished to give us.

The officers sent a detail of 10 men and

to go out picking wild veg. for noon & supp
This consists of water cress, wild onions, & a
part of celery. This stuff is next to worthless
as it is so tough it passes through completely
undigested. The working orders are to start to mine
in three groups, 60 for pot-smelting, 55 for endless
chain & 50 for mining. A word about this job. The
smelter is a wooden shack affair situated on a hill
just across the valley from us. While the surface
mines are on the lower slopes of the same hill
The ore is taken up to the smelter where it is
mixed with coal & straw. This is then burnt &
the resultant metal is poured off. There is a
long endless chain which runs for miles
suspended on towers and this has small
carriages on them ~~over~~. This chain runs
across the hills to the smelter where the
small carriages are filled. Out of about 100
tons of ore, ~~100~~ 1 ton of metal is produced
and it appears to be a white crystalline metal
similar to aluminium or the type used for
making their coins.

On the following day June 2nd we had a lot of trouble back. The first thing was a Dutchman who collapsed in the camp from cerebral malaria. Next was an accident in camp when a kid cut his hand. Out on the job another ship was hit on the head by a flying piece of rock when they set off some dynamite. The last one was a Dutchman who got hung up on one of the cars on the rindler rope. He was carried out over the side of the mountain. He hung on as long as he could but finally he let go. He fell 43 feet & landed between a pile of rocks & some logs. We all thought he was a goner but it turned out that he was not too badly off. We have no medical supplies here in camp & we don't know when they are going to arrive. The company doctor & nurse came in to fix up this injured man & he must have received his instruction many years ago. All his general technique appears to be about 1900 vintage.

End of following. That might be part of

The mining buildings collapsed with a
landslide. If this had happened when the
men were there we would have lost
about 20 men. The next morning, June 9th
all officers except one doctor had to go out to
get wild vegetables as we have nothing but
our small amount of rice. When we returned
at noon we found that the last who had
collapsed the previous day had died. This
was due to the lack of our medical supplies
but there is nothing we can do about
this. His last name was Private Willem
van Heurzen, a Dutchman. We had a
service in night & held a short service the
next morning for him. The body was
then taken out to a station where
it was placed on a pile. The burning
was of the same nature as employed in
India. Van Heurzen was a catholic &
protestant is against that religion but we
have no control over these things. The Rev.
Bauman, our catholic priest was forced to

attend the excavation. Cases again are sent
out for up to the ancient times. Was strange
effect. The small chest in having a to come in
all to another kind of... The officers
are living in the rooms, four to each room. We
have no clothes & have everything we wear in the
floor. There is no light in our rooms & we can
compare our work only to a mountain...
ship in the new way... to be compared with this.
Our supplies... in our... day...
which was the day we had an...
from... We jumped up to 700...
per day at the evening meal but this is...
and much... Our... is...
for breakfast & we set 5...
for lunch & supper. Our... is...
... with... & we...
... The men are...
At this camp we have a type of small
black fly which spins a nasty...
around the ankles when we go to the...
I have noticed that most of the men have...

ankles from the as our recognition to infestation
in way down. We can expect a lot of trouble from
this source during the summer. The day of the
13th the men started to take out individual boxes
rice whereas before they come back for the
entire noon ration. This is not so good as the
cooks have to get up at said site to start work
on this scheme whereas before 2.00 A.M. was
lots of time. The rain has turned this place
into a sea of mud, the gummy kind, and
we find that we have many holes in our
new home. This place is very bad for heavy
rains this time of year and the winters are
extremely cold. Pray God we are out of here
by winter as I think only the lucky ones will get
through that. Hayashi has turned out to be
naughty and has ordered that we are only allowed
to speak to him through his interpreter. He has
started his old tricks of all must work out
ration. We received 2000 cigarettes here, the prisoners
got 3 each & the Naps got the rest. M. of
hate for these people increases hourly, and I

think of various types of savings daily. It is
strange to see how we are once again discussing
food every few minutes now that we are so
hungry. I have noticed that this is always the case
whenever the ration gets low. Our toaster has been
plugged at 5:00 A.M. & 8:00 P.M. with lights out
at 8:30 P.M. To date no system of rations or
meat has been investigated. We have had some
trouble with the electric wire. I am sure
they will melt at a low temperature &
one of them nearly set the porches on
fire. The wiring is only temporary &
is strung around like a ring. No lights
in the outside cookhouse except so all
their cooking at night is done in the
kitchen.

Jan 14th we are short such the short
ration as the supplies have not arrived
on schedule. Something has happened & we
hope that it is bad news on the outside.
Hayashi has given two lectures to the
guards & another to the prisoners. He

said we must obey his orders, but he
will not give us written orders. Yesterday
we received permission to have the food
orderlies accused morning lark. This
morning one man was stopped for this
and all orderlies had to go out to lark.
Then we asked for an "order book" to
be a tablet in which all orders were
written down & signed but they will
not do this. Hayashi said it is not necessary
as we can understand his verbal orders.
He now states that any infraction of his order
will cause "physical excitement" or
chasing. We hope that all this indicates a
turn in the war news. The guards have
been sent to the barracks. We received the ultimatum more or less
to night from Hayashi. Only the duty officer
& one doctor are allowed into the office to
speak with the interpreter. Further to this
Hayashi said all officers on this station
were sent here to do administrative work.

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step with inside jobs & the agricultural
work. If we fail in this respect we will be
sent to a more remote place with the same
hard to imagine, a worse name, & be
denied to compound orders. But to put
in an objection if we feel the work is
not suitable for an officer.

Some of the Canadians returned from
Shinyanga. They had no part in the
inter trip but the guard had 100 lbs
of bread which they took as to believe
that the guard is then two months
long. There are no further news of airplanes
bombings at Tanga. All the clothes
taken away & only the clothes they had
on were allowed to be taken away. They
had not only shoes for footwear. We
have no extra clothing in this camp since
we are up against it.

June 15th all officers were taken on a
wild west trip. The first were let
but we were never

could hardly stand. After lunch we were placed on the group collecting pine branches to camouflage the roofs of the huts. We had a general weighing to show the average weight in the camp is 61.7 kgs. which is very low. Every man has lost up to 6 kgs. I was one of the fortunate in being only 3 kgs. but some of the officers had lost 8 kgs. My weight now is 149 lbs now Jan.

June 17th was our yacama or rest day. This started out with having to clean the entire camp before breakfast, was allowed to be issued. One half the camp area then taken out & a hot bath & all officers were told to wait until the afternoon. During the morning we were issued 90 red cross books which we indexed & made out cards ready for issue. We are collecting up all books in the camp & hope to have enough to run a general issue library. We left at 1:00 P.M. for our bath & after a half hour walk arrived at a small lodge

Because while when we had to be
officer was assigned into an of the same
last day's writing to our best friend. It was
then we had to go into an ambulance
treatment. I am not sure if we were
to have our first real experience
14 men had died. It was more than a
week since we had the other riding for
them. I was by accident if the night
around 1:30 of some of the men
were. I am not sure for what cause
we were going to have to it. Many of
the men suffered & the officers came into
this category, I spent a terrible day
following day, in fact we all went over the
jumps. On the Monday we had to work
on gardening and we have an enormous
path outside of the camp which we
are supposed to cultivate. We had a
time digging holes to use as lavatories &
trying to dig in the interim.

After a very tiring day we received

another nice order "We are allowed to be
shown before evening roll call but must remain
in the sitting position while on their beds."
Regarding the beans there are two methods
to cook them, one, we first parch them
removing most of the oil & then put them
into the rice; second, we boil them & then
add them to the rice. Since we believe the
oil is responsible for the trouble we want
to give them parched but Goyoski has
now allowed only boiling. We don't receive
any of a thing. I was given on Monday
night and his books went fast.

June 19th. all our vegetables, most
parts are gone & so we had around 4
beans. The officers & 10 men had to work
in the garden all morning & then collect
wild vegetables all afternoon. We had
some very old & high bush asinine in
vine for sugar soup but it was
certainly ancient stuff. It's had too
much 20 man bread which makes a

60

Most of your orders were cancelled since they were
here.

LETTER TO C.O.

C. Branch P.O. U.S.

June 22nd 1943

To: Sgt. Nagashi.

Camp Commandant C. Branch P.O. U.S.

Sir: To date all orders given by the C.O. of this camp to the
prisoner officers have been carried out as these orders were considered
to be for the general welfare of this camp. The carrying out of these
orders has meant in the main part working at the same place
as the enlisted men and doing the same jobs as they do. These
orders were carried out without protest to avoid causing trouble.

Today, June 22nd a verbal order was issued to the officers
now engaged in farming that they were to replace the enlisted
men now manning the latrines and placing the human
excreta on the garbage. This order places the officers in a
very degrading position in view of the fact that this job is
allotted only to enlisted men or as punishment, and that
there are enlisted men available at this time.

We hereby consider it necessary to submit a protest
on this grounds as we believe discipline will suffer as
a result of its being carried out. This order will be

61

sent out only on receipt of a signal written order
from the Camp Commandant at this camp.

(Signed by all officers this camp)

This same letter was sent in a messenger
to an over land train of 1000 men to
be sent to place in position men of
the 1st and 2nd Divisions. This letter of which
one copy was sent to the over land
train and one to the over land train. I was
wonderful about any order we could be
expected to send it also be sent to a messenger
train.

I have a small amount of
rice in my bag. For the past week I
have been averaging 18 small movements
per day. Our ration of 75% beans
continues but I have managed to cut a
cup of sweet rice similar. I have
also used of any available rice than the
water and a little scum which we
manage to catch out on the hills. The
yft 11 lbs. of rice will be for breakfast.

I think I can save the soldiers
to some degree, by getting a quantity
of provisions from the Government
of the United States, and by
the ordinary means of the
punishment of the soldiers
of less than one year, by the
order of the Government, and
by the order of the Government,
to take place within a month
of the beginning of the
year, and I think it will be
safe to hope so, because these
soldiers will have a rough time
if we have to hold out
another winter. I think
about 500 will make it if the
case.

June 28th: One man, Martin Wechselhouse
a detachment was brought back with
medical troops and somitey. It is said
that we could be him but we can't

no medicine or equipment. We are
fortunate in that there is no town near
enough for us to buy medicine from the
civilians. By night this chap was in
a bad way & we had found out the
cause. We had been eating wild greens
without us eat the rest. This is against
all orders but the men are so hungry
we can hardly blame them. The next
morning the doctors were called early
and the lad died of a cold.
This makes our second death since
the camp closed & one in Shingaura
make three. Of course Hayashi
gave another long lecture about the
eating of wild vegetables but now
that the food is so scarce I doubt if
it will ever stop it. It rained all
the day of the 29th making the
camp a mud heap. The 30th we
attended the dead men. We
carried the coffin out to a spot.

in the woods - set aside for this purpose
is a bag a hole, filled it with wood
& placed the coffee on top of it. The whole
was set fire & burned; as the smoke
concentrated over the fire. It took from
10 A.M. to 3 P.M. to finish the burning.
We then dug out some of the charred logs,
placed them into the usual box & returned
to camp. I was strongly reminded of the
stories of India & their crematorium along
the bank of the Ganges.

June 30th we were told that in
order from Ichijo now toward all
gasoline or fuel days. The military
command here stop on the first
& third Sun days so we have to
stay in camp tomorrow. All men
should clean the camp & assist in the
building. One thing we did not
have a letter, read call allowing
us to sleep until 6 P.M. on Sunday.
We had an inspection at 8 P.M.

Sunday. 20,000 packets of cigarettes
came into camp but Hayashi claims
that these are private cigarettes & not
for issue. These things are all now being
up. One man arrived late Sunday
night from Shirogawa & will get the news
from him to know how the war now
had 3 days. The camp is on a big sea
of mud and it is nearly impossible to
get around. The latrines which are only
holes in the ground have overflowed & the
ground in that vicinity is mud, excrement
and a sea of fly maggots writhing all
over the ground. This is going to be a
real menace when the flies come out as
they will all hatch. At present the flies
are very good hence I can't imagine what
they are going to generate into. The Japanese
have given us each a small bag to
hold our eating bowls & this is supposed
to stop any disease by flies. No thought
is given to our open air kitchen or our

food buckets which have no lids. Our
reaction was not to-day but we are
now sitting 14 days. I am also have permission
to try crawling to have a lid on it. It
old not have a lid to-day which makes it
14 days since the last one & at least another
14 days until paper for the next one.

I am successfully over my loose bowels
which concludes a 2 week stretch of very
unpleasant health. Our lavatories (outside
open air) are a mass of flies complete with
the biting kind. The bites become infected
very easily and as a result of this most
of the men have swollen ankles &
legs. Due to the ~~hard~~ ^{hard} ~~work~~ ^{work} of late most
men ~~are~~ ^{included} have serious bites
around the rickety & scrotum, a very
unpleasant business I must say. To-day
we had a new cure for loose bowels. These
men were sent back from the job this
morning because of diarrhoea. Hayashi
made these men stand to attention at the

guard house for the remainder of the day.
I might add that this day was not distinctive.
His birthday came some 2 or 3 days quite a
time & received 2 or 3 letters from his family but I
did not work all day. He received some
cucumbers (10) from the yellow staff, as well as
about four dried watermelons. He sat down on
our morning & noon ration & had a large
ration at night. Beside our rice & soup we
had our cucumbers & a mess & parched soyas
bean mix to put on the rice. The fish were
put up & mixed into the soup for our rice.
He had 20 or 30 cigarettes for a small
can of butter & imitated coffee. The guard
did not permit the biggest present I had
the sight of a B-29 flying northwards.
This is the first one I have seen since we
arrived here. The guard gave us permission
to burn our light on for 15 mins. extra & we
all had a quiet cup of hot water & a
smoke. This passed my thirtieth birthday.
Our guards were allowed to change

July 9th 8 more prisoners were supposed to arrive but so far no sign of either the relief party or the new prisoners. We have had an extra camp in the division and a lot more of them are taking to arms & wearing uniforms. It's now also hard to believe in the fact that we have landed on the southern island that I am very much inclined to believe it. It is such a long time it is very hard to believe that the Allies have landed but this is supposed to have happened on July 8th. It's small, we want to see more. On July 8th I worked a very little more in my tent & so I now have to take worm medicine again. We collected the soil last night for parasite diagnosis & we also had our parade for the men as well.

July 10th we heard distant rumbling all day & a few sources brought it in that a large carrier raid was under way. More rumors of the landing on Kuska Looen South but we still find it hard to believe. This may be because we do not care to be mistaken.

July 11th a new internee from Casio arrived and told us that Hayashi was being transferred. Our new camp commandant arrived this evening. His name is Kuwabe and he has been at other prison camps before. We hope for the best.

July 12th - Once more we have a quarzine after two days of rain. Hayashi came & said good-bye to us. He told us he has ordered one ton of English walnuts for the camp but these have yet to arrive this fall. For a while we have only had hot water to drink not even one tea bag. With this in mind I find very little assurance of the arrival of our walnuts. We had our vegetables & rice stores broken into by the prisoners last night. Vegetables, rice, corn, beans & soya were missing. This comes out of our ration but the remaining prisoners do not care about this. I cannot understand why they don't try to stop such things but every one of them would steal if given the

chance & since they do not want to set a precedent about turning in thieves.

July 14th: Last night we caught a match box in the store room & taking a nice quiet. I turned him over to the "beats" & he had a 4 & a 6 another sketch but he had a working guard for him. Last night we had out the new game commandant by reporting the sleeping that was going on out on the job. He seemed very interested about it & asked many questions regarding it. For day there was a shakeup on the job & we have been told that the sleeping has been stamped out. The officers were used to day on cleaning up the camp. We are trying to put a water & mud problem down after the next rain. We now have a roof over the new proposed sinies. At least this is a start. We will all injected for typhoid to night as to murder is a red day. There has been an increase in the air activity

over in this month's part. We have been
hearing the chime of motors every day.
On the morning of July 15th at 6:00 AM, a
B-29 poked its nose out of the low cloud
just over the camp & then went back
again. I saw it & analyzed my feelings.
Taking it for granted that we have landed
on Kyushu island. I believe, if this event
is true, that the war will be over in three
months to three months! after three years! I
cannot picture the end of this or what we
are about to do. I feel certain that we will
have to find our own way out of here
and it is a long haul to Tokyo. If we
can only see the services of an interpreter
we will do a lot better. But I can
visualize a lot of responsibility on my
shoulders & I wonder if they are broad
enough. By the way we have now gone
four weeks without a hot bath.

We had a bit of trouble to spoil our
day of rest in that one of the men, Staff Sgt.

Rankin of the U.S.A. was caught trying to sell
some Salpha thiazole to a lad for cigarettes. This
medicine is procured from the Naps at the rate of
about 5 tablets per day & this has been done
on a course & it has been known to cure the
tablets & tried to sell them to another & another
patient for cigarettes. We can usually credit
these things when we all know what they
are. Bill Kasher landline has not been given
by the 15th July & all over streams are gone.
We are now preparing for the coming
inspection of the Supreme Commandant
of the 4th Division in the middle of the day. There
are 2 more sets of the 1st & 2nd sets
we have had no vegetables to supply and
our rice has been used. There has been an increase in
the rice to compensate for this. We get a lot
of boys as they pass & water for our camp.
The men are steadily going down hill & our
weights, that is the camp average, is 115
pounds or minus every time we get weighed.
We had an inspection for the 1st time on our

rest day & we have two more to come
and will start.

July 21st was an interesting day. We
have five small pigs here in camp which
are supposed to be wild in the woods & the
camp since we have no nestles & the
slit is so small they just don't come
down. These pigs are slowly dying & we
know we must mean they can't get
around. The man told the time about this
so today they eat only. removed two
kilograms of our bean ration for supper
& some bean porridge to feed to the pigs. This
is very bad as our ration is so small
and we are going to have this happen.
We are going to complain because my
shortage in the ration is made up by us.
Damn this guy! I can see a little
blow up in this camp soon if this
keeps up. We are going to have to try to
get out of this particular inf. named
KANTO is a big hairy.

July 20 55

The camp is very unsettled these days because of our host's illness. We are making up a 1000 kg. shortage in the stores. The dieting has not been issued. I'm not afraid a great number of our men will die. Every day I hope that the weather will be so hot that we can get to the supplies which are in the forest. The level of distribution has not been decided yet. We are not very optimistic. The diet is now in a new and very simple case of rice, meat & beans, cooked for men. Our vegetables have run out and we now eat mainly meat with rice & water for soup.

A large number of the men have been sick since we arrived. The wood in the kitchen at this moment as the kitchen has not yet moved. It opens on new kind of a blousing boiler. The officers have been bringing in the wood supply daily but this has been stopped as well.

Three prisoners have been transferred to day

to 5:30 camp as they said they knew some thing
about oil wells & this is well knowledge
has been going around for some time but this
is the first we have heard of it. I
reasoned it was necessary to get out
working to give some to aviation fuel. I
am fairly certain that this is the origin for
it.

We were allowed to write a letter
home 200 letters and once again I write
to my wife. It is difficult to visualize what
we have done on back home especially
since I have not heard anything from my
wife & don't even know the address as I
am certain she has moved since 1948. It
will be like the return to life, going home
again. The military order "4440" exists
This came to day & inspected the grounds.
We had to turn in all our money in
excess of 50YEN as this is all we are
allowed to have at any one time.

July 28th was an awful mess. Over

inspection takes place tomorrow and we really
feel to clean the camp. The one big thing was
the end of our own air lines & by detaching
the main can air was now our which at
last was a great relief
at 10:30
of the other side, but there was
Kawana. I saw a report at 10:30
the men were out on the air line
in order that we could not
from our own side. Was it
desire? Capt Macdonald complains about
the short sections. Immediately after lunch
we were hit out of sight. At 1:30
the sun. Total of all his interest in us.
When the men came back from work he
gave them a speech about how concerned
he was about them. How something could
be all right in air line. The next
day the men were all sent to the machine
once more but he failed to visit the
camp. The morning of the 30th we were

told to now occupy four benches or
2 officers per bench. It's spent all morning
doing this only to be told at his lunch that
the C.O. did not want this, hence we are
back again to our three benches. I had
a bit of food poisoning yesterday with
the result that violent cramps & loose
bowels are the order of the day.

We had another day of weighing all
prisoners. Our first record of weights was
taken about 10 days after we arrived. Our
last record shows that 41 men have
lost over 3 kgs since our first weighing.
46 men 3 to 4 kgs. 14 men 4 to 5 kg. 8 men
5 to 6 kgs. 1 man 6 to 7 kg. 1 man 8 to 9 kg.
41 men over 9 kgs. The camp average is
over 2 kgs. down. This is a fair enough
indication of our condition. On the
1st Aug. we had a general yasume. This
is some sort of holiday for the Japanese
and the men up on the job, halted off
a hour for the workers. This is all very

been back and had to be done at night.
This is all back market and has to be
kept very quiet. We had lovely weather
& the men had a good rest for a change.
Some of the men were in the
jungle not long ago & raided a Japanese
warehouse. They brought back a lot of
cigars & cigarettes. This job was done by
the aid of one of the civilian internees
who got his cut. Maj Richardson is holding
some of the cigarettes for one of the boys
& on the 1st Aug they were stolen. He told
the lad to whom they belonged & in about
an hour they had them back again. The
lad in this case was given a bottle
of medicine & it was Sgt. Rankin once more
of the medicine selling game. A bit of
Marty's excitement on 4:00 A.M. Aug
2nd we caught a American boy
named Capps stealing some rice. In
view of our present shortages I was
as mad as could be. He was beaten

and we have him on packed potatoes
for a month. During previous days
we were issued $\frac{1}{2}$ lb of $\frac{1}{2}$ lb of rice
in one four months. This is supposed
to last for 3 months. We had $\frac{1}{2}$ a face
cloth per man & $\frac{1}{2}$ a razor blade per
man. This is supposed to keep us a burn
for a time. We have also given $\frac{1}{2}$ inch
of toilet paper (4" x 4"). Luck is life.

Aug. 24th we had another medical session.
One of the men named Newbold has had
about 9 hours since he has been. He fainted up
at work & also passed out on the march home.
This was reported to the surgeon upon his return
and he was then made to stand to attention
until all night. He was not allowed his
evening meal as he broke out the following
day. We explained that the man had fainted
from hunger but only received advice for our
effort. We managed to wangle the meals for
the man but we could not get him out
of the standing to attention. We got a bad!

shot of food poisoning this same afternoon
to have on our water supply. The creek stream
which we get all our water from the river
passes below it and I see a small stream
from the creek enters into our creek. There
are several fish, human excretion etc. are
present on this creek since I believe the
water I want though it for two days but
managed to get hold of a quantity which
lasts me up.

On the 3rd a new batch of guards arrived
& our old fellows are leaving us. A big
raid on the spot took this same evening
but some of the lads, Maj Richardson & Lt.
Parkins. stood flag for this & we did
remarkably well, about 200 lbs of goods.
I hope this will help to hold my weight
from going down, or faint. I did not
lift on the 8th & 9th we were very busy to
see some of them or but happy to see
them go. We had a lovely day today
visited a well made of the line.

The night of Aug 6th we started getting in
some wild rumors of ultimatums being given
to Japan which included a declaration of war
by Russia on Japan. This coupled by a rumor
we had of a B-29 flying over caused great
excitement. A little guard here called me to
the galley after lunch & he had a great amount
of info about the war. Just as we were
getting down to facts the Col. came in &
broke it up. There is also talk of the news
closing up. The night of Aug 7th this same
guard came to my room to warn me that
he again went on about the war. He tells
me that there is no food in Japan, all
the troops from Manchuria & 1/2 from China
have been recalled, many reports have
been recalled, Cincinava has gone & Russia
is massing her troops in Manchuria ready
for a drive on Japan. He was saying
when he told me of all the people being
killed and he repeated many times that
the war would soon be over. Aug 8th

the men did not work at the mine but
did road making & clearing. To say in
the US the coal is piling up & there is
no transportation to take it away. They
asked for truck mechanics in other days
but we told them that we had no truck
mechanics here. They read the rescript this
morning but there was not the usual
show of flags & hollering with it that
they usually have. We now have it that
persons have been offered these prospects with
an uncertain time factor or else they are
coming in. The Americans say that they are
ready to come in at any time. I pray God
that they do come soon so that we can get
out of here before the cold weather.

Aug 10th. The day started off quite well
with a card from Joy Palmer. I was dated
Feb. 1945 & said they had received no word
from me for a year. I can't understand
this but then I have never received word
from Dorothy so nothing is impossible.

We got in word that the Russia stepped
was on these people last night. The
Russ are in a very bad frame of mind
to day which means that they will
be in a worse frame of mind to be on our
get about recalling the Japanese from Manchou
makes it look as if the Russians are out
for a little revenge for the Russo Japanese
war. The working parties returned after
lunch & we could not get any information
on what we do to-morrow. Aug 11th the
men returned to the lower line.

The vegetable stealing has finally
gotten over to the Japanese. Two Britons
were caught with a sack of potatoes,
but nothing was done to them. It has
been a regular parade of men through
the fence every night and I have been
tired of that. The farmers around here
have complained about it. On the
night of Aug 13th two more Britons
were caught bringing in potatoes in

their horses. They were made to stand to attention for 1 hour but the officer was not for standing but because they told a lie. The rest in a line of square, carbons & guns were on the night bivouac. We made up an 1000 that were. Two of them were horses were to be used in case an excellent camp & before it or not a small stable each.

This is sensational. Feb 15th was a holiday for the men & we talked Watabini to taking us out for a walk on the pretext of looking for reindeer. We had a good walk & returned in mid afternoon & met another interesting named Eukumot. Euk is a Canadian whom I have asked to come in with me if the war should finish. He was very excited and we got me to one side. He said that the war was over at noon & that it was in

unconditional surrender & told the people
here were only waiting for orders from
H.Q. as to what to do with us. I tried
to get more out of him but he swore
me to secrecy & told us we would
come in to help us as soon as he
could. We got started at once organizing
our men to take over. If this isn't
true it will be enough to turn a man
to drink but I think we will know
for certain to-morrow. The night of Aug 15
was very quiet. Some of the men on a
raiding party for vegetables came across
a goat in a pen. They stole this goat
but a farmer coming down the road
saw them. They managed to get the goat
into camp but the farmer came into
camp armed with a large flashlight
& a club. He turned out the guard &
a search ensued. The goat was parked
out behind the kitchen during this time

he has convinced me to wait for a
time. He is willing to cooperate but
only when I ask him to come in. I
then got hold of our same informant
Watabiki & told him about our rumors.
I said I would deny these rumors if he
kept me informed as to all orders. He
agreed so he told the men not to
be too certain about the rumors but
to...

The 17th day of Oct. came back but as
yet nothing has been told us officially.
We got hold of Watabiki & he gave us
the information we wanted. He said to-
date no agreement has been signed
but the Emperor has made a radio
broadcast to the effect that he was
pled into this war by the military
element. He could not carry on since
his people suffer especially the victims
of a new bomb we used for the first
time at Hiroshima where 30,000 were

killed. Our C.O. Sgt. Kawabe was in
K.G. camp at this time & they did not
know what to do. He has returned with
the order to keep the camp going until we
receive instructions from Tokyo. We are
worried about our wounded, would
necessitate our going over into
Wakabi we had to C.O. before the
civilian camp to get all
as humanely as possible, we will
to work on the garden for the afternoon
for an hour only. We were busy getting
our individual records made on
all the prisoners.

The men are certain that the
war is over & we are constantly
clearing rumors which we know to
be true but the shorter the time
^{the} more announcements & moving
the soldiers for all. We have started
an increase in rations - subsistence to
the Japanese & will continue to do

this until we are ready to move.
At present, with no work & exercise
in food we will be in good enough
shape to get through to Tokyo. We still
have five small pigs, where in camp
which will give us all a couple of
good meals before travel time. We are
in with two sources of information
one direct to the office. I think
hence I think we will know what to
expect in time to prepare for it. One
more incident, on the night of the 15th
an earthquake came over with the full
navigation lights.

Aug 19th: We had a quiet night but
night but there was trouble with the
men to day. Rumors are flying thick &
fast which are hard to suppress. The
Japanese have decided down to an unimpaired
status. There had not been a harsh word
from them all day. The C. has gone
back to Tokyo but is expected back here

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to night or the morning. But he
told us of a telegram they received which
forbid all conversation with the
prisoners other than of an official
business. He warned him that any more
should be told to us immediately. We
must also get the C.O. to consult
with us before he makes any move
or announcements as we are in a
better position to decide what can be
done & how it can be done. I have
now decided that I shall announce
to the camp as a whole the story
as we know it, tomorrow night.
There was a break in the store on
the night of Sept 15th when some prisoners
took sugar, milk, waste & rice. I have
now made an order that all extra cooking
(quantity) is finished, all people are
out of the galley except the cooks & Capt
McDonald. This has caused a bit of an
uproar but it is best this way.

During the afternoon of Aug. 19th St. Kowale
& myself were called to the office. Here we were
seated in front of St. Kowale, given pencil &
paper & told to take down notes. This is the
general spirit of what he said:

"Arrangements are underway to complete
a truce between the Allies & Japan and I
thought it necessary to let you know as
soon as possible. When this truce is
completed you will return home but
until a date is fixed you must remain
here. I am in full charge of your protection
until the date of your embarkation. There
will be no more workings for the company
but inside work must continue. For
reasons of health the gardening and
firewood detail will continue. Special
care must be taken while you remain
in this camp to remain obedient to the
regulations and not cause trouble. Any
violations of the regulations will be
punished causing delay in embarkation.

as if the punishment is served. I am
very sorry about the camp not being
completed especially the officers quarters but
due to the present crisis this has all be
abloyed. I am very thankful for your
coöperation in getting the camp into such
good shape as we now see it. It is
drawing close for your embarkation &
I hope you have a pleasant trip home.
My father's crew will be named as
to you as soon as it arrives."

Immediately we were dismissed
I had all the men gather in the
barracks where a general announcement
was made giving the story as we
know it to date. There was a terrific
uproar, handshaking, laughing and a
wild show of emotions. The Dutchmen
sang the victory hymn, we followed with
the "God Save the King" & "God Save America"
The stand fast was given by Fremont
followed by rockhouse call. This ration

to-night was the largest we have had to date. General service was held outside to-night and there was a large attendance. I am giving a fuller account of the emotional reaction etc. in my next book as it will take some thought. The funny part of all this is that I can feel no relief but in its stead an intense feeling of responsibility. The only time I shall feel relief is when I can hand the command of these men over to the responsible people.

Mr. Watahiki is going to Omori on the 23rd & has promised to take our messages to our friends. He is going to return to us as soon as possible, God knows we need him. He is sick at this time & after all he has done for us one can only feel a heart full of pity for him in his distressed state.

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POW/C.I: Leonard J. Birchall

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