

POW/C.I. : Leonard J Birchall

Folder 6

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Authority NND 883078

AG-KI Form 91 (20 July 1945)

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AG-KI Form 91 (20 July 1945)

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Dec. 4TH - Today all the officers staid in as the
Sail Factory & the Quarters had a days rest. I
went down to see Wajashi for a time to try
to sell him some articles of jewelry. The story
behind all this is that we are still very short
on funds for the medical fund. One of the
ships has very kindly offered his watch for
sale, the sales proceeds to go to the medical
fund. This tool is named Peter Officers.
B. Walker. Royal Navy and his watch is a
very good water proof watch. I went down to
bargain & came out with £100. and the
S.O.'s watch as well. This seemed very fair
to me as well as to all the other officers.
Here we now have another £100. to buy
medicine. We also discussed the Quarters
party getting a holiday at Xmas & this
is going to be so. We were mind
some toilet articles to-day such as
face soap, soap boxes, linen cloth, face mask,
wetting tablets and tooth brushes, tooth powder
and smoking pipes. We grow out the soap

tooth powder, hair cloths & face masks but the
other articles were no sales were enough to
go around. The only thing left for sale
was to sell them which we did at 12.50
each, the proceeds to go to the mission
fund. This netted us \$30.4. The sale was
a great success. We also managed to buy
some fruit which we sold out at 10
per man. Each man received 4 small
oranges, one large orange & 2 apples. I had
indeed a very busy day for us.

Dec 5th: Husby & I went to work to day
and we had a fair time. We had a big
time early this morning when a man
was rushed in to the Doc at 5:00 AM
gushing blood from his mouth. It turned
out to be a ruptured artery & it was
very hectic for a time. I may give a
bit of a resumption health generally now
as I have not done so for some time.
His general health is still an it's slow
down grade due to lack of prayer &

sufficient food. Scurvy is very evident
now in all men and also low resistance
to any disease. The men who returned
from the hospital half starved have been
made to work very hard with the result
that two of our S. T. patients have had
serious relapses. The Doc has given them
blood transfusions from the blood plasma
sent by the Red Cross and they have gained
up a bit. Another man has had a ruptured
stomach ulcer which is bleeding internally.
He was also given a blood transfusion.
All cuts, sores etc are gaining terrific
pain and turning septic very rapidly.
This is the reason lack of Vitamin C.
I cut my finger a month ago but it
still wakes me up at night with the
pain. All old injuries are starting to
set up giving pain and breaking open
again. These symptoms are becoming very
noticeable on parts of him and it
is not very pleasant to think about

the winter and with all its effects. One thing I noticed to-day on the way to work was that many of the large office buildings have removed all their heating systems and put them out on the street. Nagashi told me some time ago that the government was collecting all this sort of thing to use the metal but this is the first real sign of a featureless winter.

Nice 11th + 50-day bomb + I went to work. We had to prepare the water tank + fix up the shelter for an air raid practice. We had to remove the water from the air raid shelter which is only a cement lined hole in the ground. They told us then to cover the floor of the shelter with ash but we pointed out that the next rain storm would turn the shelter into a mud bath. Our suggestion of duck boards was

completely ruled out and we had
to put down the ashes. The air raid
started at 4:30 & the practice was
terrible. An imitation incendiary bomb
was supposed to explode at a certain
point and another building was
to be on fire. To extinguish the
incendiary they threw a water
soaked rice bag over it and the
building was extinguished by a
bucket brigade. There are no fire
hydrants and the barrels of water
to feed the buckets number twelve
in all placed around the factory.
This is an oil factory where they
are also manufacturing caustic. The
ladders are all made of bamboo
with the steps tied to them by
rope and the most modern lifting
device is a small suction pump
on a hand drawn cart that is
manually operated by four men.

In the air raid practice this was not
used as the length of hose was not
sufficient for it to reach the fire
from the aircraft barrel. I spoke to
the interpreter and he said their
equipment was very old and clumsy.
He then asked me if I expected air
raids on Yokohama & I said most
certainly. To night I had a mission
with Hayashi because two men
were stopped at the Usane dock
by civilian workmen. One of them
reported it to the sentry who stopped
him again, thus the other did not
report it. Hayashi was very mad
about this & is going to punish
all the Nijis concerned. He then
told me that officers could not get
as much rations as a working man
even though they went out to work.
Our rations now lie midway
between a working man's ration & a

rich grass ration. This is very hard
to understand in view of the fact that
we pay \$30. a month for our food etc
but that is what we have to do we
have to work anyway. He said if we
managed to go out to the pasture to
watch we may do so but work was
out. We received our books in exchange
from the other camp to-day & they are
very poor stuff. We certainly got a
rain about there as we sent them
our fiction & received very poor
books in exchange. I forgot to mention
that the guard at the old prison gave me
a tin of B. B. Meat to-day. We paid
it up with some rice and it was very
good.

Dec 4th & we all stayed in to-day
and had a rest. Mr. Cho arrived before
lunch & had a medical inspection. After
lunch two men arrived back from
the hospital. Their latest news is that

The hospital camp is to be turned
over to Station prisoners and the
N.G. camp is to be in hospital. The
N.G. camp is going to be supplied to
the factories the same as we are. There
are some Station Officers at the hospital
camp now who have just arrived. They
suggested this ship rather than turn it
over to the Nips and they are very friendly
to our side. They say that we also
have the Marshall Islands as well as
the Gilberts. Another thing they said is
that we have blown Haanby off the
map & have nearly done the same
thing to Berlin. The news from Santiago
is good in that they are eating all Red
Cross food, have decent clothes &
good treatment. There are about 12
camps in this district extending as
far north as 300 miles. In his north
camp lost 60 men last winter. They
had to wear canvas bags and paper

recement socks for shoes during the winter
while the Nippon soldiers wear the red shoes.
shoes in store. Every air is getting a tunnel
or some such thing. Mr. W. Griffith has been
sent to this camp because he complained
of some kind of prisoners in the so-
called hospital. We received the post-
cards to be sent at Xmas. This time
we are allowed 30 letters per line. A
copy of the rules for writing these
cards is attached to this diary. Heyoki
verified the news to-day that we are now fighting
in the Marshall Islands. This makes very
good reading to me. We managed to buy
some tea to-day which we distributed
to-night. I had the section leaders in to-
night to tell them that we are going to
collect another two days pay for the
medical fund next pay day. This is necessary
to buy medicine and also in case we can
buy some things for Xmas.

Dec. 9th This is a big day for Japan

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but in camp here we saw very little to
remind us that two years ago to-day the
war started. Just think, two years ago
to-day I was in Bermuda. What a life!
To-night I met a friend of Kayash's from
America who came back on one of the
exchange ships. He was in the salmon
canning business in Seattle although
he had been in & across Canada. We
had a fair chat & after a bit he stopped
trying to tell me how bad things were
at home. He said he was lost in
Canada this month before the war
& that prices had gone up considerably at
that time. He claimed expense at one
dollar a day but I was in Canada at
that time also & this was not so. He
soon stopped this sort of thing & then
he was quite reasonable. I asked him
if he would rather be in Canada
now but he had no answer. Kayash
was raising steam to-night because he was

down on the number of shirts he is
supposed to have. We are trying to get this
fixed up by having all the men with extra
shirts to declare them. Each prisoner is only
allowed one winter shirt, what he is
supposed to do when it gets dirty we
don't know but this it is. Nayachi has
also promised me again to night that he
is going to take the officers out to buy things
just before Xmas. I hope this comes true as
I would like to buy some books if possible.

Dec 9th: I went to work to day to try out
the new system of officers not working at the
factories. It worked very well with the result that
I had a very pleasant day. Nayachi came down
along with his interesting friend from the Casano
and we held a very long chat on treatment
of prisoners at the oil factory. References our post
cards we are sending home one of the tools
here named Holy in the Engineers has sent
a card to Churchill at 10 Downing street
worded as follows: "My dear Sir - A short

note to wishing you the usual seasonal
greetings and hoping that everything at home is
as you desire. Our morale is high and everybody
is dreaming of Turkey and real Old England fare.
At least to you sir, may God bless you and keep
you. May these lights at home shine soon.

R. Foley Cpt. R.E. This is a very good effort
on his part & with any degree of luck it
should get through. I sincerely hope it does
as it will convey our ideas better than
any other method I know of.

Dec 10th - We all stayed in to-day.

Sayaki came in this morning & was
very receptive to all our ideas. He is
going to take us out to buy Xmas trees
soon. The small ones in pots about
3 ft high cost \$10. but we hope to get
some cut ones cheaper. We are going to
buy some observations as well. He has promised
to try to buy us some spoons & forks but
these are made of bamboo as metal is
so scarce. I wonder what they will be

cap
MAY

the. All officers now have to keep a separate account of their money & so we spent the entire afternoon getting these records control. Nothing happened for the rest of the day of any importance.

Nov. 11th - So far as looked of in the bath today and I tried to get my own list & ideas into order. Washins came in during the morning with the bamboo cutlery and we placed our orders. The spoon was 38 am, while the knife & fork was 10 am the set. We also received a cigarette issue of 4 cigarette per man. We sold the entire issue at night but the trouble arose about the spoons, the men did not seem to think they were worth the amount. Out of 180 we were left with 9, considering the difficulties involved this was not bad. I have talked 50 out into coming to the Oil factory to-morrow.

Nov. 12th - Bob & I went to the Oil factory and had a most enjoyable day. We did no work all day and so our heads off.

est.
MB

I received a large can of salmon from Kurokawa
and as well as the promise of more things
to miso-ow. I think the water was an
excellent investment as it is certainly
bringing in the return. We came home
& found all in order and after a game
of whist I went to bed.

Dec. 13th - 5th day I went back to the Oil
factory with Nutsy. It was well worth what
because Yamagawa gave me a can of prob-
mied and a piece of what would be our
Miyano sausage. This sausage is made from
real meat and it certainly looks like
the real M^ory. We had a very quiet
day & came back home to find news.
Hayashi had a Protestant minister here &
made arrangements for church service
& communion. He also asked for
a Catholic priest & Hayashi is going
to try to get one for us. He also told
us he had located 50 cans of
tomato juice on the black market.

He is going to purchase these for us but
we don't know the price as yet. We
have been having some trouble regarding roll
call lately as the Pipe in charge is usually
late (about 20 minutes) This does not give
the men much time for their food, a
clean up and a smoke before going to
work. Hayashi has now set the time at
6:15 A.M. for roll call. We are losing
Hosino and his relief has arrived
already. He is the highest ranking M.I.C.
in this army & it does not look well
for our Kamas disciples. We have
not got much time to break this
chap in but we will see what we
can do. Three men came in to
complain about the amount of food
to night. I advised them to buy it
alone as we were doing better than one
can ever expect. They continued to
moan until one of the cooks came
in and said that in future they will

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give a two ration & not steal food for
the prisoners. This is the best thing
that can happen and maybe when
the men see what they should be
getting they will realize we are getting
more than our ration. We are going
to let this job for two days and
then start in again to steal food
to make it up. Some of the men have
no idea what is going on and this
may back them a few things at
East it will stop complaints
until the camp breaks up.

Dec 14 - We all stayed in to day,
even old East who has a bad cold.
Casson, Jack & I did a job on the bath-
house chimneys. It was a very filthy
job but if the fire are O.K. on Saturday
at East all the men will have a
hot bath. To-day they are having a
party for Hoshino who is going on
leave prior to his discharge. It is very

Est-
Hos-

and about leaving us? had tears in his eyes when he came in to say good-bye to us. I had a lot of carpenter work to do to-day in preparation for the coming inspection. I hope it is satisfactory as it would be nice to be able to carry my box around with me in the future. It will save wear & tear on my nerves. I also made a pair of mitts and started on a pair of blanket slippers, preparing for the cold weather to come. One of the office staff came up to see us to-day & show a plan of the Assano camp. If it is as he predicts we should be in clover but there is many a slip 'twixt the cup and the lip.

Dec. 15th : The main event of the day was the arrival of seven letters of which one was for Duddy. It was from a boy friend of his who writes to tell him that he has taken Duddy's wife out for a chat. This chap. 1st

was very nice for him to receive a letter & I envy him no end. Washino came in all dressed up in civis & he looked a bit of O.K. Such is life but since the army gets all the breaks in this country, I am afraid he is for the starvation diet. We had a luncheon to-night of 10 men per man. Scoutie was informed to-day of a talkie to be made on Saturday with singing etc. It is to last one hour and thus the job is no small affair. I wonder what is going to take place?

Dec 16th: Sasara & I went to the Oil factory to-day but Kameyama went on rest which did us no good. We spent a miserable day as it was raining all day and cold in the bargain. We came away as fed up as we could be. Thus we have nothing to report of this day.

Dec 17th: To-day was uneventful and

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AB3

outlets of a lot of old regulations being
put into effect again all went well.
managed to put a few modifications to
a box I have & now I hope it remains
unfound for the duration. I purchased a
mirror the size of a small window
pane for \$9.50. The price is terrific
but this it is. We studied some
Christmas carols for the service but
they did not turn out so well. This
is about all for the day. We had a very
interesting discussion to night regarding
whether intelligence was hereditary or not.
In order to get a basis we had to define
intelligence, cleverness, & awareness. It
finally ended up in an argument whether
intelligence & awareness were the same
thing.

Dec 18th - The bus on & Fred had some
off to day. The film pack arrived at 10:00
A.M. but this did not start to work
until 1:00 P.M. The inspection was held

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at 11:30 A.M. & Nagasaki was not too
pleased. He is very worried about the
coming invasion on the 21st. An old
friend of ours called Tetsuhawa, a Sgt.
who was here for a long time, returned
to day. He has been in distant China at
Nanking & his brother is in Sumatra. He
looks in very good health. Rev. Clinton
came to make arrangements for the Xmas
service & I was called down to discuss the
affair with him. He told me that the paper
which usually used for communion was very
hard to get now & he was afraid he
would have to use cloth or some other
substitute. He said they use this very
frequently in their church. He is going to
bring one of the elders of the church
to assist him but that the officers
would have to assist him as well.
The cinema business took place during
the afternoon. They held us out on
the baseball ground & after the typical

Japanese S.W.A.F.U. air which they all tried
to tell us what it do we finally carry
"This is a Troopship just leaving Bombay"
The cameras they used one was English
silent movie & the other a "Mitchell"
sound camera. The sound camera was a
very old one & took two men to
change the lens etc. which a third
man handled the camera. They are
coming back on Xmas Eve & Day to
take some more pictures. During the
day the Naps had some men hiding
the surplus food for the inspection. In
this surplus is our Xmas fruit cases.
After dinner one of the men warned
me that two Naps were trying to reach
the hiding place to steal the fruit. I
rushed out at once & caught the two
men outside the door with me soon
for being there. As I enter I warned
the camp about this & told them
that if any fruit was stolen, the

They would, in all likelihood, stop
our Xmas mail. Some men volunteered to
stand guard over it so Casar & I said
we would assist. Casar is on from
300 AM to 400 AM & I am on from
400 AM to 500 AM.

Dec 19th - I was up at 400 AM this
morning to do my guard duty. The Nip
senior let my share tip channel in & so
I did two hours guard to save the last man
getting in early. I provided the tea & so we had
hot tea. The tip entries were very interested
in our news of tip at home & were astounded
to hear about our food. He asked whether
we had many ships or not, did we have
many Japanese soldiers as prisoners, when
did I think the war would end etc. They
did not like the present conditions &
wished the war would soon end. They
was very nice to me and took a
great interest in all that I had to
tell them thus I spend so much

propaganda as I could. I stayed up the morning and then after lunch we had to shift some coal for the Mips. Following this I went to bed for a rest. I received word to night that Kamigama wants me to go to work to-morrow. I think I shall go as I may be able to get in more food for Xmas.

Dec. 30th - I went to work but it was not such a happy day. One of the boys was caught trying to steal a 5 gal. can of oil yesterday so they had him on the carpet to-day. Holenew, trying to steal the oil & while he admitted to me that he had been stealing he could not go back on his story at this time. It is very disgusting to have to live for a man under such conditions to the Mips. It makes you feel very low when you know that they also are convinced you are lying. I thought that the

punishment would be the same as
our methods, I would not have been
a party to the incident in any degree. The
affair cast a gloom over the remainder
of the day and we received very little
in the way of extra food. The brickyard
party was called back to the camp at
3:00 P.M. to prepare the place for inspection.
They worked very hard and the camp
was beginning to shape up by night time.

Dec 21st - The day started at 5:00
A.M. for me as I had to get up for the
guard duty. This is one point I would like
to mention about this day and it concerns our
Red Cross supplies. We have 28 lbs of cocoa to
be issued to the 267 men in this camp
for Xmas. This is very little per man and
yet Hayashi had the nerve to take some of
this in order that he could serve cocoa to
the inspecting officers to-day. He took
6 lbs or into the room to see how much
he took and it was about $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ lb.

We are getting very little in the way of
Red Cross food the Xmas and for him to
do this sort of thing is criminal. I
sincerely hope that the Red Cross Society
will make such people answer these
actions when the war is over. The men
in camp got their kit into very good
shape & thereby left us very little to do
except the outside. There was a Priest in
charge of the store etc & he inspected the
men's kit. He spoke very good English
and with a decided English accent.
We explained our troubles to him and
he told us that he was making a
report on all these camps in an
effort to have our supplies (clothing)
increased. This is all to take place
next year. Major Himada also
came around to inspect and that
ended our side of the story. Himada
was very pleased as they gave him
full marks for his camp.

Dec 22nd = This is our big day for going outside. Bart. stayed back from work in order to go with us. Hayashi started out the day by discussing the food arrangements with Isawa. We had already drawn up a menu & this was accepted. We also were allowed to spend some of the money given to us by our governments to purchase 20 cen of beer & 30 cen of cigarettes per man on this day. We could not receive our pay & hence we had to borrow all the money we could from the men to spend outside. I managed to sell a pair of cufflinks for Isawa to Hayashi at ¥5. and that helped a bit. Some letters arrived today about 200 along with newspapers & we have hope of getting the letter for Vmas. A check has to be made on all the clothing regarding condition of wear and also saving prisoners has to be

was had measured; chest, waist and
length of foot. This must be in
preparation for the clothing we need next
year. Our concert party had permission
to use a room to practice in but the
police complained that the music,
singing etc could be heard on the
street thus we cannot use that room
anymore. Noon found us all getting
excited up and more excited than
kids going to a circus. Doc dressed
up in a green sport suit two sizes
to small for him and caused a
riot. We finally got underway about
2 o'clock. Jack was all decked out in
his blues, Jimmy in Tartan pants
making it a very impressive parade.
We had a small bicycle train to
carry our purchases & we went to Mot-
tachi this time. Our first part of
walk was a grocery stop. Here we
bought tea, pepper, salt, mustard, soap,

extracts and some brass & Blackwells
balms-foot jelly. The woman who was
in charge of the shop was very anxious
to sell us all kinds of things but Hayashi
soon got a stop to that. We managed
to spend ¥14: & then we were going.
We walked through a tunnel under
what is known as the Bluff and
at the far end of the tunnel we
came to the flower shop. Here we
bought our two trees at ¥18 each.
These trees are about 6 ft high and
not bad as Xmas trees go. We purchased
¥4: of cut flowers (Chrysanthemum) &
a plant for ¥5:.. There were some very
fine dwarf trees with flower arrangements
around them but they were ¥15: and
that a bit just of reach for us. On
the way back we passed a shop
selling wax. We stopped to enquire
the price etc but mainly because
this was a book shop next door.

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On this Nov. 1 I kept Hayashi busy at
the one shop, the other officers looked
in the book-stall. There were many around
of English books & about six piles of
National Geographic. Hayashi refused
to allow us to buy any but we
have hopes that we may be able to
get back there some day. I forgot to
mention that next door to the flower shop
was a small place selling decorations.
We went in here but it was filled with
junk & what I mean. We bought a few
paper chains & that was about all they
had in the way of decorations. While
we were in the flower shop some of
the huck-stops outside to tie the kamas
trees to the tracks. A white woman
came up & asked Gosh if he was
American. He said, no, that he was
English and also that we were out
doing our Xmas shopping. At this
point up came a civil policeman who

ordered her away. Shortly after this another civilian white man came along so Sasar captured him. He gave a big smile and came over to us. He spoke to Bart in German something about Xmas, but the guard intervened and sent him on his way. This is all of importance that happened this day but it was a big day for us and one we shall remember for years to come.

Dec. 23rd - This morning first thing Hayashi brought in a large package of Christmas tree decorations. They must have been ordered by some American as there was a red sale slip from a drug store in Long Beach California mixed up in them. There was everything we needed with over a dozen strings of lights. We got one tree decorated in the front smoke room and the other is hung from the ceiling in the

main room. We received the small supply of Red Cross food with the following results. Each man receives one can of either Corned Beef, Salami, Beef stew, or Condensed milk. The remaining items in the 20 Red Cross parcels were raffled to the men so that every man got one or other article. This raffle was carried out at night but the food cannot be issued until the morrow. The tree was a great success and originally we had a ball painted with the Union Jack at the top of the tree but Hayashi made us change this. The ships were into the Lake or River Whine to night and so were our cooks. The net result of all this was that we received, as a gift from the cooks, enough to give us all a full cup each. We received our pay to night as

well and so we figured out our
finances shortly after roll call. We
then took all the things we won
in the raffle & pooled them to make
a light supper to go with the
cup of sake. We had, a small can
of margarine, a bit of cheese, a bit of
turkey meat, a can of bacon, a can
of biscuits, a bar of chocolate and a
small package of sweet. These things
were split nine ways & we had
our party. Strange as it may seem
we all felt happy, laughed and
talked as merry as we could on
just one cup of wine. The cooks
were very drunk and were sick
in their bunks but it is the first
time in two years which is
probably a record for them.

Dec. 24th - Snow here and we
are very busy and more. We
had to move some supplies for-

the Gips but they gave us the
apples for juice which is very good.
I applied for permission to keep the
lights on until mid-night to-day
but this was refused as the Japanese
are not allowed to make a noise
after 10 P. M. Another thing, we tried to get
permission to borrow some tea kettles from
the Asano Koch but Hayashi refused this
so we asked the Asano Koch before
consulting him. We were now issued
five tea kettles from stores to be
returned after Xmas. I had a lengthy
talk with the Wiji in charge of the
kitchen and managed to relieve him
of one or two bags of flour. This is well
in excess of twice our rations (50 grams
per man) but we need it for the
scones. We distributed the cocoa
to-day & it came out to two
rice bowls for 16 men. We had to
fill up a box with cocoa for Hayashi

but we put in $1\frac{1}{2}$ cups of sugar and
he will never notice this. At noon today
Hayashi came in with the accounting man
that our parcels were at N.B. and she
was trying to get a truck to bring them
to us. He finally managed to be a truck
from the liveryyard and it was sent on the
way. The food arrived and we were given
exactly two rations per man, one for
Dona's dinner and one for lunch. Roll call
was moved to 6:30 P.M. by Hayashi
and during the late afternoon we had
to clean up the room to be used
for chapel. All the factories gave an issue
of five cigarettes per man as an Xmas
gift and we also received the same
for the men. There came at two packages
for each man and 3 packages for the
refugee. There were some letters done &
Mr. Monmouth gave this letter to one
of which seven were for Nancy and one
for Louther. In the middle of all

The excitement of getting the Red Cross food distributed etc the working parties arrived back one hour early. You came this blow for suddenly Dusty had let out a cry & told us his father died last January. We also found out that the first his family knew about his being alive was his broadcast in July. This now brings to my mind that the telegram I received from home was dated after my broadcast since I am probably in the same boat. Another blow he received was that his best friend who was also out on patrol the same morning as Dusty, is missing. The people at home believe that this chap is still alive & with Dusty. He took this very hard as one can imagine with the result that we all had a bad let down. We were all very busy when the men came back giving out the food, socks, letters etc and also cigarettes. 5th parcels

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came about 5:15 P.M. and totaled 46 large boxes. They were American Invalid P.O.W. packages No. 1 & each box contained four individual parcels. The order then came to move all these to the h.Q. office. I went down with them & found out orders had been received that all the packages had to be searched. The reason for this order is that in a sack of aids received in Japan on the same ship they found some American Propaganda, then they had to search all parcels to ensure they were O.K. Rev. Watanabe arrived & had a small bottle of grape juice. We had to supply the bread here & I gave up our ration for the cause. We had to prepare things for the service & hence missed Hall call at 6:30. The service started at 7:15 P.M. but Dady, Hooper & Bart had to stay with the examination of parcels. The service went off very well & the communion was Presbyterian style, with the Officers assisting. During the

communion service. Hayashi brought in
some photographers who took some pictures
of us. After the service we gathered
around the Kame tree & had some more
pictures. The parcels were given out
directly after this in the ratio of 2
parcels to 3 men. This gave us 5
parcels over by giving an extra
ration to our hospital here & one to
our men in Tokyo hospital. We are
going to take out the necessary articles
for medicinal reasons from these five
extra parcels & the remaining articles
are to be ruffed to marrow. I might
now give a summary of what each
parcel contains:

- 1 1/2 lb. corned beef.
- 12 " Prun meat roll.
- 2 small pieces of soap.
- 3 cans butter (4oz).
- 3 " Pork loaf (4oz).
- 1 box sugar lumps (90 pieces)

10 pkgs. of cigarettes.
2 Station D. chocolate.
1 box dried prunes.
1 can powdered milk.
1 pkg. of bouillon soup powder.
12 Vit. C. tablets.
8 oz. meat roll. & 3 can of Hom. Spg. (4oz)
6 oz. Grape Jam.
2 cans of Coffee.

In some parcels there was broca, condensed
orange juice & soup powder in place of
the canned beef, one can of coffee and
one package of cigarettes. When the Flaps
opened these parcels they did not put
the same articles back into the same
boxes to with the result that some of
the men got different rations to others.
This was unavoidable on our part &
every effort was made by the officers to
stop this. By the time all the rumpus
had settled down, our room was

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filled with men smoking, talking, etc.
Daddy & I went out onto the grounds for
a walk which we enjoyed very much.
We walked for over an hour and heard
our birds no end. The afternoon &
evening was a decided blessing after
being at the book & call of everyone all
day. We then returned to the room which
was still filled with people. There was
a big rate session going on in the
benches against the officers by the
same old objectors. We have a few
of these men who are in bad influence
on the others by their continual meddling.
Because had the misfortune to go to
the bench & become involved in it
which pleased him in a masterly temper
for the remainder of the night. We
played the gramophone until midnight
& then went to sleep.

Dec. 25th - XMAS DAY.

I was awakened of 5.00 A.M. by

The guards yesterday I gave them
some sugar and so they decided to give
me some sweet tea at 5:00 A.M. I
had to get up to please them & so I
remained up until 5:30 A.M. At 6:00 A.M.
Osaka asked us if we wanted our bath
tubs for breakfast & so we all got up again.
Roll call was at 7:00 A.M. & then everyone
had a bath. We were very busy getting
the oranges, apples, cigarettes put out
as well as to divide our parcels. We
have 6 parcels between the 9 officers
and thus it was a big job. Hayashi
& Rev. Watanabe are joining us for lunch
& this is also rather a nuisance. A
new guard arrived here this morning by
mistake & after Hayashi gave them full
instructions, they were sent back to Tokyo.
We had our lunch after this and it
was a very big success. Rev. Watanabe
said Gato & we were away. He discarded
his chop sticks, at once & asked for a

knife & fork. The three satmen looked after
us & it was a grand feeling. Hayashi
passed off early & left the Rev. to us.
He spent 20 years in America and kept
us amused by his stories. His children
were born & brought up in America, one
of them graduated from Xerox junior
high school. He said they were very
anxious to go back to America & so
was a ~~rev. in~~ choir formed up outside
our room & also the band giving us
music with our coffee & fruit. The
Rev. signed all our menus & had one
of the lads show his picture for him.
He told us that many of his elders in
the church were merchants who had
travelled very much. They speak English
and are very anxious to meet us.
This dispells the iiba that there is
a great deal of prejudisic against us
here in Japan. The Rev. kindly left us
and we made up the food for the

raffe from the five letter parcels. This
look place before show and Doc & I
was which: a can of coffee & a half
pint of prunes. We then had show
followed by the show. The show
was the best ever with the Max as
master of ceremonies. This on until
10:00 P.M. when it was lights out. The
show opened with a song by hearing
a sheet called "His Chief." One of the
sops, named Johns put on a wonderful
act & brought down the house. The
entire concert was as clean as it
could ever be and more than amight
me considering how long the boys have
been prisoners and how low some of
their morals have fallen. We had some
very good female impersonators who
gave us a good bit of chorus work.
One old time music hall artist gave
us an A.1. act of "Fagan" in his cell
the night before he is to be hanged. It

was a very moving act and one we
will never forget. The show ended
at 9:35 & lights out at 10:00 as
per orders. We all came back to our
room where Doc managed to produce
a bit of sake & some alcohol. We
all tucked into this by making
some cocktails & fruit oranges, sugar,
hot water and the necessary. Once
again we managed to get a nice
feeling before retiring for the night. The
sake & alcohol cost us \$5. and was
about a nice amount jill. The cooks got
into the store once again & gave
us a bit more of the Japanese ration
sake which helped out a lot. There
were eleven of us in the party and
about 13 ozs of liquor to do the
vouch but it was our Xmas drink
and we enjoyed it. The guard came
in looking for someone to climb a
ladder in order to change a bulb

so we all got to bed at once.

Dec. 26th: Boxing day and still working parties out. Many of the men were very sick during the night from our eating hence the camp had to be cleaned. Jimmy, Murty & Bart set to work & cleaned up the place in the evening while the remainder of us slept. During the afternoon I did some washing and then did some more rest. Ev-night was library net with the usual renovation of giving out books. Fourteen parcels for individuals arrived to-day from O.S.A. From the contents listed on the customs tags theyinders must have been given instructions as to what to read. By one of the letters received by a lad here, his wife said she was writing to obtain a permit to send a parcel. This would indicate that there is a bit of control on how

among & what you send. There is another
point also to be raised regarding this
personal parcel practice. Up to date, everything
received in this camp has been fairly &
evenly distributed. This is the first real
inequality that has taken place here. I
don't know how this going to go over
with the men, but there is nothing we
can do to stop it. I am convinced
that in such case as this it would
be better to have such parcels sent for
general distribution as we have been getting.
It tends to keep all the men on the
same basis and hence depletes a lot
of reason for discontent. We can only
hope for the best. We all turned in
early.

Dec 27th: Part went out to work
to-day. I went on washed my sheets
and in this cold weather, with pouring
water I can't say that I like the job.
The remainder of the day was a very

day one as Hayashi & Co. were not
in. The Nip. in charge of the kitchen
had a bad time to-day when he
checked his stock of rations. He went
around for the rest of the day
murmuring to himself. Two Korean
messengers came in to-day, one from
the Sanchari Red Cross & one from
the International Red Cross. These messages
are attached to this diary. One of
our cooks went to the branch camp
with some supplies and had a long
talk with Major Muir who is now
in charge of that camp. He wants me
to ask Hayashi for permission to
exchange concert parties for New
Year. I am hoping this works out
as it will be a wonderful change
for the kids. Six more parcels arrived
to-day & I believe they must be
handled by the civilian mail office
as they arrive by horse & wagon.

Jimmy spent the afternoon building
boxes to, and kept us awake with
his banging. Right after supper we
had a big water & soap sission. This
carried on until 10:00 P.M. and then
we went to bed. It was a real sission
and food went around at a great
rate of knots. I kept out of it as
much as possible and it was lonely to
watch. I am not doing too badly in
sackaning my cigarettes which makes
me blow the day when I give up
smoking. Regarding the food I must
relate an instance which has taken place.
I managed to swap some of our sugar
for new eggs to the Nip in charge of
the kitchen. In the night of the 26th
we used these for supper. We fried them
up in some peanut oil along with the
some of ham & eggs, what we now
call white-man's food. What a meal!
It is very hard to realize what this

means to us but I know I shall never
forget the sensation of eating that meal.

Dec. 29th - 1945 - 6:30 AM I had the job
to-day of 'putting up the stove for the
Nips. They are allowed one stove and
one of these is in the hospital. This
is as close as we can get to having
any heat but we may be able to
have a charcoal stager in the future.
We received a bit of news to-day
from Minimoto. There are ten new
prisoners coming here the day after
to-morrow from N.G. camp. and also
we are starting out on a new job
very shortly. This job is to haul work.
Minimoto said that we did the same
sort of work 21 years ago which was
unloading barges etc. We are to
send 40 men there and to cut down
the Oil factory & Bridgeyard party of 20
men each. We finished our work at
about 2:45 P.M. but we have two more

strus to put it up to-morrow. There was a bit of news to-day about the German cruiser Scheerhound being sunk. This was definitely in the Fiji papers as we got it ourselves. We had one of the 1st class Sgt. Fay from Majors from H.Q. to night & he sat with us for some time. He was in this camp a long time ago but he has not been into our room for months. The trading went on again to night at a great rate of knots but I have not contacted very much to my liking so far.

Dec 29th To-day we continued with putting up the stores which took up the greater part of the day. We were allowed to put one up in the main barrack-room but we do not know when we are allowed to use it. Hayaki had me down for a long chat on to "hill time" as he calls

it. He told me that Percia has now
started her big offensive. He also said
that Baydell is now in Cairo. We
received the newspapers and a lot more
letters from Minnesota. I am going to
cut out the more interesting parts of
the papers and keep them. We got a
letter this time which placed Bert & I
in last position just receiving mail. In
a lot of news the first news of from this
end was received in America by our
brother-in-law. One of the kids has named
courtesy received a note from his parents
in Bermuda; did that ever make me
smile. I have thought a lot about
the place with very clear cut pictures
of Dorothy, Sharon & I having a
marvellous time so you can see what it
means to me. We got the official
word to day that the ten new men
are arriving before lunch to morrow.
We have very little in the way of

preparing for them. I got some hinges
etc. for my box and I fixed it up as
best I could to act as a trunk. I hope
the Japanese allow me to keep it for
more reasons than one. I got to bed
early for a change to night.

Dec. 30th: The big event to-day was
the arrival of the ten new men from
H.Q. camp. The news they brought was
very good. In their camp, they saw a
radio, local stations only of course, but
they are also very fortunate in
having a Lt. Bush who can speak
Japanese perfectly. The officer is a
sub-Lt. in the Hong Kong R.N.V.R. but
his former occupation was a school
teacher in a high school here in
Japan. He married a Japanese girl who
became a British subject. She is now
living in Kobe with the children
but he is in P.O.W. camp at Ichyo. He
reads all the Nip newspapers for the

men and also listens to the radio news. The latest report is that we now have Rabaul and that 250,000 Germans were captured in the Bismarck. Judging by this we are well on the way. These new men had lots of news for the men in this camp concerning their comrades. There was very little else in the way of news and so to bed.

Dec. 31st: The guard woke me up at 2:00 A.M. to give me a cup of sweet tea. I told them I had a cold so they gave it to me in bed. In return for this I gave them a few plums & also received a small rice cake which they only use on special occasions. They found this but it has no taste & is the consistency of rubber. In the morning Hayashi told me to get 12 men to go to the supply center for vegetables. Since Dec. 24 I went with the men & we had quite a time. The supply center is like a very large market but all that we could see was cabbage, squash &

things. We loaded up with three hundred
carts of cabbage and started home. On
the way back we were allowed to buy
two small trees for our room. There
are the dwarf trees and very pretty
to see. So night we stayed up to
see in the new year. We talked of
the future new year & as for back
we saw new year's ago. We broke
into some red cross food and also
had hot coffee. New Year came & we
all joined hands to sing "Auld Lang
Syne". The Doc was in the medical
room so we went there to wish
him a happy new year. Even the "Ship
guard" came in to wish us a
happy new year. The feelings and
sensations involved in this episode
are such that I am going to write
a separate article to in order to try
to capture them. Until then here is
the year of Victory & Release.

1945

Jan. 1st - We all returned to bed directly after breakfast so that when Minamoto came in at 10:00 A.M. we were all asleep. He woke me up and told us that the men had to clean up the camp. We did not get up until nearly noon. We moved up a big mass of camp to albatross but it did not turn out so well. We had our bath at 3:00 P.M. and then settled down to a little sleep once more. The evening passed as quietly as the remainder of the day and hence we had one of our best days yet. All was peace & quiet with nothing to bother us. The more days like this the better.

Jan. 2nd - To-day the Rumor party had to go to work but all others stayed in. There was no business carried on by us and all went very peacefully. Kuyaki came in for a short time to say that he was going home. His grandfather is very ill & so he will probably stay over until he dies.

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Jan 3rd: To day all factories were working. The
brickyard was supposed to have a holiday but
Hayashi showed them up & told them they had
to work. This was done some days ago but
the men at the factory did not like it one
bit. I worked down in the Neg office most
of the day. The Negs had a holiday and hence I
enjoyed working by the store. Some of the men
at work to-day had a look at a Neg paper.
The news was very good. We have carried out
one of the heaviest bombing raids of the war
on Berlin. Hitler is ranting at the anti-war
feeling starting to grow in Germany. The outcome
of a conference in the Vatican city was to
declare peace only upon an unconditional
surrender by Germany. Churchill is much
better and is steadily improving.

Jan 4th: all working parties went out to-day.
Saw Hayashi is not here all is peace & quiet.
I did my laundry to-day & it was frozen
before I could hang it up. It is not bad
morning as we use hot water from the kitchen

but all the sewing has to be done in cold water. My hands ached for hours after I had finished. Jimmie did his laundry to-day & I had to rub his hands for him to keep up the circulation. We were a sorry pair when we had finished. The lights went out ^{at night} and so because I had to go to fix up a new bit of fuse wire. The one thankful part was that the top guard behind me could fix it so he left me alone. I read a very good book to-day called "From Day to Day", which deals with the life of a man who returns home after being a prisoner of war.

JAN. 5th = To-day was another holiday for the Spaniards and hence we had another day of rest. There was no news or any happenings of importance.

JAN 6th = Hayashi returned to-day but he was only here for a few minutes. I am beginning to think his excuse about his father's health was just a means to get a holiday. Hayashi returned later in the

morning and called Benson & I down to
his office. It was about the new job starting
& it appears every man is to get a work-suit,
shoes, hat & gloves. We had to get a sample
of every size of shoe in order that they
may make the proper sizes. We picked
out the forty men to go to work & then
they gave us a sample suit for the men
to try on. This had to be done to night
when the men returned from work. We
also received the American boots which
arrived over two months ago. There
was one pair 8 1/2 D & the rest 9 D. Since
the smaller pair fit both Jack & I we
cut the cards for them. Needless to say
I was since I very seldom lose at this
sort of thing. Nayuti talked to us for
a time & said that all the people at his
home believe the European war will finish
this spring. He did not mention the
Japanese war, but he seemed very concerned
about the bombing raids now taking place

on Germany. All the Japanese are beginning
to wonder about the sort of thing. I hope
they will get plenty when they read about what
is going on in Europe. To-night, one of
the men reported being dropped for no reason
at the Besano dock. We went down to report this
to Hayashi but the Besano Interpreter was
eating dinner with him. We waited until
they were finished but all the satisfaction we
got was nil. So much for all Hayashi's
threats of what he will do to the civilians
who disobey him. Five loads of coal
came in this afternoon & we had to
unload them. It was very heavy work
& I was glad to see the end of it. The
copies of the pictures taken at Xmas
arrived today & we are allowed to
place orders at 30 sen each. Hayashi
is withholding the one of all the
pictures but we hope to get a
copy of this one some day soon.
With all the distribution of goods &

taking orders for the picture we had a long
night. Jimmy & I got a vitamin B injector
to night & I certainly need it. The old Beri-
Beru pains across my back are bad these
days so I hope this will stop it.

Jan 7th - The last load of coal arrived
this morning and so we got it put away
before lunch. Thank goodness we do not
get much of this to do. After lunch today
13 of us went to get the register again. Jack,
Jimmy & Doc & Schultz went along with us this time
and I enjoyed the walk very much. A blond white
girl went past us on her bicycle and wished
us good luck. It is such things as this that give
us a lift in life. The strength of it is usually
a big case of the blues. I have been down very
deep in the blues of late & this does not help. At
the register warehouse we found some oranges &
apples. Jimmy kept watch in his I mugged one
apiece for us all. Jack wore his new shoes &
as a result he has a few bad blisters to
reckon with when he got back. We managed to

They come here for the officers when we get back because he was very sick with another sort of dysentery. He spent all day in bed.

JAN. 8TH: To-day the Westerns back party had a meeting. I had a long chat with Hayashi this morning in which the chief topic of conversation was divorce. He told me that a letter had arrived for one of his prisoners with a notification from his lawyer telling him that his wife is starting divorce proceedings. Once again that point arises whether it is better to keep back such a letter, or to pass it on to the local. Hayashi wanted to know all about our divorce laws, etc. Mr. Eric came in to say goodbye to us as he is now going to the front, attached to an Army Air Squadron. He did not seem very happy about the whole thing & is convinced he will not return again. This same man is the one who told us that war was a wonderful thing. Hayashi said there is a Japanese proverb which says: "Heaven is paradise,

being in hell". There were many rumors about
to-day when the soldiers saw some Red Cross parcels
going into the Red Cross building across the street.

Jimmy & I managed to get access to a window
from which we could see this building. The
top office now has curtains on the windows
& I strongly suspect that maybe they have been
made into living quarters.

Jan. 9th: To-day all the officers stayed in &
we had a bit of a musical in the afternoon
with the help of the grocerwoman. At noon I
had a long chat this morning about accepted
therapy to in an effort to save my skin. I
find that incessant work is about my only
hope. There was no news about the war but
the rumors are starting to fly about when the
more is to take place. The Naps are very
quiet about the whole thing and in all
likelihood will not tell us until the end
of our march. I felt very off colour to night
and so to, but as well as possible.

Jan. 10th: My head & body were awfully

ask to-day & thus right after lunch
I went to bed & stayed there. I guess it is
a bit of flu. but by night I felt a lot
better. The Nips are calling in all our
chairs (official ones) to-morrow but I
am afraid I shall have to wait for a
bit to catch mine up. The war news
to-day is very good. Ever the first
time the Japanese papers put the
fighting in Poland at a place called
"Sard". This came in from a ju-jos
outside as well which gives our sources
outside a bit of truth. There are
some rumors outside in which the
Russians are talking about giving base
to the Americans in Kamchatka and
Vladivostok. The Japanese will have
to declare war on Russia if this is
true now. What is behind all this
talk we now no idea, and it
may be only an editorial but there
should be something behind it to give

rise to all the rumors. Once again
we have the strong rumors of moving in
the very near future. Tomish came in to
say that Miyashi told him I am definitely
going to the Luzon Group.

Jan. 11th - I am much better to-day but I am
staying in bed just the same. The last time I got
up after having a temperature I returned to bed
for a week. This time no such chance. The Doc. says
two days with normal temp. & I will be O.K. The
war news definitely places us in Poland at a
place called "Sara" and also at another
point further southeast. Roll on the boat! We
drew for the library books to-day and got them
all squared away in care we move in the
very near future. It was gray night for the men
so we collected two cheap pay for the hospital.

Jan. 12th - I stayed in bed until roll call
when I got up to take a turn at duty
officer. Two men returned from the hospital
and both were very glad to get back. It
was very green in that place and the prisoners

staff, such as cooks, doctors etc are only
out to help themselves. This makes life very
hard. The news they brought was of heavy
fighting in Java, Sumatra & Burma. One patient
in the hospital is a survivor of the American
submarine which entered Tokyo Bay. It came
in under a transport & waited for three
days to take a crack at an aircraft carrier
which was being launched. It tagged along the
carrier just as it left the ways & then
they stayed on the bottom for four days
until they could get out under another
transport. They were later sunk by a Jap
cruiser and only two of them survived.
There are about 10 Japs in the camp at
the hospital & they are not being very well
treated. The treatment of patients etc at
the hospital is dealt with in another place.
News came in to-day that this camp
would not be breaking up until next
month also that we are to receive
one red cross parcel every month. There

are about 3,300 prisoners in this area
in three camps. The total number of parcels
that arrived for the area was 13,200. These
were stored at the hospital. There were
about 3,600 parcels distributed about 7 mas
time and the remainder are still in storage.
Maybe there is some truth in all these rumors
that we are to receive more Red Cross food. The
general impression is that this is the best camp
taking everything into consideration. Good news
was received of a disaster up north. Evidently
at one of the northern prison camps the roof of
the barracks collapsed under six feet of snow.
This happened on New Year's Day. They sent down
word of seven dead, 11 injured & many still
to be dug out. One of the doctors and an orderly
at the hospital were taken up to the camp to
assist. This may be the same camp where there
were so many deaths last year. All the personal
parcels remained by the men in the hospital
had the vitamin tablets removed unless they
were packed not to be obvious. This may

be due to the fact that everyone at that
camp is very sensitive conscious. A small
case arose in our camp here to-night which
shows the character of the men we have to
deal with. One man has a large boil on
his head which makes it very painful
for him to move his head. At present he has
an upper bunk & climbing the ladder etc
is not very pleasant. I have requested
one of the new men in this man's section
who has lower bunks, to change places
with this sick man until his leg gets
better, a matter of a week. No one would
exchange so we got out the cards & drew for it.
The man who had refused to move with
the result that it was necessary to take
him to the Japanese who ordered him
to change. Thus you can see how little
these men care about anyone else but
themselves. They expect you to make
heaven & earth to accommodate them &
yet they will not even change bed

paces for a week to help out one of their
own men who is sick. It reminds me
very much of the line we memorized in
school: "Blow, blow, thou winter wind,

Thou art not so unkind
As man's ingratitude."

We heard to night that Hayashi's father
died yesterday.

Jan. 13th: Hayashi left to day to go to his
home for his father's funeral. We received
a bit of news of many fighting in Denmark.
The Russians are putting in a big drive into
Poland and it looks very well for the Allies.
The men's diaries were checked and handed
back to day and if the Naps read them all
they certainly have an idea what we think of
them. Gussar sold all his foreign money
to day to buy nickels and I went into debt
to buy a banochik \$5.00. It is a wonderful
feeling to see that old familiar money once
more as well as to speculate on what it
will buy back home. I shall save that note

until I reach home again. We had an argument
to-night raised by hearing an account
of a torpedo attack. The lad said the
torpedoes were fired at 19,000 yds range
which is over ten miles. We thought this
was an extreme range but a sea-claim a
torpedo boat in Hong Kong told him the R.N.
carried out attacks at 30,000 yds. Within
I can get the chance I would like to check
up these distances as it all sounds very
extreme to me.

Jan. 14th - To-day we had a big flap on
all day with an expected visit from Col. Seayah.
We did nothing but stand by all day and then
to top it all he did not arrive. We received
a few letters from the office but none for
the officers. The new guard arrived to-day
& two of the members were here before.
The master-apt. gave them their instructions
and judging from the way they are acting
he has broken them in for us. Brown went
out with Sugimoto to buy tea & he had

a swell time. They had to get the old lady to open
the shop & hence they had the shop to themselves. It
was the same place on Moto-Wachi that we were in
before Kansas. We purchased some pepper & mustard for
us and that was about all we could get. The
big news came in to-night that Poland is
finished. There is heavy fighting in East Prussia,
Hungary and Rumania. This has not been
verified in any place but we had a nice
evening thinking it over. Suzuki is supposed
to come to-morrow. The Doc is down with
flu & has gone to bed early.

Jan 13th - This day we were under the flap
inflame again. We got the place cleaned up
& had the usual inspection at 11:30 A.M. Suzuki
arrived about 1:00 P.M. and had a look around
the camp. He inspected all the living quarters
out on the jobs but we heard no report
about it. He gave this place a casual glance
and asked a few questions about things. He
had the flaps in a real flap. They tried to
borrow some cocoa from us but all ours

is gone. We all had our bath shortly after
Suzuki left. We got the news in again to day
about Poland being finished by another lot
(200 bochans) who came back from hospital.
He brought news that 200 survivors came through
from the Luban Mine to Changking. Another
told us regarding some prisoners from New Guinea
who say that the Japs are surrendering by the
thousands. The Japs are using up our Red
Cross parcels for their own use. They gave
them to their wives etc & are using them up
for their own private lives. There are enough
parcels now for one per prisoner per month
for six months. They had to move the
parcels away from the hospital because the
Japs were stealing too many. There is no
further news of the accident up north of
the roof cave-in. Another tale concerns
a patient arriving from H.A. camp. This had
was in a coma all the way from the
H.A. camp and they brought him on a
beige's back. On route, his head fell

over the side and got mangled in the
spoke of a wheel. He never regained consciousness
and died seven hours later. Five of the men
in that camp fell pers. or on the permanently
ill list and up for repatriation. Regarding
this point an exchange ship is supposed to
arrive here to-day from England. The Doc
did a lancing job to-night on a fist. This
was done in our room and it was quite a
thing so it had to be done with a table
knife and no cocains. I am going to
gather my thoughts soon & write down
about such things in a separate article.
The Doc has been in bed most of the day
and is going to take another rest tomorrow.
The Reg medical orderly bought us a new
box of medicine to-day & I was just
in time. He got out \$1.70 worth of
medicine & we can certainly use it.

JAN 16TH This was a day of rest for us
and so Bart stayed in with us. I did my
laundry this morning and I don't think my boots

will ever be the same again. The Doc was
up and around all day - but he going to let
Brown take sick parade to night as he
needs a bit of a rest. We are going to
collect money to purchase personal supplies
of vit. B. & C. for the men. This is going
to be given to them & when they come to
have an injection they will take it to
the medical staff who will inject it.
There was an accident to night at the
Assano Dock. When the men were rushing
to get into the barge they ran over a
pile of iron bars. These bars rolled down
on to the feet of two of our men. The bars are
about 10 ft long & 1/2 ft diameter with the
result that the two men had to be taken
to hospital. One man had his toe taken
off and the other has some broken bones
in his foot. We have been exceedingly
lucky in this sort of thing and to date
we have not had any fatal accidents.
I hope our luck holds out till this

thing is over. He was news to date but they
have placed notices around the prison which to
the effect that no complaints regarding food,
work or conditions will be tolerated by the
company. This refers to the Naps only & the
extreme penalty is death.

JAN 17th - He was news to-day. The personal
parcels were returned to-day and some of them
had really been broken up. There were very many
things among of which cigarettes and candy were
the main items. In two cases the safety razors
had been taken and old ones substituted with
sop's hair still stuck to the one razor. In
another parcel the shaving brush was an old
used one which would never have been sent.
Nepochi was not around when this was
discovered so I had to wait until
to-morrow to complain. We do not hope to
get any of the articles back but we will at
least be able to ask him to take better care
of the parcels while they are here. The
stowaways are to start out to-morrow & we

been to issue all the clothing to-day. The
ships have not arrived and so we have
been given some British Army clothes which
captured in Hong Kong. We received a cigarette
issue to-day which is the first we have had
since Xmas. Each man was allowed to buy
ten cigarettes. These cigarettes were 15 c.m.
for ten cigarettes but have gone up to 23 c.m.
since Xmas. Before the war they were 7 c.m.
for 10 cigarettes. I wonder what the price of
cigarettes is at home? In all the parcels there
were various types of vitamins and from the
advertising, the country must be having a
big sea & push on vitamins. They are very
necessary here & where the doc recommended
for diet supplement is one capsule, or how to
take this capsule to bring in up to daily
requirement. This will show how deficient our
diet is of vitamins.

JAN. 18TH - To-day Hayashi came in to
work & I had a long conversation with him
regarding the shortage ^{of} the personal parcels.

In one parcel there was a Japanese deck of cards which in another the Red received an old watch which was going & set at the correct time. Hayashi is reporting all this to the regiment for which the Red guard have retained in hopes that they find out the culprits. At noon he along the C.C. from the Furumi camp visited Hayashi. The Furumi camp has about 90% convicts from Hong Kong & I spoke to him regarding their mail etc. He told me that about 300 personal parcels had just arrived for them as well as a lot of mail bags. There is a fair chance I might get a letter yet. I am more anxious to get a letter from my wife than I can ever express in words but in view of the lack of food here I can only say that I would rather have letters in place of a parcel even though I am continually hungry. The transport party turned out in their white suits this morning & came back about 3:00 P.M. Their first job was unloading a ship-

load of coal. When they finished this, they came home. They received a small amount of food from the firm but no cigarettes. Hayashi went out to see them & he straightened out most of their complaints. There are wild rumors about Prince Kanio being in Moscow and also Choochill is back on the job. I hope this is true for Kanio is the one man in Japan who was against war & is pro-British. I strongly suspect he is the man who will lead this country if the military regime fails.

Jan 19th - All the men of the day occurred this evening. The stewardess party came back from their coal hauling with a few means and so we went to the office to complain. The complaints were logical enough & the master Sgt. was obiding with them very well. At present the men get one rest per day from 12:00 to 12:45 & during this time they eat their own food, plus the food from the factory. We asked for

a rest at 10:00 A.M. & one at 3:00 P.M. the
same as the other jobs. The Sgt gave them these
rests at that time. I grant the company
does not supply any clothes or containers
for the men to use for carrying food & what
we were discussing this Nagachi came in.
He blew a fuse & yelled his head off. It
ended in a shambles with orders from
the N.Y. Medical Sgt to send out 225
men tomorrow while today we sent
out 219. Nagachi met the other working
parties coming back & announced to
them that all men must gargle or they
would be punished. As for this incident
happened to night regarding the Diet
factory. The buckets used for carrying
the food to this factory are made of
bamboo & are like this in cross section.



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It will be noticed that there is a space
between the bottom of the bucket & the
lower edge of the staves. The prisoners
on their job, cut out circular pieces of
tin the size of the bottom & after using
these as false bottoms. The turned the
bucket upside down & filled this space
with granules, rags or bottles of oil
or soap & then inverted the tin of
that. When the bucket was turned
upright, it was impossible to detect
it unless the bucket was overturned.
This system has been used for over a
year and yesterday they found it. They
were warned the previous day by one
of the workers but he knew about it
but the prisoners thought he would not tell.
They brought back three of the men
& made them stand for some time
behind the guard. The master got again
relaxed then and had no more than
against such future conduct. To top all

this these men were caught playing cards for money. We have had many cases of this before but the men never learn. In this instance they were caught passing the money. They had to stand up behind the guard for some time after 9.00 o'clock. They came in from N. 9. camp as well as from some of the jobs that the Russians are very near to Warsaw. If this is correct we have not got much longer to wait for the fall of Germany. I am eating my reserve of Red Horse food for either that occasion or my birthday, whichever comes first.

JAN. 20TH - This morning there was a big line up of sick men so the Doc took five of them to see the med. Sgt. He told them they were excused but when Coulter took them the total figures he wanted those five men again to go to work. The net result was that we had the sick men line up but he insisted that Doc pick out the five men to go

to work. Al was handled so quickly
and quietly that you would hardly
think there had been a parade. He gave
the five men sick sheets to wear & told
them to rest all day in the huts. He has
become a changed man & is now on
our side slightly against Kayashiki. He
feels that he can rely on no more
than he can on Kayashiki. It was the
first time he has held such a parade
since I hit him and the change is
so remarkable one would never
believe it. Shortly after 10.00 A.M. they asked
the officers to move all the ashes out to
the street. These ashes have been accumulating
since long before Xmas & hence we started
on a big job. We worked until lunch
and then for about two hours after lunch
to finish the job. When the structures came
back to night they were very happy. The
coal is finished & they unloaded salt & day
They got a good meal from the company so

POW/C.I.: Leonard J Birchall

Folder 6

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