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RPD  
REG TMS ATCHD 136 INF

29 Sept 45

Subject: Report of inspection of Oeyama PW camp (Branch No. 3 of Osaka Main camp.)

To : C.O. Recovered Personnel Div AGO, GHQ, AFPAC (Thru Channels).

1. On 27 Sept. 45 Recovery Team 16 (with atchd allied officers and Recovery Team 26 plus Maj. Foster U.S. Signal Corp 6th Army PRO and cameraman visited 3rd Local Branch of Osaka Prisoners of War Camp at Miyazu 72 miles N.W. of Kyoto, Coord. 35° 34'N 135° 09'E.
2. Arrangements made for visit by Mr. Aoki, Commissioner of Police Kyoto Prefecture, HQs. Kyoto and teams accompanied by a representative of that office Mr. Fujikawa, Foreign section of Police Dept. Kyoto Prefecture.
3. Arrived Miyazu 1500 27 Sept 45 reporting to Police Chief of that city who is now in charge of the camp. Proceeded to make preliminary inspection of camp, conducted by former Lt. Kosaku Hazama, Japanese Army who commanded camp during Period of occupancy, now a civilian. Lt. Hazama conducted me through all the buildings which included quarters, supply rooms, kitchen, Med. buildings, and latrines. Buildings were in fairly good shape, some slightly damaged by a recent typhoon in that area. Supply rooms contained clothing and food (rice and barley) which were made available to PW's, according to Lt. Hazama. Presence of parachutes and boxes indicated Red Cross supplies had been received there and Lt. Hazama stated they were made available to PW's. Accompanying documents will shed considerable light on statements of Lt. Hazama and observations by inspector. Latrines were unsanitary as they were filled well beyond the proper level yet facilities were same as those afforded Japanese troops.

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During my inspection with Lt. Hazama other officers and EM made personnel inspections of buildings and secured many documents forwarded with this report. They indicate conditions of prisoners poor, majority in to weakened a condition to do heavy labor, (note medical documents). Next inspected grave of an American Soldier.

Pvt. Russell G. Chips ASN 15017249  
60th CA  
Born 3 Apr. 1921  
Died 3 Sept. 1945  
Next of kin Lillian Neighbors  
RR# 1 Morgantown, W. Virginia.

Others who died there were cremated and ashes sent to Japanese Army HQs. Osaka. Their names are listed in accompanying documents. Grave in good condition and identification posted. Lt. Hazama then gave me many documents listing men and camp conditions that are enclosed. Evaluating the remarks of Lt. Hazama and Police of Miyazu and Kyoto and documents this appears to be one of the better conducted camps. Arrangements were made to take pictures the following day of camp area, grave and factories where PW's worked.

4. Sept 28, 1945 party returned to camp, grave and factories to take photos. Copies will be forwarded as soon as available. Photos of camp show general size and location, type buildings and latrines. Others show grave of U.S. Soldier, and general view of nickel and ore factories where PW's worked.

5. General attitude of Japs was cooperative. They kept telling about the American PW's who were given armes and ammunition and helped local police quell riot by Chinese Coolie workers at factory. Made statements of good conduct of Amer. PW's and "wished to express many thanks for their cooperation." Statements by officials and those in documents will of course, necessitate confirmation by PW's themselves. Medical care was in hands of U.S. Medical Officers and was as good as existing supplies would permit. (Note Medical Records).

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