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3153-3

Osaka

File: 3153-3

Title: Camp History

Origin: Osaka Prisoner of War Camp

Date: ~~1942-1945~~ / 1942-1945 Classification:

Authenticity: Recovered Personnel Team

Sources:

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ARCHIVES FILE NUMBER 3153-3 -----

TITLE CAMP HISTORY -----

ORIGIN CSAKA PRISONER OF WAR CAMP -----

DATES JAPANESE REC. -----

AUTHENTICITY RECOVERED PERSONNEL TEAM -----

SOURCE -----

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REPORT ON THE HEALTH
CONDITION OF WAR PRISONERS AT THE OSAKA
WAR PRISONERS' INTERNMENT CAMPS

Concerning The Health Of
War Prisoners

1. General Condition Of Patients:

When the Osaka War Prisoners' Internment Camps received prisoners of war for the first time on October 11, 1942, almost all of them were sufferers of amoebic dysentery. The Lisbon Maru, on which they were transferred to Japan, had been sunk, and they were rescued and sent to the Osaka War prisoners' Camps.

One-third of them were seriously ill. About 120 of ~~xxx~~ the most serious cases, whose internment in Osaka was considered unwise, were sent to the Hiro-

shima Army Hospital, and some others to the Osaka Army Hospital. Those comparatively light cases were quarantined in a hurriedly established isolation hospital within the municipal athletic ground at Ichioka, Osaka (a branch of the Zentsuji Internment Camp until the establishment of the Osaka Internment Camps).

Generally, the prisoners of war at that time were very emaciated and looked extremely exhausted. As we received an unexpectedly great number of war prisoners contracted with infectious diseases, medical preparations were not sufficient and negotiations between the Army authorities and the Army hospitals for supplying medical supplies for the war prisoners did not go very smoothly or satisfactorily. As a result the officers of the Internment Camps including myself, offered all the medicine we had stocked at our homes and helped them out of a crisis in some way or other.

Later, large numbers of war prisoners continuously sent from the South were gradually transferred to our Internment Camps. Probably owing to malnutrition abroad, however, those suffering from beriberi, undernourishment, and chronic diarrhoea, all of which were caused by malnutrition, totaled

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80% of the patients.

Due to this, the recovery of their health was very slow. As the surgeon expressed his view that it was impossible to cure them with only medicine, all the officers of the Internment Camps did their utmost to give them better nutriments.

Generally, about 70% of all the war prisoners who were transferred from abroad to our Internment Camps were very emaciated. They were anemic and weak. But by dint of the efforts of the officers in charge of the Camps sufferers of malnutrition rapidly decreased in number about one year after the opening of the Internment Camps so that very few sufferers were later found.

As the war prisoners transferred into Japan from the South were generally unaccustomed to the climate, clothing, food, and habitation of Japan, a fairly large number of them were afflicted by pneumonia during their first winter in Japan. From the second winter, however, cases of pneumonia remarkably decreased.

Those who died of illness from the time they were interned up to September 1, 1945, numbered about 1,080.

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About 17 war prisoners died of their own carelessness and mistakes while engaged in work.

Five died of burns or bombs during air raids.

It is regrettable to say that the accurate number of dead cannot be given now, for all the documents connected with the health conditions of the war prisoners have been submitted to the War Prisoners' Information Bureau and we have no data here in our Internment Camps.

2. Sanitary Facilities:

(a) As we received an unexpectedly large number of war prisoners contracted with infectious diseases, we accommodated the patients in the former branch of the Zentsuji War Prisoners' Internment Camp at Ichio-oka, Osaka, a temporary isolation hospital.

(b) Whenever cases of serious illness broke out, they were sent to the Osaka Army Hospital.

(c) At the beginning of 1944, a war prisoners' hospital, which was no less comfortable than the Osaka Army Hospital in every respect, was established at a place of scenic beauty in Kobe. Although it contributed greatly toward the medical treatment of many serious cases, it was burnt down in the air raid in June, 1945. Ever since, the former Kawasaki annex served as a temporary hospital. But the patients

were later moved to the hospital attached to the Japan Red Cross Society in Osaka.

(d) In order to leave nothing to be desired, we furnished each medical office with sick-rooms, a clinic, a business room for keeping records, private rooms for the medical corps (war prisoners) and medical impediments, conforming to the medical office of the Japanese Army.

3. Medical Corps:

(a) To each internment camp, we attached several members of a medical corps, including a surgeon of the same nationality.

(b) The Japanese Army permanently posted a non-commissioned medical officer at each camp and had him engage in the treatment of patients in full collaboration with the members of the medical corps (war prisoners).

(c) To the War Prisoners' Hospital (in Kobe) we detailed able surgeons and members of the medical corps (war prisoners) of all nationalities, so that the patients could be accorded equal medical treatment.

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(d) There were four Japanese surgeons, including the director of the War Prisoners' Hospital. The three others, taking up their abode at the Osaka War Prisoners' Camps, inspected every camp two or three times a week in order to know the condition of the patients and give instructions regarding their medical treatment.

4. Alimentation:

The chief of the Osaka Internment Camps and his men attached the greatest importance to the preservation of the health of the war prisoners. Thus, we held a physical examination and weighed them every month, and made them massage their bodies with a dry towel and gargle every morning in order to keep their skin strong. The quantity of calories given them was calculated every 10 days.

Inasmuch as the weight of the body is so to speak the "barometer" of the physical condition of the war prisoners, we recorded a list of their weights every month. Taking a serious view of any increase or decrease in their weight, I called the attention of each chief of the camps to the preservation of the health of the war prisoners.

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Also thinking much of food calory, I urged the intendants to ameliorate the nutriment for the war prisoners. We let the war prisoners cook food for themselves so that they might make it according to their fancy. We also exercised care for the patients' food and always made efforts for procuring soup of cow bones and other nutrimenta rich in fat and albumen.

Furthermore, generally once in three months, the chief of the Internment Camps, accompanied by surgeons, instructed the officers of each camp how to preserve the health of the war prisoners.

5. Prevention of Epidemics:

As soon as the war prisoners were transferred from abroad to our Internment Camps, we gave injections (for typhus, cholera, and dysentery) and vaccinated all of them. Since then, we injected them periodically once a year, doing ~~our~~ our best to prevent the outbreak of infectious diseases. Thanks to our efforts, not a single case of infectious disease broke out after the arrival of the Lisbon Maru.

6. Medical Supplies:

The supply of supplies was not smooth at the beginning of the establishment of our Internment

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Camps, but it became gradually smoother from about four months after their establishment and no trouble whatever occurred in the medical treatment from then. From that time on up to date, we have been supplied with medical supplies and appliances in sufficient quantities and have been distributing them to each internment camp for the use of war prisoners.

Meanwhile, we received large quantities of medical supplies from the U.S. Red Cross Society for the relief of war prisoners on several occasions from about the end of 1943 and distributed all of them to every internment camp equally.

We have been using both the medical supplies of the Japanese Army and those sent from the U.S. Red Cross Society so that the medical treatment of the war prisoners could be made doubly sure.

In short, we have been taking utmost care of the health of the war prisoners during the last three years. We have been paying utmost efforts to have those emaciated and exhausted persons coming from abroad overcome the climate of Japan and harmonize their clothing, food, and habitation, which are utterly different from those of the Japanese.

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As a result, all the war prisoners remarkably improved in health one year after their arrival in Japan.

September 10, 1945.

Colonel Sotaro Murata,
Chief of the Osaka War Prisoners'
Internment Camps.

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III

DOCUMENT RECEIVED FROM LT. HAZUMA NIPPON ARMY CAMP COMMANDER OF
OEYAMA PW CAMP OSAKA CAMP NO. 3.

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DOCUMENT RECEIVED FROM LT. HAZUMA NIPPON ARMY CAMP COMMANDER OF
OEYAMA PW CAMP OSAKA CAMP NO. 3.

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Certificate of Receipt

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HEADQUARTERS CAMP NO. 3
OYAYAMA, JAPAN

copy

September 8, 1945

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

I certify that since the surrender, Sept. 2, 1945, Camp Oeyama has been placed in my command and the Japanese Camp Supplies, Clothes, Food, Fuel, etc., offered to me for Camp use. Some of these Supplies have been accepted and used, while most of them were not needed and have been left in the hands of the Japanese.

JOHN J. MARTIN,
Major, U. S. A.
Commanding.

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OSAKA PRISONER OF WAR CAMP
OEYAMA SUB-CAMP

September 9, 1945

FROM: Lieut. Hazama.
TO: Major John J. Martin, U.S. Army.
SUBJECT: Arms and Ammunition.

1. In compliance with instructions from Headquarters, Osaka, the following items of Arms and Ammunition are given over to your control:

Swords -----1
Rifles -----5
Bayonets-----3
Rounds ammunition150

Hosaka Hazama
Lieutenant

1st. Ind.

Hq., Camp No. 3, Oeyama, Japan, Sept. 9, 1945. TO: Lieut. Hazama, Osaka Prisoner of War Camp, Oeyama, Japan.

1. Receipt of above named articles is acknowledged this date.

JOHN J. MARTIN,
Major, U.S.A.
Commanding.

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OSAKA PRISONER OF WAR

- OYAMA SUB-CAMP REPORT.

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OSAKA PRISONER OF WAR OEYAMA SUB-CAMP REPORT

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NUMBER III CAMP (OEYAMA SUB-CAMP) REPORT

I General Situation

1. Opening of Camp

18th Year of Showa, 20th day of August

(A.D., August 20, 1943)

2. Course of Internment

September 2, 1943	Transferred from the Hong Kong P.O.W. Camp 800 Non-Commissioned Officers and Privates (British and Canadian)
January 7, 1944	Transferred from the Hong Kong P.O.W. Camp 100 Non-Commissioned Officers and Privates (British and Canadian)
August 5 & 6, 1944	Transferred from the Philippines P.O.W. Camp 200 Non-Commissioned Officers and Privates (American, 2 Officers included)
April 3, 1945	Transferred from the Osaka Main Camp, sumori Sub-Camp (No. 13), Taisho Sub- Camp (No. 10), Yodogawa Camp (No. 5), Amagasaki Camp (No. 6) 39 Officers (American, British, Australian, Dutch, and Norwegian)
May 17, 1945	Transferred from the Yodogawa Camp (No. 3) 161 Non-Commissioned Officers and Privates (American)
July 27, 1945	Transferred to the Tohoku Army District 6 Non-Commissioned Officers and Privates (American)
August 31, 1945	Transferred to the Osaka Main Camp 6 Officers (British)
September 2, 1945	Transferred to the Takebu Sub-Camp 5 Officers and Non-Commissioned Officers (Australian, British, and Canadian)

Many of the prisoners on the first and second draft of British and Canadians interned in the Oeyama Sub-Camp were men who had been hospitalized or had been ill in the Hong Kong P.O.W. Camp. Though in a weakened condition, as soon as they were discharged from the hospital, they were sent to Nippon. Consequently on arriving in Nippon, many of the men were ill or in a weakened state of health.

For this reason I placed most importance in the improvement of the health condition and I appointed senior non-commissioned officers as camp supervisors in order to maintain harmonious relations between the Nipponese Camp Staff and the prisoners. Furthermore I exerted my best efforts towards improving the accommodations, revising the diet and etc., in order to make this camp a large and happy home.

Fortunately, I was able to understand the prisoners' feelings and psychology and they, ours, due to the fact that I have lived with prisoners from the very foundation until the closing of this camp. I exerted my best efforts towards negotiating for the harmonious relations between the prisoners and the employing firm.

In relation to the labouring duties of the prisoners, I took into consideration their physical condition and I respected ideas of the prisoners's medical officers as much as possible, leaving it almost entirely in the hands of the American and British Medical Officers as to whether that man should go out to work or not. The prisoners' medical staff and the supervising non-commissioned officers admit that I have exerted my best efforts towards obtaining a type of work to fit his physical condition and, in consequence, through negotiations with the firm I obtained light-duty work whereby one could work under cover.

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Therefore the works percentage was always the lowest among the other camps of the Osaka Prisoners of War Camp and consequently I was not able to fulfil the governments' wishes.

The worst condition in the Oeyama Sub-Camp was the high rainfall and humidity in this vicinity. On the contrary the best conditions are that this camp is situated along the sea-side where the air is pure and one is able to appreciate one of the three natural wonders of Nippon. The Canadians especially, have made enjoying expressions, saying that this land was like their home country. The officers too, have always praised this camp. Above all this camp was situated in the safest region during the war. Two men were lost on the occasion of the bombing of war-ships in the harbour of Miyazu and I deeply sympathize them, but I personally believe this camp is in one of the safest sections of the country. Except for a few who complained of food ration shortage, everyone seemed to have forgotten the strains of the work after they came back to camp. As far as the accommodation and installations of the camp were concerned, few complaints were received through the impressions that were written from time to time.

Issue of food was the same in all camps and I rationed them according to orders from the higher-ups, there was always a reserve of two months' staple food for emergency.

Since other foodstuffs were purchased in this vicinity they always proved to be fresh and I personally believe that they could not have said it was not enough. Among the luxuries, though the Nipponese civilians were suffering from the shortage of cigarettes, the men were issued the set amount until March this year and thereafter though it was small in amount they were nevertheless taken care of.

The following is an explanation of the particulars.

II Finance

All finance was based on the Nipponese Military regulations, but a further explanation is as follows:

1. Financial Matters

All officers have been paid an amount equivalent to the same ranking Nipponese Military Officers, and the working men and task men were paid the regulated amount.

2. Food Supply Matters

a) Staple food consisted of many things, but it was mainly of rice, barley and soy beans. Besides this, bread was baked from wheat flour by the nearby bakers.

b) Other foodstuffs consisted of many things, but it was all purchased from the civilians and it was prepared so as to obtain the most nourishment. There were times, when even the civilian population were not able to obtain "tofu" (soya bean cake), that they were issued with these. Such being the case the physical condition of the patients was always in my mind.

(c) To lighten the strain of work somewhat, the firm employing the prisoners provided soup for mid-day meals and in winter, to provide warm food, mid-day meals were cooked at the factory.

(d) In order to provide more side-dishes to the men a camp garden was started. All harvests were for the prisoners and were besides the regular issue.

(e) Red Cross Food was received twice. Both shipments were received just before Christmas and it was a help in making a splendid Christmas for the prisoners.

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The plan for distribution of Red Cross Food was drawn up by the Medical Officers (prisoner) and Supervising Non-Commissioned Officers and in accordance with their request, proper quantities were issued individually to all men.

3. Clothing

(a) Clothing were issued from the Chu-bu Army to the Osaka P.O.W. Camp and subsequently it was issued to this camp. Every man was issued, and had in their possession more than one set of changing clothes and work clothes.

(b) Red Cross clothes received were mostly winter clothes; jackets, gloves, pajamas, socks, and etc. Although the quantity was small it was utilized to the best of advantage.

(c) For winter, the firm employing the prisoners contributed two hundred (200) pairs of Wellington boots, gloves, towels and jikatabis.

(e) Especial consideration was given to this camp in the matter of bedding and bedclothes. Every man was issued with eight blankets and on the closing stage of war every man possessed six blankets or more.

Besides this, for patients use, one hundred and fifty (150) cotton stuffed blankets were contributed from the firm.

4. Canteen

Facilities were provided for a canteen and commodities were bought directly by the men. But having to take care of a large number of men, on several occasions, it was unsuccessful. Therefore the handling of canteen commodities were left in charge of the American and British Supervising Non-Commissioned Officers. Although the commodities available in this district were scarce, we were able to procure the following; several varieties of fruit, curry powder, wasabi (peppercorn powder, razor blades, tooth powder and etc.

5. Building

(a) Area of site 4000 Tsubo (approximately five acres). Since March 1945, the area was enlarged to approximately seven and one-half acres.

(b) Accommodation facilities

Medical inspection building	1
Hospital building (5 wards)	1
Officers barrack	1
Non-Commissioned Officers and Privates barracks	15
Medical Officers' room	1
Bath house	1
Cobbler and tailor shop	1
Provision warehouse	1
Quartermaster Store (clothing)	1
Miscellaneous warehouse	1
Drying room	1
Latrines (building)	4
Office (building)	1
Nipponese Staffs' quarters (building)	2
Nipponese cookhouse	1
Nipponese bathhouse	1
Guardhouse	1
Bath-house (prisoners')	1

In relation to the work conditions, maintaining and improving the health conditions of the prisoners, all financial matters were taken into consideration and were carried out. For the welfare of the prisoners, we made utmost efforts to obtain such items as oil, meat, and etc. and were able to procure them; whereas such items are not available for the Nipponese civilian population.

III Health

1. As previously stated, the men interned at the beginning were ill² or in a weakened state of health. Therefore, in order to improve the health condition of the men, I had the Nipponese Medical Officer come from the Osaka Main Camp to diagnose the men once a week. Furthermore I re-

requested the firm's doctor to come twice a week in order to help out the situation. February 1944, being the first winter for the men, was the most difficult time of all. I requested the medical officer from the Osaka Main Camp to remain here for along period of time and was barely able to surmount the difficulties as camp commander.

2. My biggest problem was how to reduce the patient list.

Therefore, during the past two years, importance was placed in the improvement of the health condition of the men. That is to say, strolls and games in the spring, swimming and sun bathing in the summer, skin massaging in the autumn, and heating facilities---the placement of stoves in every barrack, prevention of cold wind in the barracks, heating facilities out at work, issue of hot tea, and the revision of the rest periods were but a few of the steps taken in order to improve the health. Consequently the health condition of the men was of primary importance and labouring duties secondary.

Bathing buckets for warming the feet were placed in the barracks and a drying room for clothes was facilitated.

I cannot forget the efforts made by the Nipponese Medical Non-Commissioned Officer, British Sergeant Harvey and the many others on the medical staff in helping the American and British Medical Officers.

3. Medicine

Medicine for the treatment of the men was obtained from the Nipponese army and what was short was contributed from the employing company. Red Cross medicine was issued by the Osaka Main Camp Hospital and handed over for use by the Prisoners' Medical Officers.

4. Medical Treatment

Eleven of the serious patients were interned in the Kobe P.O.W. Hospital of which ten recovered and returned, and the other remained.

* patients were hospitalized in camp and other injuries or operations were taken care of at the Ota Hospital in

Hashidate.

Many dental patients received treatment at the dentist in the town of Iwataki. Consequently there was no one who suffered from the lack of dental treatment.

IV Labouring Duties

1. Working hours were in accordance with the firm's regulations and the men generally finished work in time.

2. Place of Work

From 1943 to March 1945, half of the working men went to the Oeyama Mine and half to the Iwataki refinery. From March 1945, due to the fact that the scope of work was reduced all the men were transferred to the Iwataki refinery and from June 1945, I received orders to send men to the Miyazu docks for stevedore work according to requests from the firm.

3. Since the men were not pressed to go out to work, the working percentage for one year was an average of sixty-five (65) percent.

As far as work is concerned, the employing firm has full responsibility and the Camp Staff only has the right to give instructions to the concerned firm. Therefore, though all the requests from the firm were received, instructions were given from the medical viewpoint to have the men rest during a rainstorm, to supply tea during the hot season, to issue straw hats for protection from the heat. In case the requests from the camp were not met with by the firm, work was stopped at times. This was in all means to improve the health condition of the prisoners during the two years. For this reason I have been criticized many a time by the civilians as being a person who treated the prisoners much too generously.

V Correspondence

All correspondence was carried out according to instructions from the commander of the Osaka Main Camp.

Dispatching of messages averaged three times a year and receiving of messages totaled to approximately 2,500 messages. The five men who had not received any correspondence were given the opportunity to communicate through Switzerland.

Further more through instructions from the main camp, a total of fourteen men were given the privilege to notify their safety by radio message each month.

VI Miscellaneous

1. In the treatment of the prisoners, I strictly prohibited any personal punishment by my subordinates and the works supervisors of the firm.

2. Recreational Facilities

(a) The use of musical instruments contributed by the firm and the Nipponese Red Cross Society was allowed on rest days, whereby they held concerts.

(b) Games such as volleyball and ping pong were always open to the men.

(c) Swimming was also permitted.

(d) When there were requests for religious services, it was allowed at such times. A bishop from the Nipponese Catholic Church was called upon and a religious service was held once.

(e) A baseball match was held once and thereafter open-air music concerts were held.

(f) On rest days strolls outside of the camp were allowed according to the wish of the men to give them a different outlook from the mental viewpoint.

II Situation After the Suspension of War

1. From August 19th for a period of three days the men were allowed to visit Ama-no-Hashidate to buy gifts.

2. I had the cafes, restaurants and consolatory houses opened in the town of Miyazu and after September 2nd the men were allowed to go out freely.

3. On August 29th, fifteen officers and I held a farewell party in Miyazu (on account of urgent business I had the interpreter go as representative for me).

4. On September 2nd, I drank a toast with the officers.
5. After September 2nd, the various mayors and village masters from the vicinity came to express their greetings and Major Martin, U.S. Army, interviewed them.
6. On September 9th, the final day, the relation between the Nipponese Camp Staff and the Allied Forces' Prisoners was something that surpassed the country's boundary and the departure at the Iwataki Station was a dramatic sight.

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LIST OF PERSONNELS

As of September 3, 1945

CLASSIFICATION:

Nationality: British: Canadian: American: Dutch: Australian: Norwegian

RANK (Army)

Major	1		3		1
Captain			5		
1st Lieut.			6		1
2nd Lieut.			11		3
W. O.			1		
Sgt. Major	4	1	9		
Sergeant	4	6	35		
Corporal	3	6	69		
L/Cpl., L/Bdr.	12	9			
Pte. 1st. & 2nd C. 65		105	177		
TOTAL.....	89	127	316		5

NAVY (Rank)

1st Lieut.				3	
W. O.			2		
Sgt. Major			2		
Sergeant			6		
L/Cpl. & L/Bdr.			6		
Corporal			8		
Seaman 1/c			2		
Seaman 2/c	7				
TOTAL.....	7		26	3	

AIR FORCE (Rank)

Sergeant	3				
Corporal	4				
L/Cpl. & L/Bdr.	5				
Pte. 1 & 2/c	1				
TOTAL.....	13				

MARINE (Rank)

Corporal			11		
Pte. 1 & 2/c	6		14		
TOTAL.....	6		25		

CIVILIAN	3		1		
TOTAL	118	127	368	3	5

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• R E P O R T O F C O N D I T I O N S O F T H E
O S A K A P . O . W . C A M P

1. Conditions during the first stages of the establishment of the Camp.

The Osaka P.O.W. Camp was established during the latter part of Sept. 1942 and received the first Prisoners for internment during the middle part of October. The total number of Prisoners interned eventually increased and exceeded the figure 10,000. The Prisoners interned first were from the Lisbon Maru, 500 of which were scheduled to be interned in the Osaka P.O.W. Camp and the remaining 500 in the Tokyo Camp, but due to the sinking of the ship and the resulting hardships, they were suffering from dysentery, acute intestinal inflammation and diphtheria when they arrived. This made the removal of the 500 who were scheduled to go to Tokyo impossible and were interned in the Osaka P.O.W. Camp upon order from the Higher Authorities. I received 500 in the Kobe Camp and immediately returned to Osaka to receive the remaining 500 into the Osaka Camp. During the short distance from the Pier to the Camp much time was taken and many fainted as soon as reaching the Camp Grounds and one Prisoner died in spite of all first aid treatment and hypodermic injections. I immediately suggested to the Higher Authorities and received a large party of medical orderlies from the Osaka Army Hospital including an Army Doctor, and started the treatment. Since the 1,000 men received for internment were literally all patients, there was immediately a shortage of medical supplies. There was no flinching on the part of the Nipponese in the treatment of the epidemic cases. I recall now that some Nipponese who were on duty at the time including myself brought our own household medical supplies like gauze and medicines and also benjo paper to be used in the treatment of the sick.

There was one death on the first day of arrival. This death grieved me very much because this honourable soldier had died after safely arriving at our shores after surviving many fatal hardships on the way after being sunk on the Lisbon Maru. A Preacher was called in the next day and a fitting funeral service was held to honour the dead with all of our personnel and the Senior Staff Officer of the Army Hdq of the Central Region Army in attendance.

After that a germ examination was made and the carriers were hospitalized in the Army Hospital and since there were many more such patients unable to be hospitalized one of the Army buildings were negotiated for and the patients were hospitalized with the Nipponese Army Doctors and the Prisoner Doctors in attendance. Prisoners not being used to the climate and the atmospheric conditions and furthermore the time of the year was such that there were sudden weather changes which all in all unfortunately caused many deaths through the winter period of 1942 till the Spring of 1943. All the personnel from myself down took up our quarters in the office and endeavored to such an extent that at times we worked on even forgetting our meals. During this period the Medical 1st Lieutenant Kishimoto became ill due to too strenuous a duty and had to be hospitalized and eventually had to be discharged from the Army. The detailed

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record of Camp doings were kept but were destroyed in the fire resulting from the bombing of June 1st, 1945.

2. Establishment of the Hospital.

Realising that a hospital would be required if more Prisoners were to be interned I put in an application to the Central Region Army Headquarters for a Prisoner Hospital and the Ministry of the Army were also very helpful and found a suitable site for us in Kumouchi-cho, Kobe. The location was such that there were mountains to the north and the sea on the southward side amidst fresh air and good view, all contributing to the hygienic conditions of the camp.

The facilities were complete and it was able to accommodate 150 patients. Internal medicine, surgery, ear nose and throat, X-ray, dental and microscopic departments were established making it equal to if not better than our own Army Hospitals. We were very fortunate in being able to master the services of 1st Lieutenant Ohashi a renowned Professor of Surgery formerly on the Professor Staff of the Osaka Imperial University Medical Department. The said professor is one of the foremost Doctors of Surgery in Nippon with an exemplary character. He had the complete trust of the patients. Adding to this the foremost Prisoner Doctors were selected including the Medical Lieutenant Commander Page of the British Navy. These forementioned Doctors cooperated with each other in such a way that the health records improved immensely and there were cases of recovered patients refusing to leave the Hospital even after their recovery.

3. Nurturing and Hygiene.

We were the very first in establishing a hospital of its kind in the country. Whenever the Prisoners were interned the suggestion of the Prisoner Doctor were followed to give the men rice gruel, soup and other soft food to help in the quick recovery of the men from their fatigue of the journey. It was unfortunate that many men were lost due to illness from the winter of 1942 till the Spring of 1943. From among those disembarked from the Lisbon Maru the worst cases were left in the care of Kokura and Hiroshima Army Hospitals.

4. Rations of the Prisoners.

Since the living conditions, types of food and circumstances were different been cards were made among other things to have the men assimilate their food properly for its calorific value and each of the Camp Commanders were made to compete with each other in obtaining rich vitamin fruits like the mandarin oranges. After the beginning of the Summer of 1943 the Prisoners became used to the rations, and spiritual relaxation were adjusted in such a way that they eventually became very healthy.

Sub-Camp Commander meetings were held once a month to muster their efforts in bettering the health conditions and general camp conditions. Rewards and letters of commendations were given to the Sub-Camp Commander whose camp had made the best improvement during the month.

5. Removal of the Sub-Camp to the Interior.

Osaka, Kobe and Nagoya bombings began to increase from the beginning of this year. If the camps in the Osaka and Kobe areas continue it became imminent that most of our Sub-Camps would suffer resulting in making general prisoner life difficult. Therefore in March I immediately drew up plans for evacuating the camps to a safer area and submitted the plans to the Commander of the Central Regional Army and also to the Ministry of the Army. The Higher Authorities permitted the execution of the plans and evacuation was immediately begun and completed in May thus saving many Prisoner lives. The camps in the Osaka area namely: Chikko, Kobe, Yodogawa, Naruo, Taisho, Sakurajima and Umeda camps all suffered explosive and incendiary bomb attacks and all were burned but due to the timely evacuations not a single Prisoner was injured.

The Kobe Hospital received heavy raids and three men were lost.

In the raid on the Chikko Camp one Nipponese N.C.O. received bad burns on face and in the raid on the Kobe Camp three Nipponese guards were killed by bomb explosion while evacuating the Prisoners. There was no injury of Prisoners in the raid on the Kobe Camp.

It could not be helped but intern the Prisoners of the Chikko Camp in a temporary place after the raid of June 1st.

6. Memorial Services.

During the early stages funeral services were held each time there was a death occurring but since there were many deaths due to the epidemical diseases collective funeral services were held on December 2nd 1942. Since then a committee was organized to hold similar services each year in December picking a good day. In these funeral services all the Nipponese personnel all the Chikko Camp Prisoners, representatives from the different ranks of the Prisoners in each of the Sub-Camps, representatives from the Central Regional Army Headquarters, and representatives from civilian and civic organizations all attended the service very solemnly and the services themselves were conducted by the foremost preachers and fathers of the Protestant and Catholic Faiths each Faith taking turns with each other every other time. Those dead were honored and remembered in the most solemnity and honor befitting servicemen who had died in service.

7. Religious Services.

Religious services were left to the free will of the Prisoners. In some camps permanent places of worship were built. In order to satisfy the spiritual feeling of the Prisoners I obtained the services of the foremost preachers and fathers of both the Protestant and Catholic Faiths and appointed the Steward 1st Lieutenant Fukunaga to make the necessary arrangements and the services were held in each of the camps and I am sure that these services were appreciated by the Prisoners.

Especially the many visitations by the Archbishop Paul Marela and his many generousities were warmly received by the Prisoners.

8. Storing of the Ashes.

The ashes of the loyal soldiers were handled most respectfully. I have a friend who is in charge of one of the temples of the Honwanji Buddhist Sect, called the Juganji. I entrusted the ashes to this kindly Priest and had him appointed guard and worshipper of the ashes, the ashes being placed in front of the main Hall of Worship.

It may seem strange why Christian ashes should be left in the care of a Buddhist Temple, but the reason was that I myself am a Buddhist and I further believed that although religions may differ, the basic spirit is the same. Each spring and on our Equinocal Week I asked the Priest to have an impressive ceremony conducted for the Spirits of the deceased. The Priest being a personal friend of mine for one reason I visited the Temple many times to offer prayers in memory of the dead. In the major air raid of June 1st of this year the fire came to the next house but fortunately the Temple and the ashes entrusted there suffered no mishap.

9. Recreation and Comfort for the Prisoners.

The International Red Cross Committee sympathy and kind aid was a great comfort to the Prisoners. The books donated by the Y.M.C.A. went a long way to satisfy the Prisoners' in their thirst for knowledge and also to comfort them. We on our part in order to assure fair distribution of the books appointed a Prisoner to take charge of the books as he or the other saw fit.

10. Meeting with Prisoner Representatives.

Meetings were held occasionally in each of the camps with the Prisoner Representatives. The requests of the Prisoners were put forth at these meetings and if it was within our limits of power requests were satisfied. In the Chikko Camp I've had meetings with the Representatives such as the Doctor Chief Boatswain Mate Sanders (American), and W.O.L Matheson (British) once a month in order to listen to and have their demands fulfilled.

11. Food Supplies.

The food supplied according to the Regulations, was equal to that of our reserve forces. It was equal in all respects if not better. Besides this, in order to satisfy the Prisoners the companies for which the Prisoners were working for were forced to give substantial amounts of additional food. As one illustration, the extra amount received from the companies for the Chikko Prisoners were equal to that of a whole day Nipponese civilian ration, and as a result they

enjoyed vigorous health.

12. Conclusion.

Throughout the three long years I practically lived in the Headquarters of the Camp so that Prisoners would not suffer mishaps. During the bombing raids I was always on hand in spite of the fact that I might have lost my life in order to protect the Prisoners. I also gave talks to the Prisoners occasionally to give them spirit and hope.

The camp staff and I did our best within our possible limits and only regret that we could not do more.

I respectfully submit the summarized report of camp conditions.

COLONEL S. MURATA.....

Commander of Osaka P.O.W. Camp.

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