

Jap Officer Decried Death Of U. S. POW's

Marine Corporal Starved and Tortured, Inter- preter Says

Yokohama, Jan. 2 (AP)—A Japanese interpreter testified today at the war crimes trial of Lieut. Keli Yuri that the former commander of Omuta prison camp decreed "James Pavlokos shall die"—and he did after being starved and tortured. Pavlokos was a U. S. marine corporal from Chicago.

The interpreter, Harakichi Oi, also pointed to the defendant as the commandant who ordered a score of assembled guards to bayonet to death Pvt. Near C. Heard of Salinas, Calif.—but he said Yuri strictly forbade beating of prisoners. Depositions of two American officers also said Yuri ordered Heard's execution, and they told of secretly witnessing it.

Oi said Pavlokos was a consistent trouble-maker "who acted like a tyrant. Nine or 12 American prisoners wrote us notes—some on cigaret packages, some on toilet tissue—asking that Pavlokos be transferred to another camp. It is a shame to say it, but it is true that at least two of them said, 'Please kill him.'"

The interpreter testified that Pavlokos, was confined two days upon the report of a Navy Lieutenant and a American sergeant that he had stolen goods. Pavlokos was put to work in a coal mine but caused trouble and was sentenced to five more days in the guard-house. When he was assigned to kitchen duty so that Japanese could watch him, other prisoners protested.

The interpreter said he heard Yuri ask a Lieutenant Murao, the camp doctor, if he knew of any infection that would leave no symptoms of poison. The doctor replied he knew of one. Then, said Oi, Yuri declared, "James Pavlokos shall die."