

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. Kell 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."

Nip POW Heads Said Told To Ignore Geneva

**Tribunal Told Yanks
Asked Yuri To Kill
'Unpopular' Fellow**

YOKOHAMA, Jan. 3.—(AP)—Japanese prison camp commanders received definite instructions not to abide by the Geneva convention in treatment of allied war prisoners but instead to follow Japanese army rules, a U.S. military commission was told Thursday.

Japan never signed the Geneva convention but agreed to follow its tenets.

The witness, Capt. Yoichi Saito, former head of a Fukuoka branch prison camp on Kyushu, testified at the war crimes trial of Lt. Kelyuri.

Saito said Omuta prison camp, which Yuri commanded, was considered a model. Yuri is charged with the torture deaths of two Americans, mistreatment of others and failure to provide adequate facilities.

Notes Asked Death

Earlier, Sarakichi Oi, a Japanese interpreter, testified that "at least two Americans" at the camp suggested the killing of James Pavlokos, U.S. marine corporal from Chicago.

The witness said Pavlokos was a consistent trouble maker who acted like a tyrant and that some of his fellow prisoners wrote notes to the commandant asking for his transfer to another camp.

"It is a shame to say it," Oi added, "but it is true that at least two of them said 'please kill him'."

Later, the interpreter testified, he heard Yuri ask a Lt. Murao, the camp doctor, whether he knew of an injection that would leave no evidence of poison. The doctor replied that he knew of one. Thereupon, said Oi, Yuri declared: "James Pavlokos shall die." Pavlokos finally "starved to death in solitary confinement," the witness said.

Oi Confirms Bayoneting

Oi also confirmed the fatal bayoneting of Pvt. Noah C. Heard of Salinas, Cal., previously described in depositions taken from two former American inmates of the camp.

The witness said he personally saw Heard's execution, and that at least 20 Japanese guards participated in the orgy of bayoneting under which the American died.

Oi identified Yuri as the man who ordered the guards to bayonet Heard, but also testified that Yuri regularly warned against the beating of prisoners.