**Theodore (Ted) Lewin**

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| **The following is a statement made by Theodore Lewin during war crime trials 1946** My name is Theodore Lewin. I live at 145 General Solano, Manila.  **PRELIMINARY:** I was captured in Bataan between 6 and 8 April, 1942. From there I went to Bilibid Prison on 28 May 1942 and stayed until June 1, 1942. At that time I went to Cabanatuan where I stayed until on or about 14 October 1944. From there I went to Bilibid Prison where I stayed until December 13, 1944 when I set sail for Japan.  **ORYOKU MARU – 13 DECEMBER – 15 DECEMBER**  Prior to setting sail for Japan the last time we were fed was about 0500 or 0600 hours on the morning of the 13th. At that time we received a regular meal which consisted of “lugao”. It was a double ration of rice equaling one full canteen cup. There was plenty of water and we all had all we wanted. We left the pier in a group of about 1600 prisoners. Col. BEECHER, a marine colonel, was in charge.  We waited in line in the sun in Bilibid Prison for a period which I assume is about seven hours and finally were marched out. We were marched from Bilibid Prison to where we stopped which was formerly Pier 7, Manila. I would say a distance of about two miles. Everybody was carrying what clothes they could. We got to Pier 7 and were marched inside. Our group was comprised of about 1600 officers, civilians, medical, and enlisted personnel. When we left Bilibid Prison we were marched in groups of 100. Originally there were three groups commanded by Col. BEECHER, Commander PORTZ, and **Commander JOSEPHS who was in command of the group I was in**.  The prisoner of war guard commander for us was TOSHINO and an interpreter, WADA who acted as his adjutant or second in command.  We were loaded aboard the Oryoku Maru between 1700 and 1800 hours. The first group that were loaded aboard consisted of officer personnel group under the command of Col Beecher and it consisted of field officers and a few line officers about 600 and they were loaded into the forward hold**.** I was in the last group and I and approximately 800 were loaded into the aft holdand we completed out loading about 1730 hours.  At the time of the loading and transfer of the men from the pier into the holds of the ship, Lt. TOSHINO was on the second deck watching the prisoners and Mr. WADA, the interpreter was down below directing all movements and giving orders and as a matter of fact while we were at the pier he personally placed Col. BEECHER in charge of the entire group of prisoners of war although |BEECHER was not the senior officer. Commander PORTZ was a few years his senior. I was present and saw WADA give BEECHER is instructions.  AIHARA who was nicknamed “Air Raid” was the corporal of the guard aboard the ship. I know him very well.  AS we loaded into the holds of the ship we were packed in so tight that there was just enough room to stand and the guards in order to make room were beating men to force them back. I saw the guards strike many men with the butts of their rifles to make room.  The hatch opening in my hold was approximately 15” X 15” and I would not be able to estimate the bottom by reason of the fact that it was so dark and so crowded and I could not see. And there was so much confusion and perpetual excitement so it was difficult to determine it. There was a shelving built to our holds which extended from the bulkhead about ten feet and which ran around four sides. When I got to the hold I was physically located, standing under the hatch----to the rear of the hatch. Commander Portz was the senior officer present and was our leader at the time. As Commander Portz was in a very poor physical state and had suffered greatly that night from lack of air, Commander Bridget took over and was in command of our hold for the rest of the journey on the Oryoku Maru.  **NIGHT OF DECEMBER 13TH:**  The only means of air and light into our hold was from the hatch which was kept partially opened up. When I got into the hold I can best describe the placing of men as follows: The men were crowded together as tightly as they could stand one against the other. That extended up completely to the foot of the stairs coming down into the hatch. At that time no one was allowed to sit on the stairs. The men under the shelving were the first ones loaded onboard by the Japanese. There was just room for each one to sit down against the other. When we arrived into the hold there was no room in the hold and in order to make more room we threw our clothes underneath us and stood on it. We received an issue on the night of the 13th as follows: The Japanese called for a food detail or work detail and I went as a representative of my group. However, it was getting dark and the food finally got into the hold and the first 20% of the men were the only ones issued alright. After that we tried to get more and because it was getting dark and difficult to bring down the food into the hold not more than 30%of the men were issued food. The ration was issued amounted to a little fresh fish and a half canteen of rice. We got water as follows: The Japanese were going to issue it to us that night. After bringing the first bucket or two, darkness came in and they refueled to give us anymore. As a result not over 10% of the men received water. They got a canteen cup of water. We received no other food or water aboard the Oryoku Maru.  Sanitation aboard the Oryoku Maru was as follows: Two 5-gallon cans were placed below. It was impossible to move or find a place for these 5-gallon cans and therefore when the 5-gallon can were filled they had to be handed from hand to hand until where a Czechoslovakian by the name of **VOLNEY** who tried to have it emptied. After a long delay he was successful but he did this under the darkness so that in a short time the whole area was covered in feces and urine. Our only guards were Taiwan soldiers. Any request or shout was greeted by the Japanese “Kura” which means “ Keep Quiet, Shut Up” or threats.  I would estimate the temperature in the hold this first night to have been about 115 to 130 degrees.  I would also estimate that approximately 75 prisoners passed out for lack of air of whom 20 died of suffocation. The rest were saved through the help of friends. When a man passes out he was almost sure dead. He was suffocated. When a man passed out he would be passed over from hand to hand to where there was air. Navy doctor by the name of **WELCH** was sitting on the steps near Commander **BRIDGET** and was attempting to issue instructions how to best preserve a man’s life. He had a small kit of medical supplies which he carried and attempted to use in the worst cases. He stated that these 20 men died of suffocation. During the night of the 13th I can describe the condition in the hold as following. During the night of the 13th the men were screaming, fighting, cursing and a few officers made an attempt to restore some type of order but because it was impossible to move in this crowded condition nothing could be done. People cried for lack of air in pitch darkness. During the cursing, screaming, and fighting there was a civilian by the name of **McKENZIE** who was knifed by a man next to him. **McKENZIE** could be heard shouting “My God this fellow is killing me” but nobody knew where he was. The next morning he died. (Who is McKenzie?)  I was told by **Col. SHWARTZ** when I was in the tennis court at Olongapo that a regular army lieutenant colonel whose name I do not now remember was suffering from asthma very badly. As they were loaded on board the Oryoku Maru in the forward hold he was among the first there. He immediately got into a terrible asthmatic attack and coughing due to the dirt and manure left by the horses which were unloaded. Col. SCHWARTZ went looking for medicine in an attempt to do something for him. In desperation he called up to Mr. WADA telling him that this man should be brought on deck or he would die to which Mr. WADA replied “Let him die”. He died that night.  **DECEMBER 14th:** On the morning of December 14th we were attacked by planes. A food detail had gone up to get some rice about 0600 hours. Then we heard cries and warning was issued by the Japanese hollering “Shikoki” which means “airplane”. There were four or five bursts of anti-aircraft guns and then the firing stopped. According to Commander BRIDGET, who was sitting on the steps and could see the activity, it was a patrol plane. About an hour later we were attacked by navy dive bombers. The attack lasted almost continually until between 1600 and 1700 hours that afternoon. The ship was hit time and time again by bombing and strafing and as I saw the next day all the guns on the ship were knocked out. There were many near misses. Many machine gun bullets ricocheted into the hold from the strafing and I got one and showed it to Com. BRIDGET. During the day Commander BRIDGET announced that one group of 100 men in the rear hold 90% were unconscious and called for help. A civilian by the name of **Jack HARE** and myself went in as a team and picked one. A naval officer by the name of **CHANDLER** and I got him on my shoulder and carried him to a place in the hatch where there was more air available. He felt just like a roasted leg of ham. He died. After carrying this man out that afternoon both myself and **HARE** were in a semi-conscious state from exhaustion. **HARE** got wild and almost risked his life on the ladder. The Japanese were just ready to shoot him. I laid down and some of my friends took care of me. At this time I would estimate we were somewhere between Corregidor and Subic zigzagging.  During the air attack Commander BRIDGET made an announcement to the men in the rear hold that the Japanese were screaming and shouting above that all Americans in the rear hold should keep still. The night of the 14th of December was a repetition of the preceding night if not worse. The men started to get really insane. There were cases of men drinking urine. I heard men howling and shouting. Men tried to bite each others thumb; some trying to suck the others blood. I experienced a man trying to bite my thumb and I grabbed him and eventually knocked him out. The men around me were trying to get hold of him and killed him because there was no hope to quiet him. I myself was in a semi conscious condition which is just like a man having a high fever seeing pictures in hallucinations and imaginations. Sleep was impossible unless you sit back to back with somebody. There was a tremendous roaring and it was impossible for men to do anything in the pitch darkness.  On the day of the 14th during the air attack we did not see WADA. In the evening I don’t remember seeing him. Neither TOSHINO of WADA ever came down into our hold while we were in the Oryoku Maru.   I remember at this time the names of the following who died of suffocation:  **LTC John H. Brettell, MAJ James V. Bradley, LTC Jasper E. Brady Jr., Thomas J. Coolidge and MAJ John Neiger**  **DECEMBER 15th:** On the morning of the 15th about 0300 hours WADA appeared at the top of the hatch and announced that everybody would go ashore. He made the usual lecture about escaping and the consequences if one escaped. He told everyone to get one pair of pants, one shirt, and one towel. He said that we would be landed on shore. We heard that Japanese women and children evacuated the ship just before daylight. After we received the order to evacuate, it became daylight very rapidly and I was preparing to change my clothes. In fact I had got myself stripped when very suddenly a plane came down on us dropped several bombs one of which fell into our hold. One of the bombs hit the deck. The explosion caused the girders and hatch covers to fall down covering men up, injuring and wounding many in addition to the ones who were hit by shrapnel. The planes which hit the deck were visible from the edge of our hatch. I would estimate that in our hold as a result of the explosion about 150 men were either killed or injured. Many man were under the hatches and girders while some attempts were made by me to release them but it was almost impossible. The men were in very weakened condition and the girders and hatches were so heavy and the fires burning all over the boat. From the hold where we were it seemed the ship was going to sink at any moment. So there was an order from the above that we could clear the ship on the side. There were many men covered. A civilian named **NICE** and myself uncovered a navy pharmacist mate by the name of Ted **BROWNELL** who is alive today.  We left the ship about 0930. When I got up on deck I was immediately searched for water. I struggled into a corridor and saw a Japanese kitchen. It was filled with American Red Cross food consisting of corned beef, ham, and milk and almost everything of Red Cross supply. However, my condition was such that I did not feel like eating and I felt like drinking and I left the ship.  Immediately following the explosion of the bomb in our hold the men started to scream **and shout and raised general and four Taiwan soldiers reached the edge of the hold and fired what I assumed to be ten shots**. It was impossible to shoot into the hold without hitting anyone by reason of the fact that the place was a mass of human beings. However, I do not know who was hit.  When I jumped into the water I was in a very weakened condition. The water revived me and I felt so refreshed that I took my time and started swimming toward shore. I picked up on the deck a half of a life preserver. I reached the shore about 1000 hours. When I left the hatch that I was in there were still wounded men as well as dead people. I was among the last to leave. In fact I was one of the last five to leave.  Men were roaming all over the ship searching for food. And through a friend of mine, Frank, who worked for the government civil service who was also looking for food he related to me an incident which he saw that Lt. TOSHINO shot an American coming into one of the passageways with food. He told me that Lt. TOSHINO had his revolver out and fired at the men. He told me this while we were lying on the beach.  I left the ship and swam for the shore. About ten Japanese which I identified as marines were firing across the water. While I was swimming to the shore four American planes came over. The Americans who had reached the shore under the instruction of Col. BEECHER all stood up and waved their hands and shouted. One plane left a squadron of four and dropped down within a range I would say a thousand feet dipped her wings in recognition and got up and joined back with the squadron and left. The ship had been completely evacuated by the Japanese.  **TENNIS COURT AT OLONGAPO: DECEMBER 15TH – 21ST :**  We were assembled on the beach and directed by the Japanese to march up a road which lead us to a tennis court. It was near a little farm about a quarter mile from the beach. We were seated around under a tree to the edge of the road and everybody’s on ly concern was getting water which was plenty. We finally marched into the tennis court between 1100 and 1700 hours at that time we arranged  in groups of 50. It was so crowded that we could hardly lay down. We had to sleep closely together. Our commander at this time was still Colonel BEECHER.  The tennis court was an ordinary double tennis court, a part of which was designated for a hospital where the patients were put in. The patients were given enough room to lie down, this was done by our own officers.  The rest of the men were crowded together. When I arrived at the beach at Olongapo, I saw Colonel Shwartz. He ran to meet me and stated that in his opinion I had lost about 20 lbs. since boarding the ship.   And then we were conversing about conditions and what happened in his hold. He told me about **Col. CONATY (Asthma)** and **Major BRADLEY** and many other who died of suffocation. He also told me that of the reasons he survived himself was the fact that WADA in the middle of the night when they were in very very bad condition; that was on the night of 14th December, called down for him and two other doctors including **Col. NORTH** to treat the Japanese wounded upon decks. When they arrived upon the deck of the hold it was like coming out of a hot steam room into an air conditioned room. It was cool and nice. The three doctors were in bad shape and requested WADA for some water to wash their hands and drink. The doctors told WADA they wished to wash their hands before treating the patients who were wounded Japanese. WADA answered that he would allow them to wash their hands but they should first work and that after treating the wounded they would be given something to drink. After treating the Japanese wounded for several hours they were each given a half cup of water with a little sugar in it.  Schwartz said the conditions in his hold was such that men were collapsing, passing out and in general resembling the conditions of the hold I was in. Col. SHWARTZ estimated in the two nights they lost at least 50 men in their hold. As the leading doctor and head surgeon of Hospital No. 2 in Bataan he was very bitter to the Japanese particularly WADA whom he blamed for the loading of the men and the conditions they were in because he felt WADA did nothing to alleviate them which he could have done by just a small effort.  While we were at the tennis court we received the following food and water. There was one spigot from which water was flowing. When the water guard arrived groups of men were allowed to line up but waited four or five hours to get a canteen full and the line went up all during day and night. Everybody received enough water to get by. We received no food the day the ship was sunk; none the next day and late in the night of the 17th we received an amount equal to one tablespoonful and a half of rice per man. The next day we received the same type of ration which I estimate was a tablespoonful and a half of rice per man. The third or fourth day or the fifth day we received two tablespoonful of rice and the same small fish about the size of the top end of a tablespoon. Next time we just received rice—one tablespoon or two tablespoons each day.  The Japanese soldiers were cooking for themselves and there was a farm around us with vegetables and there were many Filipinos passing along the road to Olongapo and back. The city of Olongapo was there I assume. The Japanese had a place for cooking food for themselves under the trees and there were pots available for the Japanese. However, every time Col. BEECHER would speak to WADA to be permitted to see TOSHINO he was not successful. However during the movement BEECHER called to him but nothing was done. While we were in the tennis court we took a roster of those left alive and we found we were around 1300.  **SANITATION:**  Some trenches were dug outside the tennis court and the men were allowed to line up to go there to urinate. There were about 50 or 60 men in line each day waiting to go to the toilet. In many cases the men were forced to defecate while waiting in line. On the tennis court where there was no cover at all it would get burning hot in the daytime and the men were suffering from sunburn. The doctors requested time and time again to move the sick and after many requests the more seriously sick were placed under the trees about 50 feet from the tennis court.  At this time I had for clothing one pair of shoes, one pair of pants of blue denim cloth and no shirt. The rest of the men were clad generally of one piece clothes and wore a Japanese underwear shirt.  While we were in the tennis court we were issued a small amount of clothing which consisted of one pair of pants and one shirt per man to those who were naked. Almost everyone who was naked received an issue.  While we were in the tennis court it had been my opinion that about 20 men died. They were buried outside the gates of the tennis court. Col. SCHWARTZ told me in a conversation that we had that men were dying from malnutrition and exposure and a general weakened condition. Col. SCHWARTZ and I are close friends. I have known him, mixed with him during all the years we were at Cabanatuan. Col. SCHWARTZ spent his time with me when he was not working with the sick.  There was a marine who was wounded in the arm by schrapnel on board the boat and became in a very very bad condition. It became necessary to get the arm off in order to save his life. Col. SCHWARTZ removed the arm on the tennis court with the aid of a knife and a razor blade and a shot of morphine plus a handful of sleeping tablets. The operation was absolutely successful. The marine came out of it in good shape but died several days later from malnutrition. I witnessed this operation. Col. SCHWARTZ told me they pleaded to WADA for every extra food for this man as he would survive but their pleading were ignored. SCHWARTZ said that the man would have lived if he had received enough food and would not die of malnutrition.  During this time Lt. TOSHINO never visited the tennis court as I recall. WADA was the continually. He was the boss at the gate. He was issuing instructions to Col. BEECHER. BEECHER made continuous requests from WADA for food for the sick and requested that they be removed out there where they could be taken care of. WADA told him they would be moved when the time came. I knew this from BEECHER. BEECHER told me that. Anything that BEECHER would hear from the Japanese he would announce it to the men so that everybody there would know and to raise their morale.  **TRIP TO SAN FERNANDO, PAMPANGA:** On December 20th in the morning about 50% of the men left by truck and went to San Fernando, Pampanga where they were quartered in a place we later learned was the provincial jail.  I, together with the balance of 50% of the men left also on the 21st of December and we went by motor truck to San Fernando where we were quartered in a cine theater. I stayed at this place until the 24th of December. Col. BEECHER was still in command of our group.  There the Japanese started issuing rice to us. They gave us some pots and allowed us to start cooking our food. There we received about a canteen cup or maybe a triple more of rice mixed with camotes. There was a toilet in this theater with a running spigot and we formed a waterline. And by keeping regulation and order everybody received enough water. Several men died in the theater building. One of whom was a marine, **SPECHT**, a commander **LITHENTHORPE**, but the exact number I don’t know. Commander **JOSEPH** told me that Commander LITHENTHORPE died of malnutrition and exhaustion.  **INCIDENT OF DECEMBER 23:**  About 1100 o’clock at night WADA came to the door and wanted 6 or 11 men who could not walk saying they would be taken back to Manila. The number of men requested were given to him by Col. BEECHER. Among them was **Lt. Col. FREENEY**. They were taken by truck and that was the last time we ever heard of them.  **TRAIN RIDE FROM SAN FERNANDO, PAMPANGA TO SAN FERNANDO, LA UNION: DECEMBER 24 – 25:**  We marched to the train and loaded onboard in box cars. We heard WADA instruct BEECHER that 170 – 180 men would be put in the boxcar which was actually physically impossible. However he allowed 40 men who were the sickest to be placed on top of the car. At the time we were in the city of San Fernando there was an air raid attack. The men were given instructions that when a plane dived they should wave. The men actually inside the box car which was a small Filipino box car were about 130 to a car.   We arrived at San Fernando, La Union the next morning, Christmas.  In the box car the condition was such that we were so crowded together and it was almost impossible to breathe. The heat was terrific. Everybody was in a very very bad condition. Many men got unconscious. When a men got unconscious we would pass him from hand to hand to the door of the box car with the permission of the Japanese guard. However the men were so dehydrated and sweating so much in the car and very few men could urinate. A Colonel beside me, **Col. WARNER**, had dysentery and was in very bad condition and passed out from dehydration and nothing could be done to prevent him from defecating all over. From conversations I later had with people who were in the other box cars I learned that conditions were about the same.  **SAN FERNANDO, LA UNION 25 DECEMBER UNTIL 27 DECEMBER:**  We arrived at San Fernando, La Union around 5:00 o’clock in the morning and it was bitter cold. We all got off the car in my group. I was afraid of contracting pneumonia and I kept myself from moving as much as I could. Then we were marched to a schoolhouse about three miles from where the train stopped. Upon our arrival there, Mr. WADA got up an announced that there was no water.   After digging down we which was about five feet from the surface. This water was taken up and iodine was put in it. The iodine was allowed to settle in the water. Then the water was given to the men. During the day the men got one ball of rice which was about the  size if a baseball.  That night at dusk we received some more food. About 9:00 o’clock that night we received orders to line up in formation and we were marched to the beach. WADA said we were going aboard ship. When we arrived at the beach we waited till dawn to be loaded. The Japanese issued some rice but only 50% of the men received food. We stayed on the beach till the morning of the 27th so that in all we spent two days and two nights on the beach. While we were on the beach the first night we received no water. BEECHER made many requests to both WADA and TOSHINO which were all ignored. On the second day a water detail was allowed to go and get water which was plenty in every house. Running water was available in every house within 100 yards from us. The detail brought back  enough water so that each man received some water.  While I was in the beach a man by the name of **Bill PIERCE** formerly representing the Paramount Company was in such bad condition in the beach lying in the sun and when he died he was almost black. I saw this and I attempted to help him as others did. I would say that he died of exposure and dehydration. In the meantime in the beach many cases of dysentery started to develop. I don’t remember them dying there but at the time they were being dragged on the boat, I heard several men attempted to drink salt water while they were on the beach.  **BOAT TRIP FROM SAN FERNANDO TO TAKAO, FORMOSA:**  On the morning of the 27th, **I together with a group of 236 men loaded aboard the Brazil Maru.** The balance of the men loaded aboard the Enoura Maru. We were separated because the loading of the men was taking a lot of time and the Japanese seem to be in a great hurry to clear the harbor. We arrived in Takao, Formosa on 31 December 1944 and laid in the harbor until the 6th of January and at this time we were transferred to the main boat.  During the trip from San Fernando, La Union we received the following food and water. I would estimate the first days we received no regular issue of food. Upon requests for water we were told that there was no water onboard. However, above the hatch the Japanese wounded were receiving tea water almost upon request. We received approximately during all the time we were onboard about two canteen cups of rice each and I would say that the water we received during all the time was a canteen cup. TOSHINO had one Taiwan guard representing him. **Colonel JOHNSON** was in charge of the group. The hold was a large hold which we cleaned up. It was dark but we had sufficient air and space. Sanitation conditions were as usual. We had two 5-gallon cans and we emptied them after obtaining permission from the Japanese guard. Permission was granted during the daytime.   I never saw the captain of the ship while we were onboard. Col. JOHNSON wanted to talk to him through the interpreter because the men down in the hold would die if they would not receive food and water. The Japanese guard answered, “Everybody die, okay”. We had many deaths onboard due to malnutrition. A civilian by the name of **KALOCKKO**, he died of malnutrition. Dr. Josephs told me that.  We were transferred to the Enoura Maru on the 6th of January. At that time we were assembled with the balance of the men in one big hold which had two levels. It was quite crowded that it was impossible to sit down or stretch out and you could barely squeeze enough room to have sitting space. The men were sitting back to back. The commanding officer of the group at this time was Col. BEECHER. **The commanding officer in the lower level was Commander BRIDGET**. In conversation which I had with friends who were in the Enoura Maru when they set sail from La Union to Takao they told me of the conditions aboard ship and they said the men in the bottom hold had been living in a very unsanitary condition. They were suffering from mental strain.  At the time I arrived on board the ship the second level was jammed with men suffering from dysentery due to the fact that rice served to us was impossible to digest and being without water and weakened condition they started to die at a rate of 10 to 20 a day.  On the day of January 8th the Japanese had moved 500 men into the forward hold. The reason for this was the Japanese intended to load the ship with sugar. Late that afternoon they proceeded loading sugar. They lowered them to the main hold. As it got dark they covered the hold up to the hatches. The soldiers instructed the men that anyone seen going to the main hold would be immediately shot.  Meanwhile the rest of the men who were not loaded in the forward hold were crowded in the second level. The flies in the ship augmented cases of dysentery. It seems there were millions of them. The hold was previously used by horses and was filled with horse manure.  The first night, 8th of January, in spite of the instructions to Col. BEECHER, someone sneaked to the main hold and began taking sugar. Next morning just before dawn, Col. BEECHER realizing that when the Japanese saw this mess there would be a lot of trouble. So he got a volunteer detail to go down and sweep the sugar that was scattered around. He instructed the detail to tie the sacks and clean the place as much as possible. Meanwhile he had somebody posted to watch.    The doctor said that every man could take sugar and it would be beneficial for him. But many men upon eating sugar immediately became sick with diarrhea. WADA told us that anybody caught taking sugar would immediately be punished.  After the bombing WADA looking down in the hatch saw an American navy chaplain by the name of **McMANUS** eating sugar. He slapped him very severely which punishment I personally saw. We had a warrant officer who died of diphtheria at Takao harbor. **Col. JOSEPH** requested WADA to do something about this man. WADA refused to help.  **BOMBING:** I remained in the center hold. I was working on a detail with a marine lieutenant by the name of **KEENE**. We were called to one corner of the ship to straighten the hatch cover and move some dirt. They had just started to serve food when planes appeared. There had been bombing all morning in the harbor airfield so we were paying so little attention to shots and explosions. Suddenly we heard a plane dive on us and the first bomb seemed to be a near miss. The next bombing was a direct hit on the forward hold. The near miss on our hold shot shrapnel on parts of the ship which wounded or killed many men. Approximately 75 men were killed. I later learned from conversation with people from the forward hold that the bomb exploded near the side of the ship. According to them not more  than 370 men escaped without some wounds.  In my hold the fragments came in. The explosion collapsed the hatches and many more fell to the bottom of the ship. Those that were still alive were brought up. A doctor, **Lt. Col. SULLIVAN**, immediately started first aid. There were few bandages and those with shirts gave up their shirts to be used as bandages. A request was almost made at once to WADA who came around but nothing was sent down. Through a hole in the bulkhead of the ship by climbing up I was able to peer into the forward hold and I saw a mass of people piled up in distorted positions. I could hear the moaning and could see the suffering of the people. The people seemed to be moving in slow motion trying to help one another. The people from our group could not go there.  The second day following the bombing we were sent up on deck to carry food for our hold. TOSHINO never came through our hold and the contact with the Japanese was through Mr. WADA. While up on deck, a major by the name of **Arthur Wermuth** seemed to have taken charge and was doing a lot of work organizing the messy condition, piling the dead and separating the sick. Immediately following the bombing AIHARA came to our hold.  We stacked the dead in our hold and they were left there as WADA told BEECHER that they could not be thrown into the harbor. They were stacked there for days like cord wood. At the end of this period the bodies smelled very bad. We carried these bodies by rope to the deck of the ship and then lowered them to the barges. **Lt. GWEN** and 20 men under Japanese guards carried the bodies to the cemetery. While these bodies were being unloaded, Mr. WADA was standing about four or five feet from me and every time a dead body would be brought up he would clap his hands indicating great delight.  The day before we left the ship a bunch of Japanese who seemed to be enlisted medical men came to our hold with their usual white clothes and started treating men with minor wounds. They refused to touch the serious cases. They were requested to treat the serious cases but they never bothered to answer.  I was on a food detail carrying some buckets of food. This bucket was filled with rice and weighed about 100 lbs. This was intended for 100 to 150 men in the hold. We were five on this detail and we lowered it on the forward hold by rope. We used to bribe the Japanese cook with presents in the form of a ring, fountain pen, in order that he would give us more food and water.That cook was very agreeable but he warned us that we should watch WADA very closely as WADA had forbidden him to give any extra ration to the Americans. Several times I was on a detail WADA would come to the kitchen and question the cook. He would ask how much rice was taken out and that he was very particular that nobody got an extra ration. I was able to understand this by reason I was able to understand a bit of Japanese which I have now forgotten. We also had a Japanese interpreter with us, a member of the 200th Coastal Artillery **named KOTERO** who spoke Japanese fluently and who worked on the food detail.  The men in the forward hold were consolidated with men in our hold. They were transferred to our hold in the afternoon of January 12th. We stayed with the ship until the 13th of January at which time by reason of the damage which the ship received we were transferred by barges to Brazil Maru.  **BRAZIL MARU – JANUARY 13-30:**  We left Takao harbor on the 13th of January and arrived in Moji, Japan and the 31st of January. When we left Takao there were approximately between 800 and 900 Americans alive. While we were in Takao they had removed about 40 Dutch and British prisoners. When we arrived at Moji, Japan approximately 400 Americans got off alive.   During the trip we received food and water as follows. We received a canteen cup of rice for six men. We received about half a canteen cup of water. Although men died at a rate of about 15 men a day, we never received any increased food or water. Sanitation condition was very bad. The Japanese had built a little sort of latrine outside the rail of the ship. Within the hold itself the Japanese furnished 5-gallon buckets which were immediately filled and would overflow all over the floor. Feces scattered on the floor.  The climate was very cold. At that time I was wearing a pair of blue denim shorts and a shirt, short sleeves. I traded my ring with a Japanese merchant sailor for two straw sacs. I made a sort of blanket out of these sacks. The men attempted to trade with the Japanese sailors their rings for a glass of water. The Japanese sailors would also trade food for cigarettes. WADA prohibited all trading. He warned us against trading. There was a Japanese sailor who was stood at attention because he was caught trading with the Americans.  The men upon going up on deck would attempt to take water. When the guards would see them they would be struck with rifle butts. In the ship that was bombed I saw WADA beat men taking water from the winches. BEECHER was continually requesting WADA for help and WADA would always tell BEECHER to send the roster up or no food or water would be given.  Col. BEECHER was still our commanding officer and he was located by the hatch and I was with Col. SCHWARTZ and we were using the same sack. The men would steal these rice sacks by going below the hold. During the night they would empty the sacks and use them as mats. 20% of the men had rice sacks.  The men were dying at a rate of 15 to 20 a day. When a man died his clothes were stripped off his body. Nobody received water to wash his hands with. We requested water and this was refused. When a man died everything would be collected from him and he would be dragged and piled like cord wood. All of the dead would be collected every morning and thrown overboard. Most of them looked like skeletons and all seemed to be covered in feces and urine and skin over bones.  Many times on this trip while together with Col. Schwartz he and I had discussions as to the death rate on this ship and he told me that the death rate was due to dehydration and malnutrition, also due to general weakness and bitter cold.  An instance that I remember clearly was **Chaplain BROWN**, protestant chaplain. He came to me and showed me a little gold object with a little jade in the middle. He asked me to trade it for water with some Taiwan soldiers. I traded it with a Taiwan solder for one canteen cup of tea. Then I gave the tea to Chaplain BROWN. Chaplain BROWN died the next day because he was very much dehydrated. The men were getting to much weakened that they could hardly move. They could be heard screaming and hollering. They were in such bad shape that they were dying of starvation. Many men were moaning for water.  WADA was very uninterested in the death rate and one day while BEECHER was explaining the death rate WADA paid no attention to it. BEECHER said “Never Mind the Roster. No need of a roster. Everybody would be dead.” WADA made no answer.  When we arrived at Moji, Japan early in the morning the men were told to get up and form into groups. The men were ordered up. We put on Japanese uniforms. We were given army shoes. Everybody received a uniform.  We got of the ship in Moji after being soaked with disinfectant. While we were unloading the ship and moving to a warehouse about four or five men died.  When we first arrived in Japan, a Japanese officer who I estimate to be a major of lieutenant colonel came down and inspected the hold. He stopped and appeared to be astounded at what he saw.   We got off the ship and were broken into three groups**.** I was in the last group, which went to Omuta, Japan. A total of 92 men went of whom about 20 died within the next two months.  Maj. SCWARTZ was in charge of the hospital at Fukuoka. He said these men died of malnutrition.  When I left Manila I weighed about 170 lbs. and when I arrived in Japan I weighed about 122 pounds. Most of the men weighed 80 to 100 pounds in Japan.  SCWARTZ told me that WADA came over to him with a Taiwan soldier and instructed him to sign a death certificate without knowing what it was because it was written in Japanese.  I was told by Col. SCHWARTZ after liberation that his group was sent to Fukuoka of about 200 men, 50 of whom who died. He said they all died of the same reason as the others.  When we marched off the ship I would describe the survivors as follows. The men were all emaciated. The Japanese people who came out to see the men were astounded by their appearance. A group of dock workers coming to the dock when they saw these men coming off the ship carried the weakest to the warehouse. All of these men were walking in a very slow stumbling manner.  From all I can gather from conversations with officers and survivors who had been in other camps that the total number of 1600 prisoners that sailed from Manila between 200 and 250 are alive today.  /s/ Theodore Lewin  Subscribed to and sworn before me this 30th day of January 1946.  /s/ Leonard M. Rand - War Crimes Prosecutor  **Note: Ted Lewin is mentioned in several books, all stating the same theme of his personality and character as a Prisoner of War; the following is an example.** "Parade of the Dead" by U.S. Army Physician John R. Bumgarner: from page 130-131  "We got another rumor that the hospital (at Cabanatuan) was going to be further reduced. It was indeed reduced to about 400 patients and the number of doctors reduced to twelve. I was one of those eliminated from the hospital staff, and was given a trivial job as pay clerk to deliver to the civilians in the camp their monthly pay. One of those civilians for whom I performed this service was Ted Lewin, former owner and operator of a well-known night club in Manila. I delivered him his check each month; he accepted it and signed for it with no evidence of enthusiasm. Ted had his own clever operators in Manila who took care of him. He was known about camp as a double-dealing crook and was reported to have bribed enough persons in control to be able to live in relative luxury.  He was reported to have evaded many unpleasant details by crossing a palm here and there with money and food. He and his cronies were referred to as Ali Baba and his forty thieves. He was well fed, well clothed and well groomed, and had a number of willing "strikers" who for his handouts took care of him. He was the only POW I ever observed smoking a fine Havana cigar. I wondered at the time if Mr. Lewin, after the war, would be able to recoup his fortunes in Manila.  Note: The last known address for Ted Lewin was Manilla, Philippines. I have found no further record of him at this time, Linda |