    **Wouter Worms**

KGV-registratiekaart W. Worms (2) Tekst op kaart: Dispatched to the Headquarters of Detached Camp of Main Camp on 25 July 1943;
Transferred to No.1 Branch Camp of Fukuoka POW Camp on 4 December 1943;
Interned to No.17 Branch Camp of Fukuoka POW Camp on 4 December 1944;
[Died of basilar fracture (Cremation)] Died of basilar fracture, left lower leg compound fracture and right front head contused wound at 17:45 on 26 April 1945. Cremation;
Fell ill on 26 April 1945 (after collapse of the ceiling in a shrine);
Place of death: Mikawa coal mine, Saikou-cho (town), Omuta-shi (city), Fukuoka-ken (prefecture);
Place ashes are kept: Ittouen Cemetery in Omuta-shi (City) (JA298);
His ashes were handed over to American Major Shott, Robert William at No.17 Branch Camp of Fukuoka POW Camp on 14 September 1945.

**The following is a section from the diary of Adriaan Westermann,
fellow POW with Wouter Worms.**

It is April 1945. Our section now goes to the Dai-rokoe (the second layer from above). There is a long wall near the mihari and that is where the accident with Worms happens. They work in the stones on the side of an iwamaki and there the big block of stone comes down. Unexpected. Suddenly. It happened with one blow. Worms still extends the arms and dies with the body under the stone.

Then the long wall two corridors further to the left. When it became too dangerous there, we had to stop there too. Then to the Nikita on the right. The work could be done there, the iwamakis arrived on time. With the summer, our section goes back to the mine in greater numbers. Sometimes more than thirty people.

It will be July and beautiful summer weather. The war is getting closer, there are some bombings and we often have to go into the shelter.

 The Japanese are intolerable. The Dairokoe two-striker hits hard and mean, just like his student two-striker "the Chick". The kid doesn't know what to do with his attitude. Is friendly again, then falls asleep again, and starts off for nothing.

The maito king is crazier than ever; hitting someone's head with a drill is normal. He screams and shouts and beats the borers for nonsensical reasons: there is no air pressure, or a jackhammer is broken. The kikai guys jump like monkeys and scream and hit. De Slang, an extremely mean individual, hits with his stick, also before and after work. The wakuhari man has the military tick, puts people in the position and then fights for it.

It is getting worse and worse. It is a hunt with the iwamakis to get as few hits as possible. The long wall moves further and further and becomes wetter and wetter again. It is no longer fresh there; watch out for falling rocks and coal walls that come down.

**The full account of the coal mines slave labor can be found on Adriaan Westermann’s biography page.**

**Below is Wouter’s POW card; signed by Major Shott after Wouter’s ashes were handed over to him.**

