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Doc. No. 950A

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Riku-a-Mitsu-ju (Army-Asia Secret, Received) No. 1910
Received by the Army Secretariat - p.m., 4 March 1942
Military Affairs Section

1 March 1942, Secret Telegram -2-28

Sent: 1550 hours

Received: 1710 hours.

Cho-san-den (Operations Department - Korean Army) No. 518
Addressed to Vice Minister of War
From the Chief of Staff of the Korean Army

"As it would be very effective in stamping out the respect and admiration of the Korean people for Britain and America, and also in establishing in them a strong faith in victory, and as the Governor-General and the Army are both strongly desirous of it, we wish you would intern 1,000 British and 1,000 American prisoners of war in Korea. We wish you would give us special consideration regarding this matter.

.....Furthermore, the buildings that may be used for internment camps are two theological schools in Seoul and a Foreigner's School and a theological school in Heijo. Details will be concretely reported to you after we are informed of the intentions of the Central Authorities regarding internment of prisoners of war."

Receipt Number: mitsu 1910
 From: Korean Army
 Subject: The internment of prisoners of War in Korea
 Term of Preservation: Permanent
 Approved by: The Minister of War
 Executed by: KAWAHARA (Seal)

Draft of Vice-Minister's reply to the Chief of Staff of the Korean Army (Riku-a-Mitsu-den) (Army-Asia-Secret Telegram)

Subject: Internment of prisoners of War referred to in Cho-San (Korean Army Operations Department) Telegram No. 518

 "About 1,000 white men are scheduled to be sent to Fusan. Details will be reported to you later.

 Furthermore, are not the buildings scheduled to be allotted for the accommodation of prisoners of war referred to in your telegram, too good for prisoners? Please draw up full plans after investigation and inform us."

Cho-San-Mitsu-475-Report regarding plans for the internment of prisoners of war in Korea.

From: Commander in Chief of the Korean Army, Seishiro ITAGAKI
To: Minister of War, Hideki TOJO
Date: 23 March 1942

Regarding the subject matter referred to in Riku-a-Mitsu-den (Army, Asia - Secret Telegram No. 149) dated 5 March 1942, I make report to you as per separate paper.

Plans of the Korean Army for the Internment of Prisoners of War

1. Purpose: It is our purpose by interning American and British prisoners of war in Korea, to make the Koreans realize positively the true might of our Empire as well as to contribute to psychological propoganda work for stamping out any ideas of worship of Europe and America which the greater part of Korea still retains at bottom.
2. The location and the number of men to be interned:
The first internment camp:
Location: Seoul (the former Iwanara Silk Reeling Warehouse will be reconstructed and extended)
Number of men to be interned: About 500.
The Second internment camp:
Location: Jinsen-fu (Military barracks)
Number of men to be interned: About 500.
Plans for equipping these camps will be submitted separately.
3. Supervision: Prisoner of war camps for Korea shall be supervised by the Commander in Chief of the Korean Army. The organs for the care of the internees shall be as provided separately.
4. Term of internment: From the time of the arrival of the prisoners of war up to the termination of the Greater East Asia War.

The main points to be put into force:

- (1) Prisoners of war, with the exception of warrant officers and above, will be used in various sorts of work in the principal cities of Korea, especially where psychological conditions are not good in order to achieve the ends mentioned under I.
- (2) The equipment of internment camps will be cut to the minimum necessary for insuring that daily life as a whole may be led without inconvenience.
- (3) Rations for the prisoners of war will be the same as that of the Japanese army, but at times they may be supplied with food which they are used to.
- (4) Internment, supervision and guarding of prisoners should be carried out so as to leave nothing to be desired.

NOTE: If the prisoners of war arrive before the above mentioned camps are completely equipped, they will temporarily be interned in the Fusan Military Barracks.

A-Mitsu (Asia-Secret) No. 1910 - Part II

Received: Army Secretariat-April 23, 1942

Received: War Prisoners Management Department - May 2, 1942 - Receipt No.31.1

Received: Military Affairs Section, War Ministry - April 23, 1942 -
Receipt No. 409

Received: Construction Section, War Ministry - April 27, 1942.

Secret Telegram: Sent: 1255 hours April 22

Received: 1345 hours, April 22

Cho-san-den (Korean Army Operational Section Telegram) No. 100

To: Vice Minister of War

Sender: Chief of Staff, Korean Army

We have received your telegram (ho-kan-den - War Prisoners Management Section Telegram) No. 3 dated April 21, to the effect that about 1,000 white prisoners of war are scheduled to be sent to Korea in the middle of June, and therefore request you to take the trouble of giving us permission immediately regarding that part of our plans for the internment of war prisoners submitted to the War Minister as per telegram (Cho-san-mitsu Korean Army Operations Department, Confidential) No. 485, dated 23 March.

Regarding details, the Chief of our Intendence Department has already filed application dated March 20.

NOTE: This matter has already been disposed of by the Distribution Section April 26.

C E R T I F I C A T E

W.D.O. No. _____

I.F.S. No. 980-A

Statement of Source and Authenticity

I, Kameo Ishibashi, hereby certify that I am officially connected with the Japanese Government in the following capacity: Corresponding Secretary, 1st Demobilization Bureau, and that as such official I have custody of the document hereto attached consisting of 15 pages, dated 23 March, 1943, and described as follows: Correspondence re sending American and British POW to Korea. I further certify that the attached record and document is an official document of the Japanese Government, and that it is part of the official archives and files of the following named ministry or department (specifying also the file number or citation, if any, or any other official designation of the regular location of the document in the archives or files): War Ministry

Signed at Tokyo on this

/s/ Kameo Ishibashi

Signature of Official

3rd day of October, 1946

SEAL

Witness: /s/ Torakichi Wakamura

Corresponding Secretary

Official Capacity

Statement of Official Procurement

I, 2nd Lt. Eric W. Fleisher, O-935000, hereby certify that I am associated with the General Headquarters of the Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers, and that the above described document was obtained by me from the above signed official of the Japanese Government in the conduct of my official business.

Signed at Tokyo on this

/s/ Eric W. Fleisher, 2nd Lt. AUS

NAME

3rd day of October, 1946.

Witness: /s/ Henry Shigemasa

Investigation Division IPS

Official Capacity

Monthly Reports of the Secret Service Police - August,
1942 - page 206

2. A Plan to Use Prisoners of War as a Result of Labor Shortage.

Owing to the good results obtained by 150 American prisoners of war at Zentsuji Prisoner of War Camp who had been sent to Osaka in order to engage in laboring works as a neutralizing measure for labor shortage suffered in the military works and harbor equipment, the enterprising circles who were suffering from the labor shortage at several districts around Tokyo and Hyogo, Fukuoka and Nagasaki Prefectures, applied to the military authorities to allow them to use the prisoners of war as follows:

- (1) Under Hyogo Prefecture, the companies engaging in the stevedore business at Kobe Harbor and Hirchata ports for the works of the Nittetsu and Nippon Steel Works, are applying to the military authorities for the use of 680 prisoners of war.
- (2) Under Fukuoka Prefecture, the companies engaging in loading and unloading coal in the port of Moji desiring to use the prisoners of war for their requirements, asked the Chief of the Moji Police Office in the district concerned for his good offices. Apart from this it was decided to distribute 1,000 prisoners of war in consideration of the acute labor shortage in the stevedore business at the harbors in Northern Kyushu.
- (3) Under the Nagasaki Prefecture it was already decided to distribute respectively 2,000 prisoners of war for the Mitsubishi Dock Yard and 1,000 for the Kayaki-Jima Dock Yard as they had secured permission from the authorities.
- (4) Under the areas in the jurisdiction of the Metropolitan Police Bureau, permission has already been secured to use prisoners of war for unloading freights at Shibaura, and for this purpose it was decided that 400 British prisoners of war be transferred from Malay districts shortly. Although the direct guarding and direction for prisoners of war engaged in work in the country are taken charge of by the military authorities, the responsibility for directing and controlling anti-espionage and other matters in regard to the people living in the districts where the prisoners of war are working, should be taken care of by the police office. Accordingly, in case of the realization of the above mentioned plans, it is necessary for the police officers to direct and control the people properly in cooperation with the authorities concerned.

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FOREIGN AFFAIRS MONTHLY REPORT, SEPTEMBER, 1942
Published by Foreign Section of the Police
Bureau of Home Ministry

THE EMPLOYMENT OF WAR PRISONERS
(Page 58)

1. Recent condition of the demand and supply of labor in Japan and the decision on the principles of employing war prisoners.

The labor shortage problem in Japan has become quite acute, becoming more and more serious recently. In order to meet this situation, many people are of the opinion that we had better employ, when necessary, the war prisoners who are now interned at Bentenji, or at places in the south as a result of our success in the Greater East Asia War.

As a result, the Cabinet Planning Board entrusted by the Army Administrative Department for War Prisoners, held a conference on August 15 regarding the transfer of war prisoners to Japan proper and their employment. At this conference the following principles were discussed and decided to be carried out, in order to transfer war prisoners to Japan and employ them to mitigate the labor shortage and to carry out special important work:

- I. Of the industries in the National Mobilization Plan, war prisoners shall be employed for mining, stevedoring and engineering and construction work for national defense. For the time being, war prisoners shall be employed in stevedoring in important ports.
- II. For the time being, some 3,500 war prisoners shall be sent to Japan. According to results, the number shall be increased later.
- III. The formalities regarding the employment of war prisoners was arranged by Prefectural Governors through the Welfare Ministry.
- IV. In the prefectures, the Prefectural Governor, or the labor management organization appointed by the Governor, may, with the consent of the Army, make plans and take charge of the employment and supervision of war prisoners at the place of labor.
- V. Prisoner of war camps for stevedores to be brought to Japan for the present, following this plan, will be set up as follows:

Tokyo	600 persons	Hirohata	100 persons
Yokohama	600 "	Koiji	500 "
Osaka	600 "	Tobata	500 "
Kobe	500 "	Muroten	300 "

2. Employment of war prisoners in the Zentsuji Internment Camp.

Before the above plan was set up, part of the war prisoners interned in the Zentsuji Internment Camp were already employed as laborers. That is, at this Zentsuji Prisoner of War Camp which was opened on January 14, about 450 American prisoners of war, etc. from Guam, had been interned, of which 150 Americans were sent to Osaka on June 9, interned at the City Gymnasium at Yawatazenatsuno-cho, Minato-ku, Osaka, and had been working as stevedores since June 12. The outline of their working condition is as follows: They work eight hours per day, engaged in simple stevedoring work; as for efficiency in handling light loads, they do not show much difference compared with the Japanese laborers, but in handling heavy loads, or in work requiring skill, their efficiency is very low. As for their wages, the Osaka District Harbor Transportation Stevedoring Control Office collects two yen per person per day from the direct employers of the war prisoners. The money is either handed in to the Army, used for the expenses of the prisoners of war recreation equipment, or for national defense offerings and general expenses.

The comparatively cheap wage has called the attention of men in the trade to the advantage of using the prisoners of war, and is helping to increase the demand for their employment. The employment of war prisoners, as stated above, has resulted in controlling the rise of black market wages of longshoremen, improving the efficiency of work, preventing longshoremen in the regular employ from being scattered, etc.

Also, at the Takamatsu branch of the Nippon Transportation Company, located at 21, 4-Chome, Shinminto-cho, about twenty prisoners of war interned in the Zentsuji Prisoner of War Camp were employed daily from August 22 for about a month in the Takamatsu Station for stevedoring to speed up the transportation of materials in war-time, with satisfactory results.