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Regarding the outline for the disposal of Prisoners of War according to the change of situation, a notification, Army-Asia-Secret No. 2257, was made on March 17, by the Vice War Minister, as follows:

E E E E

As the war situation has become very critical, I have been ordered to notify you not to make any blunders in the treatment of Prisoners of War based upon the attached "Outline for the Disposal of Prisoners of War According to the Change of Situation," when the havoc of war make themselves felt in our Imperial Homeland and in Manchukuo.

(This sheet is from the Monthly Report on Information of Prisoners of War (UA 4))

OUTLINE FOR THE DISPOSAL OF PRISONERS OF WAR
ACCORDING TO THE CHANGE OF SITUATION

Policy

1. Prisoners of War must be prevented by all possible means from falling into enemy hands. For this reason, the location of Prisoner of War Camps shall be changed.
2. In the event of an enemy attack which leaves no alternative, prisoners of war may be set free.

Outline

1. Strengthening of guards for prisoner of war camps (including branch and detached camps - the same hereinafter). Prisoner of war administrative officers shall do their best to strengthen the powers for guarding prisoner of war camps by expanding and completing their facilities to conform with the defense program for their respective districts, and shall also dispatch guards to, or increase guards in, the branch and detached camps when necessary, or designate reinforcement squads, etc.

The commandants of the camps and their subordinates shall not depend only on external facilities, but shall progressively stimulate the morale of the prisoners, and at the same time acquire a profound grasp of their psychology and an insight into their behavior and supervise them so that nothing untoward will occur in case of emergencies.

2. Transference of Prisoners of War. Judging from conditions such as the intensifying of enemy air-raids on major points, and enemy landings on our Empire, both of which will follow the developments of the war situation, consideration shall be given to the overall location of prisoners of war, who, from the viewpoint of defense, shall be transferred or concentrated at the proper moment.

A. Transfer Programme

1. The camps to be transferred, and the destination, order and time of transference, etc. shall be planned by the central authorities, with due consideration to the opinions of the Army District Commanders.

2. The time for transference shall be notified by the Central Authorities, but in case of a sudden change in the situation, transference may be executed at the discretion of the respective Army District Commanders.

3. As such transference of prisoners of war is likely to excite the general public, great care shall be taken in regard to the time and method of transference.

B. Regarding Transference and the Utilization of Labor.

1. As the call for prisoner of war laborers is increasingly great, even under the present situation, the destination of the transference shall be decided only after due consideration of this fact.

2. Prisoners of war may be employed for maintaining communication lines, so their location at the proper places is also to be considered.

3. Even in districts where the enemy are likely to intensify their air-raids or effect landing operations, the prisoner of war camps will be left till the last if prisoner of war labor is absolutely necessary in that area to maintain our fighting power.

The exact place which the camps will remain to the last will be notified by the central authorities with due consideration to the opinion of the Army District Commanders. Even in such areas, however, if attacked by the enemy, the location of the camps will be changed as much as possible, and we shall not let prisoners of war fall into enemy hands until we have got some results from them.

C. Concentration of Prisoners of War

Prisoners of war who are dispersed at various places for work or working at distant places must be properly brought together to avoid unexpected disaster.

3. In case the situation becomes urgent and there is no time to execute the transference mentioned above, and if it is really unavoidable, prisoners of war may be set free. Even in this extremity, measures shall be taken to transfer all officers and those who are healthy and strong enough to work. However, emergency measures shall be taken without delay against those of antagonistic attitudes, and we shall hope for nothing regrettable by taking proper measures to suit the occasion.

4. Utmost care shall be taken that no harm is inflicted upon the general public by freeing the prisoners of war.

5. In case emergency measures are to be taken to suppress plots, riots, revolts, etc. by the prisoners of war, care shall be taken that they are not utilized for enemy propaganda or give the enemy an excuse for resorting to measures of retaliation.

6. Especially nothing shall be left to be desired in the procurement and supply of food in this plan for disposal of the prisoners of war. Every effort shall be made to maintain the minimum amount of food necessary to sustain the lives of the prisoners of war, even when transportation is cut off.

C E R T I F I C A T E

W.D.C. No. _____

I.P.S. No. 1114 B

Statement of Source and Authenticity

I, S. Hakanishi, hereby certify that I am officially connected with the Japanese Government in the following capacity: Acting Director Japanese Government Prisoner of War Information Bureau and that as such official I have custody of the document hereto attached consisting of 6 pages, dated 11 Marc^h, 1945, and described as follows: Order from the War Ministry regarding the movement of prisoners of war.

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):

Signed at Tokyo on this
23rd day of September, 1946.

/s/ S. Hakanishi
Signature of Official

SEAL

Acting Director, Japanese Gov't.
Prisoner of War Information Bureau
Official Capacity

Witness: /s/ [Signature]

Statement of Official Procurement

I, 2nd Lt. Eric W. Fleisher, hereby certify that I am associated with the General Headquarters of the Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers, and that the above certification 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
23rd day of September, 1946

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

Investigator IPS
Official Capacity

Witness: /s/ Henry B. Grachi
2nd Lt. Inf.