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PRISONER OF WAR

CAMP CONDITIONS

on the

ASIATIC MAINLAND

1 July 1944
Prepared by MID
Washington, D. C.

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ASIATIC MAINLAND, POW CAMP CONDITIONS ON THE

S E C R E T

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In the accompanying maps every effort has been made to locate POW camps as accurately as possible. However, in some cases a general area is the best that can be given.

I. PRISONER OF WAR FIGURESIntroduction

This report is concerned primarily with Allied Military Prisoners of War in the following countries on the Asiatic Mainland: Korea, Manchuria, Occupied China, French Indo-China, Thailand, Burma, and Malaya, as distinguished from those in Japan and Japanese-occupied territories, which have been covered in previous MIS-X reports as follows:-

The Far East	15 October	1943
Formosa	15 February	1944
The Philippines	1 April	1944
Japan	15 May	1943

According to reliable sources, there are currently 128 confirmed and 11 reported but unconfirmed Prisoner of War camps on the Asiatic Mainland.

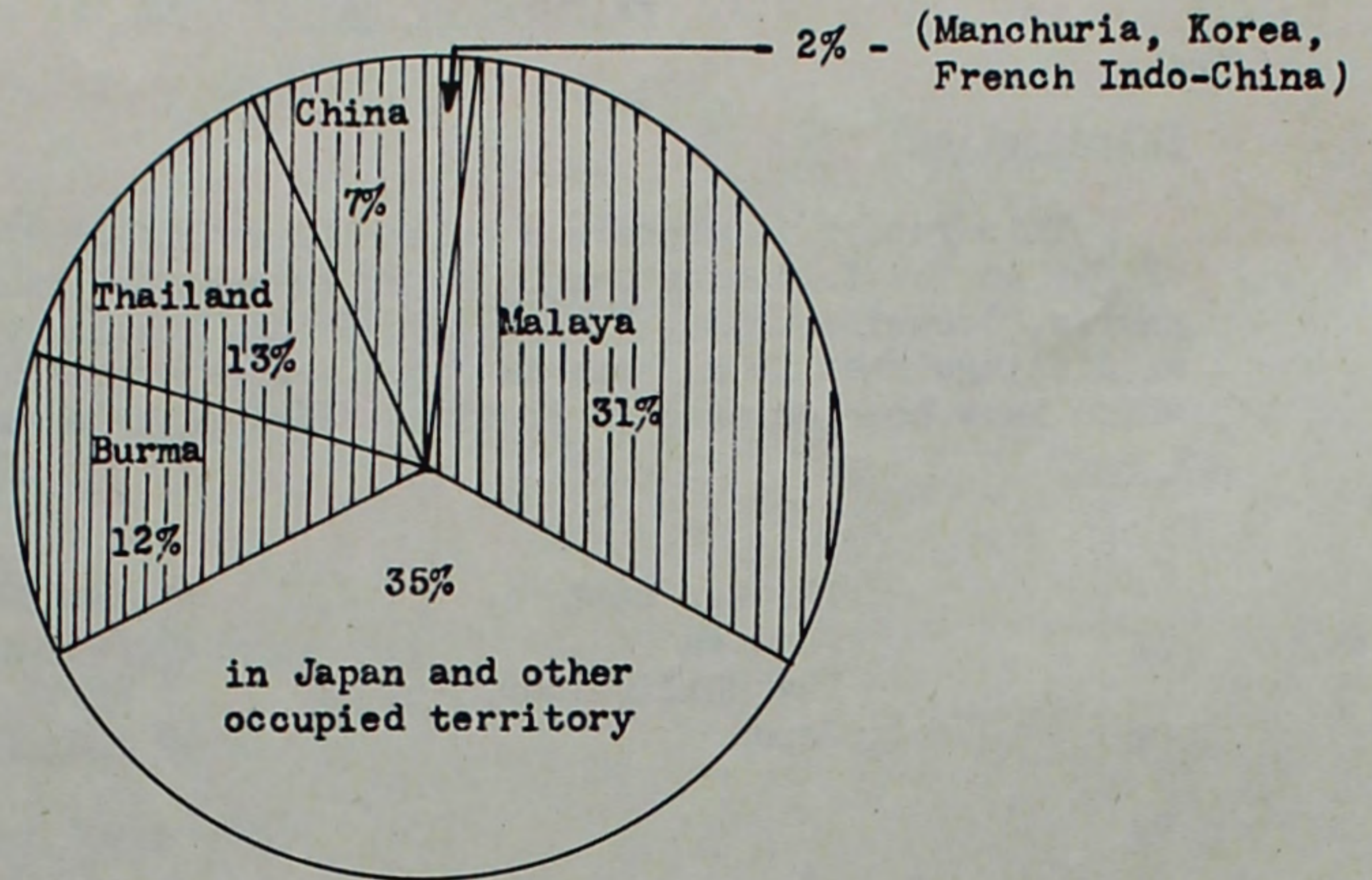
At least 20,013 American POW are known to be in Japanese prison camps in Japanese-held territory. 3,066 - or 15% of the known total of American POW in Japanese hands - are held on the Asiatic Mainland. While the numbers of American prisoners in the individual camps are taken from reports of the International Red Cross (IRC) and the Protecting Power (PP), the totals for American POW are based, for the most part, upon statistics of the U.S. Provost Marshal General. Allied figures are from several sources, principally the most recent British lists on hand.

Transfers and Distribution

Because information is of many different dates, it is difficult to avoid suspected overlaps, especially in view of the frequent transfers of POW from one area to another, and the high percentage of suspected, but not officially reported, deaths. Therefore, it must be emphasized that the statistics are subject to periodic revision in the light of future information.

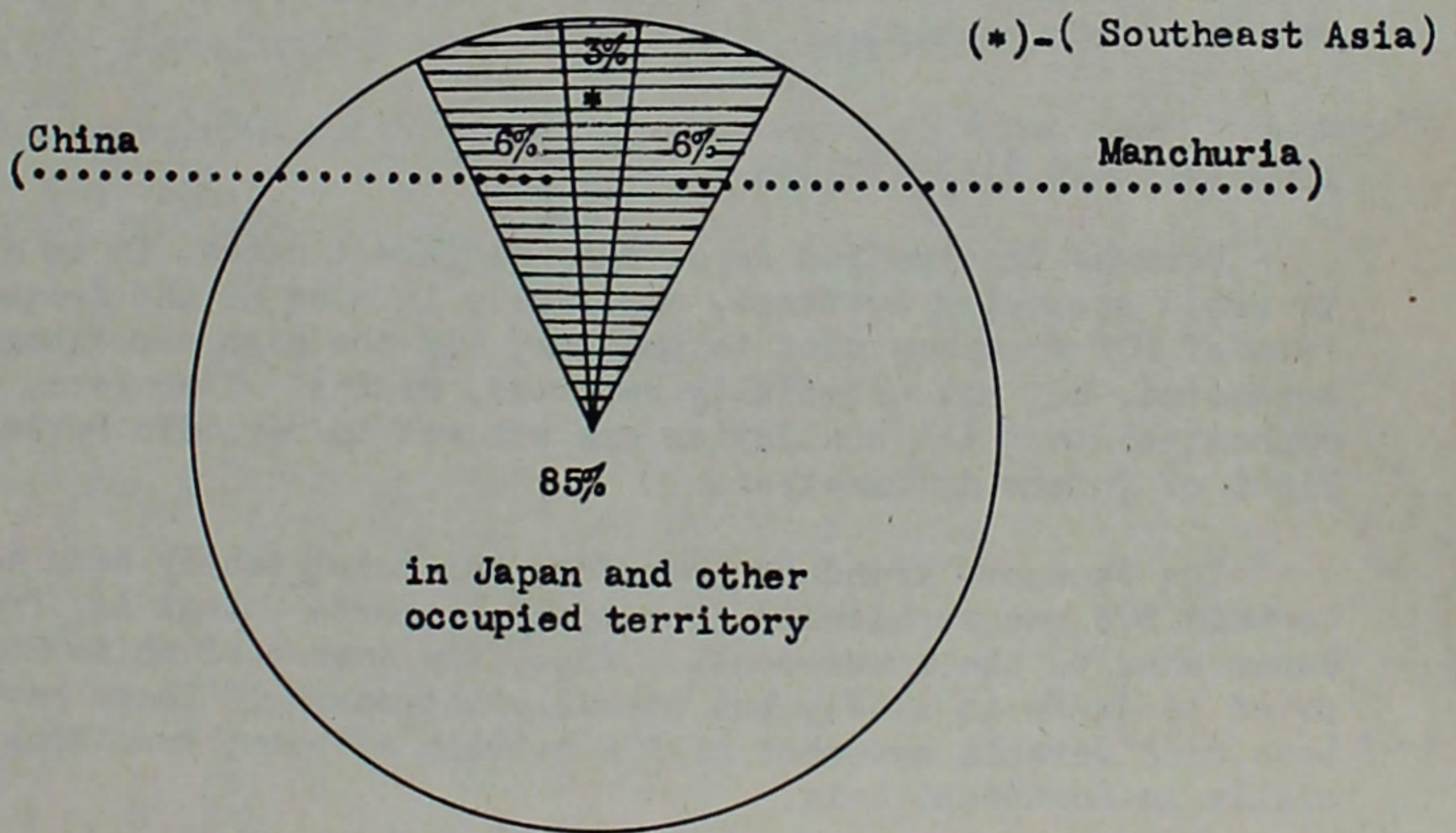
The Japanese trend in transfers has consistently been to move certain POW geographically from south to north - that is, from the Outer-zone to the Inner-zone. Thus, the number of white POW being moved to Japan is slowly but steadily increasing. There has also been considerable movement of POW between adjacent countries, especially in Southeast Asia.

The following pages combine all available information as of 1 July 1944 regarding the location and composition of POW camps on the Asiatic Mainland. The various items of intelligence have often been fragmentary and contradictory, necessitating specific evaluation.



Distribution of 126,668 Prisoners of War

on the
Asiatic Mainland



Distribution of 3,066 AMERICAN Prisoners of War

on the
Asiatic Mainland

II. CAMP CONDITIONS - GENERAL TREATMENT AND WELFAREIntroduction

The welfare of Prisoners of War on the Asiatic Mainland descends in scale from north (Manchuria) to south (Southeast Asia). Treatment is dependent on the nationality of the prisoners themselves; attitude of camp commandants; and military expediency as conditioned by the location of the camps.

Generally speaking, the welfare of prisoners in Japanese-occupied territories is decidedly lower than that afforded POW in Japan. This difference in treatment applies equally to camps which are permitted visiting privileges by neutral representatives or relief agencies, as opposed to those occupied areas where visitation by neutrals is completely denied. Camps in Malaya, Burma, and Thailand have not been formally visited by the Protecting Power since their establishment more than two years ago.

Japanese instructions concerning the capture and treatment of white POW are often varied:-

By directive of higher echelon: "The capture of POW and the reliability of their intelligence is a profitable manner in which to obtain information; therefore they are to be sent back to higher headquarters immediately after the information necessary to the lower unit is obtained."

Lower echelon commanders in the field are, however, guided by expediency in the disposition of POW. If the Japanese unit faces capture or destruction before its captives have been moved to the rear, the unit will not hesitate to wipe out the POW.

The policy of requiring white POW to perform menial labors before the native populations is strongly adhered to by all Japanese units of command.

With special reference to the treatment of Indian POW, a captured Japanese document, dated 27 December 1943, states:-

"As the correct treatment of Indian POW has a profound connection with the Indian policy of the Southern Army, it is desired that the following matter in connection with the treatment of Indian POW be given attention.

"Under the consideration that the basis for the increased strength of the future Indian People's Army will be the POW in the Southern District Army, their present use as labor troops and treatment as captives is suspended."

Although there is no official confirmation that this directive has been fully implemented by the Japanese, it might well affect those statistics which apply only to Indian National Army prisoners, and thereby considerably reduce the 67,550 grand total of Indian prisoners of war. However, the Protecting Power has been unable to furnish details regarding Indian prisoners, and the International Red Cross delegate has been informed that he will not be permitted to interest himself in their welfare.

Camp Conditions - General Treatment & WelfareHealth and Medical Care

Medical facilities in the northern Asiatic Mainland camps exist to a limited extent, and the death rate is much lower than in the Southeast Asia Camps. In Thailand, Burma, and Malaya, harsh treatment, climate, and an absolute minimum of medicines and medical personnel have caused a disproportionately large number of deaths. Camps in those countries not visited by the Protecting Power have a uniformly low health level, whereas in the organized camps north of Shanghai, POW health has improved slightly.

Food

The amount and quality of food also decrease from north to south. Where parcels from various relief agencies have been permitted and distributed, the food situation is much less acute than in those camps where no supplementary feeding is permitted. There appears to be a constant need for Red Cross food parcels even in those camps where they have already been distributed, in view of the general scarcity of food throughout Japanese-dominated territory. According to official sources, the ration scale for POW is substantially inferior both in quality and nutritive value to the Japanese C ration, the regular army issue where transportation of supplies is extremely difficult.

Clothing

Clothing was supplied to POW by the Japanese to the extent that supplies in each country permitted. In some cases Japanese clothing was issued, or captured stocks of British and Chinese clothing were turned over to the prisoners. But this problem has become more acute by now, due to the scarcity of Japanese stocks, even for their own civilian population. As a result, the great majority of POW in Southeast Asia were mostly in rags and/or makeshift garments. Delivery of Red Cross supplies during the past year (see page 10) has relieved this condition somewhat, in certain areas.

Housing

The permanent camps are of typical Japanese military construction, barracks type, coal heated, electrically lighted, well ventilated, with outside latrines, baths, and washing facilities in separate houses. The work camps, however, are of the crudest and most temporary construction, and offer practically no protection against sickness.

Work and Pay

Work covers a wide range, from road building, stevedoring, ship building, and ironwork labor, to coal mining, farming, land clearing, and airfield construction. In the Southeast Asia camps, work hours have been unreasonable, time for rest insufficient and, in the light of POW physical conditions and diet, cruel. Officers are now being paid on the same basis as corresponding ranks in the Japanese army. In accordance with stated Japanese regulations pertaining to labor of POW, other ranks shall be paid the following sums on a per day basis:-

Warrant officers	25 sen per day - (.06 cents)
Non-commissioned officers	15 " " " - (.04 ")
Enlisted men	10 " " " - (.025 ")

Camp Conditions - General Treatment & WelfareWork and Pay (concluded)

An increase of 35 sen may be made at the discretion of the local commandant for those who will be employed in special techniques.

Recreation

Sports and recreation facilities vary. In those camps which are allowed to be visited by neutral representatives, the organization for sports is adequately conducted; materials are mostly supplied by YMCA and other relief agencies. In Southeast Asia, where no neutral visits are permitted, the Japanese make no pretense toward supplying sports materials. In the work camps of Thailand-Burma-Malaya, recreation of any sort is practically non-existent. The prisoners are too fatigued and under-nourished to participate in sports, even if equipment were provided.

Religious and Educational Facilities

Opportunities for religious observances are available in those camps which are open to periodic inspection by neutrals, are restricted in most of the remaining camps, and do not exist in the work camps. In some cases services are conducted by Japanese clergy, in others by POW volunteers.

Classes for educational purposes have been organized by the POW only in the larger northern camps, most of which have libraries of varying sizes acquired through the Red Cross; in the Southeast Asia camps, these facilities are at an absolute minimum, largely due to the physical exhaustion of the POW themselves.

Canteens

A small number of camps have established canteens, where POW may purchase occasional items for their personal welfare from their earnings. Stocks are limited and prices sky high, even in the best canteens. In Southeast Asia, Chinese storekeepers are employed to run the few canteens available in the work camps.

Rank

The Japanese segregation of ranks remains slight, and they normally make no distinction between Army, Navy, Marines, Naval Merchant Marine, and civilian personnel employed by the Armed Forces. They have, however, segregated POW on the Asiatic Mainland by nationalities in certain countries, and in the Hong Kong camps have segregated officers from the other ranks.

Discipline and Punishment

The Japanese penal code applying to prisoners of war camps has been in operation for over a year. Acts of violence or intimidation are punishable by death or penal servitude for life. Punishment for resistance or disobedience to orders range from a year's sentence to life imprisonment or death. Insulting authorities is punishable by sentences up to five years.

Camp Conditions - General Treatment & WelfareDiscipline and Punishment (concluded)

In cases of group escape, ringleaders are subject to the death penalty or life imprisonment; others from one year to life imprisonment. In certain isolated cases, a more lenient policy has been followed, but always at the discretion of the local camp commandant.

The Japanese interpretation of the laws of war respecting Air Force prisoners is harsh. Their method of dealing with operational air personnel captured in any combat zone, involves a military trial. By official GHQ announcement: "Enemy air crews who are engaged in barbarous activity while attacking territory of the Japanese Empire and who fall into our hands will be condemned to death or severely punished by court martial." The investigation and trial seek to establish that the crews of operational aircraft "disregarded humanitarian laws", and convictions are easily obtained by the most specious means.

POW Mail

Tokyo remains the clearing point through which all mail to and from POW in Japanese camps must pass. The vast distances between Tokyo and the numerous camps on the Asiatic Mainland, plus the amount of transport involved, and the volume of correspondence accumulated in Tokyo, have made the early delivery of mail to those areas extremely problematical.

Restrictions imposed by the Japanese Government require that letters to Prisoners of War be typewritten in capital letters, or printed in block letters, and are not to exceed twenty-four words in length. The name and address of the prisoner and the name of the sender will not be counted in determining the number or words in the letter. There is no limitation, however, to the number of letters which may be sent by relatives and friends; the contents will be limited to personal and family affairs. Information of a political nature must not be included. The use of thin paper is encouraged to save weight and space. Unmounted photographs and snapshots, of a size to fit an ordinary envelope, may be included provided they do not reveal information of military or political significance.

There is now available at all Post Offices in the United States, airmail letter sheets, W.D., P.M.G. form No. 111, for use in corresponding with American Prisoners of War. This letter sheet requires a six cent airmail stamp, and will be flown by A.T.C. to Teheran, Iran; thence by surface routes through Russia to Manchukuo where it is delivered to the Japanese authorities. Use of this form greatly facilitates censorship both in the United States and in enemy territory by providing a standard size unsealed letter. It is believed the use of this form will facilitate delivery of mail to Prisoners of War in Japanese custody, and the Prisoner of War Information Bureau, PMG, urges that it be used. The twenty-four word limitation applies to this form the same as it does to ordinary mail.

The Swiss Minister has taken occasion to raise the question of general correspondence between prisoners and the Protecting Power, inasmuch as he has never received letters from POW - although the Japanese authorities claim such correspondence is permitted. Most of the POW located in the Southeast Asia camps have not received word from home for upwards of two years.

Camp Conditions - General Treatment & WelfarePOW Mail (concluded)

Cablegrams may be sent to officially reported Prisoners of War by next-of-kin; to United States civilians; and to Nationals of countries other than the United States, who are in Japan and Japanese-held territory, exclusive of Java. The number of cables which may be sent to any one individual is limited to one non-emergency message during the year. However, the Red Cross is prepared to accept additional cablegrams from next-of-kin in the event of serious emergency.

A flat rate of \$6. plus 10% tax has been established for standard cables to all Prisoners of War, military and civilian, held by Japan. Each message may contain ten words of text in addition to the name of the addressee, the sender, and other identifying data. Red Cross will assume the cost of the message if the sender is financially unable to pay for it.

Parcels

On the question of delivery to Japan of parcels for the Allied Prisoners of War and interned civilians, the Japanese Government, in notifying the Soviet Government of its willingness to accept such parcels, has suggested as a point of transference of the above freights the port of Vladivostok. This suggestion is not acceptable to the Soviet Government since the port of Vladivostok is a principal naval base of the Soviet Union in the Sea of Japan and has been closed for Japanese vessels from the moment of Germany's attack on the U.S.S.R.

The Soviet Government has suggested that these supplies might, alternatively, be sent overland and has offered to deliver them to Japanese authorities at a convenient Manchurian border railroad station. Or, if the Japanese Government prefers, they are prepared to transfer the 1500 tons of supplies now at Vladivostok to the Soviet Port of Nakhodka. The Soviet Government has also named the port of Petropavlosk on Kamchatka as an equally accessible point where such mail and relief supplies as may be shipped in the future for distribution to Allied nationals in Japanese custody may be picked up by Japanese ships.

These agreements do not necessarily mean, however, that they will be moved immediately, as no details of plans for a probable date or the destination and allocation of these supplies have yet been specified.

Relief Agencies

The Protecting Power, the International Red Cross, Aid for War Prisoners (YMCA), and Papal Relief Society have accomplished a good deal despite serious obstacles, in the task of improving POW welfare, and are continually seeking to increase the scope of their activities. Prisoner of war camps south of Hong Kong are virtually in the combat zone and the Japanese have seized upon this as an excuse for denying rights of visitation to neutral representatives.

Representatives of the Protecting Power still have not been granted private access to senior officers in those camps which they are allowed to visit. This greatly impedes the freedom with which camp problems may be discussed during interviews because the Japanese insist on having one of their own officers present.

S E C R E T

Camp Conditions - General Treatment & Welfare

Relief Agencies (concluded)

Representatives of War Prisoners' Aid of the Y.M.C.A. are not official observers in that they do not make formal reports of conditions they find in camps. They confine their activities to helping meet the recreational, educational and religious needs of the imprisoned men. They do not send in food or medicines, which the Red Cross handles. To Allied prisoners on the northern Asiatic Mainland they have been able to supply limited quantities of books, athletic equipment, musical instruments, seeds, gardening and carpentry tools.

As of 18 May 1944, it was officially announced that the Red Cross has been able to deliver 41 tons of supplies for Allied prisoners in Malaya, Thailand, Sumatra, Java, Borneo, Japan and Occupied China. Distribution of American Red Cross supplies to POW and civilian internees is understood to have been completed in the following places: Manchuria, Korea, Shanghai, Thailand, Burma, and Malaya. These supplies consisted of special 13 lb. food packages, cases of medicines, sets of heavy clothing, overcoats, shoes, and toilet articles (comfort sets). In all the occupied territories where it has not yet been possible to install delegates of the International Red Cross Committee, the Japanese Army has undertaken the task of receiving and distributing their relief supplies, and of informing the Red Cross Committee of the steps taken.

In addition to the supplies sent by the American Red Cross, the Canadian Red Cross sent 24,240 standard food parcels, 60 cases of miscellaneous supplies, and the British Red Cross sent 891 cases of medical supplies. These supplies were unloaded at Singapore for distribution in Southeast Asia and the Netherlands East Indies, and also at Yokohama for distribution in Hong Kong and Japan.

Geneva Convention

Rights of Visitation

Japanese observance of Article 86 of the Geneva Convention guaranteeing right of visitation to POW camps by neutrals has been far from liberal on the Asiatic Mainland. Although negotiations have been going on for upwards of two years in connection with the camps in Southeast Asia, the results have been negative to date. It has been stated that the difficulties which prevent neutral visits to all places in Japanese-occupied territories where Americans are held, are due to the Japanese Government's fears that authorization for such visits might be interpreted as an abandonment of its policy not to recognize representation of foreign interests in occupied territories.

Reprisals

Continuing evidence of atrocities appears in conjunction with POW camps in Southeast Asia. Here, the Japanese are reported to have begun a series of reprisals against American and British POW as a result of Allied publication of conditions in the Philippines. With the exception of a few camps, the Japanese have not distinguished between officers and enlisted men in their treatment of military POW. The Japanese have warned Allied repatriates that if any untrue statements concerning treatment of POW were broadcast, repercussions would take place in the camps.

Camp Conditions - General Treatment & WelfareGeneva Convention (concluded)Protests

The Japanese Government has been formally requested to restore the military rank of American officers who, as a penalty for trying to escape, were deprived of their rank, contrary to Article 49. Official protests against transporting POW locked in ships' compartments have not ameliorated conditions in the slightest.

Other official protests have been repeatedly directed against the Japanese Government's action in locating camps in unhealthy locations; in failing to communicate orders to Prisoners of War in a language which they understand; in failing to permit the camp spokesmen to correspond with the Protecting Power; in failing to provide proper food and clothing; and in requiring excessive hours of labor by Prisoners of War. These acts are contrary to Articles 10, 20, 44, 12, and 30, respectively, of the Geneva Convention.

The American Government has been pressing the questions of: (1) shipping the supplies stored in Vladivostok to Japan for POW relief, (2) permitting the Swiss more access both in person and by mail to the POW held by the Japanese, and (3) arranging for a third exchange of civilian internees. The Japanese Government, however, seems to be consistently refusing to consider questions 2 and 3 because of the following stated reasons: (a) the attacks on Japanese hospital ships, (b) the treatment of Japanese internees in the United States, and (c) the publicity being given by the United States to Japanese atrocities. The Japanese Government has stated that if the United States Government wishes a practical solution, it is in the latter's interest to discontinue the "campaign of atrocities".

The Swiss Minister approached the Japanese authorities in February, 1944, on the subject of the repatriation of sick and wounded Prisoners of War, but received the usual negative reply. The Protecting Power has been asked to renew its representations to the Japanese, giving specific instances of their failure to notify of captures, deaths, and transfers of Allied Prisoners of War.

As regards supervision over prisoners of war, their transfer, communication, and other items, the Japanese authorities established an Intelligence Bureau to supervise POW affairs. This establishment came into existence soon after the outbreak of the Pacific War, and is headed by a Major General. Great secrecy is exercised by the Japanese Government over the supervision and treatment of American and British POW, and even disclosure of the location of camps is strictly forbidden.

S E C R E T

III. INDIVIDUAL CAMPS

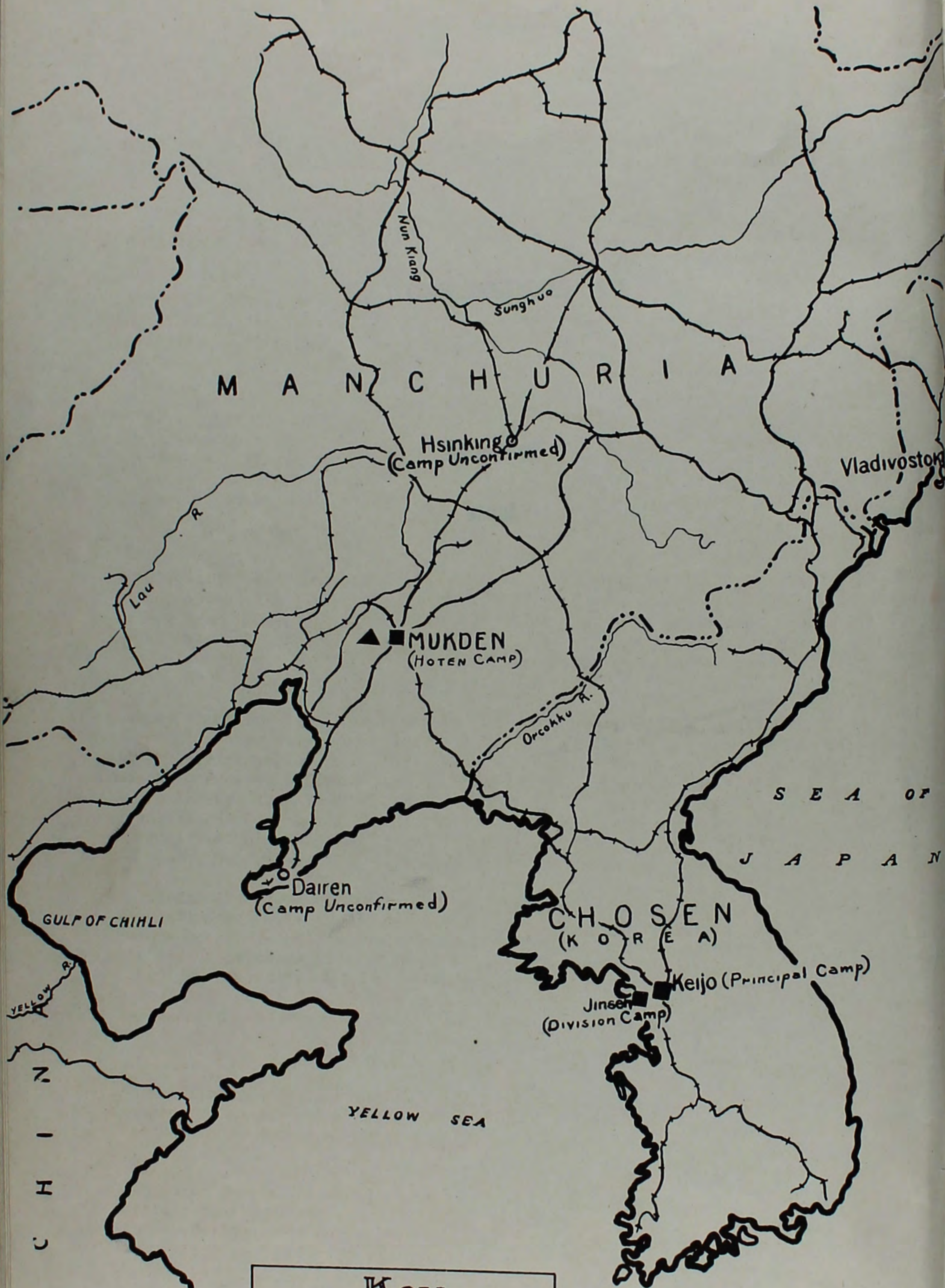
Manchuria

Korea

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S E C R E T

SKETCH MAP MANCHURIA-KOREA



Key

▲ U.S.

■ BRITISH EMPIRE

S E C R E T

III. INDIVIDUAL CAMPS

MANCHURIA (MANCHUKUO)

There are two unconfirmed and one confirmed prisoner of war camps in Manchuria.

Kobahashi has been reported as a possible POW labor camp in or near Dairen on the Liaotung Peninsula. There is, however, no indication of nationalities nor of numbers.

Hsinking is also reported as a possible POW camp site. No further confirmation about these camps has become available since January 1943, although it is entirely possible that military prisoners from Southeast Asia and the Philippines may be transferred here.

Radio Hsinking, Manchuria, which transmits from Hsinking broadcasting station, went on the air 20 November 1943 with a program entitled "War Prisoners Speak Their Minds". Reception in the western United States is poor, and to date incomplete programs have been received from camp(s) in the Mukden Area. Only written messages read by the announcer have thus far been heard.

Mukden (or Hoten) Camp is located at Tung Ling, Manchuria 12 miles east of the Hoten Central Railroad Station, on the Hoten-Fushun road near the Tung Ling golf course. The camp area is 58,000 square yards, with buildings occupying about one-fourth. Surrounding the camp is an eight and a half foot brick wall with a high tension electric wire on top.

The majority of American POW currently held on the Asiatic Mainland are at Mukden Camp. They were transferred here from the Philippines, whereas the British and Australians are from Singapore. Officers and enlisted men are paid an unstated amount monthly for work performed. American POW have been reported working in the munitions arsenal at Mukden. POW are also employed in a machine tool plant of the Manchuria Industrial Development Corp. Several factories, producing aircraft parts and engines, have been reliably reported in the Mukden area.

The POW are housed in three newly constructed brick buildings. Each barracks has ten rooms, with fifty men to a room. The buildings are electrically lighted, and heat is provided in the middle of winter by Russian stoves. The men sleep on bunks with straw mattresses; mosquito nets are provided in the summer time. Clothing brought by the POW was inadequate for the severe winter climate. The Japanese have supplied winter clothing, including fur-lined shoes. Although an infirmary is attached to the camp, severe cases are sent to the Mukden Military Hospital.

In view of the fact that the Japanese did not tranship available Red Cross supplies up to November 1943, POW were subject to the general food shortage in Manchuria. However, American Red Cross supplies have been distributed since then.

A library of 100 books, and an outdoor baseball league, have been organized; in addition, the Papal Relief Society has furnished musical instruments. Japanese-English language newspapers are supplied. There is a canteen with a small stock at reasonable prices.

MANCHURIA (MANCHUKUO)Mukden Camp (concluded)

Officers are theoretically allowed to write three letters and three cards per year; WO's 1 letter and 3 cards; NCO's 4 cards; EM 3 cards. No mail has been reported received from America at this camp thus far, although 108 POW "form" cards arrived in New York during March 1944.

Mukden camp was opened 20 October 1942 and transferred to its present location in August 1943. The camp commandant is Colonel Matsuda. The camp was last visited by the Red Cross 13 November 1943. Except for the previous acute lack of food, conditions at this camp were fairly satisfactory from the standpoint of reported treatment.

Three American POW escaped in 1943, but were recaptured near the Siberian border. Reports state that they were court-martialed and given a death sentence because they committed murder and assault. They were turned in by Mongols when they sought food, after allegedly pretending they were Germans and shooting a policeman. The extent to which Japanese authorities applied Articles 45 and 47 of the Geneva Convention, in connection with the trial and punishment of these men, is not known, despite U.S. Department of State requests.

No. Known POW: 1281. Composed of 1181 Americans, 84 British, and 16 Australians.

KOREA (CHOSEN)

There are three confirmed camps in Korea, containing 672 POW. Two camps, at Keijo and Jinsen, are primarily work establishments containing British and Australian POW. No American POW have been reported in Korea. The distribution of American Red Cross supplies has recently been completed in Korea.

Keijo Principal Camp is situated in the southeast part of Keijo, 30 metres above sea level. It is located at the westernmost end of the 20th Division Parade Ground, east of the point where the railroad and road intersect. This camp has been described as being very large, with a low concrete wall around it, and has two entrances. The total camp area is 5,184 square metres. POW are housed in a brick four-storied cotton spinning mill; rooms contain up to 60 men each. Food, clothing, and medical care appear adequate. For recreation a small English library, daily papers in English, a 900 metre playing field, and a poorly stocked canteen have been provided. Prisoners are allowed occasional visits to Keijo Shrine.

Work consists of clearing and repairing roads and railroad yards, with pay ranging from 10 to 35 sen per day. POW are also employed to inspect, sort, and pack uniforms eight hours daily and two hours on Sundays, although no overtime or night work is permitted. Outgoing mailing privileges are fairly liberal, although no mail has been received. Nevertheless, discipline and morale are reported good under the direction of the commandant of both camps, Colonel Noguchi, who is described as "kind-hearted".

No. Known POW: 190. Composed of 175 British and 15 Australians.

Jinsen Division Camp is located 35 metres southwest of Keijo, and 5 metres above the sea road in the port city of Jinsen. The total camp area is 16,090 square metres, and it is located near the prostitute's quarters in the southeast part of the city, near the shrine "Taijingu". This shrine is shown on Japanese maps as being situated in the Eastern Park. The POW are housed in 5 standard Japanese military huts. Aside from a lack of dental equipment, conditions are reported to be similar to the Principal Camp. Allied POW have been seen in Chemulpo (Jinsen) City pulling rickshas and repairing roads.

No. Known POW: 252. Composed of 239 British and 13 Australians (from Singapore).

An additional Divisional Camp, whose name and location are unknown, has been reliably reported. Nationalities of 230 POW are not specified, although they are presumably British and Australian.

*

Summary of Known POW - Korea

British	414
Australian	28
Unspecified	<u>230</u>
Total	672

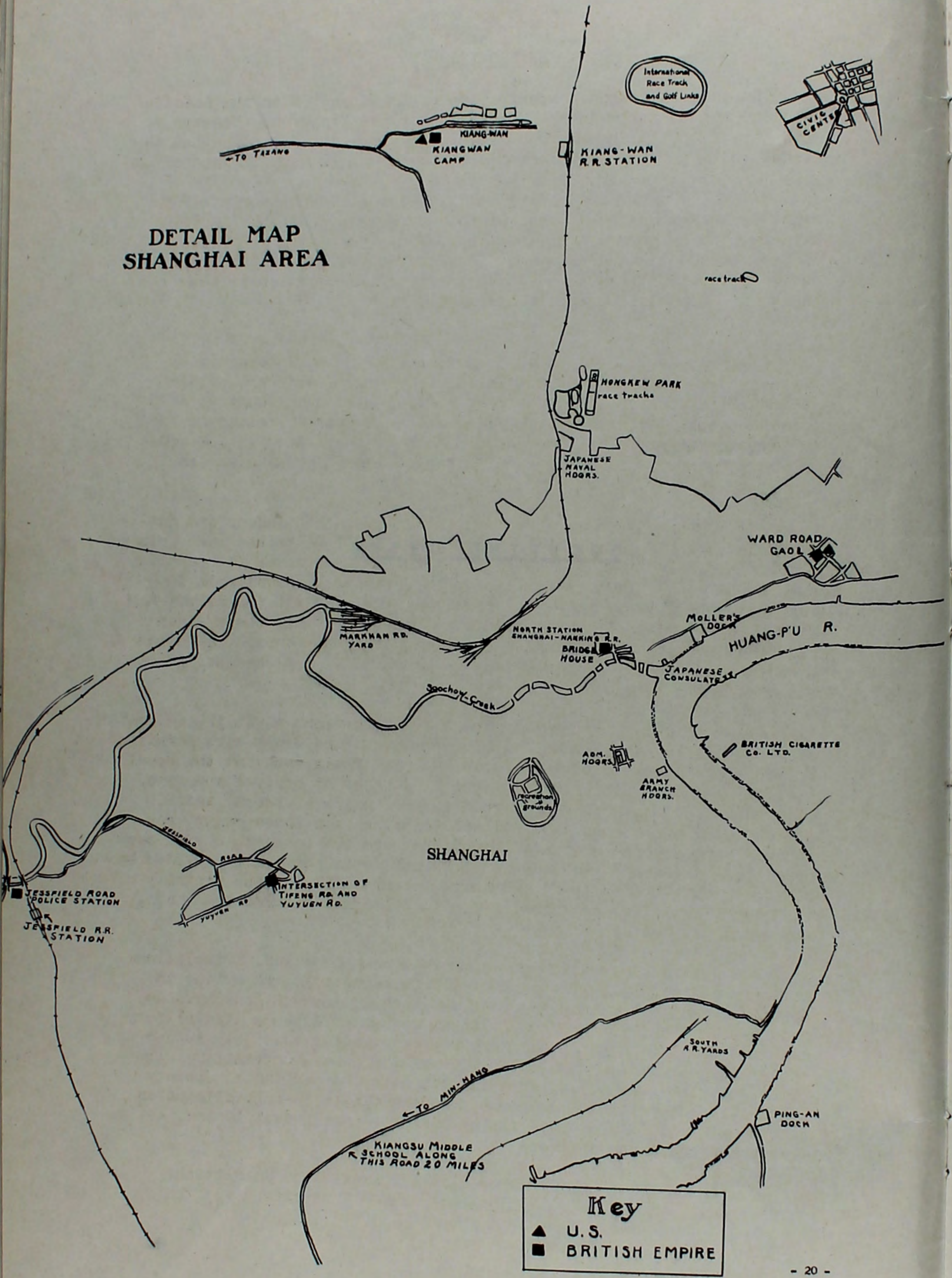
S E C R E T

O C C U P I E D C H I N A

- 19 -

S E C R E T

DETAIL MAP SHANGHAI AREA



Key

- ▲ U.S.
- BRITISH EMPIRE

S E C R E T

OCCUPIED CHINA

SHANGHAI AREA

The largest single concentration of American POW on the Asiatic Mainland was formerly in the Shanghai Area, at Kiangwan. However, with the officially known transfer of 505 Americans from Shanghai to Japan, the majority of Americans are now at Mukden Camp in Manchuria.

As of 1 January 1944, it is estimated that 1,100 American POW remained in the Shanghai Area. These are composed of the Tientsin Marines, the Embassy Guards from Peking, the Wake Island Marines, and 694 Wake civilian personnel. Military POW were located at Woosung, but in 1943 were moved to the Kiangwan Area, which is the center of Japanese command in Shanghai.

Kiangwan Camp is situated 3 miles north of the International Settlement of Shanghai, on the Tazang motor road, and west of the Woosung railroad line. The camp is built in the open country, on comparatively high land and contains wooden barracks similar to the numerous Japanese military establishments in the area. The Japanese military aerodrome is 3 miles north, while the Shanghai civilian aerodrome is five miles south.

The POW have good recreational facilities, both indoor and outdoor, including a gymnasium. A library of 5,000 books has been formed; classes are held in a variety of subjects. A canteen is in operation, but stocks are limited. Though Catholic Priests are available in Shanghai, the Japanese have not permitted any to visit the camp. A Japanese Protestant Minister visits the camp. POW have been given fairly liberal mail privileges, compared with most camps. 510 cards were received in the United States in March 1944, and some mail from the States has been delivered.

After official protests by the U. S. Department of State, delegates of the Swiss Legation and of the International Red Cross were permitted to visit the Shanghai camps. As a result of their work and the supplies (13,712 special 13 lb. food packages, 188 cases of medical supplies, 1565 sets of clothing, 1800 overcoats, 1872 pairs of shoes, and 900 toilet sets) which they were allowed to bring into these camps, conditions improved somewhat - although they are not comparable with camp conditions in Japan. Medical, optical and dental care are provided by POW doctors. Physically fit POW work 6 hours daily in the vicinity of the camp - building, draining, ground levelling, constructing roads, and unloading boats.

The general impression given by this camp is mixed. Discipline and morale fluctuate; treatment of POW is reported to be better in certain aspects than that accorded Japanese soldiers. However, the camp authorities, under Colonel Otera, refuse to discuss disciplinary measures and have informed neutral representatives that they intend to apply in their own way the principles of the Geneva Convention. The Swiss Consulate was not allowed contact with the camp until January 1943. The International Red Cross representative is only allowed an occasional trip, and cannot talk to the prisoners except in the presence of Japanese officers.

No. Known POW: 980. Composed of 877 Americans, 70 British, 29 Italians, and 6 Norwegian.

OCCUPIED CHINAShanghai Area (concluded)

Jessfield Road Police Station and Bridge House are Gendarmerie interrogation centers used by the Japanese to extract information (often involving torture) from POW believed to have it. Bridge House, which is the Headquarters of the Special Service Section of the Japanese Gendarmerie, is located in the Hongkew district, north of Soochow Creek and behind the new Asia Hotel and the Chinese post office. It is a POW detention point said to be used for civilian internees as well. The American flyers who took part in the raid on Tokyo in 1942 were detained at Bridge House. 7 American flyers out of a group of 12 interned at Hanoi by Vichy French authorities, have been transferred to Shanghai, presumably for interrogation.

Ward Road Jail, at 372 Haiphong Road, is a prison maintained by the Japanese for disciplinary action. This jail is situated at the northeastern end of Shanghai where Ward Road crosses Yangtsepoo Road (a continuation of Broadway), and was formerly the Shanghai Municipal Jail. When it was taken over by the Japanese they used it chiefly for internees or Prisoners of War who had committed offenses, such as smuggling messages and attempted escape. British and American Army and Marine personnel who tried to escape from the Shanghai War Prisoners Camp at Woosung in the summer of 1942 are now serving 2 to 8 year prison sentences here.

The Japanese foreign office has officially stressed that the Japanese Government cannot authorize the transfer of Americans detained at Ward Road Jail to a Shanghai POW camp because they were "condemned in accordance with penal regulations". Red Cross delegates have made repeated application to the Japanese to visit and to be allowed to send comfort parcels to the POW. Both requests have been consistently refused, and Swiss Consulate visits have also been stopped.

No. Known POW: 13. Composed of 11 Americans and 2 British.

On Yu Yuen Road near the Tifeng Road intersection and west of the International Settlement is the newly reported Tifeng Road POW camp. Twenty miles south of Shanghai, on the road to Minghong, is the Kiangsu Middle School. This is also newly reported as a POW camp, but no further data has been received. The Shanghai Civic Center is reported as a probable POW camp.

Summary of Known POW - Shanghai Area

Americans	1,100 (location of 205 not confirmed)
British	70
Italian	29
Norwegian	<u>6</u>
Total	1,205

S E C R E T

H O N G K O N G A R E A

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S E C R E T



**DETAIL MAP
HONGKONG AREA**

Key

- ▲ U.S.
- BRITISH EMPIRE

OCCUPIED CHINAHONG KONG AREA

The five Prisoner of War camps in the Hong Kong Area - Samshuipo, Argyle, Ma Tali Chung, Bowen Road, and Stone Cutter's Island - are mostly for British, Canadian, and Indian prisoners and contain only 30 American POW. However, there are numerous American civilian internees at internment camps in the Hong Kong Area. In those areas of China which had a large percentage of white and foreign population before the Japanese occupation, it is difficult to distinguish numerically between military POW and civilian war prisoners or internees. It has been reported that there is constant talk among the Japanese of moving all the Hong Kong prisoners to Japan. 1125 POW were transferred to various camps in Japan, prior to July 1943. The continuation of transfers is apparently only contingent on the lack of available shipping.

Samshuipo (Camp "S"), Argyle Street Barracks (Camp "N"), and Bowen Road Military Hospital (Camp "A"), are under the single administration of camp commander Colonel Tokunaga. Following some preliminary moves after the fall of Hong Kong, all officers of all the services were confined at Argyle Street Barracks, which was the best camp from the standpoint of health and food; all the other ranks were placed at Samshuipo.

Food at these camps does not compare in quality and quantity with that given to Japanese reserve troops. Two meals of rice and vegetable stew are served each day, with a small amount of bully beef on special occasions. The allowance of sugar and fat is infinitely small. It has been reported that whenever American bombers flew over Hong Kong, the POW were not fed for two days as punishment. Canteens have been established, but prices are exorbitant, and the enlisted men have no money of their own to spend.

Officers are paid the same salaries as Japanese officers of similar rank, and donate half their pay to the (unpaid) enlisted men at Samshuipo. The local inhabitants are permitted to send comfort parcels to the POW. One parcel may be sent each man each week. However, only a few of the men receive parcels in this way; complaints indicate that numerous parcels have been lost or stolen. The Red Cross has supplied books to supplement those left behind in the original internment camps.

The Japanese have not issued sufficient clothing for winter requirements, and many of the men are forced to go barefooted. There have been many deaths in the Hong Kong camps, but neutral representatives have been unable to obtain names of the dead, nor other particulars in this connection. It is believed that most of the deaths are the result of beri-beri, dysentery, and diphtheria. Dental care is entirely deficient due to lack of dental material.

The prisoners can, at times, correspond with the military authorities and with the Protecting Power. The exercise of this privilege depends upon the cooperation of the interpreter-censor. They were originally permitted to dispatch one printed card of 50 words each month; sometimes expanded to 100 words. No additional facilities were extended to the officers. Although correspondence with the United States and Great Britain requires 8 to 18 months in transmission, the POW have not been able to communicate with their relatives for nearly a year.

OCCUPIED CHINAHong Kong Area (continued)

Orders in these camps are given in English. There have been numerous attempts to escape. In the first year, of the 23 prisoners who tried to escape, 18 did so successfully. Since then escape has become more difficult and punishments more severe, so that the prisoners have indicated they will not attempt to escape unless freed en masse. The entire personnel is usually punished for individual infractions of the camp rules. The Swiss Minister at Tokyo has approached the Japanese Government regarding British POW undergoing judicial punishment in Hong Kong and elsewhere, but has received no reply. The Japanese do not inform him of any proceedings against POW.

Generally speaking, conditions in Hong Kong are grim and appear to be getting worse. The Japanese are evacuating civilians because of the food shortage and the high cost of many staples. There are 8,000 new Japanese troops at Hong Kong and the food situation is so acute that the sale of human flesh (disguised as dog meat) at 90¢ per plate, is accepted as commonplace.

Under these circumstances, the POW do not fare well despite local expenditures for their relief. A total of 7,752 yen was spent by the International Red Cross delegate during December 1943, January and February 1944, in behalf of American POW and civilian internees. British and Canadian Red Cross supplies unloaded at Yokohama for distribution in Hong Kong and Japan, were partly transhipped on 18 April 1944. Of the 1921 parcels slated for Hong Kong, 520 have been shipped there, while the remaining 1401 parcels are at Moji.

*

Samshuipo (Camp "S") Kowloon

Canadians were first interned at North Point Camp, but moved to Samshuipo in 1942. This camp is located near the Hongkew Gardens in Kowloon, and contains only enlisted men. The POW work in fields adjoining the camp and grow vegetables which they are allowed to keep. The men have built a steam bath and each man can have a hot bath every five days. The extremely meagre rations of food at Samshuipo were quite unsuitable until Red Cross aid was permitted; subsequently the Japs themselves have been feeding the prisoners better. However, delivery of parcels was officially stopped in 1943 in reprisal for the discovery of a radio at Samshuipo and Stanley Internment Camp. Many arrests were made at both places, the prisoners being confined at Yaumati Jail. U.S. Naval men were reported being held at Samshuipo Police Station in September 1943.

For some months the Japanese would not allow Red Cross representatives to visit Samshuipo, until after 2,000 prisoners had been shipped off on the "Lisbon Maru" in October 1942. These prisoners were locked up in the ship's hold at the time it was sunk. As a result of this Japanese anti-escape policy, and because little or no effort was made by the sailors to rescue those who got out, only about 500 POW survivors reached shore and were taken to Shanghai. In January 1943, another group of prisoners were transferred from Samshuipo to Japan.

OCCUPIED CHINASamshuipo (Camp "S") Kowloon (concluded)

An unconfirmed report states that during one of the numerous American air raids on Hong Kong, Canadian prisoners at Samshuipo ran into their wired-in enclosure as the American planes appeared, and cheered and waved for all they were worth. This demonstration displeased the Japanese intensely, and they apparently decided it was time for a lesson in manners. 15 minutes after the American planes had gone, 2 Japanese fighter planes appeared over the camp at tree-top level and gave the POW a working over with light bombs and machine guns, killing some 300. Photographers then appeared to take pictures for their papers to show what the 'Americans' had done in another of their "atrocious raids".

While it is possible to communicate with the war prisoners from Macao, only 7 cards were received in America from Samshuipo during November and December 1943. In February 1943, an official request was made of the Japanese to supply the names of American POW in this camp, in accordance with Article 77 of the Geneva Convention. No acknowledgement has been received thus far.

No. Known POW: 1556. Composed of 9 U.S. Flyers, 641 British, and 906 Canadians.

Argyle Street Barracks (Camp "N") in Kowloon, is a former internment camp near Kowloon Hospital, consisting of 20 wooden huts, kitchen, bakery, storehouses, infirmary, showerbaths. Although the food shortage is also evident here, POW morale is reported to be high. The men have been forced to sign an agreement not to escape, but some who signed it have stated that they would not consider themselves bound by such an agreement.

They are allowed to receive food parcels once a week, from relatives and friends. Local inhabitants apparently need only state that they are related to a POW for permission to send such parcels. These officer prisoners raise vegetables in the fields adjoining the camp, and give half their pay to the enlisted POW at Samshuipo. The prisoners can supplement their rations with purchases at the camp canteen.

No. Known POW: 500. British (officers).

Bowen Road Military Hospital (Camp "A") in Hong Kong, is used for hospital cases from Samshuipo and Argyle Street Barracks. A Lieut. Saito is in charge and has been reported to be very brutal. The Bowen Road Camp was a British military hospital, and now serves as a hospital for the POW camps at Hong Kong. Since there is no indication of whether these POW are patients or work at the hospital, the total figure may perhaps be a purely temporary representation of personnel originally reported at Argyle and Samshuipo.

No. Known POW: 396. Composed of 262 British and 134 Canadians.

Ma Tali Chung (or Ma Tan Chung), sometimes known as "Prison Camp No. 1", is located in Kowloon City. 600 Indian POW are held at this camp in which living conditions are reported as being reasonable, treatment and food fair, and the camp itself well equipped. These Indians may be receiving preferred treatment prior to their intended induction into the Indian National Army.

No. Known POW: 600. Indians only.

OCCUPIED CHINAHong Kong Area (concluded)

Stone Cutter's Island contains 300 POW of unspecified nationality, although it is likely that they are probably British and/or Canadians. Their presence on this island is officially interpreted as a Japanese attempt to forestall the possibility of Allied bombing. They have been reported moved from Stone Cutter's Island to Lai Chi Kok near the Standard Oil Godowns. It is possible, however, that there are prisoners at both places.

No. Known POW: 300. Nationalities unspecified.

Summary of Known POW - Hong Kong Area

Americans	30	(location of 21 not confirmed)
British	1,403	
Dutch	28	
Canadians	1,040	
Indians	600	
Unspecified	<u>300</u>	
Total	3,401	

MISCELLANEOUS CAMPSCanton Area

There are 14 small work camps in the Canton Area. Thirteen of these are in Canton proper and hold 1,300 Indian POW, while 400 Indian POW are in the village of Cheung-Pang, 20 miles east of Canton. Camp conditions or type of work are not known.

There is only one company of the Indian National Army in Canton at present with a strength of 150, composed of Punjabs and Pathans. These are prepared for active service when required, their present general activities being Japanese propaganda amongst the loyal Indians. The Indian Independence League has a branch office which functions purely as a propaganda machine, and arranges for pro-Japanese anti-British lectures in prisoner of war camps.

No. Known POW: 1700. Indian only.

Hong Chi Salt Godown, Kinhua

Out of a total of 600 POW reported at this camp, 300 are of unspecified nationality. The remainder consists of 100 Americans and 200 British, believed to be working on the Kinhua Airfield.

OCCUPIED CHINAMiscellaneous Camps (concluded)Swatow

140 British and 60 Indians have been officially reported at this camp, but no further details are available.

Yunnan Province

5,470 Indian POW are reported in 6 camps throughout Yunnan Province at the following locations:-

Chaiotoukai	350
Huangsikan (Wanglike)	60
Lungling	200
Mangshih	150
Shangkiakai (Maglien)	170
Teng Chung	4,540

These are work camps for POW who are building the Teng Chung road.

Hainan Island

600 Indian POW are evenly divided between Patsho (or Patano) Camp and the Sama Naval Base on Hainan. Australian POW have been reported at the Naval Base, but no further data is available. A temporary camp has been reported at Tinduk in Cape Baxtion Harbor.

*

Currently, the bulk of Prisoners of War in the 33 camps in occupied China are Indian. However, the total of 8,130 Indians may diminish perceptibly if the Japanese succeed in recruiting a sufficient number of these for the collaborationist Indian National Army; further reductions in Allied POW can be expected if the rate of transfer to Japan continues, which it shows every sign of doing.

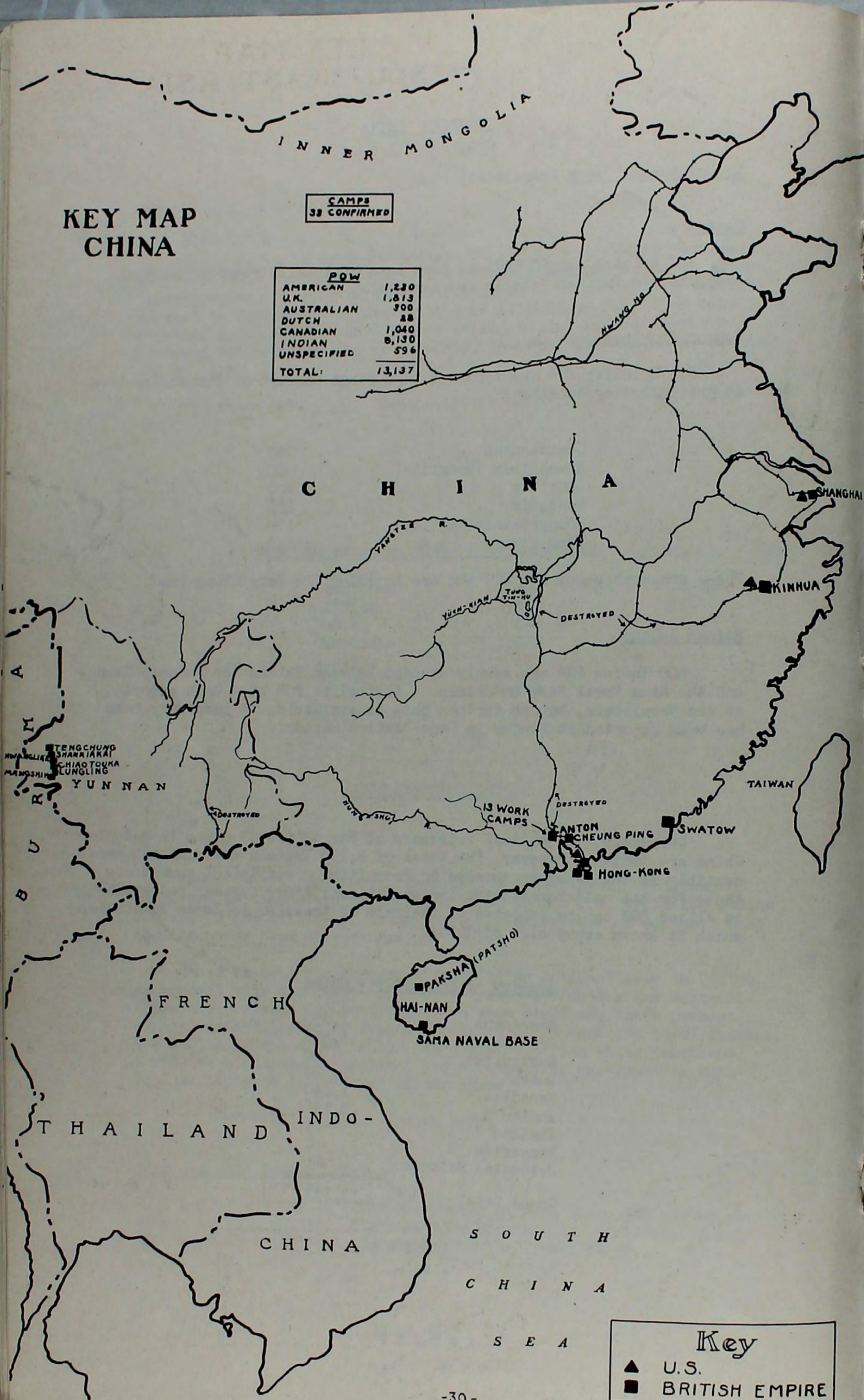
Summary of Known POW - China

Americans	1,230
British	1,813
Australian	300
Dutch	28
Canadian	1,040
Indian	8,130
Italian	29
Norwegian	6
Unlocated Balance	561
Grand Total	13,137

KEY MAP CHINA

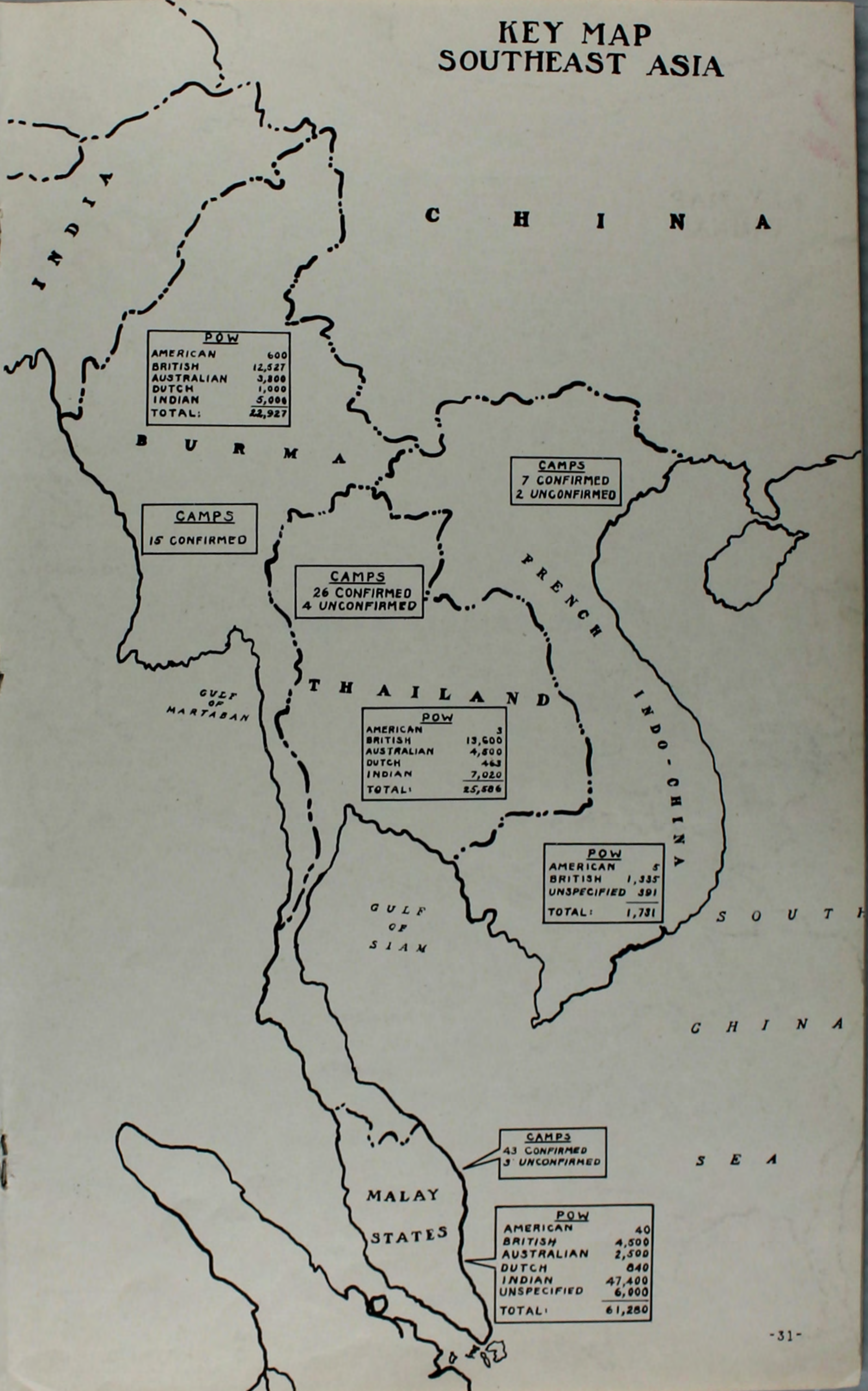
CAMPS
39 CONFIRMED

POW	
AMERICAN	1,230
U.K.	1,813
AUSTRALIAN	300
DUTCH	28
CANADIAN	1,040
INDIAN	8,130
UNSPECIFIED	596
TOTAL:	13,137



Key
 ▲ U.S.
 ■ BRITISH EMPIRE

KEY MAP SOUTHEAST ASIA



POW	
AMERICAN	600
BRITISH	12,527
AUSTRALIAN	3,800
DUTCH	1,000
INDIAN	5,000
TOTAL:	22,927

CAMPS	
7 CONFIRMED	
2 UNCONFIRMED	

CAMPS	
15 CONFIRMED	

CAMPS	
26 CONFIRMED	
4 UNCONFIRMED	

POW	
AMERICAN	3
BRITISH	13,600
AUSTRALIAN	4,500
DUTCH	463
INDIAN	7,020
TOTAL:	25,586

POW	
AMERICAN	5
BRITISH	1,335
UNSPECIFIED	391
TOTAL:	1,731

CAMPS	
43 CONFIRMED	
3 UNCONFIRMED	

POW	
AMERICAN	40
BRITISH	4,500
AUSTRALIAN	2,500
DUTCH	840
INDIAN	47,400
UNSPECIFIED	6,000
TOTAL:	61,280

S E C R E T

F R E N C H I N D O - C H I N A

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S E C R E T



DETAIL MAP
FRENCH INDO-CHINA

Key
 ▲ U.S.
 ■ BRITISH EMPIRE

SOUTHEAST ASIAFRENCH INDO-CHINA

7 confirmed and 2 unconfirmed camps have been reported located in French Indo-China. Americans, British, Burmese and British-Indians were landed at Saigon and Hanoi for internment after the fall of Burma.

Prisoners have not been able to send letters home, and camp representatives cannot correspond with the military authorities or the Protecting Power. A few canteens were finally permitted by the Japanese, where prisoners could buy certain commodities.

The Japanese arrested five American Army men who put in at Tourane Bay in a launch. Despite protests by the French authorities, Japan refuses to turn these men over to the local French Government; negotiations to that end are continuing.

Saigon - Port Area Camp

This principal Saigon camp is located at the Xom Chieu Immigration Depot, Rue Jean Eudal (situated directly opposite the docks), and consists of four huts each 60' x 15'. Saigon is the main port of entrance for Japanese transports, which return to Japan loaded with rice and other materials. The loading and unloading of these vessels is performed by POW labor. The Port Area Camp is situated in a danger zone, inasmuch as it is surrounded by Japanese warehouses and yards, where ammunition, gasoline, and kerosene are stored. The Japanese appear to have a fixed policy of placing camps in or near strategic points, especially in dock and factory areas. In other places they locate camps near Japanese barracks and other defensive positions such as AA installations. It is reported that all other camps in the Saigon Area have been closed.

War prisoners in Saigon are compelled to work an average of eleven hours daily, although if the work is urgent there is no time limit. Work consists of loading and unloading Japanese ships, the construction of airports, roads, hauling material, construction of trenches and Japanese military buildings. Japanese units normally apply to the camp for fatigue parties. Wages paid prisoners of war were ten cents Indo-China currency, equivalent to U.S. 2½ cents.

The Japanese have widened the highway leading from Pnom-penh, Cambodia to near Batambang. For this work they employed, besides a certain number of natives, about 1000 Australian prisoners. Many of them died, stricken by malaria and dysentery, the country being very swampy between Pnom-penh and the Siamese border.

The condition of British and Australian POW at Saigon was pitiful; they worked hard and were forced to beg bread from friendly natives. Civilians, both French and Annanites, have done a great deal to ameliorate the lot of the prisoners, by providing them with medicines, clothes, food and tobacco, which all had to be smuggled into camp. These civilians take tremendous risks to contact the prisoners, and have aided certain escape attempts.

SOUTHEAST ASIAFrench Indo-ChinaSaigon - Port Area Camp (concluded)

There have been three recorded escape attempts from French Indo-China. Two Australian officers tried to escape together with eight orderlies; all were recaptured. The orderlies were returned to their camps, but the two officers, after being compelled to dig their own graves, were beheaded, each at the edge of his grave. A second attempt was made by seven orderlies; four of them escaped and the other three were shot while running away. A third attempt of ten orderlies was successful.

Apparently POW have no difficulty getting out of the camp at night to obtain supplies. But it is reported that no genuine attempts to escape, other than those mentioned above, are being made because of the difficulty of getting into Allied territory. All prisoners were forced to sign an agreement not to escape.

Treatment at this camp depended largely on the whim of the individual sentries. Face slappings and minor beatings were frequent. All POW were made to salute all Japanese military personnel down to a 3rd Class Private. The prisoners became accustomed to this and regarded it as a joke. Everything seemed to be done with the object of humiliating the white race.

Due to escapes of detainees from working camps and civil prisons, the Governor General of Indo-China was asked by Vichy to put into force in civil prisons certain regulations existing in military prisons which confer on sentries the right to fire on detainees failing to stop when challenged. Allied radio propaganda about the Japs ill-treating prisoners enraged them and they are reported to be revenging themselves on the POW. 22 Australian prisoners were decapitated in French Indo-China for reasons unannounced.

No Red Cross supplies had been received up to September 1943. A small hospital is situated in the camp; the Japanese supply bandages, quinine, and aspirin once a month in amounts barely sufficient for 5 days' normal use. Operations were performed under local anesthetic only; patients are returned to the camps immediately after the operation.

Saigon Port Area Camp had been planned as a transit camp, but after the sinking of a POW ship enroute from there to Japan, the Japanese decided to convert it into a permanent camp. The strength appears to be small: 391 POW of unspecified nationality (presumably British and Australian).

The Swiss Consul and the Red Cross have made repeated attempts to visit the Port Area Camp. Every time permission to do so was refused with the excuse that this was only a "temporary" camp, but that permission would be granted as soon as the "permanent" camp began functioning. The "temporary" camp has been functioning for the past seventeen months. All attempts of the French Archbishop to visit the camp failed, as did those of the International Red Cross delegate.

SOUTHEAST ASIAFrench Indo-China (concluded)

Saigon radio, which has been monitored in India and Australia, confines its POW radio activities to re-broadcasting transcriptions of the radio Tokyo POW programs.

No. Known POW: 391. (Unspecified, but presumably British and Australian).

Hanoi

12 American flyers brought down near the Yunnan border were interned by the Vichy French authorities at Hanoi, which may be an interrogation center. 7 of these were transferred to Shanghai in December 1943. POW have been reported billeted near the wharves in civilian houses enclosed by barbed wire. They have been seen working as freight stevedores at the wharves; but were allegedly not allowed to carry ammunition supplies.

No. Known POW: 5. Americans.

Battambang (600 British); Gialam Airfield, east of Hanoi (335 British); and Pnom-penh (400 British) complete the total of 7 confirmed camps in French Indo-China. The existence of a camp between Saigon and Cholong has been specified without further data. Baster and Tankin are unconfirmed camps, but have been reported as possible camp locations.

*

Summary of Known POW - French Indo-China

Americans	5
British	1,335
Unspecified	<u>391</u>
Total	1,731

SOUTHEAST ASIATHAILAND - BURMA - MALAYAIntroduction

Three factors affect the total POW figures for Thailand (25,586), Burma (22,927), and Malaya (61,280):-

- a) Fragmentary knowledge due to limited sources of information; no neutral agency has been allowed official rights of visitation in these countries.
- b) The frequency with which groups of POW are moved between the three countries, for purposes of military expediency in connection with local labor requirements.
- c) The large number of suspected but unconfirmed deaths due to brutal working conditions, undernourishment, and lack of medicines on the Thailand-Burma railway project. There is no official information to qualify what amounts of the relief supplies mentioned on page 10, have reached the work camps in these three countries.

The total figures for Southeast Asia might be well reduced by at least 20,000. However, until and unless official statements are obtained in connection with these countries, the present estimates must be accepted as qualified above. Estimates of the number of POW actually utilized to construct the Thailand-Burma railway and road spur vary considerably, and are conditioned by the scarcity of POW information available on the countries of Southeast Asia.

Because of the inter-relation and the complexity of statistics concerning prisoners of war in Southeast Asia, these countries are treated in the tables appended. Introductory commentary is restricted to the known principal camps in each country.

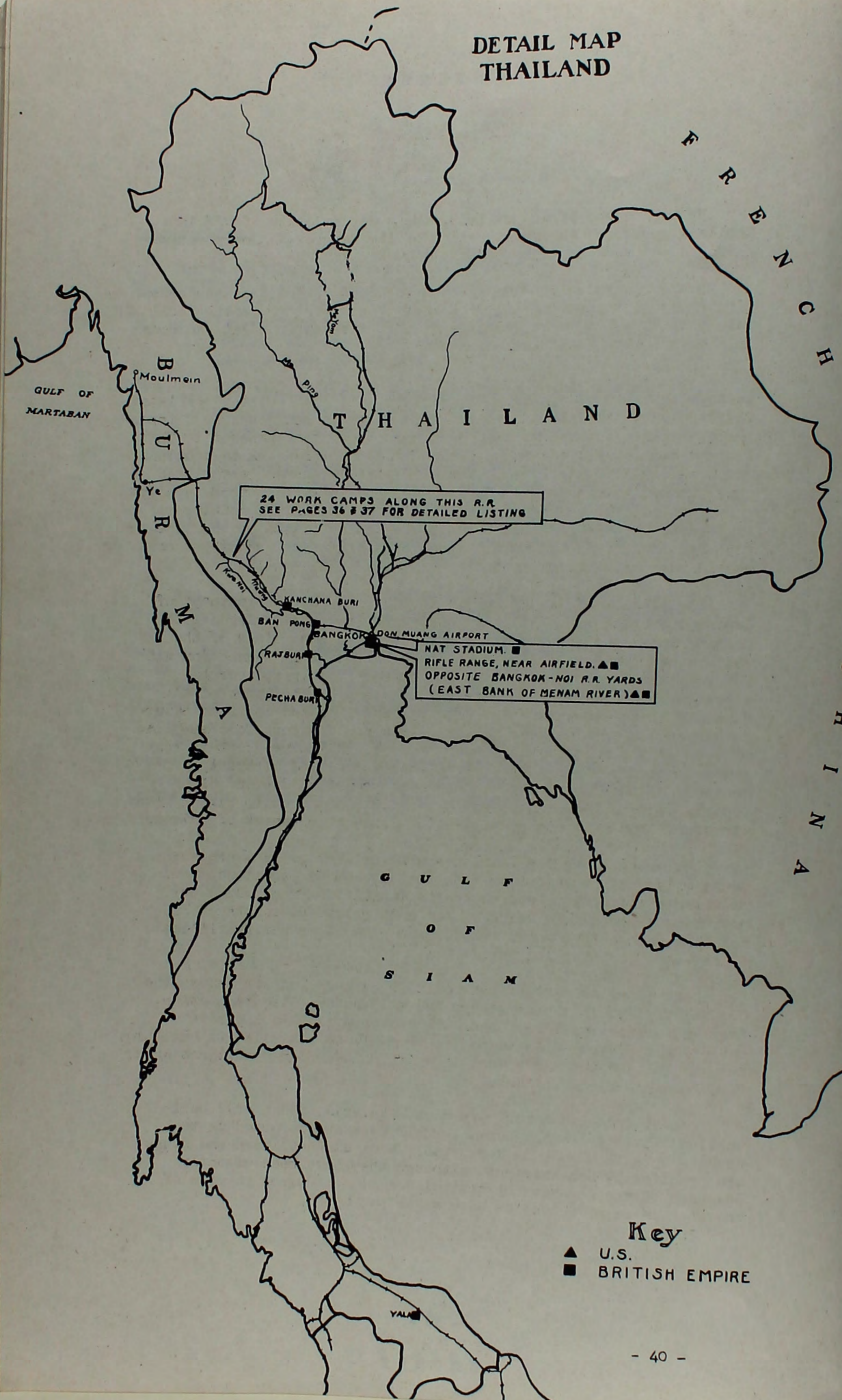
S E C R E T

T H A I L A N D (S I A M)

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S E C R E T

DETAIL MAP THAILAND



24 WORK CAMPS ALONG THIS R.R.
SEE PAGES 36 & 37 FOR DETAILED LISTING

NAT STADIUM. ■
RIFLE RANGE, NEAR AIRFIELD. ▲■
OPPOSITE BANGKOK-NOI R.R. YARDS
(EAST BANK OF MENAM RIVER) ▲■

Key

- ▲ U.S.
- BRITISH EMPIRE

S E C R E T

SOUTHEAST ASIA

THAILAND

Up to the end of August 1943, the great majority of POW in Thailand worked on the construction of the Bangkok-Moulmein railway alignment between Ban Pong in Thailand, and Ye in Burma.

Ban Pong, which is the Thailand terminus of the Japanese construction project, is located 40 miles west of Bangkok and is the No. 1 POW base work camp. A large Japanese garrison is stationed at Ban Pong in the vicinity of this camp.

The majority of POW in Thailand have been performing forced labor on the construction of highways, airways, and the recently completed Thailand-Burma railway and road. This railroad spur is a most important strategic transportation requirement for the Japanese, in that it provides lateral communication on land (from Bangkok to Moulmein) for supplies going to Prome. Much shipping is saved thereby, and previous sea shipments from Bangkok to Rangoon - which took ten days - can now be transported overland in five. Therefore, nothing was allowed to interfere with the rapid completion of the branch line from Ban Pong to Ye. POW labor completed this task, under the most appalling working conditions.

The problem of keeping alive despite the brutal treatment of Japanese overseers and military engineers (who were charged with pushing these projects to a speedy completion regardless of the cost in manpower) is the sole determining factor in connection with POW reported in Thailand. Food was extremely meagre, poor to atrocious in quality, and there was an everpresent danger of a complete breakdown in supply. The railway line and the road being constructed alongside were the only lifeline for such food supplies as reached the prisoners. Those who remain alive are kept in work camps to perform emergency repairs whenever Allied aircraft bomb sections of the line. The railway needs constant day and night repairs and the bridges are not expected to stand up to rain. These structural requirements condition the frequent movement of prisoners.

The camps along the Thailand-Burma railway project are work camps only; no communication with the outside is permitted, mail privileges are denied, and no sports facilities provided. They have been described as being of the most primitive construction, built of bamboo frames and thatch, and without proper facilities of any sort for sustaining life.

Some 80 miles west of Bangkok this railway project enters the Gwe Nei Valley, which has always had a deservedly bad reputation. Even well-cared for labor engaged there on survey work during peacetime suffered an incidence of from 25% to 50% malaria. British, Australian, and Dutch POW work in this valley under conditions which have been described as barbaric.

Health conditions are very poor. Malaria, dysentery, beriberi and cholera are all common. Prisoners are reported to be nothing more than walking skeletons. Medical facilities and drugs are practically non-existent, although they have been urgently demanded of the Japanese by neutral agencies. Deaths in some of the work camps have been as high as 5% per month.

SOUTHEAST ASIAThailand (continued)

Labor consisted of heavy work up to thirteen hours a day. The Australian POW were required to hack their way through jungles and carry on the heaviest work. They were then followed up by Malays and Indians and a miscellany of other nationalities. Construction was pushed on ruthlessly regardless of the prisoners' physical condition. The Japanese authorities reaction to numerous deaths and the high sick roll, was: "Plenty more POW". Yet in the construction of the railway and road the Japanese displayed an extraordinary mixture of stupidity and cupidity. They were most anxious to complete the line, yet by starvation of POW in both food and drugs, a situation arose whereby not more than 20% of the labor force was fit to work.

Officers were compelled to work like coolies, and in many instances were treated even worse than private soldiers. Atrocities in these work camps have been common. Camp commanders vary, but conditions are reported as ranging from such treatment as cuffing and beating to cold-blooded murder. A protest strike was staged at one camp in September 1943, after which conditions improved somewhat, but beating of officers and men started again in April 1944.

In some of the camps one mail was received in April 1943. Prisoners have been permitted to write one card only, saying "health excellent". 50% of the Red Cross supplies sent via Lourenco Marques on the repatriation ship were seized by the Japanese for themselves and practically none ever reached Thailand. Hundreds of Australian prisoners of war, previously believed to be in Malay and Java, are now known to be in Thai camps. Lists forwarded from the Japanese Government through the International Red Cross reveals this change.

Three American POW are held by the Japanese in Thailand, but they are not under the jurisdiction of the Thai Government, whose officially stated policy does not recognize the existence of Allied POW within its borders. The Japanese have categorically refused neutral visits to prisoners "on the reason of military purpose", despite repeated requests by neutral authorities.

The Swiss Consul at Bangkok reports having seen Japanese officers inspecting POW camps at Nong Pla Duk (NONGPLADOK). Prisoners of healthy appearance have been placed near the railway line in Nong Pla Duk Camp for propaganda purposes. The Swiss Consul has been informed that the Japanese do not recognize him as protecting the interests of British POW. He will be allowed to continue his purchases of supplies but will not in future be given receipts signed by prisoners of war.

*

Summary of Known POW - Thailand

American	3
British	13,600
Australian	4,500
Dutch	463
Indian	<u>7,020</u>
Total	25,586

SOUTHEAST ASIAThailand (concluded)

Because of the numerous reports of ill health due to undernourishment, overwork, lack of medicines, and movements of POW, this total may in actuality be lower.

It is impossible from available information to give the exact total of POW camps in Thailand. Many are mentioned by two or more names and many of the names are spelled differently on different maps. Also, certain camps are shifted from time to time as road building progresses westward.

The majority of the camps are located on a line running westward and north-westward from Bangkok through Ban Pong, Kanburi (or Kanchanaburi) and on toward the Burma border, generally following the Quaa Noi (or Gwanoi) River valley. There are some camps on the main railway running south from Ban Pong along the coast of the Gulf of Siam and passing through Rajburi and Bhejbure (or Petchburi). All work camps in Thailand on which information is available, are listed on the following pages.

S E C R E T

B U R M A

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S E C R E T

S E C R E T

B U R M A

Camp and/or Location	U. S.	U. K.	Aust.	Neth.	Ind.	Total	Remarks
MOULMEIN:							
Moulmein Jail (Camp #3)	107	40			500	647	Br. list, 9 Aug 43. PMG report 9 Jun 44.
Wegale Camp #5 Moulmein	493					493	PMG report as of 9 Jun 44.
TOTAL, MOULMEIN	600	40			500	1,140	Unverified report of 60,000 Dutch POW in scattered work camps in Moulmein area, working on Thailand-Burma RR.

RANGOON:

Central Jail		227			1,635	1,862	Br. list, 5 Feb 44.
Chettiar School, Kambe					100	100	Br. list, 5 Feb 44.
TOTAL, RANGOON		227			1,735	1,962	

MISCELLANEOUS CAMPS:

Akyab Jail					150	150	Br. list, 5 Feb 44.
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S E C R E T

B U R M A

Camp and/or Location	U. S.	U. K.	Aust.	Neth.	Ind.	Total	Remarks
MISCELLANEOUS CAMPS (cont.):							
Bhamo Jail		50			18	68	Br. list, 5 Feb 44. May be only a transit camp.
Mandalay Jail and Fort		50			1,000	1,050	Br. list, 5 Feb 44.
Maymyo Jail		200			300	500	Br. list, 5 Feb 44.
Work camps on Burma-Thailand RR		11,960	3,800	1,000	1,297	18,057	Br. list, 5 Feb 44; locations not given. Possibly some of these figures are also included in the Thailand total.
Kalewa-Mawlaik (Ind. working on road)) Mergui (Aus. & Neth. working on aerodrome)) Tavoy (Aus. & Neth. working on aerodrome)) Victoria Point (Aus. & Neth.)) Ye (Aus. & Neth. working on aerodrome))							Br. list, 9 Aug 43, gives these locations.
GRAND TOTAL, BURMA	600	12,527	3,800	1,000	5,000	22,927	Total of 15 located camps in Burma, plus an unknown number of work camps on the railway. The Japanese unofficially report a total of 100,000 POW in the Burma-Thailand area.

S E C R E T

M A L A Y A

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S E C R E T

DETAIL MAP MALAYA



Key

- ▲ U.S.
- BRITISH EMPIRE

SOUTHEAST ASIAMALAYA

Military prisoners in Malaya have been very badly treated, ever since the fall of Singapore. Australian Prisoners of War were worked as coolies and given little food or clothing. They were seen everywhere in Singapore. 10 to 15 thousand of them were reported sent to work on the Thailand-Burma railway, and a number were transferred from Malaya to Japan. It would be impossible to overemphasize the terrible conditions under which these men have had to work in jungle country notorious as some of the worst in Malaya. Many reports have been received of men marching ten days through the jungle with food consisting only of rice and dried fish, with no opportunity to wash and no shelter at night.

The Australians were also compelled to do hard labor in railway construction in Malaya, while the British prisoners were assigned such humiliating tasks as carrying night soil cans. It has been specified by neutral observers that: "If Great Britain fails to regain Malaya within a year or two, all these prisoners will have to die of slow torture and starvation".

The morale of the prisoners in the work camps is, on the whole, pitiful. Quite a few have gone insane and others are so weak that they are mere skeletons, and have hardly enough strength to go to the latrines. Instances have occurred in these areas, where men have been taken out to work at 8 a.m. and have not returned until 3 a.m. on the following morning. Periodically, Japanese privates, or some other person in charge with absolutely no medical knowledge, have examined the men pronounced sick by a competent doctor, have beaten up as many as three quarters of them, and then sent them out to work.

The men have come to accept corporal punishment for the most minor offence as a matter of fact. Deaths are a daily occurrence, and at camps on the river the average is 3 per day from dysentery alone. The food is quite inadequate for the heavy manual labor which has to be performed, and scientifically completely unbalanced as regards proteins, fats, and vitamins. All men are in urgent need of a complete rest, good food and adequate drugs, but many have gone down hill so far they can never recover and must eventually die.

A small group of people keep in touch regularly with the POW and are endeavoring to assist with money and medicines. It has not yet been possible to contact all the camps owing to the difficulties of travel, but money and medicines to the value of Tcs. 50,000 have been sent to camps covering 10,000 to 15,000 men. All this money has been received by the POW, as have also the medicines; receipts signed by senior officers, or by others acting on their behalf, have been obtained.

The Red Cross is active, but the Japanese have in the past been continuously obstructive with the result that the Red Cross has, until recently, been unable to assist with cash and medicines which they have had at their disposal since the relief ship sailed in September 1943. The Japanese previously stated that they do not recognize the Red Cross here, and that any permissions given are temporary concessions.

SOUTHEAST ASIAMalaya (concluded)

British and Canadian Red Cross supplies recently unloaded at Singapore are understood to have been distributed in Malaya and the Netherlands East Indies. The delivery to Malaya, intended for distribution in both areas, consisted of 2616 special 13 lb. food packages, 25 cases of medical supplies, 5 sets of clothing, and 204 pairs of shoes.

Singapore

The Changi Civil Prison and Barracks has been reliably reported as a large transit camp for processing and interrogation before moving new POW north along the Peninsula. Certain POW were housed in evacuated Chinese shops near the racetrack. Their work consisted of cleaning and watering roads, for which they allegedly received 30/40 sen per day for light work (4 hours daily) and 80/90 sen per full day. The actual receipt of such a wage has never been substantiated.

The Japanese are extremely busy attempting to make Malaya impregnable. Singapore has been heavily fortified. Throughout Malay there are many large naval and military dispositions. POW labor is being extensively utilized on all these projects. Indian prisoners in Malaya were freed and organized into the Indian Independence Working Corps and the Indian National Army; many of these are used as AA gun crews.

15 January 1944 marked the inception of a POW program in English broadcast for the first time from Radio Singapore to the Southwest Pacific Area. This program is entitled 'Letters From Our Loved Ones' and consists of the reading of letters received by American prisoners from their next-of-kin.

Of the estimated total of 61,280 POW reported in 43 confirmed and 3 unconfirmed camps in Malaya, a considerable number may have been transferred north into Thailand and Burma. Further, the POW death rate unofficially reported is as consistently high on the Malay Peninsula as in Burma-Thailand.

A breakdown of reported camps in Malaya follows, with qualifying commentary under "Remarks".

S E C R E T

M A L A Y A

Camp and/or Location	U. S.	U. K.	Aust.	Neth.	Misc.	Total	Remarks
SINGAPORE AREA:							
Bidadari Camp					2,000 Ind.	2,000	Members of the Japanese-controlled I.N.A. (Indian National Army). Br. list, 5 Feb 44.
Changi Civil Prison and Barracks	40	2,884				2,924	IRC report, 11 Nov 43, quoting official Japanese figures, showed 35 Am. and 2,884 Br. POW here. The American POW reported in Malaya by PMG as of 9 Jun 44 are presumed to be located here.
Changi-Seletar			600			600	Camp located in tented area between the two localities. Br. list, 5 Feb 44.
McPherson Road Camp			400			400	Br. list, 5 Feb 44.
Seletar Airfield and Naval Base					1,400 Ind.	1,400	Australian POW also believed to be here. Br. list, 5 Feb 44.
Alexandra Barracks) Batutiga) Bukit I. (opposite Singapore City), Br. POW) Buller Camp (Ind. POW)) Chinese School, Katong Road) Kluang) 2 Nee Soon Camps (main I.N.A. camps) Old Race Course) Revalvary) Syonon Changi) Tanglin (Ind. POW, not I.N.A.)) Tengah Camp (Ind. POW)) Thompson Road (Ind. POW)) Tyersall Park (Ind. POW)) Woodlands Road (Ind. POW))							Br. list, 5 Feb 44, gives these camp locations, but no figures.
TOTAL, SINGAPORE AREA	40	2,884	1,000		3,400 Ind.	7,324	The Singapore camps are used for processing and interrogation of new POW before moving them north along the peninsula to the various work camps.

M A L A Y A

Camp and/or Location	U. S.	U. K.	Aust.	Neth.	Misc.	Total	Remarks
MISCELLANEOUS CAMPS:							
Ayer Hitam					300 Ind.	300	Not I.N.A. Br. list, 5 Feb 44.
Batu Pahat					100 Ind.	100	Not I.N.A. Br. list, 5 Feb 44.
Bintan Island (Bauxite Mines)					6,000 unspec.	6,000	Includes only British Empire POW, nationalities unspecified. Br. list, 5 Feb 44. Dutch POW also reported to be here.
General Hospital, Johore Baru					300 Ind.	300	Believed to be I.N.A. Br. list, 5 Feb 44.
Kluang I.N.A. Camp					400 Ind.	400	I.N.A. Br. list, 5 Feb. 44.
Kluang Non-I.N.A. Camp					1,400 Ind.	1,400	Not I.N.A. Br. list, 5 Feb 44.
Kuala Lumpur: (1) "A" Camp, Military Bks., Ipoh Rd.) (2) "B" Camp (Western Camp)) (3) "C" Camp, Chinese school nr flour mills) (4) "D" Camp, same location as "C" Camp) (5) Main Camp, Chinese School, Batu R.)					1,500 Ind.	1,500	Br. list, 5 Feb 44.
"Tai" Camp, Malaya (location unknown)				627		627	Japanese official figures quoted by NEI Red Cross, 1 Sep 43.

S E C R E T

M A L A Y A

Camp and/or Location	U.S.	U. K.	Aust.	Neth.	Misc.	Total	Remarks
MISCELLANEOUS CAMPS (cont.):							
Alor Star (Ind. POW))							Locations from various sources, mainly Br. list, 5 Feb 44.
Blakenmat (unconfirmed))							
Ipoh)							
Jitra)							
Kota Bahru (Ind. POW))							
Kualar Kangsar)							
Malacca)							
Muar)							
Port Swettenham)							
Seremban)							
Taiping (unconfirmed))							
Talok Paku (unconfirmed))							
Yala)							
Unlocated Balance		1,616	1,500	213	40,000 Ind.	43,329	Figures derived from Br. list, 5 Feb 44.
GRAND TOTAL, MALAYA	40	4,500	2,500	840	47,400 Ind. 6,000 unspec.	61,280	Total of 43 confirmed and 3 unconfirmed camps in Malaya. These POW totals have probably been considerably reduced by subsequent transfers to Thailand and Burma.

S E C R E T

A S I A T I C M A I N L A N DS U M M A R Y O F C A M P S T A T I S T I C S

The following table, is based on the most reliable sources available, as of 1 July 1944, but in any case must remain an estimate because of the lack of complete information from enemy occupied territories, the high percentage of deaths, and the constant movement of POW by the Japanese.

AREA & NUMBER OF CAMPS		U. S.	U. K.	AUST.	NETH.	CAN.	IND.	UNSPEC.	GRAND TOTALS
KOREA (Chosen)	3 confirmed		414	28				230	672
MANCHURIA (Manchukuo)	1 confirmed 2 unconfirmed	1,181	84	16					1,281
OCCUPIED CHINA	33 confirmed	1,230	1,813	300	28	1,040	8,130	596	13,137
FRENCH INDO-CHINA	7 confirmed 2 unconfirmed	5	1,335					391	1,731
THAILAND (Siam)	26 confirmed 4 unconfirmed	3	13,600	4,500	463		7,020		25,586
BURMA	15 confirmed	600	12,527	3,800	1,000		5,000		22,927
MALAYA	43 confirmed 3 unconfirmed	40	4,500	2,500	840		47,400	6,000	61,280
GRAND TOTALS	128 confirmed 11 unconfirmed	3,059	34,273	11,144	2,331	1,040	67,550	7,217	126,614