

TESTIMONY
OF
KUMAICHI MARUTA

2

FU-19

DECLASSIFIED
Authority 775011
By KT NARA Date 02/28/09

RG 331 SCAP Legal
Section, Admin Div.
Area Case Files
POW Camps #19 to #256
Box 927 FU 19

C O N F I D E N T I A L

Kumaichi Maruta, having beenduly sworn at the off&ce of the Yoshikuma Mine, Keisen, Kyushu, Japan, on the 30th day of January, 1946, testified as follows:

- Q. What is your name, age, address, and nationality?
A. My name is Kumaichi Maruta, I am 50 years of age, my address is 368 Usui, Iida Machi, Kaho-gun, and I am Japanese.
- Q. Will you be at that address for the next two or three months?
A. Yes.
- Q. What is your religion?
A. Buddhist.
- Q. What was your position in POW Camp 26?
A. I worked in the kitchen and was in charge of the procurement of food for the Camp.
- Q. Did you work for the mine or for the Army?
A. I was employed by the mine both when I worked at the mine and at the camp.
- Q. How long did you work at the POW Camp?
A. From the time the Camp originated in the latter part of May, 1945, until after the termination of the war.
- Q. Were the POW barracks equipped with heating facilities in the cold months?
A. The Camp was only in operation from May until September so there was never occasion to heat the barracks.
- Q. Was the camp equipped with lights?
A. Yes. The camp had a very good lighting system.
- Q. What type of clothing did the prisoners wear?
A. They wore the same clothes they came in with. The Japanese army only issued a kind of undergarment and these were usually not worn by the prisoners.
- Q. Did the prisoners have shoes?
A. Yes. They wore the same shoes and socks they arrived with which were usually better than those worn by the Japanese.
- Q. What nationality were the prisoners?
A. They were all white men. As for as I know, none were Americans. Most of them were Australians I think.
- Q. Were they army or navy personnel?
A. Most of them were army but a few were navy.
- Q. Do you know who kept the roster of the POWs?
A. After the war ended, in the latter part of September, all of the camp records were burned. After that the Chinese laborers from the Iizuka Coal mines came and removed all of the provisions and clothing from the camp stores.
- Q. How many deaths occurred at the POW Camp?
A. Two deaths occurred that I had knowledge of.
- Q. What were the circumstances of these deaths?
A. The two were sickly when they arrived at Camp and later died in the hospital.
- Q. Who was the camp doctor?
A. Fukui Surio was the camp doctor.
- Q. Did the camp have a hospital?
A. Yes. The hospital seemed to be very adequate and was well equipped with both medicine and instruments.
- Q. On how many occasions were the prisoners beaten?
A. Since I lived outside of the camp, I am unable to say for sure. However, none took place while I was present there.
- Q. Did you ever hear of prisoners being disciplined thusly?
A. No.

2
DECLASSIFIED
Authority 775011
By KTNARA Date 02/10/09

RG 331 SCAP Legal
Section, Admn Div.
Area Case Files
POW Camps #19 to #256
Box 927 FU19

- Q. How were the prisoners punished or disciplined?
 A. Solitary confinement cells were built into the guardhouse and prisoners were punished by locking them in these.
- Q. How long were the prisoners kept locked up at a time?
 A. The only case I know of was one who was kept in confinement for two days.
- Q. Were prisoners fed during confinement?
 A. Yes. The prisoners in confinement were fed the same rations as the others.
- Q. What hours did the prisoners work?
 A. From 6 AM until 5PM with one hour off for lunch.
- Q. Did the prisoners have any holidays?
 A. Yes. They had the same days off as the mining personnel. This was an average of one day per week not usually Sunday.
- Q. Did the POWs have a spokesman elected by them?
 A. There was a POW Captain who, as ranking Officer, acted as spokesman.
- Q. Were Red Cross supplies ever distributed among the POWs?
 A. Yes, two times to my knowledge. The supplies were distributed by the Captain who acted as spokesman for the POWs. A very strict system of distribution was used.
- Q. Did you see any of the goods confiscated by the Japanese personnel?
 A. No.
- Q. Were the POWs allowed to hold religious services?
 A. During the time that the camp was here the prisoners held services twice with the POW Captain conducting the services.
- Q. Did the prisoners have canteen privileges for purchasing soap, toothpaste, and other such items?
 A. No. They made such purchases from the mine company store.
- Q. What was the daily diet of the prisoners?
 A. The prisoners were given 4-8 go's of rice and corn mixed per day and fish or meat once a month. They also had fresh vegetables from the gardens.
- Q. Did the prisoners have bathing facilities?
 A. Yes. They had hot water showers and fixtures built into the barracks for washing their face and hands. Two bath tubs and six showers are available in a washhouse for their use.
- Q. What type of bedding did the POWs have.
 A. They slept on Japanese floor mats and had blankets. When sick they used folding beds.
- Q. Did the POWs have protection against air raids?
 A. Plans called for bomb shelters capable of holding all of the POWs but at the time the war ended this was only half way accomplished.
- Q. What type of work did the POWs do?
 A. Of the 300 prisoners, about 150 worked below in the mines and the others worked ~~below in the mines~~ and the others worked in the POW garden and at odd jobs around the camp.
- Q. How were the bodies of the dead POWs disposed of?
 A. There were only two deaths. In that case the bodies were cremated and the ashes taken back to the family's of the deceased by one of their friends after the camp was liberated.
- Q. Do you have anything further to add?
 A. No.

(Signature of Witness)

FU-19

2

DECLASSIFIED
 Authority 775011
 By KT NARA Date 02/10/09

RG 331 SCAP Legal
 Section, Admin Div.
 Area Case Files
 POW Camps #19 to #256
 Box 927 FU 19

CONFIDENTIAL

ALLIED OCCUPATION FORCES)
CITY OF KEISEN)
KYUSHU, JAPAN)

I, KUMAICHI MARUTA, being duly sworn on oath, state that I had read to me and understood the translation of the foregoing transcription of my interrogation and all answers contained therein, consisting of 5 pages are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

花田 龍
(Signature of Witness)

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 31 day of January, 1946.

Henry F. Creel
Henry F. Creel, S/Sgt.
Investigating Officer, NCO
Legal Section, GHO., SCAP.

ALLIED OCCUPATION FORCES)
CITY OF KEISEN)
KYUSHU, JAPAN)

I, Harry Hiroshi Kuriya, being duly sworn on oath, state that I truly translated the questions and answers given from English to Japanese, and from Japanese to English respectively, and that after being transcribed, I truly translated the foregoing deposition containing 5 pages, to the witness; that the witness thereupon in my presence affixed his signature thereto.

Harry H. Kuriya
(Name) (Rank) (Arm)

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 31 day of January, 1946.

Henry F. Creel
Henry F. Creel, S/Sgt.
Investigating Officer, NCO
Legal Section, GHO., SCAP.

ALLIED OCCUPATION FORCES)
CITY OF KEISEN)
KYUSHU, JAPAN)

I, S/Sgt. Henry F. Creel, ANS 38631355, certify that on the 31 day of January, 1946, personally appeared before us KUMAICHI MARUTA and according to HARRY HIROSHI KURIYA, gave the foregoing answers to the several questions set forth therein; that after his testimony had been transcribed the said KUMAICHI MARUTA, had read to him by the said interpreter the same and affixed his signature thereto in my presence.

Henry F. Creel
Henry F. Creel, S/Sgt.
Investigating Officer, NCO
Legal Section, GHO., SCAP.

KEISEN, KYUSHU, JAPAN
31 January, 1946.

CONFIDENTIAL

Fu-19

DECLASSIFIED
Authority 775011
By KT NARA Date 02/28/04

RG 331 SCAP Legal
Section, Admin Div.
Area Case Files
POW Camps #19 to #256
Box 927 FU19

R E S T R I C T E D

A F F I D A V I T

ALLIED OCCUPATION FORCES)
)
)
) SS
)
FUKUOKA, KYUSHU, JAPAN)

I, HENRY F. CREEL, S/sgt, ASN 38361355, do here-by certify that on the 31st day of January, 1946, did appear before me at the office of the Yoshikuma Mine Company, Keisen, Kyushu, Japan, YOSHITA HORIBATA, Assistant manager of the mine, who did give to me the blueprint of the plan view of POW Camp 26 and written report on the camp which are marked as Exhibit Two, and that aforementioned blueprint was checked by me personally while at the site of POW Camp No. 26 and found to be a true and accurate representation of conditions existant at that camp.

Henry F. Creel
Henry F. Creel, S/sgt.
War Crimes Investigation Det.
Legal Section, GHQ, SCAP

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 1st Day of February, 1946.

Fukuoka, Kyushu, Japan

Melvin S. Cohn
Melvin S. Cohn, 2nd Lt., Inf.
Investigating Officer
Legal Section, GHQ, SCAP.

R E S T R I C T E D

Fu-19

2

DECLASSIFIED
Authority 775011
By KTNARA Date 02/18/09

RG 331 SCAP Legal
Section, Admn Div.
Area Case Files
POW Camps #19 to #256
Box 927 FU19

Testimony.

Kumaichi Maruta, having been duly sworn at the office of the Yoshikuma Mine, ~~Yoshikuma~~^{Kessen}, Kyushu, Japan, on the 30th Day of January, 1946, testified as follows:

Q. What is your name, age, address, and nationality?

A. My name is KUMAICHI MARUTA, I am 50 years of age, my address is 268 Usui, Aida Machi, Kaho-gun, and I am Japanese.

Q. What is your religion?

A. Buddhist

Q. What was your position in POW Camp 26?

A. I worked in the kitchen and was in charge of the procurement of food for the camp.

Q. Did you work for the mine or for the army?

A. I was employed by the mine both when I worked at the mine and at the camp.

Q. How long did you work at the POW camp?

A. From the time the camp originated in the latter part of May, 1945, until after the termination of the war.

Q. Were the POW barracks equipped with heating facilities in the cold months?

A. The camp was only in operation from May until September so there was never occasion to heat the barracks.

Q. Was the camp equipped with lights?

I A. Yes. The camp had a very good lighting.

f.d-19



DECLASSIFIED
Authority 775011
By KT NARA Date 02/10/01

RG 331 SCAP Legal
Section, Admin Div.
Area Case Files
POW Camps #19 to #256
Box 927 FU 19

system.

Q. What type of clothing did the prisoners wear?

A. They wore the same clothes they came in with. The Japanese army only issued a kind of undergarment and these were usually not worn by the prisoners.

Q. Did the prisoners have shoes?

A. Yes, they wore the same shoes and socks they arrived with which were usually better than those worn by the Japanese.

Q. What nationality were the prisoners?

A. They were all white men. As far as I know none were Americans. Most of them were Australians I think.

Q. Were they army or navy personnel?

A. Most of them were army but a few were navy.

Q. Do you know who kept the roster of the POWs?

A. After the war ended, in the latter part of September, all of the camp records were burned. After that the Chinese laborers from the Sijuka Coal mines came and removed all of the provisions and clothing from the camp stores.

Q. How many deaths occurred at the POW camp?

A. Two deaths occurred that I had ^{FU-19} knowledge of.

Q. What were the circumstances of these deaths?

DECLASSIFIED
Authority 775011
By KTNARA Date 02/10/04

RG 331 SCAP Legal
Section, Admin Div.
Area Case Files
POW Camps #19 to #256
Box 927 FU 19

A. The two were sickly when they arrived at camp and later died in the hospital.

Q. Who was the camp doctor?

A. FUKUI SUIKIO was the camp doctor.

Q. Did the camp have a hospital?

A. Yes. The hospital seemed to be very adequate and was well equipped with both medicine and instruments.

Q. On how many occasions were the prisoners beaten?

A. Since I lived outside of the camp I am unable to say for sure. However, none took place while I was present there.

Q. Did you ever hear of prisoners being disciplined thusly?

A. No.

Q. How were the prisoners punished or disciplined?

A. Solitary confinement cells were built into the guardhouse and prisoners were punished by locking them in these.

Q. How long were the prisoners kept locked up at a time?

A. The only case I know of was one who was kept in confinement for two days.

Q. Were prisoners fed during confinement?

A. Yes. The prisoners in confinement were fed the same rations as the others.

Q. What hours did the prisoners work?

A. From 6 AM until 5 PM. with one hour off for lunch. FU-19

Q. Did the prisoners have any holidays?

A. Yes. They had the same days off as the

DECLASSIFIED
 Authority 775011
 By KJ NARA Date 02/18/01

RG 331 SCAP Legal
 Section, Admin Div.
 Area Case Files
 POW Camps #19 to #256
 Box 927 FU 19

mining personnel. This was an average of one day per week - not usually Sunday.

Q. Did the POWs have a spokesman elected by them?

A. There was a POW Captain who, as ranking officer, acted as spokesman.

Q. Were Red Cross supplies ever distributed among the POWs?

A. Yes, two times to my knowledge. The supplies were distributed by the Captain who acted as spokesman for the POWs. A very strict system of distribution was used.

Q. Did you see any of the goods confiscated by the Japanese personnel?

A. No.

Q. Were the POWs allowed to hold religious services?

A. During the time that the camp was here the prisoners held services twice with the POW Captain conducting the services.

Q. Did the prisoners have canteen privileges for purchasing soap, toothpaste, and other such items?

A. No. They made such purchases from the mine company store.

Q. What was the daily diet of the prisoners?

A. The prisoners were given 4.8 go's of rice and corn mixed ~~one~~ per day and fish or meat once a month. They also had fresh vegetables from the garden.

Q. Did the prisoners have bathing facilities?

A. Yes. They had hot water showers and

DECLASSIFIED
Authority 775011
By KTNARA Date 02/10/09

RG 331 SCAP Legal
Section, Admn Div.
Area Case Files
POW Camps #19 to #256
Box 927 FU 19

fixtures built into the barracks for washing their face and hands. Two bath tubs and six showers were available in a washhouse for their use.

Q. What type of bedding did the POWs have.

A. They slept on Japanese floor mats and had blankets. When sick they used folding beds.

Q. Did the POWs have protection against air raids?

A. Plans called for bomb shelters capable of holding all of the POWs but at the time the war ended this was only half way accomplished.

Q. What type of work did the POWs do?

A. Of the 300 prisoners, about 150 worked below in the mines and the others worked in the POW garden and at odd jobs around the camp.

Q. How were the bodies of the dead POWs disposed of?

A. There were only two deaths. In that case the bodies were cremated and the ashes taken back to the family's of the deceased by one of their friends after the camp was liberated.

Q. Do you have anything further to add?

A. No.

花田 敏



FU-19

DECLASSIFIED
Authority 775011
By KTNARA Date 02/27/09

RG 331 SCAP Legal
Section, Admin Div.
Area Case Files
POW Camps #19 to #256
Box 927 FU 19