

PERIOD. 15th January, 1944 to 17th April, 1944.

SITUATION. At village of UNIKI in hills about 12 miles from SASEBO.

COMMANDANT. IKIGAMA CHUI (Lieutenant).

Service in Charge of Camp. Army.

GUARDS. Army inside camp. Naval Guards at work.

P.O.W.  
1 British Naval Reserve Officer.  
2 " Merchant Navy Officers.  
1 American Naval Rating.  
252 " Civilians from Wake Island.  
(54 Americans died at this camp.)

ACCOMMODATION. A cement shed measuring approximately 150' x 30', no glass windows, two doors, not weatherproof; P.O.W. slept on a platform each side of the hut; platform covered with old rice straw sacks infested with lice and fleas.

WORK. Building a dam, a Naval project carried out by civilian contractors. P.O.W. worked under civilian HANCHO (Foreman).

HOURS OF WORK. 0530 -- 1730. Ten minute rest periods were given at 1000 and 1500. Thirty minutes was allowed for the mid-day meal. Work was carried on in most weathers, only exceptionally heavy rain or snow caused cessation.

REST DAYS. 1st and 15th of each month. On rest days P.O.W. were kept busy doing camp fatigues, learning Japanese army drill (including the goose-step) and on cold days, ten minutes physical drill every hour.

PAY. My status as an Officer was not recognised. I was forced to do manual labour in a stone quarry; on a sand transporter, in a rock bin, feeding a conveyer; on a cement mixer; excavating (with pick and shovel) the side of a canyon; and riffling a river-bed. For this labour I was paid Warrant Officer's rate of 25 sen (threepence) for each working day.

CLOTHING. Each P.O.W. was provided with one Japanese/<sup>army</sup>uniform, greatcoat, one shirt, one set of underpants, cap, pair of cotton socks, a pair of tabbies, (Japanese cloth sided boots), a gas cape (from captured stock) and ten blankets (five Army and five Navy). We were not permitted to wear Japanese uniform to work, though no working clothes were provided.

FOOD. Food in this camp was considerably less than I received in later camps. We were given three meals a day at, 0500, 1200 and 1800. At each meal a P.O.W. received only half a standard bowl of rice and a bowl of thin vegetable soup. We received no bread. Small quantities of fish, octopus, whale etc., were issued at intervals of from four to seven days. Meat, which we rarely received, would never be more than about 12 lbs for the whole camp. All P.O.W. were very thin and very hungry. I am convinced that the shortage of food in this camp was due to misappropriation by the Nipponese ~~of~~ camp staff. Koreans working in the camp next to us were able to throw away food.

RED CROSS PARCELS.

While I was in the camp, approximately twelve cases of Canadian Red Cross comforts were received by the Nipponese staff; each case contained eight individual parcels. One individual parcel only, was issued to P.O.W.; my squad consisted of nineteen men and we shared one twelve ounce tin of tomatoes, one spoonful per person. The American camp leader (Mr. J. Truey) refused to sign for the remainder of the Red Cross packages, but later was forced to do so by the Commandant.  
(Truey was killed in August, 1945 by a food package dropped from an American relief plane).

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HEALTH.

There was no P.O.W. Doctor in the camp. A Japanese doctor visited the camp at intervals. A Nipponese N.C.O. attended to the sick and as his objective was to keep the working parties as large as possible, many unfit men were sent out to work. I saw many sick men unable to walk, being assisted or even carried out to work where they would lay all day in the snow. The guards and civilian foremen had great sport throwing rocks at these men and prodding them with rifle butts or sticks. In the evening, they would be carried back to camp. Many prisoners died as a result of this treatment. Practically all the fifty four deaths in this camp were due to lack of medical attention.

GENERAL TREATMENT.

Striking of P.O.W. was common, in camp by the military guards and at work by the Naval guards and civilian foremen. I was struck on many occasions for trivial offences, such as bending my fingers when standing to attention, not bowing deeply enough as a guard passed through our quarters, using a shovel when I had been detailed to use a spade etc., After being struck, we were frequently made to do hand presses in the snow, failure to keep the body straight resulted in a beating with a shovel or pick, or kicks in the groin, stomach or face.

The Commandant, IKIGAMA, led his men in brutality. He would make prisoners stand to attention in front of him and knock them down; if a prisoner could not rise, the guards would lift him up and hold him in position to be punched again.

Every P.O.W. in the camp was always hungry and naturally tried to get food when out at work. IKIGAMA informed us that, if any P.O.W. was caught obtaining food outside the camp, or from the Koreans, the punishment would be (a) the offender would be kept in gaol till he died of starvation or cold, (b) the remainder of us would have our already short rations cut in half and we would each receive BO-HI-KU. BO = cudgel or staff, HI-KU = issue. Prisoners were lined up with hands above head, while guards passed along the ranks giving each man five or six hefty two-handed smacks with a solid cudgel, measuring four foot long and about three inches thick. Prisoners who dropped their hands had the bones broken. Squad leaders received double issue, I was Not a squad leader.

Mr. Knox, an American, was found guilty of cutting a blanket to make a shirt. He was put in gaol till he died and the remainder of the P.O.W. received BO-HI-KU.



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Accurton  
Lieutenant R.N.R.  
Commanding Officer, H.M.S. MATA HARI.



GENERAL HEADQUARTERS  
SUPREME COMMANDER FOR THE ALLIED POWERS  
LEGAL SECTION  
INVESTIGATION DIVISION

MSC/hlw

17 January 1946

MEMORANDUM:

SUBJECT : Investigation of Prisoner of War Camp No. 18B.  
TO : Chief, Investigations Division, Legal Section.

By direction of the Chief, Investigation Division, 2nd Lt. Melvin S. Cohn, accompanied by Sgt. Jack Oda, as interpreter, proceeded to Yunoki, Kyushu, Japan, and made an investigation of Prisoner of War Camp No. 18B between 8 January 1946 and 15 January 1946.

1. Location:

Camp 18B is located about 200 yards from the site of the Soto Dam, which is just outside the village of Yunoki, Kyushu. Yunoki is approximately 3 miles N.E. of Sasebo, Kyushu, Japan.

2. Description:

Very little is known of the physical facilities of the camp, as an examination of the site revealed that it has almost completely been torn down. One building remains, but that was the camp office.

3. Utilization:

The prisoners were employed in the construction of the Soto Dam.

It is believed that clothing was totally inadequate, as 51 persons died while the camp was in operation, many of exposure.

4. P.O.W. Personnel:

The prisoner personnel consisted of 251 civilians taken on Wake Island. No roster is available.

5. Guards:

A complete list of Navy personnel at the camp is attached to report. There were a few Army personnel later in the camp's history. No Army list is available, but the Commanding Officer was UICHI IKEGAMI, 1st Lt., and it is believed that he resides in Kumamoto, Kyushu.

6. History of Camp:

- (1) Arrival of prisoners -- 12 October 1942 (Navy in charge)
- (2) Army took over in October, 1943.
- (3) Camp closed April, 1944.
- (4) Prisoners moved--part to Kashii in Fukuoka and part to Mitsubishi Plant or Kuwanami Shipyards in Nagasaki.

7. Work and Recreation:

Prisoners worked from 0700-1900 each day with one day off every 12 days. Sick were required to work until they were so ill that death was inevitable. Nothing is known of Red Cross distribution.

8. Food:

Exact quantities or kind is not known, but food was inadequate.



9. Medical:

Both medical service and supplies were almost non-existent.

Fifty-one persons died of pneumonia, malnutrition, injuries, and stomach troubles. It is felt that beatings and maltreatment was the cause in a great number of cases

10. Sanitation:

No information.

11. Safety Measures Employed:

No information.

12. Punishment and Discipline:

This camp was notorious for extreme cruelty, both under the Navy and the Army. Beatings and forced exercise, as well as the denial of meals and clothing, were practiced as punishment.

13. Discussion and Comment:

Since a list of Navy personnel with addresses are available, it is felt that, should further information be desirable, it can be obtained by calling in for interrogation personnel on the list.

14. Conclusion:

This camp and its prisoner treatment was in direct violation of all authorities under which war criminals are being prosecuted.

15. Leads:

Guard Tokuo Fukuto is now being detained in Fukuoka and will be questioned. If worth a statement, it will be taken and reported.

*Melvin S. Cohn*

MELVIN S. COHN,  
2nd Lt, Inf.  
Investigating Officer.



From  
DIRECTOR  
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Sasebo, Kyushu, Japan

SUBJECT : Informal Report, Team # 10  
TO : Lt Col Rudisill, Legal Sec, GHQ SCAP

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1. A correct list of camps in Kyushu was available in Fukuoka.
2. I proceeded to Sasebo where there are two camps: 1. Camp 18B, Yunoki, Kyushu, Japan and 2. Camp 24, Tanomoto, Kyushu, Japan. Yunoki is 3 miles NE of Sasebo. Tanomoto is 15 miles NW of Sasebo.
3. Investigation of 18B has not produced any corroborative evidence but interrogation of the construction engineer for Soto Dam, work place of the prisoners, has secured a complete list of the naval personnel at the camp with addresses in part. Prosecution has a prima facie case against one Egawa, petty O, Jap navy, thought to be the commanding officer at the time the camp was run by the navy and Uichi Ikegami, Army officer who took command in Oct '43.
4. The full name and address, given at time of discharge, of Egawa is: Sachio Egawa Nagasaki-Ken Nagasaki-Shi Kozincho 3. Egawa was not the C.O. during the navy reign as he was only a Petty O, 2nd class which is equivalent to our cpl. However, he was the "go-between" between the prisoners and the authorities and had great powers, which may account for the erroneous belief.
5. The actual commanding officers were:
  - Oct '42 - Mar '43 Denkichi Orito, Chief Petty O.  
Kagoshima-Ken Kumage Gun Nakatane Machi Sakai 317
  - Mar '43 - Nov '43 Fukuichi Watanabe, Chief Petty O  
Oita-Ken
  - Oct or Nov (not clear) '43 - Apr '44 Uichi Ikegami, Army 2nd Lt  
Home believed to be in Kumamoto, Kyushu, Japan
6. Enclosed is the list of naval personnel at camp 18B. I will attempt to find and interrogate one of list, Tokuo Fukuta. Respectfully submit that should prosecution wish to contact any of the others on the list, that they be called into Tokyo as limitations of time and amount of work to be accomplished is prohibitive of more time being spent on this one camp.
7. Investigation of Camp 24, Tanomoto, Kyushu, Japan produced insufficient evidence to make out a prima facie case of any type. No leads were developed so I consider the investigation of this camp closed.
8. The complete formal reports of both 18B and 24 await the printing of pictures.

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

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