RESTRICTED

YUJI NAKAMURA, having been duly sworn at the Area Headquarters Office, Allied Occupation Forces, Moji, Kyushu, Japan, on the 21st Day of January, 1946, testified as follows:

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

A. My name is YUJI NAKAMURA, I am 59 years old, I live at Number 4 of Number 6, 5 Chome, Mishi-machi, Tobata city, Kyushu, Japan, and I am Japanese.

Q. Will you be at that address for the next two or three months?

A. Yes.

Q. What is your present occupation?

A. I am an interpreter for the Yawata Steel Mills, at Yawata, Japan.

Q. What did you do during the war?

A. At the outbreak of the war between the United States, and Japan, I was employed in the office of the Consulate-General in Harbin, Manchuria, and I was interned with the rest of the members of that office, both American and other nationals employed there, and stayed with them in internment camp at Harbin until the first of June of the following year, when they left Harbin, I was then dismissed officially from their employ. I left Harbin late in July of 1942, and arrived in Tokyo early in August of the same year. I was unemployed for some time, and took a test as a military interpreter on the 20th of February 1943, and was appointed as an interpreter on the 23rd of August, 1945. I arrived in Fukuoka Base Camp Headquarters late in August, and was sent to POW Camp 4 at Moji, Kyushu, Japan, starting work there on the first of September, 1943. I stayed there until the second of April, 1945. Then I was transferred to POW Camp 3, of the Fukuoka POW Headquarters, at the city of Kokura, Kyushu, Japan. I stayed there until the 21st of September, 1945, when the camp was dissolved. Then I was employed as an interpreter at the Yawata Steel Works, Yawata, Kyushu, Japan, which job I still hold.

Q. Will you tell me in your own words of the conditions at POW Camp Number 4?

A. Captain Seito, who was in charge when I came to POW camp 4, was a peculiar person. Some days he would be very good, and then on the other days he would be very cross. Some days he would forbid the guards from beating the POW, then on other days he would approve of such beatings. But with his consent of not, it was custom of the guards to beat the POW. The Japanese soldiers and civilian guards would not ordinarily beat the POW in my presence, and the only time that I was an eyewitness to a gross inhumanity was in the case of a beating administered by Sergeant YOSHIKATSU MIYAWAKI. I did not live at the camp itself, and most of the beatings occurred after SAITO, and I had left the camp, when the POW came home from their work sites.

Towards the close of 1945 or early 1944, Sergeant YOSHIKATSU MIYAWAKI caught English POW Marshall (permanently working as a cobbler at the camp) in the act of secretly cooking several small potatoes and sent for me to interpret in the examination of the offender. Marshall said he had picked up the potatoes as they were lying loose on the ground between the Japanese office building and the store-house. Marshall admitted that he had not acted against the regulations and politely apologized, bowing and saying in Japanese language that I Had taught him; “WATAKUSHI-GA WARUGOGA IMASHITA”. Meaning: “I am sorry that I have done wrong”. Sergeant MIYAWAKI would not let him go but on the contrary called the chief POW cook MacVince, also an English POW, and Lt. Mitchell English, who was then the orderly officer for the POW, and also another POW whose name I have completely forgotten. MIYAWAKI held these latter three jointly responsible for the theft by Marshall, MacVince being scolded for careless keeping of potatoes, and Mitchell for not keeping stricter watch over the prisoners’ conduct. Then Sgt. MIYAWAKI made the four prisoners line up in the cobbler’s room and shouting “KONCHIKUSHO!” (a Japanese swear) picked up a piece of wood which happened to lie on the floor, and vigorously beat the four accused several times on their left cheeks. The piece of wood was about 12 inches long, three inches wide, and two inches thick. Strangely, Lt. Mitchell was the most seriously beaten. Blood gushed out from his nostrils as well as from his swollen cheek. His eyes seemed to open wider and wider. He gasped. But he endured the pain most heroically. At last he swayed forward, and was on the verge of falling, but stood back with an admirable courage. MIYAWAKI was so enraged that I was myself terrified to stop him. Then he shouted in Japanese, “Go the medical room for treatment!” As far as I remember, the three men other than Mitchell were not so injured as to need medical care, but all the four hurried to the medical room. I did not go with them as MIYAWAKI asked me to return to the office, but I later was told that the four prisoners were again beaten by medical Sergeant-Major TANIGUCHI in the medical room from not knocking on the door before entering.

At least ten times during my stay in POW Camp Number 4, (Captain SAITO was the commandant at all this time), I saw with my own eyes that prisoners would be, by way of punishment, ordered to prostrate themselves face downward on the ground, and support their body on two hands and toes only. The length of the time of the punishment was more of less than one hour usually. When the Japanese Sergeant was satisfied that the prisoners were unable to stand the ordeal any longer, he would release them usually after slapping them on the face. The Japanese civilian employees did this as well as the Japanese non-commissioned officers, but I cannot remember either the punishers or the punished, buy I have no doubt that YAGI and IKEDA (Both civilian employees) among others, did this to the prisoners, because I saw them doing the act with my own eyes. This usually happened in the evening when they returned from their working places to the camp, and the reason given for punishment was usually trivial and abstract, mostly not work punishment according to the general judgment of common sense. Some of the reasons were, “This man was very idle during the work”; “This man said he was sick, when he was not”’ etc.

Almost all the Japanese there at the camp used to slap the prisoners in the face, with their bare hands. This was a very usual happening at Camp Number 4, so much so that I remember the names of the Japanese that did not do this. Those who did not do this were Sergeants KEITARO ODA, INO, and MASAICHI HARADA and civilian employee MASAO NAGAMATSU. Commandant SAITO also did not beat the POW, but he would push, with his hand, a POW on the chest, when he (SAITO) was angry.

Three or four days before Christmas 1944, Commandant Captain SAITO called me to act as an interpreter. British Flight Officer FOOT, who was the senior officer and representative of the prisoners offered as a present to the Commandant and Japanese N.C.O.’s, in appreciation of their care taken of the prisoners, a number of Red Cross parcels. To the surprise of FOOT, and myself, SAITO became very angry and cried: “We do not ask for any favor from you prisoners!” “We will take anything freely if we wanted it. If you think that these Red Cross supplies belonged to you, you are totally mistaken. You should remember that these supplies are all conveyed here in Japanese ships which we need badly for our own military purposes elsewhere. Therefore we are entitled to dispose of these supplies freely of our own will. You POW are not in the position of making any presents to us!” FOOT smiled in an indescribably way, and apologized for his offer if he had hurt SAITO’s feelings, and retired.

A few days later, it was on Christmas Eve, it was brought to SAITO’s notice that POW were complaining about the way SAITO released the Red Cross food to them. They contended that each prisoners was entitled to one complete box of food, while SAITO gave the food our partly, and little by little on the plan that prisoners eating all the food at once would damage their health. Upon hearing the POW complaint, SAITO got angry again, and ordered the Red Cross consignments to be taken out to the open ground in front of the Camp building, and all the contents taken out of their containers -- boxes, cans, bags, etc. He then ordered the prisoners to consume all of the food so taken out in the one day of the December 25th. He added that if the prisoners spoiled their health from over-feeding no medical care would be given to them, and that any remainder of the food not consumed during the day would be thrown away in the ditches. I do not know just how much the POW ate on Christmas day, but such things tea, coffee, cigarettes, and soap were concealed in cupboards, drawers, and corners. This act was not discovered by SAITO as he did not care to see the result personally. He seemed to be satisfied with the “lesson” he had given the prisoners.

The subject of personal punishment was a matter of discussion very often. The instruction from the Tokyo Headquarters was that personal punishment, given by guards of their own free will and not a matter of laws and regulations was strictly forbidden, simply and without assumption, but SAITO gave his own interpretation of the instruction, which was rather ambiguous and left room for flexibility in practical application. I maintained that the Tokyo instruction meant that punishment should be administered only in accordance with laws and regulations, but SAITO said that personal punishment of the POW by the guards, was punishment that was done without permission of the camp commander, or at least of the orderly officer (Japanese) in case of a minor offense. In other words, SAITO defined that no non-commissioned officers except the orderly officer, the privates or civilian guards, should administer personal punishment of the POW without the permission of the Commandant or the Orderly Officer. In the meantime, cases of serious brutality were reported to the Prisoner Headquarters and several times warnings against brutality were issued from Fukuoka Base Camp Headquarters to every branch camp, not from any humanitarian consideration, but for the reason that bodily injuries caused loss of labor of the prisoners. Each time such instructions came, SAITO would assemble the non-commissioned officers and myself into his room and give instructions accordingly. It was on such occasions that discussion arose as to the practical application of the instructions. Twice on such occasions British Flight Officer FOOT was instructed by SAITO to submit reports on areas? of personal punishment through him. Reports came in almost every day, which I translated and presented to SAITO who questioned the responsible Japanese not to repeat personal punishment in the future. But the results were contrary to expectations. The more reprimands that SAITO gave, the more cross the civilian employees became toward the prisoners. All the civilian guards were ex-servicemen who had been injured at the front. They used to mistreat the prisoners partly by way of retaliation for their own bodily injuries received from the POW compatriots. **--Rest of page illegible--**

this step, but decided to do so from the realistic point of view. The result was far from satisfying as personal punishments went on, but at least it was better than the situation under continued reporting of these incidents, if anything.

In the meantime, SAITO was busying himself in what we called “Black marketing” for his own personal interest and remained indifferent about what happened between the Japanese camp staff personnel, and the POW. He had less time for official attention. SAITO’s policy was always changing. He acted upon occasional impulse. He was very queer always. Sometimes he was very kind, but at other times he became very cross. As far as the Japanese camp staff personnel was concerned they felt quite at home in the camp because SAITO spent more of his time “trading” with outsiders. He employed POW in digging an air-raid shelter for a Japanese medical store, and in exchange would procure alcohol which was very scarce. I do not know the details of his trading. We let him alone.

Q. What do you know of the food ration given to the POW?

A. Men that were doing hard work outside of the camp, were supposed to be given 705 grams of rice a day or its substitutes. The substitutes were usually “Kaoliang” a kind of Italian millet, or corn imported from Manchuria. In peacetime the “Kaoliang” was imported to Japan to feed horses. At the camp the men that were doing lighter work, or were sick, were not given the same amount of food, but a lesser amount. The men that went to work outside the camp, took along a lunch consisting of about three or four rice cakes. Soup was sent out to them later from the camp kitchen. In addition, after the work was over, I think, the company would also send to the workers two or three rice cakes. I often heard the prisoners complain that the Japanese or Koreans that brought these to the POW had stolen some of them. Some of the weaker POW hid their illness in order to get that extra food that came with doing the heavier work outside of the camp. The soup at first was made of meat, fish, and vegetables. Later on meat, and fish got scarce, and so the soup was made up mostly of vegetables, such as cabbages, squash, sprouts, and radishes. I do not know what the POW got for breakfast or supper.

Q. How was the POW barracks heated?

A. They had a wooden brazier using charcoal, about three or four feet square, only one on each floor. The fire was kept only at night, not during the daytime. During the wintertime the POW had five or six blankets. POW that were sick, and confined in the barracks rather than sent to the hospital, were not given any additional blankets.

Q. How were the POW barracks lighted at night?

A. The officers quarters in the building taken over late in the war that was next to the main POW barracks, a former Y.M.C.A. building, had a single light in the large room used to house the officers, and the POW barracks used formerly by both officers and enlisted men, and later only by enlisted men, had but one or two lights on each floor. It was very dimly lighted at all times, even before the air-raids began.

Q. Where was the POW hospital and dispensary?

A. In the autumn of 1944, a separate building for a hospital was first obtained. It was across the street from the camp gate in the building which until then was the camp office building, which office was moved at that time into a building adjacent to the Y.M.C.A. building. Also rented at this time for the use of the POW camp was a Japanese church building, which was also adjacent to the camp Y.M.C.A. building. The latter building is the one mentioned above as housing the officers, and the camp mess hall. Before this time, the men ate on a part of the ground floor not used as bed space, at some tables and benches there.

Also, up to this time, except for one room set aside for POW by the name of Maloney, sick POW were kept in their own beds.

Q. What were the names of the hospital personnel, both Japanese and POW?

A. At first there was a 2nd Lt. TOZO MAEKAWA, who was replaced by 1st Lt. ATSUSHI AZUMA. At first there was a Sergeant-Major TANIGUCHI, who was replaced by Corporal MASAICHI TERADA, about the spring of 1944, Private SAKAGAMI was there almost all the time, but in the last part of the war by KIYOAGI UENO in the autumn of 1944. A civilian MORIO INOUYE also worked there all the time that I was at the camp. A British lieutenant BARCLAY, a United States Navy Pharmacist’s Mate DAUL, and a Dutch lieutenant, DOPPERT, assisted by a British medical orderly HOLTHAM, and an American orderly LEVY.

Q. Tell me more about this patient MALONEY.

A. About Maloney, the British prisoner. According to records, he was supposed to have been injured on his backbone in June 1943, and died in March 1944. He had his back broken while working somewhere in Kokura, I was told. He was lying motionless in bed in the small room at the farthest end of the Y.M.C.A. building. The lower end of his body was insensible. The little room stunk badly, although care was taken to keep the window open. The smell came from his decayed back owing to his lying in bed for such a long time. He himself was insensible of his rotten flesh on his back. He know but he did not feel the pain. Each time that I visited him, I found him rather more cheerful than any person would be under similar circumstances. To my cheering, he would smile, and gave little complaint. I must not forget to mention in this connection the British orderly, whose name I think was LEVY, who devoted all of his time and energy in looking after MALONEY, so much so that I nicknamed him Mr. Nightingale. But to have such a patient in our camp, was a nuisance to others, to say nothing of the absurdity of the welfare of the patient himself. He was receiving only nursing attention. No care was taken for cure. Perhaps his case was decided hopeless from the medical point of view. Requests were made by SAITO and medical Lt. MAEKAWA to transfer MALONEY to the sick rooms in POW Camp 3 in Kokura or to the Army Hospital in the same town, but always in vain, for reasons that I do not know. I learned later, however, that the Fukuoka Base Camp Headquarters was planning to establish a large hospital for all the sick POW, and that the Fukuoka Commander-in-chief, Colonel Sugazawa, was traveling from time to time to choose a suitable site for the proposed hospital. In any case, poor MALONEY remained here in the Moji camp until his death. Poor MALONEY: I know that he was receiving letter from home very often, his family consisting of his wife and two children, a girl and boy, and each time he was permitted to write home, he would never touch on his own health. His post cards always contained nice and affectionate words other than concerning health.

Q. What percentage, or how many POW were treated for their illnesses at the Kokura Army Hospital?

A. I don’t know of any POW that was transferred away from POW Camp Number 4, that went to the Kokura Army Hospital, or any other hospital.

Q. Tell me of the working sites and hours of the POW.

A. The POW were listed as always working at two places, the NYAKU KAISHA, and its subsidiary, the SOTOHAMA KUMIAI. They did not always work at these places though, as noted above. Both of these companies are part of the KANMON Stevedoring Company. When others were a lot of ships in the harbor, more of the POW worked at the NYAKU KAISHA, loading and unloading THOSE ships. But when there were not so many ships in the harbor, more of the POW worked at the SOTOHAMA KUMIAI, in the warehouses.

The working hours of the POW differed according to the places of work, and the season. The prisoners were divided into two parts for work, namely the Ship, and the ENGAN, or shore party. Every evening, at the time of roll-call, the personal numbers of the POW that were scheduled to work at the ship and at the Engan party would be called by the POW orderly officer. This ship party would leave the camp at about 6:30 a.m. and reach the ships at anchor by a ferry boat from the wharf near the Stevedore Company, and usually the actual work of loading and unloading would begin at 8:00 a.m. They finished their work at 5:00 p.m. and reached the camp at about 6:00 p.m. This was the summer schedule. In the winter they left at 7:00 a.m. and came back about 6:30 p.m.

The departure and return of the Engan party were at the same times, but they left after the departure of the Ship party. The Engan party walked some 15 minutes to and from the camp and the shore, where they engaged in conveying good in and out of the storehouses.

Q. What do you know of the disposal of the POW dead?

A. The bodies of the POW dead were cremated at the Moji city crematory at Maruyama-machi, and the ashes returned to the camp in individual boxes, and were kept there until the summer of 1944, when I helped count and list them, and sent then to a temple that was nearby the camp. That was the last time that I saw the ashes.

Q. How often were POW allowed to write home?

A. Officers were permitted to write twice in three months, and others were permitted to do so once in three months.

Q. Do you have anything further to add to your statement?

A. No.

Yuji Nakamura

YUJI NAKAMURA

I, YUJI NAKAMURA , having been duly sworn on oath, state that I have read and fully understand the foregoing transcription of my interrogation, consisting of 6 pages; that the following answers to the several questions set forth are true to the best of my knowledge and belief:

Yuji Nakamura

YUJI NAKAMURA

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 21st day of January, 1946

MOJI, KYUSHU, JAPAN Charles Ramey

CHARLES V. RAMEY, 1st Lt. CE

Investigating Officer

Legal Section, CHQ, SCAP