

CHECK LIST

W.M.

1. Date of your arrival at Sumatra

October 8, 1944

2. Please state its exact location if possible, or if this cannot be done, please describe its location with reference to other cities or prominent land marks.

Jakan Basol approximately 165 kilometers up river on east coast of Sumatra & west of Singapore.

3. When was camp first occupied by prisoners of war? Were the first occupants Americans, British, Dutch or Australians?

(A) Work on this rail-road started early in 1942. All camps were temporary. (B) Was first occupied by Dutch Javanese.

4. Number of Americans in your group and name of senior American officers.

15 Americans, No officers, I was senior rank

5. Please give figures on personnel in this camp to the best of your knowledge. Your own group should be included in these figures.

Americans	18	13	British	3000
Army	1	1	Dutch	4500
Navy	1	1	Australians	incl. in British
Marines	2	2	Chinese	0
Civilians	9	9	Any other nationality	6
m.m.			Belgian	1
			Total	7519 approx.

about 9 camps along the rail road.

6. Names and titles of Japanese camp officials.

7. Please describe the condition of the following facilities:

a. Size of compound and type of fence. Size of camp varied according to terrain & jungle. For 1000 men or more approx. 1/2 city block.

b. Housing

1. Number of barracks. 16 barracks for 1000 men or more

2. Size of barracks. About 100 feet by 18 feet

Each man had bed space of 18" X 6" or smaller.

See other side for names

SUMATRA RR CAMPS

1. Lt Sjt M. J. Harvelson, 20812823 F.A. through.
2. Cpl William Miller - Fleet Marine off the USS Houston sunk Mar 1, 1942 between Java and Sumatra.
3. Pvt Jack Winters - Marine Corps - off the USS Houston
4. 1st officer Hickey off merchant ship - American Leader
5. 3rd off. Duffy " " "
6. Boatman S.E. Gropki " " "  
1105 Park ave. Racine Wisconsin
7. Seaman <sup>1st</sup> Parejko. Naval reserve off gun crew on m.s. American leader.
8. Carl H. Kallach - M.S. American Leader  
San. Del. Rockland, Maine.
9. Frank Patocka - American leader
- <sup>Deceased</sup> 10. Bill Honey Merchant Marine off m.s. Hempwick
- <sup>Deceased</sup> 11. Alberts and Cook off m.s. American leader
- <sup>Deceased</sup> 12. Steve Pepich - American leader
13. 1st Engineer Pat Paris - M.S. American Leader
- 14.
- 15.

8. Type of work performed by prisoners of war.

a. Officers

Camp Administration & Kitchens

<sup>other</sup>  
<sup>did not</sup>  
Enlisted men

Jungle excavation, Bridge building  
grading & Rail construction, Reinforcement Blk

9. What were the working conditions?

Worked rain or shine from  
about 5 am to 9 pm, or later if necessary to finish detail.  
Had to do a task of so much & more jobs each day.

10. Describe the conditions and restrictions on the sending and receiving of mail.

one card per 4 months. Not regular.  
could send 2 words down writing as per Jap restrictions

11. How much were the prisoners of war paid?

a. Officers

\$25 per month

b. Enlisted men

NCO 1.50 per day if you were able to work  
Other Ranks 1.00 " " " " worked

12. Number of Red Cross parcels received and dates received.

1 from Mom Mother through F.R.C. Feb 1944

1 " R. Red Cross May 1944

13. Clothing situation

a. What was issued by the Japanese and dates.

2 small hand towels  
Oct 1942 11 May 1943. 1 mosquito net May 1943

14. How was your treatment?

Starvation & hard work with  
long hours with occasional beatings for not understanding  
the Jap. language & not knowing what to do on work detail.

15. How was morale?

fairly good.

16. What were the religious facilities?

Had to be searched in  
most camps.

17. Date of departure from this camp:

19 Sept. 1945.

18. Number of Americans in this group?

12

19. Conditions en route and names of towns through which you passed.

Good  
conditions, Singapore, Saigon, Bangkok, Rangoon &  
Calcutta, Madras, Cebu, Manila, Casa Blanca,  
Azores, Bermuda, New Foundland, and New York, N.Y.

I traveled all the way by Plane.

J.C. Supply hauling, mechanics auto & Blacksmith.

There were numerous details done by the men such as gardening, tool repair, and any small detail that the Japs could think of like cutting lawns with pocket knives or small scissors.

20. Destination. U.S.A.

21. A rough sketch of the camp's lay-out showing the approximate size of the buildings. Please make sketch on reverse side of check list,

22. Name, rank and address of other officers or enlisted men who can furnish information concerning this prisoner of war camp.

Cpl. William H. Miller ~~1st~~ <sup>1st</sup> Prairie Corps. Gen. Del. Mobile, Ala.  
Merchant Marine Boatman - L.E. Foski 1105 Park Ave  
Racine Wisconsin. (Has very good memory & can give info. in detail)  
(Allied Commanding Officers were this Commander Davis of 82<sup>nd</sup> A.S.D.  
parade - Singapore pre-war. - English) - Has full info on all camps.

23. Your name, rank, serial number, organization and home address.  
M.A. (Po.) Tavelson, 1st Sgt. 20813823, F.A. 4<sup>th</sup> Regt.  
Home address 2111 Shepard St. Wichita Falls, Texas  
Old organization was 1st Sgt. 2nd Br. 131st F.A.

IF THIS FORM DOES NOT CONTAIN SUFFICIENT ROOM USE REVERSE SIDES.

NOTE: Any other information which in your opinion will be of interest to this office should be placed on the reverse side of the check list.

Lady Mountbatten ~~was~~ of British St John's  
Ambulance Corps was C.O. in charge of  
evacuation of allied P.W.s of Sumatra.

*Wray*  
If you will send me a Detail Map of Sumatra  
I will endeavor to sketch the approx.  
location of the rail road.

Between ~~200~~<sup>203</sup> thousand of the 7500 died  
from, Beriberi, Malnutrition, Dysentery,  
Malaria, Ulcers, <sup>4</sup>Non yellow etc.

3 American Merchant Marines died.  
(A) 2nd Lt. Albert of American leader.  
(B) Dave Fekich - American leader  
(C) Bill Posey <sup>M.S.</sup> Thompsonville.

#2 Camp 3 miles from  
Pekan Barul. Base Camp.

Top of  
Road  
Gate  
to

Water for kitchen

Bathing  
Stream

Stream

washing  
clothes

if you had any

Keep  
Peanut

mess  
mess

P. H. L. L.  
mess

Kitchen

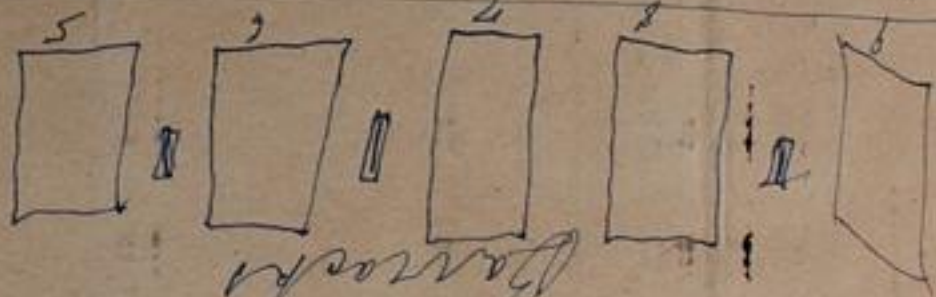


Officers

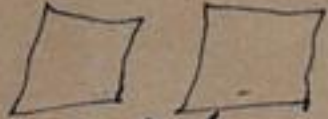
small amount of  
wood for  
logs

Tools  
Cupboard  
Larder

Road



Barracks



3. Type of construction Bamboo & thatch.

4. Type of roof thatch of palm tree leaves

5. Type of floor dirt

6. Type of interior construction see reverse side of sheet for diagram

c. Latrines trench latrines

1. Location In camp compound on opposite side from kitchen & near barracks.

2. Type Dit trenches.

d. Bathing or ponds fed by jungle springs

1. Location Stream or river near camp  
Some camps had streams very near others 1/2 mile away.

2. Type ponds, streams or rivers

3. Size varied, some were small ponds others small streams & others large rivers.

e. Mess

1. Type Central cook house - fed at by barracks

2. Amount of food daily  
Rice 300 grams, Tapioca 80 grams

3 tea spoons of catla leaf (leafy vegetable) twice a week - 2 tea spoons of meat from intestine, head & bones of buffalo.

3. Preparation cooked in iron kettles or large oil drums. very little seasoning.

4. Quality Very poor.

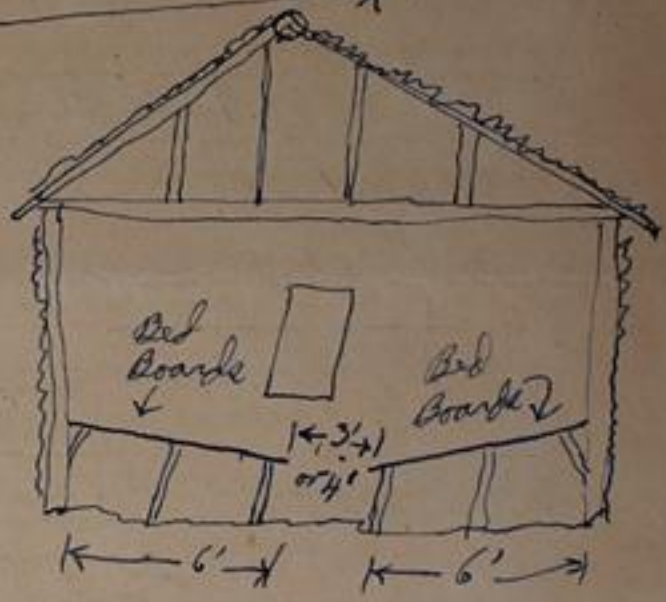
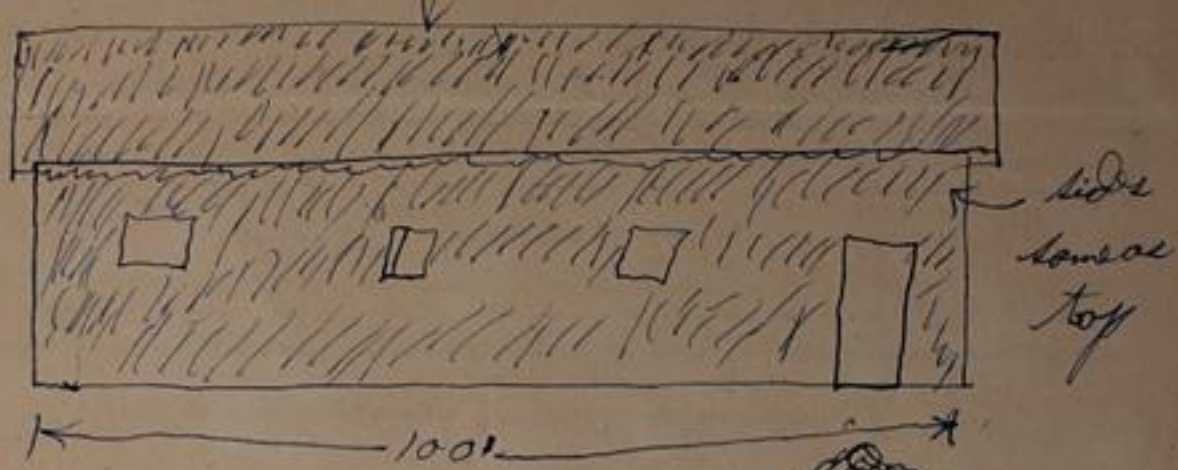
f. Medical attention and type of hospital. Had some at barracks.

Had medicines self made by doctors from jungle herbs, leaves, chaps from rice called beduk, and very small Dag issue of Blue of Vitriol.

Pau Pau seeds dried for stomach ach also carry make

Char Coal for gaseous pain.

top thatch or that





3

Ref: EHe

List No. C/175  
(Civilian List)

Nationality: AMERICAN

Camp: Sumatra

List No. C. 175

AMERICAN CIVILIANS INTERNED

3 names

- DIT - INTERCROIXOUGE GENET

NO. OCCUPATION

AMERICAN CIVILIANS INTERNED IN  
C/175 SUMATRA TOKURYUSYONI SYUYO

KAKINOTORI TUFYOSU SIMKI AMELIA  
2 United Press

JOURNALIST WILLIAM HENRY MCDUGALL JUNIOR 1909 UNITED PRESS JOURNALIST  
Correspondent

WAR CORRESPONDENT ERIC H. GERMAN 1913 BREWER GERMAN 1913  
3 Brewer ERIC H.

HURYOZYOHOKYOKU

- E N D -

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R.T.P.

- DIT - INTERCROIXROUGE GENEVE

*AMERICAN CIVILIANS INTERNED IN THE SUMATRA INTERNMENT CAMP*      *3 NAMES*  
C/175 | SUMATRA YOKURYUSYONI SYUYOTYUNO BEIKOKUZIN SANMEI YOKURYUSYA MEIBO  
*DATE OF BIRTH*      *OCCUPATION*  
KAKINOTORI TUTYOSU | SIMEI AMELIA WILSON HYER WYBRO SRINEN 1909 SYOKUOYO  
JOURNALIST WILLIAM HENRY MCDUGALL JUNIOR 1909 UNITED PRESS JOURNALIST  
WAR CORRESPONDENT ERIC H. GERMANN 1913 BREWER

HURYOZYOHOKYOKU

3  
Ref: ENe

List No. C. 175

AMERICAN CIVILIANS INTERNED IN THE SUMATRA INTERNMENT CAMP

<u>NO.</u>	<u>OCCUPATION</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>YEAR OF BIRTH</u>
1	Journalist	AMELIA WILSON HYER	WYBRO 1909
2	United Press Journalist War Correspondent	WILLIAM HENRY	MCDUGALL JUNIOR 1909
3	Brewer	ERIC H.	GERMANN 1913

- E N D -

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NO. 46  
34.10.44 - 1.11.44

R.T.P.

- DLT - INTERCROIXROUGE GENEVE

*AMERICAN CIVILIANS INTERNED IN THE SUMATRA INTERNMENT CAMP*

C/235	SUMATRA	YOKURYUSYOKI <i>5 NAMES</i>	SYUYOTYUNO
BEIKOKUZIN	YOKURYUSYA	ROKUMBINO	MIIBO
KAKINOTORI	TUTYOSU	SIMEI	EE
PROBSTFIELD	SEINEN	1901	SYOKUGYO
FORESTER ✓	V	MADSEN	1912
ACCOUNTANT ✓	AV	KLAUS	1887
MISSIONARY ✓	WE	CAKE	1897
CHEMIST ✓	L	SMITH	1873
NONE ✓	JL	TOBEY	1894
PLANTER ✓			

HURYOZYOHOKYOKU

b  
Ref: ENe.

List No. C. 235

AMERICAN CIVILIANS INTERNED IN THE SUMATRA INTERNMENT CAMP

<u>NO.</u>	<u>OCCUPATION</u>		<u>NAME</u>	<u>YEAR OF BIRTH</u>
1	Forester	E.E.	PROBSTFIELD	1901
2	Accountant	V.	MADSEN	1912
3	Missionary	A.V.	KLAUS	1887
4	Chemist	W.E.	CAKE	1897
5	None	L.	SMITH	1873
6	Planter	J.L.	TOBEY	1894

- E N D -

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