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n TO READERS OF THIS REPORT

As the Senior Officer in Kobe Camp for almost the whole period to date and because, since January 1943, I have lived in the office in association with Major A.C. Houghton, R.E., I feel, I have no need to apologize for butting in; but consider it my duty to say a few words, particularly, in connection with this report.

That all the statements are true, I can vouch for: they are modestly under, rather than over stated, so that if the reader reads between the lines, that is, I am sure, what Major Houghton intends him to do. They represent much argument and anxiety relieved with bursts of joy at successes.

Major Houghton realized that, in order to improve our conditions, our case had to be presented in the best possible light with a maximum of tactfulness and he took on the task; accidentally, in the first place as it happened, through being the senior British officer in the Camp at the time, even to the extent of gaining some knowledge of the language. This he was able to put to good use in someone's interest on many occasions. He has rightly paid tribute to the outstanding services rendered to the Camp in this respect by Cpl. F.M. Hoblitt of the United States Marine Corps.

His office was always open and he took the greatest delight in dealing with the smallest matter personally, so that none knew better than he what was going on.

Again, he had a flair for picking the right man for a job, of which the outstanding example was P.O. Flynn, R.N. as Wardmaster of the Hospital. Also he has given credit where it is due, which is only what I should expect of him.

Moreover, it must not be assumed that he was a fit man. For the greater part of the time



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he had Beri-beri, although he was able to keep on top of it with periodical treatment.

I know that he personally felt all punishment and each death: but with little comment at the time, although, incidentally, quite a few owed the lightness of their punishment to his efforts. He would proceed with the work in hand, which was probably some scheme for the Camp's welfare and he eventually gathered around him a staff who were stedfastly loyal.

I hope, in due course, to be able to bring Major Houghton's services to the notice of the United States Government; but, in the meantime, on behalf of the American Officers and men in Kobe P.O.W. Camp, I take this opportunity in thanking Major A.C. Houghton for his efforts in making prison life as bearable as possible under trying conditions.

During the early days of Kobe Camp, the Nipponese handled all administration; but through continued requests by Major Houghton, the work was gradually handed over to our office.

Also food was very short during the early days, as were medicines and these items too were finally gained through the persistent aggressive-ness of Major Houghton. We were eventually able to purchase fruit, additional cigarettes sauces etc., which helped our meagre ration considerably at this time.

By the year 1944, all work pertaining to the running of the Camp has been turned over to Major Houghton's office, this included administration, discipline, canteen purchases, assignment of working places for the men and changing of men from one job to the other without the usual request through the Nipponese Office. These are, among others, a few of the items Major Houghton had been fighting for over the past two years.

At the present time (January 1945) Major Houghton has complete charge of the Camp and is acknowledged as the Camp Commandant by all prisoners as well as our Nipponese Staff.

This has been a most difficult and thankless job and he should be commended for the way in which he put forward every effort to make the Camp as pleasant as possible. After Major Houghton gained the con-



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confidence of the Nipponese Staff, things in the Camp improved steadily.

I have seen this camp of six hundred and sixty two men gain in health, morale and spirits, largely through the continued efforts of Major Houghton by way of purchasing musical instruments, organized concerts in the Camp, and programmes over the Public Address System.

Again, the Americans thank Major Houghton for his efforts in making the Camp a better place to live in.

*J. W. Sullivan*

Lieutenant Colonel,  
United States Army, ( G.S.C. ).



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FOREWORD

By Major R.A. Campbell A.I.F.

On 8th June 1943 a party of 250 A.I.F. P.W's, under the command of Lt.Col. L.F. Byrnes C.A.A.S.C. 8th Aust Div., arrived in Kebe Camp ex Changi, Singapore Island. On 31st July 1943 Lt.Col. Byrnes was transferred to the Officers' Camp at Zentsuji, leaving me in charge of the A.I.F. contingent.

The party on leaving Changi had comprised 300 all ranks, mainly aged or convalescent troops, and had been promised by the Nipponese authorities, accommodation in a convalescent camp under better conditions than those existing in Changi. Fifty of the party, consisting of those who were most sick on arrival in Nippon, were separated from the main party, and are understood to be in a camp in Meiji.

On arrival in Kebe Camp it became immediately apparent that, not only in the matter of accommodation, but also in atmosphere, the camp compared most unfavourably with previous P.W. camps of which we had experience. Whereas elsewhere treatment had been strict, it conformed to the formula which might reasonably be expected by honourable P.W's who had played the game according to rules and lost. In Kebe Camp we were treated as convicted felons who had forfeited the right to live, and could thank our "lucky stars" and the clemency of the enemy, that we were allowed to live even according to Kebe Camp standards.

In spite of the fact that the A.I.F. comprised slightly more than 1/3rd of the camp strength, neither then or at any time since, have the Nipponese given any recognition of my status as senior officer of the A.I.F., and indeed refused my written application dated 22nd Nov. 1943 for A.I.F. representation on the Camp Administrative Staff. Eventually, on 1st May 1944, Lieut. F. Pringle A.I.F. was appointed nominally to act as Camp Adjutant, and since that date has done his best to represent A.I.F. interests.

In consequence of the Nipponese attitude it was necessary for me to deal through Major A.C. Houghton R.E., the Camp Administrative Commandant, in matters relating to A.I.F. troops. It would be useless to deny that my efforts, and the efforts of the other Australian officers on behalf of the A.I.F. have on occasions brought me into conflict of opinion with Major Houghton. This has been brought about mainly by the fact that we held diametrically opposed views, particularly with regard to relations with the Nipponese authorities:

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Major Houghton favouring the principle of "peaceful penetration", whereas my experience in three other prison camps (Timor, N.E.I., Batavia, and Changi, in two of which I held administrative positions) had led me to believe that a more aggressive policy was productive of better results.

Over a period of twenty months conditions have gradually improved in all respects, and at the moment approximate to those which one would reasonably expect for the honourable treatment of P.W.'s. Whether, in fact, a more aggressive policy would have accelerated this improvement in conditions, and whether the independent action adopted on occasions by Australian officers has accelerated or retarded such improvement, can only be a matter of opinion.

Mention must here be made of the excellent work done by Pl. F.M. Heblitt, U.S. Marines who, until his transfer from this camp on 19th June 1944, acted in a liaison capacity as "Connecting File" between P.W.'s and Nipponese authorities. Owing to his good offices and command of the Nipponese language, I was able on many occasions to negotiate directly with members of the Nipponese staff in relation to matters affecting the A.I.F.

I would like also to refer to the excellent work done under the most adverse conditions by Captain C.R. Beyce A.A.M.C., Pl/Lieut. R. Wilson R.A.F., and C.P.O. Flynn R.N., together with their staff in the camp hospital.

The life of a P.W., and in particular the mental aspect, under the conditions which have prevailed in Kebe Camp, must be experienced to be understood, and it would be impossible to convey to an outsider the atmosphere of a life in which there is no escape from one's fellow men, except perhaps during the hours of sleep - a life in which one eats, sleeps, and has one's being in a circumscribed area of approximately 20 square feet.

Under these circumstances it is small wonder that occasions frequently arise in which clashes of opinion occur, and criticisms, frequently unjust, are plentiful.

It is under such circumstances that Major Houghton has worked for a period of over two years, and the thanks of all ranks are due for efforts towards the welfare of the camp in general, and in particular for these matters affecting the A.I.F. in which his cooperation was forthcoming.

*R. Campbell*

Major

2 I/c 2/40 Battalion

Senior Officer A.I.F. Kebe



FOREWORD

By Captain C.R. Boyce A.A.M.C.

Coming as a party of strangers to a strange land, to an already established camp, we were for long a voice crying in the wilderness. Slowly, and after monotonous reiteration, it became generally recognized, as truth always will eventually, that our Australian party consisted of convalescents, with a sprinkling of prematurely old men, and amenities were provided in extra light work jobs, both in and out doors.

Medical difficulties were experienced in abundance, and it was heartbreaking to watch patients die, and to be unable to give them adequate or suitable medicines, or food. Impatient too, in being unable to keep patients in who were too sick to go to work: many went out with fever, and even with incipient pneumonia. Gradually however, I was able to assume some authority, and to instal a routine of sick parades and hospital management.

Our first winter in Japan approached, and after long residence in the tropics our blood was in no state to withstand cold weather, and troops went down like flies to influenza, pleurisy and pneumonia. The few medicines and invalid foods we had been able to bring with us from Singapore, administered impartially to the whole camp and yet carefully husbanded, were by now expended except for a little morphia, atrophine, and strychnine, and this combination used hypodermically, literally dragged many a collapsed patient from the jaws of death.

Working hard on sick parades, and as nurses, my staff did heroic work, and we escaped with very few deaths.

Arriving in January, after all Prisoners of War in Kobe camp had benefitted by the issue of cocoa, tinned foods, and Red Cross parcels, Dr. Wilson, young, enthusiastic and inexperienced, carried out my routine with fresh energy and gave me a well-earned rest. Soon after his arrival we obtained an abundance of American medical supplies, and from then on we had very little serious illness and few medical worries.

Changes have occurred in the Nipponese medical staff and each change has been a beneficial one, the ultimate and current result being a smoothly running hospital, with every care and consideration being given to the sick and those injured to work.



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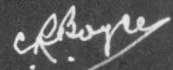
At the present time, working at top pressure and again single-handed (Dr. Wilson having gone in November) I am doing my best to counteract the effects of wholesale influenza, bringing again in its trail pleurisy and pneumonia. This time however, I am not faced with serious medical shortages, and I feel justifiably proud of our total low death rate.

Again I extend my thanks to my staff, and this time I extend these thanks wholeheartedly to the Nipponese medical staff, who show kindness, sympathy and practical help.

Throughout, I have had frequent recourse to appeal to Major Houghton, the Camp Commander, and I can appreciate the difficulties he has had in gaining fulfilment in some of these appeals. Many times have I felt that I would gladly change jobs with anyone in Kebe camp, but his job is one I would except and not accept. Eminently similar, both his job and mine deal with the individual, and with general principles affecting the collective whole, and thus we each come in for little praise and much abuse and ill-feeling.

He carries on unchanging in attitude and policy, through fair weather and foul, and though I have views diametrically opposed to many of his I wish him luck, and add my quota of appreciation to the voluminous and detailed report that he has so labouriously and painstakingly collected and published.

In conclusion, mention must be made of the new factor in our lives - the air raids of ever increasing frequency. We are adequately equipped and organised to render considerable assistance to casualties therefrom.



Captain A.A.M.C.

Kebe House P.O.W. Camp.  
3.2.1945.



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F O R E W O R D

The attached report is intended to be a simple statement of facts, telling their own story, and aiming at giving credit where it is due.

In all my dealings with the Nipponese it was my earnest endeavour, without losing respect, not to antagonize them in any way: to be grateful for even small considerations, and to be always courteous, that they would be impressed with our general attitude and bearing under Prisoner of War conditions, the mental state of which has to be experienced to be realized.

Kobe,  
23rd July, 1944.

*A. H. W.*  
Major, R.F.

Continued to:-  
30th March 1945



KOBE CAMP.

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The camp itself consisted of converted warehouses in the dock area of the city, about one mile from the waterfront. Each of the two buildings contained three large open upper floors with loft in the roof space, and served by two staircases. The window space was that sufficient for its original purpose; but was far below the standard required for living purposes. On the ground floor of one block was a lavatory of the pit type with a certain amount of septic action, necessitating frequent emptying: the food and clothing stores, and an ablution.

The other ground floor contained a similar lavatory, the bath house with showers and a communal bath: an ablution, and the cookhouse. The latter was fitted with ten boilers, sufficient to cook for 600 to 700 men. Taps were provided in each lavatory for washing hands after use. A range of washing troughs and dust and ash bins were provided in the passage leading from one block to the other.

The size of the floors in one block were about 40 by 70 ft., and in the other, about 60 by 70 ft., and the height about 10 ft., excepting the ground floors which were about 20 ft. The Nipponese camp staff occupied a converted private house: one floor of which was used as a hospital, and in a connecting building was the camp office.

Tables with flapped sides ran down between the bed platforms, which were raised about 18" (ins) above the floor, and ample shelving was provided at the head of the beds. All internal construction on the upper floors was of wood, and fire fighting appliances consisting of water troughs, buckets, sand boxes, extinguishers and flails were provided on each floor. A drying flat with clothes lines was provided between the blocks. An officers' room was formed by partitions on the third floor of one of the blocks.

The camp had been prepared for the purpose of housing Ps., of W., and improvements were carried out from time to time. As a warehouse block, no parade facilities existed within, and all parades took place in the street. A large recreation ground was situated across the road; but for various reasons its use could not be sufficiently obtained to be of real value. Cooking was done by coal fires, and lighting by electricity.



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When we entered, all preparations and utensils were new. All windows overlooking streets were completely filled with wooden louvres at first; later the top half of these was removed. Normal methods of heating did not exist. Charcoal braziers were installed on 15.1.43 and removed on 5.3.43. Until then we had been, and felt, mighty cold; as the winter, although not severe, was much colder than that to which most of us had been accustomed. The following year they were installed on 1.1.44 and removed on 1.3.44.

### Arrival at Kobe.

Travelling overnight from Moji, where we had disembarked from the Shinsei Maru, we arrived at Kobe Station, about 500 strong of the 911 who had mustered on the quay at Shanghai, after being picked up and collected from the islands subsequent to the Lisbon Maru's sinking.

Walking along the streets of Kobe, we must have looked a sorry sight; many being very sick and unable to proceed at anything but a very slow pace, and everyone clothed in workmen's suits of corduroy. We were mustered in an open space and addressed by the Camp Commandant, after signing a "declaration not to escape" form.

The scene on the Shinsei Maru due to the effects of dysentery had been indescribable. Of the officers, Col. Stewart, Major Innes, Lieut. Bucke R.S., and myself were the only ones on their feet, which fact was commented on by Major Innes, and we did what we could for the needs of our men. Some had to be left at Shanghai as unable to make the journey, and they went into hospital there. Those who came on, together with those who became sick in the train, formed the lame and sorry part of our bedraggled procession through the city. Immediately on our arrival, we were issued with five new blankets and two eating bowls each, and an evening meal of bread was eaten. In the afternoon, the Adjutant issued orders to Col. Stewart, in my presence, to appoint a weekly Duty N.C.O., giving the times of daily routine: also an order that all orders, troop movements, and salutes would be given in the Nipponese fashion. Col. Stewart asked if that were necessary: the reply was in the affirmative.

This instruction, and the manner of taking Tenko (roll-call) was explained to us during the next few

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days, Tenko being taken morning and evening:

With regard to the Duty officer, the state of health of the officers made the selection one of two, and as Lt. Hilton was more fit than Capt. Weedon, he was the first, the duty to be weekly, on a roster. A Duty N.C.O. was similarly selected, (Bdr. Bowen.) Col. Stewart had discussed matters of staff with me in the train. One of his difficulties was Commdr. Horswell. He would like me to go into the cookhouse, which was important because of the food; but there was also the works side to consider, which was obviously my job. The solution appeared to be to put Cdr. Horswell i/c of the cookhouse, and this was done. Major Innes would be 2 i/c, and after consideration, Lt. Brownlow was appointed his adjutant, this being a personal arrangement, and not an appointment allowed for by the Nipponese at the time.

It was soon clear that Col. Stewart was far from well, and after the first day or two he lay down, asking me to deputize for him at W.O. Jupp's funeral on the first Wednesday we were here. This was a most respectful ceremony, with a priest officiating and Col. Murata paying his last respects. I went to the Crematorium for the brief committal service, and again on the following day to collect the ashes, which one does by picking them up with large chop sticks, and placing them in an urn. Not a pleasant task; but preserving them for proper burial by his relatives, in due course.

Later in the week, Col. Stewart worsened; but before going into hospital he spoke to Lt. Hilton, accompanied by the interpreter Usui, in my presence, about getting his "friend" Usui to speed up action with regard to soap, tooth brushes, toothpowder and towels. He also told Usui that the next Duty officer would be Capt. Weedon of the 1:1:1.

Lt. Hilton told Col. Stewart the he (Lt. Hilton) would be staying on, in addition to Capt. Weedon. Col. Stewart said he did not like the idea, and that Hilton was not to do so, telling me to see this wish was carried out, in the hearing of Lt. Hilton. But Lt. Hilton continued to occupy the bed space provided in the office, and to work under the orders of Usui. Cpl. Hoblitt,



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after his arrival with the American contingent, and after a few days, slept at the other end of the bed space.

Majors Innes and Pitt were already in hospital and were quickly followed by Col. Stewart, leaving me the senior officer. I decided to establish an office, as had been Col. Stewart's intention; but lived with the other officers until later moving down into the accommodation provided for Col. Stewart when the permanent appointment of camp staff was announced by the Nipponese.

On the question of the directing staff I was not consulted; but I was told there would be a system of groups and sections; the sections to be led by N.C.O.s, with officers in charge of groups, and I was asked to submit names for these, which I did, and which were approved. The original groups were as follows :-

- No. 1 Group - Lt. A.H. Dibb.
- No. 2 Group - Lt. Cheeswright.
- No. 3 Group - Capt. Horney (U.S.A.)

the sections were -

- No. 1 Group : W.O. Gales, S/Sgt. Soden,  
S/Sgt. Poulter and 122 men.
- No. 2 Group : W.O. Clarke, S/Sgt. Scott,  
S/Sgt. Stoddart, and 122 men.
- No. 3 Group : R.S.M. Challis, R.S.M. Good-  
fellow, Q.M.S. Adams and ba-  
lance of the men.

Officers on their own as one section, with an orderly to each five officers. Col. Stewart had his own servant.

During his talks with me, Col. Stewart told me his views on the conduct of the men on the Lisbon Maru, and said that he would not forget all who had helped him. I have recorded his statements elsewhere. He also said that this was neither the time, nor the place, for a full statement of facts, as it would serve no useful purpose; but that he would take care of it later on. Meanwhile the only thing to do was to make the best of things, and try to obtain

our needs and amenities. This policy I acted on from the beginning.

On the 22nd October 1942, Col. Stewart died at the Stadium. With him went a strong, well-known officer; a staggering blow! It is probably true that, realizing what we were up against, and his helplessness due to his state of health, his death was hurried by a broken heart. I had stayed with him since we left the Lisbon Maru together, and I lost a friend, and had a mixed company riddled with disease, and with deaths nearly every other day, as my responsibility. Major Innes, R.E. and Major Pitt, R.A. were both in hospital.

Although we were clothed, our small kit and toilet necessaries were lost in the Lisbon Maru. About 100 were in such a state of health that they needed hospital treatment, accommodation for which was provided on the first floor of one of the blocks, without equipment and medicines. The remainder were suffering from shock to various degrees, so as to be unfit for work of any kind for the time being.

All the officers except those mentioned, were in their beds. I formed the opinion that if we were 100 strong after six months we would be fortunate. Such was the state of health at the beginning. Those who were able, went out each day, for short periods of drill under Nipponese commands.

The Camp Commandant, Lt. Morimoto, had told the officers in a formal speech that we had been dead once, and that we were now alive by the grace of the Emperor; that all orders must be obeyed; and that all punishment would be in accordance with Nipponese Military Law. A later address given on this subject by Col. Murata, Officer i/c P. of W. Camps, Osaka area, was as follows:- "Recently most prisoners of war were working very conscientiously, but there are still some whose attitude is not what it should be. It seems you are forgetting just where you are standing. You fought to protect your colours for which I honour you as soldiers. At the same time our people will not forget that you shot at our brothers and sons, killed some and wounded others. To this fact you must pay your toll heavily. You fought well but lost and were taken captives. It would be all natural and possible that you would be standing before a firing squad. How-



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ever by the August Virtues and Grace of His Majesty the Emperor and also benevolence of our military authorities you are still sound and alive, having necessary quarters to live in with clothing and food properly supplied. Moreover you are allowed to communicate with your beloved ones. Did this fact ever occur in your mind? If not just stop and think it over. If there is anyone who does not live up to expectations in every respect, those are the ones who forget the above fact. We are doing our utmost to make your life comfortable under the circumstances. Our treatment is fair and impartial in regard with our military laws as well as the International Treaties. This fact should be appreciated, although we are not insisting on it.

When you work hard, you may think you are helping your enemy and by slacking down on your work or disobeying our orders you may think you are doing your country justice to yourselves. Because we are watching over all P.O.W.s individually and keeping daily records in every respect, so that when the time comes for you to return to your country, we will give the first preference to the best ones and those who do not do their best will probably never get a chance to join their beloved ones. So it is only natural that you should do your tasks conscientiously to acquire your freedom and join your beloved ones at the earliest date.

To conclude this statement, I should like to say that to acquire freedom, there is always hardships and sacrifice. Without these hardships and sacrifice freedom can never be acquired. Bear this in mind, never forget, and then you will know how you should behave in the future."

Their adjutant was a smart soldier, and the staff consisted of a Medical sergeant, a pay sergeant, a civilian employee and two on the clerical staff. The interpreter, Mr. Usui, had met us at Moji and gave me the impression that he was impartial. No personal interview with the Camp Commandant was permitted; all requests being made through Mr. Usui. I immediately worked on him for the articles mentioned, and boots, and was told they would be obtained as early as possible.

Office work at this stage consisted mainly of

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preparing numerous different forms of nominal rolls.

Meanwhile, the main cause of worry were the hospital, treatment of sick, and food. *and they are dealt with under separate headings in the following pages.*



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H O S P I T A L

The location of this has been stated. As many were unable to leave the floor, pots had to be used, and the presence and smell of excreta, so evident on the Shinsei Maru, continued; especially as the warehouse type of floor permitted so little ventilation. Our orderlies, S/Sgt. Ross and Cpl. Florence of the R.A.M.C. and P.O. Flynn and L.S.B.A. McGreen of the R.N., co-operated with the Nipponese N.C.O. i/c, and did excellent work throughout. Medicines and appliances, suitable for treatment, were often not available, and my main concern was trying to obtain them.

In conversation with the Nipponese on the subject at the very beginning, I was told that (1) Our state of health was due to exposure and the long stay in the water, consequent on the Lisbon Maru sinking. This was true in part; but there was also the antecedent period of undernourishment at Shamshuipo, which had affected health to such an extent that I brought away with me as many R.E.s as possible, hoping for better conditions on the promise of Col. Takanada, made to us at Hong Kong before leaving.

It is a fact that, had we not suffered the Lisbon Maru, the sickness would have been considerably less, and the immediate need for clothing and necessities would not have arisen. It is obvious the Nipponese had not anticipated any such eventuality. (2) That deaths were not their concern, as such were normal casualties of war. I pointed out that all we asked was humanitarian treatment.

Here I should state that it was clear to me that the Nipponese despised a P.O.W. as a person who should be ashamed, and that he should be treated as such. Later on (12.1.43) the interpreter informed me that, through contact with British and American P.O.W., it was obvious the Prisoners had not this point of view, and that this was causing the Nipponese serious thought. He suggested that if they could appreciate the British point of view our lot might be improved, and that if I would explain in writing (a) why we were not ashamed to be a P.O.W. and (b) how I personally would treat a P.O.W., it might help our cause considerably. I did so to the best of my ability, in order to try and remove a barrier, without doing which I felt I would get nowhere.

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I am of the opinion that this misconception on the part of our captors accounted for their early policy. As time progressed so did our treatment, and much of this I am certain was due to their better understanding. They always insisted we must obey their orders, and this we did, protesting (sometimes successfully) against those which were not in the interest of prestige and or/discipline from our point of view.

"Disobey and you get nothing", the initial prejudice; no interviews; no purchase of medicines; such was the position in the early days.

In view of the state of health, and the necessity of obeying the Nipponese orders, I decided that it was preferable to rely upon the mens' sense of discipline, rather than to attempt the enforcement of any further disciplinary measures for the time being.

The first thing unofficially purchased was brewer's yeast for the manufacture of yeast for beri-beri treatment, and this was continued until rice-polishings were officially obtained. This was followed by attempts (not all successful) to obtain injectable B1, B2, Therapol, Metabolin, Anti-Weiss, Aspirin, M & B, Trianon, and tonics as they were requested by the orderlies. At the same time, repeated applications were made officially and drugs obtained spasmodically as a result, from Osaka. My diary records these transactions, as well as the official applications.

An outstanding incident occurred in the case of Pte. Bunker of the 1/Mx, in respect to whom I asked the interpreter about noon if he would purchase concentrated B1 or B2 to save a man's life. He replied that he dare not; but on being pressed said he would consider. At 5 pm he replied "I will do it". He did; but the man died.

In another case, I successfully obtained over 100 yen's worth. A record! It will be seen that our worst period was the month of March, when there were 20 deaths (14 at Kobe and 6 at Kawasaki), and that thereafter there was a steady decline in



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the death rate to normal.

In my frequent visits to the hospital, I saw that the orderlies were doing magnificent work; but in respect to obtaining for them what I would like to have done, I never felt so helpless in my life. The worst cases were, from time to time, transferred to Osaka hospital; but conditions there were no better than our's, although we hoped they would be. On the 22.2.42 the hospital was moved to the first floor of the cookhouse block, which was much warmer, and on the 23rd I appointed Lt. Clarkson officer i/c hospital, so as to bring all points to my notice. This arrangement worked very well. On the 28.2.43, 95 patients were moved to a building situated in the hills overlooking Kobe, and standing in its own grounds, this was used as a convalescent camp and continued as such until ~~the~~ 10.5.43. The men benefitted considerably therefrom.

The sums of money used for larger purchases were obtained by me from Major Pitt, whose record, if available, will give some idea of the total extent of the unofficial activities.

Although we did not succeed in saving Bunker's and other lives, there are others, such as Higginbottom, who owe much to the Nipponese interpreter, who purchased at my request. Concerning food, the Nipponese point of view has always been that a sick man could not eat so much, and in spite of repeated representations, especially a memo dated Dec., 42, that sick men needed the extra nourishment to make them well, they have not altered their policy. The food question is treated separately; it is probably the most vexed of all. The excellent work of the hospital orderlies has already been mentioned. The Appointment of P.C. Flynn to be the N.C.O. in charge vice S/Sgt. Ross, in the interests of all, took place on 17.2.43. Flynn more than justified my confidence that I was doing the correct thing. S/Sgt. Ross has since died. He deserved well of everybody; above all for giving way to Flynn. On the 29.1.43 I obtained permission for two men to go out to the dentist, but after one or two visits, these ceased until the arrival of Major Campbell, A.I.F. early in June. Although deficient of many appliances he systematically treated every man, doubtless saving many teeth, and rendering meritorious service thereby.

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I had already requested permission to purchase spectacles and gradually a large number (about 200) were equipped with them at small relative cost. The first 21 pairs were purchased on the 8.2.43.

A proportion of light sick were allowed to remain in barracks. The question of their disposal was bound up with the working parties, and is dealt with in speaking of them later on. Apart from the Nipponese orderlies, the hospital was visited very spasmodically by a Nipponese doctor. On the 17.2.43 a new doctor came. I spoke to him of our troubles and he told me he was coming every Wednesday. Hopes were raised. His visits fell off; but on 5.6.43 a Nipponese doctor was posted to us as i/c Hospital, Kobe area. I felt that this would supply our oft-represented want, and it was a relief to know we were to have a hospital at hand.

On 8.6.43 Captain Boyce, A.I.F. arrived with the Australian party, so we were now in a happy state for doctors' services, previously despaired of. From now on - even if far from perfect, the situation was to be much easier. By this time the hospital had been removed to the first floor of the Nipponese staff block - a much better location; the room being well windowed and the sick men now being away from the fit.

On the 26.3.43, I submitted a memo on the subject of combatting flies and lice, in accordance with our experience and knowledge. Fly-papers and bug powder were eventually purchased. On the 28.3.43 the weighing of everyone commenced and was continued. The general tendency was for weights to increase slightly, but the majority had already lost weight at Shamshuipo, and weights were slightly below normal at all times.

On the 8.4.43, I submitted a report on the medical state of the camp, in order to try and improve the camp as a whole, as follows:-

(1) Main and most serious diseases:

- (a) Malnutrition.
- (b) Beri-beri.
- (c) Chest troubles.
- (d) Diarrhoea.
- (e) Scabies and skin troubles.



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Causes: Malnutrition. Insufficient food in quantity and kind to maintain the body in its normal fit state, bearing in mind what it has been used to.

Beri-Beri. Malnutrition due to eating polished rice, and lack of proteins and fats. Becomes more assertive as the bodily resistance due to (a) or other diseases is lessened. Probably over 80% of the camp are affected by beri-beri.

Chest troubles. Many men not acclimatized to the cold weather after varying numbers of years in the tropics. The lack of woollen underclothing, a great preventative of chills. Cooling off in cold winds after getting hot at work.

Diarrhoea. Partly consequent in diseases (a) and (b) above; partly to chills and partly to unwise eating.

Scabies and skin troubles. Partly consequent in diseases (a) and (b); partly on the continual wearing of the same clothes. Partly contact with affected men.

Treatment - Malnutrition. Improved feeding will improve this slowly. There is a noticeable improvement over the last two weeks, which will continue if present food issues are maintained and, when possible, augmented by seasonable foods such as fish, fruit and vegetables, all of which are liked by the men. The worst cases need special treatment.

Beri-beri. Vitamen B1 and 2, either by injection or tablet form, especially in conjunction with Metabolin for the worst cases. The continual issue of rice polishings to all, as now; increase of protein as dealt with in (a) above, and increase of fats so that a balanced diet is obtained.

Chest troubles. These it is anticipated will be considerably reduced with the coming of the warm weather. A change of underclothing should be available, to allow for taking off and washing. In many cases, a man has gone out to work with no shirt rather than stay in and caught a severe chill thereby. Trianon and camphorated oil are essential drugs.

Diarrhoea. Men are continually being warned about the danger of eating unclean food at the works. The danger of flies, and the necessity for strict

(2/13 )

hygiene, have also been considered. Castor oil, granular carbon, and sulphamquadine are effective. Diarrhoea in association with wet beri-beri need a special treatment.

Scabies and skin diseases. Nutrition will help to prevent these, so will cleanliness. A good sulphur ointment, with and without tar is the most practical way of attacking scabies which will affect others with whom the affected person comes in contact. The disinfecting of such sick persons' clothing and blankets is essential in health interests. Bandages are essential to keep the sores clean.

Injuries and sprains. Bandages and iodine should be always at hand for treatment.

Some men are so weakened constitutionally that they will be unable to resist successfully a specific disease. Others can be caught in time with the application of the feeding and treatment outlined above, from which, if it is maintained, all will benefit gradually, and the incidence of sickness and disease be correspondingly reduced.

Finally, to have any value at all, the food and treatment outlined above must be continuous and subject to review from time to time.

Kobe, ( Signed ) A.C. Houghton,  
9/4/43. Captain, R.F.

In the forwarding minute, I pointed out the danger to those with whom the men came in contact outside. Since this date a gradual improvement under all heads has taken place, as the hospital figures bear out.

During the summer of 1943, inoculations were made against T.A.B., Dysentery, and Cholera, and a ~~skin~~ test made for Diphtheria. With the arrival of the Australian party on the 8.6.43, hospital work was increased, as the whole draft was a convalescent one, and contained a large percentage of aged men. We had to close up in accommodation to make room for them, of which I pointed out the danger to health. On the 23.5.43, the Camp Commandant admitted this on a general parade; but said it could not be helped.

On the 24.11.43, I obtained an interview with the



(22 ~~14~~ )

Camp Commandant on the health of the Australian troops. He produced statistics which showed that this camp was the third healthiest in the Osaka area, and that an average gain in weight of 10 km had been made during the year. The percentage of the whole camp at work on 1.1.43 was 71; it was now 93. Deaths were one per month.

I pointed out that there were many men, including 30 or 40 Australians, who were unfit for any kind of work, although they were going out. The Camp Commandant replied that he was looking for the lightest possible work for them. We, (Capt. Boyce and myself), agreed it was much better for the men to go out if they could.

I said we were trying our best to safeguard our health according to instructions; but we would like to be assured that medical treatment and medicines were made available from the Nipponese side. He promised they would be. Major Campbell, A.I.F., had requested an interview on this subject, and had been informed it was unnecessary; but present at the interview were Capt. Boyce M.C., O. i/c A.I.F., and Pte. Bond, A.I.F. medical orderly, and on my asking them if there was anything they wished to say they replied "nothing to what has already been said."

Resulting from this interview, light work was found with one of the firms. On 12.1.44 F/Lt. Wilson, R.A.F., arrived, and further augmented the hospital staff M.C. The Nipponese doctor had left late in the September. Dr. Wilson brought youth and enthusiasm to his task, and the present comparatively undreamt of effectiveness of the hospital owes much to Drs. Boyce and Wilson.

During this later period, there was no particular outstanding medical matter, except that at an interview with the Camp Commandant on 10.5.44, both doctors and myself were told the percentage of working was 95.37, and the health of the camp the second best in the Osaka area.

Early in July, 1944, a new hospital was established for the Kobe area, with about 200 beds - another step forward.

This hospital is well situated in open grounds and well equipped. Surgeon Commander Page, R.N.,

was the senior British doctor, whilst Dr. O. Hashi was the Nipponese doctor in charge. Lt. Hashi was a Doctor foremost and under him this hospital did excellent work.

Our worst cases were sent there, mainly for operations and six patients was the most we had. At the time of writing (19.1.45) we have three patients there.

From time to time on rest days, by permission of the Nipponese authorities, through Lt. Takanaka and the Doctor in charge, I took over our Camp Orchestra and gave the patients concerts which were most appreciated. That on Christmas day (1944) was the occasion for reciprocation of good wishes and it was refreshing to hear Dr. O. Hashi speak of the work of a hospital as being international whether in war or peace.

Under Drs. Boyce and Wilson, our own hospital continued to do excellent work and the general good state of health was due to their efforts ably assisted by P.O. Flynn and the Medical orderlies.

Red Cross medicines relieved the Doctors' anxieties considerably and, at the moment, it is true to say we are better off than ever before. The tables attached to this report as an appendix give a clear picture of the hospital's work and both Capt. Boyce and Lt. Wilson have prepared reports which should be of use to the medical profession, in due course, Dr. Boyce, with special regard to the mental side.

On 1st July, 1944, Lt. Takanaka took over the position of Camp Commandant from Lt. Morimoto and at his inaugural speech, he said that his first impression was that the Camp was in good health and spirits, which he was glad to see. He promised to do what he could for us, subject to Nipponese orders and higher authorities.

During the summer months, everyone was vaccinated and inoculated against cholera, dysentery and typhoid.

At an informal talk with me on 13.7.44, the Camp Commandant agreed to meet Dr. Boyce and myself once a month to discuss camp matters. He also agreed that I could visit the working places (asked for many



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times previously). Such visits did actually take place later as duly recorded.

On the 20th of July, light workers fell in separately and a few were allotted to each firm. This prevented one firm from getting more men than it could reasonably be expected to carry.

Copies are attached of a letter from Major Campbell, A.I.F., asking for the unfit Australians to be sent to another camp and my reply. The lesser fit had always been my care and later, as will be seen, a special job was found for them.

Meanwhile, the general health of the Australian contingent was improving. As from the 28th of the month, the hospital detailed the sick light workers to specific firms ( one to each of them plus ). At this point our control was almost complete over the constitution of the working parties and in the mens' interest, I personally superintended and arranged the working party numbers and (19.1.45) am still doing so.

A copy of a programme we gave at the Kobe Hospital on 20th August, 1944, appears as an appendix. (No. 1).

By this time, the rest days (two per month) had become much nearer the real thing with some, at my request, completely free from inspections of any sort. I pointed out to the Nipponese authorities that a man could only work so long without a break, after which period he became either sick, or at least, tired, so that his body needed rest. The point was admitted and met to some extent by reduction of inspections: but the number of rest days was a National order about which nothing could be done.

A Headquarter Camp Order dated 19th October ordered that hospital patients, light sick and injured at work, would not be issued with cigarettes, reading matter or playing cards without special permission obtained through me. We were unaffected due to my letter dated 19th October ( See Appendix 2. ).

On 20th October, the Sanitary Squad was cut down to 7 ~~men~~ were allotted to particular firms and given a special badge and work.

*and the light sick, as certified by the doctors,*

(2517)

On the 26th October there was no one sick + a record! And as from the 1st November, a special light job was found making envelopes for about 28 men. This was welcome as possible. We were now better placed than ever before and the outside working parties consisted of the men best able to do the work. Dr. Boyce allotted men to this job, about ten permanently, the remainder, daily. This procedure continues (20.1.45).

We now had :-

For serious cases - Kobe Hospital.  
for less serious - Kobe Camp Hospital  
for excused duty - Bed chits in Kobe Camp.  
for very light work - the paper job  
for light work - Sanitary squad and inside  
camp jobs  
for heavy work - the outside firms

and these categories reasonably embraced everyone.

F/Lt. Wilson, R.A.F., left us for another camp on the 10th November and his going was a distinct loss. I have previously spoken about his good work and have lost a personal friend and co-operator - one of the few who appreciated things as they actually were.

In order to keep up health during the colder weather, I asked for and received a Red Cross parcel issue (on behalf of the men) on 1st December. Three odd parcels had just previously been given to me for the hospital and in January, 1945, I asked for an issue to the hospital of one parcel per week per five patients - so far without success; though a reserve of 10% of the parcels has been kept for the sick.

At the close of the year, we had three patients in Kobe Hospital and three in our own. During January, a cold spell caused an increase in the number of sick, mainly through influenza: but we faced the New Year with a quiet confidence having reasonable avenues of disposal and quantities of medicine to meet out needs for the time being.

Music was permitted during the evening of rest days and such days were spent as happily as possible



(16~~18~~)

under the circumstances. At Dr. Wilson's and myself's first visit to working places, in response to my many requests made over two years ago. We formed the opinion that there was no room for other than fit men on any job that we saw. Any sick man was resting in the hut.

The working percentages for September was 98.82, the highest yet and reflects the state of health, even after making allowances for suitable employment already referred to.

As from 1st October, I rearranged the working party detail so as to give fairness all round in sending men off on a roster to less desirable working places and the system which worked well is still in force at 20.1.45 (See Appendix ).

On the 11th, I forwarded a report on rations from Drs. Boyce and Wilson as affecting health which was as follows :-

1. Rations are, at present, inadequate for the maintenance of good health.

2. The inadequacy is evident in :-

- (a) Non healing of wounds and sores.
- (b) Slower, response of hospital patients to treatment.
- (c) Non improvement in the condition of indoor workers, kept in to be built up.
- (d) A recent outbreak of night blindness.
- (e) Increasing need for vitamins.
- (f) Loss of weight of many of camp personnel.
- (g) Lower resistance to epidemics (influenza).

3. This inadequacy will have serious effects, with probable deaths during the rapidly approaching cold weather, for compared with November and December of last year, on a much better diet than at present, there was much sickness and there were several fatal cases of pneumonia, fever and beri-beri.

4. Outdoor workers would not be able to work as at present not to maintain good health if they did not receive extra food.

5. Beans, barley or wheat, fresh fruits and more meat and fish are necessary.

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6. A more nourishing meal for all indoor staff is necessary.

( Signed ) C.R. Boyce, R.J.S. Wilson,  
 Captain, M.O. F/Lieut., M.O.

Lieut. Takenake,  
Camp Commandant.

I respectfully submit this report for your consideration please and in doing so am prepared to make allowances for the season and circumstances.

If the bread roll is to become a regular issue at an early date it will help and I would specially ask for a regular supply of beans. Those were greatly appreciated and have good food value, both cooked and as bean milk. The remaining items in paragraph 5 are bare essentials.

If there is any way in which I can co-operate, I shall be happy to do so.

Kobe, ( Signed ) A.C. Houghton,  
 11th October, 1944. Major, R.E.

Dr. Wilson and myself visited our Dock workers on the 16th and found the men reasonably comfortable and work within their capabilities. It so continued.

From the commencement of the New Year, air raid warnings became more frequent and our scheme was put into operation on several occasions, terminating in a complete temporary evacuation on March 17<sup>th</sup>, when everything went according to plan and tribute is due to all the Nipponese staff from the Commandant downwards and our men for their calm.

P.T.O.



The period of 1945 until the date of leaving the camp (31. 3. 45), disclosed nothing from a medical point of view and the of March, in particular, as it had proved been our bad month compared most favourably with previous ones.  
 Pte. Quinn of the Australian I.F. who brought through pneumonia when in a very state was probably one of the hospital's best.

I provided extra nutriment for him in way of egg powder and meals and chocolate Red Cross parcel and other sources.

The number in hospital when I left (7) of which one was Oms Adams R.C. a mental

There looked to be a danger of failed supply of common medicines, such as aspirin I can only hope this was remedied.

Dr. Boyce and Longbottom were the only left in the camp on 31. 3. 45 and the men safely left in their charge from a medical point of view.

I had hoped to march out a healthy one of those days as I had dissected forearms from the beginning - this was in

The construction of two water pools on recreation ground, provided means of employment of some of those unable to walk the distance respective dock firms, or who were incapable

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the time being with coils or similar devices.  
It is worth noting that the hospital patients,  
including Guerin, were successfully evacuated on  
17th of March without ill results - a credit  
all concerned.



	Unit.	Original strength	Total deaths	Present strength	% Deaths	Deaths at Kobe	Deaths at Osaka	Total	Remarks
1.	1/Mx.	178	42	136	23.6	26	16	42	
2.	2/R.S.	163 <sup>x</sup>	25	138	15.3	13	12	25	
3.	R.E.	68	20	48	29.4	6	14	20	
4.	R.A.	44	10	34	22.7	3	7	10	
5.	R.N. <sup>xx</sup>	30	14	16	46.7	9	5	14	
6.	R.Sigs	9	-	9	-	-	-	-	
7.	R.A.M.C.	8	3	5	37.5	2	1	3	
		500	114	386	22.8	59	55	114	

x. One man Osaka.

xx. Total includes 3 civilians, H.K.R.N.Dy.P.  
Two American officers died Kobe. Total deaths 61.

Grand Total - 116 up to June, 1944.

Month	Monthly admission	To Duty	To Osaka	Death rate			Total cases Hospital 31st March	Classification of diseases				Others	Remarks	
				Kobe	Osaka	Total		Dys Pneu	B.B Pleur	Dis. etc.	Dip.			
1942														
Oct.	240	35	82	7	19	26	116	153	30	1	6	50		
Nov.	26	62	47	3	9	12	30	8	10	-	2	30		
Dec.	13	14	-	4	5	9	25	1	8	-	4	2		
Jan.	33	16	12	5	6	11	25	6	15	2	-	10		
Feb.	47	24	-	9	4	13	39	13	13	11	-	10		
Mar.	48	19	-	20	1	21	48	1	10	24	-	13		
Apr.	22	25	12	5	3	8	20	-	5	3	-	14		
May	23	31	-	3	1	4	17	2	3	6	-	12		
June	14	17	-	1	-	1	13	1	2	2	-	9		
July	16	16	1	1	1	2	11	-	5	-	-	11		
Aug.	7	8	2	-	3	3	8	-	-	-	-	7		
Sept.	9	11	-	-	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	9		
Oct.	5	7	-	1	-	1	3	-	1	1	-	3		
Nov.	4	5	1	1	1	1	1	1	-	-	-	3		
Dec.	9	5	-	1	-	1	4	1	1	1	-	6		
Jan.	8	8	-	-	-	-	4	-	1	-	-	6		
Feb.	9	9	-	-	1	1	4	1	-	1	-	7		
Mar.	15	12	-	-	-	-	7	-	1	1	-	13		
Apr.	10	10	-	-	-	-	7	-	-	-	-	10		
May	8	6	1	1	-	1	7	-	2	-	-	6		
June	7	8	-	-	1	1	6	-	-	1	-	6		
July	13	17	1	-	-	-	1	5	-	2	-	6		
Aug.	10	9	-	-	-	-	2	2	-	3	-	3		
Sept.	6	6	-	-	-	-	2	2	-	-	-	4		



Copy of the number of casualties submitted in connection with the  
S.S. Lisbon Maru on the 2.7.43 by order of the Camp Commandant.

Unit	Officers	N.C.O.s'	Privates	Total
Royal Navy	5	60	24	89
R. A.	5	77	157	239
R. E.	-	35	36	71
R.C. of Sigs	1	20	10	31
2nd Bn. R.S.	3	32	67	102
1st Bn. Mx.	3	41	109	153
R.A.M.C.	1	1	2	4
A.D.C.	-	1	1	2
St. Johns Amb.	1	-	-	1
H.K.R.N.V.R.	-	12	5	17
	19	279	411	709

Kobe, 18.7.2.

( Signed ) A.C. Houghton, Captain, R.E.

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DECLASSIFIED  
Authority NN D883078

PROGRAMME AT KOBE HOSPITAL  
SUNDAY 20TH AUG. 44.

1. Band - (a) March "Comrade".  
(b) Waltz Medley  
(c) Ma  
(d) They say.
2. Sketch - The Busy Bee.
3. Songs - Gaffney (a) McDougal, McNab & McKay.  
(b) Song of songs.
4. Sketch - Bungajai and Kennedy in "A boxing match."
5. The Musical Trio - Two Medleys.
6. The Harmony Three - (a) Alexander's Ragtime Band.  
(b) You'll never understand.  
(c) There's jazz in them there horns.
7. Sketch - Thorne and Short in "Mrs. Thorne's birthday."
8. Sketch - Red Riding Hood.
9. Band - (a) Medley of Marches.  
(b) "Margie" & "Somebody stole my gal."  
(c) "When I grow too old to dream."
10. The Mad Gang in Lightning sketches.
11. Songs - Florence (a) Stardust.  
(b) That distant day.
12. Duet - Colley & Denton (a) A bit of the other.  
(b) Sing a song of sixpence.
13. Band - (a) Donkey's Serenade.  
(b) Cheri  
(c) South American Joe  
(d) Lights out  
(e) Land of Hope and Glory.

Personnel :-

No. 377 Captain Houghton in charge of party.  
Band - 376 Capt. Weedon, 252 Sgt. Jeffree, 586 Sgt. Noble  
102 Ptes. Crocker, 98 Amos, 84 Loredon, 214 Goodair  
23 McKinley, 105 Stewart, 223 Binningfield, 690  
Croft, 229 L/C. Quickenden, 256 D/M Holdford  
281 Sgt. Alsey, 54 Pte. Slater, 737 MacAleenan,  
740, Kavanagh.  
Sketches and Songs - 411 Cpl. Florence, 309 Bdr. Denton,  
199. Pte. Gaffney, 327 Cpl. Colley, 165 Pte. Haines,  
366 S/Sgt. Welford, 109 Pte. Owens, 107 Pte. Kennedy,  
394 Pte. Helliadis, 330 Pte. Jefford, 348 P.O. Thorne,  
349 P.O. Short.

( continued the other side )



## Appendix ( 3 )

To:  
O.C. Prisoner of War Camp,  
Osaka and Kobe Area.

Through:  
The Commandant,  
Prisoner of War Camp,  
.Kobe.

Sir:

The recent deterioration in the general health of the Camp, the four deaths, including those of three officers, which have occurred within the last seven days, and the marked falling off in the number of men available for working parties has prompted the British officers to set forth in the memorandum attached a number of matters which we believe call for urgent consideration and action by the Nipponese Authorities.

We have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servants,

(Signed)

19th February, 1943.

W.J. Pitt, Major,  
W.S. Kelly, Lieut.,  
S. J. Horswell, Lt. Commdr.,  
W. Clarkson, Lieut., R.E.,  
J.E. Duffy, Lieut., R.N.,  
A.H. Dibb, Lieut., R.E.,  
E.C. Graham, Lieut., 1/Mx.,  
C.M.M. Man, Capt., 1/Mx.,  
D. Baird, Lieut., R.S.,  
R.M.M. King, Lieut., 1/Mx.,  
N. Brownlow, Lieut., R.S.,  
M.P. Weedon, Capt., 1/Mx.,  
W.C. Martin, Capt., R.A.

Concurred with on behalf  
of the American Officers,

(Signed)

W.H. Harrington,  
Commdr., U.S.N.R.

Memorandum.

1. Medical Stores.

Some weeks ago we were informed that we could submit a list of medical stores (a) Urgently needed by the hospital (b) for the private needs of officers.

We have the money available for the purchase of these articles, but have recently been informed that no medical stores may be purchased. In view of the recent serious decline in the health of the Camp, we respectfully ask that we may now be allowed

to purchase these urgently needed stores.

2. Medical Officer.

Up to the present, the Hospital has been visited by a qualified Medical Officer only at irregular intervals. Recently the general health of the Camp has deteriorated seriously owing to the prevalence of cold weather and the fact that the men generally are becoming less able to resist illness. A great improvement would immediately be seen if a qualified medical officer could reside in the Camp. If a Nipponese officer is not available for this post, it is requested that a British Medical Officer be transferred from Osaka or elsewhere to this Camp. As evidence of the deterioration in health, it may be mentioned that the numbers of working parties have been reduced recently from about 300 to 250 per day.

3. Diet.

Beri-beri has recently increased and in the past few days, two officers and one other rank have died owing largely to this disease and to general malnutrition. We are advised by the Hospital Staff that the increase of Beri-beri is due to the lack of proteins in the food. This could be remedied by an increased ration of meat and fish and also by whale meat, if this is obtainable. If fresh fish cannot be obtained, it is suggested that tinned fish or tinned meat might be supplied. Fresh fruit would also greatly increase the general health of the men. It is also suggested that rice polishings, as recently issued in small quantities to the hospital, be made a general issue to the whole camp.

4. Canteen.

In the middle of January last, the Camp Commandant saw the officers of this Camp and discussed with them the employment of officers in clerical jobs. At the end of this meeting, he definitely promised that a canteen would be opened in the Camp on February 1st. May this now be supplied?

5. Fuel for Cooking.

As the present supply of coal to the Cook-house is very limited, it is suggested that wood fuel be supplied to supplement the amount of coal fuel issued.

6. Mail.

It is known that letters had arrived in Hong Kong for Prisoners of War, sometime after our depar-



ture from there. Can arrangements be made so that the letters, which were addressed to the members of this Camp be forwarded here for distribution? Such an action would be greatly appreciated and would do the men here a considerable amount of good.

Since our arrival in Nippon, we have only been permitted to send one postcard to our relatives and have not, to date, received any communication from our relatives since the date of our capture (Dec. 25th 1941). In Hong Kong, we were allowed to write letters regularly and we shall be glad to know the date when we shall have the opportunity of writing.

7. Red Cross Parcels. The last issue of parcels was made on December 25th 1942. We understand that parcels were to be issued at least once per month: can we be informed when the next issue of parcels may be expected.

39.

## Appendix ( 4 )

To all Officers.

As I am sure you are aware, I have not waited for the deaths of anyone, before making repeated requests for those things this camp needed for its reasonably proper welfare, bearing in mind we arrived here practically 100% sick and inadequately clothed due to the fortunes of War.

The difficulties of such a job were pointed out to you by the General at Sham Shui Po: but I have tried to bring my seven years experience in personal dealings with an Eastern race to my aid to try and overcome our captors dispisement for a Prisoner of War and to prove that we had lost no honour and were entitled, at least, to humanitarian treatment.

Slowly improvements and issues have been made and all those points which you raised in your memorandum addressed to the O. i/c Kobe and Osaka have been repeatedly brought to notice. That you may know the present position, I set out below the action I have taken in each case with the result.

No important need is allowed to drop and I have been informed that, if the men behave and work as they are doing, my requests on their behalf will gradually be granted.

1. Medical Stores:

A list of stores generally needed by the Hospital was given priority and handed to the Commandant, who, the same day telephoned to Osaka and a few days later, sent there for medical stores which duly arrived.

These did not meet all our needs and I again raised the question of purchase, but was informed the ban could not be lifted. I, however, succeeded in obtaining certain urgently needed drugs by unofficial means and still do so.

2. Medical Officer: What would happen to the health of the Camp was pointed out in my memo to the Commandant in December last, the contents of which were known to Group Leaders. In discussing the question of medical supervision, I was informed that the increase in the number of Camps made the Nipponese Doctors work more difficult. Last week a new doctor visited



the Camp and informed me that he was going to do so every Wednesday and that he would personally provide such drugs as were needed. On making enquiries about a recently arrived British doctor, I was informed he had been sent to Osaka.

3. Diet. Resulting upon my earnestly repeated representations on this subject, conditions definitely improved in January, the reason for which was given as the general well behaviour of the men.

On being informed by P.O. Flynn that Beri-beri was increasing, I raised the question of substituting unpolished rice for polished. I was informed that the latter was the universal army contract. I then suggested that the polishings themselves be issued to everyone so as to prevent disease rather than wait for it to break out. I am informed that such an issue is to be made.

Since January, the issue of meat and fish has been increased from every five days to every three days (meat or fish). Today a full workers ration has been drawn, less 20 kilos, for the whole Camp strength. Oranges were issued yesterday and it is understood they are to be a regular issued.

4. Canteen. Immediately after the Commandants' talk with you, I was asked to suggest one officer i/c Canteen if other than Lt. Col. Fliniau who had considerable experience in Commissariat. Col. Fliniau was asked to submit his plan for a Canteen and did so. Since then I have been informed that the matter was under consideration. Col. Fliniau is standing by to take up his duties as soon as permission is given.

5. Fuel for cooking:

The question of a wood supply has been raised with the reply that the actual necessity of coal would continue to be issued.

Last week the cooks have had to experiment to ascertain the amount required and were complimented by the Sgt. Major for their efforts: he remarking that it was as a result of such conduct that the requests made by me would gradually be granted.

41.

6. Mail.

This question has been constantly raised and I personally took the opportunity of mentioning it on the recent questionnaire.

I have been informed that an opportunity to write another Post Card will be given everyone.

7. Red Cross Parcels.

An often discussed subject and I have reason to believe that an issue will be made soon.

8. I would suggest that :

- (a) We have a weekly meeting of Camp Leaders at which current matters can be discussed and
- (b) that more officers take a personal interest in their men.

9. Your memorandum is being handed to the Camp Commandant tomorrow the 22nd.

( Signed ) A.C. Houghton,  
Captain, R.E.

Kobe,  
21.2.43.



( 42.  
20 )F O O D

Both at Shamshuipo and, as far as officers were concerned, at Argyll Street, the staple diet had been rice (without barley) with a vegetable soup and, at intervals, fish and meat. The last issue of the latter at Argyll Street was on the 17th July, 1942, and when we left there on 20th September, 1942, Col. Takanada had promised us better food in Nippon.

The diet continued basically the same: and because of its inadequacy in view of our use, state of health and working, the position of the majority was that they were just living, with no reserve to ward off or fight serious illness. There is no doubt we were always better fed than their own civilians, the tendency being a gradual improvement. Our main point of contention was over the order, made by the Nipponese, that a sick man should only receive half a normal ration.

I flogged this point over and over again, and some idea of the situation will be obtained if I let quotations from my diary speak for themselves.

In the beginning, Sundays and rest days consisted of a morning and evening meal at non-workers' scale. As will be seen, this was later improved upon, and three meals issued. The Nipponese point of view was that if everyone received the same ration, the number of persons calling themselves sick would be unreasonable. This proved to be the case, as human nature would expect.

My policy was to equalize the ration throughout the camp: but when the Nipponese themselves did issue an improved scale to everyone, the increased number of sick was immediate, and within a few days they reverted to their own policy. Had human nature not been stronger than thoughtfulness, it would have been better all round.

Certain sections, willing to carry their own sick, had the same experience, and did not do so for a time. Soon, everyone came into line, and

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21 )

for a long time equalization of rations to sick and officers took place (unofficially),

Bread was issued for the evening meal of the first day, and continued for a long time, until replaced by rolls, which continued until the 18.6.44, owing to the shortage of flour.

Re-instatement was promised in about six months. The bread was the nearest touch with our own diet, and was greatly appreciated, especially in the rare treats of cold meats in the Red Cross parcels.

The cookhouse gave a very anxious time occasionally, but the action taken each time proved efficacious. The idea of having an officer in charge, originating with the appointment of Comdr. Horswell by Col. Stewart, did not work very well: and the N.C.O.s who in turn have been in charge did a good job in difficult circumstances. Cpl. Hughes, R.E., Sgt. Palmer, R.E., Sgt. Gilham, 1/Mx., and L/Sgt. Burbidge, R.E.

The first and third mentioned of these N.C.O.s have each done two tours or duty in the cookhouse, to date (20.1.1943) and all are worthy of special mention for their work in this capacity. It will be seen that in December, 1942, when men were going out to work, we asked for an increased ration: the increase was allowed to the worker; but taken from the non worker (officially). On complaining again in March, the Nipponese confirmed their scale of issue, and for a time watched the issue: so that during that period our policy of levelling the ration was impossible. As supervision became lax, we re-instated it and so continued.

The answer to my requests for full meals on Sundays and days when men could not go out to work, made on the 11 and 13.1.43, was given practically on 8.3.43, with three meals served instead of two as before.

The main basic cause of our food trouble, that a Westerner could not live on an Easterner's diet, was made to the Red Cross representative on 9.3.43: and that it was the main effect on the health of the men, was confirmed by Capt. Boyce and P/Lt. Wilson, the M.O.s in charge of our hospital.



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22 )

Slowly, the firms at which the men were working, augmented the mid day meal - increasing as mentioned by me on 26.3.43, and practically all coming into line about one month later. A Camp Sgt. Major Oshima was most helpful in this respect - convincing the firms that the hard work necessitated more food, the issue of which would be amply repaid in work. Some of the firms winked their eyes at a certain amount of "fin-ding" food at the works, provided it was consumed there. The difference in the situation, as recorded against the date 18.10.8 had to be experienced to be realized. From then onwards, our food troubles had been minor, and I purchased as much extra in the way of fruits, tea, sauces etc, as I could obtain permission for, and were available, and continued to do so. The following entries taken from my dairy explain the position and the action taken, from the beginning :-

Dec. 2nd, 1942, we complain about the ration, R.S.M. Challis, l/Mx., investigates, Weedon endorses, I forward. Points out that, now we are working, more food is needed. When we were mainly sick, the food could not be eaten. Could workers be provided with a mid-day meal, in addition to the loaf of bread and seaweed? They will reply later on. (This was never granted). Explain what I propose to submit to the Camp Cmdt., to all Group and Section leaders. (In a memo, on Dec. 2nd, relative to sick men needing building up, and workers maintaining their strength.)

December, 1942. Obtain an interview with Camp Cmdt., re rations and yeast.

December, 1942. Revised scale of rations told us.

December, 1942. Inform all group and section leaders of the ration change. 170 grms rice and 50 grms barley for each meal for workers, and 70 grms rice and 20 grms barley for non workers. (Against the previous 160 grms for each meal for all. Other ranks do not wish to carry the officers: will take a vote re carrying the sick. I pointed out that in the British Army, we never differentiated between anyone, and later it was agreed to carry the sick. The officers agreed by vote to go on the non workers' ration.

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28 )

Christmas Day, 1942. Red Cross parcels issued, 279. All hospital patients one each, the rest equally divided. Acknowledged, by post card provided. Meat issued. Holiday from work.

January 1st, 1943. Meat issue, Holiday from work.

January 4th, 1943. Commandant speaks to all officers, and says ration scale is higher than Nipponese civilians. Five officers to go out daily to supervise their men: in the interests of their men, also their own health. Says all complaints must be made through me.

I was convinced, having checked the issues to Lt. Johnson (i/c Cookhouse) that we get what is laid down. I ask for working ration for the M.O. and the sick (for the nth time). Answer in three days. The interpreter conveyed to Cmdr. Harrington, U.S.N. and Major Pitt, R.A. the Nipponese policy with regard to rations, and that I had ceaselessly pressed our point of view.

January 6th, 1943. Learn that working rations will not be allowed for officers going out. We, the office, unofficially arrange with cookhouse for the extra 5 to go up. I also tell Johnson to send up extra for Lts. Kelly and Matthews who were sick, and a little peanut oil for them as and when available.

January 11th, 1943. 277 ready to go to work. Wet, only 71 went. Affected rations considerably, and much complaining at evening meal. Got interpreter to take one man's bowl, half filled with rice, to Camp Comdt. Promised to discuss tomorrow. Propose to again press issue of full rations on Sundays and wet days.

12th January, 1943. P.M. had all Group leaders and Section leaders to an open discussion on food. Main points raised were (a) Issue in lieu of deficiencies for any reason (b) The possibility of unpolished rice as cheaper and better to combat and prevent beri-beri. (c) Messing Officer to have translated copy of diet and storeman's issue sheet. Lt. Hilton i/c Messing.



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24 )

13th January, 1943. Spoke to Comdt., on food matters referred to on 12th. Result: Comdt., will consider the issue of full rations on Sundays and wet days, when men stay in through no fault of their own. Let me know his decision.

16th January, 1943. Rations on the non worker scale. Had another talk with Interpreter, and he interrogated men from Osaka on conditions there. Certain differences in scale of issue would appear. Pilfering would seem to have ceased. Diet sheet in English, and unpolished rice raised.

17th January, 1943. An increase in rice to 150 grms. per meal and 50 grms. barley for everyone, was announced, the answer to my requests.

19th January, 1943. To control inexcusable sick, return made at Nipponese instigation, to workers' ration at 170 grms. rice and 50 grms. barley each meal. Non workers 120 grms rice and 40 grms. barley. The latter was 50% better than before, and the net result was to increase the rice issue to everyone. Sunday's issues to be non worker scale. This also was the same increase as above.

5th February, 1943. Further supply of rice husks to hand as beri-beri treatment. Had to go into the question of rationing coal for the cookhouse. 150 kilos per day was decided as a reasonable issue.

17th February, 1943. Captain Martin, R.A., anxious about food. An eternal problem: but the fact is, the issue is better than that of our previous two camps. Anyhow we can try for more.

18th February, 1943. In the afternoon had a meeting with the British officers, at which points affecting the Camp were discussed. All the points raised had been brought up by me time and time again. In most cases, the Nipponese gave a reply which was their point of view. In others, I was told I would make too many requests: and in others, that if Capt. Houghton was granted a request, he must not think that others would be granted.

4th March, 1943. Bully beef (11 tin to 4 ) 19 M & Vs, soap, toothpowder and paste were issued on Monday,

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after two days cleaning. Camp Comdt., promised to supply fresh vegetables and oranges continuously. Lt. Kelly in cookhouse. Nipponese would not have a W.O. i/c Cookhouse, as there are so many Lieuts. with no job. Kelly should make a success of the job, even though he has to overcome a certain amount of prejudice.

6th March, 1943. Over 1 lb. per head vegetables drawn, mainly carrots and leeks.

8th March, 1943. Sunday meals, including reasonable carrot and leek issue. Seasonable vegetables promised.

12th March, 1943. Oranges issued to all. Decided to have lugau and beans 3 times per week. Carrots, leeks, and spring cabbage included in the vegetables. 9th and 10th both meat soup days.

15th March, 1943. Sukiyaki on a small scale, with evening meal.

18th March, 1943. Complaint from the officers at breakfast about their ration. A new scale was in force. Workers 170 grms., Sick 105 grms., Officers 60 grms., plus barley. The last two, and obviously the last, is a very small issue, and totally inadequate, and this has been represented. The workers' ration remains unchanged in accordance with Nipponese policy.

19th March, 1943. The ration question is explained by the Nipponese responsible to Comdr. Harrington and Major Pitt, the result being that the ration complained about was the correct issue, in accordance with the ration keeper's authority from above. He stated that vegetables would increase 30% as from 21st instant, and that fish especially would become a bigger issue. The bowls not so full of rice would be made up with vegetables. The nearer we could get to a Western diet, the better it would be, and malnutrition and beri-beri at least kept down. The issue of the polishings to all was also good to this end. This was the second definite instance where a complaint had led to a reduction, except to the worker. For the whole of the period I had issued instructions for the ration to be evened out sufficiently, so that everyone got a reasonably equal share of what there was.



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I flogged the ration and other questions continually, gaining points here and there, but often with no immediate, if any, redress, for the simple reason that things often were not available.

21st March, 1943. Sunday, 110 tins M. & V. drawn and issued in the soup, 50 on Saturday and 60 on Sunday evenings. 9 Red Cross parcels issued to the groups, and 9 to the sick at Kawasaki. 28 lbs. of cocoa issued to groups. Vegetables promised to increase 30% as from today.

22nd March, 1943. All sorted rice was drawn and brought to notice of Nipponese. No action possible today. No complaints from men. Vegetables poor in comparison with what we were having. Officers' ration discussed with Mr. Challis, who was in favour of adopting our own policy, of evening off all round.

23rd March, 1943. 40 kilos sorted rice issued, and 60 kilos good, against 95 kilos all sorted. Continue complaint. Mr. Challis reported that all men, with the exception of 5, were in favour of evening off the ration, to bring the officers up to a sick ration. This had been my policy throughout.

25th March, 1943. Orders given by the Nipponese S/Major that the food was the same as that in the Nipponese Army. That the Nipponese had hardened themselves by many years of spare diet, whereas the British and Americans had become used to a high scale of living. ( Hence my point to the Red Cross representative that the basic trouble was the difference between an Eastern and Western diet to a Westerner ). That all food was examined and passed by their doctors. That I put forward many suggestions, but often they could not be granted.

24th March, 1943. Officers thank me for ration consideration. A good fried fish issue. Rice said by Nipponese doctor to be good. Have had no specific reports of ill effects. 170 kilos good assorted vegetables drawn.

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26th March, 1943. Meat issued for the soup, so that during the past 7 day, 5 have been with meat, and one with fish for the evening meal. From the reports of Leaders, it would appear that an increasing number of firms are supplementing the mid-day meal with rice and vegetables.

28th March, 1943. From the previous Saturday, there was one evening meal without meat ( four times ) or fish ( twice ). The vegetable ration shows a definite increase. New potatoes included for the first time. Average issue 130 kilos, or approximately one lb., per man.

29th March, 1943. Issue of meat for the evening meal, and two oranges per head ( three to those in hospital ).

31st March, 1943. Meat issue.

2nd April, 1943. Another month ends, probably the most trying so far. Twenty deaths ( including six at Kawasaki ): accumulative causes since becoming P. of W. on the weaker constitutions, or the less fit. The better food and better weather gives one a hope for a brighter future. The Comdt., told a group of men that they must keep big ( meaning stout ) hearts. It would appear quite obvious that the soldierly qualities of fortitude and high morale, are more necessary in a P. of W. Camp than elsewhere. The difficulty in maintaining them is correspondingly greater.

11th April, 1943. Fish issue ( poor ). Cookhouse again giving trouble. Am going into the whole question. Biscuits, butter and syrup for supper - a feast.

12th April, 1943. Meat issue.

20th April, 1943. Sunday. Issue of one 6 oz., tin Bully per man. 28 lbs., cocoa ( to groups ). Twelve boxes each of 25 lbs., dried fruit ( to cookhouse ). Men issued with stewed fruit at evening meal. Fish on Friday and Saturday.

6th April, 1943. Supplies in of parcels, food, and medicines. Outlook favourable.



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16th April, 1943. Breakfast, oatmeal mixed as hot drink and after evening meals. Meat soup.

21st April, 1943. Meat in stew. Fruit salad. Breakfast meal.

29th April, 1943. One 6 oz., tin Bully per man. One tin M. & V. between two. 250 lbs., dried fruit issued ( cookhouse ). All very acceptable from the Red Cross. Most of the firms appreciate the value of extra feeding, in order to get the work they require.

12th May, 1943. Very easy Sunday, On the Monday, eleven cases of dried fruit, 16 tins Bully, 168 tins M. & V., and a box of soup mix. I ask for full rations for a man injured at work, using Sgt. Sims' case as a lever. Eventually obtained, also pay during the off period.

21st May, 1943. Excellent fried fish for tea last night. Bad season for vegetables.

23rd May, 1943. Meat and orange issue.

26th May, 1943. Fish soup last night.

29th May, 1943. Fried vegetables for supper. Fish soup previous evening.

5th June, 1943. Fried fish last night.

26th June, 1943. Food standard about the same. Fish three times a week.

17th August, 1943. Food, especially fruit and vegetables, remained good and the standard to date has continued at the same level. From the above it will be seen that it was diplomatic to avoid anything in the nature of a complaint, as no one in the Nipponese Army is allowed to complain. That the food situation improved considerably as time progressed, and reference to my diary of December, 1943 to 1944 inclusive, confirms this state. That the official policy towards officers and sick did not change: and that the basic diet remained unaltered. At the present time, 1944, we are undoubtedly receiving a higher scale of rations than

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the civilian.

For some time, I have avoided anything in the nature of a complaint but made continual reminders that good food was essential to health and suggestions from time to time as to items we would like. If available, these items have been forthcoming and the Camp Comdt., assured me that many of the things we obtained, especially in the way of fruit, were due to his personal efforts, in answer to my requests.

The period from August, 1944 to January 1945, was marked by the arrival of Sgt. Major Toyoda who took a great interest in the cookhouse, food and canteen purchases. Early in January, he left us. He had good ideas on how to make the best use of Nipponese food and his policy of incorporating beans and similar vegetables with the rice was favoured by the men as it gave the rice more "filling" power. While suitable beans were available, he directed the preparation of bean milk, which was issued regularly to the Hospital for the period available and on rest days to the men. I found him attentive at all times and his attitude relieved me of much worry on the vexed question of food. Our cooks did not at first relish being told what they should do: but eventually realized the idea was for the mens' good and co-operated well.

Fresh fruit, potatoes and tomatoes were obtained according to season. In the case of tomatoes, for instance, they appeared to be not as good as last year but, however, potatoes were issued from 28th June onwards and on 1st July a very excellent meat stew was recorded. On the 5th July, tomatoes and cucumbers were issued for the first time.

Another aspect of the period was the falling off of fresh vegetables, leaving Daikon ( the native Nipponese radish ) in abundance as that available: but rice, beans, Kibi ( millet ), sweet potatoes and barley were steadily issued to a total of 452 kgms., per day ( without potatoes ) or 503 kgms., with potatoes - rice being equivalent to twice the quantity of potatoes.

Meat and fish meals have also been less frequent, the former being restricted to bone stews.

At an informal chat with me on the 13th July,



( <sup>52</sup>  
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the Commandant promised that canteen purchases would continue as goods were available, and this promise was kept to date.

There was a danger of losing a cooked mid-day meal in Camp in July: but following on conversations between the Quartermaster, Sgt. Major and myself, this was overcome and since that date the inside mid-day meal has been adequate.

In connection with the falling off of suitable food, we addressed a letter to the Commandant on 10th October ( see under Hospital ) and also urged the distribution of Red Cross parcels ( took place 1.12.44 - half each - and 24.12.44 ) which must have been of considerable benefit to all. */one each*

On 1st September, 1944, an increase of 7% in rice issue was effected to counteract the decline of fresh vegetables, which, even at this time, were twice what they were a year ago.

When Dr. Wilson and I visited the various working places on 13th September and 12th October the men were being adequately fed with beans and rice ( the latter taken out with them from the Camp ) and it can be truthfully said that if the firms had such extra food available, they gave it to our men, who constructed cooking places if none existed and cooked the meal, usually by a less fit man, thus doing him some good at the same time.

On the 5th October, we steamed enough flour rolls to issue 2 per man. The Sgt. Major was keen on incorporating potato and other vegetables: but this was not popular with the men. Rice was not issued when rolls were issued and unless such issues coincided with a Red Cross parcel, the rolls had not the same adaptability as had the rice. Such issues were confined to rest days.

Oranges and to a lesser degree, apples, had been purchased regularly at intervals and a small biscuit purchase was particularly acceptable.

On the 14th December, we drew 440 kgms., of rice, barley, Kibi, potatoes and beans, turnips, cabbage and daikon. The evening meal consisted of fried sweet potatoes.

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As to Christmas day, the Camp Commandant informed me that he tried to get game such as turkey, without success: but about 80 kgms., of meat were issued as well as two rolls per man and oranges (plus one Red Cross Parcel).

For the New Year, we had mochi i.e. New Year rice cakes and to date ( 20.1.45 ) the Daikon is our staple vegetable whilst the cereal issue is maintained. Soya sauce and mizu past were issued adequately and salt, flour and sugar in small quantities.

Since the 1st September, C.P.O. Stedman, R.N., operated the ration store and did particularly well, having the confidence of both sides. Sgt. Gilham was N.C.O. i/c Cookhouse and also did good work in this ever thankless task. Mid-winter at any time, is not the best for availability of raw vegetables and other foods. We are thankful for what we have and hope that the future brings no worse, knowing full well that we cannot have what there is not, and realizing that our captors give us what they have available, considered quite apart from their own civilian population.

The scarcity of fresh vegetables continued, but during February, of the contents of 40 (large) Red Cross parcels (therefore the small boxes), the butter, milk, cheese jam and sugar was given to the hospital for patients and light sick. The eggs and chocolate were issued to the men and the tinned foods issued either in soups or cold, from the cookhouse. This was followed by a similar issue of about 200 mixed parcels, except that the hospital was treated similarly to the remainder as their stocks were not yet seriously reduced.

These issues improved considerably. The soups and it was probably the best means of making the most of the meats etc.

On 10<sup>th</sup> March.

P.T.O.



54.

On 29<sup>th</sup> March I asked for and obtained  
an issue of one Red Cross parcel for  
each person - to the happiness of all. She  
left a reserve of 324 parcels, against which  
such was the position when I left the C  
on 31<sup>st</sup> March - if it remains constant,  
will be well.

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S T A F F  
A N D  
O R G A N I Z A T I O N .

The attached pro-forma on page <sup>60</sup>59 shows the organization by Groups and Sections as at 23.7.1944. Nos. 1 and 2 Groups consisted of Australian personnel, with Australian officers as Group Leaders. No. 13 Section consisted of Capt. Papalios and members of the Mercantile Marine. No. 20 Section comprised American personnel and No. 19 Section were all officers except those in the office and the two doctors in hospital, together with three Batmen.

Except for Nos. 13, 19, 21 and 22 Sections, the Section Leaders were selected N.C.O.s in the case of the Australian Sections ( Nos. 1 to 8 ) and Warrant officers in the case of the remainder. The same leaders were Works Leaders as far as possible.

The Doctors, Captain Boyce, A.I.F. and Flight Lieutenant Wilson, R.A.F. were i/c Hospital respectively with the addition of seven Medical Orderlies.

The Camp Office Staff, besides myself, consisted of Lieut. Col. Fliniau who was Chairman of the Canteen and representative of the American interests. Lieut. Pringle, A.I.F., as my Adjutant and representative of the Australian interests. Sgt. L.G. Buckett, R.A. followed Sgt. W.R. James, R.A. who in turn had succeeded Cpl. Bell, 2/R.S. as Duty N.C.O. Cpl. H. Bate, R.E. was the Office and Pay Clerk. *and who returned as Derby N.C.O. 1.9.44 and continued as Duty N.C.O. until left.*

The Indoor Staff, administered by me, consisted of two in the Office, seven Medical Orderlies, three Batmen, ten Cooks, twenty in the Sanitary Squad, three Tailors, two Boot Repairers, one in the Quartermaster's Store and one Carpenter. The total number amounted to 49 men. Cpl. Colley, R.E. came in on Mondays for special repairs to water taps, tinsmithing etc.

With few exceptions, the Personnel was changed from time to time, especially in the Cookhouse and on the Sanitary Squad, on the opinion of Doctors so that men unfit to go outside to work could be accommodated and such was our policy. S/Sgt. Ross, R.A.M.C. and P.O. Flynn, R.N. of the Hospital Staff: C.P.O. Stedman, R.N. was N.C.O. in charge of the Sanitary



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Squad: the N.C.O.s in charge of the Cookhouse is mentioned under the subject of "Food."

W.O. Ilyod, <sup>R.A.</sup> R.A. as a Section and Work Leader; Sgt. W.R. James, <sup>R.E.</sup> as Duty N.C.O. and Cpl. Bate as Pay N.C.O. deserve special mention for their work and bearing and have been of the greatest assistance to me, as also does Cpl. Hoblitt of the United States Marine Corps for his outstanding services as Connecting File ( transferred to another Camp in June, 1944 ). Though good work was done by all those in any position of authority, each of the above, however, ~~were~~ were the subject of a special report. Except for one instance ( the person concerned was replaced ) I have had no reason to complain under this head.

Lt. Col. Fliniau's advice and diplomatic handling of the American Section has been of invaluable service to me throughout. Lieut. F. Pringle, <sup>(1.5.44)</sup> A.I.F. on assuming his duties as my Adjutant, brought into the Office a cheerful spirit and his tactful handling of matters affecting the Australian party deserves commendation.

Of the Group Leaders, I would specially like to mention Capt. Horney, U.S.A. who had charge of No. 3 Group for several months until his departure for another Camp. As an American Officer, he commanded a British group with great tact and earnestness. Lieut. A.H. Dibb, R.E. for loyalty and conscientious service throughout; and Lieut. W. Clarkson, R.E. for services as Camp "handyman" in the men's interests. The Doctors and the Dentist, Major Campbell, A.I.F. have been mentioned under the title "Hospital."

The reports on the Warrant Officers and N.C.O.s are commented on under a separate and confidential cover.

It will be seen from the following table of what various nationalities the Camp consisted of:—

The civilians included eleven Greeks, four Chinese, two Indians, and Australian, American, Argentinian, Egyptian and a Maltese.

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TOTAL ARRIVALS

NATIONALITY.	OFFICERS.	W.O.s	N.C.O.s	Ptes.	Civs.	Total.
British	26	22	106	345	2	501
Australian	10	1	33	206		250
American	28	1	8	12	1	50
Civilians					21	21
TOTAL	64	24	147	563	24	822

DEPARTURES FOR OTHER CAMPS

British				1		1
Australian	4			2		6
American	24		2			26
Civilians					1	1
TOTAL	28		2	3	1	34

CAMP STRENGTH as on 30th June, 1944.

British	15	13	79	278	1	386
Australian	6	1	33	198		238
American	2	1	6	12	1	22
Civilians					20	20
TOTAL	23	15	118	488	22	666

D E A T H S

British	11	9	27	66	1	114
Australian				6		6
American	2					2
TOTAL	13	9	27	72	1	122

On the 21.1.45, the personnel changes in the chain of administration were :-

Officer i/c No. 3 Group, Lt. N. Brownlow 2/R. Scots for  
Lt. D. Baird, 2/R. Scots.

Office. Sgt. W.R. James, R.A. vice Sgt. L.G. Buckett  
as Duty N.C.O. *as from 1. 9. 1944.*

Hospital. F/Lt. Wilson, R.A.F. departed to another Camp  
on 10.11.44. The number of patients at this time was 5.

Thus, the system which had been in force for nearly two years was still giving satisfaction. The Sanitary Squad had recently been reduced to nine, including C.P.O. Stedman which made more work individually; but they managed.



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( 38 )

C.P.O. Stedman capably acted as Ration Storeman and Sgt. F. Waldron, 1/Mx., as Clothing Storeman, both giving every consideration to our needs as well as having the confidence of the Nipponese Staff.

I ran the Camp under a set of Standing Orders drafted from our usual routine and in accordance with Nipponese Orders as issued from time to time. A routine order, dated 1.10.44 appears as an Appendix (5) and the Camp Standing Orders as Appendix (6).

As time went on, more attention was paid to A.R.P. and several fire fighting practices took place periodically. Two squads were organized, one for the working period and one for non working period as set out in Appendices No. and No. These were exercised periodically and the whole camp was evacuated to a pre-arranged place as the action to be taken in the event of the Billet becoming untenable.

Instructions by the Camp Commandant on this subject are attached as Appendix (7) and my detailed orders in the event of a direct hit or damage by incendiaries are given in Appendix (8).

I was allowed to broadcast the instructions to everyone personally and the eminently successful evacuation when it became necessary on 17.3.45 shewed that everyone was well acquainted with their duties.

It was with sorrow that I left my staff on 31.3.45. May I meet them all again soon - under happier circumstances.

I suggested that as the Lt. Col. R. Sm R. Challis 1/Mx. Reg. take over from me and he did so. The other Lt. Col. and Lt. Col. leaders would doubtless continue as such.

Mr. Challis has two good Lt. Col.'s in the office who will see him through a difficult job, or I shall be very surprised - time will tell.

ORGANIZATION OF KOBE CAMP

Nipponese Camp Commandant

British Camp Commandant  
( Major A.C. Houghton, R. E. )

No. 1 Group (Lt. Gordon)	No. 2 Group (Lt. Fuller)	No. 3 Group (Lt. Baird)	No. 4 Group (Lt. Clarkson)	No. 5 Group (Lt. Dibb)	No. 6 Group (Major Pitt)	No. 7 Group (Lt. Col. Flinau)
1 Sec. (29)	2 Sec. (34)		14 Sec. (45)	15 Sec. (51)		21 Sec. (Office) (5)
3 Sec. (23)	4 Sec. (27)		16 Sec. (45)	17 Sec. (52)		22 Sec. (Hospital) (9/12)
5 Sec. (25)	6 Sec. (30)					
7 Sec. (24)	8 Sec. (27)					
9 Sec. (24)	10 Sec. (37n)	11 Sec. (30 +)	12 Sec. (27)	13 Sec. (19)		
					18 Sec. (47)	19 Sec. (21)
						20 Sec. (22)

OFFICE

Major A.C. Houghton, R.E.

Lt. Col. F. Flinau, U.S.A.

Sgt. W.R. James, R.A.

( Duty N.C.O. )

Lt. F. Pringle, A.I.F.,

Cpl. H. Bate, R.E.

( Pay N.C.O. )

HOSPITAL

Captain Boyce, A.I.F.,

F/Lt. Wilson, R.A.R.,

7 Medical Orderlies and

12 Patients.



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## Appendix ( 5 )

CAMP ORDERSby Lieut. Takenaka.

Routine times are as follows as from 19.10.1.

Reveille	-	0530 hours
Tenko	-	0545 hours
Breakfast	-	0615 hours
Works parade	-	0650 hours
Departure for work	-	0700 hours
Commencement of work	-	10 minutes after arrival at the working place.
Rest Period	-	10.00 to 1015 hours
Mid-day meal and rest	-	1200 to 1250 hours
Rest period	-	1500 to 1515 hours
Finish work and return to Camp	-	1700 hours
Evening Meal	-	1800 hours
Tenko	-	2000 hours
Lights Out	-	2030 hours

Kobe, 19.9.30

(Signed) A.C. Houghton,  
Major, R.E.

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Appendix. 6.

OSAKA DISTRICT - KOBE BRANCH - PRISONER OF WAR CAMPCAMP STANDING ORDERS.1. PARADES

In the winter :-

Reveille	0500	hours	
Morning Tenko	0530	"	
Morning Meal	0600	"	
Working Parade	0700	"	
Mid-day Meal	1200	"	
Evening Meal	1800	"	<u>In the Summer</u>
Evening Tenko	1930	"	2000 hours
Lights Out	2030	"	2100 "

Tenko and meals are announced by their specific bugle call. Normal parade is announced by two "G" blasts on the bugle and "Alarm" by a long "G."

2. ARRANGEMENT OF KIT. At reveille, everyone will get up and make up his bed tidily. Blankets will be folded with the fold all on the same side as seen, neatly piled and properly lined up. Small clothes to be neatly folded and placed neatly on the lower shelf. On the upper shelf, the Red Cross box, cleaned of all rubbish and neatly packed, will be placed on the left and two bowls (turned upsidedown) on the right. The towel will be folded in two and placed on the top of the blankets with the pillow on top.

Spare kit may be placed underneath the bed space; but this space must be kept clean and tidy at all times.

Shoes or boots, when not in use, will be lined up under the bed space, toes outwards.

The bed space will be kept clean with the small brush and at no time will it be walked on with boots or shoes on. If lines are used between the shelf standards to take the towels, the practice must be uniform throughout the Group. Except to take wet washing, cross lines will not be allowed.

3. TENKO. For Tenko, the billet will be clean and tidy in every way; everyone properly dressed and properly lined up as soon as the bugle blows.

Floors, including under bed spaces and staircases swept clean.

Kits, properly set out.



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All glasses cleaned,  
Rubbish box emptied and all cleaning utensils  
and fly swats in their proper places.

Ashtrays, emptied, cleaned and arranged neatly  
at the official smoking place.

Spittoons, as above.

Fire appliances in their allotted place.

Benjo doors shut.

Mosquito nets will be put up after evening

Tenko and taken down before morning Tenko.

Orders will be smartly given and executed and  
the procedure to be followed as verbally  
instructed.

All numbers will be clearly and loudly given.

Unless it is wet, morning Tenko will be taken out-  
side in the parade formation as laid down by the Comman-  
dant. Everyone will be in position by 0515 hours and  
the time until Actual Tenko taken up with physical exer-  
cises under own instructors.

On the Tenko call sounding, all sections will right  
dress and stand as for Tenko, the procedure for which will  
be the same as for inside.

#### DRESS.

(i) On parade, Caps, Jackets or shirts, trousers,  
socks and boots will be worn.

(ii) In Billets, shirts, shorts and shoes or clogs  
may be worn, except at Tenko. This applies equally when  
going to the Benjo, wash or bath.

(iii) Those on duty inside and workers going outside  
wear caps, the remainder do not.

(iv) When in bed, a band or suitable garment must be  
worn round the middle and a blanket kept over one. It  
is one of the night guard's duties to see that men keep  
covered up throughout the night.

(v) In the hot weather, cooks may work without shirts.

(vi) Buttons and hooks will be kept fastened at all times.

SALUTING. All Nipponese officers will be saluted at  
all times by the Kei-rei. This applies equally when at  
the washing bench or on fatigue. Do not wait for some-  
one else to act. As soon as the officer is seen, shout  
Kei-rei in the proper manner, according to whether or

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a cap is worn.

All ranks will salute when passing the Guard Room or the outside sentry.

It is not necessary to salute guards patrolling inside the camp.

6. SMOKING. Smoking is permitted at the smoking place marked "Kitsuenjo" and at the table with an ashtray handy and at no other place. No smoking is permitted from evening Tenko until morning Tenko. The ashtrays must be emptied, cleaned out and placed in a neat order at the "Kitsuenjo" during that period.

The cooks may smoke at the table with an ashtray before them. They will not smoke whilst carrying out their duties of preparing vegetables or attending to boilers.

7. SPITTOONS. Must be cleaned for Tenko and inspections and will not be used for ashtrays.

8. ACTION IN CASE OF FIRE OR AIR RAID ALARM.

Orders will be given through the connecting files and the Duty N.C.O. and everyone will stand fast until receiving such orders. If billets are to be vacated, the alarm will be sounded by one long "G" on the bugle. On this sounding, everyone except hospital cases (action in regard to which will be decided by the medical officer) will collect his blankets, eating utensils and valuables and assemble as follows, maintaining order and quietness throughout and no smoking.

No. 1 Group, Outside A Block, near the S.E. gate, leaving access to it.

No. 2 Group, opposite the lavatories and down the stairs allotted for the use of 1 and 2 Groups.

No. 3 Group, opposite the Cookhouse and down the stairs allotted to 3 Group.

No. 4 and 5 Groups, on the ground floor of B. Block.

No. 6 Group, opposite the guard room.

No. 7 Group, behind No. 6 Group, who will assist them as necessary.



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Group Leaders will take charge of their Groups and maintain strict discipline.

When the Nipponese sentry gives the order, Groups will move of the Billet; Nos. 1, 2 and 3 by the S.E. Gate and Nos. 4 to 7 by the N.W. Gate and proceed to the N.W. corner of the recreation ground, where they will form up in columns of two ranks, No. 1 Group on the right, facing the billet. Each Group Leader will report the strength of his Group to the Chief Leader, who will report the Parade Strength to the Camp Commandant.

On Aircraft approaching, all will lie down on their stomachs.

All movements will be at the double. Silence will be maintained and no smoking. No one will move off until so ordered by the Nipponese sentries.

The return to the billets will be made when directed by the Camp Commandant.

9. BOUNDS. The Camp Office and Cook-house are out of bounds except to those on Duty.

10. SICK PARADES. Outpatients will be seen and treated from 1000 to 1100 hours and 1600 to 1745 hours. Parade for Light work and excused duty the following day at 1900 hours.

Visitors to Hospital, at their own risk, must first obtain permission from the Wardmaster, P.C. Flynn, R.N.

11. DENTAL TREATMENT.

(i) The Dental Officer will examine all men by sections after their return from work daily.

(ii) Those found to require Dental Treatment, will be called for by Sections each Sunday or Restday.

(iii) Urgent treatment will be carried out at any time.

12. BATHING. Hot baths will be available on Sundays or Restdays, as ordered by the Nipponese authorities.

No washing will be done in the bath or dressing room and water will not be removed from the bath.

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Showers will be available from 1500 hours till 1900 hours daily. Those in Camp will use the early part of the period.

The bath will be kept full of water, which will be changed twice weekly. Small wooden tubs will not be taken away.

Duckboards, when not in use, will be leant against the wall.

13. WASHING. Clothes must be washed in the troughs provided in the yard and dried on the roof top lines. If not dry by evening, they may be hung on lines in the billets: but no cross lines will be up at inspections and no clothes hung in the windows.

14. THROWING OUT OF WINDOWS. Nothing whatever will be thrown out of windows at any time.

15. LATRINES. Latrines must be kept clean. Lids replaced after use and doors kept closed at all times.

Men will stand on the step provided in order to urinate and throw no paper or rubbish into the channels.

Hands will be rinsed before leaving, in the bowls provided outside the entrances.

16. RUBBISH BINS. Tins, rice, paper, ashes etc., will be deposited in the bins set apart for these specific items and no where else.

17. FIRE WATER TANKS. The water in the water tanks on each floor, will be changed twice weekly.

18. NIGHT GUARDS. Night guards will be provided from 2030 hours to 0500 hours daily on the present roster system, covering all floors and the hospital.

- (i) See that all sleeping men are covered.
- (ii) That no one smokes during their tour of duty.
- (iii) Ensure that men are dressed as laid down above when going to the benjo.
- (iv) Raise the alarm immediately in case of fire.
- (v) Report any unusual incident or noise to the Duty N.C.O. and accompany him to the Guard Room.



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- (vi) Be correctly dressed with all buttons and hooks fastened and salute properly on reporting to the Guard Room.
- (vii) See that everyone gets up at reveille.
- (viii) Sign off duty at the correct time and in the proper space in the Guard Book provided at the Guard Room.

19. WORKING PARTIES. Men will maintain good order and discipline and bearing on the march or journey to and from work.

They will not smoke without permission.

No money, knives, forks, spoons, books, notebooks, pencils or valuables of any sort will be taken on the works.

No contact or transactions of any kind will be made with civilians or persons at the works.

They will not steal from the Company's premises and will not purchase any goods or matches for the purpose of bringing into the Billets.

Kei-rei will be strictly observed and all orders of the Firm's representatives complied with.

Morning and afternoon breaks are 10 mins. each with 50 minutes for lunch.

Any accident or untoward incident, will be reported to the Camp Office at the earliest opportunity.

20. WHISTLING AND SINGING. Are not permitted in the Billet.

21. CONCERTS. An organised concert is permitted from 15.30 to 1630 hours on Sundays, if rest days. The list of the performers to be submitted to the Camp Office not later than noon on Saturday.

22. RELIGIOUS SERVICES. Organised religious services may be held on Sundays. The Church of England service is normally at 1815 hours and the Roman Catholic service at 13.30 hours in the ping pong room.

23. LIBRARY. Books will be issued from the Library weekly to sections on a percentage basis. Section

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Leaders are responsible for the care of books, collecting them from the Camp office on Sunday morning after inspection, and returning them before evening Tenko on the following Saturday. Newspapers will be issued as and when available.

14. MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS. The available musical instruments and playing cards will be collected from the Camp Office at noon on Restdays and returned before evening tenko. Section leaders will see that the instruments receive reasonable use, reporting any damage immediately to the Camp Office.

15. GAMBLING. Gambling in any form and the playing of any games not specifically authorized is prohibited.

16. FOOD. No food whatever will be wasted and nothing left over in the Cookhouse from one meal to the next.

Any scraps from rice bowls will be put in the proper bin before washing buckets and bowls, which will be kept scrupulously clean at all times.

17. COOKHOUSE STAFF. Will be ten in number and maintain absolute personal and working cleanliness at all times.

The issue of rations and orders regarding same is direct from the Nipponese; but the leader will report any matter requiring explanation to the Camp Office.

He will allow no person, except on duty, to enter the Cookhouse and take special care with regard to the proper use of the rubbish bins and the showers.

18. MEDICAL ORDERLIES. Will be seven in number. They will sleep, eat and stand for Tenko in the Hospital. The Wardmaster, P.O. Flynn, R.N. will be responsible that Hospital rules, especially with regard to non smoking by patients and visitors are strictly observed.

19. SANITARY ORDERLIES. Will be twenty in number and they will commence work as soon as the working party is moved off by sweeping the road outside the billet, cleaning ablutions and latrines, inside sweeping and such other duties as the Nipponese Quartermaster and Ward may direct.

The wood work in the closets will be scrubbed with water daily, using hot water, obtained from the Cookhouse twice a week. The shelving in the dressing room to be treated similarly.



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Water will be used sparingly and floors dried up as possible.

30. LIGHTS. Except where specially authorised, lights will <sup>not</sup> be turned on during the day.

31. BREAKAGES. Breakages of bowls and deficiencies of any kind will be immediately reported to the Camp Office by the owner.

32. MONIES. Officers will keep an account of their money transaction and present same for the Camp Commandant's inspection as and when ordered.

Group Leaders will be responsible for the collection of their men's money and disburse it on demand for authorised purchases in Camp.

33. FAILURE TO CARRY OUT THESE ORDERS will render the defaulter liable for punishment under Nipponese Military Law.

34. DUTY OFFICER AND DUTY N.C.O.

For list of duties see Appendices & respectively.

( Signed ) A.C. Houghton,  
Major, R.E.