

Myers, Hugh H., *Prisoner of War*, Portland, Oregon, Metropolitan Press, 1965. Narrative with maps and pictures. Myers stationed at Radio Agaña, taken to Zentsuji then to Kawasaki. Excellent detail particularly firebombing raids.

Myers Timeline:

These dates are all Guam and Japan time, for they lie in a time zone that puts them one day ahead of us.

8 Dec 1941 Outbreak of World War II. Pearl Harbor bombed.

10 Dec 1941 Guam surrendered to the Japanese Imperial army.

3 Jan 1942 Walker and I give ourselves up as prisoners of war. One week of intensive interrogation and threats by Japanese army and navy officers.

10 Jan 1942 En route to Japan on the SS Argentina Maru, a passenger cargo ship.

16 Jan 1942 Arrived at the Zentsuji prison camp on the island of Shikoku.

30 Aug 1942 Twenty of us American POWs, listed by the Japanese as technicians, taken from Zentsuji.

31 Aug 1942 Arrived at Kawasaki POW camp, mid-way between Tokyo and Yokohama.

June 1944 We twenty-five Americans taken to the steel mill POW camp.

Aug 1944 We twenty-five Americans returned to the Kawasaki POW camp.

1 Nov 1944 First American plane we saw after outbreak of war flew over our area, high above anti-aircraft fire.

15 Nov 1944 Moved to the Suzuki manufacturing-plant POW camp. (This plant, even today, is often referred to as the *ajin-no-moto plant*). Air raids began about this time and became more and more frequent until the end of the war.

1 July 1945 Moved back to the Kawasaki POW camp.

14 Aug 1945 War ended.

30 Aug 1945 Walked out of the POW camp for the last time.

Chronology:

8 Dec 41- war starts- Guam surrenders 10 Dec

3Jan-42- Walker & Myers surrender

10 Jan-leave for Japan on Argentina Maru

16 Jan- Arrive Zentsuji

30 Aug- leave Zentsuji- arrive 31 Aug at Kawasaki

36 Oct 42- first letter from home

25 Dec 1942-RC packages for each man (South Africa) Brits argued just for them because it was a Brit colony- all shared- 7 packages for each 10 me- Japs took rest

April 1943- RC cocoa & sugar- some shared- looted by Japs

xx-June 44- 25 Yanks to steel mill

xx Aug 44- 25 yanks return to Kawasaki

1 Nov 44- first sighting of a B29

15 Nov- moved to Suzuki plant

1 Jul 45- back to Kawasaki

14 Aug- war ends

30 Aug- rescued

Radio Agaña

392-89-65 Young, Joe Robert CRM

341-22-78 **Myers, Hugh Hadley CRM**
291-39-44 Cramer, Clinton Jerald RM1c
212-23-76 Young, Edmund Clarence RM1c
381-25-71 Smith, Frederic Ferguson RM1c
268-25-50 Musselwhite, Otis Warren RM1c
295-15-16 Miller, Clifford Lockert RM1c [Hiro]
316-39-18 Kellogg, Harvey Guy RM1c [Died, 25 Mar 1943, Zentsuji, Giles p 194, Van Peenan diary]
267-84-89 Gordy, Tom Watson RM1c
201-39-13 Parmenter, Alan Weldon, RM1c [Hiro]
381-08-37 Sager, William Henry Aerog1c
393-28-97 Bircher, Norman Dewey Aerog.2c
372-09-63 Jones, Robert William Aerog.2c
274-34-35 Williams, Clyde Perry Y3c
380-96-55 Wells, Frederick Porter Y32 [a.k.a. "The Fox"]
310-90-75 Guith, Frederick Gorman Prtr1c
346-41-11 Walker, Dorsey Robert EM1c
204-36-72 Tyson, Albert Joseph RM1c [Captured on Guam and killed, 22 Oct 1942]
392-70-93 Tweed, George Ray RM1c
243-35-28 Yablonsky, Adolphe Y1c [Captured on Guam and killed, 11 Sep 1942]
346-32-32 Jones, Luther Wilbur C. Aerog. [Captured on Guam and killed, 11 Sep 1942]

He worked with Tweed, Tyson, Kellogg, Young at station. He and Tweed were the maintenance and repairmen for the station.

Had been wakened by messenger boy at 6 am to come to station- saw message "EXECUTE WLS AGAINST JAPAN" -pg 6

First planes: 8:30 A.M. - Pg 7 dropped first bombs on the Marine Barracks, then Pan Am, Cabras, Piti then chased the Penguin. Sank about half mile from shore.

Fled to San Ramon hill- pg 8- McGee set up mess in field- telephone service ended as the native operators fled to the hills..

Lt Madsen directed Myers and Walker (with a radio operator) to set up radio near Sumay barracks- Smoot used his car to transport them.

P-9: About 2 PM, six modern Jap bombers over head- at end of raid, left operator and went back to Agana.

Tuesday- fighters zooming around- bright and clear day- random bombing- ineffective

Attack- starts pg 13- Bill Hughes (civ)- slashed with bayonet as he drove into Agana, 2 kids in back bayoneted.. Checked radio station at 3:30- deserted

Smoot, Blaha and Eads- in office at Palace- saw men lined up- thought they were to be slaughtered- fled out back toward stables- caught in crossfire- Smoot hit in head- instant, Blaha shot in hip-Blaha bayoneted, Eads appears to have surrendered

That night, Myers and buddy made it to Mr Murphy's house- wife and kids hid them until sentries passed- fled up the old Libugon Trail to the eastern slopes of what is now called Mt Alutom (Signa Falls) Surrendered to Japs on Saturday, 3 Jan 1942

Japs took him to cathedral- thought he was and Walker able to read code and grilled him incessantly for almost a week

Chief Whittaker (USS R.L. Barnes) was in house near Dingas beach- first to be captured. Tied together and walked into town after the surrender. Lane & Giles led surrender party.

One day (p 36) Mr Jackson failed to remove pipe from mouth when, as all were required to do, pass in review of a Jap on a platform, he had pipe in mouth- slapped about and pipe crushed by foot of Jap soldier. He reported his interrogations to the men (barnum) from Libugon in order to keep their stories straight. Told Japs the station was way up on the hill for "clearer reception" and just to get weather reports and news for the "Guam Eagle" newspaper. The seven men were supposed to be evacuated prior to a war but didn't get out in time. (P-44)

Jan 10th- up at 5 AM (pg 53)- passed house of George Scharf- native wife and girl (14) crying on porch. Argentine Maru inside of harbor. Arrived in early morning 16 Jan off Shikoku-2 slices of bread at 9 AM- waited all day in dark- very cold- began unloading at 10:30 PM- light snow-dockside, put in unheated bldg- given bread, 1/3 size of breadloaf.

P 57: Ordered to fill out form- one question "What is the purpose of your visit to Japan?"

P57- only straw on floor- platforms build later-pillows and blanket, mess dih & spoon, all arrayed in precise military order!

Jap sergent Matsumoto arranged for all to have bowl of hot cabbage soup.

Jap made yank officer "wait" to give morning report- after that, Lane delivered the morning report. "American officer wait for a Jap Sgt to receive report? Insulting to Yank officer hence EM delivered future reports. Chief Townsend & Fisher- charge of clothing, yard and general discipline; O'Brien-kitchen; Lane overall

Mt Osa detail- supervised by local farmers- called one man "Dig Deeper"

p-73- Brit officers called Yank batmen "Peggy" Few had manners- threatened "We shall either report them to the Japanese or dismiss them if they become too haughtily."

Japs made Lane remain in camp- not allowed on details- He "big boss of POWS" and must act so. P-73

Yank officer demanded that Townsend issue officer white rice and em to eat barley. Refused-threatened reprimand- "You can do whatever you like after the war Lieutenant but right now I take orders from that little one-star Japanese soldier with the rifle and bayonet." P-74

Headline in June newspaper- first load of sugar arrives from south Pacific—Tojo was doing this for Japan.

30 Aug 1942- approx 20 men, including Myers, leave for Osaka-exit Takamatsu-. arrive next day (31 Aug) ferry to Okayama then train thru Osaka (picked up five more men-included Walker, small, "Whitey" Strauch and Holmes) Kawasaki, midway between Tokyo and Yokohama.

P-85- describes camp as a U-shaped bldg- 2 levels of bunks per floor- 18 watt bulb -

p-85- sign agreement or be shot "work, no escape, etc"- we signed. **Lt Cmdr Newman** slapped about for objecting

Men in camp prior to Yank arrival:

SS Aust (Norway), SS Wellpark and SS Williston (Brit) captured by German raider- later the SS Nanking- all taken to Yokohama in July 1942- about 40 all together many races

Detail work areas:

Ebera- via train about six miles

Brit names: Gardner, Henderson (Scot), "Swab Ali"- from India- watched food apportionment like a hawk- very trusted- trusted Myers; Gibson (Brit Sgt); Adam Dick (Wellpark); "Broadside Burke" (p 96)- & King (p104), Brits deserted from the HMS Warspite captured on Nanking; Ellis; Fletcher; Capt Griffith, master of the Williston (Welshman with welsh bible); "Fiddler" Finn (Died- starvation and dysentery); Rainer-Brit soldier; Britt (Brit soldier); "Schooly" Bloomfield; Aussi- Hogan (149); Fletcher, McLennan; Tattrey;

Jap guard: Aoki; "Bay Face" Mayasaki; "Bamboo" Takiuchi; other nicknames- Spit-fly, The Frog

Tagami- bastard boss (civi) at Kawasaki rail yard

Tanaguchi- other boss at yard- very decent man- former Navy man

circa 1 Oct 1942- about 70 assigned to work at Kawasaki Rrstation.

30 men assigned RR at Tsurumi

70 men assigned Suzuki plant (Aji-no-moto)

another group to mill and grain elevator-no more work at the shipyards

7 am- two guards (civilian) from Kawasaki, Suzuki and Tsurumi arrive to take details to work

Various yards- one to ten- #7 & #10 hard- no food-coal, sand, logs, charcoal unloaded- very tough work. Number 4 yard- in season, carloads of sweet potatoes, otherwise bricks, lumber, etc.

19 Nov 1943-returned after dark at 5:30- Bamboo punished all since window in storeroom broken and some rice take,- no confession; midnight- take off all clothes- "person who took the rice must confess" - 4 men volunteered to confess. "Hammering Sam" Newman punished for trying to protect men- always defended his men and was beaten every time. 2 hours later, men returned- showered with extra food and cigarettes-

Mr Brown-Chief Engineer of Nanking and a fireman from another Brit freighter never recovered, both died within 2 weeks.

Dietrich- mentioned p 109 (CWT)- worked with Patterson- ran their detail and Japs "obeyed him" got all sorts of extras from Nips at work

March 1944- Gibson (Brit?) & Jones- caught drunk- punished thru night- tied to post barefoot

21 Jun 1944- 25 yaks taken to Nippon Steel Co- POW camp- already had over 100 men up from Philippines- industrial section of Kawasaki- men were starving- **Higby** looked like a skeleton- **Angelo** very sick= taken to Shinagawa (prison hospital) - died a week later

Approx late Aug 1944- returned to steel mill (25 men) -capt Kent of Wellpark was acting camp commander- US Army colonel James (Mac's staff") pompous ass who wanted private latrine- generally very bitter to men- refused to act as head of camp. Claimed about Mac- "There were trunks, trinkets, gewgaws, souvenirs and knick-knacks loaded on his plane when he left for Australia, but no room for me on the plane. The plane could have taken me to Australia from the Philippines, so that I might now be doing my country some good." (P 122) James was apparently a liar as well as a jerk

Placed on Suzuki detail with about 60 other men-worked on coal detail then gas plant detail under a Sayama-san; another guard "Stupid Claude"- mean and hateful was interpreter; late summer of 1944, Tackiuchi (Bamboo) replaced- no name give (p 129); "Pig" mean civilian guard at Kawasaki RR yard (p 131);

15 Nov 1944- approx 70 men from Suzuki moved to another big plant- Jap commander Tanako- "Bull Dog: sgt in charge- Myers worked in asphalt plant- repaired roads etc directly under a Nowa-san (144); - forced to build air raid shelters for Japs; Guards at work site: "Patch Eye", "Sticky Fingers",

During raids, men forced to lay in bed with cover on OR standing at attention at foot of bed while japs went to shelter

1 Feb 1945- 60 Yanks arrive from Philippines.- 39 days horror trip; a bit later, Kubek died of dysentery & starvation (p 153)

P155- 10 Apr 1945- air raid- cochran helps save camp- **fantastic description of fire raid!**

1 Jul 1945- told to pack up- men of Kawasaki & Tsurumi rr yards- marched back to old Kawasaki POW camp

Early July- 45 Italian seamen arrive- deserted Italy upon surrender- Japs made them POWS

26 July 1945- fir raid- single file bombing-few day later could hear bombardment of Chiba coast (north of Tokyo)

14 Aug- went to work- rumors of massive bombs- went over to gas plant shop and asked Clifford if guards around- no- listening to radio- told at 2:30 stop work and return to camp- Newman knew war ended although Japs did not acknowledge- later in PM took control of Camp by confronting Jap commander; Miyasaki & Frog flee;

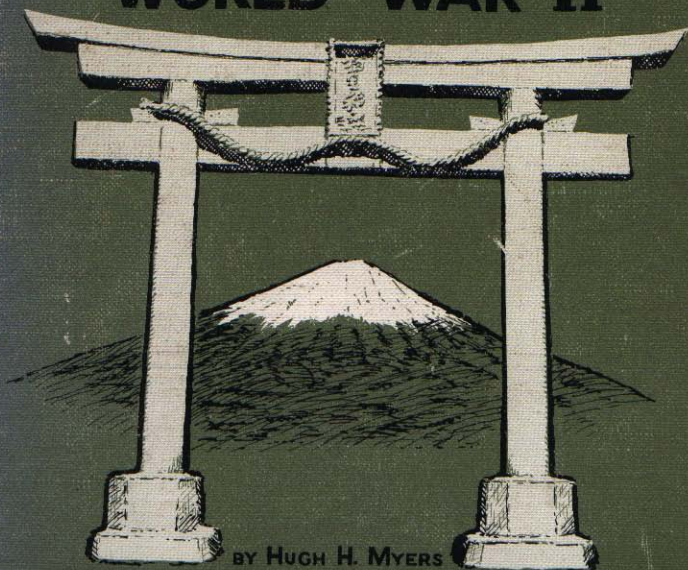
Aussie doctor went to nearby camp- Jap commander refused entry and was still brutal to POWS- Newman went over and demanded control- Jap commander went to Tokyo and came back with jap colonel- apologized- about 3 AM war end- he flies home.

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WORLD WAR II



BY HUGH H. MYERS



The Suzuki POW camp, where the author was held from November 1944 till July 1945. To the right is the area where POWs built air raid shelters—but were never allowed to use them. At the time of this photo, the camp was occupied by Japanese families.



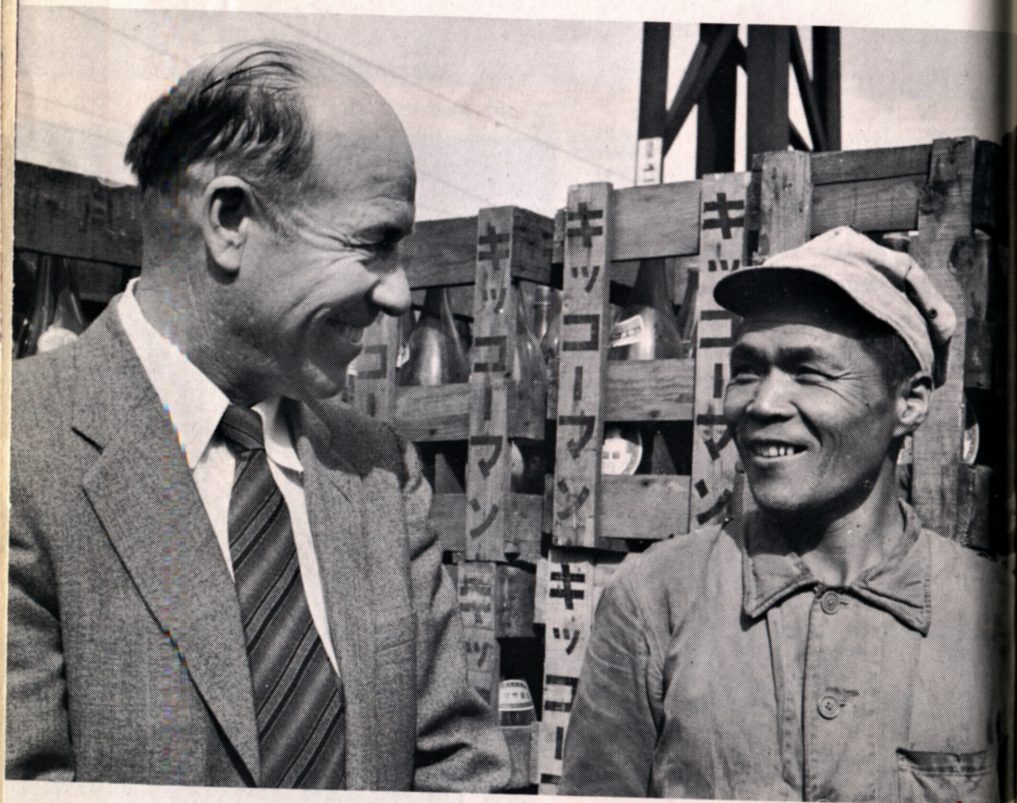
The asphalt pits at the Suzuki camp. The man is stirring hot pitch in one of the tubs.



Looking down one of the many lanes at the Suzuki manufacturing plant at Kawasaki, from the gate entrance near the gas plant.



View inside the gas plant at the big Suzuki factory.



On the author's visit in 1955, this Japanese workman smiled when reminded how he used to call, "Hungry! Hungry!" to the prisoners when it was time to stop work at the railroad yards and eat.



agreed that Pandoqueim was a good man.

