

RECOVERY TEAM NO. 56  
HQ. AMER. DIV. ARTY.  
APO 716

25 September 1945

SUBJECT: Report of Recovery Team 56

To : HQ, XI Corps  
APO 471  
Attention: Recovered Personnel Det.

1. Report on Omori Camp:

a. Location: on reclaimed land in Tokyo Bay about 3 miles South of Shinagawa on Omori beach, Tokyo Omoriku Iriarak. Coordinates 677.35-1407-30 on Central Honshu Map Scale 1/5000. Omori camp is the main prisoner of war camp in the Tokyo-Yokohama area. It has 21 branch camps. The branches that are in the American Div. Arty. area are:

1. Ofuna 2. Kawasaki #1 Bunsho 3. Kawasaki #2 Camp 4. Yokohama Camp #17 5. Yokohama #1 Camp 6. Yokohama Camp #13 (Asano) 7. Yokohama #18 Camp 8. Yokohama #19 Camp. The above names and numbers of camps were taken from official Japanese records of listed POW Camps. Omori is an Army POW Camp.

b. Description of camp: The Omori POW camp was opened 25 Sept. 1942 and closed at the end of the war. The buildings are of one story wooden barracks. The camp was constructed to for the purpose of housing Prisoners of War. The camp has 4 supply and store rooms, 8 latrines buildings, individual type stools, 8 barracks for POW's 1 barracks for Japanese Soldiers, officers mess hall, 1 POW mess hall, 1 large kitchen 1 small dispensary, 1 guard house, 1 orderly room and 3 sheltered washing places. For more details concerning buildings and their locations see inclosed map. Medical supplies were inadequate. Very few Japanese assortment of American medical supplies found. Of supplies found most were American and were dropped by plane. Before the Prisoners of War left the camp food and Red Cross packages were dropped by B-29's. In storage house were found large supplies of blankets and clothing. In the food storage houses were found sacks of flour, soybeans and an assortment of Japanese food stuffs.

The camp was 600 feet long and 250 feet wide and surrounded by a solid board fence 8 feet high. Facilities for electric lights were found but no facilities for heating the barracks was visible. Running water for washing purposes was observed. There were 6050 Prisoners of War in Omori Camp and it's branches. On the 20th of Aug. 1945 there were a total of 556 prisoners in Omori Camp, 144 Officers, 412 NCO's and EM. The prisoners of war in the camp worked in Shibaura Branch Transportation Company and Shiodome Branch also a Transportation Company. The prisoners were used to load and unload trucks and trains. The Shibaura Transportation Company,

is located 13 Km. away. The Shiodome Trans. Co. is 15 km. from the camp. The prisoners were transported back and forth by truck.

The general condition of the camp was very poor, POW barracks infested with lice and terrific stench from latrines. The camp can by no means be compared with American standards. Co. C of the 637 TD Bn. occupy area adjacent to the camp and they are now in the process of cleaning it up and putting the camp in condition.

2. Records found:

- a. Two lists of Prisoners of War in Omori PW Camp.
- b. List of POW's in Shinagawa POW camp.
- c. List of POW's in Bunka POW Camp.
- d. Plan for self administration of prisoners of War.
- e. Map of Omori POW Camp.
- f. List of Japanese Officers who worked in Omori POW Camp
- g. Japanese list of Prisoners of War.
- h. List of branches of Omori Camp ( not a complete list )
- i. Record of Death of a POW and Miscellaneous items.
- j. Dutch papers.

3. Deaths in Omori Camp:

One record of death found.

L/Cpl. Thomas Hampton 6020894 (British Army)

Died 5 August 1945

It was found that 715 Prisoners of war died in Omori, Sendai and Hakodate. This list of deaths was taken from Omori Camp by Maj. Paul H. Peters HQ. 8th Army.

Summary:

The Japanese Commander of Omori Camp was Col. Kaname Sakaba. The above information was obtained by a thorough investigation and search of Omori Prisoner of War Camp and from talking with a Capt. Taichi Sato and Tadao Ohnishi, Japanese Capt. Taichi Sato was in some way connected with the POW's in the camp. Some documents and records of the Omori camp were given to Major Greene HQ. 8th Army before we arrived at the camp.

2nd Lt. Robert H. Dolder  
Team Leader, Team 56