

Letter No. 2505.

To the Director of the Public Peace Preservation Dept. of the HOME OFFICE, Tokyo.

From the Chief of the Nagasaki Prefectural Police Dept.

Date of Letter drafted - 28 August 1945.

Attended to by Mr. Sugiyama, Assistant Constable.

### Present Condition of the War Prisoners.

The War Prisoner Camps in this prefecture consist of at three places of NOYAKI-SHIMA of NISHISONOKI-GUN (No. 2 Branch of the FUKUOKA War Prisoners' Camp), of KOGAKURA (No. 14 Branch of ditto) and of SHIKA-MACHI, NITA-MATSUURA-GUN, and the number of prisoners quartered (the American, British, Dutch, and Australian) are in all about 1,010. We hereby report to you regarding the measures being taken by the Camp Authorities, and the condition of the prisoners after the termination of the hostilities as follows: -

(1) How the prisoners are quartered -

(1) No. 2 branch of the Fukuoka War Prisoners' Camp.

On 1 December 1942 about 1,300 prisoners of the American, British, Dutch, and Australian nationalities were taken in and working at the Kawanami Ship-building Yards at Koyagi-shima, Nishi-sonoki-gun, of this Prefecture. But on account of some cases of death and some having been removed elsewhere, the number have since considerably been reduced, and with the removal of 500 to the Iizuka Coal Mines (No. 22 Branch) in the Fukuoka Prefecture, on 30 May of this year, their present number quartered at this Camp are 497 of the American, British, Dutch and Australian.

(2) No. 14 branch of the Fukuoka War Prisoners' Camp 313

of the British and Dutch nationalities were taken in on 25th April 1943, and in addition to that, 202 of the American and Australian (who were sufferers from the attack by an enemy Submarine on the way of transport to the Japan Proper from the Southern territories) joined on 10, May 1944. They were all working at the Mitsubishi Ship-building Yards. However, owing to the some cases of death from sickness, or by air raids, and since a part removal of them elsewhere, and particularly on 30 May the shifting of 100 to the No. 22 branch and another 100 to the No. 9 branch, the number quartered have been reduced, and at present there are in the Camp only 193.

To the Chief of the Nagasaki Prefectural Police.  
From the Chief of the Fukabori Police Station.  
Dated 21 August 1945.

As instructed, I have to report to you about the matter of the War Prisoners as follows: -

- (1) No. 2 branch of the Fukuoka War Prisoners' Camp, situated at Tancura, Koyaki-mura, Nishisonoki-gun, Nag. Prefecture.
- (2) Their place of working - the Kawanami Ship-building Yards.
- (3) Number of the Prisoners and their nationalities at the time of their first being received into.

(1)	On 24 Oct. 1942	1,000	American, British, and Dutch.
	7 Dec. "	300	American and British,
	8 Sept. 1944	203	Australian
	21 June 1945	895	Transferred to an unknown place. American, British, and Dutch.

(2) At present; -

5 American  
165 British  
324 Dutch  
3 Australian

- (4) Condition of the Prisoners and the Measures being taken: -

After the Armistice they are getting more cheerful, looking forward with much pleasure of repatriation, and taking special care of their health. There is no indication of disorder in the Camp and they are distributing amongst themselves clothes, tinned goods etc. sent from their respective home countries, and are also enjoying some freedom of action. At the same time, we are keeping a careful precaution outside the Camp against any incident. According to an information received by the Camp here, it is said they will shortly be gathered together in the Nagasaki harbour, and with other prisoners arriving to the harbour from other quarters, will be transferred to a certain place of more safety. However, nothing is definitely known for the present.

INVESTIGATION DIVISION  
LEGAL SECTION, GHQ., SCAB., TOKYO

MEMORANDUM:

19 JANUARY 1946

SUBJECT : Re Investigation of POW Camp #2

By direction of the Chief, Investigation Division, ROBERT E. HUMPHREYS, 2nd Lt. Inf. accompanied by ARNALDO MADEIRA, an employee of AMG. Nagasaki Shi, as interpreter, proceeded to the island of KOYASI SHIMA and made an investigation of POW Camp #2, between the 16 January and 18 January, 1946.

1. LOCATION

The camp site is located on the south side of the island of KOYASI SHIMA (Grid Coordinates 128.75-1050.45, NAGASAKI SHEET 1:25,000) and is situated as shown on enclosed Blueprint marked Exhibit #2 and photographs submitted as Exhibit #5

2. DESCRIPTION

The entire area is enclosed by a bamboo fence approximately ten feet high. Buildings are constructed of brick and concrete and appear to be in good condition. See blueprints of camp site and area submitted as Exhibits #2 and #3, and photographs submitted as Exhibit #5. There was no evidence that heating facilities had existed in any of the buildings. All buildings were equipped with lights, however, and a P.A. speaker was installed in each barracks presumably for giving orders to the prisoners.

3. UTILIZATION

POWs worked in the KOYAGA SHIMA SHIP BUILDING YARD, located on the island, which was engaged in building ships for the Japanese Government. The type of work done by the prisoners depended upon their skills. (See testimony of YUKICHI NISHIO Exhibit #1).

4. PRISONER OF WAR PERSONNEL

A roster of Camp personnel and a roster of POWs for Camp #2 at the time of their liberation has been previously submitted to your office by this investigating officer. The larger percent of the prisoners were Dutch and English with about 200 Americans in the camp. At first there were 1500 POWs but they were transferred around to the various POW Camps on Kyushu until at the time of liberation only 500 remained.

A list of Japanese personnel stationed at POW Camp #2 is attached to this report.

5. CAMP COMMANDERS

The Camp Commanders for POW Camp #2 are as follows:

(See testimony of YUKICHI NISHIO Exhibit #1)

2nd Lt. Shirabe	---	October 1942	---	March 1943
Major Toshio Kitano	--	March 1943	---	May 1944
Capt. Motonori Nozaki	-	March 1944	---	End of War

R E S T R I C T E D

## 6. WORK AND RECREATION

The work day for the prisoners was from seven-thirty in the morning until five in the afternoon, with forty minutes off for lunch. Six days was the work week with every Sunday off.

No specific person was delegated as spokesman for the POWs. Prisoners received Red Cross supplies two or three times. The procedure for distribution is not known, however, witnesses expressed a belief that a portion of them were confiscated by Captain Noyaki (See testimony of NAGAHIRO EGAWA, Exhibit #4)

Nagasaki is a large Catholic center and Catholic services and mass were allowed to be held by the POWs.

There was evidence that a canteen had existed. On a blackboard were lists of latest OPA prices and several bottles labeled, "Cider", were found in the area.

## 7. FOOD

Little information was learned concerning POW food. However, it was reported that prisoners received regular Japanese Army food, food from the ship yard, and foreign food. In this connection YUKICHI NISHIO found upon investigating that the villagers held a community meeting sometime in 1945 at the KOYASAN, KOYAGE TEMPLE and complained that the prisoners were treated too well and had too much food. (See testimony of YUKICHI NISHIO, Exhibit #1).

## 8. MEDICAL

In March of 1943 there was an epidemic of pneumonia among the POWs as well as the civilian workers in the shipyards. As a result Mr. Kawanami (owner of the shipyards) offered to give Major Kitano medical supplies and a factory doctor to work with the army doctor at the camp. Major Kitano refused this offer. Finally Mr. Kawanami was allowed to visit the POWs and take his doctor with him. (Statement of YUKICHI NISHIO, Exhibit #1)

## 9. SANITATION

Camp #2 appeared to be very clean in every respect. As can be seen on Exhibit #3, there existed adequate bathing and toilet facilities for the prisoners.

## 10. SAFETY MEASURES EMPLOYED

Air raid shelters, consisting of trenches with an eight inch roof held in place by bamboo strips, were constructed by the prisoners. These seemed capable of holding all of the POWs but were inadequate to withstand an intense bombing attack. A POW sign was not printed upon the roofs of the buildings until August 19, 1945.

## 11. PUNISHMENT AND DISCIPLINE

Solitary confinement cells were built into a latrine in the area. These were designed for two persons and were about three feet by six feet by six feet in size. (See photograph #1 of Exhibit #5). An American national who was a hunchback died in one of these cells on March 31, 1945 after being kept there for three days and complaining of being ill. (See testimony of YUKICHI NISHIO, Exhibit #1). Prisoners were seen being beaten several times upon orders from Captain NOZAKI. (See testimony of NAGAHIRO EGAWA, Exhibit #4)

## 12. LEADS TO BE DEVELOPED

A) The beating and confinement resulting in the death of the American hunchback testified by YUKICHI NISHIO

B) Refusal of medical supplies and doctors by Major KITANO during epidemics of pneumonia and diarrhoea.

*Robert E. Humphreys*  
ROBERT E. HUMPHREYS 2nd Lt. Inf  
Investigating Officer  
Legal Section GHQ., Scap.

ARTICLE XI

Organisation of the camp:

1. Firebrigade and salvage-brigade.

When the fire alarm is sounded, five men from each room (two men from the Officers-room) must assemble in front of the Japanese Office, carrying fire-fighting equipment. A Japanese non-commissioned officer will supervise them in extinguishing the fire. When the dockyard-workers are absent, the campworkers and the chiryo's (sick men not in bed) shall constitute the firebrigade. In addition, two (2) men from each room (one man from the Officers-room) shall assemble in the kitchen-courtyard for salvage work under the supervision of the Japanese mess-sergeant.

2. Duties of the P.O.W. Officer and non-commissioned officer of the week:

- A. They will be on duty for a week and will assist the Japanese Shubans in their duty.
- B. They will supervise the compliance of the P.O.W. with the orders and regulations and insure the cleanliness and good order of the camp under the instruction of the Japanese Officer or non-commissioned officer of the week.
- C. A room will be assigned to them as an office.
- D. They must maintain a daily record of the instructions and orders of the Japanese Officer or N.C.O. of the week and of important events.
- E. They must accompany the Japanese Officer or N.C.O. of the week during the roll-call as his assistants. After morning roll call they must prepare the worklist and submit to the Japanese Officer or N.C.O. of the week.

- F. They will attend to the Roomchiefmeetings and make a record of instructions issued.
- G. They will make frequent inspections of the camp to insure strict compliance with regulations. Special attention must be paid to the following:
1. That the men rise and retire promptly at "Reveille" and at "Taps", and that the windows are opened or closed as instructed.
  2. That all men comply strictly with regulations.
  3. That the camp is kept clean and in good order.
  4. That the men assemble properly for departure for work.
  5. That after "Taps" the camp is quiet and in good order.
- H. When the fire alarm is sounded, they must report promptly to the Japanese Officer or N.C.C. of the work and at the same time put those men who are nearby to fighting the fire.
- I. When anyone is confined to or released from the cell, they must attend and they must be responsible that his meals are delivered to the guardhouse.

A CERTIFIED TRUE COPY

*Claude A. Muezy*

CLAUDE A. MUEZY,  
C.W.O. U.S.A.