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Q. Where were you detained as a prisoner of war by the Japanese?

A. On April 22, 1943 they picked us up. It was just a small Japanese merchantman, and took us down to Penang, Malay Peninsula. I stayed down there for about six months altogether at two different camps. One camp was about a block from the other. Then we went aboard on the Hi Maru, a Japanese transport. We reached Singapore in January, 1944, and stayed there for about a month and a half. Then we were transferred to another Japanese transport, the Asama Maru. We hit Japan at the outskirt town down near Nagasaki in approximately March of 1944. We stayed down there for about a month and a half. Then we got transferred to Fukuoka Area Camp #3. This was located on Kyushu, Japan, right in Yawata. Then the camp was moved to Tobata about a year later, and I stayed there until my liberation two days after the war ended. (14 August 1945.)

Q. Give me the location of the Fukuoka Prisoner of War Camp #3, and later location after this camp was moved.

A. It is on the outskirts of the city of Yawata, in the place that we used to call the “White Castle”, a big building standing right on the hill. Everything was just “crumby.” You could find fleas, bedbugs, and rats, and it was extremely filthy itself. We took baths in a big pool about 25 feet long and 15 or 20 feet wide. That was for everybody there ~about 500 men. These were all Allied prisoners, Indians, Englishmen, two or three Australians, Chinese, and one Pilipino.

Q. How many American prisoners were there?

A. About 250 to 300.

Q. Give me the distance between the two camps.

A. It was about six or seven miles from one camp to the other. One was just on the outskirts of Yawata, and the steel mills were right in between. We had to go down right close by Wakamatsu, a little peninsula. We came around the end of about seven miles from the first place. We moved in about October of 1944. When the war finally wound up, there were about 1200 prisoners there, but at first there were only about 500 or 600, when we got there. They were all Allied POW’s. There were about 500 Americans, about 300 Englishmen and Australians, about 300 Indians, 100 Chinese, and some Javanese and Dutchmen were there when it wound up.

Q. What conditions existed at the two POW camps in the Fukuoka Area at which you were detained as a prisoner of war?

A. Well, in the first camp at Fukuoka #3 we didn’t have enough to eat. We were getting a bowl of rice for every meal, and besides that we had a stew which consisted of a few greens and water. We received three meals a day, two of rice, and in the afternoon while we were working, we were allowed to carry two buns. That is all we had for the noon meal. Then about twice a month we had a ration of fish, about half a pound for fourteen men. Meat used to come in sometimes once a month—then we might go two or three months before we got it again. The meat was good—what there was of it. They would put it in the stew, and we got just a little nibbles of it in the broth. The only vegetables we got were in the stew. A lot of the prisoners started getting beri-beri, and all of them were very weak. We were treated very badly.

Q. Were the Americans the worst treated?

A. They treated us all about the same. The worst treated were the Chinese, I believe. The medical conditions were bad too. Everybody would get boils and things like that just didn’t matter to the Japanese. If a prisoner had a fever, he still had to go to work. We had a Japanese doctor in this camp—I can’t think of his name. There were two doctors, and both of them wore glasses. I can’t describe the first one, but I can describe the last one. The doctor was in charge of the medical supplies. We had one good doctor, Dr. Markovish, Lt., USN, an American. He did everything that he could for all the prisoners, regardless of race or anything. Of course, he couldn’t get the proper medicines, etc. from the Japanese doctor. The Japanese doctor wouldn’t do any work, but he did supply the American doctor with whatever he thought he needed. Our clothing was very bad at that camp. It wasn’t even enough to keep us warm, the weather got cold in the winter and awfully hot in the summer. In the summer they used to issue us that clothing—just burlap sacks would make better clothes. It was made of Japanese cloth, green, and you could see through it easily. The second winter we were there they didn’t have enough winter clothing to go around and a lot of the prisoners didn’t get any. We never had any underwear. They used to issue American Red Cross clothing, very seldom, though. We played cards for it—the ones who were lucky got it.

Q. What type of work were the Allied Prisoners of War at the Fukuoka Area #3 Prisoner of War Camp compelled to perform?

A. They had to unload ships, work in the pipe shops and machine shops, and some of them had to chip cast iron with a hammer. There was a brick detail—the men on that had to carry bricks between the hot ovens. That’s about all. This work all took place at the Yawata Steel Works. My job was in the pipe shop. We had to pound pipe with mauls, and then get it red hot in a fire and bend it. Then we took it out and threaded it, and then we used to flange it. Sometimes we had to go to different places to work. I knew a little more Japanese than most of the other prisoners, so sometimes I used to go out and install pipe in other factories there in the Steel works. The machine shop used to use shaping hammers, shaping white hot steel. Some of us had to load pig iron—I had to do it one time during the air raids. That was during the last month of the war. We all had to do it because they didn’t want us right close to the factories. I saw a lot of prisoners get hurt, and one man got killed in an air raid. He was an American soldier, working in the brick detail. I don’t know his name—he lived in another barracks. Another man had an arm cut off. He was also an American soldier. During the first air raids we didn’t have any air raid shelters. We had to stay right in the factory, and it didn’t have a ceiling. That happened four or five times. I saw several Japanese get hit during that time. Finally they decided to let us go into the shelter that we had just built—it wasn’t quite finished. Once as I was going into it, two machine gun bullets almost hit me. Toward the end they took us out to a tunnel between Tobata and Yawata. When the air raid siren would sound they would send us down on a train about a mile and a half from where we worked—it was just a freight train. Sometimes we had four or five raids in a day, and then sometimes it would be night and day. We didn’t go to the tunnel always, because at times they would have “dummy” alarms. Sometimes we stayed in the little “chicken coop” in the factory. Once we had a big air raid by all B-29’s--this was the raid in which the boy had his arm cut off and the other one was killed. We stayed down there about fifteen minutes in the air raid shelter. Then the Japanese decided it was a big air raid and they had been caught by surprise. We were forced to run all the way, about a mile and a half, to the tunnel. The steel works was the target of the air raid. They were dropping everything—incendiaries and bombs.

Q. Did you witness any atrocities upon the Allied prisoners of war while at the Fukuoka Prisoner of War Camp #3?

A. Well, I didn’t see anybody get killed, but there was Japanese we used to call the “Mad Monk”, a guard. He was what we called a “five-star.” They are civilians, wearing a uniform something similar to a reserve. That’s what they did when a man had a bad arm, or something similar. He used to slap everybody for not saluting, or anything, regardless of the prisoner. He did this all the time, and he was there during my entire stay at the two camps. He had a fairly flat nose, pale yellow complexion. The fellows used to say he had a stiff arm—he always wore a glove, either on his right or left hand, I really don’t know. I always saw him at a distance, and stayed out of his way. He had no scars that I know of. He was about 5’5”, weighed about 130 or 135 lbs., his hair was brownish. I can’t remember the color of his eyes. I would say he was about 28 or 30 years old. The “Monk” was a guard at the two camp locations of Fukuoka #3 during my entire stay there. I know of one man off the U.S.S. Houston that got caught stealing rice, and he had water poured on him. He wasn’t exactly naked, but it was out in the open in the camp compound, that happened twice, once in the first camp, and then in the second camp to the same man. His nickname was “Woody, “ and I think he was a S1. I don’t know who the Jap was that forced him to stand there, and they didn’t let us witness anything like that. They would keep us in the barracks, and we went by what they told us later. He was badly beaten. There was another incident that I heard about—a man who I think was an American soldier from the Philippines. He had some difficulty with a “pusher.” The “pusher” hit him a couple of times, and then he became angry and hit the “pusher” back. Then he had two more Japanese “pushers” to fight. They finally subdued the American prisoner after beating him with clubs. When he came back from work, they took him down to the guard house in the camp compound and beat him with steel rods. I don’t remember any of the names of the Japanese or the prisoner. I saw quite a few mistreatments, but I can’t recall the names of the men mistreated nor of the Japanese that mistreated them. I was more familiar with the men from my ship, and the ones I worked with. There was Japanese by the name of Ota who used to mistreat all the boys down in the pipe bending shop. He used to think of the slightest excuse to beat the hell out of any prisoner. He picked on a prisoner by the name of Simpson who was in the U.S. Navy, a S1 off the U.S.S. Grenadier. Ota, who was a civilian “pusher”, about third in command in the pipe bending department at the factory, prison pusher, was there for the last six months of our stay in this camp. Ota used to beat upon Simpson and the other men on the pipe bending detail with a large wooden stick about 3 ½’ in length and about 1” in diameter. That was just naturally done there—it happened most every day. He didn’t beat me, though. Ota was about 5’7”—all muscles. He was muscle-bound, Built just from the waist on up. He had black hair, and walked with round shoulders, thrust forward—just like an ape. His weight, I would say, was about 175 or 185 lbs., and he was about 35 years old. He had no brains—more or less a moron type of person. Evans, a RM3, USN, off the U.S.S. Grenadier used to be badly beaten by Ota and the other Japanese pushers for loafing. I saw a lot of mistreatments done there at the job, mainly by Ota on quite a few prisoners on the same job, but I can’t recall the names of those boys nor the names of the other Japanese pushers. I can recall another incident which occurred to an American Sailor, who was a mess attendant. He used to go during air raids and steal chow in the camp compound at night. They used to mistreat him quite a bit. They used to beat him, and also, when they used to feed him, he got very little rice, and no stew. They poured handfuls of granulated salt over the rice so that he could not eat it. It happened about four or five different times by different Japanese. Some of the guards would come and go. Every week they would change the regulars. That is why I can’t remember the names of the Japanese reservist and regular Army guards that mistreated Trigg, the mess attendant. These mistreatments took place at both camp sites, during my entire stay from March of 1944 until my liberation on August 16, 1945.

Q. Who was the Japanese Commanding Officer of Officers in charge of the two prison compounds of Fukuoka Prisoner of War camp #3?

A. I can’t think of the name of the first Commanding Officer. There was one Japanese, we called him the “Kari Kid”, who was assistant to both Commanding Officers. I don’t know his rank. Both of the Commanding Officers were majors in the Japanese Army. The name of the second Commanding Officer was Rikataki. The first Commanding Officer was about 5’8” or 5’7” tall. He was fairly fat, about 215 lbs. I think he wore a mustache, but I am not sure. He was relieved about the middle of 1944 May or June. That’s all I can recall about him. The second Commanding Officer who replaced the first was Rikataki. He was an old man with gray hair. I think his eyes were blue, but I wouldn’t swear to it. He was about 5’7” or 8” and fairly heavy set. His rank was major in the Japanese Army. That is all I can recall about him. The “Kari Kid” was about 5’11” and quite slim—I would day about 160 lbs. He didn’t look like a Japanese. He was fairly nice looking, and the assistant to the Commanding Officer, and over all the guards. He used to slap prisoners around for not saluting him, and lots of times he would do that to the guards, too. He was responsible for the guards mistreating the Allied prisoners of war. On our “Rest Days”—we were supposed to get three every month--he used to have us go out and drill on how to salute and stand at attention they way the Japanese did. That is about all I can think of regarding him. On “Rest Days” he also held inspection in the barracks, and looked for anything in the way of souvenirs. The prisoners used to get banged around for hiding anything like that. He was in charge of the guards, and would mistreat them for not enforcing his rules and regulations of the camp. On these inspection days the “Kari Kid” would find men who needed shaves or haircuts, and he would then use a pair of clippers and scissors that were very dull. When he would cut the prisoners’ hair, these clippers and scissors would pull great bunches of hair out of the head, causing great pain to the man. The first Commanding Officer was the worst of all. He was responsible for all these conditions, that’s my opinion. He sanctioned the mistreatment of Allied prisoners of war by the Japanese guards under him. The first Commanding Officer himself didn’t do much mistreating, He would issue orders to the assembled prisoners of war in Japanese. We were unable to understand this. These issued orders were interpreted to us by a Japanese interpreter in English that we were unable to understand. Due to our being unable to understand either, we received much mistreatment at the hands of the Japanese guards under the first Commanding Officer. The second Commanding Officer was a little better that the first. Under this second Commanding Officer we were moved to the second compound at Fukuoka #3. At this camp we had new buildings. They had two bathing pools, about 15 ft. long and about 10 ft. wide. There were about 1200 prisoners who had to use these pools, and some of them worked in coal pits and on other dirty jobs, so that the pools, so that the pools looked awfully muddy after all the working men had washed. In some ways the conditions were better under the second Commanding Officer than the first, but in others they weren’t. He saved two or three prisoners from being beaten up a couple of times that I know of. He would talk to them and try to straighten things out in a better way than it would have been if he had not been there. On rest days we had exercises in the afternoon for the last two or three hours in the hot sun. He also would deliver speeches to us telling us, “You must do this,” and “You must not do that.” However, the interpreter never made it very clear. He organized a fire department, more or less a bucket brigade. I believe it was a pretty good idea, and was done more of less to help the prisoners.

Q. Who was the Japanese doctor or doctors at the Fukuoka #3 Prisoner of War Camp?

A. There were two Japanese doctors at this camp that I recall. The first one whom I am unable to name was considered no good by the Allied prisoners of war. This doctor would mistreat in many ways the prisoners. Men who came on sick call with fevers etc., were considered not sick by this doctor. Just because a man may have been sick this doctor would beat them and force them to work anyway. He also withheld medicines from the American doctor. This is all that I can recall concerning this Japanese and I am unable to describe him. The second Japanese doctor whom I recall appeared in the second camp compound of the Fukuoka #3 Camp Area. He was as mean or meaner than the first one. He was not regular about holding sick call, and when he did, he forced the sick men who made the call to stand out in the open weather in the camp compound, awaiting his pleasure. This second Japanese doctor had a nasty habit of mistreating the sick prisoners in the following manner: If a man had a high fever and was shaking from the effects of it, this Japanese doctor would put him in the open compound and pour water over him. Sometimes the weather was very cold. It was this doctor’s idea that this treatment would drive the fever away. Both these Japanese doctors were responsible for the withholding of medicines from the U.S. Naval Lieutenant, Dr. Markovish. I can recall that the second Japanese doctor wore glasses, was rather short, about 5’6” tall, had black hair, and was chubby. I would say he weighed about 175 lbs. He was around 40 years old.

Q. Can you tell me who the interpreter or interpreters were at this prison camp?

A. There were two Japanese interpreters in this POW camp. One of them interpreted for the Japanese officers in the prison compound. The other was located in the steel mill at which we worked. The Japanese interpreter who worked in the mill was called by name, Nishei. He had said many times that he had been in the United States, and was able to talk about the night clubs and beer joints in New York City. He spoke English fluently and had excellent knowledge of American slang. I have never known Nishei to mistreat an American prisoner. I had heard that he slapped one man while this man was on an ore-boat unloading detail. Many times while at work in the factory the interpreter would try to help the prisoners. At any time the interpreter, Nishei, saw a prisoner being beaten by a Japanese guard or civilian, he would try to aid that prisoner. The interpreter would try to find out what the trouble was, and then if he thought the prisoner hadn’t done anything wrong, he would make the guard stop the punishment. In other words, Nishei, the interpreter, tried to aid as best he could the prisoners of war at Fukuoka #3 POW Camp. He had black hair, about two or three inches long, that stuck out at the sides like a porcupine’s quills. He was about 40 years old, about 5’5” tall, and weighed about 125 or 130 lbs. The second interpreter, who was located in the camp areas of Fukuoka #3 Area, whose name I cannot recall nor describe, was pretty much all right. This Interpreter had been a dentist in civilian life in Japan, and I heard that at one time he had been in Calcutta, India. I have seen this interpreter on a few occasions slap prisoners of war for misunderstanding him. I cannot recall the names of these men. It is my opinion that this interpreter was partial to the prisoners of war from India, and he would mistreat the other prisoners of war more than them. This is all that I can clearly recall concerning this interpreter.

Q. Can you recall any other Japanese personnel?

A. Another Japanese that I recall at the camp area was the Japanese Supply Sergeant in charge of the supplies, such as Japanese clothing, American Red Cross clothing, etc. He was in the camp area the entire length of my stay there. I recall him as being about 5’6”, slim, wore glasses, and had black hair. He had a short bobbing walk. He talked English very broken. He’d be about 26 or 28 years old, and was just about normal size, weighing about 140 lbs. This Japanese supply Sergeant, whose name I do not recall, held clothing inspection on one of our so-called rest days. It was at this time that the prisoners of war presented their worn and torn clothing for exchange. The Japanese supply sergeant seemed to have a great dislike for exchanging clothes. He must have thought that they were coming out of his pocket. Before this sergeant would issue any article of clothing to a prisoner, he would beat him viciously with his fists or a club. I imagine in all that there were about fifty prisoners at this POW camp who were not mistreated by the supply sergeant. I, myself, received about two beatings from him, while trying to exchange worn-out clothing. I got hit in the face with a couple of rubber shoes because they weren’t too badly worn out, according to the supply sergeant, even though they were awfully torn up, and I had to go through snow, water, mud, and everything else with those shoes. On top of that, I got hit the second time with a bamboo pole three times for exchanging a torn pair of pants. That’s all I can recall concerning the supply sergeant.

Q. Did American Red Cross supplies arrive at the Fukuoka Prisoner of War Camp Area #3 while you were detained there as a prisoner of war?

A. Yes. American Red Cross supplies did arrive at this camp, and on a few occasions we did receive some of them. Towards the end of the war we were receiving a small amount of Red Cross supplies, approximately once a week. The meats and food stuffs were taken out and put into the prisoners of war’s food, such as stew, and sometimes shared with the Japanese mess. If a hundred boxes of American Red Cross came in, the prisoners usually got about 75 of them. The other 25 were either stolen or distributed among the Japanese personnel. Some of the Japanese personnel at this camp wore the American Red Cross clothing, and the only man whom I can recall as having taken a parcel of Red Cross stuffs was the “Kari Kid,” besides a few others whose names I cannot recall. At the end of the war, we broke into the warehouse where these supplies had been kept, and found a small amount of parcels remaining. I saw Major Rikataki smoking American cigarettes, whereas our cigarette rations were of Japanese “frog-hair” tobacco.

Q. Is there anything further you wish to tell me?

A. The only way that the Japanese had for keeping down fleas, bedbugs, and other insects was to put out a prize of so many cookies for the most insects caught by the Allied prisoners of war. I wish that I could be over there in Fukuoka #3 where I could identify those said persons. I would like to appear as a witness before the War Crimes Trials.

Joe G. Ingram, CMM, USN.

STATE OF LOUISANA )

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ORLEANS PARISH )

I, Joe G. Ingram, CMM, USN, of lawful age, being duly sworn on oath, state that I have read the foregoing transcriptions of my interrogation, consisting of eight pages, and all answers contained therein, are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Joe G. Ingram, CMM, USN.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 24th day of January, 1947.

John T. McClarnon WOJG

Assistant Adjutant General

Fourth Army

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C E R T I F I C A T E

I, John T. McClarnon, Special Agent, 112th CIC Detachment, Fourth Army, certify that on 24 January 1947, personally appeared before me Joe G. Ingram, CMM, USN, and game the foregoing answers to the several questions set forth; that after his testimony had been transcribed, consisting of eight pages, the said Joe G. Ingram, CMM, USN, read the same and affixed his signature thereto in my presence.

John T. McClarnon, Special Agent,

112th CIC Detachment, Fourth Army