



5-1982

W. Rhynard Byars of Fairdale: Japan, World War II

W. Rhynard Byars

Follow this and additional works at: <https://commons.und.edu/nd-pow-reports>

Recommended Citation

W. Rhynard Byars. "W. Rhynard Byars of Fairdale: Japan, World War II" (1982). *North Dakota Prisoner of War Reports*. 1.

<https://commons.und.edu/nd-pow-reports/1>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Elwyn B. Robinson Department of Special Collections at UND Scholarly Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in North Dakota Prisoner of War Reports by an authorized administrator of UND Scholarly Commons. For more information, please contact und.common@library.und.edu.

PRISONER OF WAR

A TRUE STORY

BY: RHYNARD BYARS

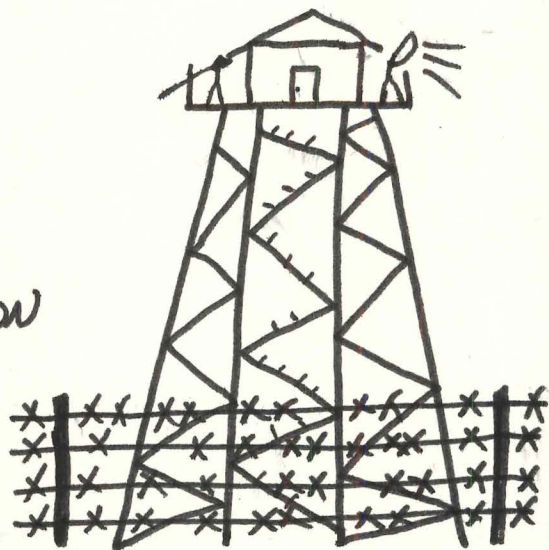
FAIRDALE, N. DAK.

AMERICAN PRISONER IN PHILIPPINE
AND JAPANESE PRISON CAMPS
WORLD WAR II 1941-1945

THIS BOOKLET PREPARED
IN COOPERATION WITH:
N. DAK. EX-POW ORGANIZATION

AND

CHESTER FRITZ LIBRARY
UNIVERSITY OF N. DAK.





1941 - CORREGIDOR
PHILIPPINE

— RICHARD BYARS —



1945 - FAIRDALE, N. D.

DEAR ELMER:

Fairdale, No. Dak.

May, ? 1982

I hope this will help you in your research of P.O.W.s., as I said right at the start I went only through the eight grade and that was a long time ago too, my report is done from memory only I did not keep a diary so there may be a lot of mistakes I do not spell very good so you may have some trouble understanding some of my writing and as I did not take any lessons on the typewriter it has been hunt and peck all the way and some times I hit the wrong letter that slows me up, this was a part of my life I have tried to forget so may not be to accurate, I have left out the dates most of the time because we did not have any way to know the date and no paper to write on most of the time and all this started 50 years ago that is to long for me to be sure of any time place or date so it is just a wild guess at best for me to try to remember what I did that long ago much try to remember when and where it all happened.

The last days in Japan I was on a detail that work a large garden for the Japs. and we walked through the town of Omuta to get to the garden and after the last bombing we saw a lot of homes that were burnt to the ground and some of them had burnt the owans too I felt sorry for the civilians they did not want the war any more then we did.

I am sending you some papers that the family got from the war department about me also a letter my mother got from Snowfield and Snowfield of Langdon, N.D. our mail came from Milton so the war department sent all the papers to Langdon and Cavalier county. Please return these papers.

I have ten or more books written by X.P.O.W.s. I do not care to give them away but might put them on loan so others could read them, but I do have just about all of the back issues of the EX-POW BULLETIN some as far back as 1949 and there may be a few older then that, I also have alot of THE QUAN that is the magazine that is put out by AMERICAN DEFENDERS OF BATAAN AND CORREGIDOR INC. I am a life member of both so get a magazine from each every month I would like to give all of them to the new P.O.W. chapter so the members could read up on what the American Ex - Prisoners of War have been doing all these years to try and help the X.P.O.W.s. also in the back issues are most of the books written by the X.P.O.W.s. of the prison camps they were in some of these books are out of print now but it seem that there more books being written all the time

I am enclosing a piece of paper that was given to each of us when got back to the rest camp onase to Manila in the Philippines by the red cross they really were good to us we eat all the time and as far as I know no one got sick from over eating we went from the mess hall to the red cross tent when we got full we went to our tent and slept for while then back to eating again, after about 4 years of starvation we had a lot of eating to do to catch up.

This covers all I can bring to mind right now so will close and hope this is what you wanted, there was so many things that happened in those three and a half years but it is hard to get it all together and put it together after so many years of trying to forget it, I never planed to put any of that part of my life on paper

I never wanted to have to relive any of it again, but I suppose it should be recorded some place so all can read about what happened to us that were victims of a part of history no one wanted or ever thought would ever happen.

Sincerely



W. Rhynard Byars

All rights reserved. No portion of this publication may be reproduced in any form without permission of writer or "N. Dak. EX-POW'S Inc."

EX-PRISONER OF WAR QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Name: W. RHYNARD BYARS

Current Address: R.R. 1, Box 120 , FAIRDALE, NORTH DAKOTA, 58229

Address at time you went into service: Milton, North Dakota ,

Birthday: Dec. 1. 1911

2. Family: (spouse and children) Single then , single now

3. Work and educational experience prior to going into service?
Eighth grade only., farm labor.

4. Dates and place of entry into service? I joined the U. S. Army on Feb. 4, 1941, Fargo, No. Dak., we were shipped to San Francisco and out to Angel Island until we left for the Philippines. March, 31, 1941 on the U.S. Army transport the Republic got to Manila 22 days latter and went right to Corregidor.

5. Summary of events from time of entry into service and until just prior to capture or entering status as a POW?

I spent about two months on Angel Island Calif. then we were loaded on the U.S. Transport Republic and shipped to Philippine Islands , where I was assigned to Battery (E) 60 ,Coast Artillery Corps (AA) we were a Searchlight battery and worked with the anti-aircraft guns ,I trained as portable power generator operator, when BATAAN fell we were ordered back to CORREGIDOR after we had destroyed all our equipment, some of our men were assigned to a 12 inch mortar but I stayed with the searchlight going down on the beach every night hopefully away before daylight

6. Unit, Country, time, area, weather, etc., at time event occurred which resulted in POW status? U.S. ARMY BATTERY (E) (AA) Coast artillery Corregidor PHILIPPINE ISLANDS, weather hot and dry , the Japs over run the island.

7. Describe military or other events that resulted in your POW status?

The japs had us out numbered ,we had no aircraft left,low on food and water, they had shelled us day and night knocking out all our big guns .

I think the last gun to be fired was the old 12 inch mortar that was taken over by some of my battery after we left Bataan and came back to Corregidor and they got that so hot the breech froze and they could not get it open to load it that was the end for them.

8. Following your capture, describe what happened. How many men were involved? Where did you go? How did you go? What type of personnel (military or civilian) took control of you?

As we wre captured on Corregidor Island we were held there for a few days it seemed a long time but I do not know how long, then we were loaded on a filthy boat that the Japs had shiped their horses on and it had not been cleaned, on this boat we went to the mainland we were taken off this boat onto a landing barg (Iguess the docks were all blowen up) the bargs stayed away off shore so we were put in the water where it was about four feet deep,as we waded ashore the cavalry were there and run us down the street to the old BILIBID Prison MANILLA,

I do not know how many men was on Corregidor but few if any escaped, a lot of the men stayed in Bilibid prison,a few stayed on Corregidor and the Japs made them clean up the place they tried to fined the silver Pesos the Navy dumped in the bay and anything they could ship back to Japan,I was loaded on small box cars with about one hundred per car or all they could put in standing room only for the trip to Cabanatuan from there we walked to P.O.W. camp no. twowith Jap. soldiers on all sides.

9. Were you able to hide or escape? If so, tell what happened. Where did you hide? Food? Clothing? Water? Weather? Sleep? etc.

I did not try to escape a very few did those that were recaptured were tied to posts in the hot sun all day then beaten and bayoneted I planed to get back home and did not think that was ta way to do it.

10. How did your escape end? Returned to U.S. control? Discovered by enemy?

The japs. put us in ten man squards and told us if one of the men in our sward escaped the rest of the sward would be shot,I was told this did happen out on one of the details but not in the camp were I was.

11. Could you describe in sequence the various places you were interrogated and the methods of questioning the enemy used?

I never was interrogated there was so many of us and I was a private a lot of the officers were questioned many times but not to many of the enlisted men.

12. Did you have a weapon on yourself when you were captured? Did it effect your treatment?

We were all told to destroy all our guns so I do not think they caught anyone with guns a few were caught with Jap. souvenirs all were beaten some killed on the spot.

13. Were you at any time considered a civilian or an enemy spy or a wrong nationality? If so, how did this effect your treatment?

We were all military personal and they know it I do not know much about how the civilians were treated, they hated all that were bigger then they were so just because I was taller made them mad at me and all the othertall men.

14. When captured or escaping, what clothing or equipment were you wearing? What changes did the enemy make in your clothing?

We kept our clothing and as long as we were in the Philippines we were not given more clothing until our old ones were worn out then we got U.S. Army clothing that they got from army warehouses or off those who dead, most men were buried without clothing .

15. What was your first food you received after your capture and what was your food from that date on?

Rice, and rice was the main food from then on very little meat, some vegetables, most of the time it was rice and a little watery soup so thin you could see the bottom of the bowl with a few pieces of some kind of vegetables floating around, some times we had fish, whale blubber and a few times they brought dogs into the messhall to the cooks.

16. Did your nationality, religion, or race have a bearing on your treatment from the enemy?

I do not think so they hated all people that were bigger then they were after we went to japan they tryed to stop all religious gatherings but it did not stop those that wanted to, they allways found a time and a place.

17. What was your impression of your captors? Were they arrogant, considerate, professional, troubled, confused, anxious, etc.?

They were very arrogant, after the atomic bomb they were very nervous.

18. Were you alone or with others? How many? Same unit? Other units? Other services? Other nationalities, etc.?

We were captured as a unit but they soon did their best to keep good friends apart as much as they could, we were put in Filipino army barracks in Cabanatuan about 200 men in each with an officer and a sergeant in charge, we were all numbered and every so often they would run us all out on the parade ground and by calling numbers put just about every one in a different

- barrack 19. At time of your capture, did you have higher or lower ranking persons with you? Did the difference in rank effect you?

We had all ranks at first but the officers soon were separated, yes all low ranking men had to work the officers did not do manul labor.

20. Following your capture, how did you feel about your family at home, and at what point or time did you feel they probably knew about your POW status?

I worried about what they would think not knowen if I was alive or wounded, We had know^{of} knowing what they were told ,but we were given cards to make out to be sent home...and we were told by our officers to say that we were getting plenty of food and were well treated because if we told the truth the cards would never get home and if the folks at home know just how bad we were treated it would just make them fell bad this way they would know we were alive .

21. When did you receive your first letter, package or information that your family knew of your capture?

It was about a year befor I got a letter from home ,and about 2 years befor I got a letter that said they know I was alive but then all letters we got were at lest one year old, I got one package from home in all the time I was aP.O.W. we were supposed to get one Red cross package each man every month we never got a complete package ,The japs always opened them and took what they wanted.

22. In regards to your interrogation or questioning--was this conducted formally at a special camp or location? Did you have special or skilled interrogators? What did they want to know? How long were you there? Then where did you go?

I was never interrogated just asked a few simple questions and soon as they found out I was with the searchlight battery and only a private they lost internterest in me.

23. How did you feel the war was going when you were captured?

We all know the war was not going very good when we were captured and most of us know our chances of help were very poor ,it was know supprise to most of us when the front lines started to break and we were told to get down to MARIVELES and get on the boat and get back to Corregidor as fast as we could and destroy all equipment.

24. Did you think you would eventually get home?

I never doubted that I would get back and tryed to make some of the others feel the same way, it did not always work as some men just lost faith in god and country and never made it back.

25. Did you have an opportunity to observe the enemy in combat, training, camp, or moving from one place to another?

They were always moving there men around and in japan we watch them drill but we were sure it was mostly a show to impress us so did not watch very much, I never seen them in combat.

26. Did you suffer any injury at the time of your capture? What was done about your injury or illness following your capture?

I had malaria but was lucky that I had an attack befor the limited supple of quinine was usedup by taking the full quinine treatment I was cured and have not had another attack.

27. At your permanent camp or camps, would you describe your conditions. Food? Living area? Beds? Food ration? Health? Water? Weather? Number of men? Guards? Size and location of camps? Organization in camp by enemy and by U.S. forces? There was know beds in any of camps,

we lived in the sleeping area, the food was mostly rice and most of the time that was short rations they made it clear they were just going to give us enough to keep us alive, the number of men changed all the time as the japs took work details out and brought others back in , later they started to take large groups of 500 or more to japan, in the Philippines I was in Cabanatuans no. 1 and 2, we started a farm at Cabanatuan camp No. 1 but the japs took most of the vegtables and a lot men were badly beaten when caught stealing or eating some of the vegetables, most of the time we had plenty of water to drink but not for bath and again the beatings for washing later we got more water spigots and we were permitted to bath and wash our clothing, In July ,1943 a detail of 500 men left Cabanatuan for japan, I was part of that detail, 500 men in the hold of a jap freighter know sanitary fixtures just two wooden buckets , two meals a day sent down in buckets one rice, one soup, this had to be the worst boat trip I ever had and surely some the worst days of my P.O.W. life, 22 days later we landed in japan, we were not bombed but had two bad scares when we heard something scrape along the bottom of the boat, it sure made the japs nervous, we were the first P.O.W.s. in that camp just out of Omuta japan, we work in a coal mine. I am not sure but I think we landed at Moji japan and went by train to Omuta were we worked in the coal mine.

28. While in your permanent camp, did you know what was going on in the war? What did guards say about the ending of the war?

The jap. guards always told us they ^{were} winning the war but they knew so little about the U.S. that they even said their big war ships had shelled Chicago Ill. , but as long as we were in the Philippines the Filipino civilians tried to give us all the latest war news, it was really funny the way they kept telling us they had sunk the same battle ships by name all over the south pacific, we know they were telling us lies so did not believe anything they said.

29. If you worked in camp or lived in work camps, please describe your daily transportation, work, food, punishment, etc.?

All the camps were work camps, in the Philippines we had a vegetable garden we walk to, also a truck detail that went to town and unloaded rail cars and brought food to camp I was on the truck detail most of the time, in japan we work in a coal mine we also walk to work there, food in japan was mostly rice, the meat if any was boiled in a watery soup mixed with what ever greens the japs. gave the cooks (we had American cooks) but they had to go by the japs. rules , for meat we had all kinds of fish, from sardines to whale blubber, even dog meat a few times I do not think we ever had beef as I do not think they had any cows to butcher, the punishment was usually done by the soldiers they liked to beat the men with their rifle butts, make us do push ups or make us kneel down with a pick handle back of the knees and sit that way for an hour or more depending on how they felt or how bad they wanted to punish some one or if the war was going bad for them, this would just about stop all the blood to the lower part of the legs and feet when we were finally let up some could not walk and had to be helped to stand until the blood had time to circulate back to the feet, the feet lost all the feeling I am sure this has caused a lot of foot and leg troubles for most of us that had to do that.

30. Was your camp or camps ever bombed or damaged by the enemy or friendly military action?

Yes our camp was bombed by friendly aircraft they dropped fire bombs on our camp twice and burnt some of our barrack the japs. could not understand why we were so happy about it but we thought if they could come over at night and bomb the town and drop only a few bombs in our camp the war would soon be over. (This was in japan only)

31. Could you describe your roll call or counting procedure in camp?

Our roll call was done in a military way we all had to line up and dress up the line by jap. rules and count off in japanese some of the soldiers liked to go along in front of the line and slap all those that could not count off in japanese and then make us do it all over again, we had roll call always morning and night or when ever a detail went out or came in some times the whole camp was run out for ashake down and search of the barrack if some one was caught with pencils or paper that person got a beating.

32. What type of guards did you have? Age? Rank? Weapons? Number? Service, etc.?

Most of our guards were soldiers with some battle field service so they were mean and as we were supposed to bow to them when ever we saw them they would hide and after we had gone by they would stop us and slap some times it was the old push ups until you were all in some times a beating if the push ups were not done to please them., the guards were changes about once a month so we could not get to know them or they get to know any of us, we were always trying to trade with them, some would trade others would just take what ever was offered and go if you tried to do any thing about it they got mad beat the guy up for his trouble.

All the guards carried jap. rifles and most of the time had fixed bayonet and they liked to try to punch us if they could get close enough.

33. Could you describe your camp? Size? Fences? Guard towers? Latrine? Ration distribution? Hours? Lock-up? Heat? Recreation, etc.?

In the Philippines the fences were barbed wire with guard towers at each corner and at the gates, in Japan the fences were boards and about twelve feet high with high voltage wires all around the top on the inside. A Jap soldier was fooling around one day in the rain and touched the wires and was killed on the spot. I do not know of any P.O.W.s that ever touched the wires, the latrines in the Philippines were deep holes in the ground with a wooden bench with 5 or 6 holes with only a little creosote for a disinfectant. The flies and fly maggots were a real problem, with diarrhea and dysentery a real problem. A lot of the men did not always make it to the latrines so sanitation was a real and ever present problem. In Japan all the latrines were attached to the end of the barrack and had a cement pit under each one and a honey dipper came and dipped out the contents and used it for fertilizer to grow their gardens. Real good they told us, in the Philippines we all got the same rations but in Japan we worked in a coal mine and the workers got more rice than a man on his day off or if he was sick. All the food was cooked in one big kitchen and the workers were fed when they went to work and were given a small lunch to eat in the mine then fed again when they came back to camp. We worked the mine in three shifts of eight hours each to keep the mine going 24 hours a day and every 7 to 10 days we were given a day of rest and then we would start on a new time so some times we worked in the day time some times at night, we had no heat in any of the barrack and no beds we slept on grass mats which was also the floor so we took off our shoes when we went into our rooms, there was no lock-ups unless you were being punished then they took your belt cut off all the buttons off your clothing and you got only one small meal a day.

34. Could you describe the men close to you or the men you knew best? How did you get along with them?

As I said before the Japs. did not want us to have any real close friends and about every 6 or 8 months (I never tried to keep track of the time) they would run us all out on the middle of the camp make us stand there for what seemed like hours while the camp commander gave a long speech and the guards were searching the barrack then ~~the~~ an interpreter would start calling out numbers (we were all numbered) and most of us went to different barrack and worked on a different job or shift, most of us got along not because we liked each other but we all planned to get home some day, a few did fight but we did our best keep it from the Japs. because their favorite punishment was to cut our rations and no one wanted that.

35. Could you tell about epidemics or sickness in camp? What were the medical facilities? How were you medically treated in camp?

In the Philippines we had a lot of malaria a few cases of yellow jaundice and T.B., pellagra and Both wet and dry Beri Beri (I had the wet Beri Beri , pellagra, Yellow jaundice, Malaria, and the mumps in japan) we had really good doctors but they did not have any medicine to work with, we were treated by our American Doctors and as we were working in a coal mine we got very dirty and the japs. did not give us very much soap so we had a lot skin troubles, a lot of boils I am sure that every man that worked in the coal mine had a few boils I had a lot of them mostly under the arms about all the doctors could do was cut the boil open put something in the opening (usually a short piece of bandage to keep it open to drain) and tell you to come back the next time when you got in from the mine and every time when we came in from the mine there was that big long line of half washed men waiting their turn for the doctor or corpsman with a dull knife to cut open the boils or pull out the bandage and put in a new one.

36. Were any prisoners killed in camp or taken from camp and disappeared?

In the Philippines there were a few who were caught to close to the fence and shot some tried to escape and got caught and shot some were tied up to a post in the hot sun all day then at night taken out and killed some were shot some were bayoneted, the burial detail took them to the cemetery the next day, yes some just disappeared to.

37. Could you describe the ration or food distribution system? How much? Fresh, canned, stale, dried, etc.? Local foods, Red Cross parcels, parcels from home, trade with guards or civilians?

While we were in the Philippines if we had money we could buy food from the Filipino civilians but it had to be done behind the soldiers backs, we had a wood detail and the Filipinos would sell anything they had if they could and many times they just gave us food or cigarettes, the catholic church gave our camp many carabao or water buffalo as some called them to be butchered for meat some were used to pull carts to go to town and get our food, the meat and vegetables were fresh a lot of the rice was old, some moldy I think some was the sweepings off the floor as it was full of small stones most had maggots and it was best to eat that in the dark, one of our doctors said go ahead and eat the maggots they had more vitamins in them then the rice did I often wondered if that doctor eat them or picked them out, the red cross parcels came but the japs. kept most of them, I got one parcel from home and that was crushed and had been wet so all the food was spoiled, all the parcels were opened by a jap. guard who took what ever he wanted and that was all candy and cigarettes they opened all containers dumped it all in a pile and we had to take it from there, a lot of the things that came in the parcels was traded to the japs. or civilians for food.

38. Describe the type of work or responsibilities you were assigned within the camp from friendly or USA prisoners?

We all kept up our bunk space, and we did take turns at guard duty to keep some of the men from getting to close to the fence at night and getting shot by the guards a man with malaria or a bad case of beri beri sometimes lost his sense of direction and had to be helped back to his right barrack, I also did guard duty at the mess hall to keep the always hunger men from stealing food in the night when the cooks were gone.

39. What were some of the things that kept you going while in camp?
Your health? Age? Faith in U.S. Armed Forces? Religion? Family?
Aid from other prisoners?

While in the Philippines we had a lot of very talented men some good singers and they put on some good shows the japs. let us have musical instruments, also we still had the officers in camp so we had our chaplains and one could always hear the word of god even after they forbid a group to gather unless we had a permit, but this did not stop the chaplains from having church services on sunday if possible if not in the open then in a barrack, I never lost faith in the U.S.A. or in the armed forces and always planed to come back home, my age may have helped some it seemed to be hardessed on the realy young men and those from wealthy familys, we all tryed to help each other and to have a friend you could talk to made a big difference, the japs. were always trying to break up friendships so if two men were seen together to much on the next shakeup they were sure to be put in differant barrack or on different shifts to make it hard for them get together.

40. Did any prisoners become mentally sick or irrational in camp and were they removed?

Yes we had one young fellow that either went a little off or was a very good actor because he sure put on a good show he carried a broom with him all the time and when we would fall out for role call he would always sweep the spot where he was to stand and then hold his broom like rifle close to his side I do not think he ever got very good at counting in japanese but he got by .

41. Did you have any secret radios, newspapers or outside news sources in camp from which you received information? What information did the enemy give you?

In the Philippines they had some rodios but they run on batterys which were had to get and I do not think we had any in japan, the japs. gave us paper once in a while that told of all the American ship they had sunk and all the airopplanes they had shot down but we never believed them .

42. Did you have any serious illness in camp?

I had malaria, yellow jaundice, pellargra, beri beri , scurvy in the Philippines and after I got to japan I got mumps with no medicine all wer e bad.

43. Did you have any riots in camp?

No riots.

44. How did you first know that war was coming to an end?

To me the first signs of the end was close was when the big bomber started to fly over our camp in big waves look to us like a spring day in North Dakota when the big flocks of geese go north in the spring, the japs. shot a few rounds at them each day then just let them go, we tried to count them but the sky was so full of planes it was impossible to count them all, at first the japs. run us into the air raid shelters but soon they quit that and then we know the end is near,

45. What were some of the tricks you played on guards?

46. What about escape procedures and methods used by you or others that you have knowledge of or direct information about?

47. Were you ever bombed by friendly or enemy aircraft?

Yes we were bombed by friendly aircraft two different times both at night, the first time with some kind of jelly, very little damage, the second time small firebombs scattered all over and set a lot of fires.

48. Describe any special train or ship trip you took while a prisoner?

The first train trip as a P.O.W. was in a box car and we were put in as many as they could get in then shut the door it was hot and standing room only, that was in the Philippines after we got to Japan we were put in an old passenger train to the town close to our camp we were on that train most of the day and fed one small bun, all the windows we covered so we could not see out but I did see some of the countryside it was mostly mountains and showed very poor living conditions.

(I think this trip was from Moji to Omuta but I am not sure as all the names were in Japanese)

49. When were you close to death or felt all was not worth living and you probably would die or be killed?

I suppose my closest brush with ^{death} in P.O.W. camp was in the mine in Japan once a large rock fell on me breaking one rib, the other time I thought my time had come was when we were working in a tunnel it had a small opening at one end and when the roof started to cave in I was sure that was the end for all of us, cave ins were common in the mine and some times the miner were hurt real bad.

50. Could you tell about any special religious observances by the enemy or special occurrence when they relaxed or tightened security rules?

On their New Years day (not the same as ours) they were a little easier to get along with but not always.

51. Would you describe in detail any particular holiday, if observed, by enemy or prisoners, such as, New Years or Christmas.

The Japs. did observe New Years but it was not at the same time as we have New Years here, they let us have our Christmas in the Philippines but in Japan we had Christmas but not on the 25 of Dec.

52. How did you feel about food in camp? How did enemy food agree with you? What was food? What were utensils? What did you make to eat with? Pots, pans, cups, plates?

The food was mostly rice and we were used to it from the rations we had the last days of the war were mostly rice, food was just about anything we could find and eat, our utensils were for the most part our G.I. mess utensils if you were lucky to have kept them or a tin can some had made containers out of tin some of wood, in Japan we used our mess kits and they had bowls made of bamboo cut off about three inches from the joints to make the bowl they were about four inches in diameter so they would hold about a cup of liquid, for to eat with they gave us chopsticks, but a lot of us still had our G.I. spoons, to take to the mine we were giving a small box about 3x6x2 inches that was filled with rice maybe a small slice of pickle, that was the noon meal down in the mine.

53. Were you aware of any other American or Allied POW camps in your area? Civilian camps?

We head of other camps but were never told just where they were ,

54. In reference to your mind or yourself, how do you feel you held up in camp? Did you suffer periods of depression, crying, hysteria, headaches, loss of memory, etc.? How about the other men in camp? How do you feel you and others were able to live without nervous breakdowns?

I am sure we all had our bad days and that was when a friend was so important to have some one to talk to, we talked about friends and familys but the most common subject was food ,the only crying I saw or heard of was from pain from the beri beri , I have know way of telling how many men had nervous breakdowns but we all had to work and when we got a chance to reast we just got a book if one could be found and read or just go to sleep if the guards would let us , I do not think there was much loss of memory that came later

55. How do you feel other American POW's behaved or acted while in enemy hands? Please do not name an individual by name if you feel their behavior was not correct or up to the standards you set for yourself.

There were a few thieves in camp if you washed you clothing and put them out on the line to dry you had to sit and watch them or some would steal them , there was one man so bad he turned himself in to the japs. and they kept him in the guardhouse at night.

56. Towards the end of the war, what were first signs that the war was coming to an end in our favor?

WE were on the coast and there was some Dutch P.O.W. s that worked on the docks loading coal on the jap. ships and they told us about ships that came back to port that were badly damaged and about all the wounded that were taken off some of the ships.

57. How did the enemy guards or administrative personnel treat you towards the end of the war or when it was apparent the enemy would lose the war?

The guards were really mean when the war was going badly for them but after the first atomic bomb they were very nervous and seemed to try to avoid us if they could, after the second bomb they were scared of every plane that came over, (our camp was close enough to Nagasaki that we heard the plane come in that dropped the bomb and heard the bomb go off also it shook our barrack until the windows rattled we seen the big cloud of smoke go up) (the japs. run us into the air raid shelters then after awhile they let us out and the smoke was still going up and boiling no one in camp could tell what it was but we could tell it was big and the japs. were scared.

58. Could you describe how your POW status ended?

The japs. gave us a lot of lies about some special holidays and did not send anyone to the mine for two or three days they gave us the red cross boxes they had kept from us also some red cross clothing , when some of the officers went to the jap. main office and they told them the war was over so the Americans took the japs. guns and told them to get out of camp before some of the men found out the war was over and came looking for them to try to get even for all the beatings that the japs. had giving them

59. When or where did enemy guards leave? Did guards say or do anything at the end of the war? The guards left in hurry after they told us the war was over, some of the guards asked us if they were going to be shot when the American army came and took over the camp, they were really scared and thought the Americans would shoot them all,

60. What did the American staff at the camp do at the end of the war?

The American staff took charge of the camp and when the airforce started to drop food into camp they tried to get all the food divided up so every one got their share.

And from some place came the American flag and was put up for all to see it was a happy day for all of us .

61. At the end of the war, where did you move? What was your food? Your health? Your morale?

At the end of the war we stayed in camp for a few days then a news paper man found our camp and told us about a airport that the airforce had taken over on the southern part of the island he told us the water around there was mined so they had to fly in all the food and equipment and then the planes had to fly back empty ,he said I know they do not like to fly empty when they could be taking some of us back to the Philippines with them, the food was good after the airforce started to fly in food and clothing, and the morale was at a new high ,but we wanted to get out of the camp so a lot of the men about half I think left camp and walked to town (Muta) I think it was and when a train came we all that could get on and ,after about two days we got to a town on the southern tip of the island of Kyushu, I think it was the 17 of Sept. 1945, we got our first taste of good old G.I. food that night, from there we rode in a plane to the island of Okinawa and from there to the Philippines .

62. Could you describe some of the confusion that took place when you were liberated at the end of the war? Time, place, friendly or enemy forces involved, food, health, morale, POW discipline in camp, contact with U.S. military forces, etc.?

There was a lot of confusion when the air force started to drop food to us the jap. civilians tried to get to the drops first and a few times they made it and stole our food guess they were hungry too, P.O.W. discipline was fairly good most of the men were too poor physically to do much but eat and sleep the let down from the everpresent guards to the tranquility of no one to tell you what to do all the time was a grateful and pleasing change that many just lay around the barrack others were off up town to look around others to try and find some of the japs. that beat them up and try and even up the score, and I said before we made our first contact with U.S. military forces on the southern tip of the island about 15 days after the war was over.

63. After liberation or the war ending, what happened? Did you move as an individual or group, go by foot, train, bus? Where did you go, to another U.S. camp?

We went as a group by foot then by train, we were pick^{ed} up by U.S. air force truck and taken to their camp, then the next day we rode a cargo plane to Okinawa where we got our first real bath and new clothing from there we went to the Philippines where we were officially returned to the U.S. as X.P.O.W.s most of us stayed in the Philippines for physicals and a lot of questions (from Kyushu to Okinawa we got to see just what happened to Nagasaki the pilots wanted to see it so they made two or three passes over what was left of it, not much) also a full issue of clothing, the redcross gave us free candy, beer, cigarttes, salted peanuts, the mess hall gave us all we could eat and let us go back for seconds and thirds or even more if we wished, we eat all day long and then filled our mess kits to eat after the mess hall closed for the night I think I gained about 2 pounds a day.

64. What happened at your camp prior to returning to the States? Did U.S. military officials interrogate you, examine you physically, give you food, clothing, etc.? I was in the rest camp about 3 weeks

went to see a doctor every day he was treating me for my beri beri and edema also pellagra and I had swellings on both legs I continued this treatment after I got back to San Francisco at Letterman General hospital and later at Fort Carson (it was called Camp Carson then) we all had a lot of tests before we could go home

65. How, when and where did you arrive back in the United States? Did you stay at some camp? Did you go home by train?

I came back to the U.S.A. in a navy hospital ship arrived in San Francisco on Oct. 25, 1945, was taken by bus to Letterman General hospital more tests and we had movie theater that showed news reels all day long of all the news we had not seen or even heard about we could sit in there all day and not see them all also a girl in the ticket office gave out cold milk or orange juice free for just asking for it ,

66. What things today remind you of prison life in your day to day living?
(RICE)

67. Do you have any complaints about how you have been treated since your POW days?

No complaints.

68. Do you have a picture of yourself prior to being a POW, preferably a picture in uniform? Do you have a picture of yourself following the war? Do you have a picture of yourself and your family recently taken, or taken within recent years? Any or all of these pictures would be appreciated. They will be returned to you after we have made copies of them.

I have one picture taken in Fargo, No. Dak. in Dec. of 1945 , and one picture taken while on Corregidor in a photo studio that was there before the war started I am not to sure just when it was taken but I had sent it home so it had to be soon after we got there, June or July I think.

69. Do you have any copies of telegrams from the War Department or the U.S. Government regarding your becoming a POW? Or your release, or war time status as a POW? These or copies of these would be appreciated. If you wish them returned, they will be sent back to you.

I have some letters sent to my mother telling her that I was a P.O.W. were and how to write to me these I would like to get back.

The redcross let all of us send telegrams home but I can not find the one I sent my mother gave me all of the letters to keep when I got home so I must have misplaced it some were , found one telegram sent to me From mother and Dad, I have more but all are about the same.

70. Do you have any letters or copies of letters you sent home or received from home during war or during period you were a POW? These or copies of these would be appreciated. They also will be returned if you so indicate in your reply.

Yes I have some letters I sent home also some of the ~~letters~~ received in P.O.W. camps I have quit a few so the ones I send you can keep, I will mark the ones I wish to be returned.

71. A few POW's were able to return to the U.S. or home with a few articles they may have made, been given or in some way secured in POW camp. Some of these could be: paper notes, camp regulations, clothing, cigarette lighter, insignia, hand made pans or pots, special cans used in camp, small tools, etc. If you have any of these, we would appreciate a picture of them. If you desire they could be sent with this report and we will take a picture of them and return them to you if you so desire.

I have a few things that I traded for, a ring I made out of a piece of a (with a razor blade) carrabao (water buffalo) horn, I tried to take picture of it but could get a good one, I do have a few insignias of some of the other regiments but are too hard to send, a jap. knife, a pair of old rubber soled cloth shoes, some of the cloth from the parachutes the air force used to drop food to us also some of the ropes used to tie the food packages to the chutes (I think they were nylon cords.)

72. The above questions or suggestions are limited and you may write or explain many items not included; therefore, feel free to express yourself in any manner you desire.

One of the things that was the hardest on most of us that worked in the coal mine was the place was full of rats and some were really big, we took our rice meal down into the mine and had to have a guard to keep the rats from eating our food that was in a wooden box, also a few of the men would steal and eat the rice too, but the rats would chew a hole in the box, and were filthy too and left a bad smell on every thing they touched.

Another worry was that we were either under or at least below the level of the bay so we were told if we seen water coming out of a hole made by the jackhammers to first test it, if it was salty we were told to tell our overman (a jap civilian supervisor) and than get out of the mine, we had places that were wet some that were cold and some places that were very hot and dry but, I never seen or heard of any one finding salt water.

What was the hardest on our nerves in the mine was the constant fear of a cave in and falling rocks, but what was the hardest of all was when the timbers started to pop like gun shots and big posts some 6 or 8 inches in diameter would break or shatter and send splinters flying or just bend over from the pressure of the overhead or ceiling, we worked along a solid wall of coal, the coal vein was not always the same depth some places it was only about four feet deep and other places over ten feet, this put a lot of pressure on the timbers, we also made cribs out of timbers and filled them with rocks to help hold up the overhead but the pressure of all that rock after the coal was taken out was more than could be kept up, and very few of us had ever been under ground and the sight and sounds of broken timbers plus falling rocks was hard to take, then to make it still worse they were also using dynamite all the time to blast the coal wall down or to break up the big rocks for us to fill the cribs with to help hold up the roof or overhead, we were working down below a lot of rock and it was settling all the time, it was hard on the nerves and some one was getting hurt just about every day.

The Japs. made us go through a religious routine every day before we went down into the mine, I do not know if it was Shitainism or Buddhism, the japs. have both religions, but we had to all line up in front of a little altar or shrine, it looked like a small doll house about 6 or 8 inches square on a high shelf it had a light bulb in it, we had to clap our hands then had to bow to it clap some ^{kokoro} and bow again, we were supposed to say some kind of prayer in japanese language but very few of us ever learned it we just let the japs. say the words but we all had to bow and clap our hands, that was supposed to keep us safe, and when some one got hurt they said it was because he did not do the routine right or say the prayer right and it was his fault and not because the mine was unsafe.

The mine furnished a place for us to bath when we came out of the mine each day it was a large cement tank and we all used the same water sort of a small swimming pool, I do not know how often the water was change but about once a week I think it was supposed to be changed every day even then if you were on the last shift the water was very dirty after about a hundred coal miners had washed in it but it was the only water around to wash in, some times it was cold, some times to hot to get into, we were supposed to soap up and then dip water out of the tank to rinse off before getting into the tank but few had soap to wash with so just got into the water and tried to soak the coal dust off.

WAR DEPARTMENT
THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE

WASHINGTON

IN REPLY
REFER TO

AG 201 Byars, William R.
(2-9-43) PC-G 041114-2

February 19, 1943.

Mr. William B. Byars,
Route Number 1,
Milton, North Dakota.

Dear Mr. Byars:

Report has been received that your son,

Private William R. Byars, 17,017,126, Coast Artillery Corps,

is now a prisoner of war of the Japanese Government in the Philippine Islands. This will confirm my telegram of February 15, 1943.

The Provost Marshal General, Prisoner of War Information Bureau, Washington, D.C., will furnish you the address to which mail may be sent. Any future correspondence in connection with his status as a prisoner of war should be addressed to that office.

Very truly yours,


W. L. H.
Major General,
The Adjutant General

1 Inclosure.
Memorandum re Financial Benefits.

WAR DEPARTMENT
ARMY SERVICE FORCES
OFFICE OF THE PROVOST MARSHAL GENERAL
WASHINGTON

7 October 1943

Re: Pvt. William R. Byars,
Fukuoka Prison Camp,
Island of Honshu, Japan.

Mrs. William Byars,
Rt. #1, Box #96,
Milton, North Dakota.

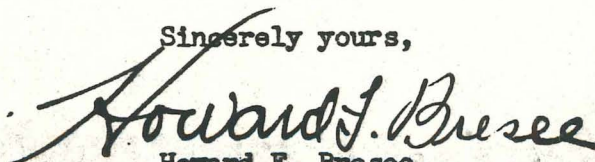
Dear Mrs. Byars:

The Provost Marshal General has directed me to inform you of the transfer of the above-named prisoner of war to the camp indicated.

You may communicate with him by following the inclosed mailing instructions.

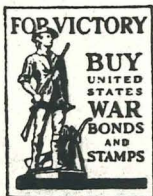
Further information will be forwarded as soon as it is received.

Sincerely yours,



Howard F. Bresee,
Colonel, C.M.P.,
Assistant Director, Prisoners of War Division.

1 Incl.
Mailing Circular.



WAR DEPARTMENT
SERVICES OF SUPPLY
OFFICE OF THE PROVOST MARSHAL GENERAL
WASHINGTON

March 6, 1943

Mr. William B. Byars,
Route 1,
Milton, North Dakota.

Dear Mr. Byars:

The Provost Marshal General directs me to inform you that by following the inclosed instructions you may communicate, postage free, with your son, Private William R. Byars, interned in the Philippines.

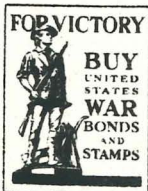
Further information will be forwarded to you as soon as received.

Sincerely yours,



Howard F. Bresee,
Col., C.M.P.,
Chief, Information Bureau.

1 Incl.
Info. Cir. #1



Snowfield & Snowfield

LAWYERS

Langdon, North Dakota

J. M. SNOWFIELD
CAVALIER COUNTY
STATES ATTORNEY

ELLIS G. SNOWFIELD
ASSISTANT
STATES ATTORNEY

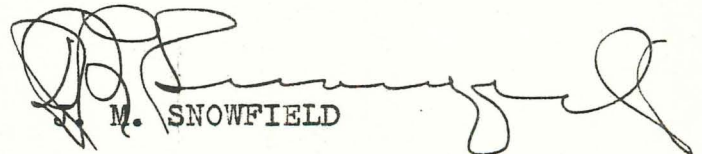
May 29, 1942

Mrs. William B. Byars
Route #1
Milton, N. Dak.

Dear Mrs. Byars:

I have word from the American Red Cross in Washington asking me to get some information they desire with reference to your status. I wonder if it would be possible for you to get a chance to come up here and fill in this information? If I should not be home see my brother Ellis G. Snowfield or our secretary Loretta Muhs and they will help you with the information. The information is desired quite promptly and, therefore, I wish you would get it as quickly as you can.

Very truly yours,


J. M. SNOWFIELD

JMS/lm

BENEFITS TO CERTAIN DEPENDENTS OF MISSING,
CAPTURED, OR INTERNED PERSONNEL.

Public Law 490, 77th Congress, as amended, makes certain provisions for the support of dependents by allotments from the pay of persons in active service who have been officially reported as missing, missing in action, captured by an enemy, or interned in a neutral country. In general the act provides for continued payment of allotments previously made by the persons for the support of his dependents or for payment of his insurance premiums, and for increased or new allotments when necessary for such purposes. All such payments are charged against the pay of the missing persons.

The dependents eligible to receive allotments for their support include legal wives and unmarried children under twenty-one years of age; also other relatives who are in fact dependent upon the missing person for their chief support, including mothers, step-children, adopted children, and such other relatives as may have been designated by the missing person in any official record as dependent upon him.

Eligible dependents of the missing person who can establish a need for an increased or new allotment of his pay for their support or for payment of his insurance premiums are advised to contact the nearest local Chapter of the American Red Cross which will assist them in the preparation and submission of applications for any of the benefits of Public Law 490, as amended, to which they are entitled.

It is presumed that you will transmit the information in this memorandum to other relatives of the missing person who should be informed.

Inclosure No. 1.

Information Circular #1

PRISONER OF WAR INFORMATION BUREAU
OFFICE OF THE PROVOST MARSHAL GENERAL
WASHINGTON, D. C.

DIRECTIONS FOR SENDING ORDINARY MAIL TO
PRISONERS OF WAR

When the Information Bureau of the Office of The Provost Marshal General ascertains the fact that an American soldier has been interned, ordinary mail can be sent.

Do not send mail to the Information Bureau for forwarding. If possible, typewrite or write in block letters the address and the contents of the letter to facilitate forwarding and censorship of same. Leave room on the envelope for forwarding address in case internee has been moved to another camp.

Letters should be brief as possible and only personal matters should be included in order to avoid delay by censorship.

POSTAGE:

Ordinary foreign mail can be sent free of postage if addressed to a prisoner of war. Write in the upper left-hand corner "Prisoner of War Mail", and in the upper right-hand corner, write, "Postage Free."

This is the form of address to be used.

Prisoner of War Mail

Postage - Free

(Here insert rank & name) U. S. Army,
Interned in the Philippine Islands,
c/o Japanese Red Cross,
Tokyo, Japan,
Via New York, New York.

Sender's name and address should appear on the back of the envelope.

Packages cannot be sent to the Orient at this time. When transportation facilities are available, a package permit will be issued without request to the next of kin of each prisoner of war.

Facilities for sending "V" Mail and Air Mail are not available for prisoners of war interned by the enemy.

Information Circular #2

PRISONERS OF WAR INFORMATION BUREAU
OFFICE OF THE PROVOST MARSHAL GENERAL
WASHINGTON, D. C.

DIRECTIONS FOR SENDING ORDINARY MAIL TO
PRISONERS OF WAR

When the Information Bureau of the Office of The Provost Marshal General ascertains the fact that an American soldier has been interned, ordinary mail can be sent.

Do not send mail to the Information Bureau for forwarding. If possible, typewrite or write in block letters the address and the contents of the letter to facilitate forwarding and censorship of same. Leave room on the envelope for forwarding address in case internee has been moved to another camp.

Letters should be brief as possible and only personal matters should be included in order to avoid delay by censorship.

POSTAGE:

Ordinary foreign mail can be sent free of postage if addressed to a prisoner of war. Write in the upper left-hand corner "Prisoner of War Mail", and in the upper right-hand corner, write, "Postage Free".

You have been informed of the prison camp and location of such camp. It is necessary that this be used in the address.

This is the form of address to be used.

Prisoner of War Mail

Postage - Free

(Here insert rank & name), American P.O.W.,
Zentsuji Prison Camp, (or other camp)
Island of Shikoku, Japan (or other location)
VIA: New York, New York.

Sender's name and address should appear on the back of the envelope.

Packages cannot be sent to the Orient at this time. When transportation facilities are available, a package label will be issued without request to the next of kin of each prisoner of war.

Facilities for sending "V" Mail and Air Mail are not available for prisoners of war interned by the enemy.

Please return to Rhynard Byars, Fairdale, N.D. 58229

POST EXCHANGE
29TH REPLACEMENT DEPOT
APO 238

8 September 1945

Follows:

Your Service Center Post Exchange has been set up especially for you. Visit it daily, and make your short stay here a more enjoyable one.

We offer you as varied an assortment as can be secured at this time. Several items such as watches, lighters, fountain pens, mechanical pencils, luggage, knives, billfolds, etc., may be purchased at the Main Post Exchange located near the Post-Information and Education section. Please check with your orderly room for directions and for further information about these purchases.

Future deliveries being uncertain, we are most anxious to insure an equitable distribution to all of you here, and to those who follow, so please ask our men behind the counter for all or any part of the following items:

Cigarettes---2 packages per man per day
Cigars-----4 per man per day
Candy-----3 bars per man per day
Fountain----All you want
Beer-----3 cans per man per day
Fruit juices-All you want
Pipes-----1 only per man during stay
Tobacco-----1 package per man during stay
Cookies-----All you want

Please detach the section below and present it daily to your PX service man. Save it, it is your identification for free Exchange items.

No item received or purchased through the Post Exchange is to be either re-sold or given away to Natives or Depot Personnel.

IMPERIAL JAPANESE ARMY

1. I am interned at THE PHILIPPINE MILITARY PRISON CAMP #1.
2. My health is — excellent; good; fair; poor.
3. I am—uninjured; sick in hospital; under treatment; not under treatment.
4. I am — improving; not improving; better; well.
5. Please see that PROPERTY

----- is taken care of.
6. (Re: Family); REST OF FAMILY ARE NOTIFIED THAT I
AM ALL RIGHT.

7. Please give my best regards to ALL.

福岡俘虜收容所俘虜郵便

IMPERIAL JAPANESE ARMY

Received letters from family. Glad to hear all family are well and in good spirits. I am in good health don't worry about me. Our quarters are comfortable, we have many recreations. Working each day for which we receive pay. Regards to family, remember me to friends and relatives.

William R. Byars

From: *William R. Byars* *MR*
Name

WILLIAM R. BYARS

Nationality AMERICAN

Rank PRIVATE

Camp PHILIPPINE MILITARY PRISON CAMP #1.

To: MRS. WILLIAM B. BYARS

RURAL ROUTE #1, BOX #96,

MILTON, NORTH DAKOTA, USA.

10831

U.S. CENSOR

俘虜郵便

檢閱濟

比島俘虜收容所

き
が
は
便
郵

FROM:

Name Byars, William R.

Nationality American

Rank Private

Camp Fukuoka Furyoshuyosho

TO : Mrs. William Byars
Route 1, Box 96
Milton, North Dakota
USA

俘虜郵便

本所
檢閱
濟所

き
が
は
便
郵

PRISONER OF WAR.
PRISONNIER DE GUERRE.

POSTAGE FREE
FRANC DU PORT.



541



17
Pvt William R. Byars U.S. Army -
Interned by Japan in Philippines Islands.
% Japanese Red Cross Tokyo, Japan
New York - N.Y.

Abilene Texas.

Mar. 4. 1943.

Hi Boy -

Just a line to let you know that we finally heard of you and now were tickled that you are still among those present.

Folks are all fine except for colds and such things. Weather fine

We had very little snow this winter or last and good crops.

Rachel is in Chicago working Mary is in Grand Forks, N.D. and Caroline is in Everett again

If you can write a note thru to the folks you'll talk ten years of work of them -
how you? I know its hard, its hard to find out when you were -

Will be long this here hoping to hear from you -
Write home.

WJ -

R.I. Box 96
Miller R. Dale
M.A. William R. Byars

FROM (SENDER'S FULL NAME AND ADDRESS)

PRISONER OF WAR POST
KRIEGSGEFANGENENPOST
SERVICE DES PRISONNIERS DE GUERRE

BY AIR MAIL
PAR AVION



299 - v

RANK AND NAME (CAPITAL LETTERS) *PVT. WILLIAM R. BYARS*
UNITED STATES PRISONER OF WAR.

PRISONER OF WAR No.
(SEE NOTE ON FLAP)

CAMP NAME AND No. *Fukuoka Prison Camp*

SUBSIDIARY CAMP No. *Island of Honshu*

12200 COUNTRY *Japan*

U.S. CENSOR

VIA NEW YORK, N. Y.

IMPORTANT: FOR PRISONERS IN GERMAN HANDS THE PRISONER OF WAR NUMBER SHOULD BE CLEARLY INDICATED IF KNOWN. IT MUST NOT BE CONFUSED WITH THE ARMY SERIAL NUMBER.

W. D., P. M. G. Form No. 111
April 1944

16-39042-1

WRITE VERY CLEARLY WITHIN THE LINES. IN ORDER TO EXPEDITE
CENSORSHIP, LETTERS SHOULD BE TYPED OR PRINTED IN BLOCK CAPITALS.

Dear son.

ALL WELL AT PRESENT
HAD LETTERS FROM ALL
LOUICIS ALL FINE SAW
NITA NOT LONG AGOE
ALL THE NEIGHBORS
FINE BEST WISHES
FROM ALL MOTHER

Cashmere Wm.

Nov: 8 - 1943

Dear Rynhard:-

We sincerely hope you are alright. We have been employing visits from August and Rachel. Hope you can come too, soon.

Regards from all,

Aunt Mabel

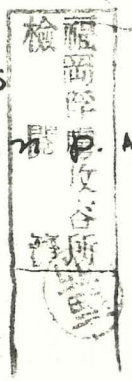
Uncle Wilson.



Prisoner of War
mail

299-2

Pvt. William R. Byars
American P. A. W.
Fukuoka, Prison Camp
Island of JAPAN
New York - New York



1083 P.M.
U.S. INSOR

CERTIFICATE

This is to Certify that William P. Byers
this 22nd day of April anno Domini 1941, did arrive at
the Port of Manila, P. I. bound from San Francisco
on board the U. S. Army Transport "Republic"

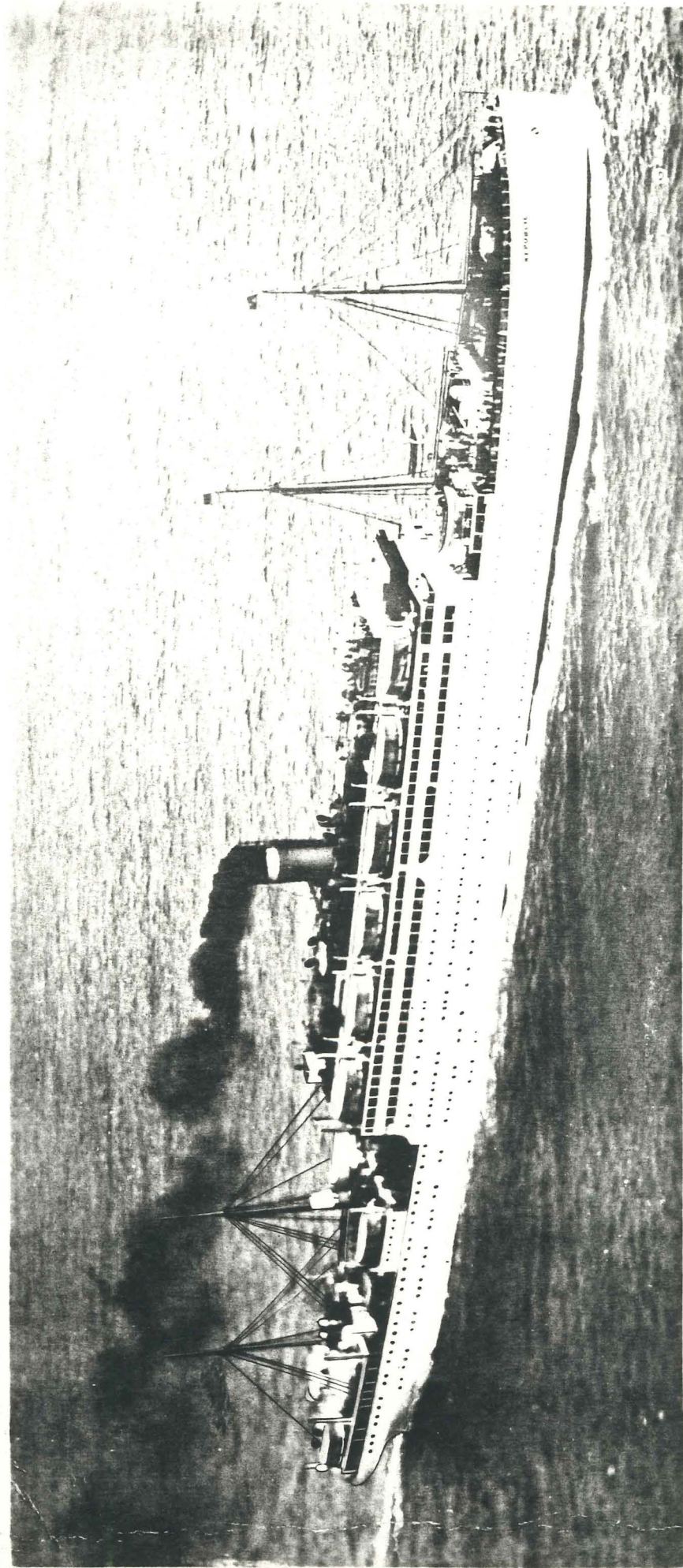
*Furthermore because of high capacity shown in the technique of Sea Travel and
immunity to Seasickness the above named Landlubber has been duly accepted into
the Ancient Fraternity of Salt Water Fishes.*

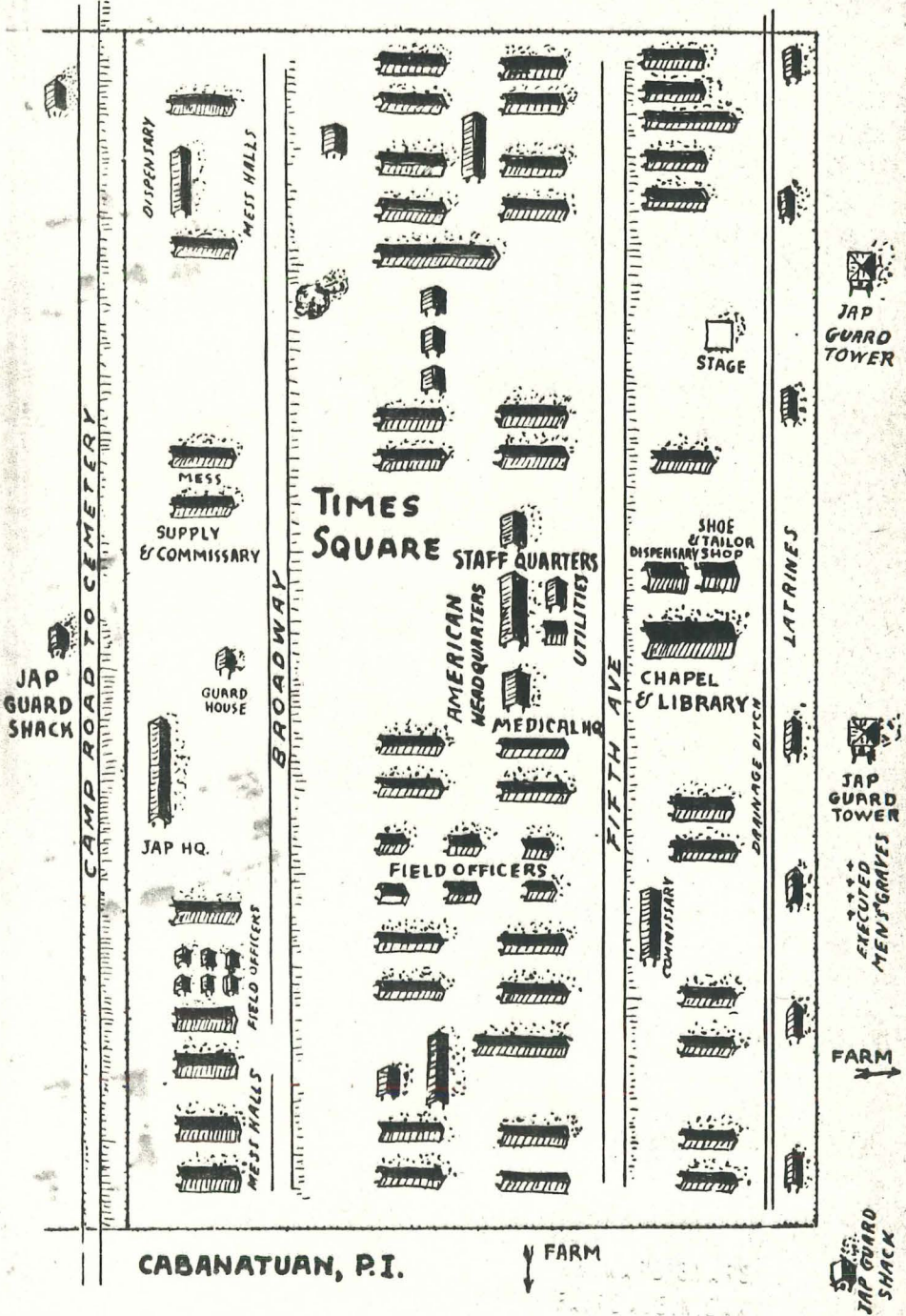
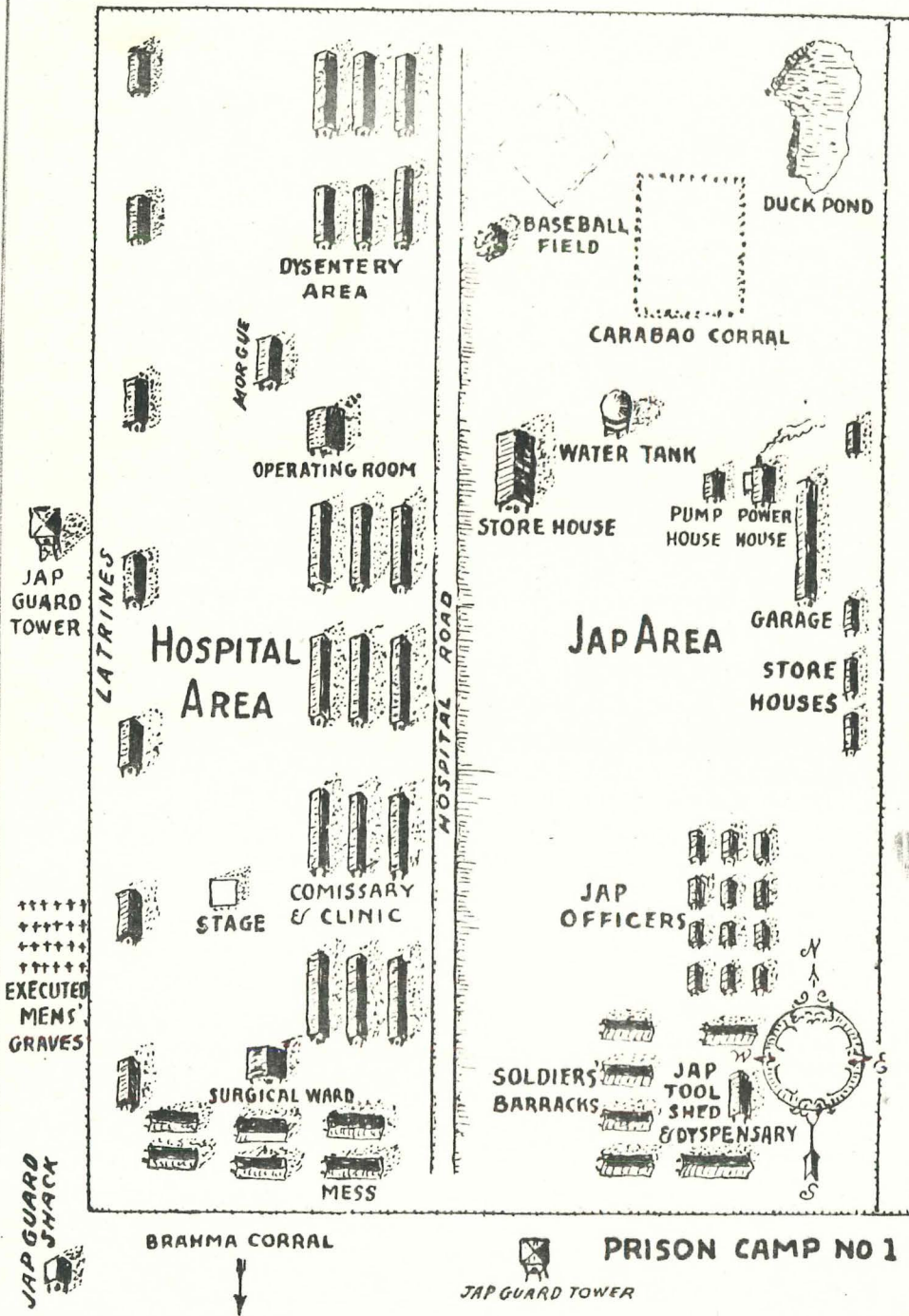
Crossed International Date Line at 8:37 A. M. April 12, Lat. 22° 54' N.

Davy Jones,
Keeper of the Locker Keys

King Neptune,
Grand Ruler







On June 13 the census was 1519 patients, with 249 medical department personnel. A wire enclosure was completed around the hospital area similar to the one around the general camp area. These areas were separated by a field about a quarter of a kilometer in diameter.

On June 15, two cases of diphtheria were diagnosed. New cases of diphtheria appeared daily. We asked the Japanese for diphtheria anti-toxin and by the 18th of June 80 units of anti-toxin were obtained and administered. Meanwhile one to three deaths had occurred daily from this disease, before the Japs issued the serum. By June 22, there were about 40 cases of diphtheria, of which five had died.

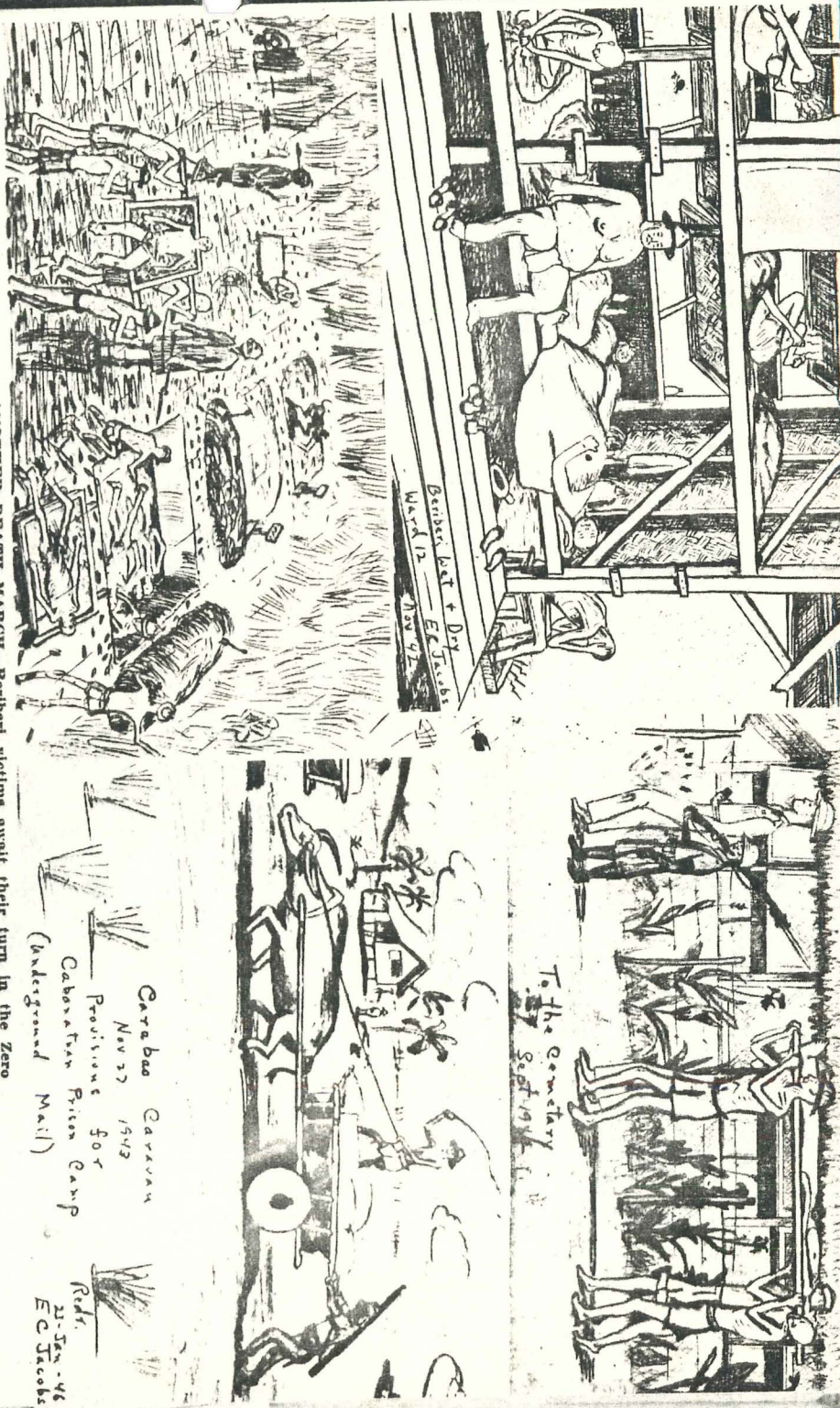
Deaths from other sicknesses were occurring at a high rate: 20 on the 16th; 11 on the 17th; 13 on the 18th; 20 on the 19th; 18 on the 21st; 15 on the 22nd; 20 on the 23rd; 18 on the 24th; 25 on the 25th; 17 on the 26th; and 27 on the 28th. A total of 375 of these deaths occurred in the hospital between June 10 and June 30, 1942. During July the rate increased. In the first two months 1287 Americans died at Cabanatuan prison camp.

Malaria, dysentery, diarrhea and malnourishment were the chief causes of death; but there were many other causes.

The hospital was divided into two sections. One was designated the dysentery area, and the other the malaria area. We had a total of 175 diphtheria cases, of which 100 died. There is no way of determining the number of cases of malaria or dysentery, but about 90 per cent of the camp had one or the other.

In the dysentery area we established a ward known as the "zero" ward, in which patients were placed when they were ready to die. These unfortun-

ANOTHER DEATH MARCH—Berberet victims await their turn in the Zero ward. Their turn: a trip to Group 4 on litters.—Drawings by Lt. Col. F. C. Jacobs



AMERICAN EX-PRISONERS OF WAR, INC.

NATIONAL MEDICAL RESEARCH COMMITTEE

DI JU NANA BUNSHYO NIGHTMARE-REVISITED

DECEMBER-1978

Thomas H. Hewlett, M.D., F.A.C.S.
Col. U.S. Army Retired
#4 Camp #17

Resume: Thomas H. Hewlett, M.D., M.S., F.A.C.S.

Medical Education at University of Louisville, Kentucky, Medical Degree, 1938

Active military duty 7th October 1940 Fort Knox, Kentucky

Phillipine Islands - Corregidor

August 1941

Guest of the Emperor until

August 1945

Returned to United States

15th October 1945

Further training in Post war years:

1947-1950 American Oncologic Hospital, Philadelphia (6 months)

Surgery University of Pennsylvania Graduate School of Medicine (9 months)

Surgical Residency Northern Division Albert Einstein Medical Center (2 years)

1952 Master of Science (Surgery), University of Pennsylvania

1952-1955 Thoracic Surgical Residency, Walter Reed Army Medical Center (2 years)

Fellowship with Dr. M. De Bakey, Houston, Texas (3 months)

U.S. Army: Surgical Assignments

1) Walter Reed Army Medical Center

2) Fort Jay, New York

3) Camp Breckenridge, Kentucky: Chief of Surgery

4) 1955-1960 Brook Army Hospital: Chief Thoracic-Cardio Vascular Surgery

Associate Professor Surgery, University of Texas and Baylor University

5) 1960-1961 121st Evac. Hospital, Seoul, Korea: Chief of Surgery

a) Consultant to 8th Army

b) Consultant to Surgeon General ROKA

c) Professor of Thoracic Surgery, Seoul National University

6) 1961-1964 Fitzsimmon Army Hospital, Denver: Chief of Thoracic Cardio-Vascular Surgery

Associate Professor of Surgery University of Colorado

Retired August 1964: Rank of Colonel

1964-1970 Chief of Surgery, Fresno County General Hospital, Fresno, Ca.

Associate Professor of Surgery, Stanford University

Consultant, Thoracic Surgery to V.A., Palo Alto, Ca.

1970-1975 Chief of Surgery, Pioneer Hospital, Artesia, Ca.

Associate Professor of Surgery, U.C. Irvine

1976 Private Practice

Dr. Hewlett's Military Decorations include:

1) 1947- Legion of Merit (for outstanding service, Kyusho, Japan, August 1943-April 1945)

2) 1961- Korean: Order of Military Merit, Ulchi, with Silver Star (for service to Republic of Korea)

3) 1965- Legion of Merit, First Oak Leaf Cluster (for performance of outstanding services)

Dr. Hewlett is certified in General and Thoracic Surgery, he is a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons and an Accredited member of three Thoracic Surgical Societies.

Literary efforts include 33 published Surgical articles and two books on surgery.

We, of MedSearch, are very honored to have such an eminent physician as Doctor Thomas H. Hewlett helping us. It is suggested that you give a copy of this paper to your personal doctor. A copy may also be used in support of your Veterans Administration Claim.

Stan Sommers
MedSearch Director
1410 Adler Road
Marshfield, Wisconsin 54449



“WE EXIST TO AID THE MAN WHO CANNOT HELP HIMSELF”

PRISONER OF WAR CAMPS IN JAPAN & JAPANESE CONTROLLED AREAS

AS TAKEN FROM REPORTS OF INTERNED AMERICAN PRISONERS

LIAISON & RESEARCH BRANCH AMERICAN PRISONER OF WAR INFORMATION BUREAU

by JOHN M. GIBBS 31 July 1946

FUKUOKA CAMP NO. 17 ON THE ISLAND OF KYUSHU, JAPAN

1. LOCATION:

Omuta, on the bay, about 17 miles northwest of Kumamoto and 40 miles south of the city of Fukuoka, opened on 7 Aug. 1943. The coordinates are 33°N, 130°25'E. Terrain level, well drained and filled in with slag from a coal mine at Omuta. Dimension of original camp site, 200 yards square which by April 1945 had been enlarged to 200 yards wide by 1,000 yards long. The site is a reclaimed grove and the buildings thereon were formerly laborers quarters constructed by Mitsue Coal Mining Co. and operated by Japanese Army. A wood fence approximately 12 feet high with 3 heavy gauge wires (first wire approximately 6 feet off the ground) enclosed the compound. The grounds were kept as clean as possible at all times. Some fir trees adorned the compound. The Japanese officials were stationed in the enclosure.

2. PRISONER PERSONNEL:

Maj. A.C. Tisdell, spokesman; Maj. Thomas H. Hewlett, camp surgeon and Maj. John R. Mamerow, medical officer.

Camp first occupied 10 Aug. 1945 by 10 officers, 133 nco's and 358 privates a total of 501, all Americans, from the Philippines. 497 American prisoners from the Philippines reaching the port of Moji, Kyushu on 29 Jan. 1945, were divided among the Fukuoka area installations as follows:

- 100 to camp # 3 located at Tobato
- 193 to camp # 1 located at Kashi
- 110 to the Japanese Military Hospital at Moji
- 95 to camp # 17

Only 34 of the hospital prisoners, later transferred to No. 22 survived. The death of the 76 prisoners while in the hospital was due to the horrible conditions of travel from the Philippines to Moji, and extreme malnutrition.

An earlier group of 200 American prisoners from the Philippines reached Moji on 3 Sept. 1944 all of whom were assigned to camp # 17, making a total of 814 American prisoners, which was the maximum. The camp was liberated on 2 Sept. 1945. There were 1721 prisoners in the camp toward the closing of it on 2 Sept. 1945. British, Australian, Dutch and American prisoners evacuated the last minute from the Philippines and Siam were in desperate physical condition when they arrived.

3. GUARD PERSONNEL:

Asao Fukuhara, Camp Commandant

Camp surgeon, an unnamed Japanese Army man

Civilian guards, 2 pseudo named as the "sailor" & "one arm bandit", both Japanese.

There were Japanese orderlies who worked as hospital attendants, number and names unknown.

4. GENERAL CONDITIONS:

(a) Housing Facilities: The barracks comprised 33 one story buildings 120' x 16' with 10 rooms to a barracks, of wood construction with tight tar paper roofs, and windows with panes. Ventilation satisfactory. Three to 4 officers were billeted in one room 9' x 10' and 4 to 6 enlisted men in room of same size. No heating facilities, and while the climate was mild, it must be remembered that the men were sensitive to temperatures around 40 ° fahrenheit, and because of their weakened condition due to malnutrition the dampness and cold was very penetrating. The barracks were light enough during the day without artificial illumination. Each room had one 15 watt light bulb.

Air raid shelters were dug into the earth about 6 feet deep and 8 feet wide, 120 feet in length, timbered in similar manner, to coal mines, covered with 3 feet of slag and an adequate splinter-proof roof.

The beds consisted of tissue paper and cotton batting covered with a cotton pad 5'8" long and 2½' wide. Three heavy cotton blankets were issued by the Japanese in addition to a comforter made of tissue paper, scrap rags and scrap cotton.

(b) Latrines: In each of the 33 buildings, and at the end thereof, were 3 stools raised from the floor about 1½' on a hollow brick pedestal, each being covered with a detachable wood seat, and 1 urinal. A concrete tank was underneath each stool. The prisoners made wood covers for each of the stools, thereby reducing the fly nuisance. The offal in the tanks was removed by Japanese laborers twice each week.

(c) Bathing: The bathing facilities were in a separate building equipped with 2 tanks approximately 30' x 10' x 4' deep, with very hot steam heated water. The American camp spokesman would not permit the men to immerse themselves during the summer months on account of skin diseases. In the winter the tubs were used but not until the men had taken a preliminary bath before entering the tubs. The men were required to watch each other to see that none "passed out" because of the heat and their weakened condition. After bathing the men would dress in all the clothing they had and go to bed for the night. Even then the prisoners would fill their canteens with hot water and place them beneath the covers. With these precautions the men slept comfortably through the cold nights.

Each 2 barracks had an outside wash rack, 16 cold water faucets and 16 wood tubs with drainboard. Prisoners washed their cloths by scrubbing with brushes on the drainboard and rinsing them in the tubs. There was a constant shortage of soap.

(d) Mess Hall: There was 1 unit mess with 11 cauldrons and 2 electric cooking ovens for baking bread, 2 kitchen ranges, 4 store rooms and 1 ice box. Cooking was done by 15 prisoners of war of whom 7 were professional cooks, all working under the supervision of a Japanese mess sergeant. The men working in the coal mines were given 3 buns every 2nd day to take with them for their lunch when they did not return to the camp to eat. Other days they were given an American mess-kit level with rice. Prisoners ate in the mess hall in which was placed tables and benches.

(e) Food: Usually consisted of steamed rice and vegetable soup made from anything that could be obtained, 3 times a day. Upon occasion of a visit to this camp by a representative of the Red Cross in April 1944 a splendid variety of fats, cereals, fish and vegetables were served, which naturally impressed the representative and in his report to headquarters, he called particular attention to the menu. It is known that the spread was to impress the Red Cross man, and that it was the only decent meal served in 2 years. Rice and soup made from radishes, mostly water, remained the diet throughout. The men working in the mines were given 700 grams of rice, camp workers 450 and officers 300. Our American camp doctors stated that such scant ration was insufficient to support life in a bed patient. All of the prisoners were skeletons having lost in weight an average of around 60 pounds per man. The city water was drinkable.

(f) Medical Facilities: Medical section and surgical section of infirmary had 10 rooms each with capacity of 30 men each. Isolation ward could accomodate 15 men. Daily medical and dental inspections by American officers, but they had but little to work with in the way of medicines and instruments. The dentist had no instruments and could only perform extractions, and without anesthesia. For dysentery the Japanese furnished a powder which they concocted, the use of which produced nausea and diarrhea when administered to the American patients. There were no American hospital corpsmen in this camp until April 1944 when 10 men were added to the hospital corps with 2 doctors and 1 dentist. After Oct. 1944 medical supplies were provided and an operating room installed. Prior to Oct. 1944 the camp was practically without medical supplies. The Japanese doctor was entirely disinterested.

(g) Supplies: (1) Red Cross, Y.M.C.A., other Relief: The first Red Cross and Y.M.C.A. supplies were received early in 1944 on the Japanese ship TEIA MARU. The items in the food parcels were doled out to the men sparingly provided he had a consistent work record in the coal mine and was not guilty of infractions of rules. In the aggregate each man was given the equivalent of about 1 complete parcel during the full period of his confinement. The favoritism shown the mine workers in the distribution of parcel items defeated the intention of the Red Cross because it tended to give protein foods to the more healthy rather than to the weak. The 1944 Red Cross shipment contained medicines, surgical instruments and other supplies which the Japanese refused to make available for the benefit of the invalided men, but helped themselves to them. The Y.M.C.A. furnished several hundred books.

(2) Japanese Issue: The clothing (cotton) was issued by the coal mine company and

was adequate. British overcoats were given out by the Japanese Army. Each prisoner was given 3 heavy cotton blankets and a comforter made of tissue paper and scrap rags and scrap cotton. The canteen was practically bare. From it the men received regularly 5 cigarettes per day. Canned salmon could be bought about each 2 months, 1 can per man.

(h) Mail: (1) Incoming: First incoming mail was received in March 1944, thereafter each 60 days.

(2) Outgoing: Prisoners were allowed to write a card about each 6 to 8 weeks.

(i) Work: In coal mines and zinc smelters 3 shifts per day of approximately 100 men per shift. Conditions in the mines were pronounced dangerous although only 3 men were killed outright during the period of confinement of 22 months. Many men received painful injuries from falling rocks and other causes. Fortunately for the prisoner there was among the group an experienced coal miner who gave the men safety talks and pointed out some of the dangers of coal mining which were not apparent to novice workers. The coal mines were operated largely by American prisoners, the smelters by the British and Australian prisoners. Coal mines were approximately 1 kilometer from camp. Hours of work 12 hours per day, 30 minutes lunch time. The men were given one day off every 10 days.

(k) Treatment: From time to time the men were beaten without cause with fists, clubs and sandals. Failure to salute or bow to the Japanese was an offense which usually was followed by compelling the prisoners to stand at attention in front of the guard house for hours at a time. Some men were beaten daily and others harassed by guards while trying to sleep during their rest time.

(l) Pay: (1) Officers: Were paid 20 yen per month until June 1944 when it was increased to 40 yen less 18 yen per month for mess. Each prisoner received 5 cigarettes per day regularly except for about 1 day per month. Postal savings accounts for officers deposited with Protecting Power amounted to 7,688.26 yen. Prisoner of War Headquarters ran its own destitute welfare.

(2) Enlisted Men: NCO's were paid 14 sen per day and privates 10 sen per day. No postal savings were deposited with Protecting Power.

(m) Recreation: The Y.M.C.A. provided equipment for such out-door games as football, volleyball and tennis, but the prisoners, at the close of work periods, were too tired and weak to play. There were no indoor sports except those made by the prisoners. There was a rotating library of about 300 volumes provided by the Y.M.C.A. A vegetable garden was planted and maintained by the prisoners, and some live stock was raised, but the Japanese ate the live stock and none of it was made available to the prisoners.

(n) Religious Activities: In July 1944 a protestant Dutch Army Chaplain arrived as one of a prisoner detail. Until his arrival the camp was without a chaplain. From July 1944 protestant services were held each Sunday.

(o) Morale: Was low primarily because of inadequate food, long and hard working hours which left no time except for work and sleep. There was no laughter, no singing, nothing but depression which condition was made worse by beatings and the harassing activities of the Japanese guards during the sleeping hours.

5. MOVEMENT:

Of the group of 501 officers and enlisted men which reached this camp in August 1943, 15 died. The remainder left for Mukden, Manchuria on 25 April 1945. Other American prisoners, approximately 340 remained at Camp No. 17 until liberated on 2 Sept. 1945.

AMERICAN EX-PRISONERS OF WAR, INC.

NATIONAL MEDICAL RESEARCH COMMITTEE

DI JU NANA BUNSHYO AFTERMATH

APRIL -1980

Thomas H. Hewlett, M.D., F.A.C.S.
Col. U.S. Army Retired
#4 Camp #17

Resume: Thomas H. Hewlett, M.D., M.S., F.A.C.S.

Medical Education at University of Louisville, Kentucky, Medical Degree, 1938

Active military duty 7th October 1940 Fort Knox, Kentucky

Phillipine Islands - Corregidor

August 1941

Guest of the Emperor until

August 1945

Returned to United States

15th October 1945

Further training in Post war years:

- 1947-1950 American Oncologic Hospital, Philadelphia (6 months)
Surgery University of Pennsylvania Graduate School of Medicine (9 months)
- 1952 Surgical Residency Northern Division Albert Einstein Medical Center (2 years)
- 1952 Master of Science (Surgery), University of Pennsylvania
- 1952-1955 Thoracic Surgical Residency, Walter Reed Army Medical Center (2 years)
Fellowship with Dr. M. De Bakey, Houston, Texas (3 months)

U.S. Army: Surgical Assignments

- 1) Walter Reed Army Medical Center
- 2) Fort Jay, New York
- 3) Camp Breckenridge, Kentucky: Chief of Surgery
- 4) 1955-1960 Brook Army Hospital: Chief Thoracic-Cardio Vascular Surgery
Associate Professor Surgery, University of Texas and Baylor University
- 5) 1960-1961 121st Evac. Hospital, Seoul, Korea: Chief of Surgery
 - a) Consultant to 8th Army
 - b) Consultant to Surgeon General ROKA
 - c) Professor of Thoracic Surgery, Seoul National University
- 6) 1961-1964 Fitzsimmon Army Hospital, Denver: Chief of Thoracic Cardio-Vascular Surgery
Associate Professor of Surgery University of Colorado

Retired August 1964: Rank of Colonel

- 1964-1970 Chief of Surgery, Fresno County General Hospital, Fresno, Ca.
Associate Professor of Surgery, Stanford University
Consultant, Thoracic Surgery to V.A., Palo Alto, Ca.
- 1970-1975 Chief of Surgery, Pioneer Hospital, Artesia, Ca.
Associate Professor of Surgery, U.C. Irvine
- 1976 Private Practice

Dr. Hewlett's Military Decorations include:

- 1) 1947- Legion of Merit (for outstanding service, Kyusho, Japan, August 1943-April 1945)
- 2) 1961- Korean: Order of Military Merit, Ulchi, with Silver Star (for service to Republic of Korea)
- 3) 1965- Legion of Merit, First Oak Leaf Cluster (for performance of outstanding services)

Dr. Hewlett is certified in General and Thoracic Surgery, he is a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons and an Accredited member of three Thoracic Surgical Societies.

Literary efforts include 33 published Surgical articles and two books on surgery.

We, of MedSearch, are very honored to have such an eminent physician as Doctor Thomas H. Hewlett helping us. It is suggested that you give a copy of this paper to your personal doctor. A copy may also be used in support of your Veterans Administration Claim.

Stan Sommers
MedSearch Director
1410 Adler Road
Marshfield, Wisconsin 54449



"WE EXIST TO AID THE MAN WHO CANNOT HELP HIMSELF"

August 20, 1945 the allied prisoners of Camp 17, Fukuoka Military District, Japan were ordered into formation and the camp commander announced that hostilities had ceased, and after the signing of official papers all prisoners would be going home. During the period following this news and prior to our official recovery the allied medical staff in Camp 17 surveyed and recorded a two year medical experience during which time we had encountered problems not previously documented in medical annals.

All personnel in the camp were young men at the start of the war, the doctors were young and therefore, inexperienced and our education had not prepared us for years in prison camp; thus we had no way of predicting the medical sequelae that might hound the survivors to their graves.

It is apropos to review briefly a few of the statistics compiled in Camp 17 in order to appreciate fully the medical problems that are evident in the survivors of the infamous camps of the Imperial Japanese Army.

The condition of the prisoners as they arrived in Camp 17 was evaluated and summarized for each nationality. Details A, B, C are listed as being in "fair" condition, this implied that these men exhibited no sign of malnutrition other than obvious weight loss, the D.D. designation implies gross stigmata of deficiency disease beyond weight loss, dysentery, edema, ascites, neuropathies, mental aberrations.

TABLE #1

ALLIED PRISONERS CAMP #17

The men in Camp 17 performed hard manual labor in either a coal or zinc foundry. In the coal mines temperatures at various levels ranged from 30°-103°F, heights within the mines laterals ranged from 3 ft to 5 ft. The mine had been condemned 5 years before the war, at the time allied prisoners constituted the underground force the procedure was termed strip mining, which meant that prison labor was pulling the retaining walls, a very hazardous process at best.

Our daily ration was computed solely on rice issue, the prisoner on full duty received approximately twice the amount given to the hospital patient.

TABLE #2

RATION ANALYSIS CAMP #17

The ration table is highly significant, and has an unquestionable bearing on the medical future of those who survived, I can find no so-called controlled study in which a significant number of humans have attempted to survive on such a diet and perform heavy manual labor in an environment of unbelievable stress.

In 1954 the U.S. Government released a comparative study of prisoners of war from Japanese and German prison camps. Two groups approximating 2000 each were compared with a group of the same number who had been exposed to combat only. Prisoners of the Japanese had experienced a mortality of 34% prior to liberation from a 38 month incarceration. The European group imprisoned for 10 months had a 1% mortality prior to liberation. The study revealed an increased mortality rate during the first 2 years following liberation of the Japanese prisoners, this

rate decreased but remained excessive over the next 4 years. The Japanese group showed a wide variety of illnesses which limited their ability to work. The European prisoners of war showed no statistical differences from the combat controls in mortality or inability to work.

From the world literature research, carried on by the MedSearch Committee, American ex-prisoners of war, Inc. it is apparent that each nationality group imprisoned in the far east have recorded experiences similar to those in the U.S.

Medical officers of Camp 17 recorded mortalities on a single death list permitted by the Japanese, the original is handwritten, it records: name, nationality, date of death, cause of death. Considering our limited medical supplies, surgical supplies and the crudest of hospital facilities, Dr. Ian Duncan, of 5 Docks, Australia, and I feel that our figures are quite acceptable. 126 men died in the 2 year period: 48 deaths attributed to Pneumonia, 35 to deficiency disease, 14 to injury, 5 executions, 6 to Tuberculosis, 10 to miscellaneous diseases.

* Note: All those executed were Americans.

TABLE #3 MORTALITY - ALLIED PRISONERS CAMP #17

Some thirty four years ago the survivors of Japanese prison camps returned to their respective countries to hopefully resume a normal life. Certainly the majority were delighted to leave military service and find their nitch in civilian life. It is noteworthy that many, despite concentrated efforts have failed in civilian endeavors. They have failed emotionally and physically to survive civilian employment and reach a point of retirement. These men, as patients seeking help as they enter the 5th and 6th decades of life, are confronted with younger physicians neither trained nor interested in problems which may well be a residual of previous medical problems. Good medical history remains a primary element in the evaluation of our enigmatic medical problems. The standard answer to the ex-prisoner of war with a medical problem is, "there are no controlled studies to confirm the fact that your symptoms are related to a previous situation".

Despite the fact that those in ivory towers of medicine may be unaware of it: we the prisoners constituted a controlled study, controlled by the Japanese, studied by no one.

The current problems of Japanese prison camp survivors seem to fall in four broad categories: 1) Psychiatric, 2) Neurologic, 3) Orthopedic and 4) Cardio Vascular. Each category is related to the years of malnutrition and mixed patterns may develop in a single individual.

PSYCHIATRIC SEQUELAE

Four years after World War II's end, Charles T. Brown described the Japanese P.O.W. Syndrome, Brown a psychiatrist and himself an ex-prisoner of war in the far east, characterized the syndrome as an anxiety of the most severe and chronic

nature. Anxiety, like the pangs of hunger, was a part of the daily existence of the prisoner. Further, the individual had to reckon with the ravages of nutritional disorders, dysentery, malaria and tropical diseases endemic to the several geographic areas of imprisonment. Residuals of such difficulties was the equipment the prisoner brought home with him. Brown in his treatise emphasized that the clinical picture of the syndrome could be puzzling to the average physician. Objective findings of organic disease might not be detectable, complaints being out of proportion to findings. Many prisoners returned from Japan wearing the "mask of good health".

There can be little doubt that the Japanese P.O.W. Syndrome and the K-Z Syndrome are one and the same, in general the term K-Z Syndrome has enjoyed wider use in the world medical literature.

It seems evident that young practitioners of today are unaware of certain facts concerning two of the major nutritional deficiency diseases.

Beri Beri is a clinical syndrome, characterized by neuropsychiatric, circulatory, gastrointestinal and metabolic changes. Symptoms of anorexia, fatigue, apathy, inability to concentrate, digestive complaints, insomnia, heart consciousness and vague paresthesias, can be anticipated. The same characteristics and symptoms apply equally to Pellagra.

The longer such diseases persist in an individual, the greater the degree of irreversibility. Thirty eight - forty four months is an adequate period of extreme malnutrition to assure persistent residuals over the years.

Bi 1 The Roehampton Report published in 1971 recorded that 40.6% of 4,684 Far Eastern P.O.W.'s surveyed exhibited residual neuropsychiatric sequelae. 6.3% had some form of organic neurologic disease. As early as 1947 Crawford and Reid carried out a postmortem on a far east prisoner who had died from external cause, this individual had no complaints and no symptoms of neurological deficit, yet examination of his spinal cord revealed nutritional central neuritis.

Moore, a tropical physician of experience, decries the term neurosis applied to P.O.W.'s feeling that psychoneurotic symptoms in such patients are at least partly organic in origin. Neurotics did not survive the Japanese prison camp experience, and as more and more survivors exhibit "inability to cope" patterns, it is reasonable to conclude that such symptoms are the price many pay for a trip through hell. Of 500 Americans who opened camp 17 in Omuta, Japan, 250 are known to survive, of these 10 -15% are now in mental hospitals. To be aware that this sword hangs over the rest of us constantly, one has to but listen to the stories of the wives who have spent years with these men. As a group these men have tended to exhibit increased anxiety, tension and depression when confronted with the stresses of daily life; they appear to manifest exaggeration of these patterns with increasing age.

Those who evaluate P.O.W. medical problems at this time make much of our return to the "good life", with excessive use of tobacco and alcohol.

One of the interesting facets of the Japanese handling of prisoners was the fact that in all the camps in which I was personally held, the prisoners received a tobacco ration along with the Japanese guards.

Recall, if you will that those were the years before tobacco became a black-listed item of our culture, what tobacco really offered the prisoner is expressed in a poem titled "The Fifth Horseman" written by Charles Brown during his imprisonment in the P.I.

To the wounded went his magic leaves,
And the dying blessed his name;
Hunger vanished in his golden dust,
And it will always be the same.

Where the Beast lets loose his fury,
And his Four Horseman rage the land,
This Fifth one, called Tobacco, rides
To soothe the stricken man.

Is it so difficult to understand that a significant number of the P.O.W.'s sought a degree of solace in alcohol in an effort to meet the stresses of civilian life.

Of the 250 survivors, initial American detail in Camp #17, 15% (37) men are now psychiatrically disabled.

After all the years some survivors still on occasion scream in the night.

NEUROLOGIC SEQUELAE

Paresthesias were a constant problem in prisoners of Camp 17 and were recognized by the medical officers as representative of extreme deficiency disease. Symptoms in the acute stages of starvation appeared to wax and wane in severity with a direct relation to the extremes of dietary restriction noted in 1944. Only those employed in the mess hall, protected from the vigors of heavy manual labor, seemed to avoid paresthesias, however some of these men who after a period were sent to manual labor in the mines or foundry developed paresthesias particularly in the feet and legs within 72 hours.

Disability rating boards are hesitant to accord any significance to those symptoms which occurred years ago. The beri beri shuffle, familiar to all prisoners was bilateral foot drop producing the foot slapping gait necessary for ambulation. A sound in the night familiar to all was the sounds made by the shuffler as he made his way to the toilet innumerable times during resting hours. Recent interviews with 24 survivors of Camp 17, disclosed the fact that two men have had a recurrence of foot drop within the past few years, despite years of adequate nutrition.

In 1966 Walter writing on neurological disease due to malnutrition called attention to historical reports dating to 1796 when Winterbottom stated that visual weakness was well known to result from an exclusive diet of rice. In 1897 Strachan called attention to a common syndrome of polyneuritis associated with an intolerable burning of the extremities. Wilson in 1914 described histopathologic changes in the central nervous system of 13 pellagra patients.

The polyneuritis of beri beri affects nerves in the order of relative length, the longest first. Symptoms invariably begin in the feet, sensory loss usually reaching each of the knees when foot drop develops. After the disease has progressed upwards from the feet, tingling may begin in the fingers to be followed by wrist drop and ulnar nerve palsy. Demyelination appears in the peripheral nerves.

An encephalopathy originally thought to be a consequence of chronic alcoholism has been found in prisoners of war and found to be due to an acute deprivation of thiamine. A safe minimum thiamine level of 0.4mg per 1000 non-fat calories was never attained in Camp 17 diet over a 2 year period, nor in any other Japanese camp, to my knowledge.

Nutritional neuropathy is characterized by changes in the long tracts of the spinal cord closely resembling subacute combined degeneration. Of 250 survivors of the first American detail in Camp 17, 60% have been unable to complete a normal term of civilian employment due to neurologic disabilities particularly in the lower extremities in the 34 years since their release from incarceration. Yet at this time they are experiencing difficulty in proving that such symptoms are residuals of imprisonment during their years of active military duty.

ORTHOPEDIC SEQUELAE

Orthopedic deformities of the long bones and the bones of the hand are usually self evident if the prisoner can prove the injury was incurred during the prison years. A far more difficult problem exists for those who now suffer irremedial back complaints. Here coupled with the nutritional factors one must give credence to repeated micro-traumas suffered by those subjected to hard manual labor.

I have no knowledge of the height requirements in other allied armies who served in the far east, but I do know that the allied prisoners I encountered were as Americans over 5 ft in height. When an individual of this height performs heavy manual labor within a mine tunnel in which the ceiling to floor distance is usually under 5 ft it is reasonable to anticipate persistent micro-traumas if the person is to physically adapt to such a work environment. Considering the diet of Camp 17 prisoners, there is no doubt that all suffered a chronic negative calcium balance through out the prison years. It is reported that calcium balance tends to normally become negative at about age 40. Possibly these individuals

never established a normal calcium balance in the first few years after release from prison. Osteoporosis and osteomalacia developed in the lumbar spine, hips, and knee, those sites subjected to micro-traumas in heavy manual labor. Belgian authors interested in rheumatic disorders encountered in former prisoners in European camps and noted existence of arthropathies of age to be present in 7.5% within the first three months after liberation with frequency rising to 15.4% at 5 years after liberation with continued rising afterwards.

On liberation of Camp 17 practically all mine workers presented a kyphotic posture which was unrelieved by the joys of liberation.

250 American of the original 500 survived, of these 10% (25) suffer orthopedic disability. Their disability has progressed over the years to render them crippled in the 5th decade.

An interesting vignette of Camp 17 has to do with the back of one individual of the initial 500 Americans, he left the ship in Moji walking with a profound stoop, with the start of labor in the mine the Japanese doctor and guards felt this man was unfit for heavy labor, he was eventually sent to the mine hospital for x-ray studies of his spine. The films were non-revealing of pathology, however despite beatings the man never straightened up, so continued menial jobs within the camp. On official announcement of the cessation of hostilities he assumed the most correct military posture imaginable and we have never ceased to wonder if his two year act in anyway damaged his spine.

Who has studied the orthopedic problems that might result from the combination of hard labor in a position of constant flexion carried on by a chronically undernourished human over 5 ft in height in an area with a 4 ft ceiling.

CARDIOVASCULAR SEQUELAE

Frequently during the 2 years (1943-1945) in Japan, murmurs and cardiac irregularities were noted in patients with wet Beri Beri. Hypertension was almost unknown of in our prison population, it was extremely rare to encounter a systolic pressure above 85mm Hg. On occasion we encountered pulse rates as low as 30/minute in wet Beri Beri patients who were forced to attempt heavy labor.

Sudden death in patients with wet Beri Beri was an anticipated consequence, at best we could, at times offer the suspect a period of rest within the camp hospital, if we could convince the Japanese doctor of significant cardiac disease existed on the basis of physical findings.

Atherosclerotic disease started taking its toll within 3 years of our return of the U.S., one of the youngest of our medical associates dying of a coronary occlusion within 2 years of repatriation he was a non-smoker, non-drinker.

Hibbs in 1946 described his in-camp observations on Beri Beri heart disease as he watched it develop. He of course was working without the benefit of electrocardiography, and other laboratory facilities. Three patterns were recog-

nized. 1) Normal heart size with varied arrhythmias and decreased exercise tolerance. 2) Enlarged heart with chronic left and right ventricular failure. 3) Acute cardiac dilatation, pulmonary edema and death. Blood pressure ranged from 80 to 100mm Hg. systolic: and 40-60mm Hg. diastolic. Precordial distress was a rare complaint in his patients.

The term Beri Beri heart disease has appeared in the literature with increasing frequency over the past few years. It seems likely that it will eventually be accepted as an established entity, recognized in cardiology clinics through out the world. Recognition of this entity raises some doubts as to cholesterol being the sole etiologic factor in atherosclerosis.

Unfortunately in the U.S. not many of the ex-prisoners of the Japanese who have died, in recent years of heart attacks, were autopsied. Isolated reports suggest that a high degree of coronary occlusive disease has existed in individual patients.

In the late 1940's and mid 1950's occlusive peripheral vascular disease was noted to appear with more frequency in men who had a far eastern prison camp experience, this was noted in several of the clinics pioneering peripheral vascular surgery.

Carotid occlusive disease, I suspect has a definite relation to the prison experience, however most clinical histories on these patients have not sought such information.

Of the 250 survivors, group 1 Americans from Camp 17 approximately 15% (38) are at this time receiving medication for cardio-vascular problems; these drugs include Papaverine, Digitalis, anti-coagulants and anti-hypertensives.

Varicose veins were rare in patients in Camp 17, leg ulcers presented an annoying problem, however these patients did not present clinical findings of venous insufficiency.

Within the year 1979 one Camp 17 survivor has undergone successful coronary by-pass surgery, his basic diagnosis: Beri Beri heart disease.

Specific problems noted in early years of repatriation have ceased to be problems of statistical significance, with the passing years: Optic atrophy, residuals of malaria, amebic dysentery and hepatitis.

After the passage of 34 years it is difficult to dissociate medical problems of ex-prisoners of war from the suffering endured during years of deprivation administered by the Imperial Japanese Army.

CONCLUSION:

- 1) All American survivors of camp 17, Omuta, Fukuoka, Japan are suffering some pattern of degenerative disease. A degree of cerebral senescence is obvious in at least 90%

- 2) The symptom pattern associated with the residuals of prolonged profound deficiency disease are not clear cut and there may be overlay or intermingling of the 4 major patterns: Psychiatric, Neurologic, Orthopedic, Cardiovascular in a single individual.
- 3) The preferable treatment of the gamut of degenerative disease is prophylactic, instituted with vigor when the threat first becomes evident. Individuals handled in this manner would at least be better prepared to face the usual degenerative processes associated with aging.
- 4) All treatment regimens for degenerative disease are palliative. Cures are not in the offing. Denial of relationship between our present medical problems, and the nutritional, physical diseases, and emotional problems which were major components of our prison existence; is without justification.
- 5) The ex-prisoners as a group have no desire to dictate pension guide lines for the varied government committees who must render such decisions. We have a great pride in having served our respective countries faithfully and well, to the best of our abilities. We have earned the respect accorded any honorable citizen, consequently common courtesty, compassion and qualified medical evaluation and treatment are our just due.

TABLE #1

ALLIED PRISONERS CAMP #17

DETAIL	DATE	ORIGIN	AMERICAN	AUSTRALIAN	BRITISH	DUTCH	CONDITION
A	8/10/43	P.I.	500				FAIR
B	3/25/43	P.I.	6				FAIR
C	6/19/44	Malaysia		250	6	144	FAIR
D	6/27/44	Malaysia			200		90%D.D.
* E	9/2/44	P.I.	204				90%D.D.
F	12/16/44	F-#1				100	50%D.D.
G	1/1/7/45	Malaysia		200			90%D.D.
* H	1/31/45	P.I.	97				DYING
I	2/ 8/45	F-#1	12	12	12	14	90%D.D.
J	6/30/45	F-#13	100				90%D.D.
TOTALS		1859	821	562	218	258	

* Hell Ships (H- Departed Manila with 1600 prisoners- Landed 300 in port of Moji).

We were expended as F.D.R. predicted and thus became guests of the Emperor. As such we departed Manila on 24th July 1943 in the hold of Mate Mate Maru, 500 men adjudged fit for heavy manual labor by Japanese doctors. Our cruise ship had a 155 mm cannon lashed to the bow with heavy rope, this represented our anti-aircraft fire protection in case our cruise was interrupted by American air attack. Two doctors and a medical warrant officer were assigned to keep the detail in good health. En route Manila to Japan our ship stopped at Santa Cruz and took on Manganese ore, July 31st found us enjoying the beauties of Taipeh Harbor in Formosa. Jerry Okonski one of the group became very ill during the Formosa visit. The gracious Formosan and Japanese guards could not see fit to move him ashore for the necessary emergency surgery, so utilizing a hatch cover table and dental novocain in the spine, removal of a ruptured appendix was carried out in bright sun light. About seven days later Jerry Okonski was able to walk off the ship carrying his own possessions. However, the government would not compensate him for loss of the appendix. We finally arrived in the Port of Moji 9 August 1943 and after a brief delay termed a "Quarantine" we traveled by train to Omuta where the civilian population stoned us in welcome as the first contingent of prisoners of war to enter Camp 17, Fukuoka Military District. Contrary to a recent publication our trip was a safe one, we lost no men and thus buried no one at sea.

Each man has his own recollections of 2 years spent in Camp 17. Mine and foundary work details were cancelled 15 August 1945 as the fortunes of war brought the Japanese to defeat. The nite of the 15th Chaplain Hamel borrowed my bible to use in a memorial service to allied war dead, which he planned to conduct on the 16th of August. To start the service Chaplain Hamel read the 90th Psalm, two verses 9 and 10 of that Psalm seemed most applicable to those who had survived. To refresh your memory briefly the verses are:

9) For all our days are passed away in they wrath: We spend our years as a tale that is told.

10) The days of our years are three score and ten; and if by reason of strength they be four score years, yet is their strength labour and sorrow; For it is soon cut off and we fly away.

The Japanese guards listened to the service in silence and departed the scene shortly afterwards, that the Chaplain had been permitted to hold such a service assured us that the war was over and our imprisonment was at long last finished. Now we meet again 33 years later and I am indeed honored to appear before you and share the reunion with you.

I have chosen to review with you factual material from a medical report on Camp 17 which was compiled by the Medical Staff: Capts Ian Duncan and Richard Parker, Australian Army, Lts. Harold Proff and Theodore Bronk, U.S. Army, and Lt. Gerit Bras, Royal Dutch Army.

It is ironic that this report was accepted into the Australian Army Museum for its historical value. Our meager records including the death list were not acceptable to a U.S. Courts Martial since they were not typewritten. I was young and inexperienced with the system in those years so at this late date I apologize for not keeping a typewriter with me. The medical report was completed August 25, 1945 while the medical staff was still together in a complete state of recall to review the period, utilizing our private records as concerned each nationality group.

Probably you don't recall that originally medical care in Camp 17 was to be handled by Japanese civilian doctors employed by the Mitsui Corporation. Members of the original 500 requested care by fellow Americans and such was started about October 1943. Thru out the two years, medical efforts were severly restricted by the labor quotas established by the Japanese Army. The guard detail demanded so many men in each duty shift, thus our efforts were aimed at protecting the men whom we judged most ill.

A medical officer was on clinic duty for each shift that returned from a work detail, thus it was possible to offer some protection to those we found most ill, as a shift returned to camp.

TABLE 1

GROWTH-CAMP #17

DETAIL	DATE	POINT OF ORIGIN	AMERICAN	AUSTRALIAN	BRITISH	DUTCH	CONDITION
A	AUG 10,43	C'TUAN,P.I.	500				FAIR
B	MAR 25,44	C'TUAN,P.I.	6				FAIR
C	JUN 19,44	SINGAPORE		250	6	144	FAIR
D	JUN 27,44	SINGAPORE			200		90% D.D.
X E.	SEPT. 2,44	C'TUAN,P.I.	204				90% D.D.
F	DEC 16,44	F-#1				100	50% D.D.
G	JAN 17,45	SINGAPORE		200			90% D.D.
X H	JAN 31,45	C'TUAN,P.I.	97				DYING
I	FEB 8,45	F-#1	12	12	12	14	90% D.D.
J	JUN 30,45	F-#13	100				90% D.D.
TOTALS		1859	821	562	218	258	
X HELL SHIPS							

As the camp increased in population, doctors who joined us were assigned to work in their field of interest, we were young and not fully trained, as an example Dr. Bras interested in laboratory work arrived in camp with a crude microscope constructed of bamboo tubing and field glass lens. Thus we gained an additional capability in diagnosis and it became possible to cross match blood.

Medical supplies for the camp was a joint responsibility shared equally by the Mitsui Corporation and the Army. Eventually hospital space increased from a combined dispensary and ward building to one adequately large clinic building and six ward buildings: 1 isolation ward of nine beds, 3 medical wards of 30 beds each, 2 surgical wards, one of 30 beds, one of 58 beds, to a total of 187 beds or mats. Thru the humaneness of Baron Mitsui, a 1919 Dartmouth graduate, we did have bed space for the sick and wounded.

Those of us who remained at Camp 17 following the exodus of the guard detail in August 1945, set out to scavenge the city of Omuta. Early in the exploration we found several warehouses packed with Red Cross food and medical supplies. The dates of receipt and storage indicated that these items had reached Japan prior to August 1943. Thus while we suffered from lack of food, essential medicines, surgical supplies, and x-ray equipment, these items, gifts of the American people, were hoarded in warehouses during our two years in Japan. The reason we were denied these essentials remains a top secret of the Imperial Japanese Army.

The Japanese soldier of World War II appeared well nourished thru-out the conflict, basic items of his diet were: rice, fish and a multiplicity of vegetables and fruits in season. Since this was the traditional diet of Japan, the soldier fared well and at worst might be faced with a ration of decreased volume. The diet of the prisoner of war was based solely on rice, without any other source of protein, carbohydrate or fat. Fish and fresh vegetables were never made available in amounts significant enough to be considered of nutritional value. Rare issues of dog meat or whale blubber served only to aggravate the digestive problems of men in a state of chronic starvation. In our continuing survey of the food at Camp 17, we were aware of the dilutions of the two major rice rations served to the prisoners. Prisoners serving in the mess facility of the Japanese guard detail, kept us advised of the difference in the food served in the Japanese mess. Dr. Murao, the first Japanese doctor assigned to the camp, informed us that millet was used to increase the volume of the ration, it had no true food value.

Our individual rations were based on individual work status, the larger rations being served to those on full work status, lesser amounts were served to those on light duty or patient status, the latter two groups being basically unproductive in the war effort.

Bear with me as we review the two year starvation program we were subjected to. The following figures are derived from the years 1943 - 1944=A, 1944 -1945=B, the first covering a camp of 500 men; the second applied to a camp population of over 1700 men. Japanese issue specifications are used. 450 grams = 1 lb.

TABLE 2

NUTRITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

20-25 year male-moderate labor

Protein	+ 60 gms
Carbohydrates	+ 125 gms
Fat	- 50 gms
Vitamin B factors	25 mgms
Calories	2800

TABLE 3

NUTRITIONAL VALUE RICE

	<u>Per Pound</u>	
<u>Unpolished</u>		<u>Polished</u>
12 gm	Protein	9 gm
114 gm	Carbohydrate	1.08 gm
3 gms	Fat	.6 gm
98.6 mgm	Vitamin B. Factor	Traces
534	Calories	492

TABLE 4

RICE ISSUE

	<u>DUTY</u>	<u>QUARTERS</u>	<u>HOSPITAL</u>
A - <u>Unpolished</u> (1943-1944) 500+	740 GMS(1.4lbs)	570 gms(1.4lbs)	435 gms (.8lb)
<u>POLISHED</u> (1944-1945) 1700+	690 gms(1.3lbs)	585 gms(1.6lbs)	390 gms (.7lb)

TABLE 5

DIET A-CAMP 17(1943-44)

80% Rice 20% Filler

Values Per Pound

<u>UNPOLISHED RICE</u>	<u>DUTY</u> (1.4lb)	<u>QUARTERS</u> (1.1lb)	<u>HOSPITAL</u> (.8lb)
Protein	9.6gm	14.4	10.5
Carbohydrate	91gm	127.4	100
Fat	2.4gm	3.3	2.6
Vit. B Factor	75.4mgm	103	82.9
Calories	427	597	469

TABLE 6

DIET B-CAMP 17-(1944-45)

60% Rice 40% Filler

Values Per Pound

<u>POLISHED RICE</u>	<u>DUTY</u> (1.3lb)	<u>QUARTERS</u> (1.6lb)	<u>HOSPITAL</u> (.7lb)
Protein	5.4gm	7.0	8.6
Carbohydrate	64.6gm	84.2	103
Fat	.36gm	.46	.57
Vit. B Factor	Traces	0	0
Calories	255	33L	408

Issues of Red Cross foods were in minimal amounts, and separated by such long intervals that they did not contribute to the diet. In 1945 the Japanese developed the policy of removing canned meat from individual food parcels and used it to supplement the soups served on holidays.

Deficiency diseases were a continuing medical problem and despite repeated pleas to the Japanese command we were never able to obtain any dietary improvement. The Allied Med-

ical officers considered the basic problem to be total dietary deficiency while the Japanese considered it as Beri Beri, the so called classic patterns of Vitamin B deficiency. The first cases of deficiency edema (swelling) that appeared in the camp in December 1944, this patient literally wasted away. Within 10 days after the polished rice was introduced into camp, edema was noted in increasing number of prisoners, as polished rice eliminated our only source of Vitamin B and reduced the major nutrients.

What has just been presented to you is not documented elsewhere in the medical annals of this country, the proverbial land of plenty. Certainly no human would knowingly submit to a controlled laboratory study aimed at duplicating this experience. I believe along with Dr. Jacobs, that we survivors still face disabling physical and emotional problems which can be traced to our experience. Medical computers and the young physicians of the V.A. are I believe, completely confused when called upon to evaluate our problems. Medicine is not an exact science, it has chosen to deem the profession an art and a science; our hope must then lie with those physicians who evidence art in dealing with the whole patient.

GASTRO INTESTINAL DISEASES

There was a consistently high disability rate from diarrhea. To clarify one point, Amebic dysentary was never a problem in Camp 17, only 7 cases were diagnosed by microscopic exam and three of these were under treatment in August 1945. Medically we used 4 classifications for gastro intestinal diseases:

1) FOOD DIARRHEA-(HIROHITO'S CURSE)

On at least three occasions 75% of the prisoners were struck by an epidemic, in the fall of 1943 following questionable fish soup thru the mess hall, whale blubber, or the rare issue of clams always produced such a temporary epidemic, usually these outbreaks tended to recede in 48-72 hours. These patients always demonstrated undigested food in the stool. Purgation and total abstention from food were effective in handling such epidemics.

2) ACUTE ENTERITIS-(BENJO BOOGIE)

These patients gave a history of 3-4 days of diarrhea, with as many as 15 stools per day. They did not respond to an aniline purgative available in small amounts from the Japanese Army. Bed rest was our only successful mode of treatment.

3) ACUTE COLITIS

This condition was undoubtedly bacillary dysentary, it was prevalent during the summers of 1944 and 1945, at which time 30 hospital beds were constantly utilized for its treatment, during both periods Japanese denied the existence of the disease outside camp bounds: Yet prisoners employed in the mine reported Japanese miners suffering with it. One Japanese civilian employed in Camp 17 died of the disease in the early summer of 1945. Sanitary public health measures within the camp were instituted, but no public health measures were taken in the Japanese guard housing area and none in the surrounding civilian areas.

4) CHRONIC ENTEROCOLITIS

Required long hospitalization and bed rest and a strict diet of lugao with warm tea enemas. This could be a terminal disease in severe malnutrition cases.

RESPIRATORY DISEASES

PNEUMONIA

Our most dreaded killer, Pneumonia continuously maintained the highest mortality rate of any of the infectious diseases. In the winter of 1943-44, among the men of the first detail, the morbidity rate was 8%. The same group, during their second winter in Japan, showed a morbidity rate of 3%. Both the Australian and Dutch details who arrived in camp for the second winter showed the higher morbidity and mortality rates. It should be noted that the second Australian detail which arrived January, 1945, showed the highest morbidity and mortality of any group in camp. They arrived from the tropics during the wintertime. In considering the Pneumonia in this camp, one cannot ignore certain living conditions which contributed to the development of this disease:

- 1) Starvation Diet
 - 2) Continuous exposure to extremes of temperatures 32° - 105° in the mine; some men worked in water.
 - 3) Persistent upper respiratory irritations in all miners as a result of the irritating gases encountered
 - 4) Lack of adequate heating facilities within the camp
- Diagnosis of pneumonia depended upon the physical findings. The lower lobes were the most constantly involved.

Total pneumonias for the period reached 250 cases and were classified as follows:

- | | |
|----------------------|-----|
| 1) Broncho-pneumonia | 20% |
| 2) Lobar-pneumonia | 80% |

TREATMENT OF PNEUMONIA

(It is to be noted that the Japanese issued sulfonamids in courses of 13 grams per patient.) During the winter of 1943-44 the drug used was Trianon, a Japanese preparation, by action similar to sulfa-pyridine. The results obtained by the uses of this drug were fairly satisfactory. It was extremely toxic and frequently mental symptoms accompanied its use.

Sulfa-diazine was the most frequently used drug and was given in courses of 26 to 39 grams. It was considered moderately successful. Response to this drug came within 48 to 72 hours, or not at all. Early in the use of this drug in Camp 17, it became evident that the effectiveness of it was greatly increased when small, frequent transfusions were used during the course of treatment. Failure to show an early response to this combination of sulfa-diazine and blood was usually indicative of a fatal outcome.

Another useful adjunct in the treatment of pneumonia was the routine use of a large wooden-framed heat cradle containing four forty-watt bulbs. This frame was used over the chest. The efficiency of such a unit may be realized when it is recalled that there were no heating facilities in these rooms and the number of ersatz blankets necessary to keep a patient warm were of such weight that a weak patient could not turn himself in bed. Their weight against the chest added unnecessary work to the already laboring muscles of respiration.

Due to the limited supply of drugs available, treatment was not instituted in any patient until positive consolidation could be demonstrated. X-ray was never available.

Total deaths from pneumonia were 48, of these, ten were in a state of extreme emaciation when they contracted this disease. The highest incidence of the disease occurred during the winter of 1944 and spring of 1945. During these periods 50 to 60 were in the hospital. In March of 1945, there were 14 deaths from pneumonia. This was the highest total for any month. The average period of hospitalization was twenty days, followed by thirty days of convalescence in quarters.

TUBERCULOSIS

Most Americans with even minimal Tuberculosis died early in Philippine Island prisons. Pulmonary tuberculosis first appeared in the first detail of this camp in March, 1944, after seven months of mine work. It was impossible for this prisoner to have had contact within the camp bounds with a case of active tuberculosis. One of the Japanese overmen assigned to his group apparently was troubled with a chronic productive cough. This overman stated that he was troubled with consumption. This case was diagnosed by stethoscope and later confirmed by x-ray. There have been in the camp a total of eleven proven cases and four suspects. Of the eleven cases, eight were from the American group and three of the eight patients lived in the same room during the first winter in Japan. Treatment of these patients was limited to hospital bed rest. Six of the eleven proven cases died prior to August 23, 1945.

FUKUOKA FEVER

Dengue type fevers are endemic in all far eastern countries. Navy personnel will remember Gault Fever of the Philippines.

For want of a better name a local endemic fever encountered in this camp was termed "Fukuoka Fever". Very little satisfaction was ever obtained from the Japanese concerning this condition although the disease was seen among the Japanese guard detachment. During the late summers and falls of 1943, 1944 and 1945 the morbidity rate from this disease ranged from 60% to 70% of the entire camp. It may be described as an atypical aching, profound malaise, loss of appetite, and profound weakness. There is no rash and the length of the disease varies from six to fifteen days. The prevalence of the disease coincided with the mosquito season. The temperature showed a tendency to run high the first two to three days of the illness returning to a low level for a period of five days, to rise again for two to three days prior to cessation. The severity of the symptoms varied with the temperature, the response to salicylates and codein was only fair. The disease conferred no immunity and one recurrence was likely during the season. It was impossible to keep these patients from duty status except when temperature was demonstrable. Subjective symptoms had to be ignored. This condition was developing a high morbidity rate during August 1945.

MALARIA (BLACK WATER FEVER)

Of the population in this camp, 88% had suffered from Malaria in the tropics. Increased numbers of Malaria cases were noted within two to three months following the arrival of the respective details from the tropics. It was noted that the Estivo-autumnal type died out after about three months in this climate. The tertian type was persistent but was rare after two years. Many patients received their first complete course of Malarial therapy in this camp. No treatment was instituted without positive blood findings. Quinine-Atebrin routine was used in this manner: Seven days of thirty grains followed by seven days of twenty grains with three tablets of Atebrin per day.

A severe form of Malaria in which the urine is black with blood is termed "Black Water Fever". Three patients developed Black Water Fever within three months after their arrival from the tropics. During the period they were hospitalized with Black Water Fever, no parasites were demonstrable in the blood. The treatment consisted of rest and support with intravenous fluids and transfusions. Recovery was complete in each instance. Dr. Bras from Java had great knowledge of Malaria and took personal care of the Black Water patients.

Although from time to time the morbidity rate for Malaria was high, the only fatality from this disease was one patient with cerebral Malaria.

SURGERY

Just prior to the departure of "A" detail from Cabanatuan instruments were requested from the senior American medical officers, having spent a year on Corregidor with a 500 man labor detail I was well aware of the need for surgical instruments, and the fact that the Japanese did not furnish instruments for use on prisoners.

My requests were refused by the senior American Officers, they were naive enough to believe that all essentials would be supplied once we reached Japan. The instrument kit that I had put together on Corregidor was minimal at best, my friendship with certain enlisted men working in medical supply at Cabanatuan made it possible to supplement my kit to the point that at least we would be able to handle emergency surgery while enroute to Japan. The individual instruments were placed in the baggage of a number of prisoners; thus they escaped detection during the inspections we were subjected to. The instruments were reassembled after we settled in Camp 17.

Our only available anesthesia consisted of several vials of dental novocain tablets. Two of these tablets dissolved in a small amount of the patient's spinal fluid, and injected into the spine gave about forty-five minutes of anesthesia, giving us time to perform most operations that had to be done.

Dutch torpedo technicians, who eventually came to Camp 17, were able to make surgical knives out of old British table silverware.

September 17, 1943 a prisoner named Vaughan suffered a broken back when trapped in a mine cave-in. He was admitted to the mine hospital but treatment was not started as the senior surgeon at the hospital considered the situation hopeless. I was taken to the hospital and permitted to examine the patient, my findings indicated that if treatment was instituted we might be able to correct the total paralysis of his legs, and return him to activity. So the mine surgeon agreed to transfer him to Camp 17 hospital to die. Vaughan, was a very reasonable young man with an intense desire to live. It was explained to him that if the planned treatment worked he would suffer extreme muscle spasm and pain. We had no morphine or similiar drug to give him any relief. He agreed to follow our plan and the pain it entailed. A hinged traction table was constructed and placed in the small isolation building and Vaughan was placed in traction. It was hoped that by using the isolation building we could muffle the sound of his screams from the other prisoners. However, I am sure that those of you who were quartered in the area of the isolation building can recall the nightly screams of this man as he endured the treatment. Eight weeks after his torture was begun we walked him into the Camp Commander's office, this convinced Lt. Uri that the American doctors knew their business. Lt. Uri ordered the mine surgeon to come to camp and see our results. Unfortunately Vaughan committed suicide in the first years after his recovery from Japan.

As a general rule if a prisoner suffered an injury in the mine some physical punishment was administered underground before he was brought to the surface. This punishment was handled by the civilian Japanese overmen. If the patient suffered a broken bone in the mine, x-ray examination might be carried out at the mine hospital, we might get to see the films two to three weeks later, so we treated fractures without x-rays.

Japanese surgeons operated in cotton gloves, since rubber gloves were not available. We operated bare handed, the fingernails of the surgical team stayed black as a result of our using bichloride of mercury and seven per cent iodine in preparing our hands before surgery. Despite our primitive equipment and environment our infection rate in surgical patients never exceeded 3%.

During our first two months in Japan several prisoners underwent surgery in the mine hospital, these operations were done either without anesthesia or with very weak local anesthesia and the patients were returned to us in rather severe shock.

Hand injuries which were repaired at the mine dispensary required thorough exploration as soon as the patient returned to camp, usually such wounds were filled with coal dust and severed tendons had to be repaired. Eventually after a number of these mismanaged wounds were demonstrated to the Camp Japanese Army doctor, he ordered that injured prisoners be returned immediately to the camp hospital.

Sharpened bicycle spokes were used as traction wires in the treatment of hip and leg fractures. Plaster of Paris was never available. We observed that simple fractures healed in approximately two months in the first year, by the second year in Japan the same type fractures required four to five months healing time, this we attributed to our worsening nutritional state.

PSYCHOLOGIC AND SOCIAL PROBLEMS

I am troubled that the V.A. can recognize a broad range of psychologic and social problems in our current society, and not be cognizant of the fact, that some of the patterns they encounter in former P.O.W.'s are long term results in individuals who had no help available when the emotional or psychic traumas occurred during long confinement. The philosophy of the prisoner of war is a strange one, individually developed to make survival possible in the most hostile environment. He first learned to laugh, at the tragedies that comprised the every day life, he completely obliterated the pangs of hunger. The starving man would willingly trade his meager ration for a few cigarettes. In many instances he would risk his rations gambling with professionals, who pursued their trade without compassion for any life except their own.

The language problem was ever present, interpreters either Japanese or English speaking

tended to put themselves in a command position so they created an atmosphere of distrust. One prisoner of the A detail was executed for attempting to learn to read Japanese, he was utilized as the target for a bayonet drill by the guard detail, his body when examined showed over 75 stab wounds.

Early in the course of starvation hunger is overwhelming and the theft of food by such a person is not a criminal act. The Greek "Pavlokos" was starved to death in the guard-house for stealing food, it took them 62 days to accomplish this execution, benefit of trial was denied.

For a minor infraction of rules a 19 years old Australian soldier named David Runge, was forced to kneel in front of the guard house for 36 hours, during the period he developed gangrene of both feet: bilateral amputation was carried out 10 March 1945. He was carried on the backs of comrades to keep us reminded of the benevolence of the Japanese. Runge has only recently retired from an active life.

In camp the prisoners life was subject to the individual whims of the guard on duty, the prisoner could be aroused from rest to undergo punishment or humiliation, which ever met the sadistic needs of the guard.

Underground the prisoner was faced with falling walls and ceilings, blast injuries and entombment, he lived each day with the possibility of sudden death or permanent disabling injury.

In such a situation malingering was anticipated; however, with our mission to protect the prisoners we felt were the sickest we had to constantly fence with malingerers; Daily we saw chronic ulcers that were prevented from healing by the application of lime, which was available in the latrines. I never learned the name of the "Bone Crusher" but he could for a price inflict a broken arm or leg. Such breaks were unlike those accidentally incurred, so his work was recognized immediately. Usually his patients ended up on the Honey Bucket detail within the camp.

On so called "Yasume" days the prisoners were subjected to formal inspections or sporadic shakedowns. It was extremely difficult to obtain permission for any organized entertainment.

Homosexuality was present in all nationality groups; this reached a point that Dr. Proff conducted a weekly marital relations clinic in an effort to keep the couples happy in our tight society.

The weather in Japan begins to cool in October and the nites can be most uncomfortable, it is during this month that the Emperor in his benevolence decides to issue blankets to the Japanese Army. In October of 1944 we had received rumors that Allied Forces were beginning to close in on Japan. Tracking movement of these forces on the maps in a small pocket atlas published as an advertisement in England, our hope of rescue was beginning to come alive. The small atlas was completely verboten as the Japanese had even forbidden astrologic maps, thus our atlas was protected at all costs.

In our moment of increasing hope of eventual rescue, the medical officers decided to demand an increase in rations from the Japanese command. We drafted an official type letter demanding an immediate improvement in the camp rations, intimating that if rations were not improved the prisoners would be unable to meet the work demands. This document was signed by all the medical officers and hand delivered to Japanese headquarters. Just prior to the delivery of our letter we had been advised that the camp and hospital would be inspected by the International Red Cross.

The day after the communique was delivered to Lt. Fukuhara I was walking in the barracks area, I had forgotten that I was carrying the treasured atlas in my pocket. Two guards joined me and demanded that I accompany them to the ESO (the guard house). I did not

see any Americans in the vicinity as we started toward the ESO. On arrival in front of the Sgt. of the guard I was booked without undue ceremony, I was searched and relieved of my pocket possessions, fountain pen, cigarettes, watch and the Kolynos Atlas. My possessions were quickly put together in a rag, tied up and the package placed in the safe. My efforts to learn the charges against me were to no avail and I was locked in a small cell with no view of the outside.

The first nite, I heard returning work details as they were checked back into camp with the usual screaming of the guards. Late in the evening my cell was visited by a guard who had been annoyed with me for a period of several months, he entered the cell carrying a baseball bat. As was the custom he ordered me to attention as he got ready to swing the bat at me. In his rage and eagerness to punish me he was oblivious to the small size of the cell, which so limited his swing that the beating was little more than a rough massage with the bat. I moaned and feigned pain for about 30 minutes when he became exhausted and departed locking the cell door. Why the hell he did not take me out to an open area I will never know.

Days were spent pacing the cell and wondering what was going on in camp. The second nite, one of the guards was friendly since I had done a minor operation on him. He realized that I had not been permitted to smoke, so when he had a short break he moved me to another cell and had me rapidly smoke 3 Kenchi cigarettes, if you recall the Kenchi cigarettes you will appreciate my nauseated, stunned state for the rest of the evening. The late shift returning from the mine that nite shouted several remarks in English which made me believe that the other prisoners knew I was confined in the ESO.

The third nite, was one to remember another guard on whom I had done a minor operation informed me that the charge against me was very serious. I was charged with inciting a riot. In prolonged questioning I finally learned that the charge arose because of the recent letter to Lt. Fukuhara, he concluded that letter demanding a ration increase was instigated by me, and that as senior medical officer I had forced the other doctors to sign the document. This was controlling group thought, and therefore inciting a riot. Any prisoner with even a few marbles knows that inciting a riot was a sure quick way out of life. So I really started to sweat despite the coolness of the evening. I was still awake trying to adjust to my eventual fate, when the early morning hours were disrupted by two civilian trucks arriving in front of the guard house. These trucks were delivering the October blessing from the Emperor. The famous paper blankets supposed to warm soldiers and prisoners as well, thru the long winter. The shouting and counting that went on during the exchange of blankets from civilian distributor to the army was like watching a comedy, finally the count was correct. The numerous papers were signed and the trucks departed. Almost immediately after the departure of the trucks, one of the guards took three blankets from one bundle and threw them into my cell, for the first time since confinement in the ESO I did have body warmth.

On the fourth day, I watched a two hour repeat of the blanket counting exercise as issues were delegated to the guard barracks, each prisoner barracks and the hospital buildings. Repeated checks failed to disclose the three blankets in my cell and the error in total count was covered in the paper work. During the fourth evening my concern was partially relieved when the Sgt. Major visited and informed me that I would soon be released from the ESO and resume my duties at the hospital.

During the fifth day, I began to worry about the atlas locked up as one of my possessions. At 5 pm Lt. Fukuhara strutted into the ESO adorned with sword and pistol, he ordered my immediate release. I was ordered to stand in front of the Sgt. of the guards table, to receive my possessions, the safe was opened and the cloth in which my valuables were stored was placed on the table and opened: the contents were intact. One guard immediately picked up the atlas and opened it to a specific map he started a loud discussion with one of his comrades. The few minutes of their discussion seemed to last hours and Fukuhara was still present. Finally the discussion was concluded, the atlas was closed and handed to me, I instantly jammed it into a pocket, the watch, pen and cigarettes were returned. I turned to head for the hospital area when a guard called me back to

pick up the blankets in my cell. I returned to the hospital with three non-existent blankets and the atlas. My friends were overjoyed that the atlas was still intact and immediately used it to check recent rumors. The next day the International Red Cross inspectors showed up and we went through with a display of patient care planned to assure the inspectors of the benevolence of the Imperial Japanese Army.

On several occasions I was slugged because of my arrogant attitude.

Behavior problems were frequent and hysterical reactions were increasing in numbers as the war ended. Ten men were hospitalized as mental cases and there were twelve incorrigible thieves.

Amazingly: There was only one suspected suicide.

MORTALITY

Our mortality is recorded, and I might comment that it is lower than Dr. Proff and I predicted it might be after our first two months in Camp 17. One hundred twenty six men died in the two year period; 48 deaths attributed to pneumonia, 35 to deficiency disease, 14 to colitis, 8 to injuries, 5 to executions, 6 to tuberculosis, and 10 to miscellaneous diseases.

TABLE 7

MORTALITY RATE

Total Population	1859	(125)	Mortality Rate 6.7%
American	821	(49)	5.9%
Australian	562	(19)	3.3%
British	218	(17)	7.7%
Dutch	258	(41)	4.2%
("A")	500	(21)	4.2%)

There is no summary to a nightmare that was permanently tattooed in our brains, but that is how it was for those who were "expended".

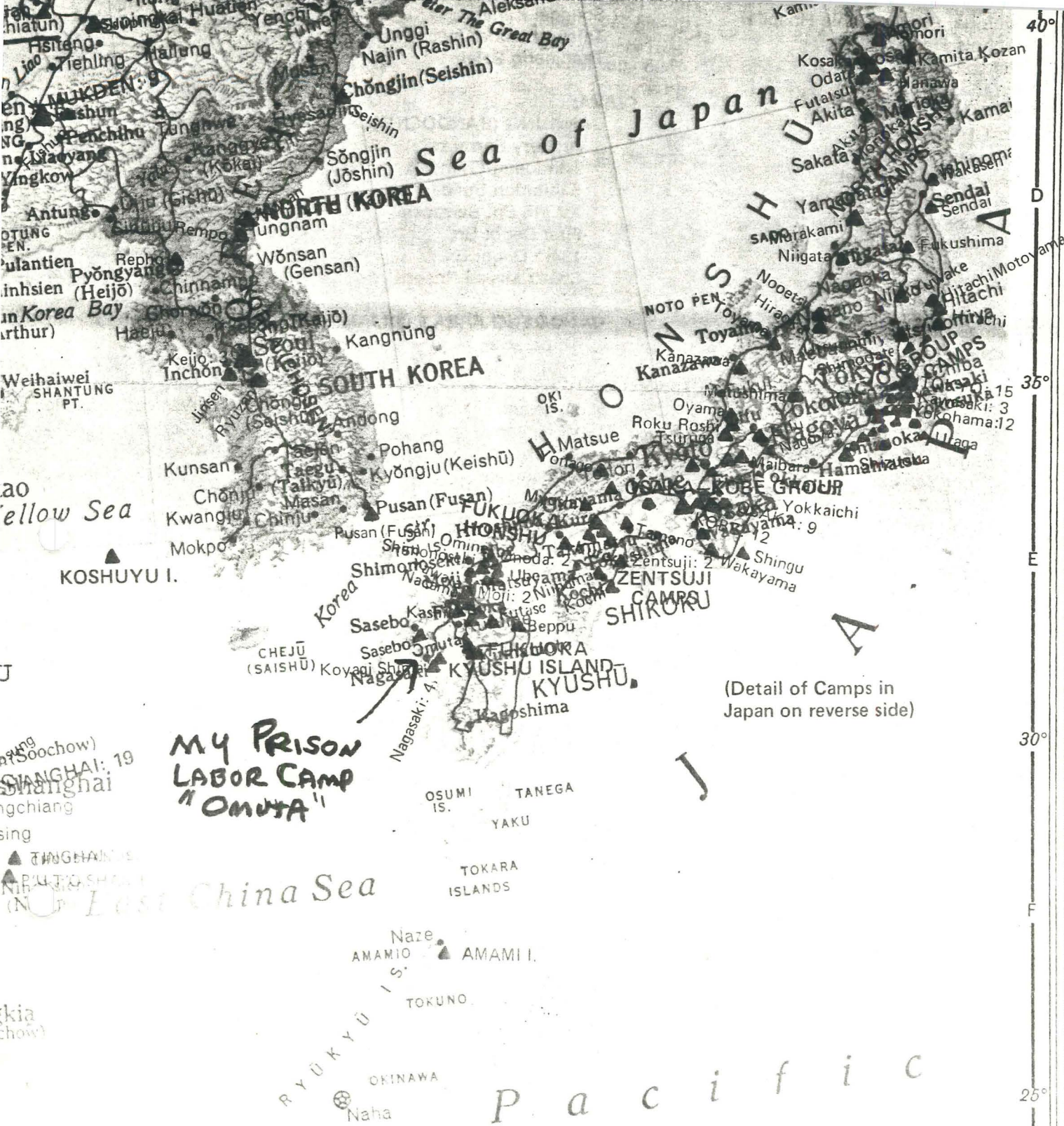
I have no answer as to why we survived, possibly the answer lies somewhere in lines penned by William E. Henly prior to 1903:

OUT OF THE NIGHT THAT COVERS ME
 BLACK AS THE PIT FROM POLE TO POLE
 I THANK WHATEVER GODS MAY BE
 FOR MY UNCONQUERABLE SOUL

IN THE FELL CLUTCH OF CIRCUMSTANCE
 I HAVE NOT WINCED NOR CRIED ALOUD
 UNDER THE BLUDGEONINGS OF CHANCE
 MY HEAD IS BLOODY, BUT UNBOWED

BEYOND THIS PLACE OF WRATH AND TEARS
 LOOM BUT THE HORROR OF THE SHADE
 AND YET THE MENACE OF THE YEARS
 FINDS, AND SHALL FIND ME UNAFRAID

IT MATTERS NOT HOW STRAIT THE GATE,
 HOW CHARGED WITH PUNISHMENTS THE SCROLL
 I AM THE MASTER OF MY FATE
 I AM THE CAPTAIN OF MY SOUL.



**MY PRISON
LABOR CAMP
"OMUTA"**

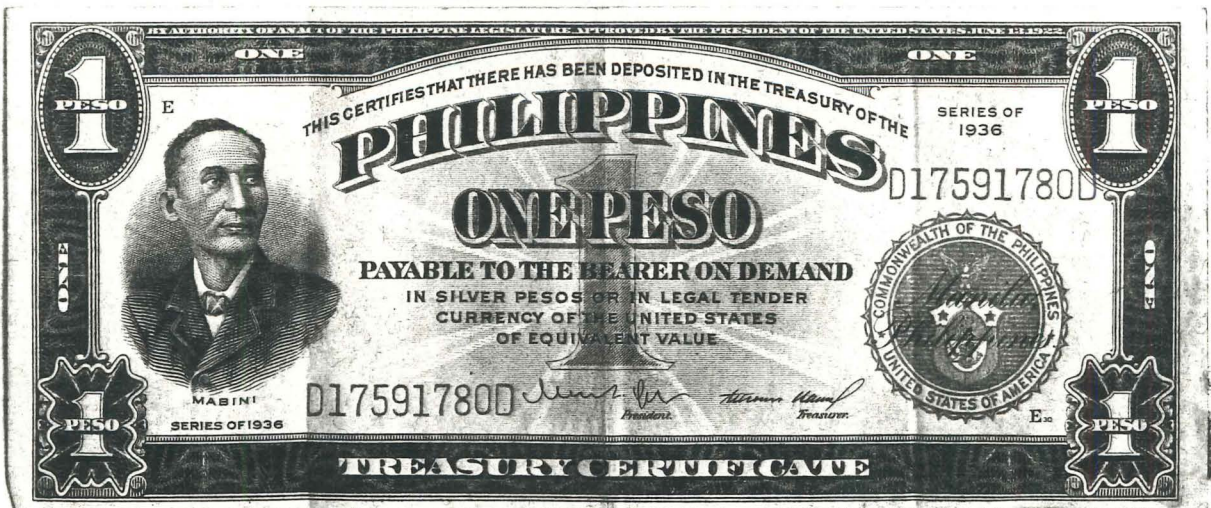
(Detail of Camps in Japan on reverse side)

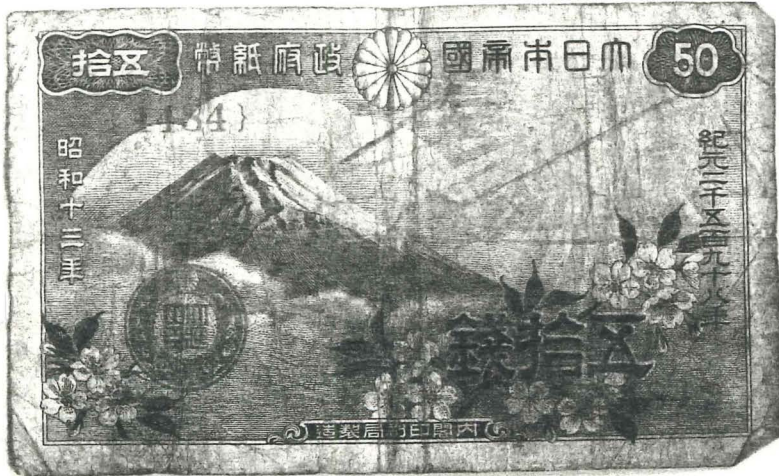
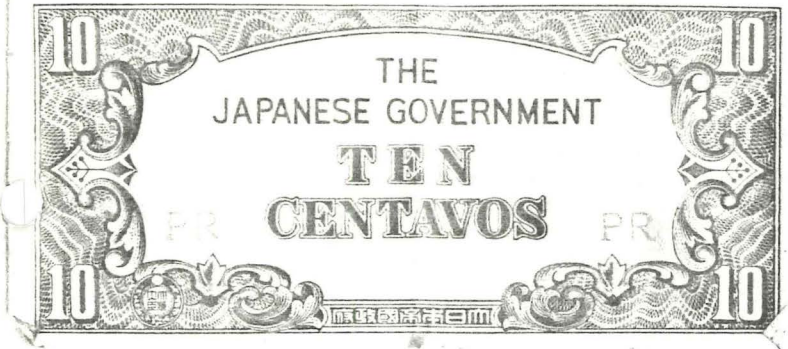
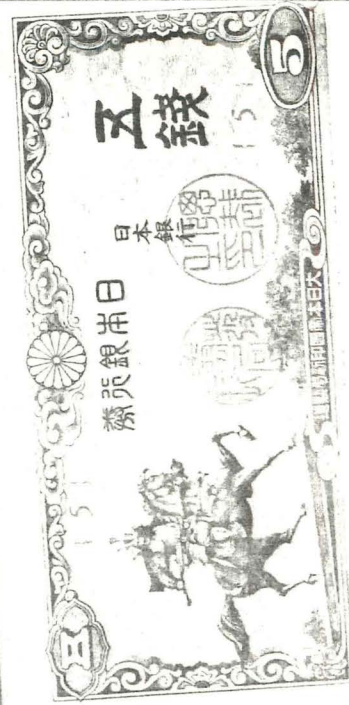
"In September, 1941, sixty thousand Japanese disembarked in Indochina. Three months later, simultaneous attacks on Hong Kong and Pearl Harbor started the war in the Pacific.

"When the last drop of water had been exhausted in the reservoirs destroyed by the Japanese bombardment, the British garrison of Hong Kong capitulated. That was on December 19th, 1941.

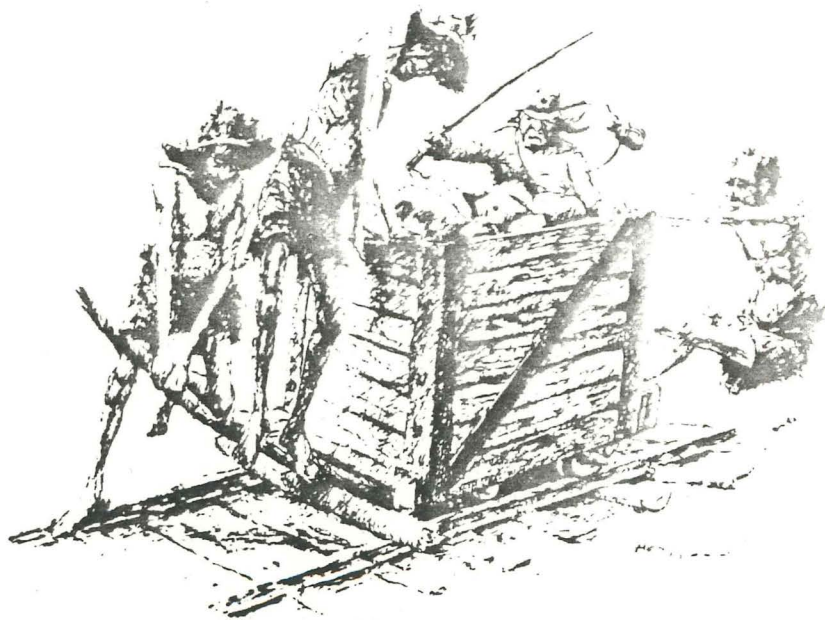
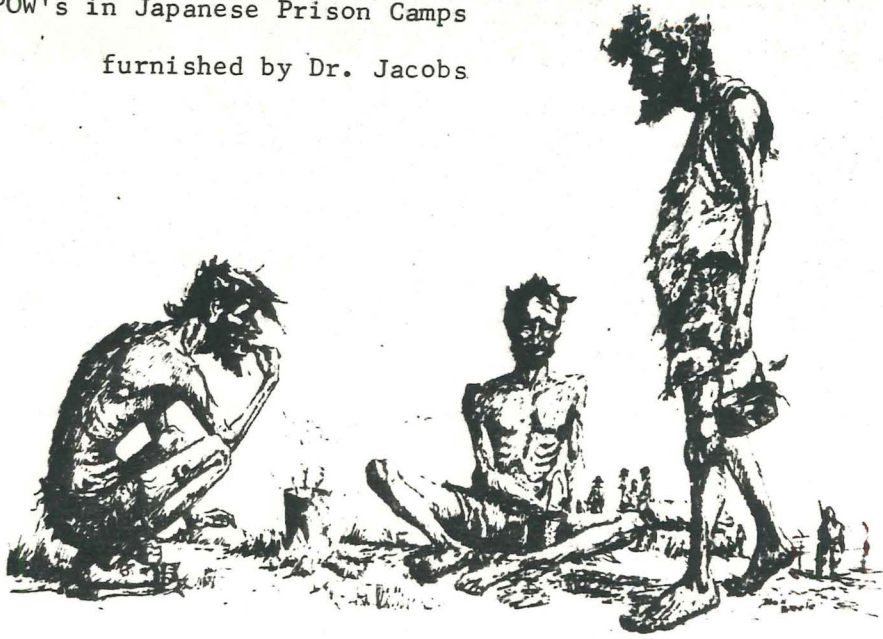
"Ten days later, coming down from Siam and Indochina, the Japanese advanced along the narrow tongue of land which separates the Gulf of Siam from the Indian Ocean for six hundred miles and reached the extreme limit of the Malay Peninsula.

"Three weeks of heroic resistance on the part of the British Third Army could not prevent what Winston Churchill was subsequently to describe as 'the biggest disaster in British military history.' On February 15th, 1942, General Arthur Ernest Percival, governor of Singapore, was compelled to sign an unconditional surrender and he was





Sketches of POW's in Japanese Prison Camps
furnished by Dr. Jacobs

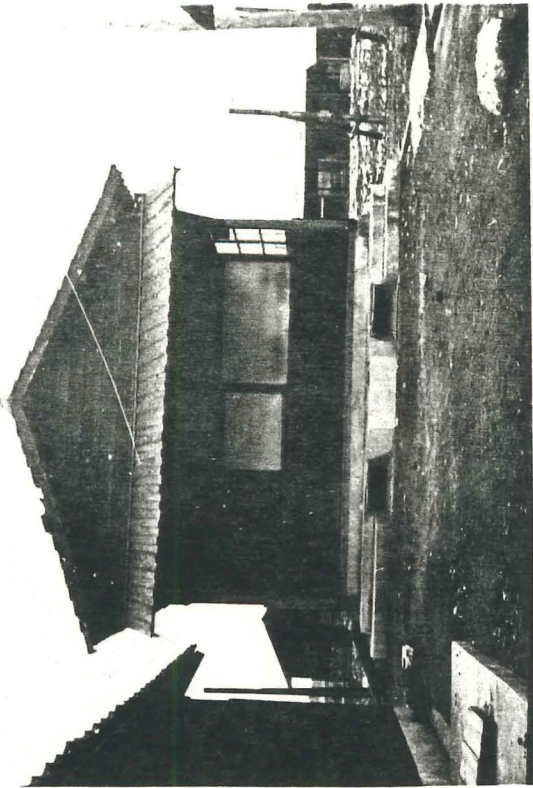




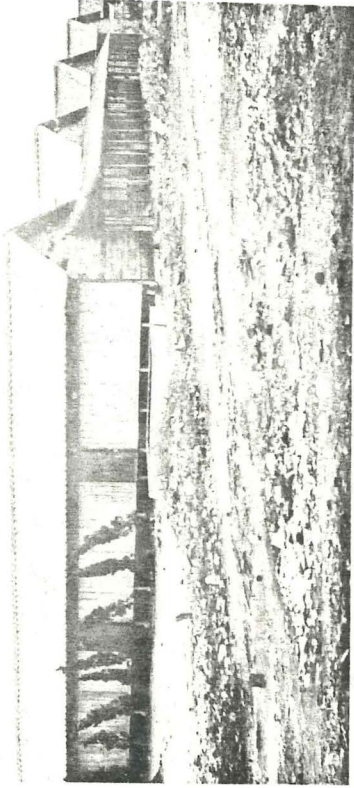
American Ex-Prisoners of War shortly after liberation from Bilibid Prison.



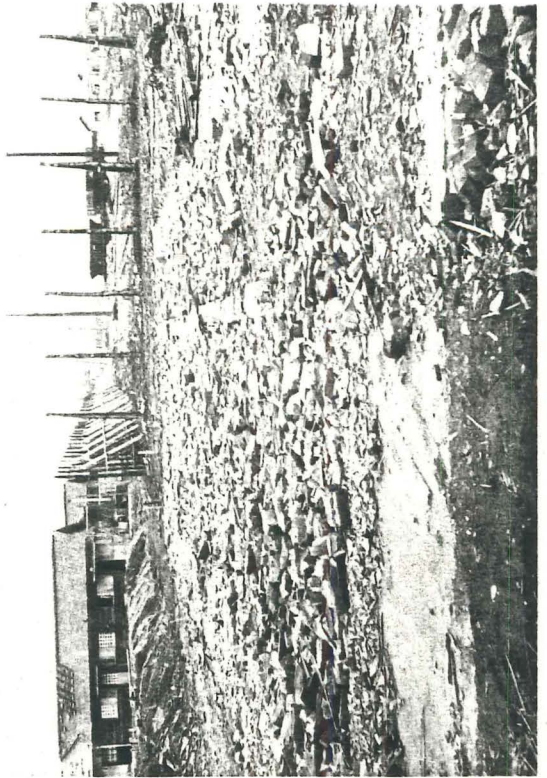
Three American about to be beheaded in Cabanatuan, Camp #3



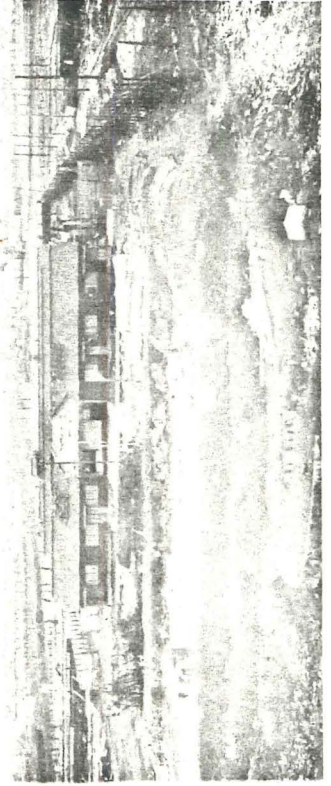
OMUTA PRISON BUILDING



PRISONERS WORK BARRACKS



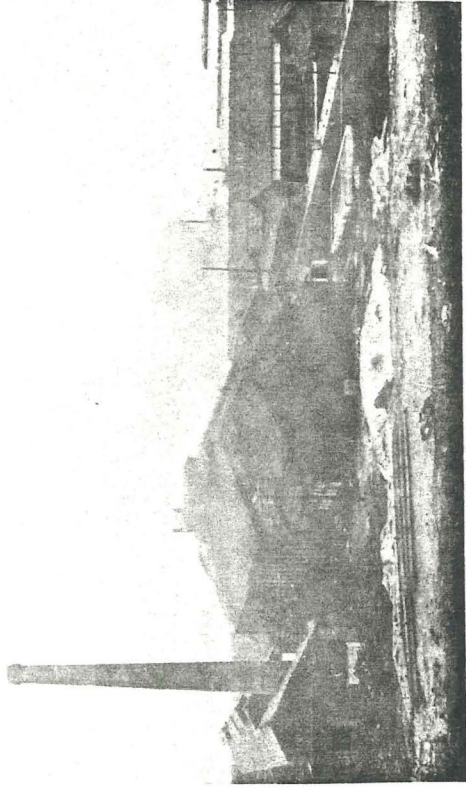
PRISON CAMP AREA



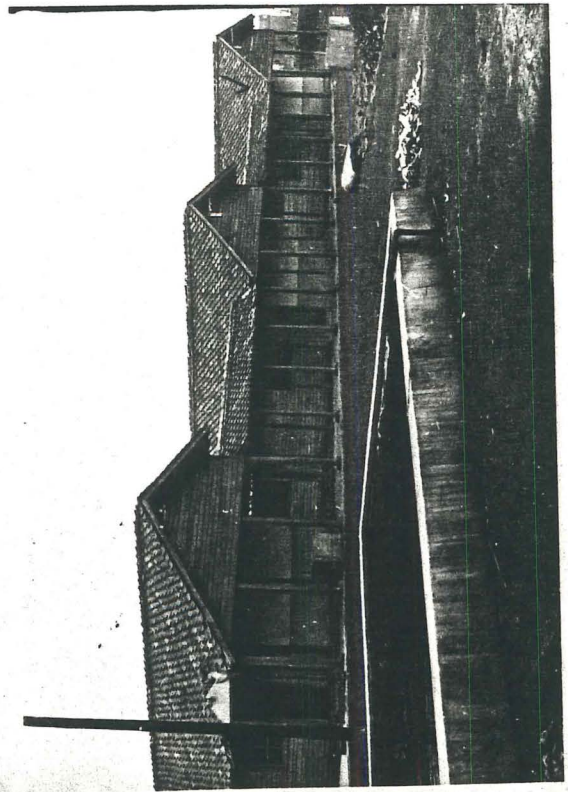
OMUTA PRISON



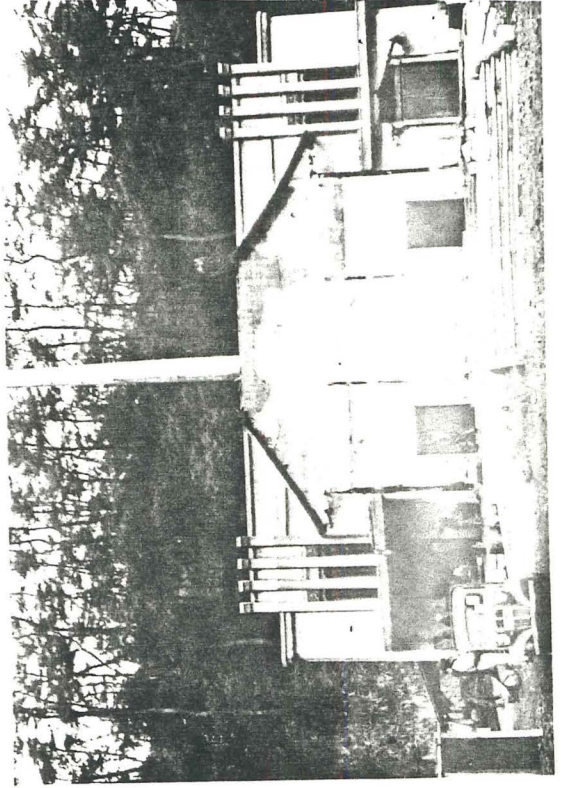
PRISON - LABOR BARRACKS



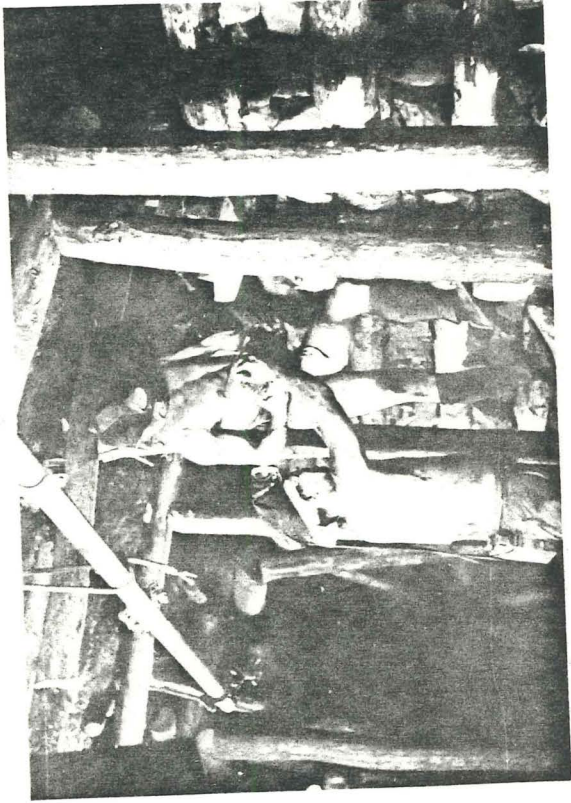
POWER PLANT NEAR MINE



BARRACKS VIEW



CREMATORIUM FOR CAMP + AREA



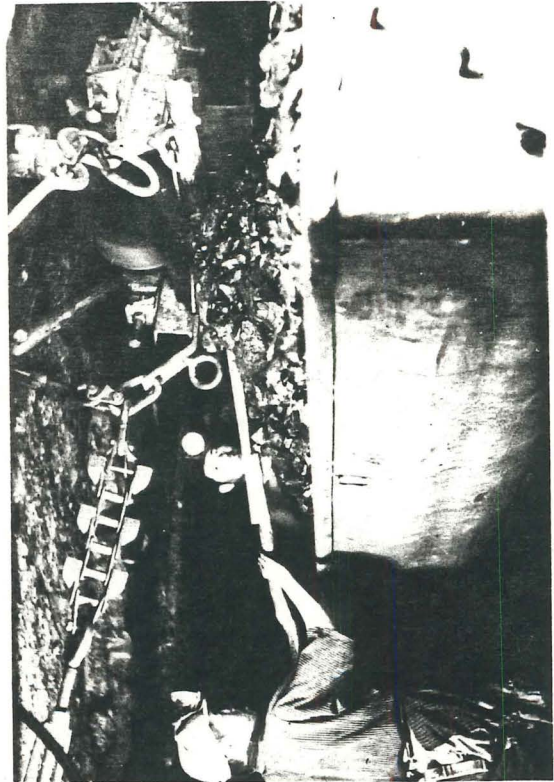
SHORING UP ROOF - MY JOB



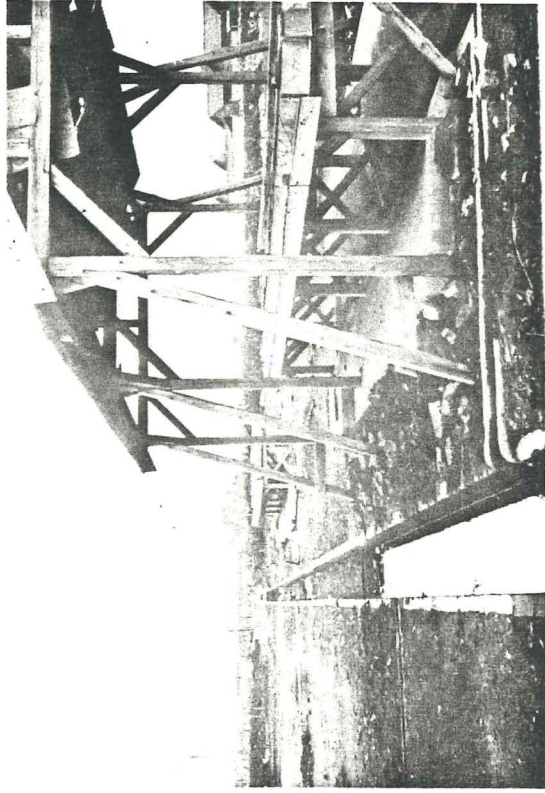
DIGGING COAL - SOFT COAL
SIMILAR TO LIGNITE



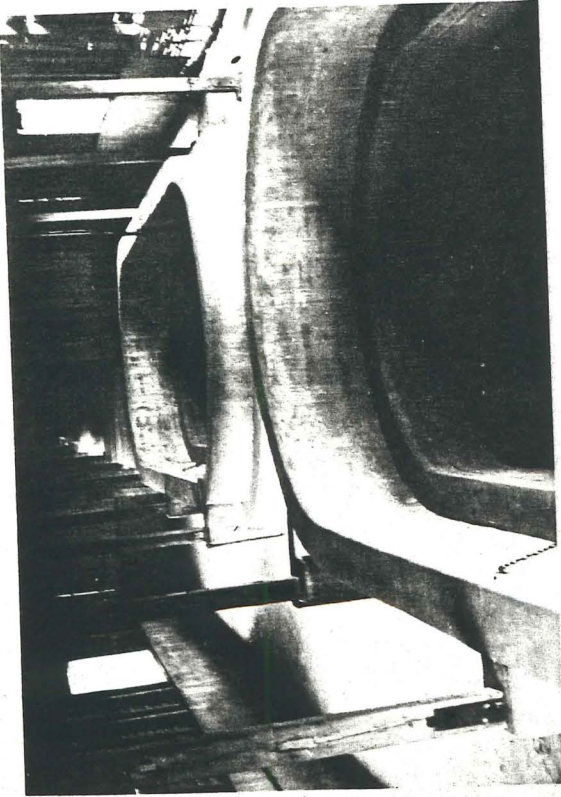
INSIDE MINE - JAPANESE



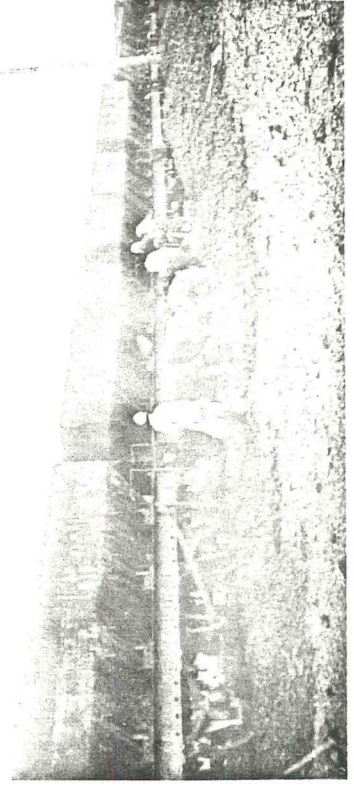
LOADING CARS IN MINE



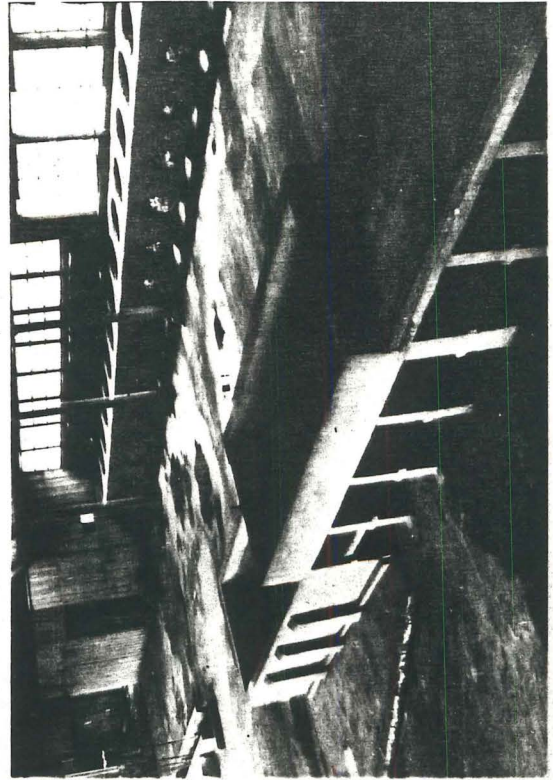
CLOTHES WASHING - MINERS



COMMUNAL BATH TUBS FOR MINERS



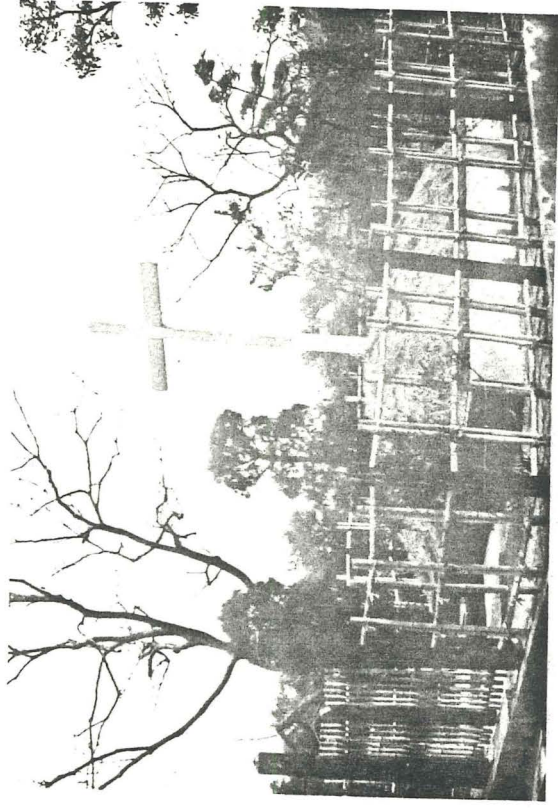
COAL TRAIN FROM MINE



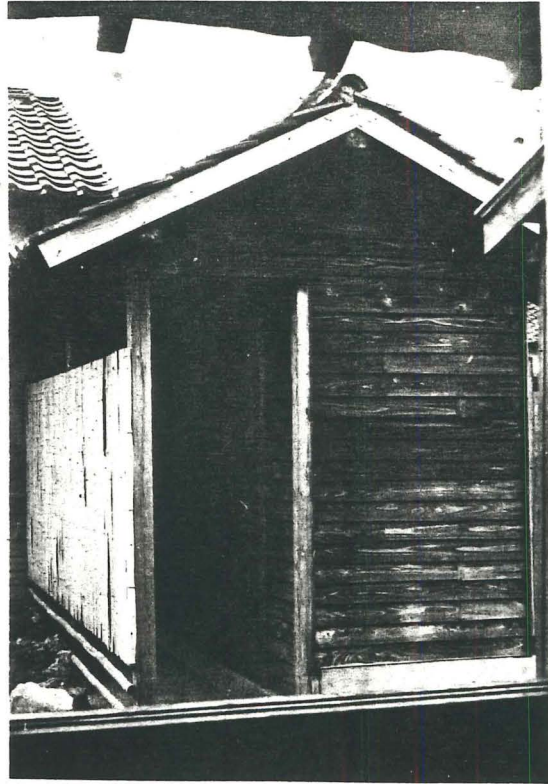
BATH + TOILET BLDG



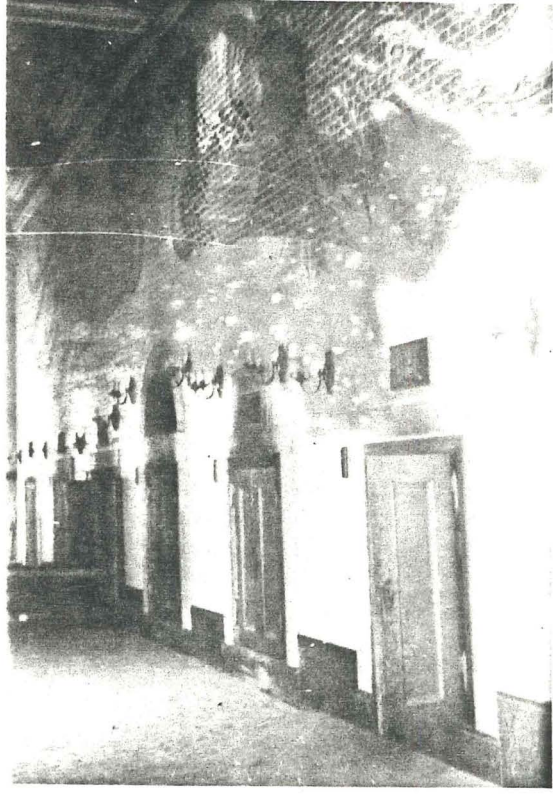
PICTURE OF MY PRISON JOB



PRISON CAMP CEMETERY



ENTRANCE TO BUILDING



CREMATORIUM BUILDING - JAP STYLE