

Def. Doc. # 1806

ERRATA SHEET

Interrogation of Captain TAZUMI, Genzo 27 February
1947

Answer for Question 4 should be read

"A. No, they had not."

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Interrogation of Captain TAZUMI, Genzo
27 February 1947

My name is TAZUMI, Genzo. I was a captain attached to the Burma Area Japanese Army.

1. Q. Were you the Commander of the POW Camp of Rangoon in Burma at the time when General KIMURA, Heitaro was the Commander of the Burma Area Japanese Army?

A. Yes.

2. Q. Was the Commander of the POW Camp of Rangoon receiving orders and directions from the POW Camp of Malay? (If not, from whom the POW Camp of Rangoon was receiving orders and directions?)

A. Although the Commander of the POW Camp of Rangoon was subject to the Commander of the POW Camp of Malay, the former was being ordered and directed by the Commander of the Burma Area Japanese Army in connection with the execution of business.

3. Q. Did the Commander of the Burma Area Japanese Army give orders and directions to you while you were holding office as the Commander of the POW Camp of Rangoon?

A. The Commander of the POW Camp of Rangoon, no sooner than taking over the former Field POW Camp of Rangoon as the 6th Detachment of the POW Camp of Malay, was placed under the command of the Commander of the Burma Area Japanese Army on 15 March 1944, and the latter in turn put me under the control of the Commander of the 73rd Line of Communications Sector of the Rangoon Line of Communication Department. Accordingly, it was that the Commander of the POW Camp of Rangoon received the immediate command, orders and directions from the Commander of the 73rd Line of Communications Sector.

4. Q. Had the General Headquarters of the South Area Japanese Army ever given any orders or directions to the Camp of Rangoon? If so, when and how far was it, explain in detail.

5. Q. Were there any POW's who were sent from the Rangoon Camp out to the other camps? Explain it.
- A. There was none, so far as European POW's are concerned. I remember, it was toward the end of 1944 when I was once ordered to send 1st Lieutenant Peacock of the British Navy, to Japan proper, but as he was taken ill on the way he was sent back to the Camp. As for the Indian POW's, we transferred about 100 of them about January, 1945, to the HIKARI organ as required personnel for the Indian National Army.
6. Q. Explain in detail about the health and sanitary conditions of the POW's and their clothing, food and housing conditions.
- A. (a) State of health and sanitary conditions -- As for the POW's state of health, there was a big difference in the degree of health among the POW's themselves. In other words, those who had excellent health always kept up the same conditions, and those who were of poor build were constantly weak and fell ill and no sooner than they left the hospital they would again enter the hospital. Judging from the number of patients it could not be said to be good. However, after around July 1944 the number of patients gradually decreased and the health of POW's took an upward trend.
- Jungle sores which were very frequent at the time of the taking over, was almost completely cured by around August 1944. The advance of health was more remarkable for the Indians than for the Europeans. On the other hand, in spite of various efforts made, it was impossible for us to see that the number patients of beriberi was notably reduced. As for the communicative diseases, two slight cases of smallpox had broken out around April 1944 but was completely cured immediately. I think it was in the middle of April when cholera suddenly broke out and there were about 10 genuine cholera cases. As a result of our utmost efforts to prevent the spreading it was put to an end before becoming serious. As for the hygienic conditions in general in the camp, it was impossible for us to keep them in a satisfactory condition on account of the shortage of

of medicine and inadequate equipment, but I consider that generally speaking the general hygienic situation in the camp was in good condition owing to sensible attentions and efforts of both camp staffs and POW's.

(b) Food, clothing and housing.

Though clothing was not so good, as compared with that of Changie and other places, of which I had previously been in charge, I was able to maintain the ordinary condition by getting Japanese goods for replenishment from time to time. As for eating, to which I as well as the staff had made the utmost efforts, I firmly believe that we did furnish a good supply to POW's. It is supposed that boiled rice was not liked by the European POW's as a regular diet, but that could not be helped. Instead, we made every possible effort to obtain fresh meats and eggs for them.

Housing was bare-looking itself because we appropriated a bare prison for the camp. The furniture and fixtures also were poorly equipped. However, with the small number of persons received and sufficient space for living, POW's were able to house at ease.

7. Q. How many hours a day had the POW's been demanded to work?
A. Seven hours
8. Q. Explain in detail the manner of the executive staffs of the camp handling the sick and wounded POW's.
A. As to the sick and wounded, we treated them very kindly. A few examples of them are as follows:
a. In case a POW was wounded at the time when he was working within camp, we presented a gift in the name of the camp.
b. Army surgeons as well as hygienic staffs who were in charge of treating the sick and wounded, engaged, kindly and earnestly on the duty day and night. As a remarkable example, there was a case of Lt. Peacock of the British Navy who was already mentioned in Answer 5. As he was scheduled to be sent out to Japan proper, after leaving the camp accompanied by the personnel of the Japanese Ministry Police, he suddenly took ill and it became impossible to make his way. Although treated in the Japanese Naval Hospital for some time, the progress of his illness was no good. At the time when he was sent back to

this camp, he was in such a condition as had serious difficulties in walking and could not take ordinary meals, that he came back lying on a stretcher. At that time Surgeon ONISHI devoted himself entirely to his treatment, he also gave articles of luxury at his own expense and he administered medicines of his own.

So, all the staff of the sanitation section headed by him took care of him in all kindness, carrying him out into open air in the shade of trees or helping him to walk.

When he returned, he was so haggard he could hardly be recognized and it was feared that he would not recover. But his health gradually improved to such a degree that he was able to participate in the four successive days and nights' march in company with the prisoners who were living in the common mass camps, on the occasion of the evacuation of the camps in April 1945.

9. Q. Where the wounded and sick prisoners properly treated?
A. Generally speaking, I think they were under proper treatment. Owing to the lack of medicines and equipment as well, I am not positive to say it was perfect but nothing more could be done under the circumstances of that time.
10. Q. Were they demanded to labor?
A. No, they were not.
11. Q. What was made of the incomes obtained from the vegetables and other products of the farms cultivated by the prisoners and the live stock of their raising?
A. The vegetables and other products were supplied them for their ration. Hogs were not raised enough to meet the demand. But the fresh vegetables ran into a considerable surplus which were shipped to the military market with the understanding of the Superintendent Department of the Area Army in exchange for the special ration of pork, eggs and cooking oil. Those articles were added to the supply of the prisoners. (At the time the military market was suffering from the want of fresh vegetables to be doled out for the general units).

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12. Q. Were you answerable to General KIMURA for the management of the Prison? Or did you manage and supervise the said camp on your own responsibility and authority?
- A. I was responsible to the commander of the 73rd Commissary Sector Commander for executing the Burma Area Army's regulations for handling the prisoners and for supplying them as well as the service regulations of the 6th Branch of the Malay Prisoners Camps (namely, the Rangoon Camp) which were set forth by the 73rd Commissary Sector Commander.
13. Q. Has General KIMURA ever visited or inspected the Rangoon Prison? And, if he has, how was he impressed then?
- A. No, he has not while I was serving there.
14. Q. If you received letters of thanks from prisoners, what did you do with them? Who got the letters at Singapore?
- A. I received the letters of thanks from prisoners. But towards the end of 1945 when withdrawing from the camps our trucks encountered enemy and were burned down with all the official and private things. The last letters I got on the occasion of their liberation were snatched off by an unknown soldier along with a black leather purse containing them, when Australian soldiers plundered us at Singapore.

I have truly and faithfully interpreted the foregoing statement to the best of my belief and conscience.

/S/ Foong Kum Yoo

Subscribed and sworn to before me on the 27th day of
Feb., 1947.

/S/ David W. Parsons
Captain, INF.
Investigating Officer