

EX 1983-13

Extract from  
Interrogation of Hideki Tojo  
28 March 1946

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Q Had you heard at any time that the treatment received by prisoners of war in the Philippines, Formosa, and Thailand was not only inhumane, but was below the standard given to Japanese prisoners of war?

A I supposed that the treatment being given to prisoners was on the same level as that given to our own troops. However the conditions under which Japanese troops lived were bad and to that extent the treatment given to prisoners was bad too. In regard to Thailand, I do not know that I heard that prisoners had been mistreated by officers in the building of the railroad between Thai and Burma, that prisoners were made to work when they were sick, and, on the basis of this, I ordered a court martial.

Q Other than at Bataan and the building of this railroad that you refer to, did you hear of any other mistreatment of American or British prisoners of war?

A I have told you about the Thai-Burma thing just now. Aside from those two, I haven't heard much of that sort of thing. In connection with China, two or three cases came to my attention. Of course the authorities on the spot conducted courts martial, the results of which were forwarded to me for information as War Minister. On two or three occasions I was not satisfied with the results of the courts martial since the cases had been dropped, and I sent them back for reconsideration.

Q You have stated that you knew complaints came into the Foreign Office and were sent to your office in connection with the mistreatment of prisoners and civilians. Did you or did you not acquaint yourself with the nature and content of these complaints?

A These matters were usually brought up at the meetings of the bureau chiefs of the War Department. These meetings were held twice a week. Either the Chief of the Prisoner of War Information Bureau or the Military Affairs Bureau would bring them up. They were referred by the bureau chief meetings to the commander in the field who had the authority to act. If there was inhumane treatment, he would take measures accordingly, and the report would probably come back to me as War Minister.

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ERRATA SHEET

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Line 9 of the above document should be corrected to read as follows:

"In regard to Thailand, I do know that I -----"