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Excerpt taken from  
Volume XXV of the  
Trial Record in the case of  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

-vs-

TOMOYUKI YAMASHITA  
Testimony of KIKUO ISHIKAWA

KIKUO ISHIKAWA

called as a witness on behalf of the Defense, being first duly sworn through Commander Bartlett, was examined and testified as follows through Commander Bartlett, with the assistance of Major Pratt and Lieutenant Asano:

DIRECT EXAMINATION

Q (By Captain Reel) What is your name?

A (Through Commander Bartlett) Ishikawa, Kikuo.

That should be Kikuo Ishikawa.

Q And your rank in the Japanese Army?

A Lieutenant Colonel.

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Q When did you come to the Philippine Islands?

A 27th of September of last year.

Q And what was your assignment here?

A Supply and Transportation.

Q And are you a member of the staff of general headquarters 14th Army group?

A. Yes

Q. Did you keep that assignment right on through to the time of surrender?

A. Yes.

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Q You were in Kapangan at the time of your surrender?

A At the time of the surrender I was at No. 3 R.H.,  
or Rest House.

Q Now, at Fort McKinley and at Baguio and at Kapanagan,  
were you in General Yamashita's headquarters?

A Yes.

Q Now, as staff officer in charge of supply and trans-  
portation, tell us briefly just what your duties were.

A With respect to supply, briefly, it was divided into  
food, weapons, ammunition, and medical supplies. With  
respect to transportation, just motor transport.

Q What was your connection, if any, with General Kira,  
the Intendance Officer?

A To explain by an example, General Kira would have  
charge of daily issue of rations at all times, whereas I  
would make plans concerning rations only during operations.  
The actual rations themselves were always under the control  
of General Kira.

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Q And why would these matters of supply be routed to you?

A As examples, if a shipment in rice should arrive  
from Saigon, or, on the other hand, the extreme scarcity  
of rice made it necessary to cut the ration, or something  
of that sort, then it would come to my attention.

Q And in your capacity as transportation officer, were  
you concerned with the food supply?

A Very close connection

Q What was that, and why?

A For instance, if a ship should arrive in Manila, it was necessary to get it unloaded before anything happened to it, and as a result it was necessary to route all available transportation for discharging the ship and hauling the supplies to places of safety.

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Q Now, from what you saw and what you know, what was the condition of food and supplies in so far as prisoner of war camps, internee camps, and the Japanese Army, were concerned?

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A (Through Commander Bartlett) In my knowledge, it was no difference whatever between the prisoner of war camps, internee camps, and the Japanese Army; they were the same.

Q (By Captain Reel) Now, what was the condition of the food supply between October and December, 1944?

A I will tell you the conditions in October first.

Q All right.

A When I arrived in October, although the standard ration for troops was 450 grams, they were actually receiving not more than 400 grams.

According to my memory, in November, on the 9th day, 10,000 tons of rice arrived from Saigon. Of this, approximately half was sent to Leyte. On the assumption that the remaining half must be stretched out over two months, the daily ration was again cut to 400 grams. As a matter fact, the actual ration received by the men was less than 350 grams.

I will now speak of December. No food arrived by boat in December. All the ships were sunk by enemy action. As a result, the food situation deteriorated further and many organizations were actually receiving not more than 250 or 260 grams. Therefore, it appeared necessary to take steps to secure part of the new crop of rice being harvested at the end of December and early in January, and I brought this matter to the attention of the commander -- to General Kira's attention

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Q. (By Captain Reel) Now, you just stated that a ship arrived approximately the 9th of November, 1944, containing 10,000 tons of rice. Are you sure of that figure?

A Yes.

Q General Kira was on the stand and said that sometime in November 16,000 tons of rice arrived. Was he correct?

A I think what he said is a mistake.

Q Now, that 10,000 tons of rice, what was done -- strike that. What was done with the 10,000 tons of rice?

A Of the 10,000 tons, 5,000 tons were sent or lent to the navy --

CAPTAIN REEL: Was that 500 or 5,000?

INTERPRETER OISHI: Yes, 500.

THE WITNESS: The actual amount used in Manila was 4,000 ton. There was some spoilage.

Q Now, how many meals a day did the Japanese army soldiers get?

A Three times a day, but on occasions two times a day -

Now, was that general rule of three times a day cut to two times a day sometime in January of 1945?

A Yes.

Q That included yourself?

A Yes.

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Q Now, did you go on any inspection trips of prison or internee camps?

A Yes.

Q And on whose order did you make these inspection trips?

A The Chief of Staff.

Q That is General Muto?

A Yes.

Q Now, where did you go on these trips, which camps?

A To Santo Tomas Internment Camp, the Bilibid Internment Camp and McKinley Internment Camp; the three places in all.

Q Did you go to any others?

A No.

Q And what did General Muto tell you to do?

A The matters dealing with supply, particularly food.

Q And what did you find on your inspections to these three camps relative to food?

A The food supply was the same as those of the Japanese army but they were gradually diminishing. Ships had not come in. There were no fuels for transportation purposes so we had to borrow those items from the air force.

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Q (By Captain Reel) Did you find that the Japanese army had to make local purchases in the vicinity of those three camps?

A They purchased vegetables but I doubt if they purchased rice.

Q Now, what were the dates upon which you visited those three camps, as near as you can recollect?

A I believe it was about November 20th, 1944.

Q As a result of those visits, did you make a report to General Muto?

A Yes.

Q What was the nature of that report?

A The food was the same as those of the Japanese army but it was meager.

Q Did you make any recommendations?

A Since ships didn't come in and we couldn't very well requisition any supplies from the locality something must be done to requisition them from Luzon.

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Q (By Captain Reel) How would this requisition, as it has been interpreted, be done?

A I didn't mean "requisition"; "buy" is the word.

CAPTAIN REEL: Could I have the last answer?

(Answer read)

Q (By Captain Reel) Now, what was the recommendation that you make to General Muto relative to buying rice?

A First of all, even if we didn't buy rice we didn't have the fuel for automobiles. We should have arrangements made to obtain fuels from the air force.

Q In other words, you recommended getting fuel from the 4th Air Army?

A Yes.

Q And what did General Muto do when you reported that to him?

A He immediately dispatched myself and Deputy Chief of Staff Nishimura to this 4th Air Force.

Q For what purpose?

A In order to obtain gasoline.

Q And how much gasoline were you to obtain?

A A minimum of 10,000 drums.

Q Did you get it?

A No.

Q Did you make further trips and attempts to get gasoline from the 4th Air Army?

A I made about seven trips.

Q And did you finally get any gasoline from the 4th Air Army?

A On December 15th of last year I received 1500 drums.

Q Did you actually get 1500 drums in your possession?

A I actually received 600 drums.

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Q (By Captain Reel) Where were the 600 drums that you did receive?

A We used that to transport munitions and food supplies from Manila.

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GENERAL REYNOLDS: The Commission interrupts. Let us drop this subject of gasoline. We grant that the transportation difficulties and gasoline shortage difficulties were present and that they were acute and that they affected their operations. We see no occasion for pursuing this any further. We will now take up some other subject.

CAPTAIN REEL: All right, Sir, The only purpose of going into the fuel question was because the lack of fuel was the bottleneck that prevented the shipment of food. That is its relationship to the food question, if the Commission please.

GENERAL REYNOLDS: We grant that.

CAPTAIN REEL: Yes, sir.

Q (By Captain Reel) Now, do you recall an order relative to the release of prisoners of war and civilian internees?

A Yes.

Q And tell us what that order was and who it came from.

A It came from Tokyo, from the Army Commander through Yamashita and it was issued to the various internment camps.

Q In other words, the order came from Tokyo but was passed on by General Yamashita, is that right?

A Yes.

Q When did the order first come to your attention?

A I believe it was about December 20th.

Q And what was the substance of the order from Tokyo?

A It first was to treat prisoners in a friendly manner and in case the Americans should approach to leave as much food and medicine as possible for the internees and prisoners.

The third item was not to treat the prisoners or internees in any atrocious manner whatsoever before retreating.

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Q Now, was that a written order?

A Yes.

Q And do you have that order with you?

A No.

Q What happened to it?

A I had to throw all the papers I had away at the Luzon P.W. Camp No. 1.

Q Did you have it until you got to the Luzon P.W. Camp No.1?

A Yes.

Q And why did you throw it away?

A There was instructions to that effect.

Q From whom?

A From one who is in charge there.

Q Somebody in charge of the prison?

A Yes.

GENERAL REYNOLDS: The Commission interrupts for clarification of words. I believe he said "throw away". Is that correct?

INTERPRETER OISHI: Yes.

GENERAL REYNOLDS: Could it also have meant "surrender" or "give up"? because it seems inconceivable that American officers would ask prisoners of war to throw away official documents when their mission was to capture or gain possession of them.

MAJOR PRATT: Sir, the word which the prisoner used was "suteru", which means to "discard" or "throw away".

GENERAL REYNOLDS: Very well.

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Q (By Captain Reel) Did you at any time either during your trips to Santo Tomas, Diligid, Fort McKinley or at any other time hear any reports of cruelty and ill treatment of prisoners of war and internees?

A No.

CROSS EXAMINATION

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CAPTAIN CALYER: All right, sir.

Q (By Captain Calyer) On your visits to Santo Tomas, Bilibid and Fort McKinley did you go into the dining rooms when the prisoners were being fed?

A At McKinley I happened to go there when they were just preparing the food, that is, when the food was ready to be served.

Q What was being prepared?

A They had rice together with fried potatoes, with some beans.

Q That was in December?

A Yes

Q What was the diet of the Japanese soldier at that time?

A Something very similar.

Q Did you inspect the storehouses at Fort McKinely?

A No.

Q Did you inspect the dining rooms at Santo Tomas?

A I went to Santo Tomas after they had already eaten supper.

Q Do you know what had been served?

LIEUTENANT ASANO: Hold it! He hasn't finished the answer.

CAPTAIN CALYER: Oh, I am sorry. Withdraw the question.

A (continuing) And I visited the warehouse.

Q (By Captain Calyer) What did you find at the warehouse with regard to supplies?

A They had food stored there similar to our standards.

Q What kind of food?

A Mostly rice.

Q Do you know what had been served with the meal before you got there?

A I do not know.

Q Did you examine or inspect the dining room at Bilibid?

A I arrived at Bilibid after meal also. I inspected the warehouse and the kitchen.

Q What did you find?

A I found that the rations were the same as those of the Japanese soldier.

Q On your trips to these three places did you talk with any of the internees about food?

A No.

Q Were any reports or complaints submitted to you by the camp committee at any of these places?

A No.

Q Did you talk with the Japanese officials in charge of the camp?

A Yes.

Q Were they satisfied with food conditions in their respective camps?

A They were not satisfied.

Q What was done about it?

A They requested more rice and more canned goods.

Q What did you do about it?

A I wanted to increase their rice and canned goods but, as far as the rice went, as I mentioned before, they were getting the same amount as the Japanese soldier and I do not remember now, but, as far as the canned goods are concerned, I believe I did something about those.

Q What did you do?

A I gave instructions to increase the amount of canned goods they were to get, but at that time there weren't many canned goods available and what the results of my instructions were I do not know.

Q Were those increases intended for the internees or for the Japanese garrison?

A What I have stated concerns the internees and the prisoners.

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Q (By Captain Calyer) How many prisoners were at Bilibid at the time you made your inspection?

A About 2100.

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Q (By Captain Calyer) How many prisoners were at McKinley at that time?

A About 300.

Q How much rice was being prepared for that meal?

A Since there are three kettles cooking, I assumed that it must have been about from half a sack to one sack.

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Q Do I understand you to mean, then, that about 25 pounds of rice was being prepared for 300 people?

A I was referring to amount of rice from 50 to 100 pounds.

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Q During any of these inspections, did you observe the internees?

A At McKinley I observed some, but other than that I wasn't able to observe them.

Q How did those whom you observed at McKinley compare in physical appearance with the Japanese guards at McKinley?

A I thought it was similar.

Q How did you happen to make these inspections?

A As I stated before, in the early part of November I was ordered to make an inspection tour concerning the shortage of rice and other food supplies.

Q Weren't you the staff officer in charge of prisoner of war affairs?

A I was in charge of provisions and medical supplies, as far as the prisoners were concerned.

Q Is that all that you had to do with prisoner of war camps?

A That is correct.

Q Did you have the same duties with respect to internee camps?

A Same.

Q Was that with regard to all prisoner of war and internee camps in the Philippines?

A Yes

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REDIRECT EXAMINATION

(By Captain Reel)

Q One more question: On your inspection trip to Fort McKinley, when you saw a meal being prepared, how many pounds of rice did you see being prepared for that meal?

A Approximately anywhere from 50 pounds to 100 pounds.

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EXAMINATION ON BEHALF OF THE COMMISSION

Q (By General Reynolds) While the witness was acting on General Yamashita's staff on prisoner of war matters, we wish to know whether any of the complaints filed by American prisoners of war and civilian internees were brought to his attention.

A No, I haven't.

Q Did General Yamashita's orders require that such complaints be forwarded to his headquarters?

A Yes.

Q As staff officer did you consider the overall responsibility for prisoner of war camps and civilian internees squarely on General Yamashita?

A I believe that the most responsible person is the commanding officer of the prisoner of war camp.

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FURTHER RECROSS EXAMINATION

Q (By Captain Calyer) Who prepared the regulations regarding the conduct of prisoners of war and civilian internees in the camps?

A The regulations pertaining to the conduct in prisoner of war camps was made by a discussion between the camp commander and the committee, and that is my understanding.

Q Were they approved by any higher authority?

A I don't remember, but probably it was so. At the time of my arrival things were put into practice already, and those things were decided long before my arrival.

Q As staff officer in charge of prisoner of war affairs did you ever inquire what regulations were in effect?

A Matters pertaining to the conduct within the P.W. camps were the responsibility of the camp commander, and I didn't have much to do with what was going on within the camp.

Q Did you ever inquire what those regulations were?

A Since those regulations were made by the inmates themselves I didn't think I should say or do anything about it.

Q Will you answer the question, please, whether you inquired what the regulations were?

A No.

Q Do you know who prescribed regulations with regard to the punishment of civilian internees and prisoners of war?

A I do not know.



FURTHER EXAMINATION ON BEHALF OF THE COMMISSION.

Q (by General Reynolds) Who did the Japanese Government, the Japanese High Command at Tokyo, hold responsible for the administration of prisoners of war and civilian internees?

INTERPRETER ASANO: Will you read the question?

(Question read.)

A Prisoner of war commander, the camp commander.

Q (By General Reynolds) Do you mean to tell me that the Japanese High Command in Tokyo held that General Yamashita did not have complete responsibility for prisoners of war under his control?

A No, I did not.

Q What did you mean?

A Direct responsibility with the prisoner of war camp commander.

GENERAL REYNOLDS: Read the original question and ask the witness to be very careful in answering it frankly and fully. If the Interpreter wishes to do so he might write the question out.

(Question read)

THE WITNESS: I believe there are some responsibilities.

Q (By General Reynolds) What is that responsibility?

A As for carrying out the orders, that was the responsibility of the prisoner of war camp commander. However, the overall responsibility lies in the Army commander.

Q Who was responsible for the camp commander carrying out the orders?

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A First, there was Lieutenant General Ko, and afterwards it was Lieutenant Colonel Hayashi.

Q And after that who was it?

A That is all.

Q And above Lieutenant Colonel Hayashi and Lieutenant General Ko, who was then responsible to see that the orders of Tokyo were carried out?

A The next responsible person is the commanding officer of the line of communications unit.

Q Who is the next one?

A After that the responsible person was myself, who was a member of the staff in charge of the P.W. affairs.

Q And who was next?

A The next person, the next responsible person, is the chief-of-staff.

Q And who was next?

A And the next responsible person is the commanding officer of the 14th Area Army.

Q What was his name?

A General Yamashita.

Q Of all the people he has named who had responsibility for the prisoners of war and civilian internees, which of them was responsible to Tokyo for their administration?

A I believe it is the 14th Area Army commander.

GENERAL REYNOLDS: Why should he believe it; doesn't he know it?

THE WITNESS: Since the prisoner of war camps are within the command of the Army commander, and since most of the administrative matters go through the Army commander, I believe it is his responsibility.

GENERAL REYNOLDS: Any further questions?

CAPTAIN REEL: Yes, I have a question.

FURTHER REDIRECT EXAMINATION

Q (By Captain Reel) And who was next in command above General Yamashita?

A Marshal Terauchi.

Q And did all your communications to Tokyo go through the Supreme Southern Commander, Marshal Terauchi?

A Reports pertaining to prisoners were sent directly to Tokyo, to the office of information for prisoners.

Q And reports from Tokyo, did they go through Marshal Terauchi, the Supreme Southern Commander?

A I believe they came direct.

Q Did reports other than routine reports have to go through the Supreme Southern Commander?

A Yes.

Q And did reports other than mere routine reports coming from Tokyo go through the Supreme Southern Commander?

A Yes.

CAPTAIN REEL: That is all.

THE WITNESS: Since the prisoner of war camps are within the command of the Army commander, and since most of the administrative matters go through the Army commander, I believe it is his responsibility.

GENERAL REYNOLDS: Any further questions?

CAPTAIN REEL: Yes, I have a question.

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Q And did reports other than mere routine reports coming from Tokyo go through the Supreme Southern Commander?

A Yes.

CAPTAIN REEL: That is all.

CERTIFICATE  
STATEMENT OF SOURCE AND AUTHENTICITY

I, JOHN R. PRITCHARD, Captain, Infantry, Legal Section, GHC, SCAP, hereby certify that the document hereto attached, in English, is a document excerpt from the Public Trial Record in the case of United States of America vs. Tomoyuki YAMASHITA, and is an exact and true copy of the official document which is in my custody.

Certified at Tokyo,  
on this 1st day of July 1947.

/s/ John R. Pritchard  
/T/ JOHN R. PRITCHARD

I hereby certify that the above signature was affixed hereto in my presence.

at the same place,  
on the same date.

Witness: /s/ William R. Bready  
/T/ WILLIAM R. BREADY,  
Major, Ordnance