

Enclosure No. *1* to despatch No. *11865*
dated *June 7/45* from the American
Legation, **Bern.**

May 31, 1945

Hôtel Metropole
Geneva

(For transmission to our London Delegation)

IRCC Ref: Far East memo no.73Subject: Protection Centre, 31 Tatamiyacho, Sendai

ABr/CdeB

G.3/3b - L

The following is the substance of a report we have received from our Delegation in Tokyo, on the first visit made to the above centre by Mr. Angst, our Delegate, on April 27th 1945.

The inmates of this centre were interned first as civilian internees in Sendai on December 9th, 1942, and released on May 13th. On September 15th of the same year, they were placed in a protection centre, a monastery, and it was not until June 7th, 1944 that they were transferred to the present site. They are not, however, considered as civilian internees, but are under the supervision of the police authorities.

There are 24 Canadian and 2 American Catholic sisters in this centre, belonging to the following congregations:

- 1) Religieuses de l'Assomption de la St. Vierge Nicolet, Quebec
- 2) Religieuses du Bon Pasteur, 104 rue Sherbrooke Montreal east.
- 3) Religieuses Ursulines, rue du Parloir, Quebec
- 4) Religieuses Dominicaines, 270 Bates Street, Lewiston, Maine, U.S.A.

Formerly they were residing in Aomori, Sendai. The oldest is 54, the youngest 29 and the average age is 45.

- 2 -

Their names and those of their next-of-kin were communicated to you recently.

Our Delegate interviewed the following Canadian Sisters in presence of the police authorities:

- 1) Sister Alice BEACHESNE, Religieuse de l'Assomption
- 2) Sister Juliette AMYOT, Religieuse dominicaine
- 3) Sister Gabrielle CHATEAUVERT, Religieuse ursuline
- 4) Sister Thérèse DESJARDINS, Religieuse du Bon Pasteur

The inmates are housed in the former residence of the Swiss missionary. The total camp area is 1490 M², the building area 209 M², and the floor space 274 M². The camp is surrounded by a wooden board fence. The buildings comprise, one two-storied tiled-roof Japanese-style dwelling, containing a reception room, a refectory, a store room, a kitchen, a bathroom, bedrooms and servants quarters, one one-storied outhouse, which accommodates the chapel, and there are also storage sheds. Electric light is installed and there is sufficient daylight in the rooms except in the refectory, which is somewhat dark. Heating is provided by two stoves, which, owing to the long and severe winters, are considered insufficient for the number of rooms. The bedrooms are crowded, and folding beds are used to gain space. Ventilation is sufficient and the drainage satisfactory. There are also four water taps and five water tubs against fire. There are also two mud-covered dugouts in the garden against airraids. The inmates possess their own beds and bedding.

There is no interpreter as this is unnecessary. There are two Japanese toilets and one Japanese bath for which hot water is provided once weekly. The inmates buy provisions with their own funds, and their rations are identical to those given to the Japanese civilian population. Breakfast is at 7.30, lunch at 11.30, tea at 14.00hrs and dinner at 18.00 hours. The rations are as follows:

grams per head daily

no file

Bread	which is said to correspond to the rations issued to Japanese heavy labourers	553
Rice		15
Meat		rare
Fish		"
Eggs		none
Milk		"
Fat		"
Margarine		"
Butter		"
Vegetables	scarce during winter. Our delegate adds that henceforth they should be available in increasing quantities	
Sugar	in principle in effect	900 monthly none
Bean Paste		1000 monthly
Soya Sauce		0.54 litres monthly
Salt		unspecified
Green and Black Tea		"

The kitchen is adequately equipped and the inmates prepare their own meals. Free medical attention and medicines are supplied at the Japanese Red Cross Hospital at Sendai. Dental attention is given in town.

At the time our delegate visited the centre, none of the inmates were sick. They have not been inoculated or vaccinated. There have been no deaths amongst the inmates since their transfer on June 7th of last year. The inmates wear their own clothes and are given clothing coupons identical to those distributed to Japanese civilians; however there is hardly anything to purchase. The inmates do their own laundry, but no soap is distributed at present.

- 4 -

Each internee receives yen 36.-- a month from the Japanese Red Cross Society, with which she has to defray all expenses, there being no remittances from abroad or Protecting Power allowances. This amount is below the subsistence minimum required in Japan.

The inmates may organize their daily routine as they wish. There are daily religious services and a Japanese priest officiates whenever he is available. The inmates cultivate a vegetable garden of an area of 454 m², situated within the camp compound. They possess no live-stock. The inmates may, in principle, receive outside visitors, actually there have been very few. In principle, they may make visits to the outside, but so far, there have been none. An English daily newspaper has, so far, been supplied irregularly, but the police authorities affirm that, in future, regular delivery will be assured. There are neither moving picture shows, nor the wireless.

Outgoing foreign and domestic mail in French and English, including correspondence with the Protecting Power, and our Delegation in Tokyo, is said to be unrestricted. Incoming foreign mail is scarce and long in reaching destination. 18 Canadian sisters are without news from home since the outbreak of hostilities. Their names were communicated to you recently. No private parcels have been received from abroad. As stated before, the only relief received up till now is, the monthly cash donation from the Japanese Red Cross Society. A sum of yen. 500.-- was also given by the Apostolic Delegate, when he visited the inmates on October 18th, 1944. The YMCA has not sent anything.

The following relief was distributed by our Delegation:

Four-unit food cartons ex Teia Maru shipment	
November 1944	5 cartons
February 1945	20 cartons

208 tins of various foodstuffs from the Hakusan Maru shipment have been set aside for this centre, and are awaiting an opportunity to be shipped at our Delegation's warehouse in Yokohama.

- 5 -

The inmates require the following articles:

White cloth for religious garments

Indoor slippers or the material with which to make them.

Rubber shoes

Black "étouffe à voile"

absorbent cotton

White and grey cotton for knitting stockings

"Camisole de laine"

Laundry soap

Vitamins, as the inmates are all somewhat weak, though their state of health is relatively good considering their present diet. The Japanese Red Cross has so far adequately covered their other medical requirements.

Books, on history, geography and scientific subjects, in order to permit teachers to pursue their studies.

English Grammar,

preferably in French

Vegetable Seeds

Gramophone records and needles.

Our delegate states he is approaching the YMCA for these articles.

Sewing machine needles

White sewing thread

Our Delegate will try to obtain this locally.

The Dominican sisters stated they would like to see their mother superior, who is French, once a month, as they have, so far, only had three meetings with her. To this, the authorities agreed. The sisters also affirmed that, to date, apart from visits made to the dentist and to the hospital, it had not been possible for them to make visits outside the camp. They inquired whether their Japanese friends could visit them. The authorities raised no objection to this request, but stated that, so far, nobody had expressed the desire to visit them.

Four Canadian inmates lost their passports in a fire and would like new ones, or some kind of identification paper. Some Canadian passports are due for renewal. Our Delegation state they are approaching the

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Swiss minister in Tokyo on the matter.

The main problem is food. The inmates declared that, had it not been for the American Red Cross food parcels, they could not have managed last winter. Our Delegation states, that, unless there are fresh arrivals of relief from abroad, they are unable to further assist these internees, as relief is now completely distributed.

Although those desiring to be evacuated, and they form a majority, are eligible to draw allowances from the Protecting Power, they have not, so far, done so, as they felt that they could not commit themselves by signing the required receipts binding them to a promise of reimbursement.

The main features of the centre are order and tidiness in the rooms.

Marguerite Anger, Canadian Religieuse Ursuline, Quebec Monastery, died on November 8th, 1942 of intestinal cancer. The Japanese Red Cross Society assumed medical and funeral expenses.



May 31, 1945



Hôtel Metropole
Geneva

(For transmission to our London Delegation)

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G.3/3D - L

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EJS dcr

UNRESTRICTED

THE FOREIGN SERVICE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

No. 12048

Via Airmail Pouch

AMERICAN LEGATION
Bern, July 5, 1945.

by SWI Subject: American Interests - Japan
Transmission "Far East Memo
USA No. 1".

RECEIVED
DIVISION OF
CENTRAL SERVICES

Ryan: Busee
Street
Yudelson
Casey-2

SPECIAL WAR PROBLEMS
DIVISION
file
JUL 24 1945
C. W. C. W. P.
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

AUG 29 1945

The American Minister at Bern has the honor to refer to the Department's telegraphic instruction No. 2179 of September 14, 1942, which directed the Legation to forward by airmail copies of reports of visits made by delegates of the International Red Cross Committee to camps where Americans are detained.

In accordance with the Department's instruction under reference, the Legation desires to enclose two copies of "Far East Memo USA No. 1" prepared on June 29, 1945, by the International Red Cross Committee at Geneva regarding a visit made on March 7, 1945, to the Tokyo Prisoner of War Branch Camp No. 2, by the Tokyo delegate of the Committee.

The Legation received three copies of the enclosed memorandum under cover of a letter dated June 29, 1945, from the Committee at Geneva which observes that a copy thereof has been forwarded to its delegation at Washington.

Enclosure:

Two copies of "Far East
Memo USA No. 1" - with
original of despatch only.

File No. 814.2
GT/mak
In quintuplicate to Department

DCR - GP-C Unit
Anal. Emb
Rev. 7217
Cat. 97
Dist.

711.94114A IR/7-545

CS/MAY

711.94114A IR/7-545

Enclosure No. 12048
dated July 5/45 to despatch No.
Legation, Bern. from the American



29th June 1945

IRCC Ref. : Far East Memo USA No.1.

Subject : TOKYO PRISONER OF WAR BRANCH CAMP No.2

Ref. : Our cable No.578 - 7821 of September 6th 1944 on Tokyo Divisional Camp as the above camp was then named.

ABr/HG

The following is the contents of a report on a visit Mr. Bilfinger, our Tokyo Delegate, made to the above camp on March 7th 1945.

As you will observe, the following visit was effected on March 7th 1945. The report was delayed owing to the loss of all our delegate's notes in an airraid, and due to a confusion in relationship to the previous report, namely whether Tokyo Prisoner of War Branch Camp No.2 was the same as Divisional Camp Tokyo Prisoner of War Camp, and the inmates unchanged. We now learn that the 250 British and American prisoners visited by Mr. Pestalozzi on August 21st 1943 were transferred elsewhere, and on August 25th 1943 the present lot of prisoners were interned. On the same occasion, the camp took its new name and the camp authorities were changed, though the main authorities remain the same.

The mail address of this camp is :

Tokyo Prisoner of War Branch Camp No.2. - Tokyo

The Camp Commander is Lt. WASHIMI

The capacity of this camp is of 400. The strength on the day of visit was as follows :

	<u>Officers</u>	<u>NCOs. & Privates</u>	<u>Totals</u>
British	1	1	2
Dutch	2	127	129
Americans	2	107	109
		Total...	<u>240</u>

of which all names have been communicated by the Japanese Official Bureau. These prisoners were captured in the Philippines and Java. The oldest prisoner is 52, the youngest 19 and the average age is 26.

./.

The representatives of the prisoners are :

- 1) Lt. Surgeon Augustin Peter CURTIN, RNVR.
NOX.: Mrs. A.P. CURTIN, Corner Cottage, Esher Avenue, WALTON ON THAMES (Surrey)
- 2) Lt. Commander Abraham Arnoldus LOOIJEN, RDN.
- 3) Ensign CEC Frank Joseph CARNEY, USNR.
NOX.: Mr. Joseph P. CARNEY, 35 Annandale Rd., NEWPORT, Rhode Island.

Please inform the Next-of-Kin of the above named that they are well.

The description of the camp was given to you in our cable mentioned under reference. The bunks, which at the time of the first visit, were rather crowded, are now considered adequate. There is an air-raid shelter in the factory near the camp. The prisoners have no steel helmets. Firefighting equipment is available, however it is of relative value in regard to recent fire experiences.

Meals are served at 6.30, 12, and 18 hours. The rations correspond to those distributed to the camp guards and consist of the following :

	<u>Grams per capita</u>	
Bread.....	rarely	
Rice.....	705	daily
Peanuts.....	130	monthly
Vegetables.....	450	"
Meat (<u>claimed to be</u>)	1660	"
Fish.....	2500	"
Fat.....	240	"
Sugar.....	600	"
Eggs.....	none	
Milk.....	"	
Margarine.....	from relief goods	
Butter.....	"	
Cheese.....	"	
Coffee tins.....	occasionally	
Potatoes.....	on Japanese festi-	
Sweets.....	vals	
Fruit)	two monthly	
Apples)		
Oranges)		
Spices)	sufficient	
Salt)		
Green tea)		

500g - 100

- 3 -

The number of calories contained in these rations is claimed to be 4000 a day. The menu on the day our Delegate visited the camp was the following :

BREAKFAST :	Bean Paste Dried seaweed
DINNER :	Fish Sausage Fresh Seaweed Noodles Soya bean sauce
SUPPER :	Dried Fish Seaweed Fish Sausage

4000?

All dishes are mixed with rice, oats, and Kaoliang.

The kitchen equipment is sufficient; there are six cauldrons, coalstoves and a baking oven. There is a storeroom, but no refrigerator or ice-box. Meals are prepared by seven prisoner of war cooks and one Japanese professional. Supplementary dishes are supplied at the place where the prisoners work. There are no collective food punishments.

Medical care is given by 2 prisoner of war medical officers and 3 NCOs. The infirmary contains 14 beds and there is an isolation ward. There are first aid and dental equipments at the place where the prisoners work. The prisoners' weight is checked three times a month, eye inspections are held once a month and dental inspections when necessary. The sick list on the day our delegate visited the camp was the following, all the patients being in the camp infirmary :

Beri-beri	3
Wounds (resulting from work)	4
Boils	3
Kidney trouble	1

There were no cases of serious contagious degenerative diseases and no epidemics. Since the opening of the camp, the following preventive measures have been taken :

Vaccinations :	Smallpox	2
Inoculations :	Typhoid	4
	Tuberculin	1 according to Dr. Arima
	Dysentery	1
	diphtheria	2
	Cholera	1

The prisoners were weighed with the following results :

On arrival: August 1943

Maximum 64 kilos

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	Minimum	60 kilos
	Average	62 "
February 1945	Maximum	85 kilos
	Minimum	47 "
	Average	68 "

There have been 9 deaths amongst the Dutch, and 2 amongst the Americans : 4 prisoners died of malnutrition and 7 of pneumonia.

Clothing is sufficient. All the prisoners possess their own kit and have complete uniforms. The prisoners can do their washing at the place where they work and soap is said to be sufficient.

Prisoners funds are collected against receipt and the prisoners may spend their money at the canteen. Officers, who are paid on the 22nd of each month, get the same pay as their corresponding rank in the Japanese Army. Other ranks are paid at the end of the month. There are no mess deductions. The maximum amount of cash a prisoner may carry is Yen 50. There are no destitute prisoners, financial assistance is given by the Protecting Power. The situation of the Savings Bank Account was the following on the visit day : Officers Yen 3067, other ranks nothing. Prisoners are not permitted to remit money.

The following is the daily program :

Reveille	6.00
Roll call	6.10
Breakfast	7.00
Sick parade	9.00
Dinner	12.00
Supper	17.30
Roll call	20.30
Lights out	21.00

Work, which is compulsory for the ranks and voluntary for officers, is assigned by the Commander of the camp and consists of loading, machine repair and transport. Prisoners work 9 hours a day, the rest period being 1½ hours. There are two rest days a month.

There is a shoe and clothing repair shop. The prisoners are not insured but in the event of accidents caused by work, they are granted consolation money which is the practice with Japanese labour and whereby an indemnity of Yen 2000 is paid to the worker's family in the case of death caused by accident. At Branch Camp No.1. nearby, a prisoner who lost a leg, was granted Yen 500. 225 prisoners work, of whom 200 in labour detachments. No additional pay is accorded for mess and housing. National labour laws are applied.

A premium of 20 sen a day is granted for skilled labour. The pay in labour detachments is the following :

Privates	Sen 10 daily
NCOs.	" 15 "
Officers	" 25 "

from which no deductions are made.

- 5 -

There is a canteen which is claimed to be selling black tea, coffee and fruit juice. The following articles are given free :

Letter paper
Soap
Towels
Boot polish
Loin cloth
Socks

The canteen is open for a period of three hours a day three times a week. Purchases are not subject to limitation by rank; prices are below those of the local market and the prisoners benefit by the canteen profits. There are no restrictions to smoking and the prisoners receive daily 3 cigarettes from the camp and four from their employer. Cigarettes and pipe tobacco, however are not purchasable at the canteen.

There are no chaplains in the camp, but once a month a Japanese catholic priest preaches in English. We have asked our Delegation if it would be possible that regular Protestant services be held in this camp, to which they replied negatively.

Prisoners may not go for hikes and recreations are limited to baseball, volleyball, football, pingpong, chess and cards. There is a sports ground of an area of 2000 m², the use of which is limited to fixed hours. There is no gardening. The prisoners possess 6 chickens. Visitors may call subject to special permission. So far there have been no applications for visits to the oculist. Officers may not go for walks. There are no newspapers. Books, however, are available from the YMCA. No classes are held in the camp. The prisoners would like to have playing cards, musical instruments and be permitted to have cinema shows. This latter request is under consideration.

The prisoners were able to inform their Next-of-Kin of their capture. They are allowed to write one letter of 10 lines a month or 50 words, and more in special circumstances. All the prisoners have received mail.

The Protecting Power has remitted the following sums :

To the British.....	Yen	2.--
" Dutch.....	"	150.--
" Americans.....	"	150.--

No relief has been received from the Japanese Red Cross Society. Our Delegation delivered the following relief :

During December 1944 and January 1945 :

714	food parcels
3	bales of clothing
2	" overcoats
2	cases of shoes
1	medicine package

The YMCA has distributed books, musical instruments and

- 6 -

gramophone records. On four occasions, some relief foods were kept in reserve. All the parcels were distributed in the presence of the camp representatives.

Letters take 6 months to reach prisoners. The majority of the Dutch prisoners have no news from their Next-of-Kin in Java. The prisoners can correspond freely with the camp authorities, the YMCA and our Delegation.

The Camp Commander states that there have been no disciplinary punishments, claims, complaints about food or attempted escapes. He has, moreover, no objection to legal acts and documents being transmitted to the Protecting Power.

The prisoners salute in the Japanese fashion and are allowed to wear their rank insignia. Regulations are communicated in English and translated into Dutch for the benefit of the Dutch prisoners.

The above information was communicated to our Delegate by the Commander of the Camp.

Our Delegate interviewed, in presence of the Camp authorities, the representatives of the prisoners, who made the following statements :

Lt. Surgeon A.P. CURTIN, RNVR. :

said that numerous prisoners are suffering from great moral and physical strain and he recommends the establishment of a rest camp for exhausted prisoners. He asked that supplementary foodstuffs be given, particularly fats, vegetables and fruits, as many prisoners suffer from influenza. Vitamin deficiency is being combatted with vitamin tablets but these prove to be insufficient. There is a sufficient quantity of first aid medical supplies.

Since the relief shipments arrived, the prisoners have been allotted one Red Cross food parcel at Christmas and one in January. The last letter from England took eight months to reach its destination.

Lt. Commander Abraham Arnoldus LOOIJEN, RDN. :

Stresses the food situation and states that the Dutch prisoners are anxious as they have had no mail from Java. He would appreciate if mass could be said at the camp.

Ensign CEC Frank Joseph CARNEY, USNR. :

is worried about the lack of airraid shelters as the prisoners in the labour detachments have no protection while unloading ships. The prisoners have received two Red Cross food parcels. He asks for shoes, laces, shoe repair kits, razor blades and said he would be interested in receiving the publication issued by the Protecting Power on the preparation of wills. He also asks for a violin, guitars, records, books, both fiction and on engineering, and playing cards. He stated that the latest letters arrived had taken eight

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months to come.

Our Delegate states that the interview with the Camp Commander lasted three hours, whereas the actual visit of the camp was limited to half an hour.

Barring the three camp representatives, eleven patients and six prisoners of war cooks, our Delegate saw no other prisoner, they all being away in labour detachments; he is therefore unable to comment on their state of health. Those present, however states our Delegate, looked strained.

Our Delegate did not visit the airraid shelter, the recreation room and the sports ground. ~~He saw the washing hanging on the line,~~ and he describes it as being in rags. The canteen, which consists of a cupboard, he said, was empty.

Our Delegate has recommended the establishment of airraid shelters, the distribution of steel helmets and that the Easter celebrations be taken into consideration; he proposed, moreover, that prisoners be given more relief goods and that a rest camp be established.

The view one has from the camp, adds our Delegate, is on the industrial surroundings and there is neither grass nor tree to be seen. The discipline is strict and cleanliness is enforced.

We have asked our Delegation to approach the Japanese authorities for improvements on the following points :

- 1) Working hours and rest periods
- 2) Incoming mail
- 3) Airraid protection

UNRESTRICTED

THE FOREIGN SERVICE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

No. 12071

EJS
DCR

Via Airmail Pouch.

AMERICAN LEGATION

Bern, July 7, 1945.

Subject: American Interests - Japan
Transmission "Far East Memo
USA No. 1".

SPECIAL WAR PROBLEMS
DIVISION
file
C. S. King
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

RECEIVED
DIVISION OF
CENTRAL SERVICES

JUL 25 PM 1 35

The American Minister at Bern has the honor to refer to the Department's telegraphic instruction No. 2179 of September 14, 1942, which directed the Legation to forward by airmail copies of reports of visits made by delegates of the International Red Cross Committee to camps where Americans are held.

In accordance with the Department's instruction under reference, the Legation desires to enclose a copy of "Far East Memo USA No. 1" prepared on June 29, 1945, by the International Committee of the Red Cross at Geneva, regarding a visit made on March 7, 1945, to the Tokyo Prisoner of War Branch Camp No. 2, Japan, by the Tokyo delegate of the International Committee of the Red Cross.

The Legation received this report under cover of a letter dated July 3, 1945, a copy of which is also enclosed, from Mr. Francis B. James, the Special Representative of the American Red Cross at Geneva. In view of the tenor of Mr. James' letter and his oral statement of July 5, the Legation would like to draw the particular attention of the Department to the state of health of our prisoners at the above-mentioned camp, as well as their treatment. *by SWF*

W. A. Lincoln

Enclosure:

- 1. - Copy of "Far East Memo USA No. 1" dated June 29, 1945;
- 2. - Copy of letter dated July 3 from Mr. Francis B. James.

DCR - 625

Anal. *B.P.*
Rev. Date **AUG 6 1945**
Cat. **B.R.T.**
Dist.

File No. 813.2

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Original and hectograph to Department.

HECTO SENT TO DCR/O

711.94114A I.R./7-745

CS/D 711.94114A I.R./7-745

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Enclosure No. 1 to despatch No. 12071 dated July 7, 1945, from the American Legation, Bern.

COPY
dmh

June 29, 1945.

IRCC Ref: Far East Memo USA No. 1.
Subject: TOKYO PRISONER OF WAR BRANCH CAMP No. 2.
Ref.: Our cable No. 578 - 7821 of September 6, 1944 on Tokyo Divisional Camp as the above camp was then named.

The following is the contents of a report on a visit Mr. Bilfinger, our Tokyo Delegate, made to the above camp on March 7, 1945.

As you will observe, the following visit was effected on March 7, 1945. The report was delayed owing to the loss of all our delegate's notes in an airraid, and due to a confusion in relationship to the previous report, namely whether Tokyo Prisoner of War Branch Camp No. 2 was the same as Divisional Camp Tokyo Prisoner of War Camp, and the inmates unchanged. We now learn that the 250 British and American prisoners visited by Mr. Pestalozzi on August 21, 1943, were transferred elsewhere, and on August 25, 1943, the present lot of prisoners were interned. On the same occasion, the camp took its new name and the camp authorities were changed, though the main authorities remain the same.

The mail address of this camp is:

Tokyo Prisoner of War Branch Camp No. 2 - Tokyo.

The Camp Commander is Lt. WASHIMI.

The capacity of this camp is of 400. The strength on the day of visit was as follows:

	<u>Officers</u>	<u>NCOs. & Privates</u>	<u>Totals</u>
British	1	1	2
Dutch	2	127	129
Americans	2	107	109
		Total:	240
			=====

of which all names have been communicated by the Japanese Official Bureau. These prisoners were captured in the Philippines and Java. The oldest prisoner is 52, the youngest 19 and the average age is 26.

The representatives of the prisoners are:

1) Lt. Surgeon Augustin Peter CURTIN, RNVR.

NOK:

NOK: Mrs. A.P. Curtin, Corner Cottage, Esher Avenue,
Walton on Thames (Surrey)

2) Lt. Commander Abraham Arnodlus LLOIJEN, RDN.

3) Ensign CEC Frank Joseph CARNEY, USNR.

NOK: Mr. Joseph P. Carney, 35 Annandale Rd., Newport,
Rhode Island.

Please inform the Next-of-Kin of the above named
that they are well.

The description of the camp was given to you in our
cable mentioned under reference. The bunks, which at the
time of the first visit, were rather crowded, are now
considered adequate. There is an airraid shelter in the
factory near the camp. The prisoners have no steel helmets.
Firefighting equipment is available, however it is of
relative value in regard to recent fire experiences.

Meals are served at 6.30, 12, and 18 hours. The rations
correspond to those distributed to the camp guards and
consist of the following:

	<u>Grams per capita</u>
Bread	rarely
Rice	705 daily
Peanuts	130 monthly
Vegetables	450 "
Meat (claimed to be) . .	1660 "
Fish	2500 "
Fat	240 "
Sugar	600 "
Eggs	none
Milk	"
Margarine	from relief goods
Butter	"
Cheese	"
Coffee tins	"
Potatoes	occasionally
Sweets	on Japanese festi- vals
Fruit)	
Apples)	two monthly
Oranges)	
Spices)	
Salt)	sufficient
Green tea)	

The number of calories contained in these rations is
claimed to be 4000 a day. The menu on the day our Delegate
visited the camp was the following:

BREAKFAST:

-3-

BREAKFAST: Bean paste
Dried seaweed

DINNER: Fish sausage
Fresh seaweed
Noodles
Soya bean sauce

SUPPER:A Dried Fish
Seaweed
Fish sausage.

Does not seem to report about 4,000 calories meals

All dishes are mixed with rice, oats, and Kaoliang.

The kitchen equipment is sufficient; there are six cauldrons, coalstoves and a baking oven. There is a store-room, but no refrigerator or ice-box. Meals are prepared by seven prisoner of war cooks and one Japanese professional. Supplementary dishes are supplied at the place where the prisoners work. There are no collective food punishments.

Medical care is given by 2 prisoners of war medical officers and 3 NCOS. The infirmary contains 14 beds and there is an isolation ward. There are first aid and dental equipments at the place where the prisoners work. The prisoners' weight is checked three times a month, eye inspections are held once a month and dental inspections when necessary. The sick list on the day our delegate visited the camp was the following, all the patients being in the camp infirmary:

Beri-beri	3
Wounds (resulting from work)	4
Boils	3
Kidney trouble	1

There were no cases of serious contagious degenerative diseases and no epidemics. Since the opening of the camp, the following measures have been taken:

Vaccinations:	smallpox	2
Inoculations:	typhoid	4
	Tuberculin	1 according to Dr. Arima
	Dysentery	1
	Diphtheria	2
	Cholera	1

The prisoners were weighed with the following results:

On arrival:	August 1943	Maximum	64 kilos
		Minimum	60 kilos
		Average	62 kilos

February 1945

-4-

February 1945

Maximum 85 kilos
 Minimum 47 "
 Average 68 "

There have been 9 deaths amongst the Dutch, and 2 amongst the Americans: 4 prisoners died of malnutrition and 7 of pneumonia.

Clothing is sufficient. All the prisoners possess their own kit and have complete uniforms. The prisoners can do their washing at the place where they work and soap is said to be sufficient.

Prisoners funds are collected against receipt and the prisoners may spend their money at the canteen. Officers, who are paid on the 22nd of each month, get the same pay as their corresponding rank in the Japanese Army. Other ranks are paid at the end of the month. There are no mess deductions. The maximum amount of cash a prisoner may carry is Yen 50. There are no destitute prisoners, financial assistance is given by the Protecting Power. The situation of the Savings Bank Account was the following on the visit day: Officers Yen 3067, other ranks nothing. Prisoners are not permitted to remit money.

The following is the daily program:

Reveille	6.00
Roll call	6.10
Breakfast	7.00
Sick parade	9.00
Dinner	12.00
Supper	17.30
Roll call	20.30
Lights out	21.00

Work, which is compulsory for the ranks and voluntary for officers, is assigned by the Commander of the camp and consist of loading, machine repair and transport. Prisoners work 9 hours a day, the rest period being 1 1/2 hours. There are two rest days a month.

There is a shoe and clothing repair shop. The prisoners are not insured but in the event of accidents caused by work, they are granted consolation money which is the practice with Japanese labor and whereby an indemnity of Yen 2000 is paid to the worker's family in the case of death caused by accident. At Branch Camp No. 1 nearby, a prisoner who lost a leg, was granted Yen 500. 225 prisoners work, of whom 200 in labor detachments. No additional pay is accorded for mess and housing. National labor laws are applied.

A premium of 20 sen a day is granted for skilled labor.

The

-5-

The pay in labor detachments is the following:

Privates	Sen 10 daily
NCOs	" 15 "
Officers	" 25 "

from which no deductions are made.

There is a canteen which is claimed to be selling black tea, coffee and fruit juice. The following articles are given free:

- Letter paper
- Soap
- Towels
- Boot polish
- Loin cloth
- Socks

The canteen is open for a period of three hours a day three times a week. Purchases are not subject to limitation by rank; prices are below those of the local market and the prisoners benefit by the canteen profits. There are no restrictions to smoking and the prisoners receive daily 3 cigarettes from the camp and four from their employer. Cigarettes and pipe tobacco, however, are not purchasable at the canteen.

Protest?
There are no chaplains in the camp, but once a month a Japanese catholic priest preaches in English. We have asked our Delegation if it would be possible that regular Protestant services be held in this camp, to which they replied negatively.

Prisoners may not go for hikes and recreations are limited to baseball, volleyball, football, pingpong, chess and cards. There is a sports ground of an area of 2000 m2, the use of which is limited to fixed hours. There is no gardening. The prisoners possess 6 chicken. Visitors may call subject to special permission. So far there have been no applications for visits to the occulist. Officers may not go for walks. There are no newspapers. Books, however, are available from the YMCA. No classes are held in the camp. The prisoners would like to have playing cards, musical instruments and be permitted to have cinema shows. This latter request is under consideration.

The prisoners were able to inform their Next-of-Kin of their capture. They are allowed to write one letter of 10 lines a month or 50 words, and more in special circumstances. All the prisoners have received mail.

The Protecting Power has remitted the following sums:

To

-6-

To the British	Yen 2.-
" " Dutch	"150.-
" " Americans	"150.-

No relief has been received from the Japanese Red Cross Society. Our Delegation delivered the following relief:

During December 1944 and January 1945: 714 food parcels
 3 bales of clothing
 2 bales of over-coats
 2 cases of shoes
 1 medicine package

The YMCA has distributed books, musical instruments and gramophone records. On four occasions, some relief foods were kept in reserve. All the parcels were distributed in the presence of the camp representatives.

Letters take 6 months to reach prisoners. The majority of the Dutch prisoners have had no news from their next-of-kin in Java. The prisoners can correspond freely with the camp authorities, the YMCA and our Delegation.

The Camp Commander states that there have been no disciplinary punishments, claims, complaints about food or attempted escapes. He has, moreover, no objection to legal acts and documents being transmitted to the Protecting Power.

The prisoners salute in the Japanese fashion and are allowed to wear their rank insignia. Regulations are communicated in English and translated into Dutch for the benefit of the Dutch prisoners.

The above information was communicated to our Delegate by the Commander of the Camp.

Our Delegate interviewed, in presence of the Camp authorities the representatives of the prisoners, who made the following statements:

Lt. Surgeon A.P. CURTIN, RNRV:

said that numerous prisoners are suffering from great moral and physical strain and he recommends the establishment of a rest camp for exhausted prisoners. He asked that supplementary foodstuffs be given, particularly fats,

vegetables,

-7-

vegetables and fruits, as many prisoners suffer from influenza. Vitamin deficiency is being combatted with vitamin tablets but these prove to be insufficient. There is a sufficient quantity of first aid medical supplies.

Since the relief shipments arrived, the prisoners have been allotted one Red Cross food parcel at Christmas and one in January. The last letter from England took eight months to reach its destination.

Lt. Commander Abraham Arnoldus LOOIJEN, RDN.

stresses the food situation and states that the Dutch prisoners are anxious as they have had no mail from Java. He would appreciate if mass could be said at the camp.

Ensign CEC Frank Joseph CARNEY, USNR:

is worried about the lack of airraid shelters as the prisoners in the labor detachments have no protection while unloading ships. The prisoners have received two Red Cross food parcels. He asks for shoes, laces, shoe repair kits, razor blades and said he would be interested in receiving the publication issued by the Protecting Power on the preparation of wills. He also asks for a violin, guitars, records, books, both fiction and on engineering, and playing cards. He stated that the latest letters arrived had taken eight months to come.

Our Delegate states that the interview with the Camp Commander lasted three hours, whereas the actual visit of the camp was limited to half an hour.

Barring the three camp representatives, eleven patients and six prisoner of war cooks, our Delegate saw no other prisoners, they all being away in labor detachments; he is therefore unable to comment on their state of health. Those present, however, states our Delegate, looked strained.

Our Delegate did not visit the airraid shelter, the recreation room and the sports ground. He saw the washing hanging on the line, and he describes it as being in rags. The canteen, which consists of a cupboard, he said, was empty.

Our Delegate has recommended the establishment of airraid shelters, the distribution of steel helmets and that the Easter celebrations be taken into consideration;

he

-8-

he proposed, moreover, that prisoners given more relief goods and that a rest camp be established.

The view one has from the camp, adds our Delegate, is on the industrial surroundings and there is neither grass nor tree to be seen. The discipline is strict and cleanliness is enforced.

We have asked our Delegate to approach the Japanese authorities for improvements on the following points:

- 1) Working hours and rest periods;
- 2) Incoming mail;
- 3) Airraid protection.

Enclosure No. 2 to despatch No. 12071
dated July 7, 1945, from the American
Legation, Bern.

COPY
dmh

AMERICAN RED CROSS
GENEVA

July 3, 1945.

Georges Tait, Esquire,
First Secretary,
American Legation,
Bern.

Dear George:

I am attaching herewith copy of a report
on Tokyo Prisoner of War Branch Camp No. 2. This
is merely for your information as I have already
forwarded copy to Washington.

It is possible to read so much between the
lines in this report, that I thought you would like
to see it.

Yours sincerely,

(sgd) Francis B. James
Special Representative
American Red Cross.

Enclosure No. 1 to despatch No. 12471
dated Sept. 3/45 from the American
Legation, Bern.

UNRESTRICTED

THE FOREIGN SERVICE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

No. 12471

Via Airmail Pouch

AMERICAN LEGATION

Bern, September 3, 1945.

Distributed
by SWP to

Bryan B. Buelee
W. Sweet
Yudelson
Navy 12
SEP 21 1945 *B.P.*

Subject: American Interests - Japan
Report on visit made to
Tokyo prisoner of war camp
No. 5 Daigo-Bunsho.

never reported

SPECIAL WAR PROBLEMS
DIVISION
SEP 17 1945
C. Simpson
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

The American Minister at Bern has the honor to enclose, for the Department's information and records, two copies of a report dated August 30, 1945, prepared by the International Red Cross Committee at Geneva relating to a visit made on July 27, by Mr. Angst, a delegate of the International Red Cross at Tokyo, to the Tokyo prisoner of war camp No. 5 Daigo-Bunsho.

The Legation received copies of this report under cover of a letter dated August 30, 1945, from the International Red Cross Committee at Geneva.

Enclosure: *att. 2*

Two copies of report - with
original of despatch only.

File No. 814.2
GT/mak
In quintuplicate to Department

And *sent*
Rev. *all*
Out *h*
Dist.

SEP 28 1945

711.94114A I.R./9-345

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711.94114A I.R./9-345

A.F.



30 AOUT 1945

EXO - ABr/am - Subject: Tokyo POW Camp N°5 Daigo-Bunsho

The following is the substance of a report we have received from our Tokyo Delegation on the visit Mr. Angst made to the above camp on July 27th 1945.

Opening date: August 18, 1943.
 Mail address: Tokyo POW Camp, Tokyo.
 Capacity: 760.
 Camp Commander: Army Lieut. Teszutarō Kato, who has been in charge since September 1944.

Strength on visit day:

	Officers	Warrant Offi- cers, NCO, Ptes	Civilians	Total
U.S.A.	13	332	178	523
British	1	32	-	33
Canadian	-	110	-	110
Dutch	1	17	4	22
Australian	1	-	-	1
Norwegian	-	-	3	3
			Total:	692

The names of the above prisoners and internees, who were captured at Hong-Kong, Wake Island, Bataan, Corregidor, Mindanao, have all been communicated by the Japanese Official Bureau. The American Civilians were formerly interned in Shanghai POW camp. The 4 Dutch civilians are at the ^{POW}Shinagawa POW Hospital, Tokyo, which we reported on in our cable C. 9066 (1944).

The oldest inmate is aged 68 and the youngest 20, the average age being 32.

The POW representative is Army Major F.E. Fellows.

The camp was built to house PsOW. The total area is 8650 m², and the building area 1290 m² of which the inmates occupy 792 m². A 9 ft wooden board fence surrounds the camp. The inmates are lodged in 4 barracks partly tile and partly shingle-roofed, and fitted out with upper and lower sleeping platforms. The floors are of hard packed mud covered with straw mats. The camp has an infirmary, an isolation ward, a bath house, 3 toilets, an administration building, a cook house with storeroom attached, a guards barrack with a storeroom attached and a storehouse. There is also an emergency storehouse outside the camp. Electric lighting is installed. There are 15 coal stoves in the barracks which function from about mid-november to the beginning of april. The ventilation is sufficient and is obtained by opening the windows which are fitted out with glass panes. The drains flow into an open

-2-

cesspool situated just outside the camp and which is sprayed in summer to prevent mosquito-breeding. The garbage is removed every morning. Good-quality water is pumped from a well within the camp. Fire-prevention measures have been taken. There are sand-covered dugouts within the camps and slit trenches just outside, both are sufficient in capacity. There is also a sand-covered dugout outside the camp intended as an emergency infirmary.

The inmates have each 5 blankets, one sheet and a pillow, but they have no mosquito nets, though mosquitoes and flies swarm during the summer months. Orders are given in English and an interpreter is available. There are 5 cement ~~xx~~ urinals and the number of Japanese-style toilets, although crowded in the mornings, is sufficient. There is one large wooden electricity heated bath, which is available every other day; formerly it was available every day. There are about 40 wash buckets and 15 water taps.

Our delegate interviewed the following PsOW in presence of the Camp Command:

1. "U.S. Army Major F.E. Fellows, who has represented the prisoners for the last two years. Major Fellows made the following statement: "The situation is as good as can be expected; food, housing and clothing are satisfactory and medicines are sufficient for current needs. However, we are anxious to know whether further Red Cross supplies are available. We got through last winter very nicely and only one death was reported. The heating was sufficient. All Red Cross relief was turned over to me for distribution. Health conditions have considerably improved since last year. There have been no serious illnesses and nobody is on the down grade. The men are becoming acclimatized. There is an overall increase of weight of half a kilo; some men have gained as much as 5 to 6 kilos since their arrival in camp. The supplies of new shoes is a problem and it is almost impossible to obtain sizes large enough. The remaining clothes have been issued and material for repairs is adequate. Good fresh vegetables are supplied, and the basic rations are kept up to specification. Recreation is limited by two factors: 1° By lack of time available after work and 2° By the insufficiency of space for such outdoor games as baseball. The camp has a good orchestra and another gramophone would be appreciated. Only a shipment of less than 50 volumes for the Library has been received in the course of the last 14 months, and more books would be welcome. Mail communications with NOK suffer great delays. The transit time for letters either way is approximately one year. I wrote a letter in October 1943 and received an answer in May 1945, whereas I have already had a reply to a radiogramme dispatched in September 1944. The speeding up of mail would take a great load off the minds of the men. We received an American Red Cross Bulletin 15 months ago, which was greatly appreciated as the men like hearing things of local interest. None have been received since."

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-3-

Our Delegate states that copies of the American Red Cross news N°3, 4 and 7 are ready for dispatch at Tokyo main camp. Our Delegation has received communications from the United States Government concerning family maintenance and insurance. Nothing similar has been received from the Canadian, British and Netherland Governments, although the prisoners concerned are keenly interested especially in allowances paid to their families. Our delegation would appreciate any such information that they could furnish or receive for publication for the benefit of the prisoners, as the camp command would hand this data to Major Fellows promptly, nothing being held back.

2. Major William M. Stewart, Royal Army Medical Corps, who was captured by a German raider in the Indian Ocean and taken to Yokohama where he was handed over to the Japanese authorities, possesses his British passport and is anxious for clarification of his present status. Our delegation is approaching the Japanese authorities on this subject. Major Stewart made the following declarations: "Personally I am satisfied with this camp and the prisoners are fortunate to be in this camp where the good management has been responsible for improvements, especially after a rather wild first year. The basic problems are well handled and the men receive good treatment. The work is not too hard and consists in light duty. No heavy strain is placed on anybody. We could use some guitars as banjo strings are practically unobtainable locally. We are fairly well fixed for medicines. However supplies are getting somewhat short, and we would like to receive more Red Cross medicines in general. The last letter I received from England was dated December 1944 and reached me a month ago".

3. Leading Seaman J.W.N. Ostmeier (Dutch) stated that "he had received no mail from the Netherlands East Indies, though most of the Dutch in the camp had had mail from Holland. He had heard that numerous letters from the Netherlands East Indies are in Tokyo and that their delay in delivery is possibly attributable to censorship."

4. Sergeant R. Manchester (Canadian) stated that "there has scarcely been any mail or private parcels from Canada and all the letters take over a year to come. I have myself had three letters. We are anxious to know whether there is a new status concerning pay allowances in Canada. We would appreciate toilet articles and daily necessities."

Those present at the interview - states our delegate - looked fit and Major Fellows accompanied him on his tour through the camp, giving pertinent explanations. It being their day off, most of the prisoners were present. Their clothing looked rather patched and well-worn.

Our delegate brought with him 33 bottles of multivitamins and American Red Cross supplies via from the Hakusan-Maru shipment, which were greatly appreciated.



30 AOUT 1945

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No Control

UNRESTRICTED

THE FOREIGN SERVICE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

SPECIAL WAR PROBLEMS
DIVISION
File: *ejs*
SEP 24 1945
e. in SPD
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

HD
DC/R

No. 12509

Via Airmail Pouch

AMERICAN LEGATION

Bern, September 10, 1945.

RECEIVED
DIVISION OF
IDENTIFICATION

SEP 21 PM 4 27

RECORDS BRANCH

Subject: American Interests - Japan
Transmission Intercross report
Tokyo POW detached Camp No.15,
Daijugo Hakensho.

not reported

The American Minister at Bern has the honor to refer to the Department's telegraphic instruction No. 2179 of September 14, 1942, which directed the Legation to forward by airmail copies of reports of visits made by delegates of the International Red Cross Committee to camps where Americans are detained.

In accordance with the Department's instruction under reference, the Legation desires to enclose two copies of a report on the Tokyo POW detached Camp No. 15 Daijugo Hakensho prepared on September 7, 1945, by the International Red Cross Committee at Geneva regarding a visit made on July 27, 1945, to the Tokyo POW detached Camp No. 15, Daijugo Hakensho, by Mr. Angst, delegate of the International Red Cross Committee.

The Legation received three copies of the attached report under cover of a letter dated September 7, 1945, from the Committee at Geneva which stated that a copy thereof has been forwarded to its delegation at Washington.

Enclosure: *MVA*

Two copies of report on Tokyo POW detached Camp No. 15, Daijugo Hakensho - with original of despatch only.

File No. 814.2
TJH/hs
In quintuplicate to Department.

Distributed
by SWP to

War { *Bayan*
B. de Leeuw
Direct
Guallan

Navy - 2

Date **OCT 17 1945** *HD:eg*

[Handwritten signature]

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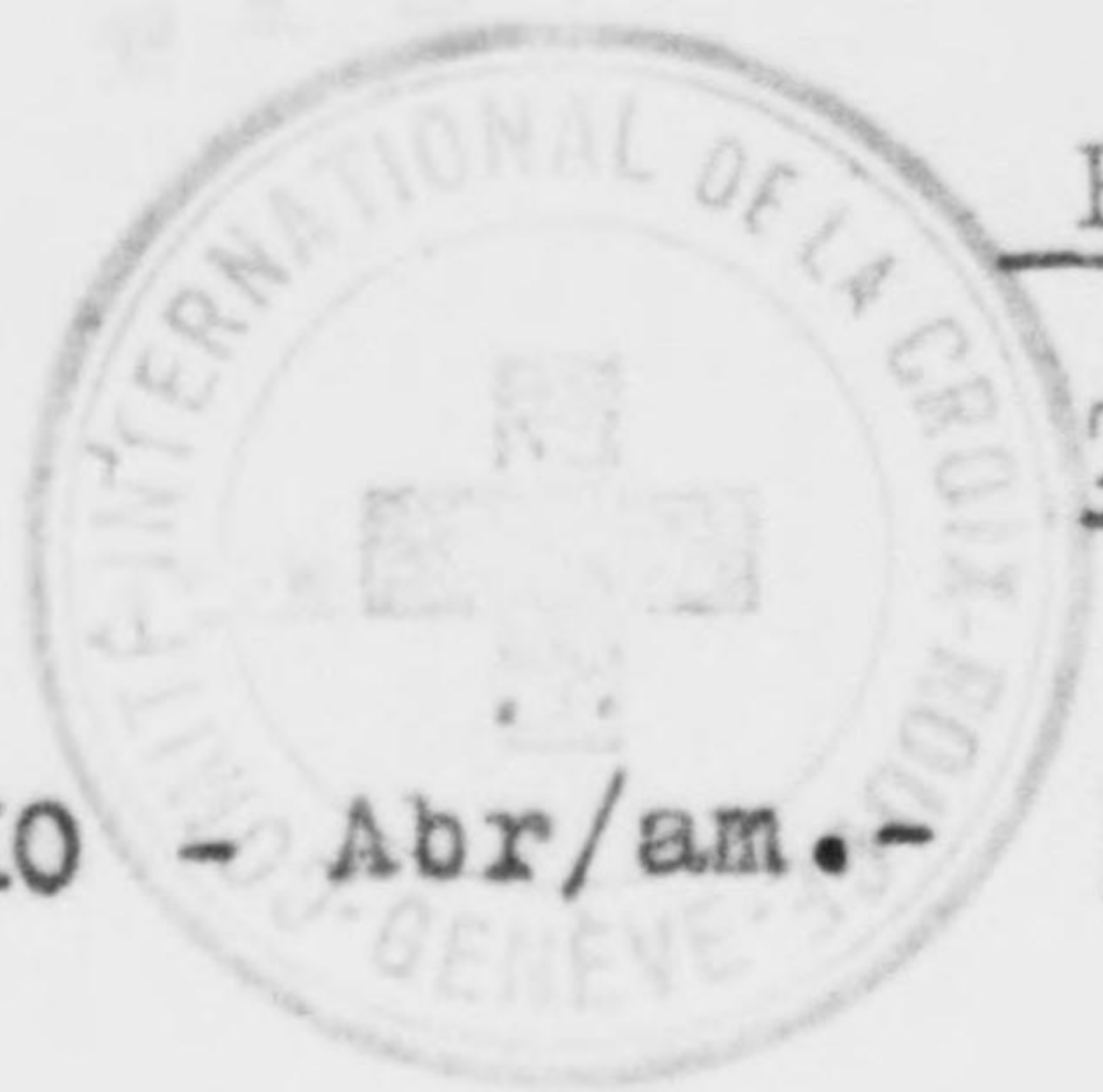
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J.L.R.

Enclosure No. 1 to despatch No. 12509
dated Sept. 10/45 from the **American**
Legation, Bern.

- 7 SEPT, 1945

Note

From: International Committee of the Red Cross,
Geneva

To: International Committee of the Red Cross,
Washington

EXO - Abr/am. - Subject: Tokyo POW detached Camp N°15, Daijugo
Hakensho.

The following is the substance of a report we have received from our Delegation in Tokyo on a visit Mr. Angst made to the above camp on July 27th 1945. This was the first made to this camp.

It was open on April 1st 1944 and has a capacity of 400. The camp Commander is Army Lieutenant Takeo Nomoto, who has been in command since January 1945.

<u>Strength:</u>	Officers	Warrant Officers, NCOs, Privates	Total
Americans	9	151	<u>160</u>
British	3	40	43
Canadians	-	82	82
Australians	2	24	26
Dutch	-	11	<u>11</u>
		Total:	322

These prisoners were taken at Hongkong, the Philippines, Java and Singapore. The oldest is 49, the youngest 22, and the average age is 30.

The camp was built for prisoners of war. Its total area is 5940 m², the building area is 1429 m² of which 1228 m² are occupied by the prisoners, and the floor space is 1294 m² of which the prisoners occupy 1016 m². The camp is surrounded by a nine foot wooden board fence.

There are two slate-roofed barracks, one cookhouse combined with a bathhouse, two toilets, and one storehouse. The barracks are made of wood and the floors are of hard packed mud. There are two tiers of berths covered with straw mats. Each prisoner has approximately 1 1/2 tatami measuring 2.5 m². There are nine coal and woodstoves which are heated from the end of November until the middle of April. Ventilation and drainage are satisfactory, and garbage is removed daily. There are seven wells, five of which are used by the prisoners. The quantity of water is sufficient, though for drinking it has to be boiled. Water from a reservoir is expected to be available shortly. Fire prevention measures are sufficient, and there are five sand-covered anti-airraids dugouts within the camp, each accommodating up to 65 prisoners.

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Furthermore, there is another dugout able to accommodate 30 patients. There are two interpreters, one of whom is at the factory where the prisoners work. There are 20 Japanese-style toilets. There are two wooden bath tubs which are heated twice a week; one has a capacity of 20 men, the other 10. The prisoners are allowed one additional bath a week at the factory where hot showers are available practically every day. There are 40 wash basins at the camp, but no water taps. Disinfection is done by steam, sunlight, lime and mercury bichloride when necessary.

The calories contained in the daily rations are approximately 3,000. The menu on the day of visit was the following:

Grams per capita:

Breakfast:

Potatoes	50
Onions	30
Entrails	60
Flour	20
Miso	35

Lunch:

Potatoes	100
Onions	80
Pumpkins	100
Crushed soya-beans	100
Flour	10
Shoyu	60

Supper:

Potatoes	50
Onions	40
Pumpkins	100
Tofu	100
Miso	40
Salted fish	50

Total calories: 3192.

There are six cauldrons, one bread-baking oven, one ice box, and four storerooms. Two underground storerooms are under construction outside the camp. One Japanese and seven professional prisoner of war cooks prepare meals according to their own taste.

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-3-

The following is the list of the medical and dental personnel:

Prisoners of war:

2 medical officers
8 medical orderlies

Japanese:

1 factory doctor
1 university medical professor
1 civilian dentist
1 medical orderly.

The infirmary comprises two rooms able to accommodate 40 patients. Medical and dental equipment is sufficient. Only first aid treatment can be given with the surgical equipment in the camp, major operations being carried out at the factory hospital. Medicines are sufficient for current needs, however additional Red Cross supplies for future use would be appreciated. The isolation ward comprises two rooms and can accommodate ten patients. Sick parade is held daily from 12 hours by prisoner of war medical officers and whenever required.

The sick list on the day our delegate visited the camp was the following:

Beri-beri	5
Intestinal catarrh	6
Malaria	3
Working accidents	4
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	7
(3 of the latter are at Shinagawa POW Hospital)	
Sinus	2
Light cases (including influenza and colds)	16
Total:	43.

more than 10%

Of the above, 18 are in the camp infirmary, 8 at Shinagawa prisoner of war hospital and 17 confined to their own quarters. The medical situation is summarized thus:

Serious diseases:
Contagious diseases:

Deficiency diseases:

None
Tuberculosis. Epidemics:
1 case of amoebic dysentery at Shinagawa prisoner of war hospital;
None

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-4-

The prisoners are vaccinated against smallpox every year, their last vaccination dating April 10th 1945. Special attention has been given to the prisoners' weight which is checked three times a month on which occasion all prisoners are given the opportunity to be medically examined. The prisoners were weighed on their arrival with the following results; maximum 72 kilos; minimum: 55 kilos, average 59 kilos. They were last weighed on July 10th 1945 and the following results were registered: maximum 87 kilos, minimum 50 kilos, average 52 kilos. Since the opening of the camp, there have been four deaths, the last, a case of acute pneumonia, occurred last winter.

Laundry facilities are available and one cake of soap is occasionally issued every 3 months from the factory. There are no destitutes and the Protecting Power has so far remitted no funds. The sum deposited in a postal savings account amounts to yen 15,000, of which 13,000 is to the credit of the officers.

Reveille and roll-call are at 05.30, the evening roll-call is at 20.00, and light-out at 21.00. The prisoners work at a foundry 9 hours daily, which time includes the morning and afternoon rest period of about 15 minutes each, and the lunch period of 40 minutes. There are 4 full rest days a month. 270 POW work of whom 250 outside the camp.

The basic pay of the prisoners is the following:

Warrant officers:	25 sen daily
POCs	15 " "
Privates	10 " "

The workers are divided into two categories: class A receive a daily premium of 10 sen in addition to their basic pay, and class B, 5 sen. Camp workers receive only their basic pay. The factory occasionally issues food, cigarettes and daily necessities as a reward to hard workers.

The canteen sells daily necessities, forks, spoons, black tea and fruit, and is open daily and when goods are available, when the prisoners return from their work. The canteen purchases are unrestricted, cigarettes which are obtained at the canteen are limited to threerd day per head.

There is no chaplain at the camp, religious services are conducted on rest days by a Japanese priest who comes three times a month. There is practically no hiking outside the camp. Recreations consist in volleyball, catch-ball, ping-pong and cards. The exercise ground in the camp is too small for base-ball.

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There is a vegetable garden of 13,200 sq.M outside the camp. The principal crops are pumpkins, sweet potatoes, egg plants, soya beans, daikon (soil sesand). The camp possesses one pig, 14 hens and one rabbit. The prisoners would like more livestock; however, feeding them is a problem.

The Library contains 60 donated books, some of which were supplied by the Y.M.C.A. Some of the prisoners are studying Japanese. There are no movies nor radio.

The Japanese Red Cross has delivered no relief in this camp. This camp has received a proportional share of the I.R.C.C. relief goods delivered to Tokyo POW main camp. All relief sent to this camp is now completely distributed; each prisoner received two American Red Cross food parcel units at Christmas 1944, one unit in February 1945 and half a unit in June 1945. The prisoners took an active part in the distribution. No relief has been received from other sources. Letters take anywhere from 6 to 15 months to reach the prisoners. A list of newless prisoners has already been communicated to you separately.

The camp Commander has no special complaints to make, and there have been no special punishments or attempted escapes. The above details were communicated by the Camp Commander.

The points not covered in this report will be found in the report on Tokyo Branch Camp N°5 as they are identical.

Our delegate interviewed in the presence of the Camp Command, the following prisoners:

1) Lt. Commander Callahan, U.S. Navy, who made the following statement:

"The prisoners are hungry most of the time, Red-Cross food parcels have literally saved their lives. I have had mail regularly, the last letter I received was dispatched from the United States in January 1945. More books would be appreciated as well as more recreational facilities. There is no gramophone, and we will be grateful for a trumpet, a cornet, a clarinet and some guitars. There is no room within the camp for athletics such as base-ball. The prisoners could use a ping-pong table, and would like more card games. They have practically neither clothing of any kind nor shoes."

The interpreter of the main camp who was present during the visit has stated that there were 350 working uniforms and 100 pairs of shoes at Tokyo ready for shipment to this camp.

Lt. Commander Callahan went on to say:

"The prisoners were formerly taken to Branch Camp N°5 for dental treatment. This system has now stopped despite the fact that some prisoners are in need of dental treatment. Officers are

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allowed 2 1/2 packages of hair tobacco a month, however only 17 cigarettes were issued during the last five months. The officers would be content with 10 packages of hair tobacco a month. I wonder whether the plan, now under study, for transferring POW camps to places where the construction of airraid shelters is unnecessary, is feasible, as spending nights in shelters is detrimental to the prisoners' health and more specially to that of the workers."

To this last remark, the main camp interpreter replied that no matter where the camps were transferred to in Japan they will still be within range of enemy air attacks.

3) Major K.P. Brown, Medical Officer, British Army, made the following statement:

"Red Cross drugs are nearly exhausted. It was thanks to these drugs that a good many lives were saved last winter. Current and most acute requirements are sulfadruugs, vitamins, and dressings. Attention by oculist is obtainable. The physical condition of the men is extremely poor, all going gradually and some rapidly, downhill. Their condition is largely due to the poor food situation throughout the winter which has not since improved sufficiently to allow the men to pick up. The food lacks proteins and fats, and the supply of fresh vegetables has been insufficient. For five months there has been no fruit and the rations were insufficient. Sick rations this year are larger than last year. I am afraid that if the food situation does not improve there will be many deaths. We have no reserve of Red Cross food parcels and the stock of Red Cross drugs is running out. The prisoners suffer badly from lack of mental relaxation. The mail situation is not bad, about 250 to 300 letters arriving monthly. Personally, I have had but one letter since my arrival in Japan. There have been no soap and toilet paper issues for quite some time. We could do with a lot more Red Cross relief. I suspect that quite a number of prisoners suffer from tuberculosis, however there are no reliable means of detection in the camp. I consider the work of the foundry too hard for the men in their present physical condition, the diet which they get is just sufficient to maintain prisoners not performing manual labour."

The following were also present during the interview:

- 3) Lieutenant S.C. Parker, New-Zealand, British Fleet Airarm;
- 4) Staff Sergeant L.R. Hunter, U.S. Marine Corps.

Both accompanied our Belegate on his tour through the camp.

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5) Petty Officer D. Los, Royal Netherlands Navy

affirms that no news had been received from the Dutch East Indies;

6) Major W. Breslin, U.S. Army Medical Corps

states that the main problem is food, and that the maintenance of the present rations means slow starvation.

In conclusion, our Delegate states that the prisoners look rather emaciated, although those present during the interview appeared reasonably fit.

Our Delegate brought with him 17 bottles of multivitamins and some American Red Cross medical supplies from the Hakusan Maru shipment, which were greatly appreciated.

Signed: *D. De TRAZ*



- 7 SEPT 1945

Note



From: the International Committee of the Red Cross, Geneva
 To: The International Committee of the Red Cross, Washington

EXO - Am. - Subject: Tokyo POW detached Camp N°15, Daijugo Hakensho.

The following is the substance of a report we have received from our Delegation in Tokyo on a visit Mr. Angst made to the above camp on July 27th 1945. This was the first made to this camp.

It was open on April 1st 1944 and has a capacity of 400. The camp Commander is Army Lieutenant Takeo Nomoto, who has been in command since January 1945.

<u>Strength:</u>	Officers	Warrant Officers, NCOs, Privates	Total
Americans	9	151	160
British	3	40	43
Canadians	-	82	82
Australians	2	24	26
Dutch	-	11	11
		<u>Total:</u>	<u>322</u>

These prisoners were taken at Hongkong, the Philippines, Java and Singapore. The oldest is 49, the youngest 32, and the average age is 30.

The camp was built for prisoners of war. Its total area is 5940 m², the building area is 1429 m² of which 1326 m² are occupied by the prisoners, and the floor space is 1394 m² of which the prisoners occupy 1016 m². The camp is surrounded by a nine foot wooden board fence.

There are two slate-roofed barracks, one cookhouse combined with a bathhouse, two toilets, and one storehouse. The barracks are made of wood and the floors are of hard packed mud. There are two tiers of berts covered with straw mats. Each prisoner has approximately 1 1/2 tatami measuring 2.5 m². There are nine coal and woodstoves which are heated from the end of November until the middle of April. Ventilation and drainage are satisfactory, and garbage is removed daily. There are seven wells, five of which are used by the prisoners. The quantity of water is sufficient, though for drinking it has to be boiled. Water from a reservoir is expected to be available shortly. Fire prevention measures are sufficient, and there are five sand-covered anti-airraid dugouts within the camp, each accommodating up to 65 prisoners.

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Furthermore, there is another dugout able to accommodate 30 patients. There are two interpreters, one of whom is at the factory where the prisoners work. There are 20 Japanese-style toilets. There are two wooden bath tubs which are heated twice a week; one has a capacity of 20 men, the other 10. The prisoners are allowed one additional bath a week at the factory where hot showers are available practically every day. There are 40 wash basins at the camp, but no water taps. Disinfection is done by steam, sunlight, lime and mercury bichloride when necessary.

The calories contained in the daily rations are approximately 3,000. The menu on the day of visit was the following:

Grams per capita:

Breakfast:

Potatoes	50
Onions	30
Entrails	60
Flour	20
Miso	35

Lunch:

Potatoes	100
Onions	80
Pumpkins	100
Crushed soya-beans	100
Flour	10
Shoyu	60

Supper:

Potatoes	50
Onions	40
Pumpkins	100
Tofu	100
Miso	40
Salted fish	50

Total calories: 3192.

There are six cauldrons, one bread-baking oven, one ice box, and four storerooms. Two underground storerooms are under construction outside the camp. One Japanese and seven professional prisoner of war cooks prepare meals according to their own taste.

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-3-

The following is the list of the medical and dental personnel:

Prisoners of war:

2 medical officers
8 medical orderlies

Japanese:

1 factory doctor
1 university medical professor
1 civilian dentist
1 medical orderly.

The infirmary comprises two rooms able to accommodate 40 patients. Medical and dental equipment is sufficient. Only first aid treatment can be given with the surgical equipment in the camp, major operations being carried out at the factory hospital. Medicines are sufficient for current needs, however additional Red Cross supplies for future use would be appreciated. The isolation ward comprises two rooms and can accommodate ten patients. Sick parade is held daily from 19 hours by prisoner of war medical officers and whenever required.

The sick list on the day our delegate visited the camp was the following:

Beri-beri	5
Intestinal catarrh	6
Malaria	3
Working accidents	4
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	7
(3 of the latter are at Shinagawa POW Hospital)	
Sinus	2
Light cases (including influenza and colds)	16
Total:	43.

Of the above, 18 are in the camp infirmary, 8 at Shinagawa prisoner of war hospital and 17 confined to their own quarters. The medical situation is summarized thus:

Serious diseases:	None
Contagious diseases:	Tuberculosis. Epidemics:
Epidemics:	1 case of amoebic dysentery at Shinagawa prisoner of war hospital;
Deficiency diseases:	None

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-4-

The prisoners are vaccinated against smallpox every year, their last vaccination dating April 10th 1945. Special attention has been given to the prisoners' weight which is checked three times a month on which occasion all prisoners are given the opportunity to be medically examined. The prisoners were weighed on their arrival with the following results; maximum 72 kilos; minimum: 55 kilos, average 59 kilos. They were last weighed on July 10th 1945 and the following results were registered: maximum 87 kilos, minimum 50 kilos, average 58 kilos. Since the opening of the camp, there have been four deaths, the last, a case of acute pneumonia, occurred last winter.

Laundry facilities are available and one cake of soap is occasionally issued every 3 months from the factory. There are no destitutes and the Protecting Power has so far remitted no funds. The sum deposited in a postal savings account amounts to yen 15,000, of which 13,000 is to the credit of the officers.

Reveille and roll-call are at 05.30, the evening roll-call is at 20.00, and lights-out at 21.00. The prisoners work at a foundry 9 hours daily, which time includes the morning and afternoon rest period of about 15 minutes each, and the lunch period of 40 minutes. There are 4 full rest days a month. 270 POW work of whom 250 outside the camp.

The basic pay of the prisoners is the following:

Warrant officers:	25 sen daily
NCOs	15 " "
Privates	10 " "

The workers are divided into two categories: class A receive a daily premium of 10 sen in addition to their basic pay, and class B, 5 sen. Camp workers receive only their basic pay. The factory occasionally issues food, cigarettes and daily necessities as a reward to hard workers.

The canteen sells daily necessities, forks, spoons, black tea and fruit, and is open daily and when goods are available, when the prisoners return from their work. The canteen purchases are unrestricted, cigarettes which are obtained at the canteen are limited to threeⁿday per head.

There is no chaplain at the camp, religious services are conducted on rest days by a Japanese priest who comes three times a month. There is practically no hiking outside the camp. Recreations consist in volleyball, catch-ball, ping-pong and cards. The exercise ground in the camp is too small for base-ball.

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There is a vegetable garden of 15,200 sq.M outside the camp. The principal crops are pumpkins, sweet potatoes, egg plants, soya beans, daikon (soil seasant). The camp possesses one pig, 14 hens and one rabbit. The prisoners would like more livestock; however, feeding them is a problem.

The Library contains 60 donated books, some of which were supplied by the Y.M.C.A. Some of the prisoners are studying Japanese. There are no movies nor radio.

The Japanese Red Cross has delivered no relief in this camp. This camp has received a proportional share of the I.R.C.C. relief goods delivered to Tokyo POW main camp. All relief sent to this camp is now completely distributed; each prisoner received two American Red Cross food parcel units at Christmas 1944, one unit in February 1945 and half a unit in June 1945. The prisoners took an active part in the distribution. No relief has been received from other sources. Letters take anywhere from 6 to 13 months to reach the prisoners. A list of newsless prisoners has already been communicated to the authorities separately.

The camp Commander has no special complaints to make, and there have been no special punishments or attempted escapes. The above details were communicated by the Camp Commander.

The points not covered in this report will be found in the report on Tokyo Branch Camp N°5 as they are identical.

Our delegate interviewed in the presence of the Camp Command, the following prisoners:

1) Lt. Commander Callahan, U.S. Navy, who made the following statement:

"The prisoners are hungry most of the time. Red-Cross food parcels have literally saved their lives. I have had mail regularly, the last letter I received was dispatched from the United States in January 1945. More books would be appreciated as well as more recreational facilities. There is no gramophone, and we will be grateful for a trumpet, a cornet, a clarinet and some guitars. There is no room within the camp for athletics such as base-ball. The prisoners could use a ping-pong table, and would like more card games. They have practically neither clothing of any kind nor shoes."

The interpreter of the main camp who was present during the visit has stated that there were 315 working uniforms and 100 pairs of shoes at Tokyo ready for shipment to this camp.

Lt. Commander Callahan went on to say:

"The prisoners were formerly taken to Branch Camp N°5 for dental treatment. This system has now stopped despite the fact that some prisoners are in need of dental treatment. Officers are

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-6-

allowed 2 1/2 packages of hair tobacco a month, however only 17 cigarettes were issued during the last five months. The officers would be content with 10 packages of hair tobacco a month. I wonder whether the plan, now under study, for transferring POW camps to places where the construction of airraid shelters is unnecessary, is feasible, as spending nights in shelters is detrimental to the prisoners' health and more specially to that of the workers."

To this last remark, the main camp interpreter replied that no matter where the camps were transferred to in Japan they will still be within range of enemy air attacks.

2) Major K.P. Brown, Medical Officer, British Army, made the following statement:

"Red Cross drugs are nearly exhausted. It was thanks to these drugs that a good many lives were saved last winter. Current and most acute requirements are sulfadruugs, vitamins, and dressings. Attention by oculist is obtainable. The physical condition of the men is extremely poor, all going gradually and some rapidly, downhill. Their condition is largely due to the poor food situation throughout the winter which has not since improved sufficiently to allow the men to pick up. The food lacks proteins and fats, and the supply of fresh vegetables has been insufficient. For five months there has been no fruit and the rations were insufficient. Sick rations this year are larger than last year. I am afraid that if the food situation does not improve there will be many deaths. We have no reserve of Red Cross food parcels and the stock of Red Cross drugs is running out. The prisoners suffer badly from lack of mental relaxation. The mail situation is not bad, about 250 to 300 letters arriving monthly. Personally, I have had but one letter since my arrival in Japan. There have been no soap and toilet paper issues for quite some time. We could do with a lot more Red Cross relief. I suspect that quite a number of prisoners suffer from tuberculosis, however there are no reliable means of detection in the camp. I consider the work at the foundry too hard for the men in their present physical condition, the diet which they get is just sufficient to maintain prisoners not performing manual labour."

The following were also present during the interview:

- 3) Lieutenant S.C. Parker, New-Zealand, British Fleet Airarm;
- 4) Staff Sergeant L.R. Hunter, U.S. Marine Corps.

Both accompanied our Delegate on his tour through the camp.

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UNRESTRICTED

THE FOREIGN SERVICE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

No. 12842

Via Airmail Pouch

AMERICAN LEGATION

Bern, October 29, 1945.

Subject: American Interests - Japan
Report on visit made to Tokyo
prisoner of war camp No. 5
Daigo-Bunsho.

RECEIVED
DIVISION OF
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

1945 NOV 13 pm 7:50

RECORDS BRANCH

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SPECIAL WAR
DIVISION
NOV 12 1945
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
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The American Minister at Bern has the honor to refer to the Legation's airmail despatch No. 12471 of September 3, 1945, which transmitted to the Department copies of a report of a visit made on July 27, by a delegate of the International Red Cross Committee at Tokyo to the Tokyo prisoner of war camp No. 5 Daigo-Bunsho.

There are now enclosed two copies of a further report dated October 29, 1945, regarding the visit on July 27, to the above-mentioned prisoner of war camp. Copies of this report were received under cover of a letter dated October 29, from the International Red Cross Committee at Geneva.

Enclosure: *atlr*

two copies of report dated October 29, 1945 - with original of despatch only.

File No. 814.2
GTait/mak
In quintuplicate to Department

DCR - GP-C Unit
Anal. *[Signature]*
Rev. *[Signature]*
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Dist.

DEC 1 2 1945

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[Handwritten mark]

Enclosure No. 1
dated Oct. 29/45 to despatch No. 12842
Legation, Bern. from the American

EXO ABr-AMi

29 OCT. 1945

Hôtel Metropole
Geneva

Addendum to our Note No.1962 concerning Tokyo
 Prisoner of War Camp No.5 Daigo Bunsho

Owing to difficulties in telegraphic transmission between Tokyo and Geneva, this part of the report concerning the above camp, was delayed.

Disinfection is carried out by means of chemicals, steam and sunlight, when necessary.

Three meals are served daily. Quantitatively, the daily rations are identical to those given to the Japanese guards, the actual preparation of the meals being left to the prisoners.

The following are the standard rations, which, despite their efforts, the authorities are not always able to maintain, on account of the irregularity in the obtaining of supplies.

grams per capita daily

Bread	}	705
Flour		
Rice		
Cereals		

(until recently, bread was supplied daily for dinner, at present there is none, owing to the fact that the flour mill has broken down)

Meat	}	140
Fish		

Fats	9
------	---

Vegetables	}	550
Potatoes		
Fruit		

(there has been no fruit for a considerable time)

Sugar	}	10
Sweets		

Spices	}	15
Salt		

Green and black tea	5
---------------------	---

- 2 -

grams per capita daily

Miso	75
Soya	60
Tsukemono (pickles)	120

The average number of calories contained in these rations is 3200.

The menu on the day of the visit was the following :

grams per capitaBREAKFAST

Potatoes	150
Cucumbers	50
Soya	50

LUNCH

Potatoes	150
Meat	150
Miso	50
Vegetables	150
Salt	5

DINNER

Potatoes	150
Tofu	40
Miso	50
Lard	20

The calories contained in these three meals are 3450.

There are twelve cauldrons and a bread baking oven. Cold storage facilities are available outside the camp. Water is boiled electrically. During the autumn, carrots, daikon and potatoes are stored for the winter months. One Japanese and eleven Prisoner of war cooks, whereof one professional, prepare the meals. There are no collective punishments affecting food.

The following are the medical personnel :

Prisoners of War

3 medical officers
 1 NCO
 5 medical orderlies, including a stretcher-bearer
 1 dental officer

- 2 -

grams per capita daily

Miso	75
Soya	60
Tsukemono (pickles)	120

The average number of calories contained in these rations is 3200.

The menu on the day of the visit was the following :

grams per capitaBREAKFAST

Potatoes	150
Cucumbers	50
Soya	50

LUNCH

Potatoes	150
Meat	150
Miso	50
Vegetables	150
Salt	5

DINNER

Potatoes	150
Tofu	40
Miso	50
Lard	20

The calories contained in these three meals are 3450.

There are twelve cauldrons and a bread baking oven. Cold storage facilities are available outside the camp. Water is boiled electrically. During the autumn, carrots, daikon and potatoes are stored for the winter months. One Japanese and eleven Prisoner of war cooks, whereof one professional, prepare the meals. There are no collective punishments affecting food.

The following are the medical personnel :

Prisoners of War

3 medical officers
 1 NCO
 5 medical orderlies, including a stretcher-bearer
 1 dental officer

- 3: -

Japanese

1 medical officer
1 NCO
1 Private

There is an infirmary, which can accommodate 25 patients and in which there is a pharmacy, where American Red Cross supplies are used. There is also a dispensary. The medical equipment is adequate; the dental equipment is sufficient to carry out reconstruction work, however filling material is running short. The surgical equipment is adequate for first aid treatment, but for major operations, patients are transferred to outside hospitals. Medicines are adequate for current needs, but will soon be running short. The isolation ward can accommodate 6 patients. Sick parade is held in the morning and in the afternoon. All prisoners are medically examined three times a month.

The following was the sicklist established on July 26th 1945 :

enteritis	10
pulmonary tuberculosis, whereof 6 serious	9
boils, abscesses	9
heart diseases	8
minor ailments, mainly amongst old and weak	24
	<hr/>
	60

Of these patients, 14 are in the camp infirmary, 4 Dutch at Shinagawa Prisoner of War hospital, Tokyo, and the remainder are confined to their own quarters and exempt from work.

The following is an outline of the medical situation:

<u>Serious cases :</u>	Pulmonary tuberculosis	6
	Heart ailments	2
	Pneumonia	3
	Epilepsy	2
<u>Contagious cases :</u>	Pulmonary tuberculosis	6
	Amoebic dysentery	1
<u>Epidemics :</u>	None	
<u>Deficiency diseases:</u>	None, as the prisoner of war medical officers do not consider some light cases of beri-beri as such.	

The prisoners were last vaccinated on March 18th 1945, the vaccine was a combination against smallpox, typhoid, type A and ordinary, and amoebic dysentery. The prisoners were also inoculated on April 14th, 1945 and have undergone occasional tuberculin tests.

- 4 -

The average weight of the first batch of prisoners on their arrival was 58.203 kilos. The prisoners were last weighed on July 20th 1945, the following results being recorded :

Maximum	85.2 kilos
Minimum	48.9 "
Average	64.3 "

98 prisoners have died since the camp opened. Most of these deaths occurred at the beginning. There have been 5 deaths this year; 4 prisoners were poisoned by surreptitiously drinking medicine, which they had mistaken for alcohol, stolen while they were at work.

The clothing issues are the same as in the Japanese Army. The officers are sufficiently provided with clothing and shoes. The prisoners possess personal effects, which they may use at their discretion. Some prisoners arrived with complete uniforms. Laundry facilities are available and there is generally sufficient soap.

The funds of the prisoners of war were collected against receipt and converted into yen. The prisoners may spend these funds at the camp canteen. Officers are paid the same amount as Japanese officers of corresponding rank. Officers are paid on the 22nd of each month and other ranks are paid on the 3rd. Monthly deductions from pay for mess and repairs are the following: From Major up to Colonel, 30 yen; from Sub. Lt. up to Captain, 25 yen. Officers may carry 50 yen, warrant officers and NCOs 20 yen and privates 10 yen. There are no destitutes and pocket money, which amounts to yen 35,000 for the Tokyo camp group, is paid by the representative of the Protecting Power. At the date of our delegate's visit, 650 yen had been distributed as pocket money. The postal saving account, which includes all ranks, shows a credit balance of yen 16,901.47. Monetary remittances to next of kin abroad are possible, but so far, no requests to do so have been made.

The daily summer timetable is the following :

06.00	reveille, rollcall
06.15	breakfast
12.00	lunch
18.30	dinner
20.00	rollcall
21.00	lights out

For officers work is voluntary and, for other ranks, it is compulsory, the desires of prisoners in this respect being taken into consideration. The work is assigned by the War Ministry and detailed by the Commander of the camp; it consists in stevedoring, freight-car loading but no factory work. The working hours are from 08.00 to 12.00 hrs. and from 13.00 to 17.00 hrs, inclusive of the lunch hour and two 15 minute rests mornings and afternoons. There are 4 full rest days a month.

- 5 -

There is a cobbler, a carpenter and a tailor's shop in the camp. The prisoners are not insured by the Japanese Army, however, they are protected by the labour laws, in the same way as the Japanese labourers. 90% of the prisoners work, of which 85% work outside the camp. The prisoners are treated more leniently than the Japanese labourers. They are paid the following daily wage, from which no deductions are made :

	Working	
	outside the camp	inside camp
Warrant officers	45 sen	25 sen
NCOs	35 "	15 "
Privates	30 "	10 "

The pay of those working outside the camp includes a 10 sen premium daily. From August 1st, a premium of 10 sen daily will be given to camp workers.

There is a canteen, but when our delegate visited the camp, the shelves were practically empty, the only articles on sale being some condiments and tea. The canteen is open daily from 17.00 hrs; purchases are unrestricted, and prices are either on a level or below those of the local market. There are practically no canteen profits, and should there be any, they would be used for the benefit of the prisoners. Three packages of kizani hair tobacco are distributed monthly to all ranks and occasionally supplementary issues are provided by the employers of the prisoners.

There are no chaplains in the camp, religious services being conducted in english, on rest days, by the prisoners themselves. Recreation consists in volley ball, catch ball occasional hiking outside the camp, cards, dominos, pongpong and theatrical shows. The parade ground is used for outdoor sports, but it is not large enough for games such as baseball. The prisoners cultivate a vegetable garden of an area of 19800 m², situated partly inside and partly outside the camp, the soil being sea sand. The crops consist of, carrots, diakon pumpkins, sweet potatoes, onions and cucumbers. The prisoners possess two pigs, one goat, 12 hens and 19 ducks. The prisoners stated that they would appreciate more Red Cross funds, in order to purchase additional live-stock; however the upkeep of such live-stock would be difficult, owing to the shortage of fodder.

Visits from the outside are permitted, subject to permission from the Japanese Authorities; on the other hand, it is impossible for the prisoners to make visits outside the camp.

Donations of books have been received from the YMCA and from private sources. No newspapers are distributed in the camp. Some prisoners study Japanese and Spanish. Musical instruments are permitted, and there are daily cinema shows, which give Judo demonstrations. The radio is available, and the prisoners listen in occasionally.

- 6 -

The prisoners are allowed to write a post-card or a letter once a month, and send one telegram, according to the new telegraphic message scheme, which started at the beginning of this year. Up to the present 20 prisoners in this camp have been allowed to send wireless messages.

The Protecting Power remits comfort allowances each month. A proportional share of the quota of relief supplies attributed to the Tokyo camp group from previous exchange vessels, and the recent Nahodka shipment, has been received by this camp from the main Tokyo camp. The YMCA has supplied cards and musical instruments, and the employers have distributed fruit, fish, other foods and soap. All relief was completely distributed by the prisoners of war representatives, and according to their ideas.

Letters take a minimum of five and a maximum of 10 months to reach the prisoners. 22 prisoners are newsless; their names were communicated to the competent authorities. The prisoners may communicate with the Japanese military authorities and the representatives of the Protecting Power.

The Camp Commander complains of certain cases of petty thieving, committed in the course of the current year, for which three prisoners were confined from 5 to 15 days in the guard-house.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Memorandum of Conversation

TELEPHONE CONVERSATION DATE: January 3, 1946.

SUBJECT: RECORDS OF INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS INSPECTIONS OF JAPANESE PRISONER OF WAR CAMP 17-B, OMTA, KYUSHU, JAPAN.

PARTICIPANTS: Mr. Herrick, SPD.
Major W.J. Lincoln, PWIB, PMGO, War Department.

COPIES TO:

Handwritten notes and stamps in a box, including "SPECIAL PROJECTS" and "FILED".

Mr. Herrick telephoned Major Lincoln and read to that officer telegram DX 78167, December 29, from the Commanding General, Eighth Army, Manila, to Department requesting the release of records of International Red Cross inspections of Japanese Prisoner of War Camp 17-B, Omta, Kyushu, Japan, between August 1, 1943 and May 31, 1944. Mr. Herrick told Major Lincoln in this connection that a close check of the Department's files had not revealed any International Red Cross camp report on this camp. Major Lincoln said that this camp had never been reported by the Japanese, that it was never inspected by the Swiss or the International Red Cross, and that its existence was only discovered after VJ-Day.

Anal. *[initials]*
Rev. *[initials]*
Cat. *[initials]*
Dist. *[initials]*

~~SPD:PW~~
SPD:PW Herrick:erk

FILED
JAN 15 1946
1/4/46

FW 711.94114A IR/12-2945

CS/D

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epc
By

1236

PREPARING OFFICE
WILL INDICATE WHETHER

TELEGRAM SENT

PREPARING OFFICE WILL
TYPE HERE CLEARLY THE
CLASSIFICATION OF THE
MESSAGE:

Collect

Department of State

PLAIN

Charge Department:

Washington

Charge to **Department**

JAN - 7 1946

AMERICAN CONSUL,

MANILA, PHILIPPINE ISLANDS.

34 SEVENTH

re
This is in reply to telegram DX 78167, December 29,
from CG, Eighth Army to Dept. Neither Dept nor War have
records of any International Red Cross inspections of
this camp, whose existence was only revealed after VJ-Day.

Byrne
(asc)

Anal	<i>fmb</i>
Dir	<i>vt</i>
Asst Dir	
Chief Clerk	
Telephone Rm	
Director's Sec'y	
Miss Gandy	

SPD:PWHerrick:erk

TELEGRAPH
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