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INTERNATIONAL PROSECUTION SECTION

Doc. No. 3213

31 Oct 1947

ANALYSIS OF DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

DESCRIPTION OF ATTACHED DOCUMENT

Title and Nature: Statement Signed by K. ITAGAKI Concerning  
Ofuna Temporary POW Camp

Date: on or about Original  Copy  Language: English  
20 May 1946

Has it been translated? Yes  No

LOCATION OF ORIGINAL

IPS Document Division

SOURCE OF ORIGINAL: Legal Section, SCAP

PERSONS IMPLICATED: Ofuna POW Camp Officials

CRIMES TO WHICH DOCUMENT APPLICABLE: Maltreatment of POWs

SUMMARY OF RELEVANT POINTS

Questions and answers concerning Ofuna Temporary POW Camp signed  
by K. ITAGAKI.

Analyst: JAMES HOYT

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To: Captain D. P. Newton, Legal Section, SCIP.

Subject: Ofuna Temporary POW Camp

This is to reply to your oral request concerning the Ofuna Temporary POW Camp as given to me on May 20th, 1946.

1. What connection had Capt. Itagaki with the Ofuna Temporary POW Camp?

Ans. Capt. Itagaki was the official in charge of POW Affairs at the Navy Ministry from August, 1943 and had no direct connection with the Ofuna Temporary POW Camp.

Moreover, as Capt. Itagaki had charge of such multifarious affairs as ceremony, formality, flag-display, regulation of uniforms, protection of military secrets, examination of war prizes and censorship besides that of POW, his visits to the Camp were limited to occasions when he made stopovers at Ofuna on his official visits to Yokosuka. Consequently, he does not know conditions of the Camp in detail.

2. Who were the bureau and division heads at the Navy Ministry who supervised Capt. Itagaki?

Ans. Directors of the Administrative Bureau

Vice-Admiral Takazumi OKA (from Aug., 1943 to July 1944)

Vice-Admiral Takeo TADA (from Aug., 1944 to May 1945)

Vice-Admiral Zenshiro Hoshina (from May 1945 to  
Sept., 1945)

Chiefs of Division, Administrative Bureau

Rear-Admiral Yoshio YAMAMOTO (from Aug., 1943 to July 1945)

Capt. Hiroshi NAGASAWA (from July 1945 to Sept., 1945)

3. Who ordered the establishment of the Ofuna Temporary POW Camp?

Ans. As there was no convenient structure to temporarily accommodate POWs captured by the Navy until such time as they would be handed over to the Army, it was erected by the Yokosuka Naval Station at the order of the Navy Ministry.

4. When was the Ofuna Temporary POW Camp erected?  
Also, from what time were POWs accommodated?

Ans. As there are no records, it cannot be exactly verified but according to the memory of those connected with the matter, it is believed that the camp was erected on April 7, 1942 and POWs were accommodated from that date.

5. Who ordered the accommodation of POWs at Ofuna?

Ans. Whenever POWs were captured by the Navy in Japan or when those captured by the Navy overseas were brought to Japan, orders were issued from the Navy Ministry to the Yokosuka Naval Station which in turn ordered the Yokosuka Naval Guards to have them interned temporarily at Ofuna.

6. Who ordered the transfer of POWs from the Ofuna Camp to the Army?

Ans. Negotiation for transfer to army camps was done by the Navy Ministry and whenever the War Ministry gave its consent, the Navy Ministry ordered the Yokosuka Naval Station which in turn ordered the Yokosuka Naval Guards to carry out the transfer.

/s/ K. ITAGAKI,  
Member of Administrative Bureau,  
Second Demobilization Ministry.

C E R T I F I C A T E

27 October 1947

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the attached document is a true and correct copy of a statement by K. ITAGAKI, which was delivered to Legal Section on or about 20 May 1946 and that the original of said statement is in my custody as assistant Chief, Criminal Registry Division, Legal Section, GHQ, SCAP, Tokyo, Japan, the original cannot be made available immediately as it is required for the trial of minor war criminals.

/s/ Charles W. Willoughby, Major, Inf.  
Ass't. Chief of Criminal Registry  
Division, Legal Section.

CHARGE OUT CLIP

DATE: 30 Jan 1948

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*Returned to source of  
origination of Mr. Newton  
of Legal Section  
mimeographed copy  
enclosed.*

Signature Davis B. Newton

Room # Legal Section