

INTERNATIONAL PROSECUTION SECTION

Doc. No. 1568

8 May 1946

ANALYSIS OF DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

DESCRIPTION OF ATTACHED DOCUMENT

Title and Nature: PW Reports and Pre-Surrender Negotiations

Date: July - Original (x) Copy ( ) Language: Japanese,  
Sept 45 French & English

Has it been translated? Yes ( ) No (x)  
Has it been photostated? Yes ( ) No (x)

LOCATION OF ORIGINAL (also WITNESS if applicable)

Document Division

SOURCE OF ORIGINAL: War Ministry

PERSONS IMPLICATED:

CRIMES TO WHICH DOCUMENT APPLICABLE: Treatment of PWs

SUMMARY OF RELEVANT POINTS (with page references):

File contains the copies of letters addressed to the Supreme Commander of the Allied Powers and their Japanese translations dated from August 16th to 31st, 1945, concerning various questions connected with Japanese surrender.

The other half is composed of original communications sent from Swiss and Swedish Legation in TOKYO connected with tendering of inquiries and requests from the Allied Nations to the Japanese Government; mostly on questions of accommodation and sites of POW camps, visits to such camps by delegates of above Legation and International Red Cross and also on general minor questions concerning POWs and civil internees in Japan and her occupied regions. References made to tardiness in answering and granting permission.

Analyst: 2nd Lt. Miwa

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Title and Nature: P.W. Reports and Pre-Surrender Negotiations.

Date: ~~Aug 1945~~ July - Sept 45 Original (X) Copy ( ) Language:

Has it been translated? Yes ( ) No (X) Japanese.  
Has it been photostated? Yes ( ) No (X) English.

LOCATION OF ORIGINAL (also WITNESS if applicable)

Loc. Ohio.

SOURCE OF ORIGINAL: War Ministry

PERSONS IMPLICATED:

CRIMES TO WHICH DOCUMENT APPLICABLE:

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Treatment of P.Ws.

SUMMARY OF RELEVANT POINTS (with page references):

(See attached page)

Analyst: 2D Lt Miwa  
LHW

Doc. No.

Proj No. 210  
Item No. 8

1568

~~This file belongs to the Foreign Ministry.  
Period: July 1944 - August 1945.~~

About half of the file contains the copies of letters addressed to the Supreme Commander of the Allied Powers and their Japanese translations dated from August 16th to 31st, 1945 concerning various questions connected with Japanese surrenders, etc.

The other half is composed of original communication sent from Swiss and Swedish Legations in TOKYO ~~in~~ connected with tendering of inquiries and requests from the Allied Nations to the Japanese Government; mostly on questions of accommodation and sites of POW camps, visits to such camps by delegates of above Legation and International Red Cross and also on general minor questions concerning POWs and civil internees in JAPAN and her occupied regions. References made to ~~Swiss and Swedish Legations~~ in ~~answering~~ ~~and~~ granting permission. ~~Reports tendered in~~

Replies from Japanese government

Trial translation of the verbal note of  
the Swiss Legation at Kaniyama dated 26 June 1945  
addressed to the foreign office

By the verbal notes dated 23 Jan and 20 March  
this year, the Swiss Legation reported to the Japanese  
Government that "U.S.A. Government, according  
its communication, is presenting the complete  
list of the camps of p.o.w.s, where Japanese are  
being kept, to the International Committee  
every week".

On that list, numbers of officers, warrant  
officers, common soldiers and protected  
persons are described. Washington-  
government, however, told us that it  
had not got any such information from  
the side of Japanese government.

Therefore, U.S.A. government demanded  
through us that Japanese government send the  
list of the camps where American p.o.w.s  
are kept with the indication of the location  
of the camps and inform the numbers of  
officers, non-commissioned officers and

- Q. To the best of your knowledge neither 11th Air Sector or 4th Air Division ever contacted 2nd Air Division on the matter?
- A. They did not as far as I know.
- Q. Anything preventing this liaison?
- A. No.
- Q. Were any written documents, notes, reports, or comments ever made by 4th Air Division regarding any phase of the atrocity or wireless report?
- A. I never saw any; I also don't know whether or not TSUJI or KAWAMORITA made any written record.
- Q. Was not this incident involving the disposal of POWs important enough to record, or was it merely overlooked?
- A. It should have been recorded by Division.
- Q. If any documents were made on the subject, where would they have been kept?
- A. By KAWAMORITA or TSUJI.
- Q. If they were destroyed at a later date who would have been responsible for carrying this out and when would it have taken place?
- A. The destroying of documents would have taken place in June 1945 probably by MAEJIMA.
- Q. To the best of your memory, when was the last date that this atrocity wireless report was discussed by any of the staff officers from Division Headquarters?
- A. End of November 1944 at Division Headquarters, after MAEJIMA and KAWAMORITA returned from Bacolod, Negros.
- Q. Would you consider that this wireless murder report was one of the most important messages ever brought to your attention, indicating not only a wholesale atrocity, but also indicating the emergency angle and adverse tactical position of the Japanese garrison, since you have already stated that the war conditions were growing more critical for the Imperial Japanese Army?
- A. Yes, it was one of the most important messages I ever received.
- Q. Since you were unable to get a repeat wireless message concerning this incident, did this have any special significance to you?
- A. Yes. I felt that probably our garrison on Palawan was facing an adverse tactical position and maybe going through a period of emergency. I also realized the inadequacy of the communications system between Manila and Palawan.
- Q. Since you have testified that the inability to contact the 131st Airfield Bn. did create problems in your own mind regarding the security of that garrison, was it not important to investigate the situation involving a Japanese Garrison strategically located carrying out a mission of a communications life-line between Luzon and within Jap occupied areas?
- A. Yes. From the point of view of gathering intelligence information it was very important to know the true conditions at Palawan. At this time we lacked personnel at Division Headquarters and were pressed for time.

Sanitary men who are kept there, to the International Committee of the Red Cross, and the interest protecting Country speedily.

U.S.H government desires such report once a month at least.

As we have not yet received your reply until now, this Legation wishes to call the attention of the Foreign office of Japan.

to the staff officer who dispatches it to the Signal Section and then it is handled as mentioned above.

The channels employed in receiving messages are as follows:

- 1) If directed to Chief of Staff, it passes through communications center, Division Signal Section, (deciphered), responsible staff officers, and finally to me.
- 2) If directed to Division commander, the message follows the above given steps, and is passed from me to the general, himself.
- 3) If directed to the highest ranking adjutant or department head, it follows the same channels and is passed directly from division signal section to the responsible agent.

Q. When disruption of communications took place between various areas within the 4th Air Division zone of control, was an investigation of the obstruction and delay carried out by the communications center and an explanation or report made to your headquarters?

A. Yes. Major TSUJI, holding down two assignments, division signal staff officer and 2nd Air Communications staff officer was directed by me to investigate all disruption of communications effecting our command, and to make personally a verbal report to me on the matter.

Q. Discuss the liaison carried on between 4th and 2nd Air Divisions during 1944, stating the type of liaison employed, method of employment, restrictions, if any, communication system available, and 2nd Air Division officers contacted.

A. I. Period: May- June 1944

At this time 2nd Air Division was located at Clark, 4th Air Division at Bacolod, and 4th Air Army in Manila.

- 1) liaison communication: Wireless and planes.
- 2) liaison matters: Deployment of Sector units, construction and repair of airfields, situation and location of fuel and ammunition dumps.

- 14 -      Japanese characters  
   Japanese Han

3) Frequency of liaison: once in ten days.

II. June 1944 - Middle October 1944.

2nd Air Division - Clark Field

4th Air Division - Manila

4th Air Army - Manila.

- 1) Liaison communication: Wireless, planes, vehicle.
- 2) Liaison matters:
  1. Deployment of Sector units.
  2. Construction and repair of airfields.
  3. Situation and location of fuel and ammunition dumps.

From:  
Suzuzki

To :  
Military Affairs Bur  
Chief.  
POW I. B. Chief.

Subject:  
Location of POW Camps

Date:  
27 June 1945



27. June 1945

From Minister Suzuki,

To Chief of p.o.w.s Information Bureau  
Chief of Military Affairs Bureau of  
War Ministry.

Matter re the location of the Camps of  
p.o.w.s and internees.

I enclose herewith the ~~trial translation of the~~ verbal note of  
Swiss Legation.

(verbal note of 28. april 1945 is to be  
attached hereto)

(The gist of the contents of attached paper)  
Trial translation of the note of 28 april  
1945 from Swiss Legation at Kariyagawa.  
(cc 1.1.2 - F.4.1.)

By 2 letters, one is dated 26 january & 2 march  
addressed to SHIGEMITSU Foreign Minister, the other is  
dated 10 april addressed to Suzuki, Foreign Minister,

Swiss Legation, requested you, in the names of  
U.S.A Government and British Government, that  
Camps of p.o.w.s and internees which are close to  
military objectives to be removed.

The said letters have not been replied  
until now, Swiss Legation is desirous of to

- Q. To the best of your knowledge neither 11th Air Sector or 4th Air Division ever contacted 2nd Air Division on the matter?
- A. They did not as far as I know.
- Q. Anything preventing this liaison?
- A. No.
- Q. Were any written documents, notes, reports, or comments ever made by 4th Air Division regarding any phase of the atrocity or wireless report?
- A. I never saw any; I also do not know whether or not TSUJI or KAWAMORITA made any written record.
- Q. Was not this incident involving the disposal of POWs important enough to record, or was it merely overlooked?
- A. It should have been recorded by Division.
- Q. If any documents were made on the subject, where would they have been kept?
- A. By KAWAMORITA or TSUJI.
- Q. If they were destroyed at a later date who would have been responsible for carrying this out and when would it have taken place?
- A. The destroying of documents would have taken place in June 1945 probably by MAEJIMA.
- Q. To the best of your memory, when was the last date that this atrocity wireless report was discussed by any of the staff officers from Division Headquarters?
- A. End of November 1944 at Division Headquarters, after MAEJIMA and KAWAMORITA returned from Bacolod, Negros.
- Q. Would you consider that this wireless murder report was one of the most important messages ever brought to your attention, indicating not only a wholesale atrocity, but also indicating the emergency angle and adverse tactical position of the Japanese garrison, since you have already stated that the war conditions were growing more critical for the Imperial Japanese Army?
- A. Yes, it was one of the most important messages I ever received.
- Q. Since you were unable to get a repeat wireless message concerning this incident, did this have any special significance to you?
- A. Yes. I felt that probably our garrison on Palawan was facing an adverse tactical position and maybe going through a period of emergency. I also realized the inadequacy of the communications system between Manila and Palawan.
- Q. Since you have testified that the inability to contact the 131st Airfield Bn. did create problems in your own mind regarding the security of that garrison, was it not important to investigate the situation involving a Japanese Garrison strategically located carrying out a mission of a communications life-line between Luzon and within Jap occupied areas?
- A. Yes. From the point of view of gathering intelligence information it was very important to know the true conditions at Palawan. At this time we lacked personnel at Division Headquarters and were pressed for time.

Know the opinion of your government on this  
important question of the Camps of p.o.w.s and  
internees.

- Q. To the best of your knowledge neither 11th Air Sector or 4th Air Division ever contacted 2nd Air Division on the matter?
- A. They did not as far as I know.
- Q. Anything preventing this liaison?
- A. No.
- Q. Were any written documents, notes, reports, or comments ever made by 4th Air Division regarding any phase of the atrocity or wireless report?
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~~Use this~~  
Extracted for

here  
letter of President  
Lygia M Kawachi

14 Aug 45  
and letter for POVID  
to Suzuki in  
reply

for use in Tamura  
case

Dec 2, 48

attenu

From:  
Suzuki

To:  
Chief, POW I. B.

Subject:  
Removal of Netherlands POWs from  
dangerous camps  
close to military  
objectives.

Date:  
6 July 1945

6. July 1945.

Signed by  
Inbuge Consul General

From Minister Suzuki, In the business room of the  
Foreign office handling the matters re to the  
Japanese residents in enemy countries.

Signed  
by  
Suzuki

To Chief of the p.o.w.s Information Bureau.

Matter re Request of Netherlands Government  
to remove Netherlands p.o.w.s kept in the Camps  
at Kawasaki, Yokohama and others to the places  
of safety.

Regarding to this subject ~~Swedish~~ Legation  
proposed us verbally  
as per attache's note of 14 May,  
please look thereinto through and reply us  
your opinion.

(Gist of the Contents of the attached paper)

(Trial translation of the note of the Swedish  
Legation of 14. May 1945: part of B-46)

We, representing the interest of the Netherlands  
Government, request your attention to the fact  
that some of Netherlands p.o.w.s are now kept  
in the Camps at such places as Kawasaki,  
Yokohama and others which should be

- Q. To the best of your knowledge neither 11th Air Sector or 4th Air Division ever contacted 2nd Air Division on the matter?
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- A. Yes. From the point of view of gathering intelligence information it was very important to know the true conditions at Palawan. At this time we lacked personnel at Division Headquarters and were pressed for time.



considered to be dangerous zones because they are located close to the military objectives

We desire the help of your foreign office to transfer the p.o.w.s to places of safety without delay.

From:  
Suzuki

To:  
Chief, POW I.B.

Subject:  
Inspection of POW  
Camps.

Date:  
13 Jan 1945

13 Jan. 1945.

From Minister Suzuki, In the business room of  
Foreign office handling matters re. to Japanese  
residents in enemy countries.

To Chief of the P.O.W.s Information Bureau.

Matter re the transmitting the verbal note  
received from the Swiss Legation re. to the  
visiting of P.O.W.s Camps in Japan.

Swiss Legation in Japan requested us as  
per attached verbal note re to  
the visit to P.O.W.s Camps in Japan, which  
we transmit to you herewith; please  
note thereof through and deal with it  
properly.

(Gist of the contents of the  
verbal note)

Trial translation of the verbal note of  
Swiss Legation of 16 Nov. 1944.)

(Matter re the visit of Camps of P.O.W.s)

- Q. Who else was in your presence at the time you were given this verbal notification?  
A. A few of 4th Air Army Staff officers - probably, Lt. Col. SATO for one.
- Q. Was Lt. Gen. TOMINAGA present?  
A. I don't believe so.
- Q. At the time you were called to Army headquarters for this verbal notification of change in area command, were you aware of the fact that you were being called for this specific purpose, since this matter might have previously been aired and rumored?  
A. No.
- Q. Were any other commanders, division or of sector level, other than yourself, called in at the time you were?  
A. No.
- Q. How was this notification presented to you? In other words, was a consultation, conference, or discussion held?  
A. It was given in the form of an order during a conference.
- Q. Were you given any chance to present an opinion or recommendation?  
A. No.
- Q. How long did this meeting last?  
A. I just cannot recall.
- Q. Were any other matters discussed other than change in area command?  
A. No.
- Q. Was this order read off to you by the Chief of Staff?  
A. No, it was given to me orally.
- Q. Any explanation of the order made to you?  
A. No.
- Q. Did you have a complete understanding of the order?  
A. Yes.

- Q. Did you take written notes?  
A. No.
- Q. What questions, if any, did you ask?  
A. None.
- Q. Was a map used at the time the order was read to you?  
A. Yes.
- Q. What kind of a map was it?  
A. It was a Japanese Air Corps map of the entire Philippine Islands about the size of the top of a regular desk.

We had the honour to ask you several times as to the question of visiting Camps of p.o.w.s.

The Legation have been able to visit the p.o.w.s Camps at Nagoya, Niigata, Kawasaki (Tokyo), Hakodate, & Wakayama, But there are some Camps of p.o.w.s which have not been visited for a long time and many p.o.w.s Camps which have never been visited by the delegate of the interest representing country.

So we would appreciate very much if you would show us the Names of such Camps of p.o.w.s to be visited by the delegate of the Legation and the dates thereof.

As your foreign office know, both Governments of U.S.A. & Britain consider this matter very important, and they desired such p.o.w.s Camps should be visited as speedily as possible by Swiss Legation.

From:  
Suzuki

To:  
Chief, Military Aff.  
Bureau  
Chief, POW I. B.

Subject:  
Sending of missiona  
aries to POW camps.

Date:  
24 March 1945

copy

24. March 1945

From Minister Suzuki, In the business room of Foreign  
office handling the matter re to  
Japanese residents in enemy countries

To Chief of the P.O.W.s Information Bureau.

Chief of the Military Affairs Bureau of the War Ministry

Re the matter of sending missionaries to P.O.W.s Camps.

● Regarding <sup>the</sup> above subject, Swiss Legation in  
Tokyo transmitted to us the proposal of the British  
Government. The details of the proposal is in  
attached paper, please see it through and give  
us your instruction how to reply for it.

● (The gist of the contents of the paper attached <sup>hereto</sup>)  
Trial translation of a verbal note of the Swiss  
Legation in Tokyo of 22 Feb. 1945.

British government got <sup>the</sup> knowledge from Japan  
that, of P.O.W.s those who believe in the religion  
of English Church and Catholic and who have  
no priests nor fathers among themselves <sup>inside the camps</sup> are  
desirous for receiving the Holy Bread in the  
religious services of Mass.

Therefore the government proposed through us  
to you that one catholic father and one  
protestant priest are to be allowed to visit  
each camp of p.o.w.s. according to the article  
16 of the treaty of p.o.w.s.

An English doctor inside the principal camp  
is reported to visit the branches thereof.  
(being allowed)

- The same treatment is proper to be applied to religious  
fathers.



From:  
Chief, POW I. B.

To: /  
Suzuki

Re:  
Request of Brit.  
Govt for religious  
ministrations for  
POWs.

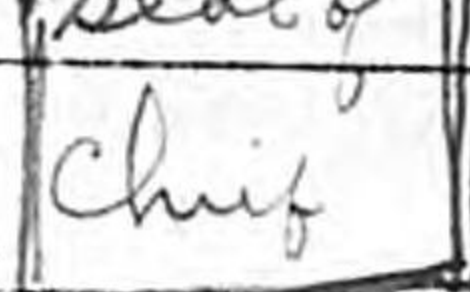
Date:  
10 August 1945

Secretary written  
Tobushima in Pencil.

Reply to the request of the British Government regarding  
to sending religious Bishops of Catholic and protest-  
ant to the p.o.w. Camps.

Seal of Hokichi

10 August 1945

From Chief of the p.o.w. Information Bureau,   
To Minister Suzuki, In the business room of Foreign  
Office, handling matters relating to  
Japanese residents in enemy countries.

● Re the matter referred to in the note no. 306. of 25<sup>th</sup> June,  
We reply as follows.

In regard to the religious services, all possible  
facilities are permitted at present, for instance, at the  
occasion of Xmas, Easter and others, religious  
● services have been observed through a father or  
a priest among p.o.w.s themselves or by inviting  
Japanese missionaries so far as there has been no  
administrative obstruction.

And in future, the same shall be as at present.

Therefore we don't see any necessity of newly sending  
Catholic and protestant fathers <sup>and priests</sup> to the p.o.w. Camps, and  
also for some other reasons we cannot accept  
the request.

25 June 1945

Inouye Consul general  
Signed

From Minister Suzuki

Suzuki Signed

To Chief of the P.O.W. Information Bureau.

Matter re proposal of the British government regarding to allot Catholic and Protestant Bishops to P.O.W. Camps.

Swiss Legation transmitted to us the British government's proposal to attach each one Catholic and Protestant missionaries to each P.O.W. camp as per attached paper. by the verbal note of 23 April. please note thereof through and your kind attention thereto and your opinion about the matter is desired.

(True translation of  
The verbal note of 23 April is to be  
attached hereto).

Trial Translation of the verbal note  
of Swiss Legation of 23 April 1945 addressed  
to Foreign Office. CC 1.5.1.2 - FGC.

Swiss Legation informed to the Foreign  
Office of Japan by the verbal note of 22 Feb.  
that the British government had been highly  
desirous that more greater facilities are to  
be given to POWs in the Orient in regard to  
● the holding the Religious services.

British government proposed in this  
respect that to each group of camp  
each one Catholic and one Protestant  
Priest to be allotted and these bishops  
shall be allowed to visit different camps  
● which belong to that one group of Camps.

This Legation wants to know if this  
step has been <sup>already</sup> taken by Japanese  
government.

From:  
Suzuki

To:  
Chief, POW I.B.

Subject:  
Request of Brit Govt  
for priests and  
protestant ministers  
for POWs.

Date:  
25 June 1945

From:  
Chief POW I. B.

To:  
Suzuki

Re:  
Purchase of goods  
for POWs.

Date:  
22 June 1945

22. June 1945.

Seal of  
Japanda

Reply to the representative of the  
international committee of the Red Cross regarding to the  
relief and aid to enemy personels.

From the Chief of the P.O.W's Information Bureau  
To Minister Suzuki, In the business room of Foreign office  
dealing with matters relating to Japanese  
residents in enemy countries.

Seal of  
The Chief

We reply to your note no. 267 of 21 May as follows.

1. To the matter re buying and furnishing of Milk  
cows and farming tools for the use of Hospitals by  
[Scheitzer], we have no objection so far as the army in  
the places has no objection thereto.

2. In the note 267, it is mentioned that "Can the  
authorities of Camps in Singapore allow the  
representative of the International Committee of the  
Red Cross to buy and send by that representative  
...", but the buying and sending of relief goods  
is to be admitted by an individual capacity,  
and the activities in the capacity of the delegate  
of the International Committee of the Red Cross can  
not be allowed.

Vertical text on the right margin, possibly a stamp or administrative note, partially illegible.

From:  
Swiss Legation

To:  
Foreign Ministry

Subject:  
Repetition of British  
and U.S. demands  
that POWs be removed  
from camps in danger  
of bombing.