

No. 1452

RESTRICTED

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
UNITED STATES ARMY FORCES, PACIFIC
WAR CRIMES BRANCH

4 February 1946

MEMORANDUM TO: Prosecution Section (Report No. 189)

THRU : Executive Officer, War Crimes Branch

SUBJECT : Mistreatment and imprisonment under improper conditions of American prisoners of war at Corregidor, P. I., during summer of 1942.

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II. SUMMARY OF EVIDENCE:

The record of investigation in subject case is composed entirely of statements of repatriated American prisoners of war. These statements have been selected from a large number of such statements which were taken either in the United States or at the 29th Replacement Depot on Luzon, and it is believed that these statements accurately portray conditions at the prison camp on Corregidor. The facts are:

Shortly after the capitulation of Corregidor, approximately ten thousand American and Filipino prisoners of war were crowded into a small area, formerly the 92nd Coast Artillery Corps Garage area. Conditions were so crowded that the prisoners were unable to move during the night without disturbing sleeping companions who were packed side by side. No shelter whatsoever was furnished to protect the prisoners from the rain or from the heat of the sun. Sanitary facilities consisted only of an open slit trench, and no chemicals or disinfectants were made available to improve the sanitary conditions. Water was obtained from two wells which were sunk below sea level, and the water was salty and unpalatable. The prisoners were given inadequate food, although ample supplies were available and stored in the tunnels of Corregidor (R 15, 16, 17, 19, 26). The men were forced to load captured American supplies on Japanese ships (R 26). Many of the prisoners were suffering from illness, some had been wounded in combat, and all were suffering from the privations endured in the days preceding the surrender. Yet in spite of the great need for medicine and medical care, none was furnished (R 13, 26). The Japanese guards brutally beat the American prisoners at the slightest provocation or for minor infractions of the rules (R 4, 9, 13, 20, 22). As a result of the above conditions and treatment, many of the prisoners died (R 20, 36).

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