

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
UNITED STATES ARMY FORCES, PACIFIC
OFFICE OF THE THEATER JUDGE ADVOCATE
WAR CRIMES BRANCH

APO 500
18 October 1945

MEMORANDUM TO: Prosecution Section (Report #76)
THRU: Executive Officer, War Crimes Branch
SUBJECT: Crimes Against Allied Prisoners of War
at Bilibid Prison, Manila, Luzon, P.I.,
from May 1942 to February 1945.

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II. SUMMARY OF EVIDENCE:

A detailed summary of the evidence contained in the attached fifty-three sworn statements of witnesses and forty-six unsworn statements or memorandums would serve no useful purpose. Suffice it to say that these statements contain ample evidence to prove that from May 1942 until its fall to American forces in February 1945, the conditions at Old Bilibid Prison, Manila, P.I., were atrocious.

a. The cells were grossly over-crowded and sanitation facilities were non-existent or extremely crude (Exhibits 1-11). The regular diet consisted of a maximum of seven hundred to eight hundred calories a day and during the worst periods, the prisoners received only two meals a day consisting of one-half and three-fourths of a canteen cup of rice respectively (R 15-21).

b. The little food actually issued to the prisoners was often contaminated, resulting in many cases of dysentery and diarrhea. Beri-beri was also prevalent (R 11-14). On one occasion eight persons died from dysentery, no hospitalization having been provided (R 24).

c. American prisoners of war frequently resorted to eating garbage from the scrap cans and pig troughs. Captain NOGI, Medical Director, was apparently responsible for these conditions (R 2, 113-115).

d. American prisoners were beaten with sticks and baseball bats, often to insensibility. A Major R. B. PRAGER, 26th Cavalry, was hanged by the wrists for sixty hours and a Major Thomas S. JONES of the same unit for eighteen hours in September and October 1943 (R 89, 90).

e. About three thousand prisoners slept on concrete floors without bedding or mosquitoanets. There were three showers for their use (R 36).

g. In 1942 a prisoner escaped from Old Bilibid. Fifteen hundred prisoners were placed on a diet of straight rice for three months as punishment (R 141-143).

h. On 11 or 12 October 1944 twelve hundred prisoners were evacuated from Bilibid Prison to the dock area in Manila Bay which was then subjected to an Allied bombing raid (R 129-131).

i. On about 19 June 1942, Japanese army personnel at Old Bilibid Prison confiscated all quinine and medical supplies brought by prisoners of war from the hospital at "Little Baguio" (R 15, 16).

j. Confiscated Red Cross supplies originally destined for Allied prisoners of war were stored in General YAMASHITA's Headquarters in Manila. The number of these boxes was estimated to be more than a thousand (R 151-152).

The above mentioned incidents are merely representative examples of the uniformly brutal treatment accorded to prisoners of war at Old Bilibid by the Japanese.

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