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BBC

Jan. 24, 1944

17:00

U. S. GOVERNMENT: ISSUES REPORT ON JAPANESE ATROCITY

The United States Army and Navy authorities have issued an official report on Japanese atrocity on American and Filipino prisoners at Bataan and Corregidor in the Philippines. The report is based on sworn statements by American officers who escaped from Japanese prison camps. He says that many Americans have died from starvation, forced labor and general brutality. At one camp about 2,300 Americans died in April and May of 1942. In another 4,000 Americans died by October 1942. After the surrender of Bataan in 1942. And in what is described as the March of Death American prisoners were strapped and beaten up as they marched in the sun without food or water.

WASHINGTON: DISCLOSES JAPANESE ATROCITY BECAUSE
RELIEF NOT PERMITTED

KWID Jan. 29, 1944 18:00

White House Secretary Stephen Early made the disclosure today that the Japanese Government will not permit the United States Government to send food, material aid, or supplies to United States and Filipino soldiers now Japan's prisoners of war.

This, said Early, is the reason the United States Government last night authorized the publications of accounts of Japanese atrocities against prisoners of war. He said this information has been known for some time by this government, but it had been withheld while there was any hope of transmitting relief to the prisoners in Japan's hands.

Early said, "The time has come for releasing the factual reports which have been carefully investigated and authenticated because we cannot expect to get further relief to our prisoners of war now in the hands of the Japanese."

SAN FRANCISCO KWID Jan. 29, 1944 7:00

PRISONERS OF WAR: JAPANESE ILL-TREAT PRISONERS OF WAR

The Secretary of State, Mr. Cordell Hull, released a statement of the treatment of prisoners of war in Japanese hands. A great many of them died of starvation on two Japanese prison camps in October of 1942. We wrote the statement by Secretary of State.

"According to the reports of cruelty and inhumanity it would be necessary to summon the representatives of all the demons available anywhere and combine the fiendishness with all that is (bloody) in order to describe the conduct of those who inflicted these unthinkable (atrocities) on the Americans and Filipinos."

The escaped American officers in their statement indicated several instances of Japanese atrocities. They said that the Japanese forces sometimes wantonly murdered thousands of American and Filipino soldiers captured in Bataan and Corregidor in the Philippines.

They stated that at least 5,200 American soldiers died mostly of starvation at two prison camps in October 1942. 36,000 American and Filipino soldiers have been captured in those campaigns said Colonel White, former Domestic Director of the Office of War Information and that most of the prisoners have been murdered.

PRISONERS OF WAR: EDEN REPORTS TO HOUSE OF COMMONS ON PRISONERS OF WAR

In London, British Foreign Secretary, Anthony Eden, told the House of Commons, that some thousands of British, Chinese, Burmese and Indian war prisoners and internees also have died in Japanese prison camps. He said that specific atrocities have been told by escapees.

Eden said that British protests have drawn unsatisfactory results from Japan. He said that the Japanese were violating not only International Law but all human, decent civilized conduct. He warned the Japanese government that in time to come the record of their military atrocities in this war will not be forgotten.

KWID

Jan. 29, 1944

8:00

JAPANESE ATROCITIES: DESCRIPTION GIVEN

Here are some of them, factually based upon the personal experiences and observations of the three escaped officers.

Prisoners reduced in weight from 200 pounds to 90 pounds in some cases. Some of them found with Japanese money or souvenirs on their persons were beheaded or bayoneted. A few American and Filipino men were buried alive. Numerous prisoners were beaten, whipped, and shot when they begged for food and water.

Many were forced to strip naked for hours in the hot sun. Many of them were forced on long marches without food or water and made to do labor when they were not physically able to do so. Some bodies of the soldiers were run over by Japanese trucks.

HULL: MAKES STATEMENT ON JAPANESE ATROCITY TO PRISONERS

Secretary of State Cordell Hull made the following formal statement:

"According to the reports of cruelty and inhumanity, it will be necessary to summon to assemble together all the -- available from any here and combine the fiendishness which all of them embody in order to describe the conduct of those who inflicted those unthinkable tortures on Americans and Filipinos."

Mr. Hull said that repeated protests have been lodged with Tokyo but to no apparent avail.

He said that it is not known what happened to the food and supplies previously sent to the prisoners aboard the liner, "Gripsholm."

He said that efforts, nonetheless, will be continued to obtain release of war prisoners.

He said this government is assembling all possible facts concerning Japanese treatment of war prisoners, and it intends to seek full punishment of the responsible Japanese authorities.

Oct. 23, 1944

MACARTHUR'S WARNING

Army News Service

MACARTHUR'S GHQ, October 22.---General MacArthur issued a warning to the Japanese military leaders that as commander-in-chief of the American invasion forces, he will hold the enemy leaders immediately responsible for any failure to accord prisoners and internees proper treatment. MacArthur addressed his warning to the Japanese Field Marshal, Count Terauchi, who is commander-in-chief of the Japanese military forces in the Philippines.

The General said, the surrender of the United States and Philippines forces in previous campaigns was made with the belief that they would receive the dignity and honor and protection of military prisoners as provided by the rules and customs of war. Since then unimpeachable evidence has been received of the degradation and even brutality to which these prisoners have been subjected in violation of the most sacred code of martial honor.

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Seishiro OGAWA, hereby certify that I was officially connected with the Japanese Government in the following capacity: Acting Chief of Fourth Section of Research Bureau from November 1, 1942 to June 30, 1943; that during the war enemy radio station broadcasts were regularly recorded in the Japanese Foreign Office; that transcripts were regularly made of those recordings and the transcripts distributed regularly to all sections of the Foreign Office and also to the Board of Information, the Navy Ministry and the War Ministry; that transcripts of those recordings have been on file with our office.

/s/ Seishiro Ogawa

Signature of Official

SEAL

Acting Chief of Fourth Section
of Research Bureau from
November 1 1942 to June 30, 1943
Official Capacity

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Yasuhiko NARA, hereby certify that I am officially connected with the Japanese Government in my capacity as Secretary in the Public Relations Office of the Foreign Office; that the five documents hereto attached are transcripts of recordings of enemy radio broadcasts regarding treatment of allied prisoners of war recorded during the period from January 24, 1944 to December 19, 1944, which are described as follows:

- p.1) BBC Jan. 24, 1944, 17:00 - U.S. Government: Issues Report on Japanese Atrocity
- p.2) San Francisco KWID Jan. 29, 1944, 7:00 Prisoners of War; Japanese Ill-treat prisoners of war
- p.3) KWID, Jan. 29, 8:00 Japanese Atrocities: Description Given
- p.4) KWID, Jan. 29, 1944 18:00, Washington: Discloses Japanese Atrocity because relief not permitted.
- p.5) Oct. 23, 1944. MacArthur's Warning.

/s/ Yasuhiko Nara

Signature of Official

SEAL

Secretary in the Public Relations Office of the Foreign Office

Official Capacity

Witness:

/s/ Hideki Maki