

Exhibit No. 3048

(22)

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INTERNATIONAL MILITARY TRIBUNAL FOR THE FAR EAST
THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND OTHER COUNTRIES
against
ARAKI, Sadao and others

SWORN DEPOSITION

Deponent: SUZUKI, Kunji

as
Having first duly sworn an oath on attached sheet and in
accordance with the procedure followed in my country I hereby depose as
follows.

I, SUZUKI Kunji, was born in Hyogo Prefecture on 6 January 1893.
After graduating from the Military Academy in 1913, I served in various
military offices, and I was the Chief of the Tokyo War Prisoners' Camp
from September 12, 1942 to April, 1944.

I am now confined in Sugamo Prison.

I will state as follows about "Instruction of the War Minister to the
new Chiefs of the War Prisoners' Camp". (Exhibit 1962).

1. September 29, 1942, when joint education of the newly appointed
Chiefs of the War Prisoners' Camp and its staff was given at the War
Ministry, which I attended as the Chief of the War Prisoners' Camp.
Lt. General KAMIMURA, Mikio, the Chief of the Prisoners' of War Control
Bureau read the War Minister's instruction for the Minister.

Neither War Minister TOJO nor Vice- Minister KIMURA was present at the lecture.

2. Lt. General KAMIMURA, after reading the instructions, explained it as follows:

a. "In regard to the treatment of the war prisoners, it is natural that you should be faithful to its righteous execution according to the rules, so that you should manifest the impartial attitude of the Empire as it really is, to the world; nevertheless, you must supervise them rigidly insofar as you do not become inhuman - - - - " expressed in the instruction, means as follows:

The treatment of war prisoners ought to be carried out according to the War Prisoner Treatment Rule and its by-law. Especially, "War prisoners must be treated with the spirit of benevolence and should never be insulted or ill-treated" provided in Article 11 of the War Prisoner Treatment Rule, should be observed. But great care must be taken so that no untoward incident should happen. In short moderation and refraining from both warm treatment and ill treatment is essential in the treatment of war prisoners.

b. "War prisoners should not pass ^{even} a day eating the bread of idleness, but their labor and skill must be used for the purpose of increasing production - - - - " expressed in the instruction, means as follows:

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Today we, the whole nation of Japan, regardless of sex and age, are exerting ourselves according to our abilities to the utmost to increase production in the country, trying to overcome pressing shortages of labor. Therefore, the war prisoners also should render service to the increase of production, filling the shortage of labor, in proportion to their health, ability and special skills, respectively.

Viewing from existing pressing shortage of labor, it is good that the war prisoners do not pass even a day eating the bread of idleness. But it is not good that they be forced to work without consideration for their health, ability or special skills. Technical experts and skilled hands should be considered so as to be given the opportunity to display their special skill or ability and kept away from fatigue duties.

The present war will not easily come to an end. It will perhaps be a long war. Therefore, we should make it our motto that we make a reasonable and efficient use of war prisoners, refraining from force and impatience. For that purpose we must take their health and ability into consideration and allow them reasonable holidays.

If we mistreat them, and cause sickness or death, it will be most unfavorable to Japan.

c. At the closing, Lt. General KAMIMURA emphasized that in brief the cardinal principle of the treatment of war prisoners depended upon impartiality in treating them based on the principle laid down in the above-mentioned Article 11 of the War Prisoner Treatment Rule. KAMIMURA said that the instruction of the War Minister is therefore nothing but enlargement of this principle.

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3. When I met Lt. General KAMIMURA, he told me as follows:

"The Chiefs of the war prisoners' camp such as you, well know that war prisoners should be fairly treated, according to the War Prisoner Treatment Rule and War Minister's instructions. But needless to say that you must be always be cautious of things which attract the Japanese public's attention. You must beware of causing feelings unfavorable to the war prisoners, among the people who are having great difficulties in getting daily commodities, by making it appear that prisoners are enjoying too good treatment. But you should never fail in treating them justly.

For instance, recently a number of the municipal assembly men visited the Paymasters' Department of the Imperial Guard Division and asked, "Why is it that we, the citizens of Tokyo, cannot eat a bit of meat while meat is given to the war prisoners?" Before this time the citizens of Tokyo had seen pork being transported in a truck for prisoners' food. The Chief of the Paymasters' Department barely succeeded in mollifying them by earnestly explaining the circumstances. I UEMURA have also experienced cases of this kind. I hope you will all see through these delicate mental conditions of the citizens and beware of exciting the Japanese people without reason.

4. Upon the other part of the Minister's instruction, I, SUZUKI, put my interpretation as follows and put it into practice:

a. "As to the treatment of war prisoners there is a difference between the way of our country and those of European and American countries due to inconsistent ideas as to the war prisoner." ---expressed in the instruction, means that though in the countries in Europe and America the war prisoners

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are regarded and treated as "honorable war prisoners", in this country they are treated throughout with sympathy and pity as "pitiful war prisoners".

In our country it is considered from old time the greatest disgrace that we, the Japanese, be taken prisoners. But as to enemies who surrendered giving up their arms, it is thought to accord with the spirit of the "Bushido" that we treat them throughout with benevolence and pity.

b. "You must endeavor to make the people in the occupied areas know the superiority of the Japanese race and believe that they consider it the highest honor to be Japanese subjects sharing in the boundless benevolence of the Emperor." --- expressed in the instruction, is in brief that the Japanese are required to display their excellent character, not to insult the war prisoners or to be puffed up with pride.

Among foreigners and even Japanese there are some who think that the Japanese nation is inferior to the European and American nations in a moral sense. So we must make them know that the Japanese people are not inferior insofar as morality and sense of justice is concerned and further, it is necessary to make them know the world-wide beneficence of the Japanese Emperor through the fair treatment of prisoners of war.

I, as the Chief of the Tokyo War Prisoners' Camp, have been discharging my duty in the treatment of the war prisoners for a year and a half. While in office I did always my best, observing Lt. General KAMAMURA's explanation on the War Minister's instruction and my own views, to say nothing of conforming to the War Prisoner Treatment Rule and other provisions. I will show you some examples:

1. In order to drive home the foregoing instruction of the War Minister, I often summoned the Chiefs of the Branch War Prisoners' Camps to call their attention to it and never failed to seize the opportunity to inspect the places where the war prisoners were working, so that they might not be subjected to unreasonable imposing of labor. On account of this measure, I never found in any camp any prisoner who was forced to labor in disregard of his rank, health or ability.

2. As to food rationing, we gave more than the fixed quantity by rules, which was 420 grams for officers and 570 for other ranks. These figures actually given varied to the following figures as the supplies varied:

786 gram -- 650 gram -- 690 gram --

786 gram -- 660 gram -- 740 gram --

All prisoners, officers and other ranks got the same rations. Compared with the ration of the Japanese at that time, A-Class -- 330 gram, B-Class -- 390 gram, and C-Class (heavy workers) -- 540 gram, even the minimum quantity to the prisoners was 110 gram more than what was allotted to the Japanese heavy workers. In addition, the prisoners were each given a rice ball a day which was about 70 gram on the average at his post, so the quantity which was given substantially, was nevertheless than 720 gram.

3. It was the food for the sick persons that we most worried about. We gave them bread of the best quality which was made by the Meiji Cake Producing Company; those in serious condition were given particularly milk and eggs though the quantity was small, which were supplied for neither the old nor sick persons among the Japanese except that women in pregnancy or

childbirth were apportioned a small amount.

4. As to the laboring of officers ~~and non-commissioned sublieutenants~~ in main camp, I permitted them to engage in arranging the mail for the prisoners, according to their wishes. Major Francom who was a senior officer as the head of the group, distributed the business among the other officers and they all were glad to work every day. At some branch camps, poultry farming, raising of rabbits and fish or gardening was allowed according to the officers' wishes. I think such kind of labor that was permitted the officers as above-mentioned was rather a consolation or an amusement than a labour.

There was not a camp where the officers ~~and non-commissioned sublieutenants~~ were engaged in the same kind of work done by the other ranks.

5. As the sporting goods of baseball and volleyball, checkers, cards and some musical instruments were sent as comfort goods from the Red Cross Society, they were distributed among the branch camps and were used freely by the officers and others for amusement.

When I permitted those who wanted to buy musical instruments, they were very glad and organized a brass band. On Christmas, 1943, a band concert was held to which I was invited.

6. It was about the end of the year 1943, I think, when War Minister TOJO visited the Tokyo War-Prisoners' Camp one day about 4 P. M. without notice. He inspected the entire camp and kitchens for about half an hour and gave prize money to the staff of the camp expressing his satisfaction over our arrangement.

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On this first day of July, 1947

At Tokyo

DEPONENT SUZUKI, Kuniiji (seal)

We, SHIOBARA, Tokisaburo and ABE, Akira hereby certify that the above statement was sworn by the Deponent, who affixed his signature and seal thereto in the presence of this Witness.

On the same date

At Tokyo

Witness: (signed) SHIOBARA, Tokisaburo
ABE, Akira (seal)

OATH

In accordance with my conscience I swear to tell the whole truth withholding nothing and adding nothing.

/s/ SUZUKI, Kuniiji (seal)

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