

Meters Concerning POW Transport

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(8)

Gregory

Matters Concerning POW Transport

(8 September 1942 - UNSENDEN 557)

Telegram from Transportation and Communication Chief to units concerned:

"Due to a serious shortage of labour power in Japan, the use of white P.O.W. is earnestly desired. Therefore it is required to render consideration to send some white POW to Japan by every returning ship (including both transport and munition ships).

"The Shipping Transport Command is requested to report, besides UNSENDEN No. 375 and 547, the possible amount of personnel expected to be sent every month (special technicians should be classified) before the end of each previous month. It is also desired to send as many personnel as possible by every means such as by loading them on decks."

Matters Concerning P.O.W. Transport by Navy Ships

(27 July 1943 - FUKAN 1-77)

Notification from P.O.W. Supervision Chief to units concerned:

"As to the P.O.W. transport to make up for the labour shortage in Japan, the use of Navy ships had already been instructed, besides the instructions given in UNSENDEN No. 558. Further instruction was given this time by the Navy to its organizations on the spot as is shown in the attached sheet, therefore it is desired to hold negotiations with those Navy organizations so as to carry out the instructions."

Attached sheet:

Dispatched 26 July 1943

Addressed to: Military Affairs Bureau

Headquarters: South - West Area Fleet
Second, Third Southern Expeditionary Fleet
Second China Expeditionary Fleet

Twenty-First & Thirty-First Special Naval Bases Hqs.
HONKONCT Special Naval Base Hqs.
Hqs. of YOKOSUAK, KURE, SASEBO Naval Bases
Osaka Guard District

Telegram (Military Top Secret)

Military Affairs Bureau Secrecy No. 261607

Dispatch (13 September 1942) KANREN)

"As the use of P.O.W. in Japan has been planned, the War Ministry notification to each concerned is expected to send gradually P.O.W. in Army P.O.W. camps (about 5,000 in Java, about 10,000 in Manila, about 1,000 in HONGKONG) to Japan (NAGASAKI, KOBE, YOKOHAMA, etc.) whenever there are enough accommodations in ships. Each time P.O.W. is shipped out, it is required to inform the number of personnel, expected date and time of arrival at Japan and the name of the ship."

Attached sheet:

Dispatched 13 September 1942

Addressed to Chief of Staff, Chief of Military Affairs Bureau

Combined Fleet
Fleet in China Waters
South-West Area Fleet
First & Third Southern Expeditionary Fleet
Eighth Fleet
Second China Expeditionary Fleet

Addressed to Chief of Staff

Second, Third, Fourth, Fifth and Sixth Fleets
Eleventh Air Fleet
First China Expeditionary Fleet
Each Naval Base
Each Naval Guard District.

Telegram (Military Top Secret)

Military Affairs Bureau Secret No. 131254

Dispatch

As the use of POW is eagerly desired in every part of Japan, it is required to render every possible consideration so as to send POW of the Army to Japan on every favourable opportunity (It makes no difference if they are sent by small groups due to shipping condition). Inform the place of embarkation, the number of personnel and the expected date of arrival whenever POW are shipped out. The army, after discussing the matter with the Naval unit on the spot, is to send instructions to the unit on the spot concerning the POW transport matter.

Matter Concerning POW Transport to Japan (30 Aug 1943 FUKANDEN 1-89)
Telegram from POW Supervision Chief to Units Concerned.

As to POW transport to Japan, it is requested to render consideration not to send those POW officers who do not submit to labour work and those POW of mixed blood whose appearances be mistaken for Orientals.

Matter Concerning POW Transport to Japan

(10 Dec 1942)

RIKUAMITSUDEN 1504)

Notification from Vice-Minister and Vice-Chief to Units Concerned.

Due to improper treatment on the way of transport of POW who were recently sent to Japan there were a great many of sick people (dead) and many who could not immediately be used for labour work. Further thorough care should be taken as to selection and medical inspection of POW to be sent to Japan, allotment of POW sanitation personnel, necessary medicine on the way of transport, preparation of provisions, supervision on the way of transport, conveniences given at ports of call and supply of clothes.

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
 SUPREME COMMANDER FOR THE ALLIED POWERS
 INTERNATIONAL PROSECUTION SECTION
 INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION

25 August 1947

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EDWARD P. MONAGHAN, Chief,
Investigative Division, IPS