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GHQ/SCAP Records (RG 331, National Archives and Records Service)

Description of contents

(1) Box no. 345

(2) Folder title/number: (34)
Obihiro Main Prison

(3) Date: June 1950

(4) Subject:

Classification	Type of record
9424	e

(5) Item description and comment:
Hokkaido

(6) Reproduction: (Yes) No

(7) Film no. Sheet no.

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PUBLIC SAFETY DIVISION
PRISON BRANCH

APO 500
8 June 1950

NAME OF INSTITUTION: Obihiro Main Prison
CODE NUMBER OF INSTITUTION: 185
LOCATION: 3 Midoricka, Obihiro, Hokkaido
DATE OF INSPECTION: 14-15-16 May 1950
DATE OF REPORT: 27 May 1950
NAME OF WARDEN: Teruo Morikawa
NAME OF JAPANESE INSPECTOR: Fukutune Miyako
PRISON BRANCH PSD REPRESENTATIVES: Major Reed, Maxwell, Kinoshita

I A 1 a (1)

I ADMINISTRATION

A Personnel

1		Authorized T/O	108
2		Number of personnel employed	106
3		Number of personnel on duty status	101
	a	Ill	1
	b	Leave	
	c	TDY	0
	d	Dist Training School	0
	e	Central Training School	0
	f	Other	3
4		Number of personnel taking on	

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2		Number of personnel employed	106			
3		Number of personnel on duty status	101			
	a	Ill	1			
	b	Leave				
	c	TDY	0			
	d	Dist Training School	0			
	e	Central Training School	0			
	f	Other	3			
4		Number of personnel taking on the job training	2			
5		Number of personnel taking institutional refresher courses	None			
6		No hired last 12 months	14			
7		No dismissed or returned last 12 months	12			
B		Budget				
1		Allotted Funds	Alot	Expd	Add Comm	Balance
	a	Industry	4,005,000	131,526	525,655	3,147,819
	b	Construction New	0	0	0	0
	c	Maintenance	115,000	0	30,000	85,000
	d	Operations	3,804,970	1,219,431	52,662	2,532,877
	e	Total	7,924,970	1,350,957	808,317	5,765,696

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C		Accounts	
	1	Amt of Petty Cash on Hand	¥38,000
	a	Security of cash on hand	Steel safe
	b	Method of Paying Invoices	Check
	c	Method of Paying Inmates	Cash (Wages and Custody money when released
D		Supplies	
	1	Food (Source)	
	a	Staples	Sapporo Prison
	b	Meat and Fish	10% prison, 90% purchased on open market
	c	Vegetables	40% produced on prison farm, 60% purchased from Agricultural Society
	2	Clothing and bedding (Quantity & quality)	Poor bedding, 2 sets per 3 inmates, clothing, one set for each inmate and a reserve of two suits per three inmates. They need cloth to make both cell clothes and bedding. Approx. 50 yds. per inmate
	3	Medical supplies	Insufficient. Lack medicine for treatment of V.D., flue, etc.
	4	Storage	Inadequate
	a	Structure, type & number	Six one-story wooden construction warehouses. Needs more warehouses
	5	Inventory Control System	Yes
	a	Method of accounting for expendables	Stock record system

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2		Clothing and bedding (Quantity & quality)	Poor bedding, 2 sets per 3 inmates, clothing, one set for each inmate and a reserve of two suits per three inmates. They need cloth to make both cell clothes and bedding. Approx. 50 yds. per inmate
3		Medical supplies	Insufficient. Lack medicine for treatment of V.D., flue, etc.
4		Storage	Inadequate
	a	Structure, type & number	Six one-story wooden construction warehouses. Needs more warehouses
5		Inventory Control System	Yes
	a	Method of accounting for expendables	Stock record system
	(1)	Frequency of inventory	Once a month
	b	Method of accounting for non-expendables	Stock Record System
	(1)	Frequency of inventory	Once a month
E		Laws and Directives	All on hand
II		CLASSIFICATION	
A		Psychologist	None
1		Number of assistants	None
2		Full or part time	--
B		Items covered in Social History	All phases of inmate's background covered
C		Is initial classification performed upon arrival	Yes
1		Within what length of time	15 days
2		Used for cell assignments	Yes

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	3	Used for work assignments	Yes
D		Is reclassification performed	Yes
	1	How often	Every six months
E		Is pre-parole class performed	Yes
	1	Is it used for parole recommendations	Yes
	2	Is pre-parole report submitted 60 days before eligibility date	Yes
	3	Are recommendations forwarded on eligibility date	Yes
	4	Are proper channels followed	Yes
	5	Is parole being considered as per Par. (1) of parole procedure regulations	Yes
III		EDUCATION	
A		Academic	
	1	Director	Yes. (class chief acting)
	a	Number of assistants	2
	b	Full or part time	Full time except acting director
	2	Educational breakdown of inmates	
	a	Literates	283
	b	Illiterates	15
	3	Elective courses	Yes

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	5	Is parole being considered as per Par. (1) of parole procedure regulations	Yes
III		EDUCATION	
	A	Academic	
	1	Director	Yes. (class chief acting)
	a	Number of assistants	2
	b	Full or part time	Full time except acting director
	2	Educational breakdown of inmates	
	a	Literates	283
	b	Illiterates	15
	3	Elective courses	None
	4	Required Courses	Arithmetic and Reading
	5	School hours	One hour, 3 times per week
	6	Teaching Staff	
	a	Number	2
	b	Part or full time	Full time
	7	No of guest speakers last 12 months	10
	a	Number of lectures given last 12 months	25
	b	Subjects discussed	Religion, Hygiene, and Social Science
	c	Visual aids & Tng films (not entertainment)	Once a month

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	B	Vocational	
	1	Director	Yes
	a	Number of Assistants	20 technicians and guards
	b	Full or part time	Full time
	2	Subjects taught	Carpentry, Sewing, Shoe making, and Agriculture
	3	Facilities	Inadequate
	4	Training hours	4 hours per week
	5	Instructors (Technicians)	4
	a	Inmates	5
	6	No inmates participating	24
IV		MEDICAL AND SANITATION	
	A	Medical Staff	
	1	Doctor	Yes (civilian doctor on call)
	a	Number of assistants	2
	b	Full or part time	Full time
	2	Dentist	None
	a	Number of assistants	None
	b	Full or part time	---
	3	Psychiatrist	None
	a	Full or part time	---

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	6	No inmates participating	24
IV		MEDICAL AND SANITATION	
	A	Medical Staff	
	1	Doctor	Yes (civilian doctor on call)
	a	Number of assistants	2
	b	Full or part time	Full time
	2	Dentist	None
	a	Number of assistants	None
	b	Full or part time	---
	3	Psychiatrist	None
	a	Full or part time	---
	B	Hospital	
	1	Type of building	Wooden construction
	2	Condition of building	Fair
	3	Sanitation	Satisfactory
	4	Capacity	15
	5	Population	5
	a	Breakdown by type of illness	2. T. B., 3 others
	6	Sick call	Yes, daily by first aid personnel
	7	Equipment	
	a	Surgical instruments	Satisfactory
	b	X-ray	No. Request for one has been made

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	c	Operating Room	Yes
	d	Isolation Ward	Yes
	(1)	Are contagious diseases isolated	Yes
	e	Mental Ward	None
	f	Windows and doors screened	No, but will be screened before summer
C		Procedure	
1		Are new arrivals given examination	Yes
	a	Physical (by whom)	Doctor
	b	Mental (by whom)	Doctor
2		Are periodical physical & mental check given	Yes
	a	How often	Once a month
3		Method of obtaining medical attention	Verbal during daily medical inspection
4		No deaths last 12 months	1
	a	Causes of deaths	Drowning
5		No released for medical reasons last 12 months	6
6		No deaths following medical release last 12 months	2
7		Method of handling psychiatric	Taken to Hokkaido University Sapporo for

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	b	Mental (by whom)	Doctor
	2	Are periodical physical & mental check given	Yes
	a	How often	Once a month
	3	Method of obtaining medical attention	Verbal during daily medical inspection
	4	No deaths last 12 months	1
	a	Causes of deaths	Drowning
	5	No released for medical reasons last 12 months	6
	6	No deaths following medical release last 12 months	2
	7	Method of handling psychiatric cases	Taken to Hokkaido University Sapporo for examination
	8	Are food handlers given periodical physical exams	Yes
	a	How often	Every 30 days
	9	Daily food allowances	
		2nd class, 2700 calories 3rd class, 2400 calories 4th class, 2000 calories 5th class, 1600 calories	Staples plus 1545 calories in side dishes. Sick patients receive special diet.
V		INMATES	
	A	Total Population	357
	1	Sentenced	298
	2	Not sentenced	59
	a	Adult male awaiting initial trial	56

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	b	Adult female awaiting initial trial	0
	c	Juveniles awaiting initial trial	1
	d	Adult males appealing	2
	e	Adult females appealing	0
	f	Juveniles appealing	0
3		Nationality	
	a	Japanese	312
	b	Korean	45
	c	Chinese	0
	d	Other	0
4		Communist	1
5		Average age bracket	28
6		Grading of inmates	Four grades
7		Segregation by type & sex	Yes
8		Total number of inmates working	294
9		Total number of inmates idle	63
	a	Reason for idleness	59 awaiting trial; 4 sick (one of 59 sick in hospital)
B		Mail, visitors & inmate morale	
1		Is mail censored	Yes

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	d	Other	0
	4	Communist	1
	5	Average age bracket	28
	6	Grading of inmates	Four grades
	7	Segregation by type & sex	Yes
	8	Total number of inmates working	294
	9	Total number of inmates idle	63
	a	Reason for idleness	59 awaiting trial; 4 sick (one of 59 sick in hospital)
B		Mail, visitors & inmate morale	
	1	Is mail censored	Yes
	a	Loss of mail privileges	Disciplinary action, reduction in grade
	2	Visitors Are visits supervised	Yes
	3	Morale of inmates	Good
	a	Channel for inmate complaints	To warden direct or through administrative channels
C		Custody and discipline	
	1	Guard-prisoner ratio	1 to 6.6. At this time this guard-prisoner ratio is lower than it will be in another month when guards will be assigned to honor camps for duty.
	2	Types of disciplinary action	Solitary confinement, reductions in grade, reprimand

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	a	Number cases last 12 months	86
	b	Who holds Disciplinary Court	Warden and staff
3		Number escapes last 12 months	3
	a	Circumstances of escapes	1 from within the wall and 2 from outside projects
	b	Recoveries	3
4		Written riot & escape plan	Yes
	a	Coordinated with local police	Yes
5		Emergency Disaster Plan	Yes
6		Type of alarm system	Siren and electric bell alarm system
D		Recreation	
1		Athletic facilities & Equip	Adequate (baseball, ping pong, badminton, soft ball, volley ball, and wrestling
2		Organized athletics	Yes
3		Entertainment	Yes
	a	Movies How often	Yes, 11 times last year
	b	Inmate stage show group	Yes
	(1)	How often shown	Every 4 months
	(2)	Other than main institution	Yes
	c	Civilian stage shows	Yes
	(1)	How often	8 times during last year

1		Athletic facilities & equip	Adequate (baseball, ping pong, badminton, soft ball, volley ball, and wrestling
2		Organized athletics	Yes
3		Entertainment	Yes
	a	Movies How often	Yes, 11 times last year
	b	Inmate stage show group	Yes
	(1)	How often shown	Every 4 months
	(2)	Other than main institution	Yes
	c	Civilian stage shows	Yes
	(1)	How often	8 times during last year
	(2)	Sponsored by whom	Local Music Society and private citizens
	(3)	Censored before showing	Yes
4		Library	Yes
	a	Type of books	Religion, educational, fiction, and reference books
	b	Number of books	2182
	c	Method of issue	Card system
5		Band or orchestra	None
E		Religion	
1		No of chaplains that visit per month	2 (Christian & Buddhist)
2		Frequency of services	Twice a month

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VI		INDUSTRY	
	A	Within institution	
	1	Contracts	
		a Government	Yes
		(1) Number of contracts	110
		(2) Written or oral	10 written - 100 oral
		(3) Type of industry	Cabinet making, tailoring, shoe making, and printing
		(4) Length of contracts	Average about 2 months
		(5) Amount of contracts	¥2,000,000
		(6) Number of inmates employed	85
		(7) Number of technicians employed	2 technicians (part-time) and 5 guards
		(8) Working schedule	8½ hours per day - 6 days per week
		(9) Equipment	All Government owned
	B	Outside projects (less farm)	None
	1	Contracts	None
		b Private	None
		c Gov projects under private contract	None
	C	Prison Farms	This institution is in need and in the position to conveniently operate additional farm area. At present

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	(6)	Number of inmates employed	85
	(7)	Number of technicians employed	2 technicians (part-time) and 5 guards
	(8)	Working schedule	8½ hours per day - 6 days per week
	(9)	Equipment	All Government owned
B		Outside projects (less farm)	None
1		Contracts	None
	b	Private	None
	c	Gov projects under private contract	None
C		Prison Farms	This institution is in need and in the position to conveniently operate additional farm area. At present 60% of the institution's vegetable requirements are purchased on the open market. A 750 acre tract, located approximately 20 miles north of Obihiro, can be purchased for 1,500,000 yen ($5.56 per acre) if action is taken immediately. 200 acres are available for immediate farming and an additional 150 acres can be cleared for cultivation. The remaining 400 acres can be utilized for grazing and reforestration. Existing timber can be harvested to supply the industrial need of Obihiro Main Prison. Prison officials contend that the revenue from lumber and charcoal will offset the purchase price of this property. Communications and power areavailable within the distance of approximately one-half mile. A petition cirdulated by the Mayor and Postmaster of a nearby village revealed that the local citizens were 100% in

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			favor of a prison farm being established in the area. This tract could also be a source of supply for commodities at Kushiro Main Prison
	1	Size of tract	70 acres (84,000 tsubo)
	a	Gov owned or leased	Government owned
	2	Equipment	
	a	Gov owned or leased	Government owned
	3	No of inmates employed	34
	4	No of guards employed	5
	5	Production income	Amt in yen ¥1,200,000
	a	Grain	¥250,000
	b	Vegetables	¥850,000
	c	Livestock	¥100,000
	d	Other	---
	6	Utilization of produce	All utilized at prison and honor camps
	7	Living conditions	Live at institution
	8	Type and amount of fertilizer used	7,590 kilograms
	9	Operating expenses	400,000 Yen
D		Industry (general)	
	1	Shop facilities and condition of equipment	Inadequate space and shortage of equipment

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	a	Grain	¥250,000
	b	Vegetables	¥850,000
	c	Livestock	¥100,000
	d	Other	---
	6	Utilization of produce	All utilized at prison and honor camps
	7	Living conditions	Live at institution
	8	Type and amount of fertilizer used	7,590 kilograms
	9	Operating expenses	400,000 Yen
D		Industry (general)	
	1	Shop facilities and condition of equipment	Inadequate space and shortage of equipment
	2	Industrial safeguards	Yes
	3	Market for mfg goods	70
	4	Competition with private industry	None
	5	Raw Material	Iron from Gov. Office and rest purchased on open market
	a	Procurement	
	b	Warehousing (stockpile)	Lumber, 2 months supply Iron, 6 months supply Fiber, thread, and hides, 1 month's supply
	6	Inmates monthly average wage	73 yen, 51 sen
	7	Industrial quota	¥20,000,000

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	8	Total income from all industries	¥15,219,754.80
	9	List shortages of machine equip & raw materials	Wood working, printing, sewing, shoemaking, and farm equipment/ In materials he needs wood, iron, fiber, and hides
	10	Are all contracts subject to approval by District HQ	Yes
VII		PHYSICAL PLANT AND EQUIPMENT	
	A	Rated capacity	168
	B	Type of construction	Wooden
	1	Condition	Poor. The buildings are very old
	2	Ventilation	Good
	3	Lighting	Good
	4	Heating	Corridor
	5	Sanitation	Good
	a	Sewage disposal	Bucket system
	6	Bathing facilities	Adequate
	a	Frequency of baths	Every 4 days
	C	Security features	
	1	Wall or fence, materials	4 meters high, condition, bad
	2	Locking system	Standard and manual operated system for opening one half of the cells simultaneously

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	3	Lighting	Good
	4	Heating	Corridor
	5	Sanitation	Good
	a	Sewage disposal	Bucket system
	6	Bathing facilities	Adequate
	a	Frequency of baths	Every 4 days
C		Security features	
	1	Wall or fence, materials	4 meters high, condition, bad
	2	Locking system	Standard and manual operated system for opening one half of the cells simultaneously
	3	Type and Size of cells	38 single spaces (cells)
	4	Armory	
	a	Location	Custody Office within the wall
	b	Adequate security	Yes
	d	Type and number of weapons	12 pistols and 4 rifles
	(1)	Condition	All serviceable but in one pistol. Weapons are cleaned every ten days and are in good condition
D		Kitchen	Satisfactory. Windows have been screened and screen door will be arriving in the near future. The kitchen floor, like all Japanese pictures, was bad. Headquarters the kitchen and crew civilian
	1	Facilities and equipment	Adequate
	3	Sanitation	Satisfactory
	3	Doors and windows screened	Adequate

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	4	Food storage	Inadequate both in space and condition. Should have a new ratproof brick building.
	E	Fire equipment	
	1	Type	One 18-man pumper, 1 portable gasoline pumper and 9 chemical extinguishers
	2	Condition	Good
	3	Number of static pools and/ or hydrants	Six
	4	Periodical inspections	Twice a month
	5	Written fire plan	Yes
	a	Coordinated with local FD	Yes
	6	Frequency of fire drills	Twice a month
	7	Fire marshal graduate of central fire school, Tokyo	One
VIII		WARDEN'S COMMENTS AND REMARKS	(1) Personnel: Requests physician, educational director, and a director for Business Administration Division. (2) That quarterly budgets be made available on the first of each quarter. (3) Permission to purchase additional farm lands. (4) Authorization to reconstruct perimeter wall and one cell block of brick. (5) Additional allocation of cloth for clothing and bedding.
IX		CONCLUSIONS	The efficient manner of operation found during the November 1949 inspection is still being displayed at this institution; discipline is excellent and morale of inmates and prison staff is

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6	Frequency of fire drills	Twice a month
7	Fire marshal graduate of central fire school, Tokyo	One
VIII	WARDEN'S COMMENTS AND REMARKS	(1) Personnel: Requests physician, educational director, and a director for Business Administration Division. (2) That quarterly budgets be made available on the first of each quarter. (3) Permission to purchase additional farm lands. (4) Authorization to reconstruct perimeter wall and one cell block of brick. (5) Additional allocation of cloth for clothing and bedding.
IX	CONCLUSIONS	The efficient manner of operation found during the November 1949 inspection is still being displayed at this institution; discipline is excellent and morale of inmates and prison staff is good. Institution rated satisfactory.
X	RECOMMENDATIONS	(1) That this institution be provided needed medical supplies, (2) warehouse facilities be expanded, (3) needed vocational training equipment be provided, (4) that the perimeter wall be expanded and constructed of brick, (5) an allocation be made available for a new food storage warehouse, (6) that the farming program at this institution be expanded by the purchase of the 750 acre property described herein, (7) that warden's requests be fulfilled.

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