

Jan. 24, 1946.

To
PW Investigation Section,

MATTERS CONCERNING THE INVESTIGATIONS
OF PWs

Concerning the above matters, we give a reply as per
enclosure.

The Yoshikuma Coal-Mine,
Aso Mining Co., Ltd.

COPY OF TRANSLATION OF
REPORT LABELED EXHIBIT TWO
POW CAMP #26

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Matters for investigation of PWs

1. The organization of PW Camp

A. New buildings or rebuilt buildings. In case of rebuilt buildings, the former operating conditions.

New buildings

B. Construction expenses required.

Yen 211,426.73

Itemized list below

Earthwork	Yen	17,457.85
Timbers		57,289.84
Fittings		14,398.00
Mats		3,000.00
Metal fixtures		841.76
Plaster materials ..		21,401.62
Fence		2,520.00
Drainage ditches ...		3,506.64
Illumination		1,125.82
Water-supply		2,583.60
Wage		55,252.05
Sundry expenses		32,049.55

Total Yen 211,426.73

(The expenses cost only half of a market price as they used the holdings and the employees of the company.)

C. Comparison of the constructions of living quarters of the general Japanese laborers and the Korean(Chinese) laborer to that of the PW's.

Living quarters of Japanese laborers

Generally, they lived in company houses rebuilt.

(One room of six mats, one room of three mats, dirt floor, kitchen and office.) Four houses.

Living quarters of Korean laborers.

Two special quarters. (One of them has been newly built.) Five houses as described above.

Comparing with the living quarters described, the PW camp has advantages as follows.

A. It has long corridors connecting houses.

B. It contains such equipments as kitchen, ward, and bath-room. Japanese and Korean laborers had only two bath-rooms for 2,000 men and one kitchen for 1,200 men. In PW camp, they had one bath-room for 300 men and also a medicated bath-tub and various kinds of warehouses.

D. Housing capacity, heating, natural lighting and so forth.

1. Housing capacity

One building for 50 men. (namely one section)

Six buildings for 300 men. Seven rooms in one building. One room for 7 men. (One room for 8 men. Exception.) 1.7 Japanese mats for one man.

(It was a common rule of the mine to give each man 1.5 mats.)

2. Heating-boiler was used exclusively.

All rooms situated at the south side of building, corridors being at the north side.

3. Lighting

All windows of the rooms were provided with window-glasses. As a rule, about one sixth or two sixth of the sides of a room is window glasses. In the Prisoner's room, it was especially increased to 4/6 or 5/6.

4. Sanitary equipment

Corridors with roofing prepared between buildings so as to avoid leakage. Drainage was equiped as shown in the map annexed. Medicine bath prepared. Bath-tubs were divided into two; one clear and the other not so clear.

E. What were the matters for which strong demands of improvements were asked by the manager of the branch-office? What was done about this demand? What were uncompleted and completed among them? What demands were denied?

1. Segregation of infectious disease bedrooms and that of the common sick.
2. Private property shelves in each room were increased to two shelves.
3. Wooden European style latrine were rebuilt into Japanese style. (of tile)

F. What complaints did you receive from the Japanese in regards to the facilities of the PW camp?

* No such complaints.

11. Clothing

1. How about the supply of bedding, fatigue-clothing, Japanese rubber shoes etc.

Bedding For each man 4 military blankets from PW camp office. Our company supplied new Japanese beddings. (Totally 330 beddings, one bedding for one man.) They were used mostly as mattresses on account of its being the beginning of summer. (Chichibu dappled cotton fabric used as its material.)

51 Mosquito screens from our company
16 " " " " army

Labor cloth Our company was prepared to supply them, but at the time of prisoners' arrival, their clothes which were given in the other camp were of good quality. As to the underground labor-cloth, no need of new supply on account of light clothing being suitable there.

Japanese Rubber Shoes Same as above, their clothes which were given in the other camp were of good quality. But our company prepared new shoes to replace worn-out shoes. At that time, our army also started to issue plain-toed rubber shoes. Such being the case, our company gave no shoes during five month. (from opening to closing)

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2. How about the demand of the manager of branch office as to the clothing and so forth? How about its fulfilment?

As a rule, such kind of commodities were supplied by the army. But to cover the need in future, army ordered us to prepare the stock of these clothings. But on account of the conditions above mentioned and of short term, we did not stock them fully.

3. How about the differences compared with the general Japanese and conscripted laborers or Koreans, as to the clothings and so forth?

The general Japanese conscripted laborers and Koreans were barely able to get one suit of labor clothing for a year as a praise or reward of their dilligent attendance. There as no other means to get it for them. On the other hand, the prisoners in the camp were provided with the military clothing which was in great degree superior in quality to that of common market.

4. Accusation of the Japanese as to the prisoner's clothing.

The case being as above mentioned, they envied them, but never heard of accusations of any kind.

111. Food provision

1. How about your knowledge as to the meals of the prisoners in the branch camp.

(a) Quantity, menu, cooking method and calorie.

Quantity.... Rice and barley mixed 715 gramm

Menu Unknown, but it seems to be as a rule, morning- soup, dinner- boiled food, and supper- stew

Cooking method As a rule, it was entrusted to 9 prisoners who had experience in this matter. (including finance non-commissioned officers.)

Calorie Unknown.

(b) The state which the prisoners used to feel unsatisfied.
Unknown

(c) The state which the prisoners used to feel satisfied.
Unknown but it seemed they used to be satisfied with the completeness of the mess provisions.

(d) Was the quantity of the prisoners' food enough to maintain their health?

We acknowledge it was enough because the main food of the prisoner was 700 gramms a day while ordinary miners got 570 gramms each.

(e) The state that the staffs of the camp used to trouble their minds about the food of prisoners.

They troubled their minds in getting prisoners' food as mentioned in the paragraph.

2. The fact that the commander of the camp and his staffs made their endeavour to get food for prisoners.

Main food Supplied from a food depot in Doi, Tataramura, Fukuoka-ken by rail way and tracks.

Seasonning Supplied from Miso and Syoyu Control Ass., Kaho-gun, Fukuoka-ken.

Fish Supplied from Iizuka Fish Control Ass.

Meat Supplied from Iizuka, Kaho Meat Control Ass.

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Vegetables Village Farmers Ass. obligedly supplied after being parceled by Katsuragawa-cho Agricultural Ass. via Kaho-gun Vegetable Control Ass.

For above purpose one noncom., a soldier & an office clerk were constantly engaged with one horse cart and also guards off duty to help them. The supply system of our company was always connected with them closely. The commander of the camp and his staffs used to have meetings so as to toil in getting food stuffs.

3. The state and fact that the commander of the camp and his staffs did request you in getting food stuffs. Besides the regular provision those workers in pits were given boiled rice (200 to 300 gramms) at the actual spot. (Out of special provision for mines) In order to get the source of extra food supply, ~~food~~ they asked us for farming land at the ratio of ten tsubo with each prisoner so we shared our farming landing.

1 tsubo - 3.95 sq. yards
- 3.31 sq. metres

4. Comparison of prisoners food with that of Japanese civilians and Japanese workers.

		Main food
Japanese	A	330 gramms
"	B	390 "
"	C	570 "
Prisoner		715 "

Side-dish-food is almost the same, prisoners got more fish and Japanese got more in other kind of food.

5. As to the prisoner's food provision, what kind of antipathy or accusation did you suffer from the local authorities and ration officials and what hindered the food collection by them?
Nothing of such kind.

IV. Medical consultation and treatment.

How about the equipment of medical consultation and treatment in the branch camp? How about the stock of medicines?

As shown in the annexed map of this camp, there are medicine room, treatment room, consultation room, sick bed room, infectious disease bed room and other installments. We do not know the quality of medicines but we received medicine from the military hospitals and Red Cross, company hospital, we discerned it complete.

- A. Comparison between prisoners and Japanese.

In mining, we had three doctor for laborer and his family, but we had one military doctor and three prisoner's doctor. Japanese hygiene soldier, prisoner's hygiene soldier for the prisoners.

- B. Did you know about shortages in certain types of medicine?
I did not know.

- C. Did you think doctor's consultation was complete?
I think it was complete.

Japanese doctors and prisoner's doctors(English one, Austria two) examined prisoner's patient with much kindness.

2. To what element did you co-operate in the consultation?

We co-operated with bacillus examination and all kinds of examination, we made use of company's institution and bacillus laboratory. We co-operated very well.

- (3) What was demanded by the manager of the main office and the branch office, as to the medical consultation?

There was no demand for equipment, but as to medicines, whenever we ran short of them, replenishment had been done as shown in the annexed list.

- (4) What do you know about the number of patients among the prisoners, and how much they weighed?

The number of patients was always unstable. I can say it was at about the maximum of 20 to the minimum of 10 persons. As for body-weight, I don't know.

- (5) The percentage of death and illness was influenced by the climate and other natural conditions and the labor service assigned to them in different localities. How about these matters?

Two men died. These men were in the hospital when they they arrived at our mine. So, it seems to me that their deaths were not caused by the influences above mentioned. Four patients requiring surgical treatment were caused by labor services but these cases were not serious.

- (6) As to the matters above referred, what had been done by you to work co-operately with the authorities of PW camp, so as to keep the health of all prisoners?

The healthiest men worked underground, the next ones cultivated farm yard which was provided to supply food for them, the weakest did light jobs in the factory. We classified them like this, according to the condition of their health, at times we alternated them around. In such a way, we always paid proper attention to their health.

- (7) Mention the circumstances virtually by what means did the manager of the branch office and his subordinates paid attention directly to keep the prisoners' health.

Just after their arrival to our mines, we made a health investigation and capacity inquiry. From the standpoint of health, we classified the jobs. Every month we made body weight investigation. At times we examined their discharges and blood (i.e. the degree of blood sin-king) etc.

V (1)How about the labor condition?

Location	Type of work	Number of laborers
Yoshikuma 3rd mine 3rd "Oroshi"	Coal Mining	150
The 1st Farm Yard	Cultivation	80
The 2nd Farm Yard	Keeping farmyard in order	5
In the PW camp	Digging air raid shelter	10
ditto	Miscellaneous	15
ditto	Cooking	9

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- (2) Percentage of labor attendance 92%
 (3) How about the efficiency of prisoners?
 (comparing with Japanese and Korean laborers.)

	Japanese	Koreans	Prisoners
Coal mining	1.0	1.0	0.5
Cultivation	1.0	0.7	1.2
Air-trench	1.0	1.0	0.6

- (4) How about the supervising of labor of labor service?
 (a) Underground coal mining
 Trainings for mining were to remove boxes, to handle shovels, to operate many kinds of engines and machines. For 20 days we continued such practice, gradually, from light jobs to heavier ones teaching them what to do in each case.
 (b) Cultivation
 The graduates of agricultural school, agricultural assistant engineers and labor-officers were exclusively in charge of this training. At first they taught the prisoners how to handle the hoe, gradually to more difficult tasks.
- (5) Wasn't there any case of unsanitary and over work defects in their labor conditions?
 On account of many rules and regulations to keep safety and sanitary welfare in underground, there was no such defect. As to the cultivation, the area was a place in good open air, high and dry. The shift hour for working and rest was quite clearly arranged. No such defect.
- (6) How did you assign the jobs of prisoners according to the conditions of their health?
 The answer is the same to that of 6 in 4th articles. We classified them into 3 classes.
 A. Underground works.
 B. Cultivation.
 C. In the factory.
 Persons who did not rank into the above 3 classes, were in their private rooms or in a hospital. The decision of such classification was done by the Japanese military doctors, prisoner doctors and leaders cooperating with each other.
- (7) What demands or wishes were granted by the manager of the main office and the branch office to the prisoner laborers?
 Leading of laborers and assignments to jobs from the standpoint of equity.
- (8) Wasn't there any difference of opinions with the manager of the branch office and his subordinates as to the labor service of prisoners?
 None

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VI. Treatment of PWs in general

1. Attitude of the commanders of the main office and the branch office in disciplining the PWs.

It seemed to have been just and strict. However the details were not known by us(out-siders).

2. What were the plans and methods of the commanders of the main office and the branch office to better the understanding of the PW by the people?

The commander of the branch office emphasized in instructing to the leaders of the Mine Company and those who were in charge of using the PW that they should treat them justly as much as possible. When the commander of the main office first visited here, he called a meeting of the staff of the camp and emphasizing the proper treatment of PWs, requested their cooperation. The company itself endeavoured to instill in its employees a thorough understanding of the necessity of proper treatment of PWs and using such occasions as the general assemblies and various other gatherings for this purpose.

3. What was the feeling of the officials and citizens of the district towards the PWs? What was the feeling of the people in the vicinity of the camp towards the staffs of the camp?

The attitude of the people toward both PWs and staffs was one of fairness and understanding.

4. Were there occasions when the camp personnel had difficulty in doing their duty on account of the above mentioned feeling?

Since the feeling was good, there were no occasions of this sort.

5. Do you think the attitude and the methods used by the camp personnel in their treatment of the PWs should have been improved? Since the commander of this branch office(camp) is imprisoned now, state the opinions of your leaders, the mine laborers, and the people and officials of the district.

It was just. There was no need for improvement. A few of the people questioned revealed that since 1st Lieutenant Danno's stay at the camp was very short, they did not know very much about him. They were very surprised to hear his imprisonment.

6. Were there any prisoners who were unruly and caused the commander and his men to feel ill toward him? And did the above mentioned ill-feeling influenced the treatment of the prisoners?

No.

7. State whether the commander of the branch office and his men tried to improve the labor, rest and supply conditions.

We do not know the details but we could see that they were trying when they assigned labor, periods of rest and provided of supply.

8. Punishment.

None

9. Crime

None

VII. Others

1. Concerning the treatment of the PWs by the camp commander and his subordinates, describe cases in which this treatment was kind and understanding.

This case has nothing to do with this camp. But the former commander of Chmuta PW camp, 1st Lt. Uri, acted as consultant and in the building of the new camp had a large part in providing good condition in the camp.

2. And the prisoners expressed their gratitude by writing the commander thanking him for the kind treatment which they received. After the prisoners were released, they asked the supervisor of the mine and bomb-shelters to come to the camp and thanked them for the kind treatment. In general, there was no trouble when the prisoners left the camp.
3. After the end of the war, the conditions were the same as before.
4. If there is any movement by the company officials, laborers and local civilians in your areas to lighten the punishment of the commander of the branch office and his subordinates, encourage it and report the results.

VIII. Name the persons who will be used as witnesses by the commander and other members under summons.

None

- IX. Send the copy of your application to the military minister used to get permission to employ the prisoners in your mine.
See the annexed paper.

P.S.

The names of commanders of the branch office.

1. 2nd Lt. Konzo Kita
2. 2nd Lt. Munakata
3. 1st Lt. Isao Kusuno

Opening of the office	May, 1945)) 5 months
Closing of the office	September, 1945)	

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List of Medicine and Hygienic Materials

Name of medicine	Abbreviation	Quantity
Bandage	roll	5
Gauze	"	1
Jaketsu Tenbin(?)		1
Homa(?)		1
Milk bowl		1
Milk stick		1
Injection bowl		2
Zonde(?)		2
Catheter		2
Noban(?)		1
Injection bowl 1g		2
" " 5g		2
" " 2g		1
Deptic powder		2
Spranchin wisu(?)	g	2
Aspirin	box	200
Narcopon(Alkacoid of opium)	g	2
Tincture of Iodine	g	100
Rimanod,(Acrinol)		2
Lycol		2
Caesine sodium benzoate		1
Sedes(?)		1
V.B.C.		1
Castor-oil		1
Injection needle $\frac{1}{2}$		10
" $\frac{1}{3}$		10
Water needle 200		1
Sew thread		5
Sew needle		6
Root		1
Clinial Thermometer		1
Ice-bag		1
Ice-bag's pillow		1
Ice-pillow		1
Examination chair		1
Messer		3
Yugai Setsuchi(?)		2
Carufall water		1
Hafen		1
Vitamin B1	box	1
0.2% chink water	g	200
Tar Plaster	g	150
Tanni Water	t	1
Pistil water	cc	2000
Oniful		1
Sulphuric acid		1
Magnesia		1
Erstin(?)	box	1

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Application for Permission to use PW labor

Feb. 22, 1945.

To
General Gen Sugiyama, the minister of war,

I would like to apply for permission to use PW camp regularly.

Hanji Hangata(Agent of Yoshikuma
Coal Mine)
Yoshikuma 12, Katsurakawa street,
Kaho-gun, Fukuoka-ken.

1. Number of prisoners: 300
2. Place where prisoners will be used: Yoshikuma Coal, Katsurakawa Street, Kahogun, Fukuoka-ken
3. Type of work: Coal-mine labor
4. Housing provided for the prisoners: Special buildings were used. Details shown on the attached sheet.
5. Guards for prisoners: Guards to supervise the work were assigned by order of the camp commander.
6. Instructions given prisoners: The prisoners received the instructions from the commander and the supervisor directed the work.
7. Wages of prisoners: One yen(average), but if PW was engaged in technical work, 35 sen was added to the 1 yen.
8. Work hour: 12 hours per day
9. The length of time PW labor will be used: One year.

Full

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