

P.O.W./C.I. : Leonard J. Birchall

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Authority NND 883078

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domestic we managed to get \$242.50 they
have asked for 230 more to receive which is
to pay them 10 days with the rest left on
the job by tomorrow I doubt if he will provide the
same funds a lot with plenty to say that the
I would not receive a letter the next day that
I would have thought they would break the news for
me. We had another rumor to night that the
Russians are fifty miles from Warsaw.

Aug 21st - Wonder well news came to day we
asked to buy some paper for the men but we
were refused. The men would like something like
this to get on their feet since we get no salt
but Japanese obtain like in food & we are not
allowed to buy food. Paper is not returned &
since we can see no reason for not being able
to purchase it. Japanese gave each working party
a bag before on striking & now he could
not find an Englishman. When we consider
that the Japanese guards steal the food &
cigarettes from our personal parcels I think
there is a case of the pot calling the kettle

Feb. I might even mention that the guard
and I got the privilege to visit the guard
for their life during their last year and
We have only been allowed to buy
cigarettes per man and have 10¢ per
man per day, but the guards who get a
20¢ per day still stand over. There is the
spirit of Bushido! We had a few
men to night working over only at
20¢ per package. In this man of the
was caught standing at the other day
but he stood up behind the guard's
about 7:00 P.M. they were better off than
as they did not have their hands tied
and allowed to wear great coats.

Jan 22nd - Today was inspection day a reward
but we managed to get by very well and people
were not too. There is one incident which has
been going on for the past few days down at
the Messes but it has a real hold of them
it is funny but before saying it down some
days ago one of the Americans caught

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Veltman was working in the moulder shop
moving pieces of iron. He put the piece down
in the wrong place & one of the Hops told him
to move them. As he pushed them up again
another Hop gave him a shove probably in the
direction he wanted Veltman to take the iron.
Veltman stood up & observed the workman's
number as if to report him. As he bent
down again another Hop came over &
shouted at him. Veltman stood up & the Hop
reached him in the throat. All the other
Hops thought this was very funny so Veltman
went to find the guard. He located one of
the retained soldiers attached to this camp
named Sacto & he told him about it. The
lady is nicknamed "The Skipper" because he
has shipped more prisoners than anyone
else. The guard went to the moulder shop
with Veltman & had him point out the
two Hops whereupon he stood them up
& gave them a severe whipping. The remaining
Hop workers deaned tools & gathered

around so last took the two men to the
prisoners but New he gave them another
slapping. The High workmen gathered around
the hut & finally had to be broken up by one
of the Casano jobmen. The next day some
of the High workmen came to work in the
moulders shop. The next day they had a
big investigation & demanded that Veltman
apologize to the workmen since he started
it all. Veltman refused to do so & that
was the end of the investigation. He was then
told that he would not be issued any
cigarettes or biscuits for three days by the
factory (the Casano gave such prisoners 20
& he had biscuits the size of an air regulator in
place of rice & veg. every day). Veltman complained
about this & was then told he would not be
punished but that the High workmen had to be
told this in order to get them to go back to
work. The prisoners are not allowed to
work in the moulders shop anymore & the
High will not allow them even in the shops.

This may have been the cause of Kuroki
going off the day and the other day. Whether
it is, we cannot say. It is now very
certain that there is considerable interest in the
workman class of Japan. An Xmas greeting
arrived to day as follows:

"The following is from S. C. Marshall, Chief
of Staff at Washington to American prisoners of
war through the Japan Information Bureau of
Prisoners of War:

American Prisoners of War - Please
accept Christmas greeting with my paper
for your safety and happiness and my
heartly greetings. May God bless every one
of you and make your Christmas a
happy one. S. C. Marshall (signed)."

It heart we are not forgotten by
some people. This note is attached to
the diary. We are sure of our
actions amongst the officers whereby we all
write down what we actually think of
each other & pass the criticism to Jimmy.

to rewrite all this information & to make
we read it out. Planning is being done
by South so that the remainder of us do not
know what to write about which remains
about ourselves. This is expected to give
us a chance to have ourselves in order.
But we may get rid of bad characteristics
I am not certain about all this & I cannot
bring myself to believe that we could be as
a bad specimen of a man's character. I do not
believe that a man may have to live in such
circumstances as we now have to tolerate &
yet in ordinary times be an A-1 man. I
may be wrong about this, but the question
this may be something in it. I believe that
all this is necessary is a bad consideration
for the other members of the group, one
could not expect much more. As for the
character of a man, I think this is a
transitory part of life when it is over
he will mould his character to fit into
his ordinary life once more.

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Jan 23rd - Today we all rested and the
students had the day off as well. We had a
very quiet day and in the late afternoon we
went out the first of the character reports.
We heard the ones on four, Hardy & Best & I
must say they are very honest, straight forward
and very good. The weaker part of this is
that in the self-criticism by the individual
he picked out all the nice points by
the outside reports and in the next part was
much more severe than outside comments. I too
I am convinced that we all know ourselves
well enough without having to get others to tell
us our faults and hence it is only a
case of lack of will power to change the
faults of which we are aware. Whether or not
the fact that others tell us our faults will
cause us to try to improve ourselves a little
more. I am going to wait until this is all
over before I write a general comment on
it. After roll call Hayashi called me down
to his office. After much beating around the

etc

back for some time it came out that he
wanted to purchase his own watch back
from us. Since the watch has been sold
outside to get money for medicine, I was on
a spot. I managed to tell him that I would
get him a watch which is going to be very
difficult. After it returned to our room we
carried on with our confessions when we covered
Part 4 of Jimmy. We then went into a discussion
of sex regarding how big a factor this played
in our lives. A remarkable thing about this
is that we can discuss a topic such as
this and keep it cleaner than the propriety
of people keep their daily conversation.

Jan 24 - This morning I managed to collect
up two old watches, one from Charles & one from
another lad. Armed with these I approached
Hayashi and managed to persuade him to
be interested in Charles' watch. He is going to
let me know about it tomorrow. After lunch
the doc & I went with an enjard lad to
Kameyobashi Hospital. The trip affected my

emotions more than I can put down
here & so I am going to write a separate
article on the top. We managed to buy
some tea & cigarettes which was very
appreciated as we were out of tea in the
officers mess. So night there ^{was} no
"confessions" as the boys had not finished
his comments but we hope for the best
to-morrow. News came in to-day from the
abandoned party that they saw about 2000 Jap
soldiers going on board a large ship & that the
ship left the harbour as soon as they were on
board. There were many aircraft on the beach
as well. Refers this a rumor came from the
brigade to-day that many Jap soldiers were
leaving to-day for Manchuria.

Jan 25th: We had a medical parade
to start off the day & five men were sent to
work from the sick list. The abandoned were
sent to their new barracks to work on
the garden and had a very nice job
of it. Since building is next to the German

conclude and the building is very good
It has a rock amplification system up at
300 they had more with their lunch than
from the house to buy a hot one was
from the house, the house, the house, the house
Lilbert, - their bill. There is supposed to
have originated from an English speaking man
who is a member of the crew also at home.
We had to go to the market this afternoon
for vegetables just as we arrived there it
started to rain so we were well soaked
by the time we got back to camp. I
managed to get a hot bath in my tent
for my efforts and spent a miserable
evening sweating my head off. More letters
arrived in camp to day but the only
offer to get any was Boulder who got
six. The military police have to censor
them first before we get them. So night
there was a bit of a session in the medical
room. A hot had some had of themselves as
the hot should be had to eat. No rest

down for a razor and then came the party
Luis we have not got any cream or ointment
we had to hold him down. The cutting was
done but the screams attracted most of the
Japanese who made themselves an active
nursing. They is nothing in this world that
has a curiosity as great as the Japanese after
nearly having to die. Then we finally got
them away enough for the Doc to continue.
It did not take long but it was a hell
of a sickening job which it went on.

Jan 26th - We started out this day with
another medical parole and five sick men
were sent out to work. Incidentally one of
the men that the Japanese sent to work was
the lad who held the cutting down. They did
not think this should affect his working
ability. There was very little else to report
to-day but the men were given as
more rumors of Poland being finished.

Jan 27th - The main event of the day is
that eight men were sent to Shenyawa

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hospital. The men were all very sick & had
much to carry. We had to take the
hot to the station on a horse. At the
one probably as soon as the permission for them
to take a short car to be sent over the hot
to carry the hot about a mile to the
railway station. I might perhaps give me
a session for the men saving hot to
stone. Last night he gave us the permission
but I might as always that we should to
get the permission even now as it will
only be granted if the other parties of the
ball call the same to our names & asking for
some cocoa to give to the people on the
next visit. We told him that we did not
have any but he said some had arrived in
the several parcels. He then ordered me to
ask these men for some & that perhaps
would help it. Reference this one gave
him a pound of cocoa at Xmas &
when the people did arrive not
long ago it was all gone. It is for

my noble guests, I think. This morning
one of the men reported that his personal
parcel was stolen from his tent during the
night. We searched the whole camp but
in the lunch the last night's duty cook
brought in the reason of its parcel. The
only things missing were some razor blades
and a towel. He explained that he knew
the culprit and was going to deal with him
when he returned from work. At least we
got the parcel back but I hope to find
out more about this later on.

JAN 28th - The ambulance party had a
fair rest to-day and we did very little
in the way of preparation for the coming
part of the out-trail to-morrow. The thing
that did happen to-day was a new source
for English newspapers arrived. We got
last night's edition & this morning's paper.
There was very little in the way of
news. The States said that the Axis
were making plans to glibly invade

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in the case of an attempted landing in the
Philippines. It's now felt that they've changed
aspect of the second front & as a consequence
it's now they are talking about when
the climatic conditions will allow such a
move. They consider it now as a
certainty but have the uncertainty of a
new tide. A boat was caught pursuing
back east to night from one of the junks
and Sayash gave him 100 sticks to hold to
stand for hours behind the guard, without
his supper until he got out.

Jan. 29th - Sayash arrived to day
but did not inspect our camp to come
in & out as fact we surely knew he
had been here. There was a great amount
of time was set in having to clear up the
of the officers did the sweeping which
fact to get a view of another life
We got 10 days paper & Liberia has
declared war on the Axis. Argentina has
broken off diplomatic relations with the

Our forces & Nihoa has been taken over
by U.S. forces. They said that the Canadians
in Nihoa had been taken by the Americans,
then one would assume that the Canadians
were the attacking force on the island. If
this is true it shouldn't add the supposed
stories of the American soldiers encountering
the brown Japanese airplanes of this island.
Jimmy has gone to bed with tonsillitis &
Bart stayed in bed most of the day for a
rest.

Jan. 30th - We slept in a tent room and
it was a delicious feeling to say the least
There was a bit of rain during the day
which prevented our going out for exercises
but it allowed us to have the fire at
night. Nasty has a hunk in her back &
is in bed for the reason. We are to get
out 200 men to work to-morrow but
that is impossible. Rain or snow in to-day
that Rabal has fallen into our hands.
We wonder if the good arrived to-day.

Feb 1st - We had to send out some more men
to dig the latrine and at the same time our
number of sick men is increasing. It was
about the time that you that we had a big
quantity of supplies and I hope that we are
not in for that this year. I have come in
to-day that we were exchanging ourly notes with
Japan. We were also trying to get permission to send
over Red Cross food to Japan. To night I had a long
chat with Hayashi but it was not so good as
he turned it over to women and he is not
very clever in his language. He did tell me
that Dr. Parsons of the International Red Cross had
died in Tokyo to-day. After roll call to-night
Hayashi found a wooden bucket on the deck just
behind the cook house. The water was hot & as a
result the bucket was smoking. Waddy, the
duty cook, was then discharged from the kitchen
and told he was going to the Oil Factory in
Japan.

Feb 1st - Hayashi had a medical parade
this morning & sent out five extra men to work.

Feb 2nd - The day was quite successful. The
our news was not too bad. It was our
not able to see our own about the south
in the Marshall Is. which is better for us
the loss of communication has been over &
wonder if they are gone & at our staff. The
communication has been received from the ship
for 48 hrs & it must be assumed etc. We
sent over a terrific raid to Japan & dropped
100,000 tons of bombs. There is heavy fighting
in the Pacific & our forces are pushing
in our landing near Formosa & the Chinese
are opening operations near the coast area.
All good stuff! One of our men had an
accident down at the base & as a result he
fell into some gopher holes & is not badly hurt
but we are pulling him off for a few days.
The Japanese seem to be making off at our base
but they are not down & found the company
to do so. Hence they had to stop about 100. This
will give you some idea of how the army
runs the country. We talk by discussion

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in the case to night regarding the religion.
Have very interesting and quite good food
for thought.

Feb 3rd - I am afraid that my emotions are
very much not under control this day due to
my Em-Bro. For the past few days there has
been a fire in it which black dog being out
on our baseball park. This poor Lound was
very hungry and scared. Con Faxon who
works repairing clothes for us has been
giving it the odd bit of food with the result
that we have been able to get nearer to it
every day. Yesterday when I was outside this
dog even managed a tail shake and
seemed happy for the first time since he
took up his abode here. This morning there
was a terrific commotion down in the Wip
quarters and I went down to see what it
was all about. I found that they were all
gathered in an above raging pain. This
poor dog was over in a corner trying to
be as small as possible while the Wips were

biting it with large sticks. They were all
laughing and having a few hours for themselves
and then realize they were trying to get rid of
the dog. The poor dog had a "leap" his legs
when the boys started to hold up, would be
let in a few spots to make friends. His eyes were
quite close. I'm not a big dog, all I want to
be is your friend but then they refused again &
gave him another swatting. I couldn't stand it
and so I left them. I was shaking so hard that I
was afraid that if I remained I would have beaten
one of the Japanese. Suddenly they were a yell &
and ran the dog into the street followed by the
Japs. They all gathered around the poor dog
& obscuring it all. I told Mr. Winimote that in
our country we punished people for such cruelty
to dumb animals. This is a stone bustle I
have mentioned many times in my diary. Every
Jap trampled everything under him with the
utmost cruelty. All the dogs we have had here
we have had to drown or give away in order
to save it from the cruelty of the Japs.

et.

feel that a just retribution for this country
would be to place it under the hands of the
Jahans who this war is over. Rather they
we should do it to send all the Japanese who
participated in the Rape of Nanjing back to
Nanking and place them under the jurisdiction
of the Chinese there.

Shelton & I've went to the market to buy
and had a small time. They brought back
three National Geographic for Reader Digest
and two Magazines Mag. etc. There are all 1940
vintage but it is all good stuff and a very
welcome addition to our library. To night
one of our American prisoners was going
to cut up his new American boots as
they hurt him. The man in the room
prevented him from doing so & we took the
boots away from him. This is the first
time that popular opinion has been with us.
We had permission for the stores to night
up to date when we have been allowed to
light the stores we had had to relinquish

them at 7:30 P.M. This is done by putting water
into the bottom of the stove & pulling the grate out
So night we were allowed to let them burn out
naturally. We had to sleep pretty well on the floor
at 7:30 P.M. but the rest of the night
was - but we were really well on the floor
Feb. 4th - This has been the most
wonderful day I have had since being a prisoner
Some mail arrived and it found for Steve
for myself. I was so excited I couldn't sleep
that I saw Nagasaki and he told me he
would get Harwood to come with me - on
then 5 P.M. This was mail for Harwood
Doc, food, clothing, beauty & books as well
The new book arrived from the Red Cross
and was received by the U.S. & the men
by the War Brethren World Aid Committee
of the International Y.M.C.A. I should
old Nicky all day & finally got a hot
pot to cool me down. I got the letter at
6:15 P.M. This was love from Bud too
from my sister Betty & one from Joe Long. There

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is very little news from Dorothy although
all letters mention her & Sharon. I am
going to write a separate article on the
letters when I have analyzed them a
bit more, right now I am up in the air.
When you remember that this is the first
real news for two years I have received
from home it is not hard to understand
how happy I am.

Feb. 5th - What a terrible night I spent.
I guess it was a result of the letters and
now I have a bad sort of nervous indigestion.
We had a stiff impostor to-day and now
Kajabi tells me he is going to become
a doctor. He had one had named their
return from hospital. He is in fair shape
& brought us news from the men there.
To-night I had a session with the boys.
Two men were made to stand up behind
the guard & I enquired why this punishment.
The sentry claimed that at work to-day
they were sitting in a place they should

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To-day - I AM A MARRIED MAN OF FIVE YEARS
HAPPY ANNIVERSARY MY DARLING, MISS NEILYEAR..... WIFE KNOWS

out. Thus saw us from the structure & they
to the feet, as upon the deck of the ship
by an iron spar. They sat down round a
table for the night soon as it was
dark. This is the same place that they have
been for the days & this particular guard
who is a nuisance, is the first & best.
They would when the sentry told them that
now he wants them punished as well. I
asked Mr. Mainotte to interpret for me but
he said he was going home & to wait for
the S.O. with that he left. We finally got
the interpreter for the same place who happened
to arrive and the fight was on. When I finally
convinced the King W.I. that they were not
knowing they were sitting in a forbidden spot
the sentry changed his story & said they
did not move when told to do so. This also
fell through as the King could not give
their commands in English since the men
could not understand them. The next complaint
was that they did not move quickly enough

etc.

to continue this one we offered to bring
in the two civilian guards to prove otherwise.
The first point was that our men
had used the study in Japanese & they
saw the words we did not know. This was
the first show so I had my fingers. After
telling the interpreter what I thought of the
Japanese in general and then wrong in
particular I stomped off, stomping the
door on my way. The men had to stand
until 8:00 P.M. when the W.C. came to me
& said they were free. He was very satisfied
so I guess the interpreter told him what
I said. Damn them all say I! I was
longer in bed all day & so much worse.
This tanning certainly gives him old men.
The officers all received their mail
to night and hence the room was filled
with memories. Like the last lesson, we
live in the past, to some it is kind
and to the others it is a cruel teacher.
Feb. 6th - There was not a great deal of

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statement this morning. I did my laundry
and my hands are still aching even though
I have ointment on them all day. I had a hot
oven to eat to night as the men were placed
behind the water to stand for punishment. I finally
convinced the boys that the men were sick which
accounted for their having not worked that day.
The guards then released them. The war news to day
was very good. There is terrific fighting in the
Marshall's & they admit having lost the Gilberts.
We are evidently making our big push by hitting
New Guinea, Rabaul, Tarawa & Marshall. We hope
that this spells success for us. The British
are supposed to be raising old hell in air raids
over Germany & there is a big fear of invasion
by us on the continent.

Feb 7th - This morning it was called down
by Hayashi and given a thorough lecture on
the discipline of our men. He is now going
to inspect the guard for the afternoon and
know we have lost all the ground we fought
for so long ago. It is the cause of the men

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her and I saw no ill feeling about it
in the boat. They have almost every privilege
given to them to such an extent that I
wonder at the Japs being stood for it as
long as they have. A further point is that
Hayashi has enough evidence of our having
supported the men when they have been at
fault that he no longer trusts even the officers.
This again is the fault of the men and they
have let us down more times than enough.
You will remember a case at the oil pitney
when I had to back up a man who had
admitted to me that he attempted to steal
a can of oil. This same man admitted
to Hayashi the following day that he
had stolen the oil. Hayashi brought this
up and I had no answer for it. I am
about ready to let the men see how
it is for a time and not to defend a
case unless I am very certain of it.
A peculiar thing to-day was that Murty
went down to see Hayashi and to make

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a request to be sent to Sealing. The
reason for this is to get away from the men
as to be exempt officers only. The request
Sealing as a reason because they would be
no responsibility for the men. I now know
that Kuntz is the best man and would
never accept any responsibility of the men.
My father that should be sent to work
now a tough time because he will be more
in very short time. He has no confidence
quarters about him in the past & combining
time with a hard tendency to work work and
had a bad type of officer in work connection.
I saw the men a bit of a decline on what
had happened and they gave the usual arguments.
We shall now see what happens. Kuntz
is still in bed having a bad time with
his dysentery. I say parole to night and we
also had a cigarette man. We sold this at
2 cm profit per packet & thereby made enough
to send 24 packets to the back in
Shingora hospital.

Feb. 9th - To-day we received the mail that was sent out to the prisoners about a month ago. The only officer that collected was South. He had a raft to night on a good rope with 20 balls that an American received in a personal parcel. He took half the proceeds but the rest went to the medical fund. We made \$9.40 for the medical fund & change as it may seem. I won the rages. This caused a lot of rumour but thank goodness I had a lot of witnesses. So night Hapachi was on duty and at the roll call he gave me a few words of appreciation for the work the officers are doing.

Feb. 9th - This has been one hectic day! We had a guard on duty to-day who has been riding us as hard as he can. The clinch came to night when he had a row about two men gambling. The men gave us the story that the money being transferred was in payment for a

didn't & not gambling. I did not argue then with
the guard & later I found out that the man
was so, that it had been a gambling debt.
The guard pulled his head off for no good reason
but the man. But he took a 10 cent bill from
the man & gave nothing in return. The man
looks round now & I was brought an open
ground out that the man would come back
again & imported from the man which had
could not argue about it. I told the man
leader to stay out of the way which he did.
The guard then came off the man since they
could not find the prisoner & made my
life miserable. So had this we finally got
the prisoner to go to the office where all was
settled. The guards then turned off our
lights & when I argued about this they got
for night watches etc. I finally got the duty
to help out but later so much that
they were a high reputation. So to the
up, brother and for as long with the guard
watching him at supper work until he

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Finally, was told by me to go to bed.
Feb 10th - Hajashi had an plan for a
bit to day and we talked over a few
points. He is going to the Penitentiary Camp & is
taking care but regards to the new tent. I was
in poor health to day because last night
I was up till being sick. This, I think, was
a result of the encounter with the Nips. We
were given a sack of sugar to be used for the
sick men only and what a time we are
having over this. The naval board's members,
Hobb, Yates, Broderick, Bowen, Gately etc
were up to the office in a gang to tell
me where to head in. The Doc went into
the main room & asked for one man per
section to come to the medical room where
it would all be discussed. They have many
groans; they want the sugar evenly distributed,
they don't want the Nips to dictate to them,
they don't trust the officers & many such
other things. I thank God I did not go
up there as I am afraid it would have

ended in a few days all Germany & so took
the meeting & finally came back as obligated
as he could be. Further to this would keep
the light on after 10 PM while he talked
every night to the point of his final sleep
I told him that the love would be no real
time for him. The short discourse that finally
gave me of the meeting made me so mad
that I was sick again. I am afraid my
nerves are about gone. When this is all over
I want to know these men & never see them
again. I have never had the misfortune to
ever read of such a scene of humanity. I
have taken an account of myself here & I
thought I was a bit as they came. But
after seeing this over I am convinced
there is a lot of hope for us. The strange
part of all this is that the whole group of
selfish men at the conference the meeting
were all Englishmen & not a single American
was there. As I said before may I never
see them again when I live here.

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Feb 11th - This was very little of interest to-day.
There was another meeting to-day, or to-night
I should say, but by the time the fire had
gone for and they resolved to do as we
would. The work is going to be used as a reward
for the sick and the remaining will be given
out in about a month's time. Revere to
promise us some mail & some books
to-morrow.

Feb 12th - We received the mail & books
from Meimot to-day & this was the high
light of the day. We had some trouble this
morning when the men went to work. One of
the men decided he was too sick to go & so he
stayed in bed. By the time we found out who
was missing, the ship had called a parole.
The net result of this was that five men
were sent out instead of just the one. We
explained this to the men & I hope they'd
something about this. I had a chat with
Hayashi this morning and he was very
affable. I even promised to take me out

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to purchase a book on navigation if I could
find one. I know where they were one as I
am saving my fingers around. Col. Logan is
coming here to-morrow along with a lot
of the officers. To-morrow is the birthday
of our first Japanese language and from there
we are having a very large breakfast affair
out in the baseball grounds. All the officers
from N.Y. are coming here to see the fun.
Woyacki gave me a long chat on this
subject and I still don't understand it all.
The new books that they gave us are all
the text books & the abysmal books, (13 in all).
The way that the books are here qualified up
these books I will have to get my books by
buying them if I ever want to study them.
The only book of real benefit here is a book on
first year College Mathematics but it was a
loan on that and that I am in a hole
again.

Feb 13th - This was a very quiet day as
all the boys are interested in the same thing.

We watched this wrecking from various concealed points and it was very interesting. I played bridge most of the day starting after lunch & finishing after roll call. We saw one session & but the other so that the spectators are there in the morning as my husband says & or I am getting to bed early. Jimmy, Pat & party raised up a can of snout to mark the day by way of some celebration but we don't quite know what. We finally concluded that it was Valentine's Day Eve & let it go at that.

Feb. 14th = Started the day out by doing my laundry and it was a terrible session. My hands ached all day after it. This may be due to the scurvy but we have no source of vit. C. & that is that. One ted had a small splinter in his thumb and in two days his hand was up like a balloon. The doc had to force his thumb & what a mess it is. So today he was soaking it in hot water and the last joint of

etc

his hands just floated out into the water.
You will give you some idea of what we are
up against under ordinary conditions it would
and even now gotten red. I played some
tricks to day and got some satisfaction out of
Phil. Happy Valentine Day!

Feb. 15th - This morning Haseki had the
box & I drove to his office to see about
an oven for H.C. to start making yeast
water for the prisoners & we discussed this
with him. It is too cold now to operate
it without external heat & Haseki will
not allow us to burn extra coal or use
another stove than are now in use. We
tried to talk him into letting us build a
hot box insulated with straw & heated by
electric light bulbs but he said he would
have to get this sanctioned by H.C. The
box talked him about getting some old
lamps for us to use as the calcium
deficiency is becoming a large factor in
this camp. At present we have no supply

of calcium in our food & the only way
we receive this is by infection. Some even
are suffering from severe pains in their
muscles & other symptoms of the disease.
Hayashi said he had applied to the food
center it seems no bones but we are not
sure of that for any. How did you get those
bones it would be only a loan to us
so that after we build them we would
have to return them.

Feb 16th - I had my quilt out for a
Canadian coat which is so much better. My
own coat was lined with a blanket but the
one I now have is a better cut & about double.
It was filled with oil & so I had to spend the
whole morning scrubbing it. I may have a
cratered suitcase to come my soap & talcum
on the way home if this one turns out O.K.
I saw Hayashi & asked permission to write
a letter to Suzaki asking to be allowed
to purchase a book. Hayashi said he would
take me out. It was 9:00 & I was in

etc.

hope. He was near in at a start. He
was of Russia & very little of the world Pacific.
The total comment is on the Japanese and
treatment of prisoners & embassies. The main cause
of this is the report by the American Plains
about fact of starvation, beating etc. The Germans
have recommended a special committee of Red Cross
representatives to investigate the position but we hope
it works out.

Feb 17th - We had a medical parade this
morning by Kayashi and five men were sent
out to work. Yesterday Kayashi visited the Red
Cross & ordered the sick men out of the hut
here we cannot send sick men to rest
in the huts at the jobs. After lunch I was told
by Sutton to ask Ginnister to accompany me
outside to the bookshop. We went out & I
got him to the shop & reimbursed, probably
my Admiralty War 1914 was still there
& I purchased it 2.13.00. Talie got a Chambers
dictionary 27.50. There were many English
books in the shop than any other language.

There were all the novels that have stood the
test of time and for anyone versed in English
literature it is a goldmine. I was not
permitted to buy anything except a book on
mathematics & my dictionary. I hope some
day it be able to return to that shop as
I could spend a lot of money there. I had
to sell one of my American \$10. notes to
get the money for this but I think it is
well worth it. Well! never have I had such
a downfall. Minamoto took my book on
navigation back to the book shop as he claims
I am prohibited to have such a book. Hayashi
did not even see the book but this is the
story - I argued for a long time but it was
of no use. I finally told Minamoto that I
would kill him for having done such a
thing and that he had better be outside
of Japan when this war is over. I went
to bed early & had one terrible night.
Feb. 12th To-day began spring & I
submitted a request to be sent to

Leaving when the camp breaks up. Norosh
is going to H.Q. at the end of the month
and he said he would do what he could do.
We said we were all physically incapable
of carrying on our duty. I hope this works
as we are fed up with this life. We were
issued with a lot of junk, pencils, notepad
ink, pen nibs, pen muscles, towels & bed
cloths but as usual we did not receive
enough to give one per man. We sold a
lot of these things & made \$25. for the
medical fund. We managed to get a lot
of clothing for exchange which we exchanged
to night with the men.

Feb 19th - To-day I went on a bed case of the
Bliss life certainly he sets up & down but
as a person of war the clothes to strip ones
apart's can descend is beyond all belief. As I
say, I went down to-day and nothing is
worse. We had our inspector and Hayashi
checked us up for not having our numbers
sewn on our tunics & they are on the base

come through that all the Japanese staff
has to wear their names sewn to their
tunics. We have given them an awful
ride about this and how they are very
particular about our names on our tunics.
We ran a game of Go today to
make some money for the medical fund.
We made £15; and the kids had a lot of
fun. This game is very similar to our
Pingo and a little easier to play. There
are only 15 numbers on these cards & on
our Pingo cards there are 24 numbers.
We received 15 more books from the censor
and that leaves only two more for us to get.
There have been very big rumors of a large
scale American attack on French Island. This
place is a big Japanese Naval base and if
we take this it means a big navy base for
the Japs.

Feb 20th - I spent most of the day doing
some writing. The compensation came in
by the Jap papers that we have really hit French

etc

Leland. All the jobs brought back the same answer
traced at the time but had a visit with a
very often who said that there had been no
communication with the lower section
for some time. It also said that the fighting
down south was the heaviest since the war
began. It said it was going to be a short war.
We covered the new books & pushed them out
for general use to night. There was a lot
in the newspaper about peace & peace
conferences with Germany which were
mentioned in the news.

Feb. 21 22nd: There has been an
unhappy bill of pain & have a cold in the right
side of my face which went into my sinuses
today with bad results. I have been nearly all
my nights with the same as it is similar to
a spell I had in 1917 when I had a serious
cancer to get some sleep. This time I had
no answer as bit water bottles. The results
of the battle at Fort Leland came out in the
the papers gave them more or greater than

et c.

Would have which is the first time they have
ever done that. We have 120 aircraft, 18 ships
(2 Cruisers 3 destroyers 13 Torpedo boats) Allied
force 54 aircraft 4 ships (1 aircraft carrier
1 battleship 2 cruisers). Further to this we
have not occupied the place according to them
but at least we have given it a good bombing.
Sept 27th - We started our great work to day
but with the amount of cold water the shell to
go I don't think it will be a success. We have
heard that the enemy broke up March 11th.
Winnant told me that our application for
branches to Leningrad was as good as we are
winning shortly. He had in one big storehouse
of grain so I don't give a damn about anything
We had to clear out the guard house during
the afternoon which made us believe that one
of the bids was due for a session to cool off.
He brought in the culprit during the afternoon,
a kid no 204 Hobb. He is one of our best
characters in this place and a trouble maker
if I ever saw one. The story is that he was

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C.

collecting an oxygen bottle to do some welding at
the house when a flag started to take it away
from him. He for some time insisted that he had been
because he thought the flag was going to hit him with
the flag then stepped up to separate them & that's what
him as he thought the ship was also going to
hit into him. I don't know what he is going to
get but I am afraid he is in for a tough time.
They cut off all his bottom & removed his shoe base
but the doctor getting him into good shape. He has some
bandages & half ration of rice with hot water. The
officers were paid to day and this caused a
bit of an argument. We are about \$125 in
debt at present but not doing is in debt himself
& thinks we should not devote to the medical fund
as we are working camp before next year. The doc
also thinks we should not contribute money
though he has a lot of medicine still to use.
The idea is to let history pay his debt & then we
know from the ~~other~~ men but I think as
is just having the medical fund receive our
personal debts should not be done. We had

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at C.

a big stiff box of which all others stayed
quiet about the having no other opinion
expressed & so I can't tell what the general
opinion was. We had another bad case in
camp to night. One chap was beaten up for
selling cigarettes for \$1.00 while the standard
price is £1.20. The cost price of these cigarettes
is .70. I have gotten the head of the vigilantes
& tell him to use his own discretion. The
dictator is a chap named Rand. He is at
present on a court-martial charge for extorting
sugar. He is a bad character in this camp.
I hope he is thoroughly beaten up.

Feb. 24th : I was wicketly awakened this morning
at 5:30 to talk one of the men out of trouble.
He had been the night sentry from 11:00 to 12:00
& he said he had been there reading a book.
When the W.P. guard insisted he had not
seen him I asked where our head had been
only to find out he had been inside in there
in the M.S. room. We know who should
not have been there but he did not tell

me this week after much argument. We
got more letters by day and there are more
to come. Some kids from K 4 camp were here
after school this morning and we got the news
from them. They have had 22 deaths since they
arrived out of 500 men. The general opinion
there is that the war will not end this year.
One of the men had come up from Hong Kong
along with 80 men Dec. 1943. He said that
it was very bad in Hong Kong and the only
prisoners left were about 1000 Koreans
who were all very sick. The ship is a
volunteer & is a newspaper man which explains
the story that they are gathering all the specialists
to run a propaganda mill in K 4 camp.
The prisoners in K 4 camp are given 10 minutes
improvement for sitting a top house which
is not working. Hayashi told me he thought
Habe would be killed by Land here & as the
chips hit was a boy, it is a reminder
of the. There is no further news of the
break up & Hayashi said that on the 1st

March. The orders should be through from
4.0.

Feb 25th - Hayashi started off this day
with a medical parade. We have been
maintaining 220 210 men working per day
which leaves 23 men to rest in camp.
This is very good for this time of year with
influenza etc. in pit. to qualify for a rest
a low fever temperature of 37.5 is
necessary. With one man in fact we
dropped the figures to 2094. Hayashi had a
parade. He sent out five men all with
temperatures and when we objected he
said "I will let them go out for if they
become worse they shall rest." This will
show you the lines behind it all. Sparks
& I were called down to the office later on
& confronted with the paper attached to
this sheet. The instructions from the Base Surgeon
had copied this down from the walls of
the theater and Hayashi wanted us to
explain it. We said it was the instructions

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etc.

of a man, his regimental number & the
U.S.A. mount United States Army. They said
this was not so & he gave the interpretation
as written. If our forces our V enemy. He
said he got this by spending a lot of time
studying it but he would not explain his
reasoning. We were told to tell all men that
they must cease writing all such propaganda.
I later proved to the interpreters that this
was a man's initials, his number, & his
unit but they still held the mystery of
a code being involved and would not
change their ideas. Note is still in the cell
& as yet no word of his trial or sentence. He
is not doing badly and the communication
with him is good. The kids remain quiet of the
Barracks floor & everyday they get food etc. this
for him. He has his hands tied except when
he eats & sleeps but since he does not smoke
he has very little in the way of inconveniences.
We manage to get sugar in all his food as

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at C.

he will not suffer from the cold so much.
Feb. 26th -- To-day we had the inspection
& bath as usual. After lunch Yonaki called
me down to his office and here he had a
Prof. S. Yajima to talk to me. This man was
employed by the Dept. of Education and he
held a very good line. He asked if we were
interested in the latter's philosophy of the
Japanese & I said we were. After giving us a
rough outline of his speech he arranged
for all officers to come to Harajuku office
after dinner for a chat. We all went down
& he started out. Here is the rough gist of
his speech as he is going to issue a booklet
on the subject & I will append this to my
diary. He claims that after this war it is
necessary for us to get together more
objectively probably by a return to religion.
The Christianity of our world believes that
there is a divine being & as go through
Christ to work it or to act as a
mediator. In Japan they cut out this

intermediate stage & go about to themselves
being, the Sun Godless. They believe that in
Japan there is a chain apart and that they
contain cosmic vitality. This Empire is a direct
descendant of the Sun Godless sense will lead
the world by divine mission. When a Japanese
dies he returns to a divine being, then their
spirits are honored and worshipped. This
is called Shinto Religion. All in all it was
not a bad calumny but the idea
was contradictory in spirit. We admitted that
there was in keeping with all the rage
of modern science but yet they deny all
probability of evolution such as becoming human.
They believe that the Nation is supreme & the
individual should give up all such individual
capacities as an individual. They think they
are the chosen ones to lead the world. We
returned to our room & held heated
argument over this discussion of his.

Feb 27th - This was our day of rest but I
found it so difficult to sleep after breakfast that

I stayed up this morning. The report
came in yesterday that the Slovaks were
unloading a ship which used to be the
President Harris. It was confirmed to-day
and the things are now being set to
transport boats on. We now have a
great brew going on the bank of the
kitchen boilers and it is working very
well. The yield is still very small due
to the small size of the tubs we have to
use. There was another meeting in the
medical room to night regarding the
sugar. These men are not in favor of
it being used for yeast and are determined
to have it for themselves. When told
that it was being converted into medicine
they still would not listen. They
threatened and did everything they
could think of but I am certain we
will carry out the yeast brew no
matter what they think or do. These
men are the real moaners and as

etc.

it so happens they as all English speak
in a very slow tone. They as the had also
are always demanding their rights but can
scarcely be shut up by being given a little
something extra. I shall be very pleased to
see the best of them.

Feb. 28th - To-day we had a great
windstorm. Up until 1:30 there in the
afternoon the weather was beautiful, just
like a spring day but then large clouds
started to form in the north & the
blow south. Very soon large mist
clouds, gray light brown in colour, formed
to the north & came to-ward us. The
wind shifted from North to South but
when the clouds were right over us
the wind went back to North again.
The entry box went down the street
and everything was covered in the
dust that was blowing around. It
was all over in about 10 minutes
and the sun shone through again.

One lad named Stebbins was caught with a scarf that he had stolen from a Japanese Workman. He was made to stand up behind the guard until 9:30 P.M. and what other punishment he is going to get we do not know as yet.

Feb. 29th - It was lovely weather to-day and here we got a lot of news outside on radio. There was a lot of news to-day regarding an attack made by us on Guam and the Mariana Islands. The news mostly from the Japanese papers & here has some truth in it. The news come in from N.Y. regarding our move to the new camp but Hayashi has not told me anything about it as yet. The scheme now is that the Stevedores here in the Reserve Camp until their own place is ready, a matter of about ten days.

March 1st - We tried to get some news from Hayashi to-day but it was of

no one, he evaded every question. The
workers at the Bureau were given a two
hour lecture by a High Naval Officer about
Koband. Evidently it was a pep talk to
them to produce more ships. During the
speech all the prisoners were taken out onto
a pier and made to stay there. One of the
Boys on the ship when the stowaways were
working said he had tried three times to
get to Japan and the first two ships were
sunk.

March 2nd - So day the wind started
out again & the air became filled with thin
brown dust giving the the air a peculiar
light brown colour. I had a long chat with
Hayashi this morning but I got very little
news from him. He said that all the Fed
& our machines was distributed except
to the best crews. He said that long
distance transportation was all right but
the food transportation was not so good.
He said no news of the more possible.

sit
c.

but Doc & I are definitely going to Oahu
with no more of the girls. The guys are
seven apples for the officers & we certainly
enjoyed them very much. One of the
Spanish cooks on the ship when the
stewards were working said that in their
convoy from Formosa two ships were
sunk by aircraft. This is getting close to
home and the ocean has been shipping
small ice-holes all the past week
for our sails.

March 3rd - No news to-day. Reynolds went
out some more sick men's work but this
is the usual procedure every time he is on duty.
About seventeen more letters arrived in to-day
but none for the officers. We tried to find out
about the new camp but all was quiet. We
had a cigarette issue of 10 cigarettes per man,
33 for each man. These cigarettes are 70 mm
for 20 which is more than they were at
home.

March 4th - Saturday & both days it's bad

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a good bath and this is always a big thing
I have tried to go to the Lindbergh to sleep
but Miyachi would not let him go out. We
are planning to go to the oil factory to arrange to
bring back some kerosene oil. This oil is used
to make up our tent meat as we cannot purchase
continued at the Japanese will not supply it.
We are also going to use it as a tent
as this will save money and we can't
purchase tenting very well. If spent most
of the day making a note book & now I
have no use for it. Such is life.

March 5th - Snow & I went to the oil factory
and it was a long day. It was snowing and
blowing all day with the old thermometer
down into the ball at the bottom. We
got our oil, calor to be correct, which
we had to use later & then I started home.
All went well until we were lined up
for inspection outside the camp & then
my bottle broke. As I took a watch
the guards searching the men I could feel

the oil running down my leg. I did
what I could do was to wait
until we were dismissed. I have never
spent such a few minutes in all my life.
When we were dismissed I had the
men gather around me and as come
in. When I undressed I found that a
piece of the bottle had fallen out & I
had lost about 1/2 of the contents.
This was enough to completely soak
the leg of my trousers, undergarments &
run down over my shoe. I quickly
changed & felt a lot better. One of the
lads named Spoon received a letter
from Caputo & he did not know the
sender. I used this lads card at Xmas
1942 to write to my sister in Palermo.
One of the men at the Col factory to have
told me about the letter that when
I got home I looked at it only
to find it was from my sister too.
All this excitement gave me such a

effect of nervous exhaustion. I had
I was probably sick a night.
March 6th - Today I went back to bed
after a call. Not out for long. The guard
was telling me he wanted the bath house
cleaned up. So I had to get up once
more. We received a bus used to buy
at 11.00 per working man and also
the pay for the over. This is very good
as we have borrowed a 200 ym to
buy medicine and we have to repay
it sometime. We are buying the bus in a
large stock of medicine as we can
so that each factory group will have
enough to carry them on until they
make contacts to purchase it. In order
to do this we have had to borrow all
that our car could since over 200 ym
left. We hope to pay back this
loan when we are at the new
camps. We have been running the
"Foula" a couple of months & the

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all help. We charged the men
they were pay and listed as \$76. for
the hospital fund. The Stendone worked
until 10 P.M. to night returning at 12:15.
They had to load a ship with 300 tons of
Dynamium nitrate in order that it could
proceed to Tokyo harbor. They were
given extra food & cigarettes as well as
a holiday to morrow. This company
also pays the men 10 yen extra per day
when they returned to night we gave them
their supper & off to bed.

March 7th. This morning I did
my laundry & was then called down
to Hayashi's office. He made a great
show & told me he had good news for
me. He gave me sweet tea & told me
to sit down by his charcoal stove. He
then produced a radio message from
Dad via the Red Cross telling me
that all was well at home and
that Dorothy had received my first letter.

etc.

He inquired about my father's occupation
as he thought it must be very important.
I have also received two letters from
him and it has impressed him a great deal.
He also told me that he had seen the
food packages from Canada and that
we should get some Red Cross food in
April or May. All in all we spent
a fine morning. In night there was
bad news, the prisoners working at the tunnel
had had a sit-down strike. One of the
prisoners was absent from his work & when
found he was taken to the hill. Now he
told to sell a large piece of iron in front of
him but he refused to do so. There is
a rope was tied to each of them around
his neck and the men placed in rows
his forearms they refused him for
his lunch & then him up again after
lunch. When the prisoners saw this they
refused to go back to work until it was
relaxed. The Japanese wanted to know

dc

only & the prisoners said that Nagasaki
could punish them but not the civilians.
The prisoner was released & the man went
back to work but Nagasaki went to the
Primo to investigate. He demanded to
have the employee and let it go at that
point. The official who is in charge of this
party reported it all to me the evening
& I made out a formal report to be
forwarded to Nagasaki after which I must
have seen with this & Nagasaki started to tell
me how wrong it was for the man to
act in this manner. I informed him that
he has never punished the civilians for
such actions & hence the recurrence of
these incidents. I suggested that the
punishment be given to one but he said
he would be punished by the Japanese
Military Law if he did this & then told
him he was going to be punished anyway
by the British Military Law since this
is one of the causes of long absence. He

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✓

called up to me telling him that as an
officer he was no good for he did not
command any respect either from the
prisoners or the prisoners and then I
blamed the story. One of our civilian
prisoners named Blair had been doing
a voluntary servant job with the
guards & this only caused a lot of
trouble. The guards are now making
the prisoners do a lot of work for
them that was prohibited before. One
was back from Nagasaki I caught
this man with the guards & I want
him to be led there & there.

March 8th - This morning I caught
Blair making tea for the guards at 5 AM
& so I told him next time I catch
him I hit first and ask afterwards.
Spencer, Shetty, two others & myself were
sent to Tokyo to get supplies. We
went by electric train to Tokyo &
were then picked up by the truck

etc

which took us to a large grain storage.
Here we picked up 33 bags (60 lbs) of Kola
& 12 cans of oil. While we were waiting
to get this we saw a woman squatting
on the sidewalk doing her knitting. She
had her arms around her small child who
was being breast fed. The child would feed
for a few minutes, run about on the sidewalk
and then run back for more encouragement.
We called this early service still the sort
of thing had no effect on the mother or
run. The work was done by. From here
we went to Shinjawa Hospital. We had
a long chat with Dr. Gottlieb & Mr. Davis.
I can't say that I care for Dr. Gottlieb after
all that I have heard from his patients
but Mr. Davis impresses me as a very
good lad. They have had eight deaths
this month all from pneumonia and
four of these were sanatorium. The news
they have is very good & the American
the base is Chao Tung Lager saw the

the last time in Mexico before he was taken
back on our side. They believe the big
newspapers are two months behind the
times with their news. I like to see the
a look down in down the Canadian camp
during in too soon on whether I have
missed a lieutenant. It is amazing how
their search party a hell in my mind
and I could get a report of how well
we work of us. I was here until the
time that we Canadians had a different
district to the Americans but we do some
our own things to our best from Korea
and he was in the Winnipeg headquarters.
He said that all was well with the hole
we sent to this camp and he was very
about to meet another Canadian. We
went from this place to the R.C. camp
about 10 miles. We met a lot of his
people from Ojawa and I met some
Kurt, John & Wade whom I know at
Ojawa. They all looked a lot better than

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the air force in America before he was taken
prisoner as ours and they believe the two
newspapers are two months behind. We
have with them now. I'll see you the
a back camp so from the barracks camp
during so far over on October 1st
military attendants. It is amazing how
their search camp a hell in my mind
and I could get a spirit of you all
up inside of me. I am here until the
time that the Japanese had a different
island to the Americans but we do see
our own. I spoke to one boy from Korea
and he was in the Winnipeg barracks.
He said that all was well with the boys
we sent to this camp and he was very
glad to meet another American. We
went from this place to the N.C. camp
called Omei. Healy met a lot of his
friends from Omei and I met some
from West, Omei & Wader whom I know at
Omei. They all looked a lot better than

65

470

when I left them at Upernivik Sept. 1942
They had little in the way of news about
their world in any direction and they also
believe that the war we were in was the
only purpose in about two months left.
As they needed my own coat & equipment
which we brought back to camp I gave
it to me for a change and left my things
myself to take care of the business better
though but her suit out of her hands
being because he had been in some trouble
and no farther word had been heard of
him since. They was not very good
as we all know what the Nips are
like when they punish anyone. On our
way back to camp we saw a slight
misty accident. A motorcycle & its owner
by a ditch and containing an officer was
grounded to the curb by a hole in a
highway. There was a bad crowd of trees
and just as the motor cycle came to rest
the bicyclist was pushed over leaving the

can never occur without my getting
very mad. It is very hard work getting
the coal in as we have to carry it on
by logs on our shoulders, backs &
shanks refuse to carry the coal as they
say they don't know how yet. Charles
is the man who specialized in physical
training before the war. So further
this, to day Charles would not even
use one of the large shovels. He is
the laziest man as far as real work
is concerned and does not even
mind that the less he does the more
it means for us to do. I think this
camp should break up very soon as
we are very too conscious of the
other faults. Mr. Orami came in
to night to talk to us and he
was very much at ease. He told
us many stories of the Japanese
in the internment camps in America
and none of them spoke of mad.

87c

testament. In one case a Japanese
sailing company would not go because
the government would not give them
sufficient food to feed the 400 Japanese
in this camp. I said I would
try to bring in some beans. I had
magazines from his home of Nagasaki
allowed him.

March 10th - Onami left in word
and brought us two crates of
beans. We spent a week and a half
then our and selling all the things
we are accustomed to see the best
civilization before all these things seem
strange and new. They all seemed
just like soap. I felt very nervous
after all the memories that such a
full price beans is not as good as the
make out as a business. I began to
get a substitute to wear under his coat.
He sent out one in Japan and since he
has to come to us. It is so of food

etc

to see him and that I don't know how
that is going to go. It was a miserable
day with respect to the weather, cold raining
and all the bad points it could produce.

Nov 24 - Friday. Nov 25 I saw
some boys who had a check one at the
to some clothes and the food as com-
mon. It is noted the Japanese are doing
with regard to the blankets, whether
cut them so that if all should be gone.
The two things are noted to be over
the will they are accounted for and
it is recalled by the Japanese at any
time. The provisions items are checked
a personal nothing but just continued.

- 5 Blankets
- 5 pieces trousers
- 3 " " " " " "
- 18 " " " " " "
- 10 " " " " " "
- 3 White underwear suits
- 3 " " " " " "

et
c.

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- 5 per c. box
- 5 1/2 color copies
- 5 water bath
- 5 1/2 per hand papers
- 5 1/2 water shirt

In some cases this was in handwriting
 in one box this was in one
 another no substance appeared to be present
 in it. It looks as though a one box
 containing 15 copies of the papers
 per. of army paper of course was
 all. The action was to give to
 it to give out one box of letters to
 an equal proportion of men about 11 am,
 and the 1st time left with the
 going to find out the way of the
 the same men in the camp and then
 do the same thing with them. After
 we asked this change back in the
 in the bath was ready about 7:30 and so
 took a unit up to advise the other
 not to come up in a big group. Sould

ct
e

P.O.W./C.I. : Leonard J. Birchall

Folder 5

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