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TITLE REPORT _____

ORIGIN LT. LEWIS M. BUSH, R. N. V. R. (N. K.) _____

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AUTHENTICITY ORIGINALS UNSIGNED _____

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REPORT OF LIEUT. LEWIS M. BUSH, R.N.V.R. (H.K.)

After the surrender of Hong Kong I was acting as Liaison Officer to S.N.O., Aberdeen Naval Base, and having a fair knowledge of Japan and the Japanese language was able to deal quite satisfactorily with the Japanese forces which occupied our area, and who really did do everything to assist us in regard to procuring food, removing the men to concentration area at Murray Barracks, burying dead, etc. It was quite another matter when the fighting troops left and their duties taken over by civilians working with the Kempie - Gendarmerie - and special garrison troops.

On January 5th 1942, I was taken to Repulse Bay Hotel and interrogated concerning my career and also minefields, and on the following day removed to Gendarmerie H. Q., and then to N. Point Camp where there were over 2,500 P.O.W.'s accommodated in huts built to accommodate 500 Chinese. At this time food in this Camp, all brought in from seized dumps set up by Hong Kong Government, was good, but sanitary conditions were appalling.

On January 23rd I was interrogated at St. George's Building, then used as Gendarmerie H. Q., for the Central Area. My wife had now been arrested and was being questioned in another room. Documents were produced which I recognised as being those which my wife and I translated from the Japanese and which were apparently found in an office in the dockyard, and I was told that they were aware of the fact that I was a member of the British Intelligence Service and had, during my years in Japan, been engaged in espionage, and further, that my wife would be shot, despite the fact that she is a British subject of 15 years standing, for espionage and disseminating anti-war propaganda. This interrogation lasted over twelve hours. I was struck on the jaw by a gendarme sergeant when I expressed an opinion that the Japanese would not hold the territories which they had captured. It was apparent that the Japanese regarded me and also my wife as very dangerous spies, and I was therefore not surprised when, instead of taking me to a regular P.O.W. Camp, they took me to the civilian camp at Stanley, where I remained until March 1943 when finally, in response to my repeated protests, I was taken to Samshuipo Camp, Kowloon, and put in charge of the Naval unit.

SAMSHUIPO CAMP.

This camp had got over its bad times when I arrived there and the men were starting to recover from the effects of over a year of very poor and inadequate food. Beri-beri had left a very pronounced mark on the men, most of them were limping about with the aid of sticks and most of them were very emaciated. The new commandant, Lieut. Wade(?) did a great deal to improve conditions - probably the authorities had been much shaken by the heavy loss of life through diphtheria in the latter part of 1942 when over 200 men died. At this period there were approximately 2,500 prisoners in Samshuipo - Canadians (Royal Rifles and Winnipeg Grenadiers) 1st Middlesex, Royal Scots, Volunteers, Dockyard Police, Navy, etc. Towards the end of April, working parties started to go out to Kai Tak(?) Aerodrome on grass cutting fatigue which was not at all hard and vastly different to the shockingly heavy labour which they had been doing the previous winter.

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Colonel Tokunaga was the C.O, P.O.W. Camps, Hong Kong. This man was responsible for victimization of officers and men who refused to sign the pledge promising not to escape. He once told the Canadians that he did not care if they died of malnutrition, and indeed, that he hoped they would. He personally knocked down and beat Lieut. John Abbott, 1st Middlesex Regt. when this Officer refused to take charge of a working party at Kai Tak Aerodrome. He was seen on several occasions leaving camp with his car stacked with provisions and parcels, the property of British and Dominion prisoners of war, and altogether was a thoroughly detestable character. Conditions in the Camp Hospital had been extremely bad, but Lieut. Wade and the S.M.O., Major Ashton-Rose J.M.S., had done a great deal to improve matters.

SAMSHUIFO WAR CRIMINALS.

Colonel Tokunaga; Lieut. Sakate (or Shikota), name uncertain, but may be confirmed through Hong Kong, and Interpreter Inoze(?).

On August 15th 1943, I left Hong Kong in charge of a draft of 500 P.O.W's (300 Canadians and 200 Imperials). We embarked in a small vessel of approximately 900 tons - "Manryu Maru" which was half filled with cargo, the men sleeping in the holds on top of the cargo, and for the greater part of the voyage were confined below decks. The health of the men was poor and most were suffering from Beri-Beri and skin diseases. I had no doctor although there were numbers in the Hong Kong Camps who could have been spared, and all medical work was done by Corporals Edmonds and MacDonald R.A.F., both of whom worked untiringly day and night and who were, I believe, directly responsible in saving many lives. The food problem was acute although several cases of Red Cross stores had been placed on board for the use of P.O.W's during the voyage. Out of 20 cases of corned beef and 20 cases of meat and vegetable the prisoners were issued 6 and 6 respectively. The rest were eaten by Corporal Takami Supply department and other Japanese N.C.O's. By the time we reached Keeling on August 21 we were eating nothing but rice. Mr. Masuda, Interpreter, who was for many years manager of the Yamashita S. S. Co. at Cardiff, made repeated protests to Corporal Takami re food and stealing of our Red Cross supplies, but all to no purpose. The theft of these articles was most brazen and the Japanese cook would empty the liquid from M & V ration into the scuppers before preparing a stew for his N.C.O. masters. I had obtained permission for 20 most severe cases of sickness to sleep on deck, but constantly through the night these men were prodded with rifle muzzles by the Taiwanese guards; in fact Mr. Masuda became so incensed at the behavior of one of these men who struck a Canadian that he knocked him down. The Captain of the ship did all in his power to assist us and rigged salt water showers and awnings over the hatches, but Corporal Takami did everything possible to prevent the men receiving even the slightest comfort. At Keeling, where we stayed for over a week, I made a request to purchase food from our own funds. This was refused, but Mr. Masuda took matters into his own hands and went ashore and ordered pork and vegetables as well as fruit - enough in fact to last us to Osaka. I believe this saved the lives of several men and I hope that Mr. Masuda will receive due recognition for his humane act and his defiance of the army.

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We arrived at Osaka on September 1st 1943. Out of the 500 troops, 100 were barely able to walk unassisted from the gangway. That we had not had any deaths was due entirely to the efforts of Corporals Edmonds and MacDonald R.A.F., and the magnificent work done by the senior N.C.O's Sgt. McCarron, Royal Rifles of Canada; Sgt. Richards, R.R. of Canada; Sgt. Adams, Winnipeg Grenadiers; Warrant Officer Scot, R.E., Sgt. Rance, Royal Rifles and others.

The 200 Imperial troops were now separated from the Canadians and left at Osaka and I proceed north to Niigata with the Canadians where they took over a new camp; late on night of arrival at Niigata I proceed to Omori, Tokyo, with the guards who had been sent to receive us at Osaka.

OMORI CAMP.

The Camp is situated almost midway between Tokyo and Yokohama on a small island which was reclaimed by P.O.W's during 1942 - 1943. There are 7 barrack buildings and the officers of the H.Q. staff of Tokyo area P.O.W. Camps. The Tokyo area takes in camps as far afield as Niigata - Sendai - Tochigi - Nagano. In September 1943, Colonel Suzuki was in charge of the area and Captain Nemoto the Camp Commandant. At this time there were approximately 350 Officers, N.C.O's and others. The N.C.O's and men housed in the main barracks and Officers in small rooms each side of the entrances. Senior British Officer was Captain Badger, 1st Middlesex Regt. and Senior American Officer and Senior P.O.W., Lieut. Commander Dorkveiler(?) U.S.N. Conditions at this time were moderate and there were no instances of brutality until mid-October when Army Interpreter Kurivama arrived and proceeded to demonstrate his complete indifference towards all human decency by beating men about the face with a wooden clog, forcing them to salute trees and stand at attention for several hours on end and other humiliating punishments. At this period there was a great deal of trouble owing to the Japanese having robbed the P.O.W's of a sack of sugar - gift of South African Red Cross, and Captain Badger and myself made repeated representations to the Japanese in connection with this affair. Finally Captain Nemoto informed us that although the sugar was from Red Cross yet it was in care of Imperial Japanese Army and they would do with it just as they pleased.

We Officers were working in the P.O.W. Post Office sorting mail for all P.O.W's in the Far East. This Post Office was under the direction of Major Frenckom(?) A.E.C. The Japanese would not provide index cards, pencils, ink or any other materials for the operation of the office and everything was provided by Officers out of their pay. Index cards were made of cigarette packets, index boxes made out of Red Cross boxes, and information re whereabouts of P.O.W's obtained from P.O.W's who came into camp in transit from time to time. Later, the authorities did provide copies of telegrams to Red Cross at Geneva giving details of drafts from the South.

The men of this camp were employed on the railways and wharves and on reclamation work connected with expansion of Tokyo port. Camp work was carried out chiefly by the sick.

In November 1943, there arrived in camp Corporal (now Sergeant) Masahire Watanabe who was later to become the most brutal and inhuman Japanese I have ever encountered. At first he appeared to be well disposed toward us

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and even sympathetic, and I told him of the various improvements which we considered ought to be put into effect to improve conditions, especially stressing the iniquitous theft of Red Cross parcels and sugar.

In mid-December I was visited by a certain Professor Fujisawa, a well-known linguist and political economist, who told me that he had been sent into camp by General Doihara who had command of the Eastern area, in order to investigate the conditions of P.O.W's. Shortly after Professor Fujisawa left camp Corporal Watanabe sent for me and told me that my attitude was bad, knocked me down, attempted to strangle me and kicked me in the ribs. This began his reign of terror and he informed us that he did not care for General Doihara or even the camp Commandant; that he was now in direct charge of P.O.W's discipline and would show us exactly how he thought we should be treated. Day after day I was beaten and kicked and made to do menial tasks such as emptying latrines. Officers were the chief victims of this man and he would take great delight in lining us up and beating us in front of the men. In course of time most of us were reduced to a state of complete physical exhaustion.

About January 10th 1944, Professor Fujisawa again visited the camp and I had a private interview with him and gave him full details of the atrocities being committed by Corporal Watanabe. He was horrified and promised to make immediate representations to Major Hamada - 2nd in Command of Tokyo camps and to General Doihara. No sooner had the Professor left the camp than Watanabe sent for me and accused me of complaining to a civilian. about his treatment of us. I admitted that this was the case. That evening I was beaten unconscious, kicked and doused with filthy water. At midnight Watanabe came to my room, forced me on my knees and drew his sword and proceeded to prod me and saw it across my neck with the blunt edge and instructed me to write my last Will and testament. He said that if he killed me the most punishment he would receive would be a few days in the guard house.

Early in 1944, Prince Yoshitomo Tokugawa, former Secretary of Japan-British Society in Tokyo, visited the camp and interviewed me. He was apparently working for the Japanese Red Cross and was aware of the fact that conditions in the camps were not all they should be. I gave him complete details of the state of terror which Corporal Watanabe had brought about and his indifference to other members of Japanese staff. He promised me to do what he could and said he would report the matter to the War Office and Red Cross H. Q. I told him about reports which we had been receiving in connection with Australian camp at Naotsu(?), here our former interpreter Kuriyama had been playing havoc, and he promised that he would endeavor to visit all camps in outlying districts. This he did, because a week or so later a Captain Barrett R.A.A.M.C., came to Omori from Naotsu and said that Prince Tokugawa had visited them and had taken statements from the Officers re brutal treatment meted out to P.O.W's by Kuriyama and others. Colonel Suzuki left camp shortly after this and when he visited us to say goodbye, intimated that he had been relieved because of heavy death rate among P.O.W's at Naotsu and Nigata. Suzuki must certainly be held responsible for his indifference to Kuriyama's and Watanabe's

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acts because he undoubtedly knew what was going on. Here I might mention that Lieut. Muregishi (Gentleman Jim) was the very soul of honour in his dealings with officers and men and, in fact, came in for severe criticism from his brother officers because of his kindness towards P.O.W's. Lieut. Ichimura was also a just officer who, on several occasions, prevented men being beaten. Major Hamada, 2nd in Command, was, I believe, responsible for a great deal of the terrorization of officers and men although he always kept in the background.

In spring of 1944, Captain Nemoto, a great robber of Red Cross supplies left camp and his place was taken by a Lieut. Kato. This officer at once proceeded on a definite policy of humiliating officers. He instituted the system of punishing officers by making them dip (chip?) "benjo's" - latrines for several hours at a time and also to do washing for other prisoners. He it was who made a brutal attack upon Captain Brice J. Martin, U.S. Army when this officer expressed his unwillingness to go to work with the men. Kato knocked him down, broke his nose with a blow from his boot and beat him most ferociously with his sword in scabbard. Martin was laid up for about a week and as soon as he was better was sent to work on a coolie job loading 200 lb bags of rice and carrying heavy lumber. A similar procedure was taken in the case of Lieut. Lucia, U.S.A.A.C. Lieut. Kato forced us to go to work in the Post Office at 8 a.m. and to work through till 6 p.m. although we all complained of sore eyes and pointed out that the work had been of a purely voluntary nature. He intimated that he felt we were receiving valuable information through the letters we sorted and vowed that he'd have the post office taken from our hands and send us all to coolie labour. He now ordered all officers to engage in carrying stores over the bridge in and out of camp, a distance of about half a mile, and in view of the fact that most of us were entirely unfit for such heavy labour, this was a very severe ordeal which sometimes occupied several hours of each day.

I had many contacts with Prince Tokugawa and he told me that he had seen the authorities at the War Office and made a report and protest re our treatment. However, each time I saw Prince Tokugawa it resulted in my being kicked and beaten and terrorized generally by Watanabe so that I was reduced to a state of complete nervous exhaustion. Almost every day Watanabe had the officers out on the parade ground for punishment, his sole reason being "their attitude was bad". It is impossible to describe the terror which this individual spread among us and the situation was so bad that we discovered a plot among the men to murder this Corporal. If this had happened, the Japanese would undoubtedly have shot a dozen P.O.W's and so we were able to prevent such a drastic measure. But there were many of us who felt that death would be preferable to living under such conditions.

Prince Tokugawa explained that his civilian status made it very difficult for him to deal with matters but that he did hope to have Watanabe removed. He had arranged for sports and cinema shows for the men and better food; the chief stumbling block he said was the attitude of Major Hamada and the new Commandant, Colonel Sakaba. Colonel Sakaba had no sooner joined the camp than we were ordered to salute or bow to every Japanese, even coolies and other civilians. This we had not been forced to do under Colonel Suzuki.

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Corporal Watanabe enforced this with his fists and boots and started the practice of having P.O.W's salute trees for hours at a time.

Early in June, Major Frenckom, myself and several other officers were ordered to latrine dipping (chipping?) for 8 hours as punishment for playing a gramophone one Sunday afternoon. We had to carry this ordure a distance of about $\frac{1}{4}$ mile in large buckets slung on poles and worked in pairs. That evening Watanabe ordered Major Frenckom and myself into a large pit behind the Japanese lavatories, drew his sword and sawed this against our necks with the blunt edge. He threatened us with death and said that he was aware of the fact that we were the leaders of a "Black Gang". He stated that he did not care about Prince Tokugawa, that he had a special assignment in connection with P.O.W's. in that he would continue to treat us as he pleased. I am of the opinion that Watanabe was working for the "Kempei" - Gendarmerie, who have always wielded supreme power in Japan, but at the same time he was always undoubtedly inspired by his personal hatred of us. At this time we dare not even speak to officers outside our own rooms for fear we should be accused of plotting against him.

One afternoon when two patients arrived from Shinegawa Hospital, Watanabe proceeded to throw them about the compound with "Judo" - Ju Jitsu throws and holds. One of these men was convalescent, having just been operated on for appendicitis.

In the early part of July 1944, I volunteered to go to another camp at Yokohama, where they required a British officer. For daring to make such a request, Watanabe knocked me down seven times, kicked me repeatedly, threw dirty water over me, stunned me with blows from two fire buckets and then was about to crash a heavy fire extinguisher on to me head when he was thrown with a Ju-Jitsu hold by 2nd Lieut. Fujii, a Japanese doctor, which undoubtedly saved my life.

Major James - Intelligence Camps was also brutally assaulted by this beastly fiend - his age, 63 not sparing him.

POLITICAL.

In January 1944 Prince Tokugawa informed me that the Imperial House was ready to make overtures for peace, but that the chief difficulty was overcoming military opposition. I believe this to be true, because even in 1939 when the Japanese entered into with a military agreement with Germany, Count Soejina, onetime Court Chamberlain, told me in confidence that the pact had been signed against Imperial wishes and was made a fait accompli through Tojo, Ott (German Ambassador) Shirotori, Seigo Nekano and Mitsuru Toyome and Baron Hirimurina (?). For his attitude of opposition towards the pact Count Soejina was forced into retirement and placed on the "black list" as one of the evil influences upon the throne.

Shigeru Yoshida, former Ambassador at Court of St. James was another who was in bad odour with the military and also Marquis Tokugawa. I listened to radio speeches by the Prime Minister, Higushi-Kumi, just after

the surrender and chief emphasis was made by him to Imperial Rescript and order "to strive to suppress the recalcitrant military". The Imperial Rescript is however most unsatisfactory (in my opinion) because it places too much emphasis on the atomic bomb - it gives the impression to the Japanese people that their forces had not been defeated. They must be disillusioned of any such false notions. I feel sure that the nobility will co-operate very thoroughly in suppressing the military factors which may possibly establish undercover organizations (Frogs under Coconut Shells) because they realize only too well that Japan will not be permitted to become a military power in the future, and because they know that the sooner their sincerity is proved to the Allies the sooner will they have a chance of obtaining some measure of prosperity.

I hope that you will make an effort to get in touch with Prince Yoshitono Tokugawa, because he was connected with Red Cross and is acquainted with incidents I have described at Omori and also conditions at other camps, and if he was not able to make any vast improvements it was not through want of trying. He was simply defeated by a heinous system.

FOOD.

Barley and millet have constituted our staple diet, together with Miso soup, potatoes (occasionally) and seaweed, octopus and daikon (giant radish). Rice has for some time been a luxury which we enjoyed only very seldom. Bad as was our food, yet we have always been aware of the fact that our rations have been better than those given Japanese civilians.

MEDICAL.

This is a doctor's sphere, but I should like to point out the very difficult conditions under which our P.O.W. doctors have worked. They never had enough supplies. The Japs stole Red Cross medicines and they were concerned solely with getting men to work, even when men were absolutely unfit for labour. Men have died after receiving injections given by Jap doctors. They were always put on half rations when they were sick and therefore would continue to work as long as they could stand in order to suffer further the pangs of hunger. But the story of the medical side of P.O.W. life will be provided by the doctors concerned. Captain Goad, A.S.A.M.C., Lieut. Whitfield, Captain Barrett, R.A.A.M.C., Lieut. Commander Curtin (?) R.N.V.R. are but a few of the doctors to whom we P.O.W's will be ever grateful and it is to be hoped that they will receive proper recognition for their stalwart devotion to duty in face of the most difficult obstacles it is possible to imagine and the Jap "nil mind".

OFFICERS' PAY

All officers have been equivalently paid to similar rank in Imperial Japanese Army. But they have been forced to work, they have been beaten and

humiliated and there has never been anything of use to buy with their money. In addition they provided funds for the Post Office at Omori as well as bought vitamins for the camp through courtesy of one Jap doctor and therefore it is to be hoped that the government will not deduct these amounts from their pay but follow the same policy as that adopted by U. S. Government.

WAR CRIMINALS.

The following should, in my opinion, be classed as war criminals:-

TOKYO H. Q. CAMPS

Colonels Suzuki and Sakaba; Major Hamada; Captain Nemoto; Lieut. Kato; Major General Hamatha(?) (head of P.O.W. organization at the War Office); Captain Miyugoshi (Camp Commandant at Sumidagawa Camp); Lieut Tokuda (Doctor at Shinagawa Hospital, particulars of his beastly acts have, I understand, already been provided by British and American Doctors who worked at Shinagawa Hospital); Sergeant (former Corporal) Masahira Watanabe (native of Suma, near Kobe); Sergeant Kobayashi.

Army Interpreters. Corporal or L/Corporal Kuriyama; L/Corporal Kawamura (Both constantly beat prisoners and devised various forms of heinous punishments for P.O.W's.). Reservist Katani (at Omori and Sumidagawa); Fujita (Shinagawa and Sumidagawa) both inflicted harsh and brutal punishments on men of working parties.

HONG KONG

Colonel Tokunaga; Interpreter Tsutada (other names will be furnished by officers and men who remained in the area.)

TOKYO PERSONS WHO SHOULD BE PROTECTED AND EVEN ASSISTED.

Prince Yoshitono Tokugawa.
Lieut. Muragishi
Lieut. Ichimura
Private Kano
Sergeant Oguri
Sergeant Masuda
Corporal Sugahara

I was removed from Omori to Yokohama Naval Prison Quarters on July 20th 1944. Shortly after arrival at Yokohama I suffered severe internal bleeding which continued for over one month. I was well treated - X-Rays were taken at Naval Hospital at Yokohama. I told the doctors of the beatings I had suffered at the hands of Watanabe and had bruises and cuts to prove how violently I had been treated. From this time onwards I have been excellently treated by the Navy. However, Ofuna Naval Interrogation Camp was a hell centre and information re the camp will no doubt be forthcoming from officers who were there. Commander Meher U.S.N., Lieut Commander Creer,

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R.A.N., Lieut. J. A. Gibson, A.I.F., are former inmates of Ofuna and will be able to give full particulars.

I know the topography of Japan pretty thoroughly, especially Tokyo, Tohoku, Kobe, Osaka and Lake Biwa areas; I speak the language fairly fluently and therefore I feel I am in a position to be of assistance to you at this time and am perfectly willing to stay behind and assist the work of the authorities in any way possible.

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