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GHQ-AFPAC-AGO
RECOVERED PERSONNEL DIVISION
APO 500 SPM
San Francisco, California

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SUBJECT: Report on Prisoner of War Camps at Ikuno and Akenobe.

TO : Commanding Officer, GHQ-AFPAC-AGO.
Atten; Recovered Personell Division.

Acting on instructions from the 33rd Division Liaison Officer, Recovery Teams 25 and 29 proceeded to Ikuno to investigate two PW camps located in the area. Interpreters furnished by I Corps, were picked up at Himeji prior to departure from 130th Infantry. The Recovery Teams departed from Himeji at 1300, arriving on the outskirts of Ikuno at 1430, where met by guides and escorted to the PW camp. Here the recovery teams were met by officials of the mines in which the PWs had worked and by Capt. Naruwa, Japanese Commandant of both PW Camps. These men were the principal source of information concerning the two camps.

Both Ikuno #4 and Akinobe #6 PW Camps were under the Command of Captain Naruwa who informed us that prisoners confined in both camps worked in the Mitsubishi Kogyo Kaizisiki Kaisha, a copper and zinc mining concern. Both officer and enlisted prisoner personnel worked in the mines or mills connected therewith. Personnel employed above ground worked 7 hours a day. Those employed in the shafts worked from four to five hours a day, the length of time depending on the difficulty of the work. These short hours were due to extreme temperatures in the shafts.

Officers were paid the same salary as equivalent grade Japanese army officers. Enlisted men were paid one Yen a day. Payments were made to PW officers, who distributed the money to the men.

Records of payments made to PW workers were included in the complete rosters and records of the camp which were sent to Major Mitchell at 6th Army Headquarters in Kobe, according to the Commandant, no duplicate copies of any records were kept at the Camps. A copy of an incomplete pay record from Ikuno #4 PW Camp is enclosed with this report. This was the only evidence of payments that was available in either camp.

According to the Commandant of these camps, all prisoners, both officers and EM, worked willingly. No disciplinary action was necessary at either camp to force prisoners to work. When questioned, the Commandant further stated that at no time were PW's in either camp punished or mistreated.

A Japanese medical officer visited each camp once a week. Any prisoner injured at work who required immediate attention was taken to a hospital at the mine. According to the camp officials there were no serious injuries or illnesses, and no prisoners died during their internment at either camp.

In both camps, prisoners were allowed to send out one letter a month. In neither camp did prisoners receive mail more than once or twice during their entire stay.

Camp officials stated that any Red Cross packages received were given to the prisoners and that none of these supplies were withheld by the Japanese. PX facilities were available at Ikuno. Prisoners could purchase curry powder, tooth paste and three cigarettes a day. No PX facilities were available at Akenobe.

According to our informants, rations received were of a standard set by the Japanese PW camp quartermaster and were the same in all camps. He further stated that the rations received by prisoners in these two camps were larger than the amounts allotted to the Japanese guards. In both camps prisoners did their own cooking. Kitchen facilities in both camps seemed to be adequate, but were quite primitive according to American standards. Water was piped into both kitchens. A typical days menu, as reported by Japanese officials, follows:

Breakfast- Soup, rice, pickled vegetables.
 Supper- Various vegetables, meat, and rice.

For the noon meal the prisoners made lunches to be carried to the mines. These consisted of various Japanese foods which could stand the high temperature of the working areas.

In addition to rations issued by the Japanese government, flour was furnished by mine officials for the use of PW's in baking.

According to Captain Naruwa, the food was more than adequate according to Japanese standards, but not up to American army standard. Following is a description of each camp.

Ikuno #4

This camp is located 2 6/10 miles north of the town of Ikuno a few hundred yards from the main buildings of the mine. Barracks were sufficient for the adequate housing of the prisoners. Most prisoners were housed in small three or four man rooms which contained sleeping mats and shelves for personal effects. All quarters were equipped with electric lights. Latrines and washing facilities were adequate. These facilities had the appearance of having been freshly cleaned prior to our arrival.

The camp is surrounded by a ten foot board fence topped with wire. The guard consisted of nine Japanese enlisted men who had special quarters within the enclosure. In addition to the guards there were five Japanese NCO's who handled camp administration.

The camp was opened on 28 March 1945. Buildings were completed just prior the arrival of the prisoners. Three hundred and ninety six prisoners arrived on 29 March and forty three arrived on 31 March. Twenty seven of these prisoners came from the Tanagawawi camp at Kobe. All other prisoners were sent here from Wakayama.

The camp contained the following prisoner personnel;

	Officers	Enlisted Men	Civilians
American	17	27	
English	17	365	1
Australian	8		
Dutch	1		
Canadian		2	
New Zealand		2	
	<u>43</u>	<u>396</u>	<u>1</u>

Prisoner camp commander was an American Lt Colonel. Since all copies of prisoner rosters were sent to 5th army headquarters in Kobe, his name was not available.

With the signing of the truce, evacuation of the camp started. Six officers were sent to Kobe on 22 August. Four officers were sent to Tsuruga, two to Akenobe, four to Noda, three to Notogawa, one to Maibara, and four to Hirohata, all leaving on 31 August. The balance of the prisoners left for Yokohama on 2 September. These men were furnished rations for the trip by Japanese officials. The trip was made by train. These men were under Major Pitt, a prisoner officer, and other officers selected by the prisoners. Major Pitt collected the arms of the Japanese guards and the prisoners, took these to Yokohama with them. The Commandant stated that several officers departed on their own during the last week of August, but since the camp was entirely under prisoner supervision after the signing of the truce, he was unable to keep accurate account of these irregular departures.

Akinobe #6

This camp is located in an unfavorable spot on the steep side of the canyon of a small mountain stream. Due to this poor location, about half of the camp was completely washed away during recent heavy rains. The camp is situated twenty kilometers west of Ikuno.

The camp was surrounded by a ten foot board fence topped with wire. Since the stream was included in the prison compound, a large portion of this has been destroyed by flood. High water completely destroyed the main barracks, one latrine, and several small buildings. The remaining buildings include a dispensary which contained a small pharmacy, an examining room, and a thirty six bed rest room for those slightly ill. There was one kitchen building containing the kitchen itself and quarters for those PW's who worked as cooks. Kitchen facilities were crude from an American standpoint. Water was piped into the building.

Contained in one small building were the orderly room of the PW's, a barber shop, and quarters for prisoners working in each.

The body of the prisoners was housed in one large barracks which was destroyed by floods. According to the Commandant it had a capacity of 250 men. Beds were arranged in tiers three high. From his description, it would appear that the building was greatly overcrowded.

There were two latrines for all prisoners which seemed to be reasonably sanitary, but hardly adequate for the large number of prisoners.

Prisoners were allowed to produce their own entertainments and we were informed that they received musical instruments from the International YMCA.

The camp was guarded by nine Japanese enlisted men. Their arms and ammunition are at present stored in the police station at Yoga, about two kilometers from the camp. The Commandant stated that he had received no instructions on their disposition. We instructed him to continue to hold the arms until further orders.

The camp was opened on 15 May 1945, shortly after the completion of the buildings and on 17 May 284 prisoners arrived. Three PW's were sent here from the Iaiho camp in Osaka, 256 came from the Sakurijima camp at Osaka.

and 27 came from Yodogawa. On 9 July one American Medical officer arrived from Osaka and on 15 July an Australian enlisted man arrived from Osaka. On 31 August two British Warrant Officers arrived.

The PW's included the following personnel.

	Officers	Enlisted Men	Civilians
American	4	91	
English	2	146	17
Australian		28	
	<u>6</u>	<u>265</u>	<u>17</u>

With the signing of the truce, the disposition of the PW's started. The Commandant stated that their departure was under the direction of PW officers and that therefor his information on their departure is incomplete.

On 5 September, 25 PW's were sent to the Osaka hospital as patients. The Commandant informed us that these patients were sent on the recommendation of the American PW medical officer to prepare them for the trip to Manila and to their homes. When questioned, he stated that they were not seriously ill and that they had not required hospitalization prior to the truce. Six prisoners went along with the patients as escorts.

The body of the prisoners left on 9 September. The departure was arranged by a committee of five PW officers. An American medical Captain was in charge. The PW's left by truck and travelled to the railroad station, going to Yokohama by train.

The Commandant stated that thirty five prisoners left on their own and that he doesn't know where they went. Apparently the prisoners were left completely alone after the signing of the truce and therefor our information on their departure is not complete, since Japanese authorities kept very informal records of their departure.

Both of these PW camps are relatively new and therefor probably much better than the average. According to Japanese standards they are probably more than adequate, but in our opinion, they fall far below American standards for the adequate housing of prisoners of war.

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