

OFFICE OF THE SENIOR PRISONER OF WAR OFFICER

Number Four Branch Camp

Tokyo Area

August 25, 1945

SUBJECT: Report of Conditions of Food and Tobacco in Japanese P.O.W. camp  
No. 4-B.

TO: Japanese Camp Commander, Japanese P.O.W. Camp No. 4-B, Tokyo, Japan.

1. Since the cessation of hostilities between the Allied Powers and Japan on August 15th, numerous requests have been made by this headquarters to the Japanese Military Authorities for an improvement in the quantity of the rations issued to the Prisoners of War in this camp and numerous promises from the betterment of this condition have been made by the Japanese Military Authorities. Similar requests and promises have been made as regards tobacco.

2. It is now August 25th, ten days since the cessation of hostilities. No change in the food or tobacco situation has been noticeable, except for the worse and the men in the camp are growing restless and discontented, a state of affairs which is a source of potential serious trouble for the Japanese and prisoner authorities if it is not remedied immediately.

3. With the knowledge of the amount of grain on hand the availability of vegetables and meat in this locality, it is believed that with proper supervision and effort in this locality, it is believed that with proper supervision and effort on the part of the Japanese Military Authorities favorable concrete results can be obtained.

4. In view of the foregoing paragraphs this headquarters will find it necessary, unless there is a marked improvement in the food and tobacco situation not later than 5:00 PM today, to make to the Allied Military Forces upon their arrival a formal report charging the Japanese Authorities of this camp with neglect of duty in the care of Prisoners of War.

J.A. FITZGERALD  
LT. COMMANDER, U.S. NAVY,  
SENIOR P.O.W. OFFICER

My Dear Admiral,

Am sorry to delay so long in forwarding the notes I wrote, such as they are, while in Japan, but the typist I'd engaged became ill and was unable to contact her until just the other day. In view of the shortage of navy yeoman I did not wish to impose an additional work load there. The notes, as you will see, are somewhat strange in places but probably portray the mood at the time.

To go back, however, and pick up some of the missing parts concerning the Grenadier, the following is as how I remember it. Referring to my dispatch to ComSubSowesPac Of Mid April 1943, reporting conditions within the area up to that time, I did not wish to broadcast through the British communication setup that about 2100 on April 6, 1943 a torpedo blew up 51 seconds after it was fired, S.J. range to target 1605 yards, and that the second one went astray someplace, for the target setup was perfect as any minor change in data on the T.D.C. showed. The course was checked by lining up masts and speed checked by paralleling. The torpedoes were stern shots at almost zero gyro angle, eleven second intervals, and set to run at about 10 feet.

Before the column of water subsided, about one-half the ship, a Jap of about 2000 tons, was obscured from sight by the column of water resulting from the torpedo's exploding. The ship stopped, then proceeded in a very erratic manner. Gunfire was resorted to resulting innumerable hits from 20 MM and at least two hits near the water line from the 3 inch. By this time the Japs fire was falling close aboard. The setup was such that I deemed it necessary to go around Pilgrim Island, but was unable to relocate the Jap. Subsequent Jap reports, Three in number from different sources, claim that the ship sank. In Penang they raised a lot of trouble because of our firing on a crippled ship, be that as it may I believe the ship went down.

The Grenadier then proceeded northward toward Rangoon covering the possible traffic lanes west of the peninsula, including those possible east of the islands close to the peninsula. I am enclosing a copy of the report submitted to Admiral Lockwood for the action of 21 April 1943.

The officers and crew arrived in Penang about 0700 23 April 1943. Breakfast was promised to be served later when we arrived at the place of confinement. Everyone was of course in need of food; hardly anyone had eaten since the morning of the 21st. Sandwiches had been put out on board the Grenadier, but because of the nervous tension and excitement hardly anyone had eaten. The 23rd wasn't too bad as regards food, because the nervous tension was still so prevalent that I didn't feel the need too much, and am sure the other seventy-five felt the same way. However, come dawn of the 24th that old gnawing pain in the midriff began to tell. It was maddening to go to that questioning room and see the Japs eating bananas and sandwiches in front of us; let alone their drinking cool lime ade and mild. No doubt it was one of their aims to get us to break down. The old American spirit and manhood was made of sterner stuff. It hurt yes, but no one indicated it. Upon getting back to my room on the second floor I recall so vividly how I used to look out the window, day after day, and see those cocoanuts lying about on the ground. Would make gestures of all kinds to the guard regarding getting one of them. All I'd receive would be a shake of the head and a sadistic grin showing all his buck teeth.

One day I encountered a guard of my room who spoke Spanish. We became involved in Spanish. He had lived in Brazil for a number of years, but had returned to Japan just prior to the war in the Pacific. All I could get from him was one cigarette. As to the cocoanuts lying in the yard "No puede senor".

The three pieces of chewing gum I happened to have in my pocket went a long way to starve off the hunger which was becoming more acute day by day. It was getting to the point where we on the second floor would have to pull ourselves up the stairs by means of the railing on the steps. Anything in the way of food was not forthcoming and all of us were steadily growing weaker, weaker and still weaker. Still no food was forthcoming until the evening of the 27th. My previous efforts to obtain any were negative results until a Jap commander came to my room that morning. He promised some food by 1300, it finally arrived about 1700, a small teacup of rice broth, and some weak tea, period. In the meantime the men were divided half and half between two school rooms on the ground floor, stone decks; the officers in single rooms on the second floor, wooden decks. The rough treatment started the first afternoon, particularly with the men. They were forced to sit or stand in silence in an attention attitude. Any divergence resulted in a gun butt, kick, slug in the face or bayonet prick. In the questioning room persuasive measures such as clubs, about the size of indoor ball bats, pencils between the fingers and pushing the blade of a pen knife under the finger nails trying to get us to talk. Considering all this I believe the men held up remarkably well. To the best of my knowledge, Knutson, J.S. RMLc and I were the only ones to receive the water treatment, and I the only one who lost fingernails. Believe it or not, but the pain caused by the pencils between the fingers of the right hand was so great that I did not realize my left hand was being stabbed with a knife, only when I saw the blood gushing but did I realize what had happened. Or what did the water treatment consist in this case? It probably needs a degree of explaining here. Usually was severely beaten by a club or two clubs as the mood struck the Japs. By this I mean visualizing the old circus tent stake driver pounding the peg into the ground. Simultaneously two Japs would arrange themselves one on each side of the victim, taking turns as to see who could drive the hardest. Usually one would soon be knocked down in short order, twenty to thirty or so blows doing the trick. I was then tied to a bench with my head hanging over the edge. The Japs would then elevate the bench to such an angle that my feet were on a plane of about 30 degrees above the head. They would then start pouring tea kettle after tea kettle of water down my nose, holding a hand over my mouth in the mean time; everytime I'd move my head to try for some air a heavy fist would bounce off my chin. Maybe I'd pass out and maybe not. Following this I would receive another club beating until I passed out. Upon coming to they would try to get me to talk, if no go on that, more beatings--finally I would be carried to my room and dumped on the floor waiting for awhile until they decided to try again. It got so that everytime I'd hear that Jap Warrant Officer coming into the building I'd think it was for me again, or some other poor devil. We all had the same feeling for everyone received beating after beating. However, the beatings, slugs, etc. were quite common for all hands. One became so stiff and sore it was almost impossible to move, let alone change position from standing to sitting or reclining even if able to get away with it.

Whiting, Harty and I were given a bath and ordered to wash our clothes the afternoon of the 28th. Regret to state that because of a paralyzed right arm, Whiting washed my clothes and assisted me in my bath.

The three of us, blindfolded and handcuffed were flown to Tokyo 29 April to 1 May 1943. Stopping, I think at Saigon, and either Shanghai or Formosa. We were not informed as to our location. In the plane, during flight, the blindfold was removed, but being desperate characters the handcuffs were left on except when caged up at night and well guarded. The first night we received some hardtack biscuits, one small can of condensed milk and some tea. The cock-roaches were quite prevalent among the biscuits. The next night we received a small handful of rice and a few vegetables on a green leaf. Two meals in the plane were Jap commercial airline food and the other Jap field ration. Probably the best in quality and quantity we received until late August 1945.

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Arrived in the Tokyo Area the evening of 1 May 1943. After a cold ride of about an hour and a half in a truck fitted with a tent covering, blindfolded and handcuffed we arrived at Ofuna. Reminded us of a seascout camp in the hills with little monkeys running hither and yon. Individual rooms were provided, two and a half small steps wide and about five of same in length, each fitted with two grass mats or "Tatamies" as the Japs call them. A cold meal of rice and soup was provided. We were given plenty of blankets, a G-string, some tooth powder, tooth brush, and small hand towel made of raw silk. We were still strictly supervised and not allowed conversation a condition which had prevailed since the morning of 22 April, and one that was to continue for many months.

We subsequently learned that during the afternoon of 1 May, all inmates except an Australian flying officer had been transferred to the other wing of the building, nineteen of the occupying about a dozen rooms, necessitating of course some doubling up in a rather cramped style.

Breakfasts on May 2nd brought us our first regular meal, soup and rice, which is the standard Nip procedure. About a teaspoonful of soys bean paste-"miso"-and a small bowl of rice, constituted the size of it. Commander A.L. Maher, NA '22, gunnery officer of the Houston, came rushing down the passage well ahead of the guard and said "Maher, gunnery officer Houston, get data to you as soon as possible", and went about his business. He was acting as interpreter in the camp, there being no Jap interpreter in Ofuna. The guard was right on his heels in no time and gave Maher a rather questioning look. It was reassuring for us to see another white man again, and to be braced with this small bit of information. Later in the morning I saw Dave Hurt across the compound; of course communication of any kind was practically out of the question, being so closely watched. We were later able to get a little information back and forth by means of notes scribbled on scrap paper and left in the toilet (referred to as "banjo" by the Nips.) Hurt gave me a line on what he had been feeding the questioning officers, which we learned to call OK's. (Quiz Kids)

Questioning began May 3rd. On from where we operated, how we went to Australia and a thousand and one other things. The Grenadier was out of Sidney, so I told them and had arrived direct from Pearl traveling east of the Marshals, past the Fajis, etc. The three of us would try getting out data to each other, in one manner or another, so that our stories would not be conflicting. Our chief Q.K. was named Sanamki, a Commander from the Jap N.A. class of 1923. He was, prior to the war, in the Naval Attache Office in Washington and had been touring the U.S. getting all the data he could obtain, even had spent a year or so at Princeton. His English was fair. The interpreter who worked with him had been in the Embassy at Washington, and had attended U.S.C. during his numerous years here in the States. This man's name was J. Sasaki, A Lieut-Comdr. Naval Reserve. Both these officers were exchanged in 1942. I have subsequently seen Sasaki's picture among Jap prisoners at Omori, which used to be the Jap headquarters camp for Allied POW's of the Tokyo Area. Questioning continued practically daily for some time, Areas, numbers of boats operating and where, number of subs sunk or badly damaged. Finally I said that some fifty subs had failed to return and that forty some odd were seriously damaged. This statement was made in May or June of 1943, it seemed to satisfy them and they shut up on that score. You can well imagine the questions asked, but I don't think their tactics and methods were as effective as they believed them to be. We became terrific liars and usually got away with it. On matters of commercial design used on merchantmen or universally known, and data which could be obtained from "Jones Fighting Ships" we told the truth, which I believed helped us when we were lying about matters which they had no business to know as far as we were concerned.

Knutson, RMLc arrived June 29, 1943. By the grapevine I gave him all the data I could.

He was taken from Penang about 3 May and flown to Surabaya via Singapore. His treatment at Singapore, while there for a couple of days, was fairly decent except that one time he had to use his hat for a toilet. In Surabaya he was questioned by Jap and German radio and radar experts. When he wouldn't "give" he was starved and hung by his thumbs for ten days. If I am not mistaken our intelligence intercepted some of the Jap reports emitting from Surabaya regarding the interview of Knutson. Some of the reports arriving at Ofuna about the time caused us a bad time but all in all we evaded and denied lots of it, or confirmed other data if it didn't amount to much. Mr. J. Curtin's broadcast from Australia regarding the base in Exmouth Gulf also caused us a bad time. However, we swore up and down that we knew of no such base on the west coast of Australia. Then they started in on the Brisbane and Perth bases saying that they had D.F.'d our coded dispatches from there. We were able to deny any knowledge of these two bases for a long time, however, they never, to my knowledge got the straight set up on either base. About fourteen "S" and 7-8 Fleet boats operated from Sidney. Later they didn't know for sure whether a half dozen or two dozen boats operated from Fremantle. That question was bantered back and forth for some time, then was finally dropped as an apparently bad deal.

During the latter part of August 1st Lieutenant L. Zamparini and his pilot arrived in Ofuna. They had spent forty-seven days in a rubber life boat and forty some odd days on one of the Marshall Islands in a Nip jail. A third member of their party died after thirty-three days in the boat. Engine trouble had caused their forced landing, a B-17 I believe, was the type of plane they were in.

About September 5th Lieutenant Condit, USNR, his radioman and engineer Marshall arrived. What a sad sight they were. Their plane, A TBF from Yorktown II was damaged by Jap A.A. fire during the Marcus raid. Condit had a close call when the piece of shrapnel came from underneath passing between his legs and almost shaving the Rabbi a job. They were forced to land in the water about 70 miles from Marcus. Condit said that they had a terrific time getting their rubber boat out of the plane before it sank. Once in the boat they noticed a book floating about "I got My Man"- but in this case it was the wrong man. The next day they received a preliminary greffing from a patrol boat before being picked up. On Marcus their preliminary questioning resulted in Condit losing a tooth, sound beatings, a knot on his head and general working over, the other two were soundly beaten also, black eyes, cuts and bruises. "Na, e, rats, and number" seemed to be anything but what the Japs wanted. It was from people arriving periodically that we obtained our true information from the outside. Every fragment and straw gleaned helped to keep our morale up and kept us posted on the progress of the allies. This case is a typical of others arriving at Ofuna, but the main reason I mention it is that Lieutenant Geo. R. Brown from the Sculpin later stated "We were supposed to pick you up off Marcus but couldn't locate your boat, anyway mission accomplished, but a helluva place to find you and not be able to do anything about it!"

About Mid September we learned of the fall of Italy. Around the 12th Captain G. Prelli, the senior Italian Naval Officer in the far east arrived, handcuffed and bound with rope one end of which serving as a leash. He had been badly beaten and his face cut up. The next day seven of his staff arrived. About the 15th the crew of an Italian merchantman arrived, one or two were Scandinavians. Maher was in on the interpretation angle again and spotted a "Nippon Times" written in English dated September 9th with big headlines "Italy Capitulates" or words to that effect. He said he could hardly stand up when he saw this. Under pretense of giving out some of the Nips instructions he told Johnson to get that paper to him some way, hold it, hide it, but get it to him- We received the paper.

While things were going fairly well for the Japs they used to give the older

prisoners an occasional news paper written in English, however, the last ones received were dated in June of 1943. The information naturally was colored in favor of the Nips. These merchantmen were Fansisti and none were later transferred to the Tokyo area. I subsequently learned that they were freed and that some got back to Italy. The Naval Officers, however, were still in various camps until the end of the war. Saw Captain Freilli in Shingawa, the hospital camp, one day during February 1945 while some of ~~the~~<sup>us</sup> were over there from Onceri to dismantle a garage and take it to Omori to be erected there. This type of work came under "Gardening".

To go back a little now for a couple of details, back to May of 43. When the three of us from the Grenadier arrived in Ofuna there were two wings to the barracks each of about fifteen rooms two or three of which were various store rooms. In May construction of wooden frame structures, typical Japanese barns, was started, increasing the total capacity to about ninety-two rooms. A new quiz room was added, new bath constructed, new "goats" office and kitchen enlarged. The senior P.O.'s were known among us as "goats". Imagine the rumors going about the camp when this construction began. Many of us thought it would be turned into an official camp, something we all hoped for, or get transferred to sooner or later; for from Ofuna there was no information in or out. Strictly silence, literally out of this world. However, Dave Hurt did receive seven letters from the states during September and October 1943. Must have been a mistake for he was the only one to receive any mail while in Ofuna.

On October 12th 1943 twenty-four Grenadier men and five officers arrived. Their story was one of much hardship, trials and tribulations. After Whiting, Harty and I left Paneng they were put on two very scant meals a day. Some of the canned food the men had in their pockets when we left the Grenadier was finally distributed to them. In such quantities that may be there would be three to four beans per man, a can of sardines divided among many, etc. Naturally the maltreatment continued, our captors wouldn't have belonged to the Axis powers if this conduct toward POW's had been respectable. Dengue fever broke out, beri beri started in and questioning with persuasive measures as well as slow starvation continued. About August 8, 1943, seventy-two of them were put aboard a small Jap ship and sent to Singapore. They arrived in Singapore without incident except for the fact that one night while enroute and locked below in a hole of the ship, some sort of action took place, the guns and depth charges giving them a bad scare.

In Singapore the treatment was an improvement, guards were very scarce, but the lack of sufficient food was the main item. The India troops in a compound adjacent were receiving more food than they could eat, throwing away the excess, but they couldn't give it to our men, nor could our men salvage it in any way. After fifty-one days in Singapore they were placed in a hole on board the Asama Maru, less one man, an Electrician's mate, L.L. Barker, who was left in a Singapore hospital with an infected throat.

About two days before they arrived in Japan one of the Jap officers in the Asama Maru said "so you're from the submarine that sank a ship off Pilgrim Island last April". From then on until the officers and men were disembarked in Japan they were each in turn repeatedly caused to stand in a bent-over position while some Nip standing at the edge of the held above them would swing the hand rail of a gangway against his back sides/ The resulting force would practically drive them through the bulkhead.

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The seventy-one officers and men remained in a pretty good camp, considering the standards, for about two days when the five officers, and twenty-four of the sixty-six men were sent to Afuma, the remaining forty-two men were sent to various camps in Japan.

Early in November two survivors of the S-44 arrived in Ofuma. The 44 had started a night attack on a ship which turned out to be a destroyer. I was told that an attempt was made to dive the submarine but that it wouldn't for some unknown reason, submerge mainly because of the high seas. Battle surface was ordered. The S-44 being hit several times started to flood, the C.O. ordered abandon ship. Several men were in the water but only two were picked up, DUVA & CTM, and WHITMORE a RM2C.

About November 22, 1943 morale was boosted quite a bit when the dope came out that there would be a transfer of prisoners out of Ofuma. Everyone of course wanted to get away from that place. We were not P.O.W.'s, but unarmed enemies, and not registered with the International Red Cross. Conversation was still banned, but we nevertheless took chances and did talk in whispers whenever we thought we could get away with it--one didn't always come off lucky on this score so consequently we received punishment in more ways than one whenever caught in the act, or even suspected of same. Anyway the scuttlebutt was rampant as this was the first big transfer to take place since May when ten men were transferred. Finally on December 3, 1943 about thirty officers and men left. Commander Maher, Dave Hunt, V.C. Blain former CC USS Pope, and others who had been there for a long time, these three had been there for about nineteen months. One can well imagine how glad they were to leave for another camp. This left me senior POW in Ofuma, many headaches as well as trying to fill the job of interpreter than became my lot.

On December 5, 1943 one officer and twenty men, survivors of the Sculpin arrived in camp. Barefooted, make shift clothing, mostly cast off Jap undress blues and in general a weary looking lot.

Having been sunk on November 19, 1943, off Truk as a result of depth charges and gun fire from a Jap DD.

Of these who were able to abandon ship prior to the Sculpin's going down three officers and thirty-nine men were picked up and taken to Truk. They remained there about ten days when they were divided between two carriers for transportation to Japan. Lieutenant George E. Brown and nineteen men, one of them wounded, were placed on one carrier, two Ensigns and twenty men were placed on another carrier, some of those in the latter carrier were wounded to various degrees.

On December 3 off Japan the carrier carrying the wounded was attacked by submarine and sunk. The prisoners being confined in a hold were helpless, however one man did get out and over the side, subsequently being picked up and placed on board the carrier carrying the other twenty SCULPIN survivors.

It is believed the SAILFISH sank the carrier, such are the fortunes of war.

Pertinent information was given the SCULPIN survivors as quickly as possible, this proved beneficial for all concerned and save embarrassing and conflicting statements to the Q.K.'s later on. I learned from Lieutenant Brown that a list of fifty-five GRENANDIER survivors was in Pearl Harbor. This was very encouraging for me, for at least anxiety at home for those men was somewhat lessened.

Permission was obtained to conduct a Christmas program. This included various scripture readings, appropriate songs and prayers. In the afternoon a track and field program was carried out.

The Q.K.'s in attendance. Prizes in the form of baked sweet potatoes, and cigarettes were given the winning contestants. Not much for ordinary standards, but regardless of the fact that the quantity received was small it was much appreciation by all hands. Everyone received a few apples and tangerines that day, so all in all under the circumstances the day was spent as pleasantly as possible. Conversation among the older prisoners in Ofuma, to a limited degree, was permitted, but for that day only. The lid was clamped down tightly again the next day.

New Year's Eve created quite much excitement. Lieutenant Berty, about 1700 came rushing from the "Benjo" whispering something about a truck load of boxes marked with a large red cross. Those of us about at the time told him that he must be crazy, or in need of glasses, as no such thing would ever be given any of us in Ofuma. However, out of curiosity a number of prisoners went to the benjo for a look out through one of the numerous openings between the boards forming the siding of the building--these cracks were quite prevalent throughout the buildings, especially the older barracks. Fine for summer but miserable for the winter weather. Within a couple of minutes the guard began calling for a ten head working party. In no time at all everyone who was able to do so was at the gate assisting in unloading the truck. Seventy-two cases, each containing eight cartons of Canadian Red Cross food. Excitement ran wild, how much of it would we actually receive, how often would we get a parcel, and many such quairies prevailed.

The few notes I took during 1944 follow. While bried and in non-incriminating language I will make bried explanatory notes where the situations would not be clear to anyone else. The book was taken from me at Omori and I did not get it back until my return to the U.S.. However, the interpreter Pvt. Mono, somewhat pre-American, obtained it from the Nip files and gave it to Commander Hurt. After his transfer from Omori, imagine Commander L. Maher received same. Anyway it ended up in Admiral Halsey's office. The underlining in red was either done at the headquarters camp in Omori or else by the Admiral's staff, probably the former.



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OFUNA, JAPAN  
1944

Jan. 1- New Year's Day - Big Japanese Holiday.

Last night 72 caes of Red Cross food arrived, contents 8 cartons, each containing as follows: Soap 1 bar; 2 oz. corn beef 12 oz.; salmon 8 oz.; sardines 3-3/4 oz. (Ka, beef sausage or liver sausage 10 1/2 oz.) Tea 4 oz. or coffee 6 oz. jam or marmalade 1 lb.; butter 1 lb.; pilot biscuits 1 lb.; cheese 4 oz.; prunes 6 oz.; salt and pepper 1 oz.; chocolate bar 5 oz. raisins 7 oz. powdered milk 1 lb.; 70 POW.

All hands like small children last night anticipating the arrival of Santa Claus, as the boxes had not been distributed..Two (2) cartons each, contributed to a food bank for new prisoners to arrive in future. (There was much dissension from many PWs about this bank. I deemed it the only way for equal distribution for contemplated new arrivals. It worked out very nicely.) January 6. Questioned again. They have been at me every month since my capture off Penang. This time mostly political and history of naval officers in U.S.N., P.G. school and war college in United States.

Jan. 9 - Mother's birthday!

Jan. 19 - Dad's birthday!

Today is, I Believe, a Japanese Naval Holiday. Held a sing-song from 12:30 - 1400. Impromptu but good, songs and jokes at random. Now have 82 prisoners, one of which had his leg removed 10 days prior to his arrival here. (F.F. Garret, Lt., USAAF, Pilot of plane in which Lt. Col. A. J. Walker was flying.) One, (Wells, Ens., USN) very sick with malaria/

Jan. 21. D.C. put us out of action 9 months ago today. Games and sing-song in p.m. Believe that the handwriting has been seen on the wall, I give Germany not over 100 days before she is out. (The morale was on the upward swing again).

Jan. 24. Draft of 21 left today, Poss, MacBeath, Zucco, Stauber, Wise, Kruisinga, VanBerg and 14 of Sculpin crew to Omori, I believe. Were allowed to take only opened RC boxes. Lots of hell raised yesterday about people opening 4th box ahead of schedule, a few slaps, and boxes taken away (This was actually a good slugging administered by the senior Guchyo. The schedule laid down by the Rips was one box per week from offenders. Still have my boxes. Looks like best thing to do is eat them up and not try to make them last out winter months as was planned by some of us. Was questioned again yesterday, general topic, why was the U.S. S/M force morale so high. My answers seemed to satisfy the Cdr. SANAMARI, JNAC. '23 said they were the same as required for war college entrance exam here, that is the answer to the general question of "What made up the morale of a ship or Force?" Also, what did I think of German S/M morale. I believe it to be quite low, he agreed - the reason is quite obvious. Pay day and (Beginning in September '43 officers were paid in accordance with base pay of Jap Navy pay - Mine was 170/me; Comdrs 220/me. Couldn't buy anything with it.) 90 sen/day for food; food has been cut because of our RC boxes. I don't Believe that according to Houle, but have no means (We complained to everyone from senior QK on down - but it didn't do any good) of complaining. The tobacco situation is becoming very acute - looks like we might all become non-smokers in a couple of days, the excuse seems to be a disease in the tobacco store - I believe they are short of this commodity and no ships to provide same, o.k. by me! The good results of our S/M's Air Force and Navy was really

beginning to hurt them.

Jan. 25. Q.K. again - morale of S/M and what makes it high in U.S. Wonder what the Japs are driving at? Haircut and shave, cold as hell after ward, rain to dampen the air. Usually received a haircut, Jap style, and shave by Nip barbers, on 10th and 25th of each month. Last hair cut Jan. 6th, cold then, in fact it snowed, first I'd seen since Nov. '41 in Portsmouth, N.H. Physically am much colder here - no heat whatsoever, and the barracks well ventilated.

Jan. 27. Started day off with a bang; Nyarady caught urinating in a tin can instead of going to benjo during night. #1 Gockyo hit him several times in the face with his fists. Questioned re: S/M warfare and what U.S. had learned from Germans along this line. I told him that we learned nothing from the Germans - it wasn't considered necessary. Also, Cdr. wondered who would ask for peace terms - told him U.S. never would ask for them; that we were like snowball starting at the hill top which gathers speed, size and power as it goes along and down hill. He said that a long war would be detrimental to both sides. His remark re: Naval Attache in Washington after war with no Navy to represent, may have been significant I said that we might allow them to keep 1 or 2 small ships! He also stated that the U.S. was trying to do a blitz war in the Pacific, hope so!

Jan. 30. Two people complained to the Q.K.'s re R.C. Boxes. In P.M. those who had lost them, each received one back. The "General" (Holman pvt. USA) made out quite well - dammed well in fact. He complained that some one had stolen a couple of his boxes - Holman seemed to be called in for the most unusual things, as a result he seemed to be on the in" and received a couple of made up boxes. Was not called into Q.K.'s, but G. H. Whiting was in a couple times. All S/M men required to write on a questionnaire. (Our personnel were well indoctrinated on not giving out any worthwhile data that would in any way give the Nips any definite thing to work on. Many times we would be told that our crews were very dumb.) Q.K.'s mentioned peace again and proposed by a 3rd party - Could Stalin be it? Can think of no one else powerful enough to have much to say about it.

Feb. 1. Cigarettes again 2/day. Q.K.'s concerned about number of bunks in a S/M.

Feb. 2. Peg's birthday. Hope to be present for the next one. Coffee and cigarettes particularly good today! Exceeded my chocolate ration today for the occasion. Westerfield SS210 Costd working in the Kitchen came in about an hour before reveille with a hot cup of coffee and a cigarette- the guard on duty was toasting his feet by the kitchen stove. The 5 oz. bar didn't go far as usually partook of 1/6 bar per day. It certainly was good particularly since we hadn't had any for a long time.

Feb. 3. Cooks' child one year old today. This is the Jap Cook; "Cooksan", as we had to call him. Collected some powdered milk from all hands and made doughnuts; received three (3) and were quite good, coffee for breakfast - how about coffee and doughnuts in a prison camp - or are we prisoners? Unarmed enemies! Have been told many times that we're not POW's and names not sent in - a helluva note!

QK again this evening re: repair facilities, docks, yards, etc. in islands of South Pacific, Frankly know nothing about these, nor about anything at Roosevelt Field in San Pedro. I did have a general idea of the set up, but said that I'd been out of the states so long that I didn't know anything about this subject.

Feb. 13. Seven prisoners arrive - six (6) from Lt. W.L. Morris' crew, and one from Canopus, who had escaped from Corregidor with Harris. Harris is Gen, Field Harris' son (USMC).

Feb. 14. Valentine Day - wish I could send Peg and Jack something, maybe next time - I hope.

Feb. 15. Last letter received from Peg. dated Feb. 15, 1943. Received another R.C. box- and a pair of Japanese shoes - too small, Size 11! Snowing tonight.

Feb. 16. One new prisoner, (Lt. Van Warner), pilot B-24

Feb. 19. Snow about two inches. The heavily laden trees and covered buildings in the valley presented a very picturesque scene. Snowball fight this A.M., guards joining in.

March 3. Had my first piece of steak since capture, was about 3/16 inch thick and about 2 1/2 inches in diameter, was very small but enjoyed same very much. Received new prisoner last night #71, (Bullard). NA '38 from Intrepid following an attack on Truk. About this time we had swiped another Nip paper - many arrows about Truk - we thought for sure Truk had been invaded.

March 5. Sleet, rain and snow, high wind and cold as hell - the most miserable day this winter! While taking the bi-weekly bath, snow was blowing into the bathroom - slightly chilly!

March 7. Six new prisoners - two Australian and four American - all aviators.

March 9. One New prisoner, Shaver.

March 14. Draft of 20 left today - for Omari, I believe. Lt. K.D. Harty and Gun. J. Walden of Grenadier included, plus all cripples. Heichel, Etheridge, Surret, Cascio, Greenwood, Phillips, Knight, Davies, Kjellevik, Garret, Stansbury, Russel, Brown, Bowen, Wells, Warren, Rouland and Ching Lee. In bad shape, Garret was minus a leg, the others had beri-beri and malaria. Don't know anything about the new place, but believe it to be better than here. Register as POW and letters are sure. My non-shop talk, the conversation was in Japanese, with the Tichyo, C.O. of Camp. on Sunday p.m. didn't turn out as a pre-transfer - however, tea and three cigs! A big thing for us. Have missed five (5) drafts out here so far, maybe the next time - I hope. This month cold, wet and miserable, however, saw plum blossoms today for the first time this year.

March 18. More rain, wind, sleet and snow today, resulting in six inches of white stuff - it lasted about three days.

March 25. OK by Cdr. re: 13th Naval District and whether the Aleutians Headquarters were in Seattle, Kodiak, Dutch Harbor, Adak or where. I frankly don't know. He guessed Adak the best location. OpNav recently announced the following S/Ms lost in combat and grounding: Amberjack, Wahoo, Triton, Perch, Argonaut, Pompano, Runner, Pickerel, Shark, Scorpion, Grunion, Sea Lion, Cowplin, Cisco, Durado, Grenadier, S-44, Sculpin, Grayling, Grampus, S-26, S-36, S-39, S-27, and R-12. In reply to my question as to when I could get out of this camp he said this was a good place, told him no letters was bad, but there was no reply to this statement. Looks like I'm here for the duration.

March 26. Sing-song in evening after chow, think mostly as a result of several smoking a second cigarette and the guard raising hell. This was the first time that this had been raised as an infringement upon the rule of a 15 minute smoking period. anyway, the #1 Gochyo said no smokes the next A.M.; then came the sing-song.

and cigs presented to the individual performers, following the sing song all hands presented with cigs and informed that the eight men could smoke next A.M. Can't figure out how some of these details work - rather incredible so it seems to me.

April 3. Questioned re: Out report and confirmation of enemy sinkings and damage by Submarine, is sunk, probably sunk and damaged. Stated that credit to S/M C.O. was only given when quite positively confirmed, and the degree of credit given was that of either eye witness or strong circumstantial evidence. Was required to Print my full name on a Piece of paper the interpreter had been using during the interrogation - haven't much idea why this was necessary for am sure they know it full well.

The rice was cut about 25% today - guess the price of food has gone up in Japan, or the respective rations reduced - must take in another notch in the belt.

April 7. Q.K. again this A.M. - still checking on how we report sinkings and damages, and who makes the final decision as to the credit allowed to the C.O. They must be trying to organize their own reports in a better style and more fool proof scheme, for according to their reports our fleet has by now been sunk many times - most incredible? One new prisoner\* received this evening.

April 8. Nyarady in the soup again - While peeling onions today he slipped four (4) into his pocket and was caught, result six (6) cracks with the ball bat and no rice at noon.

April 9. G.R. Lemprier conducted a very nice and impressive Easter Service. Had a can of sardines and one strip of chocolate which I'd been saving for the occasion. One can of sardines and 5/6 bar of chocolate remain for May 16th.

April 15. Another new prisoner arriver this A.M. on the two wheeled cart. He was in very poor condition, one arm having been broken last January, now mitted together at an angle and is useless- will in all probability have to be broken again and reset upon return to the U.S. (Cannon, C.K. S/Sgt. U.S.A.).

April 16. Questioned again, this time on S/M Squad. Organization and later on armament as regards guns. Never heard of anything but a 3 inch on S/M. I of course knew about the 5 inch being put on board the boats. During the past week the rice ration has taken another 25% drop. By actual test the quantity we now receive can and has been fitted into a tea cup. It's said that rice is now short but more later if s, how about the truck which backed up to the kitchen last night and hauled several bags of it away? Brown bagging was quite prevalent, great quantities of the food we were supposed to receive went over the fence out of the gate to the Nips.

April 17. Four of us, Harris Carr, Quinn and I held a request conference with the Gochyos and the cook regarding the food situation; result amiable, but that's all, rations throughout Japan cut, ours to 213 gms/meal and 520 gms. vegetables/ day and in view of the ration system we would even be unable to buy more! So it looks like tightening the belt and forget it! Previously we were supposed to get 240 gms/meal but had been getting more and some complaint was launched about it by the supply department, Yokusha - anyway for two years this camp has had a full bowl, now only a 1/2 bowl or less, don't suppose we'll starve but the midsection is somewhat lean and same launches a bit of complaint. Actually 213 grams of rice is not too bad, but we were not getting near that much as subsequent weighing demonstrated. We actually averaged about 200-250 gms. vegetables/day sometimes.

April 20. Questioned re: previous history on Gar and Grenadier patrols, etc. Also names of tenders - these can be found in Janes! Both were in more fictitious places than one ever thought of. It was touch and go at times remembering where I'd been as pertained to my story, as I didn't want to mention some of our specific areas.

(5)  
April 22/ One year a Prisoner - nertz! Hope its all over prior to another.

April 23. Sing song in P.M., seemed to be no spirit for us during the afternoon in doing same. This may be preliminary to another draft. The reason for no spirit at this sing song was because the guards tried to run the affair, selecting some of POW's for embarrassment and humiliation of the individuals - and nothing could be done about it.

April 25. Questioned re: SPD etc. and tender facilities as pertains to subs, Odr. stated his belief that peace conference would be held in Washington D.C. I feel that these people are thinking about peace aims, and may have put out some feelers along that line. I wonder will they keep on fighting after Germany falls. Seems to me that it would be suicidal for them to do so - however one can't tell much of the situation from our position- as prisoners - on the inside looking out. They would talk along amiable lines for awhile when pop some question hoping to catch us off base. One had to keep his wits about him everytime he was called in.

May 1. Have been in this camp one year today and have hopes of its being my last anniversary of detention in this country. Questioned yesterday re: % S/M in areas, at base, overhaul, to and from area etc. Also, four new arrivals of Lt. Van Wermer's crew. They are supposedly HOT prisoners, but have been captured since Feb. 2. Van Wermer has been in this camp for some time, ne and one-half months I believe- and this is the least hot lot of us here, now numbering 64 at present. Seems as though my prediction of 3/21/44 was slightly in error re: Germany being out. In fact missed it by a year, but we had to keep our morale up day by day.

May 7. Received one new prisoner today; 2nd Lt. G. McConnell, shot down over Hong Kong April 18. Since the first of the month the ration of potatoes has been fair when ever we received them, equivalent to a medium sized potato, They were boiled, then mashed, skins and all,- however all could eat much more than is provided, yet no one will starve on the present quantity.

May 9. A twelve (12) page questionnaire, along the lines of a fitness report was submitted to all hands this A.M. for checking and filling out. Admirals King, Nimitz, Halsey, Spruance, Fletcher and Kincaid and General MacArthur were the headliners. This P.M. was in questioning room and questioned along the above lines. Never thought I'd be amking out reports on the ranking officers in the U.S. Service. (This questionnaire seemed to be one for propaganda. It was Rediculous in it's tenor - They were, I'm sure, trying to get someone to make some adverse comment so that it could be used aspropaganda for the Jap Public)

May 11. Received another prisoner (Charles Kaufman, 2nd Lt.) USAAF #66.

May 14. This is I think, Mother's Day, and what a place and such conditions for observing it. I feel that the next one will be spent under circumstances quite favorable. If not at home, we all hope and expect to be on the way at least. Questioned again today re: the data sheet of the 9th. The Cdr. (Sanemaki), in addition to the above questioning approached G.H.W. on how he thought the allies would act in taking the P.I. Would MacArthur come up from New Gpinea and would Adm. Fletcher take Truk, the Marianas and hit Japan, even mentioned the possibility of our taking Kamchatka and down this way. GHW said he had no idea but thought it quite possible that Russia might take a crack at them. How do we know what is going on outside and what are the proposed plans - maybe mental telepathy comes our way! Hardly in this case even if such exists. However, believe these people are a little concerned as to the next allied move in the Pacific - it would be interesting to know from our point of view.

May 24. New prisoner this evening. USAAC Sgt. right leg in cast (#67 T.M. Spadaferm), another survivor of the plane in which G. McConnel was flying and shot down over Hong Kong 4-18-44.

May 29. Questioned today on location of carriers at outbreak of war - but primarily on treatment received in this camp. Quinn's letter to the C.O. re: his treatment of 23rd has stirred up the authorities a little, I believe. I recommended written regulations posted, on interpreter in the camp, etc., however, don't know how things will react. A year ago, anything would have been out of the question - the Japanese attitude, i.e., Gunrabo (General Staff), is slowly changing for the better and have even mentioned rather strongly the goodwill attitude. They must realize that Japan cannot win the war and are now beginning to think what the reactions will be upon our return home, if this rather harsh treatment continues, some days its fairly good, but when its had its really a bit of hell around here. Quinn's eardrum broken 5 days ago is now slightly infected.

June 3/ Questioned re: Sec. of War Stimson's recent remark to the press regarding a Combined Navy, Army and USMC force under one head, the Army. What did I think of the situation and proposals? Without seeing the paper, or hearing the speech or statement, of Mr. Stimson, I could not make a reasonable statement, but on the face of it all I couldn't how, professionally, it would be a good thing. We're supposed to receive Red Cross supplies this month, 2500 tons of supplies it is said, have arrived in Japan by now. They will be most welcome. Would like U.S. supplies this time, but any will of course be most appreciated.

June 5. It is now about 2:30 P.M. PWT, with Jack and his 9th birthday. June 4th - can vision a nice birthday party with lots of friends, cake and ice cream, and all having a grand time. If fate and luck be with us I have hopes of being present for his 10th. Seems such a long way off, however. The QK's were still on Stimson's statement yesterday. I wasn't called in, but several were, including GHW and Holman. Wonder why so much interest in the subject and especially so to spend several days on it. On the 3rd the QK's said that there had been hopes of getting us home by Christmas by now it didn't look like it. Wonder could they have been banking on the Allies accepting their peace proposals, believe the Japanese have submitted two this year and in all probability the only terms the U.S. and Allies will give are those of unconditional, which the Japanese can't see at this time, that is, of course, more assumption on my part.

June 6. Received four (4) prisoners, USAAF survivors of B-24, mission over Saipan 5/25, one badly bruised on right leg and lower abdomen and seems to be seriously shaken up. The pilot Capt. Stoddard, was a former college roommate of W.L. Morris. We now number 71 - There should be a move from this camp in the near future. 78-86 seem to be the average number at the time of a move.

June 8. Questioned this P.M. by a Naval J.G. on a few items, re: my 1st and 2nd Grenadier patrols, times to, an and from station. Mostly a pack of lies on my part and they seemed to be trying to shake out a new story and so get me across the well known barrel. He believed Japan will win the war, and stated that Japan wasn't fighting an economical war, meaning a war for economics. They sometimes get their English a little mixed up and some of their statements are amusing, if that is so, I don't know what they are striving for. He stated that if Japan were to be destroyed, so would prisoners, therefore, we should hope for Japan's victory. My reaction and statement to that was to the effect that if this government chose to put a bullet into me there would be nothing I could do to prevent it and doubted that it would help the Japanese war effort.

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June 9. 1st Lt. E. Poschau, one of the newest prisoners arriving here, badly injured and shaken up, died last night at 9 o'clock. This I consider another of their atrocities for this man should never have been flown to Japan - instead he should have been placed in hospital. By moving Poschau the Nips added one more murder to their long list of same. It is very regrettable, but maybe is the best thing for him, as he seemed to be severely injured internally.

June 10. Today, we held a small service for Poschau. The body we cremated this morning and buried at the Temple this P.M., along side of Mr. Minsaas, who died here last Oct. 18, 1943. Cause of this death - Malnutrition and lack of medical care of any kind at all. Also, the Japanese Buda Priest, at the Temple, held a burial service.. This was to say the least one of the few decent things the Japs did.

June 20. Nearly everyone in camp was inoculated this P.M., one shot for (1) Typhus, (2) Cholera, and (3) Dysentery.

June 21st. The reactions were various, aches and pains in muscles and joints plus a light fever; normal reactions all. However Captain Stoddard became very ill and nearly died. He was in the stages of touch and go for almost a month.

All indications point to the fact that the ring is steadily closing in on all fronts and it seems as though there's a possibility of the war being over this year. We're hoping for it, and the sooner the better.

June 23. Three Naval Officer, Lt. Comdr. and 2 Ensigns questioned me today, mostly on how and when S/M send radio messages and how codes work. Particularly interested in internal indicators, call signs procedure, etc. (The sample I gave them of a text in plain language was ridiculous from the point of view on how we wrote them). Told them that the communication officer encoded it from there, and that I didn't know anything about it without the book.. They wanted the Communication officer, Sorry but he was transferred last March. These OK'S were much disappointed about this and I had a good laugh up my sleeve about it - they realized I had them over the barrel and they knew it. One new prisoner, a P-38 pilot from N.G. (New Guinea) (Hasty).

June 24. Our eleventh wedding anniversary Peg. In going back over them, I can count but precious few that we have been together, my hopes are high that we'll be together on the next one. Two new prisoners, pilot and radioman from Hornet, Lt. Galvin and RM/3/c Long. Number of prisoners now 73.

June 29. Received six prisoners today, bound and handcuffed. They appear to have received the same treatment as we did at Penang, i.e., well beaten up. Total number here now 79. There seems to be a move on within the next few days of about 30 men.

Air raids alarms this month on the 15th and 18th.

July 1. Camp and personnel inspection this A.M. by the Adm. of Yokuska District. Questioned today re: construction and composition of dispatches, also, accuracy of D.R.T. More baloney handed out.

July 2. For the second time in 14- $\frac{1}{2}$  months received a small piece of steak, also one boiled onion and some gravy plus rice and barley, scanty but tasty, The steak almost as large as that received last March. Whiting and Duva now galley tobas (Kitchen workers and POW cooks).

July 10. A rather peppy singsong last night prior to the large draft leaving today, am quite sure to Omori. The following left this a.m. about 0800: Carr, Lemprier, Stacey, Browne, Morris, Youghivitch, Critchlow, Rucks, Clark, Palmer, Irishman, Quartermaster, Withrow, Todd, Westerfield, Baker Thomas, Kalberg, Slater, Marshall, Anderson, Lardin, Scott, Gomer, Rourke, Haverland, Murray, Peterson, Skinner, Scofield,

There remain 49 in Ofuna at present, six army enlisted men, seven Navy enlisted men, three Merchant Marine, three Marine Officers, including Major G. Boyington (C.M.H., 12 USN officers, 14 USAAF Officers and 3 N.R.N.V.R. Officers. Here as any place, the old saying "A move is as good as a fire", for several items were discarded, I obtained a pair of scissors, a knife, 1 pair patched socks, two pair skivvy pants which will be o.k. after a little work and another pair of socks which I believe I can fix suitable for use, a pajama coat, the first I've had since capture; a sleeveless shirt, rather rotten but usable to a certain degree, particularly if we have to spend another winter in Japan.

An amusing incident happened in the 4th, while all of #1 building were standing in the brace, i.e. knees half bent and arms in the air, the air raid alarm took off. The reason for the crouch position was because of the fact that one of the 8 washbasins had been forgotten that morning and so all hands were heckled for about 20 minutes in this manner. The basin happened to be the C.O.'s, however, thing the guards were just on the rampage again. Anyway Condit said "Hell boys that siren is music to the ears - hope these B's--- are catching the works - we can stand like this all day to that tone". Nothing unusual at all, however, some new guards (3) 3/c P.O. and (2) Sea 1/c have arrived and perhaps after they take hold the young Sea 3/c may simmer down to reasonable actions.

July 11. Counter signed a Geneva receipt for the 72 Red Cross boxes this camp received last December 31. The receipt was dated June 9, 1944. The C.O. F Iida also signed it. Received a new prisoner this evening. Connell.

July 13. Another prisoner brought in last night #51. Yesterday, Boyington caught circumstantially, smoking in benjo, slugged and given 8 raps with club. His tail end is quite black and blue. Today the issue raised again, these people keep harping on the same subject for hours and days, anyway we were told if we spoke the truth re: smoking no punishment would be given out; not so, we were all placed in the push up condition for about 15 minutes. Later in a.m. a guard, on duty, was observed to go in and out of several rooms 3 or 4 times; following which some POWs were missing laundry soap, the guard was observed to take some items from the rooms, and seemed to snoop about Whitmore's room. Now soap was worth its weight in gold. In a few minutes we were all lined up and rooms searched by guards. A large piece of laundry soap was found in Whitmore's rubber boot. The plant was in a rather ridiculous place, Whitmore works in the bath and has access to sufficient soap. No one would admit placing the soap in the boot so the "termite" got a club and threatened, still no one would admit something none of us had done. We were then placed in the crouched position - I went after the #1 Gochyo who I met at the hall corner, he quickly put a stop to all the nonsense. The guard quickly ditched his club also. I requested the Gochyo to administer any deserving punishment, also, that no more POWs be required to do laundry and sewing for guards, as of late too much trouble was being caused - that was agreed to. (The reason the men did this work for the guards was to obtain an extra cigarette or two and an occasional extra bite of rice.) I think that in trying to be as pleasant as possible here, to the guards, we've somewhat placed ourselves in a servile position, which must cease if we're to have any rights and dignity remaining to us. So far so good. Now two of the guards suspect one of their own countrymen of taking their soap, sox, etc. I think they have the right one, at least it's the one I suspect.

July 14. Prisoner #52 arrived last night (Pilot of a "Barracuda" off the Illustrious). Big room change today, all new prisoners moved to Barracks #1, 15 of them, all toban to B-2 and the remainder of us to B-3. A toban is one who does special work such as bath, kitchen, etc. Was in room 14 for 11 months, hope I'm not in Japan under their conditions for as long again as in room 14. No bunk in this room. #74 of Barracks #3. Still saying I expect to be home by June 1945 if not before!!



July 16. Received two prisoners last night. Ens. Gunther (NAV) and R/M Rogers of "Illustrious" - in a Barracuda. I believe #52 is their pilot. Harris acting as interpreter last night, received this data for the C.O. and passed it along to us.

July 18. Yesterday afternoon and all of today 12 and 19 POW's respectively have been a couple of miles away from camp dumping water from a small canal, bucket style into adjoining rice paddies. The lack of rain this season seems to be telling on the crops, the fields in general are becoming checked and dry. The farmers produced a little extra food for the work, which was appreciated, and the work was not too hard.

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July 19. Boullard, Walker and Boyington into the Gunboys today. They, the Gunboys that is, seem most concerned about the coming P.I. Campaign. It must be about ready to break, for apparently the Marianas was not too difficult a campaign, and it maybe that the P.I. Campaign. ~~It~~ deal is rapidly approaching - we all hope so. The interpreter (Lt. C. SaSaki), stated that Japan's fleet was intact and that better than 90% of it would have to be sunk prior to our being able to take the P.I.

The three above officers made much complaint about the sadistic attitude and treatment handed out by the junior guards. They stated that something would be done - but how many times have we heard the same story before? The suspected soap planter, P.O. 3/c was transferred a couple days ago, having been here but a few days, believe he was found out by the C.O. and Gochyo's Yamazuki and Watanabe, S3/c, left today, received two junior guards as replacements.

July 29. Thought that on the 27th I'd accomplished something toward ending the servile attitude the guards had been demanding of us - that is bowing and saluting at every turn of the day and also, to each new guard coming on duty. The #1 Gochyo stated that only on first meeting in the a.m. prior to 0800 was this to be done, that is, exchange salute and the morning greeting - perfectly o.k. by us and I suppose the proper thing to do - the same applies to our own service. Anyway, last night Senkimoto, coming on at 1945 didn't get his "cowtow" and really took off - thought he would "blow his top". He said all of Sanku (B-3) was damn no good, no good and worthless and that after inspection we'd all be in the soup. Following "Norio" he lined us up and wanted to know the reason for no salute etc. (Norio is a short time outside for some air before turning in at night. If lucky one might get a smoke if he had a butt to blast.) Harris tried to explain to him that the #1 said it wasn't necessary, he slapped Harris, called us fools and liars; he then was about to slug us but Ataka told him no, we were placed in the stoop fall position for about a minute then changed to the crouch position. I told him I wanted to see the #1, this request was refused. To aggravate matters he cracked several with his bayonet, as well as slugging a couple. His lunge at Nyarady with his bayonet and would have wounded him more but for Nyarady's jumping back, washis (Sakimoto) crowning bust, however, in the meantime Senkimoto had threatened bat beating if anyone was to tell the #1 on the following day - just as though I wouldn't yell to high heaven the first chance I got to see the Gochyo - anyway out steamed Steve and here came the #1, #2, #3, and Kangachyo. The Kangachyo is a pharmacist. Steve had indicated to them that the guard was flailing his knife around and had struck him (Steve). The #1, upon seeing the situation realized straight away what was up. I've heard people raked over the coals before but this was an "A" No. 1 job. He took Senkimoto outside gave him a severe tongue lashing plus a few cracks in the face, so did #2 and the Kangachyo. For a little while now, I believe things will be for the better. Those with some intelligence along the matter realize that this country is losing and I think are a little concerned about post-war conditions internationally.

July 30. Word has come from out of the quiz room having been said, by the interpreter that "We'll be home by Christmas". Saipan and Guam now ours and fighting going on in Tinian, the European situation is critical and as everyone is tired of the war, it can fold up any day now". How we hope for the proof of this pudding.

July 31. The ration was weighed for the first time to our knowledge today. 180 gm rice per meal, as it is suppose to have been the past couple months and 520 gm vegetable per day. If the present set up continues we will be o.k. and its so evident that we've been taking a rooking for some time, especially vegetable ration, we now get  $2\frac{1}{2}$ -3 times what we've been getting all along. Perhaps some of these ribs will take on a covering after while. Only one air raid alarm this month - the 4th. Wonder if August will have any good news for us - MAYBE!

August 1. The questioner Interpreter said today that Senator Truman was up for Vice-President, he also told Boyington, during the same session that he hoped, win or lose, that the war would soon be over. "Another of his statements, "The Red Cross Boxes are still in Vladivostock", I doubt that this camp is destined to get any more - its beginning to look very much that way. Lt. Wm. Harris, USMC, was informed by the above Interpreter that Field Harris, Bill's father, was no in D.C. as Director of Marine Corps Aviation. Bill was of course very delighted with this bit of information. Bill is 26, his father almost 49, and is probably a Major General for this present job. We have also been informed that General McNair was killed during the allied landing in France last June.

August 3. Thought something was wrong and that an excuse would be found to keep from giving us our proper ration. Today, it was because Sanku had been previously "bitching" about the chow. Anyway today part of our ration was given to the other two barracks - I feel sure this is just a preliminary until some other excuse can be found to cut down the ration, for feel sure they think it was a mistake to let us know how much we were to get - that is actually see it weighed out. These people also seem to have a "peve" on, wonder if they have been hit some place - We'll know in time.

August 5. The food truck arrived yesterday, brown bagging started soon afterwards. Today the cook told G.H.W. that because of certain looses, due to spoilage, return of borrowed food, rats, etc., that he would have to cut down on the food, i.e., no 520 gms. vegetable day. Rats! Suppose we're that blind and can't see every Top, Dick, and Harry taking food out of this place - seems to be standard practice - and there's appearantly nothing we can do about it - now anyway. An air raid last evening; today, these people seem a little distressed about it.

August 7. Reveille to the tune of an air raid alarm about 0515.

August 8. Virginia's birthday. The brown bagging has been going in in earnest of late, yesterday all of our sugar left; of the 70 some odd pounds we're allowed /month, we received exactly one tea cup full this time for all hands, not individually. Today, about 200 $\frac{1}{2}$  potatoes and onions left plus about 150-200 lbs. rice. Someone must be opening up a store and really getting set up in business, or else perhaps the end is quite close, and "hay is being made while the sun shines".

August 10. Sirens at 0800 and 1200 "Red", probably drills, as I noticed a guard set his watch by the 1200 blasts.

August 12. One more prisoner arrived last night, #55. (Later- air observer, 380th Bomb Group from Australia shot down in B-24 over Cerna on July 5). Today the Interpreter told Boyington that we'd be home by Christmas - sounds ever so good tous, and how we hope its true. We're told so many diverse things, both good and bad, that its hard to know just what we can believe around here; anyway it adds to that thought

(11)  
August 22. One bag of spuds, 1 of onions and one of pumpkin, brown bagged to-night; the QKs were, on Sunday, interested in so much weight being lost by all of us. At least they seemed to display an interest, the sincerity of which would be interesting to know. Understand Tojo is out; and a big conference going on in Washington, D.C. now; all Allied powers represented.

August 28. Eugenia's birthday. The new premier of Japan is another Army General. The name is something like Keosia; wonder if his policy is along the lines of Tojo's, if so why the change?

Sept. 1. Last month was the first one spent as prisoner during which I was not called in for questioning, in fact, the last time was two months ago today. What has happened? The rice barley ration was today doubled! Probably will not stay this way, but it was fine while it lasted.

Sept. 4. Labor Day, means nothing here of course - however, a charge of "urinating back of Building #4" was trumped up against us as of last night. Upon trying to get the #1 or #2 to stop in on the deal was told that we lied, in the mean time all of Building #3 lined up and given three licks with a club by #3 and #4. Later the guards said the incident occurred a week ago, they named two people as being guilty, however, they were not guilty in the least. Also, guards have urinated all around the building, that seems o.k. in their light but we're dogs under their feet, now. #4 Gachyo was seen coming from behind building #4 buttoning his fly, but this did not carry any weight.

Sept. 5. G.E. Brown selling in a vacant room this p.m., given six licks with a club. Brown in the wrong no one doubts, but for Murats 3/c to call in two of his guests (CIV Boys), to witness this is carrying the humiliation end a little far. Now have quite a list ~~of~~ to present to Cdr. Sanimaki when he next arrives. Food again back to practically normal, the rice bowl, since the 2nd has been just full slightly rounded on top. Didn't think the increase would last, however, better than the 7/8 bowl or even less for most of the time.

Saw in today's paper, the drives in France, at the rate things are now going the European theatre should soon be all buttoned up.

Sept. 9. This evening Harris and Bullard were, just before supper, conversing in Bullard's room on the subject of the war and the European situation in general. Bill had found a paper about a week old and had tried to break down some headlines. The Kangachyo observed this and was very irate. The paper, a copy of the headline, was taken to the #1, who came back to find out to whom it belonged, Sherry had drawn a rough sketch of the map of the 5th on the side, this seemed to pass off alright but after supper Harris and Bullard were lined up in front of everyone and severely beaten. Harris' beating was the most severe I've seen since My Penang days. Harris had a lapse of memory for about three(3) days. Remember when I arrived in Ofuma, I was two days out in my date and had a most difficult time trying to recall all that happened in Penang.

Sept. 10. Cdr. Sanamaki and the interpreter were out today. I was able to get into see them this p.m. for an interview concerning the camp treatment toward the POWs. All was favorably received and I have hopes that we'll see its effects in a favorable light for us; they assured me that such would be the case. They also said that they'd come here more frequently for a check up on conditions. Expressed my thanks and our combined appreciation and left in about  $\frac{1}{2}$  hour. Upon returning to my room, a couple of the guards, one of them, the worst here, came in; having overheard the Gunrabo and Tichyo (who called in just as soon as I left), talking and in all probability heard his name mentioned, "Murata" being it. Fire and daggers were leaping from his eyes.

"Nanda speak Gunrabo?" I allowed him to go on for a couple minutes and then told him perhaps the Gunrabo would tell him the subject of our conversation and would he care to go with me to see them. He did, so away we went. The Tichyo was still in the room, but the Interpreter and Cdr. saw us go by. Murata told the #2 what was up; the #2 dismissed him and he asked me to the office where he and the #1 inquired as to the trouble, I explained as best as my command of the language would permit. The substance of the reply was to tell the guard, that "I didn't know, or didn't understand, and that it wasn't necessary for the guards to know from me what I told the Gunrabo". Later, the same guard and his pals came back still grumbling and threatening a beating. I didn't at the time, take much stock in his statement and paid no attention to him or them. Needless to say all hands were on edge and everyone's nerves were as tight as a bass fiddle.

Sept. 11. Last night, about 2 am, all the guards were called to quarters, two strange Gochyos were here and read something to them, also, much was said about the war and America, but no one could get any more out of it. Think a lecture was delivered to as one of the visiting Gochyos was unable to find the guard on duty for quite some time. Would like to know what it was all about; All had their own individual ideas on what it would signify. Today the guards have been very sullen and hardly speaking or returning a salute or greeting. The Kangachyo inspected all rooms in Sanku this a.m. taking all written matter, maps, and diaries; razor blades, scissors and pencils, (today is the 16th and I'm catching upon the diary.) He left me a stub of pencil about  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch long which I now use with a piece of bamboo. All this search further frustrated our nerves. My diary came back on the 13th apparently it was o.k. and nothing incriminating in it. My scissors, pencils, V.F.W. card, identification card, shell back card-no longitude indicated, and drivers licenses have not come back, however, I am intending asking for them, the latter items especially in the near future. At this writing, being Saturday, 16 Sept., treatment has this week been very satisfactory, the tension has relaxed and the guards are, on the whole, on more amiable terms. We all hope things stay thusly improved and naturally hope we get home this year. I think there's a 50-50 chance of it, depends on this country after (Germany).

Sept. 12,13,14. Extensive blackout 12th, and drills other two days, plus siren night of 14th, probably all drills.

Sept. 17. This a.m. while returning from washing the face, etc., Quinn spoke to ~~the~~ one of Bks. #1, passed the time of day with a "good morning". The Kangachyo saw it, rushed out of his office and knocked Quinn flat. I thought this deal out, particularly in view of the fact that the Tichyo had Harris in last night and told him there would be no more beatings etc. around here.

Sept. 19. The Interpreter (Sasaki), here today, making preliminary arrangement for a draft of 20 men, they will in all probability leave the last of this month. Stalin has given the release on our R.C. boxes and should get them soon. Very little on war news. Gudgeon missing, Eisenhower soon to be CinC of Pacific Area. They expect a major naval engagement off Mindinao very soon. Recent conference in Quebec, F.R.R. and Churchill, U.S. to take Pacific England, Indian Ocean, Burma and Malay Area, Australia N.E.I. and China their own Sphere, an all out campaign against Japan to start very soon. Received new prisoner last night, Smith, B-24 from Saipan. Was a navigator burned on hand and leg but will be o.k. Interpreter stated that rest could have bailed out, but preferred to go down in plane in preference of being captured by Japanese, because of U.S. propaganda re: Japan's treatment of prisoners.

Sept. 21. Received another new prisoner, (Bennett), last night. Seems to be in good shape, now 57 in camp, but believe they're expecting some B-29 personnel soon.

Sept. 23. Questioned this p.m. on No. S/M in squad; how many in Fremantle 18 months ago. Location of squads at outbreak of war, and when one would send radio dispatch from S/M, and under what circumstances. Spent some time on corresponding rates in U.S. service and Japanese service. Am quite sure I will not be on the coming draft, such was the gentle hint dropped by Lt. Cdr. Sasaki (Interpreter). He said that my name was on the list and recommended by both him and Cdr. Sanemaki, but he thought it wouldn't get by. Told him that I thought the war would be over in a couple months, or if not then, not over 6-8 more. There was no comment, anyway that I'd been here so long now that a few more months wouldn't make much difference anyway. There seems to be an indication that twenty-four are to be transferred.

Sept. 30. A Draft of 27 left today; Capts., Simmons and Greene, British Merchant Marine, Shippers and Radio operator Walker, also, British; 1st Lt. Hasty, USA Lt. Benge, N. Zeland, Duva, Shaver, Butcher, Whitmore, Sherry, Toulon, McIntyre, VanWormer, Bransfield, Lamperier, Jones, Condit, McFerren, DuMont, Spratafora, Cannon, Smith, J.T.; Molman, Huykindall, Zufelt, Tinker. Thirty now remain in camp. Whiting, Knutson and I only remaining ones of Grenadier here now, 17, 15, 17 months respectively in Ofuna. As a parting present, I imagine, the rice was doubled for breakfast, also a good soup. (Since our big increase of the first seven meals this month the rice went down averaging perhaps 3/4 rice bowl full.)

In general, since my talk with the Cdr. on 10th, conditions here have amazed me. The treatment has vastly improved and frankly under the conditions, can expect no more from the guards in this respect. I hope it lasts. This statement, however, applies only to the guards, if we were registered, had letters and could write, these things would of course be much more appreciated than can be imagined by anyone except those who have been deprived of them.

Oct. 1. Food still up, and going strong. "Questionair today on rations at various bases at fron, clothing allowances, gifts, mail and time of transit, radios, censorship, pay allowances, allotments, etc." Big room change today.

Oct. 2. All of Bks. #1 except two new prisoners moved to #2 and #3. Very strange why those moved from #1 divided into 2 groups and cannot talk to each other, neither can we older POWs talk to either of these other two groups, the strangeness being in the fact that the two new groups who have been as a unit for about three (3) months, and conversing, are not now permitted to do so. This situation will probably clear up in the near future. Now have South Sanku, North Sanku and Niku on this side of the fence (This fence was just completed last week and divides the compound in two sections.) Also, Eku is being provided with its own wash stand, and is being partitioned off to limit the "no speak" situation, maybe there's another motive behind it all besides the B-29 crews coming in soon. I understand six (6) of the 18 captured recently doing blind bombing in Manchuria are due here; having been captured by the army and about to be executed until the Navy, after a week negotiation, stepped in and took them over to prevent these executions. One is a West Point Colonel, age 31, named Carmichael.

Oct. 3. Another questionnaire today; Recreational facilities at various overseas stations and bases; U.S.O. Units, etc. Leave and liberty, how often granted and in what units of length. What we did on leave for recreation, were various women's units about, such as WAVES, SPARS, WACS, WRENS, etc., also nurses. What did we think of these facilities and means of recreation. Was asked personally by one of the Gunrabo whether or not govt. supervised and regulated sex houses were provided for men at the front. "I've never heard of any such thing". Not much war news. The U.S. public thinks the war can be over in two (2) months, F.D.R. has warned us about over optimism. "If a tripple threat man can execute a successful forward pass for the Allies there's a possibility of our being homely Xmas." end of quote. Also, suggested to me, that if a strong nation could negotiate between Japan and U.S. terms might be arrived at and clarify the "Unconditional" surrender prospect, doesn't seem to be one now, and Russia is a doubtful one for this job.

Oct. 5. Received another prisoner last night, (Ens. Howe), some more of the questionnaires today: - Detachments, when relieved, date of arrival at war front, composition and number of personnel. Our ideas and impressions of Japanese Military strength, ability, how were they as fighters. Reasons for bombings, etc. Impressions of battle area "Topography". Home address. Means of transportation to arrive at front, with stopovers. Previous impressions (prior to capture) of POW was it considered disgraceful or something to be ashamed of? Impressions, and treatment received after becoming POW what did we think of Japanese "die before surrender" and fight to the death idea?

Oct. 6. Received four (4) prisoners, appear to be U.S.A.C. from north someplace, judging by the clothes they had on. (Lts. Wm. A. Dixon, Albert D. Scott, Flt. Officer Wm. Galio and Sgt. Reynaud P. Iarussi, B-25 Permichero).

Oct. 8. Received six prisoners last night, the expected B-29 boys. Carmichael according to the Gunrabo is ill and didn't arrive. (He did arrive). They are so segregated, like "Superman" that no one can get a look at them. Yesterday Lt. Cdr. Sasaki said that the U.S. announced 18000 casualties and 72 ships lost including landing craft at Pelau; Japanese claimed 30,000 U.S. casualties and 8000 Japanese casualties, but were probably higher, stated fighting still going on, having started Sept. 22. It appears that the U.S. may attempt a landing on the China coast, or perhaps Japan proper, the Lt/ Cdr. stated. I have the R.A. today as the end of this conflict still seems so far away. Finished up the questionnaire yesterday. Pertained to our thoughts and beliefs on Japanese and U.S. War aims, post war aims, post war actions and policies of the Victor Nations, Our knowledge of European and Pacific war developments, relative strenght in man power, resources, mechanized equipment etc. of Allies and Axis Forces. Estimate of wars duration. Age and birthday, parents; married, single, divorced, sisters, and brothers, children, sweethearts, hobbies, interests, likes and dislikes, tastes cultural and enviornment. What our intention was after release from the armed forces, education, extent of; what did we do prior to joining military forces, impression of Japanese home front morale. Our greatest desire, happiest moment, greatest moment or thing for anxiety and greatest sorrow? What we would like to see as a post war world and what we thought would actually happen and what our own country would probably do, along these lines.

Oct. 9. This afternoon brought another prisoner, #42 on our new list.

Oct. 14. Since 11th the extra rice "honeymoon" has been over, in fact since about the 5th it has been going down, now is about 3/4 bowl average, vegetables up and down. #1 shack, new people who aren't acclimated to the diet is the refuted excuse but it is supposed to go up tomorrow. Built a new parth of stones betwe n S.EKU and S.SANKU today, a very nice pay off, this A.M. 3 boiled potatoes apiece and this P.M. 4 each, very much made up for todays reduction in rice, as well as much appreciated by all hands.

These potatoes by the way average about one inch in diameter. Very strange too for I've seen people work 3-4 days in a row sawing and splitting wood here and get no more than one cigarette during the day. Understand, via the cook, that a 100 plane raid hit Formosa very recently, we lost 110 planes and some carriers they tell us. Will find out later no doubt. (Appreciate one of these spuds more than I ever did a candy bar.)

Oct. 16. Questioned yesterday on time intervals: Koel laying Lauching, builders and preliminary trials, commissioning, fitting out, final trials, etc. The rise situation is even worse now, a bare fraction over  $\frac{1}{2}$  bowl, in fact the same as last April, the potatoes hadned out for working parties somewhat help, but it's even more rugged for those who can't work, or are not allowed to do anything, this is in particular applicable to the new POWs. Something big, is, I believe, going on around Formosa and the P.I. today. #1 Gochyo said U.S. lost 600 planes and 47 carriers yesterday, but wouldn't tell me where. This evening all the guards most interested in the radio broadcast, and from their actions one would gather that the news was favorable to the Japanese.

Oct. 17. The interpreter about today, said that the Japanese had intercepted our ~~###~~ forward pass and that our navy was trying to get away, (carrier and cruiser action around P.I. and Formosa). He said that it seemed as though our Admiral had made a mistake and that the U.S. was suffering as a result. I have plenty of confidence in Admirals directing our actions, and while it makes me uneasy, I have no doubt about the eventual outcome whenever it may be.

Oct. 22. Made prisoner 18 months ago today. The treatment received from the beginning to now is almost vivid, some has been most disagreeable, while at times it's as a POW might expect, but that still does not wipe away those memories of brutal treatment. Received 4 prisoners on the 20th. Two from the "Wasp", I believe, Lt. Davidson, and Lt. (jg.) Zimmer. don't know about the other two as Harris was not consulted by the Gochyo. Zimmer is Air Gp. 22, don't know whether this was "WASP" or not. Now have only two groups of "no speak" on this side of the fence. All formerly in three(3) groups now in one (Sanku) while seven from Eku have moved into NEKU, Smith, Bennett, Howe, and the 4 B-25 men. Eku is most exclusive, rooms locked, windows covered with paper and prisoners blind folded when ever they leave their room. A guard serves their food. At the rate Neku and Sanku are filling up there will have to be a move in the near future or put two men to a room, there are 13 rooms left this side but 6 are used for various storerooms.etc.

Oct. 26. Joana Mulgweeney's birthday, the 8th I believe. Yesterday a guard said that much fighting was going on around the P.I. Transports were involved. Today another guard said that U.S. Marines had landed but that they were short of food; also a large sea battle with all types of ships involved, was going on off the P.I. U.S. losses were 700 planes and 24 carriers, Japan losses 300 planes. This maybe part of the big show down. An Allied Victory should, I would think, give them full control of all sea areas south of the P.I. and Formosa, and go a long way toward ending the Pacific War.

Oct. 28. Maxine's birthday. Today Japanese ship is supposed to leave for a place 60 miles north of Vladivostok for 1500 tons of Red Cross boxes, which we should receive about Christmas. We're all in hopes of getting some clothing along with some food. Anything in either respect certainly will be most appreciated. We're getting 8 new prisoners tonight, the total will be 54. With the ~~isolation~~ isolation program recently inaugurated here there may be another draft soon, perhaps Lt. C. SaSaki was not kidding when he asked me, on the 26th if I'd like to work in the galley.

Nov. 1. Today completes 18 months for Geo, Whiting and myself in this camp, think and of course hope, that at least 75% of our captivity here in Japan is over. An Air raid alert of about 1- $\frac{1}{2}$  hours was on this p.m. (Also, the sirens took off during

Nov. 5. Nine S/M survivors arrived in camp evening of the 3rd, the C.O. Cdr. O'Kane, is among them. The #1 had a list in the office today which he casually let me see. A Lt., one (jg.), CSM, RTlc, MoMM2c, TM2c; and I believe a MoMM3c. Twenty three guards arrived with them.

Nov. 6. A bad day! as a result of several petty incidents 8 (eight) of us were lined up in front of the formation and beaten with clubs - the Tichyo being present. McConnell; for not jumping to the whim of Nishi a few days ago regarding moving a bench; Kaufman for complaining to the Gochyo about Nishi making the swab pushers go up and down the deck so many times without a relief; Bullard and Long for saying to those walking the day before that Nishi was in a vacant room, playing "Detective Dick", Harris on general principals, probably for talking to the north end of the barracks, when we'd been told it was legal; Brown for a small run-in with Nishi the day before. Galvin for talking similar to Harris' incident and myself probably for trying to get people out of trouble and sometimes disagreeing with the guard - mainly, Nishi, but my command of this language is so poor that unless they wish to understand it's futile, also, being #1 or senior prisoner, "Kantoko", it is their policy to punish the senior one as an example to all others. The Phm was doing as much beating as anyone of the others, we averaged 15-18 licks with either a 2" x 2½" or a round club about 2" x 2½".

Nov. 10. Found out today from Lt. Cdr. Sasaki that F.D.R. received 261 more electoral votes than Dewey. The 8 of us are still somewhat sore and stiff from the incident of the 6th. In passing here I mention that Harris and McConnell passed out and Long is still nervously upset. Such is our life from time to time, intimidation is no name for it! I only pray that the war will soon be over and we can get back home safely.

Nov. 11. Questioned re: some definitions or rather abbreviations, 90% of which I'd never seen before. The guards and Gochyos have started to dig a cave - Air raid shelter across the street.

Nov. 19. Lt. Sasaki said today that the Red Cross ship which left Japan Oct. 28 had today arrived in Kobe. Also, various items re: the world and war which didn't mean much, said Russia talked favorably to the Allies one day and likewise to Japan the next. The main key to the war out here seems to be the P.T. deal and of course what Russia will do when Germany is out. He said that Hitler was now very sick and that Himmler was at the helm.

Nov. 22. About 3 (three) months ago I wrote a hunch date as Nov. 22, have heard of it being done before, anyway 100 - 4 packages carons of U.S.A. Red Cross boxes arrived tonight. Again all men much excited, Jovial and happier, A guard told me about it last night but I could hardly believe it.

Nov. 23. Received one package of Red Cross food today. How it improves the diet of palatability after this food. One really looks at this little world of ours, now with the partition fence. something like 1/3 acres through those "rose colored glasses". How happy we are to get the boxes, our spirits change as dawn changes night to day. Contents as follows: 2-12 oz cans span, prem, pears, or Nor, 1-12 oz can corn beef, 1-8 oz can salmon, 1-6 oz Rose Mill ate, 3 or 4 3/4 oz cans butter, 1-6 oz can jam, 2-4 oz bars ration "D" chocolate, 5 to 7 packages cigs, camel or chesterfield. 2 pks Wrigley's double mint gum, 1-2 or 4 oz can pwd. coffee, 1 lb. pwd milk, ½ lb. cheese, ½ lb. sugar, 15 oz raisins, or 16 oz. prunes, and 2 bars "Gayla" soap. The usual concoctions of deserts, etc., plus ways of mixing up the food is going on, "how do you make so and such"? Well how much of chocolate, sugar, jam etc., to do it, and of course the exchange market among us, some liking one thing more than another and an exchange being made so that both parties are most satisfied - or so they think. My next hunch date is March 3, 1945.



Nov.30. Thanksgiving day spent very pleasantly under the circumstances here, the Red Cross boxes were of course rather heavily hit. Yesterday we heard a very important rumor. This was that Germany had quit Dec. 3. All hands inoculated today, except those with colds. The ingredients and purpose the same as the one received for June 20.

Dec. 4. Our first freeze, last night, of the fall.

Dec. 8. On the 6th we were confined to our rooms in the p.m. during an air raid alarm.

Dec.7-8th Felt 3 to 4 good earthquakes shocks, the first one splashed a quantity of water out of the pool. An Air raid alarm last night, allowing us to turn in about 1815 instead of 1900. Held a conference with Capt. yestersay re: Red Cross boxes, our next issue will be a box on the 24th and perhaps one per month there after. I hope to get that reduced to one very three (3) weeks. The plan is of course conversation. He approved of our Christmas Day Service plus some games in the P.M. Three new prisoners arrived this p.m. I can well imagine that the three Red Cross boxes they received were a welcome sight - I know how I would feel under the same conditions. Well today begins the 4th year of the Pacific War - wonder how much longer the blasted thing is going to last? Not long we, of course, hope.

Dec. 13. First snow storm of this year, about  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch.

Dec/ 23. Received another small Red Cross Box. Three new prisoners tonight. (S/W English Malacca strait).

Dec. 25. Christmas, held a 20 minute service this a.m. conducted by Aldwell, lesson read by Stan Mannierre. Games in the p.m. with boiled sweet potatoes as prizes, plus all hands receiving a couple nice potatoes in addition, the Gurnabo were in attendance - all hands had a nice time, and of course hope to be among our home friends next time at Christmas.

Dec. 26. Three B-29 men left this a.m. unblind folded, the other three left this p.m. blindfolded and handcuffed - must not be going to same place.

Dec. 27. Two new POW tonight. Since Dec. 16th, have changed to 1800 inspection and turning in time.

Dec. 30. A #2 Tichyo has reported for duty, seems to be an agreeable person.

Jan 1 and 2nd, and 5th much celebrated by the Japanese here, lots of food for them plus cake.

Jan 6. Started out a fine day but ended in snow. Boyle, Hyrskanish and Harris slugged for pinching a few small nails. (The nails were needed to fix their shoes, and as the Nips wouldn't give them any they stole them from a carpenter doing some repair work.) Bullard in the soup again, this time about a collar he had made for his flying suit and had used their thread, said collar yanked off and a bit of hell raised about it, Nishi officiation as per usual. (That little B----- caused more trouble than the other guards put together.)

Jan. 8. Received a new P.O.W., total #66.

Jan. 9. Mother's birthday, here's wishing you a happy one and many more, each better to come.

Jan. 11. One more POW arrived this P.M.

Jan. 13, 1945.

The list of transfer came out today. Whiting and I made it along with twenty-five others. We are to leave Monday morning for Omori, the headquarters camp of the Tokyo area. Having spent twenty and one-half months in this camp, of seclusion, humiliation and intimidation it's about time we left, and we held the record for duration of stay here, exceeding the previous record for time by five weeks.

Jan. 15, 1945

The draft left about 0600. My departure command was the same (almost) as given by the regimental commander at the Naval Academy at breakfast formation or graduation day "Squads East and West to hell with them all, lets get out here". It was a great relief to get out side of that gate and get away from Ofuna. Arrived at Omori about 1100, searched, questioned and lectured to for about an hour. We were assigned to various barracks within the compound. Was placed in a bunkroom with Ensign A.L. Mead and Lieutenant C. Clark, across the passage was Lieutenant-Commander Dave Hurt, Lieutenant-Commander W.C. Blinn, and Lt. Commander Fort Calahan who had been taken prisoner in Corrigedor. It was good to see the old friends again and to feel that you could talk whenever you wanted to or have a smoke whenever you wanted it - provided you had the tobacco. It was very scarce, but the allowance was  $2\frac{1}{2}$  cigarettes per day; however, this was supplimented by the fact that the men working in the warehouses in Tokyo would smuggle leaf tobacco into camp for which they could get ten tailor-made cigarettes per hand, a hand being about four or five leaves of tobacco. We would remove the stems from the leaves, dampen them a little then roll about a dozen leaves into a large cigar, wrap it with cloth, then wind small cord about it very tightly and hide away for about five days to dry. The tobacco would then be sliced for either pipe or cigarette. This wasn't a bad smoke in spite of the fact it was a little on the strong side.

The food was an improvement over Ofuna, being about 75% barley and 25% rice, the stews were an improvement also as more vegetables were obtained, approaching the actual quantity as prescribed for us. Once a week or so the remains from the slaughter houses would arrive, bones and intestines, these would be cleaned and boiled, then added to the soup-stew, at least a flavor was obtained and the idea of proteins was present.

Work consisted of administration for about sixteen officers, and some of the enlisted men. The balance of the officers had gardening work or leather shop duties, the men worked in various warehouses, ship yards or railroad yards in the Tokyo area.

Was told by the other POW's when we arrived, that we had come at just the right time for "The Bird" had just left two weeks ago. Who or what was the "The Bird"? Sergeant Watanabe, alias, "The Animal", who called himself an officer disciplinarian, and was one of the most sadistic Japs anyone had ever seen. Those in Omori said that had "The Bird" been present we'd all have been lined up at attention for the day and been knocked down at least two or three times before being released. That being Watanabie's method of indoctrination into his method of discipline for officers in particular and enlisted men in general.

Omori was located on a built-up island in Tokyo Bay and somewhat colder than Ofuna. The four thin blankets provided were little protection against the cold which usually was about fifteen below freezing during the nights. Of course, with proper clothing and food to produce sufficient calories that temperature wouldn't have been at all bad.

It was an inspiring sight to watch the B-20s flying over the Tokyo area, and to hear the crunch of the bombs as they landed on the various objectives. One of the biggest shows was the morning of Feb. 16, 1945. We had just sat down to our barley and soup about 0645 when the sirens began to sound off. Looking at one another there was but one answer, carrier borne planes, for that time of day. It was but a matter of seconds before carrier planes were everywhere; I rushed out to the fence and found a knot hole through which I could see the municipal airport a little over a mile away. What a show that was to see those planes diving on the airport, release their bombs and send the hangers and planes up in pieces and flame. One Jap came by about thirty feet off the water and a U.S. fighter plane right on his tail with guns blazing away. Unfortunately due to my limited arc of vision I couldn't see the outcome, however, there is but little doubt as to the results. We were thusly entertained for two days.

Toward the end of February about forty-five officers were transferred from Omori to various other camps. It was my lot along with fourteen other officers to get camp 4-B at Kaeotsu, Japan, and none other than "The Bird" was there as senior sergeant. It doesn't take much imagination to understand how we felt about the new location for us, certainly not a rosy picture.

We loaded our gear, such as it was, into a truck about 2000, Mar.1, 1945, and were taken to the North Railway Station in Tokyo, where we boarded the train for Naeotsu (where I was to be senior POW. I had visions of a bad time with "The Bird".) Needless to say, it was a cold ride over the mountains. Arrived in Naeotsu about 0900 March 2, 1945, after a half hour or so wait we started a short hike of about a mile and a quarter to the camp. Snow was two meters deep on the level, but in the streets it was piled up to the level of the first story of the shops along the way. Being on a pair of improvised crutches which were necessary because of a badly infected foot, it was slow going, one crutch or the other sinking into the snow every few steps.

The barracks consisted of a large warehouse divided into numerous bunk rooms on two floors. The bunk spaces were designed to accomodate ten men in a crowded fashion. Five thin blankets and some rice straw constituted your bunk. The G.I. overcoat we received the day previous to our departure from Omori came in very useful as an extra cover. The camp was composed of 231 Australians from Singapore, three of them officers, about thirty Dutchmen, and as many Englishmen, practically all of who were taken prisoner early in 1942.

In general conditions were relatively quiet until the middle of March in spite of the fact that we were on half rations, barley and seaweed or bracken known as sticks. About 15 March all the officers were called to the Jap office and ordered to work in the factory, the camp commander insuing the orders and in writing. I, being senior POW, went back and said that we would not do manual labor in the factories or anyplace else. Administration work as pertained to POW's was different, but not manual labor. The next morning about fifteen officers went to the factories to look over the administrative work - such didn't exist so returned to camp. The Japs didn't like this at all and things started off. Watanabe went on a rampage which was to continue from time to time until his transfer about the middle of July.

In April, gardening began with full ration, such as it amounted to, accompanying the detail. The main garden was nine kilometers from camp, which distance was covered on foot twice daily. By the first of May, I was able to put a shoe on the left foot so was added to the gardening detail. Early in June Watanabe became very much more over-irritated than usual and ordered the officers out to the barge detail unloading coal ships. Rather than have broken jaws, lacerations or teeth knocked out, discretion dictated shoveling coal. This detail lasted about a week. The "Camp Comedian" thought it a big joke to watch the officers leaving with the regular barge party. Gardening was resumed and I was placed back in the office in an administrative capacity. The work load was quite heavy for five men to handle. Particularly in view of the fact that about the middle of May, 400 POW's from Osaka arrived, bringing our total to 699. About the first of August, the two shift day was changed to a three shift day. The way the Japs changed over for this really messed the detail. They wanted to change about 10% daily and gradually shift over. They couldn't see our advice of shortening one shift, lengthening another, and so shift in one twenty-four hour period, or give a day holiday to all hands at once and start from scratch; as it was, everyone received a holiday twice a month. This imposed a terrific work load. The labor officer broke down, then his assistant, thus leaving three to do the work. I requested permission from the Japs to utilize two officers who had been excused from gardening because of their physical conditions, and made comparison to Omari where for 613 men, sixteen officers were utilized. This really made them mad. I had "insulted the camp commander and his staff", results the barge party shoveling coal and iron ore and carrying it in a basket strapped to the back. But, frankly, it was a relief to get away from the tension and strain of the camp particularly since I'd been in bad odor since my run-in with them about the officer labor setup back in March, this detail began on August 6 and terminated the evening of August 13. Was called to the staff sergeants office and was told that I could return to my office and continue administrative work, or become leading Hencha of the "barge party" that my work was highly satisfactory and an inspiration to the men. This was a big joke as far as I was concerned and told him I'd return to the office where I belonged.

The afternoon of August 15 was quite a day. The two night shifts which had fallen ready to be marched to the factory was dismissed and told to take a holiday as there was no electric power available. They come back into the building saying "The war must be over!" The power failure sounded strange for we still had lights and the Jap radio was blasting away. The day shift returned about five P.M. and some of those who spoke a little Japanese stated that some of the Nips from whom they usually obtained reliable information said that the war was over at 1200. Having heard a similar rumore in June we looked upon this in doubt, for we didn't want our hopes to go soaring again and have them crushed another time.

However, no work the next day and for the camp the food was fairly good both in quantity and quality, but on the eighteenth it went back to worse than that we had been formerly getting, (that is barley, seaweed or bracken) so our doubts began to arise as to the situation. On the 20th, the camp commander returned from Tokyo and gave us all stalk, the gist of it being that the war was over but we still were in the custody of the Nips. "Casey", the interpreter, another private named Kono, and a rat if ever there was one, interpreted the speech as "The war is in a ceasing condition". I requested that the ration be increased, also asked for tobacco as everyone was mighty low or else out completely. They replied that they were doing all they could, but grain was scarce and other food-stuffs were practically non-existent. My reply to this was that we had many bags in our storeroom outside the fence, and that there was rice and barley in quantity only 10 kilometers away which POW's had taken out there but a couple weeks or so previous.

(About that time that we were up the greatest part of the night as well as many other nights when fifty-two flights of planes went past our camp.). Well, they had to lay in six months supply - or now that the army is no longer in command, the priorities of food were different. In other words, I received a brush-off in the manner about three times a day. Finally on the 24th I wrote up the enclosed despatch to the Swiss Consul.. After about an hour's argument, the camp commander said he would send it, but that it would have to go through headquarters camp in Tokyo. The next morning the interpreter, a new one, Casey having left about two days previously, came to the barracks and said that the camp commander wouldn't send it. I told him to inform the commander that the U.S. Government would be glad to know about that. I then called together all the officers for a little conference. The enclosed letter is a copy of the one handed him at 1100. Just as I left the Jap office, six planes from the LEXINGTON flew over. One cannot imagine the joy felt by all hands, the facial expressions were something I'll always remember. Some of the men were crying like infants.

In no time at all there was a white lime message on the ground - "FOOD AND GIFTS". The planes dropped a message that "They'd be back the next morning with food and things, all their supply had been dripped to other POW camps. About 1300, the camp commander wanted to see me, he didn't seem to like the letter and wanted to know why the bluff and why I didn't ask for things like a gentlemen? I told him that I wasn't bluffing, that I meant every word I said. That was that, but about 1430, trucks began moving and supplies started coming in, Jap emergency rations, biscuits and canned tangerines. The barley was secured away and we received rice plus vegetables, etc. About 1700, six more Lexington planes arrived and dropped twenty-four sea bags full of supplies - we began eating like kings.

I established our own M.P. system granted liberty, etc., in other words, took over the whole place. Having been under foot and trampled down for so long it required feeding out to see how far we could go - it all worked out nicely. August 28th brought us our first of five deliveries from B-29s, food, toiletries, clothing, etc.

After the men were no longer hungry and having plenty of cigarettes, the job and problem of controlling them was made much easier. Prior to that time it had been very trying.

¶ Captain Stassen visited a camp about fifty miles from Naeotsu with certain instructions. Major Fellows called me about Sept. 3rd and said that part of the Captains's staff would be around to see me the next day, however, they didn't show up so I asked the Japs how about transportation to Tokyo; they called in the R.R. officials and said I would have ten coaches the next day, leaving at 0530. 472 officers and men left Sept. 5th by train. Two officers and a patient left by plane that evening. I brought the balance of the POW's out on Sept. 6th meeting General Keyson at Yokohama. Left by C-54 the next evening and arrived in the States Sept. 12th.

I hope this narrative has not bored you too much; have out the last part of it short, as orders are in for my going to New London via the Bureau and I wanted to fulfill my promise of the diary before leaving

Most respectfully,

J.A.F.

9 September 1945

STATEMENT OF COMMANDER FITZGERALD

Having been in Los Valon strait for two or three days without seeing any target I decided on the night of 20 April 1943 to go about two miles to the west of Los Valon Strait to see if I could find anything out there. At about 2030 or 2100 the C.C.O. thought he saw smoke, so continued on my westerly course and later saw smoke coming from two merchant men. The moon being full and visibility excellent I decided to go across the stern of the two ships, get their course and then get on the down-moon side, ascertain their speed, continue on and get into position ahead of the column. Due to visibility conditions, or Jap radar, they found out that I was off their port quarter. I had just that evening checked my SJ radar at 10,250 yards. At the time the merchant men turned their searchlights in my general direction, I had not yet obtained radar range on the ships which were probably 8 or 9 miles away. Eventually the Japs turned to an easterly course and I got ahead of their column and submerged to await attack. Just at early dawn the two ships changed to a southerly course. At about 7 o'clock the ships were out of sight, yet their smoke was still visible on the horizon. Assuming that in accordance with known Japanese convoy doctrine at the end of an hour or an hour and a half the convoy would resume an easterly course, I surfaced on course 155 degrees which would place me in an attack position in about one hour and forty-five minutes. About 15 minutes before arriving in position to dive and be in readiness for attack the lookout cried out "plane, port quarter". Not wishing to be deceived by having it turn out to be some bird or false alarm, I turned around and identified the object as a plane myself. There-upon, I ordered the ship to submerge.

At 0837 the ship was passing 120 feet when the Executive Officer, said, "We ought to be safe now, as we are between 120 and 130 feet." Almost at once two express collided. I had previously, at 90 feet, ordered right 15 degree radder. The force of the explosion heeled the boat over 10 or 15 degrees. All lights and power were lost. I continued on down toward the bottom, at the same time the maneuvering room was attempting to reestablish power. At about 200 feet the word was received, "fire in Maneuvering room". So I set the boat down to the bottom at 267 feet of water. Immediate success was not obtained in extinguishing the fire so I ordered the compartment sealed. After about a half an hour or so later the compartment was entered using lungs as respirators, and CO2 fire extinguishers. The fire was in the hull insulating cork, cables, stores and cleaning rags; which fire had been caused by the power cage and the overhead of the maneuvering room coming together cutting the power cables above the control stand. Also due to sparks coming from the control stand. The maneuvering room induction valve was so badly warped that the flapper valve had been forced off its seat permitting about a two-inch stream of water to run into the control stand. We were unable to protect the electrical equipment from the water by means of shields due to the overhead connections between the hull and control stand. As a result all resistances and cables became saturated with salt water.

After the fire was extinguished a bucket brigade was formed between the maneuvering room to the forward torpedo room in order to keep the water level down below the motors. Some men lost consciousness from heat prostration and physical exertion. Eventually a jury rig was established between the main battery and a drain pump which then permitted us to secure the bucket brigade and keep the water level down by means of pumping.

STATEMENT OF COMMANDER FITZGERALD - continued

The force of the explosion was centered apparently at about 30 degrees from the verticle in the vicinity of the maneuvering room after bulkhead. This bulkhead had been forced to the port side and apparently bent the main shafts. All the frames from the engine room after bulkhead through to the after torpedo room were badly bent inward, particularly in the vicinity of the maneuvering room after bulkhead. The strong back in the after torpedo room loading hatch was bent about 10 or 15 degrees from its normal centerline.

The after torpedo room loading hatch itself was damaged, allowing a shower of water into the torpedo room. ~~\*\*\*~~ On surfacing and inspecting the after torpedo room loading hatch I discovered that about two-fifths of the gasket itself was badly cut up and the hatch itself was elliptical in shape to the extent that I could put my hand in between the skknife edge and hatch cover itself.

All the after tubes were knocked out of commission; all hydraulic lines to the tubes, vents, and steering mechanism were ruptured. Many of the gages in the after room were knocked out of position. In the maneuvering room the control stand cage itself was twisted out of shape. Deck plate and support frames were warped.

In the engine room hydraulic lines to the main vent valves were broken loose from the valves. Dishes and Victrola records in the crew's mess room were thrown about, breaking a large percentage of them.

In the radio room the receivers were torn from their mmorings and thrown about the compartment. The transmitter was knocked over resulting in severe damage to all the radio installiations. The shock of the explosion continued clear through the forward battery to such an extent that dishes and phonograph records were broken in a slightly lesser degree to that of the crew's mess.

The electricians exerted every effort to protect the electrical installation from the shower of salt water coming from the hard patch, drying out electrical equipment, and endeavor to regain propulsion.

At about 2130 I surfaced and tried to clear the bent of smoke by taking suction through\* the bent using the main engines. The work was continued in the maneuvering ro m through the night. Finally, by jury rigs we were able to turn over one shaft at very slow spped but due to the condition of the shafting, which is believed to have been badly bent, it was impossible to get the control lever into the second stage resistance; approximately 2750 amps were required to turn the shaft, the normal amounh required is about 450.\*

Finally the engineering offiver and electricians reported to me on the bridge that everything possible had been done to re-establish pepulsion and that they knew of nothing further they could do in order to regain repulsion. This was somewhere around 0400 to 0500 in the morning. I then decided to try and made a sail in\* order to bring the submarine closer to the beach where I would disember the crew and blow the ship up, but this effort was abandoned as it seemed to be futile.

At probably around 0600 I noticed, coming from the northwest out of Los Velon Strait, a ship which at that time appeared to me to be a large destroyeer or light cruiser.

(3)

STATEMENT OF COMMANDER FITZGERALD continued

Shortly thereafter I noticed smoke from a patrol or escort vessel to the southeast. I didn't think it advisable to make a stationary dive in 280 feet of water without power, the after loading hatch in its damaged condition, and not knowing the true trim of the boat due to having transferred as much water and the loss of oil which had leaked out through external ruptures in the fuel oil tanks aft. Having arrived at this decision I ordered preparations to be made for abandoning ship, thinking it imprudent to engage the approaching ships with machine guns, (I had at one time received a report that the 3<sup>rd</sup> gun was out of commission). While preparations were in progress for abandoning ship we were again attacked by a single-engine aircraft similar to the one of the preceeding day. I held fire until the position angle was about 65 degrees, at which point I opened fire with two .20 and two .30 caliber machine guns. The plane, to the best of my knowledge, was hit three times. Following these hits it pulled its nose up sharply and changed course to the left, going around my stern and obtained position for a run on the GRENADIER'S port side. Fire was again commenced at similar position angle. The plane dropped its aerial torpedo when directly overhead. It landed and exploded in the water about 200 yards from the ship, (subsequent information revealed that the pilot died that night as a result of his wounds and cracking up of his plane upon landing at Penang that morning). All hands were then lined up at quarters forward of the coning tower, leaving one man below to open the safety tank vent valve.

When the ship from the northwest arrived within a mile and a half or two from GRENADIER (this ship turned out to be about 1600-ton merchantman) the officers and crew were ordered over the side and I instructed the man below to open the vents. The GRENADIER sank immediately. Sixty-eight men and eight officers were subsequently picked up by the merchantman which had arrived prior to the patrol vessel.

We had been on board but a short time when the patrol vessel accompanied by a large subchaser arrived alongside and about the same time a twin-engined bomber flew over the scene. We were taken to Penang and arrived there about 0700 April 23, 1943.