

Many returned to sick quarters shortly afterwards to die. Treatment for diarrhoea was salts and starvation. The general result was that the sick either died or recovered in spite of the treatment so, with the passing of winter, improvement of food and receipt of Red Cross Medicine things gradually improved and sickness decreased. The Dutch-Japanese Doc. Van Slooten was considered hopelessly inefficient by other officers and he received preferential treatment for pro-Japanese attitude. He was replaced later due to repeated representations (after ~~he~~ left).

9. Funerals. Initially for funerals a fatigue party of fit men was kept back from work to carry the coffin and fuel. The coffin, about 10 bundles of faggots and 2 bags of charcoal had to be carried 1-1½ miles up a steep mountain trail and the labour involved was considerable especially as there were frequently two funerals in one day. The fatigue party was rapidly cut down and soon forbidden so all the work of funerals was left to officers and "light duty" men who were always very sick men. On one occasion in mid Feb 1943 only 4 officers were well enough to go out and no men were well enough to leave camp. May Cory U.S. and S/L Grant R.H.F. appealed to the interpreter for a fatigue party but they were thrown out of the office. The 4 officers refused to go but were beaten out with sticks and guards went through the sick quarters and drove out about 10 miserably sick men. The naked corpse was forced into the stained deal box (which served for all funerals) by Japs jumping on the lid. The party set out, 4 officers acting as bearers without reliefs. The sick

men carrying fuel and in the rear the guards driving along stragglers. The mountain slopes were covered with snow and ice so the officers slipped and fell, the box rolled down the slope and the body fell out - to the amusement of the guards. The journey was completed by pulling and pushing the box like a sledge. Often we were on hands and knees. The "crematorium" was a rough iron oven. The fuel was placed in the bottom and the naked body had to be forced into the remaining space by doubling up the stiff limbs. The party stood by to tend the fire until it was certain that the body would be consumed. The whole affair caused great mental and physical suffering.

10. Red Cross Supplies These were all kept by the Japs, who arranged when and how they should be distributed. In general they tended to keep food until it deteriorated. Appeals to hand the goods to the Senior Officers for distribution met with no success. All the administration personnel from the Commandant down looted the stores constantly and more or less openly (they were so certain of victory then). The table shows what happened to goods received. Two points call for special comment

(a) Sick prisoners were dying for need of civilized food, Red Cross food was in the store but the Japs issued either none or quantities entirely insufficient.

(b) Sufficient Red Cross boots were received for all prisoners but though the need was urgent all applications for an issue were refused. We were told that they were being saved for our journey home. (I suspect that the real reason was that they did not

want civilians outside to see the prisoners in good boots when their own were bad)

Date	Item	N ^o Rec ^d	Remarks
27-12-42	Parcels	300	255 issued 25(min) stolen by office staff
5-4-43	Malted Mabela	450 lb	Issued between Oct 43 and June 44
5-4-43	Dried Pears	36 boxes 25 lb each	All issued but all boxes opened 25% removed.
28-5-43	Meat & Veg.	11 boxes 48 lb each	Most issued Xmas '43 remainder stolen.
28-5-43	Sugar	(sacks) 13 cwt	None issued direct, some through cook house Large amounts stolen by commandant.
28-5-43	Cocoa	20 cartons 7 lb each	28 lb issued all remainder stolen openly & issued to office staff. Visiting Col from HQ had some
28-5-43	Soup Mix	8 boxes	All issued by July 44. Going bad!
26-1-43	Boots	360 prs	8 prs to officers leaving July 43. Issued in Oct 43 and kept on shelves until Feb '45. Parties leaving for other camps took boots.

11. Visit of Red Cross Representative. M. Pestalozzi 30-6-'43

On the occasion of this visit we were not told who was coming but obtained the information secretly and were prepared. Beforehand all were paid up to date, various related issues of soap, toilet paper, cigarettes were made, the Canteen was stocked and labelled for the first time, a good meal was cooked in the kitchen. We were told we must speak well of the camp and treatment. Sp Grant, Maj Cory F/Lt Ross and Capt Hewitt were granted interviews and managed to get some information past the ineffectual interpreter before the Jap officer realized what was happening and terminated the interview abruptly. After M. Pestalozzi left Sp Grant & Maj Cory were kicked and beaten and the canteen was emptied without a sale.

12. Entertainment & Recreation There was no room for inside or outside games or recreation and in any case the men were too exhausted to wish for exercise

After a time, some books, playing cards, chess draughts and stringed instruments were received from the Y.M.C.A. and the men were allowed to use these on "rest" days only, in the officers billet. This made it impossible for them to read straight through a book.

13. News and Mail. Some weeks after arrival we received bundles of censored, old Jap propaganda newspapers "Nippon Times". These were never regular or up to date. Incoming mail was deliberately delayed for weeks in the office. We had not heard from home for over a year so this was retimed mental torture. The men were told they must write home of good treatment and Japanese "kindness" if they wished their letters to go through.

14. Propaganda. Repeated attempts were made to incite British against Americans and vice versa. The S.T.C. boys were offered preferential treatment if they joined the Indian National Army. All refused. Officers were required to write comments on articles appearing in Jap papers (eg. The alleged sinking of Jap hospital ships) in the hopes that some might be used for propaganda purposes. We usually turned these into scathing criticism of Japan and the ruling clique and strangely enough were never punished for this — directly.

15. Interpreter. One of our greatest obstacles lay in the interpreter Cpl. Yookizowa. His knowledge of English was very poor and none of the other Japs. knew any English. It was impossible to communicate

with the commandant other than through the interpreter. This placed him in a position of power never intended for one of his rank. I am quite certain that he suppressed, deliberately altered and misrepresented communications both ways in addition to all the natural mistakes due to his lack of ability.

3/9/1945
Mitsushima,
Honshu,
Japan.

W J Blanchard,
S/L R.A.F.

I have read the above report and to the best of my knowledge and belief it is a true statement,

800 Pmg 1/4-

Other witnesses:-

Judges
C. H. H. P/O M.V.A.F.
L. B. M. P/O.

Maj Cory U.S. Army
Capt Hewitt U.S. Signal Corp
Capt Faulkner U.S. Engineers
(Prisoners somewhere in Japan)

Name of Camp Commandant	Lt (Now Capt) Nakajima
First Sgt	Sgt Michi Shita
Interpreter	Cpl Yoshizawa
Accounts	Cpl Sakamoto
Ex service guards guilty of beating etc:-	Tsuchiya Fujita

WJ