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PRISONER OF WAR CAMPS

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PRISONER OF WAR CAMPS

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PRISONER OF WAR CAMPS

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This subject must necessarily be treated as two distinct topics, since the basic conditions are different.

It has therefore been divided into two categories:-

German Prisoner of War Camps
Japanese Prisoner of War Camps

I. GERMAN CAMPS (Locations and Types)

- A. Front Line: These are, of course, temporary enclosures, sometimes hastily constructed of barbed wire, or converted out of an abandoned or wrecked structure. Normally located along the line of Division Hq. and moves as the battle action progresses.

A preliminary search, possibly a brief tactical squeeze (interrogation) and a quick processing to determine where P/W shall be sent. The P/W will normally (if not considered a priority prisoner for immediate interrogation) pass thru a series of temporary points enroute to:-

- B. Dulag: The word Dulag is a contraction of the words "Durchgang" - meaning in transit - and "Lager" - meaning, roughly, camp.

The P.O.W. is sent here for thorough processing and interrogation, before being assigned to a particular permanent camp.

Both officer and enlisted personnel are sent through here enroute to their permanent camps. The officers are then segregated and sent on to an Oflag, or Offizierlager, while the NCO's and E.M. go to various Stalags, or Stammlager. Separate camps are maintained for the Army, Navy and Air Forces. The Air Forces versions are known as Dulag Luft (transient) and Stalag Luft (permanent.)

- C. Stalag: All prisoners of war finally arrive at a permanent prison camp or Stalag. This, again, is a contraction of the words "Stamm" (steadfast or permanent) and "Lager" (place or camp.)

A Stalag is the base from which radiates a system of smaller working camps called Kommando, where the prisoners are quickly sent.

No one is supposed to remain in a Stalag longer than necessary for disinfection, processing and consignment to a Kommando, although a certain percentage remains at the Stalag for administrative purposes.

There are hundreds of Stalags scattered throughout Germany. These are the nucleus camps for thousands of Kommandos where 95% of all P.O.W. stay the whole year around.

- D. THE PERMANENT CAMP (STALAG)

The permanent camp, or Stalag, is usually in open terrain, situated outside small towns, and seldom in or near a large city. It consists of numerous compounds, usually surrounded by double barbed wire fences and patrolled by armed guards. Compounds contain barracks, sports field, recreational facilities, infirmary, etc.

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PRISONER OF WAR CAMPS (GERMAN)

THE PERMANENT CAMP (STALAG) (Continued)

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1. Legal Rights: These are stipulated and fully covered by the Geneva Convention, and upheld in the Oflag by the Senior Officer and in the Stalag by the "Man of Confidence". Both work through the Protecting (Neutral) Power. A military P.O.W. Camp does not resemble, and is not to be confused with, a Civilian Concentration Camp. The Gestapo has no jurisdiction over, Ps/W.
2. Security: Upon arrival at P.O.W. Camp, personnel is to report to the Senior American Officer at once, and out-of-doors. The Senior Officer is to be considered as their Commanding Officer.
3. Conditions: Conditions in Oflags (Officer's camps) are generally good, though with some exceptions. German rations alone are inadequate. Clothing is almost never issued. Quarters and recreation, however, are in accordance with the Geneva Convention. Conditions in Stalags are generally severe. Food is bad and the usual issue of one Red Cross food parcel per man per week is not always maintained. Clothing is not issued, even when Ps/W wear out uniforms in performance of heavy labor. Hours of work are long and work is hard. Provisions of Convention applying to mail are seldom met.
4. Treatment: Treatment in Oflags and most Stalags has been fairly correct. In some Stalags, however, brutal mistreatment has occurred. Two Americans in Stalag 2B, Hammerstein, have been shot and killed for refusing to work. Six others in this camp have been shot and killed for trying to escape. (January 1944) Rule in other Stalags has been to make every effort to prevent escapes without shooting. Orders from German camp commandants on treatment usually are correct; their application by guards are not always so. Up to the present Americans have no reason to expect any of the inhuman treatment, notorious in German concentration camps for civilians. Many Americans, in their letters from German prison camps, have not understood this.
5. Policy: This is dictated by the Allies holding more German prisoners than the Nazis have of American or British. Possibilities of reciprocal treatment have held the Germans close to rules of the Geneva Convention, with exceptions or coercion in interrogation plus food and clothing deficiencies.

Sliding Scale of Treatment: American and British Prisoners of War have been accorded relatively preferential treatment by the Germans. This may be explained by the fact that the British and American Governments have - from the beginning of hostilities - observed their obligations under the Geneva Convention, and have scrupulously refrained from unwarranted severity to German Prisoners of War. On the other hand, the Germans have subjected the Czech, Polish, and Russian Ps/W to the most barbaric and revolting cruelties.

6. Operation - Daily Life

- a. Roll calls (Appel) - 2 to 8 per day, to check on escapes. Daily confusion helpful to P/W.
- b. Work details - E.M. must:- Current wages 80¢ per day.
Kommandos:- Workers are farmed out to civilian industry. Presents excellent chance to gain information, to survey surroundings for escape, and to keep physically fit. Work must have no direct relation to war operations.

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THE PERMANENT CAMP (STALAG) (Continued)

"...A prisoner cannot refuse to work but he can fall and break the handle of his tool, or drop a sack of cement, or let a stone fall into the wheels of the mixing machine, and make himself decidedly unpleasant, while looking very contrite about the accident..."

From Stalags, work details go outside the camp every day. N.C.O's may volunteer, privates are required to work. Officers are exempt. (See "GENEVA CONVENTION".) These Work Parties are the best way of spreading Propaganda and obtaining information.

Information can often be obtained by conversation with guards and civilians but chiefly by observation. Very often, enlisted men have a better opportunity than officers, as they see and hear more when serving on Work Details.

There are many activities in the Camps and the gathering of information is one of the most important. Two kinds are required:-

Information about Escape: Accurate knowledge of routes and conditions to be encountered from the Camp to the Frontier. These change often, as the Enemy adapts new methods of control, so that even if an Escaper is captured he brings back valuable information.

Information about the Enemy: Is of value in planning operations and may be classified as Military and Economic.

Military: Includes facts about Disposition of Forces, State of Morale, Location of New Factories, Flying Fields, Ammunition Dumps, etc.

Economic: Includes facts about Morale of Civilian Population, Food Riots, Shortages of Various Kinds, Production, Results of Air Raids, etc.

- c. Interrogation: (fully covered in "RESISTING INTERROGATION")
- d. Parole: A signed promise in writing specifying certain acts against his captor (e.g. Escape) from which a P/W will refrain. A parole is not a temporary state, but continues until the peace.

The enemy cannot compel you to accept your liberty on parole. Our War Department forbids the giving of parole under any circumstances.

"Temporary Undertaking": This is a signed promise not to escape within a brief, specified period. Provided consent of Senior Officer has been obtained, it is sometimes permitted under certain conditions: (e.g. - Leaving compound for a few hours to exercise, or get medical or dental treatment, etc.). This contemplates that - at the end of the short period of time specified--the P/W reverts to his former state of custody. The terms of a "temporary undertaking" must not be violated.

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PRISONER OF WAR CAMPS (GERMAN)

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THE PERMANENT CAMP (STALAG) (Continued)

- e. Searches: Constant searches of quarters to prevent accumulation of escape materials. P/W very adept at concealment of same.
 - f. Health Conditions: Sick call is held daily, generally under the supervision of either American or British medical personnel. Their jobs put them into an ideal position for obtaining and transmitting information.
 - g. Food: In some camps, notably Oflags, food is adequate because Red Cross distributes food parcels to each man each week. In no camp do German rations comply with requirements under Geneva Convention, requiring same food as that received by base troops in area. German rations plus Red Cross parcels supply Ps/W with better food than German base troops in many camps. In other camps deliveries of Red Cross parcels are irregular and Ps/W suffer from insufficient food and diet deficiencies. Ps/W cook own food and sometimes supplement rations with vegetables grown by themselves.
 - h. Recreation: Athletics are dependent on space and equipment. Most permanent camps have some form of camp theatre, motion pictures, orchestra, language studies and other cultural pursuits. This applies more frequently to Oflags than to Stalags. In some camps as many as 27 educational courses are given ranging from Anatomy to Zoology. They play football, baseball, bridge, etc., with equipment supplied by the Red Cross.
- Inasmuch as physical fitness is the first requisite for a P/W when planning an Escape, and since almost all Camps provide space for various forms of exercise...too much emphasis cannot be laid on this aspect of prison life. An Escape too often has failed, because a P/W has been physically unfit.
- i. Discipline: Varies with commandant. (see "Treatment.") Disciplinary punishment, particularly maximum imposed for escape attempts, generally in accordance with Geneva Convention. Demonstrable instances of brutality so far confined to one camp--Stalag 2B.

ORGANIZATIONS AND COMMITTEES:

General

Camp organizations fall roughly into three classifications:

- E. Official: Consists of the Senior American or British Officer (and/or "Man of Confidence") who deals with the Protecting Power via the Camp Commandant. Representatives of Neutral Powers and International Organizations visit camps regularly to see that Geneva Convention standards are maintained.

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PRISONER OF WAR CAMPS (GERMAN)

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ORGANIZATIONS AND COMMITTEES: (Continued)

The prisoner reaching a permanent German prison camp will usually find it exceptionally well organized...by his own personnel. He will find an Allied Senior Officer who is responsible for the internal administration, and for liason with the enemy Camp Commandant. It is this S.O. to whom one reports on arrival.

The Senior Officer is the prisoners' representative to the detaining power in general and the Camp Commandant in particular. To the Camp Commandant he presents requests, complaints. To the prisoners, he is the responsible authority. A good Senior Officer earns the respect and admiration of the enemy without sacrificing the rights of his fellow Ps/W. The morale of the Ps/W in any camp usually directly reflects the degree of firmness and aggressiveness exhibited by their Senior Officer.

M.O.C.: The same is true of the "Man of Confidence," who is the N.C.O. counterpart in the Stalags of the Senior Officer.

- F. Semi-official: Organizes and conducts all sports, dramatics, education, etc., in connection with camp staff.
- G. Unofficial: The un-official organizations are of extreme importance: they constitute the Allied Staff in camp. Their size and efficiency vary. It is not necessary to know the members personally--just know that the committees exist. Experience has proved that a well organized camp produces valuable results, while one without organization is worthless.

The un-official committees consists of the Escape Committee; information and routes, maps, correspondence, engineering, food, clothing, nuisance, and propaganda committees.

COMMITTEES

H. Information Committee

The prisoner will find an INFORMATION COMMITTEE, whose duty it is to compile information concerning military matters, economic matters, morale, etc., and transmit it to Allied Headquarters. This information is obtained by a variety of means: -

1. Prison guards, who are frequently older men and not always ardent Nazis, become susceptible to bribes of cigarettes or chocolate and willingly or unwillingly give out information of value.
2. Another source of information comes from the men who are required to work for extended periods outside the prison camp, and who are therefore in an excellent position to secure information for this committee. The information committee will also keep you posted on the war.
3. Finally, from P/W newly arrived in the camp, as well as from recaptured escapers.

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PRISONER OF WAR CAMPS (GERMAN)

COMMITTEES (Continued)

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- I. The Escape Committee: This is a clearing house for escapes:- responsible for advising would-be escapers as to the feasibility of their plans; for the coordination of escape attempts to ensure that one attempt is not in conflict with another; to allot times for such attempts; and in some cases to determine precedence of departure. Escape plans are submitted for approval, and priorities established. One of the principal reasons for newly-arrived P/W being ignored for the first few days is because his character and reliability are being judged. The escape committee cannot afford to be compromised by any rash new-comer.

Escape Committee and Sub-Committees: Special sub-committees are set up secretly in the camps to ensure the safe execution of attempts at escape. The most vital preparations consist in obtaining possession of mapping material, compasses, clothing, money, forged permits, and a supply of food.

1. Map Committee: Maps are carefully prepared and contain precise indications as to the appropriate distribution of night marches, the possibilities of hiding by day; the position, strength and type of guard to be expected on bridges and foot-bridges, narrow passages or fords on rivers, etc. Compasses are made with the aid of magnetized needles.
2. Clothing Committee: The question of obtaining suitable clothing presents special difficulties. Great technical skill is shown in turning foreign uniforms into civilian clothes.
3. Food Committee: Since all food not immediately consumed is taken away from P/W, considerable ingenuity must be exercised in order to accumulate and conceal the non-perishable food necessary for a successful escape.
4. Engineering Committee: Responsible for the planning and supervision of tunnel construction, lock picking, wall scaling, etc.
5. Propaganda Committee: The elderly German guards are frequently won over by bribes, and any carelessness on the part of the camp personnel is taken advantage of in the most skillful manner.

The Kommandos and Stalags are rest posts for Germans wounded on the various fronts. After a few months, most of them go back to fighting.

The best men of Germany being more and more absorbed by the Russian front; the level of the sentries has fallen progressively.

A little chocolate and a good cigarette are excellent weapons against their Nazi morale. These men have enough to eat, but the monotony of their diet is discouraging. The Propaganda Committee utilizes these circumstances to spread truth, rumors, distrust, defeatism among the enemy.

6. The Nuisance Committee: Is responsible for creating sufficient diversion when a break is about to take place. They also harass the guards and camp commandant by confusing the roll call, etc.
7. Miscellaneous: Then there are Entertainment, Sports and Educational committees. Courses are given in foreign languages and any other subjects in which the prisoners are interested.

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PRISONER OF WAR CAMPS (GERMAN)

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SUMMARY

- J. Behavior: The importance of prison camp organization cannot be over-emphasized, for without such organization the results would be chaos.

A prisoner, or group of prisoners planning a break must - for the sake of their own attempt and for other future attempts - consult with their escape committee and abide by its decisions.

Prisoners are warned that mutinies and wholesale breaks are serious matters. They should only be undertaken under the most extreme provocation, and with the authority of the Senior Officer.

- K. Morale: A constant factor to be guarded against is apathy or despair. Many prisoners suffered during the last war from an ailment commonly known as "Barbed-wire fever."

Two examples:-

"...I'm lonsome for the desert and for the boys. I'd be glad to hear the Stukas again if I could only be back there fighting."

"...I can't think of much to write these days as I am so damn blue its patetic..."

The activity of a well organized camp will serve to dissipate these tragic attitudes. All P/W are advised to adhere to the following:-

1. Break the monotony
2. Keep in good physical condition (for escape)
3. Obey orders.

- L. Parole: You are to escape at every opportunity. Army regulations read:

Don't give your parole. This would prevent you in honor from attempting to escape. The enemy cannot compel you to accept your liberty on parole. If so authorized by the Senior American officer or noncommissioned officer present, you may give your individual and temporary undertaking in writing not to escape for a definite short period for a definite purpose, for example, in order to secure medical treatment. Such undertakings will be scrupulously respected.

Further, you are prohibited by General Order, War Department, for using enemy radio for broadcasting, transmitting messages, or for any purpose whatever while a prisoner of war in enemy hands.

- M. POW Usefulness:

1. Prison labor is allotted to all kinds of industry and agriculture, via the Kommando system.
2. Since camps are located throughout Germany and the rest of conquered Europe, prisoners come into the most direct and intimate contact with:
 - The German population
 - The conquered peoples

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PRISONER OF WAR CAMPS (GERMAN)

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POW Usefulness (Continued)

3. This automatically put them into a practically ideal position for observing, for seeing and hearing more or less all that is taking place within and outside Germany's frontiers.
4. As a result of their enforced activities, they become the best informed persons and the best judges of the spiritual, moral, economic, and many other aspects of German conditions.
5. The knowledge thus obtained is, of course, conveyed to Allied Intelligence services, and constitutes a most positive contribution to the Allied war effort.
6. Information: The constant flow of information which reaches Allied H.Q. from P.O.W. camps in Germany, provides us with the most comprehensive knowledge of conditions in enemy POW camps as well as external conditions in Axis countries.
7. Employment: The employment of POW labor by the Germans is a time bomb in their hands, since the prisoners are actually employed against every interest of the captor. This condition has produced a new and highly developed weapon which is being most successfully used against the Nazis.
8. Obligation: All Allied P.O.W. are under the obligation to "remain always, even in captivity, the enemy of the enemy." The obligation as a soldier requires them to seize every opportunity of harming the Germans, and to make every possible endeavor to escape and return to Allied territories.
9. Sabotage: Sabotage activities on the part of P/Ws is restricted in application, inasmuch as there are other agencies which handle spying and regular sabotage activities. The contribution of P.O.W. lies in the form of:

Propaganda: They attack the will-to-resist of the persons who hold them captive, or whom they encounter in their daily work.

10. Prisoners of War in Germany (supplementing conquered peoples) contribute the surest and least costly means of spreading Allied propaganda. Full use is made of them to undermine the endurance of Germany. It is part of their job to add to the demoralization of the German peoples and to make the existing system of government contemptible.

This is done by:

Stressing Allied unity and the increasing weight of Allied ground and air strength: (Teheran Conference)

Stressing the size of German losses and the futility of making further sacrifices for a lost cause.

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PRISONER OF WAR CAMPS (JAPANESE)

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II. JAPANESE CAMPS (Locations and Types)

- A. Introduction: Japanese camps are of two different types, located in two different geographic areas.
1. Inner Zone: --One set is located in the Inner Zone, comprising the Islands of Japan; Formosa; North China down to and including Shanghai; and Manchuria.
 2. Outer Zone: --The other group of camps is scattered throughout the rest of Japanese occupied territory, from the Phillipines South to the Dutch East Indies.
- B. Conditions: There are two sets of conditions involved. The camps in the Inner Zone, being accessible to Red Cross and neutral inspection, are fairly well run...but cannot be taken as typical since they serve merely as window dressing. These are show-places visited by representatives of the Protecting Power and are the best of a bad lot.

Conditions in Japanese camps in the Outer Zone are barbaric, according to personal reports of returned military personnel.

- C. Treatment: Though the Japanese signed the Geneva Convention, their government at home failed to ratify it. Thus, their control of POW is not limited by the Convention's rules. They have indicated, however, that they would follow its provisions within limits, and all reports indicate that they are doing this. Japanese treatment of POW varies most from the Geneva rules in the severity of punishments meted out for infraction of camp rules, attempted escapes, etc. The Prisoner of War Bureau in Tokyo has issued the following statement regarding punishments:

1. Acts of violence or intimidation---ringleader, death or life imprisonment; others, death or imprisonment of over 1 year.
2. Acts of resistance or disobedience--death or imprisonment of over 1 year.
3. Insulting guards, etc.---maximum 5 years' imprisonment.
4. Attempted escape--group leader, death or over 10 years' imprisonment; others, over 1 year's imprisonment.

INNER ZONE

In spite of regulations, treatment of POW depends a great deal on the individual camp commanders, and rules are local rather than general. Treatment accorded in permanent camps is uniformly better than in camps near the front. In the Inner Zone, the Japanese are following the Geneva rules in these respects:

1. Payment of POW
2. Medical inspection
3. Sanitary housing

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C. Treatment (continued)

4. Mailing privileges are extremely limited. Few letters have been received in the camps. The restrictions imposed by the Japanese Government require that letters to Prisoners of War be typewritten in capital letters, or printed in block letters, and are not to exceed twenty-four words in length. The name and address of the prisoner and the name of the sender will not be counted in determining the number of words in the letter.

D. Prisoner of War Figures:

As of 1 July 1944 the Japanese held a known total of 196,605 military prisoners of war, of whom the largest percentage (31%) or 61,280 have been reported in Malaya. Indian prisoners, comprise the largest racial bloc (67,550) or 34% of the total number of military prisoners in the Far East. The second largest racial group is composed of United Kingdom prisoners, who number 43,451.

The next highest percentage total occurs in the Netherlands East Indies, where 21% or 41,232 POW are held. Thailand holds 13% (25,586) and Burma 12% (22,927) of the total distribution.

7% of all POW (13,137) are distributed in Occupied China, while 5% (10,066) are in the Philippine Islands. The remaining 3% are located in Formosa (2,724); Korea (672); Manchuria (1,281); and Indo-China (1,731).

17,368 American prisoners of war captured by the Japanese are located in the following countries: Philippine Islands, 41% (7,061); Japan, 36% (6,197); Manchuria and Occupied China, 7% each, with 1,181 and 1,230 Americans respectively. The countries of Southeast Asia (French Indo-China, Thailand, Malaya, and Burma) hold only 4% Americans (648). Formosa, where the highest ranking Allied officers are held, has 3% of the total number of American POW, with 523; and the Netherlands East Indies contain the least number of American prisoners, with 2% of the total, or 415.

8% of all Japanese-held prisoners are in Japan, but this figure (15,969) is steadily rising as the trend has been to transfer an increasing number of white prisoners from the occupied territories to Japan itself.

E. Escape Possibilities

- a) In the early stages, Outer Zone. It is a common practice of the Japanese to make their POW serve as laborers, to treat them like slaves, and put them to work shortly after capture or at least make them walk to their confinement. If the POW "cooperates" the sentries tend to relax their vigilance. Some escapes have been made under these conditions. Therefore, be bold, quick to take advantage of any momentary favorable situation; improvise. For example: When being moved at night under enemy escort...drop out of line, avoid rear guard and hostile native patrols. Contacts with sympathetic natives and friendly guerillas have also been successfully used.
- b) Escape possibilities in the Inner Zone are more difficult because of the presence in greater numbers of the Japanese, and the more stable prison camp conditions. In Japan escape is practically impossible.

- F. Punishments for attempted escapes vary according to the local commanders, from death by torture, or execution, to imprisonment up to ten years, and in some cases only by reprimand and public confession of failure. Mass reprisals of one form or another on the remaining prisoners limits to a certain extent escape attempts.

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PRISONER OF WAR CAMPS (JAPANESE)

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OUTER ZONE

The Treatment of Dutch and British POWs in the OUTER ZONE has been most severe. They were made to do all kinds of degrading work, were kept with their heads shaved, their faces unshaven, and their clothes in rags. They were under-fed and beaten at the slightest provocation, such as not understanding their guards' Japanese commands. They were allowed no recreation, books or papers, nor smoking. Thus the Japs tried to show the natives their superiority over the whites, and punished the whites for treating the Japs as inferiors in the past. However, their actions have tended to increase the native's sympathy for, and appreciation of, the white race. For this reason, the Japanese may have ameliorated their treatment within the last year.

The Japanese refused any recognition of officer POW, beat anyone who saluted them, and made them clean out gutters and sewers with their hands. Little or no medical treatment was accorded them and the death rate, by shooting and exhaustion, was high. The prisoners were closely guarded and organized into squads. If one man tried to escape, the rest of his squad were shot. This form of mass reprisal has been practiced by the Japs in the Philippines, but not in China or Japan, where they are more civilized but still severe with their POWs.

Treatment on the whole is bad; all must work at some tasks.

Australians near Batavia were made to clean gutters with their hands. Many had to draw military grobaks (carts) by hand, while others pushed.

No distinction or separation of officers or men. All treated the same. Only in Soerabaja were the officers forced to wear badges. No saluting between officers and men P/W.

Corporal punishment administered by soldiers and officers as well.

Every Japanese soldier must be saluted with palm turned toward face; beating follows for failure to salute correctly.

Every time a soldier enters the barracks P/W must stand at attention and salute.

All look like beggars (no new clothes permitted), dirty (no soap for washing), no razors (all bearded) many bare footed.

G. Medical Treatment: In hands of P/W doctors. Supplies, where running low, are not being replenished. In some cases were non-existent.

However, in the Inner Zone the Japs have been fairly consistent in the delivery of Red Cross supplies, and have arranged to receive future supplies via Russia. These supplies may save the lives of some of our prisoners...when not diverted for use by their own troops.

H. Punishments: Much beating in camps and ill-treatment. Exposure of nude P/W in tropical sunshine for 12 hours. Stand at attention for 12 hours. If victim falls, he is beaten and kicked.

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PRISONER OF WAR CAMPS (JAPANESE)

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OUTER ZONE (Treatment continued)

- I. Policy: This may best be illustrated by a Japanese order dated September 21, 1943 sent to the Camp Commander of a Jap POW camp:-

"...In the present circumstances there is no need to make special efforts to increase the number of our prisoners. Should any doubt arise in connection with the treatment of prisoners, those who display hostile feelings are to be disposed of..."

There is practically nothing we can do about the wretched conditions of certain of our POW in Jap hands. It doesn't matter what policy we follow...the Japs will do just as they please, regardless of their interest in their own POW - which is practically non-existent.

Japan never ratified the Geneva Convention safeguarding the rights of prisoners and, ever since Bataan, there has been cause for American concern.

- J. Daily Existence: This centers almost exclusively around work, which in turn is conditioned by food and general health. All personnel work, both officers and enlisted men.

1. Food: Under the best possible conditions, prisoners of Japan are up against it. Entitled by Convention to the same rations as their captors, they must adapt themselves to a diet consisting chiefly of fish and rice. To a white man, polished rice is an overture to beri-beri.

However, in some cases Americans have ingeniously contrived to supplement their meagre diet. One camp got hold of a few rabbits and promptly began breeding them. Before long, there were 200 rabbits to 234 prisoners and more were coming all the time.

Food is bad in most camps. Many POW are emaciated because of under-nourishment.

No food permitted to be sent in.

Meals consist of small bowl of rice without salt; lunch, small bowl of rice without salt, and cabbage. Sometimes small piece of meat. Night - small bowl of rice.

After two months all P/W in Banboeng had lost 11 pounds on an average. Main complaints are stomach ulcers and weakness from hunger.

The food is, of course, insufficient by American standards. Red Cross parcels have saved many lives (from malnutrition, and unbalanced diets.) Parcels from home are kept in a package room and handed out sparingly to prevent build-up and saving of food for escape purposes.

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PRISONER OF WAR CAMPS (JAPANESE)

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III. SURVIVAL

- A. Behavior: In order to survive at all, don't be flippant. Obey their orders with as little sarcasm and as much grace as possible.
1. Health: In general, health in the Inner Zone has improved somewhat -- mainly as a result of P.O.W. own effort. Therefore, seize every opportunity to keep clean, and to guard and improve your own physical condition.
 2. Work: Work outside and inside the camp is a good means of improving physical condition, but ration your energies because you will have to maintain a balance between the type and amount of work demanded and the food supplied or obtainable.
- B. Morale: Don't get grim and sorry for yourself. Remember always, that military personnel has gotten away from the Japs and your chances for escape are relatively possible. At the same time remember that you are not forgotten, and assistance is constantly increasing.

IV. CONCLUSIONS

Contrasted with the fall of Bataan and the year immediately following, conditions are improving somewhat.

In a letter written Jan. 1, 1943, by General Kenney to General Arnold, the following observations are made:-

"...The Jap asks no quarter and expects none. His psychology is win or perish, and I believe that it is the national psychology. He takes few prisoners, and, after questioning them, he may kill them or he may put them to work.

He has nothing but contempt for a man who surrenders and will let him starve or die of disease or neglect. If the rations get low, he certainly kills them. If annoyed by bombing, he gets sore and it is bad news for any prisoners he may have.

He is undoubtedly a low order of humanity but he has sense enough to use the weapons of war and does a good job of it. His future life is assured if he dies in the service of his god - The Emperor..."

~~SECRET~~

Unclassified

~~SECRET~~

PRISONER OF WAR CAMPS (JAPANESE)

Unclassified

V. CAPTURE

Although some of the Tokyo raiders captured by the Japanese were executed, does not mean that death at hands of the Japanese is inevitable. On the contrary, the Japanese are tending to be more considerate of their prisoners. However, should the Japanese resume their policy of executing flyers, it might be preferable to shoot it out when capture appears certain, so as to take some Japs with you. If captured, as in Europe, pay strict attention to security. Give only name, rank, and serial number. Don't underestimate the Japanese interrogators. They will ask a lot of foolish questions, but they will be very thorough.

The Japanese are very susceptible to praise. Compliment them on their country, their treatment of POWs, anything that merits a compliment. Your flattery may result in better treatment, opportunities for gaining information and for escape. At the same time don't be servile or sarcastic in your attitude; you will only suffer for it.

Don't make hasty attempts to escape. Study the local camp rules and size up the Jap personnel. You may find that the hazards of escape, the penalties inflicted on your fellow POW as a result, make it impractical. At the same time, don't let these possibilities dampen your will to escape. Changing conditions may turn an impractical situation into a practical one overnight. Be prepared to take advantage of such a situation.

VI. ESCAPE

As yet we have no record of escapes or attempted escapes in Japan Proper. Yet it might be possible, by means of bribes and the help of Chinese or Koreans in Japan. Nevertheless, it would be much more difficult to escape from Japan than from a prison camp in Germany, due to language, customs, and facial differences, to say nothing of the handicap of being confined to an island.

In considering escape, it is well to remember the following:

1. The Japanese are not dumb, but they can be fooled. They are likely to discover the tricky, subtle escape methods, but overlook the obvious ones.
2. The Japanese will try to break your morale and destroy your will-to-escape. Keep fit, keep clean--do everything to keep your morale high.
3. Keep your eyes open at all times for military information. There may be opportunities to get it to your own forces.
4. As in Europe, you will find escape organizations in some Jap camps. Report to your Senior Officer for instructions.
5. The Japanese can be bribed.
6. Devote a lot of your time to learning Japanese or the language of the country in which you are a POW. This knowledge may prove invaluable in effecting an escape and increases your own morale and the respect of the camp authorities.
7. Don't give up hope. You are not forgotten.

... To be followed by EVASION IN EUROPE

~~SECRET~~

Unclassified