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Angel Island, Camp Lamont. 1943-1945

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459A

Box 1617

"255 Camp Lamont" File

REPORT OF VISIT TO PRISONER OF WAR CAMP LAMONT (near Bakersfield), CALIFORNIA

November 20-21, 1945

GENERAL:

| | |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| Nationality: | Japanese |
| Branch Camps: | No. 2, Lakeland, at Corcoran, Calif., and No. 3, Boswell Ranch, near Corcoran, Calif. |
| Commanding Officer: | Major Paul A. Johnson |
| Executive Officer: | Captain Jas. O. Lewis |
| Camp Commander at Lamont: | Captain C. D. Salyers |
| Commanding Officer at Lakeland: | Lt. J. G. Ryan |
| Commanding Officer at Boswell Ranch: | Lt. Donald MacDonald |

Camp Lamont was visited on Nov. 20 in company with Dr. E. T. Colton. As he is preparing report, no details are necessary on that visit.

I was allowed to talk to the Spokesman in the Japanese language in the presence of the interpreter. The Spokesman at Camp Lamont did not seem to be very alert to the needs of his men. His bearing was typical of the Japanese soldier at attention in the presence of his superior officer, perhaps because the interview actually took place in the presence of Major Johnson. We were told that the prisoners had movies four nights a week. They had brought with them from their previous camp much athletic equipment, games, books etc. Their only requests were for baseballs, books, pingpong tables and crepe paper. Dr. Colton took steps to provide these.

CAMP NO. 2, LAKELAND:

I visited this camp on the morning of November 21. As Major Johnson was also in Lakeland that morning, I met him again. I did not meet the C. O., Lt. Ryan, but found another lieutenant quite ready to be helpful. I had a good talk with the Spokesman. The "nisei" interpreter was quite cordial. There was present, too, a Caucasian soldier who had studied some Japanese at the University of Chicago, and was very keen to improve his Japanese conversation. The Spokesman was very friendly, at his ease, and seemed quite alert and on the job. The Major asked how he had enjoyed his recent visit to Camp No. 1, Lamont. He replied that he had enjoyed it, but that his own camp was better. These men, too, had brought athletic equipment, games and books from previous camps. They had built a table for pingpong, but were without

-2-

balls. (I sent some.) They asked the privilege of purchasing some Japanese card games on sale in Denver. Major Johnson agreed to this and promised to allow them to be ordered by camp officials. The men would like to have more books and a few sets more of Mah Jong. They wished crepe paper to make flowers to decorate their shrine.

CAMP NO. 3, BOSWELL RANCH:

This camp is located about two miles from Corcoran, where the Lakeland Camp is situated. Major Johnson arranged by telephone for me to see the Spokesman at this camp. The interpreter and one enlisted man accompanied me as guides. I did not meet Lt. MacDonald, the C. O., but I found the Lieutenant who was in the office, friendly and interested in the welfare of the prisoners. He had evidently been connected with the Y.M.C.A. himself and knew Dr. Colton by reputation if not personally. I got suggestions from him as well as from the Spokesman. This Spokesman, too, was alert, at ease and very appreciative of what the Y.M.C.A. had done. He said the Y.M.C.A. had done so much already that he did not feel he should ask for more. When I interpreted that to the Lieutenant, he said, "He's all right." On pressing the Spokesman, I learned (and the Lieutenant confirmed this) that the men at this camp had not been allowed to bring with them from the previous camp (in Iowa, I believe) any athletic equipment, games or books. The Lieutenant suggested that what the prisoners would like most of all would be a radio. He said there was no objection to their having one. I have already written Dr. Colton about this. As the men had built some sort of pingpong table, I sent them a "table tennis" set and some extra balls. The Spokesman said they had only two baseball gloves and asked if they could have seven more "old" ones for soft-ball. I could find nothing in Oakland except expensive new regulation gloves. I sent four of these, thinking this would provide the infield at least. I have asked for three more from New York for them, also for some Mah Jong games and crepe paper.

I have written to Lt. Col. Moore at Huntsville, Tex., asking that he send books for all three camps just as soon as they can be examined and cleared.

RELIGIOUS LIFE:

There is no chaplain. Major Johnson said there were no Christians among the

REPORT OF VISIT TO PRISONER OF WAR CAMP LAMONT, CALIFORNIA

November 20, 1945

GENERAL:

This is the base camp for Japanese prisoners of war deployed chiefly for cotton picking in the upper San Joaquin Valley of California. The location is thirteen miles south-west of Bakersfield. The prisoners were brought to this project from Camps McCoy, Wisconsin and Clarinda, Iowa, in late summer and early autumn of this year. Appended to Camp Lamont are branch camps #2 (Lakelands) and #3 (Boswell Ranch.) The branch camps are located near Corcoran, North and West of Bakersfield, and about equal distance from Fresno.

CAMP OFFICERS:

Major Paul A. Johnson is Commanding Officer, brought here from Camp McCoy where he formerly served as Executive Officer. Associated with him are Captain James O. Lewis, Executive Officer; Captain C. J. Salyers, Camp Commander; and Lt. Don Pollock, Adjutant. The respective Commanding Officers of the branch camps are Lt. J. G. Ryan and Lt. Ronald MacDonald.

I was accompanied on this visit to the base camp by Rev. John B. Cobb of the Methodist Church Mission in Japan. He proceeded next day from Camp Lamont to visit the two branch camps, where his coming would synchronize with that of Major Johnson. Major Johnson received us cordially and unhurriedly; in fact, he attended to all the business in hand personally, including showing us around the compound.

WELFARE MATERIALS:

In most categories the program equipment provided the former camps, Camp McCoy and Clarinda, was brought with the prisoners to California, offering at the present time more material than is being used under the steady pressure of the work schedule. The Spokesman, who was brought to the Commandant's office for consultation, asked for supplementary supplies in four lines only: pingpong tables, baseballs, additional books, and crepe paper for making flowers and other decorations.

To Central File

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Reverend Cobb and I secured the baseballs in Bakersfield and the Bakersfield YMCA General Secretary will loan an unused table and have two others constructed, these to be called for when ready by a truck under Major Johnson's order. The status of the tables will be that of a "loan", to be returned to the YMCA. Crepe-paper was unobtainable locally. A supply will be secured in New York and shipped immediately. The present supply of books averages one copy to about four prisoners. A supply will be shipped from the stock already purchased and now in the hands of Colonel Moore of the Huntsville Camp of Japanese as soon as clearance is given as to their contents.

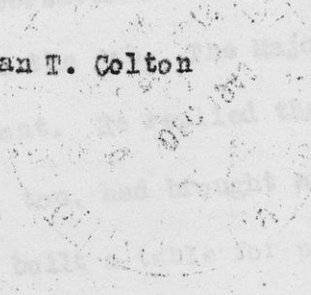
RELIGION:

Among these Japanese no basis of personnel is found for religious contacts. There are no Christians identified as such to date. There is an absence of the intelligentsia, business and professional elements. The population is made up almost wholly of farmers and fishermen. The Korean labor contingent, which includes some Christians, is quartered outside the barbed wire, and thus separated from the Japanese. A Catholic priest from some local parish comes occasionally for the mass, which is attended reluctantly by this chiefly protestant contingent. Reverend Cobb and I will be searching for a competent Korean pastor of their own faith, and will undertake to secure his admittance to the camp for occasional Christian services.

FUTURE VISITS:

I will keep in contact with the Office of the Provost Marshal General in Washington with respect to the duration of this camp's activities. Reverend Cobb will be available for another visit immediately following Christmas, and permission will be sought for his return to the three camps if they are still activated.

Ethan T. Colton



Aliens Div.
HWS-79406
76666

Entry 434

051382

SPMGA (19) 254

January 5, 1943

SUBJECT: Angel Island Internment Camp.

TO: Construction Branch,
Requirements Division,
Services of Supply,
War Department,
Washington, D. C.

1. The facts hereinafter set forth are furnished in response to your request for information upon which to base a reply to the Senate Investigating Committee which pointed out that the facilities provided for prisoners of war at Angel Island Internment Camp, Port McDowell, California, are superior to those provided for United States troops.

2. The Angel Island Internment Camp was hastily constructed shortly after the commencement of hostilities on December 7, 1941. An emergency existed and it was necessary to provide facilities at once for the internment of enemy aliens and prisoners of war in each Service Command. Consequently, the internment camp at Angel Island was provided by enclosing within a double fence a portion of the housing already constructed for troops stationed at that Fort. Under the terms of the Geneva Convention, 1929, the United States is required to provide facilities for prisoners of war equivalent to those provided for United States troops at base camps. Although the accommodations at Angel Island are equivalent to those provided our own soldiers, it is not believed that they are superior to the facilities provided for United States troops.

3. This camp is very small, having a capacity of only five hundred, and is utilized primarily for processing interned enemy aliens and prisoners of war prior to their departure for a permanent internment camp. The only occasion upon which internees are retained at this installation for any length of time is when an insufficient number to warrant the expense of a transfer has been received. In instances of this nature, internees are retained at the temporary internment camp until a sufficient number has accumulated to make the transfer economical.

4. If there is any additional information desired in regard to this matter either by your Division or the Senate Investigating Committee, this office will be glad to furnish it.

For The Provost Marshal General:

cc: Chief, Administration Service

B. M. Bryan,
Brigadier General,
Director, Aliens Division.



Spang 254 Angel Island Camp

H.W.
5/5
NRR

PMGO File Copy

Entry 434

404 A

(on disp. form)
(504 124)

Aliens Div.
RHS-79-06
1166

Ser. No. 8389

1st Ind.
(on disp. form)

OCT 23 1942

Headquarters, Services of Supply, War Department, Washington, D. C.
To: Assistant Chief of Staff, G-4, THRU: The Provost Marshal General.

1. It is recommended that the issue of gas masks to Prisoners of War be not favorably considered for the following reasons:

a. No provision has been made in the Army Supply Program to procure gas masks for this purpose.

b. It may be necessary to use non-toxic chemicals to quell disturbances in prisoner of war inclosures. If the prisoners were equipped with gas masks these chemical agents would be ineffective.

c. The foreign nations with which this country is now at war are signatories to pacts prohibiting the use of chemicals in warfare. The United States is not a signatory to any such pact. If toxic chemical agents were used against prisoners of war, they would be used by their own nation and not the United States.

d. Gas masks are not available at the present time for issue to key civilians at the various War Department installations in the United States. Recently, requests for gas masks for civilians operating filter centers, telephone switchboards, etc., have had to be refused on account of the non-availability of gas masks.

For the Commanding General:

Incls:
Ltr fm Hqs., Angel Is.
(10-12-42) w/1 Ind.

LeR. Lutes,
Brigadier General, G.S.C.
Assistant Chief of Staff for
Operations, S.O.S.

ORD-CWS

For The Provost Marshal General:

B. H. Bryan,
Brigadier General,
Director, Aliens Division



Handwritten notes and initials in the bottom left corner, including 'H.H.' and 'H.R.R.'

DECLASSIFIED

Authority NND740063

By EC NARA Date 8/18/98

REPRODUCED AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

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4. PW Processing Station, Angel Island, San Francisco, California. This has a capacity of 500. The present population of 1 officer, 58 NCO's and 528 IM, Japanese. No protected personnel. Because this is only a processing station and transient camp the population varies widely within each month. It was noted upon the last previous visit that the O.D. uniforms issued to the prisoners were not marked with PW and still bore the gilt buttons with the U. S. Army insignia. This camp has a very close connection with the Ninth Service Command Headquarters, and has seemingly very little interference from Fort McDowell. Captain Whitlock the Commanding Officer is said to be an exceptionally fine officer. Koreans were recently received in shipments of Japanese prisoners and have caused some

troubles here because of the hatred they bear for the Japs. Segregation is necessary.

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Army Service Forces
Hq Service Command Unit 1936
Prisoner of War Processing Station

JAW/jm

Angel Island, California
29 September 1944

303.6

SUBJECT: Standard Operating Procedures.

TO: The Provost Marshal General
Washington 25, D. C.

ATTN: Field Liaison Branch.

1. In compliance with TWX Ninth Service Command, 26 September 1944, SPRI, there is enclosed herewith SOP, San Francisco Port of Embarkation, SOP, Surgeon, this station and SOP this headquarters "Train Guards escorting Prisoners of War" and Rules and Regulations applicable to Prisoners.

2. No SOP for processing prisoners at this station has been prepared but the following procedure has been perfected through trial and error method over a period of more than two years:

a. The SOP, San Francisco PE is used in full only when prisoners are placed on the train after debarking. By mutual agreement between the Commanding Officer this headquarters and the Provost Marshal, San Francisco PE. WD, PMG Forms No. 2 are initiated, when necessary, at this station. Prisoners are searched by the Port Provost Marshal and all possessions, including articles to be confiscated, are placed in their baggage which is tagged and baggage delivered independently of the prisoners. Prisoners are delivered with only the clothes they are wearing after they have cleared the disinfection plant by boats supplied by the Port.

b. When prisoners are received at the stockade, they are given a thorough body search and counted as they enter the stockade by the escorting officer and the prison officer and marched to the processing room. In the processing room, WD, PMG Forms No. 2 are initiated if none accompany prisoners. Internment serial numbers are assigned if necessary. If the forms accompany prisoners, they are checked as to any changes in appearance of prisoners' features and for legibility of fingerprints. If prisoners' appearance has changed materially since photo on Form No. 2 was made or if fingerprints are not legible, notation is made and time set for prisoners to be taken to photo lab and photo and/or fingerprints taken. When photos are taken, name and serial numbers of prisoners are placed in a rack and photographed at the same time so that they become part of the picture.

c. From the processing room, prisoners are marched to the supply room and bedding is issued and if necessary, initial issue of toilet articles is made. Assignment of quarters is also made at this point. Prisoners are then marched to their quarters.

(Ltr PW Proc Sta, Angel Island, Calif, 29 Sep 44, 383.6, sub: SOP, cont'd)

d. Baggage is taken to a searching room where a searching party thoroughly searches all of the prisoners' possessions. During this search which takes longer than any other operation in the processing, an interpreter, the prison spokesman, the section leader of the prisoners whose baggage is being searched and the receiving and property officer are present. Articles to be confiscated are taken up and receipts prepared for money and retained valuables.

e. Prior to debarking, a passenger or sailing list of prisoners is obtained from the Port and mimeographed and copies furnished to personnel in the receiving room, the Photo Lab, the Supply Room, the billeting non-com, the Canteen Officer, the Medical Officer, the PW Personnel Section, the Sergeant of the Guard and the Mess Officer. Since this station handles chiefly Japanese, many of whom have almost unpronounceable names, it is found that prisoners can be referred to by line number and serial number rather than by name. For this reason, these rosters are extremely useful.

f. With concurrence of Commanding General, Ninth Service Command, and in the interest of efficiency and economy of manpower, prisoners taken to Letterman General Hospital are not actually transferred to that station but are carried in the strength of this organization. Only medical records go to the hospital with the prisoners and all pay and administrative procedures are carried out by this headquarters. In the event a WD, PMG Form No. 2 has not been initiated, an officer from this station interviews prisoner for any needed information which may not have been received and pictures are taken with a portable camera.

g. Since almost all prisoners received at this station are Japanese and all go to Camp McCoy, Wisconsin, when prisoners at Letterman General Hospital have recovered sufficiently to be transportable, they are included in the next shipment to Camp McCoy. In the event further hospitalization is needed at Bushnell General Hospital, Brigham City, Utah as is usually the case, patients are included in next shipment to Camp McCoy and turned over to representative of the Commanding Officer, Bushnell General Hospital at Ogden, Utah and journey completed by ambulance. At the same time, any fully recovered prisoners on hand at Bushnell General Hospital are delivered to the train commander for transfer to Camp McCoy.

h. When prisoners are ready for departure from this station, a Main or WMB number and routing is requested from the Chief of Transportation, Washington, D. C. through the Post Transportation Officer, who also makes arrangements for necessary accommodations with the railroad. Orders are published and copies are airmailed to the Commanding General of each service command concerned and the PW camp concerned. As soon as routing and time of departure and estimated time of arrival is determined, wires are also sent to these headquarters. Prisoner of war records are processed and prepared for transfer. In preparing these records, an appropriate set of rubber stamps has been obtained by this headquarters which save a great deal of time. While prisoners are being held awaiting orders for shipment, their names, grade, serial number and nationality are typed on the next "Record of Transfer" space on WD, PMG Form No. 20 so that when orders for transfer are received, balance of record and back of WD, PMG Form No. 2 can be completed without running the forms through a typewriter.

(Ltr PW Proc Sta, Angel Island, Calif, 29 Sep 44, 383.6, sub: SOP, cont'd)

Stamp for the authority, voucher number and other remarks which are usually the same for all prisoners in any one group are made up from a small "make-up" rubber stamp set. List of rubber stamps enclosed.

i. Before entraining prisoners, the cars to be used are inspected, preferably the preceding day. Fire extinguishers should be removed and glass cases containing fire-fighting equipment should be covered with cardboard. If prison type cars are not available, care should be taken that no cars with compartments or other blind spots are utilized. The door on one toilet is locked securely and door of other toilet is removed so that the guard inside the car can see all prisoners at all times. Windows are blocked so that they cannot be raised more than four inches. To save time, "Jumpers" or "Train lines" are sometimes used by the railroad. These lines are heavy electrical cables used to connect the lighting systems of two cars when the generator or batteries of one of them is defective. These cars should not be accepted as it often happens that the generator on one car does not deliver enough power for two with the result that the lights in both cars go out whenever the train slows down or stops. Auxiliary lighting devices should be carried in each car. If possible, departure time should be in the afternoon. If a kitchen car is to be utilized, it should be spotted where it can be loaded at least six hours prior to departure. A car loading schedule is furnished the train commander by the Transportation Officer.

j. The following procedure is used when prisoners leave the enclosure:

- (1) Prisoners are assembled in the recreation area carrying their memorandum receipt property and all baggage. They are informed that they will not be allowed to reenter the barracks. Baggage is taken to the searching room and searched.
- (2) While baggage is being searched, memorandum receipt property is inspected for deliberate damage and taken up. If this property has been deliberately damaged by the prisoner or prisoner does not have all of property issued to him, his name is placed on statement of charges, signed by the prisoner, and indebtedness noted on WD, PMG Form No. 20 prior to leaving enclosure.
- (3) Prisoners are then marched through the Processing Room where identification is made with picture on WD, PMG Form No. 2 and a body search is made.
- (4) Prisoners then proceed to the Searching Room and pick up their baggage and are marched out of the enclosure to waiting transportation. The prison officer and the train commander check number of prisoners as they leave the enclosure.

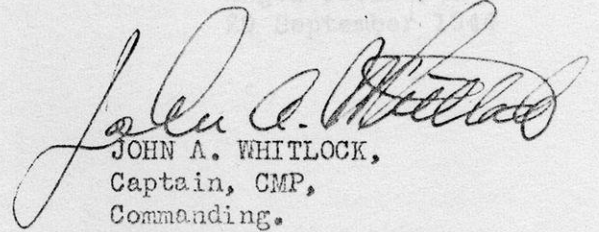
k. All necessary telegrams to be sent by the train commander enroute and upon arrival at destination are typed prior to his departure, leaving the date and time blank to be filled in by him enroute.

Authority: NWD 274000-3By: EE NARA Date: 5/11/98

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(Ltr PW Proc Sta, Angel Island, Calif, 29 Sep 44, 383.6, sub: SOP, cont'd)

3. Procedure during journey is outlined in enclosed SOP for Train Guards escorting prisoners. In this connection, attention is invited to WD, ASF Memo No. S580-1-13 dated 13 July 1943, subject: SOP for transfer of Prisoners of War and Change No. 1 thereto, dated 28 August 1943.

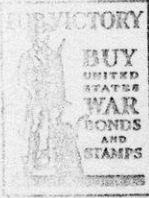

JOHN A. WHITLOCK,
Captain, CMP,
Commanding.

6 Incls-

- Incl #1- SOP, San Francisco PE
- Incl #2- SOP, Surgeon PW Proc Sta
- Incl #3- SOP, Tr guards Escorting PWs
- Incl #4- Rules and Regulations for PWs
- Incl #5- MD illustrations
- Incl #6- Rubber stamp illustrations

c/c - CG, 9 SvC

9021001



HEADQUARTERS ARMY SERVICE FORCES

Office of The Provost Marshal General

Washington 25, D. C.

18 May 1944

SUBJECT: Report of Visit to POW Base Camp, Angel Island, California, on 2 May 1944.

TO: Director, Prisoner of War Division, FMGO.

LOCATION: North end of Angel Island, California.

TELEPHONE NO: West 6111, Ext. 6241, PBX Tec. Local 119.

CAMP COMMANDER: Oscar I. Chenoweth, Major, CMP.

OTHER KEY OFFICERS: John A. Whitlock, Capt., CMP, Exec. & CO for SOU.
Arthur F. Pomeroy, 1st Lt., CMP, CO for 439th MPEG Co.

DATE OF ACTIVATION: 7 December 1941.

NUMBER OF PRISONERS: 160

NATIONALITY: Japanese.

HAS PROCESSING BEEN COMPLETED: Yes.

RANKING POW SPOKESMAN: Tanaka, Asao, ISN-XIV-146-Mi., Lance Cpl.

A. DESCRIPTION.

1. Attached as Tab A is layout diagram of the camp. The prisoner of war camp is composed of only one two-story building surrounded by a single fence of chain link construction and located on the northern end of Angel Island which lies in the San Francisco Bay. The prisoner of war camp is part of the military post of Fort McDowell. The building is painted brown and is surrounded by trees which are outside the fence.

2. Security. A prisoner of war count is taken each time the guard changes. There are two guard towers located at diagonal corners of the prisoner of war compound. The fence is of chain link construction approximately seven feet high and is topped with an additional two feet of barbed wire with no overhang. On the north side the fence is within eight feet of the building, on the west side, thirteen feet. In no case is the building more than 75 feet from the fence. Attached as Tab B is a copy of the interior guard regulations. Inasmuch as this camp is a processing station, it simply holds the prisoners until such time as they are transferred to other camps. A copy of their standard operating procedure for escorting prisoners on trains is attached as Tab C.

RETURN TO FIELD LIAISON BRANCH, POW DIVISION, FMGO



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B. ADMINISTRATION.

Attached as Tab D is a list of officers, enlisted men and POW assigned as overhead with a breakdown of their duties. This camp is peculiar in that it is located on a military post yet enjoys the status of an exempted station. The camp authorities deal directly with Headquarters, Ninth Service Command. Attached as Tab E are copies of non standard forms used by the POW camp.

C. OPERATION.

The prisoner mess was inspected and found to be very satisfactory. The mess sergeant stated that he has had trouble in getting the Japanese prisoners to keep the kitchen clean. However, on the date of this visit, everything was very clean and in good order. An infirmary is located on the second floor of the barracks building. Three beds are supplied this infirmary for the dispensing of emergency care to the prisoners. In the event of a serious illness facilities are available at the station hospital located at Fort McDowell. At the present time the average daily sick call consists of approximately 20 prisoners. This figure, however, fluctuates widely as prisoners are constantly arriving and departing. No prisoner of war medical personnel are used in the infirmary as the prisoners are not permanently stationed here. As of the date of this visit, there were 11 prisoners of war who claimed a protected status interned in this camp. A United States Army doctor holds sick call daily for the prisoners and is available 24 hours a day in case of emergencies. The recreational facilities are very limited. There is a very small recreation area located next to the prisoners barracks, see Tab A. The prisoners are supplied with softballs, bats and like articles. See Tab F attached for mail records at this camp. Inasmuch as Japanese are the only prisoners here the mail presents no problem whatsoever. See Tab G for the unit training schedule for the guard. There is no canteen as such provided for the prisoners. The camp commander stated that he had written authority not to establish a canteen for the prisoners. If the prisoners desire any articles normally carried in the canteen, they prepare a list and the items are purchased from the American post exchange. The prisoners' accounts are debited the cost of the articles. See Tab H for camp commander's recommendations and his rating of the MPEG company assigned for duty. As the men of the escort guard company are used simply to perform duties as interior guards and as guards for movements of prisoners to permanent internment camps, it has been impossible for the camp commander to judge accurately the reactions of the guards toward the prisoners. No untoward incidents have arisen.

D. LABOR PROGRAM.

No prisoners of war are employed on any type of projects with the exception of keeping their own quarters and ^{the} immediate surrounding area clean and providing cooks and KP's for their own mess.

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E. REMARKS OF THE LIAISON OFFICER.

This camp appeared to be well and efficiently run. The few prisoners this officer observed while engaged in playing softball appeared to be very happy and content with their surroundings. It was noted that the uniforms which had been issued to the prisoners prior to their arrival at Angel Island appeared to be class A, olive drab, and the buttons had not been changed from the standard brass enlisted men's button bearing the seal of the United States. None of these OD uniforms had been marked in any way to show that the individual wearing them is a prisoner of war. However, the denims issued to the prisoners are properly marked.

Edward C. Shannahan
Edward C. Shannahan,
Major, CMP,
Field Liaison Officer.

- CC:
Work Projects Branch.
Camp Operations Branch.
Legal Branch.
PMG Mail and Records.

SAVE

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(Stamp of the International Committee of the Red Cross Geneva) TC 9867

Pe/PM/MBG United States of America

CAMP ANGEL ISLAND, CALIFORNIA

Visited by Mr. Maurice Perret On September 16, 1944.

Location:

Angel Island is a small mountainous island at the entrance of San Francisco Bay. It is foggy during the greater part of the summer spring and autumn are sunny, and winter is mild but rainy. Before the war it was a quarantine station of the Immigration Service. The camp was opened on the day the United States entered the war in order to receive civilian internees. Later the Civilian internees were transferred and replaced by prisoners of war. The entire island is occupied by the army.

Number of prisoners:

The capacity of the camp is 500. The number of prisoners varies considerably and very frequently because it is a transit camp sheltering groups of prisoners disembarking at San Francisco for a few days or weeks. At present Japanese are there.

On the day of the visit the number of prisoners was:

| | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Officer | 1 |
| NCOs and privates | 159 |
| Civilian workers attached to the army | <u>250</u> |
| Total | 450 Japanese prisoners. |

All these men arrived on September 13; they were captured on Saipan Guam Palao Buna quite recently. It is the largest group that has been in the camp until now. The spokesman is a civilian, KAMIKAWA Hisago who was in the Merchant Marine and speaks English somewhat.

Lodging:

There are only two buildings:

A large building including: 4 sleeping quarters with 3 decker iron cots and a few rooms. The toilets, showers and basins for washing are in the same building.

War - Gen. Bryan
Date: APR 3 1945

702151

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The second building includes the refectory and kitchen. These buildings have central heating.

Medical care:

Upon disembarking in San Francisco all the prisoners were deloused their uniforms, blankets and equipment were disinfected. At Angel Island they all pass a complete medical examination including also a blood test and they are vaccinated.

In the present group there are:

- 51 cases of syphilis
- 12 cases of skin disease
- 25 men with war wounds whose bandages are changed daily.

Several have intestinal worms and a certain number are carriers of dysentery germs, The blood test showed only a very few cases of malaria but it is probable that a certain number are stricken without the test revealing this fact.

The hospital of the military camp is a short distance away; it is there that the examinations are made and urgent cases could be treated, but in general the patients who need special treatment are cared for at the Letterman General Hospital in San Francisco; a Japanese is hospitalized there at this time.

A medical consultation takes place every day; in addition, a dentist gives the necessary attention to the teeth of most of the prisoners were previously well cared for.

Food:

The meals are a compromise between American food and Japanese food. On the day of our visit the menu was as follows:

Breakfast: Sausages, rice, browned crusts, apples, coffee, milk, sugar.

Lunth: Sukiyaki, cabbage salad, rice carmel pudding, water.

Dinner: Spaghetti and hash, baked tomatoes, lettuce and tomato salad, rice, cakes, cocoa.

The prisoners have as much soy sauce as they want. The cooks are Japanese and work under the direction of an American sergeant. The quantities are sufficient; in particular a

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pound of rice per man daily is calculated.

Library, education:

The prisoners do not have any Japanese books at the moment, but we shall try to get a certain number of them for the camp. Since previously there was a certain number of German prisoners there, the International Committee of the Red Cross had provided books in German and those are in reserve. There is no educational program since the prisoners are there only temporarily.

Entertainment sports:

There is a sports field in the camp where the men can play volleyball. In general they stay in a yard which is not very large. They have different games radio sets a gramophone, and tools for manual work. Their principal occupation, however is playing cards.

Religious services:

There is a Buddhist Priest among the prisoners but thus far they have not shown a desire to have services.

Work:

Since the camp is only a temporary one, it is not provided with paying work. The men must help in the maintenance of the camp and do certain small tasks in the vicinity.

Clothing:

All the prisoners have received the necessary clothing.

Canteen:

There is no canteen in the camp but that is explained by the fact that it is only a temporary camp and the prisoners have not received money since this capture. While waiting they have received the necessary toilet articles and the Commander has furnished cigarettes to them.

Correspondence:

The Japanese privates almost always sign a statement in which they express the desire that their families in Japan not be advised of their capture. The civilians, on the other hand,

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do not have the same scruples and ask for writing paper which is going to be furnished to them.

Conclusion:

We talked with the spokesman and the corporals in charge of the barracks:

UEHARA Shinichi
SAITO Harino
KIMURA Keisuke

with the help of an American interpreter. The Japanese have formulated several requests which it was possible to settle on the spot with the camp Commander. Those requests partly concern the menu: the prisoners ask to have rice only twice a day and to have bread for the third meal; they would also like to have a few more fresh vegetables which is going to be possible in a few days.

The most important question is that of wages; the captain has received the accounts and is going to pay the men in a few days. Certain ones are going to receive rather large sums because they have done paying work in the camp where they were previously. The officers will buy the articles they desire at the canteen of the American camp. The Commander informs us that the attitude of the Japanese changed a great deal on the day when cigarettes were furnished them; before that they were rather hostile and defiant.

It is a good transit camp.

Authority: NND 740003
 By: CC NARA Date: 8/1/98

From the Special War Problems Division
 DEPARTMENT OF STATE TO:
Warsaw Gen. Buzars
 Date: JUN 18 1945

JAPANESE PRISONER OF WAR CAMP
ANGEL ISLAND, SAN FRANCISCO,
CALIFORNIA.

- I. CAMP COMMANDER: Major John A. Whitlock.
 Assistant Camp Commander: Captain Pomeroy.
 Assistant Camp Commander: Lieutenant Skidmore.
 Assistant Camp Commander: Lieutenant Kemper.
- II. DATE OF VISIT: March 21, 1945, by Captain Martin of the Spanish Embassy, accompanied by Dr. Augusta Wagner and Mr. Charles C. Eberhardt of the Department of State.
 The last preceding visit to this camp was made by Mr. Bernard Gufler and Captain Martin on December 20, 1942.

III. DESCRIPTION: This camp, now devoted to prisoner of war purposes where Germans as well as Japanese have been detained in recent months, was formerly an immigration barracks. It is situated beautifully on small Angel Island in San Francisco harbor less than one hour's trip by boat from San Francisco.

Colonel

Authority NND 740003
 By EC NAPA Date 8/18/88

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Colonel Hogan, with 500 United States Army men, control the island itself. They are subordinate to Fort Mason on the mainland. The prisoner of war camp is subordinate to the Ninth Service Command at Salt Lake City.

III. CAPACITY AND NUMBER DETAINED: When filled to capacity this camp will accommodate 500. On the day of the visit four prisoners were being held. They were protected personnel, first and second lieutenants of the medical corps in the Japanese Army. They arrived on February 24 or less than a month ago, one from Guam and three from Angau.

IV. SANITARY CONDITIONS AND MEDICAL FACILITIES: Sanitary conditions at this camp are of the best or are the same as those afforded the American soldiers. An infirmary for emergency cases is maintained and Letterman General Hospital on the mainland can be reached in an hour or less in case of emergency.

V. FOOD, COOKING, AND CLOTHING: There were no complaints whatever along any of these lines. The four prisoners were partaking of their noon-day meal when the visitors arrived and the meal certainly seemed ample, palatable, and well prepared.

VI. RECREATION: The recreation area is being enlarged. There seems no suitable area nearby for a regulation size football field. There are, however, ample facilities for tennis and other outdoor recreations.

One room has recently been converted into barracks to accommodate twenty officers. It is provided with bathing facilities and tables for reading and indoor games.

VII. WORK: Generally no work for pay is provided prisoners at this camp. The spokesman appoints different men to clean the grounds, et cetera, for which there is no pay since the work is for their own comfort and accommodation. They receive the usual ten cents per day against canteen coupons.

VIII. DISCIPLINE: Including the Commanding Officer, there are twelve officers and 152 enlisted men or guards who administer this camp. The guards seemed very well qualified for their duties after having been trained at Custer and Fort Meyer. There have been no escapes and no attempts to escape. No disciplinary measures have been necessary.

IX. COMPLAINTS, REQUESTS, SUGGESTIONS: In this connection it may be well to quote Captain Martin's telegram to the Spanish Embassy. "Only four lieutenants medical corps prisoners. No complaints on food, clothing, lodging, et cetera. Request books, especially medical ones and salaries as soon as possible."

The salaries referred to above are those which accrued to them before they were taken prisoners and which are due them and will be paid as soon as adjustments and deductions can be made for clothing which has been furnished since their arrival.

X. COMMENTS

Authority: NND 740003

By: CC NARA Date: 8/14/88

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K. COMMENTS OF THE SPANISH REPRESENTATIVE AND GENERAL OBSERVATIONS: As this is in reality a clearing station for prisoners of war, usually those taken in the Pacific, they are never detained in any great numbers for any length of time. They are processed and passed through the camp with the usual efficiency and dispatch of the United States Army. It apparently afforded Captain Martin real pleasure, as it did the writer genuine pride, to observe the manner in which this small but important camp was being administered.

From the Spanish War Prisoners
 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE
 WASHINGTON, D.C.
 1945

CHARLES C. EBERHARDT

SWF:CC Eberhardt:DF

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Authority NND 740063

By EC NARA Date 8/11/98

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From the Special War Problems Division
DEPARTMENT OF STATE TO.

War Gen. Bryan
Date: SEP 6 1945

CONFIDENTIAL

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 11652, Sec. 3(E) and 5(D) or (E)
OSD letter, May 3, 1972
By S/A NARS, Date 2/2/75

JAPANESE PRISONER OF WAR CAMP
ANGEL ISLAND, SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

- I. CAMP COMMANDER: Major J. A. Whitlock
- II. DATE OF VISIT: July 2, 1945.
- III. VISITED BY: Mr. Paul Schnyder representing the International Committee of the Red Cross, and Mr. Leonard L. O'Bryon of the Special War Problems Division, Department of State.

IV. PREVIOUS VISITS:

The last visit to this camp was made March 21, 1945, by Captain Martin of the Spanish Embassy and Mr. Charles C. Eberhardt of the Department of State.

V. NUMBER DETAINED:

At the time of the visit there were 254 Japanese prisoners of war interned. Fifteen of these were officers. They were in a barrack separated from the others. This is a processing camp so the number is constantly changing. They are rarely held in the camp for longer than three weeks before being shipped out.

VI. FOOD and COOKING:

Rice is the favorite food of the Japanese prisoner and they receive forty pounds per one hundred men each meal. On the rice they eat no sauce. On other foods they prefer soy bean sauce. They cook their own food.

Leonard L. O'Bryon

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Rice is served every meal except breakfast when they receive eggs, bread and butter and fruit. The Japanese Government has told them that cabbage is a cure all for everything so they like cabbage at any time and eat great quantities of it. They do not care for milk but they do drink tea and coffee.

VII. RECREATION:

The Japanese prisoners do not like to be out of doors very much and spend most of their time sitting on their haunches on the floor or on the beds playing Ma-jong. They like to gamble and use tobacco as the stakes. Some of them like to play baseball and volley ball. The writer was interested in observing one of them pitch a baseball with all of the wind-up common to a big league pitcher. They like wrestling but do not care for boxing.

VIII. WORK:

There are no work projects and the only work done is camp maintenance. The prisoners receive 10¢ a day.

IX. DISCIPLINE:

There are no disciplinary problems.

X. MEDICAL CARE:

There is a full time doctor and dental care is received on the island. Bed cases are sent to Letterman General Hospital. About twenty percent of the prisoners processed have venereal disease and the rate of tuberculosis and malaria is very high.

XI. RELIGION:

Frequently there is a Shinto priest among the prisoners and if so, then services are held.

XII. ACCOMMODATIONS:

The prisoners sleep on steel beds and receive three blankets a piece. The sanitary conditions are excellent. They keep themselves very clean. Since they have nothing else to do they take showers very frequently.

XIII. OBSERVATIONS:

Among the prisoners there was a young boy who claimed to be fifteen years old but who appeared to be certainly not more than eleven. He had been nick-named "peanuts" and is a great favorite. He was especially helpful around the kitchen. The camp commander maintained that as a group they very infrequently complain of anything. The morale is high.

Leonard L. O'Bryon.