

MILITARY COURT FOR THE TRIAL OF WAR CRIMINALS

SR. 520.

ACCUSED (1) Ships' Master ODAKE Bunji.  
(2) Lieutenant INO Takeo  
Both of the Imperial Japanese Forces.  
14 Wireless Squadron R. Sigs.

PLACE AND DATE OF TRIAL Changi Prison, Singapore 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 9  
& 11 Sept. '47.

COURT CONVENED BY G.O.C. Singapore District.

PRESIDENT Lt.Col. P.A. FORSYTHE, M.M. Kings Royal Rifle Corps.

MEMBERS Major. E.N. HEBDEN R.A.  
Major. A.E. DENNIS, M.M. R.E.

CHARGE See attached Charge Sheet.

PLEA Each Accused - Each Charge - Not Guilty.

FINDING 1st Charge - Both Accused - Guilty.  
2nd Charge - 2nd Accused - Not Guilty.

SENTENCE 11th Sept. 1947. 1st Accused - 6 months Imprisonment.  
2nd Accused - 3 months Imprisonment.

NOT CONFIRMED 2nd October 1947. By G.O.C. Singapore District.

PROMULGATED 16th October 1947

REMARKS

DISPOSAL OF PROCEEDINGS TO AGS GHQ FARELF 24 Oct 47  
JAG of the Forces \_\_\_\_\_

DJAG FARELF.  
Case No. 65246 JAG.

CHARGE SHEET.

The Accused :-

Ships Master ODAKE Bunji  
Lieut. INO Takeo

of the Imperial Japanese Forces  
attached to  
are charged with

1st Charge  
Both Accused

COMMITTING A WAR CRIME

in that

on the high seas between the 11th June 1944 and 16 Aug 1944 on a voyage from Singapore to Moji (Japan) aboard the S.S. "ASAKA MARU", the accused ODAKE Bunji as ships master of the aforesaid "ASAKA MARU", and the accused Lieut. INO Takeo, as officer in charge of a P.O.W. draft consisting of 750 British P.O.Ws., while responsible for the well-being of the said prisoners, were, in violation of the laws and usages of war, together concerned in the ill-treatment of the said prisoners of war, contributing to the death of some and causing physical and mental suffering to many others of said prisoners of war.

2nd Charge  
Lieut. INO  
Takeo

COMMITTING A WAR CRIME

in that he

on the high seas between the 16th August 1944 and 31st August 1944 on a voyage from Kiirun (Formosa) to Moji (Japan) aboard the S.S. "HAKUSAN MARU", as officer in charge of a P.O.W. draft consisting of approximately 750 British P.O.Ws., while responsible for the well-being of the said prisoners, was, in violation of the laws and usages of war, concerned in the ill-treatment of the said prisoners of war, contributing to the death of some and causing physical and mental suffering to many others of said prisoners of war.

Singapore.  
'47.

Commanding

.....  
(Signature of Convening  
Officer).

Singapore.  
'47.

Major-General,  
Commanding Singapore District.



## ABSTRACT OF EVIDENCE

In the case of : Ships master ODAKE Bunji  
Lieut. INO Takeo

1. This case deals with the transfer of 750 prisoners of war from the BURMA-SIAM Railway near HOM PLADUK to JAPAN.

This draft of 750 Ps.O.W. consisted entirely of relatively fit men when it arrived in SINGAPORE on about 11 June 1944.

2. 1st Charge.

After approximately one week in SINGAPORE this draft embarked on the ASAKA MARU under the command of the second accused, Lt. INO Takeo, who was accompanying the draft to JAPAN as O.C. Prisoners of War draft. The master of the ASAKA MARU was the first accused ODAKE Bunji.

On embarkation there was an attempt to force all 750 men into one hold, which would have allowed each man about 18 square inch by 4½ feet "living space". Men fainted and collapsed in increasing numbers as more and more prisoners were forced into the hold. Eventually 450 men were allotted part of the deck, and only 300 remained in the hold. The accused INO Takeo was present and saw the guards forcing men into the hold.

In this hold there were no lights, no ventilation and no sanitary arrangements.

On deck the only shelter consisted of two worn out tarpaulins which afforded hardly any protection at all against wind and rain.

Washing facilities consisted of one pump for all 750 men, the use of which was permitted only at certain times during the day.

Sanitary arrangements consisted of an insufficient number of boxes hung over the ships side. When dysentery broke out among the prisoners many of them were too weak to reach these boxes, and defaecated on the deck or in the hold. Not even then was any improvement made or attempted.

Medical arrangements were equally inadequate. Quinine was issued eventually, but in entirely insufficient quantities. No

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medicines was issued to beri-beri patients. There is evidence to show that the Japanese had sufficient medical supplies for their own use, as Korean Guards at times approached the British P.O.s. (of whom there were two with the draft) asking them to give them injections with certain serums they (the guards) had in their possession.

Food for the P.O.s. consisted of badly cooked rice, fish in salt water, and a very little vegetable; at times some maggoty meat, and on two occasions one banana per man, was issued. All in all it was absolutely insufficient in quantity and nauseating in quality.

After having called at MIRI (North Borneo) the ship arrived in MANILA on about the 10 July 1944 and stayed there at anchor for about 17 days. At that stage over a hundred men were suffering from Beri-Beri, dysentery or malaria. Two men had become blind. Whilst lying at anchor in MANILA one man died of malaria. Then only, 27 severe cases were sent to a hospital ashore.

The ASAKA MARU left MANILA in about the first week of August and shortly afterwards encountered a typhoon. Army vehicles which were part of the cargo broke loose and jammed the door of a small store room in which about 30 sick men were quartered. They tried to break the door open in case the order to abandon the ship was given, but were prevented by their guards from doing so.

During this typhoon the ship ran aground and in the ensuing confusion the prisoners were left almost wholly without food for 2 days. Two more men died during the typhoon.

The first accused, ODAKE Bunji, as master of the ASAKA MARU was guilty of gross negligence by failing in his duty to improve the lot of the P.O.s. by such means as were in his power; by failing in his duty to arrange an equal distribution of medical supplies as between the Japanese troops and the P.O.s.; by failing in his duty to allocate adequate and edible food for consumption by the P.O.s.

The second accused, INO Takeo, as P.O.W. draft commander,

was guilty of failing in his duty to concern himself with the physical and mental welfare of the P.O.Ws.: although in a position in which he must have been fully aware of the pitiful conditions under which the P.O.Ws. were living, he failed in his duty to improve their living quarters, to improvise additional latrine facilities, and to make it possible for a reasonable standard of hygiene to be observed. His callous indifference and deliberate neglect was the main cause of so much sickness and so many deaths among the P.O.Ws.

3. 2nd Charge.

The prisoners were then transferred to two Japanese destroyers and brought to KIIRUN, where they were transferred to the HAKUSAN MARU. The 2nd accused, Lieut. INO Takeo continued to act as draft commander throughout the second half of the voyage.

After one day aboard the HAKUSAN MARU another P.O.W. died, and one of the British M.Os. issued a death certificate, showing starvation and malaria as the causes of his death.

Accommodation on this ship was again insufficient. After an attempt to confine all men in one hold, some further accommodation was allotted to them that could be used as a hospital.

Except for a short period during the day, P.O.W. were not allowed on deck aboard the HAKUSAN MARU. At night all port holes were closed without regard to the condition of the prisoners, many of whom were delirious.

One night the submarine alarm was sounded and the holds in which the prisoners were confined, were battened down. During that one night 6 men died of heat and suffocation.

Altogether at least 17 men died within 3 days on the HAKUSAN MARU due to the conditions under which the prisoners were confined.

By the end of August 1944 the prisoners reached MOJI (JAPAN).

The 2nd accused, INO Takeo, as P.O.W. draft commander knew or ought to have known the conditions under which the P.O.Ws. lived, and during his occasional inspections he could not have failed to notice immediately the pitiable state of the prisoners. He failed in his duty to improve the unhygienic and insanitary conditions under which they lived, and his patent neglect of duty caused or contributed to much of their bodily suffering.

4. The following witnesses will appear on behalf of the Prosecution :-

F.R. YARDLEY  
C. SIMON.

5. The following witnesses and accused have made statements and their evidence will be produced :-

G. HAMMOND  
W.T. DRUMMOND  
F. FALLOWS  
R.F. GARNHAM  
F. McGUIRE  
J.N. DOWLER  
WATANABE Saburo  
NAGATOMO Yoshitada

J.G. CARTER  
H. BOGGIS  
WATANABE Tamisaburo  
MORI Naoki  
HAYASHI Nichiro  
ODAKE Bunji  
INO Takeo.