

RECORD OF MILITARY COURT

Aug. 34

Lt KAWAZUMI Taisuke (JAPANESE WAR CRIMINALS)
 Sub Lt HAYASHI Mitsuoshi (Not guilty)
 Chief PO IKEDA Chokichi
 PO 1st Cl IKEBATA Hishashi(not guilty) AWC No.....
 Chief PO KAGAWA Haruo
 PO 1st Cl KUWABARA Masuji Aust W.C. List Ser No.....
 Chief PO OKI Kiichi
 PO 2nd Cl YOSHINO Isamu Chief PO SHIBATA Shigenobu
 Court Place, MOROTAI
 Date and 5-14 Feb 46
 Formation: MOROTAI FORCE

Charge(s)	Plea	Finding
ILL-TREATMENT OF PW AT TAN TOEY CAMP AMBON between Feb 42 and Aug 45 (a) Physical beatings and torture (b) Compelling sick and infirm PW to go out on work parties. (c) Failing to ensure the provision of proper food supplies.	NOT GUILTY	Accused HAYASHI and IKEBATA both not guilty. The accused KAWAZUMI guilty of failing to ensure the provision of proper food supplies. Remaining accused guilty of physical beatings and torture.

Precis of Evidence: (1) Evidence discloses the following against KAWAZUMI. That he was responsible for the rationing of the Unit and PW committed to his charge; looking after all rations; telling Capt SHIROZU what the position was, what was going on, and how much was there. He was in charge of the Q store and the farm, which came under his management. Suggestions for the substitution of rice by other foodstuffs was made by KAWAZUMI, also the food ration was reduced not by order of the senior formation but on the order of SHIROZU himself, and this on the advice of his Chief Paymaster KAWAZUMI.

Evidence shows that the PW got exactly half the amount of rice per man as issued to the Japanese, 4 1/2 oz a day which had to provide the PW with staple food for 3 meals a day, plus substitute of sweet potatoes, native grasses etc.

KAWAZUMI admits that there was a difference in the rice rations between PW and Japanese.

Sentence and Date:	Accused	KAWAZUMI I)	} Each to be imprisoned for 10 YEARS - 14 Feb 46
"	"	KUWABARA M)	
"	"	YOSHINO I)	
"	"	IKEDA C)	
"	"	KAGAWA H	- TO BE IMPRISONED FOR 8 YEARS - 14 Feb 46
"	"	OKI K	- " " " " 6 " - 14 Feb 46
"	"	SHIBATA	- " " " " 2 " - 14 Feb 46

Confirmation and by Whom: Findings and sentences confirmed by Lt Gen V.A.H. STURDEE 30 Apr 1946.

Promulgation: 15 May 1946

Petition: Submitted against the Findings and Sentences of the Court

J.A.G.'s Report on Petition: Findings should NOT be confirmed

Action on Petition: Dismissed.

Filed in Attorney-General's Department and Numbered.....

Precis contd:

KOJIMA Toshio QM 25 Naval Base states:

That the food for both Jap and natives was not enough, this condition lasted till Aug 44, after Aug 44 the conditions became worse. The food condition was not sufficient to ensure normal life after Sep 44. (Understands the position was worse in the Army).

Also there were some among the Jap personnel who had died of Beri Beri. The only remedy to save the situation was to increase the ration to the Japanese, but the food position would not have improved if all the PW had died as there were so little of them, there was no reason at all why the PW should not receive the same ration as the Jap, as they would require so little extra that it would not have effected the overall ration situation.

At the time of surrender the Army had 400 tons of rice in the store.

Ration returns did not show PW separately but were included in 20 Garrison Units return (therefore they should have received the same amount as the Japanese, as the rations issued were for the total number including Jap and PW).

KAWAZUMI states supply of rations was based on PW ration regulations of Jap Navy issued by 25 Naval Base Unit, KOJIMA, QM 25 Naval Base states that PW were issued on same scale as Jap, yet KAWAZUMI states there was a difference in the amount of rations between Japs and PW.

As a result of this reduction PW died at an appalling rate.

2. The evidence shows with regard to the undermentioned accused charged with "physical beatings and torture of PW":-
 - (a) IKEDA - frequently inflicted unmerciful beatings on PW with crowbars, saws, hammers and native swords, and as a torture forced a nail up a PW's nostril. PW Hutchins after being beaten all one day by Ikeda was carried home unconscious by his mates and died next morning.
 - (b) KUWABARA - was responsible for constant brutal treatment particularly while moving the PW from their compound to working areas and often beat PW unconscious. PW Wright after brutal treatment by Kuwabara one afternoon died the next morning. A form of torture he often inflicted on PW was known as "Lockheed Torture" and consisted of making the victim stand on one leg, the other leg stretched out behind, and arms held out sideways.
 - (c) KAGAWA - was responsible for frequent brutal beatings and the breaking of a PW's arm.
 - (d) OKI - was responsible for frequent bashing and on one occasion jabbed a broom into a PW eyes. PW Ralph died two days after receiving a brutal beating by Oki.
 - (e) SHIBATA - was responsible for some comparatively mild beatings.
 - (f) YOSHINO - was responsible for extremely brutal treatment of PW who were working under him. One PW was beaten unconscious with an iron bar and he often kicked PW on their ulcers. PW Alford was struck on the head with a bayonet by Yoshino, had to be assisted back to camp and died three days later. As a torture he made a PW hold an iron bar above his head.