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Sept. 13, 1945
Fleet Hospital # 103
Guam.

TO: Capt. N. Savage
Hq. Island Command
Guam

FROM: Smith, Frederic Ferguson, RML/C, USN, (Repatriate)

SUBJECT: Activities while prisoner of war of the Japanese.

The above named man was taken prisoner on Guam, December 10, 1941. On January 10, 1942 Smith, with all other prisoners, was embarked aboard the Argentina Maru where they were disembarked at Zentsuji, Shikoku on January 15, 1942. Until June 19, 1942 Smith did routine POW work, as demanded by the Japs. At that time he was a bed patient in the camp hospital (Hirohata Camp, near Himeji, Osaka area) when he was suddenly and without forewarning transferred - destination and reason unknown. After passing through Osaka where he spent several days in close confinement and where he met Cpl. Frederick M. Hoblitt, USMC who was also under similar orders they were taken to the Onori camp in Tokyo. After several days these two men were joined by S/Sgt Walter G. Odlin, USA, Bataan, Pfc Jimmy G. Martinez, USA, Pvt Ramon P. Martinez and Civilian Dorwin H. Dodds formerly of Wake Island.

The entire group was held in complete ignorance as to their final destination and occupation. Two days before their final transfer they were interviewed by a board of Japanese Officials, the leading three of which were Kasuuro Uno (American born Jap), Hishikari (Domei employee) and Hayasaka (ex-South American Jap). The prisoners were questioned to ascertain their knowledge of their destination and probable work, the amount of war news (official) they knew, their educational background, various aptitudes and attitude in general. Smith asked the board their destination and work but was told only "Not to worry". On Aug. 9 the prisoners were transferred to their final camp located at Bunka, Kanda Ward, Tokyo. When the six men arrived at the Bunka camp they found the following named men there:

- Williston M. Cox, Major, USAAF.
- William Cousens, Major, AIF.
- Wallace E. Ince, Capt. USA.
- Maonaughton, Lt. British Army, Loyal Reg.
- George H. Henshaw, Ens. USN.
- Jack K. Wisener, Lt. USAAF.
- Nick Shenk, Adj, Dutch Army
- T/Sgt Newton H. Light, USA.
- Sgt Frank Fujita, USA
- Sgt John David Provoo, USA.
- Cpl Alfred Rickert, USMC.
- L/Bombardier Harry Pearson, British Army.
- L/Bombardier Donald K. Bruce, " " "

*Source Frank FUJITA, Sr.
Abilene, Texas*

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SECRET

Leading Aircraftman Kenneth G. Parkyns,
Australian AF.

Civilian Mark L. Streeter
" Larry W. Quille.
" Stephen H. Shattles
" Joseph Asterita

The aforementioned group was at that time engaged in broadcasting a Japanese Prisoner of War propaganda program known as "Humanity Calls". The penalty for refusing to do that work or for altering, sabotaging or defeating the Jap's purposes was death.

The new arrivals were told by K. Uno that unless they "played ball" nothing was guaranteed and that unless a mediated peace was obtained in the Pacific that their sure fate would be death. "Nothing guaranteed" was the Japanese' continual utterance along with the statement that as long as the men were prisoners of war they were compelled to obey all orders issued by the Japanese, regardless of the nature of those orders. The complete program was in charge by Major Tsuneshi of the Japanese Army under the auspices of the Japanese Imperial Headquarters.

II. The Japanese purpose in their propaganda was to create dissention in America; discourage the American public with the thought of a long drawn out war in the Pacific, impress upon the relatives of American prisoners of war in Japanese hands that there was little chance of their "loved ones" ever being returned alive unless America stopped her "aimless" war and recognized "the justice in the charter of the Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere". Their methods were: To broadcast short vignettes of men killed in so called "futile" struggles, named "War On War; a three or four minute commentary called "Voice of the Prisoners" whose purposes were to create the impression in the U.S. that the American prisoners of war were tired of the war and had at last seen the righteousness of the Japanese cause; once a week a dramatized account of some encounter, battle etc, which was supposed to emphasize the horror of "all out war"; and on Saturdays a "Jamboree" put on by the prisoners of war which featured music, comedy and light atmosphere for the purpose of creating the impression that the Japanese treatment of Prisoners of War was humane and generous and that any atrocity stories were groundless rumours.

Most of these articles written by the Prisoners were assigned and carefully censored and edited by K. Uno who oft-times injected additional wording when he thought it was too "mild". Prisoners stenciled the Ok'd scripts and they were then sent to a battery of translators who transcribed them into Japanese for distribution to the Foreign Office, General Headquarters, the broadcasting station and various other concerned or interested organizations. After being re-censored and frequently added to or detracted from they were returned (in part) to the POWs who broadcast same over station JOAK, Radio Tokyo. Prisoners were escorted to the Radio studio where they broadcast direct. Transcription were also made for

SECRET

SECRET

a later broadcast to be beamed to the east coast. The prisoners were constantly warned that one mis-reading of the script would mean death and a competent interpreter sat by the man broadcasting, near the control switch and following the script intently during the broadcast.

Until K. Uno and Hishikari were removed (largely through the efforts of the senior allied officers in camp) hardly anything could be done to circumvent the Jap's purposes. Sabotage was limited to voice inflection, an occasional extremely obscure double meaning. Smith was assigned to write commentaries, sing and otherwise contribute to the functioning of the program. At the time of assignment Smith made it clear to the Japanese, in the presence of witnesses, that he was not in any sense of the word doing this voluntarily and that at the first opportunity he would be glad to be transferred to a work camp. This was denied with the usual threats.

Smith, along with several other POWs, tried intelligently and skilfully to "clean up" the program, obtain more prisoner of war msgs for broadcast and to convert, as much as possible under the circumstances, the program to a vehicle carrying useful information to the United States Government. "War Plays" were changed as much as possible and when to straight radio dramatization of well known and propaganda free performances. Smith was actively engaged in this purpose. Smith inaugurated a series of commentaries featuring a character called the "Camp Reporter". This method he used to expose, as openly as prudent, the terrible conditions of POW camps, the inhumane treatment, and the dire need for Red Cross supplies. Nearly every commentary of this nature was dangerously packed with double and hidden meanings, utilizing slang, nuances of the language, literary parallels, innuendoes, hints and other methods that might pass censorship unnoticed and be lost in the translation from English to Japanese. Smith's actions were known and approved by his senior officers in that camp, who, tirelessly and skilfully thwarted the Japs in their designs for "dirtier" programs and frequently helped Smith out of trouble when the Japs suspicioned that he had been writing articles detrimental to their aims.

III. Personalities who contributed immeasurably to the prisoners organization to defeat the Japanese' purposes were:

Maj. Williston M. Cox, USAAF.
Maj. William Cousens AIF
Capt. Wallace E. Ince, USAm Inf.
Ens. George H. Henshaw, USN.

The rest of the personell, with the exception of the two persons noted below showed an evident dislike for this type of work and made it know to the Japs that they were not in agreement or sympathy with what they (the Japs) were doing. These personell were, for the most part, assigned to routine jobs. ie: Galley detail, head upkeep, barracks and grounds cleanup, and minor jobs such as

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stencilling, typing etc.

These two men, John David Provoo, Sgt., USA, formerly of Corregidor, P.I., who was transferred at his own request (admitted) from Taiwan (Formosa) and Civilian Mark. Louis Streeter, Contractor, formerly of Wake Island, transferred from the Shanghai camp were responsible for even more bad treatment being given the POWs in this camp, guilty of open collaboration with the Japanese, "stool pigeon-ing" to the Japs who was sabotaging and just how it was being done. Provoo was placed in charge of the direction of the program under K. Uno. He, (Provoo) expressed frequently his dislike of this war, refused to recognize the authority of the Allied officers in the same camp with him and wrote most suttiable and pleasing material quite in line with the Japanese desires. Provoo was also a pervert and wrote disgusting and "mushy" love letters to several of the men in camp. His actions made our work difficult and endangered the lives of the men in camp. Civilian Mark L. Streeter openly professed to Japanese and Allied alike that he owed no allegiance to the United States of America and that he was, in his own words, a "citizen of the world". He was warned repeatedly by the officers and men in the camp that what he was doing was wrong but he maintained his attitude and the only results to come from our efforts to handle him was a sever reprimand from the Japanese for molesting him. He frequently wrote letters (private) to the Japanese telling them that Smith and other prisoners were anti-Japanese and that they were sabotaging the Japanese propaganda efforts. He advocated "getting rid" of all the rest and placing him in complete charge of the program. Then, and only then, he said, would the Japanese really get what they wanted. He explained to the Japanese that the best approach in propaganda was through the American woman. He requested, in a letter to one Count Kobayama, that he be given five hundred dollars, be placed across the Russian border, or any neutral border and that in thirty days he would be in the U.S. and have his "activities" under-way. Streeter was finally removed from the camp by the Japanese and set up in his own private home to run and operate a separate program. He was helped in this by three other prisoners he had sent for.

Around September of 1944 K. Uno and Hishikari were transferred out of the camp. Hishikari continued to work for Domei while K. Uno was called into the Jap Army and transferred to the Phillipines. The aforementioned Hayasaka directed a program beamed on South America. Smith knew no details of this work. During the length of time spent in the Bunka camp Hayasaka was the supply man in charge of food issue, clothing, tobacco, medical care and other necessities. He repeatedly robbed and cheated the prisoners of war - denied them medical treatment - supplied practically no clothing and contributed greatly to the prisoners's discomfort and ill health. Through all this he maintained a psuedo friendly attitude. With the removal of Uno and Hishikari, Kaji Demoto, an American educated Jap, was given the post of directorship then vacated, Demoto, while still a loyal

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Japanese, represented the liberal element of Japan, recognized the hopelessness of Japan's war prosecution and wanted the war's end (peacefully) and the subsequent rebuilding by American capital as soon as possible. He was very humane and considerate in his treatment of the prisoners but, according to him, others above him and Hayasaka were responsible for the mal-treatment the group was being afforded. Donoto placed Major W. Cousins in charge of the camp over Maj Cox. This and the fact that Donoto was very lenient with his censorship and believed in broadcasting the truth when possible, afforded Smith and the others engaged in getting information through a much better chance to do so

With the end of the war Provoo and Streeter were placed under arrest and incarcerated aboard the U.S.S. Benovelence in Yokohama. They were in the custody of Capt. Ince who later transferred to the Army Hospital Ship Marigold and retained them in his custody.

Documentary evidence to support the foregoing statement should now be in the hands of Capt. Ince. Prior to sailing from Yokohama it was arranged for Capt. Ince and Smith to return to the Bunka camp and retrieve hidden documents. Smith was suddenly transferred leaving word with Capt. Ince to pick up along with his own, Smith's documents. These, the Capt should have by now as permission and cooperation was given by Army Intelligence officers to journey back to Tokyo for that purpose.

Additional statements on the conduct and efforts of F.F. Smith, RML/C will, in all probability, be submitted by his officers of that camp.

Certifying these pages to be a true and accurate account as drawn from memory only,

Respectfully,

Frederic Ferguson Smith, RML/C, USN.
Formerly U. S. Navsta, Guam, M.I.

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Op-16-B-7-0

27 September 1945

MEMORANDUM for A-7 Files:

Subject: Comment on Secret Letter from PML/C Frederic Ferguson SMITH, Repatriate, to Captain N. Savage, Hq. Island Command, Guam, dated 13 September 1945.

Reference: (a) Headquarter Island Command, Guam Secret letter to CNO on "Original Document---Forwarding of", dated 20 September 1945, Serial 007539, ONI Routing Slip 50944.

UNO, Kazemuro Mentioned on page 1.
Believed identical with "Buddy" Kazumaro UNO, U.S. born son of George Kumemaro UNO, a former resident of Los Angeles, California. Believed now to be a PW in custody of U.S. army at Manila.

HISHIKARI Mentioned on page 1.
Probably Takafumi HISHIKARI, a reporter for Domai Tsushin Sha who travelled in the U. S. during the summer of 1938. He was 26 years old at the time.

HAYASAKA Mentioned on page 1.
Possibly Hisashi HAYASAKA, long time Japanese resident of Peru who was connected with the Kokusai Bunka Shinko Kai (Society for International Cultural Relations) in Tokyo in 1941.

TSUNESHI, Major Mentioned on page 2.
Probably Maj. Shigetsugu TSUNEISHI, Infantry, known to have been attached to the Army Department, Imperial General Headquarters in Tokyo as of September 1942.

KOBAYAMA, Count Mentioned on page 3.
Believed identical with Count Aisuke KABAYAMA, a graduate of an American university who is active in international "cultural" work.

DOMOTO, Kaji Mentioned on last page.
Believed to be Takaji DOMOTO, frequently referred to as Kaji DOMOTO, a graduate of Harvard University, and son of Takanoshin DOMOTO, former resident of San Francisco, California.

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