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Allied Aircraft and Airmen lost over the Japanese Mainland

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1. The number of the Allied aircraft and airmen downed and captured in the Japanese Mainland

Towards the end of WWII, the Japanese Mainland was under severe attacks of the Allied aircraft. The Japanese anti-aircraft defense was so vulnerable that we were driven into a tight corner where there were no effective counter-measures at hand. Nonetheless, a considerable number of Allied aircraft (including some of the British) crashed on the Japanese Mainland and in the nearby surrounding waters. In consequence, the Japanese captured 568 airmen who bailed out their damaged aircraft, made forced landings, etc.

The Japanese Government and Military authorities, however, took the position of recognizing them not as the POWs as stipulated in the International Laws, but as the war criminals who had carried out the indiscriminate bombings against the Japanese civilians. Therefore, approximately half of them were executed, died of wounds or diseases, or were killed by friendly air raids including the A-bomb in Hiroshima, and never returned to their homelands.

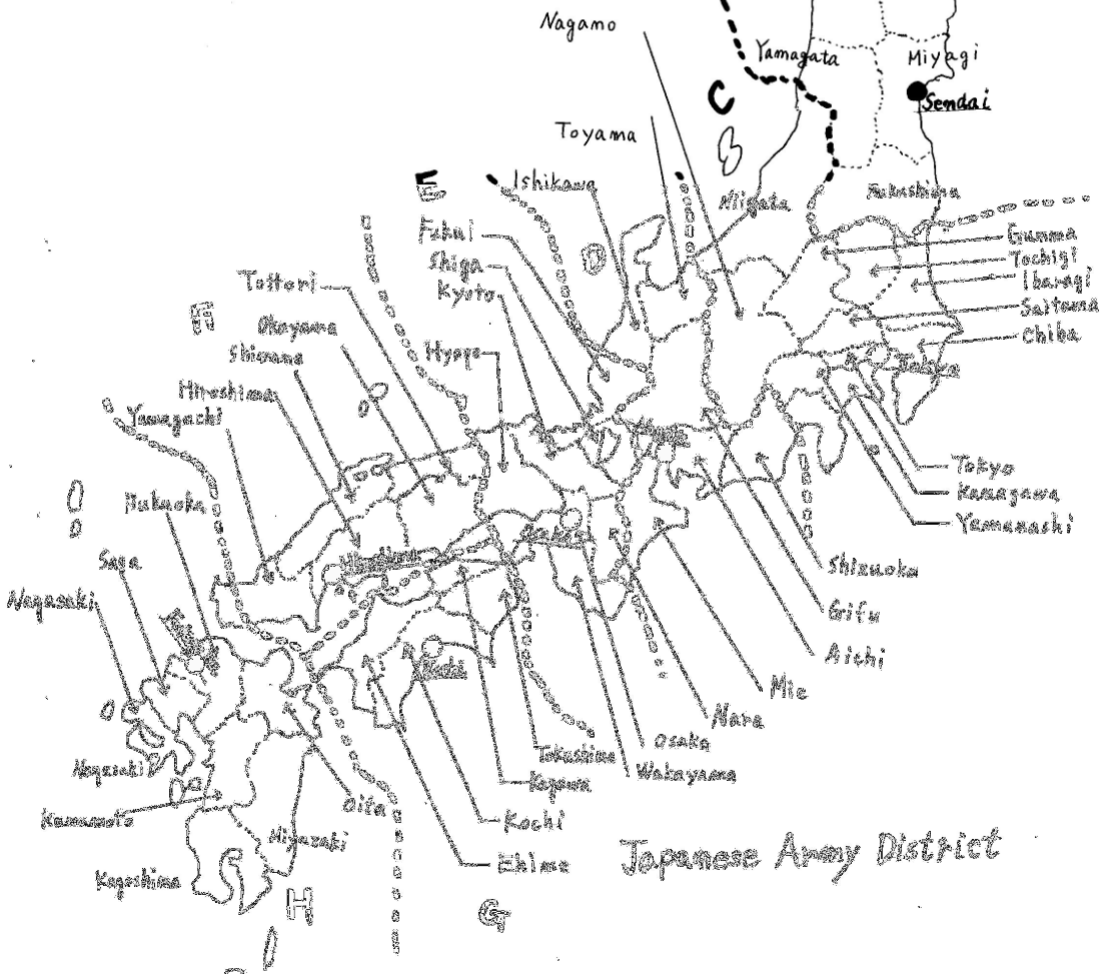
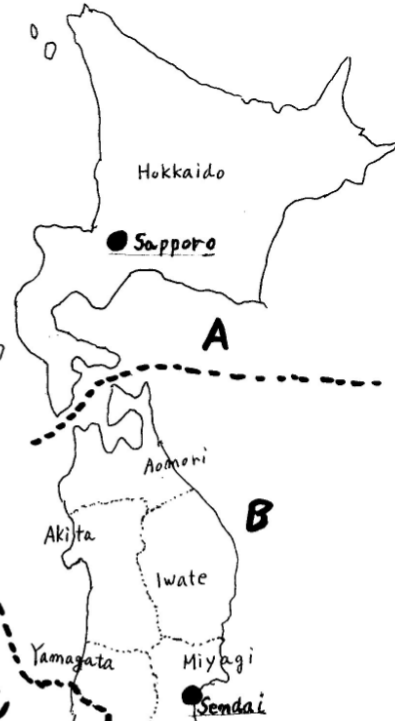
After the war, such kind of atrocities became important issues of the Class B and Class C War Crimes Trials held by the US Army at Yokohama. Many Japanese ex-military personnel who participated in the execution or maltreatment of the Allied POWs were found guilty, and some of them were sentenced to death by hanging.

US Occupation Army established Legal Section in the GHQ/SCAP for the purpose of preparations for the War Crimes Trials, and the Investigation Division, Legal Section conducted thorough and persistent investigations into the lost Allied aircraft and their crewmembers over Japan, and succeeded in revealing most of their fates.

Today, a great deal of microfilms of the monumental materials on these investigations in English is under custody of the Japan National Diet Library.

This report was made mainly based on this GHQ/SCAP materials with some additions from other sources, and the outlines of which is separated in accordance with the old Japanese Army Districts.

	Army District	HQ City	District Commander
A	Hokubu Army District	Sapporo	Lt. General Kiichi Higuchi
B	Tohoku Army District	Sendai	General Keisuke Fujie
C	Tobu Army District	Tokyo	General Shizuichi Tanaka
D	Tokai Army District	Nagoya	Lt. General Tasuku Okada
E	Chubu Army District	Osaka	Lt. General Eitaro Uchiyama
F	Chugoku Army District	Hiroshima	Lt. General Hisao Tami
G	Shikoku Army District	Kochi	Lt. General Kumakichi Harada
H	Seibu Army District	Fukuoka	Lt. General Isamu Yokoyama



Number of the Allied aircraft crashed in the Japanese Mainland

Army District	Hokubu	Tohoku	Tobu	Tokai	Chubu	Chugoku Shikoku	Seibu	Total
Type of plane								
B 2 9	0	3	73	23	17	5	21	142
B 2 4	3	0	0	0	0	2	3	8
B 2 5	8	0	0	0	0	0	6	14
P 5 1	0	0	26	10	7	0	6	49
P 4 7	0	0	0	0	0	2	13	15
T B M	1	0	5	0	2	9	11	28
S B 2 C	2	2	3	0	0	20	5	32
F 6 F	2	2	29	2	1	14	19	69
F 4 U	2	1	8	5	1	7	29	53
Royal Navy	0	6	4	0	0	5	0	15
Others	2	0	0	1	0	0	5	8
Unknown	0	0	5	1	1	0	6	13

* Includes Kuril Islands, Bonin Islands and Ryukyu Islands

* Includes the “nearby sea” surrounding Japan

* The numbers are not always accurate, as the range of “nearby sea” is obscure

Number of the captured airmen and their disposition

Army District	Hokubu	Tohoku	Tobu	Tokai	Chubu	Chugoku Shikoku	Seibu	Total
Disposition								
Murdered when landed	1	0	2	0	0	0	5	8
Died of wounds or diseases	0	0	16	1	8	2	5	32
Died in friendly fire	3	0	52	1	0	12	0	68
Executed	0	0	14	38	41	0	39	132
Poisoned	0	0	9	0	6	0	0	15
Vivisected	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	8
Returned home	11	6	171	12	2	41	60	303
Unknown	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	2
Total	15	6	265	52	57	55	118	568

* The rate of the POWs who returned to their home countries is approximately 53%, that means nearly half of them tragically died in Japan.

2. Disposition of the allied airmen by the Japanese Government and Army

(1) POW? or War Criminal?

During WW II, Japanese Government decided to place all the Allied POWs under the control of the Japanese Army. Approximately 140,000 European and American POWs were captured in South-east Asia, and 36,000 of them were moved to Japan home land. They were imprisoned in about 130 POW camps established in Japan. In addition to these POWs, there were several hundreds of allied airmen who attacked Japan and were shot down in late 1944 to 1945 and imprisoned in the Japanese Army prisons or Kempei Tai prisons.

The Japanese government and military authorities took the position of recognizing the captured airmen not as the POWs as stipulated in the International Laws, but as the war criminal suspects who had carried out the indiscriminate bombings against the Japanese civilians.

They had to be put on Japanese military trial, and if they were judged to have bombed only military targets, they were transferred to the POW camps, but if they were judged to have carried out the indiscriminate bombings, they were punished.

This principle was established when the Doolittle air raid occurred.

(2) Establishment of the Japanese Military Regulation on the captured Airmen

When the Doolittle air raid occurred in 18 April 1942, about 50 Japanese civilians were killed by bombing, and 8 of the American fliers landed in China under the control of the Japanese Army and were captured. They were sent to Tokyo for interrogation and put on the Japanese military trial at Shanghai, China and sentenced to death. (5 of them were later reduced to life confinement).

On October 1942, Japanese government and Army established Military regulation on enemy air raid and the captured Airmen.

It described that all the Allied airmen who carried out indiscriminate and inhumane bombing to Japanese cities should not be treated as legal POWs but should be treated as war criminals and be executed.

This became the basic principle against the Allied Fliers.

(3) B-29 Air raids to Japan during the period from June 1944 to March 1945

The air raids to the Japanese Mainland by the B-29s began in June 1944 from the airbases in China. From June to August 1945, the US Forces occupied Mariana Islands

and the air raids by B-29s from the Mariana airbases began in November 1945.

From August 1944 to February 1945, about 40 B29ers and fighter pilots were captured by the Japanese. They were all moved to Tokyo Kempei Tai HQ for interrogation. As the B-29s bombed mainly military targets in this period, the captured fliers were not executed as war criminals and treated as "half POWs" or "Special POWs", and they were moved mainly to Omori POW camp in Tokyo after being examined at Tokyo Kempei Tai HQ. But they were imprisoned separately from other POWs and were treated very severely.

On the other hand, Japanese Navy wanted to collect information from the Allied POWs (most of them were aircraft and submarine crewmembers) who were captured by the Japanese Navy itself. If the POWs would be handed over to the army and moved to the POW camps, they would be protected by international law and to collect information from them would become impossible. So the Japanese Navy established Ofuna temporarily POW camp and confined several hundreds of POWs through the period of war. After the interrogation finished, some of them were moved to the regular POW camps, but not a few POWs were kept confined at Ofuna camp until the war ended.

(4) Treatment of the captured airmen after the Big Fire Raid on Tokyo

After 10 March 1945, when the big fire air raid was carried out to Tokyo, the B-29s bombed Japanese cities indiscriminately. As the result of this, the captured fliers became to be treated as war criminal suspects.

But the rapid increase of the number of flier POWs caused a problem for the Kempei Tai that there were not enough facilities to imprison so many fliers, and also it was difficult to examine so many fliers.

(5) Execution of the airmen

In May 1945, The Japanese Army HQ issued an order to each Army District HQ that they should send only pilots among the captured fliers to Tokyo Kempei Tai HQ and dispose other crew members by their own authority.

After this order was given, 11 fliers at Tokai Army District and 2 fliers at Chubu Army District were put on military trials and were sentenced to death and then executed.

In or about June 1945, Japanese Kempei Tai commander Lt/Gen. Sanji Okido ordered secretly to each Army District Kempei Tai commander that they should make contact with Army District commander and make strict disposition to all the captured fliers. This order substantially meant to execute the captured fliers secretly without trial.

As the result of this order, many allied fliers were executed. The number of the executed

fliers is 41 at Seibu Army District, 45 at Chubu Army District, 27 at Tokai Army District.

This order was not carried out at Tobu Army District, because Tobu District Kempei Tai Commander Col. Keijiro Otani thought it was impossible to execute so many fliers secretly.

At Hokubu Army District, Tohoku Army District, Chugoku Army District and Shikoku Army District, there were no captured fliers under the supervision of them at this time, even though some fliers were captured after late July or early August, but they were liberated at the time of Japan surrender before they were executed.

(6)

After the war, the War Crimes Trial was held by the US occupation army at Yokohama, and many Japanese army soldiers and Kempei Tai members who took part in the execution of allied fliers were tried and sentenced guilty.

3. Flier Cases in Yokohama class B and class C War Crimes Trials

(1) Yokohama class B and class C War Crimes Trials

Yokohama War Crimes Trial was conducted by the US Eighth Army, and it was the only Class B and Class C Trial held in the Japanese home land.

The ex Japanese Military personnel were accused

1037 Japanese personnel of 327 cases were accused.

123 of them were sentenced to Death by hanging (53 after the review), 63 to life confinement (88 after the review), 665 to periodic confinement (702 after the review)

Approximately half of them were staff members of The POW camps and

Many kempei Tai members who

(2) Flier cases judged at the Yokohama class B and class C War Crimes Trials

Chiba-ken Hiyoshi-mura Case

On 25-26 May 1945, 498 B-29s bombed Tokyo, and a damaged B-29 (#44-69978, 313BW, 504BG) made a forced landing in a rice field near Choeiji Temple in Emoto, Hiyoshi-mura, Chosei-gun (present Nagara-cho), Chiba-ken.

4 crewmembers were killed in the crash.

5 crewmembers bailed out and were taken prisoners. After being gathered at Hiyoshi

Primary School and Choeiji Temple in the afternoon on May 26, they were sent to Tokyo Kempei Tai via Mobara Kempei Tai.

Other 2 crewmembers were seriously wounded at the time of crash. The Japanese soldiers of 1st SQ, 1st BN, Tobu 426 Unit brought them to Choeiji Temple where they stationed. One of the POWs, whose name was unknown, died at dawn without being given any treatment. Another POW 1/Lt. Darwin T. EMRY had been suffering from severe agony. In the afternoon, SQ Commander Capt. Masaaki MABUCHI ordered Corpsman Sgt/Maj. Takayoshi SAKAINO to kill the wounded flier, and Sgt/Maj. SAKAINO beheaded him with his sword. More than 100 villagers who had gathered around the Temple shouted for joy when they watched the American flier be beheaded. Then his body was used for bayonet practicing of recruits under the command of 1/Lt. Jutaro KIKUCHI. The matter was not reported to higher HQ. and the body was buried in the cemetery behind Choeiji Temple.

After the war, at the War Crimes Trial in Yokohama, Capt. MABUCHI maintained that the execution was carried out to relieve the pains of the flier by mercy killing. Thus this trial was called "Bushido (the way of warriors) trial." However, he was executed by hanging as a ringleader of the event. 1/Lt. KIKUCHI was sentenced to 25 years confinement. Sgt/Maj. SAKAINO went underground, but was arrested later when he appeared before the police and sentenced to life confinement. Six low ranking soldiers who participated in bayonet practice were sentenced to 1 to 2 years confinement.

Chiba-ken Sahara-cho Case

On 23 June 1945, a P-51 (15FG, 47SQ) crashed in the mountains of Kuga-mura (present Tako-cho), Katori-gun, Chiba-ken.

The Japanese fighters from Hyakurigahara Naval Airbase attacked the formation of P-51s which had assaulted Shimodate Airfield over Yokaichiba and this P-51 was hit by A/A fire and crashed.

1/Lt. John V. SCANLAN bailed out and was taken prisoner. He was taken to Sahara Primary School where the Japanese Army 152 Division HQ was established. He was pretty much wounded at that time, but no treatment was given. Soon, several Army personnel took him to the schoolyard to be exposed to public gaze and let the local people assault him. The number of people increased to several thousands, and he was beaten with bars and bamboo spears. As he lost his consciousness, he was given camphor shots, and the beating continued. After several hours he died. His body with a rope tied around was buried in the cemetery of Jokokuji temple in Terajuku,

Sahara-cho.

After the war, at the War Crimes Trial in Yokohama, chief staff officer of 152 Unit, Col. Chiyoshi SHIMODA was sentenced to 25 years confinement, staff officers of the same Unit, Maj. Yoshio SHINGO, 1/Lt. Kozo SAKAI, 1/Lt. Hajime TAKAHASHI and 1/Lt. Unosuke MOTOMIYA to 5 years confinement., and the four local people who participated in the beating to 1 year confinement.

Chiba-ken Kamishiki-mura Case

On 15-16 April 1945, 219 B-29s bombed Kawasaki City, and a B-29 (#42-63545, 313BW, 9BG) crashed in a forest in Ishikami-Koyaba, Shiratori-mura, Ichihara-gun (present Ichihara-shi), Chiba-ken.

The plane was afire, flying from the north to south, then turned to the east over Shiratori-mura, and crashed into the forest.

2 crewmembers were killed in the crash.

8 crewmembers were taken prisoners and were sent to Tokyo Kempei Tai.

Cpl. Marvin G. GREENSPAN bailed out and was taken prisoner in Kamishiki-mura (present Otaki-cho) by civil defense guards in the afternoon on 16 April. His hands were tied and he was turned over to 203 Unit stationed in Nishihata Primary School. As the Japanese soldiers and villagers who came to watch him outraged him, he untied the rope binding his hands, and ran away for about 100 meters. Some soldiers ran after and killed him with sword by order of 2/Lt. Ippei TAMURA.

After the war, at the War Crimes Trial in Yokohama, 2/Lt. TAMURA was found guilty and sentenced to 12 years confinement.

Tachikawa Kempei Tai Case

On 8 August 1945, 69 B-29s bombed Nakajima Aircraft Musashino Plant and Tokyo Army Ordnance Dept., and a B-29 (#44-87664, 314BW, 29BG) crashed in Yatsu, Yatsu-mura, Kitatama-gun (present Kunitachi-shi), Tokyo.

10 crewmembers were killed in the crash.

2 crewmembers Sgt. Lester O. MORRIS and Sgt. Serafine MORONE bailed out and were captured by civil defense guards, and taken to Tachikawa Kempei Tai.

On the following day, Sgt. MORRIS was sent to Tokyo Kempei Tai, and returned to the US after the war. However, Sgt. MORONE was brought to the schoolyard of Nishiki Primary School (present Tachikawa No. 3 Municipal Primary School) in the afternoon, and tied to a basketball pole to be exposed to the gaze of about 800 people. Under the direction of a Kempei Tai member, he became a victim of violence by the

people for 2 hours. This was discontinued as the air raid alert was issued. Sgt. MORONE, who was breathing with difficulty, was carried to Shorakuin cemetery in Hagoromo-cho on a stretcher, where he was beheaded by an Army officer working at Tachikawa Aircraft Arsenal, who voluntarily asked for carrying out the execution, and was buried there.

Immediately after the war, Kempei Tai members attempted suppression and destruction of proofs of guilt by digging out the flier's body and cremated it, but the US forces came to know of the violence and execution by anonymous letters.

After the war, at the War Crimes Trials in Yokohama, The commander of Tachikawa Kempei Tai, Maj. Shichisaburo YAJIMA was found guilty and sentenced to life confinement. W/O Noboru SEKI, who assisted the incident, was also found guilty and sentenced to 20 years confinement. The investigation team of the US Occupation Army could not identify the Japanese Army officer from Tachikawa Aircraft Arsenal who executed the POW.

Lt/Col. Kimiya ICHINOHE Case

On 10 March 1945, Tokyo was severely bombed by more than 300 B-29s, and a B-29 (#44-69686, nicknamed Tall in the Saddle, 314BW, 19BG) crashed in a forest of Mamiana, Itabashi-mura, Tsukuba-gun (present Ina-cho, Tsukubamirai-shi), Ibaraki-ken.

9 crewmembers including Capt. Gordon L. MUSTER (A/C) were killed in the crash and buried near the crash site.

3 crewmembers were captured by the Japanese civil defense guards and turned over to Tsuchiura Kempei Tai and then sent to Tokyo Kempei Tai by truck.

Cpl. Laverne J. ZEHLER and Cpl. Glenn H. HODAK were later transferred to Tokyo Military Prison in Shibuya and burned to death in the fire air raid on May 25-26.

2/Lt. Leland P. FISHBACK was seriously wounded at the time of capture. Tokyo Kempei Tai asked Tobu Army Medical Dept. to hospitalize him, but due to chaos under the air raid, the Medical Dept. refused this request. In the meantime, a medical officer of Tobu Army, 1/Lt. Rokuro SONOBE came to examine 2/Lt. FISHBACK, but he gave no treatment, because he thought the wounded had no chance of recovery. In consequence, Tobu Army was compelled to take him over and quite at a loss what to do with him. Two days later, by order of Lt/Col. Kimiya ICHINOHE, 3 soldiers of Tobu Army accompanied by 2/Lt. Sadao MOTOKAWA and W/O Masao KUWAHARA of Tokyo Kempei Tai, took 2/Lt. FISHBACK to an air raid

shelter in the schoolyard of Tokyo foreign language school (present Tokyo University of Foreign Studies), and beheaded him, then buried his body under trash and wreckages.

After the war, at the War Crimes Trial in Yokohama, Lt/Col. ICHINOHE and 2/Lt. MOTOKAWA were found guilty and sentenced to death. W/O KUWAHARA was sentenced to life confinement for helping the execution and burial, and Medical officer SONOBE to 2 years for refusing medical treatment.

Ueno Kempei Tai Case

On 25-26 May 1945, Tokyo was severely bombed by approximately 500 B-29s, and a B-29 (#44-69728, 314BW, 29BG) crashed in Iriya-cho, Adachi-ku, Tokyo.

2 crewmembers were killed in the crash.

8 crewmembers bailed out and were taken prisoners. They were sent to Tokyo Kempei Tai, whence they returned to the US after the war.

2/Lt. Dwight H. KNAPP bailed out and was hiding near the Arakawa Canal. When civil defense guards found him, he shot them and killed one, seriously wounded another. Two days later, the police found him hiding in a box car at Nishiarai railway station and captured him, and then turned him over to Ueno Kempei Tai. Maj. Akira HORIE, Commander of Ueno Kempei Tai brought him to Tokyo Kempei Tai HQ, where he was told by Col. Keijiro OTANI, the Provost Marshal, that "An American soldier who has committed murder need not be treated as a POW. He should be strictly dealt with." Then Maj. HORIE ordered his subordinate M/Sgt. Etsuji NOGUCHI to execute 2/Lt. KNAPP, and M/Sgt. NOGUCHI beheaded him on the south riverbank of New Senju Bridge.

After the war, at the War Crimes Trials in Yokohama, M/Sgt. NOGUCHI was sentenced to 12 years confinement, Col. OTANI to 10 years. Maj. HORIE committed suicide shortly after the war.

Tokyo Military Prison Case

On 25-26 May 1945, Tokyo was severely bombed by approximately 500 B-29s and Tokyo Military Prison in Shibuya was burnt down.

Although approximately 400 Japanese prisoners were rescued safely by the Japanese guards, 62 American flier POWs were burnt to death. Moreover, it is said that some POWs who tried to escape from the cells were killed with sword by the Japanese guards.

After the war, at the War Crimes Trial in Yokohama, the warden of the Prison, Capt.

Toshio TASHIRO was sentenced to death by hanging (later reduced to 60 years confinement), chief guard of the Prison, 2/Lt. Masao KOSHIKAWA, death by hanging (later reduced to 10 years confinement), the guards of the Prison, Sgt. Major Mataichi OKUBO, death by hanging (later reduced to life confinement), Sgt. Hatsuaki KANBE, death by hanging (later reduced to 25 years confinement), Cpl. Keiji KAMIMOTO, death by hanging (later reduced to 5 years confinement).

Tobu District Kempei Tai Case

(A) Mistreatment of the fliers

After the war, at the War Crimes Trial in Yokohama, the members of Tobu District Kempei Tai were accused that they disregarded and discharged their duties to the POWs and contributed to the sicknesses, wounds, diseases, sufferings, and deaths of 17 American fliers by reason of their unlawful neglect and failure to provide adequate and proper quarters, clothing, food and water, hygiene, medical care and treatment, and hospitalization.

The Commander, Col. Keiji OTANI was sentenced to 10 years confinement, Capt. Toshio TOYAMA to life confinement, 2/Lt. Nobushige WACHI to 8 years confinement, Lt/Col. Ranjyou FUJINO to 5 years confinement, 2/Lt. Tsune NEMOTO to 3.5 years confinement.

(B) Poisoning the wounded fliers

Between March and June 1945, among the many fliers who were captured and detained in Tobu District Kempei Tai HQ in Tokyo, 9 fliers were seriously wounded. They were poisoned in reason of their fatal wounds by the medical officers Major MORISUE, 1/Lt. Kenji HIRANO, Cadet HASEBE.

After the war, at the War Crimes Trial in Yokohama, 1/Lt. HIRANO was sentenced to life confinement. Major MORISUE and Cadet HASEBE committed suicides shortly after the war.

Tokai District Army Case

Before April 1945, 3 American fliers who were captured in Tokai Army District were sent to General Defense HQ in Tokyo, and other 3 were imprisoned in Nagoya POW Camp Narumi Branch. All of them returned to the US after the war.

(A) Execution of 11 fliers in consequence of the Military Trial

On 14 May 1945, Nagoya was severely bombed by approximately 500 B-29s, and most part of Nagoya urban area was burnt down.

11 American fliers from 2 B-29s were captured during this air raid. Tokai District

Army considered them as war criminals by reason of indiscriminate bombing and put them on Military Trial on 11 July 1945 and sentenced to death. On the following day, they were beheaded at Obatagahara Army Rifle Range in Kasugai-gun, Aichi-ken.

Immediately after the war, their bodies were dug out and cremated for the purpose of destruction of proofs of guilt by the Tokai Army soldiers, and ashes were niched in Koshoji temple in Showa-ku, Nagoya-shi.

After the war, at the War Crimes Trial in Yokohama, Maj. Nobuo ITO who acted as a prosecutor at the Military Trial was sentenced to death by hanging (later reduced to life confinement). Three officers who acted as judges at the Military Trial, Maj. Kaiji MATSUO, 1/Lt. Hirokichi SANTO, 1/Lt. Toshiatsu KATAURA were sentenced to 20 years, 20 years, and 15 years confinement respectively.

(B) Execution of 27 fliers without Military Trial

27 fliers who were captured after June 1945 were executed without Military Trial.

On or about June 28, 11 fliers were beheaded by the Tokai Army soldiers in the mountains of Miyaji, Akatsu-cho, Seto-shi, Aichi-ken.

On or about July 14, 16 fliers were beheaded by the Tokai Army soldiers behind the No. 2 barracks of Tokai District Army HQ.

Immediately after the war, their bodies were dug out and cremated for the purpose of destruction of proofs of guilt by the Tokai Army soldiers, and ashes were niched in the Army cemetery in Shindeki-cho, Higashi-ku, Nagoya-shi.

After the war, at the War Crimes Trial in Yokohama, The Commander of Tokai District Army Lt/Gen. Tasuku OKADA was sentenced to death by hanging. Staff officer Col. Hajime ONISHI was sentenced to death by hanging and later reduced to life confinement. Col. Masakuma YONEMURA was sentenced to 25 years confinement, Lt/Col. Seiichi ADACHI to 17 years, Maj. Naofumi YASUDA to 15 years. 15 officers and NCOs who acted as executors were sentenced to 10-30 years confinement.

Chubu District Army and Kempei Tai Case

57 American fliers were captured in Chubu Army District during the war.

2 of them were sent to General Defense HQ in Tokyo, as they were suspected to have some information on the A-bomb, and returned to the USA after the war.

(A) NELSON and AUGUNAS Case

On 17 March 1945, Kobe was bombed severely by 331 B-29s, and a B-29 (#42-24849, 73BW, 500BG) was rammed by a Japanese fighter and crashed near the summit of

Mt. Futatabi, Ikuta-ku, Kobe-shi, Hyogo-ken.

9 crewmembers including Maj. Robert J. FITZGERALD (A/C) were killed in the crash.

2/Lt. Robert W. NELSON and Sgt. Algy S. AUGUNAS bailed out and were taken prisoners in the mountain side of Mt. Futatabi, and sent to Chubu Kempei Tai HQ in Osaka. In May, they were transferred to the Army Prison in Ishikiri (present Higashi-Osaka-shi). On July 18, they were court marshaled at Chubu District Army HQ in Osaka Castle, and sentenced to death for indiscriminate bombing against Japanese civilians and beheaded in Yokoyama Rifle Range in Senan-gun (present Fukuse-cho, Izumi-shi).

After the war, at the War Crimes Trial in Yokohama, Chubu District Army Commander Lt./Gen. Eitaro UCHIYAMA was sentenced to 30 years confinement, Chief Staff Lt./Gen. Michio KUNITAKE to 3 years, Chief of Legal Section Maj./Gen. Kiyotomi OTAWARA to death (later reduced to life confinement), Intelligence officer Maj. Norio YAMANAKA to 25 years, officer of Legal Section Capt. Ono to 30 years, officer of Legal Section Capt. Yorio OGIYA 3 years, officer of Legal Section 1/Lt. Hideo MATSUMORI to 10 years, Chief of Osaka Military Prison Capt. Kanji NAKAMICHI to 3 years.

(B) Mistreatment and execution of the fliers by Chubu Kempei Tai

53 of 57 American fliers who were captured in Chubu Army District were treated by Chubu Kempei Tai, and all of them never returned to the US.

8 died of their wounds or diseases while they were imprisoned in Chubu Kempei Tai HQ in Osaka.

6 were poisoned by reason of their heavy wounds or diseases.

5 were executed by shooting at Shinodayama Military Maneuver Grounds on 5 July.

15 were executed by shooting at Shinodayama Military Maneuver Grounds on 20 July.

14 were executed by shooting at Jonan Rifle Range near Osaka Castle on 5 August.

5 were executed by shooting or beheading at Sanadayama Army Cemetery in Osaka in the afternoon on 15 August.

After the war, at the War Crimes Trial in Yokohama, Japanese Kempei Tai commander Lt. /Gen. Sanji OKIDO was sentenced to life confinement for the reason of issuing the secret order to each District Kempei Tai to “dispose the American fliers strictly”. Chubu District Kempei Tai Commander Maj./Gen. Tsugio NAGATOMO was sentenced to life confinement as he decided the executions. Chubu District Army Commander Lt./Gen. Eitaro UCHIYAMA and Chief Staff Lt./Gen. Michio

KUNITAKE were found guilty as they permitted the executions, and sentenced to 40 years to the former, life imprisonment to the latter.

Chubu District Kempei Tai officers who led the executions, Lt/Col. Hideo FUJIOKA and Maj. Ikoma SHIUCHI were sentenced to life confinement.

Chubu District Army Intelligence officer Maj. Norio YAMANAKA, Staff officer Capt. Kojiro OBA, Chubu Kempei Tai members Lt/Col. Hiroshi ANJYO, W/O Yasuo WADA, W/O Jiro HAMAMOTO, M/Sgt. Tomekichi HAMADA, M/Sgt. Takao MORI, civilian Interpreter Masamoto NAKANO were sentenced to 2-15 years confinement.

10 NCOs or private soldiers of Chubu Kempei Tai who executed American fliers were found not guilty.

Kochi Kempei Tai Case

On 22 June 1945, a B-29 (#44-70084, 58BW, 468BG) crashed in the forest of Mt. Washio, Yoshino, Kanda-cho, Kochi-shi, Kochi-ken.

Proceeded to attack Navy Kure Arsenal, the plane became a victim of flak and was afire, and then exploded in the air and crashed.

7 crewmembers were killed in the crash.

4 crewmembers bailed out and were captured.

Sgt. Alvin EINSTEIN, Sgt. Stanley B. PATRICK and Sgt. John H. MOORE Jr. were interrogated at Kochi Kempei Tai and interned in the stockade of Shikoku 155 Unit in the evening. They were sent to Kure Prison at the request of the Japanese Navy on Jun. 26, and then to Navy Ofuna POW Camp on Jul. 9. They returned to the US after the war.

Sgt. Theodore W. PRINCE was seriously burnt before bailed out. He was interned in Kochi Army Hospital, but by order of Kempei Tai, he was moved to Shikoku 155 Unit where other 3 crewmembers had been interned. Due to insufficient medical care, he died on Jul. 24.

After the war, at the War Crimes Trial in Yokohama, 1/Lt. Takeo YAMAMOTO who was deputy marshal of Kochi Kempei Tai was sentenced to life imprisonment due to this insufficient medical care. Capt. Hajime TAMURA who was a medical officer of 155 Unit was sentenced to 25 years, W/O Shinicro TAKAMI who was an apprentice medical officer was sentenced to 20 years, and Capt. Hajime TSUTSUI who was a medical officer of Kochi Army Hospital was sentenced to 5 years.

Seibu District Army Case

Before April 1945, the American fliers who were captured in Seibu Army District

were sent to General Defense HQ in Tokyo, and most of them returned to the US after the war.

In May 1945, Seibu Army HQ received an order from General Defense HQ in Tokyo that they should send only pilots of downed B-29s or other allied airplanes to Tokyo, and the disposition of other crewmembers would be charged with the commander of each Army District. Moreover, a secret order from the commander of Japanese Kempei Tai, Lt. /Gen. Sanji OKIDO was given to each District Kempei Tai HQ in May or June 1945 that American flier POWs should be strictly disposed at each Army District.

In consequence of that, The Commander and Staff of Seibu District Army decided to execute flier POWs, and 41 POWs in total were murdered.

(A) Vivisection at Kyushu University Medical Dept.

8 B-29 crewmembers were sent to Kyushu Imperial University and killed in the experimental vivisection at the Medical Dept. of the University from 17 May to 2 June, in four different times. This vivisection is said to be proposed by Medical Cadet Taku KOMORI and Col. Yoshinao SATO who was the Chief of Air Intelligence and Air Defense at the Seibu District Army HQ, and in charge of captured airmen.

After the war, at the War Crimes Trial in Yokohama, 16 staff members of Seibu District Army and 14 Staff members of Kyushu University were prosecuted.

The following 9 staff members of Seibu District Army were found guilty.

Commander Lt/Gen. Isamu YOKOYAMA was sentenced to death (He died from disease later), Chief staff Lt/Gen. Masazumi INADA to 7 years confinement, Maj/Gen. Kyusaku FUKUSHIMA to 15 years, Maj/Gen. Akinobu ITO to 10 years, Col. Hiroshi AKITA to life, Col. Yoshinao SATO to death (later reduced to life confinement), Lt/Col. Katsuya YAKUMARU to life, Capt. Shinji GOIYAMA to 10 years, Capt. Kajyurou AIHARA to 20 years.

The following 14 Staff members of Kyushu University were found guilty.

Assistant Prof. Kenichi HIRAO was sentenced to death, Assistant Prof. Taro TORISU to death (later reduced to 10 years confinement), Chief of the Medical Dep. of the University Kenji MORIMOTO to life confinement, Instructor Yoshio MORI to death (later reduced to 25 years confinement), Prof. Goichi HIRAKO to 25 years. Other 8 medical students and 1 nurse were sentenced to 3 to life confinement.

The ringleader of the vivisection, Prof. Fukujiro ISHIYAMA committed suicide shortly after he was arrested. Medical cadet Taku KOMORI was killed in the air raid on 19 June 1945.

(B) Execution of 33 fliers by Seibu District Army

On 19 June 1945, Fukuoka City was severely bombed by 221 B-29s and most part of the city was burned down.

Seibu District Army decided to execute 8 American flier POWs who had been detained in the Seibu District Army HQ at that time as revenge.

On the following day, before numerous witnesses, they were executed by beheading in the ground of Fukuoka girls' high school adjacent to Seibu District Army HQ.

On 10 August, the next day of the atomic bombing of Nagasaki, 8 fliers were executed by beheading in Aburayama execution place in the suburbs of Fukuoka City. Some Seibu Army officers tried to kill the fliers by using bow and arrows and "Karate", because they thought they had to fight guerrilla warfare against the US Forces when they would invade Kyushu Island.

On 15 August, after Japan surrender, 17 fliers were executed by beheading in Aburayama execution place in the suburbs of Fukuoka City. This execution was carried out for the purpose that the surviving POWs would not return to the US knowing what had been done to other fliers.

During the first months of the occupation by the US Forces, elaborate plans were made by the high ranking officers of the Seibu District Army to conceal by all means the facts of the executions. Reports were falsified to show that the fliers were either killed during the atomic bombing of Hiroshima or perished on their way to Tokyo in a plane piloted by a Kamikaze flier who deliberately plunged into the sea. The bodies of the American fliers were crudely cremated and disposed in the sea, together with their personal belongings. The detention barracks were torn down and burned to conceal the English writing on the walls.

After the war, at the War crimes Trial in Yokohama, Seibu Army District Commander Lt/Gen. Isamu Yokoyama was sentenced to Life confinement.

Kikai-jima Island Case

On 11 April 1945, a SB2C (#20732, Essex CV-9) crashed near Kikai-jima Island, Kagoshima-ken.

Ens. Arthur L. THOMAS bailed out and was taken prisoner. Towards the end of Apr. or early May, he was beheaded by the members of Navy Kikai-jima Garrison.

After the war, at the War Crimes Trial in Yokohama, the staff members of Nansei-shoto Air Corps HQ, Capt. Tatsuhiko KIDA was sentenced to 40 years confinement, Lt. Cmdr. Isamu SATO death by hanging, Lt. Masayoshi YOSHIDA 40 years confinement, and the executor W/O Tetsuo TANIGUCHI life confinement, respectively.

On 10 May 1945, a FG1D (#67876, Shangri-La CV-38) crashed near Kikai-jima Island, Kagoshima-ken.

Lt. David C. KINKANNON bailed out and was taken prisoner. Later on, the Japanese Navy airfield construction unit executed him by beheading.

After the war, at the War Crimes Trial in Yokohama, Lt. Cmdr. Isamu SATO who had ordered execution was found guilty and sentenced to 20 years confinement, and the executor Lt. Munehiko OSHIMA 7 years.

Miyako-jima Island Case

On 23 April 1945, a TBM (#68688, Santee CVE-29) was hit by AA fire while attacking the airfield on Miyako-jima Island, went down trailing smoke, and exploded.

Ens. Joseph F. FLORENCE was taken prisoner. He was confined in a jail of the Japanese Army 28th Division HQ stationed in the island, and compelled to perform dangerous works such as removing the un-exploded bombs that were dropped on the Japanese airbase. He was executed by shooting on 11 July, because the staff officer in intelligence of the 28th Division Lt. Col. Fujio MUTSURO feared if the US Forces would invade the Island and they keep Ens. FLORENCE, he might inform US Forces of all defense positions of Japanese Army.

After the war, at the War Crimes Trial in Yokohama, Lt. Col. Fujio MUTSURO was sentenced to 35 years confinement, 2/Lt. Okuji TONOMURA to 9 years, Sgt. Jirou Takeuchi to 3 years, and Cpl. Kozo HATANO to 3 years.

Ishigaki-jima Island Case

On 15 April 1945, a TBM (#68767, Makassar Strait CVE-91) crashed off the coast of Ohama, Ishigaki Island, Okinawa-ken.

Lt.(jg) Vernon L. TEBO, ARM1/c Warren H. LOYD and AMM1/c Robert TUGGLE Jr. were taken prisoners by the Japanese Navy garrison on the island. On that night, Lt. TEBO and TUGGLE were beheaded, and LOYD was murdered by stabbing by many Japanese soldiers for the bayonet practices.

Two years after the war, this incident was brought to light by anonymous letters to GHQ/SCAP.

At the War Crimes Trial in Yokohama, former Japanese Navy Ishigaki Island Garrison Commander, Col. Otohiko INOUE and 45 other Japanese Navy soldiers were prosecuted, and 41 were sentenced to death. Later, by commutation, Col. INOUE, 4 officers and 2 soldiers were sentenced to death by hanging. Other 3

officers and 29 soldiers were sentenced to 5 years to life confinement.

-----Flier cases tried at Foreign Court-----

Chichi-jima Island case

7 American fliers who were taken prisoners from Aug. 1944 to Mar. 1945 near Chihijima in the Bonin Islands were executed by beheading, bayoneting and beating by the Japanese Garrison of the Islands. There were the cases of cannibalism also. The dates of execution were said to be on Aug. 7, 1944 (2 prisoners), on Feb. 2, 1945 (1 prisoner), on Feb. 23 (1 prisoner), on Mar. 5 (1 prisoner), on Mar. 20 (1 prisoner) and on Mar. 26 (1 prisoner).

After the war, at the War Crimes Trial in Guam, 26 ex Japanese Garrison personnel were found guilty, and sentenced to punishments, including death by hanging for Army Garrison commanders Maj. Gen. TACHIBANA Yoshio, Lt. Col. ITO Yoshihisa, Maj. MATOBA Matsuyu, Capt. NAKAJIMA Noboru, and Navy Garrison Commander Capt. YOSHII Sizuo.

Chiba-ken Ichinomiya-cho Case

On 15 August 1945, a Seafire off HMS Indefatigabl engaged in a dogfight with a Zeke piloted by SFPO Kaoru TAMURA scrambled out of Mobara Naval Airbase ended in a tie, and the Seafire crashed in a rice paddy in Naganuma, Satsubo, Nishi-mura, Chosei-gun (present Chonan-cho), Chiba-ken.

The British pilot Sub-Lt. Fred HOCKLAY bailed out and landed on Obuta, Higashi-mura, Chosei-gun. He was taken prisoner by civil defense guards and turned over to a training unit stationed at Higashimura Primary School. After the Emperor's broadcast on termination of the war at noon, he was taken, by two-wheeled cart, to Myoshouji temple in Iwai, Mutsuzawa-cho, where a small unit of 426 Reg. was stationed, then to Ichinomiya Primary School in Ichinomiya-cho, where 426 Inf. Reg. HQ was stationed. After dark, he was taken to the mountains south of Ichinomiya-cho urban area, and executed.

After the war, at the War Crimes Trial in Hong Kong, Staff officer of 147 Div., Maj. Noboru HIRANO who insinuated an execution of the POW, and 426 Reg. Commander, Col. Teiichi TAMURA who accepted the insinuation were found guilty, and sentenced to death by hanging. And the executer Capt. Seizo FUJINO of 426 Reg. was sentenced to 15 years confinement.

Taiwan Army case

54 American fliers in total were captured in Taiwan. And 14 of them were court marshaled by Taiwan Army and sentenced to Death. They were executed by firing on 19 June 1945.

After the war, 8 officers of Legal Section of Taiwan Army were put on trial in Shanghai, China and Capt. Kinichi Koike was put on trial in Yokohama.

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