

AMERICAN GRAVES
REGISTRATION SERVICE
SEARCH AND RECOVERY
TEAM # 9, TAIWAN
APO 945

46
Taipei City
11 June 1946

SUBJECT: Exhumation of POW's on Takao Spit

TO : Commanding Officer, American Graves Registration Service,
Shanghai, China

Exhumation of the mass grave reported by the Japanese at Nakasu, Takao City, Formosa (Japanese characters), (120 - 16' - 0"E; 22 - 37' 0"N). The personnel from this grave were reported by the Japanese to have been killed on the S.S. ENOURA while the ship was anchoring in the harbor of Takao. U.S. Carrier planes attacking the ship 9 January 1945 scored at least three direct hits. A roster of personnel killed was obtained from the Japanese.

The exhumation and removal of the bodies was made by Lt. Robert W. Crump, Lt. William D. Richards, Lt. Ben York, T/3 Wilfred P.Y. Wang and Sgt. Parrie Posey.

On the 24 May '46, we arrived in Takao and made preliminary arrangements for our work, the next day a survey excavation was made to determine the extent and exact location of the grave, also to get some idea of the condition of the bodies. On 27 May, 30 coolies were used to remove the sand from an area 18 feet wide, 75 feet long, and 15 feet deep. The grave is located on the beach and fine sand continually fell into the excavation. The first day, Pfc. Lacey O. JENKINS was identified by his identification tags and twenty (20) bodies were removed, revealing nothing but bones. Small items of clothing were found and were placed with the bodies. No shoes were found in the entire grave.

On the 28 May we returned to the grave, twenty-five (25) bodies were removed. We opened the grave enough to-day where we could see almost everything plainly. The bodies were hopelessly mixed and were laid in no certain order, but were piled on top of one another. Sand and bones were mixed in one large mass. Care was taken to separate all bodies correctly and to match identification tags and personal items with the right bodies.

On 29 May we exhumed two hundred and forty two (242) bodies. ROGER S. BENSON, O-302634 was identified by his identification tags. M.J. GREGORICH, 19016633; HOMER H. HAMMOND, 6755430; and GEORGE A. VANARSDALL O-371366 was identified in the same way. The same day, while running the sand thru screen sift boxes, one Elgin watch (gold) was found belonging to 1st Sgt. L.S. SMITH, and was engraved with the following inscription: "Presented to 1st Sgt. L. SMITH upon retirement by 31st Infantry friends". Sgt. Smith's body was not identified.

(continued on 2d page)

Subj: Exhumation of POW's on Takao Spit dtd 11 Jun 46 TO: CO, AGRS CZ
(cont'd)

30 May 1946, twenty-four (24) bodies were exhumed making the total rise to three hundred and eleven (311) bodies. On the 30th no bodies were identified.

The next five days were used to box the bodies and prepare them for shipment to Taihoku.

The grave was thoroughly dug out, 18 ft wide, 75 ft long and 15 ft. deep; every day sand which drifted and caved in was removed. All of the sand was sifted. No evidence of cremation was found.

The identification tags are with the bodies of the identified personnel, ROGER S. BENSON O-302636 is in Box # T-307, LACEY O. JENKINS is in Box #T-308, M.J. GREGORICH 19016633 in box # 309, HOMER H. HAMMOND 6755430 in box # 310 and GEORGE A. VANDARSALL O-371366 is in Box #T-311. Box number T-1 to T-306 are unknown bodies.

Bodies are now in Taihoku warehouse awaiting shipment to Graves Registration, Shanghai, China.

/s/ ROBERT W. CRUMP
ROBERT W. CRUMP
1st Lt CAV
Commanding, Team # 9

Incls: (1) Goldwatch of Sgt. Smith
(1) Statemont of CHO MAI MAI (Japanese characters) Address # 30, Nakasu, Takao

PERSONNEL MAKING EXHUMATION:

1st Lt ROBERT W. CRUMP
1st Lt. WILLIAM D. RICHARDS
2nd Lt. Ben York
T/3 WILFRED P.Y. CHANG
Sgt. BARRIE POSEY

/s/	Robert W. Crump
/s/	William D. Richards
/s/	Ben York
/s/	Wilfred P.Y. Chang
/s/	Barrie Posey

Incl. # 6
AGRS CZ CASE # 436

A TRUE COPY

/s/ Alva R. Smith
ALVA R. SMITH
Major, FA

SWORN STATEMENT

4 June 1946

My name is CHO MAI MAI (Chinese characters)

I live at # 30, Nakasu, Takao City (Japanese characters)

My occupation is barber.

On about 13 January last year, 10 Americans 50 or 60 Japanese soldiers and 5-6 Formosan coolies, took on the task of burying a great number of American POW's at NAKASU Beach, across from Takao City. The bodies (200 to 300) had come from across the harbor by rafts. The burial took about two days. Although the Japanese kept civilians away, I was in the area and know about the case. Although I was not permitted to see the burial, I went to the spot shortly afterwards, and found evidence of a large long grave. I saw no evidence of other fresh graves on the beach.

A week ago, Americans came to the burial site and exhumed the bodies. The large hole they dug was wider and longer than the original hole. From my observation of the place after the burial and now, I would say that all bodies buried, were exhumed. I know of no other American graves in the vicinity.

Signed(Chinese characters)

CHO MAI MAI

Incl. # 7

ACRS-CZ Case # 436

A TRUE COPY

/s/ Alva R. Smith

ALVA R. SMITH
Major FA

A CERTIFIED TRUE COPY

John R. Pritchard
JOHN R. PRITCHARD
CAPT., INF.

Dec 26690

WTH

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
SUPREME COMMANDER FOR THE ALLIED POWERS
MILITARY INTELLIGENCE SECTION, GENERAL STAFF
ALLIED TRANSLATOR AND INTERPRETER SECTION

NOTE: Translation Requested by Legal Section.

Received ATIS: 20 Jan 47

Description of Contents: Full translation and certification of
first six lines of list of deceased
prisoners of war.

I certify that the ROMAJI Japanese contained within the brackets is translated as follows:

RPT

"MLT. International Red Cross GENEVA JU/81, ST/9. For your reference we report that 918 American prisoners of war were killed in an attack by enemy airplanes while enroute from a POW Internment Camp in the PHILIPPINES to JAPAN by ship."

I further certify that the ROMAJI appearing throughout the body of the document are names and other information followed by the serial numbers of the individuals:

Thus, REI-PATIHATIHATYONROKUROKU, in translated C-888466.

/s/ T. Takagaki
Takeo Takagaki
2nd Lt. AUS
ATIS Translation Section