

12 September 1945

MEMO FOR AMERICAN PASSENGERS ABOARD U. S. S. NOBLE

This memo is provided to refresh your memory as to the dates and facts of our trip from the Philippines to Japan so that we may avoid confusing reporters, etc.

16-19 October: Moved by truck from Cabanatuan to Bilibid. Two (2) meals per day at Bilibid, slightly less than 1 cup Lugao and one third (1/3) cup soup. Almost daily air raids.

13 December: 1619 officers, men and civilians boarded Oryoku Maru, 7300 ton passenger vessel about 2:00 P.M. Evening meal of rice and fish with small amount of water served. All passengers in two holds, so crowded that only part could sit down. No ventilation, very hot. About twenty-five (25) died during night from suffocation.

14 December: Eight (8) air attacks from 8:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M., several men wounded by splinters, riccohets, etc. About 100 men died during night from suffocation. Some shot by guards for attempting to leave hold.

15 December: Abandoned ship after she was grounded at Olangapo. 1341 assembled in tennis court. About 125 killed by bomb in the after hold.

17-19 December: Received about 3 level mess spoons uncooked rice per day.

20 December: Half of group moved to Provincial Prison, San Fernando, Pampanga by truck.

21 December: Remainder of group moved Cine Building in San Fernando.

23 December: Fifteen (15) sick returned to Bilibid.

24 December: Boarded train 9:00 A.M. 180 to 200 men per car.

25 December: Arrived San Fernando, La Union 2:00 A.M. Slept on platform until daylight. Marched to school house. Two small meals. Less than one cup water per man. Marched to port area after dark. Slept on beach.

26 December: One rice ball per man issued 4:00 A.M. 400 men received none. Small amount of water. Remained all day on beach.

27 December: Went aboard Jap freighter 9:00 A.M. 236 on one ship, about 1100 on another. Aboard, received 1/2 cup rice and 4 oz. water or soup daily.

31 December: Arrived Takao.

6 January: All combined on one ship. 1300 men in one hold on two levels.

8 January: Thirty-four Dutch and British prisoners removed. 500 men moved to forward hold.

9 January: Air attack 9:00 A.M. Direct hit on forward hold. About 270 killed. About 250 wounded.

11-13 January: Bodies moved ashore and cremated. Moved to another ship.

14 January: Sailed in convoy.

14-29 January: Sailed to Moji, Kyushu. Weather freezing. Two meals per day, 1/3 cup rice, 3 oz. water each. Water frequently salty.

30 January: Clothing issued. Went ashore 9:00 A.M. Placed in empty theatre. Fed in P.M. Divided into four groups. Our group went by train to Fukuokua, arrived 9:00 P.M. issued overcoats. Moved to camp by truck. Fed sweet tea and sweetened Lugao upon arrival. Just over 500 men debarked at Moji, the remainder died at sea.