

MANY YANKS DIED IN 'EXPERIMENTS' BY SADISTIC JAPS

Two Liberated U. S. Doctors Reveal Cruelties Inflicted by Enemy

By **FRANK TREMAINE**

ABOARD THE HOSPITAL SHIP BENEVOLENCE, Tokyo Bay, Sept. 1 (UP)—At least 23,000 of the 30,000 American troops in the Far East at the outbreak of war have died, many of them in prison camps where bodies were cremated on spits and Japanese doctors conducted sadistic "medical experiments," two American doctors reported today.

The doctors, liberated from camps near Tokyo by American occupation troops, were Dr. Mack Leonard Gottlieb, captured on Guam in December, 1941, and Dr. Harold W. Keschner, captured on Bataan. Both are from New York.

Cruelties Listed

They listed the following among the many cruelties inflicted on prisoners:

1. Failing to treat fliers as regular prisoners and subjecting them to such tortures as jabbing splinters under their fingernails in an effort to extract military information.

2. Pouring small amounts of incense-like power into open wounds and then setting it afire, leaving the victims horribly disfigured.

3. Injecting mixtures of acid and bile drained from gall bladders into tubercular patients in an experiment to find a cure for tuberculosis.

4. Subjecting prisoners to endless mental torture, such as repeating the phrase, "Very soon all of you will be in a small box"—referring to the Japanese practice of cremating the dead and putting the ashes in a small box.

5. Cremating the bodies of Allied prisoners on spits over open fires.

Only 7000 Alive

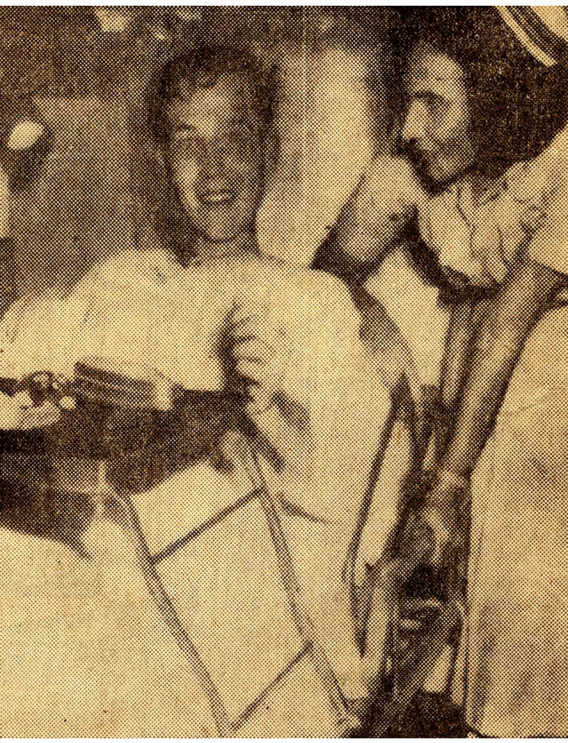
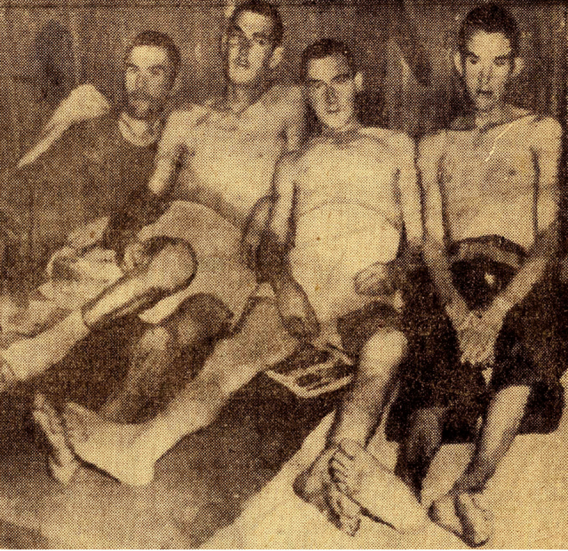
Gottlieb, who spent almost the entire war in prison camps, estimated not more than 7000 men were alive of the 30,000 who comprised the U. S. Army forces of the Far East at the start of the war. Although many of those men died on Bataan and other battlefields, he estimated "thousands" died in prison camps.

He said he was unable to estimate how many additional thousands of soldiers, sailors, Marines and airmen who arrived later in the Pacific also died in prison camps.

Got "Special Treatment"

Keschner, who was imprisoned 22 months in the Philippines and then was transferred to Japan, estimated that 5000 men alone died in Philippines camps.

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THEY SUFFERED: These four emaciated men, happy now despite their condition, were among those liberated from a Japanese prisoner of war camp. The Navy did not identify the men, nor the camp from which they were freed.

Gottlieb said American fliers got "special treatment," both from civilians who often beat and tortured them after they parachuted into Japan and by officials who tortured them for information.

He told of one B-29 pilot who civilians bound up, tied to a motorcycle and dragged through the streets. Then they tied him to a village flagpole and foully abused him. He said fliers were subjected to beatings and the "finger nail" treatment at an inquisition center near Tokyo known as the "Black Hole of Japan."

Both doctors said a lieutenant—later promoted to captain—Dr. Tokuda practiced impossible experiments on prisoners at the Shinagawa "hospital," where he was chief medical officer. The camp commander was a Col. Suzuki, who ordered barbaric burning treatments based on superstition. The burning of open wounds with incense-like powder caused infections which resulted in the deaths of two men and left others scarred for life.

Experimented With Injections

Gottlieb said Tokuda experimented with various injections. One was nicotinic acid in the

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spine, resulting in excruciating pain and vomiting. Keschner, who was forced to do laboratory work, said Tokuda "experimented particularly on tuberculosis cases."

Keschner said that as might be expected the patients became worse and developed enormous lung cavities which resulted in death much sooner than had they had the best of treatment.

Lt. Comdr. Arno Town, New York, a medical officer aboard this hospital ship, said approximately 50 percent of prisoners thus far liberated have tuberculosis.

Gottlieb said Tokuda refused to permit him to perform autopsies. Keschner, however, said he was able to perform some autopsies on the "experimental cases" because Tokuda "was so clumsy he couldn't do an autopsy without cutting off his finger."

Cremated on Spits

The doctors reported that once when the crematorium was damaged in an air raid, bodies were cremated on spits over open fires. They said tons of Red Cross supplies were stored at Shingawa but were not distributed to the prisoners. Gottlieb said he begged for two boxes of Red Cross medical supplies for seriously ill patients but was refused, even though Japanese soldiers were using 200 such boxes for beds.

Throughout the war, the doctors said, prisoners were dressed only in rags, had no blankets, toilet paper or other necessities. When the Emperor proclaimed Japan's surrender, however, tons of such equipment were released.

The Japanese refused to recognize the noncombatant status of doctors. Instead of being accorded treatment required under the rules of warfare, the doctors were sometimes treated worse than regular prisoners. When they attempted to secure food for their men or protested over inhuman treatment, the doctors themselves were beaten or placed on reduced rations.

4200 Allied Captives

Remain in Tokyo Area

YOKOHAMA, Sept. 1 (AP)—Approximately 4200 Allied prisoners of war remain to be evacuated from Japanese camps in the Tokyo-Yokohama area, Comdr. Harold Stassen reported today. More than 1490 already have been moved to hospital ships and transports in Tokyo Bay.

Stassen, Adm. William F. Halsey's staff officer in charge of evacuating the prisoners, conferred with International Red Cross representatives on progress of the liberation program.

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