

## Miyata Camp (Fukuoka No.9 Branch Camp) Memo

(Mrs. Esther Jennings' s late husband, Mr. Clinton Jennings was held)

1943.12.4 Established as Fukuoka No.20 Branch Camp in Miyata-machi, Fukuoka Prefecture. 407 Dutch (KNIL) arrived from Java.

1944.4.10 Renamed as No.12 Dispatched Camp.

1944.6 (1?) 261 POWs (mainly British) arrived from Taiwan.

1945.4.25 102 POWs (mostly officers) were transferred to Manchuria.

1945.6.20 100 British arrived.

1945.6.26 45 Americans arrived.

1945.8 Renamed as No.9 Branch Camp

1945.8.15 The war ended.

1945.9.? POWs left Miyata.

●At the end of the war, 792 men (495 Dutch, 243 British, 43 Americans and 11 Australians) were being held.

●The camp was located on a hill. There were wooden barracks for POWs, a barrack for Japanese, a mess hall, a cookhouse, an office etc. The camp was surrounded by high wooden a fence.

●There were 40 Japanese. The period of the last commandant (from May to August 1945) was called as "Terror period" . POWs were tortured by him mentally and physically.

●POWs were forced to labor in the Onoura Coal Mine ran by Kaijima Mining Company. The amount of work was moderate at first, but it gradually increased and exceeded their ability at last. Even second lieutenants forced to labor.

●POWs were tormented with hunger. The average weight of 405 Dutch was 54.5 kilograms at the end of the war.

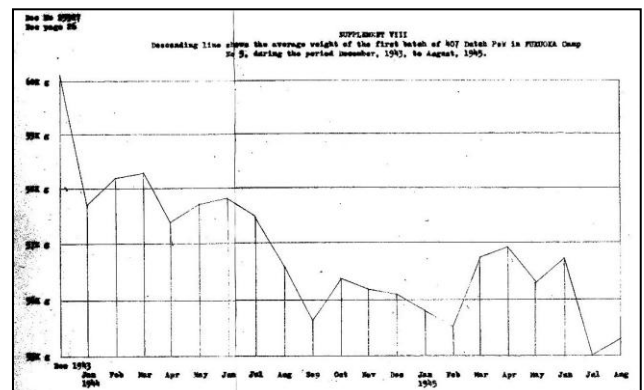
●47 men died from pneumonia, beri-beri, malnutrition etc during imprisonment.

●7 Japanese were tried as war criminals. The last commandant got a life sentence.

(Research by Taeko Sasamoto)



Miyata Camp soon after the war



Graph of the average weight of 405 Dutch  
from December 1943 to August 1945



The Stars& Stripes made with parachute cloth  
soon after the war