



E-ASIA

university of oregon libraries

<http://e-asia.uoregon.edu>

[REDACTED]

SECRET

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY North Korea

SUBJECT Conditions in POW Camps/Attitude of Communist Personnel/POW Hospitals.

PLACE ACQUIRED (BY SOURCE) [REDACTED] (b)(3)

DATE ACQUIRED (BY SOURCE) [REDACTED]

DATE (OF INFO.) August 1953

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

DATE DISTR. 31 Mar 54

NO. OF PAGES 11

NO. OF ENCLS.

SUPP. TO REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE BY THIS DATE AND BY THE U.S. GOVERNMENT. THE INFORMATION IS BEING RELEASED TO THE PUBLIC BY THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS ADMINISTRATION.

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

SOURCE [REDACTED] (b)(1) (b)(3) S

1. After the group had left for the camps east of Manpojin, our group continued to discuss details with the communists until 0230 hours, after which we were taken to some huts to sleep. The beds were hard but clean. At 0700 hours we were up and ready as we had been told to be the night before. About 0900 hours someone appeared and took us to breakfast. A major joined us here and stated that he represented General Wang 'ang Kwon, the commander of the prison camps.
2. Eventually, at 1100 hours we started for Pyoktong. It was a significant drive through narrow mountain tracks along the bank of the Yalu River and through the hills to the south of it. Unfortunately the road surface strongly resembled the bed of a stream and was covered with rock falls. The jeeps kept up a steady 25 mph regardless of ruts and boulders so each admiration of the scenery was somewhat impaired by hanging on with one hand and rubbing one's bruises with the other. We stopped for an hour for lunch at 1500 hours and achieved the luxury of a complete bath in a cold mountain stream. We arrived at a location 20 km from Pyoktong at approximately 2:00 hours.
3. We were put up here in two buildings of a school on opposite sides of a recreation yard. The buildings had obviously been specially prepared and were spotlessly clean. The meals were very much more than adequate and served by slaves in long white night gowns with gauze pads over their mouths.

The next morning (7 Aug 53) it seemed to me possibly that we had arrived here ahead of our expected time and that Chang was fighting a delaying action. After a lot of trouble I got him to fall asleep at 1000 hours which he insisted was a preliminary one. He opened with a long speech about how tired

[REDACTED] (b)(3) (4)

SECRET

everyone must be after so long and trying a journey and saying that today we must have a good rest, go for a walk and have a bath in the river. I said that we were naturally most anxious to get on with our work in view of the fact that camps were already being emptied, and asked once more for a distribution list of prisoners, a sketch map of camp locations and their distances from here and a program of repatriation. I am now convinced that no answers were forthcoming to questions because PW Command had told their KC Team nothing and Chang Ts was afraid to ask. I said that we would unwillingly agree to a day of rest today provided that he would engage to devote some part of this day of rest to getting the required information from PW Command so that we could get started early the next day. Li Chi Tsai then said they would try and arrange a briefing session for the whole group by PW Command first thing in the morning. I did not even know how far this place was from the camp or in what direction they were. Knowing Orientals fairly well I fully expected this mode of procedure but that did not ease everyone's feeling of frustration. I also know that there was absolutely nothing one can do to hurry an Oriental except keep on gently nibbling at him until he unexpectedly caves in and does something. At this meeting we proposed the following schedule:

- a. Call no military authorities.
 - b. Meet POW Camp Committee, to discuss what could be done for them.
 - c. Walk freely through camp and talk to individual prisoners.
 - d. Make arrangements for distribution of Red Cross gifts.
 - e. Inspection of camp.
 - f. Interview prisoners who desired to talk to Red Cross personnel.
 - g. Doctors of our group to discuss health and hygiene with camp doctors.
5. We also stated that we would like to observe the conditions of road and rail transport accommodations to be used. Finally we stated that we felt the speedy repatriation the first consideration and did not want anything to interfere with it.
 6. It was agreed that (a) and (b) above could be carried out, but as to (c) we were told it would delay the repatriation and therefore the authorities would call out selected POW for interviews. (d) was agreed to substantially, as was (e) with the stipulation that the inspection would have to be under guidance. As to (f) it was stated that any POW wanting to speak especially to us would have to seek authority through the Camp Commander. (g) was agreed to.
 7. The wording of the operating agreement under which our whole mission was conducted was such that we could not demand that our proposal be carried out completely. One thing was quite evident and that was that we would not be permitted to move through the camps freely.
 8. At lunch time we received individual invitations from General Wang Yong Kwon to a banquet here in the evening at 1900 hour. All were warned to spruce themselves up as much as possible and to remember that to Chinese the word wine means 8) over proof spirit with much the same effect as a depth charge. Whether these invitations were result of our agitation this morning or whether they were already on the way I didn't know. I had so far been impressed by three things:

~~SECRET~~

(b)(3)

- 3 -

- a. The absence of restrictions, which were limited to soldiers with automatic rifles, called security guards.
 - b. The infinite trouble that is being taken for our comfort. I believe that quite a high proportion of this trouble is genuine and not eyewash.
 - c. The attitude of individual members of the group who remain patient and cheerful in spite of frustration and who carry out the instructions of a foreigner smoothly, quickly, and without any outward sign of alarm, despondency or revolt.
9. The banquet consisted of our usual meal, but was presided over by Wang who made a short speech of welcome. He struck me as a nasty type with particularly bad manners. Dinner went on for only about an hour and a half in stifling heat. The food was laid out on plates and grabbed for, a somewhat difficult operation as the table was eight feet wide and I was in a corner. There was no attempt at passing anything and no attempt to force liquor on us. The General ate very sparingly, did not touch meat, drank hardly anything, but smoked continuously throughout the meal. He did not speak throughout the meal. The party was very curtly dismissed and told to go to the pictures, which were put on in the open air and consisted of two films, one showing the Korean people's delegation to China in 1952 and the other the arrival and entertainment of the various provincial delegations ranging from Tibet to East Manchuria at the Unity of China celebrations last year. An interpreter sat by me and breathed continuously into my ear a mixture of 10 per cent running commentary and 90 per cent garlic.
10. On 8 Aug 53 General Wang addressed all members of the team. This consisted of a statement of what had been done for prisoners. Whether true or not could only be verified by observation and inquiry among prisoners. His remarks appeared to apply to Non-Koreans. At the end I asked if I might ask some questions but was told very abruptly that the meeting was closed and that I should submit any questions through Chang.
11. Wang told us the number of prisoners which had been removed from camps Nos. 1, 4, and 5. He did not refer to Camp 6 (Korean). He asked us to produce through Chang, particulars of how we proposed to divide up groups giving lists of names and nationalities, also of how we suggested carrying out our duties in camps, also our suggested distribution of supplies. I thought aloud of Chang and asked him if it was his intention that we should live here permanently and visit camps from day to day or that sub-teams should live and work in camps? Did the General's statement apply equally to Non-Koreans and Koreans? He once more said he would ask the military authorities. We then went away to work out answers to the General's questions. They had to be translated into Chinese and Korean, submitted to the military authorities, considered by them, arrangements made for transport, camp authorities warned etc., all affording unlimited opportunities for delay. I felt thoroughly disheartened once more but did not see what steps, if any, we could take to hasten matters.
12. Chang called a meeting at 1430 hours. The meeting went on for two and a half hours and each point was argued more than thoroughly. It was clear that they were quite ready and would in fact be pleased to sit there and chatter over every point until all prisoners had left. They

~~SECRET~~

(b)(3)

clearly had a prearranged plan and in the end I agreed to it as I was afraid that if all transport, escort, accommodations and food arrangements had to be altered it might be days before we really got started. It must be admitted that in this extremely difficult country, mountainous, and virtually roadless, even a small change of plan was very difficult for them to arrange. We arranged to start for Camp No 1 (Changsong) (100 Km) at 0900 hours on 9th August. At 2145 hours I had a message from Corus indicating that the position in his area was exactly similar. At 2200 hours Chang told me that evacuation of Camp No 1 was starting tomorrow and suggesting an earlier start (0700 hours) to which I gladly agreed.

13. On 9 Aug 53 we left exactly on time - for the first time - in nine jeeps and five trucks. It was raining hard and the drive was even more hair raising than the one from Man'po to Pynktong as the track was very slippery as well as being more like watercourses than a road anyway. We arrived at Camp No 1 at 1100 hours and were put up in a small Korean village the huts of which had been papered with newspaper for our benefit. We hoped that the bugs wouldn't have time to eat through the paper before we left.
14. Chang called meeting at two and informed us that the first group had been held up till five for us to see them before they started. We went up to camp (400) and were received by the commander who was cooperative. I asked to see the representative prisoners who were immediately forthcoming and no restriction was placed in the way of talking to them. They consisted of 290 US and 290 British all Corporals or below. They were very delighted to see us as there was little time before they started I asked for them to be allowed to take an appropriate number of boxes of gifts and cases of cigarettes and to distribute them enroute. This was agreed to. The convoy consisted of 50 trucks and an ambulance, allowing roughly 16 prisoners to a truck. They went off in very good heart in spite of pouring rain. Our suspicion that Li Ch. Tai was a senior officer and had nothing whatever to do with the Red Cross was confirmed by the attitude shown toward him by the camp officers which is one of respect and deference. He is clearly responsible for all details of our movements, seems to give orders to the escort, and acts like a dose of chloroform on Chang's verbal diarrhoea when he has had enough of it. I only wish he would do it sooner and sooner. As we were here at 1100 hours there was no reason why the convoy should have been held up till 1700 hours.
15. On 10 Aug 53 breakfast appeared at 0900 hour instead of 0800 hours. At 0915 hours I asked Chang for his proposals for the day; at 1015 hour he told me he would let me know when he had made a decision. I sent a message back that we were getting very impatient and would be please hasten. At 1045 hours he called a meeting. At the meeting he said we would be received by the camp military authority as soon as transportation arrived. I then said "Mr Chairman, think we are wasting a lot of time. It is now eight days since we left Panmunjon, and so far we have only been allowed to achieve exactly one hours work among prisoners. The best part of another day has now been wasted. We have a duty to the prisoners and we feel we are being prevented from doing it. If the present delay is due to transportation difficulties we are perfectly prepared to walk to and from the camp. We are grateful for yesterday's opportunity to see the first group start from Camp No 1. Would it be possible in future for us to be informed overnight of the suggested program for the following day? This drew the usual shower about misunderstanding the awful difficulties that they are working under, and flat disagreement that we are being in anyway obstructed. The suggestion about walking led to a long childish explanation of how that would waste even more time. I answered "We accept the Chairman's statement and are sorry if there has been any misunderstanding. You know how we are feeling and I hope that from now on our work may be continuous".

16. We then went to the camp and were addressed by the CO with the same old talk about the humanitarian principles of the Korean People's Army and the Chinese People's Volunteers. He then asked Chang, what he wanted to do, and Chang asked him what he wanted to do. The ball being once more passed to Chang; he passed it to me and I told him exactly what we wanted to do for the "upteenth" time. The CO said right out, "Meet POW Club representatives this afternoon at 1430 hours and I will think about the rest. I am now called away by other duties, anything more you want to know ask through your Chairman". We returned to the billets for lunch by 1215 hours.
17. A remark committed to paper by me some days earlier was a mistake. It was to the effect that repatriation was the first consideration and that nothing we do should interfere with that. It unfortunately gave them a useful reply to almost any request i.e. that it would interfere with the work of repatriation if we were to do so and so.
18. At 1430 hours when transport and everyone was ready Chang called another meeting and stated that the coming meeting must be conducted in an orderly manner and therefore there must be three way translations of every word uttered. We fought this nonsense for an hour and a half with all the rest of the party hanging about outside and the POW repatriates waiting. I protested that we were being denied free access to the prisoners. Both sides referred freely to the armistice agreement which unfortunately did not cover my contention as it referred only to appropriate meetings. I have no doubt that the agreement following the letter of the agreement that day whereby, was from the spirit of it. The chairman's main point was that this was a joint team and that therefore everyone in it had a right to know what was going on and therefore three way translations were necessary. This was unfortunately true though it impeded any work we were to be permitted to do in a quite impossible and entirely unnecessary manner. It was now confirmed that conditions in this camp at any rate were roughly as advertised by General Wang and there does not appear to be any urgent need of Red Cross services. This evening we attended a performance by bands and soloists of the Chinese Voluntary Art Group in the camp theatre. It was an excellent and interesting show of Chinese orchestral music and traditional dances from several different parts of China. We were quite comfortable in Korean village houses now that it had stopped raining. Some newspapers had been snatched with bed bugs. A barber and laundry had been provided and we had been promised a bath tomorrow. Food was also plentiful but I was quite sure they were giving us the best they could.
19. On 11 Aug 53 Chang called a meeting at 1240 hours which went on to 1115 hours. He said that we would distribute gift articles this morning. He then went off into a long complaint about things which I was alleged to have said at the meeting yesterday which were construed as "insulting remarks to the camp authorities and to the JNCT". All were attributable to faulty interpretation, whether deliberate or not I am unable to say. I explained exactly what I had actually said. These restrictions went on interminably but we parted friends at 1115 hours. I said no and they agreed that as it would be some time before we reached Camps 2 and 4 and the stores which are already there should be distributed by the camp authorities on a scale of one box of gift articles per 20 prisoners and two cartons of cigarettes per prisoner. At 1200 hours we went to the camp where the stores were handed over in bulk to the prisoner representatives after one or two packages had been checked. So apart from having nobody to the first group to leave the camp these few representatives are the only POWs whom we have

seen or who have seen us. It should be understood in all reports that our information was obtained from POW representatives NOT individual POWs. We did not know if these representatives had been briefed for the meeting or if they were in good standing with the camp authorities and were therefore not altogether trustworthy. They were stated to have been elected by the other prisoners by ballot. In any case they were unlikely at this stage in the proceedings to say anything in an open meeting which would jeopardize their chances of early repatriation.

20. A Korean steam bath had been provided for this afternoon but only four members were brave enough to try it. The remainder preferred a bath in the adjacent river.
21. On 12 Aug 53 at 0930 hours Chang told me transport would take us to inspect the camp at 1030 hours. At 1115 hours transport appeared. Prisoners had been turned out of the huts on to a small parade ground but we were swept past them. Difficulties involved with our interpreters may be judged from the following questions. "There were 1400 prisoners in this camp. Were they all in these 16 huts?" Answer, after passing through six transitional stages "Owing to the humanitarian principles of the Korean Peoples Army and the Chinese Peoples Volunteers the huts are tiled". Question, repeated "Can we see the rest of the living quarters?" Answer, "It is raining hard and nearly one o'clock, we will not see the other part of the camp".
22. It was in fact pouring throughout the day. When we had seen the part of the camp we were allowed to, and the hospital, I asked if there were a cemetery. Answer, "I am to show you the company lines and the hospital, the inspection is finished". It was asking a good deal of us to take this sort of thing from a scruffy little Chinese subaltern but that was what we are constantly having to put up with.
23. At my suggestion after standing out in the rain for some time the prisoners were allowed to return to their huts. Remainder of the day was spent wet and shivering in our mud huts. Once more I must emphasize that we were not able to check anything with prisoners and that there had been very ample time for preparation for our inspection of a limited part of the camp.
24. The following is what we noted at Camp No 1 (Changsong):
- Camp No 1 Changsong, contained 1427 British and US prisoners all corporals or below.
 - Two companies (approximately 400) housed in 15 wattle and daub tiled huts. No wire anywhere but plenty of sentry posts. Huts subdivided roughly into cubes 9 x 9 x 9 with six men in each in double decker bunks with bamboo frame work supporting thick straw matting. Men sleep, live and eat in these rooms. Some huts contain, at intervals, the cook house in slightly larger rooms, separate food preparation room and gallery. Cooking was mainly on covered coppers over wood fires. Ovens provided outside under open shed. Cools, cook houses and utensils were clean enough. Cooks, cook houses and strong prisoners. Food under preparation looked clean, adequate, and about the standard of a fairly good non regular unit.

All space in and around the lines was planted with vegetables grown from seed supplied by the POW Command and doing very well, especially tomatoes. A large board showed the regulations for preserving order signed by Yang Kwon. I was able to read these through quickly and they seemed to me reasonable and the punishments not excessive except perhaps those relating to escape, and assisting to escape.

8. In addition to the cook house there was a reading room for each company in one of the living huts. There were two small rooms containing a few English books or rather more English translations of Russian books. There was also a supply of Communist Daily Papers among which I noticed, People World, Daily Worker, Cross Roads, and National Guardian, and many glossy picture papers published in English in the USSR. A bulletin board in the lines showed the sports program for the month which looked very adequate. Adjacent to the lines each company had a large hut for a club. The club contained a pingpong table, three Chinese billiard tables and numerous small tables for other games. Leading off the large room was a smaller one called a library but roughly approximating to the reading room described above. The library also contained the company sports store. Both POW representatives and the camp authorities laid much stress on the manner in which the competitive spirit had been encouraged and games of all sorts provided to keep prisoners occupied and healthy. We were not permitted to speak to any prisoners but their appearance in the mess most certainly gave no impression of hunger or ill health. There were plenty of grounds for association football, volley ball, net ball, etc.

9. The lines and huts were remarkably clean. Plenty of litter receptacles were provided and used. Several wells were in the line for water. The hospital was in what appeared to be a temple on the hillside about a quarter mile from the lines. The medical ward had 25 beds, the surgical ward 10 beds, the post operational ward two beds, and isolation ward two beds. The nurses office contained specimen nurses making out specimen temperature chart. There was a specimen pharmacy with specimen pharmacist making specimen pills and specimen laboratory with specimen laboratory assistant gazing into a microscope. The only thing missing was one or two specimen patients. I have never seen a more glaring example of inspection "eye wash" but it seemed an adequate establishment for its job for all that. Doctor stated that there had been very few patients, due to the health induced by good food and an adequate sports program, but especially since chances of repatriation grew more real. I see no reason to doubt his statement. We saw no indication of POW markings against air attack.

25. 13 Aug 53 was a blank day, except for the doctors who conferred with the camp doctor in the forenoon. They reported as follows:

On Thursday, 13 Aug 53 from 1030 hours to 1215 hours, the 10 doctors of the JWC (five Danes, one South Korean and four Chinese) assembled in conference with the three camp doctors and the camp authorities. Questions from our side about water supply, sanitation measures, prophylactic vaccinations, epidemic diseases in camp, general health of prisoners, facilities

for medical and surgical examination and treatment were answered courteously and freely.

1. The water supply was good, from several deep, stone-set wells protected against seepage by large concrete encasements and covers. Special buckets were used for drawing water from the wells. The water was examined bacteriologically at regular intervals and if the tests were unsatisfactory, the wells were closed temporarily. In addition, the prisoners had been told to boil all water to be used for drinking. We inspected the wells and found them according to description. One well was closed at the time.
2. One or more times yearly, all prisoners were vaccinated against small-pox, typhoid, paratyphoid, cholera, dysentery and plague. There had been no outbreak of epidemic disease in the camp at any time.
3. There had been no new cases of tuberculosis reported in the camp but a few old cases had flared-up. These were detected early and the patients isolated at once.
4. Regulations for kitchen and latrine personnel were shown to us and seemed sensible and sufficient. We inspected the kitchen and found it and the cooking utensils clean. The viands were protected against flies by gauze netting. There were covered containers for garbage disposal.
5. Latrines of common field type were clean and orderly. Lime was used generously. All latrines were located at adequate distances from the kitchens and water supplies. Camp authorities stated that both kitchen and latrine areas were sprayed regularly with DDT and a similar Chinese Product No 666. Prisoner interest in sanitation was encouraged by weekly sanitation contests between companies and by seasonal sanitation drives for which awards were given both on the group and camp levels.
6. Pools of stagnant water in and around the camp areas were drained and filled in order to prevent the breeding of mosquitoes.
7. All weeds were removed for a distance of 150 meters from the living quarters to prevent the harboring of mosquitoes, mites and other insects.
8. The camp hospital of 34 beds was inspected together with Brigadier Jerran. We were told that it had been established at the same time as the camp. Minor surgery including appendectomy was performed there. The operating room seemed adequately furnished for this. Major surgery and severe medical cases were transferred to the general camp hospital at Pyklong.
9. Three case histories from the camp hospital medical records were shown to us. The treatment in each instance appeared to be competent and up-to-date, e.g. streptomycin and para-aminosalicylic-acid treatment for acute tubercular pneumonia. A score of letters from grateful patients were also shown to us.

10. It was stated that no patients had died from disease in this camp and that the general sick-rate among the prisoners had been 7.6 percent. We received the impression that everything possible had been done to prevent disease among the prisoners and to treat the sick adequately.
26. On 14 Aug 53 we were informed at 0730 hours that we were moving to Camp 3 at 1000 hours. In spite of repeated requests to be informed overnight of the following day's program this request was never granted. I am inclined to think that it was not Chang's fault but that he has to do exactly what the military authorities tell him and they do not tell him anything till the last possible moment. I suspect that Li knows but that he also does not tell Chang.
27. On the way we passed the compounds of Camp No 1 which we had not been allowed to see. We noted that although they had been empty for some days they appeared to be far below the standard of the camps we were shown. Camp No 3 was 17 Km in a general direction south of Camp No 1. It was in a gorge where a small river ran under a bridge into what looked like a fair sized lake. Name of the place is believed to be Chumchang. We had only very small maps and it is extremely difficult to judge even general direction on these twisty mountain tracks, frequently with no sun.
28. 15 Aug 53 we visited Camp No 3 (Chumchang). The commander here was named Hung Sun. A meeting was called at which Chang Ik, the Red Cross Representative of the Democratic Peoples' Republic of Korea delivered a long speech. He stated that the POW movement from south to north Korea was being conducted in a most barbarous fashion, the ships being grossly overcrowded, that trucks were loaded with 60 men and no sanitary facilities were provided. He also stated that the southern team was being subjected to indignities.
29. Later, the same day, we were told that camp was due to be evacuated at 0900 hours the next morning. We saw the prisoners having a farewell dinner. This camp contained 892 US men, 21 British, 11 Canadian. It was located in a beautiful site on the shore of a lake surrounded by mountains about 80 Km from Kyobong but other areas (five in all) of this camp were situated within a radius of 34 Km.
30. The second company of this camp held about 200 men in tiled wattle and dash huts in poor repair. These were scattered irregularly along the shore of the lake so from the air they might be taken for a normal hillside village. Huts were sub-divided as in Camp 1 but had smaller rooms and only two or three men per room in single beds. Each man had a mosquito net. There were no wire enclosures. The roads ran straight through the camp. A sanitary dispensary was shown us. The club room was fly proof. The prisoners in this camp being mostly US, sports were those popular in the US. We were told that religious services were dependent on some one being willing to lead them. No air markings were evident, but it was stated that there were some and sirens were used if needed.
31. On 16 August 1953 the 10 Doctors and the Joint NC team met with the one on duty at this camp, and saw the hospital. It contained 18 beds and was quite similar to one at Camp No 1. Preventative measures were said to be the same also. Malaria is endemic in this area so all beds were equipped with mosquito nets and Atabrine (10 cgs) was given each man daily from June through September. No new cases had broken out in the camp. The only illness experienced had been when some men drank unboiled water. No patients had died at camp. The sick rate among POW had been 8.2 per cent.

32. Prison Camp No 2 (Pinchault) was located about 40 Km from Pyongyang. It had 470 PWs, mostly Americans, and included officers up to the rank of lieutenant colonel.
33. Prisoners were housed in huts or buildings like schools. The rooms had double deck bunks with 18 prisoners in rooms 24' x 14' x 10'. Each room had a wood stove for heating.
34. Before June 1951 medical help and supplies were inadequate but since, the PWs reported, they had been plentiful and their services excellent. The men enjoyed good health after diarrhea and dysentery had been eliminated by education in water precautions. The only epidemic had been a slight one of flu.
35. This camp had a regimental chaplain who after some initial difficulties held services on Sundays. Those PWs who said to us that the discipline was fairly administered and punishment was not overly severe.
36. On 18 Aug 53 we were advised that the evacuation of the area was completed and were asked what we would like to do. We proposed a visit to the General Hospital for the Pyongyang area. This was agreed to so on the 19th we did see the hospital.
37. It was in huts perched on the side of a lake 200 to 300 feet up on the hill. Wards were concentrated in a small area on a steep incline with high crumbly steps of stone and slippery mud banks between them. There were three wards of 20 beds each in three different huts, each divided into cubicles containing two beds. There were also several other smaller wards.
38. The x-ray, pharmacy, dental laboratory, operating room, etc. were scattered around the ward area. They were clean and appeared adequate for their purpose. In each department we were subjected to identical speeches several different times. They were substantially as follows:
- "This department is so well equipped with instruments and drugs made in China that we never have had any trouble. All operations have been successful and we never have lost a patient. All POW have always expressed their appreciation either orally or by letter". As we saw no mortuary, we felt possibly they had lost no patients. The doctors of our team thought the equipment appeared in such good condition it could not have been in use very long. The dental equipment was of German origin. No statistics were given and questions were not encouraged.
39. Finally we were then taken to a hut called the Exhibition room expecting to see crime exhibits in jars. It had, however, a red banner outside proclaiming an exhibition of POW welfare. It contained some 30 large diagrams of various welfare projects, for instance, number and type of medical instruments issued, organization of PW committees, athletic records, number and type of inoculations, numbers attending religious services etc. The latter provided the only spark of humor of the day. It had four headings Protestant, Catholic, Islam, and St Patrick's Day which was described as a "religious custom of the Irish people". The exhibition also contained a large display of photographs of POW activities and a selection of letters of appreciation from POWs one of which was signed -- "Member of the Permanent Peace Committee". He was one of the PW representatives produced for us at Camp 1. It is difficult to avoid the conclusion that this show

SECRET

(b)(3)

- 11 -

was put on for our benefit and ours alone. All the exhibits were new, all were in English only, as were the various direction signs. Who else could ever have attended it? Cinema and still cameras were such in evidence while we were being herded round and every detail of every display explained in Korean, English, and Chinese. There was a PW air marking on a flat topped roof in the town. It is possible that this afforded protection also to Headquarters, PW command, and the inhabited portion of the town.

40. I must admit that considering the handicaps under which they worked I felt the chairman and our opposites on the team tried to do all they could for our comfort. The food our party had was generally good - but very monotonous. The accommodations were clean considering the country we were in.
41. Having accomplished all we could our return to Wampojin was delayed two days owing to heavy rains that had caused slides, washed out bridges and otherwise made the trail, unusable. Finally we did get to Wampojin on 23 Aug 53 about 1700 hours. The other group had been waiting there for two days. We left shortly after arriving and reached Kaseong at 1100 hours the next morning.

- e n d -

(b)(3)

SECRET