Retribution

Tortures Listed by Prisoners

By CHARLES A. GRUMICH

Singapore, Sept. 7 (AP).—Administrative personnel among the newly liberated prisoners of war here are completing exhaustive dossiers from which the Allies may prosecute Japanese perpetrators of almost unbelievable physical cruelties and atrocities.

A long lost of crimes, including brutal killings, are being documented with names and dates as an authentic record against the individual Japanese.

While two Japanese soldiers man the sentrybox at the gates giving unanswered salutes to passersby, the administrators inside the Sime Road internment camp prepare the evidence, chiefly concerning an alleged spy plot by pisonehs in Changi jail, and Japanese retaliations.

Two-Year Inquisition

The Japanese inquisition started Oct. 10, 1943, when 57 prisoners of war were segregated. The trial ended last Aug. 30 when the Japanese knew their end was near.

The Japanese accused the prisoners of maintaining a spy organization inside the Changi walls to stir Malaya residents to sabotage and "anti-Japanese feeling." They charged the alleged spy ring had financial backing from outsied and communicated by radio-telephonic instruments. The released prisoners say the charges were false, but that they actually did obtain outside funds to supplement the Japanese starvation diet with black market purchases.

Chief among the inhuman Japanese at the Sime Road prison were a civilian name Tominaga, a retired Japanese officer and his subordinate named Kobyashi.

Screams came from the torture chambers during "interrogations" as a result of beatings with iron bars, brass rods, bamboo sticks, wet knotted hopes, belts with buckles and pistol butts. These were part of the ordinary punishment, as distinguished from special brutalities.

Victims Strung Up

Victims sometimes were strung up or forced to kneel on sharp pieces of wood or iron. One who died had been interrogated and beaten intermittently for more than 144 hours. There were water tortures and burnings with cigarets on the most sensitive parts of the body, according to documented evidence. Some Asiatics were soaked in gasoline and burned as human torches. There also was a special shock disintegration of the nerves and physique.

The Japanese used their victims for ju-jitsu practice. Some were advised to write farewell letters and all arrangements were made for their executions. Then it was called off and threats were made against their families. One committed suicide, but was subjected to further interrogation before dying.

Among the 57 prisoners of war segregated for nearly two years, 12 died of sickness resulting directly from ill treatment and one was executed.

Three others died in solitary confinement without medical attention.

212-826-828

149
WAR
PACIFIC
1941
JAPAN
ATROCITIES
PRISONERS