

Henry (Pappy) Strickland Yates Notes (POW Camp Orders, 5/2/1944)

May 2, 1944

Macassar Prisoner of War Camp

TO ALL HANDS

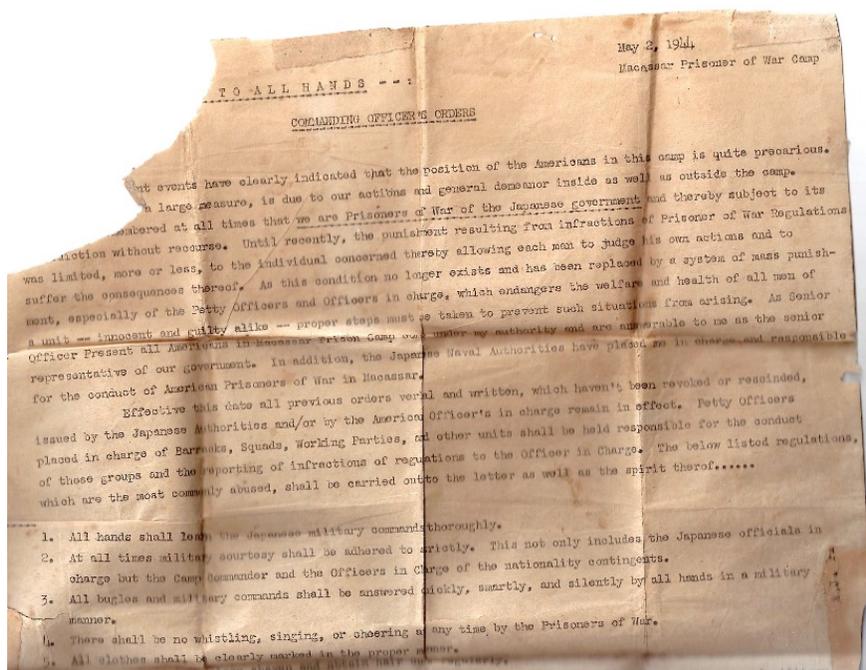
COMMANDING OFFICER'S ORDERS

????? events have recently indicated that the position of the Americans in this camp is quite precarious. ????? a large measure, is due to our actions and general demeanor inside as well as outside the camp. ????? remembered at all times that we are Prisoners of War of the Japanese government and thereby subject to its ????? without recourse. Until recently, the punishment resulting from infractions of Prisoner of War Regulations was limited, more or less, to the individual concerned thereby allowing each man to judge his own actions and to suffer the consequences thereof. As this condition no longer exists and has been replaced by a system of mass punishment, especially of the Petty Officers and Officers in charge, which endangers the welfare and health of all men of a unit - - innocent and guilty alike - - proper steps must be taken to prevent such situations from arising. As Senior Officer Present all Americans in Macassar Prison Camp come under my authority and are answerable to me as the senior representative of our government. In addition, the Japanese Naval Authorities have placed me in charge and responsible for the conduct of American Prisoners of War in Macassar.

Effective this date, all previous orders verbal and written, which haven't been revoked or rescinded, issued by the Japanese Authorities and/or by the American Officer's in charge remain in effect. Petty Officers placed in charge of Barracks, Squads, Working Parties, and other units shall be held responsible for the conduct of those groups and the reporting of infractions of regulations to the Officer in Charge. The below listed regulations, which are the most commonly abused, shall be carried out to the letter as well as the spirit thereof.....

1. All hands shall learn the Japanese military commands thoroughly.
2. At all times military courtesy shall be adhered to strictly. This not only includes the Japanese officials in charge, but the Camp Commander and the Officers in Charge of the nationality contingents.
3. All bugles and military commands shall be answered quickly, smartly, and silently by all hands in a military manner.
4. There shall be no whistling, singing, or cheering at any time by the Prisoners of War.

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5. All clothes shall be clearly marked in the proper manner.
6. All hands will keep clean shaven and obtain hair cuts regularly.
7. Squad leaders shall memorize the names of the men in their squads and are responsible for the general military conduct of their squads.
8. All requests, complaints, etc. will be written out and handed to the Barracks Chiefs or Unit Leader to be turned over to the Officer in Charge.

Working Parties :

1. Commands to "fall in", "attention", "right dress", etc. shall be answered quickly and smartly.
2. The Petty Officer in charge of a Working Party shall have complete control (under the Japanese guard) and his orders shall be followed quickly without question.
3. There shall be no contact of any sort or manner with the native inhabitants. Looting, stealing, trading, buying and selling, and any other practices liable to give cause for punishment are strictly forbidden.
4. Long trousers shall not be worn on Working Parties without express permission from the Officer in Charge.
5. Working Parties working inside camp shall carry out their assigned duties as ordered. There shall be no lingering, loafing or soldiering in the barracks.
6. There shall be no exchanging or "ganti-ing" of positions on Working Parties, without the expressed permission of the officer in charge, as a complete and accurate record must be kept. The assigning of positions on Working Parties shall be done as fairly as is possible in accordance with the orders of the Officer in Charge.

Barracks and Compound :

1. Barracks Chiefs shall have complete control and authority over the conduct of the men in their barracks as laid down by "Duties of Chiefs of Barracks".
2. There shall be no fires, electric plates, or heating appertenances of any type operated at any place in the Camp except by the authorized Galley Staff.
3. The senior man of each cubicle shall be held responsible for its cleanliness and upkeep.

/s/ A. J. Fisher

Officer in Charge American

