

## Excerpt from Korean War Atrocities Report

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Mr. POTTER, from the Committee on Government Operations, submitted the following report made through its permanent subcommittee on investigations by its subcommittee on Korean War atrocities

### INTRODUCTION

On June 25, 1950, the North Korean Peoples' Army, without warning, attacked the Free Republic of South Korea.

During the ensuing 3 years of warfare, the Communist enemy committed a series of war crimes against American and United Nations personnel which constituted one of the most heinous and barbaric epochs of recorded history. When the American people became aware war atrocities had been committed against American troops, thousands of letters were sent to Members of Congress by parents, wives, and relatives of servicemen, requesting an immediate investigation.

Accordingly, on October 6, 1953, Senator Joseph R. McCarthy, chairman of the Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, appointed a special subcommittee, chaired by Senator Charles E. Potter, to inquire into the nature and extent of Communist war crimes committed in Korea.

The purpose of the investigation was to bring to the attention of the world in general and to the American people in particular, the , type of vicious and barbaric enemy we have been fighting in Korea, to expose their horrible acts committed against our troops, and to foster appropriate legislation....

### II. TYPES OF WAR ATROCITIES COMMITTED AGAINST AMERICAN PRISONERS

The evidence before the subcommittee conclusively proves that American prisoners of war who were not deliberately murdered at the time of capture or shortly after capture, were beaten, wounded, starved, and tortured; molested, displayed, and humiliated before the civilian populace and/or forced to march long distances without benefit of adequate food, water, shelter, clothing, or medical care to Communist prison camps, and there to experience further acts of human indignities.

Communist massacres and the wholesale extermination of their victims is a calculated part of Communist psychological warfare. The atrocities perpetrated in Korea against the United Nations troops by Chinese and North Korean Communists are not unique in Communist history, nor can they be explained away on the grounds that inhumanity is often associated with so-called civilized warfare....

### III. SHOOTINGS AND KILLINGS OF AMERICAN PRISONERS OF WAR SHORTLY AFTER CAPTURE

The following cases presented by the subcommittee represent but a few of numerous similar atrocities committed by the North Korean and Chinese Communist armies:

#### (C) TAEJON MASSACRE

On September 27, 1950, approximately 60 American prisoners who had been confined in Taejon prison were taken into the prison yard in groups of 14, with their hands wired together. These men were forced to sit hunched in hastily dug ditches and then were shot by North Korean troops at point blank range, with American M-1 rifles, using armor-piercing ammunition. Of the 2 seriously wounded survivors, only 1 bed to recount the gruesome details. Unnumbered civilians estimated at between 5,000 and 7,000, as well as soldiers of the Republic of Korea, were also slaughtered at Taejon between September 23 and September 27, 1950."

Sgt. Carey H. Weinel, formerly with the 23d Infantry Regiment, 2d Division, Korea, and the sole survivor of the infamous Taejon massacre, testified:

Sergeant WEINEL.. \* \* \* Toward the last they was in a hurry to leave Taejon, to evacuate Taejon, so they took approximately the last three groups pretty close together. I witnessed the group right in front of me shot \* \*. After they was shot we was taken to the ditch and sat down In the ditch and shot.

Senator POTTER. What happened to you when you were shot?

Sergeant WEINEL. \* \* \* I leaned over against the next man, pretending I was done for \* \* \*. In firing, they hlt my hand \* \* \*.

Senator POTTER. HOW were YOU sitting in the ditch?

Sergeant WEINEL. \* \* \* They was aiming at my head. I have a scar on my neck, 1 on my collarbone, and another 1 hit my hand \* \* \*. They hit me 3 times.

Senator POTTER. And you played dead?

Sergeant WEINEL. Yes, sir. After they thought everybody was dead, they started burying us \* \* \* I came close to getting panicky about that time, but somehow or other I figured as long as I had some breath there was hope \* \* \*

Senator POTTER. In other words, you were buried alive?

Sergeant WEINEL. That is right, sir.

Sergeant WEINEL. I might add in that whole group that I was with, there was not a man that begged for mercy and there was not a man that cracked under the deal.

Mr. O'DONNELL. \* \* \* Sergeant, how long were you buried alive?

Sergeant WEINEL. That is hard to say, sir. As I say, I was shot around 5 o'clock in the morning, and I stayed in the ditch until that evening, until what time it was dark. I would say approximately 8 hours, 8 or 7 hours. ...

## **V. TREATMENT IN COMMUNIST PRISON CAMPS**

Evidence before this subcommittee indicated that the inhuman treatment given American prisoners in Communist prisoners-of-war camps was a sequel to the brutalities and indignities. suffered by the prisoners on death marches. The prisoners at these camps were survivors of marches and were necessarily in poor physical condition.

The deliberate plan of savage and barbaric handling of these men was a continuation of the policy which existed on all the marches, and violated virtually every provision of the Geneva Convention of 1929. They were denied adequate nourishment, water, clothing, and shelter. Not only were they denied medical care but they were subjected to experimental monkey-gland operations. Housing conditions were horrible, resulting in widespread disease.

The prisoners were not permitted to practice their religion and on numerous occasions were beaten, humiliated, and punished. Political questioning and forced Communist indoctrination was constant, and the men were subjected to physical abuse and other punishment when they refused to be receptive to the Communist propaganda. The American newspapers available for reading purposes were the Daily Worker published in New York and the People's Daily World published in San Francisco, copies of which were in the prisoner-of-war camps within 2 months after the date of publication. The Communists utilized prisoners on numerous occasions for propaganda purposes and took posed pictures purporting to show the comfortable life being led by the prisoners, an obvious distortion of truth and fact.

Officers were segregated from the enlisted men and could therefore not exercise any internal control, and were subjected to the same harsh treatment. Prisoners-of-war camps were not properly marked, resulting in bombing by United Nations aircraft. Letters of prisoners were not mailed by their captors, and Red Cross aid was in no way permitted. American prisoners died by the thousands at the rate of 15 to 20 per day. One witness testified that during a 7- to 8-month period 1,500 prisoners died of beri-beri, dysentery, pellagra, and other diseases as a result of malnutrition at camp No. 5 at Pyoktong. Another witness testified that during a 3-month period at camp No. 1 at Changsong 500 Americans died.<sup>31</sup> The Chinese and North Korean Communists maintained no record of American dead.<sup>32</sup> The exact number of known American

dead has not as yet been determined, as interrogations of "Little Switch" and "Big Switch" returnees are still being conducted, but it is known that the figure will be in the thousands....