

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
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-----035373 240931Z /11
P 240911Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9840
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: PGOV, MILI, JA
SUBJECT: KYODO WIRE SERVICE STORY ALLEGES COVER-UP OF
WORLD WAR II JAPANESE ARMY USE OF U.S. POW'S FOR MEDICAL
EXPERIMENT.

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF ARTICLE APPEARING IN JULY 24
EDITION OF MAINICHI DAILY NEWS, ALLEGING THAT 8 U.S.
POW'S DIED IN FUKUOKA TOWARDS END OF WORLD WAR II AS
RESULT OF MEDICAL EXPERIMENTS PERFORMED ON THEM IN
KYUSHU UNIVERSITY UNDER ORDER OF JAPANESE ARMY AND THAT
AT END OF WAR JAPANESE ATTEMPTED TO "COVER UP" CAUSE OF
THEIR DEATHS BY LISTING THEM AS HIROSHIMA ATOMIC BOMB
VICTIMS. ARTICLE, WHICH APPEARED IN ABRIDGED FORM ON
FRONT PAGE OF TODAY'S JAPAN TIMES AS WELL BUT WAS NOT
CARRIED BY ANY JAPANESE LANGUAGE NEWSPAPER, WAS BASED ON
KYODO WIRE SERVICE STORY FROM HIROSHIMA JULY 23. WE
HAVE CALLED ARTICLES TO ATTENTION OF MINISTRY OF FOREIGN
AFFAIRS AND ASKED MOFA FOR ANY RELEVANT GOJ INFORMATION
RELATING TO FATE OF U.S. POW'S MENTIONED IN STORY.
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2. BEGIN TEXT:
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THE WARTIME JAPANESE ARMY CONDUCTED MEDICAL EXPERIMENTS
ON EIGHT AMERICAN PRISONERS OF WAR AND LISTED THEM LATER
AS "VICTIMS" OF THE ATOMIC-BOMBING IN HIROSHIMA TO HIDE
THE INHUMAN ACT.

THIS WAS LEARNED RECENTLY BY TESTIMONIES GIVEN BY TWO

FORMER ARMY OFFICERS.

THE EXPERIMENTS WERE CONDUCTED BY THE WESTERN ARMY COMMAND IN KYUSHU AND EXPERTS AT THE KYUSHU UNIVERSITY TO FIND OUT WHETHER A MAN CAN LIVE EVEN IF PART OF THE BRAIN AND LIVER IS REMOVED.

DESPITE THE COVER-UP ATTEMPT, THE INCIDENT WAS EXPOSED AFTER THE WAR AND THE INTERNATIONAL MILITARY TRIBUNAL FOR THE FAR EAST GAVE PENALTIES TO 23 PERSONS CONCERNED, INCLUDING DEATH SENTENCES OF FIVE.

BUT IT WAS LEARNED RECENTLY THAT THE U.S. VICTIMS OF THE MEDICAL EXPERIMENTS HAD BEEN LISTED AMONG THE PRISONERS WHO WERE KILLED IN THE HIROSHIMA A-BOMBING.

A JAPANESE DIPLOMATIC DOCUMENT, FOUND LATE LAST YEAR, LISTED A TOTAL OF 20 U.S. PRISONERS OF WAR AS "VICTIMS" OF THE HIROSHIMA BOMBING.

THE "VICTIMS" INCLUDED LIEUTENANT WILLIAM FREDWICKS AND FIVE OTHER CREWMEN OF A B-29 BOMBER, WHO WERE CAPTURED IN KUMAMOTO PREFECTURE IN MAY 1945 AFTER THE BOMBER WAS SHOT DOWN, AND LIEUTENANT HAYWARD AND TWO OTHERS, CAPTURED IN FUKUOKA PREFECTURE IN JULY OF THE SAME YEAR.

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THE LATEST TESTIMONIES REVEALED THAT EIGHT OF THE NINE PRISONERS IN KYUSHU WERE ACTUALLY KILLED IN THE SECRET MEDICAL EXPERIMENTS, NOT IN THE HIROSHIMA BOMBING. THE WESTERN ARMY COMMAND HAD ALSO LIED THAT THE PRISONERS IN KYUSHU WERE NINE INSTEAD OF EIGHT IN AN ATTEMPT TO COMPLICATE THE COVER-UP STORY.

THE TESTIMONIES CAME FROM NOBUICHI FUKUI, 75, A FARMER OF YANAI CITY, YAMAGUCHI PREFECTURE, AND HARUNOBU YAMAMOTO, 77, OF KURAYOSHI CITY, TOTTORI PREFECTURE.

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FUKUI WAS THEN AN OFFICER OF THE MILITARY POLICE OF THE CHUGOKU AREA ARMY AND YAMAMOTO WAS AN OFFICER OF THE CHUGOKU ARMY COMMAND IN HIROSHIMA.

FUKUI SAID HE HAD OFTEN ATTENDED QUESTIONINGS OF U.S. PRISONERS AT THE CHUGOKU ARMY COMMAND AS AN INTERPRETER.

BUT HE WAS GIVEN A DIFFERENT ASSIGNMENT WHEN A SWISS DIPLOMAT VISITED HIROSHIMA JUST AFTER THE WAR TO INVESTIGATE THE U.S. "VICTIMS" OF THE A-BOMBING.

ABOUT SIX MONTHS LATER, HOWEVER, FUKUI WAS TOLD THAT THE GHUGOKU ARMY COMMAND REPORTED THE COVER-UP STORY, SAYING THAT THE U.S. PRISONERS IN KYUSHU WERE KILLED IN THE BOMBING. ALSO, HE WAS TOLD THAT THE WAS ASSIGNED A DIFFERENT MISSION THEN BECAUSE THE COMMAND FEARED THAT FUKUI'S CONTACT WITH THE DIPLOMAT MIGHT LEAD TO EXPOSURE OF THE COVER-UP.

FUKUI TESTIFIED THAT HE HAD NOT SEEN THE PRISONERS, CAPTURED IN KYUSHU, IN THE CHUGOKU ARMY.

HE ALSO RULED OUT THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE PRISONERS CAPTURED IN KYUSHU LATE IN JULY OF THE YEAR MIGHT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HAVE BEEN SENT TO HIROSHIMA AS EARLY AS THE AUGUST 6 HIROSHIMA BOMBING.

YAMAMOTO ALSO SAID HE HAD THEN SUSPECTED THERE WAS A COVER-UP.

AROUND AUGUST 20 OF 1945 JUST AFTER THE WAR, HE RECEIVED A TELEPHONE CALL FROM LIEUTENANT KYUSAKU FUKUSHIMA,

DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE WESTERN ARMY, WHO ASKED HIM
TO HELP THE COVER-UP ABOUT THE U.S. PRISONERS IN KYUSHU.

THE MILITARY POLICE OF THE CHUGOKU ARMY HAD ALSO MADE
CONTACTS WITH HIM FOR A SIMILAR REQUEST.

HE TURNED DOWN BOTH REQUESTS THEN, YAMAMOTO SAID.

YAMAMOTO SAID HE LATER KNEW THE COVER-UP AND LIEUTENANT
FUKUSHIMA WAS ONE OF THE CONVICTS IN THE CASE.

END TEXT.
MANSFIELD

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