

## Akabira Camp (Hakodate No.2 Branch Camp) (Mr. Robert Burton Heer was interned)

1945.6.7, Established in Akabira-machi, Sorachi-gun, Hokkaido. 140 POWs arrived from Hakodate No.2 Dispatch Camp and Hakodate Main Camp, who had been in Taiwan before.

1945.6.26, Maj. Murray, a British medical officer arrived from Hakodate No.2 Branch Camp in Ashibetsu and some medical officers from Hakodate Main Camp in Bibai.

1945.7, 140 American POWs arrived from Shanghai.

1945.8.15, The war ended.

1945.8.28, American aircrafts dropped relief supplies to the camp. A part of a POW Barrack was destroyed by a drum dropped. There were no deaths or injured among POWs. But 2 Japanese women were instantly killed and 9 Korean were injured by the dropping supplies in Korean camp.

1945.9.6, POWs left Akabira.

※ There were 281 POWs (167 British and 114 Americans) at the end of the war. No death.

1945.9.12, POWs were handed over to Maj. Satter (?) at Chitose Air Field. 2 American POWs were killed in an accident.

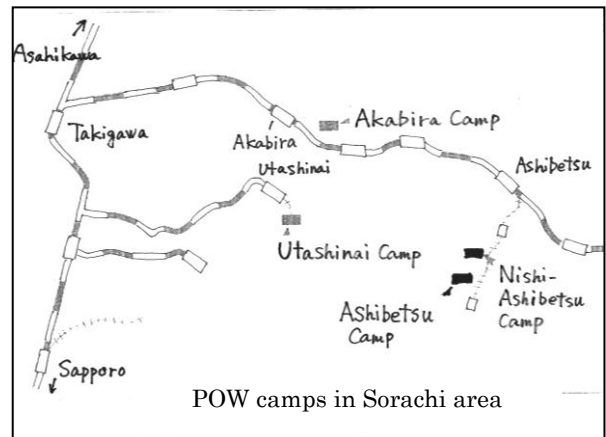
● Camp was located at the east end of a coal mine workers residential area 2.5 kilo meters from Akabira Station. There were some Korean dormitories near the POW camp. After the war, the camp was demolished and Sumitomo- Akabira Junior High School was built at this site in 1947. But the school was closed later, and the site is being left wild now.

● Most of American POWs from Shanghai were the Marines captured in Wake island, and some were captured in China.

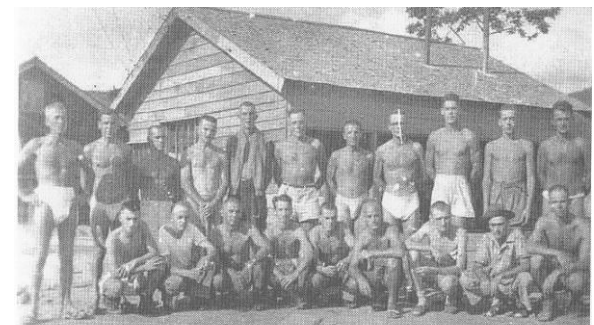
● POWs worked in Sumitomo- Akabira Coal Mine.

● The camp commandant was Cap. Jiro Tendo. There was no Japanese doctor.

● POW senior officer was Cap. W. F. Francis (British). American and British medical officers including Maj. Murray treated patients.



Akabira camp, soon after the end of war



American POWs in Akabira camp, August 1945

(Research by Taeko Sasamoto)