

**Suwa Camp (Tokyo No.6 Branch Camp) Memo**  
**(Mrs. Marjean McGrew's late husband, Mr. Alfred McGrew was held)**

1945.6.4 Established as Tokyo No.6 Branch Camp in Kitayama-mura (Present day Chino City), Nagano Prefecture. 250 POWs arrived from Tokyo and Kawasaki.

1945.8.15 The war ended.

1945.9.6 POWs left Suwa Camp.

●243 POWs (91 Dutch, 57 Americans, 55 British, 34 Canadians, 4 Australians, 1 Chinese and 1 Czechoslovakian) were being held at the end of the war.

●The camp was located in the Suwa Iron Mine at 1,150 meters above sea level. There is a golf course of Tadeshina Country Club now.

●POWs were forced to labor in the Suwa Iron Mine ran by Nippon Kokan. The mine was located on a hill side 1.2 kilometers from the camp. They dug iron ore with pickaxes and shovels and worked in a smelter.

●The first commandant was Lt. Junsho Hayashi and the second was Lt. Kawabe. Lt. Hayashi was a priest of Zenkoji Temple in Nagano City. He had served in some other camps. He was generous and was liked by POWs. Some American POWs gave him a pennant after the war, which was enshrined in a memorial hall in Zenkoji temple.

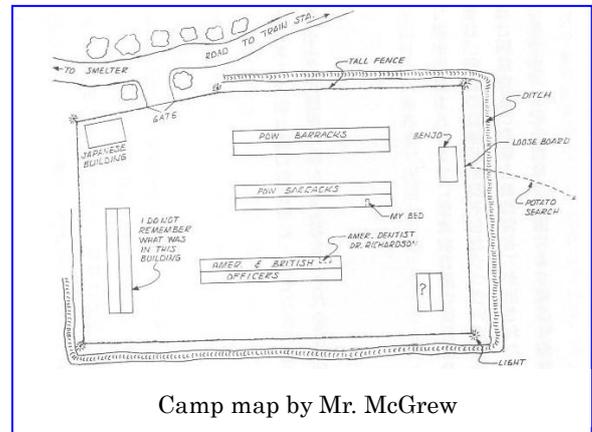
●As the food was poor, POWs staved off hunger by stealing vegetables in a field and eating wild glass.

●4 men died during imprisonment. One of them (Dutch) ate poisonous glass to death.

●On 6<sup>th</sup> September 1945, a railway accident occurred at Sasago station and there were many casualties. Just after that, a train aboard 80 American POWs, who were on a way to Tokyo, arrived at the station. They immediately got off the train and took care of the wound with their medicine and gave their food, clothing and blankets to them. This episode was reported in a newspaper.

●In June 1995, Mr. McGrew who was an ex-POW of this camp visited Suwa with his wife, Marjean and a daughter. They were warmly welcomed by local people who remembered the POWs.

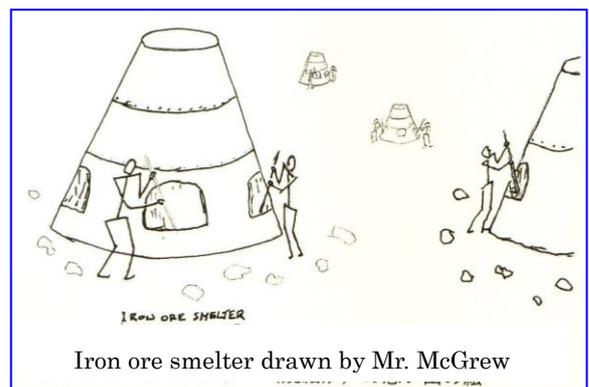
(Research by Taeko Sasamoto)



Camp map by Mr. McGrew



Suwa Iron Mine during the war



Iron ore smelter drawn by Mr. McGrew