

Zentsuji Camp(Hiroshima No.1 Branch Camp) Memo (Mr. Marvin Roslansky was interned)

1942.1.14 Established as Main Camp of Zentsuji POW Camp in Sakino, Zentsuji City, Kagawa Prefecture.

1945.4.13 Renamed as No.1 Branch Camp of Hiroshima POW Camp.

1945.9 The camp was closed.

●This camp was the first camp established in mainland Japan after the Pacific War broke out. Wake Is., Marshal Is., New Britain Is., New Ireland Is., Java, the Philippines etc. At the end of war, 110 men (104 Americans, 5 New Zealanders and 1 British) were being held.

●There were many officers. This camp was regarded as “Model camp” by the Japanese and “Propaganda camp” by the POWs, as the treatment was better than that of other camps.

●POWs were used by Nippon Tsuun and worked as loading laborers at Takamatsu Station and wharfs of Sakaide Port. Officers were forced to cultivate Oasa-yama.

●The first commandant of Zentsuji POW Camp was Maj. Gen. Yoshie Mizuhara. The second commandant was Col. Tamae Kondo. The commandant of Hiroshima No.1 Branch Camp was Lt. Yuhei Hosoya.

●Though this camp was regarded as a model camp, 7 Japanese were tried as war criminals after the war.

●There is a junior high school on the former camp site.

●10 POWs (7 Americans, 2 British and 1 Australian) died during imprisonment. A grave was built for these 10 men by a citizen, Toshio Yokokawa in the Army Cemetery in 1952.

(Actually, either their ashes were brought to their own countries or they remained at the Commonwealth War Cemetery in Yokohama.

●Mr. Fumio Okita put a Buddhist memorial tablet for the 10 POWs on his household Buddhist altar and has prayed for their souls every day, carrying over the wish of his late father who was a staff of Zentsuji municipal office during the war.



Zentsuji Camp



POWs exercising on the camp ground



A grave for 10 deceased POWs

(Research by Taeko Sasamoto)