

(Information below provided courtesy of Vince Lopata extracted from the section on his book series of The Winnipeg Grenadiers World War II History)

## TOKYO 3D TSURUMI PRISONER OF WAR CAMP

### 1. Establishment and Controlling Authorities

The camp was established on 21<sup>st</sup> January 1943 under the control of the Tokyo District. It was originally known as Tokyo Prisoner of War Branch No. 5 Camp. On 1<sup>st</sup> August 1943 the camp was renamed Tokyo Prisoner of War Detached No. 3 Camp. The camp was terminated 1945 May 13<sup>th</sup> because of the heavy bombing of Tokyo and Yokohama. The prisoners were moved to the Main Camp at Omori and then dispersed to other camps in Japan.

### 2. Location

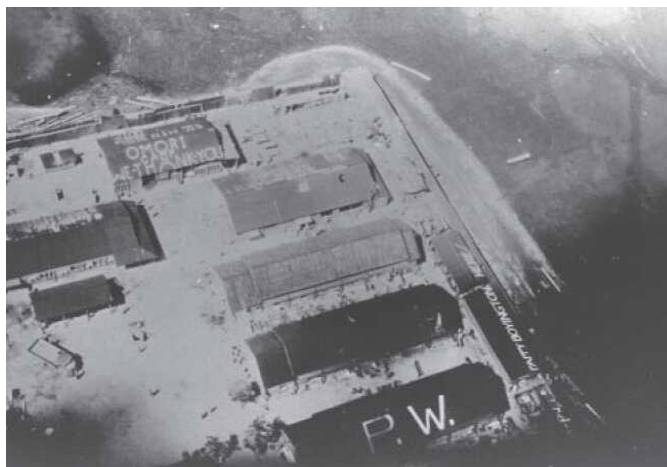
The camp was located at Yokohama-shi, Tsurumi-ku, Suyehiro-cho, 1-chome.

### 3. Company

The Grenadiers worked for the Nihon Kokan Tsurumi Zosen (Nihon Ironworks).

### 4. Dates at the Camp

The 1<sup>st</sup> draft's second group numbering 209 Grenadiers and Captain Anthony Reid<sup>1</sup> (Royal Canadian Medical Corps) boarded their train and traveled to Tokyo arriving at 0700 hrs on 24<sup>th</sup> January<sup>2,3,4</sup>. Then they boarded an electric train for a 10-mile ride to this camp.



**Tokyo District Main Camp (Omori), Yokohama Area**

### 5. Type of Work

The work consisted of a variety of jobs building ships for the Japanese war effort. The prisoners were moved to other area camps as required.

However, when some of the other Japanese companies in the area required workers for their production, prisoners from Tokyo 3D were transferred to them for short periods of time. Below is a list of the companies where the POWs may have worked at:

Tokyo Main Camp (Omori)	Location:	Tokyo-to, Omori-ku, Iriarai-machi, Japan
Company:		Nippon Tsuun
Type of work:		

Kawasaki POW Camp	Location:	Kawasaki-shi, Oshima-machi, Japan
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<sup>1</sup> Captain Anthony Reid, Royal Canadian Medical Corps was the medical officer attached to The Winnipeg Grenadiers.

<sup>2</sup> Pte C.R. Dick Diary

<sup>3</sup> Rfm Lance Ross Diary

<sup>4</sup> Hellship Voyages,

Company: Nippon Tsuun  
Type of work:

Tsurumi POW Camp Location: Yokohama-shi, Tsurumi-ku, Suyehiro-cho, 1-chome, Japan  
Company: Nihon Ironworks - Tsurumi Shipyards  
Type of work: Variety of jobs related to ship building

Sumidagawa POW Camp Location: Tokyo-to, Arakawa-ku, Minami Senju, Japan  
Company: Nippon Express Company  
Type of work:

### **Tsurumi POW Camp**

The following is part of the citation for the award of the Distinguished Conduct Medal to Staff Sergeant C. A. Clark, Canadian Postal Corps and the Military Medal to Private K. S. Cameron, The Royal Canadian Ordnance Corps for an incident that took place at this POW camp. It provides a background of the type of work being conduct at this camp. Also, it describes the fire that destroyed the operations of the shipyard for almost six months and severly impacted their ship production.<sup>5</sup>

*In connection with Staff-Sergeant Clark, Commander Edward V. Dockweiler of the United States Navy writes: "About 2000 hours, 20 January 1944, a large fire broke out in this yard, completely destroying the steel shed, ship outfitting stores, prisoner of war mess hall, riggers lobby, tool rooms, part of the ship fitters shop and mold loft. The area occupied by these buildings was about 800 by 600 feet. I would estimate the damage caused by this fire at about three-quarters to one million dollars. Aside from the monetary damage accomplished, the production of this yard was reduced about 60 percent for a period of at least eight months. At this time the yard was engaged in building escort destroyers and merchant shipping. Its tonnage production was about 8,000 tons a month. Considerable repair work also was being undertaken at this time. This fire was started by Staff-Sergeant Clark, Canadian Postal Corps, and Private K.S. Cameron, Royal Canadian Ordnance Corps. The method used was a candle, the bottom of which was surrounded with celluloid shavings accumulated from soap boxes. The length of the candled determined the time of firing. This incendiary medium was placed behind some rubbish in one of the little used and inspected store rooms. The Japanese authorities made a very thorough investigation of the damage caused by the above mentioned fire, but were unable to determine its cause or the part played by these two young men effecting it. If the part that Sergeant Clark and Private Cameron played in this sabotage had been discovered, undoubtedly they would have been executed or tortured to death. This act of sabotage greatly crippled the production of this yard and directly minimized the Japanese war effort, and the contribution to the Allied war effort that these two men made under the handicap of being prisoners of war cannot be overestimated. The occurrence of this fire is part of my official report to my own Navy Department. I submit this report to your office with the recommendation that this act of Sergeant Clark and Private Cameron be properly recognized and adequately rewarded. Their conduct as prisoners of war while under my jurisdiction was exemplary and fulfilled the highest tradition of the Canadian Army".*

## **6. Medical Services**

Hospitals that were used for treatment of prisoners of war were:

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<sup>5</sup> 'C' Force Decorations, Medals, Awards and Honours, 1941 to 1945", V. J. Lopata, CD, 2012 October 01, self-published, McNally Robinson, Winnipeg, Canada.

Sagamigahara Hospital Type:	Location: Japanese Military Hospital	Tokyo-to, Arakawa-ku, Minami Senju, Japan
Shinagawa Hospital Type:	Location: This hospital held seriously ill prisoners of war sent from all camps in the Tokyo POW Camp jurisdiction.	Tokyo-to, Shinagawa-ku, Higashi Shinagawa, 3-chome, Japan

*“The Japanese hospital at Shinigawa for prisoners of war “can only be described as a hell hole.” Commander Stassen said. Although an American doctor was among the prisoners at Shinigawa he was not allowed to administer to his fellow inmates but was forced to work with a pick and shovel. Japanese physicians who “treated the prisoners were described as unqualified to practise.”<sup>6</sup>*

## 7. Welfare

### *Food*

### *Bedding*

### *Camp Store*

## 8. Distinguishing Signs and Proximity to Military Targets

## 9. General

The allied Commander of this POW camp was Commander Edward V. Dockweiler, United States Navy.

## 10. Evacuation of Prisoners

Because of the heavy bombing of Tokyo and its surrounding areas at the beginning of 1945, the Japanese transferred the Grenadiers to one of the following camps<sup>7</sup>:

Camp	Controlling Authority	Date left Tokyo 3D	No of Grenadiers Transfer red
Omori	To-Main Camp	10 <sup>th</sup> December 1944 Returned to 3D 29 <sup>th</sup> March 1945	
Sumidagawa	To-10B	30 <sup>th</sup> March 1945	55 <sup>8</sup>
Ohashi	Se-4B	15 <sup>th</sup> May 1945	85
Yumato	Se-1B	13 <sup>th</sup> May 1945	81
Suwa	To-6B	4 <sup>th</sup> June 1945	34 <sup>38</sup>

<sup>6</sup> “Easy Peace for Japan Will Bring New Year ‘Sure as Death’: Halsey”, Robert Turnbull, New York Times Special to Globe and Mail. Globe and Mail, 1<sup>st</sup> September 1945.

<sup>7</sup> “Long Night’s Journey Into Day, Prisoners of War in Hong Kong and Japan, 1941-1945”, Charles G. Roland, Wilfrid Laurier University Press, 2001, p212.

<sup>8</sup> The POW Research Network website states that there were 34 Canadians held at this camp. There is no mention if these were all Grenadiers or a mixture of ‘C’ Force members.

At this time the number of Grenadiers transferred to Tokyo Omori, Tokyo 10B and Tokyo 6B is unknown.