

FAR EASTERN PRISONER OF WAR ASSOCIATION

(Member of the National Federation of Far East P.O.W. Clubs & Associations)

Dear Joseph,

Thursday, March 16, 1995.

American Ex-Pow's of the Japanese who had the misfortune to have to spend time in the so called Hospital called ICHIOKA, situated, or located, between OSAKA and KOBE, will remember with gratitude and affection a Doctor C. A. JACKSON, Lt. Cmdr R.N.V.R, who passed away, to a better place, on February 3rd, 1995, age 84 years.

He had been poorly for some time with arthritis in the hip, and decided recently to enter Hospital for a hip replacement operation. Sadly, they discovered, he was also suffering from a malignant tumour. He is survived by one daughter and four sons, his wife having passed away some years earlier.

Doctor Jackson, or 'Jacko', as he was called in the Camb, toiled unwearily to stem the ravages of dysentery, starvation, and general debility; living in the same squalor and privation as his patients. He also performed many miracles, operating with ^{what} can only be described as makeshift instruments. Old razor blades, found in dustbins were used as scalpels; suitably cleaned with soil and grit, sterilized in boiling water, then fixed into one end of a length of bamboo about the length and circumference of a ^{lead} pencil. Amputations were carried out with additional makeshift instruments, including back-saw blades (no hacksaw) etc, also found in rubbish dumps and cleaned up, as for the scalpels. Legs, arms, fingers and toes had to be removed, to save lives, when gangrene set in. Patients, being

operated on, had to be held down by up to 5 other fellows P.O.W.s until they (the patients) had passed out. With no Medical Supplies this aspect of surgical treatment was a common occurrence. Later when wounds became septic maggots were used for cleansing purposes.

Most of us who were dumped in this 'Hell Hole' would not ~~have~~ have survived without the heroic efforts and dedication shown by Doctors like 'Jacko'. When the Japanese decided to replace him, and transfer him to a working camp, he was succeeded by an American medical team lead by a Doctor F. Berley, who much to the annoyance of the Japanese, not only carried on where Jackson left off, but even more so. Doctor Berley is still very active, having retired from the Navy as a Rear Admiral.

Their professional skill and ingenuity in finding a way to defeat the odds set against them by their Japanese tormentors will forever be remembered by those of us who survived, and lived to tell their story.

Thank you Doctor Jackson - rest in peace

Yours fraternally

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