

## Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 TOKYO 13335 01 OF 02 240922Z  
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11  
IO-13 HA-05 DPW-01 /085 W  
-----035373 240931Z /11  
P 240911Z JUL 78  
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9840  
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI PRIORITY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 01 OF 02 TOKYO 13335

E.O. 11652: NA  
TAGS: PGOV, MILI, JA  
SUBJECT: KYODO WIRE SERVICE STORY ALLEGES COVER-UP OF  
WORLD WAR II JAPANESE ARMY USE OF U.S. POW'S FOR MEDICAL  
EXPERIMENT.

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF ARTICLE APPEARING IN JULY 24  
EDITION OF MAINICHI DAILY NEWS, ALLEGING THAT 8 U.S.  
POW'S DIED IN FUKUOKA TOWARDS END OF WORLD WAR II AS  
RESULT OF MEDICAL EXPERIMENTS PERFORMED ON THEM IN  
KYUSHU UNIVERSITY UNDER ORDER OF JAPANESE ARMY AND THAT  
AT END OF WAR JAPANESE ATTEMPTED TO "COVER UP" CAUSE OF  
THEIR DEATHS BY LISTING THEM AS HIROSHIMA ATOMIC BOMB  
VICTIMS. ARTICLE, WHICH APPEARED IN ABRIDGED FORM ON  
FRONT PAGE OF TODAY'S JAPAN TIMES AS WELL BUT WAS NOT  
CARRIED BY ANY JAPANESE LANGUAGE NEWSPAPER, WAS BASED ON  
KYODO WIRE SERVICE STORY FROM HIROSHIMA JULY 23. WE  
HAVE CALLED ARTICLES TO ATTENTION OF MINISTRY OF FOREIGN  
AFFAIRS AND ASKED MOFA FOR ANY RELEVANT GOJ INFORMATION  
RELATING TO FATE OF U.S. POW'S MENTIONED IN STORY.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

2. BEGIN TEXT:  
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 TOKYO 13335 01 OF 02 240922Z

THE WARTIME JAPANESE ARMY CONDUCTED MEDICAL EXPERIMENTS  
ON EIGHT AMERICAN PRISONERS OF WAR AND LISTED THEM LATER  
AS "VICTIMS" OF THE ATOMIC-BOMBING IN HIROSHIMA TO HIDE  
THE INHUMAN ACT.

THIS WAS LEARNED RECENTLY BY TESTIMONIES GIVEN BY TWO

FORMER ARMY OFFICERS.

THE EXPERIMENTS WERE CONDUCTED BY THE WESTERN ARMY COMMAND IN KYUSHU AND EXPERTS AT THE KYUSHU UNIVERSITY TO FIND OUT WHETHER A MAN CAN LIVE EVEN IF PART OF THE BRAIN AND LIVER IS REMOVED.

DESPITE THE COVER-UP ATTEMPT, THE INCIDENT WAS EXPOSED AFTER THE WAR AND THE INTERNATIONAL MILITARY TRIBUNAL FOR THE FAR EAST GAVE PENALTIES TO 23 PERSONS CONCERNED, INCLUDING DEATH SENTENCES OF FIVE.

BUT IT WAS LEARNED RECENTLY THAT THE U.S. VICTIMS OF THE MEDICAL EXPERIMENTS HAD BEEN LISTED AMONG THE PRISONERS WHO WERE KILLED IN THE HIROSHIMA A-BOMBING.

A JAPANESE DIPLOMATIC DOCUMENT, FOUND LATE LAST YEAR, LISTED A TOTAL OF 20 U.S. PRISONERS OF WAR AS "VICTIMS" OF THE HIROSHIMA BOMBING.

THE "VICTIMS" INCLUDED LIEUTENANT WILLIAM FREDWICKS AND FIVE OTHER CREWMEN OF A B-29 BOMBER, WHO WERE CAPTURED IN KUMAMOTO PREFECTURE IN MAY 1945 AFTER THE BOMBER WAS SHOT DOWN, AND LIEUTENANT HAYWARD AND TWO OTHERS, CAPTURED IN FUKUOKA PREFECTURE IN JULY OF THE SAME YEAR.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 TOKYO 13335 01 OF 02 240922Z

THE LATEST TESTIMONIES REVEALED THAT EIGHT OF THE NINE PRISONERS IN KYUSHU WERE ACTUALLY KILLED IN THE SECRET MEDICAL EXPERIMENTS, NOT IN THE HIROSHIMA BOMBING. THE WESTERN ARMY COMMAND HAD ALSO LIED THAT THE PRISONERS IN KYUSHU WERE NINE INSTEAD OF EIGHT IN AN ATTEMPT TO COMPLICATE THE COVER-UP STORY.

THE TESTIMONIES CAME FROM NOBUICHI FUKUI, 75, A FARMER OF YANAI CITY, YAMAGUCHI PREFECTURE, AND HARUNOBU YAMAMOTO, 77, OF KURAYOSHI CITY, TOTTORI PREFECTURE.  
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

FUKUI WAS THEN AN OFFICER OF THE MILITARY POLICE OF THE CHUGOKU AREA ARMY AND YAMAMOTO WAS AN OFFICER OF THE CHUGOKU ARMY COMMAND IN HIROSHIMA.

FUKUI SAID HE HAD OFTEN ATTENDED QUESTIONINGS OF U.S. PRISONERS AT THE CHUGOKU ARMY COMMAND AS AN INTERPRETER.

BUT HE WAS GIVEN A DIFFERENT ASSIGNMENT WHEN A SWISS DIPLOMAT VISITED HIROSHIMA JUST AFTER THE WAR TO INVESTIGATE THE U.S. "VICTIMS" OF THE A-BOMBING.

ABOUT SIX MONTHS LATER, HOWEVER, FUKUI WAS TOLD THAT THE GHUGOKU ARMY COMMAND REPORTED THE COVER-UP STORY, SAYING THAT THE U.S. PRISONERS IN KYUSHU WERE KILLED IN THE BOMBING. ALSO, HE WAS TOLD THAT THE WAS ASSIGNED A DIFFERENT MISSION THEN BECAUSE THE COMMAND FEARED THAT FUKUI'S CONTACT WITH THE DIPLOMAT MIGHT LEAD TO EXPOSURE OF THE COVER-UP.

FUKUI TESTIFIED THAT HE HAD NOT SEEN THE PRISONERS, CAPTURED IN KYUSHU, IN THE CHUGOKU ARMY.

HE ALSO RULED OUT THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE PRISONERS CAPTURED IN KYUSHU LATE IN JULY OF THE YEAR MIGHT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 04 TOKYO 13335 01 OF 02 240922Z

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 TOKYO 13335 02 OF 02 240924Z  
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11  
IO-13 HA-05 DPW-01 /085 W  
-----035379 240930Z /11

P 240911Z JUL 78  
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9841  
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI PRIORITY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 02 OF 02 TOKYO 13335

HAVE BEEN SENT TO HIROSHIMA AS EARLY AS THE AUGUST 6 HIROSHIMA BOMBING.

YAMAMOTO ALSO SAID HE HAD THEN SUSPECTED THERE WAS A COVER-UP.

AROUND AUGUST 20 OF 1945 JUST AFTER THE WAR, HE RECEIVED A TELEPHONE CALL FROM LIEUTENANT KYUSAKU FUKUSHIMA,

DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE WESTERN ARMY, WHO ASKED HIM  
TO HELP THE COVER-UP ABOUT THE U.S. PRISONERS IN KYUSHU.

THE MILITARY POLICE OF THE CHUGOKU ARMY HAD ALSO MADE  
CONTACTS WITH HIM FOR A SIMILAR REQUEST.

HE TURNED DOWN BOTH REQUESTS THEN, YAMAMOTO SAID.

YAMAMOTO SAID HE LATER KNEW THE COVER-UP AND LIEUTENANT  
FUKUSHIMA WAS ONE OF THE CONVICTS IN THE CASE.

END TEXT.  
MANSFIELD

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** WAR, POW, POLICIES, MEDICAL RESEARCH, ALLEGATIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 24 jul 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978TOKYO13335  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780303-0055  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** TOKYO  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1978/newtext/t19780725/aaaaautd.tel  
**Line Count:** 181  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** ecc9676d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION EA  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 4  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 04 may 2005  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 1900113  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** KYODO WIRE SERVICE STORY ALLEGES COVER-UP OF WORLD WAR II JAPANESE ARMY USE OF U.S. POW'S FOR MEDICAL EXPERIMENT.  
**TAGS:** PGOV, MILI, JA  
**To:** STATE CINCPAC  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/ecc9676d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014