

104TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. CON. RES. 176

Expressing the sense of the Congress concerning the maltreatment of United States military and civilian prisoners by the Japanese during World War II.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 10, 1996

Mr. DORNAN (for himself, Mr. STUMP, Ms. LOFGREN, and Mr. BILIRAKIS) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations, and in addition to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the Congress concerning the maltreatment of United States military and civilian prisoners by the Japanese during World War II.

Whereas 33,587 United States servicemen and women and 13,966 United States civilian men, women, and children were captured by the Japanese in the Pacific Theater during World War II;

Whereas these United States military and civilian prisoners were confined in brutal prison camps by the Japanese military and subjected to severe shortages of food, medicine, and basic necessities;

Whereas a large number of United States military and civilian prisoners were subjected to forced labor by the Japanese military;

Whereas United States military and civilian prisoners were starved to death, beaten to death, and summarily executed by beheading, firing squads, or immolation;

Whereas, as a result, many of the United States military and civilian prisoners who survived have suffered from lifelong illnesses, as well as psychological and emotional trauma and financial hardships;

Whereas of all the United States military and civilian prisoners held by the Germans in Europe during World War II, 1.1 percent of military prisoners and 3.5 percent civilian prisoners died;

Whereas, comparatively, of all the United States military and civilian prisoners held by the Japanese during World War II, 37.3 percent of military prisoners and 11 percent of civilian prisoners died;

Whereas almost all United States military and civilian prisoners rescued from the Japanese at the end of World War II were afflicted with diseases caused by malnutrition and deprivation;

Whereas during the “death march” following the surrender of Bataan in the Philippines in April 1942, between 550 and 1,000 United States soldiers perished, including many who were shot, stabbed, or beheaded by their Japanese captors;

Whereas in Mukden, Manchuria, the Japanese biochemical warfare detachment, Unit 731, commanded by Dr. Shiro Ishii, conducted experiments on living prisoners of war which included infecting prisoners—called “logs of

wood”—with deadly toxins including plague, anthrax, typhoid, cholera, and a dozen other pathogens;

Whereas of the 1,500 United States prisoners believed to have been held at Mukden, at least 260 died during the first winter of imprisonment and of the 300 living survivors of Mukden, many claim physical ailments related to being subjected to chemical-biological experiments;

Whereas after World War II, Dr. Ishii and other prominent scientists and physicians of Unit 731 who conducted human biological warfare experiments, dissected living prisoners, and froze prisoners to death for purposes of scientific experimentation, were given pardons by United States military tribunals in exchange for use of their experiment records;

Whereas these experiment records remain classified by certain Federal departments and agencies of the United States and access to such records has been denied to the Department of Veterans Affairs, as well as to the doctors of individuals who were subjected to the experimentation;

Whereas, as of 1996, approximately 6,400 former United States military prisoners of war of the Japanese and 2,400 former United States civilian prisoners of war of the Japanese are still alive, with many suffering from the physical and emotionally traumatic effects of their captivity;

Whereas the Government of Germany has formally apologized to the victims of the Holocaust and has gone to great lengths to provide financial compensation for the victims and to provide for their needs and recovery;

Whereas in 1988 the United States Government acknowledged the unfairness of its policy of detaining Japanese-Americans during World War II;

Whereas in 1993 international jurists in Geneva, Switzerland, ruled that “comfort women”—sex slaves of the Japanese military during World War II—deserve compensation of at least \$40,000 for each individual for “extreme pain and suffering” suffered by such individuals; and

Whereas the Japanese Government has refused to acknowledge most of its World War II atrocities and has refused to provide reparations to its victims; Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
2 *concurring)*, That it is the sense of the Congress that—

3 (1) the Government of Japan should imme-
4 diately pay reparations to United States military
5 and civilian prisoners of war held by the Japanese
6 during World War II in an amount equal to not less
7 than \$22,000 for each such prisoner of war—the
8 amount requested in an ongoing international law-
9 suit by former United States prisoners of war of the
10 Japanese against the Government of Japan;

11 (2) the Government of Japan should express
12 formally its regret to United States military and ci-
13 vilian prisoners of war who the Japanese tortured,
14 neglected, and on whom it conducted experiments;
15 and

1 (3) the relevant Federal departments and agen-
2 cies of the United States should declassify and re-
3 lease to the Department of Veterans Affairs, and to
4 the doctors of individuals who were subjected to ex-
5 perimentation by the Japanese, all requested United
6 States and Japanese records and documents relating
7 to the Japanese biochemical warfare detachment,
8 Unit 731, and any other records or documents relat-
9 ing to medical or bacteriological experimentation on
10 United States military and civilian prisoners of war
11 that are currently in the possession of such Federal
12 departments and agencies.

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