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Ambassador *Myron Cowen* (1949-1951), who saw the devastation wrought by the war on many things including the memory of the times preceding it, encouraged the American community to donate books and other materials pertaining to the first half of the 20th century. His initiative was responsible for the early phase of the collection.

The AHC was housed first at the *U.S. Embassy*, then at the *Thomas Jefferson Center* at Makati. It is now kept at the *Rizal Library of the Ateneo de Manila University*. The *Rizal Library* is committed to preserve the collection following the high standards it uses when conserving its own holdings. Furthermore, it is committed to facilitate the research of scholars.

The *American Historical Collection Foundation, Inc.* aids and supports the AHC.

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Filipinos and Americans are encouraged to donate appropriate books toward the development of this great collection.



3rd Floor - Rizal Library Annex
Ateneo de Manila University
Loyola Heights, Quezon City
1108 Philippines
Telefax :(632) 426-6001 ext. 5567
E-mail: ahc@admu.edu.ph
Website: <http://rizal.lib.admu.edu.ph/ahc>

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American Historical Collection

presents

**Santo Tomas Internment Camp
1942-1945**

On exhibit from January – May 2010



CHRONOLOGY OF FIRST FOUR MONTHS OF INTERNMENT IN SANTO TOMAS

Jan. 4 300 residents from the Malate district interned to form first contingent to be brought into this camp.....

Japanese commandant starts internee government with Mr. Earl Carroll appointed the acting chairman of a committee of internees to organize camp activities.

Jan. 5 10 More enemy aliens rounded up and brought here.

Jan. 19 First room monitors elected.

Jan. 24 First issue of camp newspaper, INTERNEWS.

Jan. 27 Population 3348

Jan. 28 Due to air-raid on Jan 26th, air-raid wardens appointed. Influenza becomes prevalent.

Jan. 29 Clayton Seitz becomes first camp father.

Jan. 31 Central kitchen serves first meal to internees. First Lieutenant H. Tomoyasu is first Commandant. Roll call and curfew, 7:30 pm.

Feb. 4 First application for permission to marry. Refused. Censorship board for notes sent outside established, Camp Population 3290 (2339 Americans, 875 British, 27 Dutch, 36 Poles, 4 Belgians, and 9 of other ally nations).

Feb. 7 First Commandant, 1st Lt. Hitoshi Tomoyasu retires. Mr. R. Tsurumi, career man in Japanese consular service takes over Feb. 16. Fly menace believed under control.

Feb. 10 Shanties begin to appear. First near old hospital. Dr. C. N. Leach warns against spoiled food.

Feb. 14 First seeds planted in STIC-farm. Pechay, beans camotes and TALINUM.

Feb. 15 Three internees, who escaped from the camp on Feb. 11 and were recaptured, were this day executed.

Feb. 17 Noon-day meal definitely abandoned. Cost of doughnuts too high. School classes well under way.

Feb. 20 113 British men, women and children arrive from a former place of internment at Sulphur Springs. Red Cross Bodega moved. At least 1000 internees help carry boxes of food. Sanitation and Health Dept. begins "Room Cleanliness Contest."

Feb. 24 Campaign against bed-bugs begin. Full Sport Program under way with baseball, basketball and soccer.

Feb. 28 Japanese authorities release limited Red Cross funds. Allows purchase of meat. Feeding cost estimated at 70 centavos per person per day. P2,500 spent daily. P10,000 spent on plumbing. 2,000 mosquito nets have been loaned to camp. 80 children living at Holy Ghost Convent.

Mar. 3 Shanties become real camp life factor. Regular sub-divisions with names and mayors springing up.

Mar. 4 First barn dance for teen-agers.

Mar. 6 S&H Department publishes own paper, "Campus Health."

Mar. 7 Large canvass dining tent (formerly belonging Tait Shows) commandeered by Japanese military. Permanent wooden dining sheds promised to replace same. Welfare service for outside families of same internees started.

Mar. 8 Camp doctors urge more stringent health rules. Camp trots become epidemic. Twelve Navy nurses transferred to STI-camp.

Mar. 10 Executive Committee petitions Japanese to send names of all internees to Washington and London with request that they notify relatives. All shanties ordered to be constructed so that clear view of interior may be had at all times. First camp baptism. Regular school credits are to be given students in the camp school. Change of site for internment camp under discussion. Tagaytay definitely turned down Japanese.

Mar. 11 Request for food fund delivered to Japanese for dispatch to U.S. Red Cross. Milk Supply Studied with an idea to restrict present to children only.

Mar. 14 Shanty problems being studied. Patrol reports few rules are being broken and situation on the whole good. Third patio show.

Mar. 17 Internees allowed to withdraw limited bank funds if open. Most internees have deposits in U.S. and British banks. To date camp hospital treated 6,357 cases involving 52 percent of internees. 1,248 dental treatments given. Election and recall of room monitors provided for. Tuberculin tests for children begins. 97 boys and girls begin a "swat-the fly" campaign.

Mar. 21 Internees government now has 27 departments. Camp Building project suspended by tool losses. Garden

club formed. STIC Junior League formed. American High School seniors hold mock graduation.

Mar. 24 First boxing show. Croquet set now available.

Mar. 26 High positive reaction to recent tuberculin test for children reported by Dr. C.N. Leach. 18.2% camp children show positive. Diet and overcrowded conditions responsible says Leach. Boys club planned. Small children's hospital to be built soon. Nine act floor show. Population 3131.

Mar. 30 Gate hours now 9-10:30

Mar. 31 An INTERNEWS headline: "WOMEN OF SEWING UNIT CONSTANTLY BATTLE SHRINKING WAISTLINE OF INTERNEE PANTS"

Apr. 2 STIC-camp garden yields first crop.

Apr. 4 Survey under way to determine number of internees capable of supporting themselves in greater Manila. Morning visiting hours at STIC-hospital eliminated. Eleven babies, all girls born to internee parents to this date.

Apr. 5 Easter Sunday observed. Hottest day of hot season.

Apr. 7 Internees asked by Japanese authorities to answer questions submitted. Frank answers wanted. Anonymity assured. Questions are: 1) which is more responsible of the outbreak of the present war among Japan, America and British. America or Britain? 2) what about your forecast of the war situation? Will this war be a protracted one? Will this war end in a decisive victory of one party or an armistice? 3) What is the big problem common to the countries concerned after the war? 4) which treatment is more humane, the treatment the local Japanese here received from the American army or the one we to the Americans and Britishers?

Apr. 8 Short but severe earthquake about 1 a.m. Rocked Santo Tomas without damage.

Apr. 9 Japanese Commandant Asks internees to prepare personal messages for relatives in America, Britain. Holy Ghost convent population: 100 children. 20 mothers. Internees shocked by announcement fall of Bataan.

Source: *STIC Gazette Vol. II January 4, 1942 No.1*