

Diary of S. Yoshizawa

Diary since the "hunger strike"

July 18, 1944

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After a most serious consideration we have finally decided that the only weapon and the only solution to let known our sincerity to all that we are not a trouble maker such as the W.R.A. has branded us we plan to undergo another hunger strike. I shall refrain from writing minor reason for undertaking such steps. Some of the numerous grievances are:

- 1- Imprisoned for over eight months without the filing of charges or the granting of a hearing or trial of any kind.
- 2- No proof or evidence substantiating our guilt.
- 3- Living in a world of infinity for no reasons whatsoever.
- 4- During the entire time we have been in the Stockade we have been denied all visiting privileges from our wives, children, fiancées or anyone else.
- 5- I was denied visits from my fiancée whom I was scheduled to marry the day after my arrest on November 13th.
- 6- Children born since our incarceration but to even see their wives were denied.
- 7- Third degree methods used on many of us.
- 8- Censorship of mails, including that coming from outside the Center.
- 9- Since July 2, we were not permitted to receive cigarettes, toilet articles, and our daily needs.
- 10- Beaver board erected for no reasons whatsoever since July 2nd. Solitary confinement cannot be any worse.
- 11- Constant abusive words from the attending Internal Security Staffs.
- 12- No medical or first aid facilities. Service to the base hospital denied.
- 13- Denied the constitutional right to counsel. Denial of due process of law to all of us.
- 14- In connection with the interview which we had with Mr. Ernest Besig of the American Civil Liberties Union, all right of privacy was denied to us.

Tonight, July 18, we had our last meal consisting of rice, two slices of balony fried and a vegetable soup. All unnecessary belongings were packed and labeled, otherwise I will be too weak



from starvation to do anything. Took my shower and am now waiting for the day we shall all be released from here either to the colony or to the Base Hospital from exhaustion.

July 19, 1944 (Wednesday)

Brushed my teeth as usual (7:00 A.M.) Took a morning shower. I commenced reading the "Hungry Hill" by Daphne du Marier.

Mr. Tokunaga and Mr. Saito has been released from the Stockade. Released where I do not know. Probably to Santa Fe Detention Station.

Roll call taken at 10:00 A.M. Only eighteen of us left. After roll call about ten Internal Securities led by Mr. Mahrt entered the Stockade all armed with clubs and pistols and we were told to move into Barrack "A". Rest of the Barracks were securely nailed. Mr. Fred Mori was released during the later part of the P.M. Only fifteen of us left. I had enough energy to wash my shorts and a pair of sock. Took a shower and went to bed at 10:45 P.M.

July 20, 1944 (Thursday)

Up as usual. Mr Ernest Kozuma complains that due to the dryness of the mouth the tobacco does not taste up to par. Slept most of the day. Took a walk during the evening. Received a letter from Mr. Ernest Besig Of the A.C.L.U. about 7:40 P.M. The letter was opened for censure and Mr. Ernest Kozuma being the witness to the fact. Took a shower and had a shave before going to the bed.

July 21, 1944 (Friday)

Brushed my teeth at 9:45 A.M. Answered and sent a letter to Mr. Ernest Besig, letter sent Air Mail Special Delivery Registered and Return Receipt Requested so I will know that Mr. Besig will receive my letters. The fee was .23 cents. Most of us are now in bed. I am still reading the novel, "Hungry Hill" but I cannot read too long in a stretch. At about 10:45 A.M. George Kuratomi was requested by Mr. Best to confer with him.

At about 3:00 P.M. Mr. Schmidt conferred with Messrs. Kuratomi, Kai, Kobayashi and I. Mr. Hayworth and four Internal Securities took all the food from the mess room. Talk mostly about food we would like to eat now and slept quite early.

July 22, 1944 (Saturday)

This morning I washed my bed sheets. I finished with my novel, "Hungry Hill" and have started with "Caretaker's Cat". Mr. Ernest Kozuma has left us today. I feel very lousy. My head feels heavy during the hot day but somehow relieves during the evening. I have finished reading the detective story, "Caretaker's Cat" and have started reading another detective story, "The Bowstring Murder". I laundered for Rev. Kai and was in my bed at about 11:30 P.M.

July 23, 1944 (Sunday)

Was up as usual. Packed all our belongings during the morning for most of us are really getting weak. I am now ready to be carried back to the Center or to the Base Hospital. Cleaned our Barracks and burned all unnecessary things for too messy rooms gets in our nerves. I do not feel like talking too long. Mr. Fred Hamamoto is quite sick and he needs to be carried by someone to the rest



room. Two Internal Securities entered our room for a roll call. Took my shower during the noon hour and having someone watching over me for fear that I will collapse. Probably it will be my last shower. Have decided not to read any books for I cannot read more than a few paragraphs. My head is quite heavy.

June 24, 1944 (Monday)

Roll call was held in our bed. Brushed my teeth at about 10:30 A.M. Sprinkled a salt to drink a water. I felt very dizzy this morning and everything goes black for a few moments when I try to stand. This Morning Messrs. Kuratomi, Sugimoto, and Kobayashi interviewed Internal Security Officers. I feel that we cannot last too long. I feel a dizzy spell everytime I try to stand. I have a fever.

July 25, 1944 (Tuesday)

Roll call held in bed at 10:30 A.M. Pretty weak. Everytimes someone talks it gets on my nerves. Some men have stopped smoking for it does not taste good. Mr. Pearson, Internal Security, stated that all Japanese doctors refused to see us. Mr. Yamane has fainted and was brought to the Base Hospital for treatment. I almost fainted when I was taking a cold shower. Rev. Kai was permitted to see his family for the first time since his confinement. Mr. Schmidt came to see all of us and brought some home made chocolate candies but we refused to touch it. Fred Hamamoto and Mr. Sugimoto went to the Base Hospital for treatment but soon returned. For the first time we drank a tea which was sent to us from Japan through the International Red Cross, but unfortunately the tea did not taste good.

July 26, 1944 (Wednesday)

Brushed my teeth at about 7:45 A.M. Roll call was taken at about 10:45 A.M. Mr. Schmidt came to see us again. He seemed to be worried over us. At midnight two Internal Security came to see how we were.

July 27, 1944 (Thursday)

At about 5:00 A.M. two Internal Security came to see how we are. Mr. Pearson announced that Mr. Yamane who was sent to the Base Hospital ate his meal for the first time today. Mr. Yamamoto and Mr. Kazama went to the hospital. I had my pulse taken. It was only 56 per minute. Seems like today is the toughest for me. The experience I am now going through cannot be explained in words. Sometimes I feel that I am walking up in the air. Mrs. Uchida was at the Internal Securities' Office trying to see his son in here but her request was denied. I have requested the Internal Security to have Messrs. Andy Sugimoto, Yukio Kobayashi, Tetsuo Abe and Isamu Uchida sent to the hospital but my request denied. Yoshio Kobayashi met Mr. Woody for the second time to have the above mentioned people sent to the hospital but his request was also denied. Mr. Kobayashi even stated far as to say that if anything should ever happens to the above mentioned people that Mr. Woody was to take full responsibility. Two Internal Securities



came to see us at midnight again I find it very difficult to sleep.

July 28, 1944 (Friday)

Brushed my teeth at about 7:30 A.M. I have again requested the Internal Securities to bring the Messer. Andy Sugimoto, Yukio Kobayashi, Tetsuo Abe and Isamu Uchida to the hospital. Kazama and Yamamoto returned from the hospital. They were returned because they have refused to eat any foods. Mr. Schmidt visited us again. Mr. Yamane also returned from the hospital. Mr. Toshio Shimonishi and Mr. Ishigami were allowed to see their wives for the first time since their confinement. Mr. Schmidt conveyed the message that my fiancée has returned home from the hospital after her appendicitis operation. Later in the day I was able to write a letter to Mr. Best, Mr. Pearson, Mr. Schmidt asking their permission to interview Mr. Ernest Besig upon his arrival here. Mr. Andy Sugimoto was also permitted to see his wife. At 6:40 P.M. I have asked Mr. Woody to have several men sent to the hospital. Mr. Woody's excuse was that there is no bed available at the hospital. When Mr. Shimonishi requested for the transfer of some of these people Mr. Woody has stated that there is no doctor at this hour of the day. My head is clearer than ever now, My head is surprisingly better today, but my legs are very wobbly and cannot walk during the daytime. It is easier during the evening from eight o'clock and in the early morning. I am afraid to go to the rest room myself.

Finally George Kuratomi was able to see Mr. Schmidt during the night and Mr. Schmidt has stated that we will be consulted by the doctor tomorrow at 2:00 P.M. There was no roll call today.

July 29, 1944 (Saturday)

As usual two Internal Security came around 5:30 A.M. to see us. Brushed my teeth at about 8:30 A.M. Mr. Pearson came to express his opinion about the our "HUNGER STRIKE". Made a very bad impression on us. During the P.M. an elderly gentleman from Washington escorted by Mr. Black, Mr. Robertson, and Mr. Pearson came to see the barracks. We expected some questions from him but was disappointed because he left without conferring with us. Mr. Yamane saw Mr. Schmidt this morning. Today everybody will go to the hospital for a physical check up. The first one to be transferred to the hospital was Mr. Ishigami and the following went in order: Messrs. Kuratomi, Kobayashi, Kai, Yamane, Hamamoto, Kazama, Yamamoto, Yoshio Kobayashi, Shimonishi, Abe, Uchida, and I was the last to leave the Stockade. Dr. Ikuta attended to us, our history given and we were escorted to Ward "D" Room 6 by the two Internal Securities. Messrs. Abe, Uchida, and I were put in one room.

About 30 minutes later a nurse's aid brought us some warm liquids (stimulant, presumably whiskey). I arrived at the hospital at 4:00 P.M. I had my temperature and my pulse taken. Drank a glass of milk and later was given a alcohol rub down by the nurse. My stomach ached a slightly and my stomach made noises all night like thunder. I was unable to sleep for a long time.

July 30, 1944 (Sunday)

Had my temperature taken during the early morning. Later my pulse was also taken, both being normal. I had no idea what time it is



for none of us in our room had watches. For breakfast we had a small glass of milk, orange juice, and a chicken broth. We also had a jello but I couldn't eat it. I took 300 C.C. of liquid in all for my breakfast. The nurse said we should try and drink at least 3,000 C.C. by tonight. All attendants are very good to us. Our bowels, especially mines did not move since the beginning of our hunger strike. For our lunch we had tomato juice 100 / C.C., coffee 100 / C.C. Soup 200 / C.C., and milk 200 / C.C. I met Mr. Besig today about the habeas corpus procedure. Happy to state that everything is going smoothly. For supper I drank milk, jello, soup, pudding, a total of 750 / C.C. Drank a coffee before retiring. Was unable to sleep, probably it was about 2:00 A.M.

July 31, 1944 Monday\*

Brushed my teeth, had my temperature and pulse taken. For breakfast I drank a cup of orange juice, one piece of toast, one soft boiled eggs. I wrote a letter to Mr. Besig. A few hours later Mr. Pearson brought me the Registered Special Delivery Mail Receipt. The fee was .37 cents. Dr. Marks checked our physical condition. Everything was negative. Received a candy from Hisako. Took a shower before lunch. For lunch we had sliced carrots, soft rice, hamburger, and a jello. For supper we had stringless beans, eggs, soup, and milk. I did not eat my dish of apple sauce. Drank a cup of coffee before sleeping. My bowl moved for the first time since hunger strike. Alcohol rub down by the nurse before sleeping.

August 1, 1944 (Tuesday)

Wakened by the nurse. We had our urin taken for examination. Brushed my teeth and took my morning shower. This morning I ate a bowl of mush, coffee, two toast, and a orange. We also had our blood taken for examination. Miss Yamamoto brought us a box of candy. For lunch we had a scope of rice, dice carrots, fish, cup of milk, and a slice of melon. Our appetite is much better now. Miss Ninomiya treated us ice cream. About two hours later Mr. Yoshio Kobayashi bought us some ice cream. Starting from tonight we are permitted to eat regular foods. When we arrived in the hospital we were given liquid diets, and until today we were on a soft food diets. Tonight for supper we had macaroni, soup, milk, and a custard. Took a bath and alcohol rub down before sleeping.

August 2, 1944 (Wednesday)

Had our pulse, temperature taken as usual. We are very happy to be on a regular diet. Had a shave before lunch. Hisako sent us a large home made cake.

August 3, 1944 (Thursday)

Miss Yamamoto visited us. Had my pulse and temperature taken as usual. Nothing unusual happened today.

August 4, 1944 (Friday)

Had a morning shower and a shave before breakfast. Our pulse and temperatures taken as usual. Received words that I would be leaving the hospital and be under the custody of the Internal Security. We were to leave the hospital at 1:00 P.M. Three others who were told to leave were Messrs. Hamamoto, Ishigami, and Yukio Kobayashi. We thoughtt



we were to be released but at 1:30 P.M. we were sent back to the Stockade again. A few minutes later Mr. Schmidt came to see us but his reaction unfavorable so we decided to continue with our hunger strike again. He asked me whether I wish to see my fiancée or not. Mr. Hamamoto and I decide to return the vitamin pills given to us by the doctor. Mr. Hamamoto saw his wife at about 3:50 P.M. I saw my fiancée at about 4:10 P.M. for the first time since my confinement. I laundered few of my unders. The Beaver Board was taken away. There are only four of us in the Stockade but twelve soldiers watched over us, and four or five Internal Securities attended to us.]

[August 5, 1944 (Saturday)

Brushed my teeth at about 9:30 P.M. We swept and cleaned our barracks. At 2:50 P.M. Messrs. Yamamoto, Kazama, and Kobayashi returned from the hospital. We are all on a hunger strike. I experienced a slight headache. No food was delivered to our mess hall. No roll call was taken. In fact I did not see a single Internal Securities. Took a shower and slept early.]

[August 6, 1944 (Sunday)

Brushed my teeth at about 9:00 A.M. No headache but I experienced a dizzy spell everytime I try to leave my bed. I am sure I cannot last too long because of the terrible heat during the noon hours and because I was forced to leave the hospital after receiving only five days of treatment. Four of us were not fully recovered when we told to leave the hospital. I nearly fainted when I reached the rest room. The miserable experience both mentally and physically cannot be expressed in writings. The food was not brought in today again.]

[August 7, 1944 (Monday)

Brushed my teeth at about 7:15 A.M. Again I thought I was to faint. For as soon as I left my bed I toppled over. I feel no strength left in my eyes. My eyes look like animal, far in deep. My cheek has fallen in. When trying to drink I must hang on to some support. Since I was transferred from the hospital there is no roll call, in fact we haven't seen a officers once yet. Seems like they are not concerned with our welfare. My bowl has not moved since I was transferred here from the hospital. At about Messrs. Shimonishi, Yamane, and Sugimoto returned here about 2:15 P.M. They look very energetic compared to us. Still we received no foods or did we see any Internal Security Staffs.]

[August 8, 1944 (Tuesday)

Brushed my teeth at about 8:30 A.M. Feel much better than yesterday. Took a shower and washed my pajama this morning while I am still feeling refreshed. This morning Mr. Vine and another gentleman from the mess division were here to check the foods in the mess halls. About an hour later they brought in some foods. About 2:00 P.M. Messrs. Kai, Uchida, and Abe was returned from the hospital. About 30 minutes later Mr. Kuratomi joined us.]

[August 9, 1944 (Wednesday)

Brushed my teeth at about 8:45 A.M. Pretty weak. Mr. Uchida has requested the Internal Security to have Messrs. Kuratomi, Yamane and him brought to the hospital for dental appointment. They all had an



appointment. The Internal Securities refused saying that a doctor will call up himself if dental care is necessary. It seems very queer for the doctor has emphatically told us that he is most happy to see us if the Internal Securities bring us to him. How does a doctor know our conditions if we do not ask for his presence? Seems like the Internal Securities are neglecting their responsibilities for I firmly believe it is their duty to bring us to the hospital upon request. Thus far there is no roll call. Seems like we are a forgotten soul.

Food was brought in this morning. I am in bed all day. Feel very dizzy and my bowls haven't moved since I left the hospital.

Washed my teeth at about 11:00 P.M. Still my bowls does not move.

August 10, 1944 (Thursday)

Washed my teeth at about 11:30 A.M. I do not know when I will be unconscious but I hope it will be soon because the misery I am going through now is unbearable. No roll call. Food was brought in about 2:00 P.M. At 5:00 P.M. I toppled over but soon recovered conscious. I think I had the dizzy spell. Tonight for the first time they have installed a switch so we can have the light.

August 11, 1944 (Friday)

12:00 P.M. today will be exactly seventh days of hunger strike since I left the hospital. We were in the hospital for only five days and was returned here on August 4, 1944. Our first hunger strike began on the evening of July 18, and continued to July 29, when we were all transferred to the Base Hospital.

Mr. Vine and Mr. Pearson was here to take roll call. He announced that there will be no hospital and medical service to us. Mr. Sugimoto requested for a written statement to the effect but Mr. Pearson flatly refused. He also stated that the statement was an instruction from the Administration. Mr. Pearson also gave Mr. Kuratomi an instruction: Administrative Separation of Residents Within Center Instructions 110.15 W.R.A. Manual C - 1265 - P19 - bu as of 4/26/44. copy attached. I feel a little better during the morning. It is the afternoon that is unbearable. Food was brought in at about 1:00 P.M. Tonight when I tried to get up (7:30 P.M.) my head and face became very hot and everything became dark.

August 12, 1944 (Saturday)

Still feeling dizzy but my mind is O.K. yet. Hardly anyone talk. Everybody is trying to force a smile. They all have a sad looking face and I never felt sorrier before. At 11:30 A.M. two Internal Securities came to take the roll, and at about the same time the food was brought in. At 5:45 P.M. eight Internal Security Staff came in to investigate the Stockade and they took two red handkerchiefs thinking that we were signalling. Rev. Kai and Mr. Sugimoto conferred with Mr. Schmidt and we came to an amicable understanding whereby we agreed to eat commencing tonight. Dr. Sleath came to



check our physical condition. Messrs. Ishigami, Yamane, Hamamoto, Kazama, Yukio Kobayashi and I were consulted. Mr. Ishigami was immediately transferred to the hospital. Dr. Sleath stated that we were on edge and ~~edge~~ and that probably the above named people will not last another day. The doctor recommended our transfer to the hospital but was denied by the Internal Securities. Mr Schmidt stated that four or five will be released in about a day. The rest will eventually be released in about two weeks. Furthermore, he stated that all foods will be distributed from the hospital because we are all weak to do anything. At 1:30 A.M. Mr. Schmidt and Dr. Sleath brought us warm milk and a baby's mush. Thus ended the nine days hunger strike for me. I could not sleep all morning. [off Aug 13]

August 13, 1944 (Sunday)

Today is exactly nine days of confinement in the Stockade. I could not sleep a wink last night. My head is still dizzy.

August 14, 1944 (Monday)

Yesterday Mr. Yamamoto was released from here.

August 15, 1944 (Tuesday)

Mr. Ishigami returned from the hospital.

August 16, 1944 (Wednesday)

Mr. Tokio Yamane was released.

August 17, 1944 (Thursday)

Rev. Kai and Mr. Ishigami were released from the Stockade.

August 23, 1944 (Wednesday)

Mr. George Kuratomi, Mr. Toshio Shimonishi and I were released from the Stockade. I reached home at 2:15 P.M. Mr. Schmidt used pressure in trying to release me. I had no intention of leaving all the other people in there and going out first.

August 24, 1944 (Thursday)

Messrs. Yukio Kobayashi, Yoshio Kobayashi, and Tetsuo Abe were released at about eight o'clock. About one hour later Messrs. Sam Uchida, Tomio Kazama, Andy Sugimoto, and Fred Hamamoto were released. The Stockade being liquidated at last.

August 25, 1944 (Friday)

The following had the privilege to meet Mr. Wayne Collins, an attorney at law at Mr. Best's office at 1:30 P.M.:

Kuratomi and his wife, Toshio Shimonishi, Yamamoto, Tetsuo Abe, Rev. Shizuo Kai, Masako Sugimoto, Andy Sugimoto, Isamu Uchida and his brother, my fancee and I. Our meeting ended at 5:45 P.M.