

Japanese PW Defied 'Tiger'

By Howard K. Janis

TOKYO, Sept. 10 (INS)—A repatriated American sergeant yesterday said a Japanese kitchen worker was the model of soldierly defiance of the notorious North Korean "Tiger" who shot Yanks to death and began a reign of terror when he took control of them.

M/Sgt. Austin D. Flack, 40, Union Mills, N.C., the sergeant major of the 63d Field Artillery Battalion, 24th Division, said he and other members of Gen. Dean's unit would like to reward Kiyohito Tsutsui, 25, who was returned in Big Switch.

FLACK SAID TSUTSUI, who chose to accompany his American buddies when they were ordered to Korea, knew many young soldiers feared the cold, heartless despotical master of the prisoners and told them to stand up to him.

Flack told newsmen at the 8167th Army Hospital where he is recuperating from the effects of his long confinement that Tsutsui, or Mike as they called him, was the first man the "Tiger" wanted to see when he assumed control of the 785 prisoners.

The American reported that Mike was called first because he was Japanese and was ordered sternly to speak to the "Tiger" in only the best Japanese. Flack continued:

"HE DIDN'T MOVE a muscle, not a hair moved; he looked him straight in the eyes as if to say, 'We came to fight you, not to run from you.' For that reason the American soldiers had tremendous respect for him."

Flack said the "Tiger" ordered the Japanese boy beaten for no reason at all but still Mike's spirit never wavered.

Flack said a captain, now Maj. Marion W. Green, Lawton, Okla., the repatriated battalion adjutant who was with the group until he was taken to an officers' camp, had such esteem for Mike that he told Americans

he would like to get him to the U.S. to study.

THE SERGEANT said some, remembering Green's remarks, contributed \$2,000 to a fund at Inchon before they departed for home. Flack said he would write letters to former Army buddies who knew Mike as a KP and he was confident much more could be raised in Mike's behalf.

He declared that he would visit Green before he returned to his hometown in North Carolina and discuss "contacting the

proper authorities" to get Mike's entry to the U.S.

Flack said Mike had been with his unit since 1949 when it was stationed at Camp Hakata on Kyushu, Japan's southernmost main island.

FLACK SAID:

"I believe the Army will do what it can to help that man.

"The model life of a man is the greatest inspiration you can get. If more people could have copied from Mike they would have been 'much better off.'"

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