



[Observation (TS) and interview on the attitude toward camouflage project]

March 22, 1943

Industry: Camouflage Observation & Interview

Subjects: Attitude March 22, 1943

This morning at 11:00, I visited the factory in time to hear Joe Kadawaki call for each of the rig-chiefs to meet outside for about five minutes. I learned later that it was to inform the workers of the meeting to be held on Wednesday, at the 46 Mess hall.

Piles of burlap strips were found on the crossways between the sets of rigs. A foreman came up to one of the crews, asking him to get somebody to pick the good strips up. The pressure must be on the production manager, because this is the first time an attempt is made to clean the place out. This might be in keeping with the coming of Mr. Stah, the contractor.

I looked over the grounds pretty thoroughly, and could not find any fire hydrant. I asked Frank Yoshida, one of the swamper, if there were any on the place, and he answered in the negative. "This place is sure a fire trap. Even if the fire department did get here, they wouldn't be able to do any good." "The only things that they have around these sheds are the water cans, and buckets."

Within the warehouse, there was a large 3" pipe suspended across the inside, lengthwise. And at intervals of about 50 ft., a roll of fire hose were placed. All of these hoses come off of the same pipe. In case of fire, I am questioning the pressure that can be expected in the hose.

James Chikahisa, a warehouse worker told me that he was getting tired of the monotony. Only 18% are supposed to be non-weavers, and they can't get along with only that many. "There is a rumor going around that our cut in the dough is going to get smaller with each new man put in." These things lower the morale of the boys, and we feel like quitting."

Frank Yoshida, a swamper, asked me to ride in the driver seat in one of the U.S.E.D.'s truck. He said that it has been about a week now, that they have been allowed to drive these things round the yard. "I don't see why they don't let us take these nets into Parker, this is supposed to be a free zone now. Up to last week, we didn't get to touch these things."