

Ichiro Imamura Diary. T/4 Ilchiro Imamura (deceased), Medical Detachment, HQ Battery on an unspecified date, witnessed two 522nd liaison scouts shooting the lock off a prison gate "at the Dachau concentration camp" and freeing about 50 Jewish prisoners according to his diary account, as follows:

"Two liaison scouts from the 522d Field Artillery Bn. 100/442 RCT were among the first Allied troops to release prisoners in the Dachau concentration camp. I watched as one of the scouts used his carbine to shoot off the chain that held the prison gates shut. He said he just had to open the gates when he saw a couple of the 50 or so prisoners, sprawled on the snow-covered ground, moving weakly. They weren't dead as he had first thought.

"When the gates swung open, we got our first good look at the prisoners. Many of them were Jews. They were wearing black and white striped prison suits and round caps. A few had shredded blanket rags draped over their shoulders. It was cold and the snow was two feet deep in some places. There were no German guards. They had taken off before we reached the camp.

"The prisoners struggled to their feet after the gates were opened. They shuffled weakly out of the compound. They were like skeletons—all skin and bones.

"Outside the compound, there were a couple of dead cows lying on the road. In minutes, the prisoners had cut off strips of meat, roasted them over a small fire and were gobbling the food down. They were starving. After they finished eating, they moved on down the road and took shelter in a large stable. They insisted on staying in the stable and refused to spend another night in Dachau.

"We had been ordered not to give out rations to the Dachau prisoners because the war was still on and such supplies were needed to keep our own fighting strength up, but we gave them food, clothing and medical supplies anyway. The officers looked the other way. These prisoners really needed help and they needed it right away. They were sick, starving and dying."

[The Historical Album Committee of The 522 Field Artillery Battalion of the 442 Regimental Combat Team. *FIRE FOR EFFECT*. Fisher Printing Co., Inc. 1998]