

# Japanese Order Posted in POW Camps 1944

EDITOR'S NOTE: Submitted by the AXPOW Dept. of the Commonwealth of Virginia, the copies of the Japanese order that our men saw posted in their camps are from the original now in the U.S. National Archives at Washington, DC. An English translation of the order follows.

## KILL THEM ALL ORDER 1/8/1944

Document No. 2701  
(Certified as Exhibit "O" in  
D.c.No. 2687)

From the Journal of the Taiwan  
POW Camp H.Q. in Taihoku  
Entry 1st August, 1944  
(entries about money, promotions  
of Formosans at branch camps,  
including promotion of Yo Yu-  
toku 1st CI Keibin - 5 entries).

The following answer about  
the extreme measures for POWs  
was sent to the Chief of Staff of the  
11th Unit (Formosa POW Security  
No. 10).

"Under the present situation if  
there were a mere explosion or fire,  
a shelter for the time being could  
be had in nearby buildings such as  
the school, a warehouse, or the like.  
However, at such time as the situa-  
tion became urgent and it be ex-  
tremely important, the POWs will  
be concentrated and confined in  
their present location and under  
heavy guard the preparation for the  
final disposition will be made.

The time and method of this  
disposition are as follows:

### (1) The Time

Although the basic aim is to  
act under superior orders, indi-  
vidual disposition may be made in  
the following circumstances:

- (a) When an uprising of large numbers cannot be suppressed without the use of firearms.
- (b) When escapees from the camp may turn into a hostile fighting force.

### (2) The Method

(a) Whether they are destroyed individually or in groups, or however it is done, with mass bombing, poisonous smoke, poisons, drowning, decapitation, or what, dispose of them as the situation dictates.

(b) In any case it is the aim not to allow the escape of a single one, to annihilate them all, and not to leave any traces.

### (3) To: The Commanding General

The Commanding General of Military Police reported matters conferred on with the 11th Unit, the Keelung Fortified are H.Q., and each prefecture concerning the extreme security in Taiwan POW Camps."

