

# Primary Sources Packet: Camp

## Document One

Aaron Clyde Hopper, "Most Vivid Experiences as an American Prisoner of War of the Japanese During World War II," 2011

Veterans History Project, Library of Congress

"Shortly after arriving in Cabanatuan, we observed three almost naked prisoners being tortured by being beaten while tied to poles in an upright position in the hot tropical sun. This lasted for a couple of days. Then, one morning as we were lined up for a portion of watery rice, these prisoners were marched over to a point a short distance across the fence in the front of us and made to dig a shallow trench. At last, when they were finally forced to stand in the trench, I turned my head and closed my eyes. After an extremely long delay that seemed like an eternity, I glanced up at the wrong time just as they were shot and slumped into their graves. At this profoundly sad moment, I could not keep from thinking that they were probably better off. We were told that they had attempted to escape. At some point after this, we were placed in 10-man squads with the stipulation that if one man escaped, the other nine would be shot."