

THE ATOMIC BOMB INTERACTIVE

Torture of prisoners of war

The Japanese army used torture on prisoners, usually in an effort to gather military intelligence quickly. Tortured prisoners were often later executed. A former Japanese Army officer Uno Shintaro, said:

The major means of getting intelligence was to extract information by interrogating prisoners. Torture was an unavoidable necessity. Murdering and burying them follows naturally. You do it so you won't be found out. I believed and acted this way because I was convinced of what I was doing. We carried out our duty as instructed by our masters. We did it for the sake of our country. From our filial obligation to our ancestors. On the battlefield, we never really considered the Chinese humans. When you're winning, the losers look really miserable. We concluded that the Yamato [Japanese] race was superior.

TASK

If you could interview a person who had been in a prisoner of war camp, what would you ask him or her to learn more about their experience? What would you ask the camp commander in a similar interview?