

106TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 304

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives concerning the war crimes committed by the Japanese during World War II.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 24, 1999

Mr. ROHRBACHER (for himself and Mr. LIPINSKI) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations, and in addition to the Committee on Government Reform, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives concerning the war crimes committed by the Japanese during World War II.

Whereas the Government of Japan deliberately ignored and flagrantly violated the Geneva and Hague Conventions during World War II, and committed atrocious crimes against humanity;

Whereas 33,587 men and women in the United States military, and 13,966 United States civilians, were captured by the Japanese military in the Pacific Theater during World War II, confined in brutal prison camps, and sub-

jected to severe shortages of food, medicine, and other basic necessities;

Whereas many of the United States military and civilian prisoners of the Japanese during World War II were subjected to forced labor, starved and beaten to death, or summarily executed by beheading, firing squads, or immolation;

Whereas almost all of the United States military and civilian prisoners that were rescued from the Japanese at the end of World War II were afflicted with diseases caused by malnutrition and deprivation;

Whereas many of the United States military and civilian prisoners of the Japanese during World War II who survived the war have suffered from life-long illnesses, psychological and emotional trauma, and financial hardships as a result of their experience during the war;

Whereas, of the United States prisoners held by the Germans during World War II, 1.1 percent of the military prisoners, and 3.5 percent of the civilian prisoners, died during their imprisonment, but of the United States prisoners held by the Japanese, 37.3 percent of the military prisoners, and 11 percent of the civilian prisoners, died during their imprisonment;

Whereas during the “death march” following the surrender of Bataan in the Philippines in April, 1942, between 550 and 1,000 United States soldiers perished, including many who were shot, stabbed, or beheaded by the Japanese;

Whereas at the Japanese biochemical warfare detachment in Mukden, Manchuria, commanded by Dr. Shiro Ishii, experiments were conducted on living prisoners of war that

included infecting prisoners with deadly toxins, including plague, anthrax, typhoid, and cholera;

Whereas at least 260 of the 1,500 United States prisoners believed to have been held at Mukden died during the first winter of their imprisonment, and many of the 300 living survivors of Mukden claim to suffer from physical ailments resulting from their subjection to chemical and biological experiments;

Whereas approximately 6,400 former United States military prisoners of war and 2,400 former United States civilian prisoners of war that were held by the Japanese during World War II were still living as of 1996, and many of those former prisoners still suffer from the physical and emotionally traumatic effects of their captivity;

Whereas the Government of Germany has formally apologized to the victims of the Holocaust and gone to great lengths to provide financial compensation to the victims and to provide for their needs and recovery;

Whereas in 1988 the United States Government acknowledged the unfairness of its policy of detaining Japanese-Americans during World War II; and

Whereas the Government of Japan has refused to fully acknowledge the crimes it committed during World War II and to provide reparations to its victims: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That it is the sense of the House of Rep-
2 resentatives that—

3 (1) the Government of Japan should formally
4 issue a clear and unambiguous apology for its atro-
5 cious war crimes during World War II; and

1 (2) the Government of the United States should
2 release all records in its possession pertaining to
3 Japanese experiments on prisoners of war at Muk-
4 den, including those records received from Japan, to
5 the Department of Veterans Affairs and to any phy-
6 sician designated by a surviving American prisoner
7 of war at Mukden.

○