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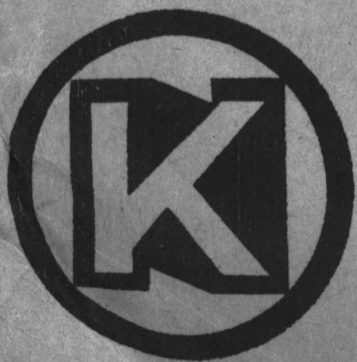


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日活株式会社

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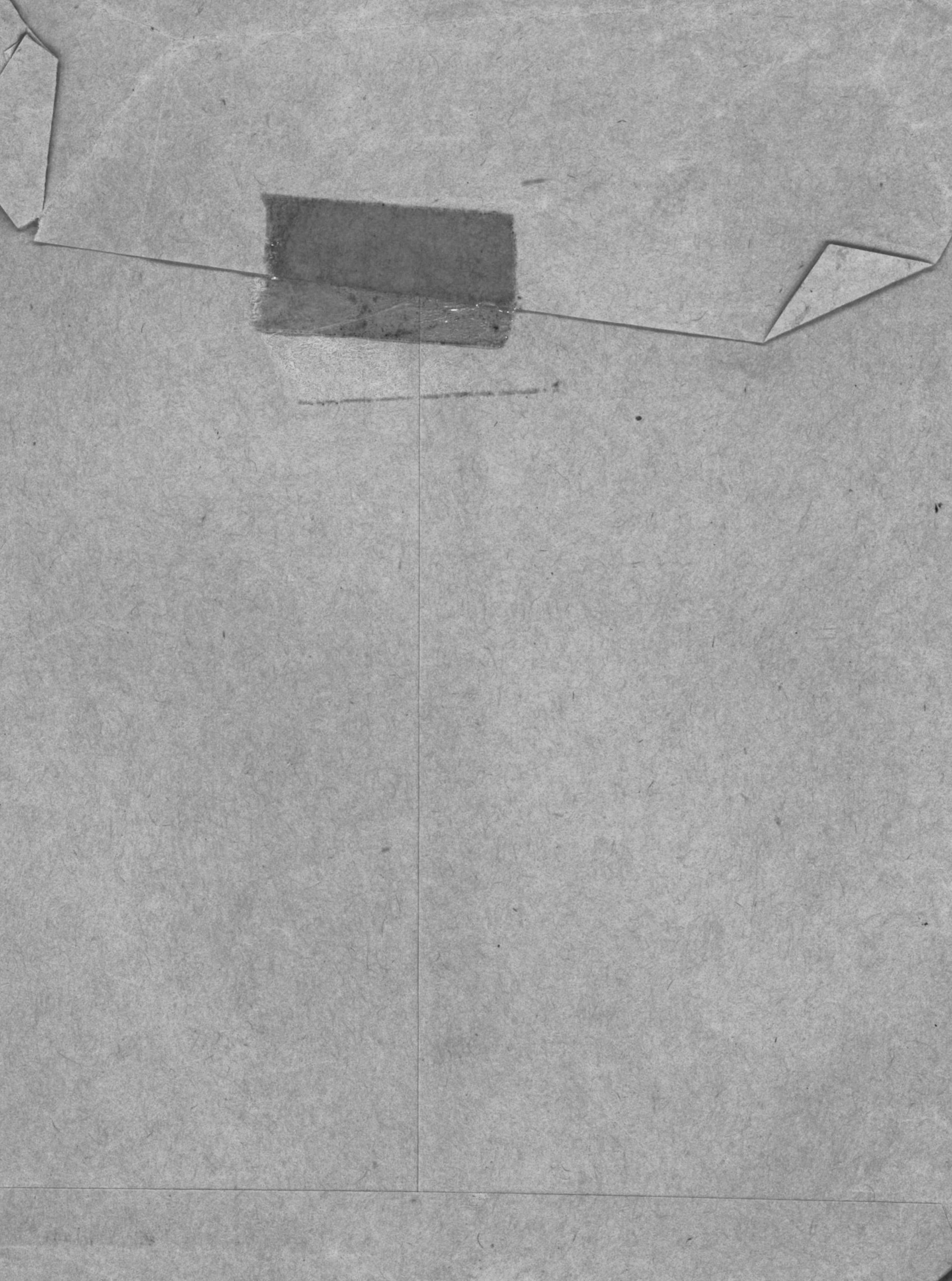


"HARP OF BURMA"

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ビルマの聖琴 (スペイン語版)
EL ARPA DE BIRMANIA

Directores

Productor .. Masayuki Takagi
Historia Original ... Michio Takeyama
De Pantalla .. Natsuto Wada
De Representación ... Kon Ichikawa
De Fotografía ... Minoru Yokoyama
De Documentación ... Masakazu Kamiya
De Luces Ko Fujibayashi
De Arte ... Takashi Matsuyama

Reparto

Capitán Inoue ...	Rentaro Mikuni
Sargento Mizushima ..	Shoji Yasui
Comandante ...	Tatsuya Mihashi
Buhonera ...	Tanie Kitabayashi
Jefe de Aldea	Yunosuke Ito.

RELATO

Julio de 1.965. La guerra llegaba a su fin para las fuerzas japonesa de Birmania. Unidad tras unidad remontaba las montañas de Birmania para escapar a Tailandia. Entre los que huían había un hombre que cantaba al son de un extraño instrumento musical que recordaba una arpa de Birmania.

El sargento Mizushima tañía muy hábilmente este instrumento. Guiaba a los hombres de su unidad con el arpa en la mano disgrazado de birmano, y en repetidas ocasiones su arpa los libró de emboscadas.

La unidad se aproximaba ya a la frontera de Tailandia. Hacen noche en una aldea perdida en la montaña. Por primera vez después de muchas semanas disponían de un techo y podían dormir bajo su abrigo.

La aldea es envuelta en un silencio de muerte: se decía que las tropas británicas la habían rodeado. El temer del peligro llega también a los moradores de

la aldea. En un momento dadose filtran por las ramas y cañas de un bohío las suaves notas del arpa de Mizushima. Toca "Hogar, dulce hogar". Garganta tras garganta echa a cantar. Pronto la aldea entera se convierte en un solo coro. El enemigo oculto se une al canto de la aldea. Era la señal de que la guerra había terminado.

Los soldados japoneses son llevados como prisioneros de guerra al campo de Mudon.. .. y Mizushima recibe la misión de tratar de obtener la rendición de un regimiento japonés que todavía resiste en las montañas con el compromiso de volver a juntarse a los prisioneros.

Los esfuerzos de Mizushima son en vano, y cae inconsciente bajo el fuego de los cañones ingleses.

Como Mizushima no regresaba, los prisioneros pagan a una vieja buhonera para que les consiga alguna información sobre el sargento. Los días pasan y no hay noticias.

Cierto día, al regreso de una faena, los prisioneros ven parado sobre un puente de madera a un monje vestido de amarillo (con una gran lora sobre el hombro). Los ojos del monje son como los grandes y profundos de Mizushima. Lo llaman por el nombre de Mizushima; pero el monje no se da por entendido, y sigue su camino en la dirección en que habían venido los soldados.

En el ataque de los ingleses habían muerto todos los soldados que resistían en la montaña, y sólo Mizushima había sido salvado por un monje que pasaba. Consciente de su misión, Mizushima debía unirse de nuevo a los prisioneros. Hurta un vestido del monje y corre hacia Mudon. En su camino va enterrando los restos de los japoneses muertos en batalla que los buitres habían perdonado. Por fin llega a Mudon.

Al día siguiente de su llegada, cuando todavía buscaba el modo de incorporarse a su unidad prisionera, dió con el cementerio del campo de prisión en que soldados ingleses y enfermeras celebraban un servicio en memoria del "soldado japonés desconocido". Durante la ceremonia desfilan por la mente de Mizushima los incontables muertos que había visto en su camino a Mudon. Termina su oración, levanta la cabeza, y en su rostro se dibuja una firme resolución que ^aacaba de tomar.

Mizushima se alejaba del cementerio cuando acierta a pasar por el puente de madera. Se cruza con los prisioneros de guerra que caminan en opuesto sentido. Aquí se da cuenta el monje Mizushima que jamás ~~que~~ jamás volvería a su patria en compañía de sus camaradas.

(Entre tanto el capitán Inoue había comprado a la buhonera una lora que había nacido con la lora que llevaba Mizushima en el hombro. Inoue había enseñado a su lora a decir: "Mizushima, volvamos al Japón".))

> Finalmente llega la orden de repatriación. En tres días deberían partir de Mudon.

(El capitán Inoue pide a la buhonera que pase su lora al extraño monje.))

La víspera de la partida, cuando los repatriados perdían la esperanza de regresar en compañía de Mizushima, aparece una vez más delante de ellos el misterioso sacerdote. Los prisioneros cantan quedamente: "Hogar, dulce hogar", y el monje que los oía silencioso toma de repente su arpa y echa a tañerla. No hay duda que es el mismo Mizushima, que no responde a las llamadas de los prisioneros.

Sin decir palabra Mizushima toca una melodía de despedida que sus excompañeros conocían. Termina la melodía, hace una profunda reverencia y se aleja.

(El día de la partida de la unidad, la buhonera llega al campo de concentración con una lora que repite: "No, no volveré". La vendedora entrega también a los soldados una carta que Mizushima les dirige.))

Los prisioneros, reunidos en la cubierta del buque que los ha de transportar a su patria escuchan de labios de Inoue la lectura de la carta que Mizushima les dirigiera: Mizushima se quedaba en Birmania para procurar una tumba a los miles y miles de japoneses que habían caído... un lugar donde al fin pudieran disfrutar de paz...

Fin

Número de rollos ... 14, 10.479 pies.

Duración 116 minutos.

Entrega ... Enero de 1.956.



THE HARP OF BURMA

(Biruma no Tategoto)

STAFF

Producer	Masayuki Takagi
Original Story	Michio Takeyama
Screenplay	Natsuo Wada
Direction	Kon Ichikawa
Photography	Minoru Yokoyama
Lights	Ko Fujibayashi
Recording	Masakazu Kamiya
Art Direction	Takashi Matsuyama

CAST

Captain Inouye	Rentaro Mikuni
Private Mizushima	Shoji Yasui
Defense Commander	Tatsuya Mihashi
Old Woman	Taniye Kitabayashi
Village Head	Yunosuke Ito

THE STORY

By July 1945, the war was nearing its end for the Japanese forces in Burma. Unit after unit was crossing the mountains of Burma to escape into Thailand. And among these units marching toward Thailand was one in which the men sang songs to the accompaniment of a strange handmade instrument resembling a Burmese harp.

Private Mizushima was an expert at playing this instrument. He would dress in the costume of a Burmese native and walk ahead of the unit. When the way was clear, he would signal the men forward by playing a tune on his harp. Time after time, he had saved the unit from falling into an ambush.

The unit was nearing the Thai border. It stopped one night in a mountain village. For the first time in weeks, the men had a roof over their heads and a floor under their feet. For the first time in weeks, they would be able to rest.

But suddenly, the village is wrapped an ominous silence. News comes in that the village has been surrounded by British troops. The situation is fraught with danger, not only for themselves, but the noncombatant villagers. Just then, the sound of Mizushima's harp comes softly from one of the huts. He is playing "Home Sweet Home." Voices blend with the music of the harp and soon the entire unit is sing in chorus. And as if they, too, are thinking of home, English voices from the unseen foe can be heard singing in unison with the Japanese. The men learn for the first time that the war has ended.

The men are taken to a prisoner-of-war camp at Mudon all except Mizushima, who was volunteered to make an attempt by himself to induce a Japanese garrison, still fighting in the mountain fastness, to give up and join the other prisoners. Mizushima's efforts are in vain and amidst the thunder of British guns, Mizushima falls unconscious.

The rest of the men at the prison camp anxiously await Mizushima's return. They bribe an old peddler woman to get some information about the lost private. Days pass and still there is no news. Captain Inouye seeks to cheer the men up by leading them in song, but Mizushima and his harp are missing.

One day, when the unit is returning from a labor detail, they see a yellow-robed monk on a bridge. On his shoulder is perched a green parrot. As the men tramp past the silent figure, they gasp in amazement. The monk is clean-shaven; but his build, and his large and deepsunken eyes, are those of the missing Mizushima. Some of the men call out his name, but the monk remains silent. He walks silently away, in the direction from where the unit had come.

The monk was indeed Mizushima. Regaining consciousness after the attack on the mountain post which had killed the rest of the men, Mizushima had staggered away and had been saved by a passing monk. Knowing his mission was to rejoin his unit, Mizushima had stolen one of the monk's robes and was hurrying to Mudon. On his way he had passed scenes of deadly battles where all that remained now were the bleached bones of the Japanese dead, the flesh picked clean by vultures. Whenever he was able, he buried or burned the dead. Finally he arrived at Mudon.

The following day, still trying to find his way into the camp to join his unit, Mizushima came upon a party of English soldiers and nurses holding a memorial service in the prison cemetery for the "Unknown Japanese Dead." And as he watched, there came to his mind the countless Japanese dead he had seen on his way to Mudon. The men had been left unburied, unmourned. Mizushima bowed his head in prayer and when he raised his head, his face was shining with a firm resolve.

He was walking away from the cemetery when he had come to the wooden bridge. As he was crossing, a Japanese prisoner-of-war labor party had approached from the opposite direction. He stood face to face with the members of his unit. It was here that he realized he would never be able to return to Japan with his own comrades.

It was while he was burying the Japanese dead along a river bank that he had found the huge ruby.

The men of the unit saw the mysterious priest once more. He was in a line of monks who were participating in ceremonies honoring the British war dead. The strange monk had a small box, wrapped in white cloth, hanging from his neck. His hands were pressed together in prayer.

Meanwhile, Captain Inouye, who had brought from the old peddler woman a green parrot which was the brother of the parrot which had been perched on the strange monk's shoulder, taught the bird to say: "Mizushima, let's all go home together."

Finally, the orders come for their repatriation. In three days they will leave Mudon. Captain Inouye asks the peddler woman to give his parrot to the strange monk.

On the day before their departure, when they have just about given up hopes that Mizushima will return with them, the mysterious priest once more makes his appearance before them. The men had been standing at the barricade softly singing "Home Sweet Home." The strange monk who has been listening in silence suddenly picks up his harp and begins to play. The men know the man is Mizushima. They call him, but he does not answer.

Without speaking a word, Mizushima starts playing a song of farewell which the men all know. And when he finishes, he bows deeply and walks off.

On the day of the departure of the unit, the peddler woman comes to the camp with a parrot. In its high, sing-song voice the bird says: "No, I just cannot go home!" The peddler also leaves a letter from Mizushima addressed to the unit.

The men are assembled on the deck of the transport bearing them back to Japan. They are listening to Captain Inouye reading the letter from Mizushima. It tells the men of Private Mizushima's sorrowful and pitiful determination—to stay in Burma to provide the thousands and thousands of Japanese soldiers who dies in Burma a place where they can repose in peace.

The End.

No. of Reels and Footage . . . 14 reels, 10,479 feet
Running Time 116 minutes
Released January 1956



