For the War Crimes Office

Judge Advocate Generals Department Department

United States of America

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| In the matter of atrocities committed by the Japanese against prisoners of war at Fukuoka Area, Camp No. 3, Japan | Perpetuation of Testimony of Mr. Allison L. Anderson (formerly Sergeant, US Marine Corps, MSN 273921), RFD #1, Bastrop, Louisiana. |

Taken at: United States Post Office, Bastrop, Louisiana

Date: 4 January 1947

In the presence of: Dominic D. OConnor, Special Agent, 112th CIC Detachment, Fourth Army

Stenographer: Verna Bennett, 623 N. Marable St, Bastrop, Louisiana

Questions by: Dominic D. OConnor, Special Agent, 112th CIC Detachment, Fourth Army

Q. State your full name, age and permanent address.

A. My full name is Allison Leonard Anderson. I am 24 years old. My permanent address is RFD #1, Bastrop, Louisiana

Q. Were you ever a member of the United States Armed Forces?

A. I was inducted into the US Marine Corps on 7 September 1939 and I was discharged 26, April 1946 with the rank of Sergeant and my serial number during my period of service was 273921.

Q. While a member of the armed forces did you ever serve abroad?

A.. I left the United States in February 1940 and served in Peiping, China until December 8, 1941 at which time I was taken prisoner by the Japanese. I was moved from Peiping on the first of January 1942 by boxcar to Shanghai, arriving there on 4 January 1942. We remain there until October 1942 at which time we moved by transport, name Miki Maru, to Moji, Japan, arriving there on 5 November 1942. We were taken the same day by coach to Tobata, Japan to the Fukuoka Area, Camp #3. I remained in that camp from 5 November 1942 to 15 August 1943, at which time we walked 12 miles to Hiwata, Japan. We arrived in Hiwata on 16 August 1943, and I remained there until my liberation on 17 September 1945.

Q. Describe the conditions under which you lived at Fukuoka, Area Camp #3, Japan.

A. Fukuoka Area, Camp #3 covered an area of about three acres and was enclosed by a 9 foot board fence. There were 1500 prisoners in there, including about 400 Americans, some British, Chinese Americans, Merchant Marines, Calcutta Indians, Filipinos, Dutch Javanese and a few Australians. We were housed in the barn like two-story structure about 150 men in a barn. We slept on straw mats that were infected with fleas, lice and bedbugs and were jammed together with about 6 inches between the bodies when sleeping. The guard house, the Japanese Headquarters Building, kitchen and the storehouse were all inside the enclosure. About 1400 of the men were sent out to work daily, and they were marched one quarter mile, loaded on flat cars run through a tunnel through the mountain out into the yards of the Mitsuibi Steel Mills.

Q. Do you have any personal knowledge of the conditions in the guard house?

A. Yes. I was put into the guard house once for stealing Red Cross supplies and was kept there for three days and I was not beaten this time. The guard house was a bullpen without windows or doors and the prisoners were kept in there together. When I was there I was allowed to keep my shirt and pants and was given one blanket to use to cover myself while I slept on the cold cement floor. This occurred in February of 1943. Our food consisted of half the ration that we usually received *(handwritten word*) and was especially heavily salted for the guard house prisoners. We received one canteen cup of tea to drink. I never saw any man beaten at the guard house, but I did see men coming out of the guard house that bore marks, which showed that they evidently had been beaten. I cannot remember their names or the descriptions of them.

Q. Describe the guards in charge of the guard house at the time you were in prison.

A. It seemed the policy of this camp to change the guard assigned to Camp #3 weekly, and I am unable to recall any of the Japanese personnel who guarded us.

Q. Can you describe the Japanese Commandant, who was there at the time of your arrival?

A. I cannot recall this mans name, and I cannot describe them. He left in about February of 1943.

*(GBS, 4/22/2008,This page has a header Joseph Edward Alberts...)*

Q. Who was the second camp commandant when you were in Camp #3.

A. The second camp commander was a major in the Japanese army, whose name sounded like Rick-a-taki. He was about 55 years of age, weight, about 140 pounds, about 5'7". He was well dressed, well spoken and made a clean appearance. This major was in command until the time I left.

Q. Did you witness any mistreatment of prisoners in which Major Rick-a-taki participated or which occurred as a result of his orders or which occurred with his knowledge?

A. Yes. The senior officer among the prisoners was a Colonel in the US Army Calvary, whose name I cannot recall. However, he was 42 years of age, 5 feet 10 inches, 165 pounds, had sandy hair, had been a gasoline salesman in civilian life and had been on the Bataan Death March.. His sole job was fertilizing the prisoners of war garden. He rarely represented the men in their complaints or objected to the Japanese Commandant. When prisoners of war were abused.

Chief Ph.M., Hassey, U.S. Navy, usually stood up for the men and represented them when necessary. In their dealings with the Japanese camp personnel. Hassey, I believe, had been on Admiral Harts staff and spoke, read and wrote Japanese fluently. I saw Rick-a-taki, the camp commander, when he became angry with Hassey at Hasseys objecting to some of the mistreatment, take a bayonet and make passes with it close to Hasseys head, so as to cause Hassey to be in fear of his life. He didnt stick Hassey with the bayonet.

Q. Who were the other Japanese personnel at Camp #3?

A. The only other Japanese I can remember was the Q/M Sergeant, who was there all the time that I was. He was about 27 years of age, about 5'4" and weighed about 125 pounds.

Q. Did the Q/M Sergeant to your personal knowledge, ever withhold mail, Red Cross supplies, clothing, blankets or other necessities from the prisoners that they had on hand?

A. I saw him myself carrying blankets marked U.S. Army, Red Cross sweaters, Red Cross gloves, shoes and shirts and American cigarettes out of the warehouse and out of the compound and I never did see him bring them back. When I passed his office occasionally I could see Red Cross canned food sitting on his desk and Ive seen him smoking American cigarettes. There was a general Red Cross supply issue about once every four months. I never received a package from home. This sergeant was also in charge of the mail and all I ever receive were 4 postcards and 2 letters.

Q. Describe the medical conditions at Fukuoka Area Camp #3.

A. Capt. Greensberg, US Medical Corps from Chicago, was the Senior Medical Officer. There was a First Lieutenant, Dennis, US Medical Corps. The Japanese medical personnel, I believe were rotated weekly. I do not remember any of them. I had pneumonia for 73 days. They put me on a straw mattress in the dispensary, which was within the compound and my treatment consisted of a daily shot of sugar and water according to the American Medical Corpsman, who gave them to me. I also received a few sulfanalilamide pills. However, I was delirious most of the time and dont recall too much about it. I do know that 63 Dutchmen died in two months from pneumonia. When I went on sick call, I notice that some American Red Cross medical supplies were there, and the medical officers were allowed to use them for our benefit, however, I heard that men were operated on without any anesthetic, whatever. In some instances, I do know that some men who were operated on were sent back to work three days after the operation. I cant recall the names of any of these men.

Q. Describe the conditions in the steel mill.

A. The steel mill, in peacetime, I understand employed about 70,000 persons, however when I was there its operations had been materially reduced, and they only had 32,000, including we 1400 prisoners. The mill took in ore, reduced it to steel and turned out steel plate for ships, steel rails, and also fabricated hand grenades and 6 to 8 inch gun barrels.

Q. Who were the Japanese personnel in charge of the steel mill?

A. The only Japanese personnel whom I can recall are the foreman, who was the No. 1 pusher in the shop where I worked, his name sounded like U-ma-sty-san. Under him was a No. 2 pusher, whose name sounded like Tie-nak-o-san. Under him was a No. 3 pusher, whose name sounded like Ma-chu-san and whose nickname was The Maniac.. There was a steel hammer operator under whom I worked in his name sounded like Dee-cow-o-san and his nickname was Water Snake. There was a No. 1 pusher in the machine shop, who was over the, lathes, punch presses and drills, whose name sounded like Fu-jiz-ma-san. All of these five Japanese, at various times, beat me with their fists, open hands, or with steel pipes, small rails or bamboo poles.

Q. Describe U-ma-sty-san.

A. He was about 53 years of age, about 5' 9", about 160 pounds, had a scar under his right eye and was a civilian.

Q. Describe Dee-cow-o-san (The Water Snake).

A. He was about 33 years old, 5' 4", weighed about 98 pounds, and a build like a gorilla and was a civilian.

Q. Describe Tie-nak-o-san.

A. He was about 27 years of age, 5'4" tall, weighed about 134 pounds, was a civilian and claimed to be a judo expert.

Q. Describe Ma-chu-san.

A. He was about 35 years of age, about 140 pounds, about 5 feet and had a monkey-like gait and was a civilian.

Q. Described Fu-jiz-ma-san.

A. He was about 50 years of age, 5'4" tall, weighed 130 pounds and was a civilian.

Q. Did you ever see any of the military personnel mistreat prisoners of war in the steel mill?

A. Yes. Ive seen many Japanese strike many prisoners of war, but I cannot remember the names of any of the prisoners of war, whom I saw struck and the only Japanese whose names I can recall are those who I said beat me.

Q. Can you describe a specific instance in which any of the above named Japanese participated in your beatings?

A. No, I cannot recall any incidents in any detail.

Q. Are there any further remarks which you wish to state at this time?

A. Yes. Although I spoke Japanese and Chinese well enough to understand conversations when I heard them. I never at any time heard any of the Japanese officers issue orders for beatings or give permission for the abuse of prisoners. They seem to me to exercise the greatest care in this respect at all times. This policy of theirs, along with their frequent rotation of guards, makes it difficult for me to recall or identify any Japanese other than the few whom I have already mentioned.

/S/ Alison Leonard Anderson

ALLISON LEONARD ANDERSON