PERPETUATION OF TESTIMONY OF

HAROLD STONE KIRK

(Technical Sergeant, ASN 6570009)

Route 3, Box 21, Beaumont, Tex.

My name is Harold Stone Kirk. My permanent home address is Route 3, Box 21, Beaumont, Texas. I am a Technical Sergeant, Serial No. 6570009, 47th Bomb Group, Lake Charles, Louisiana, having enlisted 2 June 1937.

I was serving with the 454th Aviation Ordinance (Bomb) Company at the time of my capture by the Japanese. I was captured on Bataan, Philippine Islands, on 9 April 1942 by a Japanese ground unit (Calvary), the name of which is unknown to me. I understand they were members of the Japanese Army that had been transferred from China.

I was held at Camp O’Donnell, P.I., until about 20 May 1942; then at a work camp, San Fernando, located 60 kilometers north of Manila, P.I., until Sept. 1942; then at Work Camp #8, Bataan Peninsula, until May 1943; then at Bilibid Hospital Manila, P.I., until Sept. 1943; then at Camp Cabanatuan, Cabanatuan, P.I., until July 1944; then transferred to Camp Moji #3, Kyushu Island, until liberated 13 Sept. 1945.

At Camp O’Donnell the only mistreatment witnessed by me was the neglect by the Japs in their care of the sick. I personally knew Pfc. Wallace, a cook in my Company, who died of dysentery while in this camp for lack of medicine. We received no medical attention whatsoever. On two occasions a group of Catholic priests from Manila came to this Camp with truckloads of fresh fruits, vegetables, and medicines for the prisoners, but were refused admittance by the Japanese. I know of my personal knowledge that approximately 1800 Americans and 10,000 Philipinos died in this camp during my imprisonment there for lack of medical care. I personally helped bury 42 American prisoners who died in one day in April 1942 for lack of medicine. I know that on another day in April 1942 that 89 American prisoners died for the same reason.

I do not know who the camp Commander at Camp O’Donnell was and cannot describe him. He made the following statement in a speech to us upon our arrival to this Camp: “American and Japan are enemies. We will be your enemies forever. However, if you obey the rules and regulations of this Camp you will be protected. If you do not you will be killed.”

The food in camp O’Donnell was very inadequate. It consisted of rice, boiled Camotes and watery vegetable soup. Each man’s ration for a day would be approximately one and one-half mess-kits of rice, one canteen cup of soup and two small Camotes. The Camotes were often so spoiled we could not eat them.

The Commander at the work camp San Fernando was a Jap Warrant Officer. He was exceptionally large for a Jap. He was about 5’10” in height, weighing approximately 180 lbs. I understand he came from the Island of Hikado.

I either suffered or witnessed mistreatment to American prisoners by the following described Japs while in this work camp: The Jap Warrant Officer mentioned above; a Jap soldier known to me as “Fish face”, a man about 5’6” tall weighing about 135#. He had a sharp pointed perch-type face; a two-star Jap private nicknamed “Silver Tooth”. He was 5’2” tall, weighed about 115 lbs., and had a set of false teeth made of silver.

I personally received mistreatment from the Jap Warrant Officer. About two or three times a week he would get drunk and while I was on work detail he would beat me about the head with his saber. He said I wasn’t working fast enough on these occasions. I witnessed similar treatment to Pfc. Joseph Cooper, Pvt. Gore, 192nd Tank Battalion, and many others whose names are unknown to me. The Jap Warrant Officer said we weren’t working hard enough as an excuse for these beatings.

The Jap soldier known as “Fish Face” was a guard on a convoy which went in to Manila every day. While en route from this work camp to Manila the Filipino civilians would toss fruit, vegetables, food and cigarettes into the trucks for the use of the prisoners. When “Fish Face” caught us with any of these items he took it away from us and gave us a beating. He beat us with his hands and kicked us on our shins. He tried to kick us in the groin but seldom succeeded. All of the prisoners on this detail, including myself, received such treatment at least one a week.

“Silver Tooth”, another convoy guard, gave us the same treatment for the same things as the Jap guard “Fish Face”. He whipped me every morning for at least a month about July 1942, for what reasons I do not know. He whipped the others about as often and for the same reasons as “Fish Face”.

The Camp Commander at Work Camp #8, Bataan Peninsula, was a Jap Second Lieut. by the name of Sasaki. I personally delivered to a Filipino doctor (name unknown) who lived in Balanga, Bataan, P.I., to 65 kilo bags of rice. This rice was part of that rationed to us. It was for Lieut. Sasaki in payment of treatment given him by this doctor for Gonorrhea.

When the new American doctor, name unknown, came to this camp as a replacement for Dr. Knowles ( an American doctor) this Lieut. Sasaki beat him in the face with his hands. He then called in two Jap guards and commanded them to beat this new doctor with tent poles. I was sitting about thirty feet away when I witnessed this incident. They beat him about five minutes around his back and legs. Then they tied his arms behind him around the tree. When we came back from unloading a boat in Marvielles about 3 o’clock in the morning they released this doctor and fed him. He had been tied to this tree about 11 hours when released. I don’t know why he received this treatment.

Another Jap who mistreated prisoners in this work camp was known to me as “Boots and Saddle”. He was a buck sergeant, a mess sergeant, who was about 5’ 6” tall and weighed about 145 lbs. He wore Jap officer field boots at all times. I delivered on 65 kilo bag of rice to a house in Balanga for this sergeant in payment of room rent for his Filipino “shack woman”.

His form of punishment to American prisoners was to make them hold objects at arms length above their heads. Every time their arms became tired and they started to lower them they would receive blows across their backs – usually with a pick handle. In April 1943, I witnessed such treatment to Sergeant Harvey Reidiman. He stood in this position about five hours and I saw the Jap guard strike him about three blows across his back with a pick handle. This resulted from Reidiman’s failure to salute this sergeant. I witnessed similar treatment to Pvt. Mansfield, Buck sergeant “Red” Ortez and several others whose names are unknown to me. I don’t know the reason for such punishment to these people.

I witnessed the execution of ten Filipino civilians while in this Camp. They were killed for stealing accessories off the trucks parked in the motor pool. Lieut. Sasaki beheaded three of them. Sgt. “Boots and Saddle” beheaded two. Sgt. Yamato beheaded two. A Jap corporal (name unknown) bayoneted one. One died on the torture rack. One was shot to death by a group of Jap private guards. These people received no trial prior to execution. We were forced to witness this execution.

I neither suffered nor witnessed any mistreatment to anyone while in the Bilibid Hospital.

The Camp Commander at Camp Cabanatuan was a Jap Major (name Unknown). He was small wiry man, wearing a small Hitler-type mustache.

While in this Camp I witnessed only one incident of mistreatment t an American. About June 1944, while on a road detail, I saw a Jap guard called “Smiley” make Capt. Wermut, and American officer, kneel down on the ground and then beat him unmercifully with rifle butts. They kicked him in the ribs and kidneys. This treatment resulted in hospitalization for Capt. Wermut for a period of about three weeks. I don’t know why he received such treatment.

The Camp Commander at Camp Moji #3 was a Jap major called the “Trained Seal”. He was about 5’4” high and weighted about 165 lbs. (a very pot-bellied man). He wore a mustache and had a face that looked like a seal.

I suffered and witnessed mistreatment from the Jap mess sergeant in this Camp. He was an extra large man for a Jap. He was about 5’ 10” in height, weighed about 170 lbs. and had a very red face. His favorite type of punishment when drunk was making the prisoners kick off their shoes and run around a group of kitchen buildings. Snow was on the ground and he made us run until we often dropped from exhaustion. He usually made us run from 25 to 30 minutes. This occurred about 2 o’clock in mornings, as I was cooking at this time and we did this running before cooking breakfast. This happened about three or four every week. This occurred during the months of Sept. 1944 through May 1945.

On or about April of 1945 I cooked some seed Irish potatoes by mistake. This sergeant slapped me about the face for about ten minutes and then applied Jiu-Jitsu for five minutes. He picked me up and threw me on the concrete floor four or five times.

On or about January 1945, I saw a Marine corporal, name unknown, tossed into a water reservoir where he was forced to swim until exhausted. He was then removed to the guard house where he gave himself a rub-down. They then through him into a concrete cell naked where he remained for the night. It was bitterly cold with ice everywhere at this time. He was forced to work in a steel mill the following day with no food. He received one-half ration for supper that evening and spent the night in the guard house with no blankets.

The food in Camp Moji #3 was very insufficient. I was soup cook in this Camp and have personal knowledge of the food there. We sorted the vegetables every morning and all those that were beginning to spoil were issued to us for our use. These vegetables were egg plant, cucumbers, a vegetable gourd and pumpkins. A man’s daily rationing was approximately one canteen cut of watery soup, 18 ounces of steamed rice and sometimes a small piece of fish or whale meat. On exceptionally cold days we were issued 6 kilos of sugar to use in the soup to feed approximately 1200 prisoners. On warm days we received none.

I have made a former affidavit covering this subject in Manila. I made this statement the latter part of Sept. 1945 to American officers at the 29th Replacement Depot. I also gave them a little book listing the dates and names of Japanese who were responsible for the mistreatment of allied prisoners.

Harold Stone Kirk

HAROLD STONE KIRK

STATE OF TEXAS ()

COUNTY OF JEFFERSON ()

I, Harold Stone Kirk, of lawful age, being duly sworn on oath, state that I have read the foregoing statement consisting of three and one-fourth pages, and that it is true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Harold Stone Kirk

HAROLD STONE KIRK

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 22nd day of August, 1946, at Beaumont, Texas.

Ruth E. Lloyd

Notary Public in and for County

Of Jefferson, State of Texas.

My commission expires 6-1-47