Doc. No. 16652

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS

SUPREME COMANDER FOR THE ALLIED POWERS

MILITARY INTELLIGENCE SECTION, GENERAL STAFF

ALLIED TRANSLATOR AND INTERPRETER SECTION

NOTE: Translation requested by Legal Section

Received ATIS: 19 April 1946

Full Translation of Statement

of ABE, Tatsuo.

C O N F I D E N T I A L

 I, Tatsuo Abe do hereby affirm that according to my conscience I will speak the truth, adding nothing and concealing nothing.

 I commenced work as a civilian guard by the Japanese Army at Fukuoka Branch Camp No. 3 for Prisoners of War, in December 1943 and worked there until the end of the war in August 1945. I was put in charge of the civilian guards, other than those in the office and kitchen, during the summer of 1944. My work was to assist the guarding of the Prisoners of War inside of the camp and while they were going to and from work at the Iron Works. After I became in charge of the civilian guards I assigned them their work and I was responsible for their work and action but I had to report to any Army non-commissioned officer who was directly responsible to the camp commander for the civilian guards. This Army non commissioned officer changed every three weeks. During March 1945 my watch was being repaired by a Dutch prisoner of war who told him that he had lost the watch but was later told by another prisoner of war that a prisoner of war had the watch. I then went to the person who was repairing the watch and was told by him that he had given the watch to another prisoner of war, this second prisoner of war when questioned stated that someone else had it. After I questioned several others I felt that one of three or four prisoners had my watch. I called three of them together, but none of them admitted having the watch in his possession. This was in the early evening as it was still light. I made them strip off their clothes. Prior to taking off their clothing I slapped the prisoners on their cheeks about two blows to each prisoner and told them not to lie when I asked them about the watch. I nor anyone else slapped or beat the prisoners after they took their clothes off. When the men had their clothes off a small bucket of cold water was thrown on them. The men stood outside without their clothes on for about ten minutes at attention when they admitted they had connection with the watch and would produce it the next day. They were then allowed to dress and were put in solitary confinement. The next day he received the watch from the camp commander. The men stayed in the guard house for about a week of punishment. The camp commander had been told about the lost watch and the camp commander told me to take an interpreter to find out about the watch. The camp commander did not know what method had been used to obtain a confession as the method used was my own idea.

 Several times while I was at the camp I had to slap prisoners of war to reprimand them. The occasions were few and was done with general permission of the camp commander. Slapping is a common form of reprimand in the Japanese Army.

 I never mistreated a prisoner of war other than the one case with the watch and I do not think anyone had any ill feelings against me.

 The prisoners connected with the watch matter had dark complexions.

 While I worked at Fukuoka Branch Camp No. 3 I had a small, black moustache.

 3 April 1946 Tatsuo Abe

/s/ T/ 4 Takishima /s/ Japanese Signature

 Interpreter

 Sworn to and subscribed before me this 3rd day of April, 1946 at Tokyo, Japan.

A CERTIFIED TRUE COPY: / s / Howard D. Porter, Legal Section

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EDWIN F. SVAREU

1st Lt., Inf.

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some water over them would make them talk. They stripped these three so I was compelled to pour two pails of water on each one. In a short while, they confessed and said that they would bring the watch back from the work area. The time taken for this was five minutes standing and five minutes of water, and it couldn’t have been over ten minutes I immediately told them to take a rub down with a dry towel and to take care against catching a cold. I had them put on their clothing and led them to a stove to warm themselves and gave a cigarette to each one. After this, I placed them in confinement again. The following day, I received the watch from the superintendent and returned it to TANAKA and received the 150.00 yen I had paid him. This incident was truly inevitable for I had already taken legitimate measures. However, at present, I regret the fact that there had been some other means used at that time. Furthermore, while working at the compound, I handled the prisoners with as much affection as possible since I thought that the prisoners had only fought for their country and that as individuals there were no hostile feelings. Besides this, by no means did I do anything that was not right.

 The superintendent also told us to slap the prisoners when they are caught in the act of wrong doing and to caution them, but never to strike them excessively. Therefore, in my long service I did slap them lightly and gave them warnings on several occasions but never did I do anything harmful. During my duties, I did various kind deeds for the prisoners, and even at the time when they were leaving, I received a word of gratitude from Major DOUISS ( Japanese writing ) and the rest. I believed that they were all very happy, which made me feel good.

 I will restrain myself from writing any good things about myself, but if it is possible I will appreciate it very much if the officers interned at that time were contacted. While working at the compound, I had a little mustache. The three aforementioned prisoners were rather dark in complexion, and I believe that they were Dutch.

16 April 1946

 At SUGANO Prison

 Abe, Tatsuo

 ( Japanese Signature ).