Restricted

Armitage, Thomas B., a male American citizen, after being duly sworn at 29th Replacement Depot on 1 October, 1945, testified as follows:

Q.. How old are you?

A. 30

Q. Were you interned by the Japanese or made a prisoner of war and if so, when and where?

A. Yes, at Wake Island, December 22, 1941

Q. Where did you reside at the time of your capture?

A. Working for Pacific Naval Airbase at Wake Island

Q. By what Japanese unit where you captured?

A. Navy (Marines)

Q. Do you expect to be repatriated and if so to what country?

A yes to US

Q. What will your complete address be after your repatriation?

A 816 Six St N., Nampa, ID

Q. Will you state the names and locations of the camps at which you were held as a prisoner of war in the dates you were confined at each camp?

A. Camp or campground Location Dates

Woo Sung Camp Woo Sung China Jan-Sept 1942

Camp No. 3 Yawata, Krushu, Japan Sept 1942-Aug 1945

Q. Do you know, where have you reason to believe that the Imperial Japanese Forces failed to treat prisoners of war with humanity or otherwise committed atrocities or war crimes against them?

A. Yes

Q. Will you state all facts in detail pertaining to atrocities, war crimes, violations of Rules of Land Warfare and human decency at Camp #3 Yawata, the dates thereof, the perpetrators, giving their names, ranks, units and other identifying information.

A. About 15 May 1943 some clothes were stolen from an empty barracks at Camp #3 Yawata where the Japanese had stored them. One of the civilian American prisoners, who walked with me named Bill Cash was seen wearing a pair of trousers which had been stolen, so he, another prisoner, Sergeant Woodall, formerly of the Texas National Guard, and myself were beaten and tortured by the Japs in an effort to discover where the other missing clothes had been disposed of. I was taken to an empty barracks with Cash and Woodall by a Japanese staff Sergeant and Corporal Nagakura about 5:30 p.m., when we refuse to tell them anything about the missing close. They took Cash and made him stretch up on a ladder and then proceeded to strike him across the back from the shoulders to the hips. He was knocked down 10 or 15 times. In addition to the two Japs who brought us over there, the following Japs were also present and participated in the beatings and torture. Dr. Lt. Hata, Sergeant Kalisaki, a discharged ex-soldiers named Maneno, a civilian interpreter named Osana. After Cash was beaten, they started to work on me. First I was beaten, just like Cash had been with the club about 5 feet long and 2 inches square. I received about 10 or 15 blows across the back and was knocked down to the floor several times. After beating me for awhile, they would lash me to a stretcher than prop me up against the table with my head down. They then would pour about 2 gallons of water from a pitcher into my nose and mouth until I lost consciousness. When I revived they would repeat the beatings and water cure. Also, Dr. Lt. Hata took lighted cigarettes and press them against the cuticle of my fingernails of the left-hand. Three of my fingernails came off as a result of this torture. I was burned twice in this manner. Both Cash and Woodall were similarly treated. The tortures and beatings continued for about six hours. We were taken back to our barracks, but in a few minutes they returned and took us back for about another hour of beating. Woodall was hospitalized for two days as a result. Cash and I were then put in the guard house for four days before we went to work again and after that, we were put in the guard house after work every night for 21 nights. We were also forced to stand at attention for 2 or 3 hours each night. During this period, the guards would come in and slap us around nearly every night. This beating was almost the worst that occurred after March 1943 when Major Arato (?) took over on that date, but before that the beatings were much more numerous. (Continued).

*That is the end of the document to transcribe-GBS*