AFFIDAVIT

With the Army of the United States )

At Pinecastle Army Air Field ) SS

State of Florida )

County of Orange )

I, Orville F. CASTEEL, am presently assigned to Sq D (VHB), 621st AAF Base Unit, Pinecastle Army Air Field, Orlando, Florida and I certify:

THAT I was captured on 9 April 1942 at Marvereles on Bataan, and was relieved of all my personal belongings by Jap soldiers and guards.

THAT two days after my capture the Japanese forced me to begin a march to Camp O’Donnell – a march that took seven days to complete.

THAT during this march we had three small rice balls and very little water.

THAT I left Manila, Philippines, on 17 July 1944 and was taken on the NYSSOU MARU to Moji, Japan, on 4 August 1944, where we stayed until notified to proceed to Nagasaki for liberation on 12 September 1945.

THAT during our stay at Moji, we worked everyday as stevedores and endured continuous abuse at the hands of Japanese Military and Civilian personnel.

THAT identification of Army personnel would be difficult because Army guards were rotated each month. However, civilian guards were permanently assigned and could be easily identified.

THAT I saw an American civilian named Peterson from California beaten severely by approximately 14 civilian guards and the Commanding Officer of a group of Japanese (a captain), on about 15 March 1945. The names of these civilian guards, as well as I can remember, were:

YEGI SAN  
FUJIAMA SAN  
SAKAIUCHI SAN  
ANUI SAN  
CALI SAN

THAT one guard was called “Scarface” by the prisoners. He wore thick glasses. Another guard that beat Peterson was a slender Jap about five feet 10 inches with his left arm amputated above the elbow. He was called “One Armed Bandit.” Another was called “Pegleg.” His right leg was stiff at the knee. The above named guards also beat severely an American sailor named Cole and an Air Corps EM named Kinder.

THAT day after I saw the Japs administer beatings on American, English, Dutch and Australian prisoners who were working in this camp at Moji (#4).

THAT at least two prisoners died as a direct result of beatings that occurred at this camp.

THAT all personnel were forced to work unless they had a temperature of 102° or better.

THAT if I were in Moji I believe I could identify ten or twelve of the civilian guards who mistreated us if they are still there.

Signature

ORVILLE F. CASTEEL  
 Sergeant, Sq D (VHB)

Pinecastle Army Air Field