

U. S. War Department

(MATERIAL MUST NOT BE REMOVED FROM OR ADDED TO THIS FILE)

File No. 418 - 36
Sub.

WAR CRIMES OFFICE

**Judge Advocate General's
Office**

See also Nos.

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0669

FILE HAS BEEN DUPLICATED TO THIS POINT AND SENT TO THEATER BRANCH

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CONFIDENTIAL

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yards in from the shore. We dug in for the night. The next morning we moved forward again.

- Q. Are you familiar with the circumstances surrounding the mutilation and killing of an unknown United States Marine Lieutenant at Saipan, on or about 16 June 1944?
- A. We came upon a pillbox on the morning of 16 June 1944, it was about 0600, as we were moving forward and I happened to look to my left and saw one of the boys was having tough going with the Japs so I moved over to help him. As I was advancing toward him I looked up and saw what was apparently a camouflaged pillbox and along side the pillbox was a Marine Lieutenant tied to a tree in the form of a cross. His eyes had been cut out and his stomach had apparently been cut open and stuffed with sand or something of that nature and then sewed up again. His finger tips had been cut off and there were slashes on his arms that looked as if he had been beaten. We were moving forward and could not stop, but I passed within 10 or 15 feet of him. He looked to be alive at the time but pretty far gone. I moved on and a short time later I was wounded by a Jap handgrenade. I made my way back to the beach and from there was moved to a ship that was off shore. Later while on board the SS PINCKNEY I told a Marine corpsman about the incident and he said that somebody had tried to help the Lieutenant but the help arrived too late and he had died.
- Q. Do you know what Japanese organization was opposing you?
- A. No. It may have been the Japanese 31st Army. This is just a guess.
- Q. Did you hear the name of the Japanese commander in that area?
- A. No.
- Q. Who was your commanding officer?
- A. Captain Reinhold. He was killed on the beach and his place was taken by Captain George W. Burns (then lieutenant) who was present during the action.
- Q. Would Captain Burns have any knowledge about the Lieutenant that was killed by the Japanese?
- A. I do not know.
- Q. Would Captain Burns know what Japanese organization you were opposing at the time of this incident?
- A. He probably would know.
- Q. Are there any other officers or enlisted men who would be familiar with this incident?
- A. I do not know, but Sergeant Lusk in my outfit might know and as far as I know he is still with the Corps. Perhaps Sergeant Pete Wingate, who I think is back in the States, might know something about it. Sergeant Wingate's home is somewhere in Pennsylvania. Corporal John Tobisonick (phonetic) might know. He lives somewhere Upstate, New York.
- Q. Are there any other incidents that you are familiar with?
- A. No.
- Q. Is there anything further you wish to state about this particular incident?
- A. No.

Edward Anthony Johnston, Pfc., United States Marine Corps, #503221.

CONFIDENTIAL

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CONFIDENTIAL

-3-

State of New York)
County of New York) SS

I, Edward Anthony Johnston, of lawful age, being duly sworn on oath, state that I have read the foregoing transcription of my interrogation and all answers contained therein are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Edward Anthony Johnston, Pfc., United States Marine Corps, #503221.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 16 day of July 1945.

Carl A. Twitchell, Capt., Cav., O-391574 Summary Court.

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Carl A. Twitchell, Capt., Cav., O-391574, certify that on 9 July 1945, personally appeared before me Edward Anthony Johnston, Pfc., United States Marine Corps, #503221, and gave the foregoing answers to the several questions set forth; that after his testimony had been transcribed, the said Edward Anthony Johnston read the same and affixed his signature thereto in my presence.

Place: Room 806, 1270 Sixth Avenue,
New York, New York.

Carl A. Twitchell, Capt., Cav., O-391574

Date: 16 July/45

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CONFIDENTIAL
WAR CRIMES OFFICE

Judge Advocate General's Department -- War Department
United States of America

In the matter of the mutilation and killing of an unknown United States Marine Lieutenant at Saipan, on or about 16 June 1944. * Perpetration of Testimony of * Edward Anthony Johnston, Pfc., * United States Marine Corps, * #503221.

Taken at: Room 1215, 90 Church Street, New York, New York.

Date: 9 July 1945.

In the Presence of: W. A. Sanders, Lt., U.S.N.R., 261133, District Intelligence Office, 3rd Naval District, 90 Church Street, New York, New York.

Carl A. Twitchell, Capt., Cav., G-391574, 1200th SOU, Foreign Positive Intelligence Section, Security and Intelligence Division, Headquarters, Second Service Command, 1270 Sixth Avenue, New York, New York.

Examined by: Philip D. Dobbs, Agent, 1251st SOU, Foreign Positive Intelligence Section, Security and Intelligence Division, Headquarters, Second Service Command, 1270 Sixth Avenue, New York, New York.

Questions by: Carl A. Twitchell, Capt., Cav., G-391574.

Q. State your name, rank, serial number and permanent home address.

A. Edward Anthony Johnston, Pfc., 503221. My permanent home address is 3336 Ferry Avenue, Bronx, New York.

Q. State the date and place of your birth and civilian occupation.

A. I was born 21 September 1923 at Bronx, New York, and my civilian occupation was student.

Q. What formal education have you had?

A. I graduated from Evander Childs High School, Bronx, New York, in June 1942 and entered the Marine Corps in December 1942.

Q. Are you married or single?

A. Single.

Q. Have you recently been returned to the United States from overseas?

A. Yes. I arrived at San Diego, California, on 27 March 1945 on board the USS NHDA.

Q. Were you a prisoner of war?

A. No. I was with the 25th Regiment, 4th Marine Division in the battle of Saipan Island where I was wounded.

Q. State the circumstances surrounding your arrival on Saipan prior to 16 June 1944.

A. We hit the beach on or about 15 June 1944. I went in with the 25th Regiment of the 4th Marine Division. The first night we were about 1,500

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-2-

yards in from the shore. We dug in for the night. The next morning we moved forward again.

Q. Are you familiar with the circumstances surrounding the mutilation and killing of an unknown United States Marine Lieutenant at Saipan, on or about 16 June 1944?

A. We came upon a pillbox on the morning of 16 June 1944, it was about 0600, as we were moving forward and I happened to look to my left and saw one of the boys was having tough going with the Japs so I moved over to help him. As I was advancing toward him I looked up and saw what was apparently a camouflaged pillbox and along side the pillbox was a Marine Lieutenant tied to a tree in the form of a cross. His eyes had been cut out and his stomach had apparently been cut open and stuffed with sand or something of that nature and then sewed up again. His finger tips had been cut off and there were slashes on his arms that looked as if he had been beaten. We were moving forward and could not stop, but I passed within 10 or 15 feet of him. He looked to be alive at the time but pretty far gone. I moved on and a short time later I was wounded by a Jap handgranade. I made my way back to the beach and from there was moved to a ship that was off shore. Later while on board the SS PIERCE I told a Marine corpsman about the incident and he said that somebody had tried to help the Lieutenant but the help arrived too late and he had died.

Q. Do you know what Japanese organization was opposing you?

A. No. It may have been the Japanese 31st Army. This is just a guess.

Q. Did you hear the name of the Japanese commander in that area?

A. No.

Q. Who was your commanding officer?

A. Captain Reinhold. He was killed on the beach and his place was taken by Captain George Burns (then lieutenant) who was present during the action.

Q. Would Captain Burns have any knowledge about the Lieutenant that was killed by the Japanese?

A. I do not know.

Q. Would Captain Burns know what Japanese organization you were opposing at the time of this incident?

A. He probably would know.

Q. Are there any other officers or enlisted men who would be familiar with this incident?

A. I do not know, but Sargeant Leek in my outfit might know and as far as I know he is still with the Corps. Perhaps Sargeant Pete Wingate, who I think is back in the States, might know something about it. Sargeant Wingate's home is somewhere in Pennsylvania. Corporal John Tchiconsick (phonetic) might know. He lives somewhere Upstate, New York.

Q. Are there any other incidents that you are familiar with?

A. No.

Q. Is there anything further you wish to state about this particular incident?

A. No.

Edward Anthony Johnston
Edward Anthony Johnston, Sgt., United
States Marine Corps, #503221.

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CONFIDENTIAL

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State of New York)
County of New York) SS

I, Edward Anthony Johnston, of lawful age, being duly sworn on oath, state that I have read the foregoing transcription of my interrogation and all answers contained therein are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Edward Anthony Johnston
Edward Anthony Johnston, Pfc., United
States Marine Corps, #503221.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 16 day of July 1945.

Carl A. Twitchell
Carl A. Twitchell, Capt., Cav., O-391574
Summary Court.

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Carl A. Twitchell, Capt., Cav., O-391574, certify that on 9 July 1945, personally appeared before me Edward Anthony Johnston, Pfc., United States Marine Corps, #503221, and gave the foregoing answers to the several questions set forth; that after his testimony had been transcribed, the said Edward Anthony Johnston read the same and affixed his signature thereto in my presence.

Place: ~~Room 806, 1270 Sixth Avenue,~~
Room 806, 1270 Sixth Avenue,
New York, New York.

Carl A. Twitchell
Carl A. Twitchell, Capt., Cav., O-391574

Date: 16 July 45

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WAR CRIMES OFFICE

Judge Advocate General's Department -- War Department

United States of America

.....
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Date: 9 July 1945.

In the Presence of: W. A. Sanders, Lt., U.S.N.R., 261133, District Intelligence Office, 3rd Naval District, 90 Church Street, New York, New York.

Carl A. Twitchell, Capt., Cav., O-391574, 1200th SCU, Foreign Positive Intelligence Section, Security and Intelligence Division, Headquarters, Second Service Command, 1270 Sixth Avenue, New York, New York.

Recorder: Philip D. Dobbs, Agent, 1251st SCU, Foreign Positive Intelligence Section, Security and Intelligence Division, Headquarters, Second Service Command, 1270 Sixth Avenue, New York, New York.

Questions by: Carl A. Twitchell, Capt., Cav., O-391574.

Q. State your name, rank, serial number and permanent home address.

A. Edward Anthony Johnston, Pfc., 503221. My permanent home address is 3336 Ferry Avenue, Bronx, New York.

Q. State the date and place of your birth and civilian occupation.

A. I was born 21 September 1923 at Bronx, New York, and my civilian occupation was student.

Q. What formal education have you had?

A. I graduated from Evander Childs High School, Bronx, New York, in June 1942 and entered the Marine Corps in December 1942.

Q. Are you married or single?

A. Single.

Q. Have you recently been returned to the United States from overseas?

A. Yes. I arrived at San Diego, California, on 27 March 1945 on board the USS NUNDA.

Q. Were you a prisoner of war?

A. No. I was with the 29th Regiment, 4th Marine Division in the battle of Saipan Island where I was wounded.

Q. State the circumstances surrounding your arrival on Saipan prior to 16 June 1944.

A. We hit the beach on or about 15 June 1944. I went in with the 29th Regiment of the 4th Marine Division. The first night we were about 1,500

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yards in from the shore. We dug in for the night. The next morning we moved forward again.

Q. Are you familiar with the circumstances surrounding the mutilation and killing of an unknown United States Marine Lieutenant at Saipan, on or about 16 June 1944?

A. We came upon a pillbox on the morning of 16 June 1944, it was about 0600, as we were moving forward and I happened to look to my left and saw one of the boys was having tough going with the Japs so I moved over to help him. As I was advancing toward him I looked up and saw what was apparently a camouflaged pillbox and along side the pillbox was a Marine Lieutenant tied to a tree in the form of a cross. His eyes had been cut out and his stomach had apparently been cut open and stuffed with sand or something of that nature and then sewed up again. His finger tips had been cut off and there were slashes on his arms that looked as if he had been beaten. We were moving forward and could not stop, but I passed within 10 or 15 feet of him. He looked to be alive at the time but pretty far gone. I moved on and a short time later I was wounded by a Jap handgranade. I made my way back to the beach and from there was moved to a ship that was off shore. Later while on board the SS PIERCE I told a Marine corpsman about the incident and he said that somebody had tried to help the Lieutenant but the help arrived too late and he had died.

Q. Do you know what Japanese organization was opposing you?

A. No. It may have been the Japanese 31st Army. This is just a guess.

Q. Did you hear the name of the Japanese commander in that area?

A. No.

Q. Who was your commanding officer?

A. Captain Reinhold. He was killed on the beach and his place was taken by Captain George Burns (then lieutenant) who was present during the action.

Q. Would Captain Burns have any knowledge about the Lieutenant that was killed by the Japanese?

A. I do not know.

Q. Would Captain Burns know what Japanese organization you were opposing at the time of this incident?

A. He probably would know.

Q. Are there any other officers or enlisted men who would be familiar with this incident?

A. I do not know, but Sargeant Leek in my outfit might know and as far as I know he is still with the Corps. Perhaps Sargeant Pete Wingate, who I think is back in the States, might know something about it. Sargeant Wingate's home is somewhere in Pennsylvania. Corporal John Tahiconsick (phonetic) might know. He lives somewhere Upstate, New York.

Q. Are there any other incidents that you are familiar with?

A. No.

Q. Is there anything further you wish to state about this particular incident?

A. No.

Edward Anthony Johnston, Pfc., United States Marine Corps, #503221.

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State of New York)
) SS
County of New York)

I, Edward Anthony Johnston, of lawful age, being duly sworn on oath, state that I have read the foregoing transcription of my interrogation and all answers contained therein are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Edward Anthony Johnston, Pfc., United States Marine Corps, #503221.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 16 day of July 1945.

Carl A. Twitchell, Capt., Cav., O-391574 Summary Court.

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Carl A. Twitchell, Capt., Cav., O-391574, certify that on 9 July 1945, personally appeared before me Edward Anthony Johnston, Pfc., United States Marine Corps, #503221, and gave the foregoing answers to the several questions set forth; that after his testimony had been transcribed, the said Edward Anthony Johnston read the same and affixed his signature thereto in my presence.

Place: Room 806, 1270 Sixth Avenue,
~~New York, New York.~~
New York, New York.

Date: 16 July '45

Carl A. Twitchell, Capt., Cav., O-391574

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Army Service Forces, Office of the Commanding General, Washington 25, D. C.

JUN 1 1945
TO: Commanding General, *Second* Service Command
(ATTN: Director, Security and Intelligence Div.)

1. Forwarded for compliance with request set forth in basic letter.
2. In the event the individual referred to in basic letter has departed from your jurisdiction, this request should be forwarded for compliance to the Headquarters of the Service Command in which he is located, directed to the attention of the Director, Security and Intelligence Division.

BY COMMAND OF GENERAL SOMERVELL:

C. T. Tucker

CHARLES T. TUCKER
MAJOR, Q.M.C.
Chief, Domestic & CI Branch
Intelligence Division, ASF

Incl. n/c

SPGIB 2nd Ind. CEJN/CAT/pdd
Headquarters, Second Service Command, ASF, Governors Island, New York, N.Y.
16 July 1945

TO: Director, War Crimes Office, 4732 Munitions Building, Washington 25, D.C.

1. In compliance with paragraph 2, basic communication, there is forwarded herewith one deposition obtained from Edward Anthony Johnston, Pfc., 503221, United States Marine Corps.

For the Commanding General:

S. V. Constant
S. V. CONSTANT
Colonel GSC
Dir. Sec & Intel Div

1 Incl..
Incl. - One deposition (in quint.)

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SECRET - ONE COPY DESTROYED (1945)
SECRET

17 JUL 1945 PM



TO: DIRECTOR, ARMY SERVICE FORCES
FROM: [Illegible]
SUBJECT: [Illegible]

RECEIVED

[Illegible text]

[Illegible text]

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CONFIDENTIAL

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SPQIB
2nd Ind. CEJN/GAT/pda
Headquarters, Second Service Command, ASF, Governors Island, New York, N.Y.
16 July 1945

TO: Director, War Crimes Office, 4732 Munitions Building, Washington 25, D.C.

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For the Commanding General:

S. V. CONSTANT
Colonel GSC
Dir. Sec & Intel Div

1 Incl.
Incl. - One deposition (in quint.)

USA War Crimes Office

17 JUL 1945

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HEADQUARTERS, ARMY SERVICE FORCES
OFFICE OF THE JUDGE ADVOCATE GENERAL
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.



2

SPJGI

31 May 1945

SUBJECT: Request for interview and interrogation of Edward A. Johnston

TO: Director, Intelligence Division, Army Service Forces
ATTENTION: Major Tucker, Room 3-E-572, The Pentagon

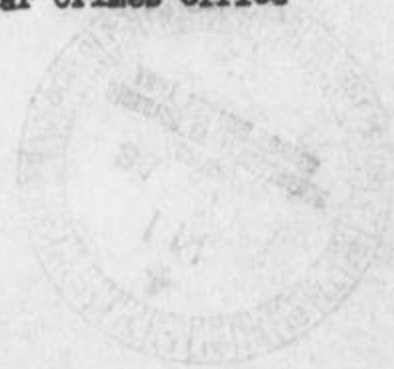
1. Reference is made to ASF letter, 14 March 1945, SPX 000.5 (13 Mar 45) OB-S-SPINT.

2. It is requested that there be interviewed Pfc. Edward A. Johnston, US Marine Corps, SN503321; home address: 3336 Penny Avenue, Bronx, New York City; present station: Casual Company, Navy Yard, New York, N. Y., and any testimony pertinent to War Crimes that he may be able to give be taken in deposition form.

3. This office has the following information: It is reported that Pfc. Johnston, while on Saipan saw the results of the mutilation by the Japanese of a lieutenant (name unknown), US Marine Corps, that when seen by Johnston the lieutenant was alive, but had been hung in the form of a cross, that his eyes had been cut out, his fingers cut off, his belly cut open and filled with sand. Particular attention should be paid to the identity of the Japanese units opposing the American forces at the time of this incident.

FOR THE JUDGE ADVOCATE GENERAL:

Melvin Purvis
MELVIN PURVIS
Colonel, JAGD
War Crimes Office



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U. S. War Department

(MATERIAL MUST NOT BE REMOVED FROM OR ADDED TO THIS FILE)

File No. **48-30**
Sub.

WAR CRIMES OFFICE

**Judge Advocate General's
Office**

See also Nos.

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New York Times, May 10, 1945
Bronx Marine Tells How Japanese Hanged Lieutenant in Form of Cross

Wounded Veteran Describes Atrocities in the Pacific as 'Just as Bad if Not Worse Than Those of the Germans'

A young Bronx marine, wounded on Iwo Island and now home for treatment, yesterday told at St. Albans Naval Hospital, St. Albans, Queens, of Japanese atrocities that he witnessed while fighting at Saipan and described as "just as bad if not worse than the Germans."

Pfc. Edward Johnston of 3338 Penny Avenue, the Bronx, said he came upon a marine lieutenant hung in the form of a cross and left to die.

"His eyes were cut out, his fingers chopped off and his belly was slit open and then filled with sand," the 21-year-old marine said.

"He was still alive when we got to him."

He said he watched the lieutenant being cut down and aid given to him, which was useless, for "two hours later he died."

Veteran of Three Invasions

A veteran of three invasions, Private Johnston was one of six marine casualties at Iwo who spoke yesterday for the ninety-seven that are at the hospital. The six will be present at ceremonies tomorrow at 11:30 A. M. when the statue of the marines raising the flag at Iwo is unveiled at Times Square for the Seventh War Loan drive.

After talking of the atrocities, Private Johnston said, "I think the Chinese could tell you more about them than I could."

He described the Japanese fighters as "maniacs," saying that "nobody else could pull any of the stuff they do unless they were crazy." He went on, "they would pull a charge on the line and half of them didn't have anything to charge with. They were doped up, in my estimation."

Col. Robert M. Dean of Nassau, N. Y., a suburb of Albany, whose jaw was broken either by an eight-inch shell or 150 mm. mortar—he said he did not know which as he was immediately knocked out—declared he did not think the invasion of Japan would be as difficult as that of Iwo.

Colonel Deane, who at 31 years

of age has been in the marines for nine years is a former commander of Samoan troops.

The six marines, all young realists, accepted V-E Day celebrations here philosophically, welcoming the news of the German surrender as an indication of increased air in men and matériel to the forces in the Pacific.

There was no bitterness over the way civilians had celebrated.

"The ones who rejoiced on V-E Day had sons in the European theatre and you can't blame them," said Pfc. Thomas G. McGraham, 20, of 116 Richmond Road, Douglaston, L. I. He was struck by shrapnel on the eleventh day of the invasion. He was in a foxhole with eight men when a shell exploded and killed five of the men. The other three were wounded. Evacuated within one hour, he as well as the rest of the men interviewed, praised highly the medical care they received.

V-E "Didn't Mean Much"

Second Lieut. Robert E. Kling, 23, of 88-02 Sixty-first Avenue, Rego Park, L. I., a prospective bridegroom who said he will be married in late summer to Miss Gertrude Ring of 97-33 Sixty-second Road, Elmhurst, Queens, commented that to him V-E Day "didn't mean much."

"That a boy?" cheered Pfc. Hyman Kramer, sitting near him. This private, 20 years old, who lives at 429 Kingston Avenue, Brooklyn, had three "slugs" shot into him by a sniper who fired on him after he had dug a foxhole and was preparing to go to sleep.

Private Kramer, who was on his track team at junior high school, was a runner for the command post. After he was wounded he ran 20 yards to the battalion aid station. "You take off when you get hit," he said.

Pfc. Frederick Pfister, 19, of 1730 Victor Street, the Bronx, was on crutches. He had been caught by a sniper who shot him in the thigh when he was trying to run for another position.

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The New York Times - 10 May 1945

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Bronx Marine Tells How Japanese Hanged Lieutenant in Form of Cross

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Pfc. Frederick Pfister, 19, of 1730 Victor Street, the Bronx, was on crutches. He had been caught by a sniper who shot him in the thigh when he was trying to run for another position.

SN- 503321
Casual Co New York
New York

We already have this same newspaper story in the files - Put this with it

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EJC

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CONFIDENTIAL

SPJGI

31 May 1945

SUBJECT: Request for interview and interrogation of Edward A. Johnston

TO: Director, Intelligence Division, Army Service Forces
ATTENTION: Major Tucker, Room 3-E-572, The Pentagon

1. Reference is made to ASF letter, 14 March 1945, SPX 000.5 (13 Mar 45) OB-S-SPINT.

2. It is requested that there be interviewed Pfc. Edward A. Johnston, US Marine Corps, SN503321; home address: 3336 Penny Avenue, Bronx, New York City; present station: Casual Company, Navy Yard, New York, N. Y., and any testimony pertinent to War Crimes that he may be able to give be taken in deposition form.

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FOR THE JUDGE ADVOCATE GENERAL:

MELVIN PURVIS
Colonel, JAGD
War Crimes Office

CO NY
O'HARE E/PGS
JEC

USA War Crimes Office

1 30 MAY 1945

CONFIDENTIAL

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