

22-1-3 43

O V E R

WAR CRIMES OFFICE

When completed this document must be classified as RESTRICTED

DATE: Sept., 15, 1945

1. YOUR NAME: Robert Owen R
Last First Middle

2. RANK P.F.C., 3rd cl. spec. SERIAL NO 6580532
(if civilian, write in word "Civilian" (Armed Forces personnel only)

PERMANENT
3. HOME ADDRESS 1125 Dunn Ave Richmond Calif
Street No. City State

4. AT WHAT ENEMY CAMPS AND HOSPITALS WERE YOU CONFINED AND WHEN WERE YOU AT EACH? (If never a prisoner of war or internee, then state principal places you have been from time to time while overseas).

O'Donnell, P.I. May 10, 1942 to June 6, 1942 Camps June 6 to July 28, 1942 Cabanatuan July 28, 1942 to July 23, 1943 Camp #17 Oruta, Japan Aug 10, 1943 to Sept. 10, 1945

5. DO YOU HAVE ANY INFORMATION ABOUT ANY ATROCITIES AGAINST OR MISTREATMENT OF AMERICANS PRISONER OF WAR, CIVILIAN INTERNEES OR THE CIVILIAN POPULATION FOR WHICH YOU THINK THE PERPETRATORS SHOULD BE PUNISHED?-(answer by stating YES or NO in the spaces provided below.

(a) Killings or executions----- YES
yes or no

(b) Torture, beatings or other cruelties----- YES
yes or no

(c) Imprisonment under improper conditions----- YES
yes or no

(d) Massacres, wholesale looting or burning of towns NO
yes or no

- (e) Use of prisoners of war on enemy military works or operations YES
yes or no
- (f) Exposure of prisoners of war to danger of gunfire bombing, torpedoing, or other hazards of war YES
yes or no
- (g) Transportation of prisoners of war under improper conditions YES
yes or no
- (h) Public exhibition or exposure to ridicule of prisoners of war YES
yes or no
- (i) Failure to provide prisoners of war with proper medical care, food or quarters YES
yes or no
- (j) Collective punishment of a group for offenses of others YES
yes or no
- (k) Any other atrocities not specifically mentioned above for which you think the guilty persons should be punished. YES
yes or no

IF ANY QUESTION IS ANSWERED YES, THEN STATE THE FACTS BRIEFLY ON REVERSE SIDE OF THIS SHEET.

Incl #3 (2 pages)

O V E R

DETAILS OF ATROCITIES

<u>KIND OF CRIME</u>	<u>WHERE IT HAPPENED</u>	<u>WHO WAS THE VICTIM</u> (include name, nationality & whether military personnel or not)	<u>STATE IF YOU SAW IT YOURSELF, IF YOU DID NOT SEE IT, WHO TOLD YOU ABOUT IT?</u>
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1. (a) Bayonet Camp #17, Hard #460 Our officers
beat and starved to death # 17 Knight #233 Mys lf
beat and starved to death # 17 Johnston Mys lf
beat and starved to death # 17 Nickname Creek # 129 Mys lf
(b) beating and kneeling on bamboo # 17 Mys lf and many others
2. (c) Improper clothing little food no heat in winter
thin rubber shoes very little medicine
(d) Rebuilding of bridge, Capas, P.I. Work in Coal Mine
in camp # 17 Oryta, Japan
(f) From Pataas Surrender to Corregidor surrender
3. (e) By boat from Phil. to Japan approx. 17 days
sweatbox of hold of ship #454
(h) Continually 24 hrs. a day at Camp # 17 Oryta, Japan
(i) Camp # 17
(j) everywhere, its the custom in Japan
4. (k) Using 110 volts of electricity on fur, cold water
thrown on you in the winter, beating with steel rods.

5. HAVE YOU PREVIOUSLY BEEN QUESTIONED BY ANY MILITARY OR NAVAL
AUTHORITIES ABOUT ATROCITIES OR MISTREATMENT AT MNT. NO. . IF YES, BY
WHOM, WHERE, WHEN Yes or no

DID YOU MAKE A SIGNED STATEMENT Yes or no

CERTIFIED TRUE COPY: Yes or no

s/ William H. Brown
William H. Brown
Capt. Inf.

s/ Owen R. Robert
Sign your name here
 A CERTIFIED TRUE COPY:
 s/ Everett Checkett
EVERETT CHECKETT
Major, Inf.

RESTRICTED

KOBERT, OWEN R. Pfc 3/c ASN 6580582
(Rank)

after being duly sworn at 27th Replacement Depot, Luzon, P. I.
on 16 September 1945, testified as follows:

Q How old are you?

A 24

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

A 9 April 1942, Bataan.

Q What was your unit at the time of your capture?

A 21st Pursuit Squadron, 35th Pursuit Group.

Q By what Japanese unit were you captured?

A Unknown.

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

A Yes. United States.

Q What will your complete address be after your repatriation?

A 1125 Dunn Ave., Richmond, Calif.

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

<u>Compound or Camp</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Dates</u>
A O'Donnell Work Camp	Luzon, P.I.	10 May 42 - 6 June 42
Cabanatuan	Capas, Luzon, P.I.	6 Jun 42 - 28 Jul 42
En route to Japan	Luzon, P.I.	28 Jul 42 - 23 Jul 43
Camp # 17	At sea	23 Jul 43 - 10 Aug 43
	Ogata, Kyushu, Japan	10 Aug 43 - 10 Sep 45

Q Do you know or 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 # 17, Omuta, the dates thereof, the perpetrators, giving their names, ranks, units and other identifying information.
- A When I first arrived at Camp # 17 Omuta, we were not bothered much for the first week or so. Then nearly every day there would be three or four prisoners taken to the guardhouse and subjected to torture and beatings. The Japanese would claim we had not "goose stepped" enough or had failed to salute a call "curi" (a verbal salute). In the guardhouse the prisoners would be forced to kneel on bamboo poles about two inches thick and remain in that position for hours. I myself had to do that once for five hours, and the poles made dents along my shins and at my knees. It was several days before I could walk straight after that. One Australian had to have both legs amputated above the ankle because his feet froze when he was forced to kneel in that manner during last winter. Also I was beaten with a club about six inches wide and an inch and a half thick and about as long as a baseball bat. This occurred while I was in the guardhouse about August or September 1944. I saw many others received the same treatment nearly every day. The commander of the camp when I first got there was 1st Lt. Urri but I do not remember his successor's name who took over about a year later. The camp interpreter's name was Oui. Another civilian called Yamamuchi was the interpreter at the coal mine where we worked. He would torment those prisoners, who were injured or sick and forced to go to the mine for light work, by forcing them to use their injured arm or strained back for work they could not do. He was an average Jap with no peculiar marks. Spoke English.
- Also when a prisoner was to be beaten the guards would force the rest of us to watch and would ridicule and laugh at a prisoner if he "hollered".
- During the last three or four months I was told by some of the prisoners that they were made to stand in a puddle of water and then shocked unconscious by a 110 volt electric wire. We heard those men scream when this happened and talked to one Dutchman and one American soldier who had this done to them.
- Sometimes I saw men get beaten with steel rods about a quarter inch thick and three or four feet long. One American named Gousith (phonetic) was beaten in this manner.

His prison number was 500. This happened two or three months before the Japs surrendered. A lot of men caught pneumonia from having cold water thrown on them in the winter just as they started out for work.

Capt. Thomas Hewhitt, M.C. has complete medical records of treatment given the prisoners and records of those killed from beatings or died for want of proper medical care.

(S) OWEN R. ROBERT

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 16th day of September, 1945.

CERTIFIED A TRUE COPY:

s/ Charles H. Sullivan

(S) IGVICK P. MILES, JR
1st Lt. JAGD

A CERTIFIED TRUE COPY:

s/ Everett Checket
EVERETT CHECKET
Maj. Inf.

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