

CONFIDENTIAL

ALABR-Z-166948

10 April 1947

SUBJECT: SZCZEPANSKI, Joseph Leon, Sgt.
ASN 6897719
388 East Ridge Street
Hantocks, Pennsylvania

TO: Director, Civil Affairs Division
War Department Special Staff
Washington 25, D. C.

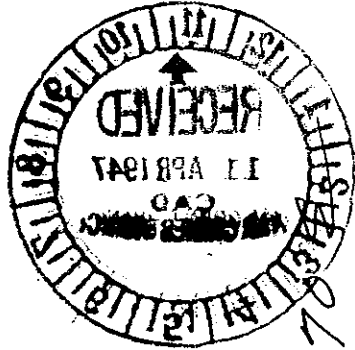
1. Reference letter, your headquarters, 105-72, dated 8 January 1947 requesting that subject and two other individuals be interrogated relative to their knowledge concerning atrocities alleged to have been committed by the Japanese while interned as prisoners of war at Fukuoka Area POW Camp #12, in Japan.

2. Inclosed in quintuplicate is deposition taken from subject dated 1 April 1947 together with Summary of Information dated 1 April 1947.

FOR THE ASSISTANT CHIEF OF STAFF, G-3:

2 Incls:
Deposition in quint
Sum. of info. in dup

F. S. DOLL
Colonel, GSO
Dir., 21 Intell Div



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10/1/47

CONFIDENTIAL

HEADQUARTERS SECOND ARMY
BALTIMORE 2, MARYLAND

AIARB-Z-166948

10 April 1947

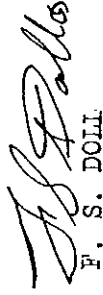
SUBJECT: SZCZEPANSKI, Joseph Leon, Sgt.
ASN 6897719
388 East Ridge Street
Nanticoke, Pennsylvania

TO: Director, Civil Affairs Division
War Department Special Staff
Washington 25, D. C.

1. Reference letter, your headquarters, 105-72, dated 8 January 1947 requesting that subject and two other individuals be interrogated relative to their knowledge concerning atrocities alleged to have been committed by the Japanese while interned as prisoners of war at Hukuoka Area POW Camp #12, in Japan.
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FOR THE ASSISTANT CHIEF OF STAFF, G-2:

2 Incls:
Deposition in quint
Sum. of info. in dup



F. S. DOLL
Colonel, GSC
Dir., ZI Intell Div

CONFIDENTIAL

WAR DEPARTMENT

COUNTER INTELLIGENCE CORPS
(Office of Headquarters)

Scranton, Pennsylvania
(Place)

1 April 1947
(Date)

Subject: Collaboration with Japanese during
World War II by Navy Lieut. LITTLE, USN.

Summary of Information:

During war crime testimony of Sgt. JOSEPH L. SZCZEPANSKI, ASN 6897719, 40 Lynn St., Larksville, Pennsylvania, this date, he related how, at Fukuoka POW Camp No. 17, Japan, a U. S. Naval Lieutenant by the name of LITTLE had collaborated with the enemy, thus costing the lives of two American soldiers and causing severe beatings to a number of other American soldiers in order to make his own position with the Japanese solid and luxurious. SZCZEPANSKI stated that he did not want his name mentioned in connection with Lt. LITTLE'S criminal deeds and that he did not want it to become part of his regular testimony on conditions at Fukuoka Camp No. 17. He stated that he believes that Lt. LITTLE was court-martialed by the U. S. Navy at Brooklyn, N. Y. and that he was sentenced to twenty years in prison for his treason-like actions during the war.

SZCZEPANSKI related how a pugilistic soldier from the 4th U. S. Marines, called "JIMMY THE GREEK" PAVLOCKAS, of either Detroit or Chicago, had never gotten along very well with Lt. LITTLE because of Lt. LITTLE'S being a "general bully" and considered no one's welfare except his own and that of the Japanese. In November, 1943, "JIMMY THE GREEK" was apprehended by Lt. LITTLE while trading his rice for cigarettes. He was in a group of soldiers doing the same thing, but Lt. LITTLE singled him out of the group, and rather than to take him before Major JOHN P. MAMEROW, U.S.A.A.F. (now of March Field, California), he took him to the Japanese Camp Commander who ordered PAVLOCKAS to a dungeon in 22 to 24 temperatures, clad in only pants and shirt and fed a half cup of rice and one cup of water per day. Thirty nine days later PAVLOCKAS died of hunger and exposure.

SZCZEPANSKI related how an American soldier, NOAH C. HURD, had stolen food from the Red Cross Warehouse due to the fact that the Japanese did not distribute it anyway. He was apprehended by LITTLE about June, 1944 and subsequently taken to the Japanese Camp Commander, KEN YURI, who personally tried HURD and personally beheaded him with a Sumarai Sword in the presence of a Lt. PERKINS, a Lt. CHRISTY, and a Lt. ROMAINÉ of the U. S. Army. LITTLE was also responsible for

	Evaluation
-of source	-of information
<u>X</u>	Reliable <u>X</u>
	Credible _____
	Questionable _____
	Undetermined _____

Previous Distribution:

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CONFIDENTIAL

Subject: Collaboration with Japanese during
World War II by Lt. LITTLE, USN.
(Continued)

the beating to death of a U. S. Army Corporal KNIGHT following his stealing rice. He was beaten to death in a Jap guard house by guards and by the then Camp Commander of Fukuoka No. 17, Captain ISAO FUKIHARA.

LITTLE also threatened death to Corporal SAMUEL SHULMAN, AAF, of New York City when he took offense at remarks made by LITTLE on one occasion.

LITTLE was also responsible for the starving of an American soldier by the name of MONTOYA, believed to be from New Mexico, when he had received a stolen jacket from someone.

LITTLE had also reputedly told the Japanese that a half bowl of rice was sufficient for the American soldiers when U. S. Army Major JOHN P. MAMEROW had attempted to have the Japanese increase the rations instead of to lessen them. LITTLE ALSO took the initiative to prohibit smoking in the mess hall by U. S. Army personnel.

It is believed that LITTLE is a native of California and that his wife is a native of Brooklyn, N. Y.

Corporal JACK KUCHNER, of the Bronx, N. Y. C., can corroborate this aforementioned report together with the aforementioned U. S. Army officers and non-commissioned officers listed herein. Capt. HOWARD HEWLETT, U.S. Army Medical Corps, can also corroborate this testimony.

Don B. Berntson, Special Agent, C. I. C.

In the matter of atrocities and ; Perpetuation of the testimony
mistreatment committed by the ; of JOSEPH LEON MACOJEPAKSKI, Sergeant,
Japanese upon American soldiers ; ASN 6897719.
at Fukuoka Area POW Camp No. 17. ; ; ; ; ;

Taken at ; 40 Lynn Street, Larksville, Pennsylvania.
Date ; 1 April 1947
In the presence of ; Don B. Berntson, Special Agent, S.I.C.
Questions by ; Don B. Berntson, Special Agent, S.I.C.

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

A. ~~JOSEPH LEON MACOJEPAKSKI, Sergeant, ASN 6897719, 388 East Ridge Street,
Nanticoke, Pennsylvania.~~

Q. Of what organization were you a member?

A. Hq. and Sqdn., 20th AB Group, Nichols Field, F. I.

Q. State the date and place of your birth.

A. 20 August 1916, Plymouth, Pennsylvania.

Q. Are you married?

A. Yes.

Q. Please state your civilian occupation.

A. I have served in the U. S. Army for a period of 10 years prior to which I was attending Nanticoke High School, Nanticoke, Pennsylvania. After school hours I would work for the Liberty Throwing Milk Company at Nanticoke, Pennsylvania.

Q. What education have you had as a background?

A. I graduated from Nanticoke High School, Nanticoke, Pa. on 10 June 1936.

Q. When did you return from overseas?

A. I arrived at Madigan General Hospital, Tacoma, Washington on 11 October 1945.

Q. On what date did you become a Prisoner of War of the Japanese?

A. 10 April 1942 I was taken prisoner at Batuan.

Q. On what date and actually where were you released from a POW camp?

A. 12 September 1945 we released ourselves from Fukuoka Camp No. 17 and met American forces at Kanoya. We met the 11th Airborne at that place.

[Handwritten signature]

36-23-22

36-23

2. Where were you taken after leaving Bataan in the custody of the Japanese?
- A. Following the "Death March" we were taken to Camp Cabanatuan No. 1. I stayed at Camp Cabanatuan from 22 April 1942 until 25 July 1943.
3. How did the Japanese treat you at Camp Cabanatuan?
- A. For the first four months we were fed nothing but a very small quantity of gored soup and rice for the three meals each day. We worked from 0700 hours until 1700 hours each day, six days a week, on road construction and miscellaneous construction. From September, 1942 until July, 1943 we lived in comparative luxury, although treatment was still brutal for the slightest offense. I personally saw five American soldiers shot to death for bribing the guard and leaving the camp for procuring food from a nearby Philippine village (Cebu, P.I.). These five soldiers' names were: WELSH, THOMPSON, GASTON, REESE, and I cannot recall the fifth name. These soldiers were given the choice of standing back on the posts in the face of the tropical sun. One of the boys made a break to escape, and all of the boys were forced to dig their own graves and were shot down in the graves while they were singing "God Bless America". The alternative of being bound to the posts for three days was to accept shooting, but when, on the third day, the one boy attempted to escape all five were shot to death. I cannot recall any of the names of the Japanese responsible for this atrocity, and I cannot recall the name of the Camp Commander at that time. I would not even attempt to describe either the Camp Commander or the other Japanese involved. However, that incident occurred on 26 June 1942. I saw an American soldier (Mexican) by the name of TRULLA shot to death there after digging his own grave in approximately February, 1943. He had suffered from Dysentery and had gone to a latrine, near the fence, to relieve himself when he was apprehended by Japanese guards and subsequently put to death. [Approximately February, 1943 an American soldier by the name of MURPHY was apprehended as he returned from nearby Cebu with a barracks bag full of food. He was shot to death on the same night as he was re-entering the camp. [Approximately February, 1943 a Colonel BRIDGES (?), a Navy Lieutenant, and an Army Captain attempted to escape from camp one evening, and they were apprehended following which they were deprived of any clothing and were compelled to stand out in the cold weather during which time they were whipped, stoned, and spat upon by Japanese soldiers. This lasted for about three days following which the officers became delirious and were marched down the road and shot to death.]
4. Can you give the time of the day that the above executions occurred?
- A. The five American soldiers mentioned above were executed about 1500 or 1900 hours. TRULLA was executed about 1500 hours, MURPHY was executed about 2100 hours, and the three officers were executed about 1000 hours.
5. Can you describe any of the Japanese responsible for the above atrocities?
- A. No; and I cannot recall any names.
6. Were you ever confined to Fukuya Area POW Camp No. 12 in Japan?
- A. No, I was confined to Fukuya Area POW Camp No. 17 immediately after I left Camp Cabanatuan, P. I. I left Camp Cabanatuan on 25 July 1943 and arrived at Fukuya Camp No. 17 on 11 August 1943. At that camp we were detailed to work in the MIYU COAL MINES at Ginzi, near Omata, Japan.
7. Can you describe the atrocities and general mistreatment of the American soldiers at Fukuya No. 17?

A. The general discipline and treatment was extremely rigid. They awakened us at 0530 hours each morning, marched us one mile to the mines where we started work precisely at 0600 hours and worked until 1330 hours six days a week. This schedule prevailed from August, 1943 until March, 1944 at which time until August, 1945 they worked us for fifteen and sixteen days straight before granting us a free day. On the free day we had cleaning of the barracks and inspections. The food was inadequate for a man to remain healthy and still undergo the hard work in the coal mines. Men were beaten for not saluting the guards, for being outside of the barracks after 2000 hours, and we were beaten severely for trading soup for rice or vice versa. For a good period of time, about eight months, our boys were beaten on the average of every other day for various reasons. When the camp first opened, approximately November, 1943, "JIMMY THE GEEK" ~~WAA~~ ~~WAKAS~~ of Detachment of Chicago, a corporal in the U. S. 4th Marines, was apprehended for trading his rice for cigarettes. He was subsequently confined to a dungeon where he was forced, in mid-winter, temperature 22° to 24°, to remain without blankets and wearing only a shirt and a pair of trousers. He was given only a half cup of rice each day together with one cup of water. Thirty nine days later, about 10 January 1944, "JIMMY THE GEEK" died of exposure and hunger. An American soldier, ROAM O. HUND, stole red cross food from the warehouse because the Japanese would not give it to us anyway. The stealing occurred about June, 1944. A Lt. KUN YUKI (Japanese Commander of Camp No. 17) gave HUND a personal trial and beheaded the soldier with a Samurai sword within one hour. He beheaded the soldier himself about 0530 hours, approximately June, 1944. I did not see the actual execution, but the Japanese ordered U. S. Army officers, Lt. ~~ROMAINS~~, Lt. ~~CHURCH~~, and Lt. ~~ROMAINS~~, to witness the execution. U. S. Army Corporal ~~BLIGHT~~ was beaten to death in the guard house for stealing rice. He was beaten to death by guards and also by the Camp commander who was then Captain ISAO FUKIHARA. The beatings were administered by belt buckles and fists. This incident occurred about May, 1945 at Camp No. 17. Corporal ~~SAKABE~~ ~~MOYE~~, of the 4th Marines, was in charge of a detail of men working in the camp, and as he gave the Americans a "break" when it was raining, Captain ISAO FUKIHARA approached and asked why the men were not working to which ~~MOYE~~ replied that it was raining. FUKIHARA then admonished ~~MOYE~~ and confined him to the guard house for a period of two days during which time ~~MOYE~~ underwent severe beatings and had his eye knocked out by FUKIHARA's belt buckle. This occurred about March, 1945. A guard at Camp No. 17, a Japanese soldier nicknamed "the sailor" by us, was responsible for most of these terrific beatings. I would describe "The Sailor" to be about 38 years of age; height, 5'8"; weight, 175 lbs.; rugged black beard even after he shaves; straight nose (high); rounding face; he did not have typical Japanese features; was in the habit of wearing sun glasses; hair, black and straight; eyes were more rounded than slanted; stocky-well built. "The sailor" was stationed at that camp for practically the entire two years. A coal-miner, Jap Civilian, about 5' in height, weight, 130 lbs; no glasses; hair, black, somewhat tangled; he looked like a wolf with his wide forehead and long pointed nose with wide mouth and buck teeth, by the name of ~~MURAKAWA~~ worked with us in the mines. He beat us at the slightest provocation, and frequently he would swing at American soldiers in another squad as they passed by him. This man, ~~MURAKAWA~~, had a friend in the same mine by the name of ~~SHIVAKAWA~~. ~~SHIVAKAWA~~ was about 35 years of age; height, 5'7"; weight, 170 lbs.; smooth features; oval-shaped face; straight nose; hair, black, eyes, more rounding than oblique. This man worked our men harder than the other miners, and frequently he worked them into the dirt. Both ~~MURAKAWA~~ and ~~SHIVAKAWA~~ beat American soldiers into unconsciousness frequently. I would say that each of the two men had one severe beating to his credit on the average of once each week. ~~MURAKAWA~~ ~~YAMAMOTO~~ reported me for not working hard enough. He and two guards beat me with their fists into unconsciousness, revived me with water, and knocked me out a second time. They knocked out a total of five teeth in the beating. They gave me the alternative of being shot or accepting the beating.

- Q. How old is MURAKAWA?
A. About 45 years of age.
- Q. Can you provide me with any further information concerning the aforementioned atrocities or mistreatment?
A. No, there were too many beatings for me to even start quoting names of our American soldiers, and few of them I can recall. Neither can I recall any further Japanese names.
- Q. Have you anything more to relate?
A. No.

Joseph L. Szczepekanski
Joseph L. Szczepekanski, Sgt.,
ASN 6897719

State of Pennsylvania)
 : SS
County of Luzerne)

I, Joseph L. Szczepekanski, 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.

Joseph L. Szczepekanski
Joseph L. Szczepekanski, Sgt.,
ASN 6897719

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 1st day of April 1947.

Donald B. Berntson

Donald B. Berntson
2nd Lt., M. I.
Summary Court Officer

James J. David
Witness

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Donald B. Berntson, Special Agent, Counter Intelligence Corps, certify that on 1st April 1947 personally appeared before me Joseph L. Szczepekanski, Sergeant, ASN 6897719, and gave the foregoing answers to the several questions set forth; that after his testimony had been transcribed, the same Joseph L. Szczepekanski read the same and affixed his signature thereto in my presence.

Donald B. Berntson

Place: Larksville, Pa.
Special Agent, C.I.C.

Date: 1st April 1947.

Sgt. Joseph Leon Szczepanski states at Fukuoka 17, in Nov 43, Cpl. Pavlockas was apprehended for trading his rice for cigarettes. Confined to a dunceon with temp. about 24 degree without blankets and wearing only a shirt and a pair of trousers. Given only half cup of rice each day. 39 days later he died of exposure and hunger.

(4-47) 33

~~SECRET~~

SECRETANSKI, JOSEPH LEON, SGT. W

36-26

Sgt. Joseph Leon Szczepanski states at Camp T7, Cpl. Knight was beaten to death in the guard house for stealing rice. Beaten by guards and the CC who was Capt. Isao Fukiwara. Beating was administered by belt buckles and fists. Occurred about May 45.

(4-47) 16

~~SECRET~~

SZCZEPANSKI, JOSEPH LEON, SGT. W

36-38

Sgt. Joseph Leon Szczepanski states at Fukuoka 17, Noah C. Ford stole MC food from the warehouse, in June 44. Lt. Ken Yuni gave Ford a personal trial and beheaded the soldier with a Samurai sword within one hour. Lt. Christy is a witness.

(4-47) 8

~~SECRET~~

SECRETANSKI, JOSEPH LEON, SGT. W

36-39

Sgt. Joseph Leon Szczepanski states at Omuta, Cpl. Harold Noye was admonished and confined to the guard house for two days and underwent severe beatings and had his eye knocked out by Fukiwara's belt buckle. He had given the men a break when it was raining. He was in charge of the work detail.

(4-47) 3

~~SECRET~~

Box 1005

Box 1005

Box 1005 - 100

Box 1004

SZCZEPANSKI, JOSEPH LEO, SGT.

W

36-64

Sgt. Joseph Leo Szczepanski states at Camp 17, Omuta, Cpl. Solomon Schwartz was badly beaten by Oya because he attempted to speak to some newly arrived American prisoners.

(1-47) 6

~~SECRET~~

Box 1007

SZCZEPANSKI, JOSEPH LEO, SGT.

W

36-64

Testimony of Cpl. Vincent Joseph Olman
See P card Camp 17, Omuta.

(4-46)

2

~~SECRET~~

Box 1007

SZCZEPANSKI, JOSEPH LEO, SGT.

V

36-330

Sgt. Joseph Leo Szczepanski states he received a beating fm Kummimitsu Yamamuchi in which he lost five teeth. Was beaten unconscious, revived with water and beaten again. Beaten for not working hard enough. Murakawa and Shiwava-San always beat the PWs and severely.

(4-47) 1

~~SECRET~~

Box 1031

SZCZEPANSKI, JOSEPH LEO, SGT.

W

40-4

Sgt. Joseph Leo Szczepanski states at Cabanatuan #1, in Feb 43, a Col. Briggs, a Navy Lt and an Army Capt. attempted to escape. Were apprehended and deprived of any clothing and compelled to stand out in cold weather while they were shipped, stored and spat upon by Jap officers. They were marched down the road and shot after the third day.

(4-47) 222

~~SECRET~~

Box 1104 -
1105

Box

1106 -
1107

40-7

W

SZCZEPANSKI, JOSEPH LEON, SGT.

Sgt. Joseph Leon Szczepanski states at Cabanatuan he saw five American soldiers shot to death for bribing the guards and leaving camp for procuring food. They were Sisson, Thompson, Gastolyn, Reese and another man. Forced to dig their own graves and then shot down in them.

(4-47) 231

~~SECRET~~

Box 1107 -
1108

40-~~8~~
8

W

SZCZEPANSKI, JOSEPH LEON, SGT.

Sgt. Joseph Leon Szczepanski states at Cabanatuan, on 26 June 42 he saw Truilla shot to death after digging his own grave. He had suffered from dysentery and had gone to a latrine when he was apprehended by Japanese guards and subsequently put to death.

(4-47) 132

~~SECRET~~

Box 1179 -
1181

40-604

W

SZCZEPANSKI, JOSEPH LEON, SGT.

Sgt. Joseph Leon Szczepanski states at Cabanatuan #1, in Feb 43, Russell was apprehended as he returned from nearby Cabu with a barracks bag full of food. He was shot to death the same night as he was re-entering the camp.

(4-47) 2

~~SECRET~~

Misc. copy

SZCZEPANSKI, JOSEPH LEON	105-72
<p>Ltr from Capt. B. S. Benedict to Commanding General, 2nd Army, re req for affidavits:</p> <p>Pvt. Paul L. Grubbs James Joseph Tyburski Joseph Leon Szczepanski</p> <p>(1-47) 327</p>	

~~SECRET~~