

CWO CECIL WOOD

FOR THE WAR CRIMES OFFICE

Judge Advocate General's Department - War Department

United States of America

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In the matter of the mistreatment \* Perpetuation of Testimony of  
of Cecil L. Wood and other Ameri- \* Cecil L. Wood, No. 010040, USMC,  
cans by the Japanese while at \* Commissioned Warrant Officer.  
Nagoya POW Camp No. 7, Toyama, \*  
Japan, between 1 June 1945 and 6 \*  
September 1945. \*  
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Taken at:

Boston, Massachusetts

Date:

5 February 1947

In the Presence of:

Robert L. Davis, Special Agent  
Counter Intelligence Corps  
108th CIC Detachment

Reporter:

Robert L. Davis, Special Agent  
Counter Intelligence Corps  
108th CIC Detachment

Questions by:

Robert L. Davis, Special Agent  
Counter Intelligence Corps  
108th CIC Detachment

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The witness was duly sworn.

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

A. Cecil L. Wood, Serial Number 010040, United States Marine Corps, Commissioned Warrant Officer, now stationed at the Marine Barracks, United States Naval Air Station, Quonset Point, Rhode Island. My home address is Ferry Road, Saunterstown, Rhode Island.

Q. State the date and place of your birth.

A. I was born 21 March 1908 at Brainerd, Minnesota.

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

A. Yes.

Q. State the date and place of your arrival in the United States from overseas.

A. I arrived in the United States on 13 September 1945 at Oakland, California, from Japan by way of Guam and Pearl Harbor.

Q. Were you a prisoner of war?

A. Yes.

Q. Of what country were you a prisoner of war?

A. I was a prisoner of war of Japan.

Q. What was your principal duty in the Marines and with what combat unit at time of capture?

A. I was a Platoon Leader of a Fifty Caliber Machine Gun Platoon, I Company, Third Battalion, 4th Marines.

Q. State the approximate dates and places you were held a prisoner of war by the Japanese.

A. I was captured at Fort Hughes on a fortified island just off Corregidor on 6 May 1942 by Japanese forces. I remained on this island about three or four days and was then transferred to the Island of Corregidor. I was at the 52nd Garage Area on Corregidor for about ten days and was then transferred by boat to Bilibid Prison. I remained at Bilibid Prison until 30 May 1942 and was then transferred to Cabanatuan Camp No. 1 where I remained until 26 October 1942, on which date I was transferred to Davao at Mindanao, arriving there about 6 November 1942. I remained at Davao until 6 June 1944 and was then transferred to Bilibid Prison where I remained for a few days and on 1 July 1944 I was transferred, by boat, to Moji, Japan, arriving there on 2 September 1944. I was then transferred from Moji, by train, to a prisoner of war camp at Yokkaichi (phonetic) arriving there 4 September 1944. I remained there until 1 June 1945 and was then transferred to Nagoya POW Camp No. 7 at Toyama, Japan, where I remained until liberated on 5 September 1945.

Q. Were you mistreated by the Japanese while a prisoner at Nagoya POW camp No. 7 at Toyama, Japan, between 1 June 1945 and 5 September 1945?

A. I received no severe beatings or mistreatment while at Camp No. 7. However, I did receive, on three or four different occasions, slappings from Japanese guards which were a part of every day routine at this camp. However, I am unable to recall specific details of these slappings.

Q. Did you witness any mistreatment to American prisoners by the Japanese at Nagoya POW Camp No. 7 at Toyama, Japan, between 1 June 1945 and 5 September 1945?

A. On at least three different occasions I saw a Japanese guard whom I know by the nickname "Three Fingers" beat prisoners with his fist, and on one occasion with a club. However, the approximate dates, names of persons beaten or further details, I am unable to recall at this time. "Three Fingers" was nicknamed such due to the fact that he had only three fingers on one hand - I can't recall which hand - and I believe he had been discharged from the Army and at that time was employed as a guard by the Army and "Three Fingers" was in charge of civilian guards who marched the prisoners to and from work and remained at the factory during their working hours.

Q. Can you describe the Japanese whom you referred to as "Three Fingers"?

A. He was about average size, was in his middle thirties, spoke only a few words of English, had only three fingers on one hand, as I have already stated. I am unable to furnish any further descriptive details.

Q. Was there any other Japanese at Nagoya POW Camp No. 7 that you know of nicknamed "Three Fingers"?

A. No.

Q. Can you recall any other mistreatment to Americans by "Three Fingers" or any other facts or details concerning this Japanese nicknamed "Three Fingers"?

A. No. To the best of my knowledge "Three Fingers" was only at this camp for about one month and was then transferred.

Q. Can you recall any other mistreatment to American prisoners by the Japanese while at Nagoya POW Camp No. 7 between 1 June 1945 and 6 September 1945?

A. Yes, using a small notebook which I have with me now which I had on my person while a prisoner and in which I jotted a few details while a prisoner, I am able to state, using this notebook as reference, that on 19 July 1945, I believe in the evening, I saw two American prisoners named Murphy and Pidluska, both United States Army, slapped around by a Japanese civilian guard with his hand and fists, as punishment for having been caught at the scrap pile.

Q. Can you name, describe or otherwise identify the Japanese civilian guard who administered this beating to Murphy and Pidluska, as described above?

A. No.

Q. Can you give the first names and ranks or further identify Murphy and Pidluska?

A. No.

Q. Did you witness any other mistreatment to American prisoners while at Nagoya POW Camp No. 7?

A. Yes, also using my notebook as reference, on 9 August 1946 I saw two American prisoners named Clark and E. D. Wolff beaten one evening by a Japanese civilian guard about the face with his fists as punishment for having small knives in their possession.

Q. Can you name, describe or otherwise identify the Japanese civilian guard who administered the beating to Clark and Wolff, as described above?

A. No.

Q. Was this Japanese civilian guard, whom you have just mentioned as having beaten Clark and Wolff, the same Japanese guard whom you referred to previously as having beaten Murphy and Pidluska?

A. I am unable to recall whether the Japanese civilian guard referred to in both instances is the same person.

Q. Did you witness any other mistreatment by the Japanese to American prisoners while at Nagoya POW Camp No. 7?

A. Yes, still using my notebook as reference, on 15 August 1946 in the evening I saw E. D. Wolff beaten about the face by a Japanese civilian guard with his fists for having burnt beans in a can in his possession.

Q. Can you name, describe or otherwise identify the Japanese civilian guard who administered the beating to E. D. Wolff, as described

above?

A. No.

Q. Did you witness any other mistreatment to American prisoners by the Japanese while at Nagoya POW Camp No. 77

A. Yes, still using my notebook as reference on 14 August 1945 I saw two American prisoners, G. Verdugo and Morrisette, slapped around by a Japanese civilian guard for having beans and salt in their possession.

Q. Can you name, describe or otherwise identify the Japanese civilian guard who administered the beating to Verdugo and Morrisette, as described above?

A. No.

Q. Can you recall the number of blows and the type of blows administered by the Japanese civilian guards in the four incidents previously described concerning in the first case, Murphy and Pidluska; in the second case, Clark and Wolff; in the third case, Wolff alone; and in the fourth case, Verdugo and Morrisette?

A. No.

Q. Did you witness any other mistreatment to American prisoners by the Japanese while at Nagoya POW Camp No. 77

- A. Yes, recalling from memory, I saw L. L. Hoyt, Chief Warrant Officer, United States Navy, in the barracks one evening and he told me he had been beaten that day while at the factory. I worked on the electric furnaces at the factory and Hoyt worked in another section of the factory, the forge shop, and, therefore, I didn't see this beating.
- Q. Did Hoyt say at that time who had beaten him?
- A. Hoyt told me at that time the name of the Japanese who had beaten him but I am unable to recall the name at this time nor can I recall any outstanding marks on Hoyt as evidence of this beating.
- Q. Did you witness any other mistreatment to American prisoners by the Japanese while at Nagoya POW Camp No. 7?
- A. None of which I can recall the details or of which I can recall the names of prisoners or names of Japanese.
- Q. Are you familiar with the circumstances concerning the beating of a prisoner named Raigain?
- A. I remember that name but I am unable to recall the individual referred to, nor can I recall any details concerning the beating of any prisoner named Raigain.
- Q. Did any prisoners die that you know of while you were at Nagoya POW Camp No. 7?
- A. Yes. One prisoner, C. S. Uekerman, United States Army, died at Nagoya POW Camp No. 7 while I was there and I have this notation in my notebook - "Uekerman died at 0721 hours on 25 June 1945" in the so-called hospital in the camp and it was common knowledge throughout the camp that Uekerman died due to lack of food and medical care.



Q. Can you give the names, nicknames or otherwise describe any Japanese personnel at Nagoya POW Camp No. 7 whom you have not already mentioned?

A. Yes. Since I was in charge of a work detail at the camp I was allowed by the Japanese to have a notebook in which I could write the names of the prisoners in my work detail and also certain names of Japanese to whom I was responsible on certain work details, and, as a result, I was able to obtain the list of names of the Japanese personnel at this camp which I have here in my notebook and will give to you, using this notebook as reference. First, I will give you the names of the civilian Japanese at the steel factory. I am not sure of the exact spelling but I believe in most cases the spelling of the names is correct, at least phonetically.

Kozatsu (phonetic) Chief Engineer at the steel factory; Kotacka (phonetic) Metallurgist at the steel factory; Gotou (phonetic), Foreman, in charge of labor details at the steel factory; Oshima (phonetic) Foreman of the No. 4 furnace at the steel factory; Mauiya (phonetic), Foreman at the factory; Minowa (phonetic), Sub-foreman at the factory; Marise (phonetic), Sub-foreman at the factory; Kusashima (phonetic), Sub-foreman at the factory; Harayama (phonetic), stick guard - one of the civilian guards who was in charge of taking the men to and from work and who remained with the detail during working hours; Siginoto (phonetic), a stick guard and one of the civilian guards who was in charge of taking the men to and from work and who remained with the detail during working hours; Takewaki (phonetic) a welder at the factory; and Kajikawa (phonetic), a stick guard - one of the civilian guards who was in charge of taking the men to and from work and who remained with the detail during working hours.

Q. Can you describe any mistreatment to American prisoners by the above-mentioned Japanese civilian personnel?

A. No but these Japanese slapped prisoners around and some of the stick guards whom I have mentioned in this group included, I believe, the Japanese civilian guards whom I have previously referred to as having beaten Murphy, Pidluska, Clark, Wolff, Verdugo and Morrisette, but I am unable to single out any guard as being responsible in any specific case.

Q. Can you recall the nicknames or the reputation, as far as mistreatment to prisoners is concerned, of any of the above list of Japanese civilian personnel?

A. No.

Q. Can you give the names or otherwise describe any of the Japanese military personnel at Nagoya POW Camp No. 7 between 1 June 1945 and 6 September 1945?

A. Yes. From this same notebook I am able to give you the following names: <sup>NOGESA</sup> ~~Wagui~~ (phonetic), Second Lieutenant, Japanese Camp Commander; Ikida (phonetic), Corporal, Camp Sergeant Major, second in command of the camp; Baori (phonetic), Corporal, Japanese Quartermaster Corps, Supply NCO; Yamazaki (phonetic), Private, Medical Orderly; Matsumoto (phonetic), Corporal, Quartermaster Corps, also Supply NCO. Then there was also at the camp itself a Japanese civilian who was the Army Interpreter at the camp named Shusakora (phonetic).

Q. Can you recall any specific mistreatment to American prisoners

by these individuals or can you recall any of their nicknames or their reputation in the camp?

A. None that I can recall.

Q. Can you give the names of or otherwise describe any other Japanese personnel with whom you came in contact or whom you know as having been at Nagoya POW Camp No. 7 between 1 June 1945 and 6 September 1945?

A. No, none except those whom I have already mentioned.

Q. What was your duty at this Camp No. 7?

A. I was a work group leader and responsible for my group of fifty men. I was one of five American officers and warrant officers at this camp. Three of these five were warrant officers and were responsible for work groups and consisted of myself, Leroy L. Hoyt and John E. Cross. The two commissioned officers were Colonel Guy H. Stubbs, Allied Senior Officer at the camp, and a United States Army Dental Corps Captain whose name I cannot recall. He was the official Medical Officer but due to the fact that he was a dentist, a United States Army Medical Corps Private, "Tiny" Hill, was the main Allied Medical man at the camp.

Q. As Allied Senior Officer, did Colonel Stubbs protest to the Japanese concerning conditions at the camp?

A. Yes, I know for a fact that Colonel Stubbs protested continually and I know Colonel Stubbs did his best for the prisoners and I do know that his protests to the Japanese were always of little or no avail.

Q. Was there a Japanese Medical Officer at the Camp?

A. No but there was a civilian Japanese doctor at the factory who paid occasional visits to the camp but who had no active interest in the welfare of the prisoners.

Q. Were prisoners of war at Nagoya POW Camp No. 7 used on military works?

A. Not at any military installations but the majority of the prisoners worked in the steel factory in the process of smelting and pouring steel which was a direct aid to the Japanese war effort.

Q. Are you familiar with the air raids while at Camp No. 7 which took place on 20 July 1945 and 2 August 1945?

A. Yes. The first raid took place about 0840 hours on 20 July 1945. I, as well as the other prisoners, was at work in the factory. No alarm was sounded and the first we knew a terrific explosion took place near the factory which resulted in falling debris and dust within the factory itself. After this explosion I and the other prisoners left the factory and started for camp, picking up one or two who were injured, and the Japanese guards at the factory trailed along behind us. This one bomb, the only one dropped during this raid, was a block-buster and resulted in the destruction of the wall of the compound, doors and windows in the barracks were destroyed, camp partitions damaged and at the factory the roof and windows were damaged. There was no material damage to the plant machinery.

Q. Were any prisoners killed in this raid of 20 July 1945?

A. No.

Q. Were any prisoners injured in this raid of 20 July 1945?

A. I believe one or two received minor injuries but I believe there was only one prisoner who was badly injured but he recovered a short time afterward. I am unable to recall his name.

Q. Are you familiar with the injuries received by Coda C. Robberson in this raid of 20 July 1945?

A. No. The one prisoner who was badly injured I helped carry from the factory to the camp and although I can't recall his name, I am quite sure that his name was not Robberson.

Q. Will you state the details concerning the second raid which took place on 2 August 1945?

A. This second raid took place on the night of 1 August 1945 and the morning of 2 August 1945. All the prisoners were in their barracks on the evening of 1 August 1945 and the first alarm rang about 2200 to 2230 hours and we prisoners, as ordered, remained in the barracks. The alarm sounded again about 2400 hours and the prisoners were then allowed to take shelter in three open pits in the compound. We remained there in the pits during the bombing raid which started shortly after 2400 hours and lasted until about 0300 hours on 2 August 1945.

Q. Were any prisoners killed during this raid of 1 and 2 August 1945?

A. No.

Q. Were any prisoners injured in this raid of 1 and 2 August 1945?

A. Not that I can recall but the factory was considerably damaged and was never able to resume operation after this raid but the camp itself received practically no damage.

Q. What were the Japanese air raid regulations for the prisoners?

A. The Japanese had told us that if an air raid took place while at work, we were to remain at our work until ordered otherwise by the Japanese guards and upon being ordered to leave, we were told to use a nearby open field during the raids. However, at the time of the first raid of 20 July 1945 when we were all at work in the factory, there was no warning to either Jap personnel or the prisoners. However, at the camp itself the orders were, if a raid took place, to remain in our barracks until given orders to leave, at which time we were to use three open pits as shelters which were about fifty feet in diameter and six feet deep, which prisoners had dug as air raid shelters. When the second raid took place on 1 and 2 August 1945, at which time we were all in the barracks, prisoners were forced to remain in the barracks after the first alarm sounded, as I have previously stated, and were not allowed to take to the pits until they had received the order after the alarm had sounded for the second time.

Q. Are you familiar with the circumstances in which prisoners were forced to work during air raids?

A. No, not during air raids which actually took place, since one raid in which bombs were dropped took place while we were at

work in the factory and this bomb was dropped without advance warning for either Japanese or the prisoners. However, several times while at work in the factory allied planes came overhead and remained in the vicinity and on two occasions during these incidents the Japanese allowed us prisoners to take to the open nearby field but on one or two other occasions the Japanese ordered us to remain at work even though these allied planes were in the vicinity and an alert alarm had been sounded.

Q. Did you receive or to the best of your knowledge did any prisoners receive American Red Cross parcels while at Nagoya POW Camp No. 7?

A. To the best of my knowledge no prisoner ever received any or any part of a Red Cross parcel except for parts of Red Cross parcels brought to Camp No. 7 by the prisoners from other previous prison camps and which were used under the supervision of our Allied Medical Officer for use in the sick bay. However, I did see Japanese guards at Camp No. 7 wearing American Red Cross shoes.

Q. Can you give the names of any American prisoners who were with you at Camp No. 7?

A. Yes, using that same notebook as reference, I can give you the names of the majority of the men who were in my fifty-man detail and they are as follows:

Thompson, J A  
Redd, A W  
St. Clair M  
Taylor, H E  
Thomas, C H  
Torrence, L B  
Tripp, H P  
Dakeman, C S  
Van Brocklin, B D  
Vardugo, G  
Walchunas, K  
Webb, J P  
Wair, J W  
Wheeler, B G  
Wolff, E B  
Chrabasz, H R  
Cowen, R J  
DeFord, R E  
Jacques, T S G. D.

Latourell, H F  
Lindros, E F  
McCarthy, T E  
Phillips, D D  
Ringswood, P E  
Teller, L A  
Lowe, T W.  
Bruce, C. T  
Spain, P F  
Baldonado, J T  
Cline, E W  
Haddock, W M  
Wellman, H L  
Willover S, USN  
Wood, L E  
Raca, A.  
Daly, E D  
Givens R A  
Krueger, C T

Other prisoners who were not in my work detail but whose names and addresses I have in this notebook, but whom I am unable to recall personally, are: Joseph J. Franek, U. S. Army, from Bartlett, Texas; G. C. Roberson, 4900 South Lewis Avenue, Tulsa, Oklahoma, care of Mrs. B. N. Summers; W. H. Pottoff, 1003 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue South, St. Cloud, Minnesota; and L. E. Allen, Box 1086, Grants, New Mexico.

Q. Is there anything else you wish to state concerning any of the subjects discussed above?

A. No.

*Cecil L. Wood*  
Cecil L. Wood



State of Rhode Island )  
                  WASHINGTON ) ss  
County of Kent

I, Cecil L. Wood, 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.

*Sworn to and subscribed to before me*

*R. W. Glasgow*  
R. W. Glasgow

3/4/47 Lt. Col. R., USN #117585  
Authorized to administer  
oath in accordance with  
Act approved April 25,  
1935, (Public No. 44,  
74th Congress.)

*Cecil L. Wood*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Cecil L. Wood

CERTIFICATE

I, Robert L. Davis, Special Agent, Counter Intelligence Corps, certify that Cecil L. Wood, Commissioned Warrant Officer, United States Marine Corps, Serial No. 010040, personally appeared before me on 5 February 1947 and testified concerning war crimes; and that the foregoing is an accurate transcription of the answers given by him to the several questions set forth.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Special Agent, CIC  
\_\_\_\_\_  
108th CIC Detachment

Place: Boston, Massachusetts

Date: 1947.