

CONFIDENTIAL

WAR DEPARTMENT

Judge Advocate General's Department

United States of America

DIET. INTEL. OFFICE
HOUSTON, TEXAS

13 NOV 1945

ALBERT A. BOWMAN
MAJOR, USAF

IN THE MATTER OF THE BEATING OF)	
	:	
CORPORAL CLAUDE A. WILMOTH AT FUKIO-)	Deposition of Claude A. Wilmoth
	:	Cpl., ASN 18040708
KA CAMP #7 IN JANUARY OF 1945.)	

Taken at	:	Letterman General Hospital, Presidio of S.F., San Francisco, California.
Date	:	3 October 1945
In the Presence of	:	Martin L. Close, Jr. Agent, SIC, CD, NSC
Questions by	:	Martin L. Close, Jr. Agent, SIC, CD, NSC

*EU-8
LACB*

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8. *Incl 2'*

Q. What is your name, rank, serial number, age, and permanent home address?

A. Claude A. Wilmoth, Corporal, ASN 18040708, 28 years of age. My permanent home address is 1010 S. Beacon, Dallas, Texas.

Q. What was your civilian occupation, the extent of your education, and your family status?

A. I was a cook, one year of college, single.

Q. Were you recently returned from overseas?

A. Yes.

Q. On what dates did you enter the service, go overseas, and return from overseas?

A. I enlisted 7 June 1941, went overseas 4 October 1941, and returned to the United States 30 September 1945.

Q. What was your military organization overseas?

A. 7th Materiel Squadron, 19th Bombardment Group.

Q. Were you a prisoner of war of the Japanese?

A. Yes.

Q. Where were you taken prisoner, by whom and at what places and how long were you held?

A. I was taken prisoner on the 9th of April 1942 on Bataan by Japanese soldiers near Mariveles. I was then taken to Camp O'Donnell and arrived there 15 April 1942, held there until 15 August 1942 then to Cabanatuan #1 on 15 August 1942 left 14 December 1942 and went to Lipa, Northwest Luzon 14 October 1943; Bilibid 14 October 1943 to 22 April 1944; Cabanatuan #1 22 April 1944 to 26 June 1944; Bilibid 26 June 1944 to 2 July 1944; left Manila on the Mata Maru 2 July 1944, arrived 2 September 1944 at Moji, Japan; Fukioka #7, 2 September 1944 until 15 August 1945.

Q. Did you witness any atrocities or mistreatment of American Citizens at any time?

A. I did.

Q. State, in detail, what you know about this incident.

A. In January of 1945 while I was at Fukioka #7 I was severely beaten by a Japanese corporal who claimed I wasn't standing at attention at roll call. He struck me about the face and head with his fist. The beating injured one of my ears and I had a great deal of trouble and pain from it for a good while afterwards.

Q. Can you name or describe the Japanese corporal who beat you?

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- A. I don't know his name but he was about 5'5" tall, had a stocky build, dark complexion, and a mustache. His left hand seemed to be deformed and he didn't have full use of it. He wore a glove on it most of the time. He was an opium addict. I have seen him smoking an opium pipe.
- Q. Do you have, or know the location of any physical evidence, such as photographs, relating to this incident?
- A. No.
- Q. Do you know any eye-witnesses to this incident?
- A. Yes. Pfc. Rudy G. Volkman, whose home is in Crooked, South Dakota witnessed the beating.
- Q. Does the testimony you have given cover all the pertinent details of this incident?
- A. Yes.

Claude A. Wilmoth
Claude A. Wilmoth
Cpl., ASN 18040708

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Handwritten initials and date: A.B. - April 22

Q. What is your name, rank, serial number, age, and permanent home address?

A. Claude A. Wilmoth, Corporal, ASN 18040708, 28 years of age. My permanent home address is 1010 S. Beacon, Dallas, Texas.

Q. What was your civilian occupation, the extent of your education, and your family status?

A. I was a cook, one year of college, single.

Q. Were you recently returned from overseas?

A. Yes.

Q. On what dates did you enter the service, go overseas, and return from overseas?

A. I enlisted 7 June 1941, went overseas 4 October 1941, and returned to the United States 30 September 1945.

Q. What was your military organization overseas?

A. 7th Materiel Squadron, 19th Bombardment Group.

Q. Were you a prisoner of war of the Japanese?

A. Yes.

Q. Where were you taken prisoner, by whom and at what places and how long were you held?

A. I was taken prisoner on the 9th of April 1942 on Bataan by Japanese soldiers near Mariveles. I was then taken to Camp O'Donnell and arrived there 15 April 1942, held there until 15 August 1942 then to Cabanatuan #1 on 15 August 1942 left 14 December 1942 and went to Lipa, Northwest Luzon 14 October 1943; Bilibid 14 October 1943 to 22 April 1944; Cabanatuan #1 22 April 1944 to 26 June 1944; Bilibid 26 June 1944 to 2 July 1944; left Manila on the Mata Maru 2 July 1944, arrived 2 September 1944 at Moji, Japan; Fukioka #7, 2 September 1944 until 15 August 1945.

Q. Did you witness any atrocities or mistreatment of American Citizens at any time?

A. I did.

Q. State, in detail, what you know about this incident.

A. In January of 1945 while I was at Fukioka #7 I was severely beaten by a Japanese corporal who claimed I wasn't standing at attention at roll call. He struck me about the face and head with his fist. The beating injured one of my ears and I had a great deal of trouble and pain from it for a good while afterwards.

Q. Can you name or describe the Japanese corporal who beat you?

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A. I don't know his name but he was about 5'5" tall, had a stocky build, dark complexion, and a mustache. His left hand seemed to be deformed and he didn't have full use of it. He wore a glove on it most of the time. He was an opium addict. I have seen him smoking an opium pipe.

Q. Do you have, or know the location of any physical evidence, such as photographs, relating to this incident?

A. No.

Q. Do you know any eye-witnesses to this incident?

A. Yes. Pfc. Rudy G. Volkman, whose home is in Crooked, South Dakota witnessed the beating.

Q. Does the testimony you have given cover all the pertinent details of this incident?

A. Yes.

Claude A. Wilmoth
Claude A. Wilmoth
Cpl., ASN 18040708

I was taken prisoner on 12 July 1942 at Okinawa. I was held at Okinawa until 15 August 1942, then to Saipan on 15 August 1942, then to Agaña, Guam on 14 December 1942 and next to Lapa, Northwest Luzon 14 October 1943; Manila 14 October 1943 to 22 April 1944; Subic Bay 22 April 1944 to 25 June 1944; Manila 25 June 1944 to 3 July 1944; left Manila on the USS Patoka 3 July 1944, arrived 2 September 1944 at Camp 1, Japan; Fukuoka #1, 2 September 1944, until 15 August 1945.

Q. Did you witness any mistreatment or abuse of American prisoners at any time?
A. I did.

Q. State, in detail, what you know about this incident.

A. While I was a prisoner at Fukuoka #1, which is near Uji, it was the policy of the Japanese officials there to allow only a certain percentage of sick American prisoners to be extracted from work details. This occurred to me on 14 October 1943. In December of 1944 I saw the Japanese guard at Fukuoka #1 carrying the POWs with handcuffs to march to a coal mine, which was about 10 miles from the camp.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L

- Q. What is your name, rank, serial number, age, and permanent home address?
- A. Claude A. Wilmoth, Corporal, ASN 18040706, 28 years of age. My permanent home address is 1010 S. Beacon, Dallas, Texas.
- Q. What was your civilian occupation, the extent of your education, and your family status?
- A. I was a cook, one year of college, single.
- Q. Were you recently returned from overseas?
- A. Yes.
- Q. On what dates did you enter the service, go overseas, and return from overseas?
- A. I enlisted 7 June 1941, went overseas 4 October 1941, and returned to the United States 30 September 1945.
- Q. What was your military organization overseas?
- A. 7th Materiel Squadron, 19th Bombardment Group.
- Q. Were you a prisoner of war of the Japanese?
- A. Yes.
- Q. Where were you taken prisoner, by whom and at what places and how long were you held?
- A. I was taken prisoner on the 9th of April 1942 on Bataan by Japanese soldiers near Mariveles. I was then taken to Camp O'Donnell and arrived there 15 April 1942, held there until 15 August 1942 then to Cabanatuan #1 on 15 August 1942 left 14 December 1942 and went to Lipsa, Northwest Luzon 14 October 1943; Bilibid 14 October 1943 to 22 April 1944; Cabanatuan #1 22 April 1944 to 26 June 1944; Bilibid 26 June 1944 to 2 July 1944; left Manila on the Mata Maru 2 July 1944, arrived 2 September 1944 at Moji, Japan; Fukioka #7, 2 September 1944 until 15 August 1945.
- Q. Did you witness any atrocities or mistreatment of American citizens at any time?
- A. I did.
- Q. State, in detail, what you know about this incident.
- A. While I was a prisoner at Fukioka #7, which is near Moji, it was the policy of the Japanese officials there to allow only a certain percentage of sick American soldiers to be excused from work details. This amounted to 34 out of the 465 men at the camp. In December of 1944 I saw the Japanese compel an American Army Sergeant who was sick with pneumonia to march to a coal mine, which was about 1 1/2

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C O N F I D E N T I A L

miles away, and work. The American Army doctor, Captain Emerson from San Antonio, Texas, protested to the Japanese doctor in the camp but his protests had no effect. The American Army Sergeant was taken away at four o'clock in the afternoon and brought back to the camp at one o'clock the next morning. He was unconscious and was being carried on a litter by four of the American soldiers in his work detail. He was placed in the camp hospital and died at five o'clock that morning.

Q. Do you know the name of the American Sergeant or can you describe him?

A. I don't know his name. He was about 5'8" tall, had a dark complexion, dark hair, and had a medium build.

Q. Do you know the name of or can you describe the commanding officer of the camp or other official or individual responsible for this incident?

A. The commanding officer of the camp was a Japanese Army Captain. He was about 5'8" tall, slender, around 38 years old. He was transferred to our camp from the Tokyo area. The Japanese Army doctor at Fukioka was said to be of Japanese and German extraction. In appearance he looked more like an Occidental than a Japanese. His eyes were his only Japanese physical characteristic. He had a German name, was about 5'6", stocky build, weighed around 160 or 175 pounds. He was always neatly dressed and had a small square Hitler type moustache. He was said to have been educated in the United States.

Q. Do you have, or know the location of any physical evidence, such as photographs, relating to this incident?

A. No.

Q. Do you know of any other eye-witnesses to this incident?

A. Captain Emerson our camp medical officer, whose home is in San Antonio, Texas, has full details of this incident.

Q. Does the testimony you have given cover all the pertinent details of this incident?

A. Yes.

Claude A. Wilmoth
Claude A. Wilmoth
Cpl., ASN 18040708

FU-8

Voor Tokio, beëdigd

OM 1953/N
10730/12 R.B

REPORT ON FOOD CONDITIONS IN FUKUOKA CAMP No. 7

1. From our arrival on May 20 1943 till the early days of 1944 the camp was run by the Japanese army, which did at that time not allow any control over the kitchen by the POW officers, but placed a Japanese soldier in charge of the POW kitchen crew.
2. From Jan. 1944 onwards, when the mine company took over the daily running of the camp (dai 10 hakensho) lieut Fasse was put in charge of ration drawing and kitchen affairs. No official information was given, although asked for repeatedly, as to the quantities of base feed and other that we were supposed to receive. All figures mentioned in this report are based on weights actually received, insofar as we were able to check these; some of them are estimates or the figures given by the Japanese.
3. The basic feed, rice, was generally speaking of fair quality, but deeply polished. Most of the time however, about 30% substitutes were given, presumably of the same value. Sometimes this would be flour, of which bread was made, sometimes baked, mostly steamed without yeast or baking powder. On other occasions the substitute would be either barley or wheat or maize or kaffircorn, all of which was mixed with the rice. Lately large quantities of soybeans either as they grow or flaked were issued instead of rice (up to 70%) These beans proved to cause serious digestive troubles; the majority of the camp suffering from diarrhoea, although the beans were soaked for at least four hours and then steamed for from eight to ten hours, to soften them. Yet most men liked them because they filled!
4. As for the quantities of the base feed: from Jan. 44 till June 45 this has been constant in total and never changed, whether there were large numbers on light duties or not. The average fell round about 675 grams per man per day. Some of the Japanese commanders issued orders as to the quantity of raw rice to be given to the various groups of workers, but these quantities were always derived from an assumed situation of light and heavy workers and worked back from the fixed total we received. In the attached schedule two monthly averages of daily rations are given: one for March 1944, when the feed supply was comparatively good and everybody got the same quantity of base feed, irrespective of the kind of work he performed; the other for June 1945 when sick bay patients, insideworkers, officers and farmworkers were to receive 500 grams, topside mineworkers 650 gr. and mineworkers proper 730 to 800 gr. As the total quantity based on the average of 675 gr did not change, it is obvious that the last group got less, the more mineworkers there were, and that even the lowest figure was barely attainable. Although we adhered to the system of giving different rations to the different groups, we never went as far as the Jap. extremes but set our own standards in accord with the opinion of the American camp doctors. In June 45 two cuts in the rice rations of resp. 10 and 5% followed each other rapidly. Moreover on the three restdays that were given per month, the issue was cut down to two meals of 200 gr. for everybody.

behoren 6 1/2 but Proccas tubaal van Jan
Frits Wilkens van 43 December 1946

[Handwritten signature]

5. The supply of other material has been most irregular and did not appear subject to any rule or regulation. Fresh fish and the occasional bit of meat disappeared altogether in 1945. During the last months there only was an occasional issue of either dried or salted fish, but these issues never lasted more than a few days. Vegetables too decreased considerably and their issue has also always been rather haphazard; sometimes enormous quantities would be brought in, issued sparingly at first and then in increasing amounts because they would rot away, often faster than we could eat them. Often there were periods especially in the last months, that there would be no fresh vegetables at all.

6. Two soybean products: "miso", a fermented ^{soy} beanpaste and "tofu", coagulated soybeanmilk were also an irregularly issued part of the daily ration, the former often taking the place of salt which was very sparingly given, lately in quantities of often less than 3 kilos per day.

7. Fruits were given or sold through the commissary on some rare occasions. I think I can remember every issue as they do not amount to more than a dozen issues of one or two tangerines or an apple per man in all the 27 months of our stay in Japan.

Augmenting diet by buying sweets etc. has been out of the question ever since 1944.

8. Finally the cheating, petty thieving and maliciously obstructing the smooth running of rationdrawing and kitchenwork by the mine-representative in charge of food issues, a man by the name of Kihara should not be forgotten to be mentioned.

J. F. Wilkens
J. F. Wilkens,
Res. 1st Lieut.

By Capt. J. F. Wilkens
behaviour by Lt. Procs. Ruben van
Jan Fritz Wilkens on 23 December 1946

J. F. Wilkens
J. F. Wilkens

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space: After the small recreation room attached to the barracks was transformed into officers' quarters in Jan. 1945, the camp had no inside recreation space at all. Only the dining hall could be used as such. Being unheated this could only be done in between or after mealtimes, so that on weekdays there was no room at all. For outside recreation existed the square inside the main building, until this was transformed into a garden in early 1945 and the yard in front of the buildings, which, being flanked by the Japanese office, guardhouse and quarters was unpopular among the men.

Time: Under the various camp commanders various rules existed with regards to recreation time, but in general it may be stated that only on official rest days was there any time at all. On work days the men came home too late to do anything besides bathe and have their meals and perhaps attend to their clothing as the time between homecoming, 6 p.m. and the preparation for evening roll-call was hardly more than an hour and a half.

Under liut. Omaru there were no rules for recreation and it hardly existed even on rest days. Occasionally this commander ordered music to be made, even at the expense of church services which were once broken up because this tyrant wanted to have the band play for him. During this period nobody was in a mood to relax at all and it may be said that recreation did not exist.

The next commandant allowed music to be made on special permission on free days after noon and announced that everybody could relax from that time until roll call. The mornings of free days were always devoted to inspections of some kind or other.

Only during the last commandant, liut. now captain Sakai, the rest days were given to recreation, as this commandant ordered that on free days everybody could do as he liked, make music etc from ten o'clock onward.

Material: A few footballs were received early in our stay, but as no proper space was available, were of no use. Own chess games and YMCA supplied cards could only be used freely on rest days after capt. Sakai's arrival. A library consisting of a few owned Dutch books and a YMCA English set which was changed at irregular intervals, was the only enjoyable part of material throughout our stay, although the lack of Dutch books was severely felt. Musical instruments provided by YMCA (guitar, mandoline, violin, drum) and an accordeon given by the mine company were a great help but were only used regularly in the last half year, when they could be used every day after five o'clock.

To recapitulate: Except during the last six months, one can hardly speak about recreation in this camp, mainly because the working hours did not allow for it, but also, except in the case of capt. Sakai, because regulations hardly allowed it.

Between Lt. P. Wickens and Lt. P. Wickens
Wickens was 23
P. Wickens
P. Wickens
P. Wickens

P. Wickens
Res 1st Lt. D.A.F.

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REPORT ON JAPANESE ISSUES OTHER THAN FOOD IN CAMP 2.

The most important of the other Japanese issues were the clothing issues, both army and mine-company.

The army issued wintercloths, e.i. old winter uniforms, which were handed out in October 1943 and taken in again in May 44, to be reissued again in Oct. 44 till May 45. Although old, these uniforms were satisfactory and filled a need properly. During the same periods winter underwear was issued, shirt and long drawers of some cottony material, the majority being in very bad repair and the rags turned in in 44 were used again for the winter 44-45. Overcoats were issued in 44 from old Jap. army stock, while in Oct. 45 warlet coats, Australian and British G.I. were issued and allowed to stay in possession of the men.

The mine company was responsible for the issuing of working clothes and here the position was far less satisfactory: The main items were a shirt, shorts, leggings, rubbersoled shoes and waterbottles. The changing of worn out material became more and more difficult as time went on while the quality of the goods deteriorated rapidly so that they never lasted the specified time. In particular the footwear became very poor, while also the proper sizes were often lacking. The last months rubbersoled shoes could no more be issued and shoes made out of ricestraw, that barely lasted a single shift were given instead. The generally poor condition of footwear was a cause to many troubles like athletes feet etc. Also the shirts and shorts became of extremely poor quality: being made out of extremely flimsy material like some poor grade of silk and even thin 25lb flourbags. This very thin covering was the only thing the men were supposed to wear in midwinter, as officially the winteruniforms were not supposed to be used in the mine.

Other issues like soap, toothpowder, toothbrushes, laundrysoap toiletpaper were also extremely irregular. At one time we were deluged by toothpowder issues, but at all times the issue of soap was far from sufficient, so that half the time the men did not have sufficient soap to wash themselves.

Cigaretts were issued sparingly, while a certain quantity could be bought, but the total has never exceeded about 5 or 6 cigarette per man and per day, and this was only during the last three months of 1944. At all other times it has been less.

J. F. Wilkens
J.F. Wilkens,
1st Lieut. Dutch A.F.

*Calculated by the Prisoner Relief Committee
for Fritz Wilkens on 23 December 1946*

J. F. Wilkens
J. F. Wilkens

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
SUPERIOR COMMANDER FOR THE ALLIED POWERS
LEGAL SECTION
INVESTIGATION DIVISION

MEMORANDUM:

27 January 1946

SUBJECT: Re Investigation of Prisoner of War Camp No. 7.

By direction of the Chief, Investigation Division, Lst Lt. Griffin A. McGinn and 2nd Lt. Melvin S. Cohn, accompanied by Sgt. Jack Ota as interpreter, proceeded to Iizuka Shu and made an investigation of Prisoner of War Camp No. 7 located in Iizuka Shi, in Fukuoka Prefecture, on the island of Kyushu, Japan.

1. LOCATION: Prisoner of War Camp is located about 35 miles from the city of Fukuoka in a north-east direction. It is located on Iizuka Shi in the Fukuoka Prefecture, Kyushu, Japan.

2. DESCRIPTION: Prison Camp covered approximately 7 acres of land and was surrounded by a 12' wooden stockade. There were 2 entrances, one located in the northwest corner of the camp, the other at the southern end of the stockade. The prisoners were housed in 4 barracks, 3 of these barracks were connected by a passageway. The fourth was separate. The prisoners lived in rooms which housed either 21 prisoners, 42 prisoners or 45 prisoners. Each of these rooms had upper tiers. All of the windows in these barracks contained window panes on date of inspection. Barracks were extremely dirty and fleas were abundant.

HEATING: Rooms were heated by one 5" pipe running through one end of each room. There no radiators present in the rooms. The steam boiler was located about 80 meters away from the camp.

LIGHTING: There were electric lights in each room.

3. UTILIZATION: The prisoners of war worked in and around two coal mines. One was a vertical shaft about 1200 feet in depth. The other was a lateral or horizontal shaft about 200 meters in depth and about a 20° slope. These mines were located about a 10 minute walk from the prison area. The mines were owned and operated by the Nittetsu Steel Corporation and were known as the Central Coal Mines.

CLOTHING: Clothes were originally furnished to the prisoners by the Japanese Army, later those prisoners who were employed by the mining company were furnished work clothes.

4. PRISONER OF WAR PERSONNEL: There were no interned nationals at this camp. There were approximately 550 prisoners there at the end of the war. About 350 were Dutchmen who evidently arrived there in May 1943. In September 1944 200 additional prisoners came there from Corrigidor or Bataan, P.I., all in this group were Americans with the exception of two or three Englishmen. No rosters were available at this camp as all records were presumably destroyed.

5.

5. Guards: The following named Japanese Army personnel were present at this camp in the capacity as prison commandants:

Lt. YOSHITSUGU, Seiichiro from June 1944 to January 1945.

Lt. OMARU from March 1944 to June 1944.

Lt. SAKAI, Ken from January 1945 to the end of the war.

Request has been made of the Japanese Demobilization Bureau for a complete roster of Japanese personnel employed at this camp but to date none has been received.

6. WORK AND RECREATION: The prisoners worked in two shifts, one shift commenced at 7 AM and worked until 5 PM. The other shift started at 6 PM and got off at 5 AM in the morning. The prisoners got one day off in 10. The spokesman for the prisoners was a Captain Andoro or Andrews of the Dutch Air Force, later a Captain Price who is believed to be a medical doctor of the United States Army shared this duty. Red Cross packages were received occasionally and were distributed under the supervision of the officers mentioned above. There was a canteen operated for a very short time but closed because of lack of supplies.

7. FOOD: The standard Japanese staples were used for food, consisting mostly of fish and rice. When wheat or flour was available the prisoners made their own bread. It is quite apparent that a diet of this kind is insufficient for Occidentals, and as a consequence, the prisoners suffered from a lack of food.

8. MEDICAL: There were approximately 50 deaths in this camp. Two as a result of a mine cave. This cave-in occurred in the vertical shaft in an area where there was no support for the roof of the mine. No records concerning deaths available at this camp, but Japanese Demobilization Bureau has been requested to furnish Fukuoka Office with all data concerning deaths.

9. SANITATION: City water was furnished. There were sufficient latrines in the camp area for all the prisoners. There was a Japanese type bathroom located in the camp.

10. SAFETY MEASURES EMPLOYED: This area was never bombed by Allied planes, but air-raid shelters were constructed by the prisoners for their own use. There was no marking on the prison roofs to distinguish the area as a prisoner of war camp. Safety measures employed in the mine were inadequate, and as a result two of the prisoners were killed when the roof of the mine collapsed because of lack of timbering.

11. PUNISHMENT AND DISCIPLINE: Attached statements of eye-witnesses show evidence of mistreatment of prisoners by two of the prison commanders and several guards.

12. COMMENT AND LEADS TO BE DEVELOPED: It is suggested that statements of released prisoners of war, who were confined in POW Camp No. 7 be read over by some of our office personnel and any data concerning these beatings and the mine accident be furnished the undersigned as soon as possible.

GRIFFIN A. MCGINN, 1st Lt., SC,
Investigating Officer,
Legal Section, GHQ, SCAP.

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mitsuyoshi wakizaka, after having been duly sworn, testified at 6th Marine Regt. Hdq., FUKUOKA-SHI, ON 13th March, 1946, as follows:

- R
- Q. Please state your full name, age, address and nationality.
- A. My name is MITSUYOSHI WAKIZAKA, AGE 41, my address is Fukuoka-ken, Onga-gun, Mizumaki-machi, Takamatsu Dai niko, Koaku. I am a Japanese.
- Q. Can you be located at this address at all times?
- A. Yes.
- Q. What is your present occupation?
- A. Mine employee.
- Q. What is your religion?
- A. Buddhist.
- Q. How long were you a foreman over the POW's?
- A. I was a foreman from May 1943-- Aug. 14, 1945.
- Q. How many Prisoners were you in charge of?
- A. There were an average of 8 POW's in my charge.
- Q. Didn't you strike PW's to make them work?
- A. Yes, I did use strong armed methods when it called for it such as the time when a PW refused to bring forth a beam needed for the construction of the mine tunnel. At first, I asked him nicely but since he refused, I gave him a shove with my hands, the PW turned about and tried to strike me so I picked up a stick about two feet long and two inches in diameter and struck him a few times. I might have inflicted bodily injury to the PW, but did not notice it at the time. Also because of the language barrier, in order to make myself understood, I struck, pushed and swore at Prisoners.
- Q. Were you given orders from higher command to strike PW's?
- A. No. However, we were ordered by the company to increase the output in order to aid the war effort so, I took it upon myself to order PW's under my command to meet the quota. In order to accomplish this, I had to use strong armed methods at times.
- Q. Have you ever kicked PW's with your feet?
- A. Yes.
- Q. Did you strike a POW for breaking a pick?
- A. Yes. I struck the POW couple of times with the pick handle and told him to be more careful with the tools.
- Q. As a foreman, isn't it your duty and not the POW's to see that the machinery is in operating condition?
- A. Yes.
- Q. Then why did you blame this on the POWs?
- A. Because I figured that it happened due to the carelessness of the POW's therefore, to see that these things do not occur in the future, I metted out harsh punishment by striking the POW's concerned.
- Q. Isn't it true that you were actually asleep most of the time when the work was going on?
- A. It might of looked as though I was sleeping but I knew and seen every thing that went on.
- Q. What were the POW's feelings towards you?
- A. I was not liked too much by them after April 1945, since we had orders to produce the maximum and in order to do that I worked them alot harder.
- Q. Do you have anything further to add?
- A. No.

脇坂光義

MITSUYOSHI WAKIZAKA