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

STATE OF CALIFORNIA :

 : ss

City and County of San Francisco :

WILFORD H. CHAPMAN, Corporal, ASN 6288749, 1202 West 34th Street, Austin, Texas, being first duly sworn, deposes and says:

While an American soldier I was held as a prisoner of war by the Japanese at Camp 4, Moji, Japan, from 4 August 1944 to about 10 September, 1945. On 16 July 1945 I was beaten by a Japanese civilian guard named Yasagawa. An English sergeant, Bickerstaff, and I had taken case a case of hardtack from the warehouse and loaded it on a railroad car. The Japanese guards lined all the prisoners up at camp, searched us, and threatened to beat all the men unless someone confessed. Bickerstaff and I admitted taking the biscuits. Yasagawa first beat Bickerstaff for about fifteen minutes until he was unconscious, and then he beat me for about the same length of time until I lost consciousness. He used a lead pipe about an inch and a half in diameter and three feet long and hit me across the shoulders, the small part of my back, the buttocks, and the upper part of both legs. I gained consciousness several minutes later and then was compelled to stand at attention in the warehouse where the beating had occurred for two and a half hours. About 5:15 p.m. the same guard beat us both again, and this time my beating lasted about ten minutes. He used the same iron pipe and hit me the same places. He then stopped, sent us back to camp, and told us not to say anything about; and he would not report the theft. My back and legs were so sore that I could not sleep from pain for the next three nights except for short naps because of exhaustion. For about one week I passed blood in my bowel movements, and for a couple weeks I could not sit still because of the pain. There was general soreness of the back and legs for at least three weeks.

Yasagawa had only one arm, his left arm having been amputated almost at the shoulder. He was a member of the Japanese Army Reserve, and I believe that before the war his home was in Formosa: he was half Korean and half Japanese. He was permanent personnel at the camp from May 1945 until September 1945. He was good-looking Jap about five feet nine inches tall, 1140 pounds, about twenty-eight or twenty-nine years old, spoke rather broken English, and may have been a farmer because he talked a lot about farming.

The camp commander was Capt. Sato, and he was the camp commander all the time I was there about a year before.

Witnesses include T/Sgt. Norman Ernst, 21st Pursuit Squadron, AAC, from San Antonio, Texas: and Cpl. Lonnie Patman, 31st Infantry, from Dallas, Texas.

Wilfred H. Chapman

WILFORD H. CHAPMAN

CORPORAL

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 19th day of October 1945.

Harryman Dorsey

Captain, JAGD

Interviewed by Joseph C. Simpson, Agent, SIC