

OVER

WAR CRIMES OFFICE

When completed this document
must be classified as
RESTRICTED

DATE: 16 Sept 1945

1. YOUR NAME: ZACK Last MILTON First EDWIN Middle

2. RANK: 2nd Lt. SERVICE NO. 0-707368
(If civilian, write in word "Civilian" (armed Forces personnel only)

3. HOME ADDRESS 4 Browning Ave., Dorchester Boston Mass.
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).

M.P. Prison, Sapporo June 1945 - Aug 1945

5. DO YOU HAVE ANY INFORMATION ABOUT ANY ATROCITIES AGAINST, OR MISTREATMENT OF AMERICANS, PRISONERS 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 ----- no
yes or no
- (b) Torture, beatings or other cruelties ----- no
yes or no
- (c) Imprisonment under improper conditions ----- no
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 ----- no
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 ----- no
yes or no
- (h) Public exhibition or exposure to ridicule of prisoners of war ----- no
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 offense of others ----- no
yes or no
- (k) Any other atrocities not specifically mentioned above for which you think the guilty persons should be punished ----- no
yes or no

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

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O V E R

DETAILS OF ATROCITIES

KIND OF CRIME	WHERE IT HAPPENED	WHO WAS THE VICTIM (include name, nationality & whether military personnel or not).	STATE IF YOU SAW IT YOURSELF. IF YOU DID NOT SEE IT, WHO TOLD YOU ABOUT IT.
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1. (I) Sapporo M.P. Prison - Myself - Cpl. Walter Bailey, American, - Cpl Robert Trent, American. No medical treatment - not allowed to wash, bathe, shave etc. - 2 rice balls per day by order of MP captain & M.P. Sgt. Masua. We were left in cell during air raids.

2. (I) I was not fed for 3 days at Northern Army Hdqts, Sapporo in an attempt to gain information by order of Capt. Matsu Moto or other captain, doing questioning.

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

HAVE YOU PREVIOUSLY BEEN QUESTIONED BY ANY MILITARY OR NAVAL AUTHORITIES ABOUT ATROCITIES OR MISTREATMENT, no. IF YES, BY WHOM, WHERE, WHEN
yes or no

DID YOU MAKE A SIGNED STATEMENT, no
CERTIFIED TRUE COPY: yes or no

William H. Brown
WILLIAM H. BROWN
Capt., Inf.

Milton E. Zaak
Milton E. Zaak
Sign your name here.

RESTRICTED

ZACK, MILTON E.

2d Lt. AC

ASN 0-707368

(Name)

(Rank)

after being duly sworn at 29th Replacement Depot, Luzon, P.I.

on 17 September, 1945, testified as follows:

Q. How old are you?

A. 25

Q. Were you captured by the Japanese and made a prisoner of war? If so, when and where?

A. Shimushu, Northern Kuriles Islands, Japan - 19 May 1945.

Q. At the time of your capture of what unit were you a member?

A. 77th Bomb Sq. (Med.), 404th Bomb Gp.

Q. By what Japanese unit were you captured?

A. Jap Army.

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

A. U.S.

Q. What will your complete address be after your repatriation?

A. 4 Browning Ave., Dorchester, Boston, Mass.

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. <u>Northern Army Hq.</u>	<u>Sapporo, Hokkaido</u>	<u>1 June - 22 June 45</u>
<u>M.P. Prison</u>	<u>" "</u>	<u>22 June - 17 Aug 45</u>

Q. Do you know, or have you reason to believe, that the Imperial Japanese Army failed to treat prisoners of war with humanity or otherwise committed atrocities and war crimes against them?

A. Yes.

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Q. Will you state all facts in detail pertaining to atrocities, war crimes, violations of Rules of Land Warfare and human decency at Northern Army Hq, Sapporo, Hokkaido, the dates thereof, the perpetrators, giving their names, ranks, units and other identifying information.

A. At the Japanese Northern Army Hq., at Sapporo, Hokkaido, I was held 3 weeks in jail cell. Every day I was questioned repeatedly concerning my organization and operations.

About 10 June 1945 I was denied food for a period of three days, during which time I was asked if I had anything to say. I was under the charge of two captains - the older whose name was Sami Yama, was about 5'6" tall, about 150 lbs, wore horn-rimmed glasses and spoke English slightly. The other was called Captain Matsumoto, about 30 years old, height 5'6" weight 140 lbs, fairly fluent in English and a rapid speaker. I feel sure this punishment was ordered by Captain Sami Yama.

I can give no further description and have nothing further to state.

(S) MILTON E. ZACK

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 17th day of September, 1945.

CERTIFIED A TRUE COPY: (S) R. H. GILLILAND, 1st Lt., Inf.,
Investigating Officer,
War Crimes Investigating Detachment.

Henry L. Rogers
Capt M. E. J. RESTRICTED

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RESTRICTED

Q. Will you state all facts in detail pertaining to atrocities, war crimes, violations of Rules of Land Warfare and human decency at Northern Army Hq., Sapporo, Hokkaido, the dates thereof, the perpetrators, giving their names, ranks, units and other identifying information.
(camp) or other place)

A. at the Japanese Northern Army Hq., at Sapporo, Hokkaido, I was held 3 weeks in jail cell. Every day I was questioned repeatedly concerning my organization and operations. About 10 June 1945 I was denied food for a period of three days, during which time I was asked if I had anything to say. I was under the charge of two captains - the older, whose name ~~is do not know~~ was Dani Yama, was about 5'6" tall, about 150 lbs, wore horn-rimmed glasses + spoke English slightly. The other was called Captain Matsuhito, about 30 years old, height 5'6", weight 140 lbs., fairly fluent in English and a rapid speaker. I feel sure this punishment was ordered by Captain Dani Yama. I can give no further description, + have nothing further to state.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 17th day of Sept,

1945.

RESTRICTED

W. H. Lilliland H-157
1st Lt. Inf.
Investigator
War Crimes Invest.
igating Detachment

For the WAR CRIMES OFFICE
CIVIL AFFAIRS DIVISION, WDSS
United States of America

SUBJECT: In the matter of the mistreatment
of Ensign Clifford S. Mehelich and others,
while prisoners of War at Sappiro POW Camp
from July 21, 1945 to September 12, 1945.

Perpetuation of Testimony of
Clifford S. Mehelich (formerly
Ensign SN O 403 149.

Taken at:

Coleraine, Minnesota

Date:

July 23, 1947

In the Presence of:

M/Sgt Herman F. Hoffmann, 6,766,699
U. S. Army Recruiting Office, Village Hall,
Grand Rapids, Minnesota.

Questions by:

M/Sgt Herman F. Hoffmann

Q. State your name, permanent home address, and occupation.

A. Clifford S. Mehelich,
122 Steward Avenue West,
Sioux City 17, Iowa
Student

Q. State the date and place of your birth and of what country you are a citizen?

A. January 29, 1923, Grand Rapids, Minnesota
United States of America

Q. What educational institutions have you attended and for how long?

A. Greenway High School, Coleraine, Minnesota, 4 years, graduated June, 1941,
Itasca Junior College, Coleraine, Minnesota, 2½ years, graduated June 1947.

Q. At what place were you employed prior to entering the service and what was the nature of your occupation?

A. Student. Employed one summer by the Oliver Mining Company, Coleraine, Minnesota, as a laborer.

Q. What is your marital status?

A. Married.

Q. On what date did you return from overseas?

A. September 28, 1945.

Q. Were you a prisoner of war?

A. Yes.

Q. At what places were you held and state the approximate dates.

A. Sappiro POW Camp, Hokkaido, from July 21, 1945 until September 12, 1945.

Q. What unit were you with when captured?

A. Air Group #1, Task Force 33.2, USS Bennington, VT #1.

Q. State the date, circumstances connected with the loss of your aircraft and mission.

A. On July 15, 1945, we were engaged in an attack on El Troic Harbor, northern peninsula of Hokkaido, bombing military installations, with ceiling 2,000 feet, using 500 pound bombs. The other crew members of the ship, a TBM-3, were Gunner Second Class Ernest J. Davis of Plymouth Ohio and Radioman Second Class Dorich of Salt City Lake, Utah. We were not given any special target but were bombing as we saw fit. We dove on a bridge, dropped a bomb, pulled up, dropped another bomb on a factory and pulled up again. We picked up fragments of a bomb and small arms fire

made a sieve out of the plane. The port wing was afire and the engine was missing. We then flew out to sea, in an easterly direction, approximately 25 miles, and made a safe crash water landing. The time was approximately 1400. No one was hurt or killed in the crash. It was five days before we were captured.

Q. State what you did from the time you crash landed until you were captured?

A. We camouflaged our raft, conserved our water, but had no food. We did as little as possible to conserve our strength. The first day we drank one canteen of water; the days after that we only drank three ounces a day. We tried to do a little fishing and sailing, but both proved futile. On the evening of the third day, we began to row toward shore because of lack of water. We rowed until 11 o'clock on the third day, at which time Radioman Dorich was completely exhausted, and he was of no further help to us. At noon of the fourth day we cut the bottoms out of all but one of the rafts, keeping the blue part, sinking the rest, which left us with one raft. Gunner Davis and I started rowing about three in the afternoon, at which time my watch stopped. We rowed continually until daybreak, the morning of the 20th of July. We were then about 500 yards from shore. There were merchantmen passing us to the seaward side, but our camouflage must have proved effective, as they didn't see us. We continued to row until we were about 200 yards from the shore, and we could then see small fishing boats along the shoreline. There was a choice of going back to sea, being captured by boats or rowing into shore, and being captured by civilians. I chose and ordered the crew to row into shore. We met some civilian fishermen on the way, and we tried to use sign language to explain our position and lack of water. During the process, we were struck, and when I bent down, I received a blow across my head, which knocked me into the water. Previously, I had ordered the crew not to use their firearms. As I returned to the surface, the men were firing upon the fishermen and the battle was on. During this skirmish, Radioman Dorich was killed. Gunner Davis and I swam the last 100 yards to shore, followed by the fishermen, who probably entertained some fear of us, as they allowed us to crawl up into the mountainside into cover. We lay in the underbrush until approximately 1600, at which time Japanese Militia arrived and captured us. They treated us with fairly good courtesy upon capture. We were both led to the seashore, blindfolded, and were taken aboard a small boat, at which time I received medication for my wound. We arrived at Sapporo POW Camp on July 21st, and Gunner Davis and I were put in solitary confinement, where we remained until we were released from the camp. We were mistreated only through the lack of food and water. We were not allowed to take a bath but under the circumstances was likely. While at the Prison Camp they took me to a doctor, who cleaned out my wound and stitched it up. I lost about 40 pounds while in camp. The officer who questioned me at the camp was named Matsomoto, and whose rank was equivalent to a Captain in the U. S. Army.

Q. Do you have anything further to add?

A. No.

Clifford Stanley Mehelich
Clifford S. Mehelich

STATE OF MINNESOTA)
 :SS
COUNTY OF ITASCA)

I, Clifford S. Mehelich, 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.

Clifford Stanley Mehelich
CLIFFORD S. MEHELICH

Subscribed and sworn to before me, this 28 day of July, 1947

Donald A. Lee, Notary Public, Itasca County, Minn.
My Commission Expires, November 1, 1948

Donald A. Lee
NOTARY PUBLIC

My commission expires:

CERTIFICATE

I, Herman F. Hoffmann, M/Sgt DEML R-S, certify that Clifford S. Mehelich, personally appeared before me on 23 July 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.

Boleraine, Minnesota

23 July 1947

Herman F. Hoffmann
M/Sgt DEML R-S 5306 ASU

89 784.

A F F I D A V I T

(Place)
12 Sept 1945
(Date)

I Clifford S. Mehelich, ASN 403149, of 122 West Stewart Ave.
Sioux City, Iowa, serving in the grade of ENSIGN with

the U.S. Navy Torpedo Sqd-1 (Unit) Am. (Nation) armed forces at the time

of my capture on 20 July 45 at North of Rumo (Date) (Place) do hereby depose and say

1. Japanese prisons, camps or hospitals in which I was confined are as follows:

Name or Location	Date	Japanese Commander
<u>Northern Army Headquarters</u> <u>SAPPORO</u>	<u>20 July 45</u>	<u>LT. GENERAL. KICHIRO HIGUCHI</u>

2. Conditions in each camp, hospital or prison with respect to food, medical care, clothing, sanitation and required work were as follows:

3 bowls of RICE 3 bowl SOUP - daily.
MEDICAL CARE administered 1st week of capture
None there-after - Received wool overcoat and blankets
JAP SANITATION. NO WORK - NO BATH, NO EXERCISE -
SOLITARY CONFINEMENT

3. I have personal knowledge of killings, tortures, beatings, other cruelties (including starvation) or improper punishments as indicated:

Name of Victim	Date	Place	Japanese Perpetrator
<u>J.C. Doratsch ARM 3</u>	<u>20 July 45</u>	<u>POINT OF CAPTURE</u>	<u>JAP FISHERMAN</u>
<u>KILLED IN FIGHT WHILE RESISTING ARREST IN WHICH WE WERE CAPTURED</u>			

12-57

Name of Victim Date Place Japanese Perpetrator

Three sets of horizontal lines for recording victim information.

Brief description of each atrocity:

while persistent capture

Jap fishermen & J.C. Danatschman net deaths

After spending 5 days at sea in adverse condition we put ashore north of RUMOI 500 yds off-shore we were attack by several JAP FISHERMAN. All of us were very weak but E. J. DAVIS ADM 3/c + I manage to get away after we could hardly longer save Danatschman later captured by JAP MILITARY TROOPS.

4. I have heard of and have reason to believe the following atrocities were also committed:

Name of Victim Date Place Japanese Perpetrator

Three sets of horizontal lines for recording victim information.

Brief description of each atrocity:

5. I do ~~have~~ (not have) a diary or other documentary evidence. It is presently located at _____

Ens. Edward Stanley Tubelik

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 12 day of Sept, 1945 at Seppuro Hokkaido

Editha Capt
(Army or Navy Officer authorized to take oaths)

0115434 John P. ...
ASN Organization

AD

Hakodai

A F F I D A V I T

(Place)

Sept. 12, 1945

(Date)

I Samuel McMillan Jr., ASN 0-815739, of 61 Keeney Ave. West Hartford Conn., serving in the grade of 2nd Lt. with

the 26th Fighter Sqdn. 51st Bp. 14th A.F., U.S.A. armed forces at the time

of my capture on Jan. 16, 1945 at North of Hankow, China do hereby depose and say

1. Japanese prisons, camps or hospitals in which I was confined are as follows:

Name or Location	Date	Japanese Commander
Jail - North of Hankow, China	Jan. 16, 45 - Jan. 19, 45	
Jail - Hankow, China	Jan. 20, 45 - Jan. 23, 45	
Jail - Nanking, China	Jan. 27, 45 - Feb. 13, 45	
Jail - Hankow, China	Feb. 14, 45 - March 16, 45	
Jail - Nanking, China	March 16, 45 - April 15, 45	
Shanghai War Pris. Camp	April 15, 45 - May 9, 45	
Tekin Pris. Camp	May 14, 45 - June 19, 45	
<u>Sapporo, Hokkaido</u>	<u>July 7, 45 - Sept 12, 45</u>	<u>Major Miki</u>

2. Conditions in each camp, hospital or prison with respect to food, medical care, clothing, sanitation and required work were as follows: Lived on starvation diet, no medical care, clothing, or sanitation. Had body lice, to such an extent that they were literally eating me alive. Was not allowed any water at all for three months. At times no blankets were supplied for warmth in freezing cold weather.

3. I have personal knowledge of killings, tortures, beatings, other cruelties (including starvation) or improper punishments as indicated:

Name of Victim	Date	Place	Japanese Perpetrator
<u>Samuel McMillan Jr.</u>	<u>Jan. 16, 1945</u>	<u>Airfield North of Hankow, China</u>	<u>Capt. in Charge of Camp Post</u>

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Commanders in charge of Hankow and Nanking did not do the actual beatings, but they were given by the personnel under their command, who were in charge of me at the time. Unfortunately I couldn't swear to their names.

Name of Victim	Date	Place	Japanese Perpetrator
② Samuel McMillan Jr.	Feb 14, 1945	Jail in center of city Hankow	Commander in charge of Hankow, Air Field
③ Samuel McMillan Jr.	March 16, 1945	Jail in outskirts of city Nanking	Commander in charge of Nanking Area
④ Samuel McMillan Jr.	July 7, 1945	Sapporo, Hokkaido	Major Miki

Brief description of each atrocity: ① Received such severe beatings that I was unable to remember hardly anything for 3 days. Was stripped of all clothing except underwear, in zero weather, was tied up in such a brutal fashion that I lost all movement of my hands. ② Received more beatings and was only fed twice a day on dough and water. Had only two blankets in zero weather. ③ Was given very little to eat and no medical treatment. I was in a very bad way with body lice until I reached Shanghai, and was given no treatment for it until then.

4. I have heard of and have reason to believe the following atrocities were also committed:

Name of Victim	Date	Place	Japanese Perpetrator
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

Brief description of each atrocity:

5. I do have (not have) a diary or other documentary evidence. It is presently located at _____

Samuel McMillan Jr.
(Signature)

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 12 day of Sept., 1945
at Sapporo, Hokkaido

Arthur Long Capt
(Army or Navy Officer authorized to take oaths)

0-1165454
ASN

J.A. Har Sin
Organization

Received lacerations of the scalp and cuts about the face and mouth from the beatings. Also had huge bruises on my body from brutal kicking, Had large sores on hips from being laying on Jail floors.

2012 SES 2nd Ave
 2012 SES 2nd Ave

A F F I D A V I T

CHITOSE HOKKIAIDO
 (Place)

SEPT 11 1946
 (Date)

I Walter Arnold Ferris, ASN 0702574, of _____

3012 SES 2nd Ave Portland Oregon, serving in the grade of 1st Lt with
 (Home address)

the 51st FTR GRP 1st AFTR SQDN, AMERICA armed forces at the time
 (Unit) (Nation)

of my capture on 16 JAN 45 at SUICHOW CHINA hereby depose and say
 (Date) (Place)

1. Japanese prisons, camps or hospitals in which I was confined are as

follows:

Name or Location	Date	Japanese Commander
<u>Suichow China Jail (M.P.)</u>	<u>JAN 16-20-45</u>	<u>UNKNOWN</u>
<u>Nanking jail</u>	<u>Jan 21-Feb 18</u>	<u>UNKNOWN</u>
<u>SHANGHAI P.O.W. CAMP</u>	<u>Feb 18-MAY 79</u>	<u>COL. OTERA</u>
<u>Fengtai China (Temp POW camp)</u>	<u>May 14-June 14</u>	<u>COL. OTERA</u>
<u>NORTHERN ARMY HQ</u>	<u>HIGH COM. LT GEN. HIGUCHI</u>	
<u>SAPPORO HOKKIAIDO JAPAN</u>	<u>CAPT. MIKI MAJ. MIKI</u>	<u>FURUTATE</u>

2. Conditions in each camp, hospital or prison with respect to food, medical care, clothing, sanitation and required work were as follows:

Suichow Solitary Confinement cruel treatment hit about head kicked and walked thru streets of Suichow about 8 blocks little food & blanket in zero weather clothes were taken except shirt and under wear
Nanking Solitary Confinement little food extremely cold
Shanghai isolated with 12 other airmen under constant guard
Food better at Shanghai no medical attention until Shanghai

3. I have personal knowledge of killings, tortures, beatings, other cruelties (including starvation) or improper punishments as indicated:

Name of Victim	Date	Place	Japanese Perpetrator
<u>1st Lt. Walter A. Ferris</u>	<u>JAN 16-45</u>	<u>Suichow</u>	<u>UNKNOWN (SEVERAL)</u>
<u>Stained</u>	<u>Jan 20-45</u>		

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H2-152

4-57

Report to Branch #3 camp

Hakodate 14 Sep. 1945

15 Sept 45 visited, with a detail of 10 Marines, a labor camp reported to be about 3 miles northwest of our camp.

This camp was inhabited by a group of approximately 450 Chinese Prisoners.

It was impossible, due to language difficulties, to ascertain whether the Chinese were ex-Chinese soldiers or conscripted labor. The inmates of this camp were in a terrible condition, most were on the verge of starvation and about a hundred were locked in an old shed that they called the hospital, these men were suffering from various diseases, locked down sustained from working in the neighboring mines and were in a distressing condition. Visited the galley and observed the food and allowance which amounted to a ball of sour dough about the size

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