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S T A T E M E N T

I, Master Technical Sergeant Jesse L. Stewart 255182, USMC, being duly sworn depose and state:

My home address is McKinnon, Wyoming. At the present time I am attached to Marine Aviation Detachment, U. S. Naval Training Center, Ward Island, Corpus Christi, Texas. I enlisted in the United States Marine Corps on 19 October 1936 and have been in continuous service since that time. I was captured by the Japanese forces at Wake Island on 23 December 1941. On Wake Island I was a member of the Marine Aviation Detachment. I was held in the following Prisoner of War Camps:

Wake Island from 23 December 1941 until 12 May 1942.

Transported from Wake Island to Yokohama, Japan aboard the ASAMA MARU thence by train to Zentsuji, Shikoku Island, Japan.

Zentsuji Prisoner of War Camp from 18 May 1942 until 17 January 1943.

Tanagawa Prisoner of War Camp from 17 January 1943 until 21 May 1943.

Umeda Bunsho, Osaka City from 21 May 1943 until 21 May 1945.

Tsuruga Prisoner of War Camp from 21 May 1945 until 11 September 1945 at which time I was repatriated.

I was at Umeda Bunsho, Osaka Branch Prisoner of War Camp from 21 May 1943 until 21 May 1945. About the latter part of 1944, 2nd Lt. Motoo Namba, Imperial Japanese Army, came to this camp as Camp Commander.

Lt. Namba was very lax in his control over the guards of the camp and allowed them to treat the Prisoners of War exactly as they wanted. He did nothing to help us as far as camp conditions were concerned. About the time of his arrival we received a shipment of Red Cross food parcels. Lt. Namba and his staff ate Red Cross food from then on and I have seen Lt. Namba, Mariyama, a gunsoko, Shimayoshia, a gunsoko, and Shinya, a gunsoko peck Red Cross food out of the camp. I have also seen the entire camp staff smoking American Red Cross cigarettes.

On Christmas day of 1944 Lt. Namba issued each Prisoner in Camp, 318 in all, a full food parcel. He then had the American Camp Commander, Zemo Tarnowski and the office force come through the barracks and each

men had to give something out of his Red Cross box as a present to the Japanese Camp Staff.

He held a shakedown inspection of the barracks about once each month and on these inspections he and his staff would take anything they desired from the gear of the Prisoners of War, whether it be food, clothing, cigarettes, or other items. Lt. Namba knew we were stealing food and other essentials out at the railroad yards where we were working. He did not stop us from doing this but made certain he and his camp staff were well supplied with anything a Prisoner of War could steal.

Many beatings took place in this camp, both individual and mass beatings. Lt. Namba never interfered with these beatings, but seemed to approve of them. These beatings were numerous and it is impossible for me to remember them all but I will list some of them that I can remember.

In November of 1944 Japan started being bombed by B-29 airplanes. Each time, after an air raid, at evening or morning muster each man calling out 29 when we counted off would be beaten. I cannot remember each instance of this kind but it happened about 5 or six times. I do remember one case distinctly, on the night of 13 March 1945 Osaka was subjected to a very heavy incendiary raid. On the morning of the 14th of March at morning muster every man answering to No. 29 was severely beaten by the guards holding tenko (muster).

In or about April 1945 K. C. Turner, U. S. Navy had contacted a mild case of dysentery. As his detail was lined up in front of the gate waiting to be admitted to the camp, Turner had to go to the latrine and requested permission to do so. Gisaburo, Mariyama, Kimura, and Aoki saw him go and accused him of going to get rid of stolen items. They stood him at attention and beat him on and off until about 2200. Turner was hospitalized for about three days as a result of this beating. I saw Lt. Namba walk by the place where Turner was being beaten and leave camp.

In or about April of 1945, HOGHEM, Chief, U. S. Navy was beaten severely and confined to the brig for about seven days, because, as

Lt. Namba stated, "Hookum was encouraging the Prisoners of War to steal food on the Umeda Railroad Yard working detail". Hookum was beaten five or six times a day during the entire time of his confinement. All the Camp staff except Lt. Namba participated in these beatings. Lt. Namba saw many of these beatings and did nothing to stop them. Hookum was only given one meal a day during the time he was in the brig, and was only allowed one blanket. Shortly after this Lt. Namba left Umeda Prisoner of War Camp.

Umeda Camp was abandoned on 21 May 1945 and the majority of us were transferred to the Tsuruga Prisoner of War Camp. Here we again came in contact with Lt. Namba, better known to we men from Umeda as "The Pig". Lt. Namba was Camp Commander of Tsuruga from the time I arrived there until the end of the war.

Tsuruga was the worst camp I was in as far as beatings were concerned. Lt. Namba allowed and ordered beatings nearly every day. I will mention those I distinctly remember.

Some time around the middle of June 1945 one Prisoner of War by the name of Cobb, U. S. Army, was beaten by Ryunsuke Kimura and Hiroichi Uno. Cobb had been caught stealing salt by one of the civilian yard bosses and this was reported to camp. Lt. Namba questioned him and then ordered him beaten. Kimura performed this beating in the presence of Sgt. Uno. Kimura used his fists on Cobb and I saw Cobb knocked unconscious twice. When he was knocked down, Kimura would kick him. When this did not cause Cobb to crawl to his feet, Kimura would throw cold water on him and then rub salt into the places where he had broken the skin on Cobb's face. I did not see this entire beating but did see about one-half hour of it. After Cobb was turned loose he was practically unrecognizable. His face was swollen completely out of proportion and had many places where the skin was ruptured.

About three days after the beating of Cobb, two men, Delo Melva and Hicks, two Army prisoners, were beaten by Kimura, Ikeda, and Tauda. They

to work by train.

On the 31st of July 1945 we were again the target for an American air raid, this time by fighters and dive bombers. No Americans were injured in this raid but our warehouse barracks was completely demolished. We were then moved to a building which about 50 of our men had been working on since the raid of the 13th of July. It was part of an old brick factory about two miles out through town and was located directly alongside of the Toyo Cotton Mills. These mills were bombed on the 8th of August 1945 and debris fell all over our camp. This building we were moved into had no roof other than bark and only slats for walls. It could not be called a barracks but would be better termed as a "Pig Sty". There was no water other than one well about 50 yards from the building and we could not drink the water from it, but had to bring our drinking water from our first camp site. The latrine was a shallow trench some twenty feet long with a board floor and a long slot down the center of the floor. The building where we were housed was about 130 feet long and 40 feet wide and had three and four bunk tiers in it. Each man had only room enough to lay down. It was raining quite often and our bedding was always wet. Two men, Corporal Allen, USMC, and one E. C. Holt, U. S. Navy, contracted consumption while we were in this building. We remained in it until after the war was over.

Working conditions at Tsuruga were long hours and heavy work, unloading ships and loading box cars. We were forced to handle a shipload of guns and ammunition and another ship load of bombs. We loaded war materials and machinery into the ships after they were unloaded of the cargo they brought into Tsuruga. Most of the ships' cargoes were soy beans, salt, coal and pig iron. Our hours were from about 6:30 to 7:00 in the morning until dark. We never had any regular days off but were only allowed a rest day when there was no work. This was very seldom. I only had about three days off during my entire stay in this camp.

Lt. Nemba personally ordered us to work unloading the bombs and ammunition. Lt. Nemba was at all times well aware of the bad food, bad sanitary conditions and poor quarters accommodations. The American Prisoner

of War Camp Officials made numerous protests about these conditions but Lt. Namba ignored their protests and at times ordered those prisoners of war making the protests beaten. Lt. Namba was also personally responsible for sick men being forced to work, as, before a sick Prisoner of War was allowed to stay in camp it had to be approved by Lt. Namba, and only in those cases where the man had an extremely high temperature was he allowed to stay in camp. None of the buildings we occupied as quarters were marked as Prisoner of War camps and that was why our camp was bombed. Captain Nell (phonetic) U.S. Army M. C. and Zeno Tarnowski and other Americans protested to Lt. Namba about the absence of markings and the locating of the Prisoner of War quarters near military objectives but no heed was paid by Lt. Namba to these complaints.

I have seen Motoo Namba at Sugamo Prison, Tokyo, Japan and identified him as the camp commander I have referred to in the foregoing statement and as the Japanese Lt. known to the Prisoners of War under him as "The Pig" at Umeda Bunsho and Tsuruga.

This affidavit was prepared by me personally and is true in all respects.

Jesse L. Stewart

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 30th day of January 1947.

John F. [Signature]

Captain [Signature]
Supervisory Court

CITY OF TOKYO)
ISLAND OF HONSHU, JAPAN)