A F F I D A V I T

State of New Jersey)

) SS

Fort Dix )

I, CHARLES F. BONSALL, being first duly sworn on oath, deposes and states:-

My permanent home address is Folly Road, Eureka, Pa. I am 30 years of age and a S/Sgt in 7th co., 1262d ASU, Reception Center, First Army, Fort Dix, N. J. My serial number is 6884811.

I enlisted in the Army of the United States on 8 January 1940, departed for foreign service in June 1940 and returned to the United States on 23 October 1945. On the 6th of May 1942 I was captured at Fort Mills, Corregidor, Philippine Islands, by a Japanese ground unit the name of which is unknown to me.

The Japanese held me as a prisoner of war at Corregidor from 6 May 1942 to 24 June 1942; and at amp #1, Cabanatuan, Philippine Islands from 27 June 1942 to 4 July 1944; and at camp #4, Tobata, Kyushu, from July 1944 to 17 September, 1945.

In August 1944, I was working in a cement plant with Cpl. Ellis of Chicago, Ill. He was prisoner #1018 and had been with the Air Corps at Nichols Field. We worked from 7:00 am to 4:00 pm with ½ hour for lunch. Our job was to hand load rocks, on narrow gauge cars, push the cars about 50 yards to rock crushers and dump them. We had a 10 minute break in the forenoon and another 10 minutes break in the afternoon. A schedule was set for us, requiring two men to load and dump 22 cars per day.

If we failed to keep up with the schedule we were punished by the “Pusher” who used his own judgment as to the means. The punishment was always corporal, usually beating with a stick or turned over to a sentry, who would administer a beating with the butt of his rifle.

During the late part of November 1945, I was beaten by a “Pusher” called Minason or “Pap”. He was about 55 years of age. I was ahead of my schedule. He told me to get back to work. I declined. He walked away to a shack about 30 yards distance and came back with a club about 2 ½’ long and 2 ½” in diameter. He told me I was lazy, which I denied. He struck me over the head with the club and knocked me out. When I came to, I went back to work. This occurred about 3:00 pm on the day in question.

My teammate that day was prisoner #1042, Private in the Air Corps from Clark Field. He saw me beaten. He was not beaten at that time.

Cpl. Joe Carbonera of the 31st Infantry was beaten in front of my own eyes in January or February 1945 at about 5:00 pm at the end of the day’s work. A Japanese civilian guard (they were known as “4 stars”) gave this beating, clubbing his rifle for the purpose. The Cpl. had to take off his overcoat and was struck repeatedly over the head and on the body until he collapsed on the floor. The guard left him out doors and put him in a water tank. The air temperature at the time was about 400 and the water in the tank was not heated. This Cpl. was kept in this tank for about three (3) hours. I believe this guard was known as “The Snake”.

And further deponent says not.

Charles I Bonsall

Signature

Subscribed and sworn to

Before me this 17th

Day of September 1946.

Lowell L. Forbes

LOWELL L. FORBES

Lt. Col., Infantry

Judge Advocate