For the War Crimes Office

Judge Advocate Generals Department War Department

United States of America

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| In the matter of the beating of Private Jesse Flint, US Prisoner of War, resulting in the breaking of ribs of said prisoner, at Fukuoka Branch Camp No. 3, Kyushu, Japan, approximately 28 July 1945. | Perpetuation of Testimony of Howard Wilson Browning, Corporal U.S. Army, 19013583. |

Taken at: Percy Jones General Hospital Fort Custer, Michigan

Date: 18 May 1946

In the Presence Of : Charles A. Lewis, Captain, Inf. Foreign Branch, ID, 6th SC

State your name, rank, serial number and permanent home address.

A. Howard Wilson Browning, Corporal, U.S. Army, 19013583, and my permanent home address is 14811 Marlowe, Detroit, Michigan.

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

A. I was born on November 18, 1916 at Petersville, Kentucky, and I am a United States citizen.

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

A. I completed eight grades in the public school at Maysville Kentucky and I attended Coyne Electrical School, Chicago, Illinois, May to November, 1938.

Q. At what places where you employed as a civilian and what was the nature of your occupation?

A. I was employed by the Wabash Railroad Company in the laying of tracks from March to December 1939; and was later employed in various other jobs before joining the Army in February 1941.

Q. What is your marital status?

A. I am single.

Q. Have you recently been returned to the United States from overseas?

A. Yes. I returned to the United States on November 1, 1945.

Q. Were you a prisoner of war?

A. Yes.

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

A. I was captured at Bataan 9 April 1942 and was held there one day. I was then sent to Camp ODonnell, arriving approximately 19 April 1942. I remained there until approximately 15 May 1942, when I was returned to Bataan to be stationed with a work detail in the vicinity of Cabcabin. I remained here until approximately 1 June 1942, when I was sent to Bilibid Prison, Manila, arriving the same day. I remained there until approximately 3 June 1942 when I was sent to Cabanatuan Camp No.1 (at that time known as Cabanatuan Camp No.3), arriving the same day. I remained here until 15 July 1944, when I was returned to Bilibid. I remained at Bilibid until approximately 20 July 1944, when I was put aboard a transport and sent to Japan. I arrived at Moji, Kyshu Island, Japan on 4 August 1944. From this seaport I was sent to Fukuoka Branch Camp No.3 at Kokura, arriving the same day. I remained here until liberated 17 September 1945.

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

A. Yes, I witnessed a beating inflicted upon an American prisoner of war, Private Jessie Flint, U.S. Army (formerly of the 59th Coast Artillery), in which two or three of Private Flints ribs were broken.

Q.. Please describe all the circumstances of this beating as you observe them.

A. On approximately 28 July 1945, while I was a prisoner at Fukucka Branch Camp No.3, I was about to be returned to the camp one evening as a part of a work detail of approximately 40 men, in which Flint was also included. We had been lined up near the site of our work and had been forced to count off, as we usually did in the evening. Then Flints name was called by the Japanese civilian guard in charge of our group, whose nickname was Black Beauty, and Flint walked out in front of the group and was forced to stand rigidly with his hands over his head and his back toward us. Black Beauty then took a club about 2 inches in diameter and about 3 ' long and struck him approximately a dozen blows, swinging the club so that it fell on his left leg and on the ribs of his front left side. Then one of Black Beautys assistants, named Yamasoka, who is an expert in jujitsu, got some painful jujitsu holds on Flint and hit him with his fists and also with the palms of his hands in the face. Then another assistant of Black Beauty named Memoya (phonetic) and nicknamed Liver Lip struck Flint approximately 15 blows in the same general area of his body in which Black Beauty had struck him. Memoya used a club of about the same size as Black Beauty had used. Then another assistant of Black Beauty whose nickname was Hatchet Face, repeated approximately the same beating performance that Black Beauty and Memoya had put on, but used his own club which was of the same size as Memoyas and Black Beautys. Then two other Jap assistants of Black Beauty whose names I do not know and whom I cannot identify by description, also delivered four or five blows a piece using similar clubs. While this was going on Flint exhibited great pain by screaming out and by bringing his hands down to protect the parts of his body that were being beaten. Then Black Beauty gave orders that each of the men who had been working with Flint that day (nine in all) should deliver 10 blows with one of the same clubs that the Japanese had been using. The nine men were called out and assembled a group and each took his turn in delivering 10 blows to Flints buttocks. As each completed his turn, he was allowed to fall back in the regular lineup. Black Beauty watch to see that all the blows were hard enough. If any easy blow was struck, it didnt count, and had to be done over again; and some of the nine men were themselves threatened or punished with jujitsu or the club to encourage them to hit harder.

Q. Did this complete Flints punishment?

A. Yes.

Q. In what condition was Flint after the beating?

A. He was so weak and so badly hurt that he couldnt walk. Another man, who I believe was Private White, and I, helped Flint back to the camp about 3 miles away. We did this by having Flint put his arms around our necks. When we arrived, we took him to the dispensary, but I receive no medical report on his condition. I returned to my barracks.

Q. What was related to you later by Flint as to the cause of his punishment and as to what happened after you left him at the dispensary?

A. He told me that he had been discovered the same day of the beating trading with the Korean civilians while at work. He had been trading tobacco for beans, he said. As for what happened after I left him at the dispensary, he said he had been looked over by a Japanese medical officer, who told him that he had either two or three ribs broken. I believe he told me there was something wrong with his right wrist too.

Q. How soon was Flint required to go back on work detail?

A. He was required to go back to work the next morning, but the Japanese allowed him to do light work.

Q. Did he stage a complete recovery from his injuries?

A. Yes, so far as I know.

Q. Please describe the four named Japanese who participated in Flints beating.

A. All four men were Japanese. All four were civilians who had once been soldiers in the Japanese army, except Yamasoka who was a civilian and had never been a soldier. Following is a description of each Japanese guard:

Black Beauty whose real name I do not know, was approximately 5 feet, 5 inches tall and weighed about 130 pounds. He was approximately 40 years of age. He was real dark and showed characteristics of a Chinaman; in fact, he said his mother was Chinese. He was very mannerly and spoke both Chinese and Japanese, but no English.

Yamasoka, nicknamed Pretty Boy, was approximately 5 feet 5 inches tall weighed about 150 pounds, approximately 25 years of age. He had a light yellow skin, dark hair and dark eyes. He was very handsome with nice manners, and spoke good English. He was nice to the most of us, in fact, did many good turns for the Americans including the easing of our work and procuring of food. However, he did not like Flint.

Memoya, nicknamed Liver Lip, was approximately 5 feet 2 inches tall and weighed about 120 pounds. He was approximately 35 years of age. He had a little face with a big lower lip. His eyes were dark and rat-like. He acted as if he were half crazy all the time. He was sexually perverted and wanted to play around the prisoners including Flint. Flint had refused his attentions. Memoya was unmannerly and couldnt speak a word of English.

Hatchet Face, whose real name I do not know, was approximately 5 feet 6 inches tall and weighed about 170 pounds. He was approximately 45 years of age. He was very dark complexioned and wore a silly grin on his face. He greatly resembled a Chinaman. He hated Americans, he said, and was unmannerly. He spoke no English.

Q. Please name and give the home addresses of the American prisoners of war who were forced to participate in the beating.

A. Private Thomas Coleman, Los Angeles, California; Private White, Miami, Florida, and Private Lopez, of New Mexico. I do not have information more specific than this.

Q. Please name and give the home addresses of witnesses of the beating who did not participate in.

A. Private Harry Brunvitz, of Pennsylvania; Private James Flanagan, of San Francisco, California; Private Rogers of St. Louis, Missouri; Private John Adams, Connecticut; Private Tony Barrella, New Mexico. I do not have information more specific than this.

Q. Whom do you hold principally responsible for Flints beating?

A Black Beauty, who was in charge of the detail, and Hatchet Face, who was second in command of the detail. Hatchet Face egged on Black Beauty to make the beating severe. Black Beauty ordinarily was not especially cruel to the prisoners, but he was easily influenced.

Q. Do you think these two men were being ordered or encouraged by higher authority to inflict such beatings?

A. No, I do not. The Japanese camp commander, I feel sure, was not at this time encouraging such beatings.

Q. Do you have anything further to add?

A. No.

/S/ Howard Wilson Browning

Howard Wilson Browning

State of Michigan )

) SS

County of Calhoun )

I, Howard Wilson Browning, 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.

/S/ Howard Wilson Browning

Howard Wilson Browning

Subscribed in sworn to before me this 25th day of May 1946.

Lillian S. Brylowski

Notary Public, Kalamazoo County Michigan

acting in Calhoun County Michigan

my commission expires 21 July 1948

Tom C. Howell Jr.

Captain 0347948

Director Security and Intelligence

Percy James Hospital Center

Certificate

I, Charles A. Lewis, Captain,0-371313, Foreign Branch, ID, 6th SC, certified that Howard Wilson Browning, Corporal, U.S. Army, 19013583, personally appeared before me on 18 May 1946 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.

Place: Chicago, Illinois

date: 3 June 1946

Charles A. Lewis, Captain, Inf.

Chief, Foreign Branch, ID, 6th SC