The War Crimes Office.

Judge Advocate Generals Department War Department.

United States of America.

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| In the matter of the imprisonment of American prisoners of war under improper conditions and the failure to provide proper medical care, food and quarters at Camp #3, Fukuoka, Kyushu, Japan, from on or about 15 September 1944 to 15 November 1945. | Perpetuation of testimony of Louis Francis Barella, Sgt., ASN 12028910 |

Taken at 2 Marion Place, Jersey City, N.J.

Date: 12 December 1945.

In the Presence of: Phillip D. Dobbs, Special Agent, 1251 SCU

Foreign Positive Intelligence Section

Sec. & Intel. Div. Hqs., 2nd SvC

1270 Avenue of the Americas, NY 20, NY

Reporter: Phillip D. Dobbs, Special Agent

Questions by: Phillip D. Dobbs, Special Agent

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

A. Lewis Francis Barella, Sgt., ASN 12028910, and my permanent home address is 2 Marion Place, Jersey City, New Jersey

Q. State the date and place of birth and civilian occupation.

A. I was born 21 December 1922 at Jersey City, New Jersey, and my civilian occupation was Boiler Foreman.

Q. What formal education have you had?

A. I left at the end of the first year at Dickinson High School, Jersey City, New Jersey.

Q. Are you married or single?

A. Single.

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

A. Yes.

Q. Were you a prisoner of war?

A. Yes

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

A. I was captured 9 April 1942 as a member of the First Aircraft Warning Company Of the US Air Corps, in Bataan, P.I. after two days on the Death March I escaped and made my way to the Province of Pampanga where I was eventually recaptured on 2 June 1943. From Panpanga I was sent by train to San Fernando Provincial Jail, P. I. I. Arrived there about 8 July 1943 and stayed until about 22 July 1943. From San Fernando jail, I was taken to Bilibid Prison, arriving there about 30 July 1943. I was sentenced to three months, solitary confinement, because I would not answer the questions that were asked of me by the Japanese. After the three-month solitary confinement, the Japs announced that I would be considered as prisoner of war. When the Japs recaptured me they considered me a guerrilla even though I protested I was an American soldier. I left Bilibid Prison about the latter part of October and was sent to Cabanatuan concentration camp. I arrived there about 2 November 1943 and remained until about the middle of August 1944, when I was sent by boat to Japan. I arrived at Camp No. 3, Fukuoko, Kyushu, Japan, on or about 15 September 1944 and remained there until liberated by the occupation forces of the U.S. Army on 15 November 1945.

Q. Are you familiar with the imprisonment of American prisoners of war under improper conditions and the failure to provide proper medical care, food and quarters at Camp No. 3, Fukuoko, Kyushu, Japan, from all on or about 15 September 1944 to 15 November 1945?

A. Yes

Q. State what you know of your own knowledge about this matter.

A. There were about 150 men to a barracks. These barracks were about the same size as the regular US barracks, but made of wood and straw. We had straw mattresses to sleep on and were issued three very think *(thick)* blankets. All three blankets would not equal one G.I.. It was very cold and the Japs issued us one set of seaweed clothes and would not let us have any fire for cooking or warmth. We slept close together in the barracks to keep war (*warm*). We had straddle trenches for latrines and had to keep them cleaned out ourselves. There were water faucets in the barracks, but the Japanese told us that the water was not fit to drink. We used the water for washing ourselves and our clothes. There was no hot water. For food, we got 750 grams of rice per day (this was posted on the ration list in the barracks 750 grams for workers and 550 grams for non-workers), and about a half a canteen cup of seaweed soup. Which was nothing more than hot water and seaweed, not seasoned. We got soup in the morning and a container of rice to take to work with us and the other bowl of soup when we got back from work at night. We went to work at 0700 and got back to camp about 1800. There was a dispensary, or hospital, with a Japanese doctor and an American army doctor in charge. If we were sick, we reported to sick call and went off to the hospital. There was no medicine and if we had a fever we were told to go to work and work it off.

Q. Were there any Red Cross parcels distributed throughout the camp to the prisoners?

A. No

Q. What diseases were prevalent in the camp?

A. Dysentery, beri-beri, pellagra, malnutrition, TB, and a lot of pneumonia cases.

Q. What care did the Japanese give to the men with these various diseases?

A. The TB and the dysentery cases were barred away from the rest of the camp. The Japs dreaded dysentery. The other diseases were given no treatment whatsoever. The American doctor did manage to get a little medicine from the Japanese for the cases of TB and dysentery, but it was not enough to do much good.

Q. Were there medical supplies at the camp?

A. Yes

Q. How do you know?

A. We saw it piled up in the store room while we were working on detail in the camp.

Q. Could the Japanese have supplied you with more food than they did?

A. Yes. While we were working for the Japs cleaning up the camp, we saw one warehouse piled up to the ceiling with Red Cross parcels, which would have meant more medicine in addition to more food if the Japs had given it to us. The Japs use the Red Cross parcels for themselves. They used American coffee, smoked American cigarettes and ate American candy taken from the parcels.

Q. Can you name or describe any of the Japanese guards at the camp?

A. Sergeant Kasaki, who was in charge after Major Rickaticki left the camp. He was a Catholic and treated us pretty well. He is the only one I remember.

Q. Did any of the American prisoners of war die as a result of the lack of food, improper quarters, and lack of medical care?

A. Yes. From the time I was there, there were about 2000 men in the camp and when I was liberated there were only about 900 men. The rest died in camp.

Q. Who was your camp leader?

A. Mr. Haase, U.S. Navy Warrant Officer. I do not know his first name. He was our interpreter at all the camps I was in.

Q. Were any protests registered with the Japanese about the treatment the prisoners of war received?

A. Yes. Haase protested often, but it did not do any good.

Q. Were you forced to go on the work details?

A. Yes.

Q. Do you know the names of any other American prisoners of war that were with you at Camp #3?

A. Sergeant Thomas Morris, Air Corps. I do not know his exact outfit, but he lives in Texas. Sergeant Sil Herring, Air Corps. I do not know his exact outfit either, but he lives in Louisiana. T/5 Michael Slish, 17th Bomber Squadron, who lives in Butler Pennsylvania Corporal Harold T. Irving, air Corps That. I dont know his outfit, but he lives somewhere in New England. Private Alvis Loveless, Air Corps. I dont know his outfit, but he lives in Texas. Sgt. Cahill. I dont know his first name, but he was with the Mps at Stotenburg, Philippine Islands. I dont know where he lives in the states.

Q. Did the Japanese at the camp have better conditions to live under than the prisoners of war?

A. Yes. They got plenty of food, clothes, medical care and good living quarters.

Q. Is there anything further you wish to state about this matter?

A. No.

/S/ Lewis Francis Barella, SGT.

ASN 12028910

LEWIS FRANCIS BARELLA, SGT.

State of New Jersey

County of Hudson

I, LEWIS FRANCIS BARELLA, 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/ Lewis Francis Barella, SGT.

ASN 12028910

LEWIS FRANCIS BARELLA, SGT.

Subscribe been sworn to before me on this 7day of January 1946

/S/ Jno. P. Roche. Sr

JNO. P. ROCHE. SR.

notary public of New Jersey

. My commission expires March 15 1949

Certificate

I, Philip D. Dobbs, special agent,, 1251 SCU, F.P.I., SID, certified that Lewis Francis Barella, SGT. ASN 12028910, personally appeared

before me on 12 December 1945, 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: 1270 Avenue of the Americas, New York 20, New York

Date: 12 December 1945

/S/ Philip D. Dobbs,

special agent,, 1251 SCU

PHILIP D. DOBBS, special agent,, 1251 SCU,

Foreign Positive Intelligence Section

Sec & Intel. Div. Hqs., 2nd SvC

1270 Avenue of the Americas, NY . 20 NY

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

THE WAR CRIMES OFFICE

Judge Advocate General’s Department – War Department

United States of American

In the matter of the collective punishment of an entire barracks of about 150 prisoners of war, some time in January 1945, at Camp #3, Fukuoka, Kyushu, Japan

Perpetuation of testimony of Louis Francis Barella, Sgt., ASN 12028910

Taken at: 2 Marion Place, Jersey City, N.J.

Date: 12 December 1945

In the Presence of : Philip D. Dobbs, Special Agent, 1251st SCU, Foreign Positive Intelligence Sect. Sec. & Intel. Div., Hqs., 2nd SvC 1270 Avenue of the Americans, NY 20, NY

Reporter: Philip D. Dobbs, Special Agent

Questions by: Philip D. Dobbs, Special Agent

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

A. Louis Francis Barella, Sgt., 12028910, and my permanent home address is 2 Marion Place, Jersey City, NJ.

Q. State the date and place of your birth and civilian occupation.

A. I was born 21 December 1922 at Jersey City, N.J. and my civilian occupation was Boiler Foreman.

Q. What formal education have you had?

A. I left at the end of the first year at Dickinson High School, Jersey city, N.J.

Q. Are you married or single?

A. Single.

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

A. Yes.

Q. Were you a prisoner of war?

A. Yes.

Q. I was captured 9 April 1942 as a member of the 1st Aircraft Warning Company of the U.S. Air Corps, in Bataan, P.I. After two days on the “Death March” I escaped and made my way to the Province of Pampanga where I eventually was re-captured on 2 June 1943. From Pampanga I was sent by train to San Fernando Provincial Jail, P.I. I arrived there about 8 July 1943 and stayed until about 22 July 1943. From San Fernando jail I was taken to Bilibid Prison, arriving there about 30 July 1943. I was sentenced to three months solitary confinement because I would not answer the questions that were asked of me by the Japanese. After three months solitary confinement, the Japs announced that I would be considered as prisoner of war. When the Japs recaptured me they considered me a guerrilla even though I protested I was an American soldier. I left Bilibid Prison about the latter part of October and was sent to Cabanatuan concentration camp. I arrived there about 2 November 1943 and remained until about the middle of August 1944, when I was sent by boat to Japan. I arrived at Camp #3, Fukuoka, Kyushu, Japan, on or about 15 September 1944 and remained there until liberated by the occupation forces of the U.S. Army on 15 November 1945.

Q. Are you familiar with the incident involving the collective punishment of an entire barracks of about 150 prisoners of war, some time in January 1945, at Camp #3, Fukuoka, Kyushu, Japan?

A. Yes.

Q. State what you know of your own knowledge about this incident.

A. On a strip-down inspection of our barracks, which occurred one every week, a Jap guard found a deck of cards in the bunk of one our men. We were allowed to play cards when we were not on work details and had to get the decks from the supply room at the camp and when we finished we had to turn them back. The Jap asked who owned the cards and no one answered him. He threatened the whole barracks with punishment and finally Pvt. Cone, I don’t know his first name, stated that they were his and that he had forgotten to turn them back to the supply room. The Jap guard said that the entire barracks would be punished by not giving us any food for the whole day. Father Curan, a civilian priest in the Philippine Islands, said that they could not take our chow away from us because we needed it to live. He convinced the Jap guard of this whereupon the Jap said we would still have to be punished and that the guards came in about 7 o’clock that night, lined us all up outside the barracks and told us to stand straight until we were relieved. Most of the men were just in their shoes and “seaweed” pants and they rushed us out of the barracks so fast that we didn’t have time to get dressed. It was very cold, some time in January, and we were forced to stand in attention for about 5 or 6 hours before we were told we could return to the barracks.

Q. Did any of the men suffer as a result of this exposure?

A. Yes. Quite a few did.

Q. Were these men given medical aid by the Japs?

A. No.

Q. Did any of them die?

A. Yes, indirectly, from pneumonia.

Q. Who was your Camp Leader at Camp #3?

A. Major Dors. I don’t know his first name, but he comes from the 200th Coast Artillery, and lives in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Q. Do you know the names or can you describe the Japanese guards who forced you to stand out in the cold?

A. There were four guards involved and they were all five-star Home Guards. We never knew their right names, but the guard in charge of this particular group was known as “Charlie Chaplain” because he looked just like Charlie Chaplain and even walked like him. Another we called the “The Water Snake” because he was always sneaking up on us to catch us doing something we were not supposed to be doing. He was later killed by Chinese prisoners in the camp. I. Hara-son was another of the guards. He was a nice looking Jap, about five feet, four inches tall, weighted about 135 pounds, was about 26 years old, wore no glasses, was clean shaven and had a very neat appearance.

Q. Did the American camp leader, Major Dors, protest this treatment?

A. No. He was too scared to say anything. The real leader was Mr. Haase (fnu), our interpreter, who explained of the treatment to the Japs, but nothing was ever done.

Q. Who was the Japanese Commander in charge of Camp #3?

A. Major Rickaticki. I do not know his first name. He was about 60 years old, about 5 feet, 2 inches tall, weighted about 250 pounds, gray hair, small moustache, and did not wear glasses.

Q. Do you know the names of any other American prisoners that would have any knowledge of this incident?

A. Sgt. Thomas Norris, Air Corps. I do not know his exact outfit, but he lives in Texas. Sgt. Sil Herring, Air Corps. I do not know his exact outfit either, but he lives in Louisiana. T/5 Michael Slish, 17th Bomber Squadron, who lives in Butler, Pa. Cpl. Harold T. Irving, Air Corps. I don’t know his outfit, but he lives somewhere in New England. Pvt. Alvin Loveless, Air Corps. I don’t know his outfit, but he lives in Texas. Sgt. Cahill, I don’t know his first name, but he was with the M.P.’s at Stotenburg, Philippine Islands. I don’t know where he lives in the States.

Q. Is there anything further you wish to state about this incident?

A. No.

Louis Francis Barella, Sgt.,

ANS 12028910

State of New Jersey )

)SS

County of: Hudson )

I, LOUIS FRANCIS BARELLA, of lawful age, being duly sworn on oath, stat 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.

Louis Francis Barella, Sgt.,

ANS 12028910

Subscribed and sworn to before me on this 7th day of January 1946.

Joe P. Roche, Sr.

NOTARY PUBLIC OF N.J.

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Philip D. Dobbs, Spec. Agent, 1251 SCU, F.P.I., SID, certify that Louis Francis Barella, Sgt., ASN 12028910, personally appeared before me on 12 December 1945, 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: 1270 Avenue of the Americas, 9

New York 20, N.Y.

Date: 12 December 1945.

Philip D. Dobbs, Spec. Agent 1251 SCU

Foreign Positive Intelligence Sect.

Sec. & Intel. Div., Hqs., 2nd SvC,

1270 Avenue of the Americans, NY 20 NY