CONFIDENTIAL

(LAID) 000.5-W.C. 27 March 1946

MEMORANDUM FOR THE OFFICER IN CHARGE:

WITNESS: OSCAR DONALD JAKOBSEN, 339 North Rosemead Blvd., Temple City, California.

SUBJECT: In the matter of the beating of Joseph Boyle, civilian, at Camp #3, Fukuoka, Japan, in the Fall of 1944.

1. On 26 March 1946, Norman J. Wiener, Special Agent, SIC, 9SC, interviewed OSCAR DONALD JAKOBSEN, 339 North Rosemead Blvd., Temple City Calif., relative to war crimes committed by the Japanese. JAKOBSEN was a civilian employed by the Pacific Naval Air Base at Wake Island, and was captured by the Japanese on 23 December 1941. He was transferred by ship to Yokohama, Japan on 12 January 1942, and on 23 January 1942 he was again transferred to the prisoner of war camp at Woosung, China, where he was confined until 19 September 1942. He was then sent to camp #3, Fukuoka area, Japan, where he was held a prisoner from 23 September 1942 until 24 August 1945, when he was liberated. He was returned to the United States on 16 October 1945 and is presently unemployed.
2. Witness stated that sometime during the Fall of 1944, the exact month being unknown to him, one Joseph Boyle, a former employee of the Pacifica Naval Air Base at Wake Island, was beaten severely by Japanese guards at Camp #3, Fukuoka area, Japan. Boyle had left one of his blankets out on the line one night, which was contrary to the rules. Several of the Japanese guards in the camp found this blanket, came into the barracks and inquired who had left it outside. Boyle stated he had and was immediately taken to the guardhouse that night. At the guardhouse he was beaten severely by two guards, first being laid over a barrel and then having a pick handle beaten against the back of his legs. The result of the beating was so severe that Boyle was hospitalized for almost two months. He was not permanently injured, however, and at the time of the release from prison was able to walk properly.
3. Witness stated that the above incident was related to him by Joseph Boyle, the victim. Boyle did not tell him who the guards responsible for this were, nor was witness able to identify them. Boyle was a former steel worker at Wake Island. He is approximately 34-35 years of age, and lives in the immediate vicinity of Little Rock, Arkansas.

Norman J. Wiener, Special Agent, SIC, 9SC

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

AFFIDAVIT

STATE OF CALIFORNIA )

) SS

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES )

In the matter of the mistreatment of American Prisoners of War at POW Camp #3, Fukuoka area, Japan, between 23 September 1942 and 24 August 1945.

I, OSCAR DONALD JAKOBSEN, 339 North Rosemead Blvd., Temple City, California, age 35, being first duly sworn upon my oath, depose and state that:

I was a former employee of the Pacific Naval Air Base at Wake Island, when I was captured by the Japanese on 23 December 1941. I was detained at Wake Island for sixteen days when I was then shipped to Yokohama, Japan, where I arrived on 12 January 1942. After being held there for a few days, I was again transferred to Woosung, China, where I was confined from 23 January 1942 until 18 September 1942. On the latter date I was sent to Camp #3, Fukuoka area, Japan, where I was held a prisoner from 23 September 1942 to 24 August 1945, when I was liberated by American forces. I returned to the United States on 16 October 1945 and am presently residing at 339 North Rosemead Blvd., Temple City, California.

During the time that I was confined at Camp #3, Fukuoka, Japan, there were innumerable incidents involving petty torture and minor beatings. I do not recall any incidents wherein any prisoners were actually beaten to death or otherwise killed; however, there were a number of men whose names I cannot now recall, who died from malnutrition or some disease which, in my opinion, was the result of the lack of proper food given us by the Japanese.

My capacity in the camp was that of a Honshu, which meant that I was the head of a group of approximately fourteen men. As such, I was often responsible to the Japanese for the actions of these men. On one occasion in December 1942 I was held responsible for the failure of some of the men in my group to properly clean out their ash trays. I was taken out and lined up facing several other Honshus, who also were being punished for some petty failure on the part of their men. We were required to slap each other in the face for ten or fifteen minutes. The two Japanese responsible for this particular incident were a guard named Meneno, and the other guard whom we called “Gold Tooth”.

On several occasions, I and a number of others were required to stand at attention holding a bar over our heads for ten or fifteen minutes for failure to properly salute or bow to the Japanese guards or non-coms during inspection. This was one of the petty tortures constantly meted out. On another occasion, this time in March of 1943, I was reprimanded for not having my clothes clean enough to suit the inspecting guard. I was forced to stand at attention, holding my hands out in front of me. The guard then dropped a lighted match on my hands or put them between my fingers. On two occasions, for not saluting properly, I was forced to stand on my toes for an indefinite period of time as punishment.

At least two or three times during the winter of 1944, I believe in the month of December, several prisoners, formerly members of the Merchant Marine, were caught playing cards. Three of the young fellows whose names I recall, were: Ingram from Nederland Texas; Bob Williams from Beaumont, Texas; and another fellow named Edmond Matte, SS Connecticut, Eunice, Louisiana. It so happened on this particular day that I was looking out of the window when the Japanese guards brought these three fellows out of their barracks where they had been caught playing cards. The three fellows were stripped of all their clothes and forced to run to a big water tank about one hundred feet away from the barracks. As I noted above, this was winter time and there were several inches of snow on the ground. They were then pushed in the water tank and forced to remain in for at least fifteen minutes. Then they were taken out and given a hot bath, dressed, and then thrown in the guardhouse for the next twenty-four hours, being given only one blanket to keep themselves warm. The guard responsible for this incident was the mess sergeant at the camp whose name I cannot now recall. He was about 5’ 4” tall, 140 pounds in weight, short, stocky build, dark complexion and wore glasses. At the time he was a sergeant in the Japanese Army but he was later promoted to Major Sergeant. Humphrey Jones of Stockton, California can give further details about this particular incident.

In addition to the above dunking, a Negro Marine was also thrown in the above-mentioned pond on several different occasions by this same mess sergeant.

The Japanese primarily responsible for the above incidents of petty torture and minor beatings were Meneno and “Gold Tooth”: Meneno was approximately 33-34 years of age, 5’ 6” tall, 145 pounds in weight, lanky build, drawn, peaked face, and mean looking. He was called a reserve guard and was a civilian. Rumor had it that he had been shot in the arm in China when he was in the Army. Meneno lived in the camp and associated closely with the guard known as “Gold Tooth”. I last saw Meneno in August of 1945 at the above camp. Meneno spoke only broken English. “Gold Tooth” was approximately 35 years old, 5’ 8” in height, 150-155 pounds in weight, clean shaven, had a fair complexion, and, strangely enough, sandy hair. His nickname came from the fact that all his top front teeth were gold and he also had one gold tooth in his bottom front teeth. He, too, had been an ex-serviceman in China but any would he may have incurred was not obvious. He was not in camp as long as Meneno and I believe he left after approximately one and a half years of our confinement.

The Commanding Officer of the camp at the time we arrived and until the Fall of 1943 was a Major whose name I cannot now recall. He was approximately forty years old, 5’ 7” in height, 160 pounds in weight, wore dark horn-rimmed glasses. As I recall, he witnessed many of the beatings and minor punishments and appeared to condone them, although I cannot recall him having participated in any of these incidents. I later heard that he had died after he left our camp.

The above information constitutes all of the facts of the above incident so far as I can now recollect.

OSCAR DONALD JAKOBSEN

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 28th day of March, 1946,

at LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

PHILIPPE de C. GARNIER

Captain, MI

Executive Officer

Intelligence Liaison

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CERTIFICATE

SUMMARY COURT

STATE OF CALIFORNIA )

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COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES )

I, Norman J. Wiener, Special Agent, SIC, 9SC, certify that OSCAR DONALD JACOBSEN personally appeared before me on the 28th day of March 1946, at Los Angeles, Cal and made the foregoing statement concerning war crimes.

Norman J. Wiener

Spec Agt, SIC, 9SC

Restricted