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STATE OF CALIFORNIA )

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City and County of San Francisco )

ARTHUR R. CONVERSE, JR. Cpl. AUS, ASN, 18001620, 160 Bellflower, Blvd., Bellflower, California, having first been duly sworn, deposes and says:

As an American soldier, I was detained by the Japanese at Moji #4, from 4 August 1944 to 15 August 1945. About March 1945 I was severely beaten on the head with an iron poker for not understanding Japanese. I was walking in front of the guard-house when the Japanese civilian guard spoke to me. I was unable to understand and I said, “Wakarinai”, to which he responded by striking me with a poker and saying at the same time, “Wakarimasen”, which was the more polite way of saying, “I do not understand”. However, as I did not understand, I again said “Wakarinai”; he then resumed beating me on the head with the iron poker for several minutes. My head was badly bruised; for three days I had severe headaches and during this time I was hospitalized.

The name of the Japanese civilian guard responsible for striking me was Yaki. I believe he was formerly an army man, probably a non-commissioned officer. He was about 35 years of age; about 150 lbs. in weight; and about 5 ft. 6 in. in height.

There were no Americans who witnessed this incident.

Arthur R. Converse

ARTHUR R. CONVERSE, JR.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 18 day of October 1945.

Samuel M. Williams

Capt. J.A.G.D.

Interviewed by Jay W. Bellows, Agent, SIC

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ARTHUR R. CONVERSE, JR. Cpl. AUS, ASN, 18001620, 160 Bellflower, Blvd., Bellflower, California, having first been duly sworn, deposes and says:

In June 1945 an American soldier, T/Sgt. Claude Carpenter, formerly attached to the 59th CAC, died from lack of proper hospitalization. Carpenter had an old shrapnel would in his leg which became swollen and very painful. An English doctor named Dr. Berkely tried to administer medical care, but the leg only got worse. He had no equipment and requested permission of the Japanese to move Carpenter to another hospital which had hospital equipment but it was denied. A few days later Carpenter died. Dr. Berkely tried his best, but it was impossible to do anything, as he lacked the proper technical equipment.

Captain Sito was the officer in charge of the camp.

Sgt. Pat O’Neill also witnessed this incident.

Arthur R. Converse

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ARTHUR R. CONVERSE, JR. Cpl. AUS, ASN, 18001620, 160 Bellflower, Blvd., Bellflower, California, having first been duly sworn, deposes and says:

About April 1945 I saw an American civilian by the name of Peterson severely beaten by at least ten Japanese soldiers and civilians. I believe Peterson was caught with some food on his person by the Japanese. The Japanese struck, beat and slugged Peterson with a heavy wooden club, shoes, fists and anything they could grasp at the moment. Each time Peterson fell on the ground the Japanese would kick him in the head and face. Whenever, he passed out, water was thrown in his face until he was revived; beatings were then repeated. This whole incident lasted for about half an hour. When I saw Peterson, he appeared to be a “bloody mess”; his face was not recognizable; he had many cuts and bruises on his face and head. Peterson was not hospitalized, but later he was given some medical treatment. I saw Peterson working the next day, but he could hardly move. He was in this condition for over a week. A Japanese guard who was responsible for this beating, is Gunshoe (Sgt.) Hirota.

I believe Captain Sito, commander of the camp, was present at the beating; I am not sure whether or not he had participated. I do not recall the identity of any of the other Japanese responsible for this incident.

There were other American witnesses to this beating, but their names are unknown to me.

Arthur R. Converse

ARTHUR R. CONVERSE, JR.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 18 day of October 1945.

Samuel M. Williams

Capt. J.A.G.D.

Interviewed by Jay W. Bellows, Agent, SIC

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