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For the WAR CRIMES OFFICE

Judge Advocate General's Department - War Department

United States of America

In the matter of the mass punishment of American Prisoners of War at the Prisoner of War camp at Weosung, China, during or about September 1942.

Perpetuation of testimony of John Francis Ryan, Ph/M 2C, Navy Serial Number 223-57-11.

Taken at: Philadelphia Naval Hospital, Philadelphia, Pa.
Date: 12 February 1946
In the Presence of: Russell E. Gardner, Special Agent, Security Intelligence Corps, Third Service Command
Questions by: Russell E. Gardner

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

A. I am [John Francis Ryan, Ph/M 2C, Navy Serial Number 223-57-11] and I live at 4820 Sumnerdale Avenue, Philadelphia, Pa.

Q. State your date and place of birth, marital status, civilian occupation and education.

A. I was born 9 June 1919 at Tottenville, Stanton Island, New York, New York; I am married; I was a hospital orderly; and I am a graduate from high school.

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

A. Yes. I arrived in the United States at the port of San Francisco on or about 14 October 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 8 December 1941 at Tientsin, China and was kept there until about 28 January 1942. From about 28 January 1942 to about 2 February 1942, I was taken by train from Tientsin to the Shanghai Prisoner of War Camp, Japanese Field Post Office #106, Woosung, China, where I remained from about 2 February 1942 until about 12 December 1942. I was then transferred by truck to the Shanghai Prisoner of War Camp at Kiangwin, China, where I was kept from about 12 December 1942 to about 4 May 1945. I was then taken by train to the Prisoner of War Camp at Feng Tai, Hopeh District, where I was kept from about the middle of May 1945 to about 19 June 1945. I was then taken by train and boat to Sendai #11, Aomori, Honshu, Japan, where I arrived 4 July 1945. I was liberated on or about 14 September 1945.

Q. State what you know of your own knowledge about the mass punishment of American Prisoners of War at Woosung, China, during or about September 1942.

A. During or about September 1942, four United States Marines escaped from the Prisoner of War Camp at Woosung, Japan. They were: Conrad Battles, Corporal; J. Stewart, Corporal; (FNU) Story; and (FNU) Brenner.

I was one of about one hundred American Prisoners of War who were confined in a single room as mass punishment for the escape of the four Marines. The room was from forty-five to fifty feet long, about twelve feet wide and about nine feet high and was a frame structure. There was no heat in the room, although the weather was cold with the temperature above freezing. It rained most of the time I was confined and the room was very damp. I received an inadequate ration of rice in a tea cup and about five hundred cc's of water each day. We were not supplied with any bed clothing. I was confined for a period of about six days.

Q. State what was told you of this incident and who told you?

A. Later, others who had been confined with me, but whose identities I cannot remember, told me that they had been confined in the room for periods ranging from six to twenty or more days. They told me that the treatment that they received after I was released was similar to the treatment that I received while I was confined there.

Q. Who was responsible for this incident?

A. The Commanding Officer of the camp and members of the camp administration were responsible. I do not know their identities.

- Q. Name others who would have knowledge of this incident.
- A. Gunnery Sergeant Ellis, USMC, address unknown; Pvt. C.C. Ludlow, USMC, address unknown (Ludlow had a sister who was a Lieutenant in the Army Nurse Corps, who had been captured on Corregidor by the Japanese); Ph/M Hunt, USN, who came from New York State.

/s/ John Francis Ryan
 John Francis Ryan, Ph/L 2C, U.S.Navy

State of: Pennsylvania)
 County of: Philadelphia) SS

I, John Francis Ryan, 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/ John Francis Ryan
 John Francis Ryan, Ph/M 2C, U.S.Navy

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 15th day of February 1946,

SHL

/s/ Esther Levens
 Notary Public
 My Commission Expires at the
 End of the next Session of the
 Senate

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Russell E. Gardner, Special Agent, Security Intelligence Corps, Third Service Command, certify that on 12 February 1946, personally appeared before me John Francis Ryan, Ph/M 2C, Navy Serial Number 223-57-11, and gave the foregoing answers to the several questions set forth; that after his testimony had been transcribed, the said John Francis Ryan read the same and affixed his signature thereto in my presence.

Place: Philadelphia, Pa.
 Date: 15 Feb 46

/s/ Russell E. Gardner
 RUSSELL E. GARDNER
 Special Agent
 Security Intelligence Corps
 Third Service Command