

Ex 1912

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

WAR CRIMES OFFICE
Judge Advocate General's Department --- War Department
United States of America

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In the matter of the deaths of * Perpetuation of the testimony of
American prisoners of war at * James Alexander Gilbert, Pfc,
Mukden, Manchuria, from c/a 11 * ASN 6983531.
November 1942 to O/a 30 August *
1945.

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Taken at: Rhoads General Hospital, Utica,
New York.

Date: 9 November 1945.

In the Presence of: Norman W. Harris, Agent, 1251st SCU,
Foreign Positive Intelligence Section,
Security & Intelligence Division, Head
quarters, Second Service Command, 1270
Sixth Avenue, New York, New York.

Reporter: Norman W. Harris, Agent.

Questions by: Norman W. Harris, Agent.

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

A My name is James Alexander Gilbert. I am a Pfc; my serial
number is 6983531. My permanent home address is RFD #1,
Ellicott Road, Alben, New York.

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

A I was born on 4 July 1920 at Alban, New York. I was a
student before entering the Army.

Q What formal education have you had?

A I have completed two years and two months of pre-medical
school at the University of Buffalo, Buffalo, New York.

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

A Yes; I returned to the United States on 1 October 1945 by
plane. I landed at Mitchel Field, Long Island.

Q Were you a prisoner of war?

A Yes.

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

A I was captured at Fort Hughes, P.I., on 6 May 1942. I was taken to Cabanatuan prison camp, where I was held until 5 October 1942. I was then taken to a prison camp at Mukden, Manchuria, where I was held from 11 November 1942 until my liberation by Russian forces on 30 August 1945.

Q Are you familiar with the circumstances surrounding the deaths of American prisoners of war at Mukden, Manchuria, from on or about 11 November 1942 to on or about 30 August 1945?

A Yes.

Q Describe what you know of your own knowledge concerning these conditions.

A I arrived, with a group of approximately 2000 Americans, at Mukden, Manchuria, on or about 11 November 1942. We were a labor force and were employed in factories in Mukden. We were barracked in brick buildings, forty-eight men to a room which measured approximately twenty by thirty feet. We slept on double-deck wood bunks. Although we had an American doctor, no medical supplies were available for men who suffered from pneumonia or other diseases, and we got so little food that many men died of starvation. Our diet for the entire time I was there consisted of maize and soy beans. I recall that about 250 American prisoners of war died during the first two months I was at Mukden. These men died either from starvation or dysentery. We were unable to do anything to save their lives. I remember the names of three men who died of dysentery; James Francis, G Btry, 59th Coast Artillery; Kenneth Carlson, Hq, 3rd Bn, 59th Coast Artillery; and Verrone D. Yancey, formerly of the G Btry, 59th Coast Artillery. During the time I was at this camp many men died of dysentery, malnutrition, or pneumonia, but I do not recall any of the names, and I do not know the total number of deaths.

Q Who was the Japanese officer in charge of this camp?

A Colonel Matsudo. He was about five feet, five inches tall, and heavy-set. The skin of his face was very wrinkled. He was lame in the right leg and wore horn-rimmed glasses.

Q Who was the senior American officer at this camp?

A Major Hankins, USA, formerly with the 59th Coast Artillery.

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