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

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 0/a 30 August * 1945.

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 hame, 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, Ellicett Read, Alben, New York.
- Q State the date and place of your birth, and your civilian occuation.
- 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:
- 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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- At what places were you held, and state the approximate dates.
- I was captured at Fort Hughes, P.I., on 6 May 1942. I was taken to Cabanatuan prison carp, 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.
- 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.
- 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 acuble-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 get 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 Etry, 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, nalnutrition, or pneuronia, 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-ringed glasses.
- Q Who was the senior American officer at this camp?
- A Major Hankins, USA, formerly with the 59th Coast Artillery.

- Q What sort of work did you do at this camp?
- A We worked in nearby factories. There was a machine factory, a steel rill, a tannery, a lumber nill, and a textile factory. I worked in the machine factory for a while, and later I worked in the steel nill. While I was working in the steel nill, I worked sixteen hours a day rolling steel. Because of this heavy work and the poor food, I lost over sixty pounds in weight during the time I was held at Mukden.
- Q What articles were manufactured at Mukden?
- A We made steel helmets for the Japanese Arry, concrete reinforcing strips, railroad car wheels, airplane parts, and gears for large caliber guns.
- Who were some other American prisoners of war who were with you at Mukden?
- A There was Majer Hankins; a medical officer, Cartain Herbert Herbst, who was formerly with the 57th Philippine Scut Regiment, and there was S/Sgt Paul Lukas, formerly with the 17th Tank Ordnance Corps, new at Rheads General Hospital. Then there was Sharkey Brown, formerly a Chief Water Tender in the Navy.

/s/ James Alexander Gilbert, 6983531
James Alexander Gilbert, Ffc, 6983531

State of New York)

County of Oneida)

I, James Alexander Gilbert, Pfc, 6983531, 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 knewledge and belief.

/s/ James Alexander Gilbert, 6983531

James Alexander Gilbert, Pfc, 6983531

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 14th day of November 1945.

/s/ Albert H. Parker

ALBERT E. PARKER, 2d Lt, MAC

Subrary Court

CERTIFICATE

I, Norman W. Harris, Agent, 1251st SCU, FPI, SID, certify that James Alexander Gilbert, Pfc, ASN 6983531, personally appeared before he on 9 November 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 Sixth Avenue,
New York, New York

Date: 20 November 1945
A TRUE COPY:

Agent, 1251st SCU, Foreign Positive Intelligence Section, Security & Intelligence Division, Headquarters Second Service Cormand, 1270 Sixth Avenue, New York

Avenue, New York, New York