

Ex 1934

RESTRICTED Classification changed from "CONFIDENTIAL" to "RESTRICTED" by order of the Secretary of War- By /s/ E. Checket, Major, Inf.

AFFIDAVIT OF WILLIAM RUDOLPH LEIBOLD Chief Boatswain's Mate U. S. Navy Serial No. 382 32-14

State of California)) ss: County of Los Angeles)

WILLIAM RUDOLPH LEIBOLD, first being duly sworn on his oath, deposes and says:

1. I am twenty-three (23) years old and my permanent home address is 11442 Cumpston Street, North Hollywood, Calif. I am and at all times hereinafter mentioned was a member of the armed forces of the United States and I now am a Chief Boatswain's Mate, United States Navy, Serial No. 382-32-14.

2. I was a prisoner of war of Japan at the following times and places:

- (a) Aboard Jap Destroyer DE-34 -- Formosa Straits (b) Taichow, Formosa (in a warehouse) (c) Jap Army Camp -- Northern Formosa (no mistreatment reported) (d) Ofuna Naval Prison (e) Omara Prisoner of War Camp

3. I was first taken prisoner as a survivor of the U. S. submarine TANG on 25 October 1944 in the Formosa Straits by the Japanese destroyer DE-34 with nine other survivors from the U.S.S. TANG. I was held on board the DE-34 for three days until I was landed at Taichow, Formosa, where I was held over night, then transported by railroad to Kieran, Formosa where I was held in a Japanese Army Camp for three days. I was then transported to Ofuna where I was held in a special Japanese Naval Prison about twenty miles south of Tokyo, arriving there on 3 November 1944 where I was held until 5 April 1945. On 5 April 1945 I was sent to Onori, Japan near Tokyo, a regular prisoner of war camp. I was released from there on 29 August 1945.

I personally witnessed many atrocities and mistreatment of American citizens while I was held prisoner by the Japanese. These instances are as follows:

No 1934

4. OFUNA NAVAL PRISON

From the Japanese Army Camp in northern Formosa I was taken to Ofuna Naval Prison. I arrived at Ofuna Naval Prison, which is about twenty miles south of Tokyo, on 3 November 1944. We were marched about two and one-half miles from the train to Ofuna Naval Prison. During this march we were barefooted and had no clothing except a shirt and pants which had been given us at the Japanese Army Camp on Formosa. We were also made to carry the baggage of the guards who accompanied us. I do not recall the names of any of these guards. When we got to Ofuna Naval Prison we were given tennis shoes which were mostly worn out, a tooth brush, tooth powder, a small piece of soap, a canvas jumper, and trousers.

We were told that we were to bow to the Japanese guards when they passed near us, and when a Japanese warrant officer or naval officer came near us we were to come to attention and then bow. We were also told that we were to say good morning and good evening to the guards as we bowed. We were also required to fill out a personal history statement which had the above rules printed on it. We were also instructed that we were not to speak to each other except when given special permission.

Ofuna-Naval Prison had about sixty four prisoners of war at this time. There were several one-story buildings with a compound. The building to which I was confined had a corridor about two hundred feet long which opened in the middle. The cells were on both sides of this corridor. I and the other eight prisoners from the submarine TANG were confined separately at Ofuna and were not allowed to mix with the other prisoners until some time in January 1945. While at Ofuna Naval Prison we were given a cup of rice and cup of water at each meal and were given no other food at any time except when we were allowed to have Red Cross packages. I was told by one of the guards (HERSAY) that other food such as fish and meat was sent to the prison for the prisoners but that the guards appropriated this for their own use or sold it in the black market.

The person in charge of Ofuna Naval Prison was a warrant officer of the Japanese Navy who was known as "The Mummy". He was about five feet four inches tall and weighed one hundred and twenty pounds. He had three other petty officers as assistants whose names I never knew. (P.M. CAVERLY, BTIC had their names written down at one time; he may still have this or remember their names. Major BOYINGTON, USMC, also knew their names). A Japanese known as "Congo CHO", who was a Chief Pharmacist's Mate in the Japanese Imperial Navy and formerly a scenario writer, was the prison doctor. There were about ten to twelve Japanese

seamen guards. The seamen guards whom I can recall were: NISHI who was head of the seamen group and was about five feet two inches tall, had very bad eyes, and weighed about one hundred and twenty pounds; Walliston OBARA who was about five feet five inches tall, weighed about one hundred and fifty pounds, had a very rosy complexion and was known as "Rosy"; SEGATA who was five feet two inches tall and weighed about one hundred and twenty pounds and looked a lot like NISHI; "Silver Tooth" a guard with a lot of silver teeth in the front of his mouth (I never know his name); and Suburo HERSAY. I do not remember the names of any of the other guards. NISHI and SEGATA were the leaders of the seamen guards and caused most of the trouble. Suburo HERSAY never beat any of the prisoners to my knowledge and did all he could to help us.

When we first arrived at Ofuna they began to question us. This questioning was done by three officers who were the Board of Inquiry for Ofuna from Yokosuka Naval Station. They were over the warrant officer in charge and we were supposed to make any complaints or requests of them. After we had been questioned the officers would leave instructions for us to be beaten by the guards if our questioning had not pleased them.

During the whole time that we were at Ofuna we were required to scrub the corridor between the cells in our building. This scrubbing was done with a knot of line which we dipped in the water and then were made to line up two at a time at the entrance of the corridor. We were made to bend over in a stooping position with our feet on the floor and our hands on the mop. At a signal we were told to start and run all the way to the end of the corridor and back again. If we did not run fast enough to suit the guards the guard behind us would strike us. If we slipped and fell down or fell for any other reason the guard would beat us until we arose and started on. During the winter it was so cold that the water would freeze on the deck before we were through and we would slip on the ice. After about four trips we would be so tired that we would fall down many times in the round trip but the guards never stopped at this and always made us make about two more round trips.

All of the guards at the prison except HERSAY participated in this "rat race" with the exception of the warrant officer and chief petty officers. The warrant officer and chief petty officers and Gongo CHO, the camp doctor, all knew this was going on and often came to watch it.

In the other side of our building were confined American pilots who had been shot down at various times and taken captive. These pilots were made to mop the other side of the corridor, in front of their cells in the same manner that we were required to mop our side, although the guards never waited until they fell down to start beating them but always began beating them at the beginning and beat them all the way down the corridor and all the way back. Among these pilots was a P4F pilot by the name of EMO (FNU) who was shot down over Formosa in October 1944 and who had arrived at Ofuna before I did. EMO had no physical defects to my knowledge.

One morning in late December or early January of 1945 while EMO was being beaten by SEGATA and "Silver Tooth" in the "rat race", one of the blows fell upon his spine, paralyzing him from the hips down. He immediately fell to the floor and could go no farther, whereupon SEGATA and "Silver Tooth" beat him for about twenty minutes with clubs which were about the size of baseball bats. At the end of this beating EMO, who was unconscious, was picked up and thrown in his cell. I was standing near the entrance to the building at the time and saw most of this beating. I heard from other prisoners, whose names I can not recall now, that the guards went into his cell and beat him after this but I don't know how many times or how severe the beatings were. About a week after the first beating Congo CFO told me that EMO was going to die that night, which he did. Commander O'KANE and F.M. CAVERLY, one of the pilots, either saw or heard these subsequent beatings and may know which guards did the beating. Others who may have witnessed the above beatings of EMO were: Staff Sergeant Gene BIRDWELL, USAAF, Lieutenant DAVIDSON (FNU), USS WASP, and Frank O'CARA, reporter from the "Philadelphia Inquirer".

The first beating that I recall occurred on 26 November 1944. On this occasion we were told that we had not been bowing deep enough to the guards and had not been

RESTRICTED /s/ E.C.
AFFIDAVIT OF WILLIAM RUDOLPH LEIBOLD

showing them proper respect which had been noticed by the Board of Inquiry. All of the prisoners were then marched into the compound and twenty-seven of them were lined up, with the rest of the prisoners watching from their position. I was not one of the twenty-seven and I cannot now recall the names of the twenty-seven who were beaten. All of the guards and Congo CHO participated in the mass beating. The warrant officer and petty officers watched it. The guard HERSAY was the only guard who did not participate. These twenty-seven prisoners were struck thirty times each by various guards with clubs about the size of baseball bats and Congo CHO used a piece of two-by-four about three feet long. During this beating Lieutenant William HARRIS, USMC, was suffering from beri beri and was in a very weakened condition; he lost consciousness on the third blow and Congo CHO had the guards pick him up and hold him for the rest of the beating. Commander FITZGERALD, who was struck on the spine, collapsed and the warrant officer in charge ordered the guards not to beat him any more.

While I was at Ofuna there was an Ensign FLINN who was imprisoned with the aviators and who had been shot down over Formosa in October. He contacted dysentery and couldn't eat his food. The guards took his regular food away from him for about ten days and fed him on a dry rice mixture. During this time he was beaten by the guards in his cell because he couldn't leave his cell and because he wasn't able to get up. I was told by Commander O'KANE that FLINN died after I left Ofuna. FLINN was in solitary confinement across from my cell part of the time and I was able to see some of the beatings. I recall seeing NISHI beat him once and OBERA beat him once. I do not know whether any of the other prisoners saw these beatings but I believe they did. I know that some of the prisoners who were in solitary confinement near him heard the guards beat him.

Shortly after I arrived at Ofuna Congo CHO asked me to make him a model airplane, which I did. Congo CHO was pleased with this model airplane and made me his assistant in January, which position I held until I left Ofuna in April. My duties were to keep Congo CHO's quarters clean, shine his shoes, put out the medicine for him and wash bandages. There were other odd jobs which I do not recall at this time.

Some time in January Lieutenant (jg) Richard HUNT, who was formerly attached to the U.S.S. HANCOCK, had been shot down over Hong Kong and was brought to Ofuna Naval Prison. I saw him for a few moments when they first brought him in. I was about fifty

RESTRICTED /s/ E.C.
AFFIDAVIT OF WILLIAM RUDOLPH LEIBOLD

feet away. His right arm was bandaged at the time and he had bloody bandages from his hips down. The next day Richard HUNT was made to walk from his cell to Congo CHO's office which was about two hundred yards away. At this time Richard HUNT was in such a condition that he staggered most of the way to Congo CHO's office. His wounds were poorly bandaged and blood was running out of the bandages on his legs. Congo CHO kept HUNT in his office for about half an hour and I believe that he may have changed HUNT's bandages at the time but I don't recall having to wash the old bandages afterwards. A few days later Congo CHO sent me and Charles ROGERS, Chief Telegrapher, British Royal Navy, who was also a prisoner, to HUNT's cell to bring him to Congo CHO's office. We placed HUNT on a stretcher and carried him to Congo CHO's office. When we arrived there Congo CHO had us hold the stretcher beside a bench in Congo CHO's office while Congo CHO rolled HUNT off the stretcher onto the bench right on HUNT's right arm which was broken and had not been set. I could see it had not been set even though it was bandaged by the angle of his arm. HUNT told me once that they had never set it and that it was a compound fracture. I never saw the arm unbandaged. We were made to leave the office and wait outside the door for about forty-five minutes when Congo CHO called us back in to take HUNT back to his cell. HUNT's bandages had been changed by Congo CHO but HUNT told us on the way back to the cell that Congo CHO had hurt him very badly and asked us never to take him back to Congo CHO's office.

HUNT stayed in his cell for about another week before Congo CHO had ROGERS and me bring him to his office again. During this week HUNT was in such a state that he was not able to feed himself and Congo CHO would not allow any of the prisoners to go into his cell to help him eat nor did any of the guards help HUNT eat. The guards would take HUNT's food to him and come back later and take it away when they found he had not eaten it. The second time we carried HUNT to Congo CHO's office Congo CHO made us lay the stretcher with HUNT on it on the wooden bench and then made us leave. Congo CHO called us back about half an hour later to get HUNT. When we got HUNT out of his office HUNT said that Congo CHO had hurt him very badly but did not describe how and it was obvious that Congo CHO had not changed any of his bandages and I know that I did not wash any dirty bandages after this and none of the clean bandages in Congo CHO's office had been used. I don't know whether Congo CHO ever beat HUNT or struck him as I was not present at Congo CHO's office while he had HUNT there and I never saw Congo CHO or any of the guards beat him at any other time.

On one of the occasions when we carried HUNT to Congo CHO's office a Jap doctor from the Yoskoska Naval Station was there and

saw HUNT's condition. About one week after the last time we carried HUNT to Congo CHO's office HUNT died in the night, which was either 16 or 17 February. The next day I, ROGERS, and some of the other prisoners buried HUNT's body. HUNT was in Ofuna Naval Prison for about one month before he died. The only times that Congo CHO saw him, to my knowledge, were on the three occasions mentioned. I do not believe that Congo CHO ever went to HUNT's cell because the stench there was terrible as Congo CHO only allowed me to clean the cell twice. Some of the other prisoners and I sneaked into HUNT's cell several times when the guards were not looking to cover him and try to make him comfortable, as it was very cold and HUNT was unable to keep covers on himself.

During the winter of 1944 and 1945 there was no heat in our prison. The cracks through the walls were large enough for snow to sift in on the decks of the cells and it was very hard for us to keep warm. There were many other beatings which I witnessed at Ofuna but I cannot recall them now. However, I was not beaten after I became Congo CHO's assistant except on the day before I left Ofuna Naval Prison when I and all the other prisoners were lined up by the guards and made to bend over in a stooping position. The guards then asked us to sign written statements that we had stolen Red Cross packages from the room in which they were kept. We refused to do this and the guards beat us for about twenty minutes. The reason the guards did this was because we were not given all of the Red Cross packages which were sent to Ofuna Naval Prison. As far as I can remember I got one Red Cross package on Christmas and one some time in January. The guard HERSAY and other prisoners told me that the other guards had carried some of the Red Cross packages to their homes and that when the Inquiry Board found out that there were some Red Cross packages missing, the guards tried to get us to make written confessions so that they could tell the Inquiry Board that we had stolen the Red Cross packages.

26 Oct 1945
(Date)

/s/ William Rudolph Leibold
(Signature)

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 26 day of October 1945.

A CERTIFIED TRUE COPY:

Edwin F. Svare (signed)
EDWIN F. SVARE
1st. Lt., Inf.

/s/ NW Neukom
N. W. NEUKOM
Lieut., USMR