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FOR THE WAR CRIMES OFFICE

Judge Advocate General's Department - War Department

United States of America

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In the matter of the use of	*	Perpetuation of Testimony
American prisoners of war on	*	of Floyd Herman Comfort,
enemy military works and	*	Corporal, United States
operations by the Japanese at	*	Marine Corps, Serial No.
Shanghai, China between 1942	*	276883
and 1945.	*	

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Taken at: Security Intelligence Corps Field Area Office, Jackson, Mississippi

Date: 14 December 1945

In the Presence of: Jennings, Walter K., Special Agent, Security Intelligence Corps.

Reporter: Jennings, Walter K.

Questions by: Jennings, Walter K.

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

A Floyd Herman Comfort, Corporal, United States Marine Corps, Serial No. 276883, 204 Dewitt Street, Jackson, Miss.

Q State briefly your personal history.

A I was born 3 October 1921 at Clinton, Miss. and was reared in Jackson, Miss. I completed the 10th grade of school and then went to work, working at various jobs for two or three years. In November 1939 I joined the Marine Corps and in October 1941 I was sent with the 1st Defense Battalion to Wake Island.

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

A Yes, I returned to the United States from Japan in October 1945.

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Q Were you a prisoner of war?

A Yes.

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

A I was taken prisoner by the Japanese on 23 December 1941 on Wake Island. From Wake we were taken to near Shanghai, China to Woo Sung, a small village. I remained there until 5 or 6 December 1942, when I was moved to Kang Won, which was just a little nearer Shanghai, and remained there until May 1945. Then we were taken to Pieng Tai near Peking, China and stayed there about a month. From there we were taken through Korea to Japan, to Hokodate Prison #3 on the island of Hokkaido, where on 16 September 1945 we were liberated by American forces.

Q Do you have any knowledge of the use of any American prisoners of war by the Japanese in enemy military works or installations?

A Yes. All during the time I was at Woo Sung and Kang Won working parties of our men were used constantly in work at a place called the Shanghai Garage, which was a sort of repair depot for all kinds of military vehicles and equipment. I worked there for over a year in the welding shop, where trucks etc were repaired. I was also, along with others, used in the polishing and shining of used artillery shell cases. In addition, I was also made to work digging air raid shelters.

Q Was this the exception or the rule at your prison camp?

A It was the rule.

Q Who was responsible for this use of prisoners of war doing military work?

A The Jap Commandant of the prison, I suppose. His name was Col. Odera.

Q Do you have any more information to give on this subject?

A No.

/s/ Floyd Herman Comfort  
Floyd Herman Comfort, Corporal  
United States Marine Corps

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State of : Mississippi

County of : Hinds

I, Floyd Herman Comfort, 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/ Floyd Herman Comfort  
Floyd Herman Comfort, Corporal  
United States Marine Corps

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 17th day of December 1945.

/s/ Robert L. Calhoun  
ROBERT L. CALHOUN, 1st Lt., Inf.  
O-1320504, Assistant Adjutant  
Dist. 7, ASF, 4th SVC

C E R T I F I C A T E

"I, Walter K. Jennings, Special Agent, Security Intelligence Corps, Fourth Service Command, certify that Floyd Herman Comfort, Corporal, United States Marine Corps, Serial No. 276883, personally appeared before me on 14 December 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: Jackson, Mississippi /s/ Walter K. Jennings  
Walter K. Jennings  
Special Agent, Security Intelligence  
Corps, Fourth Service Command

Date : 14 December 1945

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