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

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

City and County of San Francisco

SS:

HAROLD JACOB KLOTA, 1st Lt., ASN 0-756616, 8476 Carbondal St., Detroit, Michigan, being first duly sworn, deposes and says:

[On 2 April 1945 I was taken prisoner by the Japanese after bailing out of my plane over Chin Matan, China.] I was put under custody by a Japanese Military Railroad Protection Unit under the command of Captain Goto Michinidi. [At the time of my capture I was brought to a civilian first aid station where a Japanese civilian employed by the Japanese army amputated my right leg several inches above the ankle. Whether or not this amputation was necessary I do not know. I did suffer a leg injury. However, I was able to move the toes on that leg. The amputation was accomplished by this Japanese civilian with a crude knife and without benefit of anesthesia. I was held down by 6 or 7 Japanese and my pleas for someone to knock me unconscious was met only with jeering laughter.]

The second day after my capture more of my right leg was removed by a Japanese medical officer assigned at Chin Matan. Immediately following this operation the Japanese initiated their interrogation. This lasted for three days and usually was conducted for a 10-hour interval without recess. During the questioning I was usually slapped across the face with an open hand. Finally the questioning ceased altogether and I was told that I was being punished for not answering their questions. The punishment was administered by one Japanese officer who beat me with an encased saber on the head and body while I lay in bed. This beating produced unconsciousness on at least three occasions. When I could no longer survive the beatings administered with the saber they were then administered with a wet towel with which I was struck across the face.]

I am unable to identify either by name or description Japanese personnel assigned to the Railroad Protection Unit other than the commanding officer whose name I have already cited.

/s/ HAROLD J. KLOTA,  
HAROLD J. KLOTA, 1st Lt.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 5th day of December, 1945.

/s/ RICHARD G. McLELLAN, Jr.

Interviewed by Edward C. Scharotg, Agent, SIC.

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