

Ex 1905

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

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In the matter of inadequacies at
Mukden War Prisoners Camp, Mukden,
Manchuria, November 1942 to July
1943.

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Perpetuation of Testimony of
Elmer A. Morse, 16003848, Sgt.

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Taken at: Biltmore Regional Convalescent Hospital, Miami, Florida.

Date: 1 October 1945.

In the Presence of: Meyer Sugarman, Special Agent, Security Intelligence
Corps, Fourth Service Command.

Reporter: Elizabeth B. Roth, Clerk-Steno, Miami Beach Service
Base, Miami Beach, Florida.

Questions by: Meyer Sugarman, Special Agent, Security Intelligence
Corps, Fourth Service Command.

- Q. State your name, rank, serial number and permanent home address.
- A. [Elmer Alfred Morse, Sgt.,] 16003848; and I can always be reached through
404 Walnut Street, Washington, Illinois, though I may not be living
there.
- Q. Will you state your civilian background before entering the Army.
- A. I was born 11 December 1915 at Peoria, Illinois. I worked as a laborer
on various jobs in Illinois before entering the Army.
- Q. If you were recently returned to the United States after being a Prisoner
of War, state the date of your return.
- A. 25 September 1945.
- Q. State the date of your capture, where you were held and when, and date
of liberation.
- A. [I was captured 6 May 1942 on Corregidor.] I was held as a prisoner there
until 10 September 1942 when I was transferred to Cabanatuan, No. 1,
Philippine Islands where I was held until 6 October 1942. [I was then
transferred to Mukden War Prisoners Camp at Mukden, Manchuria, where I
was held from 11 November 1942 until 29 July 1943. I was then trans-
ferred to Hoten Prisoners Camp at Mukden, Manchuria, where I was held
from 29 July 1943 until 20 August 1945] on which date we were liberated
by Russian soldiers. The above dates are approximate.

10/1/45

Q. Will you describe your quarters at Mukden.

A. [The buildings were particularly cold during the severe Manchurian winters and the Japanese only allowed us one shuttle of coal per stove per day. With this inadequate amount of coal, we often could only get the stove half-way warm, let alone the building. The buildings were old frame structures, half under and half above the ground, and the wind blew through them. In Manchuria, the wind blows continuously in the winter. They were never warm enough so that we could be comfortable without overcoats.

Q. What about medical supplies?

A. These were only available in extreme cases and then all that we received was a matter of charity because they were purchased by a Japanese, Dr. OKI, out of his own pocket and were not furnished by the Japanese Government.

Q. What about the food?

A. When we first arrived there, the food was very poor and at this time men were in their worst condition. We received a maize and pechi soup and two sour buns per day. Pechi is a Chinese cabbage. This was during the first month and a half that we were there and in that time approximately 200 men died from malnutrition. Later food conditions improved, but even then we were frequently given contaminated foods. Often, the fish and meat were so decomposed and contaminated that our mess crew would have to bury it. Often in borderline cases, food was cooked rather than buried and many times it was so bad that we couldn't eat it. Our mess sergeant during this period was Sgt. Andy Pervuznik who was from the 31st Inf. Division, and was formerly a mess sergeant. He would have information as to what type of food we received and on what days.

Q. What Japanese officers are responsible for this condition?

A. Col. K. MATSUDA was in charge of the camp. His staff consisted of Capt. ISHIKATA, Lt. MURATA, Lt. FUKAZUA and Lt. MISAGO who all bear some responsibility along with him.

Q. What American officers would have further information?

A. Major Hankins, Capt. Grow and the American doctor, Capt. Herbst, would have both information and records.

/s/ ELMER A. NORSE
Elmer A. Norse, Sgt., CAC

State of Illinois)
County of Knox) SS

I, Elmer A. Morse, 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/ ELMER A. MORSE
Elmer A. Morse, Sgt., CAC

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 2 day of November 1945.

/s/ FLORENCE JOHNSON

(S E A L)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Meyer Sugarman, Special Agent, Security Intelligence Corps, Fourth Service Command, certify that Elmer A. Morse, 16003848, Sgt., personally appeared before me on 1 October 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: Miami Beach, Florida

Date: 6 October 1945

/s/ MEYER SUGARMAN
(Signature) Meyer Sugarman
(Organization) Special Agent,
Security Intelligence Corps,
Fourth Service Command