

CONFIDENTIAL Sgt Watanabe

AFFIDAVIT

STATE OF California)COUNTY OF Los Angeles)

SS:

I, LOUIS SILVIE ZAMPERINI, Captain, Air Corps, O-663341, being duly sworn depose and say that: This incident.

I am an American citizen, having been born in Olean, New York on January 26, 1917. My permanent home address is 2028 Gramercy Avenue, Torrance, California, and I am presently stationed at Birmingham General Hospital, Van Nuys, California. I was attached to the 11th Bomb Group, 42nd Squadron, 7th Air Force when the B-24 on which I was bombardier crashed into the ocean north of Polmyra on the 27th of May 1943. The raft on which I and the other survivors of the crew took refuge, drifted for 47 days and eventually beached on one of the western most islands of the Marshall Islands. On the 14th of July 1943 we were picked up by a Japanese fishing boat and taken to Maleolap where we were held for two days. Then Lt. Russell A. Phillips and I were taken to Kwajelein where we were held for 43 days. On the 27th of August 1943, we were moved by ship to Japan, arriving in Yokohama on the 15th of September. I was immediately taken to Ofuna Prison Camp where I remained until the 29th of September 1944. On that date I was moved to Omori Prison Camp, remaining there until the 1st of March 1945. From then until we were released on the 5th of September 1945, I was held at Camp 4B, Naoetsu. I returned to the United States on the 2nd of October 1945 at San Francisco, California.

During my confinement at Omori Prison Camp sometime between September 1944 and March 1945 the following incident occurred: Sgt. Watanabe sent for 10 officers who were then working in a leather shop. By the time they put away their tools and walked the 200 yards to the office, 5 minutes had elapsed. Watanabe apparently thought this was too long and came running after us. He was swinging a big leather belt on the end of which was a big steel buckle. He hit all 10 of the officers across the face about 4 times with this steel buckle.

Sgt. Watanabe was the enlisted man in charge of discipline at the camp. He later was transferred to Camp 4B at Naoetsu. Watanabe was a frog-faced individual, whom we called the "Bird", 25 or 26 years old, 5'7", 170 pounds, well built, in the Japanese Army, close cropped hair, scar on his head, spoke fair English, supposed to be from a prominent family in Kobe. The commanding officer of Omori and also the commanding officer of all the prison camps in the Tokyo area was Colonel Sacaba of the Japanese Army. He was about 50 years old, 5'2", 145 to 150 pounds, short and stocky, wide

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flabby face. Colonel Sacaba was the man who permitted the mistreatment of the American prisoners and did nothing to improve the filthy conditions at the camps.

To the best of my knowledge, the testimony I have given herein covers all pertinent details of this incident.

Louis S. Zamperini
LOUIS SILVIE ZAMPERINI, Captain
O-663341.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this ^{November} 1st day of ~~October~~ 1945 at

Birmingham General Hospital
Van Nuys, California

Robert M. Musick

ROBERT M. MUSICK
CAPT. M. A. C.

ASST. ADJUTANT

CERTIFICATE

STATE OF California }
COUNTY OF Los Angeles } SS

I, Norman J. Wiener, Agent, SIC, 9SC, certify that Captain Louis Silvie Zamperini personally appeared before me on the ^{1st} day of ^{November} ~~October~~ 1945 at

Birmingham Gen Hospital and made the foregoing statement concerning war crimes.

Norman J. Wiener
Norman J. Wiener
Agent, SIC, 9SC

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