

STATEMENT OF

Roy C. Hilton, Col. A.M.S.

With Respect to his claim arising out of his mistreatment while a prisoner of war of the Imperial Japanese Government.

STATE OF S.C.
COUNTY OF Laurens } ss:

I, Roy C. Hilton, claimant above named, being first duly sworn, depose and say, in answer to the interrogatories herein set forth, to wit:

Question: 1. Give your name, age, and present residence. Also an address at which mail will always be certain to reach you.

Answer: Roy C. Hilton, age 53,
Laurens, S.C.

Q. 2. Were you in the military service in 1941? If so, give rank, organization and official number. Are you now in military service? If so, list your present rank and station.

Answer: yes. Lt. Col., Hq. Philippine Department; &
yes. Colonel, Laurens, S.C. A.S.N. 0-5554.

Q. 3. When and where were you born? (If in U.S.A., you should take steps to obtain birth certificate. If no birth records were kept, affidavits of two persons, preferably older than yourself—Mother, relatives, or doctor—having knowledge of the fact, should be obtained. This evidence as to your birth should be obtained and forwarded for eventual attachment to your affidavit.)

Answer: Nov. 7, 1892, Greenwood (County) S.C.
no birth certificate available.

Q. 4. If you are a citizen by naturalization, state date and place of your naturalization and certificate number.

Answer: Born in U.S.A.

Q. 5. When and where were you first employed, commissioned, or enlisted in the service of the United States? Indicate place and date of entry and rank or position.

Answer: ~~Nov. 7, 1917~~ June 7, 1917. Commissioned
2nd Lt. U.S.A. Wash. D.C.

Q. 6. State dates of various promotions in grade.

Answer: June 7, 1917, 1st Lt, Inf.
June 20, 1920, Capt. Inf (Aug 5, 1917, Temp Captain)
July 1, 1934, Major, Inf
July 1, 1940, Lt. Colonel, Inf
March 30, 1942. (Temp.) Colonel.

Q. 7. State medals, letters of commendation, campaign medals, battle stars and all other awards and decorations which you are entitled to wear.

Answer: Silver Star Citation; Croix-de-Guerre: Victory Medal with five bars for, Aisne, Aisne-Marne, St. Mihiel, Meuse-Argonne, and Defensive Sector (all for 1st World War) for 2nd World War; Unit Citation, double; Asiatic-Pacific, American Defense Medal.

Q. 8. Where were you stationed on December 7, 1941?

Answer: Manila, Philippine Islands

Q. 9. Describe in considerable detail your personal activity and experience from that date, or if you entered military or civilian service at a later date, from such later date until your unit was formally surrendered to Japanese Forces. (Use additional sheets of paper for answer and mark "Annex 1")

Answer: I was assigned as Asst. G-2, Phil. Dept., and acted as G-2, Phil. Department from Dec. 14, 1941 to Jan. 4, 1942. Assigned as Asst. G-4, U.S.A.F.F.E. Jan. 5, 1942; Assigned as G-4 Luzon Force, P.I. and held this position from March 15, 1942 until date of Surrender, Apr. 9, 1942.

Q. 10. Give a short medical history to date of entry in service. Give name or names of physicians who may corroborate statement.

Answer: In Corregidor Hospital with Influenza - Dec. 26, 1941, to Jan. 4, 1942, + Jan. 10, - 15, 1942. Performed duty after Jan. 15, 1942 until date of Surrender - Apr. 9, 1942. Dr. Glatly, Lt. Col; Dr. Gillespie, Colonel; Dr. Cooper, Col.

Q. 11. Give a short medical history during service, together with name or names of physicians who may corroborate statements.

Answer: Had short attacks of Malaria each Spring from 1912 - 1915 while in College at The Citadel, Charleston, S.C.

Q. 12. Describe your physical condition at the time of surrender, and give name or names of physicians who may corroborate.

Answer: I was physically weak. I had not fully recovered from attacks of Malaria and a recent attack of Dysentery, or Diarrhea.

Q. 13. Have you been wounded. If so, describe the nature and extent of your wounds or injuries, and what if any treatment you had received from U. S. Army Medical Officers or other physicians, giving names of Medical Officers or physicians who gave treatment.

Answer: No.

Q. 14. Describe in considerable detail, on a separate sheet of paper and mark "Annex 2", your personal experiences from the time of surrender to the time of your arrival at the first Prisoner of War Camp

Answer: I remained at my headquarters one day. Then I went with the officers of my headquarters to Hosp. no. 1 where I remained about nine hours, then we rode in eight automobiles, all night, to Camp O'Donnell. A Japanese General officer spoke to us and told us that our lives would be spared - and that our treatment henceforth

Q. 15. Give the names and present addresses of at least three companions, if possible, who have survived and can corroborate your statements.

Answer: Brig. Gen. Arnold Funk; Col. Gilmer Bell; Brig. Gen. Wm. Weaver; Col. Edward Williams; Maj. Gen. E. P. King.

Q. 16. Name any books or articles which have been published describing this march or transfer.

Answer: The Death March. - Common Title.

Q. 17. Does your name appear in any of these published descriptions. If so, indicate the article and page number.

Answer: I do not know.

Q. 18. How long were you at the first Prisoner of War Camp?

Answer: About one month.

Q. 19. Describe the camp in considerable detail making mention of the manner of shelter provided, mess arrangements, sanitary arrangements, work assignments, punishment for infractions of camp rules, medical examinations and treatment, and all other comment which you have any reason to believe might be helpful or of interest in determining the measure of damages to be awarded you. Also give name or names and present address of persons who may corroborate your statements in whole or part.

Answer: Camp O'Donnell - a camp built for about 8000 Philippine trainees. A Divisional Camp. Built by Americans. Was considerably overcrowded. Sanitation almost lacking. Water very scarce, food scarce.

Q. 20. Were you ever denied any appropriate medical treatment?

Answer: Yes. Quinine + purgatives were needed and were not available

Q. 21. Describe in considerable detail your personal experience and the result on you physically and mentally.

Answer: The doctors seemed almost Panacea for lack of medical supplies. Death of Americans reached about 28 daily toward end of month - this was due partly from exhaustion, lack of water, poor sanitation, etc. This was demoralizing to me.

Q. 22. Identify by name and rank the Japanese Officers and soldiers who in any manner mistreated you, indicating the dates and form of mistreatment, physical or mental.

Answer: The officers at each Camp. They did not provide adequate medical supplies - nor adequate no proper food. No names available.

Q. 23. Describe any indignities to your person.

Answer: At a camp on Taiwan (Formosa) I was struck by a Japanese sentry. All Japanese personnel showed lack of respect and lack of consideration.

Q. 24. Give dates of transfer to various prisoner of war camps.

Answer: Camp O'Donnell April 11, 1942; Camp at Karlac, May 11, 1942; To Taiwan (Formosa), about Aug 24, 1942; To camp at S.W. Taiwan, June 8, 1943; To Camps in Manchuria about Nov. 14, 1944.

Q. 25. When did you arrive? What was the name and location of the camps.

Answer: See Question 24.

Q. 26. Describe any incidents in connection with your transfer which will tend to establish maltreatment.

Answer: On the transfer from Taiwan to Manchuria we were crowded in the steerage of a ship - the Oryoku Maru. Living Conditions were terrible. We were on this ship 18 days in the prone position.

Q. 27. Give the date, place and circumstances of your liberation.

Answer: I was liberated by the Russians at Mukden, Manchuria on Aug. 20, 1945. At this time, we were in a flea-infested camp. An American team of officers arrived on Aug 16, 1945 to liberate us.

This ship, with us in the steerage was bombed by our aviators on Oct. 13 & 14, 1944.

Q. 28. Describe your physical condition at the time of your liberation. What was your weight at the time. What was your normal weight.

Answer: I was in poor physical condition. My weight was about 138 or 140. My normal weight is 150- or 155 pounds.

Q. 29. When, where and from whom did you first receive medical attention after your liberation, giving name, rank and present address of physicians who may corroborate.

Answer: On the "Relief" - a Hospital Ship (Naval) from Dairen to Okanawa. Also at Manila, P.I.

Q. 30. What, if any, medical or dental attention did you receive while a prisoner of the Japanese?

Answer: I received some Medical and Temporary Dental treatment, at great time intervals. This was for severe headaches - and for emergency dental work.

Q. 31. What was the condition of your teeth at the time of your liberation?

Answer: In poor Condition. Had not been cleaned since Surrender; several teeth were decayed.

Q. 32. What dental work have you received since that date?

Answer: Repair & Cleaning.

Q. 33. Will you sign requests for copies of your clinical records from the Surgeon General's office for use in the preparation of your claims?

Answer: *yes.*

Q. 34. What is the present state of your health?

Answer: *Poor. I have been recommended for retirement by the Army Retirement Board.*

Q. 35. If you have received medical or dental treatments from civilian doctors or dentists since your return, indicate their names and addresses.

Answer: *None. Treatment by Army Dentists at Oliver General Hospital, Augusta, Ga., and Ashford S.H. at White Sulphur Springs, W. Va.*

Q. 36. If you have been returned to civilian life, do you consider your earning capacity has been impaired as a result of your experiences? If so, explain fully.

Answer: *I am still in the Army.*

Q. 37. In what business or employment were you engaged prior to your enlistment or employment? If in private employment give name and address of employer.

Answer: *In early 1917 I was Departmental Clerk, Adjutant General's Office, Washington, D.C.*

Q. 38. How long had you been so employed, and at what salary?

Answer: *About six months at \$1000.⁰⁰ per year.*

Q. 39. What were your plans and prospects as to the future at the time you entered the armed forces?

Answer: *My plans were to make the Army my career.*

Q. 40. Have they been affected in any way by reason of your treatment at the hands of the Japanese as a Prisoner of War?

Answer: *yes. By shortening my career*

Q. 41. Give names, ages and relationship of your dependents.

Answer: *Mrs. Ruth Easterby Hilton, wife.
Miss Ruth E. Hilton, daughter, age 20 yrs.
Miss Laura Ann Hilton, " " 16 " "*

Q. 42. What contribution did you customarily make to the support of your dependents? Were those contributions made during the time you were a Prisoner of War?

Answer: About \$250.00 per month, yes. Contributions were \$410.00 during the time I was a Prisoner of War.

Q. 43. Describe in some detail any visits that representatives of the International Red Cross may have made to any of the Prison Camps where you were held. So far as possible, give names and dates of such visits. Wherever possible, give names and present address of any associates who may corroborate your statements. Were these representatives permitted to see and talk to you?

Answer: Several such visits were made. I do not know the names of the Red Cross representatives, nor dates. See answer to question 15, above. No, the representatives were not permitted to see and talk to me.

Q. 44. After capture and while a prisoner of the Japanese, were you required to march more than 20 kilometers in one day?

Answer: No.

Q. 45. Were you given any food or water while on the march?

Answer: No.

Q. 46. What was the longest period you were required to march without food? Describe.

Answer: About two hours.

Q. 47. Did you see any prisoners become exhausted and fall out during any marches that you made after a prisoner of the Japanese. If your answer is in the affirmative, state what happened to those who fell out, and furnish names and home addresses, if possible.

Answer: yes. He was assisted by fellow Officers.
(Col. Abe Garfunkel, Inf.)

Q. 48. Were you ever transported by ocean-going vessels from one prison camp to another? What was the name of the vessel, the date of trip, and the ports of embarkation and destination? Did the ship carry marks to identify it as carrying prisoners of war?

Answer: yes. From Manila to Taiwan in Aug. 1942; ^{late October} and from Taiwan to Japan in 1944 - The Oryoku Maru. It did not carry identifying marks.
(to Japan in Oct. 1944)

Q. 49. Was your ship ever attacked by aircraft, submarines, or surface vessels. If your answer to the foregoing question is in the affirmative, state in detail what happened during and after the attack. If there was more than one attack, describe these in detail, giving date and locations as far as practicable.

Answer: yes. At a port in Northern Taiwan on 13th & 14th of October, 1944, we were attacked by American Bombers (Aircraft). We were in the Hold of the Oryoku Maru - About 259 of us - in one compartment of the ship. We were forced to close the port holes of the ship and stayed in utter darkness during the attack. We would have died like rats if the ship was hit, and sunk.

Q. 50. Were you ever located in a Japanese prison camp that was adjacent to or very near military objectives such as power plants, munitions plants, railroad yards, etc. If your answer to the foregoing question is in the affirmative, give dates and name the camp or camps.

Answer: Yes, from May 21st to Aug. 20th, 1945, at Mukden, Manchuria.

Q. 51. Did any of the camps where you were located have any distinctive markings to identify them as prison of war camps?

Answer: Not that I know of.

Q. 52. Were you ever told by the Japanese subsequent to any move what your destination was?

Answer: No.

Q. 53. Did you while a prisoner of the Japanese ever receive the same quantity and quality of food received by the Japanese guards in your camp?

Answer: No.

Q. 54. Did you, while in any of the camps, receive Red Cross packages? Were any packages opened by the Japanese and part or all of the contents retained by them? Was mail received by you while in any of the camps? Was any of your mail retained by the Japanese?

Answer: Yes. Some packages were opened by Americans and our allies. As far as I know none of the contents was retained by the Japanese. Yes, I received mail. ~~was~~ As far as I know, none of it was retained by the Japanese.

Q. 55. Was mail received by you while in any of the camps? If so how often and on what dates.

Answer: Yes. The first mail was received on Feb. 22, 1944. After that date mail was received every four to six months.

Q. 56. How many letters or cards did you write while a prisoner of the Japanese? Were they delivered to the addressee?

Answer: About three letters or cards prior to Feb. 22, 1944. About one letter each six months after that date. One or two radio messages were sent. Most of these messages were received by members of my family.

Q. 57. Did you make any recordings or broadcast while a prisoner of the Japanese? Describe if voluntary or forced.

Answer: No. One or two messages were broadcast for me. These were received by members of my family.

would be according to Japanese thought hood.

Q. 58. What was your pay while a Prisoner of War? Did you receive it regularly? How much was owing to you at the time of your liberation?

Answer: After August, 1942, my pay was $\$310.00$ per month. I received about 40, or 50 yen each month for incidentals. The balance was put on bank deposit for me. About $\$10,000$ yen was due me.

Q. 59. Did you have a personal bank account in the Philippines or other territory under Japanese control? If so, what was the name and address of the bank and the exact name in which the account was carried?

Answer: None to amount to anything. I withdrew my balance from the P. I. and sent it home.

Q. 60. What was the exact or approximate balance in your favor at the time the bank was placed under Japanese control? Can you make available your pass book or bank statements?

Answer: None to amount to anything. About three $\$500$ Pesos in a Phil. Bank.

Q. 61. Describe the character of work assigned to you while a prisoner of war, and the conditions under which it was performed. What pay were you to receive and did you receive all sums due you? If deductions were made, describe them. If you believe a balance is still due you, describe how you arrive at the figure stated.

Answer: Only work on our garden; mosquito, clean-up work; & work on a fish pond in heavy soil. No pay. The Japs hold about $\$9,000$ or $\$10,000$ of my pay - was held as a bank deposit for me.

Q. 62. Did you customarily sign a payroll during the period you were a prisoner of war, and whether you did or not, did you receive prisoner of war pay regularly, and if so, in what amounts? Are any unpaid amounts due you, and if so, what is the total?

Answer: Yes, I signed a payroll and a deposit book monthly beginning in August, 1942. I received about $\$40.00$ or $\$50.00$ each month. The balance of $\$310.00$, less money for meals ($\16.00 to $\$30.00$) was supposed to be put on deposit for me. I am due about $\$9000.00$ to $\$10,000$ from the Jap Government now.

Q. 63. What happened to your personal effects, jewelry, etc.?

Answer: I held personal effects which I had on my person at time of surrender. The rest were lost to me.

Q. 64. Have you received any personal effects allowance? If so, how much was paid to you on your claim; by what office?

Answer: Yes. $\$795.00$ by the Finance Officer, U.S. Army.

Q. 65. List all articles for which you have not been compensated, and indicate the date acquired by you, the price paid, (or estimated value if a gift), the date taken from you, your estimate of condition and the value on that date.

Answer: One Luger Pistol, a souvenir of World War I. I valued this souvenir and would not have taken $\$50.00$ for it.

Q. 66. Please incorporate any additional information or comment which you have any reason to believe might be helpful or of interest in connection with the consideration of your claims.

Answer: I was part time in General Wainwright's group of Prisoners of War. Roy B. Hilton

Subscribed and sworn to before me this Eighth day of June A. D., 1946

My commission expires at will of the Governor, R. A. Babb
Notary Public