

STATEMENT OF LT. COLONEL ROBERT N. ABBOTT

LT. COLONEL ROBERT N. ABBOTT, Serial Number 0-1285369.

Present Assignment: 1242 ASU with duty station, Rochester, N. Y.

Home Address: 6 Aldern Place, Rochester, New York

Captured: 26 November 1950.

My duty at the time of capture was Advisor to the Korean Army. I was a Prisoner of War for thirty-three months. I was released on the Fifth of September 1953, the final day of Big Switch.

1. I was captured by the C. C. F., Chinese Communist Forces, in the vicinity of Tokchon, North Korea. Prisoners were mistreated from the start.

No food or water

Physical abuse ~~Applied~~

Relief of personal items (Clothing, dog tags, valuables, etc.)

Constant interrogation

2. Prisoners assembled for move north.

Housing conditions very crowded.

Very little food

No medical attention

Sick and wounded abandoned at this time

3. March north to mining camp, otherwise identified as

"Death Valley," distance of approximately 100 miles.

Forced march, always at night
Considerable mistreatment on march
Shortage of food and water
No medical attention
Prisoners not allowed to sleep

Approximately 1,000 men arrived in this camp on Christmas Day, 25 December 1950. Within three months 300 men had died. Death resulted from lack of food, malnutrition, exposure, lack of medical attention, poor sanitary conditions, poor housing, lice, lack of fuel.

The various illnesses resulting from the above were Beri Beri, Palegra, Dysentery, pneumonia, exposure. Bodies were left unburied, completely stripped of all clothing and identification.

5. March north to Camp 5 on the Yula River. That march was a distance of approximately 100 miles.

All those who were unable to keep up were left along the roadside and it is assumed that they died. Shots were heard quite frequently behind us on this march. At Camp 5, approximately 1,500 prisoners died, according to Prisoner of War estimates at this time.

Conditions were generally the same in this camp. Food, medical, attention, etc., were lacking.

On or about September 20th, this camp was bombed by UN Air Force. One Air Force Officer (Prisoner) was killed. His body

6. Korean Interrogation Center, otherwise identified as Paks Palace.

This interrogation center was controlled by North Korean Officers. They continuously applied physical abuse in their interrogations. Starvation, lack of medical attention and forced labor also prevailed in this camp. It is estimated that approximately forty deaths can be indirectly attributed to time spent in this camp.

7. Describe own physical condition at this time.

This condition was generally true of all prisoners. I was suffering from extreme malnutrition, weighing approximately 100 pounds, compared to a normal weight of 200 pounds. I was paralyzed as a result of Palegria and Beri Beri. I had an extreme case of dysentery. No medical attention was made available to any prisoners in this camp.

8. Start of Peace Talks

Returned to CCF at Camp No. 3. Conditions in this camp were still very poor. Prisoners were dying daily. This camp, as were all camps, unmarked.

On or about September 20th, this camp was bombed by UN Air Force. One Air Force Officer (Prisoner) was killed. His body

was displayed nude in the Public Square and all prisoners and civilians were required to view it.

9. Was moved to Camp No. 5 at Pyoktong. Placed in hospital. Prisoners dying as a result of dysentery, apalegria, Beri Beri, malnutrition. In this hospital prisoners were being forced to undergo tissue operations. Those refusing were denied further medical attention.

10. Moved to Officers Camp No. 2

In this camp officers were being exposed to a severe indoctrination program (brain washing). These educational periods lasted from early morning until late at night. Very little medical attention was available. Food was very inadequate. Prisoners were being exposed to long periods of interrogation and failure to answer questions resulted in prolonged periods of solitary confinement. The senior officers were continuously being tried for crimes that they were not guilty of. These trials resulted in long sentences of solitary confinement.

Prisoners were denied mail from home, news from the outside world. They were required to read only Communist literature. Red Cross packages were not available. Recreation

was very limited. The harrassment in this camp continued up until the signing of the Armistice. On the final day of the signing of the Armistice, three senior officers were sentenced to one year, nine months, and six months for violation of regulations.

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- No food or water
- Physical abuse Applied
- Relief of personal items (Clothing, dog tags, valuables, etc.)
- Constant interrogation

2. Prisoners assembled for move north.

- Housing conditions very crowded.
- Very little food
- No medical attention
- Sick and wounded abandoned at this time

3. March north to winter camp, otherwise identified as

Death Valley, distance of approximately 100 miles.