

# KOREAN WAR ATROCITIES

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HEARING  
BEFORE THE  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON KOREAN WAR ATROCITIES  
OF THE  
PERMANENT SUBCOMMITTEE ON  
INVESTIGATIONS  
OF THE  
COMMITTEE ON  
GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS  
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## KOREAN WAR ATROCITIES

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 2, 1953

UNITED STATES SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE ON  
KOREAN WAR ATROCITIES OF THE PERMANENT  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON INVESTIGATIONS OF THE  
COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS,  
*Washington, D. C.*

The Subcommittee on Korean War Atrocities met at 10:30 a. m., pursuant to call, in the caucus room, Senate Office Building, Senator Charles E. Potter, chairman of the subcommittee, presiding.

Present: Senator Charles E. Potter, Republican, Michigan; and Senator Joseph R. McCarthy, Republican, Wisconsin.

Also present: Senator Henry C. Dworshak, Republican, Idaho; Senator Barry Goldwater, Republican, Arizona; and Robert L. Jones, research assistant to Senator Potter.

Also present, the following staff members of the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations: Francis P. Carr, executive director; Donald F. O'Donnell, assistant counsel; Ruth Young Watt, chief clerk.

Senator POTTER. The subcommittee will come to order.

The subcommittee is appointed by the chairman, Senator Joseph McCarthy of Wisconsin, chairman of the Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations. With me I have Don O'Donnell, who is a special counsel who has been handling the work for the atrocities investigation. On his left is Frank Carr, executive director of the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations.

On my right is Robert Jones, of my office, who has been working with the hearings.

Within the past few weeks we have heard much about vicious war atrocities committed by Communists against allied troops in Korea.

Our Ambassador Henry Cabot Lodge presented the background and nature of some of these atrocities to the United Nations.

Yesterday the Soviet spokesman, Andrei Vishinsky, attempted to repudiate these charges, saying that American claims represented nothing else but deliberate lies and propaganda.

I may say that I was extremely pleased that Ambassador Lodge yesterday called for the establishment of a United Nations Commission to investigate war atrocities in Korea.

If, as Vishinsky claims, these atrocities were a "cowardly" maneuver to cover the worst crimes perpetrated between American military circles—then we shall call his bluff. Let the chips fall where they may. Let's hear what our boys who suffered under Communist cruelties have to say—then, let the U. N. Commission go behind the Iron Curtain and decide the facts for themselves.

Let's see who is guilty.

That is our ultimatum to Mr. Vishinsky and indeed to all Communist leaders.

Later Vishinsky then proceeded to repudiate our charges, claiming that these were "flagrantly concocted falsification." I am positive that these hearings will prove beyond any reasonable doubt that Vishinsky's statement was a lie. That lie will be thrown into his face.

Today, and for the next 3 days, we will hear directly from the survivors and eyewitnesses of these atrocities. Then the American public and, indeed, all the free world may judge for themselves the real truth of these beast-like acts committed against civilized humanity.

I have never before heard, seen, or read of such inhuman, barbaric acts as those committed against our troops by the Communists in Korea.

The long forced marches—the cold-blooded massacres—the inhuman tortures—and the animal-like treatment inflicted upon our prisoners of war by the North Koreans and Red Chinese violate every code of civilized humanity and most provisions of the Geneva Convention.

When a Red Chinese nurse cuts off the toes of a GI with a pair of garden shears, without benefit of anesthesia, and wraps the wounds in a newspaper, this makes a liar out of Vishinsky, who repudiates his argument that the Red Chinese were humane in their treatment of our war prisoners.

Vishinsky claims further that our charges "dynamited peace negotiations" in Korea. I say there can be no peace if it is based on the quicksand of falsehood and propaganda such as those put forth by Mr. Vishinsky at the U. N. yesterday.

When GI's were lined up in a ditch and shot in cold blood, with their hands wired behind their backs—when they were put into small iron cages and starved to death like animals with maggots coming out of their eye sockets—I may say to Mr. Vishinsky that his claim that our report was "cowardly" and "mockery" was indicative that Vishinsky was either completely stupid or completely uninformed—and in either event, a tool or a fool.

I ask the American people whose statement they are going to believe—Mr. Vishinsky's or that of our own GI's.

When GI's were marched barefooted hundreds of miles and were given one rice ball a day for nutrition—many of whom were suffering from malnutrition, dysentery, beri-beri, and pneumonia—and when those who fell behind on these marches were shot in cold blood—I believe that these facts irrefutably repudiate Vishinsky's claim that the North Korean Communists and Red Chinese Communists abided by the provisions of the Geneva Convention.

Today, we shall hear directly, for the first time, from the GI's themselves, and, I may say, that the stories they tell will not be pleasant—they are not rehearsed, they are told in the language of the average GI—but these stories are the complete truth, and have been corroborated in every detail either by eyewitnesses or fellow survivors.

These stories constitute a record of cruelty and barbarism unmatched in the history of our civilization. But the facts must be told if America and the free world are ever to know the true character of the Communist enemy. Every mother, every wife, and every



sweetheart who had, has now, or will have, a man in the service—each and everyone of these is entitled to know these facts.

We must not be so naive as to believe that because the hot war has ended and the shooting has stopped, that the conflict is over. On the contrary, the opposite is true. The words of Lincoln nearly a century ago accurately describe the situation today. The world cannot exist permanently one-half slave and one-half free. We have been fooled too long by the Communists who wave the flag of peace in one hand and the sword in the other.

From the facts given to this committee, and from the stories these GI's will tell you, I may truthfully say that the Communist tactics in Korea constitute a deliberate and vicious pattern—a pattern of murder and brain washing designed to destroy the physical and moral fiber of the free world.

I want to say, too, and I believe all who hear the facts in the next 3 days will agree, that these sickening atrocities are not isolated cases, but are a part of a diabolical and sinister Communist effort to propagate the Communist ideology and to destroy every inherent right of free men. The sooner we recognize this ineffaceable fact, the quicker we shall know the truth about this atheistic plot to destroy our God-believing world—the better we shall be able to cope with this barbaric enemy, and the sooner we shall be able to know the enemy and to preserve our rights as American citizens.

The feats of courage and bravery demonstrated by our GI's throughout these atrocities are without equal. They have shown a strength which is compounded of personal physical courage and the spiritual power of Almighty God. I don't think the Communists can, or ever will, understand this force. This is our greatest and most potent weapon. It makes us proud to be Americans.

It is the purpose of this committee to present facts to the American people. The witnesses that you will see and hear are either survivors or eye witnesses of Communist atrocities.

They have come from various sections of the country to give us the details first hand of their horrible experiences.

Some are still injured, many are still receiving medical treatment, others have been discharged from the service and are now civilians.

But now, before we hear from these GI's, I want to say the testimony you will hear during this hearing will be mostly comprised of new material that has been supplied to us from the War Crimes Commission, which Commission was authorized by Gen. Douglas MacArthur.

I would like at this time to express my gratitude to the Department of Defense for their cooperation in gathering the facts and data which will be presented to this committee.

We are fortunate in having today as our first witness one of America's most brilliant military leaders, a man who served as commander of the United States and United Nations forces in Korea and who is now Chief of Staff of the Army here in Washington. It is my great honor to have Gen. Matthew Ridgway present the opening statement of this hearing.

General Ridgway, we are pleased to have you with us.

**STATEMENT OF GEN. MATTHEW B. RIDGWAY, CHIEF OF STAFF,  
UNITED STATES ARMY**

General RIDGWAY. It is my honor, Senator Potter, to be here.

May I first, sir, express my deep appreciation of your very gracious personal remarks, and my high respect for a great combat soldier.

Senator Potter, gentlemen. Soon after assuming command of the Eighth United States Army in Korea, I issued a statement to that unified land force setting forth my personal convictions with respect to the issues at stake in the conflict then raging. Specifically, from the text of that declaration, I quote:

The real issues are whether or not the power of civilization, as God has permitted it to flower in our own beloved lands, shall defy and defeat communism; whether the rule of men who shoot their prisoners, enslave their citizens, and deride the dignity of man, shall displace the rule of those to whom the individual and his individual rights are sacred; whether we are to survive with God's hand to guide and lead us, or to perish in the dead existence of a godless world.

You will note that today—as then, in January 1951—the phrase “men who shoot their prisoners” has been emphasized.

That the Communist armies—North Koreans and Chinese, participating in the Korean conflict are the most brutal and ruthless in the history of modern warfare is established by the overwhelming weight of evidence now on hand within the Department of the Army and in the Far East.

Brutality in actual combat can sometimes be expected, and, while it cannot be excused or condoned, its stigma can be somewhat lessened by the common knowledge of all military men that violent combat can stir the emotions of participants to the point where for a time they cease to control themselves. But a studied and calculated course of criminal misconduct, extending over a period of nearly 3 years and carried out with such callous disregard of human life and suffering as to indicate a design on the part of the Communist leadership to exterminate prisoners of war in one way or another, should not be expected, cannot be excused or condoned, and not a word can be said in defense or extenuation of it.

While loudly protesting United Nations alleged “mistreatment” of Communist prisoners of war, Red leaders were themselves conducting, or coldly permitting to be conducted, a program of brutality and extermination against military prisoners of war that probably has no parallel in modern times. Certainly, these Communist leaders received sufficient warning concerning such acts. Based upon reported barbaric and brutal atrocities committed by the so-called North Korean People's Army during the early days of the conflict, General MacArthur on August 19, 1950, clearly warned North Korean Premier Kim Il Sung:

I shall hold you and your commanders criminally accountable under the rules and precedents of war.

The factual records of Communist war crimes which were to unfold subsequent to this warning by General MacArthur, reveal the true character of Red leadership.

Senator Potter, it can now be proved that our Communist enemy in Korea violated every recognized rule of humanity and decency. Documentary evidence now on hand, as yet fragmentary and by no

means definitive, nevertheless constitutes a record of atrocious acts which offend and shock every civilized conscience. Included in the already staggering list of Communist-perpetrated acts are the following:

The deliberate shooting of wounded prisoners who had attempted honorable surrender, for no reason other than that these captives could not keep up on the march, as their captors demanded they do.

The brutal mutilation of our wounded and dead.

The premeditated murder of prisoners who had long been in custody—the massacre of 138 officers and men at Suchon tunnel, the massacre of 34 Americans after their capture at Hill 303, the execution of wounded, sick, and weakened who could not keep up on the death march from Seoul to Pyongyang.

The deliberate withholding of food and water.

The withholding of medical attention on the flimsiest grounds of alleged noncooperation on the part of victims.

The infliction of cruel tortures for minor infractions of prison camp rules—men hung by their hands, others forced to stand barefooted on ice in subfreezing temperatures.

The forced labor of sick and wounded men, with full knowledge of the fatal consequences sure to result.

The dispensing of wormy maggot-infested food, with full knowledge that serious illness—if not death—would certainly follow.

The forced marching—for many miles—of sick, wounded and starving men after depriving them of their footwear, and in freezing temperatures.

The unrelenting and deliberate exposure of prisoners of war to public ridicule and contempt without precedent.

Such stark facts, Senator Potter, are based neither on hasty, nor emotional, judgments. They emerge from documentation which is only a small part of the whole body of evidence which may, one day, definitely establish the total scope of Communist war crimes in Korea. I am sure that the gallant soldiers who are to testify before your committee will give you firsthand accounts of some of these crimes. Moreover, let me point out that this time, for absolute clarity, that the previously cited examples of Communist war crimes activity pertain solely to the Red atrocity campaign waged against United Nations military personnel.

I make no attempt here to report on the countless civilian victims—mostly Koreans—who were subjected to unspeakable sufferings by the Communists. As Ambassador Lodge has pointed out on the floor of the United Nations General Assembly, “the number of victims of these atrocities will never be known exactly.”

Official casualty figures of the Adjutant General, cumulative as of August 12, 1953, provide an interim estimate of the scope of Communist atrocities perpetrated against United States military personnel. A total of 13,239 United States Army, Navy, Marine, and Air Force personnel are known to have been either in a prisoner-of-war or a missing-in-action status since initiation of the Korean conflict on June 25, 1950. These figures show that a total of 4,631 have since been repatriated, or otherwise returned to our military control. As may be noted, we now reach a tragic void. I believe most of this discrepancy between the number of men returned and the number of those who are

still listed as missing in action, and presumed to be dead—namely, 8,608—is directly attributable to Communist mistreatment of their prisoners.

At this time, I want to clarify another point. The term “victim” must be carefully differentiated from the term “fatality.” A victim is an individual upon whom one or more war crimes or atrocities were perpetrated. A fatality is one who has been murdered or died as the result of tortures or deprivations of necessities of life. The awesome fact herein implied is that death was but one of the forms of atrocity meted out by the Communists. Our war-crimes case files graphically demonstrate that—in hundreds of instances—death would possibly have been welcomed by men subjected to the tortures conceived and perpetrated by the Red aggressor in Korea.

There is some evidence which indicates that the Communist suddenly realized—with the inception of the truce talks in 1951—that living prisoners in their hands were valuable hostages and could be exploited to strengthen their bargaining position with the United Nations. Such is the sole plausible explanation for their sparing the lives of any of their captives. The Reds had clearly demonstrated that humanitarian principles alone would not have influenced them to spare or save life, let alone return a healthy prisoner of war. But when it became apparent to the Communists that they could not negotiate a truce in the Korean conflict unless they had prisoners of war whom they could return, some immediate steps were taken to preserve their hostages, and so to prevent further decrease in their bargaining power.

The Communists had also made every effort by despicable means to secure military information from their prisoners. They inaugurated a full-scale campaign with bribes of good treatment, and threats of punishment, torture, and even murder to convert prisoners to communism for propaganda purposes. That they failed is due to the native courage of our gallant men, their undying faith in our free way of life, and the discipline and manliness that were the fruits of their training.

I earnestly hope that the sacrifices and suffering of these courageous men shall not have been in vain. Knowing, as we now do beyond any doubt, what our people would face in any future conflict, I pray there will be no sapping of our military strength—the best insurance we can have against the recurrence of such conflicts. The training of American soldiers will henceforth be tougher and more efficient—for their sake and for their country’s honor and security. If any of our men should again be called upon to meet such brutal and diabolic Communist inhumanity, they will be far better prepared, better armed spiritually, and with higher morale than ever before.

The Communist’s mistreatment of prisoners was by no means limited to the American military. Soldier victims of Red war crimes, by nationality within United Nations land forces, also included: Republic of Korean, Turkish, United Kingdom, and Belgian personnel. Statistics, cumulative to June 30, 1953, fix an interim total of probable military victims at 11,622, of which total, 6,113 were American.

In passing, I consider it necessary to point out that Communist mistreatment of Republic of Korea Army prisoners included one particular crime that was not perpetrated against other United Nations

troop contingents. In addition to subjecting ROK prisoners to the entire list of atrocities committed against other U. N. troops, our Red enemy impressed many thousands of captured South Korean soldiers into the North Korean People's Army and the Chinese Communist Forces upon pain of death, and forced them to engage in combat against the very armies defending their South Korean homeland.

Senator POTTER, as Supreme Commander of United Nations forces defending Korea against the Chinese and North Korean Communist hordes who committed these crimes against humanity, I began reporting these atrocities on August 16, 1951. I made numerous continuing reports based on the extremely difficult investigations we conducted in the midst of war. Our records are filled with the stark facts.

Now, as Chief of Staff of the United States Army, I stand beside your Committee in this investigation into a tragic episode in history, which will reveal to the world that Communist war crimes in Korea constitute a vast and deliberate assault upon basic standards of international conduct and morality—standards that are previous to us and essential to freedom and civilization; and that these heinous acts were committed by forces whose aggression the United Nations resisted and repelled—forces which even today stand fully armed facing United Nations forces across a slim demilitarized zone in Korea.

My staff stands ready to assist you with pertinent facts and figures if you so desire.

Thank you, sir.

Senator POTTER. General Ridgway, I wish to thank you for your excellent and forthright statement, and to thank you as Chief of Staff of the Army for the cooperation you have given this committee.

General RIDGWAY. Thank you, sir.

Senator POTTER. Colonel Wolfe?

Would you come up to the witness stand now, Colonel?

Colonel, so there will be no doubt as to what the Communists will think about the testimony that will be given in the hearings, it is well that we swear, from here on in, the witnesses. Do you solemnly swear the testimony you are about to give will be the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you God?

Colonel WOLFE. I do.

#### TESTIMONY OF COL. CLAUDIUS O. WOLFE, UNITED STATES ARMY

Senator POTTER. Colonel Wolfe, will you identify yourself for the record, giving your full name and your present duty assignment?

Colonel WOLFE. My name is Col. Claudius O. Wolfe. I have just completed 18 months service in Korea, and am presently on permanent change of station, from the staff of the Judge Advocate of the Korean Communication Zone, for reassignment in the United States.

Senator POTTER. What is your home address, Colonel Wolfe?

Colonel WOLFE. My home address is San Antonio, Tex.

Senator POTTER. Do you care to give us your street address?

Colonel WOLFE. I have my office when not in the Army in the Frost National Bank Building, Main Plaza, San Antonio, Tex.

Senator POTTER. Thank you.

Colonel WOLFE. Senator Potter, as staff judge advocate of the Korean Communication Zone, my office is charged with the staff respon-

sibility for the investigation of war crimes and atrocities in Korea. Some background information on this subject will be of assistance to the committee, I am sure.

June 1950 looms as a dark period in the history of free nations. The North Korean forces launched an unprovoked attack upon the Republic of Korea at 0400 on June 25, 1950. The Security Council of the United Nations called upon the North Korean authorities to withdraw their forces to the 38th parallel.

Senator PORTER. Senator McCarthy, this is Colonel Wolfe, Chairman of the War Crimes Commission in Korea.

Colonel WOLFE. I will now proceed.

The Security Council of the United Nations called upon the North Korean authorities to withdraw their forces to the 38th parallel. For the information of the committee and those present in the room, you will observe to my right a large map of the Republic of Korea, with markings of individual points of interest. You will note the 38th parallel dividing North Korea from South Korea, and crossing the 38th parallel you will note the present armistice demilitarized zone. In the north of the demilitarized zone, the territory is now held by the Communists. To the south it is held by the United Nations forces.

In the southeast corner of the map of Korea you will see indicated what is known as the Pusan perimeter. I am sure that many of the witnesses appearing before your committee will refer to that perimeter and to action occurring in and around it.

On the 27th of June a Security Council resolution recommended that members of the United Nations furnish such assistance to the Republic of Korea as was deemed necessary to repel this unwarranted armed attack. On the same day the President of the United States ordered that American air and naval forces give South Korean forces cover and support.

On June 29 the President authorized General MacArthur to use armed forces in Korea. And on July 7 the Security Council authorized the unified command in Korea to use United Nations flags and requested the United States to designate the commander in chief of the United Nations forces in Korea.

General MacArthur was designated as commander in chief of the United Nations forces there. Despite a valiant defense, by August 1950 the United Nations forces had been pushed back to the Pusan perimeter, which you will see indicated on the map. This unwarranted attack by the Communist forces was without any justifiable pretext, and their actions in pushing south of the 38th parallel demonstrated one of the most savage attacks which history records.

It soon became apparent that the aggressors in such barbaric attack did not intend to be bound by the rules of humane warfare, and reports were received at general headquarters, United Nations, describing barbaric and unspeakable atrocities being committed by the North Korean People's Army. Based on this information, General MacArthur on August 19, 1950, issued the terse warning to North Korean Premier, Kim Il Sung, which you have just heard stated:

I shall hold you and your commanders criminally accountable under the rules and precedents of war.

September 1950, however, saw the United Nations counteroffensive get under way, with the landing at Inchon, Korea, and the attack of the enemy was turned into a rout. In the wake of this action, there

was unrolled a sordid and unbelievable tale of bestial war crimes committed against South Korean civilians and military prisoners of war by the retreating Communists. Thus it was that the Nuremberg and the Tokyo trials did not write finis to the violation of the rules of land warfare. Modern thought has condemned the idea of aggressive war, wanton destruction, and inhumane acts in connection therewith. When it became apparent that atrocities were being committed in Korea on a large and increasing scale, General MacArthur in pursuance of his first warning, set up the machinery for the investigation and the accumulation of evidence for the cases of atrocities and other crimes committed by Communist aggressors in violation of the laws and customs of war in connection with and arising from the Korean conflict.

The responsibility was given to the Army judge advocate of the Far East Command. On July 27, 1950, field commanders were advised as to the procedure to be employed in the collection and perpetuation of evidence relative to war-crimes incidents. This was with the approval of the Department of the Army and the Department of Defense. The Judge Advocate General of the Army was given General Staff supervision over this operation.

In order to define and clarify the limits of the investigation, war crimes were defined as "those acts committed by enemy nationals or persons acting for them which constitute violations of the laws and customs of war and general application and acceptance, including acts in contravention of treaties and conventions dealing with the conduct of war as well as outrageous acts against persons or property committed in connection with military operations, whether with or without orders or the sanctions of commanders."

The investigations thus made would perpetuate all available evidence so as to document criminal acts and retain for posterity the evidence thereof and thereby fix responsibility at levels above that of the immediate perpetrators.

In early October 1950, a letter order from the Far East Command transferred immediate responsibility for war-crimes investigation to the Commanding General, Eighth Army, and directed the establishment of a war-crimes division within the Judge Advocate section. An organization consisting of a maximum of 26 officers, 1 warrant officer, and 35 enlisted men was provided for the investigating agency. This organization was initially divided into three branches, administrative, investigative, and apprehension.

This group began operations at Seoul, Korea. During this embryo period, the picture underwent a drastic change. Chinese Communist forces, without any declaration of war or provocation, swarmed across the Yalu River, forcing the withdrawal of the United Nations troops, and meaning, apparently, that hostilities were to continue for an indefinite time. Despite valorous and desperate resistance, the United Nations forces were forced back south of the 38th parallel, but were able to reorganize their counteroffensive and recover the territory lost to a point north of the 38th parallel, as shown by the present demilitarized zone, which are the boundaries as they exist today.

Despite many difficulties, the war-crimes investigations gathered full momentum. Field investigation teams conducted on-the-spot investigations. They were given the task of taking the reported atrocity incidents and making an actual check of the sites to determine whether

the reported atrocity had been committed. The bulk of the cases opened were based initially upon the confessions of Communist prisoners, but before accepting such confessions, every effort was made to discover corroborating evidence to establish the fact that the incident had actually occurred.

Efforts were made to locate the bodies and other physical evidence that the crimes had actually occurred.

The questioning of the indigenous population and the search for witnesses or survivors was included as a part of the investigation. Enemy prisoners of war were interrogated as to their knowledge of any alleged evidence, and in many instances statements and confessions were voluntarily given by these prisoners.

On September 1, 1952, responsibility for the war-crimes activities was transferred from the commanding general, Eighth Army, to the commanding general, Korean communications zone, where it presently rests.

The immediate staff responsibility therefor is with the Judge Advocate Section of that headquarters.

At that time it was further ordered that an historical and statistical report be prepared in order to document the evidence of atrocities which had been acquired as of that date. As of this date, there were approximately 1,643 case files running the gamut from obviously falsified and invalid statements to very accurate and wholly corroborated accounts of atrocities and brutalities.

From one soldier, questionable statement of individual atrocities, to well-documented eyewitness accounts, such as the Suncheon tunnel massacre.

Senator POTTER. Colonel, may I interject at this point to ask a question?

You are a lawyer by profession?

Colonel WOLFE. Yes, sir.

Senator POTTER. These documented cases that you have, do you feel they would hold up in a court?

Colonel WOLFE. We feel that the cases which we have established as probable are supported by adequate evidence which should convict the perpetrators in any court of law.

Senator POTTER. Thank you.

Colonel WOLFE. As stated by General Ridgway, as of June 30 there were about 11,622 probable cases. Of this number, preliminary investigations indicated at least 6,113 were Americans; 511 bodies were recovered and 216 victims were known survivors. I feel certain that some of these victims will appear before this committee. The total reported military victims of United Nations forces was estimated as high as 20,785 persons, with a probable figure, verifiable, of 11,622 persons. Approximately 1,524 bodies of United Nations victims have been recovered. To this number of victims must be added that of civilian persons who were also brutally subjected to such atrocities. The total number of reported civilian victims runs as high as 35,349 persons, with a probably verifiable estimate of 17,354.

Approximately 8,504 civilian bodies have been recovered and 301 civilians survived such brutalities.

With the progress of the war, there was hope that it could be terminated peacefully, and that the Communists having lost their objective



would capitulate to reason. Armistice talks began in 1951, and continued for many months thereafter.

In April 1953, these talks resulted in an agreement to exchange sick and wounded prisoners of war in an operation described as Little Switch. On April 20, 1953, the first American sick and wounded prisoners of war crossed the line to freedom at Panmunjom. At this time approximately 169 United States prisoners were returned by the Communists. Many voluntary statements were made by these persons indicating brutal and harsh treatment at the hands of the Communists not theretofore documented. It clearly appears from these statements that there were no rules of humanity and decency in the book which the Communists did not violate. As a result of voluntary statements, a total of 201 new cases of atrocities against United Nations Command personnel were opened. It further became apparent at this time, from these statements, that all of the sick and wounded prisoners of war had not been returned by the Communists as they had agreed to do in the armistice agreement.

There is no doubt that the Communist armies participating in the Korean conflict were the most brutal and ruthless in the history of modern warfare, and if there were ever any doubt, it was certainly dispelled by the statements of American and Republic of Korea repatriates returned in the Operation Little Switch.

Statements from our soldiers, some of whom will undoubtedly appear before this honorable committee, will evidence the facts that our troops met an enemy completely devoid of a desire to be guided by the rules of humanity, and by the rules of land warfare as established by the Geneva Convention.

As stated by General Ridgway, and I feel it is well to repeat, there appears a calculated course of criminal misconduct carried over a period of nearly 3 years, which was carried out with an unbelievably callous disregard of human life and human suffering.

Such course of action can only indicate a design on the part of the Communists, both as individuals and as a command, to exterminate their prisoners of war in one way or another. It cannot be excused, nor can a word be said in defense or extenuation of it.

Upon the termination of the Operation Little Switch, armistice negotiations were resumed, and ultimately resulted in the armistice which became effective on the 27th of July 1953, establishing the present armistice line, which has heretofore been referred to on the map.

Under the terms of this agreement, all remaining prisoners of war, who desired to be repatriated, were to be returned within 60 days. This was known as Operation Big Switch. In this operation, approximately 3,339 American prisoners of war were returned, a number woefully less than that which we had every reason to believe would be returned.

Senator McCARTHY. May I interrupt, Mr. Chairman?

Colonel, sometime in September, I believe it was September 12, the Army announced that some 900 Americans who were known to have been living in the hands of the Communist forces as prisoners of war were unaccounted for. What is the present status of those 900, or do we know? In other words, have we gotten any reports? Do we know whether they are living or dead?

Colonel WOLFE. Sir, I cannot answer that. I do not believe it is yet known; as the statements are being given by our repatriates under Operation Big Switch, I am quite sure that we are getting a great deal of valuable information. But since these statements have not been completed or documented, I feel any statements I might make would not be correct. I am certain it will be available in the very near future, however, when the complete interrogation is finished.

Senator McCARTHY. But in any event we do know that a sizable number of American military men were living, were prisoners of war in the hands of the Communists, and as of today they are still unaccounted for?

Colonel WOLFE. That is correct, sir.

Senator McCARTHY. Mr. Chairman, may I ask one more question?

Senator POTTER. Yes.

Senator McCARTHY. I am not sure, Colonel, whether you are in a position to answer this or not. But several months ago, I believe it was September 10, and I am not sure about the date, as I recall, the Chinese Communists announced that they would not treat as prisoners of war American airmen shot down over Manchuria. Do we have any knowledge as to what has become of those American airmen?

Colonel WOLFE. Personally I do not have, sir. I might add to this the same figures which General Ridgway has just previously given to this honorable committee, that accurate estimates indicate that approximately 8,608 Americans have not been accounted for. Statements of survivors certainly indicate that some of those were alive very recently, and that they may now be dead and have been exterminated by the Communists.

Senator POTTER. Did you receive any statements, Colonel, as a result of Little and Big Switch interrogation of our returned PW's that some of the men, just before the exchange, the prisoner exchange, were picked out for trial and taken away from their prison camps?

Colonel WOLFE. I personally have no knowledge of the statements at Big Switch. However, I did read newspaper accounts indicating that to be correct. But, however, the official statements of these men were taken in the United States, and since we were operating in Korea, we did not get access immediately to those statements. However, I am sure that there would be certain statements which would be of valuable assistance in the Department of Defense records in Washington rather than in Korea.

Senator POTTER. Colonel, we have also seen accounts or statements that some of the Communist PW's that were in our hands, documented cases, that they were war criminals, they were due to be exchanged but refused to go back to either North Korea or China. Do you have any information as to the validity of that?

Colonel WOLFE. Yes, the official records indicate that there are now within the custody of the Indian forces in the demilitarized zone approximately 22 American troops. Is that the question you asked?

Senator POTTER. No. I am speaking of the Communist troops, the Communist PW's that we had who refused to go back to Communist China or to Communist North Korea, cases where we had documentary evidence that they were war criminals. I believe we had about 200 Chinese and North Korean PW's that we had a case built against as war criminals.

Colonel WOLFE. We did have documentation against certain Communist prisoners of war, who were in our possession, that they were guilty of alleged offenses. However, under the terms of the armistice agreement, all persons who desired to be repatriated were compelled—I mean we were compelled to repatriate them. As far as I know, there are none who desired to remain with us.

Senator POTTER. That is the answer that I was trying to get. You may continue, Colonel.

Colonel WOLFE. That concludes the statement, Senator, except that I might add this, that Col. Jack Todd is now the Chief of the War Crimes Division of the Staff Judge Advocate's office in Korea, and I am quite sure that Colonel Todd will be available to appear before this committee if his presence is desired.

Senator POTTER. Colonel Todd will appear tomorrow, if that is agreeable to Colonel Todd. I would like to say at this time that we appreciate the fact that you have been most cooperative with the committee, in working with me and with the investigating staff; and in the success of the committee hearings a great deal of credit will go to you and your staff. Are there any other questions?

Senator McCARTHY. There are 1 or 2 questions I have, Mr. Chairman.

I did not get the figure you gave, Colonel, as to the number of Americans who are unaccounted for.

Colonel WOLFE. Estimates indicate that approximately 8,608 Americans have not been accounted for.

Senator McCARTHY. Of that number, do you know how many were at one time living in the hands of the Chinese Communists?

Colonel WOLFE. That sir I do not have the figures available on. I possibly could obtain that for you from the files in the Department of the Army, however.

Senator McCARTHY. The reason I asked, I think the last figure the Army gave was some 900, and I wonder if that figure had been revised since September.

Colonel WOLFE. Well, sir, I have been traveling since leaving Korea and I haven't kept in too close touch with that. I don't know, sir.

Senator McCARTHY. Just one further question, and you may not be in a position to answer this, Colonel, I don't know.

General VanFleet was before the Appropriations Committee some time ago, and as I recall his testimony, he testified that at one time in 1951 the back of a Communist offensive was broken, that the enemy was demoralized, on the run, and that it was begging that Washington turn us loose, and if they had, that we could have captured all of the enemy's heavy equipment, and we could have captured two or three hundred thousand of his troops. Were you present in Korea at that time, and what is your evaluation of the situation if you were?

Colonel WOLFE. No, sir; I did not go to Korea until May of 1952.

Senator McCARTHY. I see.

Colonel WOLFE. And the lines had become stabilized at that time. I would rather hesitate to make that statement, since I engaged in legal work rather than in combat activities.

Senator McCARTHY. I have no further questions, Mr. Chairman.

Senator POTTER. We are happy to have with us today a member of our full committee, Senator Dworshak of Idaho. Senator Dworshak, do you have a question?

Excuse me. We also have Senator Goldwater, of Arizona. I am very happy that you gentlemen are free, and please feel free to participate in the hearing. If you have any questions, feel free to ask them.

Senator DWORSHAK. Colonel Wolfe, were you able to discern whether most of these barbaric crimes were committed by the North Koreans or by the Chinese Communists?

Colonel WOLFE. Yes, sir. We have made an estimate as to the percentage committed respectively by the Chinese and the North Koreans and we believe we have very accurate estimates on that.

Senator DWORSHAK. Do you care to give us some comments on that at this time?

Colonel WOLFE. That has been covered in our interim historical report, if I may refer to the report, sir.

This has been tabulated in the report which has been recently released to the public. The committee has a copy of this report.

Senator POTTER. That report was compiled prior to Little Switch, is that true?

Colonel WOLFE. That is as of June 30, 1953. That would be the date we would have only, as of June 30, 1953.

I might refer you to exhibit B at page 43. I believe it might show you clearer, Senator. (The Senator was handed a copy of the exhibit.)

Senator DWORSHAK. I just wanted a brief comment. Do you care to put that into the record?

Senator POTTER. Is it not true, Colonel, that most of the atrocities committed by North Korean troops were on the marches, while most of the atrocities committed by the Chinese Communists were in the prison camps?

Colonel WOLFE. That would be correct.

Senator POTTER. Is that an accurate statement?

Colonel WOLFE. Yes.

Senator POTTER. Senator Goldwater?

Senator GOLDWATER. I have nothing.

Senator POTTER. Colonel, you touched in your statement on this, but I would like to have you amplify it, if you will.

From the investigations that your Commission has had, are you convinced that the atrocities were committed more or less as a pattern, as a command decision rather than being isolated cases of action by the individual Communist soldiers?

Colonel WOLFE. I believe that there was a very deliberate, definite pattern established which indicated that these instances are not the result of isolated, voluntary acts of individuals, but are a part of an overall plan to deliberately exterminate and to perpetrate these atrocities upon our troops. It seems to me the evidence is overwhelming that that is the case.

Senator POTTER. Mr. O'Donnell, do you have a question?

Mr. O'DONNELL. No questions.

Senator POTTER. Mr. Carr?

Mr. CARR. No questions.

Senator POTTER. Mr. Jones?

Mr. JONES. No questions.

Senator POTTER. Once again, Colonel, I wish to thank you for your excellent statement and thank you publicly for the help you have

given this committee. I would appreciate it if you would care to come and sit with us during the course of these hearings.

Colonel WOLFE. Thank you, sir.

Senator POTTER. Sergeant Weinel?

Sergeant, will you stand and be sworn? Do you solemnly swear that the testimony you shall give this committee will be the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you God?

Sergeant WEINEL. I do.

**TESTIMONY OF SGT. CAREY H. WEINEL, 504TH MILITARY POLICE COMPANY, FORT EUSTIS, VA.**

Senator POTTER. Sergeant, will you identify yourself for the record, giving your full name and your present unit assignment?

Sergeant WEINEL. Master Sergeant Weinel, Cary H. Weinel.

Senator POTTER. Would you spell your last name, Sergeant?

Sergeant WEINEL. W-e-i-n-e-l. 504th MP Company, Fort Eustis, Va.

Senator POTTER. And what is your present home address?

Sergeant WEINEL. My present home address is Route 3, Hickman Mills, Mo.

Senator POTTER. Sergeant, don't let these microphones confuse you at all. You can discuss your statement as informally as you care to do so.

Senator McCARTHY. Mr. Chairman, may I interrupt? I would like very much to stay here and listen to the testimony, but I must leave. I want to assure you that I will very carefully read all the testimony taken here. I want to commend the chairman for the outstanding job he is doing in this investigation.

Senator POTTER. Thank you. Come back any time you can.

Senator McCARTHY. Thank you, Senator.

Senator POTTER. Sergeant, would you give the committee or tell the committee when you went to Korea and what unit you were assigned to?

Sergeant WEINEL. I went to Korea in August. I joined the 2d Division, the 23d Infantry Regiment.

Senator POTTER. August of what year?

Sergeant WEINEL. August of 1950, sir.

Senator POTTER. August of 1950?

Sergeant WEINEL. Yes, sir.

Senator POTTER. Could you briefly tell us, Sergeant, the circumstances under which you were captured?

Sergeant WEINEL. We was holding for the Pusan perimeter, the date was around the 30th of August.

Senator POTTER. Do you have any knowledge as to what section on the Pusan perimeter your unit was located?

Sergeant WEINEL. Yes, sir; I do. It is right along the Pusan perimeter where the major is now pointing, in that vicinity.

Senator POTTER. Would you continue.

Sergeant WEINEL. We had pulled in that position there, to fill in a gap between the 24th and one of our own regiments that was on our right. Our orders was to dig in our positions, defensive positions, and hold at all costs. On the morning of the 31st, about 2 o'clock in the morning—

Senator POTTER. The 31st of what month?

Sergeant WEINEL. Of August.

The Koreans hit our lines with full force. In doing so, after a few hours of battle between them and our troops, they overrun our positions. Each position was more or less its own fortification. Each position was surrounded and they were all around the area where we was at.

The particular group I was with, who were drawn from there, pulled back to our command post hoping to be able to reorganize there and try to fight back to our own lines.

Upon getting to our command post there were several men there and we organized and tried to fight back to our own lines. But we didn't go too far. Myself, I was wounded in the left foot and also the right hip. On getting hit in the hip it knocked me completely out and when I come to I was in the North Korean's hands. They in turn collected us all up at our own CP there, interrogated us, and the officer that interrogated us first could not talk English at all. He had an interpreter and he wasn't too good at talking English either.

He told the interpreter to tell us that if we told him the truth, would not lie to him, that we would soon be in Seoul at the big prison camp that had many, many Americans, and also good food and good care. Naturally, most of us took that for what it was worth. Before that they had taken no prisoners at all. We couldn't understand why they was doing it now.

Senator POTTER. Did you say before that they had not taken any prisoners?

Sergeant WEINEL. No, sir; they had not taken prisoners up to that time.

Senator POTTER. What were they doing?

Sergeant WEINEL. Later on, sir, we found out through some of their troops that they had been promised \$2,000 for every American prisoner that they would take. I mean they would give them \$2,000 for each man.

Senator POTTER. And prior to that time they were shooting the prisoners?

Sergeant WEINEL. Yes, sir. Upon getting there, they interrogated us and threatened us if we did not tell the truth and so forth and so on.

Senator POTTER. How did they threaten you, Sergeant?

Sergeant WEINEL. Well, they threatened to do away with us if we did not tell the truth.

Senator POTTER. Did they use their pistols at all?

Sergeant WEINEL. Just one of his men would get up and point his gun at us, indicating what he would do if we didn't tell the truth. However, some of the boys did tell him the truth. They did tell what information they wanted. Others of us just took a back seat and was hoping for the best. That is all.

After they got what they wanted out of the men that did talk, they was satisfied, they took us back to our own command post and kept us 3 days in our own command post.

Senator POTTER. That was your own command post which was now in their hands?

Sergeant WEINEL. That is right, sir. They kept us there 3 days. At first they didn't pay too much attention to our planes. They would just walk around and mill around wherever they wanted to.

The third day, planes started working them over and in doing so they come in on the building that they had us in and strafed the building and set the building afire, got three of our own men there.

Senator POTTER. If I may interject at this time, Sergeant, when they captured you did they take any of your clothing?

Sergeant WEINEL. Yes, sir; they took my shoes. The first thing they took was my shoes, the next thing they took was my dog tags, my identification tags and threw them away. Those are the first two things they grabbed hold of and after that my personal articles, like watch, billfold, and so forth and so on.

Senator POTTER. And you were barefooted?

Sergeant WEINEL. Yes, sir; barefooted. I was wounded in the left foot which made it very difficult to walk, and it was either walk or do otherwise. All men that could not walk and were wounded were shot right where they lay. I personally witnessed a few of those shootings myself.

Senator POTTER. Of the Communist troops shooting wounded prisoners?

Sergeant WEINEL. Shooting our wounded men that could not walk.

Senator POTTER. Were these shootings done by individual guards or by command officers?

Sergeant WEINEL. It was done by their soldiers, frontline troops. Upon the plane strafing us at our own command post, we all fled from the building, and later on they collected us all up and put us in a ravine. We stayed there all night in this ravine and the next morning they moved us out toward the Noktong River, right beside the Noktong River, they had a hospital they had set up themselves. The men that were wounded real bad, that could hardly walk at all, was left at that hospital. It was approximately five men. To this day those men have never been heard of and their bodies have never been recovered that I know of.

Upon leaving there, we crossed the river and started our march back to some place, they said toward Seoul, and we walked several miles, and they gave us very little to eat. Most of the time it was a small rice ball, or other starch off rice, 1 or the 2. They called it soup, rice soup, with no seasoning or anything like that.

Most of the men I was with were all wounded some place or another. None of us had medical treatment and no medical treatment at all.

We was making the march. It was either make the march or they would take care of us otherwise, and they did take care of some of them on the march. From our CP they finally moved us to Taejon.

At Taejon was where the prison was they were heading for. However, 20 miles from Taejon they herded us aboard a train, in boxcars, loading us in like cattle.

Senator POTTER. How many would be in a boxcar, would you say?

Sergeant WEINEL. I couldn't say, sir, but it was so that you couldn't lay down. Everybody had to stand up. We had wounded men that we did manage to get down, but we was standing all around them and close to them where they couldn't hardly breathe. In fact, we couldn't hardly breathe in the cars at all. They shut the doors up and left us in the boxcars. Upon arriving at Taejon they took us off the train and took us to what they would call or had previously been a police station. I wouldn't say for sure. It was either a police station or

courthouse. It was a modern building, concrete, and a very good-looking building from the outside.

They had all prisoners on the second floor of that building. On the ground floor of the building they had their own CP, command post, and headquarters.

In the rooms they had most of the American prisoners in one room and South Korean prisoners in another room.

Senator POTTER. What kind of prisoners in the other room? I did not understand.

Sergeant WEINEL. South Koreans. We had picked up more prisoners on our way to Taejon. We picked up more men on the way to Taejon. After we picked the other men up, our men that fell out was greater than it was before, that fell along the march. The men on the march, we have no way of knowing what happened to them. They never have been accounted for either.

Senator POTTER. Do you mean the men that fell out on the march?

Sergeant WEINEL. That is right, sir. They would keep us marching. One of the guards would fall back and we would hear a couple of shots and pretty soon he would come on back up. We didn't see it; however, we imagined they finished the man off.

Senator POTTER. Were you still barefooted at that time? Were you barefooted still?

Sergeant WEINEL. Yes, sir. I was barefooted all the time, sir. I didn't get their canvas shoes until after I got to Taejon, a pair of canvas shoes where they had taken the other man's shoes and the tennis shoes wouldn't fit him, and I cut them out so I could have something on my feet. I was barefooted all the way to Taejon.

Senator POTTER. About how far did you walk or how many days did you walk?

Sergeant WEINEL. Approximately 60 to 100 miles, sir.

Senator POTTER. How long did it take you, Sergeant?

Sergeant WEINEL. I do not know, sir. During the course of moving, I lost all track of time. We had no way of keeping track of time. Most of the time we was marching at high speed. They would change guards quite regularly on us, keep fresh guards, and they would keep us going as fast as they could go.

Senator POTTER. Did you experience or see the guards beat any of the prisoners?

Sergeant WEINEL. Yes, sir; I did, sir. And I received some myself.

Senator POTTER. How did that beating take place?

Sergeant WEINEL. If a man didn't keep up, they either took a gun butt, and used a gun butt to him, or else struck him with a bayonet. In the Taejon prison they took a delight in tormenting the prisoners. They opened the prison up as a three-ring circus or circus either one, with high-ranking civilian officials and also their army being invited at all times. They never was stopped to stay out of the prison at all.

Senator POTTER. They were invited to come into the prison?

Sergeant WEINEL. They invited them in, let them in, at all times. We was just like some animals that they wanted to look at. Most of us had beards. They have very little beard. It was very amusing to them. They couldn't get over the beards the Americans had.

Senator POTTER. Would any of these visitors that they invited in to the prison mistreat the prisoners?



Sergeant WEINEL. Yes; they would. They would see an article of clothing that they wanted. They would have us give it to them or if we didn't we would receive a beating and they would take it anyway. We finally found out after we tore the pockets off the fatigues and cut holes in our trousers, that they wouldn't take them away from us.

However, most of us was down to where we didn't have too much by that time anyway, by the time we got wise to how to damage our clothing so they wouldn't take it away from us.

Senator POTTER. How many prisoners were in this camp, Sergeant?

Sergeant WEINEL. I would say, sir, approximately 60 Americans and approximately 49 South Korean prisoners. The building was a concrete building, with a concrete floor. Most of us had nothing to lay on but the concrete floor. It was getting into late September by that time, and it gets pretty cold in Korea in September.

Senator POTTER. What kind of food did you have?

Sergeant WEINEL. They give us—we had our choice of rice ball or the rice soup, either one. The soup contains very little grains of rice, and mostly it is just the starch off the top of the cooked rice.

Senator POTTER. What was the size of the rice ball?

Sergeant WEINEL. A rice ball? When we first got there it was fairly big, but by the time we wound up it was about that big [indicating].

Senator POTTER. About the size of a golf ball?

Sergeant WEINEL. Yes, sir.

Senator POTTER. How many times a day would you get your ball of rice?

Sergeant WEINEL. Usually twice a day, sir. However, for any reason that they would get mad at us or anything like that, maybe we wouldn't get fed at all. If we was lucky we got fed once a day.

Senator POTTER. Did you experience any beatings in the prison by the guards?

Sergeant WEINEL. Yes, sir. They took great pains in antagonizing the prisoners and for such little things they would spit in their faces. With one fellow particularly, the guards had him crawling along after him like a dog all day long on his hands and knees. That was one of the things that they relished in, showing us that they was the boss and they intended to stay the boss.

Senator POTTER. Trying to degrade the prisoner as much as possible?

Sergeant WEINEL. That is right, sir.

Senator POTTER. You were wounded at the time, were you not, Sergeant?

Sergeant WEINEL. Yes, sir.

Senator POTTER. Did you receive any medical attention while you were in the prison?

Sergeant WEINEL. Very little, sir. We received very little. We received some, but as I say, I think the doctor, as long as I was there, was there one time to see us.

Senator POTTER. And how long were you there?

Sergeant WEINEL. I would say approximately 14 days, sir. I don't know for sure, but I just would say approximately 14 days.

Senator POTTER. Were you interrogated while you were in the prison?

Sergeant WEINEL. Yes; we was.

Senator POTTER. What was the nature of the interrogation?

Sergeant WEINEL. Well, they would give us books, Communist books, and told us we were to read them, and also told us that we would have 1 hour schooling, where one of our own men would read 1 hour to us a day.

However, they never did get around to enforcing it. Also they had numerous pamphlets that they had. Of course, most of them was in their own language. Most of us couldn't read it or talk it either one. However, there was a few of them that could talk Japanese, in our prisoners, but very few of them.

Senator POTTER. Did they ever interrogate you alone?

*Sergeant* ~~Senator~~ WEINEL. Yes, sir.

Senator POTTER. And at that time, what took place?

Sergeant WEINEL. Well, I presume it was a high-ranking officer that interrogated us.

Senator POTTER. What questions did he ask you?

Sergeant WEINEL. Well, first they wanted to know why we fought, why we fought the Koreans, why we entered into the fight, and above all they wanted to know if the U. N. forces was into the fight yet. They was very interested in knowing whether the U. N. forces was in Korea at all.

Senator POTTER. Did they ask you any questions about your home life, conditions at home?

Sergeant WEINEL. Yes. They asked me where my home was, also if I had an automobile, and various things of that nature. And if I was married, and if so, how many children I had, and so forth and so on.

Senator POTTER. Did they ask you the occupation of your father?

Sergeant WEINEL. Yes.

Senator POTTER. Did that seem to make a difference, the occupation of your father, as to the type of treatment you received.

Sergeant WEINEL. No, sir. It didn't seem to make too much difference what our parents was or anything like that. The way I got it it was just the way the notion hit them, whether you got a beating or whether you got off lucky, one or the two.

Senator POTTER. When you were interrogated alone, did they beat you at that time?

Sergeant WEINEL. No, sir; they didn't beat me, they threatened me though. It was quite common all the way through the march, and also in the prison, just at any time, to have a guard point a gun at us and threaten us. In the rear areas, they never carried around, but they always made sure the gun was cocked and they had fun slapping the trigger at you. We laughed every time they did it and we figured if they were going to shoot, they would shoot anyway and we would just turn around and laugh every time they would do it. I did not receive any beatings but they threatened me. They threatened me and put a pistol to my head.

Senator POTTER. You stated you were there 14 days. Now would you continue with what happened?

Sergeant WEINEL. After the 14 days, we had men who had died in prison right along, all the time we was there, but this particular day we had one of our men pass away and they had allowed us to have a burial detail to bury him. While they was burying him, one of our planes come along and dropped leaflets showing the scissors cut across Korea by the Americans. So we gathered that the Amer-

icans had made a landing up above us. We didn't know how close or anything like that, but we gathered it was right around the 38th parallel. One of the prisoners was out and brought one of the pamphlets back into the prison, and we knew that they had made a landing up ahead.

No more had the plane dropped the leaflets and they got the leaflets than they doubled our guards on us. Shortly afterward, along toward that evening, about a company of their men came into the village from Taejon, from the north.

As I say, these was coming from the north into Taejon. They was walking like their feet hurt them and like they were just about wore out. So we figured that they had been on the run from the Americans. That evening, also, we received artillery fire into the village at the outskirts of the village. Receiving fire on the outskirts of the village we knew the Americans was quite close. We knew, I think it was about a full day ahead of time, approximately what they was going to do. They doubled our guards on us, as I say, making sure we didn't make no attempt to escape.

However, there was a lot of us that thought that if they did make a move, we was going to go. I mean we were going to make a try for it.

There was fire all night long that night from their own forces, down in their headquarters building down below, this fire firing all night long, and a lot of confusion. You could tell they was moving things, furniture, and what have. Along about 4 o'clock in the morning they came in on the South Korean prisoners and tied them all together and took them away from the building.

Shortly after they left the building we heard a volley of firearms so we presumed that they were shot. Shortly after that they come into the room where the Americans were. They told us all to get up, that we was going to Seoul. They was always giving us the story we were going to go to Seoul anyway. So that was nothing new. They got us up and they started tying our men's hands.

Senator POTTER. How did they tie you up, Sergeant?

Sergeant WEINEL. It was with regular communication wire, they would make a loop for it and stick your hand in and tighten it up on your wrist.

Senator POTTER. They tied you up by your wrist?

Sergeant WEINEL. That is right.

Senator POTTER. How many did they tie together?

Sergeant WEINEL. I have the scar right there.

Senator POTTER. Is that the scar on your wrist from the wire?

Sergeant WEINEL. That is right, sir.

Senator POTTER. You are still scarred.

Sergeant WEINEL. That is right.

As I say, they tied six or seven men to the group. As they tied them and marched them outside, shortly after a group would leave you would hear a volley of fire and they would come back and pick up another group. Myself, I figured what was going on. As they kept tying them up I moved toward the back of the room. As they tied them up I figured if they made just one slip I was going to go, because I would rather be shot trying to escape than just taking me out and shooting me.

We knew that is what they were doing. Toward the last they was in a hurry to leave Taejon, to evacuate Taejon, so they took approximately the last three groups pretty close together. I witnessed the group right in front of me shot by—they was civilians, also army personnel.

I witnessed them shot. After they was shot we was taken to the ditch and sat down in the ditch and shot.

Senator POTTER. There was a ditch and did they make you get into the ditch?

Sergeant WEINEL. They made us sit down in the ditch and after we sat down in the ditch they fired on us. As I say, the ditch was a sort of L-shaped ditch. At the top of the L they started the South Koreans and would bring the others right in beside them and sit them down and open fire on them, and so forth and so on.

Senator POTTER. How were they shot?

Sergeant WEINEL. By M-1 rifles, sir. Our own rifles that they had captured from the 24th Division, and also armor-piercing ammunition.

Senator POTTER. Armor-piercing ammunition?

Sergeant WEINEL. Yes, sir. That is the first thing I noticed when I came out, M-1 rifles and armor-piercing ammunition. After that, after they shot us all—

Senator POTTER. What happened to you when you were shot?

Sergeant WEINEL. Myself, I was sitting there waiting to get mine like the rest of them was getting theirs, but it never did come. All at once the firing stopped and I was still alive. I couldn't figure it out, but I thought I better be doing something, so I leaned over against the next man pretending I was done for. Also, in doing so, in firing they hit my hand.

Senator POTTER. They did hit your hand?

Sergeant WEINEL. Yes, sir.

Senator POTTER. How were you sitting in the ditch?

Sergeant WEINEL. Sitting in the ditch with my knees up like this, sitting in the bottom of the ditch. They was aiming at my head. I have a scar on my neck, one on my collarbone, and another one hit my hand. I don't know how many more they fired at me, but I know they hit me three times. After that I do not know how many they fired at me.

Senator POTTER. And you played dead?

Sergeant WEINEL. Yes, sir. After they thought everybody was dead, they started burying us. I heard shovels, working shovels, up at the other end. They went shoveling dirt in on all the men. Myself I come close to getting panicky about that time, but somehow or other I figured as long as I had some breath there was hope.

So I let them bury me, with loose dirt over my head. As luck would have it, they barely covered my head and that was it, with loose dirt.

Mr. JONES. Did you say your head was covered with dirt?

Sergeant WEINEL. Yes, sir.

Senator POTTER. You were completely covered?

Sergeant WEINEL. Completely covered. My body was completely covered. In fact, all the men's bodies was covered by a thin layer of dirt.

Senator POTTER. But because the dirt was loose you could still get some air?

Sergeant WEINEL. The dirt was loose. The dirt was loose so I could get enough air to hold me. Of course the weight of the dirt—

Senator POTTER. In other words, you were buried alive?

Sergeant WEINEL. That is right, sir. The weight of the dirt was making me breathe pretty heavy and I was afraid they could hear me breathe, even. With the dirt around your head, your breathing sounds a lot louder to you than it would otherwise. I stayed in that position approximately an hour. In that hour's time they made another check on them and evidently somebody down the line moved or something and they finished him off.

Senator POTTER. How did they finish them off, Sergeant?

Sergeant WEINEL. They shot them, too, sir.

Senator POTTER. If there was any movement under the dirt, they would shoot again?

Sergeant WEINEL. Yes, sir. I might add in that whole group that I was with, there was not a man that begged for mercy and there was not a man that cracked under the deal.

Senator POTTER. That shows the courage of the American soldiers.

Sergeant WEINEL. Also, one man was just wounded. He asked for another one.

Pardon me, sir.

After that I stayed, I made just a movement to get a pencil hole down to my nose, and I stayed in that position until dark. I estimated it was either 7 to 8 hours. I do not know which one, but it was approximately that time, because it was early in the morning when that happened.

After that, it come dark and I got my head out. After I got my head out I tried to dig my body out. But as I said, this hand was tied to these other men. I could not break the wire, and this hand had been shot and was all banged up, mashed, busted up, and I managed to dig the dirt out enough to get to my waist, but I couldn't throw the dirt far enough away from my body that it wouldn't roll back in on me.

I stayed in that position, I would say approximately 52 hours.

Senator POTTER. Fifty-two hours?

Sergeant WEINEL. Yes, sir.

Senator POTTER. Still buried alive?

Sergeant WEINEL. Yes, sir. I stayed all that day and up until almost the evening of the next day in that position. My weight was all on my legs. I managed to get up on my knees. One body was across my knees and I couldn't move him away from my knees enough to get out, to free myself. I got hurting so bad that it didn't make any difference whether I was shot or lived, so I took a chance in hollering. I figured it was a chance either way. Right at the time it didn't make a whole lot of difference.

In doing so, there happened to be a South Korean civilian who heard me and he went to get help and they released me from where I was at. They had to cut the wire from the other man off my wrist and also from the other man to get me out of there.

When they got me out of there they made a stretcher right away and moved me to one of their houses. They hid me there until the Americans come and liberated me.

The 24th Division was the first division back in Taejon. A major from New York was the man who released me.

Senator POTTER. Sergeant, we have a photograph that we would like to have you identify. Would you see if that photograph is a—

Sergeant WEINEL. Do you mind if I step up close?

Senator POTTER. I wish you would. Is that the trench, Sergeant?

Sergeant WEINEL. Yes, it is, sir. The trench runs this way and also runs up here across this way [indicating]. There is a wall, and you can see part of it right here. This here is the jail in here. I come approximately right out of this place, about right in here [indicating].

Senator POTTER. What is that bar, that which looks like a bar there, Sergeant?

Sergeant WEINEL. I believe that is one of their shovels, sir. That is one of their types of shovels that they use.

Senator POTTER. That is a photograph that our military personnel took as they came into town and recovered you as the only man that was recovered?

Sergeant WEINEL. No, sir; there was one other man, a private. One private was alive when we was liberated but he died about 2 hours after we was back in American hands.

Senator POTTER. You are the only survivor?

Sergeant WEINEL. I am the only survivor, sir. From what I hear there was another massacre of around 300 prisoners approximately 2 miles from there that not a person came out alive from.

Senator POTTER. There just wasn't one case but they did this in other cases?

Sergeant WEINEL. That is right, sir.

Senator POTTER. But you are the only one that has survived?

Sergeant WEINEL. Right, sir.

Senator POTTER. Sergeant, could you trace on the picture how they took you out of the courthouse or jail?

Sergeant WEINEL. There is another building that comes over this way [indicating], and they had an entrance in the back. They brought us from the back to the front. Over on this side [indicating] they had a little shack where they kept the ammunition. The guards would shoot one group, go back to pick up more ammunition, and go back to the ditch where the men was sitting and fire on them.

Senator POTTER. How many guards did they have?

Sergeant WEINEL. I would say 7 or 8.

Senator POTTER. Seven or eight?

Sergeant WEINEL. Yes, sir.

Senator POTTER. And how close to you were they when they fired?

Sergeant WEINEL. How close, sir?

Senator POTTER. Yes.

Sergeant WEINEL. They couldn't have been over a yard or 2 yards at the most.

Senator POTTER. They pointed the rifle right down on you?

Sergeant WEINEL. Yes, sir. They were pointing them right down on our heads.

Senator POTTER. Thank you, Sergeant.

MR. O'DONNELL. Mr. Chairman, as the photo has been identified by Sergeant Weinell, may I at this time request that it be introduced into the record as exhibit No. 1?

Senator POTTER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

(The photograph referred to was marked "Exhibit No. 1" and may be found in the files of the subcommittee.)

Senator POTTER. Sergeant, then I assume you were brought back to the States for hospitalization?

Sergeant WEINEL. Yes, sir.

Senator POTTER. How long were you hospitalized?

Sergeant WEINEL. I left the hospital in January 1953, of this year, at Camp Atterbury hospital.

Senator POTTER. And you are in the Regular Army?

Sergeant WEINEL. Yes, sir.

Senator POTTER. Sergeant, I want to say that I am mighty proud of you and those other men. It takes the courage that only Americans seem to have. You had to have a faith in yourself and a faith in God to go through an ordeal that you have gone through.

Sergeant WEINEL. It is something besides luck, sir, that does things like that.

Senator POTTER. Sergeant, you have seen communism at first hand. Do you have anything you would like to say concerning communism as a way of life?

Sergeant WEINEL. Sir, the only thing I can say is if there is any Communists in this country, the only thing for them to do is go take a look at the mirror and they will see the biggest sucker that ever lived.

Mr. O'DONNELL. I have one question, Mr. Chairman.

Sergeant, how long were you buried alive?

Sergeant WEINEL. That is hard to say, sir. As I say, I was shot around 5 o'clock in the morning, and I stayed in the ditch until that evening, until what time it was dark. I would say approximately 8 hours, 8 or 7 hours.

Mr. O'DONNELL. Thank you.

Mr. CARR. Sergeant, the day prior to the shooting, was there a meeting of the military attached to the camp?

Sergeant WEINEL. Yes, sir; there was. The military had all the say-so of it. However, they had civilian guards. They had civilian guards but it was all under the military.

Mr. CARR. The day of the shooting; this was the last act that happened before they evacuated your area?

Sergeant WEINEL. That is right, sir. They was all ready to move. They was burning their records, finishing up the records. When they brought us out there their troops were all ready to move. They had their packs, everything they owned was on their backs, ready to move out. They left us until the last thing to take care of.

Mr. CARR. So there is no doubt in your mind but what this was a decision of somebody in command there to have this act done before they evacuated?

Sergeant WEINEL. Definitely, sir.

Mr. CARR. It wasn't just soldiers handling the thing?

Sergeant WEINEL. No, sir. It had been well planned.

Mr. CARR. Sergeant, thank you.

Senator POTTER. The committee will stand in recess until 2 o'clock this afternoon.

(Whereupon, at 12:15 p. m., the committee was recessed, to reconvene at 2 p. m. the same day.)

## AFTER RECESS

Senator POTTER: The committee will come to order.

Colonel Todd, will you step up to the witness stand, please?

Will you raise your hand and be sworn. Do you solemnly swear that the testimony you are about to give will be the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you God?

**STATEMENT OF LT. COL. JACK R. TODD, JAGC, ASSIGNED AS CHIEF, WAR CRIMES DIVISION, OFFICE OF THE ZONE STAFF JUDGE ADVOCATE, HEADQUARTERS, KOREAN COMMUNICATIONS ZONE, KOREA**

Colonel TODD. I do.

Senator POTTER. Mr. O'Donnell, you may interrogate Colonel Todd.

Mr. O'DONNELL. Colonel, will you please identify yourself for the record?

Colonel TODD. I am Lt. Col. Jack R. Todd, JAGC, presently assigned as Chief of the War Crimes Division, Office of the Zone Staff, Judge Advocate, Headquarters, Korean Communications Zone, Korea.

Mr. O'DONNELL. You state your home address?

Colonel TODD. I came originally from Corpus Christi, Tex. I call home now San Antonio.

Mr. O'DONNELL. Colonel, I would like to have you look at three photographs which I have here to see if you can identify them.

Colonel TODD. Yes. I can identify this one.

Mr. O'DONNELL. Would you kindly identify it as to what type of photograph it is, that is, the scene where the photograph was taken?

Colonel TODD. I cannot exactly identify the scene. It is a photograph that appears in one of our war crimes case files, No. 28, and shows the bodies of two dead American soldiers, one with his hands tied behind him, and in my official capacity as Chief of the War Crimes Division I recognize it as being one of our case file photographs.

Mr. O'DONNELL. Is case file No. 28 the case of the Taejon massacre concerning which Sergeant Weinel testified this morning?

Colonel TODD. I believe that is correct.

Mr. O'DONNELL. Will you please look at the other photographs, Colonel?

Colonel TODD. Yes; I recognize this one. This is from the case file, KWC-28, more familiarly known as the Taejon massacre.

Mr. O'DONNELL. Would you kindly look at the third photograph?

Colonel TODD. Yes. I recognize this one. It is again from the same case file, KWC-28, the Taejon massacre.

Mr. O'DONNELL. Could you give a brief description of photograph No. 2 and photograph No. 3 that you presently have in your hand?

Colonel TODD. Yes. No. 3 here shows the bodies of American and South Korean prisoners who were executed and buried in a shallow trench near the Taejon jail, which the sergeant referred to this morning as a prison camp. That was the Taejon jail.

Mr. O'DONNELL. Colonel, could you briefly describe photograph No. 2. I think you have described photograph No. 1.

Colonel TODD. Yes. This is a photograph, a duplicate of which appears in our KWC-28 case file. It shows the mutilated body of an American soldier minus the left foot, which apparently has been



crudely amputated or has fallen off. I think the reports in the case file indicate that he was wounded in the leg and gangrene set in which was not treated and the foot rotted off. It just fell off. And it shows the terribly emaciated condition he was in when he was finally obviously executed by having two large holes blown through his body.

Mr. O'DONNELL. Mr. Chairman, may I request that these three photographs which have been identified by Colonel Todd be placed in the record and marked as exhibits?

Senator POTTER. Without objection, the photographs will be placed in the record and will be marked as exhibits.

(The photographs were received and marked as "Exhibits Nos. 2, 3, and 4." Exhibit Nos. 2 and 3 may be found in the files of the subcommittee. Exhibit No. 4 will be found in the appendix on p. 75.)

Mr. O'DONNELL. Thank you, Colonel, very much. You are excused.

Senator POTTER. Private John Martin.

Would you raise your hand to be sworn. Do you solemnly swear that the testimony you are about to give will be the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you God?

Private MARTIN. I do.

#### STATEMENT OF PFC. JOHN E. MARTIN, 359TH ENGINEER AVIATION SUPPLY PORT COMPANY, BORDEAUX, FRANCE

Senator POTTER. Would you identify yourself for the record? Give your full name and your present military assignment?

Private MARTIN. Pfc. John E. Martin, 359th Engineer Aviation Supply Port Company, Bordeaux, France.

Senator POTTER. What is your home address?

Private MARTIN. 590 East Lewiston, Ferndale, Mich.

Senator POTTER. Tell the committee about the time you went to Korea and in what unit you were assigned to at that time?

Private MARTIN. I landed in Korea the 21st of July with the 29th Regimental Combat Team.

Senator POTTER. Can you give the committee information concerning how you were captured?

Private MARTIN. It was during the withdrawal to the Pusan perimeter. The squad I was attached to became separated from the rest of the unit during the withdrawal. The next day we reported to the battalion headquarters and were put on a hill outside of the city of Chinju. We were told to stay on this hill as more or less of a check point and not fire on any troops on the road because they were our own battalion retreating.

Somewhere along the line someone forgot to set up a check point on the road. During the night our battalion had gone by and the North Korean Army had been going by for quite a few hours.

Senator POTTER. Could you speak just a little louder. I think if you moved your chair a little closer or moved the microphones a little closer to you it would be better.

You may continue.

Private MARTIN. During the night and early morning the North Korean forces had been going by our position and when the sun came

up the next morning we spotted them down there in the road. A fire fight started.

It lasted until about 12:30 that afternoon. Just toward the end we were surrounded and they had three tanks on the hill. I asked a friend of mine to toss me a grenade and I could not see the man. A grenade landed in the foxhole and I picked it up and it turned out to be one without a pin or handle.

Senator POTTER. Without a pin or handle?

Private MARTIN. Yes; it was from the enemy. I threw it away from me but the concussion knocked me kind of silly and I was captured then.

Senator POTTER. You were captured by North Korean troops?

Private MARTIN. Yes.

Senator POTTER. Was this in the Pusan perimeter area?

Private MARTIN. The perimeter had not quite been formed yet, sir. They were in the process of withdrawing to the perimeter.

Senator POTTER. What was your location?

Private MARTIN. Chinju, Korea, just about 10 miles from the city of Masan there.

Senator POTTER. Would you point out, Major, Chinju on the map?

What happened after that. Did they take any clothing away from you?

Private MARTIN. I went down to the bottom of the hill, sir, and there was a North Korean lieutenant there. The first thing he did was knock me down and he picked me back up.

Senator POTTER. Did he knock you down with his fist, or rifle?

Private MARTIN. Pistol, sir. He picked me back up and asked me why I was fighting the People's North Korean Army. And two other soldiers came down from the hill and they told us to call for the rest to come down. We told them that there weren't any more people up there because to our knowledge there weren't. But he called again and a few of the men did try and come down walking and crawling, but they shot them as they came down.

Senator POTTER. They shot them as they came down to give themselves up?

Private MARTIN. Yes, sir. Some of them were wounded and could not walk, so they just shot them there.

Senator POTTER. What did they do to you after that?

Private MARTIN. They took us to what appeared to be their company aid station. We stayed there for about 4 or 5 hours. They asked us questions, not a very thorough interrogation, wanted to know our outfit. We all gave them different answers.

Senator POTTER. You what?

Private MARTIN. We all gave them different answers.

They marched us into Chinju about 3 miles away and we met seven more prisoners there. We were met by a man wearing a Red Cross band that claimed to be a member of the International Red Cross and he said that we would receive shelter and medical care and food.

Senator POTTER. He said that you would receive it?

Private MARTIN. Yes. We were taken in front of one of the larger buildings in the city and we were kept there until about 5 or 5:30 that evening.

Senator POTTER. How many prisoners did they have at that time?

Private MARTIN. We had 10 men then. They brought in two wounded men a little while later. One was walking. The other one we had to bring in on the litter. About 5 o'clock that evening the Red Cross, so-called Red Cross man, came back again and gave us all 4 or 5 little rice cookies about that big around.

Senator POTTER. About the size of a half-dollar?

Private MARTIN. Yes. And some water. We were told we could rest there for the night, and we slept out in front of the building. The next morning they came around and told us we were going north to a big prison camp with a lot of Americans. So we started out. They let us take the man on the litter at first, but in the middle of the afternoon of the first day we had to put the man on the litter down. They would not let us take him any further. They said that he would receive medical care. We left him at a little village. I do not know what happened to him yet.

Senator POTTER. You have never heard what happened to him?

Private MARTIN. No, sir. The other man was wounded through the hand, not seriously. He managed to keep up pretty well. It took us, I think, about 5 days to walk to Taejon.

Senator POTTER. You started out from Chinju?

Private MARTIN. Yes.

Senator POTTER. And marched to Taejon?

Private MARTIN. Yes.

Senator POTTER. Major, how far is that in mileage?

Major FENN. As the crow flies it would be roughly 80 miles, but the road is quite windy.

Senator POTTER. Had they relieved you of any of your clothing for that march?

Private MARTIN. No, sir. At the time the only thing they had taken was my watch, a ring I had, and my wallet. We would have made it a little sooner, but we had to go across country the last 2 days. Their troops were coming from the north down the same highways that we used and when we passed at night they started moving us around and slapping us around in the road there.

I don't think they moved us across country so much for our benefit, but just to keep their troops moving.

Senator POTTER. When you would meet their troops, would they molest you?

Private MARTIN. They all stopped and took turns slapping us, yes. We went across country and got to Taejon. I think it took about 5 days. There was a large group of American prisoners there, about 60 men.

Senator POTTER. About 60?

Private MARTIN. Yes.

Senator POTTER. How long were you in Taejon?

Private MARTIN. I spent my 18th birthday there, so we were there about 6 days.

Senator POTTER. How old are you now?

Private MARTIN. 21, sir.

Senator POTTER. Did they confine you in Taejon?

Private MARTIN. We were, I believe, in the same police station that Sergeant Weinel spoke of. We were in the upstairs part of the compound, and the CP or whatever it was downstairs.

Senator POTTER. Were you interrogated there?

Private MARTIN. They didn't bother me too much with interrogation that time as far as military stuff goes because, I suppose, I was so low ranking, but they wanted to know all about your family, what your parents did for a living, whether you had a car, whether you were reactionary or not. I told them my father was an electrician.

Senator POTTER. Did that please them?

Private MARTIN. Yes. They were happy.

Senator POTTER. I assume that they thought if he was an electrician then he was not a capitalist?

Private MARTIN. Maybe he was part of the party or something, I guess. They kept us there, I think, about 6 days. During that time there was a man in there that I found out from talking to Sergeant Weinel that was still alive when he got there, who was later killed, and had a badly infected leg. It had been infected and maggots and everything, so they found that they either had to cut it off or let the man die, so they did take him to some kind of hospital or something to cut it off and one of our medics went with him, and when he came back he said they didn't use any anesthesia whatsoever.

Senator POTTER. They amputated his leg without anesthesia?

Private MARTIN. Yes. They brought him back, left in a couple of old rags and left him there.

Senator POTTER. Were you beaten by the guards while you were there?

Private MARTIN. Only once, sir, when one of the guards wanted my shoes.

Senator POTTER. The guards took your shoes at the prison?

Private MARTIN. Yes. He threatened me with a bayonet and poked me around a little bit with it, and one of the men that spoke Japanese said it would be a good idea if I gave them to him because he would probably use the bayonet on me. He took my shoes off and gave me his.

Senator POTTER. Did his shoes fit?

Private MARTIN. No, sir. I wore a 9 and he wore about a 5.

Senator POTTER. Could you wear his shoes?

Private MARTIN. I cut the toes completely out. I had about half my foot hanging out the open end. It was better to go barefooted.

Senator POTTER. What were the circumstances under which they moved you?

Private MARTIN. I don't know exactly what the marching order was or anything, but they came through early in the morning. I don't know. Bali, bali, that's the only word I ever learned, hurry, hurry. And took us outside when we started off on the march. They told us when we were going to Seoul we would be able to keep a more or less slow pace so our wounded could keep up and we could help them along, but it only took us, I believe, 5 or 6 days to go from there to Seoul.

Senator POTTER. From there to where?

Private MARTIN. To Seoul. We did go about 15 miles on a truck at one time, but the air traffic was so heavy we had to get off that traffic.

Senator POTTER. The rest of it was by walking?

Private MARTIN. Yes.

Senator POTTER. Were any of the men too weak to keep up with the march?

Private MARTIN. There were quite a few that were too weak. There were some of the men that were in Taejon when I got there and had been there for 2 or 3 weeks and some of them shot up pretty badly and they didn't get any medical attention to speak of. Maybe a doctor would come around and give them a bandage or something like that; no drugs or disinfectant.

Senator POTTER. What would happen to the stragglers in the march?

Private MARTIN. The largest part of them, sir, if there was a village close, they would take 5 or 6 men and say, "Well, we'll keep them here and they will join you later in Seoul as soon as we get transportation," but none of them have ever showed up. Some of them, if we were traveling pretty fast, some men fell out. I don't remember seeing them shoot anyone there, but I remember they hit one guy on the back of the head with a rifle pretty hard. He never got up.

Senator POTTER. He stayed on the ground?

Private MARTIN. Yes.

Senator POTTER. During the march?

Private MARTIN. Yes.

Senator POTTER. And the march continued?

Private MARTIN. Yes.

Senator POTTER. What happened when you reached Seoul?

Private MARTIN. They brought us into the compound in front of the Seoul building. We stayed in one of the larger buildings there, and the interpreter then came out. He claimed he was a South Korean newspaper reporter that had changed sides. We knew him as Mr. Kim.

Senator POTTER. Mr. Kim?

Private MARTIN. Yes. And he came out and cussed us. That's about the only English he knew very well; told us what to expect when we were there, that we wouldn't be babied or pampered, and we should behave ourselves, and so on and so forth. Then we were assigned to schools.

Senator POTTER. What did they endeavor to teach you in the school-rooms?

Private MARTIN. Communism.

Senator POTTER. Did they have Communist books and literature there?

Private MARTIN. Yes.

Senator POTTER. Did they require you to read the literature?

Private MARTIN. We were there almost a month, and during that time at one time we were having two classes a day. We always had at least one. We had Karl Marx' Das Kapital. We had some books that were printed in Russian, translated in English. It said so right in the foreword.

During the stay there the North Koreans told us twice, told us that there were some Russians coming through there, and they came through in civilian clothes, and while they were there we had to stand at attention when they came in.

Senator POTTER. When the Russians came into the prison were they in military uniform—

Private MARTIN. No, sir; they were in civilian clothes. They may not have been Russians, but the North Koreans told us that they were Russians.

Senator POTTER. Did the North Koreans seem to show them a great deal of respect?

Private MARTIN. Yes.

Senator POTTER. And did it appear to you that they were there to make an inspection of the camp?

Private MARTIN. They were definitely there for inspection. The North Koreans told us that themselves, told us that we had to be on the ball, the books had to be out when they came.

Senator POTTER. Had to have the Communist books and literature out on display?

Private MARTIN. Yes, with a man out in front in the class supposedly giving a class.

Senator POTTER. Did they select Americans to read the Communist literature to the rest of the group?

Private MARTIN. At first they tried to force the officers to do it. Then I think they more or less had the NCO and the officers. I think they kind of ran a roster on them, kind of a turn like. When it didn't take—the guys weren't paying much attention to it and arguing about it—they separated the officers from the enlisted men, thinking that the officers were instigators. They told us we needn't have any fear anymore, they would remove the officers.

They took the officers in a room for about 6 days and beat them and didn't feed them so well. That made us worse and they let us have them back.

Senator POTTER. What was your normal ration of food?

Private MARTIN. Merely a bowl of millet or rice, or the same mixed, on the average about as big around as a man's fist.

Senator POTTER. Once a day, or twice a day?

Private MARTIN. At first it was twice a day, sir, and toward the last 2 weeks it was once a day.

Senator POTTER. Did the wounded receive medical treatment while they were in the prison in Seoul?

Private MARTIN. For a while when we first got there, sir, there was some kind of medical aid. There was a doctor that I actually believe was trying, but he wasn't given anything to work with and he didn't last very long. He was there just a week and a half or 2 weeks and they moved him out.

Senator POTTER. Were the prisoners beaten by the guards?

Private MARTIN. Yes, especially during classes. They made us march downtown in Seoul and Seoul had these large banners written in Korean. They wanted us to go down and march so the public could see us and at that same time they were taking newsreels, and I believe the U. N. has captured some of those films since then.

Senator POTTER. What was the reaction of the American prisoners to carrying Communist flags?

Private MARTIN. That was the reason for the beating, sir. Most of them dropped them. Whenever they, especially if they saw a camera or something, trying to take a picture, they'd make a face at them or drop the banner or something.

Senator POTTER. Did the Communists have a public display in the center of town? Was that the purpose?

Private MARTIN. We walked to a square not far from the University of Seoul. It was about, I'd say, two and a half miles each way. We would walk out of the circle of this thing—they had an air raid siren

on top of it—and then come back. They did that twice while I was there.

Senator POTTER. What took place at this meeting. Were there speeches made?

Private MARTIN. Well, the second demonstration and also the second time the Russians or supposed Russians were there, they had a meeting in the gymnasium, and they gave us all three meals that day.

Senator POTTER. Fatten you up?

Private MARTIN. They mentioned that in a speech they made that day, too, that we were all being given three meals a day. And they had a movie, in fact 2 movies, 1 newsreel and 1 movie. One was made in Russia, was about the American and Russian troops meeting at the Yalta River.

Senator POTTER. What did that show?

Private MARTIN. It showed the American troops, supposedly drunkards, rapists, killers, black marketeers, absolutely no good at all, forcing the Germans to do this and that, and the Russians were being genial friends of the Germans, all is forgotten. The two main characters in the movie were a Russian colonel and an American major. The American major was always supposed to be inebriated and friendly with the Russian colonel, and supposedly when this major's commanding general found out that he was friendly with a Russian colonel, he was taken away and never returned.

Senator POTTER. Was this the movie that was made in Russia?

Private MARTIN. Yes, it was made in Russia.

Senator POTTER. Did it state that it was made in Russia on the format?

Private MARTIN. Yes. We were told it was made in Russia. In fact, the film is in the States now, according to what we heard. They had a newsreel made in South Korea showing a South Korean beating a North Korean. They had a tank in there with a No. 21 stenciled on the side and it would show the South Korean tank charging—that would be No. 21—and then it would show the North Korean tanks repulsing and that would be No. 21 again.

Senator POTTER. They used the same tank for attack and defense?

Private MARTIN. Yes.

Senator POTTER. Their stage direction was not too good.

Private MARTIN. No, sir.

Senator POTTER. What other types of propaganda did they use at this camp?

Private MARTIN. Well, at first they had people puzzled. They had a few of us puzzled. Myself, I was only 18 and I didn't have my mind on world affairs very much at that time, didn't know much of the history of the last World War, and they used to throw one argument at us: About the Russians had invaded Korea as soon as the war had ended, whereas the Americans stayed offshore for a day or two, and that way they let the Japs loot everything where the Russians hadn't been afraid and we had, and actually I didn't know what to make of that.

Senator POTTER. They didn't tell you that the war was over at that time, or practically over?

Private MARTIN. Well, we understood that it was the closing days of the war, but one of the officers of the group—I don't remember which one now—stood up and explained to all of us in the class that

the reason we waited was because after 2 days we could make a peaceful landing and otherwise we would have had to make an armed invasion. And they were very angry and called him a liar, said that wasn't a fact at all, that the Americans were afraid of the Japanese. The officer said if we were afraid of them, how did we whip them all the way across the Pacific? And they told him to shut up and sit down. They didn't get very far with their classes.

Senator POTTER. Their propaganda didn't have too much effect?

Private MARTIN. No, sir. You can't take a man that comes from a country that will give him something pretty good and take him to a country where people are living in rice huts and don't have enough to eat and tell him he is a slave; doesn't work very well.

Senator POTTER. It takes more than a propaganda movie it change that?

Private MARTIN. Yes.

Senator POTTER. How long were you confined in Seoul?

Private MARTIN. Approximately a month, sir.

Senator POTTER. What happened that caused you to transfer from Seoul?

Private MARTIN. The Inchon invasion, I imagine. I don't know exactly the date of the invasion, but we left there September 20. It was about 10 o'clock at night. Everybody was supposedly going to bed. We were getting a lot of heavy shellfire and bombing all day long. They came up and said, "Everybody that can't walk or will keel over, fall out over here." And we had about 25 men, I suppose, that supposedly couldn't. They were pretty bad off. They came out of the sickroom, and they started off, and we were supposedly going down to the railroad station to catch a train. None of us were actually worried much about that, because with the job that the planes and artillery had done, there wasn't very many trains running.

We walked for about 5 miles, and everywhere we turned it seemed like we saw shellfire ahead of us, so we all thought that we were in, that the troops would be there any time at all, because we would go one direction and turn around and go back another direction. It finally turned out that they did find a way through some way or other, and we crossed the 38th parallel that night.

Senator POTTER. On foot?

Private MARTIN. Yes, on foot.

Senator POTTER. Were you still wearing the Korean shoes that were too small for you?

Private MARTIN. Yes. That's when my feet first started to go bad on me.

Senator POTTER. You crossed the 38th parallel after 1 day of marching?

Private MARTIN. One night, sir.

Senator POTTER. What happened from there?

Private MARTIN. We went into some small village. I am not quite sure of the name. It was something like Kaesong. It may even have been Kaesong. I don't know. They put us in a factory building there, an old factory building. They claimed it was a school building, but it was built along the lines for a factory. I think we were there about 4 or 5 days. I lost track of time. During the time we were in



there, the Koreans wouldn't even come inside the building to sleep. They slept outside, dug holes around the outside of the building.

Senator POTTER. Did they do that because they were fearful of Allied air attack?

Private MARTIN. Yes.

Senator POTTER. Did the Communists mark the building as a prisoner-of-war camp at the time?

Private MARTIN. We asked time and time again if we could please put a Red Cross, put a POW sign, or anything or some type of thing so the Air wouldn't hit us and we argued that it would be safer for them at the same time, but they never would let us do it all the time, all the way through it.

Senator POTTER. That is one of the provisions of the Geneva Convention, that prisoner-of-war camps be marked.

Private MARTIN. They wouldn't let us mark it in any way, sir, and a B-29 did come over and drop seven bombs. It was awful lucky none of them hit the building. It blew out a couple of windows and scared everybody, but that's all.

Senator POTTER. You were there for about 4 days?

Private MARTIN. Yes.

Senator POTTER. What happened from there?

You were captured near the lower part of the Pusan perimeter.

Private MARTIN. Yes; just above the ocean.

Senator POTTER. And you marched by foot past the 38th parallel so far?

Private MARTIN. Yes.

Senator POTTER. All right.

Private MARTIN. As far as the names of towns or the dates or anything, I am not sure of them at all from that period on. We would just stop at a little town and that was it. I never knew the name and didn't care. I was a pattern of march all day, or all night rather, and they would throw you in, 30 or 40 of us, in a little house during the daytime and then march all night again.

Senator POTTER. What type of treatment did you receive on the march?

Private MARTIN. That's when it really started getting rough. That is when we either had to walk or get shot. We started out from Seoul with, I believe, 396 men and I believe we lost over a hundred before we got to Pyongyang, the North Korean capital. In fact, I think we lost well over that.

Senator POTTER. What would happen to the stragglers, to the POW's that were so weak they could not keep up with the march?

Private MARTIN. They were shot, sir.

Senator POTTER. Shot?

Private MARTIN. Yes. Some of them were bayoneted.

Senator POTTER. Who was in charge of the march?

Private MARTIN. North Korean officers.

Senator POTTER. Were the men shot on orders of the officers?

Private MARTIN. Yes, definitely. There was a march order, a set pattern laid down from the beginning to the end of those marches.

Senator POTTER. Were any of the prisoners beaten by the guards with their rifles?

Private MARTIN. Every once in a while—the officers at front always tried to hold the pace down and every once in a while—

Senator POTTER. You are speaking of the American officer?

Private MARTIN. Yes, not others. They always walked behind where the shooting wasn't. Every once in a while when we got so tired we couldn't get any farther, we all started yelling "Break" and finally, when they could, the men in the front would just sit down and then we'd all sit down, and usually we would get 10 minutes rest, but during that 10 minutes we are ducking boots and rifle butts because they were just trying to get us on our feet.

Senator POTTER. The guards would go through the lines?

Private MARTIN. The guards at the orders of the officers; that's definite, sir.

Senator POTTER. Would they hit you in the head with the butts of rifles?

Private MARTIN. They hit you anywhere they could. They just swung.

Senator POTTER. Did they feed you on the march?

Private MARTIN. About the same diet sir. The diet was pretty stable: One rice ball.

Senator POTTER. About the size of a baseball?

Private MARTIN. A little bigger than a baseball, sir; not much. They had another thing. We did get a little variety. We got a dried fish every once in a while, about usually a little over a foot in length, about as big around as a banana. It seemed that this was cleaned and then dried. It wasn't cleaned the way we would clean fish. That's all it was. You just ate it. We got those in lieu of rice balls sometimes.

Senator POTTER. How long did it take you to make this last march?

Private MARTIN. Well, on September 20 we left Seoul and I think we got to Pyongyang October 15, sir. Excuse me. We got there about October 10.

Senator POTTER. You walked about two-thirds of the length of Korea; did you not?

Private MARTIN. Yes.

Senator POTTER. What happened at Pyongyang?

Private MARTIN. They put us in another school building, and our diet changed there from rice to bread. We had some kind of bread, not exactly like ours. It was so hard you couldn't bite it off. You had to break it off and then try and chew it. We got one loaf a day, about the size of 2 hot-dog buns, I would say, 2 good-sized hot-dog buns. We stayed there. We had a lot of people die there from yellow jaundice, malnutrition, bad infections in their legs, and so on. And sometimes they wouldn't let us bury them for a day or two. They would be right in the same room.

Senator POTTER. That would be in the same room as the ones who were living?

Private MARTIN. Yes. In fact, the men who were actually sick, almost dead were right beside the dead ones sometimes for hours on end in the same room.

Senator POTTER. When they did get around to burying them, did they bury them in details?

Private MARTIN. Yes. They usually called for volunteers to bury the men. They wouldn't let us hold any religious services toward

the end, nothing when we buried them, and we couldn't mark the graves either.

Senator POTTER. What type of treatment did you receive there?

Private MARTIN. Well, they left us pretty much alone there until we got ready to leave.

Senator POTTER. How long were you there?

Private MARTIN. We were there I'd say 5 days, sir. The night that they got ready to move us out we had quite a number of men in the sickroom, and among the rest of us I think everybody was thinking about a break then. We thought we would try to get in the sickroom, too, and perhaps they would leave a little litter guard on there and we could get away. We went up, and the guards came in. They started really working the guys over. They left some of them right there on the floor. They beat them up so bad they never could get up.

Senator POTTER. With their rifles?

Private MARTIN. Yes. I got my nose broken there myself.

Senator POTTER. By a rifle butt used by a guard?

Private MARTIN. Yes. They got us out of there and walked us downtown to this train yard. They put us on a train there in coal cars.

Senator POTTER. Coal cars?

Private MARTIN. Yes. It had rained at the time and most of us lost most of our clothing. They just threw the guys in there, 30 or 50 to a gondola, and started out and we would start and stop and start and stop. We would travel at night for little ways and then stop in the daytime. They would make us get off and go out in the field on one side and we'd get back on that night and go on again. That went on for 4 days, till we finally got into the tunnel.

Senator POTTER. Why did they put the train in the tunnel?

Private MARTIN. We thought at the time because of the Air Force.

Senator POTTER. Our Air Force?

Private MARTIN. Yes. They did a very good job on trains. I thought they were afraid that the train could get tore up. Later on it turned out that the Air Force was looking for us, that they found out in Pyongyang that we were on that train and were trying to throw us air drops. We were on the train 2 days and while there we had several of the men die there from malnutrition and different things.

We didn't get fed. We got a little something the first night we got there, if I remember right, but we didn't get fed from that time on. When they finally did get ready to feed us, it was about 3 o'clock in the afternoon on October 21.

They had us all get off the train. We were all in the tunnel there. The highest ranking officer, two sergeants, and another corporal had already left earlier. There was some money collected up by the prisoners supposedly to buy food. They haven't come back yet. They told us we were going to a small house to eat and the reason we were going in groups was because it was so small.

Senator POTTER. How many groups, did they say?

Private MARTIN. They were different sizes. I would say on the average of 40 men to a group. The first group went out, and the guards were gone about 20 minutes to a half hour. When they left we heard a lot of small-arms fire, but I never thought anything about it,

and I don't think too many other people did either because we had been hearing quite a bit of fire on and off there. They came back for my group, and we started out and we went down the track about 400 yards, and I had fallen back to the rear. My feet were pretty bad and I had to keep falling back. I couldn't keep up with them. We went around the corner into this ditch. They said, "Get down; the planes. Get down; the planes."

So when we all ducked down some more of them come up on us over a little rice paddy and they just opened up.

Senator POTTER. They fired on you?

Private MARTIN. Yes.

Senator POTTER. With what type of weapons?

Private MARTIN. Mostly these Russian burp guns, sir.

Senator POTTER. Russian tommy guns of that kind (indicating)?

Private MARTIN. Yes; same kind.

Senator POTTER. There were 30 or 40 in your group as I understand?

Private MARTIN. Yes.

Senator POTTER. How many guards were firing the weapons?

Private MARTIN. Oh, I'd say about 10, sir.

Senator POTTER. Were you hit?

Private MARTIN. No, sir. I was the last man to come around the corner. As I came around I just sat down when they started to fire and I fell forward on the embankment. I was right just about at one of their feet and I suppose he thought I was hit and was firing over my head at other people. Then another fellow fell just about across me, more or less on my back, and when they did come down in the ditch and check, they were in a hurry. They didn't get all the way down to me before they went back up.

Senator POTTER. What do you mean by check?

Private MARTIN. They went down and kicked somebody and if they groaned, they shot them again or bayoneted and kicked somebody else.

Senator POTTER. In other words, they took you out of the train which was in the tunnel on a pretense of giving you food to feed you?

Private MARTIN. Yes.

Senator POTTER. And after you got off the train and out of the tunnel, they shot you in the ditch?

Private MARTIN. Yes.

Senator POTTER. What happened after that?

Private MARTIN. I stayed there until it got quite dark. Just after they left, well, say an hour, we had heard small-arms fire after that time. We heard the train whistle blow and we all thought that they pulled out. So all the ones that were alive began to look around for others, and there was a man in the same ditch with me that was alive and wasn't hurt and a few others that weren't wounded bad, and there was a lot of guys that were all shot up, and everybody that we could move, we moved away from there.

Senator POTTER. How many out of your group were alive?

Private MARTIN. Out of my 40?

Senator POTTER. Yes.

Private MARTIN. Four, sir. There were more than 4 alive, but there were only 4 that lived until the troops got there.

Senator POTTER. Only four that survived?

Private MARTIN. Yes. We crawled off in a field not far from there and hid in a hole—a hollow space. After they harvest their sugarcane, they stack the stocks together. We hid in there until the next afternoon, and people were coming around yelling for us to come out. We weren't quite sure whether it was friendly or enemy, but we took the chance and came out and the air force was there, and General Allen, and some of the First Cavalry Division, I think it was, and then we were all right.

Senator POTTER. Then you were brought back to the States?

Private MARTIN. Yes.

Senator POTTER. Were you hospitalized after you got back?

Private MARTIN. Yes; 9 months.

Senator POTTER. Nine months?

Private MARTIN. Yes.

Senator POTTER. What was the name of the tunnel, Sergeant?

Private MARTIN. Sunchon, I believe, sir. That's what we called it.

Senator POTTER. Do you have any questions?

Mr. O'DONNELL. A few.

How much weight did you lose on the march?

Private MARTIN. I went from 165 to 118, sir.

Mr. O'DONNELL. Would you tell us how many were placed on that train that ended up in the Sunchon Tunnel?

Private MARTIN. Well, there were over 180, sir.

Mr. O'DONNELL. Do you have any idea of how many survived?

Private MARTIN. I believe there were 21 alive when the troops got there and, if I am not mistaken, 2 died later. Out of the 396 that started from Seoul, there were 33 alive.

Mr. O'DONNELL. Mr. Chairman, I would like to have the record show that the Department of Defense, primarily JAG, Judge Advocate General's Office, in the Army has the photographs of the actual marches. However, because the faces of many who are in the march were victims who did not survive, we have refrained from using those photographs, but they are a matter of evidence if ever needed in a court of law.

Senator POTTER. Mr. Carr, do you have any questions?

Mr. CARR. No, sir.

Senator POTTER. Private Martin, you have experienced communism in its rawest form. Would you have any comment to make on communism as a way of life?

Private MARTIN. I don't think I have anything defensible to say, sir.

Senator POTTER. I think that answers itself.

I would like to say on behalf of the committee, and I think I can say on behalf of the American people, that we look to you with a great deal of pride. You certainly have been a great credit to your country and to your friends and your family. I know they are as proud of you as I am. You are a great American. Thank you.

Private MARTIN. Thank you.

Senator POTTER. Lieutenant McNichols.

Do you solemnly swear that the testimony you are about to give will be the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you God?

Lieutenant McNICHOLS. I do.

STATEMENT OF 1ST LT. HENRY J. McNICHOLS, JR., COMPANY I,  
INFANTRY SCHOOL DETACHMENT, FORT BENNING, GA.

Senator POTTER. Will you identify yourself for the record.

Lieutenant McNICHOLS. 1st Lt. Henry J. McNichols, Jr., Company I, Infantry School Detachment, Fort Benning, Ga.

Senator POTTER. Lieutenant will you tell the committee when you went to Korea and in what unit you were assigned to at the time?

Lieutenant McNICHOLS. I went into Korea in 1950, July of 1950, with Company E of the 5th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division.

Senator POTTER. What is your home address?

Lieutenant McNICHOLS. My home address is 4724 Westminster Place, St. Louis, Mo.

Senator POTTER. Tell the committee the circumstances under which you were captured?

Lieutenant McNICHOLS. On the night of the 10th of September, Easy Company was defending Hill 203 in the vicinity of Waegon, Korea.

Senator POTTER. What was your duty with the company at the time?

Lieutenant McNICHOLS. I was executive officer of the company, sir. The 2 units on our right were hit, pulled back at approximately 6 o'clock at night, at which time we came under fire from the front of the right flank and the rear and we were given the order to withdraw from this hill.

In order to withdraw, it was kind of tricky. We had to come off sideways. However, we did get all the men off. When we got down to the bottom I heard a wounded man back up on the hill scream. I got an aide man and a couple of other men to follow me up the hill so we would go up and get him. I don't know what happened, but when I got up the hill, there I was by myself and I walked into an enemy ambush. However, I succeeded in getting away from them, but I couldn't get to this wounded man. I was forced back off the hill, at which time I was separated from my unit. Actually at this time, the Koreans had kept on going so I was actually operating in their rear. I even encountered some enemy during the early hours of the night. However, I was either able to elude them or get the best of them. At approximately 4 o'clock, I think it was, I sat down to catch my breath and fell asleep. When I awakened, two enemies had me. They got my M-1 rifle away from me and began to search me.

I grabbed a pistol away from this one man and took off down the hill. As I ran away from them I was shot in the leg. However, I succeeded in eluding these two men. Then I tried to get back in the stream bed and worked my way south and in the stream bed, I ran into about 15 of the enemy, at which time I became a member of the North Korean Army.

Senator POTTER. After you were captured what happened?

Lieutenant McNICHOLS. We had quite a bit of interrogation. However, on the first day the interrogators that got a hold of me I didn't run into anybody that could speak English, a lot of pistol pointing, et cetera; screaming, raving, and ranting.

I don't see how they could have gotten anything out of me. I could speak very little Japanese and they could speak no English

whatever. They were trying to find out what unit I belonged to, but they didn't seem to make a lot of sense out of it.

As far as what unit I belonged to, I told them something else, so what they got out of it I don't know.

Senator POTTER. Did they ask you about your home life and your conditions in the States?

Lieutenant McNICHOLS. Actually, sir, after I was in these front-line units, they caught me early in the morning of the first night I was taken back in the rear where they had a bunch of their troops around a house. I had dinner that night and the next morning they loaded me up with rice and I took it up to the troops in their front line, which is a violation of the rulings of warfare.

Senator POTTER. Violation of the Geneva Convention. They used you to carry supplies for their troops?

Lieutenant McNICHOLS. Yes. Also at the time somebody put a pistol to my head and said he liked my boots, so he got my boots. I spent the rest of my time without any shoes. Actually, though, I had a pair of heavy issue sox and it wasn't too hard on my feet. He did give me a pair of kedgies. I was a little worse off I think than the private. I got an 11½ and he gave me a size 5. It was just useless to try to put those on.

Senator POTTER. Then you couldn't use those at all?

Lieutenant McNICHOLS. No, sir. I tried it, but I didn't bother with them. As I progressed then I did get interrogated. I got interrogated by many people. I always gave them different answers and they didn't seem to bother to correlate them or anything.

Senator POTTER. Was this the interrogation by the front-line units?

Lieutenant McNICHOLS. No, sir; this was when I got into the rear now and I ran into interpreters actually.

Senator POTTER. Whereabouts?

Lieutenant McNICHOLS. Sir, they kept me within about a 5-mile-square area, right just north of Hill 203, there in the vicinity of Taeju; actually Waegon. I got a lot of questions: How old was the commander, and what have you, like that, and then I did get a lecture from some political commissars.

They were interested once again in: Was my father a worker or a capitalist; who owned the company commander's jeep; what was I doing fighting for Wall Street; John Foster and Eugene Dennis, the great Americans. McCarthy is a warmonger and Harry Truman a rascalion.

The other political ones, they were trying to get my home address. They wanted to know where my home address was, but I just told them that I had no mother and no father, everybody was dead. After a couple of days they quit pressing the point.

Senator POTTER. Were these military people or civilians?

Lieutenant McNICHOLS. They were all in uniform. They were all military of one type or another. I say political commissars insofar as these were the questions I got from them were also military, but they got into the political aspects there of what amount of pay was I making and what have you.

Senator POTTER. I think it is true that when the Communists overran an area they set up their own government, and they had their so-called political commissars right up in the front-line areas.

Lieutenant McNICHOLS. Yes. Actually, their army is supposed to be designed that they had them right in the units, too, and they go right along with the unit. Of course, that gets to another point; but actually they are assigned right down to the companies, and so forth, and it was a couple of these guys who questioned me.

Right after that then I was turned over to a propaganda outfit. They wanted me to do some announcing over a loud speaker that they had set up showing into our lines. At first I got them to believe I couldn't read. However, that didn't work too long and they had an interpreter there who had been a bartender in an officer's club in Seoul and had been a houseboy for an American Army officer when we had occupied Seoul and a lot of my prison chasers had been drivers in this motor pool up in Seoul and I believe they were pressed probably into the service when the North Koreans came along there. I did meet here now 4 or 5 of them that could speak English.

Actually one colonel in fact questioned me through an interpreter and the interpreter went away and then he sat down and we had a long chat. He was telling me all about himself.

This colonel was the one that was actually in charge of the propaganda outfit that I stayed with. It consisted of about 40 people, of which were 2 women who used to sing songs over this loudspeaker they had. Actually I guess it was in the South Korean sector where it was going in, and they were raving and ranting there about psychological warfare, and what have you; using them.

To get back on my story, now, finally then they decided that I would read this piece over the air, so they got the loudspeaker set up and they gave me a sheet, a piece of psychological warfare devised which had an officer's picture up in one corner. It had his signature, his rank, and serial number down at the other and then in there such things as we are fighting an imperialistic war, and don't follow your officers, leave them, come over and join us, and such things as that.

I was supposed to read that and in the place where it had up at the top, "I am so-and-so," I was supposed to put McNichols, and so forth. When I went through that I sloughed through that. I didn't give my name and they were worried that I was talking too fast, so they kept telling me to slow down. So I sounded like a busted record actually and if anybody heard it I am sure they wouldn't recognize what it meant.

Senator POTTER. A loudspeaker set up to broadcast back of the lines?

Lieutenant McNICHOLS. Actually where I was, was behind the lines, but the loudspeakers, by your wires you run them right up to the front lines.

Of course, I had heard this thing quite a few times before that. There was one similar to it right across from our lines at one time and they used to play records, real recent ones like Tea for Two that was made in 1920, and so forth, right across from the American lines there, and they would give us a few talks.

I remember one time they threatened to use poison gas if we didn't get out of there and such things as that.

Senator POTTER. Did they force on you to make that broadcast?

Lieutenant McNICHOLS. It was more pistol flashing, is what it amounted to. Actually I never got hit until the last night, and the last night, September 20, the Air Force was getting very active. I



didn't know at the time whether the American forces had begun to move north. We stayed out in the ravine during the day—I did—with the prison chasers there, and we went back into this South Korean house, I guess it was about 5:30 or 6. It started to get dark early then. They started a fire and cooked some rice and I ate and went to sleep. Usually at night they would keep me in a house with 1 on each side of me, 1 at the head and 1 at the bottom, and 1 on the post; 1 would shift and we would all shift. We were pretty close together. I went to sleep. The first thing I knew somebody was hitting me in the mouth with a pistol. "Get up, get up, get up," he was yelling at me. It was this lieutenant who was also in this propaganda group. By this time the colonel had left us about a day before, and this lieutenant was actually running it.

They didn't seem to be able to set the thing up anymore. Also they burned up the generator so there wasn't much they could have done about it anyhow. He awakened me and told me to follow him or made gesticulations to that effect, so I came out and followed him, and we went up this hill. When I came out of this Korean house, I could hear the Americans yelling. Of course, I didn't know what unit or what they were doing over there, and so forth, but what I did hear actually was a jeep had hit a land mine over there and I heard much yelling, and so forth, and he led me up the hill followed by about 18 men he had left now in his propaganda unit.

The girls were gone too. I don't know what happened to them. We got up to the top of this hill and actually it was a series of hills to get up to the topmost peak. There was another hill actually along here [indicating] and in between there, then, is where he stopped.

Senator POTTER. Did he tell you why he was taking you?

Lieutenant McNICHOLS. No, sir, he just said, "follow me," or made motions. So we got up to the top of the hill and he pulled out some cloth, rice linen—just about everything is made out of rice anyhow over there—and took it and tore it into small strips and tied my hands behind my back and he told me to sit down and he further tied me to a tree.

Senator POTTER. In other words, he tied your hands behind your back first and then tied you to a tree?

Lieutenant McNICHOLS. Yes; made me sit down and then tied me to a tree, told me to be quiet, to shut up. He went forward then on to this first hill to see what activity was going on at the base, and then about that time this American unit started up the hill. They didn't fire any artillery or mortars; just a straight infantry attack. Immediately all the enemy soldiers ran out with the exception of this lieutenant. As he reached this tree he reached into his pocket, grabbed his pistol, cocked it and I remember it going off once. However, later I found out I was shot four times that time.

Senator POTTER. Where were you hit, Lieutenant?

Lieutenant McNICHOLS. One of them through the mouth, two of them in the neck, one through the shoulder.

Senator POTTER. They shot you while your hands were tied behind your back and tied to a tree?

Lieutenant McNICHOLS. Yes.

Senator POTTER. Then did the American troops recover you?

Lieutenant McNICHOLS. Yes. I imagine this was about 10 o'clock at night that I was shot, approximately thereabouts. I don't know

how long I was unconscious. When I did come to I could hear movement in my vicinity and I could also hear some voices, but I couldn't distinguish them. I didn't know whether it was North Koreans or Americans, so I began yelling all night out there. However, they were afraid to get me because they were afraid that they were going to walk into an ambush, too, so they actually waited until daybreak then when they came out and got me.

Senator POTTER. Was it the practice of the Communist troops to use the wounded man as a decoy for an ambush?

Lieutenant McNICHOLS. In my experience, since I walked into one, and since it happened in a couple of other cases where we had been successful in going back up and getting the men out of these, actually where we beat the ambush, where a wounded man or a man would possibly be wounded and would have to struggle, at which the enemy could catch him, they would then begin to jab him with the bayonet or hit him or take their rifle butts and strike them in the mouth, and so forth, to make these guys scream and hope that they would come back up and get them and then we would walk into one of these ambushes.

Senator POTTER. When the American troops came were you still bound to the tree?

Lieutenant McNICHOLS. Yes. It took them about 4 minutes with a good sharp knife to get this stuff off me to get me off the tree.

Mr. JONES. Lieutenant, what kind of a pistol was used?

Lieutenant McNICHOLS. It is a pistol that was used as a side arm carried by Korean Army officers, North Korean Army officers. It is a 7.62, but the correct nomenclature on it, I can't say.

Mr. JONES. How far away was he when he used that pistol?

Lieutenant McNICHOLS. About 4 or 5 feet, sir.

Senator POTTER. Do you have any questions?

Mr. O'DONNELL. No.

Senator POTTER. Mr. Carr?

Mr. CARR. No.

Senator POTTER. How long were you hospitalized?

Lieutenant McNICHOLS. Six months, sir.

Senator POTTER. And you are still in the service?

Lieutenant McNICHOLS. Yes.

Senator POTTER. Lieutenant, I wish to thank you for giving us the benefit of your experience. I know it is not pleasant for you or any of the other men to relive a horrible experience as you have gone through. I think, however, that it is necessary in cases of this kind that you let as many people know as possible the true character of the enemy that you were fighting and an enemy which is still fighting us today. As a result of your experience with Communist troops and communism at first hand, do you have any statements you would like to make as to communism as a way of life and Communist effort or movement in this country?

Lieutenant McNICHOLS. Well, I think let's call it a cancer and if it's a cancer let's get rid of it.

Senator POTTER. Thank you kindly.

Corporal Kreider, do you solemnly swear that the testimony you are about to give will be the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you God?

Corporal KREIDER. I do.

**STATEMENT OF CPL. LLOYD D. KREIDER, 307TH AIRBORNE MEDICAL BATTALION, 82D AIRBORNE DIVISION, FORT BRAGG, N. C.**

Senator POTTER. Corporal, will you identify yourself for the record, give your name, and your present unit assignment.

Corporal KREIDER. Mr. Chairman, I am Cpl. Lloyd D. Kreider, RA13266788, 307th Airborne Medical Battalion, 82d Airborne Division, Fort Bragg, N. C. My home address is West Willow, Pa.

Senator POTTER. Corporal, when did you go to Korea and what was your unit assignment at that time?

Corporal KREIDER. I believe my unit was the first unit to reach Korea at the beginning of hostilities of the United Nations forces. We arrived the 3d of July 1950 a few miles south of Seoul.

Senator POTTER. And you were a medical-aid man?

Corporal KREIDER. Yes; I was a medical aid man with the 24th Division, 34th Regiment.

Senator POTTER. Will you briefly describe to the committee the circumstances under which you were captured?

Corporal KREIDER. The 34th Division had been pushed back to the Pusan perimeter, and on about the 4th of August 1950 I believe the 34th was practically annihilated, overrun. Early in the morning of the 4th the North Korean forces cut all through our lines, and I was taking care of a wounded man. I was trying to get him back to our rear from the Allied front.

In the meantime this man died, so then I laid down during that day. I couldn't be seen during the day. On the night of the 4th, I traveled south trying to find my way back toward Pusan where I knew the Allied forces were. Then early on the 6th of August 1950 it was getting daylight when I was traveling, and I came into a ditch. There was a high bank on each side. I saw this communication wire laid across through this ditch.

On the lengthwise of the ditch. So I followed the communication wire, thinking that this communication wire was an Allied communication wire, not knowing that the North Koreans answered the same. I followed this for quite a few miles and I saw up on the bank some soldiers. I could not recognize them. They looked like American soldiers. So I came out of the ditch and walked up toward the hill and I was almost certain they were American soldiers, and about that time about 4 or 5 North Koreans walked down in front of me and raised their rifles so I yelled to them in Japanese, as I can speak fluent Japanese.

Senator POTTER. You speak Japanese?

Corporal KREIDER. Yes. I yelled to them to wait a minute in Japanese. At that time they hesitated, drew back their rifles, so I fell and started rolling down the hill and they started shooting at me. So then I went in the opposite direction, and I traveled most of that day and toward the afternoon it was real hot and I was so tired I could hardly walk anymore and I heard the Koreans yelling at me, so I kept going.

I didn't want to turn around and face them. Then they began to shoot and one bullet ricocheted off a rock and just cut across my face right here and I passed out at that time. I guess mostly from fatigue.

Senator POTTER. All this while you were still wearing your Red Cross arm band?

Corporal KREIDER. Yes, I was.

Senator POTTER. And was your helmet marked with your Red Cross?

Corporal KREIDER. My helmet was not marked at that time. I had a fatigue cap at that time, but I had a Red Cross band and I had my medical aid pack with me.

Senator POTTER. Was your band noticeable enough so they could tell?

Corporal KREIDER. I am sure they noticed it. They did not believe in the Red Cross because they told me later in the prison camp they did not recognize the Red Cross. It was a reactionary People's Red Cross. The only Red Cross was the People's Red Army Red Cross.

Senator POTTER. The International so far as they were concerned was a reactionary organization?

Corporal KREIDER. It was supported by capitalists and things like that. That's what they told me. When I came to, the Koreans were standing right in front of me and I thought they were going to shoot me. They had their bayonets fixed, and I was thirsty and I asked them if I could have a drink and they shook their heads yes and I took a drink. Then they wanted all my clothes, everything but my pants, including my shoes. They took those, too. The only thing they gave me was a Russian boot, but it wouldn't fit me.

Senator POTTER. Just one boot?

Corporal KREIDER. Yes. I think that's about all they had. The only shoes that they had were a type of gymnasium shoe for their army. A lot of them didn't have very good footwear and they were after American equipment. Then they kept me on the frontline for approximately a week and they would make me carry water for them as they were afraid to show themselves in the open because of the Air Force, so I would carry water for them and carry them around to the trenches. At nighttime they had a guard standing watch to see that I couldn't escape. They kept me there for about a week and then they moved me on toward Seoul.

Senator POTTER. They kept you near the place where you were captured?

Corporal KREIDER. Yes; I believe near Masan, right along the Nak-tong River, on the Pusan side.

Senator POTTER. In other words, they kept you in a frontline unit?

Corporal KREIDER. Yes.

Senator POTTER. Were you questioned at all while you were there in that frontline position?

Corporal KREIDER. I was questioned a few times. They wanted to know how many planes we had, how many tanks we had. I was only a private first class, but I guess they thought I knew everything we had and everything else, but we gave them any guess, 1, 2, 5. They knew we were lying so they'd keep asking us and one day they took me and put a pistol to my head and said they would shoot me if I didn't tell how many planes we had and so I figured they'd shoot me anyhow so I told them we all had a plant. They said, "Where's yours" and I told them I wrecked it.

Then after that they let me go. They didn't ask me about that any more. Then they said, "Why you come to Korea?" They asked me in Korean, "Why you come?"

Senator POTTER. It takes more than a Communist mind to understand a GI.

Corporal KREIDER. When they questioned me, they get off the military angle. They begin mostly with the political angle.

They wanted to know if I had a dad, what kind of a job he had. I told them he was a carpenter and so they said "That's good. That's people's work, not the capitalist's work." They asked what I was. I said I was a carpenter before. Then they moved me and about a week after they moved me, along the Naktong River they had a few more prisoners, American prisoners—believe approximately 21 or 15—and a good majority of these were pretty well wounded. One was shot right along the heart, came through the lung and came out the back.

"You are a doctor. Cure him." They pushed me around. And "Why don't you heal?"

Senator POTTER. Cannot you what?

Corporal KREIDER. Why cannot I cure him. Cure his ills. So when we went out on the road march, we would travel all night. They took the wounded men and beat them up because they couldn't travel and let them stay along the road. I guess they were killed, but I didn't see them being killed. They beat them with rifles and every sort of way.

Senator POTTER. They beat the wounded men with rifles?

Corporal KREIDER. Yes, with the stock of the rifles. Every night we traveled. They would keep us at schoolhouses and churches, but they hated religion, one thing especially, Christianity. They didn't believe in Christians or any religion. That's one thing they really hated, and I noticed they still had churches. They said it was all right to have churches, but had to be under Stalin. They had Stalin's picture in every church and all over the place. In every building was pictures of Stalin and Kim Il Sun, the North Korean Premier.

Senator POTTER. It was all right for them to worship, but they had to worship according to Communist doctrine.

Corporal KREIDER. They had no freedom of religion. They had to go by the laws of the Communist state. It seemed to me that way. I believe there was a lot of Koreans that had religious faith and they didn't want to suppress it too much, so they told them they could have their religion, but then they gradually shifted away into a dictatorship under Communist doctrine.

Senator POTTER. How long did it take you to reach Seoul?

Corporal KREIDER. I would say approximately 2 weeks to get to Seoul.

Senator POTTER. Was it a march all the way?

Corporal KREIDER. Practically all the way. At Taejon or a little north there we got on a train and went a few miles.

Senator POTTER. Did you have any long layovers during that march?

Corporal KREIDER. When we were marching, I don't think we had any at all. Sometimes we walked all night and part of the day, and if the allied air force would be out, they'd hide us and that would be the last that day. In that march we got very little food and we would get weaker and weaker and I believe after they beat us those wounded would begin dying. I don't remember after that specific time of them killing more, but a lot of men were so weak they were just about ready to drop out then and could hardly get along.

Senator POTTER. You made this march without shoes?

Corporal KREIDER. Yes; I made it without shoes. None of the men had sufficient footwear or clothing, none of the prisoners. Some of them had some kind of a rubber boot that the Korean civilians wear and they had these, and the toes were cut out, and they used to wear those, but they weren't no support.

Then we arrived in Seoul in about 2 weeks and we were taken to the same school that Private Martin just testified, at that girls' school. In that school the main thing was, they told us, was communism. They wanted to teach us communism. They said we would go back to the States and broadcast, teach the Marxist doctrine. They said some day we would go back, maybe 5 years, and we would go back and teach the good way of life, to their way of thinking. And they showed us movie films and, in their lectures and also in the movie films, they told us the North Korean Government sent a delegation to South Korea sometime I believe in early 1950.

They said they never returned, and they don't know what happened to them. They inquired about them and they were going to send another delegation down; and then they said the South Koreans invaded North Korea, told us the South Korean Army invaded North Korea and showed us how the North Korean Army came back and retaliated, but it seemed they had the same tank in the picture all the time. They had a lot of Korean soldiers also viewing this picture and they were clapping at this time.

Senator POTTER. Were you interviewed alone?

Corporal KREIDER. A lot of times I was, sir. I was taken out to different places by a general—I think it was a general of the North Korean Army—because I could speak Japanese. But most of the generals could not speak Japanese. They could speak English, but they couldn't speak Japanese. Mostly it was political. They wanted to know what I did. All the boys turned out to be farmers after a while. That was the only way they could keep living they thought. If they had a car or anything else they wanted to shoot you. They wanted to shoot me once when I said I had a car, so I forgot about the car.

They gave us lectures also. I also remember this specific lecture. I couldn't understand it very well. It was something about General Hodge. I believe he was in charge of the South Korean military government. I couldn't understand it because it was a Korean figure writing and the speaking was in Russian, so I guess it was a Russian movie film used for propaganda in Korea.

Senator POTTER. Did you run across this Mr. Kim?

Corporal KREIDER. Yes, he seemed to be in charge. At least he was the chief interpreter at the camp at Seoul and at that girl's school. He gave us a radio in our room. Every night about 7 or 7:30 he wanted us to listen to Sioux City Sue. They broadcast every evening for about half an hour, propaganda, how they were winning, how the North Korean Army was conquering all Korea, and all that.

Senator POTTER. It was the Tokyo Rose of the Korean war, is that right?

Corporal KREIDER. That's right.

Mr. JONES. Was she also known as Rice Bowl Maggie?

Corporal KREIDER. I believe that's the same one that is known as Rice Bowl Maggie. I turned it over one day and wanted to find out from Japan, and I don't know if they had the room wired or not, but Mr. Kim came in and called us every lowdown name in the book and

he took the radio and said he was going to have us shot, and, anyway, they took us down where we used to eat and everybody had to go down there every evening to listen to Sioux City Sue. He wouldn't let us have the radio after that.

Senator POTTER. Did he ever beat any prisoners in the camp?

Corporal KREIDER. He beat them all the time. They were just animals to him. He called them no good animals, and dogs, and everything else. He was not even human in his actions, but he said if he had it his way he would have us shot. That's why I figure he wasn't really in charge of the camp, but he could speak quite good English. He said he was a newspaper reporter from Seoul before the North Korean Army took over and he was a Communist and went on the Communist side.

Senator POTTER. How long were you in Seoul?

Corporal KREIDER. Approximately 3 weeks or more, sir. I'm not sure. I have lost count of time and days, but I'd say approximately 3 weeks.

Senator POTTER. What happened after you left Seoul?

Corporal KREIDER. This bombardment was coming at the Inchon landing. We knew there was going to be an invasion of the coast or something. A South Korean said there were many Americans coming. He told us he was a truckdriver there, a civilian. So one night—I think it was around the 20th of September; I'm not sure of the time, around night—and they took us all out in the street. A lot of the men were sick. They were too weak, they couldn't stand up, but they said everybody had to go. So some of the men went out and some soon as they went out in the exposure, they died right away because of the malnutrition and exposure of the air. That's really when it got tough and up through Pyongyang they didn't give us any treatment at all.

Senator POTTER. Before we go into that, when you were in Seoul, did you ever see any Russian soldiers?

Corporal KREIDER. Yes, sir. I don't know if I saw Russian soldiers at Seoul. I saw a Russian civilian that use to come around. At least he was in civilian uniform. He would come through the camps, a North Korean officer, and they made us stand at attention, and he acted like he had a lot of authority. I know when he came around we would have a little better food. We would have 2 or 3 meals that day, because usually we had 1 or 2. It wasn't a meal, but they called it a meal. I believe it was actually under the Russian authorities that ran the camp.

Senator POTTER. In other words, when the Russian civilian would come in, they showed him a great deal of respect, is that it?

Corporal KREIDER. That is right, sir.

Senator POTTER. All right. You may continue with what happened after you left Seoul.

Corporal KREIDER. They moved us out from Seoul at a fast rate. They were afraid, I guess, of us getting liberated, they didn't want us liberated to the States. I guess that is why they moved us out so fast.

A lot of the men couldn't walk, so they pushed them with rifle butts. They would say "putty-putty," and the men were falling, and they wouldn't want us to pick them up. They didn't want us to carry them with us. They said one rotten apple would spoil the bunch. As we went along, each man got weaker and weaker, and no one could walk any more, hardly any of us.

We had to help each other along. That is when they started taking groups of us and leaving us behind. I heard them shooting, but I didn't know for sure if they were shooting or not. I heard rifle fire, and I figured they were shooting. About half way between Seoul and Pyongyang a few fellows stayed at a village, and this one fellow came back and he was shot in the leg, and he said they shot everybody.

That is how we knew. I figured they would shoot us all sooner or later. It kept on like that until quite a few of us died before we got to Pyongyang. From there up, it seemed like the civilian population was sympathetic to us. They sneaked us apples and cigarettes and everything to our columns. And tried to feed us. I know they were much more sympathetic to us in the civilian populations because they knew what communism was. We went to a school building in Pyongyang, I think it was a school building. I don't remember exactly the time we stayed there. I would say close to a week.

While we were there a few men would die each day, and we would take them out to a Pyongyang graveyard and bury them. They took me as an interpreter, and that is how I got food. The civilians would give us apples and money. One little kid gave me a lot of North Korean money. On the way back to the compound, I asked this guard if I could buy some apples. He asked, "Where did you get the money?" I said, "I found it in the road." He let me buy apples, and I got some apples and cakes that way and I took them back to the camp. It was insufficient, but it helped us out a bit. Also at the graveyard we found leaflets that had been dropped by United Nations planes. One of them had a picture of General MacArthur on it, and he was appealing to the North Korean premier to end the needless bloodshed as the North Korean Army had been suppressed in the south.

That is how I knew the United Nations were taking over the country at that time and figured we would have a chance to get back. About 5 to 7 days after we were in the school, we saw the flares come up over the city and we knew the United Nations forces were coming close by. They moved us out again the same as they did in Seoul, in a hurry. I would say one-third of the men couldn't possibly stand up, they were so weak. So some of them came out, we carried them out and some we couldn't even get off the floor. The North Korean guards went in there and said, "Let them go," and they hit them over the head with butts of rifles and they were possibly killed.

Senator POTTER. Those are the wounded?

Corporal KRIEDER. That is right.

Senator POTTER. They weren't able to make the march?

Corporal KRIEDER. They couldn't make the march and they didn't want them liberated. Probably they didn't want them to speak the truth when they came back to the States and that is why they killed them, so they would be better dead than to come back and tell the truth.

Senator POTTER. They killed them with their rifle butts?

Corporal KRIEDER. That is right, sir, with the rifle butts. They kicked them and spit on them and hit them over the head, like animals, to me. That is the way they treated them. We went outside of Pyongyang and they said we will walk to—I forget, but about 5 miles, I guess, and they put us on a train, in coal cars at the time. We went a few miles from Pyongyang and they put us in a field, and let us



stay in the field there for a day or two, I believe. A lot of men were dying every day. They didn't even bury them or nothing any more. They just left them lie. Finally they unhooked these coal cars for some reason and took the train from the cars. I think a few of the men were still left in the cars, and they were repatriated, I believe, by the United Nations forces.

We were taken farther north in the daytime. They never moved us in the daytime before in a train. But we knew the United Nations air force knew where we were. That is why they moved us out. They also knew the United Nations knew we were there.

So in the daytime we went right through Sunchon City. When we got on the other side of the city they took us off the train and took us to the other side of the field, and I figured they were going to shoot us. When the planes came over, they put us back in the train. We were so weak we could not hardly run or stand up. It was impossible to stand up, and we couldn't escape. Some of the men were so sick in soul and heart they didn't care if they lived anyway. They would as soon be dead as to go through any more torture.

We got into a tunnel near Sunchon and they put the train in the tunnel. It was the morning of the 20th of October. We were hungry. We made an S O S with our bodies lined up on the ground a few times. Our plane a few times dropped supplies to some of the men, C rations. I believe the Red Cross dropped, too, but I am not sure. But the North Koreans took the supplies and kept them. We saw a lot of planes going over that day and we figured they were planes going to send food, but it was one of the 187th Airborne drops at Sunchon. I believe that is why they shot us so quickly in that tunnel. They didn't want us to hang around. All the officers in our group were taken out that morning, the 20th of October. They said they were going to go to Manchuria, they told me, but I don't know what happened to them. First they said they were going to give us chow and then they said they were going to Manchuria.

Toward evening they said we would get chow. They gave us little cans, and they took us down in groups of 40. I believe I was in the second group. We went down along the railroad track and turned to the right, along a ditch, and they told us to sit down and the food would soon be there. As soon as we started to sit down, the burp guns started barking. I saw about six guards standing with the burp guns as was identified before here, and they opened up fire on us.

I fell down on my left side and another boy fell on top of me bleeding, and I believe that saved my life. They thought I was already dead because I laid still. After they shot a while, they took off, because it was already dark.

There was one man left in that group of mine, a master sergeant that was alive, and I helped to take him back.

Senator POTTER. About how many were in your group, Sergeant?

Corporal KRIEDER. I believe there were approximately 40 in our group. They took us out in groups of 40.

Senator POTTER. And out of the 40 you were the only 2 that survived?

Corporal KRIEDER. That I know of there were only two, I and another survivor, a master sergeant. And I helped to take him back to Sunchon, helped to carry him back, because he was too weak to

walk. We stayed in a corn shock that night, it was so cold. Early the next morning I got up and saw a North Korean boy, about 10 years old, walking by, and I yelled to him in Japanese that we wanted some food, but he didn't understand. They could speak Japanese from about 14 years old up in that country, as they were under Japanese before.

I don't believe he understood Japanese but he brought his dad out, an old man with a beard, and he came out and took us down to the house and gave us food and then he took us to Suncheon and turned us over to South Korean forces, and the South Koreans turned us over to the 187th, and the 187th to the 1st Cavalry. The 1st Cavalry escorted us to another place and from there back to the States.

Senator POTTER. How long were you hospitalized?

Corporal KRIEDER. I was hospitalized for 2 weeks.

Senator POTTER. You are in the Regular Army now?

Corporal KRIEDER. Yes, sir.

Senator POTTER. Are there any questions?

Mr. O'DONNELL. Just one question, Mr. Chairman.

How much weight did you lose all told, Corporal?

Corporal KRIEDER. I lost approximately 45 pounds. I was around 145 when I went there and came back with 100 pounds.

Mr. CARR. There was a lack of food along these marches, and in the camps. How about water? Did they give you water during the march?

Corporal KRIEDER. That is something they would never hardly give us is water. I wouldn't understand. They said it would make us sick because the Americans poisoned the wells. They were telling us that, but we drank everything we got hold of. We didn't believe them, because many times we stole the water wherever we found it. They said it had to be boiled. So every once in a while they would give us a pot, very little for all of us, and they said it was boiled. It was cold, but they said it was boiled and it would be good for us. It was propaganda and it didn't make sense.

Mr. CARR. When you were taken out of the train for this final shooting, was there any doubt in your mind but what this was a decision of somebody in authority?

Corporal KRIEDER. I am sure it was a decision of authority because they took us out to shoot us that morning, and all the guards were in conference together. They took us out in the field that morning and put us back on the train and shot us the same evening. I am quite certain it was authority from higher up.

Senator POTTER. Corporal, how did you happen to learn Japanese, and where did you learn it?

Corporal KRIEDER. Sir, I studied it through the United States Armed Forces Institute in Japan and then I also learned through a professor in Japan, while I was on 2½ years' occupation duty there. This Japanese professor worked in the library where I was stationed in the hospital in Tokyo and he taught me.

Mr. JONES. What is your medical profile now?

Corporal KRIEDER. Still 1, all 1.

Senator POTTER. Corporal, I wish to thank you for relating this terrible experience that you have gone through to the committee. I know that it is an experience you would just as soon forget. I know

that you feel, as does the committee, that if the American people know the true character of communism and the Communist leaders, that communism will hold little brief as far as they are concerned.

After the experience you have had, do you care to make any comment concerning communism as a way of life?

Corporal KRIEDER. Sir, I believe many people are of the opinion that because of this war that they commit these atrocities just to these soldiers. But I think it is the Communist theory all through to kill every subversive, to their theory of thinking everyone is subversive, and they want to destroy them. I believe communism in every country is the same thing.

In fact, I believe the Communist in this country is even worse than over there, because these people know better, at least have a little intelligence and know what a great country this is. In Korea a lot of those peasants had very little education and didn't know what they were doing, but did what they were told. But Americans, I think, know better than that.

Senator POTTER. It seems inconceivable, doesn't it, Corporal, to understand how an American who has enjoyed the fruits of a good education, many of them have enjoyed material wealth in their own right, can accept and adopt the Communist doctrine as a way of life?

Corporal KRIEDER. Right.

Senator POTTER. I wish to thank you kindly. We are very proud of you, Corporal.

Mr. Milano? Will you raise your hand and be sworn.

Do you solemnly swear that the testimony you shall give this committee will be the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you God?

Mr. MILANO. I do.

#### TESTIMONY OF WILLIAM L. MILANO, PHILADELPHIA, PA.

Senator POTTER. Mr. Milano, will you identify yourself for the record, with your full name and your address?

Mr. MILANO. My name is William Milano. I live at 7056 Reedland Street, Philadelphia, Pa.

Senator POTTER. And what was your rank in the service?

Mr. MILANO. A corporal.

Senator POTTER. When did you go to Korea and what unit were you assigned to?

Mr. MILANO. July 10, 1950, with the 27th Infantry, 25th Division.

Senator POTTER. Mr. Milano, will you briefly give us the circumstances under which you were captured?

Mr. MILANO. Well, on November 6, 1950, we got orders to go on patrol.

Senator POTTER. I wonder if you could sit up a little closer to the microphone. It is a little difficult to hear.

Mr. MILANO. On November 6 we got orders to go on patrol, 50 miles southwest of Kaesong. There were some enemy there. We left in the morning at 6 o'clock, I would say 2 platoons, 1 support platoon of mortars, and we were the reconnaissance platoon.

Senator POTTER. You were with the reconnaissance?

Mr. MILANO. The I. and R. platoon. We left at 6 in the morning and got to our destination at 12 o'clock. We met 2 South Korean

policemen, and they told us the enemy was there 2 days before. We dismounted from the jeeps, and the mortars stayed in back of us a half mile, so in case we got ambushed they would give us support. I would say we walked for a good mile, and the jeep stayed back.

In other words, our own platoon was spread out a mile. We got up near a bend, and they had three hills. The officer ordered us back in the jeeps and, as we did, we turned around the bend, and that is when they hit us with the machineguns. We dismounted from the jeeps and hit for the ditch. About 10 minutes later I could hear the support mortars coming in. And they stopped. I found out later they got hit, too, and they had to pull out, and it was just our own platoon left there. They went on, I would say, and from about 12 to 3 o'clock we were pinned in the ditch, and finally they threw a Banzai attack and overrun us. There were 13 all told, and 8 wounded. As soon as we were captured, they took us around the bend and stripped us of all of our clothes and shoes and left us with the pair of fatigues.

Senator POTTER. Except the fatigues?

Mr. MILANO. Except the pair of fatigues. They had three guards. Nobody spoke English. They had three guards and they would order us, and they would point. So we started marching. I would say they marched us for maybe 10 or 15 miles at the most, in which they gave us one break, and would give us a cigarette. I would say we walked for about 10 minutes on the left—

Senator POTTER. What time of the year was this?

Mr. MILANO. Wintertime. It wasn't snowing but it was cold. We had a couple of sweaters on; we had a jacket on.

Senator POTTER. This was before they stripped you of your coats?

Mr. MILANO. No, we had nothing on then. I mean before.

Senator POTTER. Before you were captured.

Mr. MILANO. There was a building on the left of the road. They took us in there and it was the medics. They told us to sit down and out come a doctor and three nurses. They bandaged all the wounds with clean bandages. They pulled a pair of rubber shoes out, 1 of these North Korean woolen jackets, each man got 4 apples, and they give us a cigarette. They told us to eat the apples and some ate them and some didn't. I would say we were there a half hour. And then the three guards with burp guns ordered us up again, and we did. We got up on the main road and cut to the right, sort of a gully and headed toward the hills, about 4 or 5 miles in, and there was a headquarters there, a village. When we got there 4 or 5 North Korean officers came up and no interpreter showed up yet. They ordered us into this big hut, I couldn't tell you how long after a civilian came in, said he was a North Korean officer and would like to question us. He started the interrogation, and started off with two officers. He would start off asking how many guns they had, how many men in the regiment and the officer said, "We don't know." How many tanks.

Senator POTTER. In other words, there were two officers captured with you, is that correct?

Mr. MILANO. A platoon leader and artillery observer.

Senator POTTER. And the interrogator was questioning the two officers?

Mr. MILANO. Every so often he would switch around. He asked one man how old he was, he asked me how old I was, he would switch

around and ask how long he was in the army. This artillery officer, he asked him was the Chinese Communists in Korea yet. I guess that is just about when they came to Korea. He asked my platoon leader who was the greatest man, Stalin or Truman, and he answered, "You like yours; we like ours." This went on for about an hour and a half. But all during the questioning he would say, "Are you hungry," and the officer would say "Yes, we haven't eaten since 6 this morning."

The officer would say, "We only got rice." He would say "That is all right." I would say he said it about eight times.

So he said, "We will take you and get something to eat and bring you back in the morning."

He said, "We will take you to get something to eat and bring you back in the morning for more questioning." So we left the hut, 2 guards, maybe 1 or 2 guards there—all told, I would say there were 30 guards with us—two guards were leaving. I was the last one to leave the hut. We walked around the hillside and the officer in front said something in Korean and we halted.

I was standing about from there to this table here——

Senator POTTER. About 6 feet?

Mr. MILANO. Yes. And he said something. I heard the bolt go back and as I heard the bolt, I turned around to see what it was, and he fired. He hit me through the right hand and it threw me up against the hill. As it did, blood either squirted on me or blood squirted on my face. He took another shot and it skidded off my left leg and took a piece of flesh away. The third hit me high, and I felt the dirt. They were still firing on the other men. About 5 minutes later all the firing stopped. The North Korean said something and they all started laughing.

Senator POTTER. Starting laughing?

Mr. MILANO. Yes. The guard I had come over and took the rubber shoes off of me and kicked me in the side but I didn't move. They started walking away. I would say about 5 minutes later after they walked away I got up and I went and checked all the rest of them and they were dead.

Senator POTTER. All the rest were dead?

Mr. MILANO. Yes. I wanted to get out of there, so I went up to the top of the hill, about 200 or 250 yards and went through the main road where they brought us, about 200 yards from where the shooting was. There were North Koreans walking along the road. I was about a hundred yards from here. It was about dark. I only got it in the hand.

Senator POTTER. You were hit in the hand?

Mr. MILANO. Yes.

Senator POTTER. Is your hand still scarred from the wound?

Mr. MILANO. I am still in the hospital, the veterans' hospital.

So I figured I better wait for a while until the guards go by, so I can make it back. There was a rice paddy field, I would say it was maybe as high as a 45° angle, about a hundred yards up, and it was like cornstalks. I got in between there and a half hour later I was so weak I couldn't move. I figured I better lay down and get some sleep. I did. Three days later I woke up and was delirious. I looked up and there was two civilians with their beards. I would say they they were about 50, easily. They were pushing me. I woke up and I thought I

was dreaming. I looked up there and I asked them for some water, and a cigarette and something to eat.

I guess I then passed out again. I don't know how long after, but when I was waking up, they woke me up and put shoes on me and put on a clean bandage, brought me a sling, a bowl of rice, and some corn-stalks wrapped in some papers. I would say for about a half hour they were trying to explain to me that my own regiment was out on the main road pushing, but I couldn't speak Korean enough. I was willing to go with them as long as I got out of that village. They had something like an army pack, made out of wood, and they put me in the middle of it with their hands underneath and they carried me out to the main road. I was halted by an American there and told them "Don't shoot, I am a GI."

He called up a jeep and about 5 minutes later a jeep came up and took me to a hospital.

Senator POTTER. You are grateful to that South Korean, aren't you?

Mr. MILANO. I never will forget that.

Senator POTTER. I think we have a lot of evidence that when the American troops overran that position they found the other 12 men.

Mr. MILANO. I met the major that took the patrol. Before we left they counted each guy, and when they shot them I guess they went back and found out I was gone. Maybe that is why they buried them. I heard they buried them.

Senator POTTER. They found 12 men that were with you killed from gunshot wounds.

Mr. MILANO. Yes. The major told me they found them buried about 3 feet deep.

Senator POTTER. How long was it from the time they took you in the house and gave you the apples and cigarettes and so forth before they took you out and shot you?

Mr. MILANO. I would say about 2 hours.

Senator POTTER. About 2 hours. The so-called civilian that came in and who stated that he was a North Korean, was there any doubt in your mind that he knew when he left that you were going to be shot?

Mr. MILANO. I think he did. He had that sneaky smile on him. He said to this one officer, "We will have you back here in the morning," and he had that smile. They always smiled. And if somebody would say something, like a guy that was wounded would ask for a drink of water, he would plainly say, "Shut up."

Senator POTTER. And when they took you out of the building and you were shot, it was on the orders of an officer; is that correct?

Mr. MILANO. Yes. I think there was the interpreter and another officer there.

Senator POTTER. How old are you?

Mr. MILANO. I will be 23 in July.

Senator POTTER. Did you have any questions, Mr. O'Donnell?

Mr. O'DONNELL. Mr. Chairman, I would like to have the record show that on November 9, 1950, the bodies of the 12 dead American PW's who were with Corporal Milano were recovered and have been identified. But the 12 were all found dead.

Senator POTTER. Mr. Carr?

Mr. CARR. No questions.

Senator POTTER. Mr. Jones?

Mr. JONES. No questions.

Senator POTTER. If there are no more questions, I would like to thank you for appearing before the committee. I wish you the best and earliest recovery, and I sincerely hope that with the experience you have gone through, life from here on will be bountiful for you.

Mr. MILANO. I hope so.

Senator POTTER. General Allen?

Will you raise your hand and be sworn. Do you swear that the testimony you shall give before this subcommittee will be the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you God?

General ALLEN. I do, sir.

**TESTIMONY OF FRANK A. ALLEN, JR., MAJOR GENERAL, UNITED STATES ARMY, THE PENTAGON, WASHINGTON, D. C.**

Senator POTTER. General Allen, we are pleased to have you here, and to have you supply some of the evidence which we have collected for this hearing.

Would you identify yourself for the record, please?

General ALLEN. Yes, sir; I am Frank A. Allen, Jr., major general, United States Army, serial No. O7415, stationed at the Joint Chiefs of Staff in Washington, D. C.

Senator POTTER. General, you were in command of what unit while in Korea?

General ALLEN. I was the Assistant Division Commander of the First Cavalry Division. I went to Korea with the division about the 15th of July 1950, and remained with the division until February or March of 1951.

Senator POTTER. What is your home address, General?

General ALLEN. Well, I was born and raised in Cleveland, Ohio. My home address now, of course, is here in Washington. I am a Regular officer.

Senator POTTER. You were in command of the troops that moved into the area near Suncheon tunnel; is that correct?

General ALLEN. Well, may I explain it this way, sir, that the First Cavalry Division organized a task force, consisting mostly of armor that was sent in to the vicinity of Suncheon to make contact with and be of assistance to the airborne drop of the 187th Airborne Regiment. That force was commanded by a Colonel Rogers, the tank commander of the battalion of tanks which was organically a part of the division.

It was one of my functions as the assistant division commander to see that those operations proceeded as well as could be expected.

At the time the junction was to be made, I flew over and watched the armor column join with the 187th in the vicinity of Suncheon. I came back to Pyongyang, which was our command post at that time, where my jeep awaited me, and with an aide and a driver and two newspapermen, Don Whitehead of the Associated Press and Tucker of the Baltimore Sun, who happened to be at the airport. They said "Where are you going," and I said "To Suncheon, to join up with the task force." They said, "We have lost our transportation, can we go with you?"

I said "Yes," and I proceeded then with them, and my aide, and the driver of the group, and made contact with the battalion, task force

Rogers, and then went in and made contact with the 187th Airborne Division, who told me that a ROK regiment was then coming into the town. The town was about a mile and a half or 2 miles from the road junction where the drop was made. I went in and joined up, I think, with the 7th Regiment of the 6th South Korean Division, ROK Army. It was there I learned of the shooting of the American prisoners.

Senator POTTER. What did you or your troops find? You went to the scene where it happened; is that correct?

General ALLEN. That is correct, sir. I was told through an interpreter that this trainload of American soldiers had been taken out, and they had witnessed the shooting of these people, this North Korean civilian. I was of the opinion that if they were that anxious to get rid of our people that they must have been in a very great hurry and unquestionably some of them must have remained alive.

So with an interpreter and with 1 or 2 officers of our Army stationed there with the ROK as advisers, we proceeded in 10 to 12 miles farther and deeper into the North Korean country, to the vicinity of this tunnel. Our first visit to the tunnel brought out these seven cadaverous corpses. They apparently had starved to death. There wasn't a speck of flesh on their carcasses.

Senator POTTER. Were they right in the tunnel?

General ALLEN. They were right in the tunnel, near the north end of the tunnel. No train or anything in the tunnel save these seven bodies, naked. One of the local civilians in that area said that he thought there were some Americans loose. We shouted and made considerable noise and finally a response from the top of a hill about 200 or 300 yards away indicated there were Americans up there. I recall that my aide and I went up the top of that hill and met a group of 5, 4 of whom were quite badly wounded. I think that my driver and Mr. Whitehead had proceeded the other way looking for some evidence of American troops in that vicinity.

Then I heard a cry, from another source, of an American, so we came down the hill, and there we came across the most gruesome sight I have ever witnessed. That was in sort of a sunken road, a pile of Americans dead. I should estimate that in that pile there were 60 men. In the pile were men who were not dead, who were wounded. With the aid of one or two of the North Koreans in that area, we removed the dead from above the bodies of the wounded and brought them out. We, incidentally, found a very shallow grave, it must have contained at least 60 bodies, the other side of the road down maybe 50 yards from that place. We unearthed some of the bodies but apparently there were no live soldiers in that group.

Senator POTTER. This first group that you met, that you ran into in the sunken road, had they been buried?

General ALLEN. No, sir; they had not. There was no attempt to cover them with dirt whatsoever. They were just there and one or two of them very badly wounded sitting on the side of the bank, unable to move farther. Others were called out of the hills. As has been testified to the committee, some of them came very reluctantly, not believing that we were Americans. After we discovered that we had, I think about 30 Americans alive out of that group, I sent my aide-de-camp, a Lt. Jack Hodes, with the jeep and a driver into Sunchon



to contact the 187th Airborne and advise them that I would try to get the wounded in to them.

They had no transportation, so we got the ROK Army to provide us with trucks, with straw in the trucks, and taking advantage of the number of people in the nearby village, we made them carry the wounded to the trucks, placed them in the trucks, and brought them into Sunchon, some 10 to 12 miles, where the doctor from the 187th Airborne took care of them that night.

Two died that night, I am sorry to say. I think we got out 28 alive.

Senator POTTER. General, you have had considerable military experience?

General ALLEN. A lot of it, sir.

Senator POTTER. And we know by your reputation and the awards you wear, that you have seen considerable combat.

General ALLEN. Correct, sir.

Senator POTTER. Have you ever in your vast military experience witnessed the evidence of such beastlike treatment of prisoners as you ran across this time?

General ALLEN. It was beyond my comprehension that any human beings could treat other human beings as badly as our men were treated by the North Koreans. I could hardly believe that a human being could be so bestial as these people were.

Senator POTTER. Thank you very much, General.

Lieutenant Smith?

Will you raise your hand and be sworn. Do you solemnly swear that the testimony you shall give this committee will be the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you God?

Lieutenant SMITH. I do.

#### TESTIMONY OF JAMES B. SMITH, FIRST LIEUTENANT, ARMY OF THE UNITED STATES, FORT BENNING, GA.

Senator POTTER. Lieutenant Smith, will you identify yourself for the record, and give your full name and present duty and assignment?

Lieutenant SMITH. My name is 1st Lt. James B. Smith. I am at present a student at the Infantry School, Fort Benning, Ga.

Senator POTTER. And where is your home?

Lieutenant SMITH. At present my home is in Franklin, Ind. I was born in Columbus, Ohio.

Senator POTTER. Will you tell the committee, Lieutenant, when you went to Korea and your unit?

Lieutenant SMITH. Yes, sir.

My regiment went to Korea on the 9th of July 1950, with the 24th Regiment of the 25th Division.

Senator POTTER. I am sorry, I did not hear you.

Lieutenant SMITH. The 24th Regiment of the 25th Division.

Senator POTTER. Would you tell the committee under what circumstances you were captured?

Lieutenant SMITH. Yes, sir.

Our regiment was fighting around Sangju, Korea. We were entrenched on a hill position north of the town of Sangju. The North Koreans struck the company I was in, the L Company of the 24th,

about 6 o'clock in the evening, about dusk. I at the time had gone back by order of the CO to get chow for our unit.

Senator POTTER. Were you a platoon leader at the time?

Lieutenant SMITH. Yes, sir; I was and also the exec. I had brought the chow up to the base of the hill and it was about a 3-hour climb to our positions. That is when one of the other lieutenants came down and told me that the company commander wanted the battalion commander to know that we were under attack by a superior force and he wanted further instructions. I immediately went back to the battalion commander's CP and told him the situation as had been told me, and asked what his instructions were. His instructions were for us to hold at all costs what we had, to tell the company commander that he was going to send in another company to reinforce and help us.

As I went back up toward our positions, some of the men—the position had been overrun—some of them were filtering down. We held those who were not badly wounded there, and reorganized them. I say we, another lieutenant and myself.

At the same time, we had to lay down a base of fire so that some of the other men that were coming down could make our positions there at the foot of the hill. About 45 minutes later, the company that was to reinforce us came up the hill and we joined forces with them, the men that were able. I took a BR and with the first squad of this reinforcing company I was directed to go up a saddle which would flank the access road which led to our positions. I went up this saddle with the first squad, reinforcing squad, and as we neared the top of the hill instinctively I noticed that it would be bad to walk up and expose ourselves, so we went around to the right flank on the inner side of the valley.

We had gone maybe about 200 yards when they opened fire over on the adjoining ridge, the ridge which ran parallel to the saddle. At that time they opened fire all around us and we found out that we had walked into an ambush, also. It appeared that bullets were coming from every direction, and we had to use grenades to kind of get ourselves out of the situation, because most of the men had tracers in their rifles and those tracers were giving away our positions.

After a fire fight of maybe, I would say or estimate an hour, I was conscious that—well, I wasn't conscious of any other men being around with me. I was also conscious that there was a machinegun chattering up on the top of the ridge. It wasn't too far away. I was about 50 feet down from the top of the ridge. So I worked my way up to the top and I could see this machinegun firing with a group of figures around it.

I used the BAR on the position, and after a while ran out of ammunition. I started working my way back down the flank. Immediately thereafter I noticed that our men didn't appear to be firing to the front any more. They were firing to the rear and over to my right. That is where the main part of the fire seemed to be coming from. We started getting artillery on the hill, this ridge where I was, and one burst landed behind me and showered the ground with fragments. I started working my way down the hill and I could hear Korean or foreign voices. I assumed they were Korean. So I decided to try and figure out just what was going on. Well, I waited there maybe about 15 minutes, working my way down a little further toward my lines, and then I heard a loud explosion in the valley.

At that time I didn't know what it was, but I assumed that the North Koreans had come down the main road and had hit our battalion CP.

I later learned that our battalion commander had to blow his ammunition, and they had orders to withdraw.

Later I also learned that they had sent up word for us to withdraw, but it never got to us. I stayed on the inside of the ridge for most of that night. I could hear North Koreans moving up on the top of the ridge and down in the valley all during the night. I figured that rather than run into them, I better wait until a little light came along so I could see where I was going and make my way out of there.

The next morning in the valley the side that I was on, I could see North Korean troops coming down out in the open, and making no attempt to conceal themselves, going toward my rear, toward our lines. I then decided to work my way up to the top of the ridge close enough so that during the night I could work over the nose of the ridge and get on the other side and find out what was going on over there.

I had my fieldglasses to see if I could find out where my lines were. So that night I did that. I went over the nose of the ridge and worked my way down about a third of the way down this same ridge, on the opposite side. The next day I searched the surrounding country with my glasses and all I could see were North Koreans, down the main road, at our CP, and all over the area. Our artillery fire was landing around the CP, and around the road there, and the liaison airplane was flying over.

Well, I decided that night, then, to work my way across the valley. I figured if I could work down to the road and across the road, I would get on the far side, which would be the east side of the road, and maybe outflank the enemy positions and work my way around to our lines.

That night I went down the side of the ridge, which was a steeper side than the inside, the valley side, and it was quite difficult, but I was able to get down into the valley and work my way down there and across to a group of hills, say, approximately at the base, at the nose base of the hill.

I stayed over there for the next day in some bushes and trees and things, a clump of small trees. North Koreans were still passing by on either side and making no attempt to conceal themselves, which I thought was rather odd.

I finally figured that maybe our forces weren't very close. The liaison airplane was still coming over, so I concluded that our forces were still somewhere in the area. But firing had died down quite a bit, and artillery no longer hitting us.

The next night I worked up over the group of hills and closer toward the road. That same night I struck.

Incidentally, I didn't have any sleep. I stayed awake day and night because I didn't want to be captured. We had been shown pictures in the Star and Stripes, about 2 or 3 days before, of our men, with their hands tied behind their backs, and our battalion commanders told us to instruct all of our men that this is what they could expect if captured, to be shot in the back of the head with their hands tied behind their back.

I made this blind, and during the night I also searched for food. I didn't have any food. I wasn't very fortunate. I knew there were

potatoes in the area, but every time I would dig up a bush or something there would be no potatoes there.

I was getting rather hungry. I got some water about the third day. Anyway, after constructing this blind I stayed awake the rest of that night, and mosquitoes helped keep me awake. They are very plentiful in Korea, and it is hard to sleep at night with them biting you all the time, anyway.

The next day I fell asleep out of fatigue, sheer fatigue. I do remember as I wakened that I had one foot outside the blind, and I don't remember whether I snored or what, but I was conscious of a loud shouting. When I finally realized that the noise was real, and it was not an American, I sat up and when I sat up I looked right into the muzzles of four guns.

There were four North Koreans facing me, all of them were facing me, and they had their guns leveled at me.

Senator POTTER. Their rifles pointed at you.

Lieutenant SMITH. Yes, sir.

Senator POTTER. What did they do to you then?

Lieutenant SMITH. They were motioning for me to get up, and put my hands up. But I didn't catch on right away. I thought that they would shoot me. I mean I expected that.

They kept gesticulating and waving their bayonets for me to get up. Finally I caught on so I stood up. Immediately they all rushed toward me, the four of them rushed toward me. One of them stood back a little bit and three of them started going through my pockets. I was pretty well loaded with, I guess you would call it booty, to them. I had a watch, I had fieldglasses, I had my compass, and an extra pair of socks, a canteen, a messkit.

Senator POTTER. You were a lucky find for them.

Lieutenant SMITH. Yes, sir. I had practically all of my gear with me, and they were having a field day dividing the stuff up.

Then they found I had one grenade left. I had carried it with me down the hill. I had a habit of hooking the handle in my pocket. I had saved that one grenade in case. I planned if necessary I would have to use it on myself rather than be captured.

I had put it in my pocket, after losing it a couple of times coming down the hill and retracing my way up the hill to find it. I put it in my pocket and buttoned the flap. They found the grenade and started to get irritated. They started making signs as though they were going to throw it at me. It didn't faze me because I really expected they would do something like that.

Then they gesticulated for me to go to the road. I started out ahead of them. I kept looking back. I thought they might jab me with a bayonet and I wondered if I could catch it if they did. Anyway, they took me down to a group of officers in our CP. They said something to them and they took me down farther to a road juncture I would say maybe about a half mile toward our lines or toward the direction I thought our lines were. I didn't know at the time, but our men had been shifted 50 miles from the position where they were. There were no American troops in the area. They evidently didn't know that either because they were all holed up, rather entrenched, on the reverse slope of a ridge that paralleled what would be our front. They got me in there and they turned me over to some more

of their troops, and a junior officer and the guards that had originally captured me went away. While I was there, no one spoke English very well. They did speak pidgin English.

They were coming up and asking me what I was doing there, and why I came to Korea, and "Pretty soon you die," and then they would point a pistol at your head and sometimes they would click the trigger. They would point a rifle at you. They would just take turns. One group would come up with the pistols and rifles and then they would go away and another group would come up.

Senator POTTER. Did they remove any of your clothing?

Lieutenant SMITH. Not at this time; no, sir.

Just my belt and all my gear. A little bit later on another officer came up, apparently a lieutenant, if I remember the ranks, and they took me down to the road and started walking back toward the CP, what had been our battalion CP.

As they got up there, they got into a Russian-type jeep. No; let's see. We stayed on this hill until it started getting late in the afternoon. About dusk a Russian-made jeep came down with some officers in there, and they put me in there and turned around and took me north to what I believe was the area commanding unit, his CP.

The reason I believe that is because it was well guarded all around by troops, and it was high up in a ridge. We had to walk up this ridge and it took us about 2 or 3 or about 4 hours, I guess, to get to the top of the ridge.

He had a very good hideout up there where he could look at our lines. That is the place where I was given interrogation.

Senator POTTER. What was the nature of the interrogation?

Lieutenant SMITH. This one was strictly military.

Senator POTTER. Strictly a military interrogation?

Lieutenant SMITH. Yes, sir. They wanted to know how many men we had.

Senator POTTER. Did they treat you pretty rough or not?

Lieutenant SMITH. They started out treating me very kindly, and then when they found out that in answers to a lot of things I told them I didn't know, and a lot of things they suspicioned or knew were incorrect, finally one of their colonels, he had the shoulder epaulettes that I remembered belonged to a colonel, grabbed an American carbine up, and took the bolt back and made as if he was going to shoot me. This high-ranking officer who took no part in the actual asking of the questions, he smiled when he did that, and the interpreter told me, he said, "You have made the colonel very angry. He said you are lying and he is going to shoot you if you do not tell the truth."

I told him, I said, "I have only told the truth. I don't know any more than what I have told."

They stopped right after this happened. The fellow who was interrogating me claimed he was a civilian, just going with the People's Army to write the glorious history of this particular campaign, and that he didn't understand English too well, he told me, but to speak and use simple words so that he could interpret for me. He told me that.

They got another person in civilian clothes, carrying a burp gun, who came up and he spoke English very well, very fluently. He asked the same questions over, and I gave the same answers.

So evidently that satisfied them. Then they took me from there and said they were going to send me up to Seoul where I would get chicken and rice, pork and rice, beef and rice very day, play cards, and everything would be real nice up there. It would be very good.

They took me up there later on that evening. It happened that evening that the officer that was supposed to take me back, that they had assigned to take me back, evidently, either got separated from me or else in the confusion of the troops moving around we got separated, and I wound up going with the unit when they moved out. They moved the CP that same night, later on in the evening, or early morning. They moved the CP and I had to march with them.

Senator POTTER. You marched with their troops?

Lieutenant SMITH. I marched with their troops. I was still wounded and I was rather fatigued. I had had one meal by this time. After marching all that night I found it was pretty hard to keep up. But anyway, I kept up and they marched about 3 or 4 days until they got down near Waegon.

Senator POTTER. You were marching south?

Lieutenant SMITH. South; yes, sir. We got to Waegon and we went through a tunnel. It was late in the afternoon. As we came to the mouth of this tunnel, the south end of the tunnel, they received rifle fire. So immediately they withdrew and I felt real happy.

I said, "Well, at least I know where our lines are and maybe I can make a break and get away." The unit took me then, the guard that had me, the unit that I was with, they waded across the Nok-tong River that night and evidently tried to flank our positions. But they weren't successful. We laid up on a hill across the Nok-tong River, the south line ridge, for about 2 or 3 days more. All this time the airplanes were working us over, the artillery were working us over, and you could hear machinegun fire chattering to the front.

Senator POTTER. Were you pretty well guarded?

Lieutenant SMITH. Yes, sir. I was pretty well guarded, but my guards were beginning to get a little bit lax. Later on, about the third day, I attempted to make an escape which was unsuccessful, and the next day I got hit by one of our rounds that landed about 5 feet from us; got hit in the hand. I had blood all over me and this North Korean lieutenant sent me to the rear of their lines and back toward Seoul. I think his aim was just to send me to the rear of their lines. But anyway, I got back there, and I got picked up by another group and the next thing I knew we were walking again. I was the only GI in the group. It was a group of their wounded they were taking north toward Seoul.

At least I think they were going to Seoul. We started out in the group and got up to Yongdong. All this time I had been with the army military personnel. At Yongdong I was turned over to the civilian police.

Senator POTTER. Turned over to the civilian police?

Lieutenant SMITH. It is some sort of a—well, they are in uniform and they had a green band around their hat. The red bands were

usually the ones that the army had. And then there was also a group of civilians there. They put me in a jail there. I there met my first other Americans. There were about a dozen Americans in this particular jail, and they were about 2 or 3 to a cell and the rest of them were South Koreans.

Senator POTTER. How long did you stay there?

Lieutenant SMITH. We stayed there about 8 days.

Senator POTTER. Did they interrogate you there again?

Lieutenant SMITH. No, sir; no interrogation. They just took away my shoes there, and my underwear.

Senator POTTER. Shoes apparently were quite a prized possession for them.

Lieutenant SMITH. Yes, sir; they were very valuable. I don't know why they took away my underwear, but they did. And it was rather cold there, and I tried to keep it. But it was a choice of getting a rifle butt or giving up my underwear, so I let them have it.

It was at Yongdong that I saw one of our men clubbed with a rifle butt. He kept asking for water, and you got water twice a day, and in between that time—you got a cup of water, a small cup—and in between that time you just had to suffer. This man, evidently someone else might have taken his water and he kept begging for water. They came and struck him through the bars on his kneecap. It kind of lamed him. He never was able to walk very good after that.

Also, they had another American there that they beat out in the center. The jail was circular. The cells were in a circle, and the big room was in the center of the circle of cells. We gathered from a few Koreans who could understand a little English, and some of them that could understand a little Japanese—I could understand a very little Japanese—we gathered they were trying to get this American to confess that he killed some civilian Korean. Eventually they took him out. I don't know what they did to him, I never saw him any more. They made you sit on your haunches in a very uncomfortable position. You couldn't lay down until 10 o'clock at night, and they would then give a signal, and everybody would stretch out in the cramped quarters they had.

The food was very poor and very insufficient. It was kind of like millet.

Senator POTTER. Did they treat your wounds there?

Lieutenant SMITH. No, sir; they did not. Finally, on the eighth day, they took the Americans out and a few of the South Koreans, and they wired us all together with regular communication wire around our wrists. We saw the truck there, so we figured they were going to put us in a truck, which they did. The truck was so crowded that we had to stand up, and it was very uncomfortable.

The airplanes were still out patrolling at night, B-26's, and every now and then they would have to stop the truck and jump off. The guards would jump off and leave us on the truck, while they would run and hide from the airplanes. Quite often the planes dropped flares but never strafed our particular truck. We went on up to about, I would say, 25 or 30 miles from Seoul. I think it is Chungju, or something like that, and there we were put in another jail, a red brick jail, where we met some more Americans that they had collected there. Here the food was about the same. The food was about the same, and

the treatment was about the same, except that they had one guard who delighted in blowing cigarette smoke through the peephole and asking if you wanted a cigarette. If you said yes, he would blow smoke through. That was about the only diversion.

We started out from Chungju and they had two vehicles. They were just taking Americans. They had a three-quarter-ton and a jeep. Practically all the men tried to get into the three-quarter ton, because it provided a little more cover from the chilling winds. It was nighttime.

Senator POTTER. What time of the year was this?

Lieutenant SMITH. This was the middle part of August.

No, it was late in August. I am sorry. It gets especially cold in Korea at night. We started out. I and another GI were left to go in the jeep. The jeep had a radiator that leaked, and the mechanical condition wasn't very good, and it kept stopping. Pretty soon the three-quarter-ton left it.

In this jeep, also, there was a high-ranking civilian, a North Korean, a judge of some type who was carrying some valuable papers, I later learned. We begged them for something to throw around us, a sack or something, because it was so cold. They denied it.

We were huddled together for warmth. We got up to the Han River bridge at Seoul, and for some reason the driver tried to go across the bridge, which had been bombed out in the early days of the war. He was supposed to take a ferry across there. Why he didn't know that, I don't know. But we heard a cry of alarm from one of the guards, and he jumped off the jeep. At the same time I happened to look out in front, and I knew that there wasn't any road there. About that time, and it all happened so quick, the jeep started dropping down toward the Han River. It seemed to be about a hundred feet or more drop.

When we hit the water, it flung me out up over the other GI; we just crossed over in the air and into the water. As I went out, some cans hit me, and a spare tire that he had in the back. We got in the water and splashed around. It seemed for a period as if my back was broken. I was trying to make a girder. Part of the bridge was down there in the water, and I was trying to get over to one of the railings that was not too far away from me.

I finally made it over there, and one of the other guards had climbed up on this same railing, and the guard that jumped off at first was up on the top shouting in Korean. I don't know what he was shouting. The fellow who was with me was clinging on the opposite side to the roadway railing. Pretty soon a ferry came out, and they put us on this ferry, the bottom of it. We had trouble getting in. They had to haul us in. They tried to find this civilian North Korean, but they couldn't.

Well, they took us in to the shore, and we were able to crawl out on the bank. They asked us if we could walk, and the other fellow had the same difficulty I had. For some reason or other, we just didn't seem to be able to get up. They threw rice mats over the top of us, and we got as close to each other as we could to try to get warm. That night several times guards would come down and lift up the rice mat and kick us, or something like that, and then go away.

The next morning one guard came down and told us to get up. We made an attempt to get up, but were going too slow for him. He let



us know if we didn't get up he was going to shoot us. So we got up, and we supported ourselves. Each of us supported the other. With that assistance we got up into the village. They took us to a police station there, a check point, and then later on they brought up the body of this North Korean civilian. He had slit his skull open when the jeep went down, and it killed him. Evidently he was of such high rank and of such importance that they were very much disturbed that this had happened, because a lot of high-ranking officers came out during the daytime and rode a jeep, which is something; they weren't traveling too much in the daytime, and they rode out there to view this man's body and to get the briefcase. Also they got this driver, and they were giving him a hard time for how this accident happened.

The driver, you could tell by his motions and so forth, was trying to make out as if the other GI had tried to grab the wheel. He kept mentioning Hongo-Hongo, like airplane came over. There never had been any airplanes over.

This other GI, he made a movement that caused him to go off the bridge, is what he said. They didn't appear to be believing it. We were hoping, both of us, that they would take time out and shoot him. What happened, I don't know. The officers came out, and the one who received the briefcase took us into Seoul proper in a jeep. We thought we were going to get medical attention. They took us into what I thought was formerly a hotel there, one of the large buildings in Seoul, and took us in the basement of it. It had blackout curtains around all the windows. When we got in there it was a big, plush office, and they asked us why we came to Korea—there was a civilian there—and a few questions along that line, with nothing military. We kept asking for medical attention.

They said, "You will get medical attention later," which we never did. They were going through this briefcase. They were very much interested in the contents of the briefcase. It was very important. Anyway, they took us the next morning from this hotel to a compound in the city of Seoul.

Senator POTTER. To a compound in Seoul, did you say?

Lieutenant SMITH. It is a compound, but it wasn't the prison compound. It was an area that had a large, very decorative oriental gateway, and it had a fence around it, a very decorative fence. It reminded me of a palace, an oriental palace. It might have been.

Anyway, they took us in there, and we were interrogated separately by a—

Mr. JONES. By Mr. Kim?

Lieutenant SMITH. No, sir; not Mr. Kim. A person in what appeared to be civilian clothes. I had never seen before that time a Chinese Army uniform. I didn't realize that it was a Chinese Army uniform until after I was back in Japan and the Chinese got into the war.

But this was a man in a Chinese military uniform. He asked the usual questions about why we came to Korea, and were any Japanese troops there, and what did my father do, what kind of work. I told him my father was a carpenter, which was true. That made him feel pretty good. He asked me what I did, and why I was fighting against the North Koreans. I told him I was a truck driver. He said, "That seems funny, but all the Americans that we have captured are all truck drivers." He said, "None of them are combat soldiers."

He went on from there, and he said, "You don't seem to have done very much hard labor. Your hands are soft." That is one thing they did all along the line, they would look at your hands. I guess they were trying to find out whether you were a machine gunner, a worker, or laborer, or capitalist, or something of that type. He wanted to know who my relatives were, and if I knew Paul Robeson, if I ever went to see him, and if I ever heard him. And if I had ever been a member of the party. He always got negative answers and seemed to be very disturbed.

The thing that disturbed me most was when he asked me if I was a Christian, and I said "Yes." He shook his head on that. He couldn't understand that.

Senator POTTER. Did he try to raise the racial issue?

Lieutenant SMITH. Yes. He tried to raise it. He asked me if I had ever seen any lynchings or things like that. First he asked me if I had ever been lynched, and I wondered how he expected me to be there. So he said the next day that I would go to the rest of the American prisoners in Seoul, get good food and everything else, play cards all day and have a good time.

Well, we went the next day to this compound. We got there late in the evening. That is where I met Mr. Kim and he always wanted to be called Mr. Kim. You had to be very polite to him. The fellow that was with me made a little error as he came in, and he called him "boisun." Kim just blew his top when he said that. He tried to get the fellow, but it was dark and he couldn't locate him again. They had a radio going when I came in, and it just seemed by coincidence that Sioux City Sue, we called her Rice Ball Kate, was broadcasting that I had been captured, and with me two other lieutenants of my company, the same company that I was in. That disturbed me greatly and I wondered if that were true. I had reasons to doubt it, but I didn't know if she was telling the truth or not.

Anyway, Kim had told me when I came in, he gave me the interrogation when I came in, and told me where I was to be quartered, and what I was not supposed to do. I wasn't supposed to go downstairs in the hall. If we had to go to the latrines, you had to go around the end, and use the upstairs hall, things like that. He said, "You are to listen to radio. Rice Ball Kate comes on in the evening, and it is very good for you to listen."

The next evening the radio was taken out, or I guess it was the third night it was taken out. The reason for it being taken out was this: Kim went in on that particular day, the third day, and he caught one of the GI's tampering with the radio. He asked the fellow, "What are you doing?" They had one station they kept it on and they had all the knobs off it so you couldn't change the station, and the fellow didn't think and he said, "I am trying to get Tokyo." That did it. Kim started cursing and he took the radio out.

The reason he wanted to get Tokyo is the fellows told me they had been getting Tokyo every evening when Kim wasn't around, and they could get the true picture at that time, when they heard the newscast from Tokyo.

Senator POTTER. How long were you in the prison at Seoul?

Lieutenant SMITH. I was in Seoul I think for about 2 or 3 weeks. Anyway, I was up in Seoul until about the 20th of September. Most of this time I was laying flat on my back, allowing my back to heal.

Evidently there were no bones broken, but if there had been any broken I wouldn't have received any care for it.

About the last week I was walking around pretty good. I still was shuffling and the other fellow with me was doing the same. He was able to shuffle around.

Senator POTTER. I am wondering, we have had 3 or 4 witnesses tell about the treatment at Seoul. I assume it is the same place because this Mr. Kim was there. I wonder now if we can go to where you left Seoul.

Lieutenant SMITH. Yes, sir. There is one thing I would like to say about Seoul. That is about the food there. I don't remember any rice balls there at all. What we received was a water soup. The soup was made from the tops of the vegetables. The Koreans would eat the beets and turnips. They would take the bottom part and they would cut the tops off and give it to our GI cooks to boil in water and that was our food. It had a very low calory rating and it was just keeping you alive. That is all.

About the 20th of September we had heard gunfire, maybe 3 or 4 days before that, and we got word—well, we didn't get any word. We started trying to figure out what was going on. We couldn't figure our troops being that far north. But anyway we knew that Kim and the lieutenant in charge there, and another officer, were burning papers during the day. So we figured that we were getting ready to be moved out, that they were going to move us north someplace. On the 20th of September one evening they called us out in the middle of the compound yard there, about 10 o'clock at night, and said, "We are going to walk 1 mile and catch a train," and anyone that couldn't walk to fall out and make a separate group. That 1 mile was the entire distance from Seoul to Pyongyang. He advised everybody to try and make it.

Senator POTTER. You marched that distance?

Lieutenant SMITH. Yes, sir. We wound around through North Korea, so it wasn't in a direct line. It was following roads most of the time. The first night we got to a little wooden schoolhouse. It was a forced march, incidentally. They kept you going at a fast pace, and to make it worse, they went 10 miles the wrong direction. They started west from Seoul and they had to retrace and come back into Seoul and start on up the road. They made the wrong turn. The next night, or the next day, or the next night, we crossed over into North Korea. We crossed the 38th parallel, and they stopped at a red schoolhouse. For food on this march we had crackers, about the size of—about three-quarters of an inch by three-quarters. They gave you 17 of those. That was your entire meal for 1 day.

At this schoolhouse we were able to stop, I think, about 2 days, and our first man died there. He died, I imagine, from either exposure or malnutrition, 1 of the 2. Then from there on we were marched up to Pyongyang mostly during the night. It got so cold at night that the men begged them to make them walk during the day.

Senator POTTER. Did they treat the stragglers pretty rough?

Lieutenant SMITH. Yes, sir. The little lieutenant that was in charge of the group, you could tell he hated Americans worse than any of the Koreans, apparently, that he has ever come across. He shot two that I saw personally, and one of the guards—

Senator POTTER. This lieutenant shot two of the wounded? Were they wounded?

Lieutenant SMITH. Practically every one in the group was wounded someplace. They each had straggled blindly, and he had shot them. One of the guards shot another man who had not even straggled. He had fallen out of line. He had dysentery. If you had to relieve yourself, you had to run up to the head of the column or get someplace where the column's end would come past you. If the column's end got to you and you were not finished you had to get up and run further. This man had made the attempt and was getting up to run forward and this guard came up and he shot him right through the head.

I saw that because the major in charge of the group, the senior officer—

Senator POTTER. The American?

Lieutenant SMITH. Yes, sir. He had various officers get to the end of the column every now and then to try to keep down that type of thing by trying to ask the men to keep up in line, and also to give him reports on what went on there. He had officers at the end of the line and the front of the line, and in each group. Also, the men were so hungry that they would try and dart out of the column to pick squash and cucumbers and things like that, and corn, out of the field. Every time they did that, the guards would shoot at them or throw rocks at them or run up with a stick, to get them back in line. They said all of that food belonged to the people of North Korea and we weren't to touch it.

On most of the march we got a rice ball, which was about the size of a golfball or sometimes a little larger, usually twice a day and sometimes once a day. Several men died on the way there from, I would imagine, dysentery or wounds, or exposure or malnutrition. We were able to walk during the day for a long period until a group was strafed one day and one of the North Korean guards got a scratch from a rock. It was flung up by one of the bullets. Then they were going to make us march at night again, but finally the senior officer was able to get them to allow us to continue marching during the day. None of us would have survived if we marched at night.

Senator POTTER. Were you still barefooted?

Lieutenant SMITH. Yes, sir; still barefooted.

Senator POTTER. How long did it take you to make that march?

Lieutenant SMITH. From September 20 and we got to Pyongyang on the 8th of October, on a Sunday.

Senator POTTER. What happened when you got to Pyongyang?

Lieutenant SMITH. When we got to Pyongyang, we went to a compound there, well, another school, and it had a brick wall around it, and we saw Russian officers as we came into Pyongyang. It was the first time we saw them actually in uniform.

Senator POTTER. A Russian officer?

Lieutenant SMITH. Yes, sir. And the people, the North Koreans would swear at you. We got into this schoolhouse, and the ration there changed. They said that they would give us bread and a liquid soup along with it. The bread was about half a bun, I would say. You got that twice a day. It was a little better, as far as the Americans were concerned, than the rice diet that we had. The major had me in charge of the sick up there in Pyongyang, the sickroom. Each officer was assigned a room, one of the schoolrooms, with a group of men. The men were dying pretty fast there, and he asked me to go

along with them and see that they were decently buried as much as possible, under the supervision of the North Korean guards, and also to make a record of where they were buried and to see that they always prepared a bottle with the man's name, rank, and serial number and other data that we could gather placed in this bottle in the graves.

Senator POTTER. How many men did you bury?

Lieutenant SMITH. I buried about 20 men at Pyongyang.

Senator POTTER. Did they have other burying details, too?

Lieutenant SMITH. Not in Pyongyang, no, sir. They did along the road, though. After we buried about three men, some of the North Korean civilians seemed to be in sympathy with us, we noticed. They would come up and give us apples, and a kind of a cake, a grape sugar flavored cake, and chestnuts, and corn. We would carry this back and divide it mostly with the sick men or some one that was in need, and then we would eat some of it ourselves. We had almost a permanent burial detail and used the strongest men.

Senator POTTER. How were the men buried? Did they have a deep grave?

Lieutenant SMITH. Yes, the grave was pretty deep. We would dig down about 4 or 5 feet. We were only able to do that because quite often the civilian North Koreans would jump up and help us dig the graves. This was done only because they were friendly to us.

Senator POTTER. In other words, you had some North Koreans that, while they were still under Communist control, were still sympathetic toward the Americans and some South Koreans, is that correct?

Lieutenant SMITH. Yes, sir; that is correct.

Senator POTTER. How long were you in charge of this detail there at Pyongyang?

Lieutenant SMITH. We got there the 8th of October. I think we buried our first man about the next day. Up until the time we moved out from Pyongyang—

Senator POTTER. What time did you move out of Pyongyang?

Lieutenant SMITH. We moved out of there about October 21, I would say, that the column started out again.

Senator POTTER. Were you interrogated at Pyongyang?

Lieutenant SMITH. No, sir.

Senator POTTER. Where did you go from there?

Lieutenant SMITH. From there, well, that is where I made my escape, I and four other men. Before I tell you about the escape part, I would like to bring in another thing. While we were working during the day, every now and then we would get a pamphlet from one of the civilians, pamphlets that had been dropped from airplanes.

Senator POTTER. From our planes?

Lieutenant SMITH. From our planes, yes. It said, "Do not harm the prisoners of war"—It was signed by General MacArthur—"or you will be brought to task for it. The war is lost. Surrender and treat our prisoners well."

We would carry these back and show them to the major. We would try to figure out what was going on. We figured maybe our forces were coming north, or maybe going to plan another end sweep. We found out they had landed at Inchon because three marines were added to our group as we traveled north and they told us about the landing at Inchon. About this time the men started making plans and

trying to escape. They all concluded they would not travel north, that they couldn't make it. The major said that was fine, that they had his blessing, but that he would stick with the main group so that he could try and see them through. We also asked for medical supplies from these civilians, and they were able to get us some mercurochrome and some bandages which we used for the sick; quite a few bandages. Four of us in the burial detail figured if we could move out at night we could bolt out of the column as they passed an alley, the alley being one adjacent to the school compound.

We figured it would be dark on the night we moved out, so we got out of the column and the column and the guards at the rear passed by us and didn't see us. We ran our way through the town, and ran into some soldiers once and got away from them, and then ran into a roadblock and had to run through it, and got away from the guards in the roadblock. We figured we couldn't get out of the city which we had planned to do, so we holed up in a house which had been boarded up. We replaced the boards on the outside of the doorway, so it appeared no one had gone through there. We got into the house, and we found a big Korean jar about half full of water, some flour, and about a handful of rice. We took the flour and made a paste out of it, and lived off of that for about 5 days, or 4 days.

On the fifth day as we were out of food, we figured we had better leave those quarters because they were fighting all around us all the time, and we were afraid either a shell was going to come into the house or some Korean was going to come in there and try to use it for quarters, and we would be discovered. We figured we better get out where we could see what was going on.

We couldn't see much in the house. For some reason or other we did move out the fifth night, which was a good night. On the next day, the sixth day, one of the men noticed South Korean flags flying in the city. He called me over to peep through the crack and I saw it, and he asked what I made of it. I told him I couldn't figure it out. I said, "The city has not fallen, because I can still see North Korean troops." I said, "Evidently it is about to fall, and they are just turning sides again."

They always had two flags, a North Korean and South Korean flag, every Korean. Whichever flag was winning, he would put the flag up. "So evidently," I said, "The South Koreans are about ready to come into the town."

That is, the American forces. After a while we got a little bit bolder. We didn't see any more troops. We called to a South Korean old man, "papasan," called him over, and I stayed in the background. There was a nisei fellow there, myself, and three American GI's, caucasians, and all of them had heavy beards. One of them had a big black beard. This man came up to this civilian and said, "Rusky, Rusky," and he said "No, not Russian. American." He said, "American? Americans are down the road." He let us know the Americans were down that way.

He said "I will get you to the Yaego." He thought we were still Russians. We were to hide there during the day and that night he was going to slip us up toward Manchuria. Finally, we got it through his head that we were Americans and wanted to meet the Americans and also we were hungry. He said, "Wait a minute," he would go get food. He started out. Then we got worrying whether

he was going to get food or some guards. We kept watching to see the direction he went to see if he was going to bring anybody back with him, and pretty soon we saw him coming by himself with a bowl, and he brought back a bunch of crackers which we ate. Meanwhile, we kept noticing troops going down a railroad embankment which was near us, not too far away, and they appeared to be in khaki, but we weren't sure. The brown North Korean uniform was very deceiving. They had brown faces. None of us bothered to think they might be South Koreans. So we were a little bit reluctant to come out of the house.

Finally we came out and figured we better get out while we could break away from there because we weren't going to be captured. Each one had sworn to that. We were going to fight to the finish anybody that tried to take us. Pretty soon the people on the embankment started waving at us. Then they started down the hill. As they got down this embankment a little bit, we noticed that they were wearing GI clothing and carrying M-1's, all of them. Finally somebody said they were South Korean, ROK troops. They came over and hugged us, and they had one can of salmon and gave us that, and then they took up down to the Second Division CP.

Senator POTTER. You were glad to see them, too?

Lieutenant SMITH. Yes, sir; very glad to see them. It was the happiest time of our lives.

Senator POTTER. Were you hospitalized as a result of your experiences?

Lieutenant SMITH. Yes, sir; I was. I went down to 114 pounds.

Senator POTTER. 114?

Lieutenant SMITH. Yes, sir; from 165.

Senator POTTER. Any questions?

Mr. O'DONNELL. Mr. Chairman, I would like to get a quick recap, if I may.

Actually, how many American PW's during the march did you see killed?

Lieutenant SMITH. That I personally saw, was three, sir.

Mr. O'DONNELL. How many do you know of that were actually killed?

Lieutenant SMITH. I got reports from the men in the group that I was with, in the back, that would total 20 men.

Mr. O'DONNELL. From the time you were captured and started your march until you escaped, how many American PW's did you assist in their burials?

Lieutenant SMITH. From the time that they started the march? From the time we started the march, I have accurate notation on that.

Mr. O'DONNELL. What I would like to get is a summation, if I could.

Lieutenant SMITH. Yes, sir. I made notes of everything that went on on a piece of paper I had which was turned in when I got back to American hands.

Mr. O'DONNELL. Take your time, now, in looking at your notes.

Lieutenant SMITH. Eighteen, sir.

Mr. O'DONNELL. Eighteen?

Lieutenant SMITH. Yes, sir.

Mr. O'DONNELL. Thank you very much.

Senator POTTER. Mr. Carr?

Mr. CARR. No questions.

Senator POTTER. Mr. Jones?

Mr. JONES. No questions.

Senator POTTER. Lieutenant, I wish to thank you for giving us the benefit of your experiences. I would like to say this, as I said before today, that it makes you proud to be an American when you hear the valor of the men who have testified here today.

I think probably the history of Korea when it is written will go down as having some of the most courageous action of any military experience that American troops have participated in. I think that you who have been fighting the war in Korea, whether you are Irish, Jewish, Negro, or whatever race you might be, are a great credit to us as Americans. We are all a mixed race. I know that the Communists put on a great effort, made a great effort, to incite race hatred, to pit one group against another. I am proud of the record of American soldiers of all races, and the Negro race. The Negro soldiers that are fighting in Korea can hold their head very high. You are a credit not only to your race but you are a credit to our country. To you, Lieutenant Smith, who testified here today, I am saying this to you, but I mean it for all Negro troops.

Lieutenant SMITH. Thank you, sir.

Senator POTTER. I would like to ask you one question before you are released, a question that I have asked others. Did the Communists endeavor to indoctrinate you when you went through their propaganda mill?

Lieutenant SMITH. Yes, sir.

Senator POTTER. What do you think of communism as a way of life?

Lieutenant SMITH. Sir, personally I hate communism and anything communistic. As a way of life, I believe that they are totally wrong. I personally would relish fighting against it any place at any time.

Senator POTTER. Thank you.

The committee will recess for today. We will begin tomorrow at 10:30 with Lt. Col. Jack Todd. Colonel Todd worked with Colonel Wolfe, with the War Crimes Investigating Committee. We will hear testimony also from Sergeant Treffery, Sgt. Wendell Treffery, Sgt. Barry F. Rhode, Sgt. George Matta, Capt. Linton Buttrey, Pvt. Willie Daniels, and Charles Canard.

Those will be the witnesses, probably, for tomorrow.

The committee will be recessed until 10:30 tomorrow morning.

(Whereupon, at 5:15 p. m. the committee was recessed to reconvene at 10:30 a. m. Thursday, December 3, 1953.)



APPENDIX

EXHIBIT No. 3



Bodies of U. S. and South Korean troops, forced to dig their own graves, and then shot by fleeing Communist-led North Korean forces, near Taejon, Korea. September 29, 1950.

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