

VETERANS ADMINISTRATION

SOCIAL SECURITY NO.

VA FILE NO.

STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF CLAIM

482-10-3591

c-12-415-933

PRIVACY ACT INFORMATION: The information furnished on this form is authorized by existing law (38 U.S.C. 210 (C)(1)) and is considered relevant and necessary to determine entitlement to maximum benefits applied for under the law. The information submitted may be disclosed outside the Veterans Administration only as permitted by law.

FIRST NAME - MIDDLE NAME - LAST NAME OF VETERAN (Type or print)

Hubert D. Hough

(Page 1)

The following statement is made in connection with a claim for benefits in the case of the above-named veteran:

I was a Japanese prisoner of war during W.W. II and was imprisoned at Puerto Princesa, Palawan, P.I. with Hubert D. Hough. We arrived in Palawan in Sept. 1942 and immediately began to build an air field for the Japanese. The work was very strenuous manual labor. We worked with picks, shovels, axes, and wheel barrows removing large trees and jungle growth. At night the prisoners were completely exhausted and we went to sleep immediately after eating.

Our food consisted of rice and potatoe vine soup. We never had meat or protein of any kind. It didn't take very long for us to become ill ^{with} malnutrition and other diseases resulting from dietary deficiencies.

Many of the POWs were suffering from painful swelling of the lower legs (beri - beri) and pellegra. In addition to these, Hubert D. Hough and I also suffered with eye problems. Lots of other POWs also

(CONTINUE ON REVERSE)

I CERTIFY THAT the foregoing statements are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

DATE SIGNED

11-4-82

SIGNATURE

Joseph E. Dupont Jr.

J. E. DUPONT, JR.

P. O. BOX 811

PLAQUEMINE, LA. 70764

PENALTY - The law provides severe penalties which include fine or imprisonment, or both, for the willful submission of any statement or evidence of a material fact, knowing it to be false.

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Hubert L. Hough

(Page 2)

The following statement is made in connection with a claim for benefits in the case of the above-named veteran:

had problems with their eyes. I definitely recall that Hough and my eyes began itching and in the morning our eyes would be stuck closed with matter that had oozed out during sleep. We would have to wash off this dried matter each morning.

In my particular case, after about 8 months of extremely hard physical labor and the diet previously stated, my eyesight began to get very bad. I couldn't see anything that I looked directly at, but I could see everything around it. I had lost my central vision. I went to Dr. Hickman, the American doctor, and after checking me, said that I should be sent to the prison hospital, Bilibid, located in Manila. He said that if I didn't get out of Palawan that I might become totally blind. He talked with the Jap. Dr. but the Jap. Dr. said that he could.

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Hubert D. Hough

(Page 3)

The following statement is made in connection with a claim for benefits in the case of the above-named veteran:

only send severe malaria cases and broken bone cases to the prison hospital. Dr. Hickman was so worried about my eyes that he said that he would ~~fake~~ fake my having malaria in order to get me out. Since the Jap Dr. had only looked at the severe malaria cases and just felt their foreheads with his hand, Dr. Hickman suggested that just prior to the next sick call, that I go down to the Cook Shack and put my face close to the fire and get my head hot, then come right up to sick call with a blanket wrapped around me and act like I was shivering. This I did and came in after the Jap Dr. had started. He put his hand on my head and nodded that I should be transferred to the prison hospital in Manila. Upon my arrival in Manila, I told the American Dr. about the fake malaria and was sent to the life. Dr.

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Hubert D. Hough

(Page 4)

The following statement is made in connection with a claim for benefits in the case of the above-named veteran:

The American L.D. diagnosed my case as Optic Atrophy due to malnutrition. I was later diagnosed as having a central scotoma of both eyes. My eye condition has never improved.

The reason that I detailed the circumstances of my getting out of Palawan, was to show how difficult it was to get sent to the hospital for medical treatment. Many POW's were in need of treatment, but couldn't get to the hospital and there was no medicine at Palawan. They had to stay and continue working and starving.

In further support of Hough's claims, I have attached hereto a copy of "Report of American Prisoners of War Interred by the Japanese in the Philippines"; prepared by "Office of the Provost Marshall General", dated 19 November, 1945, entitled "Palawan Barracks". This Report

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Hubert D. Hough

(Page 5)

The following statement is made in connection with a claim for benefits in the case of the above-named veteran:

goes into great detail about the Conditions at the POW Camp there. I wish to particularly call to your attention paragraph 2 of "Conclusions" wherein it is indicated that Xerophthalmia and Mytaloopia were prevalent among the POW's at Palawan.

In addition, I wish to enter here the definitions of these two eye diseases as taken from "Taber's Cyclopedic Medical Dictionary", published by F. A. Davis Co, Philadelphia, Copyright 1981, 2nd Printing, July 1981.:

Page 1582:

Xerophthalmia - Conjunctival dryness with keratinization of epithelium following Chronic Conjunctivitis and in disease due to deficiency of Vitamin A.

Page 974:

Mytaloopia - 1. A Condition in which the individual cannot see well in a

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(Page 6)

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faint light or at night. Occurs in retinitis pigmentosa and Choroidoretinitis. Also may be due to vitamin A deficiency. Smoking tobacco impairs ability to see at night. Syn: night blindness.

2. Incorrectly used to indicate the condition of having better sight at night or in semidarkness than by day; night vision. SEE ~~hemera~~ hemeralopia L L L Page 639.

hemeralopia: Diminished vision in bright light. Term formerly erroneously applied to night blindness or nyctalopia, or nyctalopia indicates inability to see in dim light, though otherwise vision is normal. In hemeralopia the sight is poor in seen light and in good illumination; it is good at dusk, at twilight and in poor illumination. This is noted in albinism, retinitis with central scotoma, toxic amblyopia, Coloboma of the iris and choroid,

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Hubert L. Hough

(Page 1)

The following statement is made in connection with a claim for benefits in the case of the above-named veteran:

opacity of the crystalline lens or Cornea, and in conjunctivitis with photophobia.

Hubert L. Hough and I lived under the same conditions for at least 8 months. We had the same diet and performed the same severe hardships. We both developed beri-beri and developed the same symptoms in our eye disorder.

There developed into a permanent loss of central vision, where he took another path. The evidence attached to this statement clearly establishes that Hubert L. Hough suffered eye problems while a POW in Palawan and that this was the beginning of the eye problem that he now has.

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