

Mitsubishi Meeting Statement

19 July 2015

Good Afternoon, My name is James Nelson. First I would like to thank the representatives of the Mitsubishi Materials Company for attending this meeting, Rabbi Cooper for providing this most appropriate venue, and a special thanks to Ms. Tokudome for arranging this meeting, and for her tireless pursuit of truth regarding atrocities that occurred during the Second World War.

I am the son of John Tillman Nelson. My father was captured by the Japanese Imperial Army on May 6, 1942. On September 9, 1944 he arrived at Camp Sendai 6 in Hanawa, Japan. While there was forced to work without pay at the Mitsubishi owned Osarizawa Mine. He was permanently blinded when he was forced to weld mine equipment without protective goggles. He also suffered damage to his spine when struck with a board on his neck by a Mitsubishi overseer and endured the the cold, lack of food, proper clothing, shelter, and medical care that was common in these camps.

In May of 2008 I visited the Osarizawa mine which is now a tourist attraction called Mineland. It was a very emotional experience since my father passed away only three years earlier. At the end of the tour of the mine I began reading the mine history and was shocked that the only reference to the suffering of the 500 POWs who worked there was "The foreigners left" and the date. It is for this reason that I have a request of the Mtisubishi Representatives . I hope that Mitsubishi in its concern for human dignity will correct this kind of inaccuracy by omission and clearly state that Allied Prisoners of War were forced to work under extremely adverse conditions during the Great Pacific War (WWII) or words to that effect. From my perspective a failure to make such corrections at Mitsubishi facilities that used POW labor or any attempts minimizing the suffering of these POWs directly denies their dignity as fellow human beings.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.