AUSTRALIAN
WAR MEMORIAL

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AWM - 54

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WAR OF 1939-45
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AUSTRALIAN ARCHIVES
ACCESS STATUS

OPEN

Statements by.

62.99215. Sgt 10. n. Weitzner.
6. Wells. (R.A.A.F)

VX 14024 Lt R. G. Wells.

QX 11863 Pte. R. J. Wellington.

NX 30475 Bdr R. Welsh.

NX 48883. Pte J. P. Welsh.

WX 7641 Pte S. R. Wenn.

VX 39012 Capt 10. S. West.

NX 4667 Gnr. G. H. Westcott

VX 44808 Major. G. De Vernon Westley.

VX 29397. Lt. A. G. Weynton.

QX 14323. Gnr. J. M. Whalley.

VX 35638 Pte A. E. Whatley.

TX 2218 S/Sgt H. J. Whelan.

A 2105 F/O. J. J. Whelan.

VX 27531 Cpl. N. F. Whimpey.

NX 22888. Gnr. J. A. Whipp

On this twentyfourth day July, One Thousand nine hundred and forty-seven, George Albert Whipp, of Fairfield, Wyndham, in the State of New South Wales, Farmer, makes oath and says as follows:-

1. As NX22888 Gnr Whipp, G.A. was taken prisoner at Singapore on 15 Feb 42.

2. I arrived at FUKUOKA No. 6 Camp on 15 Jun 43. There were about 50 Australians POW's in the Draft, of which Pte GOOCH was one.

3. In Apr-May 1945, I am not quite sure of the actual month; but it was just prior to the capitulation of Germany, the civilian guards of the camp commenced bashing and beating prisoners.

4. Pte Gooch of Brisbane was badly beaten by a Japanese soldier known to the prisoners as "DEGASS", this man was called a name that sounded like "LEGARTER" by his fellow soldiers. The details of Pte Gooch's beating is as follows:-

We were attending the early afternoon parade one day, when Degass walk up to Pte Gooch and dragged him from the ranks. Degass then proceeded to belt him with a bamboo stick until he dropped unconcious to the ground. Whilst he lay on the ground Degass kicked him a number of times. Pte Gooch eventually got to his feet and we then proceeded to the mines.

On another occasion we had gone to the mines to work. Pte Gooch collapsed whilst we were waiting to get our mine lights. One of the civilian guards and Degass came over to him, the civilian guard struck him in the side with his rifle butt and Degass kicked him. Pte Gooch was forced to go into the mine and work. The next day Pte Gooch was taken to hospital where he remained approximately six weeks.

5. Photographs Nos. 94 and 94a - I do not recognise the photographs as being the person I knew as Degass.

6. Degass was a constantly picking on prisoners and hitting and bashing them for no apparent reason.

SWORN by the abovenamed deponent
George Albert Whipp, Burragate,
N.S.W. on the 24th day of July,
One Thousand nine hundred and
forty seven.

G. A. Whipp
.....

Wm Ryan J.P.
BEFORE ME .....
Justice of the Peace.

On this twenty fifth day of June, One thousand nine hundred and forty-six, George Albert Whipp, of Rocky Hall, via Wyndham, in the State of New South Wales, Labourer, makes oath and says as follows:-

1. As NX.22888 Gnr WHIPP, G.A. was taken prisoner at Singapore on 15 Feb 42.

2. I arriver at FUKUOKA No 6 Camp on 15 Jun 43. There were about 50 Australian POWs' in the draft.

3. Prisoners were starved at this Camp. We received approx 1lb of rice per day. This was occasionally suplimented by a vegetable stew, each man receiving approx ½ pint.

4. I do not know of any POWs' dying of starvation, although most of us at some time or other had to go into hospital for treatment caused through lack of food.

5. I knew Dvr J.A. Irwin. We shared the same hut, and were members of the same shift working in the mine.

6. On the 22 Aug 43, Dvr Irwin reported sick on parade before we went to work, and the Jap orderly, who was in charge of the parade, told Irwin to rest in the barracks for the rest of the night.

7. The following morning, after we had finished our shift and had reported back to camp, we were ordered to stand on parade for an hour because Irwin had escaped. We were also told, that we would receive no food until he had been found. Finally we were dismissed from parade, told to go and eat our rice, and remain in the barracks.

8. Two days later, whilst at work, Dvr Irwins body was brought into the Camp, and I was told by other POWs' that the body was wrapped in rice sacks, and appeared to have been badly mutilated. The Japs attended to the body themselves in the Medical room, and it was later cremated by our own men in the Jap crematorium. The man responsible for this was Lieut SUEMATSU, who was Camp Commandant at that time. SUEMATSU announced on parade, that Irwin had escaped, had been captured, had again attemped to escape and was shot.

9. The Camp Commandant, Lt SUEMATSU would be about 40yrs of age. He had a habit of either rubbing his hands, or holding them behind his back when he walked. The NCO in charge of the guard was called DEGAS, and he bashed POWs' on the slightest provocation.

h I think
to me by

d a lame
DEGAS.

Para 10 does not apply.
Photo shown to this witness in error.

Whipp

Sworn at [illegible]

11. I have seen men forced to work in the mine in their bare feet. Their feet used to crack open and bleed. POWs' were forced to clean snow off "Catwalk" around the compound with a scraper, and were not allowed to were boots while on this work. I saw Pte Gooch of Brisbane bashed on parade by DEGAS, and sent to work in the mine whilst sick. He often collapsed, and was still forced to work until his shift was finished. He was then taken to hospital where he remained for about 6 weeks.

12. Whilst working in the mine in May 45, I was attacked for no reason with a length of timber, and bashed about the face, splitting my top lip, by a civilian guard, who was unknown to me, that being the only occasion on which I saw him. The Medical officer inserted 5 stiches, using an ordinary needle and white cotton. I saw Dvr Edwards the morning after he had been bashed by DEGAS, and saw the marks on his back.

13. Whenever representations were made to SUEMATSU for extra food, clothing, or medical supplies, he would make some excuse, and take no action at all to remedy the matter.

SWORN by the abovenamed deponent George Albert Whipp, at Rocky-Hall, via Wyndham, on the 25th day of June, One thousand nine hundred and forty six.

G.A. Whipp.....
Signature.

BEFORE ME .....

A Justice of the Peace".

AFFIDAVIT.

In the Supreme Court of New South Wales.

I, Vernon Frederick WHIMPEY, of Deniliquin in the State of New South Wales, farmer, and formerly VX27531, Rank: Cpl., Unit: 2/40 Bn., make oath and say as follows:--

1. On 20th June, 1945, I was a member of a party of 100 P.O.W.'s who were taken to Omine Camp, Japan, for the purpose of working in a coal mine. We did not start work until 10 days after our arrival. I considered that the working conditions were very bad and dangerous due to working face of the mine being insufficiently timbered. There were two serious accidents during the period I was working there. Two P.O.W.'s (one named Charles Wallace of Tasmania) was killed, one other P.O.W. (name unknown) had his leg almost amputated. His leg was amputated by a Doctor (Japanese) later that day. Serious infection which later set in was due, in my opinion, to neglect on part of Japanese Medical personnel.

2. The food, I consider, was totally inadequate in as much as any man that had to subsist on the strict camp ration could not maintain his health sufficient to offset the many deceases such as Beri Beri etc. I have no knowledge being issued a supplementary ration, but snakes, frogs, and water snails were collected every day by a party of P.O.W.'s and issued under Japanese instructions to sick personnel to ward off "A" vitimon diseases.

3. I consider that the Japanese known as: "Air Force Kid", "Brown Bomber", and "Pansy" were guilty of committing atrocities in as much as they systematically annoyed the P.O.W.'s workers for very trivial offences. In one instance I was thrashed by "Brown Bomber" for the offence of not placing Indentification Disc in its right place. This to my knowledge was an offence which was punished by the Japanese Guard personnel every day and night until he was finished 15/8/45.

4. In the Photograph shown to me and marked "A". I am able to identify the following Japanese:--

No. 1. as "Brown Bomber".

The following were known throught the Camp as "Bad Japanese". I am unable to remember their names.

Numbers 44 (fourty-four), 28 (twenty-eight), 10 (Ten), 12 (twelve), 2 (two) & 15 (fifteen) is Officer-in-Charge of Camp who should be responsible for the atrocities of the Guard in the Camp.

Signature in full: Vernon Frederick Whimpey

Sworn at Deniliquin in the State of New South Wales the Tenth (10) Day of July in the year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Forty-Six (1946).

Before me: J. Grieve, J.P.

A commissioner of the Supreme Court of New South Wales for the taking of Affidavits.

AUSTRALIAN WAR CRIMES COMMISSION.

R.C.
27/5/46

I, John Thomas WHELAN of 14 Torrens Road, FRANKLIN, ALBERTON in the State of South Australia, prior to the outbreak of war on the 3rd of September 1939 a permanent member of the Royal Australian Air Force, but now unemployed, MAKE OATH AND SAY AS FOLLOWS:-

1. THAT I was formerly A2105 Flying Officer J.T. WHELAN attached to Headquarters Royal Air Force Far East, and was taken prisoner of war by the Japanese in Java on the 8th day of March 1942.

2. THAT after living for a time at LELES I moved on the 13th day of April 1942 to BATAVIA where I entered CYCLE Camp. On the 8th day of October 1942 I embarked at BATAVIA for SINGAPORE where however I only spent two or three days before embarking for RANGOON in BURMA. I remained in RANGOON only one night before continuing in a different ship to MOULMEIN. After a few days in the gaol there I went by train to THANBYUZYAT and next day, the 30th of October 1942, moved out to the 40 Kilo Camp. From this time until I left BURMA I lived in various camps along the railway line, being engaged on work connected with road and railway construction; I moved from camp to camp as the work progressed. On or about the 1st day of January 1944 I entrained at 105 Kilo Camp, BURMA and after a two-day journey entered camp at TAMAKAN in THAILAND on the 3rd day of January 1944. In December 1944 I was transferred to CHUNGKAI Camp whence I moved in February 1945 to KANBURI Officers' Camp. I remained at KANBURI until about June 1945 when I was transferred to NAKONNAYOK Officers' Camp situated in THAILAND near the BANGKOK-FRENCH INDO-CHINA Railway; I remained there until hostilities ceased.

3. THAT TAMAKAN Prisoner of war Camp was situated along the northern banks of a wide river, and approximately 150 yards from the main THAILAND-BURMA Railway line. The main line ran parallel to the western boundary of the camp and crossed the river by a steel bridge; a loop line ran close

Witness JP
30-4-46

J Whelan

to the western boundary of the camp and crossed the river by an older wooden bridge. The wooden bridge was less than 100 yards from the corner of our camp; the steel bridge was about 150 yards upstream from the wooden bridge. Close to the northern approaches of the steel bridge there was a Japanese Anti-aircraft Gun Battery. The two bridges and the Anti-aircraft battery were obvious targets for allied aircraft. On a day towards the end of November 1944 allied aircraft attacked our area; hits were scored on the Anti-aircraft battery; in addition about three bombs fell inside the western boundary of our camp, hitting one of our living huts containing sick prisoners of war; eighteen of our men were killed. I had seen the aircraft overhead and in common with the rest of the camp had gone for cover; I was in a drain at the other end of the hut that was hit, when the bombs exploded; I assisted to dig the graves for the eighteen victims.

Towards the end of 1944 the Japanese in TAMAKAN gave permission for us to construct air raid shelter trenches inside the camp boundary; but whether this permission was given prior to or subsequent to the November air raid above described, I cannot now remember. Before these trenches were dug the only shelters available to us were the drains which surrounded our living huts; these drains had been widened and deepened by us for use as air raid shelters. They were about a metre deep and were wide enough to admit crouching men; they were not revetted, and after heavy rain the sides would fall in.

4. THAT in February 1945 I marched from CHUNGKAI Camp to KANBURI via TAMAKAN, where I staged for about two days. During these two days the area was attacked by allied aircraft. Hits were scored on the Japanese Anti-aircraft position, which while I was at CHUNGKAI had been moved from its former position close to the northern approaches to the steel bridge, to a site near the north-western corner of the camp; no bombs fell in the camp area. I heard that a party of prisoners of war

30-4-46

working on the gun site had narrow escapes. Two of the men inside the camp were hit either by bullets or by bomb fragments; I saw one of the men being carried to hospital. On this occasion shelters available included zig zag trenches under the trees in the orchard and slit trenches in the paddy fields, all of which trenches were inside the camp boundaries; I took shelter in a trench in the paddy fields. None of the trenches had overhead cover and none of them was revetted. I do not remember who was the Japanese Camp Commandant, at TAMAKAN.

5. THAT I remember one day in February 1945, soon after my arrival at KANBURI from CHUNGKAI, when two allied aircraft flew over early in the morning. The Japanese had left one or two railway engines on the railway line and less than 100 yards from our camp, and these were presumably the targets attacked by the two aircraft. Two or three bombs landed just inside the camp area, one or more landing close to our canteen hut where some officers were working; about three men were killed. I do not know their names but I think they were English officers. When the bombs fell I was in a slit trench near a hut about 150 yards away. All the air-raid slit trenches in KANBURI Camp were distributed between the living huts and thus not removed from the probable target area.

The Japanese Camp Commandant at the KANBURI Officers' Camp at this time was Captain NOGUCHI who was a very small man; I heard that after the end of hostilities he had been degraded by the Japanese and put in a Japanese prison, as a result of his ill-treatment at KANBURI of Captain Bill DROWER a British Intelligence officer. Another Japanese on the camp staff was Lieutenant TAKASAKI whom we used to nickname "The FROG"; there was also a third officer whose name I do not remember but who was short and stout in appearance. These officers were responsible for an order that whenever allied aircraft were overhead, all prisoners were to remain in their huts and not move to trenches until a warning bugle-call had been blown by the Japanese.

J.P.
30-4-46

6. THAT while I was at KANBURI Camp many of my fellow officer prisoners were forced to work constructing prepared defences for the Japanese on the aerodrome on the edge of which our camp was located; they also built machine gun posts on the mound which surrounded the camp. These posts were constructed so as to cover the approaches to the camp. I saw prisoners working on this mound. Owing to trouble with my eyes I was employed on duties inside the camp and did not myself work on the preparation of defences.

7. THAT during the whole of my period as prisoner of war I witnessed innumerable beatings of our men by Japanese and Korean guards; however I cannot recall any one beating which resulted in disablement or death to the prisoner concerned. No one particular beating stands out in my memory as being more vicious than any of the rest.

Between July 1943 and December 1943 I lived in 105 Kilo Camp in BURMA. In this camp the proportion of sick men was high. I particularly recall a frequent performance which we used to call "blitzing the sick". In order to make up the numbers required for the working parties the Korean guards, presumably acting under the orders of the Japanese Camp Commandant, Lieutenant HOSHI, used to call the sick out on parade and select numbers of them for work on the railway. On such occasions the opinions and protests of our medical officers were entirely disregarded. The two Koreans whom I particularly remember for being responsible for the "blitzing of the sick" were called "BOOFHEAD" and the "SNIPE". "BOOFHEAD" would be aged possibly 35 to 40 years and medium build, with big head, no glasses, no moustache. The "SNIPE" would be average height, a littler younger than "BOOFHEAD", thin build, sharp featured.

8. THAT I do not remember hearing of the torture of ten prisoners of war in October 1944 or at any other time; I do not recall any cases of

[illegible] JP
30-4-46

[illegible]

torture while I lived at TAMAKAN Camp. I cannot recall anybody of the name MASUDA, MATSUMOTO, "SILVER BULLET", TEIMOTO or TAMAKA.

9. THAT I never at any time lived in the 18 Kilo Camp in BURMA, However when I was in TAMAKAN it was common knowledge that an Australian, Sergeant O'DONNELL had been murdered in BURMA by a Korean whose name I do not know but whom we knew as "DILLINGER". While in TAMAKAN "DILLINGER" was pointed out to me as being the man who shot O'DONNELL, I often saw him. As far as I can remember "DILLINGER" was a youngish man, short in height and thin build. He had the reputation amongst us of being a man who was always looking for trouble; in other words a good man for us to keep clear of. I do not remember hearing any of the circumstances of O'DONNELL's death. I did not know O'DONNELL.

10. THAT I know the facts deposed to herein of my own knowledge, except where otherwise appears.

.....

SWORN AT ADELAIDE

this ...30.....day of APRIL 1946,

BEFORE ME,

.....

A Justice of the Peace in and for the State of South Australia.

NOGUCHI CAPT. WCR 81 T 1421 } TEIMOTO. WCR 129. (NO NEG)
TAMAKA / Probably WCR 153 (NO NEG)

Already sentenced. TAKASAKI. (THE FROG) WCR 123 (NO NEG) } "DILLINGER"

HOSHI LT. WCR 31. T 26,

"BOOFHEAD" — NO TRACE.

"SNIPE" WCR 288 (NO NEG)

MASUDA WCR 261 (NO. NEG)

MATSUMOTO. WCR-64 T 109 + T 206

Wrote for Photo + Ident. 21/5

Ref: AJM 54, 1010/4/146
(Ref John Thomas WHELAN)


36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46
34
24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 1 22
10 11 12 2 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21
3 4 5 6 7 8 9

"A" This is the photograph endorsed "A" produced & shown to John Phelps McMillan at the time of swearing his affidavit this 21st day of June '46

Before me. R. S. Heleth

a Commissioner of the Supreme Court of Vic for taking Affidavits

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This is the photograph endorsed "A" produced & shown to James Henry Scott at the time of swearing his affidavit this 5th day of July-46.

Before me. R. K. Hawk - Justice of the Peace for New South Wales.

This is the photograph endorsed A produced and ~~shown to~~ Vernon Frederick Whimpey at the time of swearing his affidavit this seventh day of July 1946

Before me J. Grieve J.P.

8334

ON HIS MAJESTY'S SERVICE

Enclosure

~~SOUTH E. COMD.~~ 1 AUST WAR CRIMES SEC (SEAC)



NOGUCHI. Hideji. T142.

AOSHI. Aiki. T. 26.

For attachment to affidavit by John Thomas Whelan

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY,

IF NOT DELIVERED WITHIN 7 DAYS, RETURN TO

.....

.....

Ref AWM 54, 1010/4/146


T26
6 0
5 6
5 0
4 6

This is the Photograph T26 referred to in Para Four of Affidavit sworn by John Thomas Whelan on 20th June, 1946.

T H Whelan

Justice of the Peace.


T26
60
56
50
46
Capt
C12

This is the Photograph T26 referred to in Para Four of Affidavit sworn by John Thomas Whelan on 20th June, 1946.

Justice of the Peace.

E4356


T142
T143
T142.
BANGKOK

This is the Photograph T142 referred to in Para Five of Affidavit sworn by John Thomas Whelan on 20th June, 1946.

J T Whelan

Justice of the Peace.


T142.
BANGKOK

This is the Photograph

T142 referred to in Para

Five of Affidavit sworn

by John Thomas Whelan on

20th June, 1946.

J T Whelan

Justice of the Peace.

War Crimes Register No. 26. Copy RAAF 23
See also 10, 18 + 19. (British also interested)

When COMPLETED this document must be classified as SECRET.

CAPT. NAGUCHI LT. TAKASAKI

56

Kanburi Tamarkan Transport

AUSTRALIAN WAR CRIMES COMMISSION.

QUESTIONNAIRE.

NOTES :—

(*a*) This questionnaire should be completed by :—

(i) All repatriated Australian prisoners of war (A.I.F., R.A.A.F. and R.A.N.).

(ii) All repatriated Australian civil internees.

(iii) All repatriated British civil internees in the Pacific Area (excluding Malaya and China).

(iv) All members and ex-members of the Allied forces who have actual knowledge of war crimes committed by the enemy.

(*b*) It will be completed in the presence of an officer who will countersign the signature of the person making the statement.

(*c*) It is important that a full statement on page 3 (carried on to page 4 if necessary) be furnished as well as the answer to 8 (*f*).

1. Army number 2105 2. Rank Flying Officer

3. Full name (in BLOCK letters) WHELAN JOHN THOMAS

4. Unit at time of capture and/or place of capture Attached RAF HQ F.E. (BANDOENG, JAVA)

(State here unit in which soldier was serving at time of capture, e.g., 2/1 Fd. Regt. or H.Q. 6 Aust. Div., &c.)

5. Home address 45 Patterson Street, COBURG, N. 13 Victoria

6. At what enemy camps and hospitals were you confined and when were you at each? March to October '42, TASIK MALAJA, LELAS, BATAVIA (JAVA) Nov.'42 to Jan.'44 various railway camps in BURMA. Jan.'44 to Aug. '45 various camps in SIAM.

7. Do you have any information about any atrocities against, or mistreatment of, *Allied* soldiers, prisoners of war, civilian internees or the civilian population for which you think the perpetrators should be punished? (Answer by stating YES or NO in the spaces provided below)—

(*a*) Killings or executions .. .. Yes (YES or NO.)

(*b*) Rape, torture, beatings or other cruelties .. .. .. Yes (YES or NO.)

(*c*) Imprisonment under improper conditions .. .. .. Yes (YES or NO.)

(*d*) Massacres, wholesale looting, pillage, or burning of towns or villages No (YES or NO.)

(*e*) Use of prisoners of war or civilians on enemy military works or operations .. .. Yes (YES or NO.)

(*f*) Exposure of prisoners of war to danger of gunfire, bombing, torpedoing, or other hazards of war .. .. Yes (YES or NO.)

(*g*) Transportation of prisoners of war under improper conditions or deportation of civilians .. .. Yes (YES or NO.)

(*h*) Public exhibition or exposure to ridicule of prisoners of war .. No (YES or NO.)

(*i*) Failure to provide prisoners of war or internees with proper medical care, food or quarters .. .. Yes (YES or NO.)

(*j*) Collective punishment of a group for offence of others .. .. Yes (YES or NO.)

(*k*) Breaches of rules relating to the Red Cross .. .. .. Yes (YES or NO.)

(*l*) Cannibalism .. .. No (YES or NO.)

(*m*) Mutilation of the dead .. .. No
YES or NO.

*(*n*) Any other war crimes not specifically mentioned above for which you think the guilty persons should be punished .. .. .. No
YES or NO.

If any question is answered YES then state the facts in 8 (*f*) and on pages 3 and 4.

8. *Details of Atrocities.*—

(*a*) Kind of crime Beatings and torture

(*b*) When and where it happened JAVA, BURMA, and SIAM

(*c*) Who was the victim? (Give complete description including name and whether military or civilian personnel) Service personnel

(*d*) Who was the perpetrator? (Give as complete description and as much information as possible) Japanese Camp Commanders, Japanese N.C.O's and Korean guards

(*e*) State if you saw it yourself. If you did not see it, who told you about it? (Give names and addresses of other witnesses) I witnessed many beatings and some some torture, as did most other P's O.W.

(*f*) Give brief story of crime. **Full statement required on pages 3 and 4.**

Beatings of various degrees of severity were common, and were inflicted for even the most minor offences. It is impossible to give individual details in most cases, particularly details of those responsible.

To the best of my belief the above particulars are correct.

Sheyden Sgt

(*Signature of Interrogating Officer.*)

(sgd) J.D. Whelan

(*Signature.*)

18/10/

(*Date.*)

2 a Lwks

(*Place and/or Unit at which interrogation was made.*)

Comment by Interrogating Officer

* Other war crimes not specifically mentioned include :—

(i) Usurpation of sovereignty during military occupation.
(ii) Compulsory enlistment of soldiers among the inhabitants of occupied territory.
(iii) Attempts to denationalize the inhabitants of occupied territory.
(iv) Confiscation of property.
(v) Exaction of illegitimate or of exorbitant contributions and requisitions.
(vi) Debasement of the currency and issue of spurious currency.
(vii) Deliberate bombardment of undefended places.
(viii) Wanton destruction of religious, charitable, educational and historical buildings and monuments.
(ix) Use of explosive or expanding bullets and other inhuman appliances.
(x) Directions to give no quarter and refusal of quarter.
(xi) Misuse of flags of truce.

FULL STATEMENT OF ATROCITY OR CRIME.

This MUST be signed by the person making the statement and countersigned by the interrogating officer at the end of the statement.

Refer 7A. No first hand knowledge. A number of prisoners, recaptured after attampted escapes were executed at THANBYUZAYAT, BURMA, by order of Lt. Col. NAGATOMO. ✓

7B. On two occasions I witnessed the torture of PW. Capt. DROWER, a British Intelligence officer acting as interpreter at KANBURI camp SIAM, was severley beaten by the Camp Commander, Capt. NAGUCHI, and his assistant Lieut. TAKASAKI (Beating not witnessed). He was then made to stand to attention outside the guardhouse for some days bareheaded, without rest or medical attention and was later placed in solitary confinement in a covered air raid shelter (at least two months). At NACONNAYOK, three officers were made to stand to attention outside the guardhouse, bareheaded and were kept there some days without rest.
Beatings of all kinds were common, rifle butts and elephant goads being used on some occasions.

7C. See case of Capt. DROWER above. Various other officers suffered imprisonment for various causes, amongst them being F/Lieut. K. SMITH, R.A.A.F., who was imprisoned at BATAVIA for refusing to answer questions.

7E. Construction BURMA-SIAM railway. Construction weapon pits and M.G. posts etc., at KANBURI.

7F. P.O.W. camps were always unmarked in any way, and were usually sited very close to aerial targets, such as the railway bridge TAMARKAM, railway siding at NOMPEADUK. These camps suffered casualties through stray bombs.

7G. Transport by ship from JAVA to MOULMEIN, via SINGAPORE, under the most atrocious conditions, overcrowding to the extent that prisoners were unable to lie down, and appalling sanitary arrangements.

7I. Proper medical care, food or quarters were not provided at any stage.

7J. Frequently, a whole camp was punished because of the offences (real or imaginary) of one or two men.

7K, Geneva convention was not observed at all by the Japanese, and hardly any clause was fulfilled by them.

It is impossible to give chapter and verse for all of the above, particularly as I know very few names of the Japanese, Lieut. Col. NAGATOMO and Lieut. HOSHI in BURMA, Capt. NAGUCHI, Lieut. TAKASAKI and Sgt. SHIMOJO in SIAM, were all guilty of one or more of the above.

Korean guards, nicknamed "Dillinger", "Stormtrooper" "Boy Bastard" "The Basher" etc., (proper names unknown to me) were particularly vicious in beating prisoners, but almost all Koreans were bad.

Ref. AWM 54,
1010/4/146
(ref. Arthur Edward
WHATELY).



Photo No 70a 2 AWCS SCAP

This is the photograph, endorsed "70a" produced and shown to Arthur Edward WHATELY at the time of swearing his affidavit on the 24th day of June 1947.

Before me L. G. Webb.

A Commissioner of the Supreme Court of Victoria for taking Affidavits.



Photo No 70 2 AWCS SCAP

This is the photograph, endorsed "70" produced and shown to Arthur Edward WHATLEY at the time of swearing his affidavit on the 24th day of June 1947.

Before me L. S. Webb

A Commissioner of the Supreme Court of Victoria for taking Affidavits.

Bx 10/7

AUSTRALIAN WAR CRIMES COMMISSION

PARA 1

I, John Thomas Whelan, of 14 Torrens Road, Franklin, Alberton, in the State of South Australia, formerly a permanent member of the Royal Australian Air Force, but now unemployed MAKE OATH AND SAY AS FOLLOWS:-

Para 2

That I was formerly Flying Officer J T Whelan, A2105, attached Air Headquarters, Far East, and I was captured in Java by the Japanese on 8th day of March, 1942.

Para 3. That I made Affidavit on 30th day of April, 1946, concerning my treatment as a Prisoner-of-War.

Para 4. That I look at photographs marked T26 and I am inclined to state that they are photographs of a Japanese Officer Hoshi. I am precluded from making a positive identification because I have not seen Hoshi since 1943 and my recollection of his features is not now vivid. When last I saw him Hoshi was a Lieutenant. He was of medium height, inclined to stoutness, was clean-shaven. I can recall no peculiarities of his because he tended to keep himself in the background and not take a first-hand part in atrocities. He was about 40 years of age and there was some talk that he had been a professional wrestler.

Para 5. That I look at Photographs marked T142 and I am inclined to state that they are photographs of Captain Noguchi, Japanese Camp Commandant at Kanburi Officers' Camp. Noguchi was a small man of slight build, bespectacled and insignificant; insignificant to such an extent that men were often bashed for failure to recognise him. For this reason I hesitate to make a positive identification.

Para 6. That I know the facts deposed to herein of my own knowledge except where otherwise appears.

SWORN AT ADELAIDE

this 20th day of June, 1946.

J T Whelan

BEFORE ME

(Signed) [illegible]

A Justice of the Peace in and for
the State of South Australia.

8593

I, Edmund Alexander Larcombe, of 79 Racecourse Road, North Melbourne, in the State of Victoria, formerly VX 39137, Sgt. E.W. LARCOMBE of 4 Anti Tank Regt., make oath and say:-

1. I was taken prisoner of war on 15 Feb. 42 at SINGAPORE.

2. In September 43, I was moved to 18 KILO CAMP, BURMA a cattle droving camp.

3. On admission of Sgt. TOOKEY, 2/19 Bn, to hospital, RCH I became senior NCO in charge of 18 other Australiams in the camp, under the control of 4 Koreans.

4. The 4 Koreans were: TOMAMMASUS, TOMAYAMA, TAMEDA, and one other. The senior guard was TOMAYAMA, but TAMAMMASUS assumed control because of his stronger personality and physical strength.

5. The normal treatment under these guards was consistently bad, consisting of mild bashings, beatings, and constant ill treatment.

6. Towards the end of September 43, TOMAMMASUS went on one of his regular orgies of drinking, etc. in THANBUZYAT, demanded that we purchase sugar from him at a price three times in excess of the normal price.

7. I ordered the men under my charge, to refuse to buy and informed TOMAMMASUS that we did not have the necessary money to purchase.

8. He demanded explanation of how we had spent our pay and as each man explained, he was soundly bashed about the head and body, with a stout sappling about 4 feet long and 1½ inches thisk, by TOMAMMASUS.

9. We were then stood to attention, while he worked himself into a further rage. This time he vented his rage on me alone, hitting me with two handed strokes, on top of the head, until the stick broke after 12 to 15 blows.

10. In spite of the fact that the injuries received would normally have necessitated absence from duty for a week, TOMAMMASUS set us to work immediately, on normal duties.

11. Men whose names I can remember, who were thrashed on this occasion are :-

Ptes. J. NANKERVIS
J, SCANLAN
CRAIG. of 2/19 Bn.
BROOKS " " "
J. HOWES
T. MORTIMER of 2/40 Bn.

12. TOMAMMASUS was of larger build than most Koreans about 5 feet 10 inches in height, and he had a cast in one eye.

Sworn at Melbourne in the State of Victoria this 23rd day of July 1946. E. A. Larcombe.

Before me, R. S. Hetch

A Commissioner of the Supreme Court of Victoria for taking Affidavits

C7/19, C7/11, C7/21.

Original with photos in file A6/46

8551.

WAR CRIMES.
(Supplementary)

Affidavit of TX 2218 S/Sgt. H.J. Whelan of 2/3 M.G. Bn.

1. On the 22nd day of July 1946 Henry John WHELAN of Esplanade, Lindisfarne, Hobart, Tasmania, being duly sworn states:-

2. I am TX 2218 S/Sgt WHELAN, H.J., a former Prisoner of War in Japanese hands, held in CHUNKAI CAMP.

I identify the photographs:-

Photograph No.	Exhibit Marked	Correct Name	Para Ref.
T43	"A"	KURODA Euchi	5 6
T146	"C"	NOBUSAWA Hisashi	9
T20	"D"	EDA Assaichi	9
T34	"E"	ISHII Tajiye	9

as the Japanese referred to in my affidavit of 13th day of May 1946.

Reference Photograph No. T423.

This man in my opinion is not ISHIGAWA, the Korean private mentioned in my affidavit previously submitted by me on the 13th day of May 1946.
ISHIGAWA was assistant to Sgt. Kuroda (T43 above) and mostly attended to the taking of Roll Call Parades and generally assisting Kuroda in his job of administration such as office work, searching of parties coming into and leaving the camp, work parties, etc.
The description of ISHIGAWA as I remember him is as follows:-
He was of average Japanese height, rather thick set, a very round head and face resembling a soccer ball. I did not see any other Jap that had quite such a round head as ISHIGAWA. He spoke and wrote very good English, and was generally smiling.
He was in TAMUAN Camp in the Kanburi Area at the expiration of hostilities and was later quartered with the rest of the Koreans in a school building in TAMUAN Village.
ISHIGAWA was second in charge of these Koreans, the Korean in charge being a rather older man (about 40) (an ex schoolmaster in Korea) whose name I cannot recall.
The negative No. T423 in my opinion is definitely not ISHIGAWA mentioned in my affidavit previously submitted.

Sworn by Deponent on
the day and year first
mentioned at Hobart

Before me. W.H. Ray J.P.

H Whelan
TX2218 S/Sgt, H.J.Whelan.

WAR CRIMES.
(Supplementary)

@ 118/46

Affidavit of TX 2218 S/Sgt. H.J. Whelan of 2/3 M.G. Bn.

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2. I am TX 2218 S/Sgt WHELAN, H.J., a former Prisoner of War in Japanese hands, held in CHUNKAI CAMP.

I identify the photographs:-

Photograph No.	Exhibit Marked	Correct Name	Para Ref.
T43	"A"	KURODA Euchi	526
T146	"C"	NOBUSAWA Hisashi	9
T20	"D"	EDA Assaichi	9
T34	"E"	ISHII Tajiye	9

as the Japanese referred to in my affidavit of 13th day of May 1946.

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He was of average Japanese height, rather thick set, a very round head and face resembling a soccer ball. I did not see any other Jap that had quite such a round head as ISHIGAWA. He spoke and wrote very good English, and was generally smiling.
He was in TAMUAN Camp in the Kanburi Area at the expiration of hostilities and was later quartered with the rest of the Koreans in a school building in TAMUAN Village.
ISHIGAWA was second in charge of these Koreans, the Korean in charge being a rather older man (about 40) (an ex schoolmaster in Korea) whose name I cannot recall.
The negative No. T423 in my opinion is definitely not ISHIGAWA mentioned in my affidavit previously submitted.

Sworn by Deponent on
the day and year first
mentioned at Hobart

H.J.Whelan
TX2218 S/Sgt, H.J.Whelan.

Before me.
W.A.Reg J.P.

T423 - Ishikawa Kiyotake. Pte.
Ishikura Ichishi Interp. possible suspect.
held at Changi

WAR CRIMES

Affidavit of TX 2218 S/Sgt. H. J. WHELAN of 2/3 M.G. BN.

On the 31st day of May 1946, Henry John WHELAN of Esplanade, Lindisfarne, HOBART, TASMANIA, soldier whose Regt. No. is TX 2218, being duly sworn makes oath and says as follows:-

1:- I am TX 2218 S/Sgt WHELAN, H.J., a former Prisoner of War in Japanese Hands, held in CHUNKAI Camp, R.S.M. W.O.I EDKINS of an English Regt, The Royal Staffordshire Regt was O/C of English speaking Troops.

2:- CONDUCT OF CAMP
Personnel were kept within the boundaries of the Camp Area, which was rectangular in shape, being approx 500 X 400 Yards. The strength of P.O.W. varied between 3000 - 5300 Tropps, it being used as a Staging Camp. Discipline was severe but not unduly so. The interval administration of our Troops was allowed, we being responsible, for providing men for work parties. Only a small percentage of sick was allowed. Hutments were made of Bamboo, with atap roofs, with an earth floor, Beds were bamboo platforms. Each hut accomodating approx 350 men. Actual space allowed each was 6/6 X 2/6 ft.

3:- PARADES.
Parades were held twice daily, the morning parade 0600 hrs and the evening parade 1800 hrs. All ranks in this camp had to attend both parades with the exception of hospital patients. As a result some of the P.O.Ws. suffering from Malaria would have to be carried on parade by their mates. These parades would take from ½ an hour up to 2 hours at time.

4:- MESSING.
Cooking utensils were improvised from 44 Gallon drums, A few "quanlies" were supplied by the Japs. "Fish boxes" and Kerosene tins were used in supplying the cooked rice to the Troops. Eating utensils were only those, which we had when taken prisoner, or those improvised by the Troops themselves. Flies were a menace, and no provisions were made by the Japanese to make the Cookhouse better.
Rations, rice 490 Grams per day, Fresh Vegetables consisting mostly of sweet potatoes, pumkins, 400 grams a day, meat fresh, 50 grams, a day, salt 20 grams a day, sugar 20 grams, oil 20 grams a day.

5:- RECREATION.

No facilities whatsoever were provided for Recreation. Sgt. KURODA deliberately witheld Red X Sporting Gear in a box, in his office and we were not allowed to use this gear for the five months I was in the Camp. One ½ day OFF per week was allowed, but this was NOT given to working parties engaged on what the Japs called "Works of National Importance" such as rebuilding of bridges blown up by our Bombers.

6:- ABLUTIONS AND LATRINES.
All ablutions were carried out in a small River which was open from 5 to 6 PM each day. This was guarded by Jap Sentries on elevated platforms on the River bank.
LATRINES. No facilities were provided. We had to dig our own, "the deep Trench" type being used. These being about 30 yards from the Huts. Only a very small issue of lime was made available. At one time we were allowed a Hygiene party but KURODA stopped this and made us dig them in our spare time. Flies were very bad in these latrines.

Sworn by Deponent
on the day and year
first mentioned at Hobart
Before me _____ J.P.

7:- MEDICAL TREATMENT.
While in this Camp, I had 3 attacks of Malaria fever, and was unable to obtain Quinine at any time, they had some but this was kept for special cases. Hospital cases who could walk were forced to attend periodic "Blitz parade" by Lieut NOBOSAWA for reclassification. On these parades I have seen several men "bashed" for attempting to explain their illnesses, and many hundreds of unfit men forced out to work.
Reference can be made to verify this statement to Sap. F.Carey, 2/10 Fld Eng. who was acting as our Medical Ord on these parades.

8:- ILL TREATMENT.
Failure to salute Jap and Korean Guards was the Main cause of "Bashings". Any trivial excuse was sufficient for the Jap Guard to vent his spite on the P.O.Ws.
During a search of an out going Jungle Party I was collecting the articles which the Korean Guard ISHIGAWA was taking from the P.O.Ws Kits. He took from one P.O.W. a book which had been censored by the Jap Censor, and stamped with their official stamp. I pointed this out to the Jap Guard, and he said, that as the stamp was partly erased he could not pass it. I then took the book to the Jap ~~Intelligence~~ INTERPRETER Officer ISHICURA, explaine the matter to him and he restamped the book, intimating that it would be in order to return the book to the P.O.W. I then took the book back to ISHIGAWA and explained what I had done, and asked permission to return the book to the P.O.W. ISHIGAWA instantly flew into a violent rage and struck me about 12 times with his closed fists. ISHIGAWA, was a five star Korwan Guard, and spoke and wrote excellent English.

9:- PERSONS WHO COMMITTED THE CRIMES.

ISHIGAWA (Five star private) Korean.

HEIGHT	5 Ft 2 in.
WEIGHT	9½ stone.
AGE	24 Years.

Very round fat face, spoke and wrote perfect English.

Lieut NOBOSAWA, First Lieut.

HEIGHT	5 Ft 5 in
WEIGHT	10 Stone.
AGE	40 years.

His head was angular shaped, walked with a slouch in his gait.

ADA Sgt. Major or (SO CHO) was NOBOSAWA assistant.

HEIGHT.	5 Ft. 2 in.
WEIGHT.	9 stone.
AGE.	30 years.

Had a springing hip movement when he walked. Very easily picked out by his gait.

ISHICURA. was a civilian attached to the Jap Army, wore a Uniform and carried Arms.

Age.	60 years.
WEIGHT.	8 stone.
HEIGHT.	5 ft.

Spoke and wrote excellent English. He was Interpreter to No. 2 Group. He was the man who said "that P.O.Ws should be fit to work for Japan or be dead.

CAMP COMMANDANT.
Col. ISHI.

HEIGHT.	5 Ft. 3 in.
WEIGHT.	11 Stone.
AGE.	60 years.

A dignified looking man, considering he was a Jap.

Sworn by Deponent
on the day and year
first mentioned at Hobart
Before me _____ J.P.

11:- I am unable to make a statement on the beatings of W.O. Hampton Aug. 1944 - Capt Hordern and 4 others 15 Dec 44 or Sgt. Gordon Oct. 44.

Sworn by Deponent
on the day and year
first mentioned at

Adart.

Before me. W.H. Ray. JP

TX 2218 S/Sgt H.J. Whelan.

✓ KURODA. Eiichi Neg no's. T43. ~~+ T156~~ (WCR 367).

✓ ISHIGAWA (S STAR PTE). There is a Pte Ishikawa Kiyotaka in new Bangswang list. T423

✓ NOBOSAWA. Lt. WCR 80. NEG No's. T146 + ~~[illegible]~~.

✓ ADA S/M. WCR 347. NO NEG. - is - EDA Assaichi W/O Neg T.20

ISHICURA. (CIV) - Probably WCR 32 (ISHIKURA Rikishi). NO NEG.

✓ ISHI. COL. (C/CDT.) WCR 38 (T34).

wrote for photo ident.
[illegible] 6/6/46.

I, Arthur Edward WHATLEY of Coad Street, ARARAT, in the State of VICTORIA, formerly VX35638 Pte A.E. WHATLEY of the Australian Imperial Forces, make oath and say:-

1. That between the periods of 15 May, 1945 and the end of hostilities, I was a Prisoner of War at NOTAGAWA.

2. Produced and shown to me at the time of swearing this, my affidavit, are photographs of a Japanese, endorsed "70" and "70A". I identify the photographs as those of a Japanese who was the storeman at NOTAGAWA Prisoner of War Camp from approximately May to October 1945. I do not remember his name.

3. He was responsible for the beating of Pte. Charlie MELROSE approximately one month before the Armistice.

4. He beat MELROSE with a bamboo pole approximately 1½ inches in diameter until MELROSE was black and blue on the skin; this was most noticeable across the muscular portions at the backs of the thighs.

SWORN at ARARAT in the STATE of VICTORIA

this 24th day of June One Thousand, Nine hundred and Fortyseven.

Arthur E. Whatley

Before me

L. O. Webb.

A Commissioner of the Supreme Court of the State of Victoria for taking affidavits.

IN THE SUPREME COURT)
OF VICTORIA)

W92
N2-5320

I, ARTHUR EDWARD WHATLEY of Coad Street Ararat in the State of Victoria Ex, VX 35638 Austrailan Imperial Forces make oath and say as follows:-

1. That between the periods 15 May 1945 and the end of hostilities; I was a Prisoner of War at Notagawa. I am not sure that the Camp was Camp Osaka No.9. There were other Camps within a few miles distance. I cannot remember the name of the Commander of the Camp I was in.

2. The food mostly consisted of boiled cucumbers and steamed wheat. Rice was made available ocasionally in very small quantities. Carrot tops, onion tops, and a root like a lily root were given to us; and on several occasions rotten fish or fish heads were used as stew. The quality of the food was deplorable; and the quantity quite insufficient to relieve the pangs of hunger. Only about twice whilst we were at this Camp did we get any meat; when a very small amount was put in the stew. The flavour of it was all that could be noticed. Some clams were given on ocsasions. The only medicines that were provided were a couple of cases of American drugs. These were only given in very extreme cases; and after very strong demands were made by the American Doctor - Capt Burgess - who was often slapped by the Japanese whilst making these demands.

Clothing issued was USED Japanese Army clothing, very ~~delapataded~~ dilapidated, Breeches - Jacket - Shirt - Boots, No socks.. No soap was provided. Quarters were pine walled bark roofed huts, wooden floored, built on blocks, and waterproof if kept in order. These huts were very overcrowded. Each man had floorspace about the size of an ordinary camp stretcher. The whole place was infested with fleas; and we were infested with lice.

3. We were engaged in building a huge bank or dyke. This was to pump a lake dry in order to grow rice. (The Clams mentioned in para 2. above were obtained whilst pumping of lake was in operation).
The working day began about 7 A.M. The work consisted of filling trucks of about ¾ of a cub yard capacity, and pushing along a rail track - two men to a truck, and later as we weakened three - to the bank being

D. Mis. Exh. 25

constructed. The work was very strenuous, very often we worked in water. About 1½ hours was allowed for the midday meal. We walked back to Camp a distance of about ¾ of a mile for it. During the forenoon and afternoon we had a short break of about 10 minutes. Work ceased about 5 o'clock in the evening. We worked in small parties of about 20 to 30 men under a Japanese N.C.O.; whose job appeared to be to keep us at it the whole of the time; and to give a report each evening. These N.C.O's did not unduly interfere with us.

4. There were no executions in the Camp to my knowledge. The worst torture inflicted individually was that of standing to attention for from one to five hours duration with an onion, potatoe, or cucumber in your mouth. Collectively it was a common occurence for a working party before being dismissed for the night to be given P.T. for from 10 minutes to ½ an hour, culminating in hand springs. If through fatigue, illness, or any other reason a man fell ~~sick~~ or dropped out, he was beaten with bamboo poles. These poles were up to eight feet long, and as thick as a man's arm- like a thick curtain rod. One man was struck across the face until the bamboo split. It was then thrust up his nose. This was a lighter bamboo.

5. One victim was Pte Charlie MELROSE, Address, Wagga, New South Wales, or Oakley, Victoria. He was beaten black and blue from his ankles to his buttocks.

6. I am unable to give any definite dates of these occurrences.

7. The Japanese who beat Pte Melrose was the Storeman at the Camp. I do not know his name. The Japanese who beat the man across the face with the bamboo and thrust it up his nose was known as "Rat Shit". He was the Medical Orderly. The storeman was a burly man with a long type of head. "Rat Shit" was a poor insignificant thin faced type - very small.

There was a Japanese nicknamed "Charlie Chaplin" from his likeness to that Comedian - moustache and flat feet. He went out on the work, and his favourite practice was to kick the shins, groins, heads, or anywhere he could, of the prisoners, as often as he could. He had a square-jowled companion who made a practice of punching the prisoners.
The Camp Sergeant Major, nicknamed "Straight Fingers" was a prime mover in all face slapping, and beatings generally.

J.H.

The Camp Interpreter was named Agushi Nagushi. He appeared to become demented, and beat up men with his hands, kicked, threw rocks. This was particularily noticeable towards the end of hostilities. He used his position as an interpreter to make things as uncomfortable as possible for the Prisoners of War.

He was a small man with a vacant look - the look of an imbecile - and was continually instructing us to "Call me Henry".

8. I am not sure that the Camp Commandant was named Lt. Nakanishi.

I never saw, or heard of the Camp Commandant actually inflicting personal violence to a Prisoner Of War; but on many occasions he was a witness to the beatings inflicted by his subordinates; and evidently carried out under his instructions.

SWORN at Ararat in the State of Victoria this 14th day of October One thousand nine hundred and forty six by the abovenamed ARTHUR EDWARD WHATLEY.

Arthur E. Whatley

Before me,

L. O'Neill

A Commissioner of the Supreme Court of the State of Victoria for taking Affadavits.

I, JAMES MICHAEL WHALLEY of Martin Street Buranda Brisbane formerly QX14323 Gnr WHALLEY J.M. of 2/10 Fd Regt now discharged being duly sworn make oath and state as follows:

1. I crave leave to refer to my Affidavit sworn by me on the twenty-second day of April 1946 wherein I submitted evidence concerning a Korean named MORIMOTO (NORIMOTO KINEI "GREEN PANTS") at HLEPOUK around about 20th December 1942, Sixty Kilo Camp in September 1943 and LITTLE NICKINICKI in November 1943.

2. The photograph now produced and shown to me and marked "A" is and contains a true and correct likeness of the person referred to in my said Affidavit as a KOREAN Guard named MORIMOTO (NORIMOTO KINEI "GREEN PANTS"

3. I cannot identify any person as being the person whose likeness appears in the photograph now produced and shown to me and marked "B".

I swear that the contents of this my Affidavit are to the best of my knowledge and belief true in every particular.

SIGNED AND SWORN by the)
Withinnamed Deponent at)
Brisbane this 27th day)
of June 1946.)

J. M. Whalley
.....

Before me
A Justice of the Peace

C. J. Roberts J.P.
.....

Oxenford,
22nd April,1946. 1160

AFFIDAVIT

I James Mervyn WHALLEY of Coomera and formerly Q.X.14323 Gnr WHALLEY,J.M. of 2/10 Field Regiment, now discharged, being duly sworn made oath:

That I joined the A.I.F. on the 7th. July,1940 and became attached to the 2/10 Field Regiment on the 16th. July,1940, and I embarked on the Queen Mary on the 2nd. February,1941 and was disembarked at Singapore on the 18th. February,1941, and was capitulated on the 15th. February,1942, and was taken to Changi as a Prisioner of War.

On the 15th. May,1942 I was taken to Moulmein Burma and then to Thanbuzayiat in October,1942 (date uncertain) where I was put to work on the Burma Thailand Railway.

I first came to know the accused MORIMOTO (or NORIMOTO Kinei (Green Pants) at Hlepouk around about 20 th. December,1942.

The accused MORIMOTO (or NORIMOTO Kinei (Green Pants) was a Korean aged about 28 years, slight build, height 5ft.8ins to 5ft 10 ins, weigh about 9st.7lbs., brownish complexion, hair cut very short, and was always wearing Dutch green short pants to which nickname he was known to me.

The first time the accused did a bashing was on myself at the Sixty Kilo Camp in September,1943 for not having a forty gallon drum of boiling water ready for them, which I did not know anything about.

I was bashed with a bamboo cane for a quarter of an hour around the head and bare body by the accused and them made to stand to attention for a half-hour.

The next bashing I witnessed the accused do was at Little Nicki Nicki on one John SHAW of the 2/12 Engineers in November,1943,who was bashed with a piece of wood about eighteen inches by nine inches thick about the head and body down to his knees.

John SHAW was bashed for about and hour till his body was black and blue, this bashing was witnessed by Lieutenant Colonel ANDERSON V.C. of the 2/19 and Lieutenant Colonel WILLIAMS of the 2/2 pioneers

I also witnessed further bashing by the accused but cannot remember the names of the men bashed or the date of same.

This is page one of my affidavit made at Wexford on 22/4/46

Sgn. J. M. Whelan

Sgn. Hank Ryan J.P.

Justice of the peace

On numerous occasions I witnessed sick soldiers forced to go to work by the hands of the accused who was in charge of forming the number of men in the working parties. Some of the men forced to work were in a sick and weakened condition, that a great number of the men forced to work died from the strain of same.

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

I swear that the contents of this my affidavit are to the best of my knowledge and belief true in every particular.

Signed and Sworn by the withinnamed
deponent at Kenford this 22 day
of April 1946
Before me
A justice of the Peace.

Sgn. J. M. Whalley

Frank Ryder J.P.

I, Alexander Gordon WEYNTON of CASTLEMAINE in the State of Victoria, formerly VX29397 Lieutenant A.G. WEYNTON of the Australian Imperial Forces, make oath and say:

1. That between the period July 1942 - November 1943 I was a prisoner of war at SANDAKAN, British North Borneo.

2. That on 29 July 1943 I was arrested by the Japanese Kempei Tai, SANDAKAN and charged with breaking camp regulations in that I was in possession of a wireless set. After much interrogation I was moved to KUCHING where I was later sentenced by a Japanese Court Martial to 10 years penal servitude on 29 February 1944.

3. That produced and shown to me at the time of swearing this my affidavit are two photographs endorsed NB115. I recognise this Japanese as Warrant Officer EHARA. This Japanese was a member of the Sandakan Kempei Tai. EHARA carried out some of the interrogation of me at Sandakan. On one occasion Sapper E.J. KEATING, who was also a prisoner of the Kempei Tai, passed me a note and was caught doing so. EHARA brutally flogged Keating for this. Spr Keating was very ill with dysentry and he had a large ulcer on his right leg; he subsequently died at Kuching in February 1944 before the trial. One day in September 1943 I saw EHARA brutally beat an Indian, OJUGA SINGH, breaking his jaw. SINGH's injuries were left unattended and remained until he was executed in March 1944. I also saw EHARA beat a Mrs MAVOR and Mrs TAYLOR, wife of Dr. Taylor.

4. That produced and shown to me at the time of swearing this my affidavit are two photographs marked NB204. I recognise this Japanese as a member of the Kempei Tai at Sandakan where he was an interpreter and carried the rank of WO. This Japanese carried a whip with which he used to flog prisoners. He flogged me with this whip and also Mrs. Mavor and Mrs. Taylor. On one occasion I saw this Japanese brutally beat the late Capt Matthews who was executed at Kuching on 2 March 1944, with wooden clogs about the face and head. At the end of this beating Capt Matthews' face was covered in blood. This Japanese frequently used ju jitsu on prisoners.

5. That produced and shown to me at the time of swearing this my affidavit are two photographs marked NB116 and that I recognise this Japanese as a member of the Sandakan Kempei Tai and he was a Warrant Officer. I saw this Japanese flog Alex Funk and finally persuaded Funk to sign a confession on the understanding that nothing further would be done to him. This Japanese was assisted in this beating and confession by the Japanese mentioned in paragraph 4 of this my affidavit (Photograph NB204.)

6. That produced and shown to me at the time of swearing this my affidavit is a photograph marked NB30. I recognise this Japanese as a Sergeant of the Kempei Tai at Sandakan. This Japanese carried out the interrogation of LAGAN, a Chinese who was later executed at Kuching, three other Chinese and a Jewess whose name I cannot remember. He frequently beat and flogged these people with a wooden sword and a sword scabbard. He also indulged in ju jitsu on prisoners.

7. That produced and shown to me at the time of swearing this my affidavit are three photographs marked NB137. This Japanese was a member of the Sandakan Kempei Tai and was an interpreter. He mostly worked on the native prisoners, interrogating and beating them. He also ordered other Japanese to flog prisoners.

[signature]

2/..

G.R. Gough J.P.

8. That produced and shown to me at the time of swearing this my affidavit are two photographs marked NB118. This Japanese was a Sergeant of the Kempei Tai at Sandakan. I saw this Japanese, together with EHARA the Japanese mentioned in paragraph 3 of this my affidavit, illtreat the late Capt Matthews by tying him to a verandah post by the hands and placed a plank of wood across the back of the lower parts of his legs. These Japanese then stood on the plank and seesawed up and down until Capt Matthews became unconscious. This Japanese (NB118) also brutally beat and flogged Capt Matthews on other occasions.

9. That produced and shown to me at the time of swearing this my affidavit is a photograph marked NB132. This Japanese was a Sergeant of the Sandakan Kempei Tai. I saw this Japanese flog many prisoners at Sandakan.

10. That produced and shown to me at the time of swearing this my affidavit are two photographs marked NB119 and that I recognise this Japanese as a Corporal of the Sandakan Kempei Tai. This Japanese beat me on one occasion with a sword stick. He also beat Go Tick Sing, a Chinese prisoner. He frequently used ju jitsu on prisoners.

11. That produced and shown to me at the time of swearing this my affidavit are two photographs marked NB18. I recognise this Japanese as a Corporal of the Sandakan Kempei Tai. This Japanese carried out many beatings and floggings of prisoners at Sandakan.

12. That produced and shown to me at the time of swearing this my affidavit are two photographs marked 213 and 213A. I recognise this Japanese as the President of the Court Martial at which I was tried on 29 February 1944. This Japanese passed sentence on me of ten years penal servitude. His rank was Lieutenant-Colonel. I asked this Japanese officer for legal representation at the trial but he told me through an interpreter that I could not have a legal adviser as I was considered guilty until proved innocent.

13. That produced and shown to me at the time of swearing this my affidavit are two photographs marked 389 and 389A. I recognise this Japanese as a member of the Court Martial at which I was sentenced on 29 February 1944. He was a Captain. He took copious notes of the proceedings and asked many questions. When I asked the President for legal representation he thought it a great joke and, together with the President, indulged in much laughter.

Signature of Deponent

Sworn at CASTLEMAINE in the State of Victoria this .....
day of June 1949.

Before me

GEORGE ROY GOUGH

Sandakan
Watching
Singapore.

64

VX28397, Lt Alexander Gordon WEYNTON, Sigs 8 Aust Div, being duly sworn gives the following evidence:

My number, rank, name, and unit is VX28397, Lt Alexander Gordon WEYNTON, Sigs 8 Aust Div, I became a prisoner-of-war on 15 Feb 42.

I moved with 'B' Force to Sandakan in Jul 42. I spent 12 months there until my arrest on 29 Jul 43.

The first time I went into the cage was on 4 May 43. They put me in the cage because they inspected a letter of mine sent to another camp which contained about 500 British prisoners-of-war from Java. I had sent them a message intimating that we were going to send them medical supplies. I was assaulted that night by ~~Lt~~ ~~Hoshima~~ CAPT. HOSHIJIMA. on the parade ground at Sandakan and made to stand outside the guardroom from 7.30 at night until a little after 10 o'clock the following morning, at attention. I was then paraded before Capt Nagai who sentenced me to 14 days in the bird cage with five others. They were sentenced on different charges to myself. That was not the same occasion as Capt Rowell was in there. I did the 14 days and at the end of that time they let me out. They did not let me out to wash or shave or anything like that, only to go to the lavatory. I got the normal camp rations that time.

There were six of us in the cage. We had to take it in turns to lie down. It was all right when I was by myself. When the others were in there it was very crowded. Four of them went out after seven days and the other fellow went out after 10 days and I did the full 14 days.

I was arrested on the ~~afternoon~~ evening of 29 Jul and immediately put in the cage again. I was in there from the evening of 29 Jul until the morning of 14 Aug when they transferred me to Sandakan Kempei-tai. He then accused me of having a radio and I refused to talk of course. He said "We'll send you into Sandakan and they will make you talk." I went in on the morning of 14 Aug. on the morning of 10/7/43 was made before Capt Nagai

A chap named Sig. Martin was arrested about the same time as me and he went in to the Kempei-tai the same morning as I did. He was identified at the aerodrome having dealings with natives in connection with the escape of WO Wallace and other members of 'E' Force who left in April. Wells was arrested on the night of 24 Jul.

At the Kempei-tai they put me in a big room with a whole lot of other people all sitting to attention on the floor with their legs crossed. We were all facing the one way. The guards were all around the side of the verandah looking in the windows. They got to work on questioning me. I gave the normal information with regard to identity but when it came to anything else we did not talk at all. The result was that they started to beat me and when they still could not get the information they stubbed cigarettes underneath my arms and on my chest. They would come into a room, you would be sitting on the floor, and the interrogators would be above you. When they could not get the information they would start to beat you or throw you in a ju-jitsu fashion over their heads. You would go onto the floor on your back.

We were faced with depositions made by the natives. A number of natives had been arrested who had traded with us and they had given a lot of information to the Nips about radio parts that they had brought into the camp. I was called to account for the position of those parts. They had taken from Wells a transmitter that was in course of construction. They did not know the difference between a transmitter and a receiver and we were was.

able to fool them it was the receiver. They thought they had the radio receiver but when it came to checking on the parts there was a big discrepency and they then thought that we were holding out on them and that there was another radio set in the camp.

Over this they subjected me to a rather unpleasant affair. They took me on to the verandah and tied me to the end of an upright. I was tied facing the wall with my hands above my head. I was kneeling and the guards placed a bit of 4 inches by 2 inches planking about 10 feet long across the back of my legs. A member of the Kempei-tai ~~sat~~ stood on each side and see-sawed. Another chap hit me on the back of the head with a riding whip trying to get information. I passed out. The next thing I knew a bucket of water splashed over me and they were kicking me in the ribs to make me get up.

They continued with the regular bashings. We had ~~no~~ little food. I think we used to get a cupful of rice twice a day. That would be any time between 10 and 2 in the morning and 6 and 8 at night. A little after that we got a little boiled cucumber - two or three spoonfuls. That went on until the questioning was finished.

They finished questioning me about 29 Sep. I was still kept in this room. All the time that this had been going on there was a Kempei-tai sitting down taking it all down in Japanese. The interpreter was a chap named Osawa. They compiled a dossier about 1½ inches thick on me. That finished the interrogating of me except for one or two times I was taken out. All told I was interrogated for about six weeks, not every day but on and off. Interrogations would start about 9 o'clock and they would knock off for lunch, then might go on until 3 o'clock. The following morning I was put in another room with a whole lot of other people I had not come into contact with. Some of these were Australians but they were mainly natives.

On 26 Oct they transferred me to ~~Sandakan~~ Sandakan Gaol where we were for two days before we embarked upon a little 300 ton freighter. We got to Kuching on the morning of 2 Nov.

7032

I, Alexander Gordon WEYNTON of 48 Wellington Parade, EAST MELBOURNE in the State of Victoria make oath and say:-

1. Prior to discharge I was VX28397 Lt A.G. WEYNTON of 8 Div Signals AIF. I was taken Prisoner of War at SINGAPORE on 15th Feb. 42.

2. I went to OUTRAM Road Gaol 11th March 1944 after being sentenced to ten years penal servitude at KUCHING on 29th Feb. 1944, for being in possession of a radio set at SANDAKAN PW Camp in NORTH BORNEO.

3. Produced and shown to me at the time of swearing this my Affidavit are photographs which I identify ad those of the following guards at OUTRAM Road Gaol while I was imprisoned there.

4. Photograph marked "A" is that of a warrant Officer in charge of guards. He used to supervise beating at the gaol.

5. Photograph marked "B" is that of a warrant Officer in charge of guards. I saw him on one occasion during April 1945 brutally beat a Dutch PW with his sword. He also supervised beatings by other guards.

6. Photograph marked "C" is that of a sergeant Major in charge of guards. I saw him on one occasion in May 1945 beat a British Artilleryman named BRADLEY in Block D of the gaol. He also supervised beating by other guards.

7. Photograph marked "D" is that of a sergeant guard who was known as the "BULL". I saw him go out on one of the execution parties for the execution of American PWs in May-June 1945.

8. Photograph marked "E" is that of a sergeant guard who was known as "DANDY".

9. Photograph marked "F" is that of a Cpl guard who went out on execution parties in April-May 1945.

10. Photographs marked "G" is that of a sergeant guard. He was known as "COOKHOUSE". On one occasion he gave me a beating up. He was a very sullen type. He was mainly engaged on administrative work.

11. Photograph marked "H" is that of a sergeant guard known as the "GROPER". He was a jovial sort of individual and was a sexual pervert. He was not a brutal type.

12. Photograph marked "I" is that of a sergeant guard. He went out on execution parties in JUne 1945. He was a very bad type, a refined sadist.

13. Photograph marked "J" is that of a sergeant guard. He was a brutal type and administered many beatings. Also went out on execution parties and gave me a beating in April 1944.

14. Photograph marked "K" is that of a sergeant guard. In 1943 he was in charge of the cookhouse and used to cut down prisoners rations when they were being dished out. Later he was on duty with the main guard in charge of prisoners and also in charge of working parties. He carried out a number of beatings and also went out on execution parties.

15. Photograph marked "L" is that of a sergeant guard. He was known as "BUTCH". He beat me very severely in March 1944. I was unable to walk for two days after this beating.

He was one of the regular guards and carried out many beatings. When the mood struck him he would make a good fellow of himself He always seemed to be very sleepy and was also a sexual pervert. He also went out on an execution party.

16. Photograph marked "M" was one of the regular sergeant guards.

17. Photograph marked "N" is that of a sergeant guard known as the "PIG". He went out on several execution parties. He gave me a beating in July 1945. He was on the cookhouse staff in March 1945 as well as several guard duties. Aften refused to allow us to wash and cut down the normal rations to the prisoners. I have also seen him give the prisoners a number of beatings.

18. Photograph marked "O" is that of a sergeant known as "MICKEY MOUSE". He was one of the regular guards and went out on working parties as well. Carried out a number of beatings on prisoners and was also responsible for cutting down rations.

19. Photograph marked "P" is that of a Cpl guard. He carried out a number of beatings on prisoners and seemed to take a great delight in beating. He beat me in July 1945.

20. Photograph marked "Q" is that of a good Conduct Prisoner No. 66. He was in charge of the grass cutting party. Was a particularly brutal type. He heat up a number of prisoners. He used to steal food.

21. Photograph marked "R" is that of Good Conduct Prisoner No. 6. Was in charge of working parties and carried out a number of beatings. In July 1945 he was responsible on several occasions for forcing sick men to work.

22. Photograph marked "S" is that of a Good Conduct Prisoner No. 52. He was in charge of the sick. He was responsible for cutting down prisoners food on his own initiative. He also stole food intended for the sick prisoners and ate it himself. In June 1945 he beat up an British Artilleryman named BRADLEY, tortured him by using Ju-Jitsu. BRADLEY at the time was suffering from Beri Beri, Dysentry and Malaria and was unable to leave his stretcher. This beating and torture lasted about two hours. On the same day he also beat up a coloured Dutchman named KRUSTER, (KRUSTER was of South African Origin) He beat KRUSTER severely and used Ju-Jitsu and at the time KRUSTER was suffering from DYSENTRY and was unable to walk. This beating took about half an hour. On four other occasions he beat both BRADLEY and KRUSTER. He also beat me up in April 1945. Altogether his behaviour was of utmost brutality. He claimed to be a christian and took a great delight in taunting prisoners and beating them when he reacted to his taunts. He used to go down to the Jap Medical Orderly in charge of the gaol and secure from him rice polishings intended for the prisoners suffering from Beri Beri. He also stole portion of green vegetables for sick prisoners and cut down on the allocations of rations and so called milk. In many ways No. 52 was responsible for the deaths of a number of prisoners, more particularly in the case of BRADLEY and although he claimed to be acting under instructions from his superior officer, the ill-treatment suffered by the prisoners at his hands was carried out on his own initiative. He also used to leave prisoners who were unable to move lying in the sun thus causing those prisoners a great deal of discomfort. He also gave instructions to the cookhouse staff and orderlies to cut down the amount of food for those prisoners suffering from Dysentry. Also ordered that those prisoners suffering from Dysentry be taken off boiled rice ration and be given rice gruel which was a watery mixture of ground rice and water.

23. Photograph marked "T" is that of Good Conduct Prisoner No 419. He was in charge of working parties. He was particularly brutal to the prisoners. He was responsible for depriving prisoners of their food in many instances. He beat the prisoners including myself. He also used to tell the guards tales after beating the prisoners himself and they would be beaten again by the guards.

24. Photograph marked "U" is that of Good Conduct Prisoner No. 1 He was in charge of the garden party and was very brutal in his treatment of prisoners. He was a good worker himself and expected the sick prisoners to work as hard as he did.

25. Photograph marked "V" is that of Good Conduct Prisoner No 430. He was in charge of the sanitation party. When he first went on the job in June 1945 he was fairly reasonable but after a month he developed the brutal qualities of the other guards and was responsible for many beatings. He beat me severely in June 1945.

26. Photograph marked "W" is that of Good Conduct Prisoner No.88 He was in charge of one of the outside working parties and was very brutal guard and beat the prisoners at every opportunity.

27. Photograph marked "X" is that of Good Conduct Prisoner No. 70 He was particularly brutal. He used to force sick prisoners to work and even in cases where they were carried out on stretchers. He used to beat them when they collapsed. He had three Good Conduct Stripes and used to instruct the other Good Conduct Prisoners in the method of handling and beating prisoners. He used also to cut down the prisoners rations and because of the way he used to force sick prisoners to work I am sure he caused many of their deaths. He was hated and feared by all the Allied prisoners in the gaol.

28. Photograph marked "Y" is that of Good Conduct Prisoner No 416. He was transferred from KUCHING in BORNEO to OUTRAM Rd Gaol in Mar 44. By April 1945 he had obtained two Good Conduct Stripes and was put in charge of working parties at the BUKIT TIMAH rifle range. He was a particularly brutal type. He used to force members of his working party to carry weights and do work far in excess of their capabilities. He was a good worker himself and when prisoners were sick he expected them to work as well,as he did and if they could not do so he beat them. He used sometimes refuse to let the prisoners wash when they came in from work for no reason at all.

29. No photograph has been shown to me of one guard who was first a Cpl and later promoted to sergeant. He was in charge of all working parties at BUKIT TIMAH Rifle Range from April 1945 until we were released. He was known to all prisoners and also to the Japanese as the "ENGINEER". He was a drug addict and a very brutal type. He forced the prisoners to carry weights beyond their strength. [illegible]. He used to beat the prisoners and deprive them of food. On the other hand he used to allow the prisoners to take leaves from the trees which they ate as food. He also arranged with the medical orderly in the gaol to have available two members of the working parties to apply a lotion of mercurichrome and sulphur ointment on any cuts or injuries incurred during work. He said that when the capitulation came he was going into the bush and he was very friendly with a number of Chinese near the BUKIT TIMAH Rifle Range, to whom he used to give coconuts intended for the prisoners

30. No photographs have been shown me of guards in the KUCHING Gaol who were particularly brutal and allowed Pte KEATING of 2/6 Fd Pk to die.

31. No photographs have been shown me of the KEMPEI TAI at SANDAKAN who tortured many prisoners including myself.

32. No photograph has been shown me of Interpreter OSAWA who distorted the evidence given by Capt. MATTHEWS of 8 Div Sigs. at the time he was being questioned and was thus one of the chief causes of his execution.

33. No photographs have been shown me of the members of the court at SANDAKAN held on 29th Feb. 1944 and 2nd March 1944. This court sentenced Capt MATTHEWS to death and also nine natives.

34. The prosecutor at the court was a member of KEMPEI TAI and insisted on the court passing sentence of death on Capt MATTHEWS.

35. Major MIKIZAWA the Officer in charge of OUTRAM Gaol Road Gaol was a particularly brutal Japanese who allowed prisoners to die in the Gaol without medical attention and encouraged the guards to beat and illtreat the prisoners.

Sworn at Melbourne in the State of Victoria this 13th Day of May 1946

Before me R. S. Hitch

A Commissioner of the Supreme Court of Victoria for taking Affidavits

7033

I,Alexander Gordon Weynton of 48 Wellington Parade,EAST MELBOURNE in the State of Victoria make oath and say

1. I refer to my affidavit sworn in Melbourne on the 13th day of May 1946.

2. Also produced and shown to me at the time of swearing this my affidavit were photographs S1090,S290,S1088,S355,S255,S236 and S147.

3. Of these the only one that I can identify is that of S236 and marked "Z". This is the photograph of Good Conduct Prisoner Number 413 who was in charge of working parties in Outram Road Gaol,Singapore during my incarceration in that gaol in 1944 and 1945,
Good Conduct Prisoner No.413 was usually in charge of parties working outside the precints of the gaol.He was a vicious type,very fond of beating up Allied Prisoners and forcing them to work far in excess of their capabilities.In July of 1946 I received a beating at his hands and as I was already in a weakened condition through lack of food and dysentery I suffered considerably.

4. No photographs have been shown to me of Captain Nagai,the Administrator of Sandakan Camp,British North Borneo,during the months of April,May,June and July of the year 1943. This officer was responsible for forcing me to stand to attention outside the guardhouse at Sandakan Camp from1800 hours until 0900 hours on or about 15th May 1943.In addition he sentenced me to confinement in a wooden cage 6feet 3 inches long by 3 feet 6 inches high by 4 feet 6 inches wide for a period of fourteen days on and from the 16th May 1943. During the time of my incarceration in this cage I was not permitted to leave it except to go to the lavatory under escort.I was not allowed any bedding,to wash or to shave.

   Again on 29th July 1943,Captain Nagai sentenced me to a term of imprisonment in this same cage the term being from the evening of 29th July 1943 till the morning of 14th August 1943.For the first ten days I was fed the normal camp rations but when I refused to speak of my activities with the radio receiver which I was operating in the Camp I went without food for four days and was sent to the Kempei Tai in Sandakan for questioning,on 14th August. Again during this incarceration I was refused bedding, to wash or to shave.
   Captain Nagai gave instructions direct to the guard commander regarding the treatment to be meted out to me.I was present when these instructions were given.

Sworn at Melbourne in the State of Victoria this fifteenth day of May 1946.

G Weynton

Before me R S Hetet

Commissioner for Affidavits

30/9/47

I, Alexander Gordon WEYNTON of 23 Doveton Street, CASTLEMAINE, in the State of Victoria, formerly VX29397 Lieutenant A.G.WEYNTON of The Australian Imperial Forces, make oath and say:

1. That between the period July 1942 and November 1943 I was a Prisoner of War at SANDAKAN, British North Borneo.

2. That on the evening of the 29th. July 1943 I was arrested by the KEMPEITAI, SANDAKAN and taken from the P.O.W. Camp to the KEMPEITAI Headquarters.

3. That, produced and shown to me at the time of Swearing OMEDA TOMASHIGE this my affidavit are photographs of a Japanese endorsed NB204. I identify the photographs as those of a Japanese Sergeant who was one of the interrogators at the Sandakan Kempeitai during the period July 1943 to November 1943. I do not know his name.

4. That this Sergeant carried at all time a riding crop made of leather with a heavy leather thong attached to it's tip. This riding crop was used by the Sergeant to thrash prisoners of war and civilians at the Kempeitai Headquarters.

5. That this Sergeant thrashed me with the riding crop, beat me with bamboo pole of 1½ inches in diameter, and kicked me in the groin on at least six occasions during the period of my incarceration at Kempeitai Headquarters.

6. That this Sergeant thrashed other Prisoners of War including Lieutenant R. G. Wells Signals 8 Division and Doctor James P. Taylor, a civilian Doctor from Sandakan.

7. That under orders from this Sergeant, the meagre food supply to prisoners at Kempeitai Headquarters was cut down and at times cut off for several meals.

8. That this Sergeant together with another thrashed the late Captain L. C. Matthews (Signals 8 Division), with the riding crop, bamboo poles and shoes rubbed in Sand.

9. That this Sergeant brutally illtreated a Sikh (Ojaga Singh), subsequently beheaded in Kuching, day after day by thrashing him, punching him and by starving him. Ojaga Singh was covered in wounds of all kinds and these were allowed to become septic and he was denied medical treatment by this Sergeant.

SWORN at CASTLEMAINE in the State of Victoria this Eleventh day of August, One thousand nine hundred and forty seven by the above named ALEXANDER GORDON WEYNTON. ..... [signature]

BEFORE ME ..... [signature]

A Commissioner of the Supreme Court of Victoria for taking Affidavits.

AUSTRALIAN WAR CRIMES

BOARD OF INQUIRY

VX28397 LIEUT ALEXANDER GORDON WEYNTON, sworn and further examined:

I have already given my evidence before Mr Justice Mansfield. I have read the transcript of that evidence, and except for some minor alterations and additions which I have made in ink thereto the facts in that statement are true and correct.

In the evidence I gave before Mr Justice Mansfield I stated that we arrived at Kuching on the morning of 2 November. I remained in Kuching gaol until I was subsequently tried on 29 February 1944.

Until about the last week in December 1943 we were kept in the Kuching gaol without any questioning being done. We were inspected once or twice by Japanese staff officers, but it was not until the last week in December, when we were taken in parties from the Kuching gaol to the Headquarters of the Kempei Tai, which was in a convent opposite the radio station in Kuching, that we were questioned. During the transfer from one place to another we were always handcuffed.

We were questioned there by a Japanese Captain and an interpreter, who went over the evidence, which consisted of a large dossier. He did not deal with it as a complete item, but used to pick out certain sections and question one on that section. I would point out that this dossier was signed by me in Sandakan gaol, but, although I asked to have the document read over to me before I signed it, my request was refused. The document was written in Japanese characters.

The questioning officer, who turned out to be the prosecuting officer when the trial came on, took down further depositions made by me, some of this being an attempt to correct previous statements taken in Sandakan.

It appeared to me that Osawa, the interpreter at Sandakan, had deliberately misinterpreted statements made by me to the Kempei Tai officer, the object apparently being to make the position seem worse than it really was. In the statement made at Sandakan he also made it appear that I had incriminated Major ~~Eat~~ Fleming, 4 Anti-Tank Regiment, who was at that time C.O. of the camp at Sandakan.

U -3- A.G. Weynton

This is the third sheet of the evidence of Alexander Gordon Weynton taken and sworn before me at Sydney in the State of New South Wales this 27th day of November, 1945.

A.G. Weynton

Deponent

Chairman, Australian Board of Inquiry into War Crimes

At no timehad I mentioned Fleming's name to Osawa but he appeared to believe in his own mind that Fleming had something to do with it, and attempted to distort the evidence to that effect. Despite the fact that I denied these statements, I do not think that any notice was taken of the denials I made. They questioned me closely with regard to items of news that I had received, and were very taken with the heavy naval losses which the Japanese had sustained in the Battle of the Bismarck Sea. They also questioned me closely on the station that I had listened to, and they seemed rather surprised that I had not listened to or taken any notice of Tokio broadcasts but preferred the BBC broadcasts.

I was not maltreated during the questioning by the prosecuting officer at the Kuching Kempai Tai.

With regard to the gaol itself, the meals in the Kuching gaol were three per day, consisting of a handful of boiled rice, with approximately 1½ spoonfuls of vegetables on topp We had our own spoons to eat with but the plates were provided by the gaol staff. Washing facilities were twice a day and we were able to wash our clothes , but the gaol was infested with bugs and lice; I complained very bitterly to Colonel SUGA, the commandant in charge of prisoners in Borneo; and also on several occasions to the prosecuting officer at the Kuching Kempei Tai.

We had our own bedding - a blanket. The result of these complaints was only that our food was cut down. The Jap sergeant in charge of the gaol appeared to object when these complaints were made and had the food ration cut down. It was cut considerably. I also complained to the prosecuting officer regarding a man named Sapper Keating, of 2/6 Fd Park, a West Australian, who was dying at the time; alt hough the Japs did send him to the Kuching hospital for treatment on several occasions, he was being treated by a civilian doctor named Taylor who also was a prisoner, and Keating died in December from dysentery and starvation.

I might mention further regarding facilities in the Sandakan Kempei Tai. After the escape of one native policeman during one night in September 1943, we were not permitted to go to the lavatory after dark. We had to urinate through the open window of the room in which we were locked up.

From the time I arrived in the hands of the Sandakan Kempei Tai I was compelled to sit up to attention - from 14 August 1943 - to sit with my arms folded across my chest and with my knees and legs crossed, from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m., every day. The only break periods were about five minutes in the morning for so-called physical culture, and a similar one in the afternoon. If you were caught leaning back or not sitting up to attention properly, you would be taken out of the cell and beaten up. Actually that sitting to attention lasted for about seven months, daily. There were just small breaks here and there for interrogation, and going to the lavatory, or to the ablution-block.

Although we were sitting to attention like that in the same room at Sandakan, and in the same cell at Kuching, we were not allowed to speak to one another. Of course, we did so; but we would be beaten if we were caught.

I was with Wells all of the time after my arrival. He actually was arrested before I was - on 24th July, and I was arrested on 29th July. He went straight to the Sandakan Kempei Tai, and I did not go there until 14th August.

This is the fourth sheet of the evidence of Alexander Gordon Weynton taken and sworn before me at Sydney in the State of New South Wales this 27th day of November, 1945.

.....
Deponent

.....
Chairman, Australian Board of Inquiry into War Crimes.

He got the same beatings as I did. I saw Wells being beaten, and I saw him forced to hold his hands up and having boards placed across the back of his legs, and the seesaw.

I did not see the water treatment of Wells. He told me he had had it. The physical condition of Wells during July, August, September 1943 was quite good; but he went to the pack shortly afterwards. When he was taken there he had a good bit of weight on him.

He told me he had been forced to eat - he thought - about 1½ lbs of rice, uncooked; and after that, a small hose-pipe rubber was forced down his throat and water was poured into his stomach. He was kept like that for three or four hours, then taken out of the cell and beaten up. The Japs concentrated particularly on the stomach - the stomach swelled up when the gastric juices and the water got to work on the rice, and he was beaten. He was considerably bruised about the abdominal regions, and was in great pain, because his stomach was so distended. Possibly it interfered with his functions. On the boat coming down, he complained to me that he had suffered very considerably with his bowel movements, in Sandakan. I do not think he said his bowels were displaced.

I was in the same building when he got this treatment but I did not see it; he was in the cells downstairs for the first fortnight and was not brought upstairs until after that. That maltreatment, I believe, took place downstairs.

When I saw him in March last, he appeared to me to be quite normal. That was on the night after he came out of Outram Road gaol. His mental state then was excited, with the sudden change probably from the gaol to the internment camp; his mental state seemed to be "all there." He was to me quite compus mentus.

The Japs did not administer the water treatment to me. The reason why I did not get it was that I was faced with the native depositions and the fact was quite obvbus to me that I could not get out of it; I had to account for certain radio parts. I knew where they were. I was also up against certain statements in a diary that the Kempei Tai Japs had discovered - these statements in the diary set out quite plainly that I was involved in the radio. They also set our that two others were involved. I was just as much implicated as Wells - that appeared in the diary.

I think the Japs had given this water treatment to some of the natives, before Wells. I know that that was not exceptional; it was administered to other white people in other places -- there was a Mr Roberts, a Red Cross chap at Singapore, who tried to escape ; and Major Wyatt, of HQ AIF.

This is the fifth sheet of the evidence of Alexander Gordon Weynton taken and sworn before me at Sydney in the State of New South Wales this 27th day of November, 1945.

Deponent

Chairman, Australian Board of Inquiry into War Crimes.

We now come to 29th February, 1944, the day of the trial. We were told about three days before that we going to be tried, and although I asked, I was not told of what I was accused. I took it that it was in connection with the radio but I was never actually told. I was marched into the Court Room together with four others at Kuching. The Bench consisted of a Lieut.-Colonel, a Major and a Captain. The Prosecutor was on the left handside of the Court Room looking at the Court, and the writer was on the righthandside. The interpreter was sitting below the President of the Tribunal. I immediately asked, through the interpreter, for a Defending Officer. That was communicated to the President, namely the Lieut.-Colonel; the request was treated in a jocular manner and refused. I don't know the names of the officers of the Court, but I would know them again. I had not seen them before -- at least, I think one of them may have been in one of the inspecting parties that came around.

The President of the Court put several questions to me. He apparently had extracts of evidence before him. Both the officers on the Bench did the same thing. Then after the questions were answered the Prosecuting Officer got up and addressed the Court at some length asking that I be sentenced to eight years imprisonment. We had got used to certain phraseology and a certain number of words and I understood him to ask for 8 years imprisonment for me. After the address of the Prosecuting Officer and before the Court adjourned, I was asked if I had anything to say before sentence was passed upon me. I then stated that I believed that the job I had done in Sandakan, although contrary to Japanese regulations, was instrumental in keeping up the morale of the camp, particularly amongst the sick, and that I had only done what I considered [illegible] would have done the same under similar circumstances.

The Court then adjourned for a period of about 10 minutes and then re-assembled again when sentence was passed on me -- 10 years penal servitude. I was then taken back to the Kuching Gaol.

There were four others with me - Richards, Cpl. [illegible] S/Sgt. McDonough. Richards got five years, Mills two years, Cpl. 18 months and S/Sgt. McDonough six months.

The whole trial did not take any longer -- including the adjournment -- than 40 minutes. That was the trial of the whole five of us.

I was not present when Capt. Matthews was tried. He was tried on the 2nd March; Wells was present.

When we were in the cell, we were given demonstrations a number of times how to lop people's heads off. They were quite convinced we were all to go and we were too. All three of us -- Wells, Matthews and myself -- all thought we were for it, and it was quite a relief when I discovered that I had only got 10 years!

I was sent back to Kuching Gaol, then on 8 March 1944 I was put on board a ship at Kuching and sent to Singapore. On the morning of 11 March, 1944, I was taken into Outram Road Gaol, Singapore. I remaindd a prisoner there until 18 May, 1944, when I was taken from the gaol sick. I remaindd sick under the care of Australian Army Doctors until 14 April, 1945, when they could not keep me any longer and I went back to Outram Gaol and remaindd there until 19 August, 1945.

This is the sixth sheet of the evidence of Alexander Gordon Weynton taken and sworn before me at Sydney in the State of New South Wales this 27th day of November, 1945.

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Deponent

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Chairman, Australian Board of Inquiry into War Crimes.

As a result of my experience in Outram Gaol, I signed a charge against the Japanese major commanding the prison. That was approximately on 30 August, 1945. That charge was made out by myself, Major Slater, of the Royal Artillery, and several other British officers.

(Witness inspects charge sheet, held by Commission as part of Exhibit "4").

That is a copy before the Court. I think I was the only Australian that signed it. In that document, I charged the Japanese major with being directly responsible for the deaths of 15 prisoners, failing to supply adequate medical attention and supplies.

During the period that I was there, people were dying in the gaol owing to the fact that there were getting insufficient food; they were dying of dysentery because they could not get any medical treatment. The dysentery was contracted either before or after their admission to gaol. They were also dying of cardiac beri-beri when it got to such a stage that it affected the heart. Although the Japanese maynot have had any medical supplies in the gaol, they could have got some from Changi interment camp. Anyhow, there were facilities at Changi interment camp for the treatment of prisoners who were ill. Prisoners were transferred from Outram Gaol to Changi interment camp when they were ill, but some people were left too long. The result was they died in prison. The Japanese Commander knew of these deaths; he used to go and see the bodies; he could see the condition of the bodies. Also a Japanese Doctor would actually go to the gaol at the request of the officer commanding the gaol; he would look at the prisoners who were sick and apparently make recommendations. Some of these personnel would be sent to Changi interment camp for treatment. Others would be left behind. It was quite obvious that the major in charge of the gaol knew exactly what the condition of the prisoners was. The fact that these people died in gaol as a result of the treatment, was quite obvious to be that he knew what the position was.

At one stage, somstime in August, 1944, the Japanese major in charge of the gaol was alleged to make a statement to the effect that nobody would leave the goal unless they were dying. That practically was the position. Most of the fellows who were transferred out of Outram Gaol died at about that time; they were left until it was just touch and go.

This is the seventh sheet of the evidence of Alexander Gordon Weynton taken and sworn before me at Sydney in the State of New South Wales this 27th day of November, 1945.

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Deponent

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Chairman, Australian Board of Inquiry into War Crimes.

This is the seventh sheet of the evidence of Alexander Gordon Weynton taken and sworn before me at Sydney in the State of New South Wales this 27th day of November, 1945.

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Deponent

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Chairman, Australian Board of Inquiry into War Crimes.

The 15 men I refer to died in the gaol and their names can be obtained from records kept at Changi. The Major was not only responsible for the deaths of troops in the gaol but he was also responsible for other deaths which occurred outside the prison.

I can charge the same Japanese with permitting sick prisoners' rations to be reduced. Those of us who went out on working parties, either outside the gaol or within the precincts of the gaol, were given a small bowl of rice three times a day. Those who were sick would get only half this quantity. Furthermore, prisoners who were sick were permitted to lie down outside the gaol itself although still within the boundary wall of the gaol in an open hut, under the command of Guard No. 52. This particular guard would cut their rations still further. He had a number of Indians there who were also prisoners but who were very much his way, and he would take the ration from the white people and give it to the Indians. If he caught anyone talking out there, he would not give him anything to eat at all. Yet, although the Major knew this was going on and the guards knew it was going on, nothing was ever done to overcome it.

Prison Guard No. 52 stole medicines and food. At one time in May 1945 I was sick myself in that particular shed and under the control of Guard No. 52. The medicine consisted of small quantities of what we called "rice polishings", which were the husks of the rice that had fallen off during the process of polishing the rice. We used to get about enough of this to go on a two-shilling piece twice a day. That was to combat beri beri. Very often, when the Medical Orderly would bring the stuff around, Guard No. 52 would keep it himself because he also had beri beri. Moreover, medicines in the form of raw vegetables - the vegetable being the native "kangkong", which is a sort of Chinese spinach - used to be dished out to the prisoners, but he would keep most of that for himself because he, too, was suffering from beri beri. In addition, a concoction which we used to call milk but which hardly resembled milk, was given to the prisoners twice a day. Guard No. 52 used to keep the bulk of that for himself and some of his friends.

The prison warders used to beat the sick prisoners, more particularly during 1944; they did not beat the sick prisoners so much during 1945. The principal beatings during 1945 were carried out by good conduct prisoners, who were, of course, Japanese, and themselves crippled. I would not say that anyone died directly as a result of the beatings but many died as a result of beatings and starvation, together with dysentery and beri beri. Although they were sick and unable to get up, men would be beaten. Guard No. 52 was the worst exponent of this practice. I was beaten myself by No. 52 although not to the same extent as others people were beaten by him. The worst three beatings I witnessed from No. 52 were those administered to a Britisher in the Royal Artillery named Bradley, a Dutchman named Kris, who was badly beaten up while suffering from dysentery and beri beri and later died, and another Dutch-Eurasian. Bradley also died; in fact, both of those who died did so shortly after the beatings and within about a week in each case.

The beating of the Dutch-Eurasian, who did not die as a result but was very badly knocked about just the same, was almost indescribable. It consisted of a mixture of a wrestling match and a jui-jitsu display. He was thrown down on to the ground and his arms, legs, neck or any part of his body that was projecting, were screwed until he screamed at the top of his voice. He did not scream from fright, either; he was really being hurt. His face was rubbed in the dirt and he was badly beaten about the body.

Bradley was treated in much the same manner. He was given punishment by jui-jitsu first; that is to say, although he was unable to walk he was thrown about the hut, made to grovel in the dirt - he had his face rubbed in the dirt - he was badly bruised on the body and lost quite a quantity of skin. He was kicked in

This is the eighth sheet of the evidence of Alexander Gordon Weynton taken and sworn before me at Sydney in the State of New South Wales this 27th day of November, 1945.

Weynton Webb

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Deponent Chairman, Australian Board of Inquiry into War Crimes.

the ribs, in the face and in the groin; and several attempts were made to kick him in the testicles. The Japanese managed to kick one or two people in the testicles but most of us were wise to their designs and were able to cover up satisfactorily on such occasions; however, that was a favourite method of attack. This practice was carried out mostly by Guard No. 52 although Guard No. 66 also did quite a lot of it.

Guard No. 66 maltreated Bradley on a number of occasions and I witnessed those beatings also. However, he was maltreated mainly by Guard No. 52 and it was as a result of his treatment that he eventually died. The Dutch prisoner, Kris, also died as a result of similar treatment. Guards No. 52 and No. 66 were still at Changi when I left and records held there will disclose their identity.

I can definitely state that Bradley's rations were cut down when he was sick. I was in the cell adjoining his when he died and I heard what went on. He was suffering a great deal of pain; gradually, his groans and screams became weaker and weaker until he finally passed out. Nothing was done to help him; no medical officer was sent for and no advice was sought from anybody. The guards withheld his food on quite a number of occasions and also withheld water from him up to the time of his death.

The only distinction made between officers and other ranks was that officers were subjected to more brutal treatment than were the men. It was regarded more or less as a feather in the cap of a guard put in charge of a party of officers and he would treat them much more harshly than he would a party of other ranks. No distinction was made in the matter of rations or quarters.

The "Dai Iki" party (meaning "The Great Work") were engaged in digging funk holes for the Japanese on Singapore Island. The Japanese in charge of the white prisoners working outside the gaol in the Bukit Timah rifle range was a sergeant. The white prisoners were engaged in tunnelling into the side of the hill and digging holes for Japanese troops to hide in during bombing raids. This sergeant was particularly brutal, more especially when he could not be properly understood. He was also a drug addict and used to smoke some peculiar type of cigarette which would change him from a nervous individual to a placid individual in a period of about ten minutes. He used to smoke about a dozen of these sigarettes a day. He was particularly brutal whilst the men were working under his direct supervision; he would try to force men to carry huge loads of wood or timber because he could carry them himself. He was a very solid, well-built type with huge, rippling muscles on his back and shoulders and if we could not carry loads that he could carry, we would be knocked about. I do not know his name or number or anything about him except that he was in charge of the prisoners working on the Bukit Timah rifle range.

This is the ninth sheet of the evidence of Alexander Gordon Weynton taken and sworn before me at Sydney in the State of New South Wales this 27th day of November, 1945.

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Deponent

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Chairman, Australian Board of Inquiry into War Crimes.

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A. G. Weynton.

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This is the ninth sheet of the evidence ~~taken~~ of and Alexander Gordon Weynton taken and sworn before me at Sydney in the State of New South Wales this 27th day of November, 1945.

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Deponent

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Chairman, Australian Board of Inquiry into War Crimes.

The food at Outram Road gaol used to vary in quantity a good deal for no apparent reason. Towards the end from April 1945 until August 1945 the quantity and quality of the food deteriorated very considerably, until we were receiving a very small quantity of rice, a spoonful or so of vile smelling stuff which was known as "blachan", a paste made of decomposed crabs and prawns which was boiled and sprinkled over the rice as a flavouring agent, and a spoonful and a half to two spoonsful of vegetables three times a day. You could smell the blachan from one end of the gaol to the other.

I heard of executions at Outram Road gaol, but I never saw any executions. I saw the people being taken out to be executed. I saw altogether about 17 Allied airmen taken out to be executed, and I saw about 15 Chinese civilians being taken out to be executed. . The largest number of Allied airmen I ~~m~~ saw taken out to be executed was nine. The largest number of civil prisoners I saw taken out to be executed was eleven. The civilian prisoners were executed about June 1945 and the Allied airman were taken out during May, June and July 1945. The civilians were Chinese. They had ~~not~~ been tried. The Allied airmen were not tried. We had some contact with the Allied airmen who were taken out to be executed, as I was engaged on emptying sanitary cans from the cells and sometimes one might be able to get a word or two with them when the guard was not looking. They were British, Australian, New Zealanders and Americans, who had been shot down over Sumatra and Malaya. I do not know their names. I heard one or two names at the time, but I am afraid I cannot remember them now. There were 24 altogether who were unaccounted for, that is, we knew that they had come into the gaol, we saw them go out under guard, the guards were equipped with rifles bayonets revolvers and swords, we saw the burial party which consisted of a number of Japanese armed with chunkels, or hoes, spades, picks etc., we saw the burial party come ~~m~~ back in a dirty condition as ~~if~~ if they had been digging a lot, but the prisoners did not return. The burial party would be away an hour or an hour and a half. The largest party of Allied airmen to be executed consisted of nine men. That was in June 1945. They were in single cells and a week before they were executed they were put together in one cell. While they were in the one cell they were allowed to smoke, they were given extra rations and they were given fruit and milk. Then they were taken out one Saturday afternoon and that was the last we saw of them. When they went out they were accompanied by a number of guards who were heavily armed and they were also accompanied by a burial party of Japanese. Some of the Japanese who went out in that party were good-conduct prisoners who were in charge of us on the working parties in the Bukit Timah rifle range. Several days after they had gone out on this burial party a number of them told us that they had actually taken part in the burial of the nine people whom they called Americans. They admitted that they had had their heads taken off; they admitted that they had buried them and one or two of them expressed sorrow over the fact that they had to do the job.

Other people were taken out of the gaol ~~and~~ without any warning and disposed of in a like fashion, that is, they were either shot or beheaded and subsequently buried. We understood that the actual place of execution was a deserted quarry at Bukit Timah about nine miles from where we were. Altogether we estimated that there were 24 people who were not accounted for, that is, Allied prisoners.

This is the tenth sheet of the evidence of Alexander Gordon Weynton taken and sworn before me at Sydney in the State of New South Wales this 27th day of November, 1945.

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Deponent

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Chairman, AustralianBoard of Inquiry into War Crimes

Either 17 or 18 American airmen - crews of B.29's - who were shot down over Malaya were released at the same time as we were. They were shot down during the period December and January 1945, in raids over Singapore. I believe they were not shot because the Japanese had not finished questioning them. I think that was the reason for their survival. When they finished questioning them, it appears that they took them out and disposed of them, but they had not finished questioning these 17 or 18 airmen.

When they arrived it could be seen that they had been severely burnt. One aircraft in particular caught fire in the air and three of the crew were very severely burnt. One of those fellows died before they were captured. The other two came out to Outram Road gaol. They were not given any medical attention. They were just one mass of burns and were black from head to feet. How they survived I do not know. We first saw them during the process of emptying the sanitary tins from the cells. When more men were due to come in, we had to go up and put sanitarn tins in each cell. Those men were in there when I arrived back in April.

We knew when people were to be marched in or marched out of the gaol. If people were to be marched in, you would have to put that number of tins in the cells. If, say, five prisoners were leaving, you would be sent upstairs to collect five containers from those five cells, bring them down and empty them and put them away in the store. You would also have to collect five sets of clothes and five sets of blankets. You would know the number going out by these articles.

One guard gave me an awful beating in April 1944 at Outram Road gaol. I do not know the name of the guard. He was a short, fat, stocky fellow. I would know him again. He was well-known there. He was a very sleepy sort of individual. He had a nickname, but I just cannot remember it. He gave me a very severe beating and kicked me in the ribs and on the thighs. I had broken skin down the left side on my hip for about three weeks. He did that to me because I happened to speak to the chap who was sitting next to me.

This is the 11th and last sheet of the evidence of Alexander Gordon Weynton taken and sworn before me at Sydney in the State of New South Wales this 27th day of November, 1945.

Weynton

Deponent

Chairman, Australian Board of Inquiry into War Crimes

AUSTRALIAN WAR CRIMES

BOARD OF INQUIRY

GEORGE DE VERDON WESTLEY, sworn and examined :

I am VX44808 Major George De Verdon Westley, 2/21 Battalion.

I was with 2/21 Battalion on Amboina Island in February 1942 when the Japanese landed. At that time Lt.-Col Scott was commanding the battalion. He was also C.O. of Gull Force. The force comprised the battalion and attached troops, such as engineers, A.A.S.C., L.A.D. and other details, a total strength of between 1,050 and 1,100 Australians. There were also a number of Dutch troops on Amboina Island.

The Australian troopswere disposed in two main bodies, approximately 800 being on the Ambon side and about 300 on the Laha side of the islard.

Do you know of your own knowledge of any war crimes or atrocities committed during the actual fighting?-- No.

Did you ever see any of those 200 or 300 men from your battalion who were on the Laha side?-- Only two. They got away, went bush and lived with the natives. They eventually gave themselves up to the Japanese and were brought to Tan Toey Camp. They had no information to give concerning the action. They were Cpl Benvie and Pte Grosvenor.

Have you ever been able to find out since what happened to those 200 or 300 men?-- No.
I sent to Laha a reconnaissance party in September 1945 to try and trace them. That party was under Lieut. G. T. Russell, 2/21 Battalion. I demanded facilities for getting across the bay and was supplied with a motor boat. They went over to the air field and there contacted a Japanese medical officer who was able to show them a cairn under which was supposed to be buried some 200 men. Lieut Russell reported to me that he was not certain as to whether the 200 were Australians or Australians and Japanese.

The Japanese practice is to burn and not to bury their dead?-- Yes.

BY HIS HONOUR: Was there an inscription on the cairn?-- In Japanese only.

To what effect?-- I do not know. If Lieut Russell was interviewed, he may be able to give more information. He is in Melbourne.

BY LT. COL STEPHENS. The fate of those 200 or 300 men is unknown to you?-- Yes.

You were made a pisoner of war on 3 February 1942?-- Yes. I was released on 10 September 1945. I spent the whole of the intervening period at Tan Toey prisoner of war camp on Amboina.

Can you tell His Honour the names of some of the Japanese officers and persons in charge of your destiny and the camp over that period?-- The principal man is Ike-uchi.

BY HIS HONOUR: Is this man in custody?-- Yes, I brought him back with me. I identified him before a judge at Morotai last month. He was a sort of camp manager and he was directly responsible for all prisoners of war. He was the man to whom I was responsible and was the only contact I had with the outside world. In addition to that there was a marine guard consisting of 40 to 60 men. The number varied as the guards changed and there was always a commissioned officer in charge of the guard. He was referred to as the camp commandant, but beyond his guard duties and responsibilities I do not believe that he was in a position to have much to do with the control over the prisoners of war, except so far as the enforcement of regulations was concerned. The guards and the guard commander changed at different times. The guard commander very often changed without the guard changing. I cannot recollect the names of all the guard commanders, but I can recall a few. Their ranks I am not certain of. They were mainly commissioned warrant officers. The following are some: Nishi-Kawa, Sima-Kawa, Matzu-moto, Uemura. Those are the only ones I can recall off-hand.

BY LT. COL STEPHENS: Apart from the guards, do you know the names of any of the officers commanding the island garrison?-- There was Capt Ando, who at the beginning was captain of the Japanese garrison and it was to him that Ike-muchi was responsible for our behaviour and work and so on. He left to take command of some naval vessel and I never saw or heard of him again. I do not know who succeeded him, but I do know that at the time of the capitulation and for some 6 months previously his position was held by Colonel Siroyzu. His chief-of-staff was Lt-Col Katsuda. Those were the two Japanese officers with whom I negotiated after capitulation and they were the only two Japanese officers of any importance other than Capt Ando that I ever had any contact with, in the whole 3½ years.

Do you know if there was a senior officer to them on the island?e-- I believe that the island itself was commanded by an admiral and there was also a general. The island, I believe, was used as an operational base and it appears to me that the admiral was responsible for the Moluccas area and that the captain of the garrison actually would be in command of the island itself and the prisoners of war.

Whom would you hold responsible for the treatment and deaths of your men?-- Ike-uchi and Capt Ando.

What would you say about Colonel Siroyzu and his chief-of-staff?-- Frankly, as far as Colonel Siroyzu is concerned, I do not know. He was a very clever man and I would hesitate to excuse him entirely, but I have nothing definite to pin on him or associate him with.

He had authority over Ike-uchi?-- Yes.

BY HIS HONOUR: Was he in daily contact with Ike-uchi?-- No.

Was he in contact with the prisoners of war?-- Indirectly through me after the capitulation only. I never saw him until after the capitulation.

Was he located near where the prisoners of war were camped?-- No.

Was he in the same district?-- No. He was at the opposite end of the island, roughly about 8 miles away.

You did not see him at the prisoner of war camp?-- Prior to meeting him after the capitulation, no.

BY LT. COL STEPHENS: Were you ever able to get complaints to him?-- I was never able to get any complaints past Ike-uchi. He refused to pass them on and, generally speaking, refused even to listen. Sometimes I was able to get some things considered, but things of major importance he would not listen to. The point about it is that, being in command of the camp, I was never out of it and, therefore, was not in a position to see what happened out of the working parties. Those things which did happen were always reported to me, but that is purely hearsay evidence. Names we did not know. The C.O. of the Australians in the camp was Lt-Col Scott until 26 October 1942 when he was taken away with 266 men. I think that is the number, At the time I did not know where they went to. Subsequently I found out that they went to Hainan. That left me in command of the Australian prisoners of war in Tan Toey camp and I remained in command until the Japanese capitulated, or until the ships arrived to take us away on 10 September 1945. When Lt-Col Scott left, he left under my command 528 Australians.

Climate

Will you deal shortly with the conditions at Tan Toey over your period of confinement. What was the climate like?-- The climate was quite good - tropical, but a dry heat.

Enervating?-- Not to a man in good conditions. I would not say it was invigorating, either, but it was livable.

Food.

Will you comment on the food situation generally?-- The food position generally was appalling, and the lack of it was mainly responsible for so many deaths as the majority of the men died from starvation.

Of the528 men you had with you at the commencement, how many were still alive at the capitulation?-- I evacuated 123 to Morotai on 10 September and two of those have since died at Morotai.

So that over 400 men out of a total of 528 died in captivity?-- Yes. I put that down largely to lack of food, lack of medical supplies and over-work.

Deal with food particularly in the first two years, 1942 and 1943?-- In the first two years the food position considering that we were prisoners of war of the Japanese, was reasonably satisfactory. We were getting about 17 ounces of rice per man per day and occasionally a little but of fish and some vegetables and so on.

Later on, however, the rice issue dropped to 10 ounces, then to 8 ounces, then to 6 ounces and for the last 5 or 6 months it was down to 4 ounces a day. In one month we did not get any rice and in another month we got 1½ to 2 ounces.

During the month when you got no rice or only got 1½ ounces to 2 ounces, what else did you get?-- At that period the Japanese instituted a particularly drastic form of tortute and what we used to call the "long carry". That was deliberately instituted in my opinion to break down morale and to kill off the weaker prisoners. I might add that that opinion is shared by the officers and men under my command. I was never on that party myself, but I had daily reports and the men - this was towards the end of 1944 and 1945 - were in an extremely weakened condition. Many of them were very sick as well. They were forced to carry 90 lb. bags of cement, one per man, or 250 lb. aerial bombs between two men up a very steep incline. They were threatened with sticks or pick handles if they happened to lag behind or anything like that. They were taken up to a position on some high ground over against the outer coast to a place that was readily accessible by sea. That is one of the reasons why I believe it was deliberately designed to kill us off.

What was the total length of that carry?-- 14 miles, if I remember correctly, there and back. The men left about 6 in the morning and got home at 8 at night.

BY HIS HONOUR: Do you know what the grade of that incline was?-- I never saw the track and I would not like to make a statement on that, but there are people who have been over the track.

Was it up hill all the way, generally speaking?-- It was up and down a little bit and along and then up again.

What was the cement required for?-- It was not required. It was just left there and dumped and never used. The same thing applied to the bombs.

BY LT. COL. STEPHENS: At that time what was the ration?-- One month it was 1½ ounces of rice and 7½ ounces of tapioca flour. The next month it was no rice and 9½ ounces of tapioca flour.

BY HIS HONOUR: How many men were employed on the long carry?-- 100.

How were they selected?-- My staff selected them, the same as they selected all the work parties.

When that long carry commenced, what was the total strength of your command?-- I cannot recall.

Were those the fittest men?-- Yes.

Were they all in good health?-- No. None of us was in good health at that time, except very few men.

Have you any idea of the weight of the men?-- The average drop in weight was 3 stone. I dropped 3 stone.

At the commencement of that long carry, what would the weights be?-- Most of them were down two and three stone.

Were they suffering from illnesses?-- Yes, beri beri, malaria, enteritis - a very severe form of enteritis.

Any cholera?-- No. I had no cholera.

Tropical ulcers?-- Yes, nearly every man had tropical ulcers - great big ones about a foot long.

On the legs mostly?-- Yes, they were usually on the legs. One case I know of was a man who had an ulcer that stretched from the ankle to the knee.

BY LT. COL. STEPHENS: Who could give the Commission exact information about the rations and the food?-- W.O. Ryan, M., Barclay Street, St.Kilda. He functioned as my quartermaster, for the whole period and has complete records of all food that came into the camp.

Can you compare the ration your men got and the ration the Japanese got?-- The Japanese rations were very much better.

Were your Japanese guards ever thin or emaciated?-- No. They suffered from malaria, of course, but that was general. Otherwise, from what I could see, they were quite fit.

BY HIS HONOUR: Did you have a medical officer with you?-- I had an Australian medical officer in the early stages of the camp, but he was killed when the camp was bombed.

When was that?-- 15th February 1943.

That was long before the long carry?-- Yes. Following that, a Dutch medical officer functioned as the camp medical officer. I had him right through.

Did he have medical supplies?-- No, very little.

Did your men suffer from dysentery?-- Yes, I lost a lot of men through dysentery. The Dutch M.O. was Capt. J.H.W. Ehlhart, N.E.I. Medical Services. He was in Morotai when I left. I would strongly suggest that he be called to give evidence. I tried to get people to take evidence from him in Morotai, but I do not know whether I was successful or not. I saw him a few days before I left and he had not been questioned.

<u>Accommodation.</u>

BY LT. COL. STEPHENS: Will you comment on your accommodation over that period?--- We were quartered in our own barracks. The accommodation in the circumstances was quite good. At least it was sanitary and weather proof, but towards the end, say, in the last 18 months, the Japanese were putting the pressure on and they herded the men together unnecessarily in these huts and left other huts vacant. The camp was destroyed by fire in

February 1943. There was within the compound a bomb dump of roughly 200,000 lbs of high explosive aerial bombs. They had been placed there during the period of Lt.-Col Scott's command. I know that he protested and I subsequently protested myself and both of us were told that the Allies were aware of the existence of the prison camp and that there was no need to worry. On 15 February 1943 a Liberator dropped a stick of 6 bombs on the dump. The shed was set alight and we were able to clear the hospital and most of the men to safety before the dump went up. The dump was not more than 50 yards from my camp hospital and less than 20 yards from the officers' quarters. I suffered heavy casualties. Five officers were killed and some 4 or 5 men. The whole camp was flattened by the blast and the fire which was started destroyed half of it before I was able to get it out. Included in the buildings destroyed by fire was the hospital, together with our supplies or what medical supplies we had and they were never adequately replaced. I was forced to rebuild the camp myself with my own labour and what material I could scrounge and what tools I had. I received no assistance from the Japanese. They treated it as a bit of a joke and blamed the Americans.

BY HIS HONOUR: Apart from the long carry, did they make you do any work?-- The troops were working every day for the Japanese.

Long hours?-- Yes, very, the hours usually being from 7 to 5 o'clock and 6 o'clock at night.

What was the work?-- Military work almost exclusively - loading and unloading ships.

War ships?-- Supply ships and warships, road making and repairing, the digging and preparation of defensive positions such as, for example, tank traps, gun positions, air raid shelters and other works of that nature; delousing aerial bombs. We built quite a number of oil storage installations and work of that nature.

BY LT. COL. STEPHENS: Did you ask that your camp should be marked as a P.O.W. camp?--- On a number of occasions. I also asked if the camp hospital could be marked and I was refused on every occasion. Following the bombing on 15 February 1943 the Japanese told me to mark the camp hospital with a red cross on the roof. I did that. Japanese aircraft then flew over. In my opinion they photographed the camp, because within 18 hours I was ordered to withdraw the red cross from the roof. At that stage the fire in the camp would have still been burning and the rest of the camp would have been flattened. Obviously it was for propanagda purposes.

Is it a fair inference that that bomb dump was deliberately put into the camp to protect the bomb dump from Allied raids?--- That is the inference I drew. On that occasion I lost my Adjutant, my medical officer and a chaplain.

BY HIS HONOUR: Who would be responsible for putting the bomb dump there?--- I would say the head of the Q.M.G. Department of the Army. I do not know his name. I know that in this particular instance the Japanese guards and Ike-uchi were just as unhappy about the bomb dump being there as I was, because their quarters were knocked about, too.

Did the long carry accelerate the death rate?-- The long carry started the rush of deaths. Up to that time, with the exception of dysentery outbreaks, the deaths had only been in ones and twos, but following the inception of this long carry it was nothing to get 6 deaths in a day. For instance in 1945 in July I lost 94 men. In June I lost 72 men. It was 50 odd in May and the month before that it was 24 deaths. The long carry started it, because the men, as you can imagine, used up a tremendous amount of energy which they had no hope of replacing.

Clothing.

BY LT. COL. STEPHENS: What was the general dress of the camp towards the end of the period of confinement?-- The general dress of the camp throughout was a pair of shorts and that was all. Earlier the men had their boots, but they wore out and in the latter half they were forced to wear wooden sandals.

You did not ~~agree~~ need very much clothing?--- No, the climate was very agreeable. On two or three occasions the Japanese issued us with some boots - Australian boots, of course - notably round about the time of the long carry, but they were never in sufficient quantity. With the exception of some rolls of khaki cloth, which were of Japanese manufacture and which we used to make shorts for the men, I can recall no other clothing that was issued that was not our own Australian stuff, and it was very seldom indeed that we were given that by the Japanese.

About what proportion of the men had boots towards the end of the period - half of them?--- The total strength was decreasing rapidly each month. I would say that of the 123 men that I brought away, less than half would have had anything in the nature of boots. They were in a bad state of repair and, of course, had been passed on from man to man as they died off. I would not be sure of the figure, but it certainly was not half. They had all the boots previously used by the force of 500 men.

Medical Supplies.

Will you comment on medical supplies?-- Medical supplies were always short and the position was continually critical. Many men died through lack of medical supplies and many men will be permanently disabled because of that.

BY HIS HONOUR: Did you have any operations?-- Yes. There is a man in the Heidelberg Hospital at the present time who had a terrific ulcer, which necessitated the amputation of his leg above the knee. That was done with a meat saw by the Dutch M.O.

Did he have any anaesthetic?--- He had some chloroform which he was very hesitant about using, because the man's heart was so weak, but he was forced to do it. The Japanese refused to give us any ether. That man is Sgt. O'Brien.

BY LT. COL. STEPHENS: What disease did you suffer from?--- I had a tropical ulcer which lasted 6 months. It was a mere trifle compared to what the men had.

What treatment did you get for it?-- I was treated by the Dutch M.O. He had a few grains of iodoform, which he used. The other treatment consisted of cutting the dead skin away with a pair of blunt scissors. He

had no anaesthetic to use.

Was any sulphur applied to it a t all?-- We never saw sulphur.

BY HIS HONOUR: Did those ulcers extend to the soles of the feet on any occasion?--- No, I do not recall any case of that. They were mainly from the ankle up to the knee.

Was it painful to walk on them?-- Dreadful.

Would the pain be aggravated by walking and marching?-- Actually when the leg warmed up a bit you could walk with a good deal less pain, but it did not do the ulcer any good. It just made it worse and worse and it got blacker and blacker until by the time you had trimmed around it you would have an ulcer anything up to 6 inches by 3 inches in dimensions. Sometimes they extended right from the knee to the ankle and you could see the bone. The flesh was just eaten away and you would lose tendons and all. Many men died from blood poisoning, for the simple reason that the state of their bodies was such that they had no resistance to fight it with.

Were flies troublesome in those circumstances?-- No. We were very lucky regarding flies. Right from the start we were very strict on camp hygiene and we were not troubled much with flies. If a man had his wound uncovered, it wouldmattract the flies, but we usually managed to get them covered with something.

BY LT. COL. STEPHENS: What was the position with respect to bandages?--- We had a number of our own field dressings which we used. The supplies we got from the Japanese were very poor. Very often we would be supplied with one to do the whole camp for a month.

One bandage for the 500 men in the camp for the month?--- At that stage the number would be about 400. It came to this, that a man would get one bandage for his ulcer and that would have to last him for the duration of his ulcer.

Work. What about work?-- All officers were compelled to work except myself as C.O., Lieut Van Nooten as my Adjutant and the two doctors.

BY HIS HONOUR: You were not exempt from work, but you were exempt from physical labour?--- Yes.

BY LT. COL. STEPHENS: You were working all the time on your C.O's duties? --- Yes.

I think you told us t he type of work the men had to do. Were the sick men ever made to work: Yes, the sick men were always made to work. In the last 12 months in particular. Men with terrific ulcers, men suffering from malaria, beri beri, enteritis and things of that description were forced to work for the Japanese.

Have you seen men on crutches marching out with the working parties?--- I have seen men on crutches and on sticks forced to work by the Japanese. I know of other cases of men who were so weak that they had to be lifted on to the trucks being forced to work.

Did you protest to Ike-uchi?--- Yes, I protested many times about these things, But I never got any redress. I was humiliated and I received physical punishment. For months on end he would completely and utterly ignore me. On one occasion he struck the ulcer I had with a stick.

BY HIS HONOUR: Struck it with what?--- With a walking stick.

Hard?--- No, it was not very hard.

Did it cause you pain?--- It set the ulcer back a few days. The part that hurt me was that it was done in full view of the troops. He never lost an opportunity to humiliate me. At the same time he insisted on my assuming the responsibility for discipline and all that sort of thing.

BY LT. COL. STEPHENS: Did you on one occasion complain of an American officer who was sick being sent out to work?--- Yes. I was given the option of either making him work or working myself. When I protested I was hit in the face. I elected to work myself. I was hit by Ike-uchi. I subsequently complained again and pointed out that, if I was to be held responsible for the behaviour of the prisoners, I could not be expected to work a played a little bit on the Japanese love of 'face' and got away with it. I was never thereafter made to work.

Pay. Did you receive any pay?--- No.

Property Did you lose any of your personal property?--- Quite a number of the troops had their watches and other belongings taken from them by the Japanese, but that was by no means general. I had nothing taken fromme by the Japanese.

Recreation Did the Japanese issue any sporting material? The Japanese provided no sporting material whatever. In the earlier part of the camp we were permitted certain recreational periods, which we had to organise ourselves, of course, and use our own material, but bit by bit that stull was taken away from us and a ban was placed first on one thing and then on another and the educational lectures and so on were stopped. The only thing that they permitted us in the end was a church service once a week and a concert once a week. We were permitted to play basketball on Sundays, but that was not indulged in for the last 18 months for two main reasons, one being that the men were not in physical condition to play and the second that there was no time.

Canteens. Was there a canteen in the camp?--- No canteen service of any description.

Correspondence. Were you ever allowed to send any letters?--- We were not permitted to communicate with the outside world at all. We received one mail bag which came around Christmas 1943. Those letters were handed out in threes and fours and we got the last batch of them a couple of weeks before the capitulation this year. By that time, of course, most of the addressees were dead. There was also included in the mail bag quite a large amount of mail addressed to people in other spheres - New Guinea,

Singapore, and similar places. They were returned to the Japanese. I believe that they were subsequently destrlyed by the Japanese. I think that Pte. W. D. Hicks, who was employed for quite a long period at Japanese Headquarters, would be in a position to give amlot of information regarding the goings-on at Japanese H.Q.

Saluting. Were you compelled to salute the Japanese?--- All ranks were compelled to salute Japanese snetries and Japanese officers, but we were not compelled to salute every Japanese soldier.

Did the Japanese allow you to retain your badges of rank?--- Yes.

Discipline. What was the general method of enforcement of discipline by the Japanese?--- It was by fear and physical punishment. I endeavoured to break things down as much as possible, by handling disciplinary measures myself, but I was not very successful. Usually the Japanese took matters into their own hands.

By physical punishment, you mean be ating?--- Yes. Usually with a pick handle or anything that was handy. I have known 12 lb. hammers to be used and I have known steel cable to be used.

Did any Japanese guard actually strike you?--- No Japanese guard struck me. I was struck by Capt. Ando and Ike-uchi on a number of occasions. Those were the only Japanese who ever struck me.

BY HIS HONOUR: Under what circumstances did Ando or Ike-uchi strike you?--- In the pursuance of my duties, when I was trying to break things down and when I made protests and asked for different things.

BY LT. COL. STEPHENS: Did you get any redress of complaints?--- There was no redress. Even those complaints which I lodged in writing, addressed to the commander-in-chief of the island were not accepted and very often were screwed up and thrown back in the Adjutant's face. That was by Ike-uchi. It was impossible to get past him.

How many of your men were killed by execution by the Japanese?--- In 1942 there were 11 men decapitated by the Japanese.

BY HIS HONOUR: Did you see that?--- No.

Do you know anybody who did?--- No. None of us was able to see it. One morning early four of my men were brought back to camp by Japanese guards. They had been caught outside the wire in the native village adjoining. They had been out after food. I cannot recall their names. They were cross-examined by the Japanese and an identification parade was held at which Indonesians identified quite a number of people, a total, if I remember rightly, of 23. These men were then removed to Japanese H.Q. just outside the confines of the camp and were horribly tortured and beaten.

BY LT. COL. STEPHENS: Did you yourself see any of that torturing or beating?--- I did not see it, but I heard it.

BY HIS HONOUR: You heard the screams?--- Yes.

BY LT. COL. STEPHENS: For how long did that go on?--- For four or five days. I would say the whole investigation from start to finish would have taken a week.

BY HIS HONOUR: How far were they away from you?-- About 600 yards.

You could not see anything?--- Only in the distance you could see the rise and fall of the iron bars and sticks and so on. The Adjutant, Capt. Hooke, saw the men. I also saw the men shortly afterwards when I went up to see Capt Ando about this business. They were in a pretty bad state.

Could you describe their condition?--- If you were to take a man and beat him into insensibility with an iron bar or a steel cable, that is what he would look like.

Did you notice much blood on them?--- No. They very seldom drew blood. They were past masters in the art of beating and very seldom drew blood.

Did you notice any broken limbs?--- I saw some of the men afterwards when they came down for treatment and they were just black and blue from head to foot with great bruises where the blood had come up and had not broken the skin. They were just a horrible looking mess, with these great blood bruises. They tortured them with lighted cigarettes and strung them up by the thumbs and that sort of thing. Eventually they narrowed it down to 11, whom they took away and we never saw them again.

BY LT. COL. STEPHENS: Eleven men were taken away and you never saw them again?--- That is so.

BY HIS HONOUR: Did the beatings extend over 7 days?-- No, over four or five days.

How long each day would the beatings last?--- It is difficult to say. It is a long while ago and I think one's imagination probably was influenced by the nervous state that we were in - perhaps 10 minutes.

Were they fed throughout the beatings?--- No, they got no food. They got water, but no food. Water was used to revive them.

BY LT. COL. STEPHENS: Have some of those men survived?--- All I can recall are dead. Yes, there is one - Sgt. ELSUM P.

BY HIS HONOUR: He is still alive?--- Yes, but he, for some reason or another, was more lightly treated than the others. Some were more heavily punished than others, from what I can gather. Sgt. Elsum was one of those who were caught up in this business. He had actually been outside the wire some months previously.

BY LT. COL. STEPHENS: He probably saw what was done to the others?--- Yes.

BY HIS HONOUR: Did he come back with you?--- Yes. He is a Melbourne boy and a member of the A.A.P.C.

Did Colonel Siroyzu tell you afterwards what happened to them? Some months after they were taken away Ike-uchi told me they had been executed, but he could not or would not give me any more details than that. Upon capitulation, when I was negotiating with Colonel Siroyzu about our fate, I found out from him that they had been executed. I found out where and when they were buried and the name of the officer who officiated at the execution. The name slips me for the moment, but my Adjutant has the name.

Were you taken out and shown the grave?--- I went out and saw the grave. It was indicated to me by the Japanese.

BY HIS HONOUR: What was the form of execution?--- Decapitation with a sword.

You do not know who performed the executions?--- I know the name of the officer who officiated at the execution. His name I cannot recall, but my Adjutant has my notes. Whether he actually wielded the sword or not, I do not know.

Do you know the date of that?--- December 1942. I think it was 26th, but that date can be checked with my notes, which Lieut Van Nooten has.

Are these men buried near where they were tortured?--- No, some considerable distance away. They were taken right away altogether - the next village, a distance of perhaps 2 miles.

BY LT. COL. STEPHENS: What do you know of the fate of four soldiers - Wadham, Solomon, Morrison and Simpson?--- Those four were implicated in stealing food from a Japanese store house. They were brought back to the camp and were cross-examined. I interceded on their behalf with Ike-uchi and at the time I had reason to believe that I had saved their lives. Subsequently, however, they were removed from the camp and I never saw them again. Ike-uchi later informed me that they had been executed. He again would not or could not give me any details and again, when I saw Colonel Siroyzu, I got the necessary details regarding them also. They were decapitated. The date and the name of the officer presiding at the execution are in my notes, which my Adjutant has.

What about the man Boyce?--- Boyce also was caught stealing food from a Japanese warehouse. He likewise was brought back to camp and he was given a very sound beating. I interceded on his behalf, and I again thought that I had got him off. Subsequently, however, he likewise was removed and I found out from Colonel Siroyzu after capitulation that he had been shot. I saw his grave also. Colonel Siroyzu gave me the name of the officer who presided in that instance also. Then there were two others who attempted to escape. They were absent, I think, over a week, living with the natives in the hills. Eventually, however, they were caught. Their names were Schaefer and Elmore. They were caught at different times. Elmore died of dysentery in gaol, according to the Japanese report, and Schaefer was decapitated. I have seen his grave and similar details are in my notes. Those details were given to me by Colonel Siroyzu.

BY HIS HONOUR: Would Ike-uchi be responsible for those executions?--- In the case of the 11 men, no. The responsibility, in my opinion, is on Capt Ando. Inthe case of the four men, no, in my opinion, because they were picked up by the Japanese marine police, who are the Japanese form of the Gestapo. In the case of Schaefer and Elmore, since they escaped from the camp, they were outside his powers, and I think possible he could be excused in the Boyce matter, which probably explains why he gave me the impression that in my intercession I was successful. It was just one of his tricks to do that sort of thing, knowing full well that he could not do anything, he would tell you that he would do what he could.

Would Ando be responsible for the lot?--- No. Ando would be directly responsible for the eleven. I do not believe he would know anything about the others.

Did you make any contact with the Japanese Gestapo?--- Personally, no. I do not know whether they were the Gestapo really, but we used to regard them as such. They were marine police and they were a brutal mob. If they got on to the slightest thing, they would move heaven and earth to uncover everything and they did not care what means they used.

None of those was arrested after the capitulation?-- No, because it would have been impossible to identify them.

But they were still there?--- They may have been. Even that I could not say, because Japanese look very much alike and unless you have dealings with them more or less frequently you have not a hope of recognising them, unless there happens to be something outstanding in their features. Generally speaking, one other rank in the Japanese Army looks very much the same as the man he is standing next to, and, of course, you never know their names. I sent three men down with the occupation forces for identification purposes. I have since heard that they were able to identify some of the guards. Those men were Sgt. Winnell, Sgt. Balcom and Pte Cultom, all members of 2/21 Battalion and all Victorians.

BY LT. COL. STEPHENS: Whom do you hold responsible for the deaths of 400 of your men?--- Ike-uchi. I am taking 400 as a round figure. I would like to look at my hospital records.

You lost approximately 400 men, the bulk of your force?--- Yes.

Ike-uchi is the man you hold responsible for the excessive death rate?--- Yes.

Capt Ando?--- He would be directly responsible for the eleven who were executed. There were no other deaths while he was on the island.

What do you say about the guards generally and the Japanese O.R's?--- Except in a few isolated cases, I do not think any real blame is attachable to the guards, because this physical treatment as discipline is quite the common thing in the Japanese Army and Navy. I have seen

similar punishment meted out to Japanese other ranks and officers as was meted out to my own men. They are bound to obey orders. On the other hand there were some isolated people whose names I do not know who in my opinion were just out to make themselves as unpleasant as possible. In the majority of cases of excessive brutal treatment, it was usually ordered by an officer or an N.C.O. That certainly was the case in mass cases, where there might be half a dozen or more men. A guard did not have to ask permission of the nearest N.C.O. to pick upma pick handle and bash a prisoner of war.

Was your camp ever inspected by any Japanese medical officer?--- Not until after capitulation.

It was never inspected by Colonel Siroyzu?--- Not until after capitulation.

The Japanese admiral never condescended to inspect?--- No. On one occasion perhaps two to 2½ years ago a high Japanese officer came out and made a cursory examination of the camp. I do not know his name. I was not permitted to go around with him. The whole business of inspection was handled by Ike-uchi. He simply walked through and out again and into his car and away. He spent about 5 minutes in the area, and the camp comprised 14 acres.

Was he a naval officer?--- Yes, I think he was a senior member of the staff of the Admiral, or something of that description. We were not supposed to see these people at all. Generally speaking, if the admiral or any high Japanese officer were passing along the road which passed through the centre of the camp we were all confined to barracks and were not allowed to look even at thecar. On this particular occasion, he actually condescended to come and inspect the camp and we did see him. I would place him definitely in the Samurai class. He was quite a cut over everybody else, but I do not think he was particularly interested, and I think his inspection was purely a matter of form.

Did he actually see the men?--- He saw the men, simply because I had them lined up on parade and he passed them, but he never looked at them or questioned them or anything of that description. I was not allowed to speak to him.

Actually they were not inthe worst condition at that stage?--- No, this was quite early in the piece - about 2 to 2½ years ago and the men were in reasonable condition, but during the last 18 months there was never any suggestion of any sort of inspection at all, despite the fact that at the doctor's request I asked for a consultation between my doctor and the Japanese doctor on the medical situation. My request was just ignored.

Did you ever get any indication as to whether the prisoner of war administration actually knew that there was a prisoner of war camp at Tan Toey?--- I do not think they did, because from what I heard of them the prisoner of war camps nearer Japan received much better treatment. The opinion I have formed since is that the further ~~xxxxx~~ away you were from Japanthe less Tokio was interested and the less Tokio knew about you.

I do not think that Tokio even knew we were there. That is my private opinion. For instance, consider the people who went to Hainan with Lt-Col Scott. There were in that party men who were very very sick, and who were not expected to live throughout the voyage. Nearly all of those were reported as recovered and I have seen a number of them since I have been back and they look fitter than I do, which leads me to believe that the treatment these people got in Hainan was much easier than the treatment we got. I have also discussed conditions with the people who were at Kuching and they appear to have ~~xx~~ had an easy time compared to our treatment.

Is there anything else you think the Commission should be advised of concerning war crimes?-- I think everything has been covered.

This is the 15th / and last sheet of the evidence of George De Verdon Westley taken and sworn before me at Melbourne in the State of Victoria this 18th day of October 1945,

G de V. Westley
DEPONENT.

Chairman,
Australian Board of
Inquiry into War Crimes

No
3/6/46

On this Twentyninth day of March, One thousand nine hundred and forty-six, NX.4667, Gnr. Graham Hamlet WESTCOTT, at present a patient at 113 C.M.H. (CONCORD), in the State of New South Wales, makes oath and says as follows:-

1. As NX.4667, I was taken PW by the Japanese on 15 Feb 42 at SINGAPORE whilst a member of 2/15 Fd Regt.

2. As one of a party of 500 PsW known as "T" Bn, Don Force, I was transferred to CANU PW Camp in THAILAND On 25 Apr 43. The officer in charge of "T" Bn was Major R. QUICK of 2/4 Tk/A ~~Bn~~ Regt; our Medical Officer was Capt R. PARKER of Rose Bay, N.S.W.

3. I cannot remember the names of any Japanese personnel in charge at CANU Camp. The bashing I received, which resulted in my losing my left leg, took place in the first week of June 43, and the person responsible for the bashing was a Japanese engineer. I cannot remember his name or nick name. He was a Japanese about 5' high, his age about 24 years, medium build, clean shaven with oval face, fairly light complexion for a Japanese. His rank was a two star Pte. He only arrived at CANU about a week prior to my bashing and I saw little of him. I did not see him again after I was admitted to hospital.

4. I had been receiving treatment from Capt PARKER for a tropical ulcer on my left leg. My foot was very swollen and in such a state that I was compelled to crawl to and from work. On this particular occasion I was working as one of a party in a granite cutting preparing it for the railway line to go through. This cutting was known as "Hell Fire Pass". Portion of the cut had been blasted and the party was clearing away the rocks. One boulder was rolling in my direction and the Japanese engineer with us would not permit us to leave in sufficient time for me to get clear of the boulder's path as I had to crawl. I was holding a crowbar in my hand which was struck by the boulder and when struck the crowbar cut a portion of flesh out near my left ankle. I was knocked flat on the ground. The Japanese engineer came over to sit me up and seemed very concerned about me. However, when he saw the blood oozing from my wound, he went beserk and started to slap me across the face, kick me - one kick landed on my ulcer - and then grabbed the crowbar and bashed me over the body and leg, the crowbar also striking the ulcer.

5. Prior to this the ulcer had been improving through the treatment received from Capt PARKER but, as a result of the injuries caused to the ulcer by the kicking and the crowbar, the ulcer spread and the leg eventually had to be amputated about six months later by a Capt MARKOWITZ who was an American Medical Officer and PW at CHANG ~~KAI~~ Camp.

[signature]
B L C Kinnis

6. Atrocities such as burning of PsW with hot fire brands and forcing PsW to stand in front of a huge fire until they were eventually baked to death happened in CANU No. 3 and CANU No. 2 camps respectively.

7. I witnessed the incident at CANU No. 3 where a PW who belonged to 2/10 Fd Regt was tortured by having hot fire brands forced under him. I saw him lying down near a fire at work because he was too ill to carry out any duties. A Japanese engineer who I couldn't see very clearly because it was dark came up to this PW and kicked him for about 5 minutes. After kicking him, the Jap engineer went to the fire and took out some red hot fire brands and forced them under him. After doing this, his attention was attracted by another Japanese and he left the PW to get on the best way he could.

8. The incident at CANU No. 2 Camp was told to me by Gnr J.B. ALLEN of 2/15 Fd Regt. He told me that he had witnessed a Korean guard force two PW up to a huge bamboo fire at bayonet point and keep them there until they collapsed. The heat from the fire was so terrific that the guards were frequently changed. Both PsW died shortly afterwards and a post mortem carried out by, I think, Major MARSDEN, Medical Officer at CANU No. 2, revealed their intestines baked to a solid mass.

9. A severe flogging was carried out on about 7 PsW at TAMAKAN PW Camp. These PsW were caught outside the camp trying to sell shoes in order to buy medical supplies for the camp. They were caught by a guard who reported the matter to Japanese HQ. A party of Japanese secret police, who were feared also by the Japanese staff at TAMAKAN, was sent to the camp to administer the flogging to the 7 PsW. The flogging took place in the guard house which was alongside the hospital hut where I was a patient and, consequently, I heard the screams from the men when they were being flogged. The flogging lasted for about six days after which the men were sent to a gaol in SINGAPORE where they served a term of imprisonment. Immediately after the flogging, Major A.A. MOON of 2/4 Fd Amb., who was Medical Officer at TAMAKAN eventually persuaded the Japanese to let him see the 7 PsW before they were sent to SINGAPORE. As these PsW were not allowed to come into contact with the remainder of the PsW in the camp, it was very difficult to see what their condition was but I was informed that the majority of them were barely able to stand up after the flogging had been completed.

SWORN by the abovenamed deponent,)
NX.4667, Gnr Graham Hamlet WESTCOTT,)
at SYDNEY this twenty-ninth day of)
March, One thousand nine hundred)
and forty-six.

G H Westcott

BEFORE ME

B. T. C. King

Brian Thomas Claude KING, Captain.
An Officer of the Australian Military Forces.

On this Twenty Second day of March One Thousand Nine Hundred and Forty Eight Graham Hamlett WESTCOTT, Warrawee Ave., WARRAWEE in the State of New South Wales, Clerk, makes oath and says as follows:-

1. I am Nx4667 Gnr. G.H. WESTCOTT of 2/15 Fld Regt., and I was a Prisone of War in the hands of the Japanese at the TAMARKAN Camp, BURMA/SIAM Railway during the Months of June to December 1943. I was captured in February 1942 at SINGAPORE, and eventually was taken to the Camp abov - stated.

2. On arrival at the Camp I was very ill and a Cot case and I remained i this state of health during the whole of my stay at the Camp. Eventua y I was taken away from the Camp as a stretcher case and lodged at CHUNGKAI Camp. about three miles from TAMARKAN Camp and eventually to NAKON PATON Camp, from where I was released in 1945.

3. Owing to the fact that I was in the TAMARKAN Camp Hospital the whole of my stay at the camp, I am unable to give any definite information regarding attrocities committed at the camp as I did NOT witness any.

4. I recognise the photograph now produced and shown to me and marked No. S1516 as that of the Japanese soldier known to me as "SAITO".

"SWORN " by the abovenamed deponent)
Graham Hamlett WESTCOTT at)
SYDNEY on the 22nd day of MARCH)
One Thousand Nine Hundred and)
Forty Eight, BEFORE ME)

.....
Deponent.

.....
A Justice of the Peace.

RECEIVED
24 MAR 1948
EASTERN COMMAND
REGISTRY

I, David Stewart WEST, Bank Official of National Bank of Australasia Ltd., COLAC, formerly VX.39012 Capt. D.S. WEST of 2/29 Bn., make oath and say :

1. Produced and shown to me at the time of swearing this my affidavit is a photograph marked T.39, which I identify as that of a Japanese Officer on the Burma/Thailand Railway, known to me as Capt. KAWAKAMI.

2. That KAWAKAMI was Quartermaster on Colonel NAGATOMO'S staff at THANBYZAYAT and later at KANBURI, THAILAND.

3. That as I was always on work parties outside the camp and never on camp administration staffs, I did not come into contact with KAWAKAMI and do not know of any atrocities committed by him.

4. The undermentioned officers were in contact with KAWAKAMI.

Major P. CAMPBELL of Sydney	-	Supply Officer on H.Q. 8 Div. Staff.
NX.12347 Capt. A.V. TOOSE of N.S.W.	-	ex 2/18 Aust. Bn.
Lieut. J. VARLEY of N.S.W.	-	ex 2/18 Aust. Bn.

Sworn at Colac, in the State of Victoria,

this 4th day of March, 1948

Before me Arthur J. Potter JP

Justice of the Peace.

I, DAVID STEWART WEST, ex-VX39012, Captain, 2/29 Infantry Battalion, 8th Division, A.I.F., and now of 11 McLaughlin Street, Colac, in the State of Victoria, Bank Officer,

MAKE OATH AND SAY that -

1. I was a member of the Australian Imperial Forces from 20th November 1940 until I was placed on the Reserve of Officers on 30th November 1945, my Army Number was VX39012, my Rank that of Captain and I was a member of the 2/29 Infantry Battalion.

2. On the evening of 11th February 1943, Captain A. MULL, of Headquarters, 8th Division AASC, A.I.F. together with two other men, Sapper A.Bell, 8th Division RAE, AIF. and Gunner Dickenson, of 2/15 Field Regiment, R.A.A., A.I.F. left Thetkaw Camp, 14 Kilometres from Thanbyuzayat on the Bangkok-Moulmein Railway, Siam, in an attempt to escape from Japanese Captivity. Their escape was not discovered by the Japanese until the following afternoon.

3. On the 13th February 1943, the morning after the discovery of the escape, I, known by the Japanese to be a friend of Captain Mull, was ordered to report to Japanese Head-quarters.

4. After being questioned for about one hour, I was marched out into the Jungle, under an armed guard of four Koreans, namely ARAI (Known as The Boy Bastard), ARAI (Known as Suet Head), KINOMI and the remaining Korean known as THE B.B.C. who was the friemd of ARAI (The Boy Bastard).
The Japanese Camp Commander, a Heicho (Lance-Corporal) named KAGAMI or TEGAMI, and the Camp Interpreter, Ensign P. KOOT of the N.E.I. Army came out with the party.

5. When we were some distance out of the Japanese Camp, the Camp Commander stopped the party and commenced to question me, stating that he would bayonet me if I did not tell what I knew of Captain Mull's plans.
After holding a bayonet at either my throat or my abdomen for some time, and continually threatening me with bayonetting, he ceased, and then the two Arais started to beat me with closed fists and a dried bull's penis in a further attempt to obtain information from me.
This went on for a period of from four to five hours, after which the attempt was abandoned and I was released.

6. After release, I reported to the Camp R.A.P. where I was treated by the Camp Medical Officer, Captain C. Anderson, 2/4 M.G.Battalion, A.I.F. My back was very badly bruised and swollen, and cut in a number of places.

7. The Prisoner of War Camp Commander at the time was Major C.E.Green, Commanding Officer of 2/4 M.G.Battalion.

8. KAGAMI or TEGAMI HEICHO (known as "Whiskers Blake" or "Brother Jonothan" because of his beard) was the Japanese Camp Commander at Thetkaw from about the middle of December 1942 until about 20th February 1943. I think he was from the 7th Japanese Railway Regiment. The Korean guards were at that time members of No 3 Group, Thailand Prisoner of War Guards.

ARAI (The Boy Bastard) did not have any special duties except ordinary Prisoner of War guard duties.

ARAI (Suet Head) was at that time Camp Quartermaster.

9. ARAI (known as The Boy Bastard) was consistently brutal to prisoners of war during the time I knew him from December 1942 until December 1943.

All prisoners, including officers, were instructed to salute Korean guards, and it was Arai's (known as the Boy Bastard) delight to beat up officers for not saluting him, even when they had no chance of seeing him.

I have been beaten several times by this man, and other officers I have seen him beat are Lieut. H.S.SCOTT, 8th Division RAE, A.I.F. Captain R.R.SABER, 2/29 Battalion, A.I.F. and Captain R.W.PHELPS, 2/4 M.G. Battalion, A.I.F.

SWORN at COLAC in the State of VICTORIA, this TWENTIETH day of FEBRUARY, ONE THOUSAND NINE HUNDRED AND FORTY-SIX.

D Wiers

BEFORE ME

A COMMISSIONER OF THE SUPREME COURT OF VICTORIA
FOR THE TAKING OF AFFIDAVITS.

IN THE MATTER of War Crimes and .
IN THE MATTER of Osaka No. 9B P.W. .
Camp Notogawa.
War Crimes Commission Reference No. .

I STANLEY KEITH WENN of Halsey Street South Bunbury in the. State of Western Australia Waterside Worker make oath and . say as follows :-

1. The above is my present address and occupation. .

2. During the last War I was a private soldier in the . 2/4 Machine Gun Battalion Australian Forces.

3. During the War I became a prisoner of war (herein- . after known as P.W.) in the hands of the Japanese.

4. The last P.W. Camp that I was in was Notogawa.

5. I was in this Camp for three months prior to the . Japanese capitulation and I was there in August 1945. .

6. During this three months there was a Japanese Lieuten- ant who was commandant of this Camp at Notogawa. I cannot. swear to his proper name. He was known to the P.W. at . this Camp as "Four Eyes" . He was the only Lieutenant . at this Camp during that time. He was in charge of the. Camp (the Camp commandant). "Four Eyes" was about 5 ft. 9 inches in height pretty heavily built and pretty well . nourished.

7. During the three months aforesaid at the said Camp I. saw myself mass beatings and I myself at least three times . was one of the P.W. that received the beatings.

8. I would not say on every occasion but nearly on every occasion that the mass beatings took place "Four Eyes" was . present. On at least two occasions "Four Eyes" joined in the beatings himself using a split bamboo.

9. At this said Camp there were altogether about 300 . P.W. The mass beatings sometimes would comprise a large. number of P.W. but at other times lesser numbers ranging . from pretty well the whole Camp on some occasions to 20 or.

S. Wenn

30 P.W. on other occasions.

10. The out door guards or those guards who took ~~up~~ on the working parties would do the beatings assisted by an interpreter known as "Henry" and a Clerk known as "the Rat". "Henry's" name was Egashi Gushi or a name sounding like that spelling.

11. At the mass beatings at which "Four Eyes" was present it was quite clear that he gave the orders for such beatings even though on certain occasions he did not join in the beatings himself. The usual weapon used was bamboo. or split bamboo. After these beatings certain of the P.W. would bear the marks of same and in particular I remember a Queensland soldier (I do not know his Unit) named Charlie Melrose who bore marks from one of these beatings. for a fortnight afterwards. These marks were on his thighs and the lower part of the back of his legs.

12. I had been told "Four Eyes" correct name but I cannot remember it now.

SWORN at Bunbury in the State of Western Australia this 4th day of August 1947.

S. Wenn

Before me.

A Commissioner of the Supreme Court of Western Australia for taking Affidavits and a person duly authorised by the law of Western Australia to take Affidavits.

IN THE MATTER of War Crimes.

- and -

IN THE MATTER of Osaka No. 9B P.W.
Camp Notogawa.
War Crimes Reference No.

AFFIDAVIT OF STANLEY KEITH WENN.

SLEE & ANDERSON,
Solicitors,
Bunbury.

IN THE MATTER of War Crimes

- and -

IN THE MATTER of

British National Office Charge No.

United Nations War Crimes Commission

Reference No.

I, STANLEY KEITH WENN of Halsey Street South Bunbury in the State of Western Australia Labourer being duly sworn make oath and say as follows:

1. I am a discharged member of His Majesty's Australian Imperial Forces being discharged on the Eighth day of February 1946, my number being WX 7641 and I was then a Private in the 2/4 Machine Gun Battalion.

2. From the fall of Singapore in February 1942 until on or about the 18th day of August 1945 I was a Prisoner of War in Japanese hands.

3. From on or about the 8th day of June 1943 until liberated I was in Japan at the following camps:

(a) OSAKA No.9 (Kobe) from June 1943 to approximately April 1945 and

(b) NOTAGAWA from April 1945 until the 18th day of August 1945.

4. At Kobe Camp I experienced the following conditions:

(a) The food was fairly good consisting of rice and beans and for two or three months I was allowed 1.1/2 bread rolls each day. The ration allowed by the Japanese was meagre but this was eked out by food stolen by prisoners from Warehouses

(b) Medicines were in short supply and this small quantity was of Japanese manufacture mainly.

(c) I received two suits (1 winter and 1 summer) 1 Red Cross Singlet with long sleeves, a few pairs of Japanese manufactured socks, 1 pair of American Red Cross boots and two pairs of sandshoes.

S. Wenn

John Robertson

I was not short of blankets.

(d) Living conditions were very crowded, there being 130 men on the floor of a Warehouse with about 18 inches bed space in width.

(e) I did not see myself any misappropriation by the Japanese of Red Cross or medical supplies. I did assist to unload a ship of about 10,000 - 15,000 tons from Vladivostok (told to us by a member of the crew) of approximately 48,000 parcels of food with a certain amount of medical supplies. These parcels were about 50 lbs. each. During my whole time in Japan I only received 4 Red Cross parcels (estimated by adding portions from time to time). I heard of other prisoners who saw the Japanese using Red Cross goods but I did not myself see it.

(f) Working conditions were bearable, the hours being from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. I was working in an oil refinery.

5. At Notagawa Camp I experienced the following conditions:

(a) The food was very short, being mainly a small quantity of rice mixed with green wheat. This was eked out with what fresh water mussels we could find in the lake near by. I was told by the cooks that the camp staff were taking about 2/3rds of the ration allowed to us by the Japanese. In four months my weight dropped from nearly 10 stone to 7 stone 8 lbs.

(b) Medicines were almost non-existent.

(c) I had sufficient blankets but practically no clothing was issued.

(d) Quarters consisted of lean-to huts very crowded.

(e) I did not see any taking by the Japanese of Red Cross supplies.

(f) I worked with other prisoners reclaiming land. We were driven hard and beaten with split bamboos or a pick handle if we stopped. Conditions were very hard particularly as we

S. Wenn John R. Hinchen

were working on little food.

6.____ I did not see any executions or tortures but I saw and experienced the following beatings and maltreatment:

(a) In Kobe camp I was beaten by a Pay Warrant Officer who was known as the "Pay Sergeant". I do not know his name but he was fairly tall and subsequently went to Yokohama when other prisoners were moved there. He had been a Sergeant but promoted while I was at Kobe. I could recognize him from a photograph. It was one night about March 1945 but I cannot remember the exact date. I was beaten with the sharp edges of a sword-stick mainly on the arms and shoulders. I was black and blue for about a week but was made to work each day. The reason was trivial as I had moved out of line after a roll-call according to custom.

(b) On the same occasion as set out in the last sub-paragraph I saw also beaten an English Army man (name unknown) and a member of the A.I.F. from New South Wales known to me as "Johnny" Mason.

(c) At Notagawa Camp I saw a member of the A.I.F. named Charlie Melrose from Queensland beaten by the Sergeant-Major of the Camp. I do not know his name but he was there all the time I was at Notagawa. He was very small, used to wear glasses and carry a sword. He spoke a fair amount of English. I do not remember the date.

(d) At Notagawa Camp I saw another member of the A.I.F. named Don MacDonald from New South Wales (now has a Taxi Service in Sydney) beaten by most of the Camp Staff. He was beaten and then made to stand with a full bucket of water held up straight above his head for about half an hour.

(e) At Notagawa we were often made to do physical training in the evening which was taken by a member of the Japanese staff known as "the Rat". I do not know his name. He had been a first class private de-ranked to 2nd class

S. Wenn John Stuchbery

private. He would make us do numerous body presses and beat those with a split-bamboo who could not carry on. I received many hits during these exercises. Mr. Higaski Guchi the Interpreter was often present at the physical training and he also beat the men frequently. The Sergeant-Major was also often present and he weilded the bamboo-stick freely.

7. Generally conditions in Japan were tolerable except for the last four months at Notagawa Camp when conditions and treatment were really bad.

SWORN at Bunbury in the State of Western Australia this 22nd day of August 1946.

S. Wenn

Before me :

A Commissioner of the Supreme Court of Western Australia for taking affidavits.

IN THE MATTER of War Crimes

- and -

IN THE MATTER of

British National Office Charge No.

United Nations War Crimes Commission

Reference No.

AFFIDAVIT OF S. K. WENN

JOHN R. HUELIN,
Solicitor,
BUNBURY.

7024

Renewed

On the 7th day of May One thousand nine hundred and forty six FRANCIS PATRICK WELSH of Hemphill Avenue MOUNT PRITCHARD in the State of New South Wales Labourer being duly SWORN ~~sworn~~ makes Oath and says as follows;

1. I was a member of the Australian Military Forces, my Army particulars being;

   NX.48883 Pte. WELSH F.P.
   UNIT: 2/19 Inf.Bn. attached to 2/18 Aust.Inf.BN.

2. On the fifteenth day of February One thousand nine hundred and forty two at SINGAPORE I was taken prisoner of War by the JAPANESE and transferred to CHANGI Prison Camp.

3. On or about the end of March One thousand nine hundred and forty two I was removed to ADAM PARK Prison C amp where I remained until about September of the same year.

4. Approximately 250 Australians including myself were transferred to BLAKANG MATI ISLAND where we were quartered at an Indian Barracks.

5. BLAKANG MATI ISLAND was used by the JAPANESE as a Base for supplying portion of the JAPANESE Air Force with amunition and refueling facilities and we Prisoners of War were used to haul and load amunition and petrol on barges for disposal to airstrips.

6. During two and half years as a prisoner of War at this Base I and other prisoners of War endured great privations and was subjected to harsh treatment by the JAPANESE.

7. On or about August One thousand nine and forty four I witnessed Pte.SWAN Henry, an Australian, forced by a JAPANESE Guard "TUGAWICHI" to assume a position on his hands and knees on the ground and this Guard then shovelled hot coals under the arch formed by his torso. Pte. SWAN received burns and was then ordered to stand, having obeyed this order "TUGAWICHI" proceeded to administer a severe beating using his hands and also a stick to inflict punishment.

8. On or about the sixteenth of February One thousand nine hundred and forty five, five Australian Privates viz; SINGLE, LANG, THORNE SCATE and myself were accused of theft from the JAPANESE "Q" Store on the Island and were imprisoned in a Guard room.

9. I witnessed on the same day Major OAKIE (Australian) in charge of prisoners of war at this base, Capt.FRANKLIN, Medical Officer (British Army) Lieut.GOODWIN, Interpreter(British Army) Capt. MUNNINGS(British Army) Capt.EVANS (Australian) lined up and saw each receive a punch on the face for allegedly not exercising control over troops under their jurisdiction.

F P Welsh

J.P.

10. At midnight on this date the privates named above and myself were dragged from the Guard room by Corporal HIBBA, SAKAWICHI and Capt. SARTO in company with others and all five Prisoners of War were brutally beaten with fists and sticks for about two hours. In addition each Prisoner of War was sentenced to punishment for three months by Lieut.Col. YOSITA, Officer in charge of the Island Camp.

11. This punishment included;

(a) Having to occupy a guard room insufficient in size to allow the five occupants adequate roomto lie on the floor to sleep.

(b) Debarred from holding conversation with each other.

(c) Debarred from smoking.

(d) Debarred from washing any portion of their anatomy.

(e) Rations consisted of approximately 4 ozs. of cooked rice daily portion received at 7am. evening meal 6:30pm.

(f) Work commenced at 8am. and continued until 6pm. without a rest period and the task allotted each was felling of trees and clearing of Jungle.

12. After the expiration of three months we were returned to the Indian Barracks, occupied on arrival at the Island Base.

13. Food at these Barracks consisted of 300 grams of Rice daily supplemented by KANG KANG (a plant closely resembling spinnach) Water was in plentiful supply.

14. Prisoners of war slept on the floor using bags or any material that could be acquired for bedding.

15. Sanitation was good as the Indian Barracks was sewered.

16. Medical care and supplies were lacking.

17. On or about the seventh day of August One thousand nine hundred and fortyfive all Prisoners of War on on BLAKANG MATI Island were transported by the Japanese to KRANGI SINGAPORE where they were handed over to the control of a British Officer

18. This British Officer remained in charge of the Camp until transport facilities became available for repatriation.

SWORN by the abovenamed deponent)
FRANCIS PATRICK WELSH at)
on the 7th day of May One)
thousand nine hundred and forty six.)

F P Welsh

BEFORE ME;

J.P.

A JUSTICE OF THE PEACE.

C3/6

8153

On this Fifteenth day of MAY One thousand nine hundred and forty-six, RONALD WELCH, of Panorama Hotel, BULLI, in the State of NEW SOUTH WALES, Labourer, makes oath and says as follows:

I was originally a member of the 2/15 FD REGT as NX30475 Bdr WELCH R.

I was taken prisoner at BANKA Island on approximately 19 FEB 42 and subsequently transferred to PALEMBANG on approximately 15 MAR 42. There were only about 60 Australian POW's in the camp, comprising approx 25 members of 2/15 FD REGT, 12 members from various AIF units, 12 RAN ratings from HMAS PERTH, the remainder being made up of AIF Officers and naval ratings transferred from SINGAPORE.

The Camp Comd Lt-Col MATSURDA, was a very stern disciplinarian, but was very fair, and would NOT allow bashings by members of his guards.

Later Lt-Col MATSURDA was replaced by Lt-Col MAKIMURA - height 5'2", who had a large distinct sword scar across the back of his neck. He was of a type that did NOT care what went on in the camp, the guards having practically full control.

He was eventually replaced by Lt FUKASE, an officer of practically the same type as MATSURDA, and the camp was then practically run by the 2/ic and Ration Officer YAMAKARA.

YAMAKARA's description was height about 5'10", ruddy complexion, of good physique, being better built than the average Jap.

YAMAKARA arrived at the camp in approximately DEC 42, he was previously RATION officer at SINGAPORE. Immediately on taking over control, he cut the rations by 25%, stating that prisoners were NOT entitled to any consideration under International Law, whilst under JAP control.

In my opinion, YAMAKARA was personally responsible for the death of approx 300 POW's, about 3 months prior to cessation of hostilities, owing to shortage of food. The prisoners dying through Malnutrition, Dysentery and Beri Beri.
The scale of rations to DEC 42 was:

Rice 500 grams per day per man
Meat 25 " " " " "
Veg. 100 " " " " "

YAMAKARA immediately on taking charge cut this scale to
Rice 300 grams per day per man
Meat nil " " " " "
Veg 100 " " " " "

In DEC 43, we were transferred to SUNGERON Camp which comprised about 17 acres and held approx 1100 POW's. POW's were employ d in working parties or gardening. YAMAKARA was still virtually in charge at this camp and practically cut out the vegetable ration, stating we had our own gardens.

R. Welch.

7129

He also stated that when a man was sick he could NOT eat and reduced the rice ration to 150 grams per day. The scale ration for members of working parties was 200 grams of rice per day, plus 100 grams for heavy duty. These conditions carried right through until cessation of hostilities.

The Camp Comd at SUNGERON was Lt TAKAHASI.

Repeated complaints were made to the Camp Comd by Comdr REED, RN, but no action was taken to increase the rations.

During the last 3 months, Capt CORRIE, an officer of the B.E.F. made repeated requests for additional rations and medical supplies. His applications were ignored, until on the cessation of hostilities he forgot diplomacy and ordered the JAP to produce the requirements.

Bashing at the camp were numerous and for the most trivial offences, but I do NOT remember the names of any of the perpetrators.

Medical supplies were practically nil, sanitation was vile only having slit trenches, water during dry season was particularly scarce, wells being the only source.

I was a personal witness to all contained in the foregoing statement.

Camp conditions at PALEMBANG

Food was bad, clothing issue was practically nil. There were NO blankets except POW's who were lucky enough to have saved their own. Sacks were the only means of covering. Sanitation was fairly good, also bathing facilities. Medical supplies were fairly reasonable until towards the end of our stay.

We were given injections against Dysentery, Typhoid and Cholera.

SWORN by the abovenamed deponent)
RONALD WELCH, at Bulli on)
15th day of MAY One thousand) R. Welch.....
nine hundred and forty six.) (Signature of deponent)

BEFORE ME [signature]
A Justice of the Peace

R.J.W.E.
W&L

I, Richard James Wellington EATHORNE of Kalamia Sugar Mill Barracks, ~~Kalamia~~ Kalamia, Via AYR, formerly QX11863 Pte Richard James Wellington EATHORNE of 30th Battalion, A.I.F., now discharged, being duly sworn make oath and state as follows:

1. In June 1945(year one thousand nine hundred and forty-five)to September one thousand nine hundred and forty-five I was Prisoner of War at NOGOYA Prisoner of War Camp No.10 in which camp were approximately 50 Australian(N.C.O's and men), 40 - 50 English (N.C.O.s and men) 100 Dutch(ranks not known) 200 American Army, Naval ratings.

2. We were employed at the Docks, unloading and loading ships. My duties were unloading Beans and different kinds of cargoes.

3. General conditions at this camp were: The drinking water was taken from a ditch which was situated alongside the latrines, it was more or less the drainings of the water from the paddy field. We were given about one Army pannikin of rice a day and it was of very poor quality. We worked from 7 a.m. until 5'30 p.m. There were practically no medical supplies. We lived in wooden huts with ground floors, the beds were wooden and we had only two blankets. The camp was kept as clean as the limited time available could make it.
I knew NX40190 Pte DAVIS W. C, he was sick with Dysentry and was left unattended for several days before they took him to the R.A.P. They left him there to die because they had no medicine to give him and would not send to another camp for any. Our Medical Officer could not do anything as he had no medical supplies.
The R.A.P. Orderly was about five feet in heighth, of stocky build, I cannot remember his name. I remember Capt NAGAHARA on account of his one arm. He did not worry those that were working but was very abusive and arrogant to those who were sick.
I swear that the contents of this my affadavit are to the best of my knowledge and belief true in every particular.

Signed and sworn by the withinnamed Deponent at KALAMIA on the Twentieth day of August 1946

R. J. W. Eathorne
Signature of Deponent.

Before me
A Justice of the Peace

W. Boyd J.P.
Signature of a Justice of the Peace.

This is page one of my Affadavit made at KALAMIA on th Twentirth day of August 1946. (one page only).

R. J. W. Eathorne
Deponent.

W. G. Lloyd J.P.
Justice of the Peace.

"A"

Report on the activities of "B" Force for period July 1942 to July 1943

Formation of the Force:

"B" Force on its formation was organized into a Force H.Q. and three Battalions. Capt. L. Matthews was a Company Commander in "E" Bn., and Lieuts R.G.Wells and A.G.Weynton were amongst the 40 odd spare officers attached to "E" Bn H.Q. Lieut Sligo R.A.N. was appointed Intelligence Officer with the official title of Canteen Officer.

The Force left Singapore on 8 Jul 42 and arrived at Sandakan on 18 Jul 42 taking up its quarters in an internment camp at the 8 mile peg. Work was commenced on an aerodrome about 2 miles from the camp which was close to the Govt Agriculture Experimental Station. For details of the civilian organization of B.N.B. see Appendix "A".

Contacts with the civilians:

Soon after the arrivial of "B" Force in Sandakan representations were made to establish a canteen, and shortly afterwards Lieut Sligo and Lt.-Col. Shephard, S.M.O. went into the town and there the latter handed a letter to Dr. Taylor asking for some medical supplies. The note was pass with the knowledge of the Japanese guard who reported it on return to the camp, with the result that the formation of the canteen was withheld for two or three weeks. During this latter period Sligo contracted Dysentery and subsequently died. Capt Matthews was appointed Intelligence Officer without the additional duties of Canteen Officer.

Within two to three weeks after arrivial application was made by Lt.-Col. Walsh for permission to allow officers to go gardening outside the perimeter of the camp on the grounds that they required exercise. This was granted and a garden was commenced in the close proximity of the camp. While working here Matthews contacted a Malay by the name of Dick Maginal through whom it was ascertained that the European civilians were on Berhala Island. Through Maginal contact was also made with the corporal i/c sub police station at the 8 mile peg and it was learnt that the internees were guarded by the local police as well as by the Japanese. The corporal; Arbin, a Dusun, offered to arrange for communications to be taken to Berhala Island and to Dr Taylor. At the beginning no Japanese guards were sent out with the officers' garden party and, as a result, fairly free scope was obta ined for the contacts with the natives. However it was not possible to make personal contact with the sub police station which was between 400 and 500 yards away on the main road .

During August an outbreak of Vitamin A deficiency prompted Capt. Picone, the M.O. of "E" BN., to apply to the Japanese through the S.M.O. for permission to abtain palm nuts for the purpose of extracting palm oil. Permission was granted and a small party of 4 to 5 officers, including Matthews, Lieut Ewin and Esler, went out for its duration of about 2 weeks Messages were left in a certain palm tree and replies came back in the same wayfrom Dr Taylor. In addition two messages were received from the Governe at Berhala Island. A Small supply of drugs, mainly vitamin B1 tablets, were received from Dr Taylor via this channel.

Upon establishment of the camp, the Japanese called for a party to go out and collect wood in the nearby jungle in order to supply the power house with fuel. The power house was located about 100 yards outside the camp and supplied 110 volts A.C. to the camp. It was staffed by two Chinese engineers and two Malaystokers. About the time that the palm nut party was comenced it fell the turn of Wells to take charge of this wood collecting party, and on making preliminary contact with one of the Chinese engineers, he made a request through Matthews to take charge of the party permanently, with a view to making contact with the power house staff and endeavouring to obtain wireless parts through them. This permission was granted by Major Workman, Force B.M., and within a few days contac was made with the Chinese engineerin charge of the engine room. This Chinese, Ah Ping, had been appointed to the position on the recommendation of Mr Mavor owing to his loyalty prior to our arrival. Eventually it was ascertained that he was friendly with a Chinese by the name of Wong who worked at the govt Experimental Farm and who spoke perfect English. Wong knew Maginal and was also aware of the previous contacts with him. Following on this information Wells treated Ah Ping with confidence.

By the end of August increased vigilance by the Japanese on the officers' garden party restricted Matthews activities, and with the better freedom Wells enjoyed, having been given permanent charge and supervision of the wood party by the Japanese Camp Commandant Lieut Hoshijima, and consequent freedom of movement , Matthews took

Wells into his confidence.

As a result Wells became 2 i/c to Him.

A Malay Chinese by the name of Jackie Low, who spoke English, Malay and Chinese and who was a pro Japanese, was appointed to the P.O.W. camp for the purpose of spying on the activities of Ps O W and he thus hampered the movements of both Mathews and Wells. On occasions he unknowingly delayed the despatch of communications to Taylor and Berhala Island because of his presence on the wood party when Wells was passing those messages to Cpl Arbin.

During September the following work was accomplished :-

(a) A weekly letter service to and from the camp to H.E. the Governor on Berhala Island and to Dr Taylor at the Hospital. Transposition Cipher was used for confidential messages.

(b) A crystal detector and a pair of headphones were received from Maginal.

(c) Two radio tubes from Apostol, a Filipino in charge of the Govt Experimental Farm and originally employed by the Department of Forestry, who had an interest in radio

(d) Route plans of the electrical and telephone service lines of Sandakan from Ah Ping

(e) Wong and Apostol supplied forestry and agricultural information pertaining to the interior , and also forestry survey maps of B.N.B.

(f) Alexander Funk, a Eurasian and a former overseer of the P.W.D. contacted through Arbin, supplied Capt Matthews with a .38 revolver and also gave him details of the activities of a number of Chinese in the Sandakan area who were in contact with Filipino guerillas on Batu Batu in the Sulus. All these contacts were carried out by Capt Matthews on the garden party or by Wells on the wood party.

(g) Personnel on special working parties and duties in Sandakan, detailed by the Japanese, were active in reporting anything of interest to Mathews, and during the ensueing months considerable information was brought to our notice by this means.

Communications with Dr. Taylor:-

The Japanese took an inventory of the hospital stores of drugs and food at the capitulation of Sandakan, but at the same time authorised Taylor to dispense and sell drugs to sick natives. By paying in his own money and faking entries in the Drug Stores Book he was able to obtain small supplies for the use of the P.O.W. camp. Taylor displayed his willingness to give unwhole hearted assistence , and arranged to pass and collect information through Cpl Arbin, who made a visit to Police HQ in Sandakan once a week. During the period between September 1942, and July 1943 he sent almost weekly supplies of medicines which included atebrin, quinine, various M & B preparations, other, sterilised bandages, iodine and other disinfectants, chemicals for primary batteries for the radio, a small number of surgical instruments, and in addition an occasional supply of food for the seriously ill cases. He also sent intelligence information regarding troop movements and other items of military interest. These drugs and communications came via Cpl Arbin from whom Wells brought them into camp by various subterfuges.

On behalf of the Governor, Taylor organised the collection of money from trusted natives to form a secret fund to provide assistance for special P O W cases such as escapees. Mrs M Y Cohen, a wealthy jewess, who owned a departmental store in Sandakan, contributed a considerable sum to the fund. This fund was of great assistance in the ultimate escape of Capt Steele and his party. It was used also to supply food to five 2/29 Bn escapees who lived in the jungle in the vicinity of Sandakan for five months. This party escaped shortly after the arrival of the Force in Sandakan, but having made no serious efforts to get away were unknowingly made our responsibility. Cpl, Arbin contacted the leader of the party through Mandor Kassin BMB Armed Constabulary at our request. Pte Minty, the leader , sent an appeal for quinine which was forwarded. The party was subsequently arrested attempting to escape by boat and were awarded sentences as shown in Apendix "B". Taylor also arranged through Stookes to feed these men while they were in Sandakan Gaol awaiting to be sent to Kuching. Stookes had access to the gaol as official medical officer.

Dr Taylor also organised through some wealthy chinese merchants in Sandakan to exchange Australian pound notes into local Japanese currency at the pre-war rate of ~~$6-40~~ $6-40 to the pound. Taylor personally made this amount up to $7 and in this way approximately £300 was changed. From each one pound sent in for exchange $2.00 was deducted by the camp authorities for the purpose of purchasing additional food for the hospital from the canteen through the wood party.

Some of the atebrin sent in by Dr Taylor was stolen by the ORs and sold to the natives working on the aerodrome. Records of the Courts of Inquiry into this matter were being kept up to the time of Well's arrest.

Besides helping the Ps O W he also sent limited supplies of drugs and food to the internees. He received a copy of our weekly radio news summary.

Mrs Taylor, with the full knowledge of the risks involved, actively assisted her husband in his endeavours to lighten the burdens of PsOW. Mrs Taylor did most of the clerical work connected with the organisation.

Communications with Berhala Island:

Berhala Is was the quarantine and leper station and the civilians were interned in the quarantine section. There was a by-weekly launch service between the

Police

mainland and the Japanese local police guards on the Island. The Japanese Military Police supervised the local police force through the senior native warrant officers, Jemadars, Gurisman, Yang-Salen and Ojaga Singh. These ~~loyal~~ loyal natives performed excellent service to the organisation. Ojaga Singh directed the police force in the work connected with escapees and the passing of messages. A change of guards was made once a week. By virtue of the fact that Arbin reported to the Police HQ weekly and the guard change took place from this HQs, it was thus possible to pass communication to Berhala Island by this means. Weekly notes were thus passed from September 1942 until the civilians were transferred to Kuching in January 1943. Maj Rice-Oxley used this means to unofficially control the local police force and issued orders from time to time for co-operation with Matthews and Wells and arranged for the assistance of the police in the event of an Allied move in the direction of Sandakan taking place. More details of this work are given below.

Most of the communications from Berhala Island were written by the Governor himself, and between the middle of November 1942 and January 1943 weekly radio news summaries were sent to him. The Governor, on behalf of the internees, made two contributions of money for the use of the camp hospital. On transfer of the internees to Kuching the unofficial control of the police force was given to Matthews by Maj Rice-Oxley. Between the departure of the civilians and the arrival of "E" Force in April 1943 communications with the Island were discontinued. They were re-opened to contact "E" Force. The first communication received from "E" Force was sent by Capt Steele, 2 i/c of the force. Through Steele a letter was received from L/Sgt Weston giving the details of movement of personnel of the unit up to the time of his departure and he also sent some radio parts which he had brought with him. General information concerning all units of the AIF was passed to and from the forces and in addition a weekly radio news summary was forwarded to them. However, within six weeks, "E" Force was moved on to the mainland to a new camp in the vicinity of "B" Force. Communication between the camps was made by means of improvised lamp signaling as well as by occasional contacts with truck drivers from "B" Force who were working on the aerodrome with "E" Force personnel, but even then the Japanese tried to prevent any communications between the camps.

Communications with Mr Mayor:

As Mayor was able to receive radio news through Ah Ping, who frquently went to Sandakan and contacted Ah Kong, Mayor's chief engineer, there was no point in opening up any communication system direct with him and it was not until early April 1943, when certain electrical apparatus was required, that his assistance was sought. During the time that contact was made with Mayor he supplied valuable radio and electrical gear as well as general information regarding the movement of Japanese troops etc. By virtue of the fact that communication with him was more likely to be intercepted all notes wer sent in cypher; en cyphering and de cyphering being done by Mrs Mayor.

Lagan, a chinese ex employee of Harrisonn and Crossfields, did valuable work as a detective and general collection of information was done by him. He was in close contact with Mayor and supplied him with details of reported Japanese movements and machine gun strongholds in the town, while employed as a detective by the Japanese Military Police.

Establishment of camp wireless:

First radio parts were received from Maginal and later, in October 1942, Cpl Arbin produced a variable condenser and telephone receiver. NX66389 Cpl Rickards, 2/3 MAC, who was in possession of a considerable sum of money, purchased radio parts from NX58609 Sgt Wallace W, 2/15 Fd Regt, who was working on the aerodrome. Wallace contacte a chinese named Joo Ming, who later became a member of the loyal natives and was presente wireless parts from an old battery receiver. However Wallace reported to Rickards that if he could obtain radio parts for the sum of $30.00 which Rickards gave him. Rickards contacted Signn Constable asking for assistance to assemble the parts. Through Constable, Rickards met Matthews who, being anxious for the immediate construction of the set, asked Lt Weynton to co-ordinate the parts obtained and build the set. Accordingly Weynton, with the help of Rickards and Cpls Small and Mills, completed the set which was put into operation on 4 Nov 42. A special chemical rectifier, employing test tubes supplied by Sgt McDonough, 10 AGH dispenser, was used to convert the camp A.C. to D.C. The low tension came from primary cells.

In the beginning Maj Fleming would have nothing to do with the newly constructed set and, ~~mmm~~ on Mathew's instructions, the reception and distribution of news was left in Weynton's and Rickards hands. At this time Fleming read the news, but gradually assumed control of censorship; this later relaxed and when Weynton relinquished the night watches with Rickards, owing to the difficulty in co-operating with him, the censorship and distribution of news was assumed by Rickards himself. This state of affairs existed from January to May 43 when Rickards went to hospital. Complaints from the officers etc forced Maj Fleming to act, especially as Rickards being in hospital was not desirous of anyone else using the set. Accordingly Maj Fleming in consultation with Matthews, handed the radio over to Weynton on 15th May 43. For the remaining period an uninterrupted news service was maintained, Weynton being responsible for the reception, distribution and supply of copies of news for those outside the camp, while Matthews and Wells continued the outside contacts.

Due to the continued use of old tubes the efficienty of the set decreased to such extentent that Weynton found it impossible to carry on and rebuilt the receiver using new valves, resistances and condensors obtained from Joo Ming, Ahulish (an Indian ex customs examiner) and Amigo (a Malay employee of the P & T Department) via Wells and the wood party. We decided on the construction of a transmitter, the use of which will be discussed later. Accordingly Wells opened up contact with Mayor in early April 1943, and received from him in the ensuing months power transformers which were made in his workshop in Sandakan to our requirements, rectifier valves, condensors etc. Phillips contacted Cpl Arbin in May 43 asking him if he could give him the radio news,. Arbin reported this to us and permission was given for the news to be passed to Phillips. Most of the parts sent out by Mayor were passed by Ah Kong, Mayor's No 1 Engineer, to Ah Ping and then to Wells and Sgt Stevens, but Phillips contacted Ah Kong and brought a number of the parts to Arbin who passed them to Wells.

Through the chinese circle previously mentioned additional gear, including 6L6G tubes, were sent to the camp via Joo Ming at the aerodrome who gave them to Lt Pascoe-Pearce. A number of parts which Matthews concealed in false bottomed onion box were s stolen with this container in May 43 and a Court of Inquiry was instituted under Lt Draney, 2/10 Fd Regt. This loss necessitated obtaining duplicate parts from the suppliers. While Weynton continued to receive the radio news Wells designed and commenced construction of the transmitter which was never completed.

Collection and Despatch of Intelligence and Information.

(a) Maps:-

Alexander Funk, a member of the group of natives who performed some excellent service to us, supplied two maps of the Sandakan area showing dispositions of Japanese barracks, machine gun posts and communications, including the Ex British Government r radio station at the Three Mile peg. This information was obtained through the group and the native police and was given to us by a Malay named Matuseop. Apontai and Wong supplied Wells with Government forrestry maps and information regarding JUNGLE tracks etc into the interior. Cpl Arbin obtained FROM THE with NO i/c of police, Ojaga Singh, a map from the BNB Goverment offices, showing buildings, installations and details of Japanese barracks and communications within Sandakan. These maps were kept up to date by us as additional information was received from time to time from the police, power house staff and Aust truckdrivers working in the town. Information from drivers regarding dates, local news etc was tabulated by Matthews and Wells; half being kept by each to prevent either part being complete in itself. Matthews kept his section buried inside the camp while Wells made arrangements with Arbin to bury his portion outside the police station.

(b) Avenues of Information.

Realising the difficulty of having reliable communication with the power house staff, Wells asked the chinese engineer to impress upon the Japanese the inadequacy of the present staff and ask them for the assistance of one or more Australian engnrs whereupon Matthews, through the camp representative officer, arranged for Sgt Stevens 2/4 MG Bn to be employed upon Japanese request which came in early Oct 42. Sgt Stevens was permitted to live at the power station, and hence was not only able to collect and despatch messages but was also able to give additional news from natives and to arrange an increase in the electrical supply voltage with Ah Ping, during the hours of radio reception.

During the time that Stevens was at the boiler house he passed some forty messages from us to various addressees. In addition he arranged and assisted some natives from Sandakan, including Amona Sur to successfully sabotage a steam shovel and a fordson tractor at our request. These implements were to be used on the aerodrome, and were located at the boiler house for repair. They were never used on the aerodrome.

Having worked for some months to impress the Japanese, Wells was given the job of supervising the power house as well, as the wood party, which enabled him free movement between the power house and various jungle areas where wood was being cut. This allowed calls to the police station, where contact was made with Funk and other members of the loyal natives who passed as vendors from whom the wood party was permitted to purchase food. Wells met a Mrs Wales (the chinese wife of an interned english planter) who took a message containing details of "B" Force to Jesselton to be delivered to an english POW force of RA and RAF Java. This force was later transferred to Sandakan.

Access to the Government Experimental Farm was also made possible where a work shop was made available for the purpose of sharpening axes and tools. Having relatively free scope of movement, the control of the men on the wood party was taken over by Cpl MacMillan, 22 Bde HQ, and later by Cpl Roffey, 84 LAD both of whom took communications to and from the camp.

A force of filipeno troops consisting of a Lt Colonel (whose wife was the daughter of the Sultan of the Sulus) and about 1000M Ors who had escaped from Luzon and small surrounding islands during the Japanese occupation, complete with arms and supplies, had established themselves as guerilla troops on Batu, Batu, Jolo and other islands unoccupied by the Japanese between N.E. Borneo and the Phillipines. One of the officers Mu Sing, a filipino chinese Lt lived on Jolo. This native in pre-war days had carried on trading in sandlewood around the N Borneo mainland. In addition to owning a number of sampans he possessed two power boats. He made his first contact with the camp through

the police in Oct 42 and reported the presence of "B" Force to his commander at Batu Ba
n and within a few weeks the latter sent a message stating that a few months previously
two allied submarines had sheltered at this island, (the commander of which had promised
to visit Batu Batu in the near future and collect any information he might have for them)
and asked for a report on the position of "B" Force to be given to the submarine on its
next visit. This request was complied with, and a message received at the end of Dec 42
from the commander stated that the information had been passed on. In addition a map of
the island occupied by his troops and details of the organisation were received.

Upon request from us the guerilla force sent to a secret hiding place, at the 15
Mile peg two machine guns, about twenty seven rifles and about two thousand five
hundred rounds of ammunition to be used in conjunction with the police arms in the event
of any allied move in the proximity of Sandakan. In April 43, the letter was received
from the commander asking if we wished to join them or to contact the allied submarine.
Data etc to be delivered to us was relayed by Mu Sing to Felix Azcona, a filipino
whose father had a radio shop in Sandakan, who passed it through the police. Details of
reported allied submarines at Lanat Batu were forwarded by this channel and also Mr
Mayor. Maj Fleming, acting force commander, stated that in view of the work being done
he preferred us to remain with the force.

At the beginning of May a note was received from "B" Force through Cpl Koram asking
for our consent to obtain help from the organisation to assist Capt Steele and a party
to escape. An answer was sent to Koram consenting and asking for the necessary native
assistance, and plans were made by us for the escape of Steele's party early June.
The object was briefly to send the party to a R.V. on the N.extremity of Berhala and
thence to Batu Batu, via Jolo and Tawi Tawi. There the party was to be picked up by
the allied submarine mentioned earlier. Details of the escapees reached us in early
July, stating that the party had been divided in two; the Offs having proceeded to Jolo
and the officers left on 26 Jun 45. Steele's party it was subsequently learnt, reached
Australia some six months later. See appendix "C" for further details.

Escaped parties:

The first escape parties to leave the camp passed through the wire shortly after
our arrival. Six AASC personnel were at large only a few days when four of them were
arrested near Phillip's residence and the remaining two were picked up by a Japanese
patrol some forty miles down the coast a fortnight later. Details of these personnel
who subsequently reached Outram Rd Gaol, are shown in the Appendix "B". The second
party of five 2/29th Bn personnel, previously mentioned were contacted by Siew Cheow
a wealthy chinese, in the jungle near the 15 mile peg nine days after escape. Through
the POW escape fund organised by His Excellency the Governor and Mr Taylor, the
provisioning of these personnel was carried out by Go Tieck Sing and his brother Go
Tieck Chai who owned a food store close by. Surat Min, a relation of Kassim, also
brought food stuffs to this party. Names and numbers of these personnel are shown in
Appendix "B".

Sgt Wallace persuaded Sigmn McKenzie and Sigmn Harvey, 8 Div Sigs to escape with
him on 8th May 43. Ten days later McKenzie and Harvey were seen by Japanese guards
in Close proximity to the aerodrome attempting to collect coconuts, Wallace being
nowhere in sight. Both were shot on sight and the bodies , identified by Lt Pascoe-
Pearce, were buried in the new 8 mile peg cemetery. Wallace later contacted Joo Ming
and through him asked Matthews for assistance. Realising the danger of Wallace being
at large and the duty of helping a fellow POW, it was decided to send him to Berhala
Island and join Steele's party, as he could not be bought back to camp owing to the
strict Japanese roll calls. This movement was arranged through Joo Ming, whose father
in law took Wallace to Berhala Island in a canoe contacting Steele on 5 Jun, with
whom he subsequently escaped.

In April 43 Sgt M Blain MP, 2/12 Fd Coy RAE, with S/Sgt James, 27 Dental Unit,
contacted Wells with a proposal,to escape and asked for assistance. Blain stated that
Maj Fleming had agreed for him to attempt to get home, being an MP and bring back
medical assistance etc. We were reluctant to assist him at the time because of
difficulties within the organisation. Blain sent a note to Taylor, through QX9423
Dvr Scott C AMN SUB PARK who did excellent work assisting Wells on the wood party,
and enclosing his parliamentarian gold pass which Taylor returned telling Blain to
wait. He then cintacted Sigmn Martin E J, 8 Div Sigs who was working on the aerodrome
with S/Sgt James. They took Blain's gold pass to show Chin Pain Chang to impress upon
him the importance of helping Blain to escape. Nothing further eventuated in connection
with his escape as the natives told him to wait. Later on, while Wallace was still at
large, James and Martin took a note from Blain addressed to Mr Ford (then Minister for
Army) and delivered it to Chin Pain Chang through whom it subsequently reached Wallace.
It is presumed that this note eventually reached its destination.

Preliminary Organisation of the camp for Allied Assistance.

As a result of intelligence information, supplied by us to Maj Fleming, the latter
consented to assist in the preliminary selection of officers and certain key personnel
for the purpose of putting the camp into sufficient organisation to be of assistance
(with the arms and information at our disposal) to any incoming force. Key personnel
were selected and given an outline of their requirements. The transmitter, being

built, was to net way into the Allied Forces and pass to them the accumulated data.

Breakdown of the Organisation:

Dominit Kah, an Indian mandor on the aerodrome, knew something of Joo Ming's activi ties in connection with the POW and attempted to blackmail him reporting an inkling of his knowledge to the Japanese on or about 16 Jul 43. Joo Ming and his father in Law were arrested and tortured when they gave away information which led to the arrest of Funk and Lagan. Joo Ming admitted the passing of radio parts to Wallace and apparently Lagan mentioned Matthews name.

The camp was searched on 22 Jul 43 when two firearms, belonging to Cpl Graham 22 Bde HQ and Spr Davis, 2/12 Fd Coy RAE, a map of the SW Pacific owned by Lt Rae, 4 A/Tk Regt and some notes of Wells which were to be sent to Arbin the follo wing day. The camp commandant personnally carried out the search of Matthews and Wells equipment. On the evening of the search Matthews, Rae, Graham and Davis were arrested. 24 July 43 another search was made and Wells was shown a list of radio parts sent to the camp the previous year. In an endeavour to save the wireless set in operation he handed over some of the parts of the uncompleted transmitter which they accepted.

Taylor and Mayor were arrested about this date on information obtained from the increasing number of natives who had been arrested and tortured. Due to the fact that Capt St John, A/Force Condr after Maj Fleming had been sent to Kuching in May, slept in the same cubicle as Matthews, he was arrested with Capt Brown, also of 2/10 Fd Regt, who slept next to Matthews. These officers were arrested with Wells.

In order to prevent additional information from reaching the ears of Japanese Mil Police some of the natives, during their questioning and torture gave information regarding unimportant contacts. Thus Sigm Martin's name was mentioned by Joo Ming and the proposed escape plan of Blain and James led to the arrest of these men. The arrest of Ah Ping and Sgt Stevens led subsequently to MacMillan and Roffey being drawn in.

Lt Weynton was arrested on 29 Jul 43. Wells admitted Weynton's Connection with the radio in order to account for his movements. Eventually on military police obtaining a more complete list of the radio parts supplied by the various natives Weynton had no option but to disclose the whereabouts of the receiver and the arrest of its guards Cpl Rickards, Mills 2/3 MAC and Small, 2 Coy AASC resulted.

Later in September 43, information regarding Keating's contacts (See App "C") with the natives was disclosed to the military police by Chang, including the contents of the note. This forced him to disclose the names of the proposed party numbering eight, including L/Sgt Weston. They were all arrested.

Arbin, in mentioning notes passed to "E" Force made Matthews disclose two officers, Lts J Morrison, 2/4 MG Bn and J Poole AASC who had inclosed notes to Berhala. Phillips was also arrested through information given by Arbin under torture, and Dr Leband and Mrs Cohen were arrested in connection with the subscription of money to the POW escape fund and Berhala Island.

Details of the Japanese Military Police interrogation are given in App "D". After completion of the questioning, all personnel arrested in connection with our activities - except a few natives, arrested on minor charges, who were fined and/or acquitted - were sent to Kuching, leaving Sandakan on 25 Oct 43. 50 odd natives, 19 Australian POWs and five European civilians arrived at Kuching gaol 2 Nov 43. Lt Morrison and Poole were discharged on arrival at Kuching together with those personnel shown in App "D".

Interrogation recommenced in the middle of Nov and continued at sporadic interval until the trials were completed. Details of the conditions and the death of Keating are given in App "E". Most of the natives and POWs arrested for minor charges, S/Sgt James, Sgt Blain, Cpl Graham, Spr Davis, Sigm Martin, and three civilians were tried on 5 Feb 44. Dr Taylor and Mr Mayor were also tried on this date but received sentences of 15 years each having been tried as spys on Ogawa's deliberate misinterpre tation of their statements. Mrs Cohen was fined and subsequently returned to Sandakan.

On 29 Feb 44 the remaining personnel were tried and sentenced except Matthews, Wells and three ORs who were kept in abeyance until 2 Mar 44 when the court reassembled and passed sentences of capital punishment on Capt Matthews and the following natives, Jemadar Ojaga Singh, Cpl Arbin, Alex Funk, Joo Ming, Lagan, Ah Sing, Felix Azcona and Matu Sop. The natives were executed almost immediately.

On 8 Mar 44 POWs (See App "B") and in addition Taylor and Mayor were sent to Singapore, arriving on the night of 10 Mar 44. The next day they were admitted to Outram Rd Military Gaol. On 31 Mar 44 Taylor and Mayor were transferred to the civil section of the gaol where Mayor died 0730hrs 5 May 45 from Beri Beri and malnutrition.

An outline of the POWs undergoing sentences at Outram Rd is given in App "F". Details of treatment at the civil gaol and Mayor's will are being dealt with by Taylor. According to Maj O'Neill, I.M.S, who was in priron with Taylor and Mayor, Mayor's death was the direct result of the Japanese neglecting to send him to hospital and their refusal to allow supplies of medicine and food, to reach him.

(Sgd) A.T. Wells Lieut.
8 Div Sigs.

Appendix "A" Civilian Organization.

Administration:
British North Borneo was a chartered company administered by His Excellency Governor Smith and the usual staff of Government Officials, who were responsible to the Colonial Office in London. Sandakan was the seat of government.

Police:
The police force is known as The British North Borneo Armed Constabulary. The Commandant, Col. W.C. Adams resided at Jesselton a nd administered the East Coast Residency, including Sandakan, through Major A Rice-Oxley M.C. The officer i/c East Coast and the Security Officer, Captain C.D. Round-Turner, resided at Sandakan. Practically all the officers were English and the other ranks were either Sikhs, Malays or Dusuns. Police stations were scattered throughout the country, and a sub-station was located within ¾ mile of the P.O.W. camp.

Medical:
The Govt., P.M.O. was Dr. P.H. Taylor, an Australian. A Govt., hosp--ital was located at Sandakan operated under the P.M.O. Dr. V.A. Stookes, The Medical Officer of the trading company of Harrison & Crossfield, joine--ed taylor at the hospital when the Japanese administration took over.

Electrical Servides.
Electricity was supplied by a Hong Kong Company under Govt., control. The Manager and Chief engineer of the Sandakan Company was Mr G. Mavor.

General:
Acting under orders from Singapore H.E. Governor Smith capitulated, without bloodshed, to the Japanese on 19th Jan '42.
The Japanese ordered the heads of the essential Govt., services to continue their duties for the time being, and all other civilians numbering about 90, were interned on Berhala Island, at the entrance to Sandakan harbour about a mile from the mainland. The Govt Officials duties involved the simplification and co-ordination of their departments in order that they could be taken over by the Japanese: e.g. the recall of fire-arms from the police force by Capt. Round-Turner, the issue of general orders regarding stealing and publication of penalties for all types of offences, etc.
Within three weeks all British Officials except the following were sent to Berhala Island Internment Camp.

(a) Dr. Taylor P.M.O., Dr. Stookes and Dr. Laband (a German Jewish refugee Dentist.). Dr Taylor and his wife were allowed to remain in their home, while the other two were confined to the hospital.

(b) Mr. Mavor, who with his wife, was confined to his home which was on the premises of the power station close to the town.

(c) Mr Phillips, Manager of the B.N.B. Trading Coy., was allowed to continue his business occupation because he had a Malay wife and had been recommended freedom by the senior Malay people. He was allowed almost free scope to carry on the Company's business for the Japanese.

Appendix "B".

Details of Ps.O.W. arrested by the Japanese in Borneo.

Arrested	Reg No	Rank	Name	Unit	Sentence.
25/8/42	QX15173	L/Cpl.	Trackson.H.R.	2 Coy AASC	4 Yrs.
"	QX10900	Pte.	Carr.M.J.	"	"
	Tried at Kuching and sentenced on 25/10/42.				
8/8/42	NX72445	Dvr.	Allen.E.A.	1.Coy AASC.	4 Yrs.
"	SX13760	"	Jacka.M.E.	"	"
"	NX71902	"	Shelley.N.A.	"	"

(a) Pte Shelley died at Changi on 29/10/44.
(b) Tried at Kuching and sentenced on 25/10/42.

8/8/42 NX 2567 DVR. HARRINGTON, T.I. 1 Coy AASC 4 Yrs

(c) Dvr. Allen died at Outram Road Gaol S'pore 10/7/43
(d) Dvr. Harrington died at Kuching Gaol.15/12/42.

Arrested	Reg No.	Rank.	Name.	Unit.	Sentence.
27/1/43	VX48685	Cpl.	Fairy W.F.	2/29 Bn.	5 Years.
"	QX23995	L/Cpl.	New.F.T.	"	4 "
"	VX39255	Pte.	McWilliams B.J.G.	"	5 "
"	VX56725	"	Minty.A.R.	"	6 "
"	VX59433	"	Morris.N.S.	"	5 "

(a) Triad at Kuching and sentenced on 24/7/43.
(b) Cpl. Fairy died at Changi on 6/4/44.

20/2/43	QX15766	Pte.	Brown.M.P.	2/30 Bn	4 Years.
"	VX60083	"	Young.W.	"	"
19/2/43	NX40325	"	Darlington.J.	2/18 Bn.	½ Yr.

(a) Tried at Kuching and sentenced on 26/6/43.
(b) Pte. Darlington was released on 26/12/43.

24/7/43	VX14024	Lieut	Wells.R.G. √	Sigs 8 Div.	12 P.S.
29/7/43	VX28397	"	Weynton.A.G. √	"	10 Yrs.
22/7/43	VX24597	Capt. ×	Matthews.L.C.	"	Capital Pun.
15/9/43	QX7940	Sjt.	McDonough.W.J.	10 A.G.H.	½ Yr.
26/7/43	WX227	"	Stevens A.	2/4 MG Bn.	6 P.S.
22/7/43	NX1685	Cpl.	Graham.T.G.	22 Bde.HQ.	1½ Yrs.
27/7/43	NX32348	"	MacMillan.J.A.	"	1½ Yrs.P.S.
30/8/43	TX4197	"	Mills.C.C.	2/3 MAC.	2 Yrs.
"	NX68389	"	Rickards.J.	"	6 Yrs.
27/7/43	NX67260	"	Roffey.W.G.	84 L.A.D.	1½.P.S.
30/8/43	NX26960	" ×	Small.A.L.	2 Coy AASC.	1½ Yrs.
22/7/43	NX27101	Spr. ×	Davis.R.	2/12 Fd Coy RAE	"
8/9/43	NX10567	S/Sjt.	James.J.H.	27 Dental Unit.	"
"	NX56669	Sjt.	Blain.A.M.	2/12 Fd Coy RAE.	"
19/9/42	NX52132	"	Holly.R.B.	2/18 Bn.	1½ Yrs.
25/9/43	NX38818	Pte.	Davis.S.G.	2/10 Ord W/Shp.	2 Yrs.
19/9/43	WX9682	Spr.	Jensen.C.E.	2/6 Fd Pk RAE.	"
"	WX10932	" ×	Marshall.D.G.	"	4 Yrs.
10/8/43	WX8818	" ×	Keating.E.J.	"	untried.
19/9/43	VX64660	Pte.	Rumble.T.H.	27 Bde Ord Wk /Shop.	½ Yr.
"	NX	Sjt.	Lander.C. √	2/18 Bn.	acquitted.
31/7/43	NX73282	Sigmn.	Martin.F.J. √	Sigs.8 Div.	3 Yrs.

(a) Capt.Matthews was believed executed at approx 1100 hrs 2/3/44 and buried at rear of R.C.Cathedral Kuching.
(b) Cpl. Small died at Changi on 19/11/44
(c) Spr. Davis died at Changi on 13/10/44
(d) Spr. Marshall died at Outram Road Gaol and buried at Changi on 11/8/44.
(e) Spr. Keating died 0745 hrs on 11/2/44 in Kuching Gaol awaiting trial.
(f) Sjt Lander acquitted on 23/1/44 and sent to Kuching POW Camp.

Appendix "C".

"E" Force Escape Parties.

"E" Force which left Singapore on 1 Apr 1943 arrived in Kuching on 7 Apr 43. The force was in command of Maj Fairley,who was detained at Kuching in accordance with the Japanese policy of segregating the senior officers.The force was moved to Kuching P.O.W. camp for a period of 8 days.A party of three sappers,Keating,Marshall and Jensen,from 2/6 Fd Pk Coy,had decided to escape prior to their

departure from Singapore. Marshall with some ~~xx~~ other members of the force, was quartered near the Internees where contact was made with Mr.R.S.Abbott, Former District Officer Jesselton; Mr H.G.Keith, conservator of Forests B.N.B.and Director of Agriculture. Mr.C.Brown, Assistant Conservator of Forests B.N.B.; and Major A.Rice-Oxley M.C The above gentlemen were asked for assistance in planning an escape from Sandakan which was the eventual destination of the Force. Brown gave Marshall information regarding two routes of escape, one South through the Celebes and one through Kuda, Jolo Island etc to the Phillipines. In addition Keith and Brown supplied maps of B.N.B one of which was a Forestry Dept Survey chart. Two notes of introduction, one to apostol and one to Brown's houseboy, asking for assistance, food etc were handed to Marshall to be used in Sandakan.

The Force left Kuching in a small boat on 15 Apr 43 and stopped at Labuan en route to Sandakan. They disembarked at Berhala Island Quarantine Station, Sandakan, on or about 21 Apr.43. The three sappers talked over their plans at Berhala and contacted NX29683 Lieut C.A. Wagner 2/18 Bn., because the latter was Intelligence Officer of the Force and he also spoke Malay. Wagner was asked if he would join the party, and replied that he would lead them if their plan was sound. He asked for information and Keating outlined the data received in Kuching. As Intelligence Officer of the Force, Wagner was to arrange the details and departure. Shortly afterwards contact with the mainland was established ~~xxxxxx~~ through the B.N.B. Armed Constabulary members of the native organization.

Cpl. Korum told NX34686 Capt R.E.Steele, 2/15 Fd Regt (2 i/c of the force) and Wagner of the communications with "B" Force. When rumour of the transfer of the Force to the mainland was made known the party asked Wagner if he was ready to escape, but were told to wait until better conditions prevailed on the mainland.

At approx 0330 hrs 5 June '43 the date scheduled for the move, movement of Japanese guards indicated some irregularity and it was soon learned that Capt Steele and Lieut Wagner with QX4648 Lieut R.Blow, 2/10 Fd Regt., VX34838 Lieut L.H.Gillon 2/10 Fd Regt., SX2600 Pte R.N. Butler, Amn Sub Park, QX21058 Pte R.K. Mclaren, 2/10 Ord Wk/shop, and VX60861 Pte R.J. Kennedy, 2/10 Ord Wk/shop had escaped in accordance with the arrangements made by Matthews and Wells with the native organisation. NX58809 Sgt W. Wallace, 2/15 Fd Regt., joined the party that night.

Jensen, Marshall and Keating considered another attempt to escape some short time after arriving on the mainland when NX38819 Pte S.G. Davis, 2/10 Ord Wk/shop, NX52132 Sgt R.B. Holly, 2/18 Bn., NX15952 Sgt C. Lander, 2/18 Bn., NX57941 L/Sgt A. Weston, Sigs 8 Div., and VX64660 Pte T.H. Rumble, 27 Bde Ord Wk/shop, joined the party. It was also learnt later that Weston Gave Wagner copies of the data received at Kuching; Weston was to be a member of the original party. When "E" Force commenced work on the aerodrome Davis and Keating were employed driving road rollers which brought them into close proximity with the natives where Davis contacted Chin Pain Sing, one of Mu Sing's assistants. This Chinese told him to wait and not attempt any escape via the jungle. Keating gave Chin the letters, which were delivered to Apostol and P.H. Funk (brother of Alex Funk). Apostol sent money and cigarettes to the party and Funk replied telling them to wait until a well laid plan could be put before them. An accompanying note written by Keating and signed "Carter" was sent with Brown's introductions asking for assistance for a party of 8 to escape. Unfortunately this note left Keating no option ~~xx~~ but to disclose the remainder of his party when its contents were eventually disclosed to the Japanese military Police by Chin.

Appendix "D"

Japanese Military Police Interrogations and Conditions of Custody.

The Japanese Military Police H.Q. was located in a European house opposite the saw mill on the outskirts of Sandakan. When Wells was placed in a large cell under the House on the evening of 24 July 43, Capt Matthews, Lieut Rae, Cpl. Graham and Spr Davis had been there for two days.

Within a few days Matthews was transferred to a room in the house where the prisoners sat up to attention all day and were strictly watched by a guard to ensure no verbal or visual communication between them took place. The other three prisoners were transferred to the civil gaol where they were guarded by the B.N.B. Armed Constabulary who were very lenient towards them.

In the cell under the house where Wells remained on his own for three weeks after the removal of the others, a wash was permitted only when the Japanese guards decided to allow the latrine bucket to be emptied. This varied from once a day to twice a week. No bedding or clothing other than a singlet and shorts was permitted. Rations for both the prisoners under the house and those in the large room above were distributed at most irregular xxxxx hours twice per day at the will of the two Chinese employees. Each ration consisted of a small European afternoon teacup of rice and about ½ cubic inch of xxxxxxxxxxx either salt fish or rock salt. Later small quantities of vegetables replaced the fish. Natives were permitted to have food brought into them, but although the guards mostly prevented them from giving any to the Ps.O.W., food was smuggled across if the natives had sufficient for themselves. Mesdames Taylor and Mavor were imprisoned in a room under the house, on the arrest of their husbands, and underwent conditions approximating those of the male prisoners. They were never convicted but subsequently were sent to Kuching internment camp.

The personnel in the two rooms in the house were compelled to sit up cross legged from 0730 hrs to 2130 hrs and refrain from looking other than to the front. While asleep at night the prisoners were compelled to lie in such a way as to prevent communication, and a continual light enabled the guards to watch them. Although the guards were not members of the military police and had nothing to do with the questioning, they were continually aware of the ca ses for which both the natives and Ps.O.W. were arrested, and inflicted their own personal punishments accordingly. Questioning took place at irregular intervals throughout the period of our detention.

The methods of extracting information were by brutal methods of torture, one of the worst being compelling one to consume raw rice followed by large draughts of water with a consequent painful swelling of the stomach to which Wells was subjected on 14 Aug 43. Handcuffing and tying the hands to a rafter while stretching the body by a beam across the heels was used on Wells on 16 Aug 43 and Lieut Weynton at a later date. Both these methods were used on Matthews. In addition flogging with European riding whips and Japanese wooden swords were very frequently used on all prisoners. Sigmn Martin received a particularly heavy beating over the contacts with natives in connection with Blain's proposed escape. Continual cries were heard from natives in the interrogating room all day. Burning with cigarettes was a torture used on the serious P.O.W. Cases including Sgt Stevens and Cpl MacMillan.

The M.P. interpreter was a local Japanese named Miura, an ex employee of the B.N.B. Trading Co., later, Osawa, the camp interpreter was attached to the case by the Camp Commandant. He deliberately mininterpreted statements and, in particular, was largely responsible for Matthews execution by inserting information in his statement to the effect that he a ttempted to organise a riot against the local Japanese for which he had no proof whatsoever. Although Matthews denied this at Kuching it was never obliterated.

During the questioning of Ojaga Singh his elbow was broken and no proper medical treatment was administered. Dr Taylor, who performed excellent medical services within the scope allowed by the Japanese, made frequent attempts to treat the wounds of those who were tortured. Taylor himself received the worst flogging of any prisoner, the scars of which were still evident at Kuching.

The food containers used by those who brought food to the natives were used to smuggle messages of the progress of the case in order to avoid further arrests. Mu Sing, whose wife sent him daily rations, at the request of Wells sent messages from Matthews to the camp and other natives in the organisation. One successful and about six unsuccessfu l escapes were made from the lavatory window by members of the B.N.B. Armed Constabulary. Armed patrols made diligent searches for these escapees.

These patrols also made long treks into the jungle looking for Cpl Korum whose arrest would have seriously complicated the case. Messages were also passed between prisoners in the rooms.

On 19 Oct 43 all prisoners who were ~~xxx~~ to be sent to Kuching were transferred to the civil gaol; the remainder were either fined or acquitted from M.P. H.Q., these included Azoona Snr., & Wong. On the evening of 25 Oct 43 the Camp Commandant released Capts St. John and Brown, Lieut Rae, L/Sjt Weston and 3 ORs but told them that they would have to proceed to Kuching P.O.W. Camp wh ere they were discharged. That same evening all convicted PsOW, European civilians and natives together with those PsOW mentioned above left by boat for Kuching. The Europeans were Dr. Taylor, Mr. Mavor, Dr. Laband, Mr. Phillips and Mrs Cohen and amongst the natives were Ah Ping, Ah Kong, P.H.Funk, Apostol, Cpl Kassin, Aruliah, Amigo, Maginal, Jemadars Guriaman & Yang Salan, Siew Chow, Go Tieck Sing, Go Tieck Chai, Surat Min and Chin Pain Chai.

Appendix "E".
Conditions at KUCHING Military Gaol and the death of Spr Keating.

Kuching Military Gaol was our first contact with the "Kemshe", or Department of Justice. A number of the NCOs and guards had originally come from Singapore to open the gaol on the same lines as Outram Road Gaol. The same rules, regulations and discipline etc prevailed as related in Appendix "F" except where otherwise stated.

As far as possible the guards separated the natives and European civilians from the Ps.O.W., and the Ps.O.W. Officers and senior N.C.Os. were again segregated from the men. The gaol contained eight cells, four of which held up to 20 prisoners each, hence it was relatively easy for the guards to keep a continuous watch.

The rations were worse than at Outram Road Gaol except during the latter period when they were approximately the same. However there was no work for untried prisoners who had to sit cross legged all day facing the wall.

There was more ventilation but the cells were infected with bugs and vermin which made sleeping very difficult. Exercise was given twice per day in spite of the poor rations received. The gaol itself was kept reasonably clean by trusted native convicted prisoners. Dr Taylor was permitted to administer limited medical treatment under the eye of the guard. No admissions to hospital were permitted except in the case of Mavor who was sent to hospital with double hernia soon after our arrival, but was compelled to return to the gaol five days after the operation by a Japanese Doctor. He was compelled to sit up most of the day like the other prisoners. Within a few weeks the hernia re-appeared.

Mrs Cohen was in solitary confinement during her detention in KUCHING and was subject to the same rules and regulations as the male prisoners, being on one occasion beaten by a guard for failing to sit to attention.

Spr Keating was arrested in SANDAKAN with a huge ulcer on his leg. Taylor gave medical attention when permitted but the ulcer grew worse. Finally after repeated efforts by Taylor, Keating was admitted to Sandakan Hospital for six days prior to sailing for Kuching. On the voyage he contracted dysentery which became worse as time went on. In Kuching gaol beri beri made its appearance and Keating's condition became critical. Depriving themselves of much needed vitamins, all the ORs in the cell with Keating contributed small portions of their rations to keep him alive. The Japanese gave Keating no medical attention excepting a few vitamin tablets two or three days before he died.

Taylor made frequent applications for his admission to hospital but in vain. Keating died at 0745 hrs on 11 Feb 44 in the presence of Dr Taylor. In Taylor's opinion his death could have easily been prevented by even a little attention by the Japanese. Keating was buried by the Japanese at the rear of the R.C. Cathedral where a service was held for him as the Japanese stated that they respected the dead.

APPENDIX "F".

Conditions at Outram Road Japanese Military Gaol from 11 Mar 44 to 3 Apr 45.

Organisation & Administration: The civil gaol at Outram Road was taken over by the Japanese Army shortly after the capitulation of Singapore and divided into Military and Civil sections by a wooden wall. The Civil Gaol was under the charge of a Japanese Civil Administration who controlled the prisoners through the ex Indian and Malay Warders.

The Military section was under the direct administration of the "Kemshe" or Dept. of Justice officials characterized by the white background rank badge worn. The senior Captain i/c was present, for the exception of one short period, from the capitulation of Singapore until the Ps.O.W. were discharged to Changi on 19 Aug 45. The warders were special personnel (mostly ex service men) trained for the administration of Japanese prison "justice". All military personnel, (Japanese soldiers, Ps.O.W., irrespective of nationality, and natives specially enlisted for Japanese military service), Japanese civilians and all personnel, civil and military, awaiting trial were placed in the hands of this department. After trial by the "Kempie" or military police the civilians(European and native) were transferred to the Civil gaol to serve their sentences.

The military gaol was divided into two sub divisions, one for Japanese and the other for all "foreign" military personnel. Although the same regulations and treatment were applicable to both sub divisions, in practice there was a great difference. The regulations mentioned hereunder were slightly more strictly enforced on the Japanese prisoners than on the foreign personnel, but the treatment of the latter was infinitely worse than the former. Japanese prisoners received better rations, new clothing, books, beds, blankets and pillows; they also received proper showers and soap, and their cells were cleaned and disinfected daily and in addition they worked in the regular gaol workshops doing more interesting and less tedious work.

The gaol was administered by the Officer i/c through an Orderly N.C.O. and guard who were changed daily. From November 1944 the regular guards over the foreigners were replaced by Japanese "good conduct" prisoners. In order to impress the gaol officials with their efficiency, in an endeavour to obtain earlier release, these "trusties" enforced the regulations with brutal severity.

All prisoners were identified by numbers irrespective of their rank.

Rules, Regulations and Discipline: The rules and regulations were never published in English and, therefore, had to be learnt by bitter experience. The main points could be tabulated as follows:-

(1) Talking and communication between prisoners by any means, including laughing, smiling etc, was forbidden.
(2) Between the hours of Reveille (0730) and "Turn in" (2130) prisoners were required to sit to attention with legs crossed, hands placed upon the knees and head faced rigidly to the front. Leaning against the wall or sitting on anything other than the bare wooden bed boards was not allowed.
(3) All movements were regimented by orders in Japanese, e.g. eating, washing, exercising etc. The only movement permitted on ones own initiative was the use of the latrine whilst in the cell.

Disobeyance of these orders was punishable by corporal punishment or reduction of rations.

Work & Exercise: A permanent party of 8 Ps.O.W. was employed daily on gaol hygiene; this included emptying latine buckets of prisoners in the military gaol, washing and cleaning drains etc. The remainder of the foreign prisoners were employed, prior to our arrival, until October 1944 picking strands of hemp from scrap bundles from the Japanese rope workshops. Prisoners employed on this duty were compelled to sit cross legged on a thin single layer of hessian on damp ground in three rows. The workshop had a poor roof which allowed rain to seep through onto the prisoners. They were not permitted to break their formation during inclement weather. Insufficient work was occasionally punished by reduction of rations.

For the next three months these prisoners were employed monotonously polishing one Japanese water bottle per day or scrubbing and greasing Japanese military boots. In addition to the above work occasional parties were called for gardening and other gaol domestic duties; this included a special party of 10 who spent about four weeks gardening outside the gaol wall. The prisoners on this outside party were chained together by the waist from the time they left the gaol until their return.

From February 1945 a special party of approx 50 were employed on hard manual labour digging tunnels at Pasir Panjang and Bukit Timah where many of the undernourished prisoners collapsed.

In spite of the starvation rations prisoners employed on all work, except the outside parties, were compelled to do daily Japanese military exercises. On holidays prisoners were taken out and exercised in the gaol yard for periods varying up to two hours. No footwear was issued to foreign prisoners, even to those on the tunnelling party, but caps were issued to the hygiene and garden parties.

Rations: Rations for the military section of the gaol were cooked by Japanese prisoners who discriminated between the preparation of their own food and that of the foreign prisoners. Up to 18 May 44 our rations were distributed by 5 P.O.W. orderlies under Lieut. P. Dean 2/4 M.G. Bn., who to the best of my knowledge distributed the rations fairly. The increased freedom enjoyed by Dean permitted him to assist all foreign prisoners especially the sick. Dean's sentence terminated on this date when Japanese mess orderlies took over and a fair distribution of the food was not adhered to by them.

Three meals per day were issued consisting for the first two months of no more than ½ pint of rice and beans, and soup containing root vegetables and occasionally fish. However a gradual increase took place until, by February 1945 except for spasmodic increases, the quantity of rice had fallen to approx ½ pint for two meals and rice water and greens for breakfast. Although there were green vegetables being grown in the gaol garden, between May 1944 and end of October 1944, there was not a trace of fresh leaf vegetable in the meals. This resulted, in my opinion, to the deterioration of health mentioned below. Occasionaly a little extra food was issued to prisoners employed on heavy duties.

In addition to the above rations about 1/3 pint of very weak tea was issued with each meal and at about 2000 hrs daily; sometimes those on manual labour received an extra drink. No other drinking was permitted under any circumstances.

Twice during the period covered in this report half a banana was issued to each prisoner and some coconut was given to those working on the tunnelling. About ½ pint of milk was issued per month for most of the period but increased to once a week from February 1945.

A set time was given for the eating of meals and this varied from 2 minutes to more time than was necessary, depending on the mood of the guard in charge. The food was eaten with chopsticks by all prisoners. Sick personnel were usually given half rations.

Hygiene, Health and Medical Treatment: On our arrival the foreign section of the gaol was badly infected by scabies, which rapidly spread owing to the unhygienic conditions existing and the fact that practically all prisoners were suffering from a vitamin deficiency itch which encouraged the spread of the disease. Some of the prisoners had literally hardly a square inch of their bodies not covered with sores. This state of affairs had existed for practically one year, no action having been taken by the Japanese. However, just prior to our arrival, a new W.O. II from Bangkok commenced preventative measures. He arranged for the boiling of

blankets, the issue of axle grease and other oils to soften the scabs and decrease the itching, a sulphur bath through which all prisoners, Indians, Chinese, Malays and Europeans alike were compelled to file through. The increase in rations at this time, mentioned above, was due to this official. Although practically all the personnel in Wells' party contracted scabies, by June, the disease was almost cleaned up.

The condition of practically all the old prisoners except the natives, was appalling and rapidly the new arrivals xxxxxxxxxx lost weight. The absence of fresh vegetables soon caused vitamin deficiency diseases to become apparent and, from early July 44 to the end of October, the diet comprised solely curried tapioca soup and rice.

The sole clothing issued was a pair of Japanese army shorts and a shirt, covered in patches, after being discarded by the Japanese prisoners. These were changed between once a week and a fortnight depending on the guard. The clothes were washed with practically no soap in cold water and hence, evidence of them having been previously worn by prisoners infected with scabies and other skin complaints was apparent to the new wearer. Although all clothes were supposed to be numbered and issued to one prisoner only, the guards rarely enforced this order.

The total contents of the cells were 2 Japanese blankets, mostly badly worn (again these were unserviceable to the Japanese prisoners), 2 bed boards, a block of wood for a xxxx pillow and a wooden latrine bucket. A small piece of torn cloth was provided for washing, but this was hung up outside the gaol. Although a few of us had toothbrushes, only on two or three occasions during the 13 months, were we permitted to use them. The time permitted for washing was approx 20 seconds but some guards were more lenient.

The medical treatment was very poor for most of the period. Occasionally a medical orderly would condescend to bandage bad sores etc., and at infrequent intervals, about five visits were made by a doctor during the period, when extremely sick cases were sent to hospital at Changi P.O.W. Camp, where the Ps.O.W. were suspended from their sentences during their treatment.

Details of Foreign Prisoners at Outram Road Gaol: During the period of Japanese occupation 57 A.I.F., 47 British, approx 50 Dutch and Dutch Eurasians, 30 odd Americans and a few Indians, Malays etc passed through Outram Road Gaol. These numbers do not include the native and European civilians.

Prior to our arrival 2 A.I.F. prisoners had died at Outram Road Gaol (NX72445 Dvr Allen, E.A. 1 Coy AASC on 10 July 1943 and VX35027 Pte Ross, A., 2/29 Bn) and one British OR at Changi as a direct result of Japanese negligence. The A.I.F. deaths during the period are shown in Appendix "B". All A.I.F. deaths, during Japanese occupation, except Ross were ex Borneo personnel. In addition 1 British Officer and 2 ORs and approx 6 Dutch died either at Outram Road or in hospital at Changi as a result of Outram Road treatment. Without exception every death was due to the refusal of the Japanese either to administer medical aid or to send the deceased to hospital in time.

Two P.O.W. executions were believed carried out from Outram Road; NX37426 Pte Hatfield, 2/30 Bn., on 6 Dec 43 and Capt. Woudenberg, Dutch Army, on 31 Jan 45. This does not include the large number of deaths amongst the untried European and native civilians as a result of Japanese negligence.

According to the Japanese military police Ps.O.W. are subject to Japanese military law and, if arrested and convicted, are sentenced to imprisonment in compliance with Japanese xxxxxxxxx justice. However Ps.O.W. were sentenced in accordance with Japanese military Law, the conditions under which they served their sentences were entirely different to those of Japanese soldiers.

Although attempts were made to obtain the names of both the Japanese Officer i/c and senior N.C.Os, no success was met with; however, during the period covered, the "trusties" known by the following numbers were brutal to the foreigners and in particular the Ps.O.W. Nos. 70, 1, 37, 88, 151 and 437.

The percentage of deaths which resulted from conditions at Outram Road was not extremely high, but the semi-permanent and permanent injuries to the health of ex Outram Road personnel are best left to the description of medical officers. Most of the prisoners suffered from mental ailments brought about by the long inactivity of the brain and the constant watch day and night kept on prisoners by rubber slippered, creeping guards.

sgd. R.J. Wells Lieut,
Signals 8 Aust Div.

I, Frederick Graham Wells, School Teacher, C/- The Melbourne University, in the State of Victoria, formerly VX14024 Lt. R.G. Wells, 8 Div Sigs AIF, make oath and say -

1. That I was taken prisoner of war by the Japanese at Singapore on 15 Feb '42.

2. That I left Singapore on 8 Jul '42 and arrived at Sandakan on 18 Jul '42 and remained at Sandakan until removed as a prisoner of the Japanese Kempei Tai on 25 Oct '43 and arrived at Kuching on 2 Nov '43.

3. That I was accused of espionage and was tried on 29 Feb '44 and sentenced to twelve years penal servitude and solitary confinement on 2 Mar '44.

4. That I left Kuching on 8 Mar '44 and arrived at Singapore on 10 Mar '44 and was transported to Outram Road gaol where I served 13½ months of my sentence. My health failed me and I was released to Changi on medical grounds in March '45 to recuperate to enable me to serve the remainder of the sentence.

5. That produced and shown to me at the time of swearing this my affidavit are two photographs endorsed NB115 and that I recognise this Japanese as Warrant Officer EHARA. EHARA was a member of the Sandakan Kempei Tai and known to myself, and possibly others, as the "Bulldog." He carried out most of the interrogation of Doctor Taylor, the late Capt. Matthews and myself, in addition to some others, prior to the trial. During our stay at the Kempei Tai, Ehara flogged Dr. Taylor until his back and face were black with bruises by the use of a wooden sword and rubber shoes filled with sand. He kicked and beat me severly with a wooden sword on several occasions, and on his orders I was made to sonsume raw rice in a cell under the interrogating house followed by large draughts of water. After some hours of continual agony I became unconcious. He promised internal medicine but it was never received. Through his ambition for promotion EHARA deliberately misinterpreted evidence which caused Capt. Matthews and six other natives to be executed at Kuching on 2 Mar '44. Ehara's floggings and ill treatment was also the Major contribution to the death of Spr E.J. Keating of 2/6 Fd Park RAE. When Spr Keating was arrested in Sandakan he had a huge ulcer on his leg. Dr. Taylor gave medical attention when permitted but the ulcer grew worse. On the voyage to Kuching, Keating contracted dysentry. In Kuching gaol Keating contracted beri beri and his condition became critical. The Japanese gave no medical attention excepting two or three vitamin tablets. Dr. Taylor made frequent applications at Kuching gaol for Keating's admission to hospital, but was refused. Spr Keating died on 11 Feb '44 in the presence of Dr. Taylor. In addition EHARA flogged many natives who were prisoners, breaking the jaw and elbow of one OJUGA SINGH, an Indian policeman, who was executed on 2 Mar '44. Ehara refused to give any attention to OJUGA SINGH whose injuries remained until his death, in spite of every effort by Dr. Taylor for assistance.

6. That produced and shown to me at the time of swearing this my affidavit are two photographs endorsed NB118 and that I recognise this Japanese as a member of the Kempei Tai at Sandakan. I do not know his name nor did

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he have a nickname to the best of my knowledge. He was to the best of my memory a Sgt at the time. On 16 Aug '43 he assisted Warrant Officer EHARA, the Japanese mentioned in paragraph 5 of this my affidavit, to handcuff me to a rail over my head so that my knees barely touched the verandah of the Kempei Tai HQ. They then passed a triangular rail across my ankles and while flogging me, one jumped on the other end, thus stretching my body and cutting the flesh and bruising the bones of my ankles and knees. They apparently thought this amusing and persistently asked me to admit that Major Fleming, who was OC PW Camp Mile 8, had organised with the help of Capt Matthews and myself a revolt, and the names of persons in the camp possessing firearms or otherwise assisting.

7. That produced and shown to me at the time of swearing this my affidavit are two photographs of a Japanese endorsed NB132 and that I recognise this Japanese as a member of the Kempei Tai at Sandakan. He was a Sgt at the time. He did not personally flog me, but one day he took Sig F Martin, Sigs 8 Div, from the room and gave him a severe flogging. Martin's face was so severly mutilated that he found it difficult to move for some time. This Japanese flogged more Chinese and Malays than any member of the Kempai Tai.

8. That produced and shown to me at the time of swearing this my affidavit is a photograph endorsed NB119 and that I recognise this Japanese as a member of the Kempai Tai at Sandakan, but cannot recall his rank. He flogged many Asiatic prisoners with whips, but cannot recall any incidents affecting myself. He was quite as bad in his attitude as the other Japanese and struck prisoners on the slightest provocation.

9. That produced and shown to me at the time of swearing this my affidavit are two photographs of a Japanese endorsed NB204. I recognise this Japanese as a member of a Sandakan Kempei Tai and he was a Warrant Officer at the time. He frequently assisted EHARA, the Japanese mentioned in paragraph 5 of this my affidavit, to torture prisoners, and stopped Capt. Matthews rice ration for three days on one occasion. He flogged many Asiatics and generally carried a whip for this purpose. On one occasion he flogged the late Cpl ARBIN's face (he was a Malay policeman) until it was absolutely unrecognisable in addition to kicking him in the pubic regions so that he could not walk.

10. That produced and shown to me at the time of swearing this my affidavit are two photographs of a Japanese endorsed NB137 and that I recognise this Japanese as the Malay-Japanese interpreter at Sandakan Kempei Tai in 1943. Actually this Japanese had little to do with the AIF members there at the time, but during his interpretation for the Kempai Tai interrogators, frequently saved the Kempai Tai the trouble by beating Malays himself. He told me in Malay that he had worked under a Mr. Brown, apparently an English planter in Malaya, and now would have pleasure in helping to have executed as many of the enemies of Japan as possible.

11. That produced and shown to me at the time of swearing this my affidavit are two photographs of a Japanese endorsed NB18/ I recognise this Japanese as a member of the Sandakan Kempei Tai and he was a fairly junior NCO (Cpl) at the time. This Japanese was responsible for flogging

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Felix Azcona on a number of occasions and collected most of the "evidence" which led to Azcona's execution in Kuching. He carried out a large part of my interrogation, frequently flogging and beating me. On one occasion he tapped me on the head in the one spot with a small hammer until I became unconscious. On another occasion he flogged me with a wooden sword all over the body, leaving permanent scars on me, and causing permanent injury to the semi-circular canals and nerves of my left ear, resulting in total deafness of that ear. On another occasion he flogged Capt. MATTHEWS until his arms were so bruised he could not move them for nearly a week. He took pleasure in taking me from my cell in the early hours of the morning to interrogate and flog me.

12. That produced and shown to me at the time of swearing this my affidavit is a photograph of a Japanese endorsed NB30. I recognise this Japanese as a member of the Kempei Tai at Sandakan during the period July-October 1943. He was a Sgt at the time and was responsible for practically all the interrogation of LAGAN, a Chinese, who was later executed at Kuching on the evidence of this Japanese. Lagan was flogged about the body and face on numerous occasions by him. He also told Lagan that he would be executed on his evidence.

13. That produced and shown to me at the time of swearing this my affidavit are two photographs of a Japanese endorsed NB116. I recognise this Japanese as a Warrant Officer of the Kempei Tai at Sandakan. This Japanese personally flogged Alex Funk and Joo Ming and was responsible for the collection of most of the evidence which led to their execution at Kuching. He brought Funk back to the main room with his face covered with bruises and bleeding in several places. Funk's shoulders were black with bruises and he was unable to sit for some time.

14. That produced and shown to me at the time of swearing this my affidavit are two photographs endorsed 213 and 213A. I recognise this Japanese as the President of the Japanese Court Martial which sat at Kuching on 29 Feb '44 and I witnessed him condemn Capt. L.C. Matthews to death.

15. That produced and shown to me at the time of swearing this my affidavit are two photographs of a Japanese endorsed 390 and 390A. I recognise this Japanese as Capt. Watanabe, a member of the JapaneseCourt Martial which sat on 29 Feb '44. He personally interrogated Capt. Matthews and myself at Kuching and forwarned us of the Court's probable decision. On appealing to him that Capt. Matthews evidence regarding the so-called riot in Sandakan was deliberately misconstrued by Osawa, (another Japanese) he declined to contact Sandakan and said that justice would take its course.

16. That produced and shown to me at the time of swearing this my affidavit are two photographs of a Japanese endorsed 389 and 389A. I recognise this Japanese as one of the prosecuting officers at the Court Martial at Kuching. This officer deliberately ignored requests for defending counsel and deliberately misinterpreted answers by Capt. Matthews and myself, contradicting questions by the Court. He personally asked the President for the respective verdicts. He and the Japanese mentioned in paragraph 5 of this my affidavit were personally responsible for Capt. Matthews execution at Kuching.

Sworn at Melbourne in the State of Victoria this nineteenth day of May 1949

Before me

(Alexander Stanley Haig)
A Commissioner for the taking of declarations and affidavits under the evidence Act 1928.

I, Roderick Graham Wells of 3 Holyrood Av, North Essenden, in the State of Victoria, and ex-Lieutenant Signals 8 Div, do take oath and state -

The appointment of Captain L.C. Matthews to the position of Intelligence Officer on the death of Lieutenant Sligo, R.A.N., was made at MATTHEWS' reques to Lt-Col Walsh to be allowed to do some useful work for the Force and the Allies in general. He argued that his knowledge of the Malay language would assist initial contacts, and the responsibility of any interference from the Japanese should be borne by him alone.

Regardless of the then unknown risks of being caught, he first contacted Malays on the officers' garden party and by sheet determination and organisation arranged weekly communiques to the civilian internees on Berhala Island, and similar contacts resulting in the delivery of medical supplies from Dr Taylor in Sandakan.

Captain Matthews ran grave risks in smuggling notes and news bulletins past the guards at the gate to the above contacts, as well as bringing in some radio parts. The copying of news bulletins in the camp where a search was likely at any moment, and organising the delivery of firearms to a secret rendevous required a courage that few would challenge. After his arrest Captain Matthews showed courage that was both admired and an inspiration to all to remain silent under the most sincere torture, when stretched on an improvised rack and severely beaten, he still denied facts, the admission of which would have probably involved senior officers of the force in the same fate as himself.

Although he fully realized what his ultimate fate would probably be, he steadfastly refused to make admissions under torture, other than to confirm some facts which had been admitted by natives under severe torture. This ability of knowing what to admit made the Japanese believe his efforts to prevent others being involved.

When the transport which conveyed us to KUCHING spent some time in KUDAT HARBOUR, and an opportunity was available to escape (although only a meagre one), MATTHEWS stated that he would not leave the responsibility of our organisation to anyone else, and was determined to see it through.

During the period of 5 months in KUCHING GAOL, he indicated that if the work done by the organisation was of any use to the Allies his life was not in vain. When the death sentence was passed, Matthews had full control of himself; he shook me by the hand, wished me good luck and stated that he was pleased to be going with such loyal friends - the natives who had worked with us. Later Japanese guards stated that he was shot after refusing to be flindfolded.

R.G. WELLS.

SWORN before me this 17th day of January 1946.

????????? J.P.

'B'

Sandakan
Outram Rd Gaol

AUSTRALIAN WAR CRIMES

BOARD OF INQUIRY

Agn 3/7

RODERICK GRAHAM WELLS, sworn and examined:

I am VX 14024 Lieut. Roderick Graham Wells, 8 Div Signals. I became a prisoner of war at Singapore on 15 February 1942. On 8 July 1942 I embarked with Col. Walsh as part of "B" Force. I then moved by ship to Sandakan, arriving at Sandaken on 18 July 1942.

BY LT. COL. STEPHENS: What were conditions like on the voyage?--- Awful. The ship would be one of approximately 1200 tons. There were 1500 prisoners on board in three holds, each hold being about 20 ft. by 22 ft. There was a small ledge in the hold. This would be about 5 ft. around and 2'6" off the ground. Into each of these three holds were placed 500 men.

Was there room to lie down?--- No. Everyone could not lie down at the same time. We were not allowed on deck for exercise.

Who was the medical officer?--- The senior medical officer for the Force was Lt.-Col. Sheppard, originally Commander of 2/10 Fd. Amb. He is a N.S.W. man and I believe he is back. Lt.-Col. Walsh was the Commander on board.

As far as you know what the name of the ship?-- As far as I know, it was the Obe Maru. I am not too sure of that; I merely picked that up in conversation.

Did you have any deaths on board?--- No, but there were a number of severe illnesses. Quite a lot of the men had dysentery. We were sleeping on a very rough type of straw, which, whenever you got down on it, sent up a certain amount of dust into the air. There was no ventilation. The straw was very musty. You could see the fog of haze and dust which rose from the straw by the sunrays which came from above. There was no under-air supply or ventilation of any description. Towards the end, when things became so hot that it was obvious the men would not last, they put in a canvas tube from the deck above, with a wind-catch on it. That allowed a certain amount of air to come down into the hold. During the voyage there was a lot of rain and, although a hatch consisting of an old tarmac was placed over the hold, the rain came in. The tarmac leaked.

BY HIS HONOUR: What was the sanitation like?-- There was almost none. There was a latrine on the deck, consisting of a shoot of galvanised iron over the side. There were a lot of dysentery cases on board and, as you can imagine, a lot of flies. The contamination they transmitted to the food did not help things.

BY LT. COL. STEPHENS: Were you well fed?--- The rations for the trip consisted of limed rice. It is eaten in normal times only by the lowest of Asiatics. As I understand it, the rice is preserved by immersion in slaked

lime. The rice is washed and cooked after washing, but the normal procedure was not followed in this case. That did not worry the Japanese. They merely put salt water into the rice and boiled the lot and as a result it could hardly be eaten. We were hungry all the time, but even so, it was hard to eat this rice.

At Sandaken you went to 8 mile Camp?-- Yes, after one evening. We spent that evening at an R.C. Missionary House. We disembarked about six o'clock in the evening and slept the evening at that R.C. Missionary House. We moved off the next morning. I was at Sandakan Camp until 24 July 1943, just over a year.

Can you tell the Commission the names of the Japanese concerned with the administration of that camp?--- The Administrating officer of the camp was Lieut. later Captain Hosijimi, who, I believe, was killed this year in an Allied air raid. I do not know that for sure. The Commander of prisoners-of-war in the whole Borneo area was Major later Col. Suga. He has since committed suicide at Labuan.

Do you know of any Japanese connected with or attached to that camp?--- Only the interpreter whose name was Osawa.

Approximately how many men were at that camp?--- The Force of which I was a member consisted of about 1,490 men. Before I left the camp strength had increased to about 2,500. That included the 500 English who arrived early in 1943 and 500 A.I.F. known as "B" Force who arrived from Singapore in April. The senior officer in the camp at the time of our arrival was Lt-Col Walsh. Col. Sheppard was his S.M.O. Col. Walsh went in December 1942 and Major Fleming, second in command 4 Anti Tank Regt took over the internal administration of the camp. In private life he is a master at Scotch College, Melbourne. He has survived. Major Fleming left in May 1943 and Capt St.John, a Queenslander, 2/10 Fd Regt, became Senior officer and he was senior officer until about the time I was arrested in July when Capt. Boscola - I think from 4 Reserve M.T. Unit, A.A.S.C. - a former employee of Dunlops in Melbourne took over. I would not be sure how long he remained in command after that. Most of the officers were moved.

During your 12 months there how many deaths occurred?-- About 32 or 33.

What from?--- Malmutrition and dysentery. That includes beri beri, pelagra and things like that.

What was your official position in the camp?--- I was officer-in-charge of wood parties and the engine room, that is, under the enemy administration, but within the camp I was second in command to Capt Matthews, the 'I' officer of the Force. Of course, that was not known to the enemy.

Will youcomment shortly on the conditions in Sandakan Camp over that period under the following headings : first of all, the food?--- There was almost sufficient rice. I should say we received about 15 or 16 ozs. per man per day. The medical officers may be able to give you more information

Apart from rice we got a stew consisting of a native green known as Kang Kong boiled in water.

Did you get any meat?--- Very little from the Japanese. In fact, I do not think we got any at all, but we bought meat through them on two or three occasions with money made from the profits of the canteen we had. That meat was yak. I think we bought three yaks for about 250 dollars each. Each yak had to do 1500 men for three meals.

Was the food sufficient for the work they were doing?--- Not unless they could supplement their ration by black-marketing with the natives on the aerodrome on which they were working. They went down rather rapidly, although they managed to survive.

Were you in a position to compare the rations your men were getting with the rations the Japanese soldiers were getting?--- Yes, as officer-in-charge of the wood party, I used to eat my meals with the guards I was working under. After issuing meals to my own men, I used to eat mine with the guards. They had infinitely more. The rice was of a better quality and they had more of it. The cooking for the Japanese was much better. We had to improvise to cook our own food. We had only one small cook house for 1500 men, with the result that the first rice for the morning meal was cooked about 12 o'clock at night, and the cooks kept turning it out right through the night, with the result that it was not very fresh in the morning. The Japanese got fish, vegetables, and numerous other delicacies which were denied to us.

What was the accommodation like?--- The English built wooden huts for the purpose of putting native prisoners there and the wire enclosed in area made for about 250 natives. The huts which the English erected were of weather boards and they were used for the accommodation of the officers. The Japanese built Attap huts for the accommodation of the other ranks. The officers lived 30 officers to a hut. The huts were divided into three cubicles. Each cubicle would be about 15' x 20' and accommodated 10 officers. The men were put 45 to 50 in a hut. The huts were originally divided into three cubicles, a little smaller than ours, but later on the partitions were removed.

Were the quarters clean or vermin infested?--- Absolutely alive with bugs and a number of lice. You could catch up to 100 a night without any trouble.

Were you given anything by the Japanese to deal with them?--- Nothing at all. We managed to get some oil once or twice, but that was only through our own efforts. As you know, it is rather difficult to get these insects out of a wooden building.

~~xxxxxxxxxx~~ What was the water supply?--- The water supply was put in by the English Administration before the outbreak of war to supply water for about 250 to 300 men. It was being called upon to supply water for 1500 men under Japanese administration. The result was that

the water was very limited and was not drinkable unless it was boiled. Water was rationed always and if it had not been for the maintenance of the equipment indirectly under my control, the supply would have been pretty hopeless.

Did the Japanese supply you with any tools?--- None whatever. The engineers with the Force brought a limited number with them and the natives who were working with some of our men on the maintenance of supply and electrical installations also brought out equipment. I have known instances of natives bringing out their own wrenches and hammers to help our menkeep the water and electrical services in order.

What about clothing?--- No clothing was issued by the Japanese until I left.

Who was the senior medical officer?--- The senior medical officer until Col. Walsh left was Col. Sheppard. After Col. Walsh and Col. Sheppard left in December, Major Rayson, 2/10 Fd Amb was the senior medical officer.

Did the Japanese give you much in the way of medical supplies?--- As far as I know, nothing, but I am not sure. They may have issued a limited quantity of quinine.

Is there any other doctor who was there and who could give evidence about that?--- Capt. Hynes, a Victorian was there at the time.

A civilian?--- The senior medical officer of British North Borneo, Dr. D. P. Taylor. He is a Sydney University man. He was not interned with the remainder of the civilians, but was put on parole in his hospital and through the efforts of our Espionage system was supplied with weekly bulletins. Communication was established and he sent in by the various subterfuges which I arranged on the wood party a small supply of M and B preparations vitamin B1 tablets, iodine and other surgical supplies.

They were brought in surreptitiously by you?--- Yes.

At the request of Col. Sheppard and Major Rayson?-- Not exactly at their request. They asked if we could help them.

If they could have obtained those drugs in any other way, it would not have been necessary to bring them in surreptitiously?-- No. They were desperately needed and that was the only avenue through which we could get them in.

BY HIS HONOUR: Did the Japanese supply any medical stores?--- I do not think so. To the best of my knowledge, they did not.

BY LT. COL. STEPHENS: Did the Japanese do anything about hygiene for you?--- Nothing whatever. Through our own efforts drains were put in, pathways made and holes dug for ablutionrefuse and so on.

What work were your men employed on?-- The object of moving the Force over there was to construct a big aerodrome for the Japanese army.

Were Australian prisoners-of-war employed on building that aerodrome?--- Yes, almost entirely Australian prisoners-of-war. I saw them working on it and I worked on it myself.

Manual labour?--Yes, manual labour, and in the early period looking after men working on the aerodrome.

Did Col. Suza have anything to do with the aerodrome?--He informed us - I heard him - that the object of moving us there was to build this aerodrome. I will give his own words. He said, "You may think it is a military aerodrome, but civilian planes will use it also." There were no civilian planes on it during the 12 months I was there.

Did you see any military planes on it while you were there?--- Not a large number but fighter-bombers were on it. They were twin-engine types. They arrived in ones, twos and threes and moved off again.

Was the work severe on the men?--- Yes. The severity was not equal over the whole 12 months. As different guard commanders took over, they more or less did work by their own methods. For example, there was a period of approximately six weeks when the work on the aerodrome was placed entirely under control of our own officers. We were told that a certain amount of work had to be completed each week and they did not interefere with us.

BY HIS HONOUR: Was the amount exorbitant?--- It was not for that six weeks. It was extremely hard, of course. It was unreasonable. For most of the 12 months, however, the work was severe. The control of the men and the work was under the guards and the officer or N.C.O. looking after the party was merely an avenue of approach between the Japanese and the men.

BY HIS HONOUR: What were the hours?--- The hours were about from 8.30 until 5 o'clock, with about an hour for lunch; and often a small rest of about 10 minutes once in the morning and once in the afternoon. That depended, once again, on the individuals concerned. The harshness was not uniform over the 12 months.

BY LT. COL. STEPHENS: Did the men get paid?--- Yes. The men received 10 cents per day, N.C.O's up to Warrant Officer Class 1, 15 cents, Warrant Officers and officers until April of this year 25 cents per day, when they inaugurated a system of a limited amount of money for each officer, irrespective of whether they worked or not. An officer received nothing more if he did work. That money was supposed to be provided from the Yokohama Specie Bank, through the International Red Cross.

Did they take any of your personal property?---All writing materials, lead pencils, fountain pens, paper and a large number of books, although not all of them. Any writing material whatsoever was taken away in September or October 1942.

What about writing reports?--- They allowed four or five registered lead pencils, which has to be handed in every evening, and they were used for allotment of personnel for work parties and other administrative details.

What about watches; did you lose yours?--- Yes, but I received some money for it. A number of watches were removed from the men, but not a very large number. Captain Hoshijimi, the camp commander, issued an order that no trading between his men and ours was to take place. He tried to enforce that.

You really sold yours under duress?--- Yes.

To a guard?--- Yes.

With regard to recreation, was there any issue of sporting equipment by the Japanese?--- None.

Did you have any time for recreation?--- No.

BY HIS HONOUR: By the way, who was the guard to whom you sold your watch?--- I do not know. They were only there about three weeks. They kept moving them around. Each platoon looking after works would be there two or three weeks, and sometimes only a week. It was particularly hard to get names from any of them.

BY LT. COL. STEPHENS: Were there any playing grounds?--- None, but a ground was to be made, obviously for the Japanese troops, but they informed us we may be able to use it. I do not know anything about that; It was after I was arrested.

Did you have any concerts?--- A limited number. Each evening we wished to have one we had to apply for permission, and that was granted very rarely. I suppose in the early days we had about one a week for a little while. Then, maybe one a month or so; it would not be that many.

Was there any canteens established in the camp?--- Yes, a canteen was established a month or so, between one and two months, after we arrived. It was due to our own efforts.

Was any stock available for that canteen?--- Yes; a limited supply of tapioca root, sweet potato, bananas and paw-paws;

BY HIS HONOUR: Was your money any good?-- It was during the first twelve months we were there. After that, with inflation increasing, the money was almost useless. During the twelve months I was there the wages earned were spent wholly on the purchase of additional foodstuffs and tobacco, which was available in limited amounts; it was a native variety - not very nice, but better than nothing.

BY LT. COL. STEPHENS: Were the sick allowed the same rations as fit people?-- Not by the enemy, but when possible any additional rations issued for the men who worked were equally divided within the area, but in order to prevent that from happening, Hoshijimi ordered that those men who were working on the aerodrome were to cook and eat their mid-day meal, and later on the mid-day and evening meals, at the aerodrome before they proceeded home in order that the extra rations issued should be consumed by them and not given to the hospital patients who were on, I should say, little over half the normal worker's ration.

Do you mean that was a deliberate attempt by Hoshijimi to prevent the sick people from sharing in those rations?-- Yes; in other words, to starve the men out to work. That was the attitude.

Did you write any letters while there?--- I wrote one card in December or January 1943, which never reached my wife.

Did you receive any letters at all?--- None at all.

Did you have to salute all Japanese?--- We had to salute all ranks.

What about orders to your men?--- While with the guards on work parties, orders to the men were in Japanese - eyes right, etc., to all guards, sentries, officers and so on. All orders on parade, including numbering etc., and the reporting of numbers to the guard concerned were in Japanese.

At that stage I suppose men had their own clothing?-- A large number had almost nothing, and others had quite a bit. I had two shirts and two pairs of shorts, extremely badly worn but nevertheless wearable.

Did the men working on the aerodrome have boots?--- No. In the beginning they all had them, but after the first wet season, in November 1942, the excessive water and mud, which was more or less a quagmire all the way out, absolutely rotted the boots off the men, and no replacements were issued. A small amount of Yak hide, I believe, was issued to the Nips to hold in re-soling footwear being used by the men. A large number were working in wooden clogs with leather straps over them. They were made by themselves.

Were any working bare footed?--- Yes, quite a large number; in fact, towards the end of my stay I should say 25% or 30% of the men were bare footed.

What was the method of enforcement of discipline by Japanese against prisoners of war?-- Corporal punishment for individual offences, but for anything which involved everyone, a decrease in rations, closing of the canteen, and other reprisals at the will of the commander.

What did the corporal punishment consist of?--- Face slapping, kicking with boots and hitting with sticks. Almost every guard on the aerodrome carried a wooden stick about 4 ft. 6 ins long and about one to 1½ inches in diameter which was used only for that reason.

Was that beating frequent?--- Yes.

A daily occurrence?--- Yes; quite.

Did you suffer any of it yourself?--- Yes.

BY HIS HONOUR: What were you beaten for?--- Once on the wood party for allowing some of my men to walk about 10 or 20 yards away from the place of work in order to sit under a tree and have a rest.

Were you severely beaten?--- No;; not at that particular time.

Did you see any severe beatings?--- Yes.

Of whom and by whom?--- I gave an outline yesterday of probably the severest beating of the lot meted out to a man by the name of Darlington.

BY LT. COL. STEPHENS: Did you see the beating yourself?-- No, but I saw the man afterwards and observed the results.

What were his particulars?-- NX.49325 Private Darlington,J. of the 2/18 Battalion.

When did that beating take place?-- On the 19th February 1943

What was Darlington's condition when you saw him?-- He had both his arms broken, as far as I know, he was unconscious and bleeding from the head, face, arms and legs. Naturally, he was unable to walk.

Was he put into the cage?--- Yes. I saw him in the cage. He was tied up in the cage when I saw him.

BY HIS HONOUR: What was this cage?--- A wooden cage about 5 ft. by 4 ft. built up about 2 ft. 6 inches from the ground with wooden rails around it and a small atap roof.

BY LT. COL. STEPHENS: What was the Japanese name of the cage? --- Esau.

Were you ever in that cage yourself?-- No.

Do you know any officer who was?-- Yes. Lt. Alexander Gordon Weynton.

BY HIS HONOUR: Was Darlington put in the cage while unconscious?--- Yes.

BY LT. COL. STEPHENS: Did Darlington survive?--- Yes.

BY HIS HONOUR: Is he back?--- He should be, Your Honour.

BY LT. COL. STEPHENS: How long were men kept in the cage as a rule?--- Up to a week or more; a week that I know of.

BY HIS HONOUR: How long was Darlington in the cage?--- Only about 24 hours. At the end of that time he was arrested by the military police and we never saw him again until I was arrested by them later on.

BY LT. COL. STEPHENS: Was that cage used often?--- I would say it was used frequently. During the 12 months it was used about 12 or 14 times I suppose; I would not be quite sure of that number.

How many men were in it at once?--- At one period there were four or five; at least four.

Who was responsible for that cage?--- Capt. Hoshijimi was directly responsible. It was built under his orders and he frequently saw men in it.

BY HIS HONOUR: Was it built while you were there?--- Yes.

Did you Captain Hoshijimi supervising it?--- Not directly, but it was under his orders.

You have seen him in the vicinity of the cage?--- Yes, frequently.

He knew it was there?--- Yes.

BY LT. COL. STEPHENS: He himself saw men in it?--- Yes. It was he who ordered Weynton to be placed in this particular cage; in fact he issued most of the orders for men to be placed in it. - he directly issued the orders.

Do you know of any other cases of severe beating; did you see that of Sergeant Major Asgood?--- He was with me on the wood party and was struck across the ear with the result that his right ear drum was broken.

What other kind of punishment did they impose; standing to attention?--- Yes, for offences on individuals men were frequently stood in front of the guard room for periods of up to 24 hours, strictly to attention.

BY HIS HONOUR: You have seen them standing to attention for 24 hours?--- Yes, Your Honour.

In the sun?--- Yes, your Honour.

That is a long period, is it not?--- It is.

BY LT. COL. STEPHENS: Have you seen them standing there at night?--- Yes. I was operating a wireless set for the purpose of getting news to our own men, and I frequently walked back in the early hours of the morning to my own room, and on a number of occasions at one or two o'clock in the morning I had seen men standing up there.

Were there guards standing over them watching them?--- Not directly. They were stood up in front of the guard room in which the guards off duty rested, which meant they were under their direct observation all the time.

Were complaints about the cage and other matters made to Japanese officers?-- Yes.

Did you make any yourself?-- Yes.

To whom?--- I made direct complaints to Hoshijimi frequently on the work required of the men, and the low rations they were receiving, the question of footwear, and the issue of clothing.

Did you discuss with Hoshijimi the Conventions and the rules of war?--- Yes. I discussed with him the International Convention and its application to us.

What was his reply?--- That he was not interested in international law, that we were members of the Imperial Japanese Army and would be treated and punished in accordance with Japanese military laws.

Did he speak English?--- Yes. The language was not exactly the same as I have given, but that was the purport of it.

Who else made complaints to him; did Major Fleming?-- Colonel Walsh and Colonel Sheppard, S.M.O., made frequent complaints. I have forgotten something, Your Honour - a flogging of a Lieutenant Day of the 2/26 Battalion, of Queensland. I do not know his number. He was assisting me in the administration of the wood party in October 1942. He was ordered to work, although he and I were supposed to be looking after the men on the work party. I asked him to refuse. I also refused, and he, being the closer to the guard, was severely hit with a stick of wood. Colonel Walsh complained direct to Hoshijimi about that.

BY HIS HONOUR: Was he injured?--- Not greatly; it was more skin injury than anything.

Who hit him?--- A guard on the wood party whose name I do not know.

BY LT. COL. STEPHENS: Were complaints made to Colonel Suga?--- Yes. Colonel Suga visited Sandakan about three or four times during the 12 months I was there and on every occasion complaints were made to him about rations, living conditions, compliance with international law, and the question of officers working, to which he always replied, "It is my order".

By whom were those complaints made?--- Major Fleming and Captain C. Cook, a Voyage Officer, who has since died.

Tell His Honour what you know about the deaths of Signalmen McKenzie and Harvey. On the 8th May 1943 Sergeant W. Wallace escaped with Signalmen McKenzie and Harvey, of Signals 8 Aust Div. McKenzie and Harvey were seen by a tree on about the 11th May 1943 by Japanese guards and were shot on sight.

That was reported to you?--- It was reported to me as an Intelligence officer by Lt. Pascoe Pearce, who died in July of this year. His unit is the 4th Anti-tank Regiment R.A.A..

BY HIS HONOUR: Were they killed?--- Harvey was shot outright on the first shot, but it took about three or four shots to kill McKenzie.

Who killed them; ~~xx~~ you do not know?--- No. I do not know his name. It was under Hoshijimi's order.

Were you there when they were buried?--- No. They were buried at the Eight Mile cemetery about a quarter of a mile from our camp.

BY LT. COL. STEPHENS: Did anybody see them to identify them when they were dead?--- Lt ~~Xxxxx~~ Pascoe Pearce identified them when they were dead, but the Japanese would not allow us to open the coffins to ensure they were the men concerned.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 12)

Was any official notification about their fate given to anybody by the Japanese authorities?--- Major Fleming was informed that they were executed.

Sgt. Wallace got home to Australia?--- Yes, eventually, but he would not know anything.

Were men sentenced to imprisonment for escaping?--- Yes.

BY HIS HONOUR? Wallace did not come back as a P.O.W.?--- No, he got back to ~~mxx~~ Australia through our Espionage organization.

BY LT. COL. STEPHENS: Is it correct that 13 men escaped and were arrested after their escape?--- That is correct. They were sentenced to various terms of imprisonment, up to six years.

Have you the names?--- Yes. They were -

QX 15173 L/Cpl. Trackson, H.R., No. 2 Coy, A.A.S.C.
QX 10900, Pte. Carr, M.J., No. 2 Coy., A.A.S.C.
NX 72445, Dvr. Allen, E.A., No. 1 Coy., A.A.S.C.
SX 13760, Dvr. Jacka, M.E., No. 1 Coy., A.A.S.C.
NX 71902, Dvr. Shelley, M.A., No. 1 Coy., A.A.S.C.
VX 23670, Dvr. Hattington, T.I., No. 1 Coy., A.A.S.C.

Allen, Shelley and Harrington are deceased.

VX. 48685, Cpl. Fairey, W.F., 2/29 Inf Bn.
QX 23995, L/Cpl. New, F.T., 2/29 Inf Bn.
VX, 39255, Pte. McWilliam, B.J.C., 2/29 Inf. Bn.
VX. 56725, Pte. Minty, A.R., 2/29 Inf. Bn.
VX.59433, Pte. Morris, N.S., 2/29 Inf Bn.

Fairey is deceased.

QX.15766, Pte. Brown, M.P., 2/30 Inf. Bn.
VX.60083, Pte. Young, W., 2/30 Inf. Bn.

You saw all those men afterwards at Outram Road Gaol serving their sentences?--- Yes, except Harrington.

Were they all tried on Borneo?--- At Kuching.

Who was the general officer there?--- Lt.-Gen. Baba, but I do not think he tried these escapees. Their offences were only minor offences.

General Baba tried you?--- Yes.

These others were tried under General Baba's direction?--- Yes.

Were there 8 other cases of prisoners sentenced to imprisonment up to 4 years for planning to escape?-- Yes. One of those was Sgt. Blain, A.M., 2/12 Fd. Coy., NX.56669. He is Federal Member for the Northern Territory. NX.37426 Pte. Hapfield, E.E., 2/30 Inf. Bn., was arrested on 14.5.43 on Singapore Island in possession of arms and was finally executed at Outram Road Gaol.

BY HIS HONOUR: That is only hearsay, as far as you are concerned?--- Yes.

BY LT. COL. STEPHENS: Will you tell the Commission the story of your arrest, together with Matthews, and your trial?--- Matthews was arrested on 22 July 1943, I was arrested on 24 July 1943, and Lieut. Weynton was arrested on 29 July 1943. I was taken to Sandakan Military Police Headquarters, where I was interrogated.

In what way?--- Matthews was confined with me in a cell under the house of the police station for about 24 hours, when he was removed to a room in the house in which prisoners were under observation for 24 hours a day with a light over them all night.

Were you in that room?--- Later on, after spending 3 weeks in solitary confinement in the cell underneath where one was also under continual observation to ensure that no communication, writing or anything of that nature took place. The rations for the three months we were there, I should say, consisted of about 5 ozs of rice per day, issued in two meals. Each meal consisted of about half a cup ornthree quarters of a small cup of rice and a small piece of rock salt, such as is used for animals in Australia, or a dried fish head. It would be a small fish head. The volume of either the rock salt or the fish head would not exceed half a cubic inch. Washing was permitted only at the discretion of the guard. Meals were eaten with the hands. No toilet paper was issued. No clothing or bedding was issued, other than a pair of white shorts which I wore for the three weeks Iwas there. No footwear was permitted.

You were for the first period in solitary confinement?--- For the first three weeks.

Were you interrogated during those three weeks?--- Yes, frequently. The methods of extracting or attempting to extract information were corporal punishment and torture which consisted of flogging with a whip.

Were you flogged with a whip?--- Yes, and struck with a wooden sword. I was beaten up twice or three times with a wooden sword. An improvised rack machine was also used. I was handcuffed and roped to a rafter, while the legs were stretched out on the end of another rafter, with a piece of rafter about 4" square and about 6' long placed across the heels. While the other length of wood between the knees was stretched, one interrogating officer stood on either end of the rafter over the knees and exerted continuous pressure and a see-saw movement.

You suffered that yourself?--- The effect was to stretch your arms or legs and almost break the ankle bones, by making you kneel with the fore part of your foot on the ground, with the rafter across the ankles on each edge. If pulled all the flesh away from the ankle.

BY HIS HONOUR: Was it painful?--- Yes, very painful. I survived it for only two minutes and then I went unconscious. I was awakened about a quarter of an hour later, by having a glass of water thrown over my head, when the interrogation was resumed.

And the torture?--- Yes, but not that method. It consisted of being struck with a wooden stick, and a small hammer which was frequently used, as they explained, to revive one's memory. They would hit on the one place on the head continually with the small hammer.

Was that severe?--- Yes.

Was it painful?--- Very paimful.

BY LT. COL. STEPHENS: Did you suffer any permanent injury from that beating?--- Yes, I have permanently lost the hearing in one ear through having the middle ear broken as a result of being hit with the rafter of wood across the head.

BY HIS HONOUR: Who administered that punishment?--- The Kempei N.C.Os.

Would you recognise those men again?--- Yes. I have an extremely vivid recollection of their faced, having lived with them for so long. I would recognise any man whose name I could not supply, in addition to those in addition to those I can supply.

Are those men in custody?--- I do not know. I applied, after giving all the information I knew, at Labuan was permission to proceed with the allied S.D.R. personnel and medical officer for the purpose of identifying Japanese, but the medical officer said I had to go home. I also applied to the Commander of the Australian Division at Labuan.

BY LT. COL. STEPHENS: Did you suffer the rice torture?- Yes. On 16 August 1945 I was made to consume a quantity of raw rice. They then administered a hose into my throat and filled the cavity with water. The result of that was that after about four hours the rice, as it absorbed the water, swelled and stretched the stomach muscles to an extraordinary degree.

BY HIS HONOUR: Did you feel sick?--- This is incidental : I had not had a motion for 26 days after I had been arrested, mainly because of nervous re-action, the light rations and the floggings. After the administration of this rice I tried for about three hours to bring it up again. After that time I was successful in bringing up quite a bit of the soaked raw rice, the remainder of which went through the other way and pulled quite a large amount of my bowel out through the anus. I had to work that in with my own hands. I asked for medical attention, but was ignored. After about a week I managed to work it all back. ~~xxxxxxxx~~ It has not had any effect on me since.

BY LT. COL. STEPHENS: You were there for about three months?--- Yes, until 25 October 1943. On that date I was transhipped with Matthews and a number of others, including Dr. Taylor, to Kuching. We arrived there on 2 November 1943 and were admitted to the Kuching gaol.

While you were at Sandakan Police Headquarters, were any women there?--- Yes, a Mrs. Mavor and a Mrs. Taylor,

the wives of Mavor, the Chief Electrical Engineer for British North Borneo, and Dr. Taylor respectively. Their wives were arrested with them, but they were sent to Kuching about a month later and were reprieved and sent out to the internment camp there.

Were they imprisoned in the room with you?--- They were imprisoned in the room next to the room in which I was, but during the period of my stay there they were not compelled to sit up with crossed legs from early morning until nearly midnight, as we were.

BY HIS HONOUR: You were compelled to sit that way?--- Yes. All prisorers in the hands of the military police, while they were not being interrogated, were compelled to sit up with crossed legs from 7.30 in the morning until 10.30 at night.

BY LT. COL. STEPHENS: Did you suffer that yourself?--- Yes.

For how long?--- Three months there, five months at Kuching and about 14½ months at Outram Road.

At Outram Road you had to sit up in that manner?--- Yes, when we were not working, and then at night when we had completed work and had come home we had to sit up like that until 10 o'clock.

Where you allowed to lie down when you went to sleep?--- Yes, provided that you slept in a certain way, and all the way through there was a light over you at night to ensure that you did not ~~talk~~ talk to anyone, converse or make signs or whisper to anyone.

Were you burnt with cigarettes?--- Yes, on the elbows. That was during the interrogation at Sandakan in August, September and October 1943.

You were then transferred to Kuching. What were the conditions like on that journey?--- We were handcuffed for almost all the time, and, if we were not, we were roped to the deck. It was a small S.S. coastal ship used by the British around Malaya. The rations were about the same as at the Military Police Station. We were exposed to the water, waves and so forth coming over the railings. We were tied on deck for the whole journey. The journey lasted from 25 October until 2 November. We had no cover during that journey day or night.

BY HIS HONOUR: Were you sun burnt?--- I was extremely brown when I was arrested and the sun did not worry me.

You were too tough for sun burn?--- Yes.

BY LT. COL. STEPHENS: Were you interrogated at Kuching?--- Yes at spasmodic intervals during the five months awaiting trial. No torture was indulged in by the Kempei during that interrogation. We were being questioned on the statements which had already been written out by the Military police at Sandakan. Punishments, however, were inflicted for the least irregularities by the S.S. troops who were guarding us.

After five months you were tried?--- Yes. We were tried on 29 February 1944.

Who was the President of that Court Martial?--- Lieut.-Gen. Baba. I do not know the names of the other members of the court, but I could recognise them. They were a Major, an interrogating officer, a Major and a Captain, prosecuting officers, a W.O.II, Court Clerk and an English-Japanese interpreter.

How many Japanese officers were members of the Court?--- Only the one, Lt.-Gen. Baba.

BY HIS HONOUR: Were you given a defending officer?--- No.

Were you given a statement of the charge?--- No.

Have you ever been informed of the charge?--- No. We were merely questioned on the statements made and informed that a sentence would be passed on us after the court had considered the evidence. Within half an hour everyone, with the exception of Matthews, myself, and three other ranks, everyone was sentenced. Matthews and I were left in suspense for 48 hours and informed during that 48 hours by the Kempei that we were awaiting death sentence. On the morning of 2 March 1944, Matthews, myself and three O.Rs. were marched into the court and the sentences were passed.

BY HIS HONOUR: Did you admit guilt?--- No. We had to admit a few minor things, because of the evidence given by the natives, but the statement written by the Military police was in most instances a deliberate misinterpreation of facts.

You could not say it was deliberate~~xxxx~~. It was a mis-statement of the facts?--- Yes.

BY LT. COL. STEPHENS: Those statements were taken down by the police in Sandakan?--- ~~Xxx~~ Yes.

They were written statements?--- Yes, written in the first person.

Written in Japanese characters?--- Yes.

Did you sign them?--- We had to.

Did you know what was in them when you signed them?--- From the questioning which had gone on, we realised the gist of them, but they were not actually read over to us.

Were they translated to you before you signed them?-- No.

BY HIS HONOUR: You do not know what the charge was?-- No.

You do not know whether you were guilty or not?-- No.

BY LT. COL. STEPHENS: Those statements which were taken down at Sandakan and written out in Japanese characters

were subsequently produced to the Court, Lt.-Gen. Baba?--- Yes.

Were you asked questions about them?--- Yes. I will give you an instance of what happened. Having the small knowledge of the language, I could understand some of the things that were being said. I was asked the question in English by the interpreter. I said, "No, that is not so." I heard him reply to the Court President in Japanese, "Yes, that is so".

BY HIS HONOUR: Did you understand Japanese?--- Just a little which I had picked up during the 18 months. I learnt quite a lot more afterwards, because it was in one's own interest to do so. All rules and regulations under the Military police were in Japanese.

Was Matthews tried with you?--- Yes.

Were you there throughout his trial?--- Yes.

Did he know what he was charged with?--- No.

Did he ask for the charge?--- Yes.

Did he ask for defending counsel?--- Yes.

Was he refused both?--- Yes.

He was sentenced to death?--- Yes.

You heard the sentence?--- Yes.

Who pronounced it?--- Lt.Gen. Baba.

BY LT. COL. STEPHENS: Who was the interpreter?--- I do not know his name but I could recognise him again.

BY HIS HONOUR: Did he misrepresent anything Matthew said?--- I do not know. I did not have a sufficiently wide knowledge of the language at that time. If he did not misinterpret what I said, it was obvious that they ignored any denials of facts that we made. They just glossed over them and went to the next question. Our denials were not taken into consideration. We were merely tried on the evidence which had been written out by the Military police, irrespective of whether you denied the lot or not.

I want you to be particularly careful about what youaare saying, because what you are telling us may lead to the execution of Lt.-Gen. Baba. Are you fully aware of that?-- I am. If I am not sure of anything, I will mention it.

BY LT. COL. STEPHENS: When those statements were taken down and writtenin Japanese characters, was a Japanese interpreter present before you signed them?-- Yes.

Who was he?--- Osawa and Muiri. Muiri was the interpreter attached to the Military Police Headquarters at Sandakan and Osawa was brought in to assist him, Osawa being the interpreter at 8 Mile Camp.

BY LT. COL. STEPHENS: Do you know what did go down in those statements?--- I can only presume that the statements made and information given by others, also denials of admissions made by us, were written in the statements.

Do you know if your story was properly interpreted by Osawa and Murai?--- By Murai, but not by Osawa.

Do you think it was not properly interpreted by Osawa?--- I was quite sure because of the fact that Osawa asked many questions of his own accord which were not asked by the military police Warrant Officer conducting the interrogation.

That makes you think Osawa did not tell them what you were saying?--- Yes. I would like to make another direct accusation against Osawa, if I may. Osawa informed Matthews that he had organised the 1,500 men to riot against the Japanese in the near future. Matthews denied this. Osawa then asked him who the commanding officer and senior administrative officers of the force were when we arrived. He answered that question because nominal rolls of the battalions, with the officers commanding each, were submitted to the enemy when we arrived.

Osawa then asked Matthews to write out for him the organisation of the force into the battalions and commanders, etc., on its arrival. Matthews had no option but to do that because that information had already been handed over to them. Matthews informed him that they already had it, but he informed Matthews that he required it from him. Matthews accordingly wrote out the names of the commanding officer and the officers commanding the sub-units.

When we arrived at Kuching, or at least during the questioning there, Matthews was confronted with a statement written by him to say that "The following was my organisation of the camp im accordance with this plan to riot against the Japanese." In other words he used the administrative lay-out of the force as it was when we arrived to make a story against Matthews. To the best of my beliefmit was on this information that Matthews was eventually executed.

Is the position this, that there was a statement produced to the Court signed by Matthews to the effect that Matthews proposed to organise a riot against the Japanese, and setting out lists of names of officers whom he proposed to use?--- Yes.

In fact, Matthews made no such statement?--- Correct.

In fact. Matthews had told the interpreter that was not so?--- That is correct.

Do you charge the interpreter with deliberately inventing a story?--- Yes.

Did Matthews deny that at the trial?--- Yes.

His signature was there on the document?--- It was his hand or thumb print; he did not actually sign it.

Were you there when that took place between Matthews and the interpreter, or did Matthews tell you about it afterwards?--- No; I was there for the end of it. I saw Matthews writing down the names of the officers concerned, and Matthews signalled to me by Morse while we were being interrogated, or after we had been, that he was confronted with this and denied it. I then heard in the Court the accusation made against him that he had organised this riot, which he denied again in my presence.

Do you know of your own knowledge whether he did or did not organise or have any intention of organising such a riot?--- He had the intention of organising a riot, but not exactly along those lines, but there was absolutely no evidence of it ever brought out.

BY HIS HONOUR: Who would have told the Japanese he had the intention; you knew he had it?--- No one did. They merely made it up, I presume, as they did on numerous other occasions. Almost everyone arrested was confronted with the accusation of having organised a riot or done something against them.

BY LT. COL. STEPHENS: Matthews was sentenced to death; do you know if that sentence was carried out, and if so how and when?--- To the best of my belief it was carried out at approximately 1100 hours on the 2nd March 1944.

BY HIS HONOUR: How long after the conviction?--- About an hour after the sentence was pronounced, Your Honour.

By Baba?--- Yes.

BY LT. COL. STEPHENS: When did you last see Captain Matthews?--- About 10 minutes before he was executed. I was with him right through the trial up to that time.

BY HIS HONOUR: What was the form of the execution?--- As far as I know, he was shot, Your Honour. As I left the Court a firing squad of about eight was waiting for him.

Did you hear any shooting?--- Yes, in the distance on my way down to the gaol.

Was it a single volley?--- It was very difficult to say. I was either one or two miles away.

It was in the direction of the Court?--- In the direction of an R.C. Cathedral about 100 yards from the Court. I believe he was executed behind the Cathedral.

That is where you heard the shots coming from?--- Yes.

Would there be any occasion for any other shooting there?-- Yes. Eight natives were executed also on that morning in connection with the organisation and the trials, three of whom were Eurasians.

Did you see that or hear about it?--- They were sentenced before we were sentenced, and they informed us they were sentenced to be shot and, on information from the Japanese only, they were executed by the sword about a quarter or half an hour before Matthews was executed.

You were sentenced to death, were you?--- No, I was sentenced to 12 years penal servitude with hard labour.

BY LT. COL. STEPHENS: How much longer did you spend at Kuching before you went to Outram Road gaol, Singapore?--- We left on the evening of the 8th March, which would be six days after we were tried.

When did you arrive at Outram Road?--- On the morning of the 11th March 1944.

You remained at Outran Road then until the 3rd April 1944 when you were removed to Changi Hospital?--- Yes.

You were at Changi hospital at the time of the Japanese capitulation?--- Yes.

Who was the commandant of the Outram Road gaol?--- I do not know his name. He was an elderly Captain and he was there for the whole of the Japanese occupation of Malaya, with the exception of an absence of about six months while I was there. I could recognise him. I know him as well as I know anyone else, but I do not know his name.

Do you know what staff he had under him?--- Only by numbers. We had a number of Japanese trustee prisoners over us and they had numbers and were known as numbers, I have their numbers here if you are interested.

Yes. Can you say the numbers of Japanese guards whom you knew at Outram Road and whom you regard as having committed brutalities against the prisoners?---cYes; Nos. 70, 1, 37, 88, 151 and 437.

BY HIS HONOUR: No. 52 is not on your list?--- I knew No. 52 but he did not actually punish me. He did actually punish others.

Did you see him punish others?--- Yes, but he did not punish me.

Who did you see him punish?--- One man in particular, an Englishman who has died since, Bradley.

You witnessed the maltreatment of Bradley?--- Yes.

What did he do to Bradley?--- He struck him, kicked him in the head and in the private organs, and just continually kicked him.

He kicked him in the testicles?--- Yes.

With what result?--- That Bradley was unconscious for half an hour, or quarter of an hour, I suppose.

Was Bradley sick at the time?--- Yes, extremely sick. His testicles were about 6" in diameter due to excessive water caused by beri-beri.

He was kicked in the testicles in that condition?--- Yes. He died on the 31st July this year.

How long after the kicking?--- About four months.

Did you see Fairy in gaol?--- Yes. He was only there for about three days and I only saw him once during that time.

Did you see anything happen to him?--- No. except that he was extremely ill when I saw him, suffering from scabies, beri-beri, malnutrition generally, and the usual grime of filth everyone had over them.

BY LT. COL. STEPHENS: Did any of those guards you previously mentioned by numberm other than 52, ill-treat you?--- Yes, they all did.

Those you have mentioned are those who personally ill-treated you?--- Yes.

What do you mean by ill-treatment?--- Face slapping was the worst, and being deprived of rations was about the most serious.

BY HIS HONOUR: You had better tell us what each did to you or what you saw each do to others?--- My memory is not the very best, but I will try. Instances like those went on all day and every day.

These men, if there, will be dealt with and we want to know what each did if we can discover it?--- No. 70 was looking after eight men who were charged every day for the purpose of weeding and planting vegetables in a small garden we had there. He frequently kicked and struck and made prisoners stand up in the blazing sun for up to an hour or an hour and a half for eating or trying to eat green leaves off the plants, and things like that, whilst we were working there. For not understanding his orders, given in Japanese, he also frequently hit people.

What was the condition of those eight men?--- The eight men were charged every morning.

Were they all sick?--- Yes, everyone was very sick from malnutrition.

The consequences of it?--- Yes, Some were worse than others, but everyone was extremely weak. Even to walk was an absolute effort, let alone work, owing to the light rations and continual sitting up, and the exercise. We had all the exercise we needed; in fact, much more than we needed.

What was the food in the gaol?--- The food varied from time to time, but was infinitely worse than any rations given to ordinary prisoners of war. I would not like to state in particular, because I was not able to weigh, but I would say we were getting about five or six ounces of rice at the very most per day.

Anything else?--- For seven months we had nothing but tapioca flour soup, which is made by dissolving tapioca flour in water and boiling it up with some pepper in it for flavouring.

What was the hygiene like?--- The ablution buckets were emptied every morning usually; sometimes every 48 hours. The sole bedding issued consisted of a wooden

block to rest your head on, two boards about 6" by 1" and about 6" long to lie on, and two very thin, worn-out blankets; frequently they had many holes in them.

Were there any vermin?--- Yes, bugs were plentiful. Scabies were extremely bad prior to my arrival for about 12 months, and for about five or six months after my arrival, when a Japanese Warrant Officer did make efforts to clean them up, and he did a reasonably good job of work.

Who was he? --- I do not know. He was a Japanese Warrant Officer of the Kemsho, who came down from Thailand in March 1944. It was extremely difficult to get the names of any of these men. They would not tell you their names, even if you were allowed to ask them.

What about medical supplies and medical attention?---There was practically none, Your Honour. Occasionally a medical orderly would come around and, if he felt so inclined, he would look at foreign prisoners, as they names us, and if any were extremely sick, unable to walk and would obviously die, they were usually sent to hospital, to our own prisoner of war hospital, where their sentence was suspended until they could walk again, and they would be brought back to finish their sentence.

Have you told us all you can recollect about the misconduct of the different trustee prisoners?--- If it means that you can only try them direcly with the small amount of evidence, I would probably like to say more. I have only mentioned those numbers that committed atrocities against everyone, making men over-work and so on.

What was the work?---Very monotonous work. For nine months we were picking hemp, a conglomeration of waste hemp from workshops; we were made to pick out threads in order that they could be made into rough rope. We had to sit cross-legged in an atap roofed shed, with no walls and a leaking roof, from morning until evening. The times actually varied - anything from 9 o'clock or half-past to about 4.30 or 5 in the afternoon. We had to work in absolute silence and were forbidden to look anywhere other than directly to the front, and we were being continually watched by a guard while working. If insufficient work was completed at the end of the afternoon we lost approximately half our evening meal. The work required to be done depended on the individual guard who happened to be on duty. Eventually we got to recognise them, and recognised the worst of them, and if they were on for the last period of the afternoon we knew things would not be too good.

Did you fill in a questionaire?--- Yes, Your Honour, at Labuan.

Has that come to hand?

BY LT. COL. STEPHENS: It is here, Your Honour.

BY HIS HONOUR: Have you covered everything you mentioned in the questionaire? You have not told us anything about Keating, have you?--- No, Your Honour.

What do you know about him?--- Keating died at Kuching Gaol after approximately nine months of severe illness which the Japanese made practically no efforts to rectify, and Dr. Taylor, principal medical officer in British North Borneo, who was with him up to the time of his death, states that his death was due entirely to negligence and beatings imposed upon him by the Japanese.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 24)

Do you know anything of the execution of Hatfield?---
No, I was not there when it took place.

BY HIS HONOUR: Dr. Taylor could tell us more about Keating, I suppose? Is he alive?--- Hes, he is at Labuan with his wife. He made a statement there.

Dr. Taylor was with him all the time?--- Yes.

LT. COL. STEPHENS: Lieut. Wells has a list of Australian Prisoners-of-War in Outram Road.

BY HIS HONOUR: How many came out alive?---Most of them, as far as Australians and English are concerned but during the last 14 months there were 1250 deaths out of about 3,000. They were mainly Eurasians and natives.

Were they treated worse than you were?--- The natives did not seem to be able to stand up to the regimented method of life there.

They were not determined to live?--- No.

Can you tell us the names of people who can give evidence about Matthew's death? Were you and Matthews the only two tried?--- No. There was a Sgt. Stevens and two others.

Were they also tried before Lt-Gen Baba?--- The five of us were tried in the group, but their story will be precisely the same as mine. They are all alive, and I believe, in Australia. None of them is from Victoria. One is from Western Australia and two are from N.S.W.

They were in the dock with you and Matthews?--- Yes, but they did not speak with him for as long as I did at the end.

They heard what went on at the trial?--- Yes, but they were not familiar with the events leading up to the questions?

Wer e they interrogated?--- Yes.

Under torture?--- Yes.

With you in the same gaol?---Yes.

By the same men?--- Yes.

Will you give us the names of the five who were tried?--
There was Capt. Matthews and the other three, apart from myself are -
WX. 227, Sgt. Stevens, A., 2/4 Machine Gun Battalion
NX. 32348 Cpl. MacMillan, J.A., 22 Bde HQ.
NX.67260, Cpl. Roffey, W.G., 84 L.A.D.

BY LT. COL. STEPHENS: Was Capt. Matthews' death officially reported to Col. Walsh?--- No. I obtained information from Col. Walsh yesterday. Col. Walsh tells me he was notified that a body would be handed to them for burial in the presence, I believe, of the Japanese; he knew some of us were in Outram Road gaol and he asked Suga who it was, but Suga refused to tell him. However, about three or four months after that, Suga made a slip during a conversation and Col. walsh obtained the information that it was Matthews. No message or personal belonging have

reached his wife, although they were sent, according to the Japanese, direct to Japan to be transmitted through the International Red Cross.

BY HIS HONOUR: What were the other soldiers sentenced to? You were sentenced to 12 years' imprisonment?--- Stevens got six years and MacMillan and Roffey 18 months.

This is the 25th and last sheet of the evidence of Roderick Graham Wells taken and sworn before me at Melbourne in the State of Victoria this 1st day of November, 1945.

(SGD) R.G. Wells
Deponent

W. WEBB
Chairman,
Australian Board of
Inquiry into War Crimes.

IN THE MATTER of War Crimes

and

IN THE MATTER of Fukuoka Prisoner of War Camp No. 22

War Crimes Commission No.

Reference No.

I, CLARENCE WELLS, of 9 Wildon Street, Bellevue, in the State of Western Australia, member of the Royal Australian Air Force, make oath and say as follows:-

1. I was taken prisoner in Singapore in February 1942 and after being in various prisoner of war camps was transported to Japan in January 1945.

2. On arrival in Japan myself and other prisoners of war in the draft were taken to the abovenamed Camp. The Camp was situated in Isika and was approximately one mile from coal mines in which we were put to work.

3. The Commandant of the Camp was a Japanese Army Lieutenant but he was very seldom present and the whole Camp administration and discipline was under the control of a Japanese Sergeant named Irio who was nick-named "the bastard". Irio was approximately 5' 6" to 5' 7" in height and stockily built.

4. In about March of 1945 Corporal Johnston whose prisoner of war number was 4 committed a minor breach of discipline. I was marching out of Camp to the coal mines one morning and I saw Irio bashing Corporal Johnston with a bamboo. He was bashed until he was knocked to the ground, then made to get up and bashed again until he fell. I did not see any more of this actual beating up but from reports I received on return to Camp that night Corporal Johnston was beaten up continuously for two hours in the same manner as already described. When Irio became tired he handed over the beating to another guard nick-named "Smiler" who in

C. Wells

turn became tired and handed over to another guard whose name I do not know. The whole beating lasted for a period of two hours and during that time Corporal Johnston was revived by having a bucket of water thrown over him. When the beating was completed Corporal Johnston was placed in solitary confinement where he remained for ten days. During that time he received very little food.

5. In about March or April 1945 an air-raid warning was given and all prisoners of war were moved to an air-raid shelter which was a rivetted trench with a roof consisting of wood and laced bamboos. Whilst the air-raid was in progress one of the prisoners of war was smoking and when the air-raid was over we were all lined up in the snow in a kneeling position in three lines as Irio could not find out who was responsible for the smoking. In order to find out Irio and four other Japanese guards whose names I cannot remember walked up and down the lines beating the prisoners of war across the back, head and body with bamboos. We were kept kneeling for eleven hours and the beating went on continually the whole time but Irio and the guards failed to ascertain who had been smoking in the air-raid shelter. We had nothing to eat during that period and lost two of the so-called meals which were not made up.

6. During the period I was in the Camp six lots of Red Cross parcels came to the Camp but during that time only one parcel was issued to the prisoners. All these parcels had been rifled by the Japanese and in the one parcel I received there was only one packet of cigarettes. The food and other contents of the parcel had been stolen.

7. On numerous occasions I saw on Irio's office table goods marked with the Red Cross sign.

8. I actually saw the six lots of parcels come to the Camp and in the majority of cases each delivery contained sufficient for an issue of one parcel per man. I do not

C. Wells Sergeant

know where the parcels went, but from what I observed, all the guards appeared to have rifled the parcels because I saw them all at different times with goods with the Red Cross sign on them. Irio was responsible for the taking of the parcels as he was in charge of the administration.

9. The daily routine of the Camp was reveille at approximately six o'clock in the morning after which food was given to us and we then marched to the coal mines where we started work at 8 a.m. and continued through until 8.30 p.m. We were supposed to have one hour for lunch but we were not allowed that time on most occasions. When we returned to Camp at night we were again given a meal. Our lunch was taken with us in a little box. The food in the Camp was not fit for human consumption and consisted of rice and millet. Sometimes pumpkin and salted radish were added to the rice and very occasionally there was a very small piece of dried fish in the hash.

10. The general condition of the prisoners was appalling but they were not allowed to report sick until the evening so that if a man woke in the morning in a very bad condition he still had to go to work and could not report sick until the evening. Irio was responsible for this arrangement.

11. There was a prisoner named Snowy Pope who was in a very weakened condition and could barely walk, but he was continually sent to the mine to work by Irio. The result of work was the direct cause of Snowy Pope dying about two months before the cessation of hostilities. Snowy Pope frequently protested against being compelled to work, but it was of no avail.

12. In the mine we were drafted into gangs of approximately 25 and were given a quota of 120 trucks for the day. In the mine we were under the direction of a civilian mine

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overseer named Matsuki who was a Japanese of approximately 5' 10" and very sturdily built. If the gang failed to reach its quota Matsuki would systematically beat everybody with a pick handle. This would happen two or three times a week as the quota was too large and we could not get the work done. On one occasion Matsuki beat me up with a pick handle and hit me across the head and the body with numerous blows.

SWORN by the abovenamed Deponent at Perth in the State of Western Australia this 11th day of June, 1947, Before me -

C. Wells

A Commissioner of the Supreme Court of Victoria for taking Affidavits.

IN THE MATTER of War Crimes

and

IN THE MATTER of Fukuoka Prisoner of War Camp No. 22.

War Crimes Commission No.

Reference No.

AFFIDAVIT
OF
CLARENCE WELLS.

AFFIDAVIT

STATE OF CALIFORNIA:)
) SS:
City and County of San Francisco)

DANIEL N. WEITZNER, being duly sworn, deposes and says:

I am a Sargeant in the Army, ASN 6299215, I am 27 years of age, have attended one year of college, and my permanent home address is 1539 Fairfield Avenue, Bridgeport, Conn.

I entered the U.S. Army 29 Oct. 1939 and went overseas in June of 1941 and returned to the United States October 8, 1945.

I was captured 9 April 1942 on Bataan and was a prisoner of the Japanese at Cabanatuan #1 December 1943 to October 1944. I was then taken to Japan and was imprisoned at Fukuoka Prison Camp No. 22 where I remained from February 24, to April 27, 1945. I was then taken to Hoten Prison Camp at Mukden, Manchuria, where i remained from May 1945 to September 1945.

While I was a prisoner at Fukuoka Prison Camp No. 22 in April 1945, a group of about 50 men were in an air raid shelter during an air raid. It was strictly forbidden for the men to smoke. Some of the men obtained cigarettes and matches and were smoking. The Sargeant of the Guard, a Sargeant Hidiya, discovered the men smoking and when the all clear signal had been given, ordered the men to kneel on gravel in front of the guardhouse from about 10:00 a.m. to about 6:00 or 7:00 p.m. The men were forced to kneel at attention. If any of the men relaxed Sargeant Hidiya and other guards would walk along the line and club the men. The men missed two meals because of this punishment. The Camp Commander whose name I do not know had full knowledge of this punishment.

This is all I know or remember about this incident.

(Sgd) DANIEL N. WEITZNER
SGT. ASN 6299215

Subscribed and sworn to befor me this 15 day of October 1945
at San Francisco, California

(Sgd) CHARLES E. TAYLOR
CAPT J A G D

A CERTIFIED TRUE COPY
XXXXXXXXXX
.....Lt.
(S.M. ENGLAND AIF)

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