



Australian War Memorial

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AUSTRALIAN ARCHIVES
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Statements by:-

V.X. 27952. bpl E. C. Gibbons.
V.X. 45741. Lieut L. A. Gibson.
V.X. 58852. Lieut. J. A. Gibson.
V.X. 39016. Capt. N. M. Gibson.
Q.X. 917. S/Sgt. D. A. Gibson.
N.X. 31612. Lieut J. E. W. Gibson.
N.X. 5571. Dvr. G. F. Gibson.
V.X. 63776. Pte F. W. Giles.
V.X. 62211. Pte L. J. Giles.
N.X. 23295. Pte F. Gilbert.
J. G. H. Gill (Regarding Lieut. C. L. Page. R.A.N.V.R.)
Q.X. 6324. Capt. B. Gill.
(P/44786). W. E. Gill
J. B. Gilmour



"Z86"

THIS IS THE PHOTOGRAPH
ENDORSED "Z86" PRODUCED AND
SHOWN TO JOHN ALEXANDER
GIBSON AT THE TIME OF
SWEARING HIS AFFIDAVIT
AT MELBOURNE IN THE
STATE OF VICTORIA

THIS 11TH DAY OF APRIL 1947
BEFORE ME *Boz Remy*

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

Statement by VX 27952 Cpl GIBBONS E.C. 2/7 Inf Bn :-

After the unit had capitulated on Crete I was taken prisoner on 1 Jun. I was in camp until 4 Jul and on that day was shipped to SALONIKA. Until the 26 Sept I was working on various jobs the last of which was on the railways loading and unloading mails. It was whilst on this job I made my attempt to escape. About 7.15 in the morning while helping to push a truck we were able to evade the guard by dodging through the goods yard. We had a civilian shirt and trousers in our possession. As soon as we were clear we donned this clothing. I had as an companion a NZ by name Cecil LLOYD. We made our way into the town of SALONIKA eventually going into a church where the priest told us to come back that night when an English speaking Greek would be there to help us. This man, by name Jack CARROL, and his wife from No 5 APOSTOLY SALONIKA hid fed and clothed us for 4 days. Unable to make any satisfactory contact with the organisations to help us escape he gave us directions to IANOROS. On the way we contacted another English speaking Greek Jordon MANJACOUPHUS at SERBICO who fed us for 3 weeks. Here a plan to escape in the launch owned by the Dr of the village was foiled and so we continued our way to IANOROS. We went through the hills and finally reached the monasteries where the monks looked after us for a fortnight. We were waiting here for a submarine but were eventually given away to the Greek police by a Bulgarian monk who had been informed by 2 Russian monks that we were there. They marched us from KARYAS to a coastal town which I cannot remember the name of. The march took us about 4 hours. We were handed over to the Germans and placed in the cells. A German patrol took us back to SALONIKA, and put us straight on a train which was going to Germany. This was on the 4 Dec.

Ernest Gibbons

W. J. Capf 15/1

DAAG A 14 (ADM) Vic L of C Area

FUKUOKA 14

944-45	Forced sick PW to work incl following who died SMITH, TICKLE, PICKETT BAILEY, CONNER, PRIOR, WILLIAMS HEARN	NAKASHIMA Takejima Spt	Released Suwaymo 21 Feb 46
10 Aug 45	Boat COPELAND H.M.P.	"LEGGINGS" Offr.	

Sgt Moore (Maj Shatter) Spec. Fire Fighting Squad 84 Bde

FUKUOKA 14

GIBSON LA

Useless: NFA

SNOWDEN ER

End 1943: Pte BAILEY forced to work when sick. Then medical attention denied to him by NAKASIMA. Sgt.

REED WC

Nov. Dec 44: SMITH reported sick. Temp 104°. Forced to work: Death occurred

J. TICKLE reported sick: forced to work: Death occurred

↓ BAILEY

CHICK AC

Sep 44: PICKETT died, forced to work by Sgt NAKASHIMA, Takejima

Dec 44: Mass beating 8-10 men.

LYONS P.

Jun 44-45: NAKASHIMA worked sick PW.

↓ MITCHELL

Sep PICKETT died, forced to work.

CONNORS, BAILEY on sick poles with Temp forced to work

MILLER HD

NAKASHIMA withheld drugs contrib to PICKETT's death
Following PWs forced to work & died: PRIOR, TICKLE, CONNORS,
WILLIAMS, BAILEY SMITH, HEARN

COPELAND H.M.P

10 Aug 45, Jap "LEGGINGS" Offile working party, beat COPELAND when in sick room.

14 Evidence taken at Manila on 1 October 1945.

Evidence of: VX45741 Lieut. Lance Aldworth GIBSON
of 2/3 M.G.Bn.
Home address: "Brookdale", Rochester, Victoria.

I was captured in March 1942 in Java and until May 1944
I was at various camps in Java.

In May 1944 I was taken to Singapore and in June
we embarked for Japan; on the way we were torpedoed.
A full report of this incident is annexed to my
evidence and all the facts set out in that report are
true and correct. After being rescued we were sent to
Fukuoka No. 14 camp until April 1945. There were
72 Australians in this camp. we did factory work.
Food was not sufficient to work on.

A full report of this camp is also annexed to my
evidence and the facts set out are true and correct.

In April 1945 I went to Mukden. Food was light there,
and we lost weight.

I certify that the above evidence is correct.

Taken and sworn before me at Manila
on 1 October 1945 }

Commissioner

AFFIDAVIT.

In the SUPREME COURT of VICTORIA.

I
Lance Aldworth GIBSON, " Brookdale" NANNEELLA in the State of
VICTORIA .- Farmer.

Make Oath and say as follows.-

PW Camp FUKUOKA No 14

- (a) which I was in the food issue was a small bowl of
of either mixed rice-barley or rice-millet three times a day, three
bowls of soup consisting of cucumber green vegetable dried fish,
sometimes a small quantity of meat, whale or beef.
Dr's in camp estimated the calorific values from 1500
to 2500 a day, the amounts varying almost daily, usually the lower amounts
were the rule.

MEDICINES

American Red Cross medicine in camp was not issued in any
reasonable quantities till about Jan 1945 when a new Jap Doctor came to
the camp he improved the issue considerably. Jap medicines were given
in strictly limited quantities.

CLOTHING.

The issue of clothing was quite good, two shirts two long under-
pants, two uniforms and a working overall, this issue varied with the
season summer clothing being recalled and heavier under-clothing given
from about November-March. A rain coat and heavy Overcoat were
included in the winter issue. Shoes were very poor although quantities
of Red Cross boots were in store these were not given out in any
quantity, rubber split-toes being the usual. Socks, one pair every
six months. Towels, one small (sweat towel) every six months. The
winter issue of clothes was very heavy cotton and wood fibre and did
not have much warmth in it, the lack of woollens contributing largely
to the number of cases of Pneumonia.

QUARTERS.

The buildings once an old cotton factory situated in the centre
of the factory area. About 20 men to the room, one line of bunks on the
floor the others on a shelf. Rooms were about 15'x 15', top bunks were ab
about 5' high. Walls were thin pine flat boards with plenty of cracks,
very cold and wet in winter.

- (b) WORKING CONDITIONS.

Ten hours a day in factory producing castings and
fittings for ships. The heavy work and poor food caused a lot of
sickness. The Overseers were Mitsubishi employees (civilians).
Accident rate in factories was very high. Safety precautions were non
existent.

- (c) EXECUTIONS TORTURES BEATINGS.

No knowledge of any executions or torture,
beatings were carried out frequently on all personnel, mainly by the
Guards, civilians were not usually involved in these. In some cases the
civilians were quite helpful.

- (d) VICTIMS. (SERVICE PARTICULARS)

No particular persons known.

- (e) DATES OF CRIMES.

- (f) PERPETRATORS. (names nicknames and description.) I do not now
remember any of the Japanese names concerned.

(Signature in Full) L.H. Gibson

Sworn At ROCHESTER in the State of Victoria the Twentysixth (26) Day of
March in the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Forty-seven (1947)

Before Me. Herbert Ronald Westhead

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

(Signature) Herbert Ronald Westhead

Date 26.3.47

AFFIDAVIT.

CEIVED
26 APR 1945
ARMY REGISTRY
In the Supreme Court of Victoria.

I Lance Aldworth Gibson, "Brookdale", NANNEELLA in the State of Victoria - Farmer.

Make Oath and say as follows:-

1. TORPEDOING OF POW SHIP AND LOSS OF LIFE AMONG POW'S.

On 24 June 1944 I was a POW on a Japanese ship that was torpedoed and sunk off Negasaki resulting in heavy loss of life. The ship was torpedoed at midnight without warning. Most of the POW's were asleep. The torpedo hit just forward of bridge, port side, many were killed by the explosion, those on deck being killed by falling wreckage. The hatch covers were on, and men on those were blown up and apparently all fell back into the lower holds. Darkness and the ship sinking in approximately two minutes prevented any organised efforts to get life jackets or launching of boats or rafts.

Convoy apparently scattered after the attack, three ships possibly four, being sunk, escorting vessels doing only a small amount of depth charging and not in the immediate vicinity. Only two ships took part in the rescue work; a corvette and a whale chaser. Rescue work started about 4.30 a.m. Three or four damaged lifeboats from some of the other ships going about the wreckage picking up Japanese only. Several cases were reported to me of POW's being thrown out of these to make room for more Japanese. Three Japanese on the same wreckage as I was, were taken off about 5 a.m. It was not until about 5.30 a.m. when the interpreter of our draft, (a Korean nicknamed "Minnie Sam" was picked up by the whale chaser, he apparently spoke to the Captain who then started to pick up the POW's. Before this several who attempted to get aboard were kicked back into the water. Three POW's who were picked up accidentally by the corvette were thrown into the water again. One POW (G. Ashman, 2/3 Mg. Bn. of Campbelltown, Tasmania) was unable to swim and was drowned. An eye witness to this drowning was NX38664 Cpl. Craine, 2/1 Fortress Engineers. An unknown soldier who was on the same wreckage as myself was not accounted for although he was quite fit. As the chaser came up to us very quickly, then reversing, washed us from the wreckage. I can only assume that he was caught in the propellers and sucked under in the wash.

2. INADEQUACY OF LIFEBOATS AND RAFTS.

The three of four lifeboats were not available for POW's and the rafts were quite inadequate. Total number of POW's 772. (approx. 200 English, 257 Australians, Dutch 273. Americans 42.) Number lost in sinking of ship (560).

No efforts to provide for the safety of POW's. On a submarine or aircraft warning being sounded all POW's were forced to go into holds and guards posted on hatches. Lifebelts were not issued to POW's. After many attempts to persuade guards to issue same, a stack of old torn useless belts were stacked in the hold, their only effect being to make the overcrowding worse. POW's were not allowed to collect them individually.

3. DEPONENTS PERSONAL EXPERIENCE OF SINKING.

Up to the night of 24th we had a very long nerve racking trip, submarine ^{warnings} and depth charges nearly every day, a typhoon between Manila and Formosa, we and the Japs were happy to think we would be on solid ground in the morning. Japs allowed a concert in the hold. About 10 p.m. we all went to bed, at a few minutes to twelve there was a big explosion as the ship immediately in front of us was hit. I was asleep in the hold and only had time to get to my

feet when our ship was struck, apparently just forward of the bridge on the port side. I was blown off my feet and partly stunned by the concussion. The ship started to sink immediately and in a very few seconds the hold was filled with water. I crawled along the roof of the hold and was lucky enough to find the hatch open. I broke surface once just long enough to see the stern of the ship high in the air, at an angle of about 45 degrees, I was caught and managed to swim to the surface where I swam to some wreckage which I found later was the floor to the bridge. About 20 men mainly Dutch and three Japs were being supported. I had a waterproof watch, the first time I looked it was 12.15 a.m. The sea became rough about 2.40 and we were thrown off several times when the wreckage overturned. The Japs gave assistance, they all had lifejackets on, being civilian member of the crew. We were one of the last group to be picked up, it was about 10 a.m. when we were taken aboard the chaser. Most of us by that time were numbed with cold, and exhausted. We were forced into the bows of the ship on the open deck. The last of the survivors were picked up about 10.30 a.m. We left the area and by about 12 noon were in Nagasaki. Water was made available and a few rice balls, insufficient to give each man one. The crew then decided to wash the decks down incidently washing the POW's. A Japanese Doctor and two nurses were brought aboard and gave treatment to the injured, no broken bones were set at this stage. About 7.30 we were taken off into camp 14 FUKUOKA, where we were isolated in two rooms - 212 in all. Dry underclothes and a blanket were given to each man and later a hot meal was sent in from the main camp. (Rice and soup. Hot water to drink). We were isolated there for about 6 weeks, before being allowed to mix with the other camps.

4. NAME AND/OR IDENTIFICATION OF PERPETRATORS.

Only three of our guards survived, the interpreter and two reasonably decent guards. "Minnie Sam" the interpreter did a very good job in helping the POW's both before and after the sinking. The two Sgts who were in command and in charge of the draft and who refused to give us lifebelts and were responsible for all illtreatment after leaving Java did not survive.

5. OTHER PERTINENT FACTS.

Of the approx 600 Japs in the after holds of the boat few if any survived. Owing to the torpedo striking where it did the hatchcover the forward hold were blown off allowing some POW's to get out of the hold. No attempt was made on this ship or the other two I travelled on from Java to Formosa to give any indication that POW's were being carried. We went into the holds with the other cargo and sailed in convoy. Sometime after being in camp 14 we were interviewed by a Capt. Takarta, Prisoners of War Bureau, Tokio who promised to help us with Red Cross supplies - clothing food and mail etc. but none of his promises materialised.

6. I would like to point out all details of the draft from the time we left Java on May 19th 1944 were given in a report submitted to Judge Mansfield at Manila about Sept. 22nd 1945. This was compiled by three other officers and myself. Date and figures in that report would be most accurate.

(Signature in Full) *Lance Aldworth Gibson*

Sworn at ROCHESTER in the State of Victoria the Sixteenth (16) Day of April in the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Forty-Six (1946).

Before Me

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

(Signature) *C. M. O'Neill*

Date 16/4/1946

I, John Alexander GIBSON, a patient in 115 Heidelberg Military Hospital, formerly VX 58852 Lt J A GIBSON of 1 Aust Independent Company, make oath and say:

1. I was taken prisoner of war by the Japanese at sea off KAVIENG, NEW IRELAND, in Feb 42.
2. After having spent approximately 5 months in a PW Camp in RABUL I was a member of a party which arrived at YOKOHAMA JAPAN about 14 Jul 42.
3. I was taken to a Naval section which was used as a holding centre for personnel whom the Japanese might intend to use for special purposes.
4. I was kept alone for six months while continuous efforts were made, but without physical violence, to induce me to become sympathetic to Japanese ideas and war aims, and to broadcast for that purpose. In this connection the authorities with whom I came into most direct contact were Commander TAKASAKI and Professor FUJISAWA.
5. As I was not allowed to rejoin the other prisoners of war I decided to try and end the whole matter by broadcasting in such a way as to make the Japanese wish they had never asked me. In this I succeeded after having refused to join other allied prisoners of war in TOKIO who were already working satisfactorily for the Japanese.
6. In May 43 I was ordered by Mr. SHINOZAKI, a civilian attached as translator etc. to the Navy Office (and who always showed the greatest courtesy to me), to go to OFUNA Camp. I can definitely state that in doing so he was simply carrying out orders from the higher Naval Authorities, presumably the head of the department connected with propaganda services.
7. Although lacking definite proof of the person who was responsible for my transfer to OFUNA, I suggest that it might well be KENNOSUKE SATO (an OSAKA Journalist of some influence in Japan who visited Australia with an economic mission a few years prior to the war. During the war he was attached to the Navy Office in TOKIO for propaganda activities), or that it might well have been done with his full knowledge and approval. In the post-OFUNA period he was the most senior man with whom I had to deal, taking the place more or less of Commander TAKASAKI, who had since left Japan on active service.
8. I was escorted to OFUNA Camp by a naval man. I think his name was SUZUKI and he may have been a Petty Officer or Lieutenant.
9. I was taken to OFUNA Camp for the express purpose of punishment and was subjected to constant beatings and tortures by various members of the Guard whose names I do not know, although I would recognize their features. I was given very little food and received harsher treatment than the other prisoners in the camp. Instances of this torture are - Beatings carried out by several guards stationed at various points while I was chased round and round the camp area, the enforcement of various physical exercises up to the point of exhaustion when beatings were immediately begun and unceasing physical and mental torture of such a nature.
10. I can definitely state that such tortures took place either in the presence of the OFUNA Camp Commandant whose name is IIDA (I think he was a Naval Petty Officer) or with his knowledge and under his instructions.
11. I was in OFUNA Camp for approximately five weeks.

John A. Gibson

12. Produced and shown to me at the time of swearing this my affidavit is a photograph endorsed Z.86 which I identify as IIDA, the Camp Commander of OFUNA whilst I was there, and the one referred to in paragraph 10 of this my affidavit.

Sworn at MELBOURNE in the
State of VICTORIA,
this 11th day of APRIL 1947.

John R. Gibson

Before me,

Max Laming

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

I, Ninian Milne GIBSON of 2 Elinor Tce, GLEN OSMOND in the State of South Australia, Supervisor, make oath and state as follows:-

1. That I was formerly VX39016 Capt N.M. GIBSON, 2/29th Australian Infantry Battalion and was taken prisoner by the Japanese at Parit Jawa, Malaya, on the 2nd day of February 1942.

2. That after capture I was transferred to Pudu gaol at Kuala Lumpur/ where I remained from the 10th February 1942 to 2nd October 1942. From there I was transferred to Singapore where, until April 1943, I was in Changi Camp. Then I was sent to Thailand for 12 months, and in April 1944 I was returned to Changi. I remained there until February 1945 when I was sent to Johore Baharu. On the 14th August 1945 I was returned once more to Changi where I was released On the 15th August 1945.

3. That generally speaking, during the period February to October 1942 conditions were good in Pudu gaol. For the first three months food was monotonous being almost entirely rice. Further the rice was not of good quality and did not provide a diet capable of keeping men in good health. For the first three months also the Japanese refused to provide any medical supplies and were reluctant to admit any sick prisoners to their own hospital. During this three months repeated protests were made to the Japanese and possibly as a result there were some changes for the better. The food ration became less monotonous and more nourishing and some hospital supplies were issued to us; but these, although useful were meagre. The worst phase of prison conditions was our quartering for the first three months. There was gross overcrowding without adequate reason. The sleeping areas we were allotted comprised the women's cells and the cells upstairs for prisoners awaiting trial. The cell doors were not locked and we had access to the small adjoining yard. The cells were so overcrowded that the halls and passages were used for sleeping and even then some fifty men of the 1100 prisoners slept in the open yard rather than attempt the task of finding covered space for sleeping. We were all confined to two comparatively small two-storey buildings and the ground floor of one was occupied by the Japanese guards. The hospital area was the verandah space at one end of this ground floor. Not more than thirty yards away was the prison proper, a three-storey building which normally held four hundred civil prisoners approximately. This building was empty and unused and despite repeated applications it was three months before

*Ninian Milne G.P.
12.6.46*

Ninian Milne

we were permitted to evacuate the two cramped buildings and transfer across to the gaol. The only earlier concession was after eight weeks of occupation when the prison hospital was made available for additional sleeping quarters but even this accommodated only sixty men.

4. That in August 1942 two parties of three planned to escape the same night. One party comprised Capt G.D. McDonald, Federated Malay States Volunteer Force, Sgt Bell, 4th Australian Anti-Tank Regiment and the third man was Lieutenant Withicombe, 2/15th Australian Field Artillery Regiment, a Solicitor of New South Wales. A few days before the escape Lt Withicombe became ill with dysentery and withdrew from the party, since he was sent to the camp hospital. The second party comprised Second Lieutenant F.W. Harvey, Second Lieutenant Van Ryn and a third man, I think named Cubitt, a tall fair, lean Second Lieutenant. All these officers were of Federated Malay States Volunteer Force. The intention was that the two parties should escape in different directions. I heard from Japanese guards that both parties were recaptured within a week. I myself saw Captain McDonald and Sgt Bell about a week after their escape taken under escort for ablutions. They were kept in solitary confinement in the first storey cells previously used for prisoners awaiting trial; the block where we ourselves had earlier been quartered. About this time I spoke to some of the other Australian prisoners who had seen and spoken to Lieutenants Harvey, Van Ryn and Cubitt who were also in this block under solitary confinement. The Japanese made enquiries to discover what prisoners had assisted in the escape and some four officers of the Federated Malay States Volunteer Force, including Lt P.A. Garden were added to those in solitary confinement. About a week later at approximately 1730 hours I saw a three-ton truck leave the entrance to the prison gate and disappear outside the camp. It was an open truck and in the back, under guard, I saw Captain McDonald, Sgt Bell, Lieutenants Harvey, Van Ryn and Cubitt. I never saw these men again and it was generally rumoured that they had been shot. Some Australian fellow prisoners, I do not recall who in particular, claimed that picks and shovels had also been loaded into the back of the truck. Enquiries as to the fate of these five men were made of the Japanese by Lt-Col Hartigan, Indian Army who was Officer Commanding Prisoners of War. I understand he was refused any information. I have not seen Lt-Col Hartigan since I left Pudu gaol.

James G P
12.6.46

Amelia

He was a Permanent soldier of the British Army who had been stationed in India for many years commanding an Indian battalion.

5. That during the period February 1942 to October 1942 approximately 120 men died in Pudu gaol. Of these five or six were Australians, the remainder were British Army personnel. I know details concerning two only of the Australians who died during the period. The first was VX46024 Pte L.A. Kennedy, 2/29 Australian Infantry Battalion who died on the 7th July 1942 of beri-beri, dysentery and debility and was buried in the Civil Roman Catholic Cemetery, Kuala Lumpur, Grave No.159. His home address was Emerald, Victoria. The second man was Pte Sams, 2/30th Australian Infantry Battalion who died between the 10th and 15th February, 1942. This man was wounded in action in the ankle before capture and was about ten days in transit to Pudu gaol without any treatment. Gangrene had set in and the medical officers in the camp had no means of combating it. He was buried in the East Court Yard, Pudu gaol. I have no information of the other men. A fellow prisoner, Captain R.W.J. Newton, 2/19th Australian Infantry Battalion, of New South Wales compiled ~~complete medical~~ records of all the Australians in the camp. These were handed to Second Echelon at Changi in October 1942, but he would probably remember further details.

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

SWORN BEFORE ME AT ADELAIDE
IN THE STATE OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA
ON THE 12 DAY OF JUNE 1946.

Whears

M. Gibson.

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE
IN AND FOR THE STATE OF
SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

Nakom Paton

204

On this 27th day of March 1946 I, Stanley Allan GIBSON of BINGERA Plantation Bundaberg Queensland make oath and say:

As QX 917 S/Sjt GIBSON S.A. 2/2 Aust CCS was taken PW on 8 Mar 42 in JAVA.

I was moved to THAILAND in Jan 43 and during month of March 1945 the following took place at Nakompaton.

Lieut (now Capt) WAKAMATSU, Shizuo, POW Administration, Nakompaton PW Base Hospital, Thailand.

Whilst in the main camp office at Nakompaton PW Base Hospital which adjoins the office of the abovenamed in March 1945, my attention was attracted by the sound of beating and the familiar screaming of words in Nipponese.

I approached the dividing wall between these two offices and through a slit, beheld the appalling spectacle of a man tied by the wrists to a rope which had been thrown over the beam overhead. I witnessed WAKAMATSU holding the other end of the rope, pulling it so that this man was several inches off the ground.

Whilst suspended in mid-air by his wrists, he was questioned and when no reply was given, WAKAMATSU beat this man, yelling at him in Nipponese.

I watched this being done several times and turned away. The noise continued for a considerable time afterwards.

This man I recognised as - POW AC. Nelson RAF, an amputation case from hospital. He had been accused of trading clothes outside the POW Camp.

I understand that this Nipponese officer was responsible and present at the beating of Lt-Col Parker at Nakompaton POW Hospital in January 1945.

SWORN by the abovenamed deponent,)
Stanley Allan GIBSON, at Melbourne)
this 27th day of March)
One thousand nine hundred and)
forty-six.)

Stanley Allan Gibson
.....

BEFORE ME

Stanley Allan Gibson
.....
Commissioner for Affidavits

C 1/7

7012

Personal

On this eighth day of May, one thousand nine hundred and forty six, John Edmund Manning Gibson, of 172 Coogee Bay Road, Coogee, New South Wales, at present on leave following discharge, makes oath and says as follows:-

1. As NX31612, Lt J.E.M. Gibson of 2/18 Bn I was taken prisoner-of-war on 15 Feb 42 at Singapore.
 2. I was transferred to Blakang Mati Island on 30 Apr 42. OC of Australian prisoners-of-war was Major D.T. Okey. The Japanese commander of Blakang Mati Island was Lt.Col Miki. We were attached to Miki Butai unit which I think was a supply unit for the Japanese Army Air Force.
 3. I was the junior member of a Court of Inquiry convened by Major Okey to investigate the death of Pte D. Toulmin.
 4. The evidence presented to the Court showed that Pte Toulmin had been pushed by a Sergeant UASHIRO of Miki Butai and had as a result fallen overboard from a barge near Palau Bukom and was presumed to be drowned, his body at that time not being recovered and has not been recovered to this day as far as I know.
 5. Corroborative evidence of the pushing was given by Ptes A.W. Hill, E. Ayschough, T. Searle, Delaney and Wallace. There was no contradictory evidence produced.
 6. The report made by the Court was as follows:

"Although the weight of evidence shows that the Japanese sergeant pushed Toulmin there is nothing to indicate that he did this to cause bodily harm."
- This report was submitted to Major Okey.
7. To the best of my knowledge and belief Major Okey submitted a copy of his own report to Miki Butai. Part of his report was considered objectionable by the Japanese and he was ordered to delete this part. He refused.
 8. Subsequently, Major Okey, Capt Topfer, Capt Mathews FMSVF, and I, were taken to the grounds outside the Japanese officers' mess.
 9. After standing outside the officers' mess for about three-quarters of an hour approximately ten Japanese came up to us and of these ten I recognise Lt Arai, Lt Arinobu and Sgt Uashiro. I believe all except Sgt Uashiro were commissioned officers.

J. E. M. Gibson
Uashiro

10. During much talking by the Japanese in their own language and Major Okey being cross-examined by the interpreter the four of us were punched in the face by two Japanese officers whose names are unknown to me.

11. The following night Major Okey and the five witnesses aforementioned were taken by the Japanese to their quarters and some two hours later they returned and appeared as though they had been badly beaten about the head and body.

SWORN by the abovenamed deponent,)
John Edmund Manning Gibson, at)
Sydney, this eighth day of May,)
one thousand nine hundred and)
forty -six)

J E M Gibson

L. H. Peirce J.P.

BEFORE ME

A Justice of the Peace.

On this Fifteenth day of MAY One thousand nine hundred and fortyseven GORDON FINDLAY GIBSON of 51 LONGUEVILLE RD. LANE COVE in the state of NEW SOUTH WALES, Clerk (Dalgety & Co.) makes oath and says:-

1. I am NX5571 Dvr. GORDON FINDLAY GIBSON of 8 AUST.DIV. A.S.C. I was captured by the Japanese at SINGAPORE in February 1942 and after eight (8) months as a prisoner in SINGAPORE I was moved to OSAKA and retained as a prisoner there until 1944, approximately Six (6) months before the war ended I was taken to TAKEFU and interned there until released.
2. When I arrived at TAKEFU Prisoners of War camp there were sufficient American Red Cross parcels in the store to permit an issue of at least One (1) per man and although men were continually collapsing at work through lack of food the bulk of these parcels were withheld until the wars end.
3. The whole of the time that I was in this camp Medical supplies were practically non-existent and our Medical Officer was continually appealing to the Japanese Commander Lt. MITSUZO for further supplies. It was NOT until the war ended that a number of large cases of Red Cross Medical supplies were handed over to us although they had been in the store the whole time that we were in this Camp.
4. One Guard in this camp (nicknamed Caesar) was continually going around kicking men in the testicals and bashing them, but when complaints were made to Lt. MITSUZO he would just laugh. During Air raids Japanese civilian and army guards would go around our quarters and bash prisoners indiscriminately with fists and rifle butts.
5. I saw one prisoner carried back from work with his legs paralyzed after being made to squat with bambo sticks behind his legs, he was unable to move for some days after. Of all the bashings I saw I know of no case where I consider it was justified.
6. Rations in TAKEFU camp were worse than any other camp in which I was interned.
- 7.

Gordon Findlay Gibson

Sidney L. Simpson Jr

interned /-

7. Sick Prisoners of War were forced to work while they could still stand on two legs. When it was claimed that men were too sick to work Lt. MITSUZO would take them out to work in the rice fields where they would spend the day up to their knees in water. At one time I myself had a poisoned leg which was swollen to about twice its normal size but I was still sent off to do an eighteen(18) hour shift of work despite protests by our Medical Officer.

Swor by the above named deponent)
GORDON FINDLAY GIBSON at SYDNEY)
on the twentysecond day of MAY)
One thousand nine hundred and)
fortyseven)

Gordon Findlay Gibson
.....
Signature of Deponent.

Before Me

Sidney L Simpson, Jr.
.....
A Justice of the Peace.

I, Frank William GILES of DANDENONG in the State of Victoria, make oath and say:-

1. Prior to discharge, I was VX 63776 Pte. GILES F.W. of 2/29 Aust Inf. Bn. and was taken prisoner of war at SINGAPORE on 15 February 1942.
2. Early in June 1943, with a large party of Australians, I was moved to KOBE HOUSE camp at KOBE, JAPAN, and I remained there until approximately March 1945.
3. The Camp Commandant at the time of our arrival was an officer named MORIMOTO. The medical officer at that time was known to us as THE MAD DOCTOR.
4. From About August 1944, until we left this camp in February 1945, the Camp Commandant was an officer named TAGANAKA.
5. Food in KOBE HOUSE Camp consisted mostly of rice with some vegetables and the green tops of vegetables. Meat appeared about once every two months and then was at the rate of about 12 pounds to approximately 640 prisoners. On several occasions while the camp was being inspected by high ranking officials, a half sided of beef was hung in the cookhouse, but was later removed by the Japanese and not served to the prisoners. The food ration scale was NOT sufficient to maintain the prisoners and as a result of this many prisoners suffered from beri-beri.
6. Capt. BOYCE of SYDNEY was medical officer, but appeared to be without medical supplies, often performing minor operations without anesthetics and with only crude instruments. Several Australian Soldiers died from pneumonia, due to lack of medical facilities and food.
7. Clothes were scarce and men often worked in wet clothes for days at a time. We made clothes from sacking and wrapped bag or sacking around our feet in lieu of boots, which were not available. During part of the time in this camp, snow covered the ground and prisoners, through lack of boots, were forced to march to and from work, in bare feet.
8. Working conditions were bad, mainly unloading ships and loading trains. If, for any reason, a prisoner was unable to carry the cargo as quickly as the Japanese considered necessary, he was beaten by the guards, often being knocked down and unconscious. Prisoners also worked in the TOYA STEEL works, where the conditions were bad, many became ill, as a result of the heat from the furnaces.
9. Quarters consisted of a huge warehouse, men slept on bunks, and so close, as to be touching each other. The lower floor was cookhouse, bath house and latrines. Latrines were seldom emptied and the smell was right through the building. In the middle of winter it was too cold to sleep, as the blankets were too thin to keep the prisoners warm.
10. Sick prisoners were compelled to work. Those who were too sick to move from camp were given jobs within the camp.
11. One day in November 1943 Pte JEANS from New South Wales was stood in front of the guardhouse and the "MAD DOCTOR" beat him about the face with the buckle end of a leather belt until he fell to the ground. While on the ground the "MAD DOCTOR" then kicked Pte JEANS a number of times about the face, stomach and legs. Pte JEANS was then put into the hospital section of the quarters where he remained for about five weeks.
12. One day, on a date I do not remember, but after

W. Giles

R. S. Hatch

12 Contd.

Pte. JEANS had been beaten, a guard known to us as, "HORSE FACE," severely beat Pte. JONES.A. of 2/4 MMG Bn, knocking him to the ground, and then kicking him about the body and in the groin. Pte. JONES was admitted to the hospital section as a result of this treatment.

13. At work and in camp, prisoners were often bashed by the guards, for no apparent reason. This consisted mainly of the guards striking the prisoners with the closed fist, the bayonet scabbard, or by kicking the prisoners.

14. Prisoners were sometimes forced by the guards to stand out in the snow, rigidly at attention for periods up to 24 hours.

15. The "MAD DOCTOR" was a particularly bad type of Japanese and would beat the prisoners for no apparent reason, and at any time. He would often come into the sleeping quarters during the night, order everyone out of bed, and make them stand to attention for hours at a time. He beat prisoners many times for no reason. The "MAD DOCTOR" carried a bare sword and with this would beat prisoners until every one went about in fear of him, wondering what next he would do.

16. When, I first arrived in KOBE HOUSE Camp, parades of the prisoners were held daily, and the prisoners were taught to count in Japanese. Those prisoners who were slow to learn were punched, kicked and beaten by the guards.

17. In April 1945, with 18 other Australians, I was moved to NAGOYA Camp, JAPAN, and remained there until released in September 1945.

18. On arrival at NAGOYA Camp, I found that the Camp Commandant was one Japanese - Lt. FURIYAMA, who was later replaced by one Lt. ARAKI.

19. Food in NAGOYA Camp was bad and consisted of cereals, and vegetable tops with a thin weak soup made from egg plant fruit. As a result of this, all prisoners lost weight, my own weight falling from, Approx. 11 stone 2 pounds to about 6 stone 8 pounds. Clothing was scarce and was mainly cast off clothes from the Japanese soldiers. Medical supplies were NIL until just before our release, when the Americans dropped supplies from the air. Two American soldiers became sick and died before Medical supplies were dropped to us. This was a direct result of lack of medical care. An American was medical officer, but had nothing to treat patients with. Quarters were filthy and insanitary.

20. Prisoners were used to unload bombs, shells and other war equipment from ships at the docks and during this unloading, were subjected to bombing by American planes. The air raids took place over the period of the last month that I was in NAGOYA Camp.

21. Guards were particularly brutal to prisoners and if a prisoner was too ill or weak to carry the cargo at the speed the Japanese expected, he would be beaten by the guards with fists and sticks, also kicked heavily, usually in the crutch. Prisoners working on the docks were required to work a 24 hour shift, as a result of this and the lack of food, all prisoners became weak and weary, to the extent that they were not able to carry out their work, often falling with heavy loads of shells. When this happened guards would beat them and force them to get up and carry on. This occurred every day and night.

22. One day, about the end of July 1945, a Japanese guard, one Sgt. ICHIKAWA, struck me on the face, kicked me on

H. W. Giles

R. H. H. H.

22 Contd.

the shins and in the groin, until I collapsed on the ground. Sgt HARRIS, 2/4 MMG Bn and Pte. LYMN, 2/4 MMG Bn, were then ordered to hold me up. This they did, and again Sgt. ICHIKAWA bashed me and kicked me in the crutch. As a result of this treatment, I was placed in the sick section of the living quarters and remained there until we were released after the cessation of hostilities.

23. One day - early in July 1945, Sgt. ICHIKAWA bashed and beat Pte. LYMN of 2/4 MMG Bn,, kicking and punching him.

24. Prisoners were often forced by the guards to stand to attention for three and four hours, holding two bricks above head level

W. Giles

Sworn at Dandenong in the State of
Victoria this 29th day of August 1946.

Before me,

R. S. Hether

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

IN THE MATTER of the Investigation of War
Crimes

a n d

IN THE MATTER of War Crimes committed at
NAGOYA P. W. Camp Number 9 TOYAMA and other
camps in Japan.

I, THOMAS JAMES GILES of Caramut labourer make oath and say:-

1. I enlisted on the first day of September One thousand nine hundred and forty-one at Royal Park Melbourne as VX 62211 Private Thomas James Giles.
2. I was captured at Singapore on the fifteenth day of February One thousand nine hundred and forty-two while serving with 2/29 Infantry Battalion.
3. We were rounded up and were confined in CHANGI camp. After about one month at CHANGI I was taken to Singapore with a working party to work on the docks.
4. On or about the fifteenth day of May One thousand nine hundred and forty-three with about five hundred Australians I was moved to Japan and disembarked at MOJI on or about the eighth day of June One thousand nine hundred and forty-three and with about two hundred and fifty other Australians under Col. Burns A. A. S. C. we went to KOBE House Camp OSAKA, where we came under command Maj. Haughton of British Army who was in charge of the camp at which there were already some three hundred English soldiers and sailors, as well as Greeks and Chinese. The Japanese camp commandant was Lt. MORRI MOTO commonly known as "Jack OAKIE".
5. At KOBE we felt the cold very much having come from the tropics. We were allowed five blankets when we first arrived but these were of very poor quality and quite insufficient. We went to bed with our clothes on in order to help keep warm and even then we were cold. We were allowed two shirts, two pairs sox, two pairs trousers, two jackets S D Japanese pattern of cotton texture. We still had our Australian boots. Soap was quite inadequate.
6. While at KOBE we were allowed to smoke only after we came home in the evening until roll call. When smoking we were forced to have an ash tray containing water always with us. One evening QX 23340 Pte. A. S. Jeynes 2/26 Inf. Bn. was talking to us and was not smoking though he had a butt in his hand. The guard came up and accused him of smoking - He denied it but was taken to the guard house and there received an unmerciful bashing at the hands of Sgt. MARITA with a belt with a buckle on it and a wooden bayonet fighting training stick. Lt. MORRI MOTO also took a hand in this bashing with the same implements. This went on for some three hours and while Jeynes was not being beaten he was stood to attention while he could and when he fell they threw water over him until he revived then they stood him up again and repeated the process. I saw this beating myself and Lt. Fuller 2/30 Inf. Bn. and Sig. John R. MASON 8 Div. Sigs. saw what was going on. Lt. Fuller arranged that Maj. Haughton go to the Japanese to plead for Jeynes. Jeynes was terribly knocked about and could not stand or walk and was carried to the camp hospital. He was bleeding from the face and ears.

Thomas J. Giles
Deponent.

[Signature]
Witness.

Two days after he was sent to work and we all saw his face badly cut and swollen and his body bruised.

7. At this camp lashings were plentiful and given on the slightest pretext but Jeynes case is one of the lashings of an innocent man.

8. At this camp we worked loading and unloading trains and ships, in a carbon factory in a steel factory and an oil refinery. Next the carbon factory was an air field and at one end a seaplane base. During air raids we were locked in a warehouse while the Japanese took shelter, later when raids became more frequent we were forced to continue work during the alert and until planes came actually overhead when we were taken in and locked in a building.

9. So long as we could walk we were forced to work. Some men were very sick but forced to work and would collapse at work. Rest days for a start were weekly then monthly then not at all up to two months working every day and sometimes at night as well.

10. In May 1945 I was moved to NAGOYA NO. 9 Camp at NARU about twelve miles from TOYAMA with Sgt. Harrison 2/4 M.G. Bn. and about twenty other ranks. Lt. FURIYAMA SEIICHI (Little Caesar) was camp commandant. Conditions in the camp were very bad. Our clothes were worn out, only about 5% of the men had boots the others had wooden clogs. In addition to soup 750 grammes of rice per day was the working ration.

Sick and men working in camp got 500 grammes. We had a small quantity of meat to put in soup about once a month. A piece of vegetable sometimes also appeared in the soup. On this ration men lost weight and I myself went down to seven stone from a normal weight of 11½ stone.

11. We were engaged working unloading iron ore from barges for use at an adjoining iron foundry. The sick were worked until they were hospital cases. During aerial bombardment we were worked until planes were actually overhead. Walking over the iron ore without boots or with clogs in all weather was very hard on the men's feet and we were made work whatever the condition of our feet.

We were wet all the time and had no replacement of clothing. There was no fixed working shift or hours of work - we were called out as and when required day or night. Sometimes we would work from 0700 hours to 1100 hours next day then be called out again the same day at about 1700 hours. We would be given about a cup full of cooked rice to take with us for dinner, which rice would be sour by mid day, tea would be brought from the cap at about 1800 hours, comprising some soup and about a cup full of rice, and if we worked after midnight we ~~would~~ would receive a rice ball then the next meal would be rice when we got home whether it be 0900 hours or 1100 hours. If we stopped work before 2300 hours we would get nothing when we got home until breakfast at 0600 hours next day.

12. While at Nagoya there were numerous lashings of P.W. and instances of ill treatment but I am unable to remember who were the victims or who were the perpetrators save in the case of my brother hereinafter related.

13. About the end of June 1945 my brother VX 63776 Pte. Francis William Giles of 2/29 Inf. Bn. was ill with malaria. He had not been at work the previous day and a parade was called. We went on parade and my brother was barely able to walk but a mate Pte. R. R. LYNN of ~~2/4 M.G. Bn. and I~~ 2/4 M. G. Bn. (private address Angrove Street Norweman, W. A.) and I assisted him on to the parade ground.

Thomas F. Giles
Deponent.

[Signature]
Witness.

At the conclusion of the parade it was compulsory to salute the Officer in charge of the parade. This day ICHIKAWA Masahara was watching the parade. The parade was about to be dismissed and we were in the process of saluting. My brother could barely stand and could not and did not raise his hand to salute. ICHIKAWA came over and kicked my brother in the stomach. My brother fell to the ground and ICHIKAWA kicked him again several times. Our own doctor came down and explained that my brother was sick and was allowed to take him to the hospital where he remained until being evacuated by train and Hospital ship on or about 23rd. September 1945. Pte. Lynn was on parade.

14. While working at NAGOYA NO. 9 on unloading iron ore the area was constantly subjected to air raids during which raids we were kept at work and bombs dropped sometimes within 2000 yards. The Japanese would take cover and when the planes were overhead they would run us into a shed and lock us in.

15. Two days before the capitulation at Singapore I received a schrapnel wound in the forehead. My face and nose were cut. I was in unit lines when we surrendered to the Japanese. My wound gave me trouble all the time I was a P.W. and continued to do so until the removal of three abscesses from behind my eye at Heidelberg Hospital in January this year. I repeatedly complained of the pain in my head and deficiency in my eyesight to both our own M.O.'s and to Japanese M.O.'s but our own M.O.'s could do nothing on account of lack of material and the Japanese were not inclined to do anything for me and in fact did nothing for me. There was no Australian ~~XXXX~~ M.O. at Nagoya No. 9.

SWORN at Warrnambool in the State)
of Victoria this 26th)
day of August 1946,)
Before me,

Thomas J. Giles.

[Signature]
Commissioner of the Supreme Court
of Victoria for taking Affidavits.

On this twentyfourth day of June, One Thousand Nine hundred and Fortyseven, I, Fred GILBERT of 49 Belmore Street, ROZELLE, in the State of New South Wales, Storeman and Packer, makes oath and says as follows:-

1. I was a member of the 2/18 Battalion, A.I.F., rank Private and Army Number NX23295. I was captured at SINGAPORE on the fifteenth of February 1942. In the month of May 1942, I sailed from SINGAPORE on the CELIBRES MARU for BURMA arriving there in May 1942. Whilst in BURMA I was employed on the BURMA RAILWAY. In February 1944, I was sent to THAILAND and remained there until October 1944. From THAILAND, I was again sent to SINGAPORE. In December 1944 I embarked on a ship and arrived in FUKUOKA PRISONER OF WAR CAMP No 24 early in 1945, remaining there until released in September 1945.

2. Lt. HAYASHI Yuichi, Camp Commandant. This Officer is known to me. He was Camp Commandant at FUKUOKA PRISONER OF WAR CAMP NO 24 and we knew him as "MULGA BILL." He opened our Red Cross parcels and extracted soap and cigarettes from them. He was continually smoking American cigarettes which were NOT procurable in the camp through the normal channels.

I was detailed by a JAPANESE GUARD to carry Red Cross parcels from the Camp Quartermaster Store to HAYASHI Yuichi's quarters.

Sapper Arthur HOLMAN of 2/12 Field Engineers was a witness to the misappropriation of cigarettes from the Red Cross parcels.

Sapper HOLMAN is now living at No1 Hamilton Road, FAIRFIELD, N.S.W.

" SWORN by the abovenamed deponent)
Fred GILBERT at BADMAIN on the)
Twentyfourth day of June, One)
Thousand Nine Hundred and Forty)
seven)

BEFORE ME

A Justice of the Peace

Signature of deponent.

I, JAMES CONNAL HOWARD GILL of Jaloan Street, Ashgrove, BRISBANE, in the State of QUEENSLAND, Solicitor being duly sworn make oath and say as follows:

1. From the third day of September one thousand nine hundred and thirty nine to the twenty second day of February one thousand nine hundred and forty five I was a member of the Royal Australian Naval Reserve and the Royal Australian Naval Volunteer Reserve and was at all times between the dates hereinbefore mentioned mobilised for full and active duty on war service.

2. On the twenty sixth day of May one thousand nine hundred and forty two I was stationed at TOWNSVILLE in the State of QUEENSLAND and held the appointment with the rank of Pay Master Lieutenant R.A.N.R., as Assistant to the Supervising Intelligence Officer TOWNSVILLE, which said officer was responsible for all naval intelligence arrangements in the area known as North Eastern Area and which said area included the Islands known as the BISMARK ARCHIPELAGO.

3. On or about the said twenty sixth day of May one thousand nine hundred and forty two I was instructed by the said Supervising Intelligence Officer to prepare certain stores for dropping by aircraft to the following persons at the places indicated :-

- (a) Sub Lieutenant C.L.Page R.A.N.V.R. TABAR ISLAND
- (b) Lieutenant A.F.Kyle R.A.N.V.R. and Sub Lieutenant G.M. Benham R.A.N.V.R. MULIAMA, NEW IRELAND
- (c) Lieutenant J.W.Read R.A.N.V.R. NORTH BOUGAINVILLE.
- (d) Petty Officer P.E.Mason R.A.N.V.R. BUIN, SOUTH BOUGAINVILLE
- (e) Mr. D.A. Laws SAIDOR RAI COAST, NEW GUINEA.

4. I know of my own knowledge that the said C.L.PAGE, A.F.KYLE, and G.M.BENHAM held commissions for the ranks abovementioned in the Royal Australian Naval Volunteer Reserve having perused the relevant signals from the Australian Commonwealth Naval Board granting such commissions and appointing them to the staff of the Supervising Intelligence Officer North Eastern Area for coast watching duties.

5. The said appointments had been made on or about the fourth day of April one thousand nine hundred and forty two and prior to the said twenty sixth day of May one thousand nine hundred and forty two I had on the instructions of the said Supervising Intelligence Officer, arranged for uniform cap badges and caps and uniform shoulder straps of rank to be made

James Connal Howard Gill *G. M. Benham*

available to the said Supervising Intelligence Officer for dropping by air to the three officers abovementioned.

6. The said Lieutenant A.F.KYLE and Sub Lieutenants G.M.BENHAM and C.L.PAGE prior to such appointments as aforesaid being made, were members of the Australian Naval Coast Watching Organization in an honorary capacity, but after the invasion of the Mandated Territory of New Guinea by the forces of the Empire of Japan in January one thousand nine hundred and forty two action was taken to confer on all honorary Coast Watchers who elected to remain at their posts, in what became enemy controlled territory, the protection of naval rank or rating and to issue them with the appropriate uniform.

7. Amongst the stores got together by me for dropping by Aircraft to the said Lieutenant KYLE and Sub Lieutenants BENHAM and PAGE were Uniform Cap Badges, Uniform Caps, and the appropriate Uniform Shoulder Strap Badges of Rank.

8. On the twenty eighth day of May one thousand nine hundred and forty two I proceeded by R.A.A.F. Aircraft from TOWNSVILLE aforesaid to PORT MORESBY in the Territory of PAPUA and in conjunction with the officer holding the appointment of Naval Intelligence Officer, Port Moresby, prepared stores for dropping to Lieutenant KYLE and Sub Lieutenant BENHAM at MULIAMA aforesaid and to Sub Lieutenant PAGE at TABAR ISLAND aforesaid on the night of twenty ninth/thirtieth May one thousand nine hundred and forty two. The said stores which included the items of Uniform hereinbefore referred to were personally delivered by me to Flying Officer Robinson, R.A.A.F. and under his supervision I placed the same in the Catalina Aircraft of which he was captain and which was to make the trip to MULIAMA and TABAR ISLAND aforesaid on the night of twenty ninth/thirtieth May one thousand nine hundred and forty two for the purpose of dropping such supplies. The said three officers were advised by signals from PORT MORESBY to expect the said stores to arrive by air on the night aforesaid.

9. At dawn on the twenty ninth day of May one thousand nine hundred and forty two the said Catalina Aircraft proceeded to CAIRNS in the State of QUEENSLAND for the purposes of refuelling, maintenance, and rest for the crew, under orders from the R.A.A.F. Station Commander, PORT MORESBY, Wing Commander W.N.GIBSON, R.A.A.F. The captain of the said Aircraft had instructions to make the trip to MULIAMA and TABAR ISLAND aforesaid

John Kyle
W. Gibson JP

departing from CAIRNS for that purpose on the afternoon of twenty ninth day of May one thousand nine hundred and forty two.

10. On the said twenty ninth day of May one thousand nine hundred and forty two I received instructions by signal from the said Supervising Intelligence Officer that the said Lieutenant KYLE and Sub Lieutenant BENHAM were to be evacuated from NEW IRELAND and the stores for them were not to be dropped to them. The said Supervising Intelligence Officer also instructed me by signal that the Air Officer Commanding, North Eastern Area had arranged for the appropriate instructions to be conveyed to the Catalina Aircraft concerned.

11. On the thirtieth day of May one thousand nine hundred and forty two the said Station Commander, PORT MORESBY informed me that the signal aforesaid to the said Aircraft being corrupt the said captain of the said Catalina Aircraft had dropped all the stores to the said Sub Lieutenant PAGE at TABAR ISLAND aforesaid. On the said thirtieth day of May one thousand nine hundred and forty two the said Sub Lieutenant PAGE acknowledged by signal the receipt of the said stores.

12. On the said thirtieth day of May the said Supervising Intelligence Officer instructed me by signal that Sub Lieutenant PAGE would be evacuated from TABAR ISLAND in the near future.

13. On the fourth day of June one thousand nine hundred and forty two the said Sub Lieutenant PAGE was advised by signal, under instructions received by signal from the said Supervising Intelligence Officer, by the said Naval Intelligence Officer PORT MORESBY, to be ready for evacuation. The said Sub Lieutenant PAGE acknowledged such signal.

14. On the sixth day of June one thousand nine hundred and forty two the earlier attempt to evacuate the said Sub Lieutenant PAGE having been unsuccessful, he was instructed by signal as aforesaid that a further attempt to evacuate him would be made which said signal was also acknowledged by him. I was present in PORT MORESBY on each of the occasions when the said Sub Lieutenant PAGE acknowledged the receipt of the said stores by him and the instructions regarding his evacuation

John G. H. Gile
W. B. Smith

155. All the facts and circumstances herein deposed to are within my own knowledge save where deposed to from information only and my means of knowledge and sources of information appear on the face of this my affidavit.

SIGNED and SWORN by the
abovenamed Deponent at
BRISBANE aforesaid this
Tenth day of
August 1948 Before
me ;

J. H. Giles

G. W. Smith J.P.
A Justice of the Peace

FORM 'Q'

WAR CRIMES

Information supplied by ex-Prisoners of War

Number.....Name.....
(In Block Letters)

Rank.....Initials.....

Unit/Ship.....

Home Address.....

Date and place of Capture.....

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY

1. You are requested to set out, in accordance with the directions below, such knowledge as you may have on the subject of War Crimes. By doing so you may be the means of establishing the identity of persons who have committed offences against Prisoners of War and others, and the particulars you are able to give may be an important contribution towards their subsequent trial and punishment.

Therefore it is important that you should give your detailed information with the greatest possible care and accuracy in the columns provided overleaf.

2. War Crimes can be divided into two classes of offence :—

(a) *Criminal Acts in Transit or in Camp.*

Examples are :—shooting and killing without justification, shooting and killing on the false pretence that the prisoner was escaping, assault with violence causing death, and other forms of murder or manslaughter; shooting, wounding with bayonet, beating, torture, unjustified violence, and other forms of ill-treatment causing the infliction of grievous bodily harm; theft of money and goods.

Under this head give in the columns overleaf the most exact information you have as to any such case. State, if you can, the names of those who committed the offence, as well as the names of any other enemy personnel such as Camp Commandant, Superior Officers or N. C. O's. who may in some degree be responsible. If possible, give also the names and full particulars of any other witnesses of the offence.

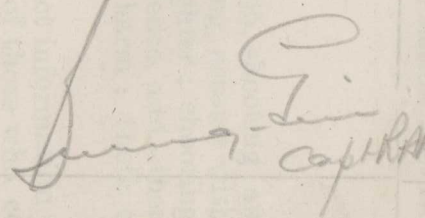
(b) *Violations of the Geneva Convention and of the rules of warfare, whether in Transit or in Camp.*

Examples are :—unjustified imprisonment; insufficient food, water and clothing; lack of medical attention; bad treatment in hospitals; unhealthy conditions in Camp; employment on work having direct connection with the operations of the war, or on unhealthy or dangerous work; being detained in an area exposed to the fire of the fighting zone; being used as a screen, and such cases as attacks on hospitals or hospital ships, and on merchant ships without making provision for survivors; interrogation by third degree or other forcible methods.

Under this head, give brief particulars, with places and dates in the columns provided overleaf.

3. The above examples are only given as a general guide, and if you have knowledge of different kinds of war crimes committed (not necessarily against Ps/W only) you are requested to give similar particulars of them.

Date, Camp or Place	Particulars of the Criminal Act or Violation	Names where known, description rank, appointment, unit, etc., of enemy personnel concerned and any other detail to fix their identity	Names of other witnesses
August 1942 Great World Camp Singapore	<p> Gur P. Ferrar 20 1/10 72 Regt. was working in hostels godown Singapore and was detected drinking from a tin of condensed milk. Sakista, a 3-star private struck him several times with his hand then tied him to a corner of a wall with D3 wire. He then went away and returned with a loaded revolver which he pointed at Gur Ferrar. I intervened and was threatened with the revolver from a distance about 18 inches. I persuaded Sakista to refer to his command. When work finished Gur Ferrar was led about 1/4 mile along Cantonment Rd with his hands tied behind him. I accompanied him. We were then taken to Outram School, the HQ of the organisation administering World Camp. Was then taken to Camp, leaving Gur Ferrar next morning all working parties </p>	<p> Lt Shiwagoo (Phonetic) Jap Comdr of Great World Camp, Singapore Ph. Sakista of the organisation whose HQ was at Outram School, Singapore </p>	<p> Maj G. G. Schander 4 AF Ryl RAA Capt Hendry RAAFC Gur P. Ferrar 2/10 72 Regt RAA </p>

Date, Camp or Place	Particulars of the Criminal Act or Violation	Names where known, description rank, appointment, unit, etc., of enemy personnel concerned and any other detail to fix their identity	Names of other witnesses
	<p>from the Camp were subjected to Kawai's bowing drill. Gun Ferrar was then tied to a fence outside the Jap fence he appeared to be abused in several places.</p> <p>I had occasion to visit Jap HQ at about 1400 hrs and Ferrar was still tied to the fence without hat or shirt. It was a very hot day. Gun Ferrar was returned to Camp about 2000 hrs and a state of collapse and was admitted to hospital. He reported that he had been immersed in water with the reason and immersed again a considerable number of times and severely beaten by the Jap Commandant.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">  Jimmy L. Caplan Capt RAH </p>		

211
DATE AND PLACE.

August 1942. Great World Camp, Singapore.

512 72000

PARTICULARS OF CRIMINAL ACT.

Gunner G. Firrar 20th Bty. 2/10 Fd. Regt. R.A.A. was working in Nestles godown Singapore and was detected drinking from a tin of condensed milk. SAKISTA a three star private struck him several times with his hand then tied him to a concrete pillar with D.3. wire. He then went away and returned with a loaded revolver which he pointed at Gunner Firrar. I intervened and was threatened with the revolver from a distance of about 18 inches. I persuaded SAKISTA to refer to his commander. When work was finished Gunner Firrar was led about 1/4 mile along Cantonment Road with his hands tied behind him. I accompanied him. We ere then taken to Outram School the H+Q+ of the organisation admissistration Great World Camp. I was then told to return to Camp, leaving Gunner Firrar. Next morning all working parties from the Camp were subjected to one hours bowing drill. Gunner Ferras was then tied to a fence outside the Japanese Office. He appeared to be abraided in several places. I had occasion to visit Jap H+Q+ at about 1400 hrs and Firrar was still tied to the fence without hat or shirt. It was a very hot day. Gunner Firrar was returned to Camp at about 2000 hrs ina state of collapse and was admitted to hospital. He reported that he had been immersed in water withdrawn and immersed again a considerable number of times and severely beaten by the Japanese Commandant.

NAMES OF JAPANESE PERSONNEL CONCERNED.

Lieut. SIWAZOA (Phonetic) Japanese Commander of Great ~~Wall~~ ^{WORLD} Camp, Singapore.
Pte. SAKISTA of the organisation whose headquarters were at OUTRAM SCHOOL, Singapore.

WITNESSES.

Major. G+C+ Schrieder 4 A/T Regt. R.A.A.
Capt. Hendry A.A.M.C.
Gnr. Firrar 2/10 Fd. Regt. R.A.A.

Signed.

Qx 6324
Capt Gill D
2/10 Fd Regt
Carmody Rd
St Lucia Hts.
Brisbane

Number 6324. Name. GILL, B. Rank. Captain. Unit. 2/10 Fd. Regt. R+A+A.

Taken prisoner at Singapore on 15th February 1942

1812

406

IN THE MATTER OF JAPANESE WAR CRIMES AND IN THE
MATTER OF CONDITIONS AT LONG THANH CAMP SIAM

A F F I D A V I T

I, William Edwin GILL, major, 137 Field Regiment, The Royal Artillery (P/44786), with permanent home address at 77 Patterdale Avenue, Marton, BLACKPOOL, make oath and say as follows :-

1. I was captured at SINGAPORE on 15 February 1942, and have been in the following camps :

- (a) 24 June 1942 to 23 July 1942, BAN PONG, where I was Camp Commander.
- (b) 23 July 1942 to 13 September 1944, NONG PLADUCK. I was Camp Commander at this Camp until 13 January 1944.
- (c) River Valley Camp SINGAPORE, 17 September 1944 to 2nd February 1945 where I was Camp Commander.
- (d) I then embarked for SAIGON and after an appalling journey arrived there on 8 February 1945.
- (e) Transit Camp (Godown) SAIGON, 8 February 1945 to 24 February 1945 where I was Camp Commander.
- (f) LONG THANH 25 February 1945 to 2 March 1945 where I was Camp Commander.
- (g) Harbour Camp SAIGON 2 March 1945 to 7 March 1945.
- (h) KAMBURI 17 March 1945 to August 1945. I was then marched to NAKOM NYOK. On this march I injured my ankle and was forced to do the last part of it at the bayonet point.
- (i) NAKOM NYOK, 15 August 1945 to 20 August 1945.
- (j) After the surrender of JAPAN, we moved down to BANGKOK, where we were liberated.

2. When I arrived at LONG THANH on 25 February 1945 there was no real camp ready at all. There was no provision for cookhouses and only one hut had been completed. The men had to sleep in the open under mosquito nets. We were working during the time that I was there on the construction of the camp itself and on the construction of an airstrip nearby. When I left on 2 March 1945 I left Regt S/Major BRADSTREET in charge.

3. Since my return to ENGLAND I have met a number of members of my unit whom I left behind at LONG THANH and I now produce the report of an atrocity about which I have collected evidence from these men. This report is marked Exhibit 'A'.

4. While I was at LONG THANH the following Japanese were on the staff:-

- (a) Captain SAZUKI. This man was a most notorious person and belonged to the prisoner of war personnel in SIAM. He has been responsible for a great deal of cruelty and was moved about from camp to camp approximately every three months.
- (b) Lieutenant HATORI. In my opinion this officer who was SAZUKI's adjutant did his utmost to keep things amicable between the Japanese and the British. I have nothing but good to say of him.

- (c) MOTO MURA (Korean Guard Commander). This man was nicknamed 'Beautiful'. He was a brutal type and beat people up on the slightest provocation.
- (d) Sgt YAMAMOTO. This man was the medical sergeant and was a really bad type who had been responsible for much brutality.
- (e) S/Sgt OTO. This man was the Quartermaster. He stole the rations and made much profit selling supplies intended for the prisoners. He also frequently beat people up.
- (f) Sergeant INA MATA. I have nothing against this man.
- (g) KANI YAMA (Korean Guard Commander). He was nicknamed 'Shadrach' and had been a very bad type but by the time he reached this camp his conduct had greatly improved and I have no complaints against him here.

SWORN by the above named William
Edwin GILL, at 6 Spring Gardens
in the city of Westminster, this
tenth day of December, 1945.

(Signed) W.E. GILL, Major
R.A.

BEFORE ME

Derek M. Hornby,
Captain Legal Staff,
Mil. Dept. Office of the Judge Advocate General.

This and the preceding page comprise a certified true copy
of original sworn affidavit of Major W.E. GILL dated 10 Dec 45.
I am the officer having custody of that document.

Singapore.....

.....*Grant. Mc Intyre. Capt.*..
1 Aust War Crimes Sec (SEAC)

Supplementary Notes on Evidence

Persons responsible:-

Witnesses:-

Capt. Sazuki.
Sgt. Yamamoto.

Capt. Butterfield R.A.M.C.
Capt. Chester. R.A.M.C.
Capt. Hall, Johore Volunteer Force.
1060988 RSM Bradstreet L.W.D.

17th June, 1945.
Leng Khan,
French Indo-
China

On the discovery of the theft of certain Red Cross food supplies by Gnr. D.M. King A.I.F. and three accomplices Capt. SAZUKI and Sgt. YAMAMOTO held a parade of all sick personnel numbering approximately 325 including about 120 hospital cases. They then compelled all but 42 of these personnel to go out on working parties. Many collapsed and had to be carried to and from the work which was at 6 kilometres distant. Daily sick parades were held by Sgt YAMAMOTO who continued sending men out to work suffering from malaria, dysentery etc. The already meagre medical supplies were heavily cut and with malaria rife little quinine was given and several men died from cerebral malaria and typhoid and no increase of medical supplies were given to combat the outbreak.

The Red Cross supplies which were taken had been withheld by the I.J.A. for four to six months.

To obtain fuller information about the theft the I.J.A. gave severe beatings with bamboo and sticks to Gnr. KING and his accomplices and subjected them to various tortures including the pumping of water into the stomach via the mouth and then jumping on them as they lay exhausted on the ground.

This is Exhibit 'A' to the Affidavit of William Edwin GILL sworn before me this 10th day of December 1945.

(Signed) Derek M. Hornby, Captain
Legal Staff.

This is a certified true copy of the original document marked Exhibit 'A' referred to in the affidavit of Major W.E. GILL. The document referred to is in my possession.

Singapore.....

...Asst. M. Intyre. Capt.
1 Aust War Crimes Soc (SEAC)

IN THE MATTER of War Crimes

- and -

IN THE MATTER of OSAKA No.2B
KOBE HOUSE 5D KAWASAKI SHOWADENKI
FACTORY

United Nations War Crimes
Commission Reference

JH
1. John Barry GILMOUR of Spencer Street, Welshpool, in the State of Western Australia, make oath and say as follows:

1. I was a member of the 2/4 M.G. Bn. and was taken prisoner in Singapore on 15th February 1942.

2. On the 5th May 1943 I, with others, was shipped to Japan and went straight to Kobe.

3. On the 15th June 1943 I was detailed with others to work in the Kawasaki Showadenki Factory which was a factory producing graphite.

4. The party left the Kobe Camp at approximately 7 a.m. each morning and marched approximately half a mile to the station, when we were taken by electric train to the factory, a distance of about 15 miles. On detraining we had to march a further 3 miles to the factory and arrived there about 7.45 a.m. when work was commenced.

5. We stopped for lunch at approximately midday and were supposed to have 40 minutes, but if the train was late in arriving, the time would be deducted from the luncheon period. After lunch we worked continually until approximately 4.45 p.m. when we were taken back to the camp by the same route.

6. We were supposed to be able to have a bath before returning to camp, but more often than not we could not get a bath as we were kept working right up until the time we had to leave to catch the train. We arrived back at the camp after dark, too late for the evening meal. Our rations had been kept for us, but as we were late they were cold, and cold rice is not very appetising.

7. The lunch meal was provided by the factory and during the whole period at the factory this consisted of a soup composed of rice and very little dried fish or whale meal. The food was unpalatable and not nearly sufficient.

8. On arriving at the factory we changed our clothes into clothes supplied by the factory. These consisted of a jacket and trousers made from dried grass. No underclothes were supplied, and when issued the clothes were in a very bad state of repair. In winter the clothes got wet and being made of grass were almost impossible to dry. The result was that frequently in very cold frosty weather I was compelled to put on the wet clothes. The issue clothing was totally inadequate and caused much hardship, suffering and illness.

9. Once during the time I was at the factory a visit was made by press photographers, and for the occasion we were all gathered around a table and given a bread roll made from sweet potato flour and tea. This was the only occasion on which I received bread at the factory.

10. I was put straight on to working in a graphite bin, the measurements of which were approximately 12' x 12' x 8'. The only entrance to this bin was by a small trapdoor, through which I had to crawl. It was almost dark inside as there were no lights of any kind.

11. Graphite and pitch, which is a very fine black powder, was let into the bin by a chute and as the powder came into the bin it created a very thick fine dust which made working conditions in the bin almost unbearable as there was no ventilation. My work was to shovel the powder out through the trapdoor through which I entered into trucks which were then wheeled away. The powder has a very severe effect on the eyes, nostrils and skin, and at the end of the work on the first day I noticed a burning feeling all over my body. After approximately 3 days practically the whole of my body blistered and I complained to the foreman, known as "Goat Face" of the conditions and asked to be removed. My request was not granted and I was kept working in the bin for approximately 2 months, during which time my physical condition deteriorated to a very great extent as I was continually covered in blisters and my skin peeling. This condition was accompanied by great pain and discomfort.

12. During the period of two months I complained almost every day. I complained to Yamamoto who was the Works Manager and known as "Goat Face". I also complained almost daily to the Japanese nicknamed "Speedo". Speedo came to the camp every day and was part of the escort from the camp to the factory. On arriving at the factory we were detailed to the various jobs by Yamamoto. Notwithstanding my numerous complaints I was still kept working in the pitch bin.

13. In order to get away from the work in the bin I changed jobs with a South Australian, Corporal Jack GILDING who was in the Army Service Corps but was killed in a plane crash on the way back from Japan. Corporal Gilding carried on my work and made similar complaints to both Yamamoto and Speedo, but they would not relieve him from the work. He was affected in exactly the same way as I was with the burning, but his eyes were not affected, as I have always had weak eyes and they were susceptible. The weak condition of them was caused by malnutrition in Singapore.

14. For the balance of my period of work in the factory amounting to nine months I was shovelling and loading coke into tip trucks from a dump to the furnaces which were approximately 300 yards away from the dump. The trucks ran on rails and we had to fill them with coke and then two of us would push the trucks to the furnace where they were emptied by tipping and reloaded with the coke ash which had been withdrawn from the furnace by the previous day's burning. These ashes were always red-hot in the morning, but as the day wore on they cooled. The trucks were loaded with these ashes by shovels and we then had to push the trucks to the grinder, a distance of approximately 300 yards, where they were ground up and subsequently mixed with the graphite and put down the chute into the bin.

15. To prevent burning we were given gloves made out of rags, but these were not effective and we received frequent burns from the shovelling and pushing of the trucks.

16. The dust on this job was also very bad and I suffered considerably from burning. I asked Speedo on numerous occasions to provide masks and these were supplied on a few occasions, but the masks were absolutely useless and would only last a day or so before becoming totally ineffective.

17. The latrines at the factory were absolutely disgusting and unfit for use by any normal human being.

18. On quite a number of occasions I saw Speedo compel prisoners-of-war, for very minor breaches of discipline, to stand at attention with two house-bricks on their heads, or holding them above their heads with their hands, or holding the bricks with the hands at the side. The periods for which Prisoners were compelled to suffer this punishment varied; sometimes it was all day and on others from the time the punishment was inflicted until lunchtime or knock-off time. I have frequently seen prisoners endure this punishment and compelled to watch the other prisoners eat their lunch. This punishment was common and would be inflicted for practically no offence at all. Speedo also forced prisoners to go without their lunch.

19. I cannot remember the names of the victims as it is so long ago.

SWORN by the said John Barry GILMOUR
at PERTH in the State of Western
Australia this 22 day of October
1946.

J. Gilmour.

Before me:

[Signature]
A Commissioner for taking
Affidavits in the Supreme
Court of Western Australia.

GEORGE A. WATSON
A Commonwealth Crown Solicitor,
Atlas Buildings,
8-10 The Esplanade,
PERTH.

IN THE MATTER OF War Crimes

- and -

IN THE MATTER of OSAKA NO.2B
KOBE HOUSE 5D KAWASAKI SHOWADENKI
FACTORY

United Nations War Crimes
Commission Reference

I cannot remember the names of the victims as it is so
long ago.

SWORN by the said John Barry Gilmour
at PERTH in the State of Western
Australia this 10th day of October
1948.

AFFIDAVIT OF

JOHN BARRY GILMOUR

A Commissioner for taking
Affidavits in the Supreme
Court of Western Australia.

GEORGE A. WATSON,
A/Commonwealth Crown Solicitor,
Atlas Buildings,
8-10 The Esplanade,
PERTH.