

Diary of Brig. Varley  
PART III

1020

27 May - 27 Aug. 43



172/4

"D"

This is the diary Part in referred to in the annexed affidavit of  
HERBERT FRANCIS DICK sworn at SINGAPORE this  
23 July 46

Before me W. H. K. R. S. S.  
Maj. A.I.F.

①  
27 May 43. The wet season in Burma has  
now set in properly. 12 months ago  
tomorrow we arrived at Tavoy. The heavy  
rains commenced about two weeks later.  
The wells put down in this camp (Shanlyngat)  
during the dry season & which we had to  
use sparingly, are now rising & we have  
plenty of water. In 5 out of 11 cases however  
we had to draw water by ropes on  
buckets etc. The other wells being filled  
with pumps (hand). With this continued  
wet weather another problem presents  
itself i.e. lack of waterproof coats or capes.  
Now working get their clothes wet thro'  
& it is very difficult to get them dry.  
Many only have one shirt & shorts, many  
no shorts, some only with G strings. The  
weather is temporarily colder while raining  
and can easily get chills. We fear many  
cases of pneumonia, even though we did  
not have many cases during last wet  
season. Now however the whole force is  
much weaker in health & constitution. It  
will also be most dangerous to attempt  
to move these cases from jungle camps  
and there are very few facilities to  
nurse them there, or even here, still  
they would be much better here, one  
case transferred to Shanlyngat has died.

2  
28 May P.M. P.O.W. at Shanlyngat camp  
being inoculated again today & tomorrow  
against Plague. Jungle camps I believe  
also being done. Another sports meeting  
held in this camp this evening Auss & Dutch  
teams competing. Auss winning most of  
the events. Padre Cary R.C. was admitted  
to Hospital a few days ago suffering from  
Dysentery. Padre Baskford C.O.F. is  
also off colour with a temperature. He  
has had a couple of doses of Diarselen.  
These are the two Auss' Padres attached to  
this camp. Late this evening I received the  
following alarming report from 2 drivers who  
have been out rounds the camps:—

CHOLERA has broken out among Auss' P.O.W.  
at Anderson & Williams camp B.K. 2 men died  
on 27<sup>th</sup> Sgt Sowden R.A.Q. 13558 & Gnr Dane T.S.  
QX 10745. both 2<sup>nd</sup> Reg. and one man. P/O  
Lasham L. NX. 52288 228<sup>th</sup> H.R. died today.  
8 more are in a bad way & may die. one man  
died within 8 hours of being struck & the other  
two within 24 hours. The sick are isolated  
but all others in camp (workers) worked for  
24 hours straight on 26/27<sup>th</sup>. They were  
inoculated in this camp about 3 1/2 weeks ago  
& received another inoculation today under J.  
supervision. Actually they were inoculated  
also yesterday by Auss' med. with serum on hand

Lt Col Anderson has recommended to J. officer Camp London that patients be taken to 200 K camp for isolation. He is very worried about this outbreak. Drivins also stated that on 28<sup>th</sup> they saw at 75 K. Camp about 30/50 Burmese being carried with a pole through their Sawngs and they thought these natives were dead. Some days ago Drivins noticed dead Burmese between 70 & 95 K. The grave risk is that the Burmese foul the ground & streams every where with human excreta. About a month ago with the approach of the wet season after six months dry I issued a warning to all camps the absolute necessity of refraining from drinking any but unboiled water, as the filth from all the country side is washed into streams. Unfortunately some men will only learn by experience with the consequent risk to all, in many matters which we issue advice & give advice.

29 May. Another driver who has been out for 2 weeks returned to this camp for a couple of days. He confirms reports about Burmese dying from Cholera at 75 K. He was informed at that camp that there were many deaths. I have caused Lt Col Hamilton to confer with Major Fisher & Supt. Med. Off. re necessary precautions here & outside & recommendations to J. H. O. His report together with my covering notes has

been forwarded to Lt Col N. Recommendations:

1. Removal of business from POW camps & from using same water supply.
2. Full information as to camps affected, water supply, number of patients.
3. All Camp London should be given this information & warned to take precautions.
4. All human contact in & out of camp should cease.
5. No cholera cases to be transported away from camp in which they are isolated.
6. Patients should be protected from all exhaustion & exposure. This involves good cover & rain & cold & provision of many bed pans.
7. Adequate quantities of disinfectant also extra containers for boiling water & sterilizing clothing etc.
8. Extra supplies in good quantities of essential medicines should be available. Particularly: (a) opium, (b) Koolin, (c) Potassium Permanganate.
9. Complete re-isolation of all contacts. I also suggested that Lt Cols Hamilton (Aus) & Larson (Dutch) with Dr. Huguichi should visit to Camps concerned at once. At Shantay way at we are not purchasing from Burmese trader supplying canteen, any fruit other than tinned bananas & apples. No one is now allowed to visit Burmese well just outside camp which well we have been using for some time. Wells in camp are now adequate. J. prevent virus noted here. Wood canteen (Burmese) coming into camp with ox carts have their legs lightly sprayed with fire spray. The bullocks & cart do not receive any attention.

6  
30 May. One Dutchman died of dysentery this morning.  
The 2 head of cattle died today Capt Grenville conducted  
a blood test & discovered Anthrax. This needs care  
in handling, & is difficult under our conditions  
where it is difficult to get anything from the J.  
We were informed this morning that we were to  
collect some sheep for rations. We questioned the  
J. meant goats which proved correct.

Yesterday 100 J. Collets arrived Shanbyngay at  
about 1500 left by train going N about 1900  
They had come across from Thailand were  
dragging small carts & also 4 small artillery  
pieces about the size of our 2 pounder.  
The feat of bringing these across on unmade  
& rough roads is certainly an example of their  
tenacity & spirit to undertake tasks which  
I fear our troops would strongly object to.  
This spirit has often been noticed & full credit  
must be given.

10  
31 May. 4 June. During these days visited all  
camps with Lt Col Nagatomo. Party comprised:  
Lt Col N. with 1 J. NCO, hoodlum shotman in his Kawasaki  
car (which travelled as far as 83K.) Myself Lt Col T.  
Hamilton (Dr) & Capt Griffin (Pres) & Lt Col. Pk  
Lt Col. Larson (Dr) & Hunt (Interpreter, 1 Pres driver,  
1 Bull driver (A Hungarian born) & averaging from 2 to 6  
J's. the numbers changing between camps.

Timings 31 May left Shanbyngay at 1130. Lunched at  
115 K. camp (Anarkwan) 1430. Arrived 83K camp  
(No 5 Branch Ho.) 1930 hrs.

1 June left 83K. 1030 - Lunched at 95K camp 1400 hrs.  
Arrived 105 K camp (Rustalain) 1900 hrs.

2 June left 105 K. 1000 hrs arrived 105K camp (with 1)  
1300 hrs. Left again at 1600 hrs & arrived at 105K  
at 1800 hrs.

3 June left 105K. at 1130 hrs lunched at 105K.  
(No 5 Branch camp) 1330; Left 1415 arrived 83K  
2030 hrs.

4 June left 83K 1015 hrs arrived 75K 1300 for  
lunch left 1415 hrs arrived Shanbyngay at  
0300 hrs. 5 June.

The road. As far as 60K. the road has a  
fair metal base & under present conditions can  
be travelled without much chance of being held  
up. In some places the surface has been broken  
bridges are of a temporary nature.

From 60 to 83K the road shows many more  
breaks in surface & has not in just instances

31 May - 4 June cont'd

been found as well. In many places care is needed to negotiate bad patches  
From 83 to 104 the road has metal base only in places throughout its width but stone has been thrown in to wheel ruts which help to get along. Very rough surface & difficult to negotiate since wet season has set in  
Caterpillar Tractors (2) are being used to work in the area & are heavily called upon to get motor transport through bad places. Our truck was pulled through. Two of these 100-108 K Road is just a clearing through jungle, earth from side drains thrown in to centre. No stone or metal. Elephants working in this area are worked all day pulling trucks along until they knock up as happened in our case between 102 & 105 K which distance we walked. It remaining in the truck which event ually got through by aid of elephant. This is the worst bit of road I have ever travelled on. Ruts were 2 ft deep & truck axles & differential rested on the ground, requiring driver to get out back wards & get in to other tracks. The time taken on the various stretches gives an idea of the type of road traversed as my little time was spent inspecting camps, or for lunch.

31 May - 4 June cont'd

8  
The camps at present occupied.  
30 K. Repley, P.O.W. Americans. British Capt. H. J. Simmons (under Lt Col Van EENNARD) in charge) & about 300 Dutch. Accommodation ample.  
Food sufficient. Medical 3 Dutch Drs. Need more medicines. Work Unloading goods & materials from steam train on to Diesel Train which carries further toward. Requests asked for Dr. Hecking (Dutch) to be returned to look after Amer. Brit. He is now at Shanlyngayat having gone there with small pox patients & contacts & is now free. Approved by Lt Col N. <sup>915 22</sup> for graves. 21 Oct 1947  
45 K. ANARKWAN P.O.W. Drs 215 under Capt Emsdell. Here being detached from Anderson & Williams units. Accommodation ample. Food fair. Work Railway track work. Hours irregular. Medical a number of men sick diarrhoea & stomach troubles principally. One man Mc Barnard very low Drs Lt. Bels Hamilton & Larson saw him & stated he would die the same day. Cause suspected Cholera. (Later report stated he died at 1800 hrs) only 1 medical orderly. No Dr. in attendance. Sacked Lt Col N. that May (H) Krantz at present at Shanlyngayat he sent to his camp at once with medicines. Approved. (Later report advised that May Krantz arrived the next day)  
65 K. A supply depot occupied by J. & a party of 20 Aus. Cattle drivers. Found one man in great pain every six. Drs suspected Cholera. Arranged for him to be sent to 60 K. at once where he can be attended by Drs. (Later report stated he was carried to 60 K. on stretcher same day by his mates.

Should  
Camp  
Office  
60K

Camp  
1 spot

23 31 May - 4 June Contd.

60 K. P.O.W. Anderson & Williams force Accommodation very crowded not sufficient. Food not up to scale. The main complaint being that 35 head of cattle were shot in delivery for the past month. Yugo were also shot & comprised a big percentage of egg fruit which were rotting & had to be buried. Work Railway track work. Ballasting vs. Hours long 4830 hrs to 2000 hrs & some times to 2500 hrs & 2000 hrs.

General Burmese were evacuating this camp when P.O.W. moved in (since some in occupation) 80/90 Burmese recently buried in this camp. It is stated cause was Cholera & smallpox. Camp was in a filthy condition. Now being improved by labour & shunt material. See Annex's A2 & B2 report by Lt Col Anderson. Deaths from Cholera in this camp to date 5.

70 K Mezalie P.O.W. Aus drivers 70 Dutch 22 Lt. Capt de Boer (D) Accommodation ample. Food sufficient. Medical although a doctor is present in camp a J. D. insists on attending to sick. Some cases should be transferred to Hanbyzayat & are fit to undertake the trip. J. D. does not approve. Work Carrying rations supplies from Railroad 64 K. to forward camps. Hours very irregular on account of roads & reconditioning trucks. On 2 or 3 occasions they have been forced to carry J. fighting troops (who are on their way across from Thailand) from 45 K to 60 K after returning from delivery of rations. Aus drivers have asked Capt de Boer

31 May - 4 June contd

10  
to protest, but according to their report he treated the matter casually. It is proposed to send these drivers to 113 K camp where they can pick up supplies from Thailand side of border & supply camps. I recommended that (1) Capt Carey be sent to look after Aus drivers (2) that a Dutch or Verburg be transferred from Repter camp. (3) that Lt Col Anderson (C.C.S.) be sent with them as Medical orderly. Lt Col Stegnow (D) Transfer from 108 K to them as Interpreter. All approved by Lt Col N.

75 K Meiloe P.O.W. Aus 140 Dutch 180. Lt Col hotes (D) 1/c Accommodation sufficient. Food reasonable for nonworkers. Medical 140 sick being residue from Aus & Dutch POW who moved forward from this camp & 70 K Camp respectively to 105 K & 108 K camps. Sicknesses by entering Malaria & deficiency diseases. 30 could be moved to Hanbyzayat. about 100 are fit for light duty. Starvation is universal. Work Camp duties. General The POW quarters are adequate to accommodate them all but on both sides of them (about 30-60 yards distant) Burmese are quartered with the consequent lack of hygiene. The ground is continually fouled by depositing everywhere - within a few yards of POW huts Burmese are dying at rate of 8/9 daily, the record being 15 in one day. Deaths apparently violent as if acute illness (apparently cholera) they are

11 3/ May. & June cont'd

carried out in their savings on a pole staked at edge of camp in shallow graves on bank of small creek which runs through camp  
2 Medical aids required. (Pte D.A. Dyles C.I.S who was aduly at this camp died at Shanbyuzayat 11/5. from Dysentery recently)

Requests 1 Transport for sick to Shanbyuzayat

2 Canteen supplies or money for local buying (Prices however are very high - 3K for pineapple)

Reference 1 on our return trip Lt Col N agreed to transfer 30 sick to Shanbyuzayat. As one truck was leaving with 5 Bus drivers also required so were taken on H<sup>2</sup>. The balance 20 will be sent as soon as transport is available.

Re 2 As a temporary measure I gave Lt Col Gates R50. (Will reimburse myself from Red Cross - Mr Muclison)

80 K <sup>H<sup>100</sup> APALON</sup> Dutch were moved into this camp 2 days ago. Their work is to clear & prepare ground at 83 K. for gardening. When clearing is completed they will go on to Dutch camp at 108 K. There is not sufficient accommodation for them at 83 K. Burmese are occupying same camp. They have no H<sup>2</sup>.

83 K This is 5 Branch H.Q. D few POW. and 4 Dutch members of 5 Branch being drivers & some sick are here. No 3 Branch also have Lt Col

3/ May - June cont'd

12  
Mantel one other Lt Col & 30 men to remain & grow vegetables. They are quarantined on opposite side of creek. Quarters very poor.

With 5 Branch are Bus Cattle drivers who are placed here to take cattle forward to 105 K. on No 5 Branch side of creek the camp is filthy.

Fatris are bad. One stray Pit a few yards from kitchen, partially fallen in is full of flies & maggots. The kitchen is also a harbour for flies which is not cleaned, benches dirty, food lying about. Rice stacked in open, being wet by rain & becoming moulded & sour. One Bus cattle driver is forced to work in kitchen despite the fact that he has dysentery & blood in evacuations.

The cook is a barker & would not allow Lt Col Mantel to enter kitchen. Striking him when he attempted to do so. No boiling water is available for men to drink - vitally necessary in view of Cholera. nor boiling water to sterilize their eating gear. A half pig was suspended from a tree at kitchen & was black with flies. Some of this meat went into the stew next morning. The cattle drivers complain that for 2/3 weeks their food has solely been rice & greasy water as flavoured. The greasy water is obtained by boiling pork fat. The bar meat being taken by Jis.



31 May 4 June cont'd

95 K. <sup>KYONDRAW</sup> This camp is a Ration dump also stationed here are about 30 Burmese B. under Dutch Capt Food. No complaints as to quantity apparently there is some tinned rations, some of which POW get occasionally. Accommodation. Sufficient but the worst feature is the fact that Burmese are quartered in the same hut with only a partition separating them. Further there have been a few deaths among Burmese which POW believe was on account of Cholera.

Medical Although a Dutch Dr is in camp a J. Dr insists on treating POWs. 2 a/c's stated they were treated for tropical ulcers by constant application of iodine. The ulcers became worse when he applied Carbolic one man then had a haemorrhage. They ceased going to J. Dr & the Dutch Dr now has them much improved by treatment. The difficulty, however is that he has not access to medicines. This matter was taken up with Lt Col N. (explaining in order to save face that P.O. could not make their complaints known to J. Dr on account of language difficulty) & he agreed to arrange that Dutch Dr would treat all POW.

Two malaria cases & Dutch Lt & Sgt Boinley to be removed to Shanlyngayat, but difficulty in getting transport.  
Work Malaria research.

31 May - 4 June

105 K. <sup>ANIBANIAN</sup> <sup>(My Keman)</sup> Ramsay - Green - Black, forces about 1950. Accommodation. Very congested, huts all overcrowded. Food. Not sufficient meat Vegetables, sugar, oil. Rice is sufficient. Medical. One hut is available for hospital. It is full, many lighter cases are quartered in hut near officers & orderly room. 2 deaths have occurred at this camp, Amoebic Dys. & Cholera. 2 cases of Cholera are now showing improvement but another death from Dys is expected at any time. In addition to these deaths, this force lost 7 men at 95 K. prior to move, all Dys except one Bern Berre & acute pulmonary oedema.  
Work Road work. The last few Poles prior to arrival at 105 K. are the worst experienced. The Railway work has not yet been commenced in this area. General. Great difficulty is experienced as the J insist on a certain number of men going to work each day. If numbers are not sufficient, all sick except those in Hqs are paraded & a J. NCO goes through & points out men for work. One does not need much imagination to see where this policy will lead. The Dns & Cos object but it is no avail. The J say the line must be completed. They say that the sick should receive less rations than workers. This policy of sending some of sick to work has applied

15/ May 14 June contd

in most camps for the past couple of months, in spite of protests all round. About 50% of the men are without boots, large numbers without a shirt & likewise slacks. They work in the rain all day, & have little comfort at night. On return to this camp Lt Col N.

agreed to supply 5000 articles of clothing to Jungle camps. These he said must be issued to workers & worn only at night time. He agreed to Capt Carey being sent to look after Ais' Durian at present under Dutch Capt Lt 70 K. These will be moved to 113 K in a few days. No holidays are given at this camp who applied for Lt Col Ramsay was informed that half the force had a holiday each day. On first arrival at camp 1300 workers went out daily. This has gradually reduced to about 900 & shows signs of further reduction daily.

#### PAYAS HONZU

108 K. 10 N about 2500 Dutch. Lt Col Plate. Accommodation on arrival only 2 huts had the roof on the others being done. The Hoo hut is not yet done, sick men being in one of the accommodation huts. Food similar to 105 K. Work as at 105 K. Medical No cholera. Many cases of Dera & Dys also fever.

21 May 14 June contd

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Workers required each day at this camp are in excess of number of men fit to go. They were supplying 1500 on arrival this has been reduced to 1300 at present & Lt Col Plate says the numbers will get less each day.

General remarks on Trip. My fears expressed so often during the past three months to Lt Col N. that they would not be able to get food & canteen supplies through to Jungle camps in wet seasons have been realised. Furthermore sick cannot be transported back to Hoo. As the wet season has just commenced the position will get worse, especially if railway line was always down which I think is inevitable - Note if food etc is taken the first to K by rail. In this eventuality with the prevalence of cholera plus all other diseases in a force which has gradually been weakened over the past 13 months, one is alarmed & apprehensive of the future. Requirements: (a) Hospital accommodation for a further 1500 in area where they can be transported to same. (b) Constant & plentiful supply of medicines, bandages, soap, disinfectant etc etc. In this regard a request will again be made for a Red Cross ship which would be our salvation provided it was despatched so as to get here within 6-8 weeks.

31 May 4 June contd.

(C) Further supplies of drum cans for hauling water for drinking, sterilization of ~~water~~ utensils etc. (d) Boxes of boots & clothing to Port without same. (e) More re-arranging food; more meat, peas, beans, salt, sugar, local peas, beans are easier to transport than melons, eggfruit which become damaged wrot. (f) greater efforts to supply canteen goods (g) In future move better preparation of camp prior to move. Completion of hot water supply (h) Keep Burmese away from POW camps (i) More transport on moves, all marches bump up the sick figures. Men become exhausted carrying all gear they are afraid to discard any article, as replacements are not available. These will be placed before Lt Col N & strongly pressed.

Annexures B2 & C2, are Med Reports by Capt Richards & Anderson re their respective camps.

100 Kilo Camp was visited for half an hour. Pows. Lutet Dmer Reis. These are No 5 Branch. It was noted that No 5 Branch Comdr had supplied their canteen with 5000 eggs plus other goods. Their conditions & numbers were similar to 105. & 108 K Camps.

Points of note The lack of consideration to myself & senior offrs throughout the trip.

31 May 4 June contd

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2 The pathetic sight of Burmese families moving back along road with some members stricken with Cholera. A lad of about 10 yrs, as thin as a stick, with a terrified expression being carried by his mother - A man of about 24 being helped along, each 20 or 30 yards collapsing & doubling up with griping pains. These poor devils do not appear to receive any treatment & no wonder they die like flies. The danger is passed to others by contamination of water supplies, etc. 3 The method of getting sick to Ho. At 75 K. it was arranged to send 10 sick men on a truck with 5 Aus' drivers. The truck was a good one with chains on wheels. On road a J. Sgt. TANAKA, going in opposite direction ordered them to change trucks with him as he was stuck up. The drivers & sick found themselves in a truck out of condition, no chains, no crank handle, spare left in this condition. By perseverance they got it going. Later when our truck broke down, 2 broken springs & a broken universal Lt Col N ordered us on to truck with sick. (He travelling at this time in Vauxhall) Total load 26 plus 2 big 4 & 6 gallon drums, all gear. Tropical downpours drenched occupants. Sick men without coats one man had only a pair of shorts, all be possessed

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31 May - 4 June contd.

A cold wind was blowing. However there was not a complaint from the sick, all apparently glad to put up with this knowing that better conditions awaited them at Hos, even though the Hos is a bare hut, where they lie on the floor. No extra blankets available.

5 June Arrived from trip 0300 hrs. Had a meal dug up from Kettle. same served to all. Later inspected Hos spoke to one pathetic case a man named Wright who had dysentery & cannot keep any food down. He said he had tried his hardest to do so. He had an expression of despair.

Interpreter that became sick with diarrhoea.

6 June Punt put in Hos. He says he has Cholera picked up on trip. He is an emotional type apt to become panicky. He says he has diarrhoea.

7 June Lt Yamada visited camp & said Lt N.Y. his H.Q. also Shomuka (our HQ) would move out to 105 K. within the next couple of weeks. Apparently he has been ordered out to jungle camps by Gen Sasa. 105 K. camp is at present overcrowded by Ramsays Guns & Kennans force. We have 39 on our staff & will be allowed trucks

20

for all including baggage. We may go portions of way by train. This would be a great trip.

During my absence following deaths occurred at Hanayuzayat. 2 June Dutchman cause dysentery. 4 June W.X. 1174 & Pte G.E. WILLIAMS.

2 1/2 M.G. Co. cause dysentery age 33 yrs.

Today 7 June NX 65584 DTY T. WRIGHT 2 1/3

Res.Mt. dysentery age 41. (ref 5 June)

Deaths during past month at 75 & 105 K. camps:-

- 5X 11550 Smith C.M. Pte. 7 Res.Mt. <sup>31st</sup> 28th May Dysentery
- NX 47895 Collins M.W. " 219 7th Amb 6th May Borneo acute pulmonary <sup>subacute</sup>
- OX 16388 Mornay J. Cpl. 2/3 8th St. 30th Pt. Dysentery
- OX 23964 Henderson J.M. Pte 7/3 1st St. 13 May "
- VX 43044 Ferris S.T. Pte 2/10 7th Coy 18 May Amoebic Dys.
- VX 23939 Smith L.S. Pte 1st Light Bde 30 May Cholera
- NX 31498 Gigg G. Pte 2/10 2nd Coy 8 ~~10th~~ Bacillary Dys
- NX 72060 Lloyd R.J. Pte 3 Res.Mt. 9 May Amoebic Dys
- OX 23206 Washington F.F. Pte 2/16 Bn 27 May Cholera
- VX 58160 Southgate R.A. Capt 13th Bn 29 May Cholera.

8 June Small occurred 2356705. Sig. W. Morley R.C.S. Acute pulmonary oedema 37 yrs. also one Dutchman cause dysentery. (Hanayuzayat) One sick man NX 66970 Pte E. E. West 1st. Whiteop Ocell. a patient in Ho reported missing, a search of camp & surroundings failed to locate him.

2/1  
 9 June 1085. Pt West located drowned at bottom  
 of (N.V.) Well in camp. Lt Col Black Capt Torne &  
 Lt Varley ordered to conduct enquiry. West buried  
 this afternoon. NX 54055 Pt E.T. Sussack  
 2/3 Res M.T. died today. Cause Dysentery (30 yrs)  
 Rance Dr deals with reports & requests re visit to  
 Jirga camps. Further precautions for prevention  
 of Cholera in this camp were taken after consultation  
 with & on advice of Pt Cdo Hamilton Shannon & Dr  
 by prohibiting the cooking & selling of foodstuffs  
 except coffee which must be made under supervision.  
 Private cooking can only be carried out at specified  
 places under supervision of Nos Drs or officers of  
 Thome Ka (Rus or Dutch).

10 June Major Campbell Economic off taken to  
 Hos a day or so ago. Has a fever but not yet  
 diagnosed. Capt Withering on duty for him.

11 June Padre Baskford returned to duty ex  
 hospital - fever with both he & Conry (Rb)  
 in hos care funerals have been conducted  
 by Dutch padres. Collected pay for month  
 of May today

12 June. Analysis of deaths in Shanjugayat  
 area since Oct shows alarming figures for May so  
 far as Pt. 2 are concerned. These figures do  
 not include deaths of Dutch at Rangoon  
 & Dutch, Rus & Americans at Maulmein  
 mainly as result of casualties when ship was sunk

Lignes are: -				Rus Amer Brit Dutch					
Month	Rus	Amer	Brit	Dutch	1928	1929	1930		
Oct	1				28	-	8	70	
Nov	7		3		7			14	
Dec.	13		2	1st	4			7	
Jan	7		2	37	27	1	2	8	
Feb.	-		1	14	8		1	3	
Ch. 2nd	28	-	8	70	76	-	11	102	
							Total		190

These our deaths go to prove our monthly  
 contentions to Lt Col N. that the men are getting  
 weaker each month under present conditions.

Additional deaths at outside camps reported  
 since our visit to these camps are:

- 105 K. NX 3081 Pt Page F.V. 2/10 2nd Reg 3 June Dysentery
- NX 54806 " Stephenson R. 3/10/28 " " Cholera
- NX 10866 " Trazer N.V. 2/11/28 " " Cholera
- 60K 19866 R/B Thompson E.W. (Dutch) 8 " Malaria

1500 hrs Six heavy 4 engine bombers, thought to be Liberators arrived thanby uzay at camp from the S.E. Three passed south of camp & 3 circled the camp rejoining the 3 on the S. side of camp. The 1st did not sound air claim but some guards ordered prisoners into huts & would not allow some hospital patients into slit trenches. The planes returned from the south & in 2 relays of three dropped bombs on the edge of Railway on the east side of camp. 2 bombs dropped inside camp fence & others were just outside. The bombs were seen to leave the planes & most POW went to ground or slit trenches & drains. 12 or more bombs were dropped. Unfortunately, of the railway line or the Workshops near Str were the targets the piled & casualties to POW were as follows:

- KILLED. 1515 hrs NX 4324 R/C/AG Schubert 8 DIV Provost age 26  
 NX 57150 Sgt P.A. Brown do " 28  
 A.I.F. { QX 14162 1/2 D. McDougall 1 Coy PASC " 35  
 NX 50263 L/Cpl J.J. Salmon 2/12 9th Coy RPE " 28  
 VX 22400 DVR K.S. Beales 1057th Coy " 27

- American { 120813359 The 1st ER Wilson 131st Arty  
 Wounded NX 166773 Sgt W. Firth 2/6 7th Coy Schrap in left fore arm  
 A.I.F. { VX 22263 2nd Lt J. Shepherd 1057th Coy - shattered left arm necessitating amputation

Dutch Killed 4. Wounded 5 one of which not expected to live  
 The following deaths also occurred today.

1150 hrs NX 5755 Lt J.A. Carr 2/18 8th age 38 cause Dysentery (Amelbic).  
 1545 hrs VX 61059 Spr. P.N. Ralston 2/10 7th Coy RPE age 34 yrs. cause Amelbic dys.  
 1545 hrs 1st 26770 Gun L. Graham R.A. C.F.F. age 34 yrs. same dysentery. The bombing apparently hastened the deaths of the latter two.  
 Carr was buried separately just after the bombing about 16.30 hrs. all the others were buried at 1930 hrs - a common funeral at which a large number of prisoners attended. This was certainly a disastrous day so far as we were concerned. After collecting our wounded & dead - many of whom were blown to pieces by the 2 bombs which dropped in the camp. I assisted in attending some Burmese casualties just outside the fence. I saw 11 dead & several wounded. I expect there were a large number of casualties among the Burmese.

26/

13 June After a lapse of a few weeks owing to Padre Bashford being ill. H.C. services were recommenced today at 0800 at which I attended. Rance E 2 is a letter sent to Lt Col N regarding protection against possible further bombings. Maj Kerr & Maj Meagher Econ ofrs Anderson & Williams forces respectively returned to their camps this morning with pay, others still here.

Deaths Today one Dutchman cause dysentery also QX 23979 (Mc Becker) E. 2/3000 Stone age 3rd cause amoebic dys. Three amoebic dys (P.?) since yesterday morning from amoebic dys. All these men could be saved with Entamine for which we have been appealing for months. Numerous other cases awaiting same. Last night I again spoke to D'Bigueki on this matter & pointed out the increasing deaths. I again asked for the substitute drug (Yapijol) promised by him some time ago. He said it had just arrived but so far today he has not delivered any to us.

14 June. The smallpox patient R/B Thomas late of the Repulse was discharged from isolation today - cured. He had a bad skin with smallpox being pock marked all over & delirious for a period of 21 days in jungle camp.

Our 2 wounded patients including Bhesud who had his arm amputated and doing well

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1800 hrs. Together with Lt Col Pitt & Punt I was called to the J. office in camp to see Lt Yamada two strange J. were there one spoke English fluently said that they came from the J. Propaganda Dept. Bangalore & asked me what I thought of the bombing I stated. The planes aimed at the Rly line near the camp. Unfortunately we had some casualties particularly with men who were working on the out skirts of the camp near the line. I was sure that if the Red Cross which we constructed was maintained the camp would not be bombed unless, as happened the other day - J. soldiers fired at the planes from within the camp with rifles & M.G.s. If this happens we will not be entitled to the protection which the Red Cross gives. Further I did not blame the occupants of the plane for the casualties as the camp had been placed alongside a military objective. - Big Railway Yards - Asked what was our feeling about casualties by our own bombs I said that all men in this too camp considered it was just bad luck. Poked did not I think it or pity the planes did not see the Red Cross I said: "I thought the planes did see same but I did not blame them for bombing a military objective. I expected they would again

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homb the Shanlyuzayat Railway yards & we  
may get more casualties so long as we  
were kept in a camp along side a military  
objective. This should not be the case  
& learn that they went to the box & photographed  
wounded P.O.s.

15 June  
July About 14:40 hrs 3 Allied Lt Engine Bombers  
(probably Liberators) appeared on South East &  
circled the camp. The bugle alarm was sounded  
& the planes made their run on the camp.  
dropping about 8 bombs in the camp area  
& a number falling outside among native  
coolie lines & road. On first sighting the  
planes I with Capt Griffin started to move  
about the area to see that men were  
taking cover. We had inspected huts  
#26 & were thinning out men as  
around hut #4 where they were congested  
when the planes made their run on the camp.  
Capt Griffin jumped into a slit trench where  
2 P.O.s were & I got into a shallow, half  
dig one. Watching the bombs, would feel  
very close, as they were clearly visible. I yelled  
out "heads right down". This was  
followed by a terrific crash & while I  
was of the opinion I did not lose  
consciousness, later events indicated

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that I did for approx  $\frac{1}{2}$  to 1 minute. The  
sensations was peculiar. My body seemed  
to be quivering down the spine & a  
noise not unlike bells seemed to be in  
my ears. I remember testing my legs  
by wagging my toes & as I was having  
some difficulty in getting air I realized  
my head at least was covered with  
earth. I struggled free & got to my  
feet remembering Griffin & the others.  
I hurried to see how they had fared.  
Our slit trenches were on the edge of a  
crater & the hut had been blown to  
smithereens & a portion of a tap was on  
fire. I noticed that 2 slit trenches next  
to mine were covered in & occupants  
buried. The closest one, about 6 ft from  
mine contained Capt Griffin. I called  
out for men to come as I could not dig  
myself & ordered them to dig quickly  
with their hands while I scoured tools  
at the same time I ordered a couple  
of men to put out the fire. A couple  
of Dutchmen ran across with a shovel  
from hut #5 but I hurried to my hut  
#6 & called on Capt Healey. Sgt Myer  
Levy & others to come. After they got  
the men out I went to my hut &  
washed the mud etc off my head &



body. Capt Bloomer - butal or arrived  
 & said he would examine me.

Capt Griffen was unconscious & died about  
 20 minutes later in R.A.P. with a fracture  
 at the base of the skull. My regard  
 to myself my escape was miraculous.  
 My felt hat was blown to shreds  
 with a big piece torn out of the rim  
 at the back & I am sure that when  
 I produce it later, my story will  
 not be believed. Apart from surface  
 injury I did not appear to be hurt.  
 A piece of shrapnel had gone thro'  
 the rear of my left leg, my back  
 was scalded in a few places.

& body & limbs covered with bruises  
 as was also my face & head. 2  
 beautiful black eyes, and a pierced  
 ear drum in right ear. My  
 main concern was internally as I  
 felt as sore as a boil all over  
 & particularly inwardly.

Capt Bloomer bandaged my leg &  
 we had both started towards Hos'  
 when the planes made another run  
 springing us into a slit trench where  
 Lt Col Black & a batman <sup>was</sup> shouting  
 while here a bullet from one of the  
 planes No. 9 hit Lt Col Black, piercing

his right forearm which was resting on  
 the back of the trench behind my head.  
 In the second bomb attack, bombs were  
 dropped near the red Cross, the canteen  
 & one on No 3 Hut. Jack was  
 very close to this lot having gone  
 to the area where the Buppin Kakait  
 & Cooks were to look after them.  
 Several were killed here Russ  
 casualties were: - Killed

NX 34712	Capt R. Griffen	2/18 Br	Age 32
VX 20516	Pte R. Hewins	105 M.T.	" 27
QX 9763	Pte J. Dale	8 Div Sigs	" 39
VX 27535	" L.A. Walker	4 Res Mt.	33
VX 39967	Lt Col V.A. Dalrymple	do.	
T.X. 4258	Pte K.H. Miller	74 CCS	
NX 65362	Sgt G.M. Blair	74 L.A.D.	" 39
T.X. 2594	Lt Col R.N. Kemp	74 CCS	
NX 9270	Pte T.J. Fury	2/4 M.C. Br	
NX 53238	" J.P. Hunter	8 Div Sigs	
WX 6304	" G. Kennedy	76 Fd Lk	
QX 16330	" E.G. Hall	2/86 Br	
	" A. P. Plome	105 Tpt	5 Br
	" A. Rogers	Butch	R.A.F.
	" J.F. Pharo	"	R.A.

Our wounded estimated at 27 but  
 details not yet available Dutch  
 killed two, & some wounded.

21 On the approach of the planes the J's opened up with Mgs, rifle fire & a few shots from what appeared to resemble a Bapa from within the camp area and outside camp boundary. The Red Cross was not a completed emblem as it did not have a white background. The New Hos block was not touched. An improvised Red Cross was on top of the centre hut here, made from red blankets, but with wind strain was badly faded and out of position. The planes replied to fire from the ground with Mgs. This fire was particularly dangerous as a number of P.O.V. kept running away towards some scrub at the S of Ametang. These could easily have been mist taken for J's. I do not blame the planes occupants for their actions, but the J. Gov should have notified the Allied powers of the location of P.O.V. camps in conformity with International Convention. Furthermore we should not be camped near a military object i.e. a big railway yard & work shops at the junction of two railway lines.

During the evening as Lt Col Black was wounded in Hos I handed over postern

to Lt Col J. Hamilton & was later ordered to Hos by here. After things had quietened I felt like a rest. I particularly regret the loss of Capt Griffen & my remarks in the official Army are as follows: "Special record of the sterling value of Capt Griffen who had served with me continuously since leaving Aus' & who at all times and at all places both in training & in action in Johore B. & Singapore Island was a Staff offr as a P.O.V. had always conducted himself in accordance with the standards of the highest tradition of an Australian offr. He was a brave soldier & a most conscientious worker, always to be relied upon & one who carried out his duties at all times without fear or favour." The precaution taken against the possible air raids by digging slit trenches has been rewarded by saving many lives during these raids. A combined funeral service was held in the Darbyngayat Cemetery at 7.30 hrs. Bodies Baskford (R.E.), Cory (R.C.) Rus and Vergeest (R.C.) Dutch, officiated. I sent a wreath for Capt Griffen which was laid by Sgt Major Lang for me. Lt Col N. & some of his staff visited camp &

had a conference with Lt Col Hamilton who requested that a wireless message be sent asking that P.O.W. camps be immune from further attacks, also that the Hoo's be moved to 4 K & 8 K camps. Lt Col N stated that all barracks for P.O.W. will be erected at another site. Food would have to do their own. Moves to 4-8-18 K would probably commence tomorrow. A J. General would visit the camp in the morning. Pending move, permission was given for dispersal outside camp area in jungle country if raids were threatened.

16 July. Capt. Tooe - Bonneton (D) (Rus) & Messengers (D) were sent out by Lt Col N to inspect 4-8-18 K camps. The J. Maj Gen inspected the camp at 11 o'clock - a very perfunctory inspection. He ordered that the Red Cross be covered with bushes. After lunch P.O.W. capable of walking began to move out in batches of 50. The J's did not allow time for them to be organised. These parties were preceded by members of Shomu Ka, Butspin & Cooks. At 4 K, a halt was made & 270 men Aus, D, Railway & Bomber workers, Shomu Ka & C branched off to this camp about 1600 continued to march to 8 K (Nagel). There were practically all the patients plus

medical ordalians & Hoo Staff (Dell, Sutot, Shomu Ka less 3 moved out to 4 K, leaving most of the work in Than' to Rus). This left 410 still in Than'. There was very little shelter in 4 & 8 K camps & all patients had the prospect of a very rough time ahead of them until shelters could be made.

June 17<sup>th</sup> After lunch 115 & Hoo workers were taken to Than' for work, & the Japs called for many working parties within the camp for construction work, carrying of rations from the road, hygienic work etc. At about 1800 hrs, 100 hospital patients arrived in this camp having marched back from Weigale along the railway line. They were closely followed by 100 Dutch. Apparently Weigale was hopelessly overcrowded, & there was hardly a roof of any kind in the camp for 1000 men. A few tents were hastily erected in this camp, & the new men were bedded down in every available corner for the night. The cooks did excellent work in providing hot meals & tea for the newcomers. Lt Col N paid a visit to this camp during the afternoon and had a conference with officers, during which he informed us that he would immediately begin to construct a camp with a capacity for 2000 men about 5 Km to the north of Than' in the direction of Moulmein. This camp, which is to be constructed by our own men, will

be built in rubber well away from the railway line, & with good cover from the air. I.H.Q. will also move to this site on completion. This is considered to be a much more satisfactory solution of the problem from the point of view of safety than No original scheme to establish a camp towards Banteak.

As a result of the bombing on 15 June, the following two Australians who were wounded, have died in Shan hospital today.

5X11599	Pte. J.H. Beattie	2/4 Res M.F.	1730 lbs.
1X49143	Pte. A. Andrew	2/9 En.	1000 lbs.

Meanwhile in Shan camp sick patients unable to walk were awaiting transport, for whom Lt Col Hamilton asked N. for a train. N. replied that a train would be available to take off sick to 18 km camp. During this time, some of the cooks & medical staff carried on, & there was one air raid warning. Accommodation was arranged for all men left in camp.

Mrs Brooks & Mavis arrived in 4 km camp, having luckily contacted the Burmese merchant, & made arrangements for carter goods to be sent here as a distributing point for the 8 & 18 km camps. Eggs sugar etc will be sent on when transport is available.

As a result of bombing, all work was suspended in Shan railways yards, the majority of natives having gone back.

Lt Col N has moved his H.Q. to a position on the Am-  
Lerd road.

18 July. One train load of 214 men left Shan at 1420 hrs. At the station, & before loading was completed, an air raid warning came from Moulmein, whereupon the train pulled out. This left about 196 men still in Shan & kerkos were taken in order to provide accurate figures for ourselves & the J. One truck was provided for the Brig, Lt Col Hamilton & remaining members of one Dutch Slamma Ka, for transport to 4 km camp. The Brig had left hospital, & arrived at 4 km camp during the morning.

In this camp this morning the J. asked for a party of 15 Aus & 15 Dutch to go as carpenters to work on the new camp north of Shan. These men had to be taken from hospital patients who returned from 8 km camp to here last night. It transpired later that these men were used to fill in bomb craters in Shan, instead of the job specified, & were not by any means fit for such work.

Lt Col Hamilton has received a letter from Maj Fisher from Shan camp re a request for medical supplies by Lt Hamilton. Maj Fisher points out that practically everything left by train today for 18 km camp, & that medical instruments are due to go with Maj Hobbs tomorrow. In answer to a request from Maj Cameron at 8 km, Maj Fisher has sent his chemists there. Capt Jordan's left this afternoon. 48 patients are left, including the dysentery & 19 other members of the staff.

a further 60 Dutch patients marched in from  
negate camp, & were accommodated in this camp.  
June 19. The brig, with Capt Tasso, left 4 km  
camp by truck, packing with their tools, tables  
etc. At 8 km camp the brig held a conference  
with officers, & decided the following points:

① Temporary camp cdr. Lt Col Mantel (D), with  
Capt Massmans (D) as adjt. The aux. cdr is to be  
Maj Cameron with Lieut McCauley as adjt. Lt Col  
Larsen will be in charge of the Dutch sick, &  
Maj Chalvers the Aust. ② One hut is available,  
which will be converted into a hospital. ③ Camp  
members to be grouped in kennels of 50 under an officer or WO  
& in event of an air raid alarm, kennels will take their  
groups to a prearranged dispersal area. ④ There must be an  
organised building plan & no indiscriminate erection of  
small huts & lean-tos will be permitted. ⑤ There will be  
strict supervision of hygiene & sanitation, and also the  
construction of trench latrines & refuse pits.

At the 18 km camp <sup>leaving 8 km from 4 km by train</sup> the Brig, appeared Lt Col Black as camp  
commander with Capt Fisher's adjt. Capt Fisher is doing good  
work & camp makers are now well under control. Maj  
Tidler is in charge of the hospital, assisted by Dutch  
doctors. There is equal accommodation for Aust & Dutch  
patients, but more is required. At the 8 & 18 km camps  
Capt Tasso collected details for a consolidated statement  
of all men who were at them. camp. The Brig & Capt  
Tasso returned to 4 km camp by S. motor train, carrying

1. troops, at 20.30 hours.

20 June: A church service was held as usual by Padre  
Eastford this morning in 4 km camp.

21-23 June The past 3 days notes were entered  
for me by Cpl Collins from official D. Working  
parties usually supplied at Thai Railway Workshops,  
(not being moved into rubber near than villages),  
also mechanics drivers to go in daily by truck  
from 4 km. Messages from 8 km show that the  
men are very uncomfortable there. Not enough  
stap has been delivered for covers, & further  
100 sack (50 A, 50 D) went from that camp  
to 18 km. J. Guards here state that the Post  
at 8 & 18 km will be moved to 30 km (Kestie?)  
in a few days, as soon as the Brit-Amerians  
& Dutch at present there (Mobile Camp #2)  
move on. This will be a satisfactory move  
as there is good accommodation at Kestie.  
For myself I am now getting rid of the  
severe bodily pains caused by leasiting  
& I am not able to get reasonably comfortable  
at night time to sleep. The extreme soreness  
would not allow much sleep for several  
days. My bruises & abrasions surround  
are clearing up very well. I particularly  
want to note that during air raids  
the evacuation of Thai camp & settling down  
here Jaxk has been a tower of strength

in maintaining services morale. He has been extremely calm & a great example to others. Capt Justice also did a similar job at Thai station at 18K.

On 2nd I got word that Maj Cameron who is a hos patient but is in Rivs at 8K was sick with an attack of Malaria so I have sent Capt Healy (Shonmka) to assist him. Numerous smaller problems are overcome daily. Supply of Canton goods to 15K. - as no meat delivered to 8K. I've had one <sup>patient</sup> unable to walk we dragged it on an ox cart to 8K. Some of our drivers at Thai two days ago met some Englishmen from Thailand who left Changki with 7 Force (7000). They stated that 7 Force had lost 500 during the past 3 weeks from Cholera. I am very relieved to think that the Cholera epidemics which broke out here in Burma, causing hundreds of deaths among the Burmese, among us & a few among 70th appears to have overcome. Our 70th has in this and all other matters done an excellent job of work & we doubt we've got all non Cholera infections & they keep every precaution.

14:30 Left with Capt Force (SC) Lt de Hamilton Capt Egan (Dr D) & Hunt were called to Lt Col N. H.O. for conference.

The following matters were discussed:

1. Moving of sick from present positions
  2. About 500 men required by Railway bonds to work at Sandkwan (45K) loading gravel
  3. Attached rates pay for members of Red Cross & Padres at Shonmka and 17 Shanlungan at workers remain at Kendan (18K)
  4. A request was also made for reports with names of individual acts of heroism by any deceased members of our forces taking action in Malaya, Singapore, Java or Sumatra (10/20 cases)
- Ref moves: Lt Col N. has asked me to go tomorrow & arrange moves as follows:
1. Any men suitable for discharge to Camps Mobile 1 (Anderson & Williams) & Mobile 2 - British-Americans & some Dutch originally known as Anakwa explained
  2. Move of us to 200 to 45K 300/0 work. I said this may not be possible as all men available for select ins were hos patients.
  3. Accutain Nos fit to march to Keston from - 18K 8K & 4K. & start them moving.
  4. Nos unable to march from each of these three camps



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25 June. The following deaths have occurred in this  
camp (18 km), since the evacuation from the  
camp:

20 June. VX 53501 Sgt. G. Williams 8 Div Sigs. Dispensary  
21 " NX 30573 Pte. W.J. Pitt 2/18 km do.  
22 " NZD 2425 Warrant Officer Rasmussen NZ Navy do.  
24 " NX 47755 Pte. F.J. Day 2/30 km do.

On arrival back in this camp last night, the Brig  
prepared a letter for N, which was taken in to the HQ  
at Thamb. yesterday evening by Capt. Toose. The  
substance of this letter chiefly concerns the pending  
movement of figures of men to be moved from  
4, 8 & 18 km camps to Kelpen (30 km), Anarkwan (45 km),  
& Mobile I & II camps. Total discharges will be as  
follows:

To mobile I	Aus. 60	Total	60
" mobile II	Brit & Amer. 25, Dutch 27		47
" Anarkwan	Aus. 87, Dutch 171		258
			<u>365</u>

This arrangement is now somewhat altered, to the extent that the men for mobile camps I & II are now being diverted to Anarkwan. The doctors are afraid that some of these men will not be able to stand up to heavy work. The Brig has appointed Lt Col Requin (D) to be 1/4 of Anarkwan camp. Sanchez & Kunicich have also been appointed. The letter contains a request that Lt Col N. Eddie to be sent to Anarkwan as doctor.  
50 Aus & 94 Dutch marched out of camp this

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morning en route for Kelpen & Anarkwan. Padre Backford returning this afternoon from 18 km reports the death of: NX 47755 Pte. J. Wilson, 2/3 Res MIT, Dispensary.  
At 1400 hrs a Liberator 4 engine bomber approached this camp & made several wide circuits, encompassing a large local area. Flying low it dropped 2 small bombs in vicinity of branch railway line, & then used cannon & machine gun on what we were later informed was the a train on the line. Information to hand indicates that the plane was observed later in the direction of Thamb. where more small bombs were dropped to the tune of 4 A fire. Damage not yet known.

26 June. The local I camp cdr has given permission for members of this camp to go to dispersal areas on the approach of aircraft & consequently positions have been allocated for the various groups. slit trenches are being dug this morning. 1400 7 Liberator bombers again made their appearance in this vicinity, making a number of wide circuits & remaining until 1505 hrs. a number of bombs were dropped on the Thamb. area, with very little attendant A/A fire. About 1930 hrs V. asked for 50 men from this camp to work all night repairing the damage. 36 men went but were sent back later in the evening as they were not required. On returning 110 birds reported approx 20 bombs dropped on the railway, old workshops, railway line, & hospital reservoir.



also 7 lengths of rail destroyed. He & his party were employed for some hours repairing rails.

27 June: Several rly truck loads of ~~stores~~ <sup>stores</sup> ~~patients~~ <sup>patients</sup> from 8 km camp passed here this morning en route to Than. to repair damage.

S. cdr has ordered after lunch dispersal of men in this camp (except essential details) to rubber & jungle areas across the rly line. Almost the entire camp moved out at 1315 hrs & returned at 1700 hrs. At 1440 hrs of Liberators approached Than. from S.E. & flew over the rly line. No circuits were made & they dropped their bombs on the direct run in. Disappearing towards the sea. He did not return till 1520 hrs & repeated the performance. Approx 40 bombs were dropped in all. Reported that objective was same area as yesterday, but much more damage this time.

Nothing standing but the train shed now, a good deal of line was torn up N of the station & a number of trucks overturned.

Death reported of: BX23289 Mr G.A. Rankin, 33 Ord.

28 June: 1930 The Brig. Capt. Frank Maj. Hagenberg, <sup>name</sup> C. Cmd left by truck with Lt. Col. W. for 185 & 198 km camps. The object is to organize removal of sick men from these camps to a new proposed hospital at 58 km. Dispersal again today. 2 Jap planes heard in the vicinity of Than. Witnesses report one as a single engine fighter. After several circuits

the planes disappeared

29 June Letter received from Lt. Col. Lator (sent <sup>in</sup> ~~in~~ <sup>advance</sup> from BK to 30K) disclosing presence here of 800 workers ex No 2 mobile, sleeping all huts but one. 3 huts on east of line could be used but one in need of repair. Lator has with him 453 mus etc & 26 dutch. Sufficient cooks but utensils inadequate, ration poor, no mess or substitute yet available. No drugs or medicines. 2 MDs (both Dutch but no Aus). Orders no ration to be made available from other camps. Re ARP. The camp in next to station, oil & rail dump. Location undesirable & offers definite military objective.

30 June: Two air raid alarms this morning; but <sup>no</sup> reported J. planes (one on each occasion) which flew through without circling. Dispersal as usual at 1230 hrs.

An allied prop. pamphlet, printed in Burmese, has been handed to Lt. Col. Hamilton. Some of it has been translated by a local Burmese & seems to be chiefly a news bulletin with a few illustrations.

Thursday 1 July: Lt. Col. again bombed today by 6 <sup>name</sup> Liberators who appeared from SE at 1455 hrs. & remained for 55 mins. Three separate attacks & witnesses state 70/80 bombs of varying size were dropped in all. A good deal of S/A fire from Than. vicinity, many bursts going close

to planes. Witness stated he saw 5 mobile 4A guns being drawn by trucks late in afternoon towards Mountmain. They appeared to be about 2 inch guns. Apparently a number of small bombs fell in the township, demolishing many houses & picture theatre. Number of heavy bombs again fell on railway goods yard causing destruction of sleepers, sheds & good deal of life, which was described as being rolled up like wire, on the N side of Shan Station. A certain amount of 4A disposal fell in the environs of this camp.

At 0200 hrs Sgt. Wilt Capt. Dose, arrived back at K endow camp having made arrangements for removal of patients & staffs from 105 & 108 K. camps to 55K. 1506 patients will be moved & a staff of 1165 additional. Mining Dept had short inspect on of 55K camp. While patients are working putting atop roofs on old framework. At present the camp will accommodate about 600. Lt Col N stated that additional huts would be completed at rate of one every two days. At 105 K camp (Romany - Green + Black force) I found the S. Shaban (Ordinary N.C.O.) bludgeoning the sick parade to get more men out to work. He stated Lt Col N had ordered that more men be sent to work. I disbelieved this & ordered a sick file & sent the Interpreter to Lt Col N asking him to make an inspection which he did accompanied by B. Hoshi Camp head

and Mr. Hignetti. The sick included hundreds of tropical ulcers varying in size up to a small saucer. N was astonished. He ordered that numbers going to work be left to Drs. & he asked what medicines drugs & materials required. At a conference this evening, attended by Shonaka Bandoo of 105 & 108 K camps arrangements were made for transfer to 55K. No. 1 camp. See Annex "7".

Report on visit to camp is contained in Annex "8". Capt. Carey (X/118th) at 113K camp contacted Lt. H. Simmons (X/118th) attached to Thai POW. & sent letter to Maj. Officer Capt. Hance at 105K, copy attached marked Annex "H 2". Particularly interesting news of our first battle near Narsing <sup>2 July</sup>. At 1500 hrs 6 Liberators again bombed Shan. A very quick raid & 30/40 bombs were dropped on the only runway. Height 10,000 ft. Raid lasted 5 minutes. No 4A fire employed during this raid. Workers state damage again done in Railway yard & station. It is also thought that Ammunition dump on W. side of an old camp was blown up by one bomb. Men working in Hanhngay at all are now moved to cover at 1200 hrs & return to work at 1600 hrs working through to 2000 or 2100 hrs.

Only 13 Poles & about 20 Dutch left this camp today under J. guards to take Shaban some few kilos away from camp. I informed the parade in camp last night that similar protected iron covers as available in this camp which is under cover of rubber trees. We

have air sentries posted who give ample warning to get clear of hot area under cover of this rubber. Furthermore a lot of men show signs of nerves which need steadying. The J. said the move out of camp was optional and not compulsory therefore I have discouraged some. Lt Col Pike (Head of Dutch Squadron) after my talk to him remained in camp today tho' three of his s'p's went out, which is a bad example to the men.

Some information gleaned at 105 K camp the following are included in deaths on Thales side among those there (not under my command)

Nx 4392	The Bateman	2/19 Bn	22 Bde
Nx 52838	lpl Jarrett G.	2/20 Bn	do
Nx 25931	lpl Gore F	2/18 Bn	do
Nx 35509	lpl Mc Glynn	2/19 Bn	do
	Li Lusk	2/20 Bn	do

Capt Dore & Maj Hazenberg taken to J.H.O. for correction of certain errors in 105th removal rolls.

3 July Reports coming to hand from outside camps indicate: 1 Lt Col Williams force from 40 K. plus portion of same force & some of Anderson's force at 45 K. now removed to 60 K where Anderson's still is. 2 Removal of some of Mobile 11 people (Amer but some D.) from 30 K to 60 K. Result. 60 K overcrowded

and room for balance of Mobile 11. Previously it was arranged that both Anderson & Williams forces would go to 70 K. This making room at 60 for Mobile 11 who would move from 30 K. (Reptu) Reptu is now also crowded & still must receive a few hundred sick patients from 18 K. This move is much overdue & everyone especially the sick are suffering. No 5 Branch have take all their sick also other working members from 3 Branch control. They are to start a 40s at 80 K but a lot of the sick are there without Dr, medicines & supplies. This gives some slight idea of how things stand & am more or less cut off from J.H.O. & am finding it very difficult to help. I have asked for permission to go to J.H.O. also to inspect the works there plus the new camp site, also to go to 18 & 30 K to see what I can do to help straighten things out there. No air raid today. The 8th raid occurred on 2nd.

4 July Capt Dore still at J.H.O. I have been inspecting him back daily with first information as to conditions at camps & latest moves. Economic s'p's from most camps are here working on

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monthly pay sheets, but there is an absence of lots of information from isolated parts such as cattle drivers & Malaria squad scattered along the line. This should have been sent in by the various I. Camp leaders so that work sheets can be completed.

5 July. Several reports to hand by Economic opps of the striking of Dutch opps at several camps by I. guards. Guards have had no reason for same & in any case it is against I. & Col N. orders. The matter has been reported by me in writing & protest again made.

July Capt Joss returned from Png. He previously paid allowed visit to 30th camp & reports from Lt Col Black that things although not right are getting better. Urgently in need of medicines & food is light (Breads per day) & accommodation crowded

7-8 July Lorry still not available for me to visit 30th camp as promised. In order to try & get rid of sores in my body as result of bomb blasting I am receiving massage. It is  $3\frac{1}{2}$  weeks since it occurred sores have worn off. My ears are discharging quite a lot but not suffering any pain. Cannot hear in right ear but hope it will improve w/ ear drum mends.

52

9-12 July Nothing of interest to report. A plane flew over inland yesterday (11th) being a type not seen before. It was twin engine & dual body & appeared to be fast.

13-16 July. Econ opps for 60-105 & 108 15 camps left on 15th. During their stay at this camp it was learned that in some camps POW are being exploited with regard to canteen supplies. Burmese who take articles of food for sale to camps have had some taken over by guards & sold by the guards to the canteen at greatly increased prices. Packages of Shintegar (Native sugar) of 1 Viss ( $3\frac{1}{3}$  lbs) which we retailed in our thanbyuzayat camp as low as 70 cents now in some camps is being sold as high as 847 R. Cigars usually R. 50 a packet of 100 as high as 8410 cents each. Transport is not available for us to send goods out to outlying camps but the Camps Comdr at 105 K sent a truck on 2 occasions from there to Muelmei return for goods. I feel sure Lt Col N. does not know of this but I have advised him by letter & I hope to arrange for better service at next conference which is now overdue. Mail We have heard from POW on

Mailand side that they received mail from Australia while at Singapore also that mail for us was sorted there & given back to J. to forward to us. The air letters were written in June & July '42 & received in March '43. We have not yet received same. All Port have been anxiously waiting for news from those at home. It would be a great relief to us to get letters & to know that our cards are reaching home. Still no word of a Red Cross ship for us which would be like a gift from Heaven. Singapore troops fortunately did get relief in this manner also. Annex "I 2" is copy of instruction from the new Commander of Port in Hailand who is also in charge of us. This gives an idea of the thoughts & ideas & mentality of those under whom we are placed. These ideas are more or less general & is surprising when coming from high ranking officers.

17-20 July No matters of much interest this camp. Three R.C. Padres. 5 Smith & Lang R.N.I. & 4 Vergoust Dutch were called to J.N.O. Hanleyuzayat to meet Father FINGERIN. French priest at Moulmein who came out to Lt Col N. H.D. Have not seen any of the Padres. Note from Major Ben adyt new HQ camp at 55 & brought in by Smith advises 6 Port. 7 deaths at that camp, also Lt Col Coates still a stretcher

case & they are short of 800 as two Dutch 800 have not yet arrived. Also some medical appointments for this camp have not yet arrived (ie. on 14th) an endeavouring to straighten this matter & have also recommended that Capt B. Weston be sent there from Repta while Coates is ill, also that Dr Klaustrhaus (D) be sent from 30K to Hanleyuzayat to care for the Port & Dutch Port camped there under Lt Col Karant (D) Annex "I 2" is plan of Hanleyuzayat cemetery with list of names & grave nos & particulars of those British & Americans buried there. Plan shows also 86 Dutch graves but no numbers & bars.

21-24 July. Manual routine. Men going to Hanleyuzayat daily: Mechanics, etc. Lt Col Karant & Capt Stein reported to Dr Higuchi on 22 & 23rd at J.N.O. re classifying all bona fide Red Cross personnel in Port force. Several times Higuchi referred to what was apparently a new copy (in Japanese) of the pertinent articles of the Geneva Convention. This is pleasing to note. I have not shown much interest in same on numerous occasions on which I have referred to it. Advice received from Major Fisher on 23rd that Lt Col Todie was admitted to 30K HQ suffering from uncontrolled Malaria. The matter of shortage of quinine & all drugs &

dressings at all camps was again referred to Dr. Hegele. It is surprising that we cannot get sufficient quinine as the J's have control of all food supplies.

24 July. There was a lot of aerial activity passing this area. one plane a 2 engine machine circled this area for some 20-30 mins while 2 or 3 different occasional planes were heard to the west of us apparently on the coast. The rain has been very heavy recently & water courses are all running full. Jack has been laid up with some sort of fever. The diagnosis is not sure but to save taking risks he is on a six days course of 1/2 tablets of Quinine. Mice are still both discharging & are very dia.

Primer K2 shows plan of our Thantuzayat camp and bombs dropped around the area on 12-15 June. It also points to water where bomb killed Capt Griffin & wounded me. Primer L2 while showing the number of men who are being presented with cigars by the N for continuous work over three months more clearly shows the number unable to do so.

25 July. Pt Repter Nos 5 & 8 shot by R.E. Parsons & 2/2 Nos M.T. died as result of debility & dysentery. age 25 yrs.

27 July. Reports received by me <sup>from</sup> a couple of sources state that at about 0330 a duo hrs on

23 July. Lt Naito Commander of Repter Nos Camp who had been drinking heavily, intercepted W.D. Coombs of G.C. who went to visit Naito. Naito conducted him to guard room & later with J. got set off to the cemetery near which after he had spoken in Japanese to guard, the latter trapped Coombs & Naito fired at him with his revolver. The shot missed & Coombs rolled over as a second shot was fired which hit Coombs in the back & passed out his left side. Fortunately the wound was not serious. Coombs struggled to his feet & ran to the edge ward. Naito sent guards in pursuit but sympathising with Coombs they did not find him. Next morning, early Naito asked the block & Major Lester to sign a document to the effect that they would be responsible for the safe custody of Coombs & he then spoke to Coombs & revolver in hand & said "I order you - Who shot you?" Coombs surely said he did not know.

Wants threatened to be Black & May's desire  
with death at his hands of the matter  
was reported.

Deaths at Repton Hos. - yesterday 25<sup>th</sup>  
Seaman 2<sup>nd</sup> class J.W. Mants V.S.N. as result  
of dys. age 21 yrs.  
Today: - Vx 20460. Pte J.D. Sullivan 2<sup>nd</sup> West  
Inf. - Dys. 30 yrs.  
Sx 1107 Lpc N.7. Hart R.A.F. Dys. 25 yrs.  
Navy No 13416 Chief Petty Off. Giles G. R.A.N.  
debility & dys 41 yrs.

also a Dental Sgt as result of Berri Berri  
29 July. With Lt Col Hannister Capt Steadman  
called to J.H.O. to sign certificates that certain  
Red Cross members who had lost their means of  
ident. & mention were genuine Red Cross members.  
This did not eventuate as some were not  
ready. I saw Lt Col N & reported Lt Col  
action. also referred to previous threats by  
the same off. previously when I went &  
asked that action be taken mainly to ensure  
that repetitions did not occur. I also  
asked for permission to visit Repton the  
next day & this was granted. He asked  
me to make recommendations for  
appointments at Repton - at Kendau (our  
present camp which the Thonm Ka would  
vacate in a couple of days) & also  
for list of members of Thonm Ka who would

move to New camp at J.H.O.  
30 July. 0730 with Capt Doose & Lt Col Pit  
left by train. Had to ride in an open van  
loaded with duty coolie workers for Repton.  
Many of the coolies were lousy some had crabs  
which they picked off themselves on rocks.  
Sound conditions Repton all right except for  
the N. menace which is ever with them.  
Bounteous goods are being delivered by local  
natives & also by business merchant today.  
They received 3500 eggs, 300 - 1400 packets of  
Shintagar (sugar), beans, cigars etc. I saw  
the merchant & got him to promise to  
make trips to 55 K. His camp also & he said  
he would go in few days if I gave him  
an order. I placed an order with him  
for 5000 eggs, 2 bags green peas 500 lbs  
Shintagar 50,000 cigars & some tobacco  
left Repton 1700 hrs to return to 4 K camp  
with a half wit J. gd. He failed to get  
on 2 trains which passed & said we would  
travel by the business merchant's bus in this  
we left about 1800. It broke down  
near 18 K. Here the guard mis understood  
(apparently) a remark by me & roared at me  
in a very loud voice. I then becoming very  
angry grabbed his bayonet & threatened  
him. However I talked back at him

she quitied down. We eventually caught  
a train at half past midnight

31 July arrived back at camp at 0345  
Thos's. Instructions suddenly received that  
Thom Ka members would move at once to new  
camp. One lorry was available for office  
sketches gear also heavy baggage. Personnel  
marched distance about 8/9 k. Camp is  
in rubber N of Thanbyingayat on Houbmer  
Rd. Party comprised 29 in all. Capt Kelly  
was left in Kendaung & having brought him  
back from Kendaung with me for the purpose.  
Received letter today from Lt Col Gates 55  
k. His camp dated 16 July. He & the doc

Here are very concerned about the food position  
irregularity of supplies, very little wheat &  
veg. - 1000 lbs + 532 bush patients there  
suffering from malnutrition & avitaminosis

No canteen supplies (I hope my own stand  
with Burmese merchant gets this) 11 patients  
have died since the hos opened on 1<sup>st</sup> July  
(I have heard this total is now 31) The possibility  
of recovery of many patients depends on  
improvement in food situation

1 thing they have opened a canteen in this  
camp. - one end open to J. & the other for  
Thos. Contains a couple of tables & forms  
Thom's W2 is a cup in the wilderness

from Bangkok Esstein Area on 1/2 of M25  
Branch Hos at 80 k. with postnote by  
Lt Col Mantel dated end of 83 k. Camp  
as Lt Col N has nothing to do with 5 Branch  
there is no home lost between the two  
branches I am very doubtful if I will be  
able to accomplish much to help.

31 Aug Some Economic opps have arrived  
to complete months pay levot sheets.

Thom's N2 gives a slight idea of conditions  
I have asked for a conference with Lt Col N.  
to discuss all these & other matters. There is no  
doubt that the chickens are coming home to roost  
as predicted & pointed out to Lt Col N over  
the past few months. This is <sup>the</sup> nearest death  
7th month since arriving here & things must  
get worse under present conditions

The following have died at Konkan 55 k  
during the month of July.

- Nx 6931 Pte F. L. Green 28 M.T. Coy. 6/7/43.
- SX 1157 " R. Thompson 14 M.T. Coy 11/7/43.
- VX 18459 4601 Lt J. Jones 105 T.O. 13/7/43.
- TX 4225 Pte H. H. Riley 2nd CCS. 12/7/43
- SX 6649 4601 Sgt C. G. Williams 22 Bde Whalops 14/7/43
- S. 6054 4601 Sgt M. J. Scott. R.A.N. 16/7/43
- SX 11674 Pte A. H. Dyer 2nd M.T. Coy 23/7/43
- VX 67073 Div. E. McCavrod 2 AASC 20/7/43
- NX 72991 Pte Paterson R.S. 8 Div King 20/7/43
- VX 22603 2nd Lt J. M. Goodman 2/10 7th Coy 22/7/43



NX 52503 Lt. Sgt. R. B. Chamberlain 2/12 7th Coy 25/7/43  
 NX 30918 Lt Col KN. Reynolds 2/15 7th Regt. 25/7/43  
 WX 10982 Dyt. L. R. Lockham 2/14 117 Coy 26/7/43  
 WX 17739 Pte K. Mokeri 2/14 M.G. Bn 26/7/43  
 NX 72088 Pte G. Mulach 2/3 M.T. Coy 27/7/43  
 QX 17613 Pte G. Craft 2/3 8th Div 30/7/43  
 SX 9207 Dyt. T. H. R. Bosley 105 M.T. 31/7/43  
 SX 6988 Pte R. Schmat 8 Div Svt. 7/7/43  
 VX 33108 Lt A. J. Jamking 2/2 M.T. 12/7/43  
 70037 Col. G. D. Munton RAAF 13/7/43  
 VX 21513 Pte L. V. Milgate 105 Tpt 13/7/43  
 VX 22803 Col E. Wonnall 2/3 11th Div 15/7/43  
 EX 21368 Lt A. E. Vandervoort 2/3 M.T. 17/7/43  
 NX 598 Dyt. G. N. Lucas R.A.S.C. 20/7/43  
 VX 40057 Pte H. Smith 2/3 11th Div 18/7/43  
 NX 48120 Gnr G. M. Zehleke 2/15 7th Regt. 21/7/43  
 VX 18357 Pte J. Wallace 22 8th M.G. Bn 23/7/43  
 NX 26914 Dyt E. A. Manks 2/15 7th Coy 25/7/43  
 QX 18572 Pte J. Tomas 2/3 M.T. Coy 31/7/43  
 RX 15591 Pte L. A. Clark 2/10 7th Regt 24/7/43  
 NX 30163 Gnr G. A. Stonehill 2/15 7th Regt 23/7/43  
 QX 14555 Col H. J. McGeehan R.A.O.C. 27/7/43  
 VX 43979 Dyt R. W. Robins 2/10 7th Coy 30/7/43  
 Williams 8 Div Sigs 1/8/43

These were buried at 55K Camp. Difficulty  
 was experienced in providing crosses  
 for all graves during the past month or two  
 requests had been made to enable us to keep

same up to date. But we are far  
 behind, even at Stanley against cemetery  
 Predictions made to Lt Col N. as to sickness  
 & deaths have proved correct. For the month  
 of July there have been 76 deaths A.S. &  
 British. I have pointed out again to Lt  
 Col N. that unless food is improved  
 especially tinned supplies, eggs, fruit  
 peas, beans, sugar etc & further adequate  
 supplies of quinine medicines that the  
 death rate for the next month may be greater.  
 This happened at conference held today  
 which was called principally to renew the  
 members appointed to the various Depots in  
 each camp with the object of cutting  
 same down to supply extra men for  
 Railway work & also in some cases  
 supplying new staffs to new camps.  
 Lt Col N. stated that as from 1st July  
 Col SAZANT has been placed in  
 3 & 110 5 Branches in reply to my complaints  
 & protests about shortage of supplies &  
 long working hours (12-15 hrs per day) I was  
 informed that Col Szazant was 1/2 of these  
 matters. He stated he knew of the shortage  
 of drugs etc but his reports from his Staff  
 about the complaints re food had shown  
 him that things are not as bad as we  
 say. He admitted some shortages during

to bad roads, broken bridges, but on these occasions Jap. soldiers & Chinese workers all shared these shortages as well as. He said that if things were not as good as we would like it was not for want of effort on his part. Information from our camp doctors that J. troops do not suffer shortages as they take from the POW rations what they require as instances in letter from Lt Col Platte, Dutch commander 10815 camp ann O2 attached. It is difficult to get a J. to believe these reports against themselves. I informed Lt Col N. that regardless of his reports statistics prove that the numbers of sick are increasing daily & the death roll is growing larger each month as a result of the food crisis under which 10815 are subjected. I had not the chance or opportunity of appealing to Lt Col Sagata but only to him.

1830 An air alarm was sounded by J. planes heavy planes were heard towards the coast. At 1615 2 planes returned & dropped bombs at Hanijugayel by 8th damaging some line & according to reports shrapnel burst the boiler of one locomotive. A party of workers from the camp were called for they were away for 1 1/2 hrs. most of the work had been done before their arrival

11 Aug Lt Col N. advised that he will visit all camps, leaving here in a few days. Permission has been given for me & one other officer to accompany him. Capt White & Lt Farmer. Evri of 10815 have advised they report the following deaths from their camp:

3/7/43 QX 15374	McL.A. Fannick	R. Lobar Pneumonia
5/7/43 QX 21999	Pte H.E. Hater	Eyes & Hepatitis
6/7/43 VX 38447	Sgt J.A. Davis	Acute Erys
7/7/43 QX 17284	Pte R.P. Goodwin	ac.
7/7/43 NX 10939	Pte H.B. Cunningham	Malaria
9/7/43 QX 17150	Cpl J.S. McAllister	Malaria, Diarrhoea, Toxicoma, Dysphagia.
14/7/43 NX 12290	Capt. R.H. WATTS, M.C.	R. Lobar pneumonia
16/7/43 NX 44008	Pte J.A. Williams	Biliary Erys
		Lobar pneumonia

The Camp SMO Capt G.L. Anderson in his report states health is generally on the decline despite the fact that 834 sick personnel were moved to 58K Hqs between 30 June & 7 July. He advises that since visit of Lt Col N. & myself 28/29 June there has been much less strain, sick parades have not been interfered with as previously. The men in the camp have been told by J. tanks that this month will conclude their work on the Railway & they will get a good rest. Should this not be correct some of the men will be a slump in morale. Med supplies & food have been inadequate & further inoculation against cholera is asked for. Inoculations for all

Camps has been asked for by Lt Col Hamilton to McGuire who stated a party was working out to all camps for this purpose & is now at 55 K. A note was received today from Capt Kealey to the effect that matters are all OK at 4 K (Kandaw) where he is i/c.

J. H. received a telephone message this afternoon that 40 allied bombers were proceeding south from Rangoon. Lt Col N staff moved through our camp into Rubber & guards advised workers to do likewise. They returned about an hour later. No planes were seen or heard.

5 Aug Self with Lt Col Pitt May Hagenburg, Capt Boose & Inter Hunt were called to Lt Col N's HQ for conference to further discuss adjustments of Shonmka & camp staffs. The Shonmka will now comprise 76 which includes some carpenters, tailors & other workers who have been working at 342 for some time.

Notice has been received that Dr Lumphkin an American Dr with 5 Branch Post at 100 K. camp has died of Sept & malaria. This Dr has been doing a splendid job & has been caring for over 400 Australians as well as 500 odd Americans in this camp. This camp was now be short of Drs. There are still 3 Dental Drs there. Total strength of camp is about 17,1800

Red numbers our camp received with cholera inoculation this evening

5 Aug Lt Col N has ordered that tenders to be dug for in short in rubber in this camp.

7 Aug Med orderlies arriving at this camp advised that Lt Haris, Comdr 30 K camp, as a result of receiving a letter from Lt Col N asking for a report of the shooting of W.C. Combs, has been very strict in the administration of the camp & apparently angry because the matter was reported. He has caused a tension among all born there. Report received from Lt Col Weissenbach, Ditch opf at 60 K deals with the beating of one of his men & a Gurkha who were at 30 K camp for ambulance at Lt Haris' P 2

Q2 Deals with Dr Menchison's report on Red Cross expenditure for month of July & estimates for Aug. Estimates for 30 & 55 K hospitals may need attention before adoption as we now have 1000 patients at 55 K as against about 600 odd at 30 K. This was the subject of discussion later with Lt Col N.

9 Aug. 1330 hrs. Self, Maj Hagenburg & Capt Boose were called to a conference with N. N stated that he would leave for outside camps & hospitals tomorrow morning, accompanied by ourselves & Hunt. He stated that his primary object in making the trip was for the purpose of getting

as many more men as possible to work on the railway, & with this end in view Dr Niguchi is going also but will probably only visit 30 & 55 km Hospitals. N also reported that POW 4446 Pte N.H. Atkinson, Williams Force, had escaped from 55 km hospital. This man had been suffering from malaria & pellagra, & it is believed he is mentally deranged; this same mental condition exists with about 6 other patients. N said that he had received further instructions from Tokyo regarding treatment of POWs, but that there would be no material changes as far as we are concerned. He mentioned the <sup>possibility of</sup> segregation of officers, W.O.s, NCOs & men, which he had been instructed to enforce. He had also been advised that where practicable, families of POWs would be allowed to visit them; this of course does not apply to Sumatra but to only such places as Java & Sumatra, where families are close to POWs.

~~10000~~ Our party left 1000 hrs for jungle camps. 12 Aug. Capt. Carey arrived the camp as bearer of pay sheets for drivers in his camp, where he reports conditions to be reasonably good.

The following additional deaths are reported:-  
 55410 OrdS. Kiteken O.C. RAN 23/6/43 dys. & mal. 40 km  
 VX 19013 Cpl. Hamley O.S. 2/2 hon. 18/6/43 mal & diarr 40 km  
 VX 59989 Pte Cameron S.I. " 4/7/43 Fever & Diarr " "  
 VX 18600 Pte Goss L.T. " 2/7/43 mal & dys. " "  
 NX 43322 Pte Rodd S.I.I. " 19/6/43 mal & dys 60 km  
 Pte Harris C.W. " 18/6/43 malaria " "  
 VX 38299 Pte Hampling R.W. " 13/7/43 mal & dys. " "

VX 22331 Pte Mansfield S.F. 2/2 hon. 28/7/43 Dysentery 70 km.  
 W 2094 Sbr. Woodhead J.A. R.A.N. 3/7/43 " 80 km.  
 VX 20187 Pte Lloyd W.E. 2/2 hon. 28/7/43 Scabies & Head. 70 km  
 NX 21132 Pte Howwood W.E. 3/18 hon. 2/8/43 mal & Dys. 30 km  
 NX 68747 Pte Leonard N.E.L. 9/3 MT. 1/8/43 Diarr. & Dysp. 55 km  
 6356 Cpl. Welch E.C. RAAF 19/7/43 Beri Beri 75 km  
 VX 61184 Pte Morris A.I. 2/2 hon. 3/7/43 Dysentery 30 km.  
 TX 2360 Pte Sinclair A. 2/3 MGB. 2/7/43 Cholera Dys. 30 km.  
 VX 29070 Pte Pritchet R. 2 AAS. 3/7/43 mal. & Diarr. 30 km.  
 VX 18713 Pte Payne A.C. 2/2 hon. 3/7/43 mal. & Diarr. 30 km.  
 VX 53574 Svr. Harkin P. 2/4 MT. 6/9/43 Dysentery 75 km.  
 23176 S.T.O. Davis A.A. R.A.N. 5/9/43 Dysentery 30 km.  
 NX 50777 Pte Lewis A.L. 2/19 hon. 5/8/43 Malaria & Diarr 30 km.  
 NX 13963 Pte English D.W. 2/2 hon. 4/8/43 Cholera, Dysp. 30 km.  
 QX 14134 Pte Stephenson E.R. 2/26 hon. 3/8/43 Dysentery 30 km.  
 VX 19134 Pte Payne T.S. 105 Tpt. 2/7/43 Mal. malin. 40 km.  
 VX 38505 Pte Sexton A.L. 105 Tpt. 4/7/43 Fever Diarr. 40 km.  
 NX 7589 Spt. Foxall S.E. 2/4 MGB. 7/7/43 Fever malin. 40 km.  
 22124 CPO King E.F. R.A.N. 29/6/43 Diarr. Fever. 40 km.  
 VX 57005 Pte Watson J. 2/2 hon. 30/6/43 Fever. malin. 40 km.  
 PA/691 A/B Hamaford J.B. R.A.N. 8/7/43 Fever. Diarr. 40 km.  
 VX 56328 Pte Curtis A. 2/2 hon. 11/7/43 Malaria 40 km.  
 VX 59568 Pte Dickinson W. 2/2 hon. 13/7/43 Dysentery 40 km.  
 VX 56329 Pte Williamson R.M. 2/2 hon. 15/7/43 Dysentery 40 km.  
 VX 23781 4/Spt. Kinslear L.M.O. 2/2 hon. 13/7/43 Dysentery 40 km.  
 NX 44551 Spr. Quinn A.G. 2/2 FCoy. 2/7/43 mal & Dys. 60 km.  
 QX 9974 Svr. Gray R.F. 2/10 Fd Coy. 17/7/43 Am. Dys. 70 km.  
 NX 20106 Svr. Ludlow W.L. 2/5 Fd Coy. 21/7/43 Dysentery 40 km.  
 QX 7840 Svr. Key R.L. 2/10 Fd Coy. 19/7/43 Cholera Dys. 60 km.

15 Aug. Annexure <sup>R2</sup> is a summary of deaths by month & nationality from June 1942 up till Aug '43.

2100 hrs. Self, Capt Foote, Maj Hazenberg & Clark arrived back from the inspection of jungle camps. N. is expected back tomorrow.

16 Aug: The following deaths are reported from 55 km base:-

VX 65338	Dev.	Coolley	R.M.	2/3 Res.Mt.	15/8/43	Dys & diarr.
VX 41504	Spr.	Bilcock	W.E.	2/10 Fed Coy	1/8/43	Dys & Sepsaemia
SX 8378	Dev.	Brown	A.P.	2/2 Res.Mt.	9/8/43	Ulcers & so.
VX 23629	Pfc	Jeffries	J.	4 A/Tk.	9/8/43	Enteritis, cell.
VX 55629	Cpl	McLennan	J.	2/8 Dev.	9/8/43	Bar. Dys.
VX 62592	Pfc	Pring	F.J.	Adm. H.Q.	7/8/43	Anal. mycosid. h.
WX 7022	Pfc	Nope	E.J.	2/4 M.G. Bn.	8/8/43	Ch. Diarr.
VX 39460	Pfc	Roberts	R.E.	4 A/Tk.	7/8/43	Diarr. Seri. Seri.
VX 54318	Spr.	Barrett	C.A.	2/10 Fed Coy	8/8/43	Diarr. Pneumonia
WX 7625	Pfc	Clarke	J.A.	2/4 M.G. Bn.	13/8/43	Cell. & Diarr.
QX 23957	Pfc	Biggles	H.M.S.	2/3 Dev.	7/8/43	Seri. Seri.
SX 9380	Pfc	Hahn	R.V.	8 Dev. Bn.	5/8/43	Bar. Dys.
VX 17115	Pfc	Swell	A.S.	2/29 Dev.	5/8/43	Cell. & Diarr.

The primary object of the trip to outside camps was the readjustment of all Kakaring on a basis of 1% Home, 1% Biscuits, 2% Supper, 2% Kyo. Haunches, Kimichas & Tabans were also checked.

Itinerary: 10<sup>th</sup>; On the trip to the 83 km Camp we went by truck to 46 km, then motor train to 60 km, where the river was crossed by boat, owing to the fact that both rail & road bridges were down; progress thence by truck. I asked permission to visit all camps on the return journey, which was agreed to. At 83 km camp is No 5

Branch HQ, & also Lt Col Mantel (Dutch), with a party of gardeners. (3<sup>rd</sup>) 11<sup>th</sup>: We went by truck to 105 km, where N announced that he would remain until the 15<sup>th</sup>, when he would return to Shan, but as the intention he proposed to make a trip to 108 km camp. It was then suggested that self & Hazenberg should visit 108 km camp, & on the 13<sup>th</sup> kind move back, calling at various camps on the way back to Shan. This was approved. I afterwards walked to 108 km. On 13<sup>th</sup>: we moved by truck (with 2 guards) to 95 km & 83 km camps, & after inspection walked to 80 km. 14<sup>th</sup>: left 80 by truck, going to 60 km (mobile 2) & thence by train to 53 & walking back to 55. We returned to 53 km & caught the train for 30 km camp arriving at 0100 hrs 15<sup>th</sup>. Left by train 1600 hrs same day for Shan, arriving HQ camp 2100 hrs.

Report: 108 km: Lt Col Platte reports that the task allotted during the previous <sup>cutting, maintenance etc.</sup> is completed & finished as far as 112 km (about Thai border). The workers in this camp are receiving cholera inoculations, such men having already been done. Lt Col Platte has protested about the lack of medicines, drugs etc, & also against the poor rations which are apparently taken from our kitchen by the 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> workers they please; he has also asked for 300 sheets of attap to repair leaking huts. There are 55 men in hospital in this camp, & many malaria cases in the line. There is a shortage of canteen supplies & such goods as do arrive are taken by the 1<sup>st</sup> guards & sold to POWs at very high prices - 25 cents & high.

for one cigar, sugar in the canteen Rs 5 per viss, which is often resold for Rs 7 or 8. White sugar is being traded by the I. for watches, pens etc, & as Dutch mess tin of white sugar has been sold for as high as 100 guilders; watches bring up to Rs 250. The items mentioned were referred to Nagatama, preparatory to Lt. Col. Platte taking the matter up next day 20/30 men go to the jungle daily to collect edible leaves which are used as a substitute for vegetables.

105 km: Lt Col Ramsay, the doctors, & other officers take that since the last visit of N. they had considerable relief from the I. guards, inasmuch as men certified as sick by the doctors were now not dragged out to work. Their work is now completed, plus 34 km allotted to them (a section of 105 Branch work). There are numerous sick with ulcers etc & 147 men require transfer to hospital at once, 51 not so urgent, & 4 cases are too ill to move. Here, as at the 108 km, there is a shortage of meat; boxed meat, often putrid, is issued in limited quantities. Vegetable supply is insufficient, but a quantity of harvest beans (many weevily), red beans, split peas, have somewhat improved the diet. The morale of the troops is good, and all look forward to easier conditions, because although the railway was to be completed as far as the border by the end of August, N advises that 6 wrecs extension has been granted. Maj. Green is suffering from malaria, but these officers & many other carry on under these conditions. The doctors advise grave

medical shortages, & considerable difficulty is being experienced in treating ulcers without sulphamethoxide, iodoforn etc. Capt Anderson, MO, has had to do several toe amputations, & one ulcer incised, covered the whole of the foot, & extended 3 to 4 inches up the distal side of the leg, the bones of the foot were visible.

98 km: POWs in this camp are on better rations & the health is better. There are 43 anti-malarial squad here, 63 ration loaders & 90 transport drivers under Capt Carey, being a ration centre, supplies come to this camp in sufficient quantities. Here information was given that N had said there was to be no profiteering, & consequently sugar is Rs 2.50 per viss, cigars Rs 2.50 per 100 & as many as 11 eggs for 1 Rupee. This is a distinct contrast to other camps, & an indication of the rackets which prevail.

83 km: This camp comprises a gardening party of 32 Dutch under Lt Col Brantel, in a separate camp are 19 cattle men, No. 5 Branch HC is also here, in which there are Aust, Amer, & Dutch. The gardening party had only had plain rice during the last few weeks. There are some vegetables in the gardens, but except for some radishes, up to date it has not been productive.

80 km: mobile I Anderson & Williams Force (95 men). Here the health & conditions of POWs is bad. From the total strength, only about 100 men are fit for work, & 200 men are required daily. Sick men are ordered out to work by the I. The camp is very muddy

and uncomfortable. The POWs change camp every 7 to 10 days & each camp occupied is in a filthy condition on arrival, having been previously occupied by either Chinese or cattle. Inches of manure & mud lies in the huts, & the short residence in each camp does not allow of improvements being made. These facts, with the constant stream of moves & hardships, has had a bad effect on the health of the troops. Deaths at this camp have been 20 for the month & will probably increase. At least 600 men should be in hospital, but have been required to go forward when movement takes place, many on stretchers. Here there is a serious shortage of drugs & medicines, including quinine: in this camp there is also a 5 branch Hospital, containing Aust Amer, & Dutch patients, & conditions previously reported by Cdr. Boston (MO, USN), have now been confirmed; some slight relief has been afforded to this hospital by <sup>an Australian & Williams force</sup> ~~the 1st~~ ~~force~~. The rail is now laid so far as 82 km, but is temporarily held up where a bridge is being constructed, & in order to complete this job, a party of men from this camp have been working 35 hours straight, but rested in the open for 20 hrs. Rail laying commenced on the morning of the 14<sup>th</sup>.

60 km: Mobile II. This camp is also very short of drugs medicines etc, & 25/30 sick men are daily sent to work. Being the rear guard camp conditions have been somewhat better than in forward camps, & canteen supplies have been fairly constant. The party are engaged

at in loading railway & other stores at the 61 km <sup>3 hours</sup> ~~by~~ ~~going~~, which is the terminus for the ~~branch~~ <sup>main</sup> train; this train now goes as far as 80 km. Owing to wash-  
<sup>ing</sup> ~~ing~~ of bridges, cable can go no further forward, & fresh meat has been on issue in the camp.

55 km (Hoop). Here during the month, conditions improved considerably, however among the Australians we learn that of 769 patients, 776 are bed patients & there are 434 ulcer cases, 134 of which are serious. There is a shortage of buckets & sterilizing utensils, drums & containers etc, & large bamboo is not available in this camp. There have been 5 amputations, & there may be many more; there is very little anaesthetic, and many operations have been performed with the aid of morphia. Bandages are not available, & mosquito nets are being torn up for that purpose. There is a lack of iodoform & sulphuric acid for ulcers, making treatment very difficult & diarrhoea among Cases have been reported of men who have been evacuated to this hospital, being dropped at 53 km, & carried to 55 km; this also applies to rations. Regarding canteen goods, eggs sell at 4 for £1, & sugar at 3 to 4 lbs per vice. An order placed with the merchant by the Brigadier on 29 June has failed to get through, <sup>having</sup> ~~being~~ <sup>of supplies at 50 km camp.</sup> & WO Bullcock at the 50 km is trying to get supplies through by small parties, & on this day 1600 eggs etc were delivered. The sugar available is in too bad a condition to send forward. Dr. Hignett had visited this camp, & found 250 Dutch & 10 Aust yet for discharge.

45 km: Conditions in this camp were reasonable, & the change in the Loma Kaboucha may lead to contentment. Meat is plentiful, although many cattle die.

30 km: (Hoop). Conditions are reasonably satisfactory, except the usual shortage of drugs; there have been no vegetables or salt for 1 week, however there is plenty of meat. The camp is fairly happy, apart from the constant fear of Lt. NAITO (now absent in Han). He is said to have had reported haunts; constant state of drunkenness, & the fear of the guards, & he asked the Brig to cooperate with him in obtaining relief. It was learned <sup>that</sup> Capt. Fraser, but comdr, had been called to Naito's office to explain the variation of one man in the figures, which was in case of venial, as the man had been moved without Capt. Fraser's knowledge. However Naito, who had been drinking for 24 hours, charged Capt. Fraser with untruthfulness, & after speaking a bit in Jap, drew his revolver & threatened him. Capt. Fraser was sent to the guard room, but later realised.

The Brig. discussed with Maj. Fisher & Lt. Col. Larsen (Dutch HQ) means of accommodating sick from forward camps & found the following vacancies; Aust 70, Dutch 80 ready for discharge; Aust 80, Dutch 150 (but not well). The Brig. would again like to record the sterling work being performed by doctors & medical orderlies under the most primitive conditions. For instance, Maj. Krantz amputated a leg at 80 km, using a back saw blade with a bamboo handle. Lt. Col. Coates did

operations on a bamboo table, with an earth floor & no anaesthetic; Capt. Anderson at 105 km camp amputated toes under similar conditions. These doctors & orderlies have continued their work under these conditions during the past 15 months, some of them ill, but carrying on with their task. Lt. Col. Coates has had typhus for 2 months, & is still not fit & Maj. Krantz collapsed at his work. Capt. Richards is suffering clinically from amoebic dysentery since Savoy. It is considered by doctors & camp comdr, & as mentioned by Lt. Col. Hamilton, SHQ, that the principal requirement is food.

After consultation with Lt. Col. Hamilton & Dr. Lane re hospital organisation, including temporary exchange of doctors in camps, a conference was held with Dr. Higuchi. It was proposed that 150 serious cases from 80 km, be immediately transferred to 30 km & this to be done before the camp money is sent to its next destination, which may be in 1 week; the numbers to be removed as follows:

- 105 km - 147 urgent 50 to follow.
- 80 km - 200 urgent 100 to follow.

The Dutch doctors to be also asked to select sick for transport to the hospitals. Further heavy work to be transferred from 55 km to 30 km, which was intended to serve as a base hospital. In an endeavour to restore Maj. Krantz & Capt. Richards to good health, it was proposed to Higuchi that they be relieved by payon's tables & Chalmers. <sup>for one month</sup> This would enable the



former to proceed to Kappu, where they would be able to supplement the meagre rations on which they have been living. Dr Steen also suggested for similar reasons a change as follows: Dr Hill's from 30 km to 108 km  
Dr Enfield " 108 " " 30 "

Dr Kiemer goes from 30 to 105, where our doctors have been looking after the Dutch. Dr Steen also suggested to Higuchi that a Dutch doctor & our orderly be given permission to look after about 90 N.S. or men now in camp.

17 Aug. Following a conversation with N. today, C. sent reports as follows: Lt Col Nagatomo has sent 20 raito to Moulmein hospital with Dr Higuchi, & he stated that he did not realize raito was so bad until he met him, drunk, at Kappu on his return trip, & heard all the facts. He visited all camps & at 108 km he threatened to replace the Honn. Kakurocho, who he states was sending too many men back to 55 km Haasp, thereby leaving more work to be done by 105 & 80 km camps. He appreciated the number of sick at 80 km & he would suggest to the Rly. Col. that when the time came to move 80 km personnel to 90 km, he should only send fit men & augment the numbers by bringing back personnel from 105 & 108 km camps. He considered that these men would probably be Dutch. He proposes to establish a small office at 61 km, with 2 trucks to serve as a kind of forwarding agency for rations etc.

25 Aug. Was called to J.H.Q. to meet a new Jap interpreter who speaks English. He has just arrived from Java via Singapore & Bangkok. His name is Sazuki. He does not speak English well enough for us to be able to do without the services of Kent at conferences with Lt Col N. Lt Col N. advised that while approving of my plan for evacuation of sick to show his' as mentioned previously, both he & but Sazuki stated transport was not available to carry out moves quickly. <sup>Requirement</sup> Tents from 53 K are being evacuated at the rate of about 20 per day. They have to go to Stheni by trucks to 102 K. Back from 80 K are arriving, about 130 have arrived at 53 K. After changes have been made at 53 K evacuations to 30 K will commence. The suggested plan to bring back men from 108 K (10) to assist Anderson & Williams force, rail laying cannot be done also because transport is not available. Anderson & Williams force will continue to do this work as far as 108 K being assisted by 150 Dutch recovered patients from Kappu. From 108 K a picked number of box fit men plus the usual Staffs will lay the rails to 150 K from 108 K these will be known then as Molele 1 Camp. Anderson & Williams

Force remains at 80 K as there is not enough accommodation at 90 K. Makers go forward return daily by train.

L.N. in reply to my request for the placing of Red Crosses on two camps 30 & 55 K. reported that hospitals had been bombed at Rangoon & also in the Solomons. I advised that it was our wish we would gladly take it but this made no difference.

Revised was given for me to take a party of 4000 with goods to Hanu, via apt. Secretary to endeavour to put some in order select some more crosses.

Young party of 6 did excellent work at Hanu. Much more to be done. 28 crosses & 2000 required. Needs new force to keep out stock senting out of jungle plants growing there. Found that 3 men at Hanu turned in the highest field. There are probably 1000 & 1000 members of 5th bunch who died recently.

2 Jang saw to Hanu. asked for particulars of the 2 men above referred to. He will enquire the promise to assist in getting Canteen goods forward as far as 105 & 105 K. Camps & asked for our orders. This placed with M. as can be seen for attention.

An interesting clause in Lt Col order #20 dated 2603.8.23, reads "From the moment of the launching of War of Construction, Japan has its front on the health of the Japanese and the U.S.W. Therefore from now will be available for sale to every wants them. Rice cakes (Mochi) for Headquarters Canteen."

Enquiries will be made at Camp regarding the quantities need notice given to the Chief of the 42 after receipt of advice of the quantities required, men must be sent to make cakes. Payment must be by delivery. (Price 1 piece - 10 cents)

The daily production from the 42 Canteen will be extended in future, but is now about 500 per day. Canteens can be borrowed from the 42 Canteen but must always returned empty in exchange for ones as quickly as possible.

Lt Col. V. Nagata  
Chief of 42's Branch of the  
Philippines Camp Plan

19/

STRENGTHS

Force remaining  
 accommodated  
 return des. 4465  
 Lt W. in 482  
 of Red Cross 194  
 Staking 42394  
 y also in 9535

INC 14 still RANGOON + 18 died at  
 Rangoon  
 9535

our push H  
 this mode WS. 385  
 Reserve WS 456  
 Wts with 1160 } 2001  
 11536

To be added ED IN  
 more correct TO ABOVE TOTALS. DID NOT  
 2 Jaing Capt HANBYU ZAYAI - BURMA.  
 Missing - OR MISSING AT SEA (AIR ATTACK)

37  
 (- 2 buried at Mawmaw)

English fled  
 arrived in 2  
 2 Jaing 14

of the 2 m  
 The from RANGOON. FROM ILLNESS NOT  
 goods for ED IN ABOVE TOTALS

205  
 1 Penang  
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