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I N D E X

Of

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I N D E X

Of

EXHIBITS

(none)

Friday, 29 November, 1946

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INTERNATIONAL MILITARY TRIBUNAL
FOR THE FAR EAST
Court House of the Tribunal
War Ministry Building
Tokyo, Japan

The Tribunal met, pursuant to adjournment,
at 0930.

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Appearances:

For the Tribunal, same as before with the
exception of the HONORABLE R. B. PAL, Member from
India, not sitting.

For the Prosecution Section, same as before
with the addition of LIEUTENANT-COLONEL J. S. S.
DAMSTE, Assistant Prosecutor from the Netherlands.

For the Defense Section, same as before.

The Accused:

All present except OKAWA, Shumei, who is
represented by his counsel.

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(English to Japanese and Japanese
to English interpretation was made by the
Language Section, IMTFE.)

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1 MARSHAL OF THE COURT: The International
2 Military Tribunal for the Far East is now in session.

3 THE PRESIDENT: Major Moore.

4 LANGUAGE ARBITER (Major Moore): Mr. President,
5 with the Tribunal's permission, I present a language
6 correction. Exhibit 1276, record page 11,368, line
7 18, substitute "fellows" for "traitors."

8 THE PRESIDENT: Thank you, Major.

9 Mr. Justice Mansfield.

10 MR. JUSTICE MANSFIELD: If the Tribunal
11 please, I desire at this stage to present Lieutenant
12 Colonel J. S. S. Damste, the Assistant Prosecutor
13 from the Netherlands, who is a member of the bar of
14 Sourabaya, Java.

15 THE PRESIDENT: Before you leave that sec-
16 tion, Mr. Justice Mansfield, do you propose to tender
17 the whole of the affidavits in evidence and then read
18 an excerpt, or do you intend to tender the affidavit
19 for identification merely? It makes a difference to
20 the attitude of the Court.

21 MR. JUSTICE MANSFIELD: We intend to tender
22 only that portion of the affidavit that is marked as
23 an excerpt. That is the only portion upon which we
24 will rely.
25

THE PRESIDENT: But the synopsis will be of

COATES

CROSS

1 the whole, will it not?

2 MR. JUSTICE MANSFIELD: The synopsis will
3 only be of that portion of the affidavit, namely,
4 the excerpts upon which the prosecution relies.

5 THE PRESIDENT: It will be a synopsis of
6 an excerpt?

7 MR. JUSTICE MANSFIELD: Synopsis of an
8 excerpt, yes.

9 THE PRESIDENT: That is all I wanted to know.
10 Mr. Logan.

11

12 A L B E R T E R N E S T C O A T E S, called as
13 a witness on behalf of the prosecution, resumed
14 the stand and testified as follows:

15

CROSS-EXAMINATION

16

BY MR. LOGAN (Continued):

17

Q Doctor, of these beatings to which you testified, how many of them did you personally see?

18

19 A In Burma I personally saw and felt on my own
20 body four. I could truthfully say that I saw at
21 least thirty to forty others in Nakompaton, Siam.
22 The number I couldn't calculate, but I should think
23 it would run into a hundred.

24

25 Q You actually saw the beatings yourself, or
you examined the men after the beatings took place?

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1 A I saw them myself. For example --

2 Q I mean you actually saw the assaults take
3 place?

4 A Yes, I could give some illustrations, if
5 the Court please.

6 Q Did you see any assaults by sergeants or
7 corporals on the Japanese' own men?

8 A Yes, once or twice.

9 Q Were they Koreans too?

10 A Mostly.

11 Q Now, when you sailed on the England-Maru,
12 was that a troopship?

13 A It was **in so far as it carried some Japanese**
14 **officers in good quarters.**

15 Q Had it been used to transport Japanese
16 soldiers?

17 A That I could not say.

18 Q While you were at Tavoy, you testified that
19 you received a little more drugs than you received
20 at Mergui, is that correct?

21 A Yes. That was in the nature of a reward
22 from the Japanese doctor for some --

23 Q I am not asking you about the reward. You
24 said you received a little more drugs there than you
25 received at the hospital in Mergui. Is that correct?

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1 A Yes.

2 Q So I assume by "a little more" you mean
3 that you did receive some at Mergui, is that right?

4 A Yes, at Mergui --

5 Q You did receive drugs at Mergui, then?

6 A We received a few.

7 Q Then, do you want to change your statement,
8 doctor, on page 11,409 of the record when you told
9 the Court "At Mergui drugs were not supplied?"

10 A I don't quite get the question, sir.

11 Q You testified the other day that at Mergui
12 Hospital "drugs were not supplied." Is that state-
13 ment correct?

14 A That is so.

15 Q And today you say you received some at
16 Mergui. Now which of those statements is correct?

17 A Some drugs were received by the working
18 camp. Those were the drugs received at Mergui. The
19 hospital with these dysentery cases we received no
20 drugs.

21 Q Did you receive any drugs while your 1500
22 prisoners were at this school at Mergui?

23 A No. At that stage, in the early three
24 weeks of our ~~sojourn~~, the organization was not such
25 as to permit the supply of drugs.

COATES

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1 Q After you were there for three weeks did you
2 get drugs?

3 A As I replied before, we got drugs for the
4 working camp men, particularly quinine against malaria.

5 Q What else did you get?

6 A I don't recollect any other drugs at that
7 time.

8 Q How many classrooms were there in this
9 school in which the 1500 men were placed?

10 A I couldn't answer that with accuracy.

11 Q What is your best recollection?

12 A Of that I have no recollection.

13 Q How long were you at the school?

14 A I was there for about, oh, five days myself.
15 I took ill with amoebic dysentery.

16 Q Were there sanitation facilities in this
17 school?

18 A There were a few small latrines.

19 Q Do you know of any other building in Mergui
20 which could have been used to take care of these
21 prisoners of war?

22 A No. I never had the opportunity of doing
23 a reconnaissance of the town.

24 Q Serious cases of dysentery were transferred
25 from that school to the local hospital, is what you

COATES

CROSS

1 testified to, doctor. Is that in accordance with
2 good medical practice, to segregate such cases?

3 A That is so.

4 Q And you say three men were executed for en-
5 deavoring to escape. Were they given a trial, do
6 you know of your own knowledge?

7 A All I know is some form of inquiry was
8 held and the executions took place soon after their
9 arrest.

10 Q But you can't state that they were not
11 tried, is that correct?

12 A I couldn't make a statement on that. I was
13 not the camp commander. I was medical officer only.
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1 Q How long were you at the 30 kilo camp?

2 A About six weeks.

3 Q Which weeks were they?

4 A The dates -- the exact dates I can't say,
5 but I left the 30 kilo camp somewhere about the end
6 of May; arrived in the middle of April.

7 Q You testified the other day that when these
8 patients were ordered out of the hospital at 30
9 kilo camp, a great number of them died in the next
10 month or two. Do you know that of your own knowledge?

11 A Yes. A large number of these patients
12 were men that I personally knew, had known since
13 Malaya.

14 Q Did you leave the camp with them?

15 A Yes.

16 Q You went with them -- left the camp?

17 A Yes. The camp was completely closed down
18 as a hospital, and it had no more use; so I went as
19 an ordinary prisoner of war to my kumi, that is, a
20 particular section to which I belonged as a prisoner
21 to a working camp.

22 Q How long did you stay with them at this
23 working camp?

24 A At the 75 kilo camp until the 12th of July.

25 Q Going back to this town of Mergui, this

COATES

CROSS

1 school, did you see any -- is that a small town?

2 A No. I should say it is a sizeable town.

3 Q What do you mean by "a sizeable town"?

4 A It is a trading port marked on the map.

5 Q Are there any other buildings in that town
6 as large as that school?

7 A Of that I have no definite knowledge. It
8 never was my privilege to pay a visit to the place
9 and investigate those matters. I was a prisoner of
10 war and subject to all the restrictions of prisoners
11 of war.

12 Q Do you know what the population of the town
13 is?

14 A No.

15 Q Can you give us an estimate?

16 A No.

17 Q Now, while you were at 75 kilo camp, what
18 drugs did you receive there?

19 A We received drugs in the 75 kilo camp,
20 something like the following proportions: quinine,
21 about five grains a man per day. At that time,
22 that camp was in the position that it received
23 through the Quartermaster's Department a little issue
24 of quinine to the extent of five grains per man per
25 day. I also received a box about once a fortnight

COATES

CROSS

1 containing some bandages, a little sulpha, and,
2 or --

3 Q Epsom salts?

4 A A pound of epsom salts; quite useful.

5 Q That's the same type of box you said you
6 received at the 55 kilo camp, isn't that right?

7 A Yes. We received a little candle box, of
8 that size, in the 55 kilo camp. The contents were
9 less, and, of course, the numbers were six times as
10 great.

11 Q While you were at this 75 kilo camp you
12 testified that no proper medical treatment was
13 afforded you at first. I assume by that that there
14 was some medical treatment given at that place; is
15 that right?

16 A It must be realized that the issue of
17 drugs there was of the magnitude that would be
18 issued to a small section of healthy men for what
19 might be called the regimental aid post purposes.

20 Q Well, there were three thousand men there
21 at first, and then they were all, with the exception
22 of three hundred, sent to the 105 kilo camp. Did
23 you get the same amount of drugs for the three
24 hundred as you did for the three thousand? Is that
25 what you want to tell us?

COATES

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1 A The drug issue to us was carefully calcu-
2 lated, and on the basis of the numbers in the camp;
3 and so the supply was that to a camp that would be
4 regarded as containing healthy men, not three
5 hundred derelicts.

6 Q Were you confined for the most part to the
7 hospitals at these various camps?

8 A You mean by "the hospitals" the hut in
9 which sick were segregated, sir?

10 Q Yes.

11 A I was only in one working camp, and that
12 was the 75 kilo camp, for a short time before the
13 three thousand-odd were broken up and sent away.
14 And, during that time, I assisted the local regiment-
15 al medical officers in the hut which was set apart
16 for the heavy sick; but I had access to the other
17 huts and saw the men and the conditions under which
18 they were living. I actually lived myself at that
19 time not in the hospital but with the senior
20 officers in charge of the men -- prisoner of war
21 officers.

22 Q How about the other camps besides this work
23 camp at 75 kilo?

24 A Well, the only other camps I was in were
25 the 55 kilo in Burma, and then, of course, the

COATES

CROSS

1 Nakompaton in Siam and, for a few days, in a
2 transient camp on the way to Nakompaton.

3 Q So that, primarily, your testimony is
4 confined to these three camps, is that it; that is,
5 matters you would know of your own knowledge?

6 A No. I was at Thanbyuzayat for a period
7 between February and April, 1943. Mergui and Tavoy
8 you have mentioned. And I also visited the 50 kilo
9 camp in Burma where our F and H forces were. In
10 addition, during the time of my sojourn at the
11 transient camp in Siam, I visited Changi.

12 Q In any of these camps, doctor, did you
13 ever have any opportunity or occasion to visit
14 any hospitals or places set aside as such for
15 treatment of Japanese soldiers?

16 A Yes, on two occasions: once in Tavoy
17 when I helped the Japanese with a serious case
18 and saw him once or twice afterwards, and the
19 morning following the Armistice declaration when
20 I, with a number of other officers, visited the
21 neighboring camp at Nakompaton, actually just over
22 the wall, and offered our services.

23 Q So that, prior to the Armistice, doctor, you
24 only visited the Japanese hospital on one occasion,
25 and that was for one day, is that correct?

COATES

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1 A It wouldn't be correct to say one day.
2 I saw that man several times after his operation
3 with the Japanese doctor.

4 Q Three days?

5 A Yes.

6 Q So that during this entire period of time,
7 doctor, you had no occasion to see what drugs the
8 Japanese soldiers had in these hospitals for Japan-
9 ese soldiers?

10 A I had the opportunity at Tavoy of observing
11 that they had all the facilities of the local
12 British Civil Hospital with a good dispensary, good
13 operating theatre, and good store of drugs.

14 Q And that was the place you visited after
15 the war was over?

16 A No. That was in 1942.
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1 Q But you don't know whether or not the supply
2 of drugs that you saw at the hospital on that one
3 particular occasion continued during the entire period
4 of time, do you?

5 A No.

6 Q And that applies to all the other camps, doesn't
7 it?

8 A You mean my answer, "no", yes; that is right.

9 Q You also testified that while at 55 Kilo
10 dysentery cases which were infective were isolated. That
11 is proper medical practice, isn't it, Doctor?

12 A Infected with what, sir?

13 Q I believe it was dysentery.

14 A Amoebic dysentery.

15 Q Well, you testified, "If the dysentery was
16 infective these patients were isolated." That is good
17 medical practice, isn't it?

18 A They were only isolated in so far as they
19 were put altogether in one hut and that was only some
20 yards from other huts containing other patients. It was
21 good practice to isolate them in that way.

22 Q Now, you testified that while you were at 55
23 Kilo Camp, you protested to the authorities at Thanbyuzayat,
24 is that right?

25 A Yes, I protested.

COATES

CROSS

1 Q Did you do that orally or in writing?

2 A I did it in writing.

3 Q Do you know if your letter was ever received?

4 A Yes, the letter was received.

5 Q What happened after the letter was received,
6 if anything?

7 A Brigadier Varley wrote to me and told me
8 that he thought I must have been exaggerating the figures.

9 Q Who was he?

10 A He was the Senior Nakampaton officer in the
11 Burma-Siam Railway, POW. I replied that these figures
12 since the last letter were even worse and that I'd like
13 some one to come and see for himself.

14 Q I didn't quite get his name, Doctor. Was he
15 a Japanese officer?

16 THE PRESIDENT: Where is he now?

17 THE WITNESS: Brigadier Varley was a prisoner
18 of war who went down on a ship going from Siam to Japan.

19 Q Well, Doctor, when I speak about protests, I
20 am referring to protests to Japanese officers. Did
21 you ever make any protests to any Japanese officers?
22

23 A My medium of protest was Doctor SUGUCHI, who
24 visited the camp. To him I verbally and I violently
25 protested. My method of protest through the POW
control was through Brigadier Varley who handed it on

to Colonel NAGATOMO.

1 Q What, if anything, happened after you
2 handed in your protest?

3 A About three weeks later Lieutenant-Colonel
4 NAGATOMO visited our camp with Brigadier Varley.
5

6 Q What happened?

7 A He inspected a number of the very sick men
8 himself and then some few weeks later he sent out to
9 the camp a little Japanese doctor known as Dr. AONUMA
10 to replace the camp commander who hitherto had been
11 only the sergeant of the guard.

12 Q So that your protest brought some results,
13 is that it, Doctor?

14 A Yes.

15 Q Now, you also -- withdraw that -- the
16 temperature down there is very warm, isn't it, Doctor?

17 A More humid than warm. In some parts of the
18 year particularly towards the end it is rather cold --
19 the dry season. So much so that men lit fires at
20 night and used to sit around them to keep warm.

21 Q While you were at 55 Kilo in July, wasn't
22 it very warm at that period of time?

23 A It is the usual tropical temperatures for
24 that latitude.

25 Q So the fact that the men had very few

COATES

CROSS

1 clothing at that period of time was not of much moment,
2 was it?

3 A I don't think that would be quite correct.
4 I think clothing probably had some other value as a
5 cover against mosquitoes and as some sort of inter-
6 mediary between one's skin and bamboo slats.

7 Q Didn't these men while at 55 Kilo have any
8 clothes at all?

9 A Many of them only had a pair of ragged shorts
10 in which they had worked on the railway, their shirts
11 having long ago disappeared in rags with sweat and wear
12 and tear.

13 Q Then in your statement the other day, page
14 11425 of the record, "the men had no clothing," is a
15 little exaggerated, is that it?
16

17 A In the sense that it was not a nudist colony,
18 yes.

19 Q Now, you also testified that tropical ulcers
20 were prevalent in both Malaya and Sumatra before the
21 Japanese came in, is that correct?

22 A That is correct, but I drew attention to the
23 fact that these ulcers were something quite different.

24 Q I remember that, Doctor. These tropical
25 ulcers are also due to lack of vitamins, is that right?

A The tropical ulcers which we saw in Malaya

COATES

CROSS

1 and Sumatra occurred in well-fed men. There was no
2 deficiency of vitamins and so I would say that vitamin
3 lack played no part. They are due, as we know, to a
4 mixed infection. I won't go into technicalities here.
5 In other words, such ulcers are superficial. They do
6 not invade the investing sheath of--

7 Q Well, we don't want to go into that now.

8 A You don't want that?

9 Q No. So tropical ulcers is a disease which is
10 more or less prevalent in jungle territory, is that so?

11 A Yes.

12 Q How long were you at Kilo 55?

13 A From the 12th of July to the 24th of December.

14 THE PRESIDENT: Are barefooted men more likely
15 to get tropical ulcers than others?

16 THE WITNESS: I beg your pardon?

17 THE PRESIDENT: Does the absence of boots play
18 any part in tropical ulcers?

19 THE WITNESS: Yes, the bare skin exposed to
20 abrasion in the jungle by bamboo scratches and by bits
21 of stone flying up from the area worked certainly was
22 the primary cause of the ulcer.
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1 Q Japanese soldiers were also exposed to the
2 possibility of getting scratches and abrasions on their
3 bare legs, too, isn't that so?

4 A No, they were well clad and they had their
5 legs well protected.

6 Q Didn't they wear shorts, too? Didn't they
7 wear short trousers in this hot weather?

8 A As I saw them on the railway they wore puttees
9 and trousers which covered the knees completely.

10 Q How about when you saw them when they weren't
11 on the railroad?

12 A The only ones that I saw wearing shorts were
13 those not engaged in heavy work, meaning officers --
14 officers, themselves.

15 Q How do you account for the fact that they got
16 ulcers, too?

17 A Well, it is obvious that some of them from
18 time to time would be exposed to slight scratches.

19 Q Doctor, you testified to a typical day while
20 you were at Kilo 55. Remember that?

21 A Yes.

22 Q And you say now that you were there from July
23 to December; is that correct?

24 A Yes.

25 Q And among some of the things you did on a

COATES

CROSS

1 typical day, you stated that "In the afternoon pro-
2 ceeding to amputate nine or ten legs..." Now, that
3 wasn't a daily occurrence during those five months,
4 was it?

5 A No, I stated that I took off 114 legs, my
6 colleagues a few others in that camp; and I think
7 arithmetic would show that we didn't do that all the
8 time.

9 Q You had cocaine there for the purpose of
10 using it as a spinal anesthetic, is that right?

11 A Yes.

12 Q Did you have cocaine at any other camps?

13 A The bottle of cocaine was given to me by one
14 of our dental officers. He carried it with him from
15 Singapore as part of his own kit from Australia.

16 Q Doctor, perhaps you didn't understand the
17 question. I asked you if you had cocaine at the other
18 camps.

19 A No.

20 Q When did you visit 50 Kilo Camp, and for how
21 long a period of time were you there?

22 A Sometime in November, and I spent a day there.

23 Q Didn't give you much opportunity to examine
24 the entire camp, then, did it?

25 A Yes.

COATES

CROSS

Q How large a camp was it?

A Something like the 50 Kilo, about 1800 paces, something like that. I was able to go around and see bad cases and **advise a little** to the medical officers there, see their worst problems.

Q Doctor, will you describe for us a typical meal that these prisoners of war received?

A Breakfast, rice; lunch, rice and vegetable soup; dinner at night, rice and vegetable soup. With each meal or sometimes twice a day only, some drink, either tea or boiled water.

Q Did they receive any meat?

A What meat was received was made into a stock for the vegetable soup. It was not enough to make any man have a little piece all to himself.

Q Well, what did you mean the other day when you testified that the meat ration was cut down a third?

A Just what I said.

Q You mean, now, they didn't have a separate supply of meat to eat; just that it was put in the soup, is that it?

A Yes. If one cut up the meat to give each man a piece -- we did try that in one camp -- you could get a tiny, little cube about a centimeter in size.

Q How many occasions during this entire period

COATES

CROSS

1 of time did you have to observe what Japanese soldiers
2 ate?

3 A Oh, on many occasions I, myself, was a guest;
4 I should say on three occasions.

5 Q A guest?

6 A A guest. I was ordered--

7 Q Do I understand the Japanese soldiers invited
8 you to eat with them?

9 A Yes. At the 55 Kilo Camp on one occasion
10 I observed their meal because I was commanded, with
11 all my medical officers, to come in and eat with
12 them.

13 Q Do you know if they invited any other
14 prisoners of war to eat with them?

15 A Oh, yes. On many occasions Japanese guards --
16 that is, Japanese proper -- would give a little rice
17 or give a little something to a prisoner of war. The
18 individual NCO and private was not ungenerous to
19 prisoners of war, being a Japanese.

20 Q In other words, they were willing to share
21 what they had, is that it?

22 A Well, not in a general sense. They did that
23 sporadically, when the spirit moved them.

24 Q Did the fare that the Japanese soldiers
25 received vary materially from what the prisoners of war

COATES

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received?

1 A Yes. They had, as a rule, more seasoning
2 and they had fish and more meat.

3 Q But aside from having a little more, was the
4 food they received the same type, same kind that was
5 given to the prisoners of war?

6 A Yes, it was, but they had additional stuffs,
7 such as onions and sweet potatoes at the 55 Kilo Camp,
8 as an example. Those are very valuable vegetables.

9 Q Did they have onions and sweet potatoes at the
10 other camps?

11 A Well, I couldn't give very much of an opinion
12 there. I can recall on a trek from the southern part
13 of Burma up to Tavoy, arriving late one night with a
14 lot of sick, and the Japanese sergeant, after having
15 allowed me to put the sick in some old railway coaches,
16 invited me to spend the evening around a fire and we
17 consumed quite a nice meal.

18 Q I gather from what you have been saying today,
19 Doctor, the Japanese soldiers were quite friendly with
20 you, is that right?

21 A In patches they were.

22 Q Now, you don't know -- scratch that. Aside
23 from these few occasions when you saw them eating sweet
24 potatoes and onions, you don't know whether the supply
25

COATES

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1 of sweet potatoes and onions continued during the entire
2 period of time for the Japanese soldiers while you were
3 there?

4 A No.

5 Q Then, you went down to Nakompaton -- when was
6 it, in December '43, is that right?

7 A Yes.

8 Q And there you received Red Cross supplies, is
9 that right?

10 A In May we received a very small quantity, and
11 in July quite a consignment of American Red Cross supplies.
12 They were not adequate to treat the sick. For example,
13 there was enough emetine to give a half course to
14 250 out of 1500 amoebic dysentery cases.

15 Q What else did you receive from the American Red
16 Cross at that time?

17 A A large number of things such as boot-mending
18 apparatus, some rubber tubing, some large ampoules of
19 glucose and saline, several barrels of Epsom salts, and
20 a large number of bandages, some thousands.

21 THE PRESIDENT: We will recess for fifteen
22 minutes.

23 (Whereupon, at 1045, a recess was taken
24 until 1100, after which the proceedings were
25 resumed as follows:)

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1 MARSHAL OF THE COURT: The International
2 Military Tribunal for the Far East is now resumed.

3 THE PRESIDENT: Mr. Logan.

4 BY MR. LOGAN (Continued):

5 Q Doctor, did you finish telling us what was
6 in the American Red Cross supplies?

7 A No.

8 Q Well, will you tell us what else was there?

9 THE PRESIDENT: In regard to the quantity
10 received, is it worthwhile examining to any great
11 extent about it, Mr. Logan? It cannot be suggested
12 that it made up for any deficiencies in supplies from
13 the Japanese sources.

14 MR. LOGAN: It can be suggested, your Honor,
15 the Japanese did not use them, the large quantities
16 there.

17 THE PRESIDENT: Well the evidence suggests
18 to me -- I may misapprehend it -- that the Red Cross
19 supplies were a small fraction of what was needed.

20 MR. LOGAN: Well, even if it was a small
21 supply, your Honor, and both sides needed it, the
22 prisoners of war got it; that is the point I am trying
23 to make. I only have one or two questions left on
24 this anyway, your Honor.
25

Q Tell us what else was in those supplies?

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1 A I can remember a lot, but I have with me
2 here the diary of the hospital Nakompaton, which
3 contains the thing in great detail.

4 Q Well, I don't want it in detail. Can you
5 classify it in some way?

6 A Yes, there was mepacrene, which is a drug
7 used for malaria. Six months afterwards that was
8 entirely consumed, even though it was used with great
9 care for the very bad cases. Emetine, I have men-
10 tioned, enough for a half a dose for only 250 of
11 1500 amoebic dysenteries; sulphur drugs and such
12 like, useful for bacillary dysentery; also some
13 invalid food, but that, unfortunately, had been de-
14 stroyed, and the packages, of which there was a
15 large number, were empty; no surgical instruments,
16 although I had to sign for them, the Japanese doctor
17 informing me they had been lost.

18 Q Speaking about surgical instruments for a
19 mement, Doctor, what happened to yours when you were
20 captured?

21 A When I was captured I was a relic from a
22 sunken ship, and had nothing but my boots on and
23 my shirt and hat and trousers.

24 Q Were you in the Army before the war, Doctor?

25 A I was in the first World War for four and

one-half years years, and I served in the militia between the two wars as a volunteer in Australia.

1 Q But you were in private practice when this
2 war broke out, is that right?

3 A I was in private practice, but I also held
4 an appointment in connection with the military
5 repatriation defense hospitals.

6 Q What is the regulation dress for the
7 British and Australian troops in the tropics?

8 A I understand it is long trousers with some
9 gaiters and boots, a shirt with long sleeves, hat.

10 Q Aren't short trousers and short-sleeved
11 shirts regulation dress, tropical hats?

12 A No, I understand the short pants are only
13 used for walking-out dress, not for work in the
14 tropics.

15 THE PRESIDENT: What did the men, in fact,
16 wear before they were captured?

17 THE WITNESS: Some of our men wore long
18 pants; others of them wore shorts, according to the
19 duties they were on at the time.

20 Q Getting back to these Red Cross goods,
21 Doctor, I suppose, if the Japanese wanted to, they
22 could have withheld them from the prisoners of war,
23 isn't that right?
24
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A Yes.

1 Q At all these camps you were at, Doctor,
2 did they have machine guns stationed around them?

3 A Machine gun nests were only built around
4 our camp in May, June, and July, 1945. There were
5 no machine gun nests of a comparable nature around
6 any other camp that I was in prior to that time.

7 Q When you say "of a comparable nature," by
8 that do I take it that there were machine guns around
9 some of these other camps?

10 A No, I never saw any at any time, any sort
11 of machine gun nests. There were, of course, guards
12 who walked around the camp, and they were the sole
13 protection.

14 Q Now, these beatings that took place at
15 Nakompaton, to which you have testified, I under-
16 stand the conditions improved considerably after they
17 were reported, is that right?

18 A There would be periods after a severe
19 epidemic of beatings when protests were made and
20 there would be some improvement. There would be an
21 outbreak of the same kind again; but, on the whole,
22 as I have said, knowing the Japanese' general employ-
23 ment of physical violence as a means of correction, I
24 was not very surprised.
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COATES

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1 Q But you say these were Korean guards, is
2 that right?

3 A Not only Korean guards. I observed, myself,
4 two Japanese officers do the same thing in our camp.

5 Q Now, Doctor, these beatings were more or
6 less sporadic, weren't they?

7 A Yes.

8 Q And it was not the result of any plan on
9 the part of anybody to inflict punishment; it was
10 dependent on the individuals concerned, isn't that so?

11 A As I stated in my reports many times to the
12 Japanese, it did not appear to be clear to us why
13 they occurred. It was past our understanding in most
14 cases.

15 THE PRESIDENT: Did you see the Japanese
16 beating their own soldiers?

17 THE WITNESS: Yes.

18 Q It depended, didn't it, Doctor, on the
19 individual personality of the one who inflicted the
20 punishment?

21 A And the camp commander.

22 Q Did you ever see any order issued by any
23 camp commander that punishment should be inflicted?
24

25 A Yes. We frequently received orders which we
had to circulate to our prisoners of war that under

COATES

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1 all circumstances they would salute. It was im-
2 possible sometimes for a sick man to salute.

3 Q Well, what I had in mind, Doctor, perhaps
4 I didn't explain it properly, was there any order
5 from the commander that any of the guards should
6 inflict, by beating, punishment upon any of these
7 prisoners of war?

8 A The guards were given a free hand by the
9 Japanese to beat.

10 Q Did you ever see such an order?

11 A Such orders were published in Japanese,
12 and I could not read them; but I was informed so,
13 and also I have heard Japanese officers addressing
14 us and telling us that that was so.

15 Q There again, Doctor, wouldn't that depend
16 on who was the camp commander?

17 A To some extent, yes.

18 Q Do you know of any order that was ever
19 issued by Marquis KIDO that prisoners of war should
20 be punished?

21 A No.

22 Q Do you know of any order issued by him that
23 medical supplies should be curtailed and that prison-
24 ers of war should not receive food?
25

THE PRESIDENT: Why put those questions to

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1 him in view of his opportunities of knowing those
2 things, Mr. Logan, or lack of opportunities?

3 MR. LOGAN: He is accused of it, your Honor.

4 THE PRESIDENT: It is a waste of time, Mr.
5 Logan. If he could say Marquis KIDO gave no in-
6 structions that would be different.

7 MR. LOGAN: Well, if your Honor please,
8 he is here testifying on these particular counts.

9 THE PRESIDENT: He is not attacking Marquis
10 KIDO.

11 MR. LOGAN: Well, I will pass it.

12 Q Notwithstanding these orders that you heard
13 about from these camp commanders, you tell us that
14 when complaints were made to some of them, steps were
15 taken to alleviate conditions, is that right?

16 A Yes.

17 Q Doctor, after this bomb fell which killed
18 about a hundred prisoners of war, I believe you said
19 it was an Allied plane that dropped the bomb; then
20 you said that the same officer who spoke to you per-
21 mitted the prisoners at that camp to dig slit trenches.
22 What were the purposes of the slit trenches?

23 A To give protection from air raids.

24 Q There was part of your testimony, Doctor,
25 that I didn't quite understand. You went into great

COATES

CROSS

1 length in a statement to the effect that some officer
2 or someone in the Adjutant's office, one of the clerks,
3 told you that these machine guns were set up around
4 your camp to kill all the prisoners when the war
5 ended. They didn't do that, did they, Doctor?

6 A He said that these machine guns nests and
7 machine guns were set up to kill us in case of a
8 landing in Japan or an attempt being made to effect
9 our release.

10 Q But the point is they did not do it, did they?

11 A I am thankful to say they did not.

12 Q It might just as well have been a rumor,
13 isn't that so?

14 A Well, I shouldn't think so. It didn't look
15 much like it, not much like a rumor when you see a
16 number of machine gun nests surrounding a camp,
17 pointing into your huts.

18 Q Well, we will pass that, Doctor. You say
19 that thirty to forty per cent of the prisoners of war
20 in Thailand were in hospitals. Do you know that of
21 your own knowledge, or are you basing that on some
22 report or something?

23 THE PRESIDENT: He could not know that of
24 his own knowledge, Mr. Logan.

25 MR. LOGAN: Thank you. That is all.

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1 THE PRESIDENT: Mr. Blewett.

2 CROSS-EXAMINATION (Continued)

3 BY MR. BLEWETT:

4 Q Colonel, I presume you left Sumatra by reason
5 of the fact that there was a shortage of good medical
6 service, and just so we have a logical sequence here
7 will you tell me just what were the conditions of
8 your leaving Sumatra?

9 THE PRESIDENT: It won't help us to know
10 what happened before he left Sumatra.

11 MR. BLEWETT: It isn't before, sir. I just
12 asked the witness if he would tell us the circum-
13 stances of his leaving.

14 THE PRESIDENT: I am sure it won't help us,
15 Mr. Blewett.

16 MR. BLEWETT: I will pass that sir.

17 Q Am I right, Colonel, in assuming that Mergui
18 was a place of disembarkation?

19 A Yes.

20 Q How did it fit into the general POW plans?

21 A It was a staging place for prisoners of
22 war being taken up to Burma by ship, and there was
23 constructed an airdrome and other things by the
24 prisoners of war during their stay there.

25 Q Well, then, your first point -- your first

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1 destination, as a matter of fact, in so far as your
2 professional work was concerned was at Tavoy, is that
3 right?

4 A No. At Mergui I functioned as the senior
5 medical officer.

6 Q But the hospital -- it was at Mergui; I wasn't
7 sure; there had been one other - Was that set before-
8 hand or was it an emergency?

9 A The seriously sick were housed, as I said
10 before, in some huts of the civil hospital.

11 THE PRESIDENT: I think the cross-examin-
12 ation must almost necessarily be repetitive, Mr.
13 Blewett.

14 MR. BLEWETT: Well, not quite, sir. I
15 wanted to get the location on this map for kilos,
16 but I shall pass over that and ask the witness a
17 question along another line, sir.

18 Q Would you say, Colonel, that the hospitals
19 in which you were located were pretty much along
20 the southern line of the railroad?

21 A The word "hospital," sir, is hardly the term.
22 I would call them depots for the very sick. There
23 were no hospitals in the true sense of the term in
24 which I was ever located.

25 Q What plans, if you know, did the Japanese

COATES

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1 have in contemplation on this huge undertaking as
2 to the care and maintenance of victims of accidents
3 and diseases?

4 A I have no knowledge of any of their plans,
5 sir.

6 Q From your professional knowledge and ex-
7 perience, was it conceivable that the Japanese could
8 foresee that there would be such a great number of
9 unfortunates?

10 THE PRESIDENT: It is for us to determine
11 that, really, Mr. Blewett.

12 MR. BLEWETT: I would think, sir, that the
13 witness' testimony as to an undertaking like this
14 and the events that occurred, he might be able to
15 give us the information which would be of some value
16 as to the preparations beforehand, the lack of them.

17 THE PRESIDENT: We must determine whether
18 it was excusable or inexcusable.

19 Q Do you know, Colonel, actually whether or
20 not the one thousand prisoners of war reached 105
21 Kilo Camp and whether or not they were forced to work?

22 A I know that by reliable reports, sir.

23 Q That they actually were put to work?

24 A Yes, sir.

25 Q What scientific safeguards, if any, did

COATES

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1 the Japanese have, in so far as work is concerned, in
2 this jungle infested territory?

3 A The only ones I know are that in a few camps
4 there was quinine to be given five grains a day --
5 that was my orders at the 75 Kilo -- to prevent
6 malaria. And late in the year they did take some of
7 our prisoners of war to join their sanitary corps
8 which was oiling in one camp. At the end of the
9 year they took blood smears from most of the prisoners
10 of war that survived; and rectal smears as well. I
11 omitted that before, rectal smears.

12 Q Was any adequate hospitalization set up along
13 the line of which you are familiar, Colonel, at all?
14 I mean, in anticipation of the likelihood of there
15 being casualties.

16 A There was a series of huts at Tambesi which
17 received the sick we brought up from Tavoy. Along
18 the line there was no place -- no hospital. All
19 that was ever used for accommodating the sick were the
20 abandoned working huts.

21 Q Have you been on any large projects either
22 in your own country or any other country?

23 A No, but having served in the First War,
24 particularly in the early phase, I know something
25 about medical conditions in such a place as, say,

COATES

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1 Gallipoli.

2 Q Well, then, did it not seem to you,
3 Colonel, that these conditions which prevailed had
4 not been anticipated?

5 THE PRESIDENT: How would he know it could
6 have been? It might have been sheer neglect. It is
7 for us to say whether it was excusable. I can say no
8 more than that, Mr. Blewett.

9 Q When you referred to a rice and raddish
10 soup on the trip to Mergui, Colonel, you didn't wish
11 to infer that the Japanese had other food on board
12 which they refused to serve you, do you?

13 A No.

14 THE PRESIDENT: That is irrelevant. It is
15 immaterial whether they brought it on board or left
16 it behind. If they didn't provide it, they should
17 have done so.

18 Q Did the Japanese have medical or other
19 supplies on hand which were actually refused to you and
20 your assistants?

21 A Yes.

22 Q Did any high ranking officer at any time
23 refuse you medicines and supplies which you knew to
24 be obtainable?

25 A There was no high ranking medical officer

COATES

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1 of the Japanese Army in Burma. He was a First
2 Lieutenant only, the senior medical officer. I had
3 no contact with any other officers such as the
4 Lieutenant Colonel in charge. I was too mean a
5 person to come under his direct supervision.

6 Q Did you say whether or not the Japanese
7 Army was below the standard of medicine and hos-
8 pitalization of the British or American Army?

9 A It would be unwise for me to comment because
10 I didn't see a great deal of the Japanese medical
11 service. I saw only those associated with the
12 prisoner of war camps and those few odds and ends I
13 have mentioned.

14 Q The terrific odds under which you worked and
15 the horrible scenes which you described, would it not
16 been correct to assume that the supplies were far
17 inadequate for the situation?

18 THE PRESIDENT: The duty of the Japanese
19 was commensurate with the needs.

20 Q Did you not observe, Colonel, that the
21 conditions of global warfare would interfere very
22 seriously with the obtaining of medicine and
23 supplies?

24 THE PRESIDENT: It is right beyond his
25 province. How could he help us on that?

COATES

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1 Q On what do you base your opinion that the
2 Mergui Camp was crowded by 75 per cent?

3 A Because when the men lay down to sleep on the
4 floor at night there wasn't a square foot of space to
5 be found in the camp, and that despite the fact that
6 quite a number of men were employed on duty or were
7 standing or sitting about.

8 Q As a physician and from your experience,
9 did you not believe it would have been good policy
10 and sound policy for the Japanese to keep these
11 workmen in good sound condition?

12 THE PRESIDENT: That is argument, of course.

13 MR. JUSTICE MANSFIELD: I object to this line
14 of questioning as argumentative

15 THE PRESIDENT: The question is disallowed.

16 Q Would you not agree, Colonel, that the fact
17 that the Japanese utilized your professional ability
18 throughout these many years was some indication that
19 they were making a serious effort to alleviate the
20 conditions which you describe?

21 THE PRESIDENT: It is for him to say what
22 he saw and heard. In dealing with the nature and
23 treatment of diseases he may speak as an expert.

24 MR. BLEWETT: You may answer.

25 THE PRESIDENT: He need not answer.

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1 rephrase that question, please?

2 Q From what distance from the eastern end of
3 the railway to the western end did you receive patients?

4 A The railway ended before Nakampaton, that is,
5 on its west side, as far as we were concerned. And
6 so the patients that came were the serious chronic
7 sick who would take more than six months to recover
8 who had been at work on the whole of the railway line
9 after it was completed. Nakampaton wasn't a camp
10 which was in use in 1943. At the time of the build-
11 ing of the railway it was an asylum to receive the
12 casualties after the railway had been built.

13 Q Did the number, therefore, remain quite static
14 from the time of its inception and during your stay
15 there?

16 A No. The total number that passed through
17 the hospital camp was 10,000, and the static popula-
18 tion of sick there was roughly 5,000. In other words --

19 THE PRESIDENT: We will adjourn until half
20 past one.

21 (Whereupon, at 1200, a recess was
22 taken.)
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AFTERNOON SESSION

The Tribunal met, pursuant to recess, at
1330.

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A L B E R T E R N E S T C O A T E S, called as
a witness on behalf of the prosecution, resumed
the stand and testified as follows:

MR. BLEWETT: If the Court please, I was
inquiring on a theory which I thought the witness
would be able to testify to. On further study I have
decided to delay that until the proper time for pre-
sentation.

THE PRESIDENT: Mr. Cunningham.

CROSS-EXAMINATION (Continued)

BY MR. CUNNINGHAM:

Q Mr. Witness, have you testified concerning
the facts that you have outlined here before any
other Tribunal?

THE PRESIDENT: He gave evidence before me
but I was not a tribunal; I was a commissioner. The
war was on and I could not hear the Japanese; in any
event, they would not have come to me. I believe when
I examined him the war had concluded. Mr. Justice
Mansfield was a joint commissioner with me. He may

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1 have been examined by somebody else but I do not
2 think so but you can ask him.

3 MR. CUNNINGHAM: I might say that that was
4 news to me, your Honor. That was not what I was
5 driving at at all.

6 THE PRESIDENT: Were you examined by any
7 other Tribunal?

8 THE WITNESS: No, sir.

9 Q Have you testified in atrocity cases against
10 any Japanese since the end of the war?

11 A No, only in a general way. At the end of the
12 war I gave a picture to the Supreme Allied Command
13 on the affairs in Burma and Siam, a general account.

14 Q What was the purpose of that statement or
15 affidavit, or whatever the nature of it was?

16 A Historical.

17 Q Do you know whether or not that was used in
18 the nature of a report or evidence in any trial against
19 Japanese in atrocity cases since the war?

20 A I have no knowledge of such.

21 Q Did you file any official complaint against
22 the commander of any of the camps about which you have
23 testified for the purpose of bringing the matter before
24 any court or tribunal?

25 A Under interrogation in Melbourne I gave the

COATES

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1 names of a certain number of Japanese officers whom
2 I thought were responsible for certain bad conditions.

3 Q Do you have a record of those names?

4 A No, but I can remember them.

5 Q Will you give them?

6 A I mentioned Lieutenant Colonel NAGATOMO's
7 name and Dr. SUGUCHI.

8 Q Do you know whether or not either of these
9 men have ever been tried in atrocity cases?

10 A I have no certain knowledge.

11 Q Do you have any uncertain knowledge?

12 MR. JUSTICE MANSFIELD: I object to the
13 question as irrelevant.

14 Q What was the purpose of this interrogation
15 in Melbourne?

16 A I think to obtain from me a general picture
17 of conditions in prisoner of war camps from which we
18 had just been released.

19 Q Was that confined strictly to an inquiry
20 concerning Australian prisoners of war?

21 A As far as I remember, yes.

22 Q Did you have any information or report back
23 on the results, or any inquiries later conducted, as
24 a result of the testimony or information which you
25 gave?

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1 A No.

2 Q Did you give all of the names of all of the
3 persons whom you considered responsible for all of the
4 mistreatment conducted in your presence or under your
5 supervision during your prisoner of war confinement?

6 A I mentioned certain names, particularly of
7 certain guards and junior Japanese underlings who had
8 not conducted themselves with propriety; but I didn't
9 consider it was my duty to lay specific charges
10 against individuals. That was more a matter for a
11 number of other officers who had had intimate rela-
12 tionships in that regard. I considered it my duty
13 to paint a general picture and give the Commission
14 in Australia an idea of the actual conditions, not
15 with any particular purpose of retribution but just
16 in an historical and straightforward fashion giving
17 the facts.

18 Q Did you give a full and complete report
19 which parallels the information which you have given
20 here in this courtroom of--

21 A No.

22 Q To what extent did you not give a full and
23 complete report at that time?

24 THE PRESIDENT: We do not want to know that
25 unless you suggest he is suppressing something we

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should hear.

1 Have you omitted anything in favor of the
2 Japanese?

3 THE WITNESS: Well, perhaps I have had the
4 opportunity only of mentioning here before the Court
5 one or two instances of a little kindness. There
6 were, I think, statements by me included in various
7 documents which indicate that immediately after
8 capture we were not treated uncivilly.
9

10 THE PRESIDENT: Tell us all you can recollect
11 in their favor, if you have not already done so.

12 THE WITNESS: These are a few instances:
13 I remember at the time of capture, the Japanese
14 medical officer saw me in Pedang, in Sumatra, and
15 permitted me to carry on with the treatment of
16 wounded. Secondly, after a number of Japanese raided
17 a hospital in which I had a large number of wounded
18 women, the same Japanese doctor protested on my be-
19 half to Japanese headquarters and had the place put
20 out of bounds to Japanese. Thirdly, when the
21 Japanese local commander insisted that all the
22 seriously wounded people we had in the hospital
23 should be moved out into the prison camp, my protests
24 again to the Japanese doctor bore fruit and we were
25 allowed to retain them there for another two weeks.

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1 Shall I continue, sir?

2 THE PRESIDENT: Yes, continue.

3 THE WITNESS: At Tavoy, a Japanese doctor
4 there, while admitting that he couldn't do anything
5 for us in getting us drugs, was not unsympathetic.
6 At the time we removed our sick he personally came
7 down and saw us off on a little boat and said goodbye.

8 THE PRESIDENT: We want to know whether these
9 alleged atrocities were the result of a policy or
10 were just due to the misconduct of individuals.

11 THE WITNESS: In the 55 Kilo Camp, Burma,
12 when supplies were severely short and I had made
13 representations to Dr. AONUMA, who had been sent
14 there by Colonel NAGATOMO, AONUMA replied that he
15 was not permitted to allow us to buy any food in the
16 neighborhood or establish any canteen to increase
17 our diet, but when he personally caught some of our
18 men who carried on nocturnal negotiations to obtain
19 food, he did not punish them in the manner which one
20 might have expected. I had with him as a doctor a
21 certain fraternal association. He had for me some
22 respect and I for him. It was he who said to me as
23 I pointed to the bare floors in the my kumi, "I am
24 sorry; that is all I have to offer."

25 BY MR. CUNNINGHAM: (Continued)

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1 Q I believe that covers that proposition.

2 Now, in your prisoner of war camp, did you have
3 your own organization for the conduct of the affairs
4 of the camp?

5 A In Burma at the 55 Kilo Camp there were few
6 medical orderlies because most of the medical order-
7 lies were employed as laborers on the railway line.
8 Consequently, the organization was only a skeleton
9 organization. At Nakompaton after the railway line
10 was finished, as I stated in my evidence, the Japanese
11 allowed me one doctor and ten medical orderlies per
12 thousand plus, of course, the three NCOs; but the
13 actual workers were one doctor and ten medical
14 orderlies per thousand. They allowed me to organize
15 the doctors in the camp for their specific function
16 and to hold clinical meetings where the doctors met
17 together to discuss their problems. That I much
18 appreciated. In the early stages the Japanese
19 doctor himself favored us with his presence. Later
20 he informed me that he was not permitted to attend our
21 meetings and from then on the relations between the
22 Japanese medical staff and ourselves became purely
23 formal.
24

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1 Q Was that not what was expected rather than
2 what had preceded it?

3 A I state that because I think, from my
4 fairly long association with some of these Japanese,
5 that there were men who would liked to have made
6 closer contact with us, but that the iron machine
7 of the POW organization did not permit it.

8 Q Was there any organized interference on the
9 part of the Japanese to prevent you from alleviating
10 the situation as much as you could in your own camp?

11 A Yes. For example, the building of beds. We
12 could have constructed beds for some of our seriously
13 sick with the material in the camp, but that was not
14 allowed. That to me was a thing I couldn't understand.
15 Beyond that, the restrictions and the petty pin-pricks
16 and sometimes very serious ones in a hospital were
17 such that it militated against the effective treat-
18 ment of the sick. In a report to the Japanese, of
19 which I have a copy in my diaries here, I pointed
20 out that at the end of 1944 that though that hospital
21 was the best in Nakompaton, I mean, that we had seen
22 it was very far from what we had expected of a
23 country of the status of Japan. I stated that the
24 hospital had too much the appearance of a Japanese
25 prison camp, which we knew only too well; that

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1 beatings were far too frequent, and the various
2 restrictions that were placed on our activities
3 prevented us from doing the work which I felt the
4 Japanese medical authorities desired we should do.
5 If I might quote another thing: A Japanese Colonel,
6 full Colonel, visited our camp on an inspection
7 somewhere about October, 1944. I requested that I
8 should put before him some of our needs, particularly
9 for the feeding of the very sick, which the Japanese
10 had never undertaken. The request was refused, but
11 I was asked to join a procession the following day.
12 By a stratagem I managed to make contact with the
13 great man, the Colonel, and speak to him. Asking
14 who I was, he said, "Are you recovering the patients?"
15 I replied, "Not as well as we would like, for want of
16 more fat, protein, that is, meat, vitamins, and more
17 drugs." The records of Nakompaton which I have show
18 that the diet improved, and by Christmas time we had
19 a much happier time in that camp than we had ever had
20 before. I think that is about all, sir.

21 Q Now, this treatment you have described last
22 was at the hands of a full Colonel of the Japanese
23 Medical Corps or Japanese Army?

24 A I was informed that he was a medical officer.

25 Q Then would you take it from that that it was

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1 more or less the policy of the Medical Corps of the
2 Japanese Army to do its best towards the care of
3 the American and other prisoners of war?

4 A I can only infer that at that particular
5 stage of the war it was the policy of the Medical
6 Corps of the Japanese Army to help us, but I believe --
7 it is my personal opinion -- that many Japanese
8 medical officers would liked to have done something to
9 have helped us.

10 Q It isn't your claim, Colonel, is it, that
11 the Japanese medical officers would be violating
12 their instructions by following such a course?

13 A I have no knowledge of the relationship
14 between the Japanese Medical Corps and the G. and A.
15 Staff of their army. I have no knowledge whatever.

16 THE MONITOR: Colonel, what is a G. and A.
17 Staff?

18 THE WITNESS: General, and Adjutant
19 General's Staff.

20 Q Was that the highest ranking Japanese
21 officer with whom you had contact all of the time
22 you were a prisoner of war under the Japanese?

23 A It is the highest ranking officer with
24 whom I spoke, but I happened to walk around within
25 about twenty yards of a Japanese General, SADA, at

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1 the 30 kilo camp, as mentioned in my evidence.

2 Q Was the same Colonel whom you have mentioned
3 in company with this General, or was that on another
4 occasion?

5 A The incident with General SASA was in early
6 '43 and the affair with the Japanese Medical Colonel
7 was in late '44.

8 Q From '43 to '45, to the end of the war,
9 did conditions better as time went on?

10 A From late 1944 onwards to the end of the
11 war conditions with regard to food improved very
12 definitely. The reasons for that were many fold;
13 one was that we had a canteen, which the Japanese
14 permitted in Nakompaton, and we were able with the
15 money earned as prisoners of war to purchase quite
16 a lot of food. Nevertheless, our diet even at the
17 end of the war, as shown by graphs in my possession,
18 was far below a normal diet in proteins, fats and
19 vitamins, but those of us who had been accustomed for
20 so long to live on light Oriental rations had, as
21 it were, a low bodily requirement, so we didn't
22 look or feel as ill as we might have been.

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1 Q Now, Colonel, in order to crystalize this,
2 are there any instances, shining examples, you might
3 say, that you would like to mention to this Tribunal
4 of the improvement in the treatment of you by the
5 Japanese from the time, say, 1944, until the end of
6 the war?

7 A Yes, I regard the hospital at Nakompton --
8 with its many faults it was far below what one would
9 expect; nevertheless, it was such an improvement, and
10 the facilities which we were allowed ourselves to make
11 indicated that the desire of the Japanese medical
12 staff was to see as many men recover as possible. I
13 should like to mention two officers in that camp, who
14 were not medical officers, who gave us all the help
15 within their power. One was an interpreter by the
16 name of Doctor MATSUSHITA and the other was Lieutenant
17 WAKAMATSU.

18 Q One last question, Colonel. After you got
19 organized into your role as prisoner of war, did you
20 begin getting mail and packages through the Red Cross
21 and news from home and other incidental things which are
22 slow in coming about?

23 A First news from home I received was three and
24 a quarter years after my capture. The first Red Cross
25 material that came to our camp was an ounce of butter

COATES

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1 per man on one occasion in October 1943. The next lot
2 of Red Cross stuff was, as I have mentioned--only on
3 one occasion did we receive Red Cross parcels and then
4 that was one parcel for thirteen men, and that was in
5 the middle of 1944 at Nakompaton. I repeatedly
6 applied for books, papers and something to help
7 intelligent men to keep from rusting. Even for the
8 medical men I considered it desirable that we should have
9 some journals, but they never came.

10 MR. HANAI: I am counsel HANAI.

11 THE PRESIDENT: Counsel HANAI.

12 CROSS-EXAMINATION (Continued):

13 BY MR. HANAI:

14 Q The witness stated that as a result of the
15 application of rules concerning diet given to the
16 patients among the prisoners of war at your camps --
17 at the camps at Nakompaton and Kamburi, the ration of
18 meat was decreased to one-third of the normal and that
19 of rice to one-half of normal. Does it mean that before
20 this measure, these rules applied in those prisoner of
21 war hospitals, their regular rations in meat and in rice
22 were three times and two times more respectively; is
23 that true?
24

25 A Yes. At Nakompaton we were informed on the
4th of April 1944 that the camp would no longer be

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1 regarded as a camp of workmen, but as a camp of sick
2 men and that the appropriate ration scale would be
3 adopted, namely, one-third of the amount of meat --
4 and the rice was not quite right, sir -- I think it is
5 two-thirds rice and two-thirds vegetables on a sliding
6 scale. But the big thing was the amount of meat was
7 reduced to one-third.

8 Q Was meat abundantly given -- issued -- to
9 the Japanese troops?

10 A At Nakompaton I have no knowledge what the
11 Japanese troops received as they lived in a separate
12 compound from ourselves. That there was abundant
13 meat in the neighborhood was obvious because we could
14 buy with money which we could secure, and at the end
15 of the war I was able to buy large quantities of meat
16 the day following the declaration of armistice.

17 Q You testified that you bought foodstuffs
18 secretly to replenish your nutrition. How could you
19 buy those foodstuffs secretly?

20 A That was for a short period at the 55 Kilo
21 camp in 1943 in Burma. As some of our patients recovered
22 they were able to carry out little trips outside the
23 camp at night, make contacts with the Burmese natives
24 and purchase food with which -- with money supplied
25 by our officers in the camp. It is my considered

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1 opinion that but for that food so purchased a great
2 number more men would have died in that camp, and I
3 think that the Japanese doctor who was aware of these
4 negotiations after some men had been caught, did not
5 act as he might have done, but he winked his eye.
6 In other words, he disobeyed orders for the sake of
7 humanity.

8 Q You have stated that at hospitals in Nakompaton
9 and Kamburi recovered patients became the source of
10 blood supply and supply of nutrition to those who were
11 more seriously ill.

12 A Yes.

13 Q However, is it not a fact that those who have
14 sufficiently recovered to be able to give transfusion
15 of blood to other people were allowed to stay in the
16 hospitals -- still allowed to stay in the hospitals?

17 A Yes, they were employed as workers in the
18 hospitals, and, of course, we had the unfortunate
19 trouble of having to use the same worker many times
20 to give his blood. Fifteen hundred transfusions were
21 given in that camp in a few months.

22 Q Are you aware of the fact, rather were you
23 aware of the fact that the punishment of Japanese
24 soldiers such as guards and others were not carried
25 out in the presence of prisoners of war?

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1 A Yes.

2 Q In that case does it not follow that you do
3 not know whether the Japanese troops -- soldiers --
4 were punished for having mistreated PW's?

5 A As I said yesterday, I saw one Japanese
6 sergeant beat up and punish a guard for maltreatment
7 of a prisoner of war. On the other hand, I have seen
8 many times guards beaten up by Japanese officers, so
9 that some punishment at any rate was carried out in
10 view of the prisoners of war.

11 Q But are you not aware of the fact that the
12 Japanese side -- the Japanese Army -- tried as much as
13 possible to avoid carrying out punishment in the
14 presence of prisoners of war?

15 A I know nothing of the rules and internal
16 arrangements of the Japanese Army.

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1 Q I will ask you some other question.

2 In instances such as malaria, amoebic dysen-
3 tery and tropical ulcers, are they not indigenous
4 to the places you are?

5 A Do you mean the places we were in, in Burma,
6 or where we are now?

7 Q In Burma.

8 A Malaria is fairly common in Burma. So is dysen-
9 tery and so is tropical ulcer.

10 Q Then, does it not follow that those who are
11 not natives or those who are not accustomed to that
12 particular locality have very little, weak resistance
13 to those diseases?

14 A We people are the first to get over that by
15 inoculation, by proper preventive measures, and by the
16 appropriate employment of drugs and diet for the treat-
17 ment of sufferers.

18 Q However, it is only when these facilities were
19 available, is it not?

20 A Oh, yes. Without such facilities such as
21 appropriate drugs it is a hazardous affair to live in
22 such a jungle.

23 Q You have testified that charcoal from the
24 kitchen was used in the place of drugs. For what
25 purpose -- what illness, particularly, was this used?

COATES

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1 A Dysentery.

2 Q Is not charcoal prescribed, including the
3 prescription as an absorbent, for dysentery?

4 A Charcoal has no value in killing the germs of
5 dysentery. All it does is it absorbs water and smell.
6 It is a symptomatic drug and not a specific curative
7 drug.

8 Q But is it not effective for absorbing toxin
9 rapidly from the intestines and removing it from the
10 bowels?

11 A Yes, it is an absorbent. That is why it is
12 given. And a man is wise, in the tropics, to have a
13 little charcoal in case he has the diarrhea from time
14 to time. But it does not kill the germs of dysentery.

15 Q Was this charcoal, the charcoal in question,
16 was it specially made for the purpose of using it as a
17 drug, or was it just taken from the kitchen, taken
18 out of the charcoal to be used at the kitchen?

19 A The charcoal that we used at the time in
20 question consisted of the crushed ashes.

21 Q Then, you don't know whether it was specially
22 made for that purpose or it was taken out of charcoal
23 to be used as fuel?

24 THE MONITOR: Slight correction on that:

25 Then you do not know whether this was crushed

COATES

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1 from the charcoal, specially made for the purpose of
2 drug or from the fuel that was used in the kitchen?

3 A Yes, I do. My orderlies used to go to the
4 kitchen and rake out the ashes from under the quarles
5 of rice and grind up the ashes, and that was the char-
6 coal.

7 Q Are you aware of the practice, old practice
8 in the East, that is, that of using burnt and carbonized
9 plants and animals, using those burnt and carbonized
10 plants or animals as drugs?

11 MR. JUSTICE MANSFIELD: I object, if the
12 Tribunal please, as I submit it is entirely irrelevant
13 to the issues before the Court.

14 THE PRESIDENT: You may ask him if animal and
15 vegetable charcoal was used.

16 THE WITNESS: Vegetable charcoal was used,
17 namely, the wood was burned to cook the food and the
18 ashes which remained formed the charcoal -- burnt wood.

19 Q As a doctor, do you know anything about the
20 effect, or, rather, effectiveness of so-called carbonized
21 plants or animals?

22 A Yes, I know that carbonized plants -- in other
23 words, charcoal -- is a very good absorbent; and we use
24 it, in my country, for a variety of diseases, for that
25 purpose only, absorbing.

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1 THE PRESIDENT: Was any charcoal other than
2 that obtained in the kitchen available to you?

3 THE WITNESS: No.

4 MR. HANAI: I conclude my cross-examination.

5 CROSS-EXAMINATION (Continued)

6 BY MR. BROOKS:

7 Q Mr. Witness, was the amount of charcoal that
8 you obtained sufficient from these places without
9 preparing ~~any more~~ for the purposes that you needed?

10 A We had enough charcoal from our kitchen for
11 us to give all the prisoners of war in Burma an adequate
12 dose.

13 THE PRESIDENT: We have heard enough about
14 charcoal, Captain Brooks.

15 Q Doctor, on the discussion of the Red Cross
16 supplies that you did get, did you ever ascertain at
17 that time or later whether the transportation problem
18 was the main point that kept you from getting more of
19 these supplies, or any other fact that you may have had
20 in your knowledge?

21 A In 1944, at the time of reception of the Red
22 Cross supplies, I had no knowledge of any difficulties of
23 the Japanese. In 1945 I was informed by the Japanese
24 doctor that supplies had been sent but that they were
25 being held by the Japanese in Bangkok for some months as

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1 a reprisal for the sinking of a Japanese ship by the
2 Americans. But he informed me that out of the goodness
3 of heart of the Japanese they would allow us to have
4 some. So he supplied me with thirty-five boxes con-
5 taining ampoules of salt water. Fortunately, at that
6 stage we could make all those things ourselves.

7 Q Did you ever find if any of these ships had
8 been sunk?

9 A The incident I have related is all I have
10 knowledge of.

11 Q Now, were there any -- I will strike that.
12 You were discussing certain officials who were
13 responsible that you testified about at a previous
14 hearing. Now, were there any other officials of equal
15 rank and position whom you did not mention because
16 you did not believe they were responsible for any of
17 the acts?

18 A To my knowledge, I think there is only one
19 person that I made any special reference to, and that
20 was a peculiarly objectionable interpreter. He was a
21 Korean.

22 Q Now, Doctor, in these camps were you a part
23 of the prisoner-of-war administration staff?

24 A It varied. In the primitive camps in the
25 Burma jungle I lived with the men and I was known as

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1 "the old man."

2 Q What I had particularly in mind is whether
3 you would have been in a position, as an administrator
4 in the camp, as a prisoner-of-war administrator in the
5 camp, to have had knowledge of the rules and regula-
6 tions furnished by the Japanese to such administrators
7 for administration.

8 A Yes. Those rules were known as "house rules"
9 for prisoner-of-war camps, and I had a copy of these
10 at all the camps.

11 THE PRESIDENT: We will recess for fifteen
12 minutes.

13 (Whereupon, at 1445, a recess was
14 taken until 1500, after which the proceedings
15 were resumed as follows:)
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1 MARSHAL OF THE COURT: The International
2 Military Tribunal for the Far East is now resumed.

3 THE PRESIDENT: Captain Brooks.

4 BY MR. BROOKS (Continued):

5 Q Doctor, we were discussing the house rules.
6 Now, were they the same in each camp?

7 A In 1943, in Burma, they were the same because
8 they were rules issued by Lieutenant-Colonel NAGATOMO.

9 Q And did this Lieutenant-Colonel have charge
10 of all the prisoners of war in that area?

11 A He did.

12 THE PRESIDENT: Do you know what those rules
13 provided, Colonel?

14 THE WITNESS: Only the detailed affairs in
15 regard to the camp: saluting of guards, the way you
16 did your washing, and that sort of thing; minor domes-
17 tic matters, nothing to do with the big control of the
18 prisoners of war.

19 THE PRESIDENT: Did they set out what the
20 food, clothing, housing, and medical supplies should
21 be?

22 THE WITNESS: No, sir.

23 THE PRESIDENT: They are hardly worth dis-
24 cussing at any length, Captain Brooks.
25

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1 BY MR. BROOKS (Continued):

2 Q Do you have a copy of such rules?

3 A I haven't one in my possession here, but
4 there is one in the bag of documents somewhere.

5 Q Can that be made available if the defense
6 requests you to produce it?

7 A I don't know. I can't answer that in the
8 affirmative. I don't know. I would have to look
9 through it and see.

10 Q Now, Doctor, were you familiar with the
11 Japanese Army regulations dealing with these subjects?
12 Did you see the Japanese Army regulations, for in-
13 stance, prohibiting the beating of prisoners?

14 A No.

15 Q Did you ever see any of the other types of
16 regulations than these that you have spoken about that
17 were army regulations for the Japanese Army for car-
18 ing for the affairs of prisoners?

19 A Yes. I had to make such rules known, such
20 as, for example, if a man tried to escape, he would be
21 shot; general rules of that kind.

22 Q Would you say that these house rules, or some
23 of the practices conducted in some of the camps where
24 you were, were in violation of the Japanese Army
25 regulations covering said subject?

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1 MR. JUSTICE MANSFIELD: I object, if the
2 Tribunal please, on the ground that the witness's
3 opinion would be irrelevant.

4 THE PRESIDENT: The objection is clearly
5 upheld.

6 MR. BROOKS: I was not asking for his opinion,
7 your Honor. He said he was familiar with some of the
8 Japanese Army regulations, and he does know about
9 house rules, and I was asking him for a comparison
10 between the two, and the practices that he has spoken
11 about.

12 THE PRESIDENT: The construction of docu-
13 ments is for us when the documents are available,
14 and they are not.

15 MR. BROOKS: The defense will try to make
16 such documents available to the Court.

17 BY MR. BROOKS (Continued):

18 Q Now, Doctor, you discussed the orders -- in
19 talking about getting this food with this doctor you
20 said, "whose certain orders were disobeyed." Now,
21 whose orders were you discussing at that time?
22

23 A Presumably, the orders of Lieutenant-Colonel
24 NAGATOMO.

25 Q Do you know that there were orders by this
officer which were being disobeyed by the doctor?

COATES

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1 A Soon after his arrival at the camp he
2 kindly invited me to have a cup of tea with him, and
3 we discussed the question of our food problems. I
4 asked him particularly to see if he could make
5 available, if not more rations, facilities for us
6 to purchase from the local natives.

7 Q Did he give any reason for refusing such
8 request?

9 A He said he would submit the request to
10 Headquarters, and a few days later he informed me
11 that that request was refused.

12 Q Do you know to what Headquarters the request
13 was forwarded?

14 A POW Headquarters at Thanbyuzayat.

15 Q And was there any report given?

16 A The report he gave me was that we were not
17 permitted to make any contact whatever with the Burmese.

18 Q Now, you had some friends, apparently, in
19 the Medical, in the Japanese Medical -- some parties
20 that were friendly toward you in the Japanese Medical
21 Corps. Did they ever state any reason for the lack
22 of medical supplies to you in any of your conversations
23 on food?

24 A No, it was a very delicate matter about
25 which they preferred not to talk.

COATES

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THE PRESIDENT: Did they say so?

THE WITNESS: Yes, sir.

Q Did they say why it was delicate?

A I would have to describe in some detail the conversations that I had with Japanese to give the correct impression here, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: To what did they attribute the lack of medical supplies, if they did so?

THE WITNESS: No supplies available to them to give us.

THE PRESIDENT: Did they say why they did not have them?

THE WITNESS: No, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: I do not want to hear any more about it, Captain Brooks. This obviously very fair witness has been very fully cross-examined. Do you really think you should continue much more with him?

MR. BROOKS: I only have one more.

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BY MR. BROOKS (Continued):

Q Now, Mr. Witness, it has been disclosed that there had been cases where former prisoner of war camp commanders were praised instead of accused by former prisoners of their command and, in some instances, where there were no acts of brutality, and in some others where the very few acts of brutality were severely punished. Do you know of any such instances in any of the camps?

A Speaking of camp commanders, I presume one uses the term whether it applies to a corporal or a sergeant or a lieutenant colonel, because the best camp commander with whom I was ever associated was a sergeant; and that man -- his name was KUMATA -- was an English-speaking Japanese, a very kindly fellow, for whom I entertained a high regard.

Q Now, Mr. Witness, these camp commanders that had been praised have stated that they felt that they were following out Japanese Army regulations prohibiting the mistreatment of prisoners and they were doing their duty, no more, no less. Do you know whether this sergeant or the ones that you have spoken about had a similar attitude?

A It would be possible to compare such a smiling, kindly fellow who interpreted his regula-

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1 tions in the correct spirit, bearing in mind the
2 nature of his prisoners of war. Contrast him with
3 another type who was an arrogant, strutting, sword-
4 carrying fellow who, apparently, imagined that he,
5 too, was interpreting the same regulations.

6 Q Then, would you say that the care or punish-
7 ment of the prisoners really depended on the dispo-
8 sition and attitude and interpretation of the guard or
9 officer in charge and the aggravation of the act in
10 each particular case?

11 A Yes, by such men as KUMATA, many Japanese
12 laws were observed more in the breach than in the
13 observance.

14 MR. BROOKS: Thank you, Mr. Witness.

15 MR. LEVIN: Mr. President.

16 CROSS-EXAMINATION (Continued)

17 BY MR. LEVIN:

18 Q Do you know whether or not the regulations
19 for the care of prisoners of war were in writing?

20 A The only rules that I saw were those issued
21 as house rules and rules which were issued by the camp
22 commanders, NAGATOMO in Burma or in Nakompaton by the
23 local command. These rules applied to the conduct of
24 prisoners of war, such as what they were to do, not
25 what the Japanese were to do; we knew nothing of

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1 those.

2 Q With the exception of Lieutenant-Colonel
3 NAGATOMO with whom you conferred and the General
4 whom you saw, you did not have any meeting with any
5 of the higher Japanese officials, did you?

6 A I communicated with two higher officers,
7 one, NAGATOMO in Burma, in 1943, and two, a Colonel,
8 Medical, name unknown, Japanese, in late 1944.

9 Q And the officers in charge of the camps
10 where you were were of the grade of Lieutenant, is
11 that correct?

12 A No, it varied. At Tavey, a Sergeant; at
13 Retpu -- that is No. 30 kilo camp -- a Sergeant;
14 at the 55 kilo, a Sergeant until I protested to
15 NAGATOMO. Then a Japanese Lieutenant Medical officer;
16 then, at the Nakompaton camp -- that was a large camp --
17 we had a Lieutenant Colonel in charge.

18 MR. LEVIN: This, Mr. President, concludes
19 the cross-examination of this witness.

20 MR. JUSTICE MANSFIELD: No re-examination,
21 if the Tribunal please.

22 THE PRESIDENT: You are at liberty now to go
23 back to Australia on the usual terms, Colonel.

24 (Whereupon, the witness was
25 excused.)

COATES

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1 MR. JUSTICE MANSFIELD: If the Tribunal
2 please, I ask the indulgence of the Tribunal to allow
3 me to call at this stage Brigadier Blackburn, V. C.
4 He is at present here, and he is engaged, or will be
5 engaged, in an important public governmental inquiry
6 beginning the first week in January in Adelaide.

7 THE PRESIDENT: What is his profession?

8 MR. JUSTICE MANSFIELD: He is a barrister,
9 a lawyer. His evidence refers to two camps, namely --
10 two areas, namely, Java and Formosa where he was con-
11 fined with the senior officers of the Allied Armies.
12 I point out that he was, of course, a prisoner of
13 war for a long period. He has been away from his
14 home.

15 THE PRESIDENT: He may be interposed.

16 MR. JUSTICE MANSFIELD: Thank you.

17 Call Brigadier Blackburn.
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1 MARSHAL OF THE COURT: I am not informed as
2 to his whereabouts, Mr. Justice Mansfield.

3 THE PRESIDENT: While we are waiting for
4 him--Mr. Justice Mansfield, we understand that it is
5 now your intention, if it has not always been, in
6 those affidavit matters simply to tender the affidavit
7 for identification; then to tender an excerpt merely;
8 but to read only a synopsis of the excerpt.

9 MR. JUSTICE MANSFIELD: That was the proposal.

10 THE PRESIDENT: Then you intend to serve on
11 the defense in English a copy of the affidavit in full,
12 a copy of the excerpt, and a copy of the synopsis; and,
13 in Japanese, a copy of the excerpt and a copy of the
14 synopsis. The defense, in those circumstances, would
15 be at liberty to draw to the Court's attention anything
16 in the affidavit which does not appear in the excerpt
17 or in the synopsis. They would do that by tendering
18 the part omitted upon which they would rely, and will
19 do it in the course of giving evidence for the defense.
20 In that way, every particle of the affidavit could
21 be drawn to the Court's attention. If I understand
22 the attitude of my colleagues, a majority favors the
23 course that you propose and approve of it, and that
24 is the Court's decision.

25 (Whereupon, Mr. Brooks came to the lectern.)

BLACKBURN

DIRECT

1 THE PRESIDENT: We have heard all the argument
2 we intend to hear.

3 Swear in the witness.

4 - - -

5 A R T H U R S E A F O R T H B L A C K B U R N, called
6 as a witness on behalf of the prosecution, being
7 first duly sworn, testified as follows:

8 THE PRESIDENT: Mr. Levin.

9 MR. LEVIN: Mr. President, in the absence of
10 Mr. Cunningham, on his behalf I want to renew the
11 objection he made to the testimony of the previous
12 witness; in other words, the points that he raised.

13 DIRECT EXAMINATION

14 BY MR. JUSTICE MANSFIELD:

15 Q What is your full name?

16 A Arthur Seaforth Blackburn.

17 Q And your rank?

18 A Brigadier.

19 Q And in March 1942 what was your rank?

20 A Brigadier of the Australian Imperial Forces.

21 Q And where do you reside?

22 A Grafers in South Australia.

23 Q In March 1942 where were you?

24 A I was in Java.

25 Q And were you the senior Australian officer in

BLACKBURN

DIRECT

1 that area?

2 A Yes, I was the general officer commanding all
3 Australian troops in Java.

4 Q And were you captured by the Japanese forces
5 in Java on the 12th of March, 1942?

6 A Yes.

7 Q And did you remain a prisoner until the
8 Japanese capitulation in August, 1945?

9 A Yes.

10 Q During that period were you ever informed
11 by Japanese officers of the policy of the Japanese
12 Government towards prisoners of war?

13 A I was frequently informed by Japanese officers
14 that the policy of the Japanese Government was to treat
15 prisoners only under their principle of "Bushido;" that
16 the principles of the Geneva Convention would be
17 applied only when it suited them, and that prisoners
18 of war had no rights whatever.

19 Q On the 13th of April, 1942, did you take
20 command of a prisoner of war camp?

21 A On the 13th of April, 1942, I was brought to
22 Batavia and placed in Cycle Camp where I assumed
23 command of the 2600 Allied prisoners of war in the
24 camp. That consisted at that time of Americans, British
25 and Australians.

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Q What was the housing provided for the troops?

A We were housed in a Dutch barracks built to accommodate one thousand native troops. The number of prisoners in the camp varied from time to time reaching a maximum of 4,900; but at no time were any extra buildings or kitchens or sanitary arrangements provided.

Q Shortly after your arrival, did any extra prisoners, survivors from any ships, arrive?

A Shortly after my arrival approximately five hundred officers and ratings, survivors from the "Perth" and the "Houston" were brought into the camp. They were in a pitiful state of neglect and ill-health. They were semi-naked, most of them, and a large number of them were unable to walk without assistance.

Q Had they received any medical attention?

A They had received no medical attention since their capture on the 1st of March; and practically every man was suffering from malaria or dysentery or both. I had to put practically everyone of them into my camp hospital the same day they arrived. I applied to the Japanese for blankets, clothing, towels, soap, et cetera, for them. They were all degradingly dirty. The application was refused.

Q What about drugs and medicines?

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DIRECT

1 A I applied for extra drugs and medicines for
2 them. This also was refused.

3 Q What have you to say about the issue of food
4 and medicines generally in that camp?

5 A The food at all times was completely inade-
6 quate and all prisoners in the camp began to lose
7 weight very rapidly. At no time did we receive anything
8 approaching the quantity of food approved for prisoners
9 of war by the Japanese. Practically no medicines were
10 issued to us by the Japanese authorities, and after
11 the few drugs we had brought with us into the camp
12 were finished, we were practically without drugs
13 until we managed to get them into camp by our own
14 means from outside sources in Batavia. I made frequent
15 protests both written and verbally over the shortage
16 both of food and drugs, but never received any satis-
17 faction in regards to same.

18 Q What was the position with regard to the
19 health and physical condition of the prisoners of
20 war up to the time you left that camp?

21 A Sickness was very frequent in the camp,
22 including at least two severe epidemics of dysentery.
23 The health, generally, of the troops was steadily deteri-
24 orating and a large number died.

25 Q What was the attitude of the Japanese towards

BLACKBURN

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1 physical punishment of prisoners?

2 A Discipline was very harsh in the camp.
3 Physical beatings-up and brutalities were a very
4 frequent occurrence.

5 Q Were protests made about that?

6 A I made constant protests in writing and
7 verbally both to the camp commandant and to staff
8 officers from Japanese Headquarters, but I never at
9 any time received any satisfaction or any lessening
10 of the physical brutalities.

11 Q In June, 1942, did any mass punishment occur?

12 A In June 1942 I was ordered to obtain the sig-
13 nature of every prisoner in the camp to a form promising
14 instant obedience to every order of the Japanese Army.
15 Every officer and every enlisted man in the camp
16 refused to sign the form unless the words "subject
17 to the oath of allegiance we have already taken" was
18 added to the form. On the 3rd of July of 1942 I, in
19 conjunction with Colonel Searles, the senior American
20 officer in the camp, informed the camp commandant that
21 we would obtain the signatures if those words were
22 added to the form. We were informed that the words
23 would not be added to the form and the forms must be
24 signed. That afternoon an order was issued imposing
25 severe mass punishments on the whole camp, and a very

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1 large number of officers and men were beaten up
2 and assaulted without any reason whatever being given
3 for the action. I was sent for by an officer from
4 Imperial Japanese Headquarters in Java that afternoon,
5 and informed that unless everyone signed, food and
6 medicines throughout the camp would be progressively
7 decreased until we did sign. Next morning notices
8 were posted throughout the camp that our lives would
9 no longer be guaranteed. Machine guns were posted
10 throughout the camp and a large number of extra-armed
11 guards were brought into the camp. Colonel Searles
12 and I and all hut commanders were seized by the
13 sentries and locked up in the guardhouse. Every other
14 officer in the camp was marched out of the camp under
15 heavy armed guard.

16 THE PRESIDENT: We will adjourn until
17 half-past nine on Monday morning.

18 (Whereupon, at 1600, an adjournment
19 was taken until Monday, 2 December 1946, at
20 0930.)

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