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SYNOPSIS

HAINAN ISLAND.

Hainan

a) Prosecution Document numbered 5335, the Affidavit of Dr. W. AITKIN, is now offered for identification, the marked excerpts being produced in evidence. This Affidavit states that in November, 1942, 263 officers and men P/W arrived in Hainan. The accommodation for the draft which consisted of sick, weak and aged men, was appalling. Huts were infested with vermin. Sanitary arrangements were primitive and since the camp was situated near a drainage swamp, mosquitoes were ubiquitous. Food was generally inadequate and sometimes grossly insufficient.

Between November, 1942 and August, 1945, there were 2,430 admissions to hospital. There were 60 deaths due to disease.

Sick men were forced to go on working parties, where the work was heavy. Men were frequently beaten.

A complaint to the Camp Commandant regarding the reduction of food resulted in the witness and another officer being beaten. Requests to the Japanese M.O. to supply drugs and for improved diet were ignored. Deaths were sometimes shown on death certificates as due to starvation. The M.O.'s reply was that if the witness continued to show death as due to starvation, he would show the prisoners what death from starvation really meant.

b) Prosecution document numbered 5264A, the Affidavit of Major I. F. MACRAE, is produced for identification, and the marked excerpts therein now offered in evidence. The document states that in November, 1942, the witness arrived in Hainan with a draft of men. He confirms the conditions described in the preceding document No. 5335. The men were engaged on building works for the use of the Japanese Army, and were beaten and kicked while so doing.

Many men went to work barefoot, owing to lack of footwear.

In Haisho there were many coolies working. They were starved and emaciated in appearance. The witness saw the dead bodies of coolies dragged out of the hospital, when he passed by; sometimes as many as ten to twelve.

For breaches of discipline, coolies were brought to the P/W Camp where they were flogged and given the water torture.

In July, 1943, about 120 Chinese were bayoneted to death outside the Camp.

c) Prosecution Document numbered 5250, the Affidavit of A. F. WINSOR, is now introduced for identification, the marked excerpts thereof being offered in evidence. The document states that about 120 Chinese were bayoneted to death in 1943, because narcotics had been illegally brought into a coolie camp and these men chosen at random were executed as a warning for the future.

d) Prosecution document numbered 5251, the Affidavit of MAJOR R.G. TURNER, is produced for identification, the marked excerpts thereof being introduced in evidence. This Affidavit exhibits 29 official photographs taken by an Allied officer of prisoners of war recovered at Hainan Island in August, 1945. These exhibits are now tendered in evidence.

1624A

Evidentiary Document # 5335.

The International
Military Tribunal
for the Far East.

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND OTHERS,

v

ARAFI, S. DAO AND OTHERS.

ambon

A F F I D A V I T.

I, WILLIAM AITKEN of Childrens Hospital, Melbourne, in the State of Victoria, Medical Practitioner formerly VX31470 Captain W. AITKEN, of 8th division AMFC attached 2/21st Battalion make oath and say:-

1. I became a prisoner of the Japanese at AMBON ISLAND in February 1942.
2. In October 1942 the Japanese ordered that a draft of 15 officers and 248 men was to be made up from the Australians at AMBON for despatch to an unknown destination and that this draft was to include all sick, weak debilitated and aged men as the draft was going to a rest camp or hospital. The draft was prepared and shipped from AMBON with 250-300 Dutch towards the end of October 1942. It arrived at HAINAN on 5 November 1942.
3. The accommodation was very bad consisting of eolic barracks built in a very primitive style mainly from odd scraps of timber and iron. A platform 12 feet wide ran the full length of the hut on each side with a 6 foot passageway between the two platforms which were raised up 2 feet from the ground the space underneath being open on all sides. There was no covering over the bare earth. The men slept on sleeping mats on those platforms and until the end of 1942 sick and fit men had to exist in the same hut. They had 17 to 18 square feet each and were consequently very overcrowded. After December 1942 other barracks of the same type were provided as a hospital and this relieved the congestion. The roofs of the huts leaked badly and the walls allowed the wind and the rain to enter but no materials were ever provided for repairs. The whole place was infested with bed bugs, cockroaches, rats, mice, bodylice, fleas, flies and ants and these vermin which came in cycles during the year could not be controlled under existing conditions.
4. Sanitary facilities, drainage and hygiene arrangements were either entirely absent or very primitive throughout the camp and surrounding district. All camp drainage ran into a low lying patch of ground outside the camp and stagnated untreated within 100 yards of the kitchen. No precautions were ever taken by the Japanese against fly-breeding. The whole district simply swarmed with flies and the men worked and ate in filthy surroundings. The camp was situated 1/2 mile from a

large swamp used partly as a paddy field and into this ran the drainage from coolie barracks. This area was an ideal breeding ground for mosquitoes which were very common and which accounted partly for the high incidence of malaria.

5. Food consisted mainly of rice and at the commencement of our incarceration at HAINAN was sufficient in bulk. Other foodstuffs were inadequate in quantity and quality. Vegetables were very scarce. We received meat and fish rarely and when these were delivered they arrived in a shocking condition. In the heat of summer supplies of rotten fish or meat for three days forward were delivered with nothing to keep it. Later quantity of rice fell to 300 grams, to 200 grams per man per day. On one day only 167 grams of rice per man were received and no other food. This state of affairs continued until 10 May 1945 when the rations slowly improved. There was no reason for food shortage as there was always a plentiful supply of live beasts in the area of HAINAN in which we were.

6. We had brought 13 mattresses, 4 palliases and 20 pillows with us from AMBON. No issues were made and with these we had to carry on a hospital with an average of 60-80 patients. All other articles of hospital equipment had to be improvised as none were issued. On the contrary from time to time the Japs raided the hospital and removed equipment. In this way after the end of the first year microscope was by the Japs.

7. Between November 1942 and August 1945 there were approximately 2430 admissions to hospital and 60 deaths due to disease. The causes of death were beri beri 20, dysentery 14, starvation and malnutrition 18, malaria 2, other diseases 6.

8. From early in November 1942 the Japs commenced sending men out on working parties. The work was heavy and the men were brutally treated. If there were not sufficient fit men available the Japs insisted on sick men being sent out from hospital to work. The work parties consisted partly of ataxic and oedematous men scarcely able to stagger to work at which they were kicked and flogged. Each night saw several cases being carried or helped home. The Japanese officers knew of this state of affairs but those that visited the hospital found the plight of the sick men a subject of amusement. Even when the sick were not required on work parties the convalescent and light sick were taken for special jobs on which they were flogged and kicked in the same manner.

9. On one occasion Captain MISKIN, the quartermaster and I handed in at the Guard House a written complaint as to reduction of food. This was addressed to Area Commandant. The Camp Commandant brought us out, belted us with his fists and shoved the complaint down Captain MISKIN's shirt.

Many requests were made to the Japanese Medical Officer to visit the camp to supply drugs and improve the diet. The increasing sick rate and number of deaths were pointed out to him. Deaths were shown on death certificates as being due to starvation. His only reply was that if we continued to show death on certificates as due to starvation he would show us what death from starvation really meant.

10. This affidavit only refers to Australian prisoners of war as Dutch were under their own separate command and were hospitalized separately.

Sworn at MELBOURNE in the State)
of Victoria this the 27th day of) (Signed) W. AITKEN.
September 1946.

Before me,

(Signed) ?
J.P.

1625A

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Evidentiary Document # 5264A.

The International Military Tribunal for the Far East.

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND OTHERS

v

ARAKI, SADAO AND OTHERS.

Ambon

A F F I D A V I T.

I, Ian Farquhar Macrae of 14 Myrmioning Grove, Hawthorn in the State of Victoria formerly VX44787 Major I.F. Macrae of 2/21 Battalion, Australian Imperial Forces make oath and say:-

1. I was captured at Ambon on 2nd February 1942. Together with 262 other Australian prisoners and about 300 Dutch prisoners I was shipped from Ambon to Hainan on 25th October 1942. On the instructions of the Japanese all the sick and weak men from Ambon were included in the draft and formed the great majority of it. We arrived at Hainan on 5th November 1942.

2. The prison compound was about ten acres with a low barbed fence around. The huts were coolie barracks of a primitive style made of all scraps of timber and iron. Men slept on the floor on old grass mats - two men to three mats. The area for sleeping, 263 officers and men, was 4608 square feet or 18 square feet per man. This included all sick, no separate accommodation was provided for them. Roofs and walls were not weather proof. No materials were provided for repairs and the huts were infested with bugs, cockroaches, rats, lice, fleas and ants. Sanitary arrangements and hygiene were entirely absent or very primitive. There were no fly precautions. The Japanese were quite indifferent to the whole state of affairs and no assistance was given despite repeated requests. Men ate and worked in filthy surroundings inhabited by natives and imported coolies. The camp was a quarter of a mile from an old swamp. This made malaria very prevalent.

3. On leaving Ambon we had been told to take all our sick as we were going to a rest camp. In spite of this, the men were compelled to commence road work. Subsequently they were engaged on building a railway embankment, excavating anti-aircraft gun emplacements and putting the guns in position and unloading ammunition and supplies from ships. Hours of work were from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. with an hour off during the day. At first there was a rest day once a week but later only one rest day every five to seven weeks.

The work was carried out under very trying conditions - the climate was very hot and enervating during the greater part of the year. The men were kept at hard work, driven by Japanese officers, N.C.Os, and men by kicks, by blows from rifle butts and by floggings with shovels, pick handles, iron bars and sticks of wood. Three men had limbs fractured

in this way and a large number of others had to receive medical attention. To keep up the numbers the Japanese compelled sick men to work.

4. Only one issue of boots and clothing was made up to the time of the Japanese surrender. Even this issue contained only a few pairs of boots and there was not enough clothing to go round. After twelve months men were compelled to work barefooted.

5. No outward mail was permitted by the Japanese and no advice regarding prisoners of war on Hainan ever reached Australia through any channel.

During the three year period, on one occasion, Australian prisoners received from one to three letters. No other communication from relatives was received.

6. In Haisho there were about one hundred barracks filled with Hong Kong and Canton coolies. These coolies were working at the iron mine and at the port of Haisho. They were starved and emaciated in appearance. Whenever I passed the building that they used as a hospital, I saw bodies of dead coolies which had been dragged out, up to 10 or 12 bodies a day.

For breaches of discipline the Japanese would bring the coolies to our camp where they would punish them by floggings or by the water torture. The latter consisted of filling them up with water until their stomachs were distended and then jumping on their stomachs.

7. On the evening of 17th July 1943, about 120 Chinese were brought to the camp with their arms tied behind their backs. They were taken outside the camp and bayoneted to death by the Japanese and buried near the camp. I saw new graves after the incident and the method of death was described by numerous Japanese.

8. From time to time complaints about lack of food and clothing, poor accommodation and brutality on working parties were addressed to Area Commandant and handed in at Guard Room for forwarding. The Camp Commandant refused to forward these complaints and on one occasion struck Captain Aitken, the Medical Officer, and Captain Miskin, the Quartermaster for handing in such a complaint as to food for the sick. On another occasion Lieutenant-Colonel Kapitz, the elderly Dutch commander, addressed a complaint to Headquarters. For this the Camp Commandant brutally beat him with a stick in front of the troops. No proper visits of inspection by senior officers were made after December 1942.

9. At the commencement of our imprisonment at Hainan, the daily food ration consisted of 480 grams of rice daily, this was later dropped to 350 grams and finally to 200 grams. Some meat and vegetables were issued up to the end of 1944, but then these issues ceased.

10. Despite the fact that the town of Haisho was frequently bombed during 1944 and 1945, no attempt was made to distinguish the compound as a P.O.W.

Evidentiary Document # 5264A.

3.*

camp to aircraft. Anti-aircraft guns and other military targets were near to the camp and the camp was well within a target area. An anti-aircraft machine gun was mounted inside the compound. An apparatus for locating aircraft was kept sometimes in the compound and sometimes close outside it.

11. In April 1945 I escaped with a party of prisoners of war and joined the Chinese guerillas with whom I remained until the Japanese surrender.

12. Deaths resulting from starvation, brutality and neglect reduced the numbers from 263 to 182 in three years.

(Signed) I.F. MACRAE.

SWORN at Melbourne in the State)
of Victoria this the 3rd day of)
October 1946,

Before me,

(Signed) ?

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