

ND/SCAP/ES/54/260

IN THE MATTER OF WAR CRIMES COMMITTED BY JAPANESE NATIONALS AND IN THE MATTER OF THE ILL-TREATMENT OF PRISONERS OF WAR AT FUKUOKA. 19 PRISONER OF WAR CAMP.

AFFIDAVIT.

I, Roy Broadway Watson,  
of 2, Manor Road North, Wallington,  
in the County of Surrey, a cellulose sprayer.  
make oath and say as follows :-

(1) I joined the R.A.F. as an A.C.2., number 1257198 in August 1940. In October 1940 I was posted to 84 Squadron in the Near East, and after a period of service in Palestine, Iraq, and Greece the squadron was posted to Sumatra in January 1942.

(2) About the middle of February 1942 the Squadron moved to Java, and I was taken prisoner there by the Japanese on 8th March 1942.

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(3) For about eight months I was in various transit camps in Java, and about November 1942 we left Java for Japan on a ship called the "Assuri Maru" or something like that. We broke our journey for about three days at Singapore, and were altogether a month or five weeks on the ship. Upon arrival in Japan I was sent with a batch of prisoners (250), to a prisoner of war camp called FUKUOKA 19., although the number was subsequently changed to 11. This camp was on the island of FUKUOKA, and the nearest town was MUGI or MUJI, which was a port.

(4) There was a Japanese officer, I believe a Lieutenant, in charge of the camp, and about two dozen guards, none of whose names I know.

(5) We worked in a coal-mine, in three shifts, from 6 a.m. to 2 p.m., 2 p.m. to 10 p.m., and 10 p.m. to 6 a.m., and we changed our shifts every 14 days. We had three meals a day, one before going to work, one to take with us, and one on our return from work. The meals consisted of a portion of rice and some thin soup made of soya bean paste, seaweed etc. To start with the quantity of rice per man each day was 900 grammes, but this was later reduced to 540 grammes a day. We wore our own clothes, and in addition we were given a pair of shorts like football shorts and a thin shirt to work in, and to wear in the camp we were given Japanese uniform, which was well-worn.

(6) There were about 500 of us in the camp altogether and we lived in 22 wooden huts. The number in each hut varied, but we were not overcrowded. We slept on rice-straw mats, and had four blankets each which were issued by the Japanese. There were no tables or chairs in these huts and we had our meals in a communal dining hall, where there were tables and forms. The sanitary arrangements were of average Japanese standards. Any men who were injured down the mine were employed round the camp as a Hygiene Squad, under a Sergeant called Wright who belonged to the Royal Artillery, the 77 A.A. Regiment, I think.

(7) The medical supplies to the camp were practically nil,

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but we had two Japanese medical orderlies who were lent to the camp by the mining company where we worked. It was their job primarily to see that as many as possible of us went to work. We had a Dutch doctor called Lieutenant VANDEMEIR or something like that who would know more about the medical supplies.

(8) During the three years I was at the camp I had approximately the contents of one complete Red Cross parcel, spread over the time I was there. The most I ever had at any one time was when we had one parcel between four of us. I think that was in the middle of 1944. The rest of the time they just gave us odds and ends out of parcels when they thought they would. The Japanese guards used to go into the stores where the Red Cross parcels were kept, and I have seen a number of them helping themselves to articles from the parcels, particularly cigarettes. A lot of the Japanese N.C.O.'s had boots from the Red Cross parcels, they were Canadian Army type boots.

(9) The working conditions in the mine were very bad. The foremen used to stand over us while we were working and beat anyone whom they thought was not doing enough work. They hit us with anything that was handy, including pit props, pick handles etc. There were a great number of accidents in the mine, and I should say that there were between 30 and 40 serious accidents, involving broken limbs, during the time I was there.

(10) The treatment of prisoners by the Japanese guards in the camp was bad, there were frequent beatings for anyone committing small offences such as not saluting a Japanese soldier, but it is extremely difficult to pick out any individual acts of brutality as it became such a common occurrence. There is one incident however which stands out in my memory. About a week or so before the war finished, in August 1945 I think it was, about nine of the prisoners were suspected of stealing a pumpkin from the camp gardens. They were lined up by the Japanese guard under a sergeant whom we knew as "HOPPY", and were beaten over the head and back with a chair. "Hoppy" did the actual beating. I heard afterwards that one of the men concerned was under observation for a long time with a suspected fracture of the spine. I don't know the names of any of the prisoners concerned. (All the prisoners on day shifts were lined up for a meal at this time and must have seen this occur.)

(11) The Japanese civilians at the mine treated the prisoners much worse than the prison guards. The beatings were more severe, and more frequent than in the camp, and practically all the civilians were as bad as one another. One incident I remember occurred when I was on night shift, in about June 1945. The engineer in charge of the shift who was called KATOSAN alleged that someone had stolen some beans from his garden and lined up the whole shift, and said he was going to beat us all until someone owned up. He started off at the end of the line hitting the prisoners over the back with an iron bar. The chap who had the worst of it was Gunner Jack HOPKINS; of the 249 Light A.A. Regiment, Royal Artillery., I think it was, who was first in the line. He was badly knocked about and we had to carry him back to camp, where he was sick for some days. KATOSAN only hit about the first four or five prisoners, including myself, and then stopped because he had exhausted himself. I was not so badly knocked about as Hopkins, but was badly bruised. Ernie COOK, another chap in the R.A.F. was also beaten up on this same occasion. I don't know his number, but he lives at Rawmarsh, near Rotherham, Yorkshire. I didn't report to the Medical Inspection Room because if I had done I should probably have had another beating up from one of the

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Japanese orderlies.

(12) Captain Peter WILLIAMS, 77 A.A. Regiment, R.A. who was the only British officer in the camp should be able to give more detailed facts of the brutalities in the camp as he was there all day, whilst we were away working in the mine.

(13) I cannot mention any brutal acts committed by ITO Benji, or Captain TAKATA Shuichi, as I cannot identify either of these people in my own mind. The three Japanese civilian guards known to us as "PEG LEG", "MEAT KING", and "SLIMEY", were all responsible for numerous acts of brutality, but I am unable to give specific details of acts for which they were individually responsible owing to the lapse of time. I would like to say that the "Meat King" got his name from stealing the rations, and in particular twice when meat was issued to our cook house for us he went in and stole it. These two occasions were late in 1944, and I remember them as they were about the only two occasions that we had meat. These three mentioned above frequently beat the prisoners, and "Slimey" was in a class of his own as the worst guard in the camp.

(14) I remained in the camp until after the war with Japan ended and later returned to this country, being demobilised in about March 1946.

SWORN at 47 Parliament Street  
Westminster  
in the County of London  
this 9<sup>th</sup> day of April 1947.....

*R. O. [Signature]*

Before me

*[Signature]*

A Commissioner for Oaths.

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IN THE MATTER OF WAR CRIMES COMMITTED BY JAPANESE  
NATIONALS AND IN THE MATTER OF THE ILL-TREATMENT  
OF PRISONERS OF WAR ( CIVILIAN INTERNEES) AT  
FUKUOKA 19, 11 and 8 B PRISONER OF WAR CAMPS.

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A F F I D A V I T.

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I, THOMAS HENRY WELLINGS on oath saith:-

I am a Plater's assistant employed by Messrs,  
Manchester Dry Docks Ltd., Trafford Wharf and live at 34  
Royal Avenue, Old Trafford, Manchester 16, Lancashire, England.

On the 8th. March. 1942, I was a Gunner (No.1782865)  
serving with the 95th. Battery, 48th. Regiment, Royal Artillery  
at Bandung in Java, when we capitulated and I was one of the many  
that were taken prisoner by the Japanese. They took most of  
our equipment but they allowed the Regiment to retain certain  
cooking utensils but they were insufficient for the number of  
men. We were told that we would have to manage with what food  
we had and that we would be marched to Batavia, which was about  
170 miles away.

We remained at Bandung for a further three days and  
slept where we stood, living on meagre rations of our own food  
which was already running low.

About 8 a.m. of the morning of the fourth day we  
started to march and were halted at 6 p.m. the same day. We  
had to sleep by the road-side. We marched again the following  
days until about 6 in the evening and then remained where we were  
for another two days. Our meals, which were still dependent on  
our own supplies, generally consisted of a biscuit and a piece of  
cheese. The roads were sometimes very muddy and then would  
change to one made of concrete.

We were told by our Senior Officer, Colonel  
Mc. Cartney Fieldgate, that we would be entraining at the next  
railway and after marching for about half an hour we were  
crowded into railway vans. There would be about 50 prisoners in  
the van with me. The shutters were closed and there was very  
little ventilation. We were kept in the van during the journey  
which took all that day and night.

The following day we arrived at Batavia and were  
taken to a Camp, known as Kohn School, which was a small school  
with a playground. We found a number of prisoners already  
billeted there and they included the 21st. Regiment of the Light  
Anti-Aircraft, some Americans and Australians. The camp was  
overcrowded and men had to sleep under any protection they could  
find. We erected three cookhouses in the playground and  
for the first three days the only food we could get was perhaps  
a sausage for breakfast and then our food ran out. The  
Japanese then gave us some boiled rice which was very watery and  
the ration for each man was a saucerful.

On the fourth day, after our arrival at the Camp,  
I was one of a party which was taken out each morning to work  
on an aerodrome about 15 miles away. We had to walk there and  
the column was followed by one vehicle for the purpose of picking  
up any prisoners who collapsed, but usually they only picked up  
about six prisoners and the others would then be forced to carry  
on walking no matter in what state of health. Our work on the  
aerodrome was filling in bomb craters. Before leaving the  
camp the prisoners were issued with a saucerful of boiled rice  
and at dinner time we had to line up for another helping of rice,  
but it sometimes happened that those at the end of the long line did  
not get any through work having to be resumed before they were  
served. At the end of the day we were marched back to the camp,  
usually arriving there about 7 p.m. After roll call we would try  
to clean ourselves but there was only one water tap for the camp

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one water tap for the camp/ and we had to draw some water into buckets and just swill ourselves. At the aerodrome there was generally about 6 Japanese Guards, who were constantly being changed, and they would hit us, for no apparent reason, with a shovel or anything they had in their hands.

About two months later I was moved, along with others, to a Civilian Camp at Boydglodek, Batavia, which was about half a mile from the school. There were four water taps at this Camp. These were fairly high up and we used them as showers. We had to dig a trench for our natural needs and this was usually swilled down with a hose pipe. Our cooking utensils were insufficient for our needs and a large number on the camp were kept waiting whilst the cooks endeavoured to prepare a second lot of boiled rice, but on most occasions some had to go without the meal as we had to parade for work before it could be served up. The Japanese took various parties for different jobs such as cleaning up the Marine and Artillery Barracks, cutting the grass or work on the aerodrome. Whilst away from the camp we were given a mid-day meal of rice.

After 11 months I was again moved to The Cycle Barracks a short distance away from the other camp. The hygiene and sanitation were fairly good at this camp, it having been a Dutch Army Barracks. We were taken out daily on similar work as before but in addition some were taken to the nearby docks to load and unload ships. About a month later the Japanese started paying the workers 10 cents a day and with the money we were allowed to buy sugar, bananas, tobacco and eggs, from the Camp Commandant, when he was inclined to sell them to us.

A month later I was moved to Tanjon Priok Camp, which was nearer the docks. This camp was equipped with two large tanks of water for washing purposes and we constructed our own latrines. Our meals consisted of boiled rice.

Three months later I was returned to The Cycle Camp and for four days I remained in the camp and was not allotted any work.

On the fifth day, about 300 of us were marched to the docks where we boarded a ship and during the 12 hours voyage we were given one meal of rice.

We arrived at Singapore and were lodged in a Transit Camp, but had to have scratch meals as no preparations had been made for our reception.

On the fifth day we were placed on another ship and after a voyage of about two months, we were disembarked in Japan. The sanitation on the ship was terrible and all day long the men were lining up on the stairs in hundreds, waiting to go above as only one of us was allowed on the deck at a time. The ship was overcrowded and you could not lie down in your bunk. The Japanese cooks brought us boiled rice in buckets, which sometimes was very meagre and there was only a small portion for each man. The guards usually distributed about 20 cupfuls of water to us and this was for washing purposes. After a month at sea they allowed us on the deck for a wash with salt water which was supplied through a hose pipe, but there was always a mad scramble.

Before disembarking in Japan we were fumigated and searched. I was then only clad in my tropical shorts and coat, my feet being bare, through my equipment having been gradually taken off me by one guard and then another, and other articles had been worn out.

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AFFIDAVIT OF THOMAS HENRY WELLINGS Continued.

We had to sit on the dock-side for about 6 hours when the contingent was split up and I was sent to FUKUOKA No. 11 Camp, arriving there about 5 a.m. It was winter, very cold and snowing at the time. We were lined up in the camp for about four hours when the Camp Commandant ( whose name I cannot recall) addressed us in Japanese and one of our Officers did his best to interpret it for us. We then had to sign a form which I could not understand with it being in Japanese. Later the same afternoon we were given a small loaf of bread and some very watery soup. We were all paraded later that day and issued with a miner's cap, pair of rubber shoes, pair of rag gaiters and a box for carrying food to work.

Two days later, all the prisoners had to parade for work at 7 a.m. No one was allowed to remain in the camp, even those who were ill had to go. We were given a small bowl of rice and some to take out with us. We were then taken out of the camp and during the following week we were all engaged moving sand dumps from one spot to another one nearby. After that they commenced to sort out the working parties and I was allotted to the mines, which were in close proximity to the camp.

The work at the mines was in shifts. On early duty the roll call in the camp was at 3 in the morning. We were then given a meal of rice and a meal of rice to take in our boxes. After waiting about the camp for about 1 1/2 hours, we were paraded in front of the guard room, searched and afterwards ordered to perform physical training or run about in front of the guard room. On the arrival of the Mine Civilian Guards, they also searched us and then escorted us to the mine. On reaching there we were ordered to perform more physical training and afterwards collected our tools. We were then taken by train some distance into the mine and then made to walk to our allotted workings, which sometimes meant a walk of about 15 miles over terrible roads, which were rough and muddy and with many climbs. It was scheduled for us to reach our workings about five minutes to six in readiness to commence work at 6 a.m. and relieve the previous shift. Usually we worked in parties of 8, being responsible for the drilling, cutting, filling coal tubs, propping the workings and laying the tracks for the tubs to run on. On this shift we should have finished at 2 p.m. but on many occasions the relieving shift had been held up and we had to carry on working until they arrived. We then walked back to the entrance to the mine and were kept there for varying periods, according to the time the Japanese, in charge of the mine, took to check the work we had done. We were then marched back to the camp and on the early shift we had an additional duty to perform, this was carrying coal into the camp from just outside. Our meal time was fixed for 4-30 p.m. but with this extra work we were always late and then had to wait until 7 p.m. to have our meal with the day shift.

On the afternoon shift we had to rise at 9 a.m. for roll call, then partook of a meal of boiled rice and was given some to take out. As on the other shift we were made to do physical training in front of the guard room and at the mine. With having to wait for the relieve shift it was usually about midnight before we reached the camp. There was a roll call and we then did our best to wash ourselves in the water tanks, but there was no soap. We could then have a meal of boiled rice from the cookhouse, followed by another roll call at 12-30 a.m. at which we were invariably kept waiting for an hour or so.

On the night shift we had to rise at 5 p.m. for roll call but had to wait until about 7 p.m. to have our meal of boiled rice with the day and camp workers. We then had to stand about the camp until parade at 8-30 p.m. when there was the usual physical training at the guard room and mine.

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AFFIDAVIT OF THOMAS HENRY WELLINGS Continued.

On returning to the camp from the mines, it was an instruction that we swilled our hands in a bowl of water which was in front of the guard room, but this was usually filthy. There was also a bowl of water and we had to use some of this to gargle with. On one occasion, when I was on the early shift, I passed the wash bowl without swilling my hands. The Camp Commandant, whose name I do not know, was nearby and saw me. He stopped me, knocked me to the floor and kicked me several times. The Guards then put me in a cell at the rear of the Guard room. It was merely a wooden box with a door. The roof was so low that you could not even sit in it and had to lie down all the time. The lavatory, which was inside the box, was a small wooden box with a hole of about three inches diameter in the top. A short time after being in the cell, one of the guards, whom we called "SLIMEY", opened the door and called me out. He said something to me in Japanese which I did not understand and suddenly he struck me several violent blows with his fists. He then pushed me back into the cell and closed the door. I was not given anything to eat or drink. I was brought out of the cell the following morning, given a work box containing a meal of rice and taken out with the mine detachment. On returning to the camp at night I was not allowed to wash or have any food and was again locked in the cell. The following morning, one of the Guards brought me a ball of salted rice and gave me my work meal box. I was again taken to the mine and on my return to the camp I was told I could go to my billet.

Any prisoner wanting to report sick had to attend the Sick parade at 7-30 a.m. when the Japanese Medical Orderly examined them. On one occasion I attended the parade suffering from diarrhoea. The orderly told me I would have to carry on working, but must go without food for 48 hours. I went to the mines that day and did not have anything to eat. The following morning I was so famished that I went against orders and obtained a meal of rice from the cookhouse. At 7-30 a.m. I went on the sick parade, at which the Camp Commandant was present, when he told me that he had received information that I had had a meal against the orders of the Medical orderly. The latter, whose name I do not recall, then commenced to beat me about the room, knocking me to the ground when he started kicking me with his feet. This lasted about half an hour when the Guards took me away and locked me in the cell. I was kept in there for 3 days, without any exercise and I was allowed one ball of salted rice per day. On my release I resumed my usual routine work at the mines.

After working in the mines for about 12 months, I was transferred to another working party and were engaged on sinking a coal shaft.

On the 15th. August. 1945, a rumour was circulated, in the camp, that the war was over. The Guards told us there was no further work for us and they acted differently towards us, giving us cigarettes and other things. The same night, the Camp Commandant informed us, through an Interpreter, that he intended to sign a peace agreement with England, if we behaved ourselves. A few days later the Japanese handed the camp over to us.

At this camp, the Japanese issued us with a summer uniform, similar to that worn by themselves, but the orders were that they only had to be worn in the camp, but we never got the chance to wear them because, after the long hours of work, the remainder of our time was spent in resting in our billets.

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AFFIDAVIT OF THOMAS HENRY WELLINGS Continued.

We were forced to wear our rubber shoes until they practically fell off our feet before we could hope to be issued with another pair and, with the mud and water in the mine workings, the shoes were always soaked through.

The medical supplies at the camp were very bad and, owing to this, the prisoners were dying on the average of 7 to 14 a day.

It was about 3 months before the war terminated that we received any Red Cross supplies, when one case was issued to every four men and this meant that each man had only a small portion of whatever was in the parcel. It was then another 3 months before we received any more and after that, about every 20 days.

From the time of being taken prisoner, the Japanese guards would hit us on any pretext whatever and in the camp we were forced to bow to the guards and many a time you would be hit for not having bowed properly.

We had to keep our billets as tidy as possible and sometimes, on our return from the mine, we found that the guards had been in and thrown our equipment about the room, which took us several hours to put in order, before we could think of resting, so as to avoid a beating.

On several occasions I discovered that some of my clothing had been stolen and should have reported it with the prospect of a beating, but I always managed to obtain replacements from our own officers.

(Signed) THOMAS H. WELLINGS.

Taken and sworn before me, one of His Majesty's Justices of the Peace for the County of Lancaster, England, this 8th day of April, 1947.

(Signed) W. WARDLE.

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