

A F F I D A V I T

M/146/1512/11  
R46

In the matter of Japanese War Crimes and in the matter of the ill-treatment of Prisoners of War at OMINE Prisoner of War camp, KYUSHA, Japan between February, 1945 and the capitulation of the Japanese.

91-314

I, Fred Rutherford (28) 29, Charlton Place, Leeds, 9, formerly 876301 Lance Bombardier, 5th Field Regiment R.A. make oath and say as follows:-

I was captured by the Japanese at Singapore on the 15th of February, 1942, and was taken to CHANGI Prisoner of War Camp, remaining there until about the 26th October, 1942, when along with about 1,100 other ranks I was taken by transport to TIA-HOKO Prisoner of War Camp, FORMOSA ISLAND, and later transferred to KINKASAKI P.O.W.Camp in October, 1943.

In February, 1945, I was transferred from KINKASAKI prisoners of War camp, Formosa Island with about 1,100 others, all British troops, who were from various camps on Formosa Island.

We were taken aboard a cargo boat converted into a transport called the "WINCHESTER MARU". We were all placed in one hold below the deck and the hatches were fastened down.

Food was poor. We had two meals per day, one in the morning and one in the evening, both consisting of rice and stew. No tea or water was available for the prisoners and there were no washing facilities.

We were sixteen days aboard this boat, and no outstanding incident occurred during this period.

The Commandant was a Japanese Lieutenant. I do not know his name or the names of any of the guards, with the exception of YAMACHOSKE who was a guard at TIA-HOKO prisoner of war camp and was mentioned by me in my affidavit respecting conditions at that camp.

We disembarked at a place called MOCHI about 4.0 p.m. and were taken into a big building on the dock side where we remained all night.

Next morning we were divided into parties and sent to different camps. I was in a party of about 15 other ranks who were taken to OMINE Prisoner of War Camp.

The prisoners at this camp were employed working in a coal mine.

Food was poor but the sanitary arrangements and medical supplies were an improvement on other camps.

One of the Japanese guards, a Lance Corporal we nicknamed "Joe Louis" because of his continual beating up, used to beat the prisoners. For no reason whatever he would come and sort out any one of us, order the man concerned to stand to attention and then commence to beat him in the face with his fist until the prisoner collapsed.

The Captain in charge of this camp was aware of these beatings as I have seen him walk past when they occurred, without taking any action to stop them.

I do not know the Commandants name.

P.T.O.

FV-6

TN

#12

I remained here until liberated by the Americans  
following the capulation.

Sworn at Leeds

in the City of Leeds

this 28th

day of November

One thousand none hundred

and forty-six

Before me.

*Joseph W. Schmitt*  
One of His Majesty's Justices of the Peace  
for the said City of Leeds.

70-6