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Authority 775011
By SM NARA Date 08/21/14

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OUR FILE S324-3-1 301
Red your C.15-24-47B (P2) (D of P)

ROYAL CANADIAN AIR FORCE
"WESTERN AIR COMMAND"

Vancouver, B.C.
12th April, 1946.

The Secretary,
Dept of National Defence for Air,
Lisgar Building,
Ottawa, Ontario.

Depositions of Personnel repatriated from Far East -
Ex RAF 541017 Sgt Aitken, C

1. As requested, we have obtained the required affidavit from the m/n ex POW and four copies are attached.

2. In the extract from P/O Turner's deposition, attached to your above referenced letter, Turner states that he witnessed an attack on Aitken in September, 1944, at Makasura Prison Camp. Aitken states that this attack took place at Bowie Gladok.

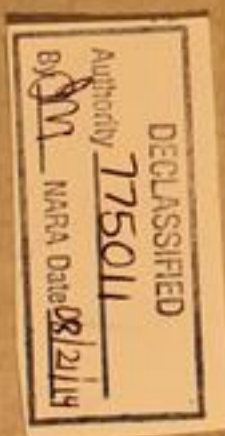
3. It is Aitken's opinion that Turner was confused, as the result of a severe beating and that Turner's memory was none too good. Turner was apparently shifted back and forth a number of times and it is natural that he might not be too sure of where a certain event took place.

4. Aitken states he was given a brief interrogation in Calcutta shortly after his release and was fully interrogated at Cosford, England on October 4th, 1945, by the RAF. His Canadian number was R.225913.

5. Aitken's memory is very good and I am reasonably sure that his statement as to the place of the attack mentioned by Turner is correct.

W.H.L. Whimster F/L
for AOC WAC

*Copy as
concordance
Turner's
deposition*



*NEF-10
MM*

IN THE MATTER OF WAR CRIMES AND IN THE MATTER OF

British National Office Charge No.:

United Nations War Crimes Commission Reference:

AFFIDAVIT

I, Clarence Aitken, formerly a Sgt Number R.225913, in the Royal Canadian Air Force, and attached to 17th Bomb Group, at Tjackarta, Java, and of permanent address, 857 East 15th Avenue, Vancouver, B.C., make oath and say as follows:-

I was attached to the U.S.A.A.F 17th Bomb Group at Tjackarta, Java, when the drome was threatened by the Japanese. The field was evacuated by air on March 6, 1942, and we landed at Batavia for orders. The Americans went on, I think, to Australia but we RAF personnel were told to join a group of about 800 people with whom we moved from place to place until March 21, 1942. At that time we were at Wanarajah, and there we surrendered to the Japs. There was nothing else to do.

March 21 to Aug 28, 1942 Semplak

Our Group was split up and about 500, including myself, went to Semplak prison camp. During the first three months we had very little food, a cup of rice and two green onions per day. There was a good deal of Malaria, for which no treatment was received, and we were put to work repairing the aerodrome. So far as I know there were no deaths in the camp during the time I was there.

Aug 28 1942 to Jan 30 1943 - Makasura

On Aug 28 we all moved by train to a small camp at Makasura. There were about 1200 in the camp and no provision had been made for any sanitation - so we had to build our own as best we could. The food began to improve in October, and we got some meat and beans. Some men died of dysentery and there was considerable Vitaminoisis. Up till October we had Japanese guards, and treatment was reasonably good and fair. The Japs were replaced in late October by Korean guards. They were harsh and knocked people about considerably for no apparent reason.

In November 1942, at Makasura, I was doing some brickwork on a stove, and was ordered to carry on and finish the job without attending evening roll call. While I was working a guard came up and asked me why I was not on roll call. I told him, and he struck me on the side of the head with his rifle butt. I do not remember any more, but must have been kicked and beaten after I lost consciousness, because I was in billet for four days with a cracked rib, and my face was badly swollen and cut, and many of my teeth were loose.

There were not any witnesses as everyone was on roll call parade.

There were numerous instances of much the same kind. One was when S/L Boddells, RAF., was attacked by two or three guards in the billets after dark, and badly beaten.

The Camp Commandant was a Lt. Tanaka, and was a weak character who seemed to have little control over the guards who did as they pleased.

Jan 30 to Apr 15 1943 Tanjongpriok

At the end of January a large group of us moved by train and marching, to a larger camp at Tanjongpriok, about 30 miles West of Makasura. There were about 4000 in the camp, and the Camp Commandant was fairly decent. There had been a lot of dysentery but he had it pretty well under control. The food was good, and the Commandant did all he could to make the camp as good as possible.



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In mid-April a draft of about 1200 was made up for shipment to some South Pacific Island. I was on the draft, and went by train to Soerabaya, then I got a severe attack of Malaria, was taken off the draft and sent to Batavia, to a camp at which reserves for drafts were kept. Thence I got a little quinine from an RAF Doctor F/L Teirney. In the holding camp in Batavia, at the time I was there, there were about 1200, although a month previously there had been about 6000. The end of April I went to Cycle Camp, in Batavia, and spent about a week in a good hospital being treated for Malaria.

May 1943 to Feb 10 1944 - Bowie Glodok

Glodok was a Dutch civil prison, used by the Japs for POWs.

In September 1944, at Glodok, I was walking down an alley on my way to roll call, and saluted the guard as I passed him. I had had some trouble with him a few days previously, and he accused me of not having saluted. I said I had and he hit me, with the barrel of his rifle, knocking me down, and kicked me quite severely, and beat me with his fists for what seemed about ten minutes. In kicking me he took some skin off my ankle, and this developed into a bad ulcer that bothered me for months. I was off duty for three or four days as a result of this beating, which was witnessed by P/O E.I. Turner, CAN.J96720.

Most of the prisoners in the camp worked in a string factory, and were paid ten cents per day. Food was adequate, and medical treatment fair although there were few drugs. The camp was clean and sanitary, and we got a little quinine as an anti-malaria precaution.

Feb 10 1944 to May 10^g 1945, Cycle Camp, Batavia.

In February Glodok camp was closed, and we moved everything to Cycle Camp by packing it on an 8 mile march, which was rather harrowing as ~~everything~~ ~~one~~ was quite weak.

The food at Cycle Camp was very poor, and the Camp badly crowded, There were about 6000 there, including both military and civil prisoners of all nationalities. The Korean guards were quite brutal, and a number of Dutch civilians were killed by being struck with rifle butts and barrels.

In March, 1945, I was returning to the camp about 6.30 one morning in charge of a working party, after having been out for 24hrs. In passing the guard at the main gate I had certain orders to give. We had formerly given these orders in Japanese, but the rule had been relaxed and we used either English or Malay, as many of the Dutch did not understand Japanese. I gave my orders in English, and the guard attacked me with a three inch club, knocked me down with a blow on the face that cut my lip, knocked out a tooth, cut my eye, and pretty badly pulped my face. This was witnessed by the squad I had brought in, which included P/O McDonald, RAF., who acted as an interpreter, as he spoke Japanese well. He was formerly with the Malay Customs service and planned to go back there.

May 15 to End of War - Bandoeng

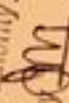
About mid-May most of the camp, about 4000, moved to Bandoeng. The food was very bad, and the camp very dirty, and swarmed with bugs and lice. Water was very short. Treatment was very harsh and a Sgt Major, who seemed to be in charge of the camp was particularly brutal. Many POWs were maltreated, but no-one I know of killed.

On August 25th we were told the War was over, and moved back to Cycle Camp in Batavia, where we stayed until Sept 17th when we were flown out.

Allied personnel parachuted to us on September 10th. We remained in camp from Aug 25th to September 17th and the Japs did their best to make things reasonable. We did not leave camp because there was a good deal of unrest outside, and it was safer inside.

At Semplak Camp, from March to August 1942, W/C Alexander, RAF, was the senior officer. He was also in charge at Makasura from

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August 1942 to January 1943, and at Tanjongpriok from February 1943 to April was in charge of a unit of the camp under Lt.Col.Dobie, British Army.

At Glodok W/C Alexander was again senior officer, and at Cycle Camp from February to May 1945 he was in charge.

At Bandoeng, from May to the end of the war, the senior officer was a Dutch Col named Voren. W/C Alexander worked with him.

With me as prisoners in most of these camps were only a few Canadians - about fourteen in all. The names of all I can recall are as follows:-

W/C Woods	-	from Nova Scotia
S/L Jardine	-	from Victoria
S/L Taylor	-	from Edmonton
P/O Turner	-	from Winnipeg
F/L Chater	-	who went to a prison camp in Japan
F/S R.L.McDonald	-	of Toronto
LAC Vognich	-	of Galt
Sgt Monsell	-	of Montreal
Edwards	-	from Newfoundland

SWORN BEFORE ME AT THE
CITY OF VANCOUVER, in
the Province of British
Columbia, this 10th day
of April 1946

Signed: C. AITKEN

W.H.L.WHIMSTER, F/L
Western Air Command Headquarters,
Vancouver, B.C.



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QUESTIONNAIRE FOR SERVICE PERSONNEL

1. Pre-Capture Experience

- (a) Left from Tjackarta, Java, on Mar 6 1942 at 0600hrs.
- (b) Landed at Batavia, and surrendered to Japs at Wanarajah on March 21 1942.
- (c) See attached
- (d) See attached

2. Camps in which Imprisoned

- (a) Semplak - March 21 to August 28 1942
- (b) Makasura - August 28 1942 to January 30 1943
- (c) Tanjongpriok- January 31 to April 15 1943
- (d) Soerabaya)
Batavia) - few days during illness
- (e) Glodok - end April 1943 to February 10 1944
- (g) Cycle Camp - February 10 to May 1945
Batavia
- (h) Bondoeing - May 15 1945 to War end

3. Attempted Escapes

N.A.

4. Escape Activities

N.A.

5. Liberation

Told war was over August 25th 1945
Contacted by Allied personnel September 10 1945
Flown out of camp at Bandoeng September 17, 1945

6. Personnel Data

No. Ex RAF 541017
RCAF R225913

Rank: Sgt

Name: Aitken. C

Trade: A.E.M

Squadron: 17th Bomb Group USAAF

A/C Type Liberator

Present Address: 857 East 15th Avenue, Vancouver, B.C.



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FILE #

DATE	OFFICER	SECTION	RETURNED	INITIAL	REMARKS
19 Jun 46	Lt. Col. R. I. M. HENDERSON, OC. BRITISH M.W.C.L.S.	BRITISH DIVISION LEGAL SECTION	---	<i>RWH</i>	This file transmitted to South East Asia Command for further disposition. See C/S 1012/BMNC dtd 18 Jun 46 filed in cor- respondence II.

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By *SM* NARA Date 08/21/14