WAR CRIMES COMMISSION

Evidence taken at Manila on 30 September 1945 before Mr. Justice Mansfield.

Evidence of NX.38663 Staff/Sergeant Craddock George ADAMS, 2/1 Fortress Engineers.

My full number, name, rank and Unit are NX.38663 S/Sgt., Craddock George Adams, 2/1 Fortress Engineers.

My home address is Empire bay, Woy Woy, New South Wales.

I was captured on 23 February 1942 and was confined first at Osaka Bazar camp, Timor, until approximately 28 July 1942.

The treatment at that camp was good in all the circumstances. We did work mostly on the shipping and inside Koppang, unloading ships.

The food we received was rice and our own rations brought from Champalong. There was sufficient food in bulk but it was not nourishing. We received no Red Cross parcels at all.

I was next at the Cycle camp, Batavia, from 3 August 1942 to 7 October 1942.

The treatment there was rather good. The food was fair. We received no Red Cross parcels.

I was next confined at Changi, Singapore. For the first four days I was in hospital and all the food I had was Red Cross food. We were treated by Allied doctors. I then went to Changi barracks, where the food was rice and Rex Cross food. I have no complaints about Changi.

I then went to Hakodate camp, Japan, from 28 November 1942 to 10 November 1943. On the voyage from Singapore to Hakodate, we were on board for one month. About 1500 men were placed in one hold and 29 men died on the trip from dysentery and other diseases. The food was very bad; it was almost uneatable. Those who were sick with dysentery received no medical treatment. No sanitation was provided. It was very hot at that time. We were allowed on the upper decks generally on the meal parade.

In Hakodate No. 3 camp, the treatment was fair and the food was fair.

I was confined in Fukuoka from 10 November 1943 to 15 September 1945. There the treatment was bad. The Camp Commander was Maj. Rikitake for the last twelve months. The Camp Commander we had during the first week was mainly responsible for the deaths. Approximately 150 died mainly from pneumonia. Deaths were caused by malnutrition and starvation.

We were working in Yawata steel works. We were bombed there twice, on 20 August 1944 and 8 August 1945. No prisoners were killed in the first raid but in the second raid one American was killed and one lost his arm.

Beatings in that camp were a daily practice. Beatings were for stealing food and other trivial offences. We were beaten with sticks and rifle butts and we were kicked. Hyama was the foreman of the steel works and he was responsible for beating the prisoners. I was beaten on many occasions.

Hiyama beat men till they collapsed. He also made them kneel for several hours and hold iron bars over their heads. I saw a man holding an iron bar over his head for three-quarters of an hour. Men incapable of working were made do very heavy work. Later on, many of those men died in hospital.

Dr. Hata was the Japanese medical officer at No. 3 camp, Fukuoka. He interviewed prisoners-of-war in the presence of Lieut. Markovitch, an American. In the middle of winter when sick men went on parade, they would stand out in the snow. They would receive medical attention after standing from about 1 or 2 o’clock in the afternoon at approximately 5 o’clock in the afternoon. He also sent men out to work who were not in a fit condition. Medical supplies given to our own medical staff were not sufficient for the number of sick in the hospital. Approximately 800 prisoners were in the camp at that time, of whom 100 died during 1943 and 1944.

After a lot of trouble, in February the Japanese promised to give us 50 Red Cross parcels amongst 800 prisoners. This was refused and eventually they gave us one parcel to every two prisoners.

After the Camp Commandant was relieved the Camp Commandant taking over gave parcels sometimes; about one parcel was given to 8 men. Dr. Hata was responsible for stealing Red Cross parcels.

The clothing we received was very poor. Men sometimes went to work bare-footed or with broken shoes and torn clothes.

The barrack accommodation was as good as could be expected.

I received senior N.C.O.’s rates of pay; I received 15 cents a day for every day I worked. I was able to purchase red pepper, curry and cigarettes, which were rationed; we received 30 cigarettes a week. We were permitted to keep personal belongings such as letters, military pay books, leather wallets and personal clothing.

In the morning we worked from half past six or seven o’clock to half-past five or six o’clock.

I certify that the above evidence is true and correct.

Taken before me at Manila on )

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The 30th day of September 1945 )

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Commissioner )