

Seal:  
Office of the Attorney General  
Government Bureau for the  
Investigation of War Crimes.

Official Record of Interrogation

On Friday, 27 June 1947, I, Christiaan Adolph Schuurman, Official attached to the Office of the Attorney General at the High Court of Justice at Batavia, interrogated a person, who stated his name to be:

- - - - - Gerrit de VENNE, - - - - -

age 45, by occupation Warrant Officer, residing at Kebon Sirih 56 A, and who after he had taken the oath before me in accordance with his religious convictions that he would tell the whole truth and nothing but the truth, stated:

- "I was interned as a Warrant Officer prisoner of war in the Miyata Fukuoka Camp 9 in Japan, from about the month of November 1943 until 15 September 1945.
- "In the beginning of my internment, there were about 400 prisoners of war there, and this number had increased to 800 towards the end. In the beginning the main part and later on half the number were Dutch soldiers.
- "In the camp there were barracks, wherein we were housed. In these barracks about half a meter above the ground a floor was fixed for sleeping accommodation. In the beginning we received 5 blankets, which we had to use for both under bedding and cover.
- "Privately owned woollen blankets were taken away by the Japanese. The cover, which we had in the winter, was absolutely insufficient. It often occurred that the people suffered frozen toes. The warrant officer named de Haas, had his feet frozen, and they never recovered.
- "It was very difficult to obtain admission for the sick to the hospital, and no exception was made for those not admitted.
- "The food in the camp was very bad. Much food, destined for us, was stolen by the guard and the camp commander. So we had made a cave in a mountainside in the camp to serve as cold storage, and here also the meat was stored. The Japanese kept lopping off chunks of this meat for themselves, and we were not allowed to use this meat until after it had gone bad.
- "I did not witness this myself, but this was told me by a cook named Pen. I did see the Japs in the kitchen taking the best parts of the meat for themselves.
- "I no longer know exactly the names of these Japs. This, however, was done by every Jap, who was a member of the campguard but in particular by the Japanese chef, a corporal and later a civilian. Even the friends of these Japs always went home with sizable booty.

FU

"I can remember the name of only one Jap, who used to appropriate many of our provisions. His name was KATSUKI. He came in the camp as a civilian and was later appointed Sergeant Major. He was especially in charge of supplies. Warrant Officer Vermin worked under this Jap and he was often a witness to the thefts in the kitchen. I myself also observed that KATSUKI and others took away Red Cross parcels, which were destined for us.

"The Red Cross parcels had been stored in a godown, and I noticed a few times that goods were taken from the godown, and divided among each other by the Japs of the guard

"Sometimes candy was bought for us. When a bag of candy was purchased for 50 guilders for example, then it was calculated how much each prisoner had to pay, but the Japs themselves always took a quantity away, for which they did not pay, and which consequently we had to pay for them.

"The European officers had to sign for receipt of Red Cross parcels, whereas they received almost empty cases, and when we made the remarks why they signed for articles, which they did not receive, the officers said that otherwise perhaps they would receive nothing.

"As to the above conditions, the European camp leader Dr. Hilfman often complained to the Japanese administration. Dr. Hilfman complained so much about the conditions that the Japs said to him: "We will show you what will happen if you talk big against the Jap."

"All the officers and also the doctor had to sweep snow before the dining-hall in the morning, and this punishment lasted three weeks. This punishment was inflicted because Dr. Hilfman had spoken up in our interest.

"I do not remember the name of the Japanese campcommander in question, but it was the first campcommander and he had the rank of 1st Lieutenant. He also inflicted the above-mentioned punishment.

"The internees had to work in shifts in the coal mines. The officers were <sup>not</sup> required D. to.

"Officially we had to work about 10 hours in the mine, but it frequently occurred that when we had not finished with an allotted task, we had to complete this first, and then it happened that we had to work for 14 hours in the mine, not including the time for walking to and from the mine. We were constantly driven during the work. Whenever we even looked up, we were beaten.

"Those who produced much work, got an extra issue of provisions, but these were taken by the Japanese from the Red Cross parcels destined for us.

"Much beating in the mine was done by a Jap whom we called "the Tusk" (TN; slagtand). Further the worst brute was a Jap called by us the "Gold-tooth" (TN; gouden tand)

- "I often saw both these Japs beating many internees. He (TN: sic) beat with a mine stick and he did not pay any attention where he struck. I occasionally saw them beat internees unconsciously.
- "This beating took place so often that I can no longer recollect personal cases.
- "My statements pertain to Mine no.2, where I worked.
- "On 6 September 1944, I was maltreated by the Japanese Sergeant YASUDA of the permanent guard.
- "On account of sickness I had remained in camp by order of a Japanese lieutenant, who was called by us "the Horsehead" (TN: Paardekop), and for that I was mistreated by YASUDA.
- "That morning at 10 o'clock I was called to his office. KATSUKI, informed me that I had to go to the mine, and I said that I had stayed in the camp on the advice of the Japanese lieutenant. Thereafter I suffered a severe blow in the neck, which subsequently turned out to have been administered by YASUDA.
- "At first YASUDA beat me with his hand, then with an office chair and then he held the chair in front of him in such a position that the chair legs were directed towards my body and ~~he~~ pushed them against my body. Thereupon he took his belt and beat me with it and even in my face.
- "After this he kicked me in the abdomen, and, while he was still at it, the lieutenant, on whose advice I had remained in the camp, appeared on the spot, and he put an end to the maltreatment.
- "When we went to work, we got our lunch in a small box and were not allowed to eat this before noon.
- "On 16 October 1944 I violated this rule and ate a bit of the lunch. This was discovered by the officer of the week, OYAMA, nicknamed the Stutterer (TN: Stotteraar). This man threw the remainder of my lunch over a fence, and asked me why I had eaten too early. I answered that I was very hungry and that the small roll of that morning was not sufficient for me. Thereafter I was slapped in the face by OYAMA, thrown off balance and dashed on the ground. Then I got a few kicks in my back with shod feet from OYAMA. After I had got up, I underwent the same a couple of times more. After this OYAMA called YASUDA nicknamed "Limpy" (TN: Mankpoot) who had beaten me already because I did not work in the mine. This YASUDA asked me first why I had eaten part of my lunch too early and then he beat me in the face, dashed me on the floor, kicked me, and beat all over the body. He beat and kicked me against a fence until the skin of my body was black and blue on account of subcutaneous bleeding. Then YASUDA sent me to the mine, and I had to work there 12 hours without any food.

"On another occasion YASUDA boxed me in the chest in such a manner that one rib was bruised or fractured. I no longer remember this exactly. I stayed three weeks in the hospital, however, with a severe pain in the chest.

"About the month of May 1945, an electric cigarette lighter was discovered in my barracks by a Japanese soldier of the guard. The said soldier took me to the guard house and there I was maltreated by the corporal of the guard, by the name of KURIHARA, who was called "the Sadist" by us. He beat me with the butt of a rifle in the small of the back, the hollow of the knees, and thighs, until I lost consciousness. In my estimation I was unconscious about 15 to 20 minutes and when I came to, I was lying on the ground on my back and noticed that the Japanese were holding a small fire under my feet. I pulled my feet back and KURIHARA began to beat me again with the butt of said rifle.

"I again lost consciousness and came to at about 11 o'clock that morning. I remained in the cell. My clothing was taken away, and I had to stand at attention in that cell. This lasted so until about three o'clock in the morning of the next day. I heard the Japs, obviously drunk, entering the guard house. I heard three Englishmen, who were in a cell next to mine, being severely maltreated, and after that I was taken out of the cell and once more seriously maltreated in front of the guard house. I was beaten at the order of KURIHARA by the commander of the guard, whose name I do not know any more, with the butt of the rifle. I again lost consciousness. When I came to, I was still lying outside on the ground. After that I was given to understand with the assistance of an interpreter that I could go if I promised to work hard in future.

"However, I had to work in the mine the next day. I was, however, unable to walk the next day owing to the mistreatments. I walked with stiff legs for about 14 days. Subsequently I suffered much trouble from my chest.

"In Miyata I stayed a couple of times in the hospital and there was a Japanese medical orderly called ANDO. ANDO used to force the sick to surrender personal belongings, such as watches, etc.

"It was not beyond him to beat up serious patients, if they refused to surrender their belongings. In this way I once saw ANDO maltreating a patient who, in our opinion, was dying. He kicked the patient and beat him. I believe, I remember that the person in question died a few days later.

"I can no longer recall the name of the victim. Further I knew a Japanese who belonged to the guard and who was called by us "the jabber" (TN: Steekman). He discovered, I believe, about the middle of 1944 that an internee whose name I no more remember, had a cigarette butt in his hand. The Jabber, I believe, twice made a thrust into the person mentioned with his bayonet, which was attached to the end of a rifle. One thrust hit him in the groin and the said person could not walk any more after that.

He had to be admitted to the hospital and there he nearly bled to death from the wound he had received. He died later, but not as a result of this wound."

After this statement had been clearly read out to him and after he had stated that he adhered to it, he signed it with me.

/s/ G. de Vente

/s/ Schuurman

I drew up this official record of interrogation on my oath of office at Batavia on 27 June 1947.

/s/ Schuurman

**SEAL:**

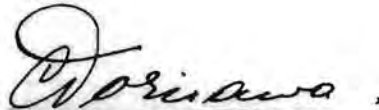
Office of the Attorney General  
Government Bureau for the  
Investigation of War Crimes

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, C. Torisawa, hereby certify that I am thoroughly conversant with the Dutch and English languages and that as a result of the comparison between the Dutch and English texts I have established that the attached English translation is a full, true, complete and accurate translation of the original Dutch document entitled:

Affidavit of G. de VENNE,

Dated, Batavia, 27 June 1947.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'C. Torisawa', is written above a horizontal line.

C. Torisawa