MD/JAG/FS/10/269

I, Dr. Alan Berkeley with permanent home address at 195, Chester Road, Sunderland, saith:-

1. I refer to the affidavit which I signed and swore at Glasgow before J. F. Languir, Justice of the Peace for the City of Glasgow.

I now wish to give further evidence with regard to the death of Carpenter referred to on Page 9 of my aforesaid affidavit.

1. Carpenter was a Technical Sergeant of the American Army and arrived in No. 4 camp from the Philippines about August 1944. At that time he was suffering from beri-beri due to the deficiency of Vitamin B. 1. After receiving treatment by having a Vitamin B.1 injected, he improved and was put to work in the Japanese cookhouse. Here, he was able to obtain better food and commenced to put on weight.
2. In the early part of 1945, the Japanese decided to send Carpenter out to work. I considered that he was not yet fit enough for heavy work and that his shortened leg made it dangerous for him to lift heavy loads.

Representation to the Japanese was, however, unavailing and he was first sent to the docks to load ships with rice and sugar, and later to the railway station loading trucks. During the early part of April 1945, while engaged on this latter work, Carpenter sustained an injury to his leg when a large and heavy box fell on it.

1. I examined the limb when Carpenter returned to the camp and found it badly swollen. He had not lost blood outwardly, but it was obvious that a large blood vessel had been torn, and that haemorrhage was taking place internally, filling the limb with blood.

Hot fomentations were applied in an effort to check the haemorrhage, but without success, and it became evident that Carpenter would have to receive more skilled attention that was available in the camp.

I requested that he be removed to Hospital in order that a deep incision be made, ligatures applied to the ends of the torn blood vessels and Plasma given to replace the blood lost due to the severe haemorrhage which had taken place.

1. My first request was made to two Medical Orderlies whom I knew as Terada and Inouye. When they refused I appealed to the Japanese Medical Officer whom I knew as Lieut. Higashi, but he may have been called Azuma. (Higashi had a birth mark over his right eye.). He also refused to have Carpenter admitted to Hospital.
2. The swelling continued and the foot became enlarged due to the quantity of blood entering the limb, and about four days after the accident, and in the absence of any other treatment, I decided to make an incision in an endeavour to stop further haemorrhage. When I did so, a large quantity of blood came away together with pieces of tissue from the torn blood vessel. This operation was performed without anaesthetic as none was available.
3. By this time Carpenter’s condition was serious due to the severe loss of blood, and as the means at my disposal were inadequate. Again, I appealed to the Orderlies and Medical Officer Higashi to have Carpenter removed to Hospital. I succeeded in persuading them to see Carpenter, and pointed out to them his serious condition, but they refused to have him admitted to Hospital, and said that he did not require Plasma.
4. Carpenter continued to lose blood at each dressing of his wound, and as this could not be replaced due to the Japanese withholding the Plasma he collapsed and died.

I am unable to give the exact date of his death, but as far as I can recollect it was about the middle of April 1945.

1. It is, of course, not certain that the Plasma alone could have saved Carpenter as his condition required more skilled treatment than I was able to give in the camp, hence my application for him to be admitted to Hospital. It would, however, have materially increased his chance of recovery.

At the time of his death the Plasma was stored in the camp, having been sent there by the American Red Cross for purposes such as this. I do not know the reason for the Japanese refusing to let me have the Plasma I requested.