IN THE MATTER OF WAR CRIMES AND IN THE MATTER OF

British National Office Charge No:

United Nations War Crimes Commission Reference:

I, J53418 formerly R72050, Pilot Officer Horton, E.F., No 1 KTS, RCAF, Toronto, Ontario, and of the permanent private address 368 Brock St., Peterboro, Ont., make oath and say as follows:

1. When Java fell on March 8th, 1942, I was in the allied hospital at Bandoeng. A large battle took place outside town and the Japs moved in and the hospital was taken. The hospital patients who were able to be moved were placed in a truck convoy and started out of Bandoeng in front of the advancing Japs. This convoy picked up stragglers as it went along mostly members of the British Army, quite a few guns and some supplies were possessed by this party which numbered about 1,000. They finally found a spot where they intended to make use of supplies and make stand against the Japs. They received order by a runner from general HQ to give up as the Dutch had capitulated. We were under command of a Col. Black (Aus). Another party was commanded by members of the 232 Squadron, RAF, S/L Brooker and S/L Julian. The entire party was taken to a large tea plantation by the Japanese where RAF and army personnel were separated. The RAF personnel were taken to Gerout. A party of 350 including myself and WO1 Dunn went to Kalijiti camp which was an aerodrome where we remained until July 16, 1942. During that time we worked on the aerodrome. Shortly after our arrival, questionnaires were distributed to each member of the party. These questionnaires were distributed and according to the Japanese, were routine and asked questions such as “How many flying hours each person had?” “Where we trained?” “What Allies used as aircrew diet?”. W/C Frow now in charge of POWs talked to all aircrew and explained that the papers should not be filled out, that it was just the beginning of a wedge to procure more information at a later date. The next morning the Japs took 20 POWs including S/L Barclay, RAF F/L Dunlop, Sgt. Pilot; myself: Golab RCAF; from Wendsor, Ont; Sgts. Pilot, May, Dunn, RCAF), Fairburn (RAAF), Holm, Porter, Devell, Young (Aus), Kinnman, Reid (NZ), Morgan, etc., for private interrogation under a Jap. Lieut. who spoke English very well. These men were taken one at a time and were beaten in 3rd degree methods trying to induce them to fill out the aforementioned questionnaire. I was threatened and beaten and taken out and stood up against a wall as a threat of execution. I stood there as each member who had been privately questions was in turn brought and placed against the wall. Sgt. Golab was seen by me to take a severe beating. Kinnman, was placed on the floor during his private interrogation and his wrists and ankles tied together behind him. A rope was thrown over a rafter, tied to his wrists and ankles and he was raised off the floor. A lighted candle was placed on the floor under him and Kinnman was then raised and lowered so that the flame would burn his bare chest. As members were released they in turn were brought out to the wall. When the 20 were again together against the wall we were taken and put into one room; we had had no food or water since the previous day and were still under the threat of execution. Some of the fellows having had cigarettes hidden on their persons, and being extremely nervous, decided to smoke. Jap guards came in, slapped the entire party about considerably, took all cigarettes and said they were to be executed at 5 o’clock. Guards began picking up bits of personal clothing for their own use after execution. S/L in charge of the party devised a code we could use and advised filling in questionnaire, which seemed to be the only alternative, using the code he had devised. This gave no definite information and seemed to pacify the Japs. We were all put back in a little larger room and given some food and water.
2. July 16th, I was taken to Makasura, Java, where work was more or less voluntary at 10 cents a day. On the 21st of October, Dunn and myself left Makasura in a draft of 500. We had to carry all equipment five miles to the train. The train took us to a transport where we were jammed into holds and taken to Singapore. Dunn was placed aboard the Singapore Maru where some 4,000 POWs were jammed into the various holds and where some 85 died (mostly British army). The majority were severe dysentery cases. During the journey food was entirely inadequate. I was on the Dainichi Maru where the same conditions existed. Sgt. Golab, May, myself, F/S Chigeamis, two officers, P/O McNiesh, RAF and one other British army officer, had some rations which were shared. The Japs furnished one-half pint of tea twice a day. Suffering from extreme hunger and partial suffocation, two members of the British army broke into Jap stores and for punishment the entire hold was locked and of the 500 POWs only 10 men at a time were allowed on deck. Two weeks out of Japan, a severe epidemic of dysentery broke out and conditions following cannot be described. At least 14 Air Force POWs died. When the ship reached harbour, she lay at anchor for 3 days and no one was taken off. Finally, all of the fit were taken off and the ill left in the hold. Capt. Barclay, Royal Medical Corps, came from the other hold to treat the ill in my hold. The very ill were put on board the Singapore Maru, 30 were left on the Daimichi Maru, too sick to move, some dead. POWs were finally taken off transports and to the YMCA where they were left to their own treatment as far as it could be given by the Medical POWs. The YMCA was a Moji. About 48 hours later the Japs brought food but the majority of the POWs were too ill to eat. Our strength at this time was approximately 240 POWs.
3. Shortly after the POWs arrived at Moji, about 20 American POWs, including two Australian Medical officers, and corpsmen, including 6 medical officers, arrived. 18 died the first night. During the time between No. 28 and the middle of Jan.121 POWs died. During this time, on about the 24th Dec., the Japs had working parties out on the docks loading a great many war supplies (F/L Foote RAF has a complete list of the casualties during above periods). On about 2nd of Feb. both myself and Dunn began working, loading cement on ships. I worked 3 24 hour shifts in one week, and for 3 weeks I was so ill I could not go out of camp. Food decreasing in quantity all the time. In the early spring a reign of terror began in the camp. Mass punishments started. The Jap guards would line up and take turns beating the POWs with shovels and belts. One Javanese boy was beaten until he almost died and then forced to go out on a working party. Once a party was being celebrated by the Japs, all the guards got drunk and walked around camp with big sticks and rifles hitting POWs over the head. Capt. Barclay, RMC, was knocked unconscious for 2 days and was in stunned condition for weeks. Every Jap holiday was a cause for mass punishment. Every allied victory caused POWs intense mistreatment. This condition got worse as time went on and the raids by allied aircraft increased. Every alert in the Moji area was a cause for worse treatment.
4. Jan 1st, 1945, 100 recruits POWs – all ill – came in. Among them were U.S., Dutch and British. Out of the first 50, 10 died. Out of the second fifty, all Americans (Bataan), I learned from the survivors that the condition on the transport from which these 100 recruits were taken were far worse than they had been on the Dainichi Maru and that the POWs suffocated to the point that they went out of their heads and killed each other in the holds. During this time the Jap guards fired into the holds, killing many. The second fifty of the 100 draft were supposed to be the fifty strongest and at least 25 were stretcher cases and the other 25 had to be helped to camp. Of this 50, 20 died. In transit to the Moji camp the second fifty had had no water or food for some days. As they were being helped and carried to the camp they would throw themselves into little puddles left by the rain in the roadway to drink the muddy, dirty water (all of these were F.I.s from the Philippines). A Dutchman named Jolly, a middle-aged man who had been a champion athlete in Java was ill and worked each day. He was given ten days in solitary confinement for having a pair of cheap gloves. During this 10 days solitary he was made to work days, and at night made to stand outside in January weather in a phone booth. He was given no food, and his clothing was insufficient. He died about 12 days after his release. A Dutchman, named Nell, who was about 68 7” tall and weighed about 100 pounds was worked every day while he was slowly losing his mind. Nell died the same day as Jolly. Another Dutchman, Von Nick, a planter, was worked when very ill and died about the same time. An American, named Carpenter, had shrapnel in his back and legs, and was bothered by his severe injuries which had healed leaving the shrapnel inside. Because of his extremely weak condition he worked in the officers’ mess and the Jap cook house. After a short while he began to gain in strength and health, so the Japs sent him out with a work party. After about 2 weeks his legs went again and he had to be carried in from work. By this time Capt. Barclay, RMC, i/c POW hospital tried to save him by removing some of the shrapnel. Shortly after the operation, there was an air raid alert and the Japs insisted Carpenter was well enough to walk to the shelter. A hemorrhage began and he died before help could be given. There were many similar cases in this camp.
5. The first officer in charge of this Moji camp was an American-educated Jap Lie?, who was fairly strict and yet quite honest. He only stayed a few month. His successor who remained until the POWs were released by allied forces was a Capt. Saito, who was tyrant from the beginning. At first, he made slight improvements as a build-up. Then he began taking the Red Cross parcels belonging to the POWs and issuing them to the guards, except for bits which he rationed to the POWs. He even went to the extent of opening the individual tins contained in the parcels. Most of the contents were kept for his own quota, Exmas? Day 1944. When a spokesman for the POWs, P/O Bevin (RAF) protested, he took complete shipment of the parcels, had the mall opened, and the contents placed in wooden buckets in the square and ordered that it must all be eaten by lights out that night. Much of the perishable stuff was wasted because most of the POWs were too ill to take advantage of the quantity. Between Jan 1st, and Aug 15, 1945, all the parcels were stolen by Capt. Saito, and at one time he issued the guards with a parcel per man. The food stolen would have kept alive some 30 of the POWs who died. He made severe punishment routine for very minor breaches of rules. He issued an order that shipping company for which the POWs worked, issue no food whatsoever. The POWs were kept alive only by the food they could steal. One of the rules was that of the 304 men in the open camp area only those who could get inside a 6 foot circle around a mall brazier were allowed to smoke. The CO made the POWs bow every time he and every guard passed. Foolish religious rites not known by the POWs, such as using a magnifying glass to light a cigarette, or start a fire, called for severe beatings. For infractions of one of these vague rules I was hit over the head by Capt. Saito with a sword. A U.S. civilian, named Peterson, who was very tall (Japs seemed to hate all tall POWs extremely) was beaten until he lost consciousness in front of the whole camp. One English and two GIs, one navy, one USAAF, (KINBAR USA) (Cole US navy cook) were beaten every day for a week by guards in front of the whole camp with Capt. Saito witnessing. Guards would take turns beating with shovels and sticks, and when POWs were unable to stand, two more guards would hold them while the beatings continued. I was paraded before the guards house one day for not having my shoes shined. I was hit over the mouth. I reported to the sick bay to have my mouth dressed and the JAP NCO 1/c asked me how I hurt my mouth. I pointed out the guard who struck me and the guard’s name was taken down. When the NCO left, all the guards jumped on me and beat me for approximately 2 hours with sticks, etc. I was then tied up in such a way that my arms went numb.
6. From Jan 1st to Aug. 15, 1945, the air raid warnings were becoming more and more frequent at the cost of sleeping time. Often the POWs were awakened and 4 times as night to run approximately one half mile up a hill to an air raid shelter. Next day they had to work the same hours. The men were so tired that they were almost in a state of collapse. On June 28th, we were raided by the USAAF and most of Moji was burned. We were forced to leave the shelter, and putting out fires. Day air raid warnings coming during working hours were disregarded and parties were forced to continue work in proximity of the target. In one instance, a Malaya POW was injured during a dog fight (wounded by an aircraft cannon shell) over the working party. After June 28th, damage in the area was so great that work increased greatly and the POWs would have had very little rest in any case, but Capt. Saito had a new idea. When the POWs were released from work daily at 6 p.m and should have had rest periods till 8 p.m., Capt. Saito began renting POW’s out in parties of 20 to his friends for private work. This meant that when the POWs returned to camp, the lights were out, roll call was made in the dark and the men were so tired that they no longer cared to even undress. Due to all the extreme strain of long hours, hard work and very little sleep the whole camp had lost some 20 pds per man. All had given up hope of ever living and many were becoming mentally affected. Each month a different squad had to take empty buckets to the shelter for the use of the POWs. One night the POW who should have taken the bucket forgot, and the whole squad was beaten with shovels, many were knocked unconscious. One guard named Takana, on about the 15 June, 1945, lined up 20 POWs and left scars on them all by beating with a shovel (he was just drunk and had no breach of any rules for an excuse). They were beaten for about an hour, or until Takana was too tired to lift the shovel. Dunn says that at one time 7 men were building a shelter for the hospital under a civilian guard named Sakiguchi. The guard asked Sgt. Ted Marshall RAF, where a certain shovel was. Marshall said that it had been taken by a civilian. The guard flew into a rage and beat Marshall with a pick, cut his face and leg badly. Civilians stopped the guard before Marshall was killed.
7. The most dangerous guard was named Ennui. He used to go into blind rages and beat POWs. He had a guard who worked with him named Sumi. These two at one time or another half killed nearly every POW in camp. A Sgt. Bray, G.I. (New Mexico National Guard) was in the hospital with a temperature of about 104. During an air raid he was taken to a shelter. The raid was at night and Bray had to be carried to the shelter, when the guard Ennui found him in the shelter he flew into a rage and began to beat him. A guard named Takana joined in the beating which lasted for about half an hour. After the raid Bray was carried back to camp and was very near death for a month. A Scotsman named, Ouderson, sick with T.B. and having only one lung and weighing only 90 pounds, was beaten up regularly because he was to weak to work. He was finally put into the hospital and as far as I know, managed to live. One Jap M.O. named Dr. Makawa was very well liked and used to say in fair English, “I am first a Doctor and second a Japanese officer”. This doctor saved many lives, but left Moji about March 1943, and there was no replacement, POWs except NCOs and privates who fancied themselves quite competent for treatment of any type, including surgery.
8. Dunn says for months in spite of long hours of work the POWs had to get up at 5 a.m. to do an approximate five mile run for exercise before breakfast. Dunn also says that during the dysentery epidemic Dec. 1942 to Jan. 1943, the bodies of victims were placed in the sick bay beside patients and allowed to accumulate. At one time they collected 5 days’ victims before moving them. F/L Foote, RAF, would have a detailed account of all infractions and casualties. Capt. Barclay, RMC, would have a record of fairly complete medical histories of POWs. Both Foote and Barclay were released by the Americans at the same time as myself and Dunn.
9. We have seen field guns, ammunition loaded as cargo in ships painted white and carrying red cross markings. This was in 1943 and the ships were the “Siberia Maru” and Buenos Aeries Maru”. These two ships used to come into port at Moji about every two weeks for coal and cargo. List of cargo handled by POWs in Moji includes bombs, 25 lb. to 1,000 lb., ammunition, all types, high octane gasoline, oil, sugar used for fuel and soya beans used for plastics. During the last one and a half years, the POWs work consisted of coaling ships of all types including troop carriers and Red Cross ships. Also handled were iron ore, scrap iron, bauxite, salt peter, light arms, field pieces and army clothing.

LIST OF JAP NAMES KNOWN TO MYSELF

AND DUNN

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Note: Civilian guards were all ex army personnel, mostly NCOs and wounded. They dressed in Japanese army issue uniforms without rank badges.

Capt. Saito Tai (Tai is Capt.)

Emmui San (civilian) (Sgt. Pilot on sick leave for about a year).

Sumi San (army private)

Takama San (civilian)

Fugiama San (civilian)

Sakiguichi San (civilian)

Taki San (civilian)

Yagi San (civilian)

Taka San (civilian)

Kowi San (civilian) (SAN IS MR.)

Saito San (civilian)

Sasuki San (civilian

1. In the winter, 1944, I was, unjustly I consider, turned over to the Japanese guard by a Lieut. Martin (British army) for failure to dress a squad properly when preparing for morning roll call. I was NCO 1/c of a squad and could not dress my squad properly because Lieut. Martin failed to comply with my request to move some more squads away from a pole. The guard to whom Lieut. Martin reported myself was Takana, who beat me severely with his fists. The entire parade who saw the incident was much in sympathy with me. I reported the incident to my POW CO, F/L Foote, RAF, who dismissed it very lightly considering the unjust cruelty of the guards without provocation.

SWORN by the above named )

at Toronto )

this 7th day of March, 1946 ) /s/..E. F. Horton.. P.O….….

Before me

/s/ H. R. Button

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(HR Button) F/L.,

Commissioner of Oaths

A CERTIFIED TRUE COPY:

THEODORE R. C. KING

Lt. Col., Inf.