



Australian War Memorial

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WAR OF 1939-45

D. P. W. 1

1010/H/7.

H/17/1/7

Statements by. —

VX 30257. J. A. Atkins

NX 3598. L. Atkins,

NX 26968 Cpl. J. M. Atkins,

no number Capt. J. B. Atkinson

NX 54991. Cpl. J. B. Auchterlonie

VX 59345, Inv. B. J. Auchette

NX 70159, Lt. R. W. Austin.

1872740, Sapper. J. J. Ayres (British Army)

NX 59701. Pte. E. W. Ayres

NX 48801. Pte. T. J. K. Aylmer.

ON HIS MAJESTY'S SERVICE

Enclosure to  
1st Aust War Comm Unit (SEAC)



Sgt OWASHERA — S.A.2.

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

IF NOT DELIVERED WITHIN 7 DAYS, RETURN TO



ON HIS MAJESTY'S SERVICE

Enclosure to  
1st Aust War & Mines Sec (SEAC)



Sgt OWASHERA — S.A.2.

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY.

IF NOT DELIVERED WITHIN 7 DAYS, RETURN TO

This is the photograph SA2  
referred to in the affi-  
davit made by Eric Wilfred  
Thomas Ayscough at Sydney  
this twelfth day of August  
One thousand nine hundred  
and forty-six

Before Me *[Signature]*  
A Justice of the Peace

*E 4389*

8694  
C117

On this twelfth day of August, One thousand nine hundred and forty-six, Eric Wilfred Thomas Ayscough of 7 The Avenue, Hurstville, in the State of New South Wales, employee of the Australian Gas Light Coy, makes oath and says as follows:-

1. I identify the Japanese in Photo numbered SA2, annexed hereto, as the Japanese referred to in my affidavit of 9 Apr 46, who was the person responsible for the bashing and drowning of Pte Toulmin.

SWORN by the abovenamed deponent,  
Eric Wilfred Thomas Ayscough, at  
Sydney, this twelfth day of August,  
One thousand nine hundred and forty-  
six

*E. Ayscough.*

*L. R. Jones J.P.*

BEFORE ME

A Justice of the Peace

ON THIS *ninth* day of April One thousand nine hundred and forty-six ERIC WILFRED THOMAS AYSCOUGH of 7 The Avenue Hurstville in the state of New South Wales, employee of Vicars Woollen Mills makes oath and says as follows :-

As NX 59701 Pte E.W.T.Ayscough of 2/18 Bn I was taken Prisoner of War on 15 Feb 42 at Singapore. As one of a party of approximately 150 Australian Prisoners of War I was transferred to Blakang Mati Island during February 1943.

Whilst on Blakang Mati Island we came under command of Lt.Col. Miki who was Commander of Miki Butai Unit, which was a supply unit for the Japanese Air Force.

Officer in Charge of Australian Prisoners of War was Major D.T.Okey of 2/18 Bn.

Lt.Col. Miki had on his staff a Captain named Ken Arai and an interpreter named Yamamota. A description of these Japanese is as follows : Ken Arai - Height 6 ft, solid build, age about 40 years. He had very big ears which earned him the nickname of "Bat-ears". He spoke good English. Yamamota - Height about 5 ft 6 ins, age about 28 years, thin build, could speak good English and acted as Interpreter.

These Japanese, together with other Japanese officers and guards, are responsible for a severe bashing administered to Pte Hill, 2/18 Bn, Pte Searle of 2/18 Bn, Pte Delaney of 2/19 Bn, Pte Wallace of 2/18 Bn and myself following the death of Pte.D. Taulmin of 2/18 Bn. This bashing took place during May 1943.

As one of a working party of Prisoners of War, which included Pte. Taulmin and the Prisoners of War whose names I have already given above, we were employed on a barge at Pulabukim unloading empty petrol drums.

Whilst working on the barge I witnessed Pte Taulmin being pushed off the barge into the water and to his death. An empty petrol drum, which was alongside Taulmin when he was pushed also fell into the water as a result of the push on top of him.

The person responsible for bashing Taulmin was a Japanese NCO, whose name I do not know. A description of him is as follows : Age about 28, Height 5 ft 7 ins, well built, spoke a little English had a round, typical Japanese face. He held the rank of Corporal.

As a witness to this incident I do not hesitate in saying that the Japanese Cpl. pushed Taulmin into the water purposely.

The Japanese Cpl. had previously accused us of going slow.

*L. Ayscough*

He then rushed up to Taulmin, who was standing on the edge of the barge and pushed him on the chest.

Taulmin could not help but fall into the water. He could not swim with the result that he drowned. A continuous search for about two hours made by myself and those P.W. previously mentioned revealed only Taulmin's hat. During the search we dived several times to the bottom of the water but could find no trace of him.

On return to camp that night I and the Prisoners of War whose names I have already mentioned made statements to Major Okey to the effect that Taulmin was purposely pushed off the barge by the Japanese Corporal to his death.

The following night Major Okey reported the incident to Japanese Headquarters on Blakang Mati and shortly after he did the Japanese Cpl responsible for Taulmin's death and one guard came to our quarters and escorted us ( those who had made statements) to Japanese Headquarters.

When we arrived at Japanese Headquarters there was Major Okey, Capt Ken Arai, Yamamota and other officers and guards, whose names I cannot remember. We were interviewed one at a time. During the interview our statements were again taken by the Japanese. We were then returned to our quarters.

On return from work the following day at about 1900 hrs we were taken to Japanese Headquarters by a three star private named Sukawitchi and two guards.

When we arrived at Headquarters we were stood to attention in one row. Capt Arai, Yamamota and about ten other Japanese including the Japanese Corporal came out on to the lawn where we were standing and through the interpreter asked us to change our statements to the effect that the Japanese Corporal did not push Taulmin into the water but fell in himself. We refused.

The Japanese then administered to us a severe bashing which lasted about two hours. They bashed us with fists, sticks, heavy timber, belts, scabbards and even pieces of housebrick. During the bashing they continually asked us to change our statements. We would not.

Several of us received blows during this bashing which left us with permanent injuries.

Pte. Delaney received a terrific hit over the spine with a heavy piece of timber. This, together with other treatment he received during the bashing seriously affected his mind and I consider was responsible for him jumping to his death from a three story building a few months later.

Pte. Searle received a nasty hit over the face which has permanently disfigured it.

I received a hit on the upper part of my face with half a housebrick by Capt Arai which broke my nose and severely injured my left eye, leaving it permanently weak.

Major Okey, who was also present at the bashing, eventually persuaded the Japanese to cease bashing us. He impressed upon him that we would not change our statements and that we were speaking the truth.

I hold Capt Arai directly responsible for this bashing as it was Arai who ordered the other Japanese present to bash us, and even bashed us himself to make us give false evidence.

*L. Searle*  
7/2  
*L. O'Connell*

Despite the injuries and the weak condition we were in, following the bashing, we were forced to go to work the following day.

SWORN by the abovenamed deponent )  
ERIC WILFRED THOMAS AYSCOUGH at )  
SYDNEY this *ninth* day of )  
April One thousand nine hundred )  
and forty-six )

*E. Ayscough.*

BEFORE ME :

*L. S. Green M.*

A Justice of the Peace



IN THE MATTER OF WAR CRIMES COMMITTED BY JAPANESE NATIONALS AND  
 IN THE MATTER OF THE ILL-TREATMENT OF PRISONERS OF WAR (CIVILIAN  
 INTERNEES) AT KOBE, OSAKA BRANCH, PRISONER OF WAR CAMP.

A1

I, FREDERICK JOHN AYRES, of 7 Rolls Street, Canton, Cardiff, in the County of Glamorganshire, a member of His Majesty's Royal Engineers, make oath and say as follows,

1. I am a Sapper in the Royal Engineers and my Regimental No. is 1872740. I am at present on Demobilisation Leave until the 28th May 1946. I am living at my home address, 7 Rolls Street, Canton, Cardiff.
2. From the early part of December 1937 until February 1942, I was serving as a regular soldier in Malaya. On the 15th February 1942, I was taken prisoner at Singapore, where I remained until the 16th August 1942. On the latter date I was transferred to Korea where I remained until about May 1943. I was then transferred to Kobe Camp, Osaka Branch. I remained at this Camp until about May 1945.
3. I knew another prisoner at the Kobe Camp known as "BLACK SAM". He was a Dutchman and a member of the Dutch Services. I believe that he was taken prisoner at Java. The Camp was divided into three Sections. The different Sections consisted of (a) the British troops, (b) the Australian troops, and (c) the Dutch troops. There was a British Officer who was appointed to look after the interests of the prisoners in the Camp. His name was Captain PATERSON of the Australian Military Forces. The Dutchmen were also represented by one of their own officers, in addition to the Medical Officer of the Camp who was a Dutchman. The general treatment at the Camp - from the time of my arrival until two prisoners escaped about the beginning of 1944 - was very severe. The food and medical attention was inadequate. For some reason, after the escape and eventual recapture of the two escaped prisoners, the general conditions improved. The total complement of the Camp was in the region of 480 prisoners. During the time that I was detained 60 prisoners died and the average loss of weight per prisoner was about 4 stone.
4. Some time during the winter of 1943, it came to our notice that one of the Dutchmen, named "BLACK SAM" had been caught by the Japanese authorities trying to sell a Japanese military raincoat to a Japanese civilian. At the time we were working at Kawasaki Shipyard assisting to build ships. The Dutchman was also employed at the same yard and it would appear that he was trying to sell the raincoat to one of the civilian employees at the same yard. "BLACK SAM" wanted the money to buy additional food and cigarettes through "underground" channels. He was detained by the Camp authorities and later sentenced to 21 days confinement with one blanket and one-third rations. A couple of days before he was tried and sentenced, "BLACK SAM" was brought to the shipyard under military guard so that he could point out the man to whom he had sold the raincoat. "BLACK SAM" had stated, in his defence, that he had not sold any raincoat and was, therefore, unable to identify anyone at the yard as the purchaser. The military guard in charge of "BLACK SAM" and the 'working party' was a Japanese we knew as "Pop-eye". He was assisted by the Kawasaki civilian guards, one known as "The Painter" and two others whose names are not known to me. During the dinner hour, "BLACK SAM" was made to kneel down outside the messroom and guard-hut in full view of all Japanese civilian workmen and in full view of the prisoners-of-war. The guard then kept hitting him on the head with a wooden sword for some time. All the prisoners commenced shouting at the guard and called upon them to stop the ill-treatment. The guard then ordered us all to line up outside the messroom and they came along the line striking us with their fists and wooden swords. We were afterwards dismissed and sent back to work. I saw all four of the guards mentioned above hit "BLACK SAM"

in turn, namely, those known to me as "Pop-eye", "The Painter", and the other two who are not known to me by name or nickname. We later heard the sentence which was passed on "BLACK SAM".

5. I did not see "BLACK SAM" again. We were, however, told from time to time that he was taken from his cell and beaten with a wooden sword, that buckets of ice-cold water were thrown over him, and his food was withheld from him by his guard for varying periods in order to torture him. The weather at this period of the year was very cold and one blanket would not be sufficient to keep anyone warm. We were all allowed five blankets each at this time. After serving about twenty days of his sentence we were informed that "BLACK SAM" had died. I do not know the cause of death but we were all satisfied that he had died as a result of the ill-treatment due to his confinement and sentence in respect of this alleged theft. We did hear that the Doctor refused to sign the 'Death Certificate' but I cannot say if this is true.

6. The general treatment at the Camp prior to the escape of the two prisoners was very poor and generally consisted of minor atrocities but I am not able to mention any specific instances.

The Camp Commandant was nick-named "Bonnie Leslie". He was about 40 years of age, about 5' 10" in height, and very stout. The Camp Sergeant-major was nick-named "Black". He was about 40 years of age, about 6' in height, average build, dark complexion, and had a dark moustache. The Camp Quartermaster was "Private Nishogower". He was about 24 years of age, 5' 6" in height, clean and upright appearance. The Camp Medical Orderly was nick-named "Sleepy". He was also about 24 years of age, about 5' 6" in height, very dirty complexion. The Camp Works interpreter was nick-named "Snake Eyes". He was about 45 years of age, 5' 8" in height, very frail appearance.

7. We understood that the Camp Commandant was responsible for the ill-treatment of "BLACK SAM" but I did not myself see him ill-treat the Dutchman. I believe that a complaint was registered with the Camp Commandant about the treatment of "BLACK SAM" but I am not able to say for certain.

8. The description of "Pop-Eye" was: about 26 years of age, 5' 4" in height, medium build, had some defect to his left hand (may have been the little finger missing). "The Painter" was about 30 years of age, about 5' 8" in height, sturdy build, occupation - a painter at the Kawasaki Shipyard, but employed at this time as a member of the civilian guard. I am not able to describe adequately the two others in a manner which would lead to their identification but I might be able to positively identify them from photographs.

Signature: *J. J. Jones*

Taken and sworn before me at the Law Courts, Cardiff, on this 26th day of February 1946.

*Corliss Griffiths*

JUSTICE OF PEACE FOR THE CITY OF CARDIFF.

*Aylwin*

I, David Thomas Kirk ~~ALWIN~~, Grocers Assistant of 70 Millswyn Street SOUTH YARRA in the STATE of VICTORIA and enlisted under the assumed name of David LEWIS NX48301 of 2/19 Bn AIF, make oath and say. *D. a.*

1. I was taken prisoner of war by the JAPANESE in SINGAPORE on 15 Feb 42.
2. I arrived at FUKUOKA PW Camp No. 22 on 15 January 1945.
3. Whilst at FUKUOKA I knew a Japanese Sgt by the name of IRIO, he was the orderly Sgt. IRIO repeatedly walked round the camp looking for trouble and beat PW's for the slightest breach of discipline.
4. I have been beaten and kicked by IRIO on many occasions for no apparent reason, perhaps it was for looking sideways at him.
5. IRIO and a Japanese Medical Sgt refused to hand over Red Cross parcels and medical supplies and consequently were the cause of men dying in the camp.
6. I cannot remember the JAPANESE medical Sgt's name but could recognise both these JAPANESE.
7. I also remember a JAPANESE Sgt by the name of JODO. I saw him beat a Pte JOHNSTONE till JOHNSTONE was almost senseless and then push him into the guardhouse without bedding and at this time there was 3 to 4 inches of snow on the ground.
8. JODO left JOHNSTONE in the guard house for a week and fed him on two bowls of rice each day plus a half a cup of water.
9. When JOHNSTONE was at the peak of his weakness JODO brought JOHNSTONE out twice a day when he would order the guards to beat him and also join in the beating himself.
10. There was a mine overseer named MATSUKI. Whilst at FUKUOKA I worked in the mine and the shifts were anything up to 12 hrs duration, our diet was very monotonous just being plain rice and we would often change our boxes of plain rice with the KOREANS for their more tasty rations.
11. One day three PW's JOHNSTON, SKINNER and WRIGHT were caught/and when we got to the top of the mine these three PW's were singled out by MATSUKI and beaten with wooden sticks and sword sticks in the same manner as JOHNSTONE was beaten by JODO. changing their rations

SWORN at MELBOURNE

this 21<sup>st</sup> day of JULY, 1947. *D. Aylwin*

BEFORE ME, *J. H. ...*

a Commissioner for the taking of declarations and affidavits under the EVIDENCE ACT 1928.

Locke

NX70159 Lieut Richard Wigram AUSTIN, 2/19 Bn, being duly sworn, gives the following evidence: EA.

My full number, name, rank and unit are NX70159 Lieutenant Richard Wigram AUSTIN, 2/19 Bn. My private address is 21 Rosemont Avenue, Edgecliffe.

I was taken prisoner of war at Singapore on 15 Feb 42. I was actually wounded during the fighting in the neighbourhood of Paric Sulong, Bakri. I did not notice any war crimes committed during the fighting. On Wednesday the 22nd or 23rd January the most seriously wounded cases were put into two ambulances and were sent on to the bridge at Paric Sulong. They were sent towards the Japanese lines with the intention of asking the Japanese permission to allow them to proceed to one of our own base hospitals. They were men who were disarmed and seriously wounded and could not have been fit for fighting, for some time. I was sent by Colonel Anderson, although not seriously wounded, as I might be helpful. Myself and one of the drivers went through and contacted a Japanese officer who spoke a little English. His reply was that unless the whole force surrendered unconditionally to the Japanese the ambulances would not be allowed through but would stay on the bridge until the morning. I sent the driver back to Col Anderson, who was Acting Commander of the Forces, with that story, and told him not to bother about us as we would do our best to get away. Luckily I was successful in getting off the bridge later in the night. A guard was not placed on us, as the Japanese would come and go away for a time, but ~~they~~ were covered by machine guns. We moved them out quietly after dark back to our own lines. As to what happened afterwards to those wounded, I have been informed by Lieut Hackney that when the Japanese came in on the afternoon of Thursday they got out all the wounded who could walk and herded them together, tied them up, and either bayoneted them or machine-gunned them, and then set fire to them with petrol. Another man and ~~he~~ pretended to be dead and escaped. The wounded in those two ambulances would be some of the wounded referred to by Lieut Hackney. Three men in those ambulances died before they got back to our own lines, probably from shock.

EA. M  
to ambulance  
of EA.  
of EA.

A number of the troops were cut off at the bridge, not only wounded but others as well, remnants of the 2/19 and 2/9 Bns and I think a battery of the 2 Fld Regt and an organisation of Indian troops, an Anti Tank regt. Such men as could get out. We were completely surrounded by the Japanese at that stage. I got out and got back to the hospital at Singapore. I didn't have a chance at the time to see what troops were facing us on the bridge, but later after I had learned to speak the language I asked a Japanese and was told that the Japanese Imperial Guard were involved. I did not notice if the officer I spoke to was a big man or not; I cannot say there was anything distinctive about him. I had never seen a Japanese in uniform until that morning and had no means of comparing him with anything.

I went into 10 AGH at Cathay Building in Singapore. I had been in 10 AGH in the Manor House and a shell fell into the building. I was in the Manor House about 3 or 4 days. We were moved out on account of the shelling and because the Japanese were getting a bit closer. The Cathay Building was shelled while I was there. I could not say if it was deliberately shelled as a hospital. The building had been used as a Headquarters by 3 Corps until we actually arrived. The building had been a hospital only a few days at the time of the shelling. About 20 shells landed on it. Unfortunately one landed in the Picture Theatre, which is part of the building, when it happened to be filled with convalescents. I don't think more than half-a-dozen were killed and perhaps 2 dozen wounded. After the capitulation I remained in hospital for a week. The Japanese hardly disturbed the hospital at all. I saw Japanese officers, whom I imagined were doctors, come in and get shown around. There was no incident at all. From Cathay Building I could see the Japanese in Singapore and they seemed to come in in a very orderly way.

I think  
EA.  
3

I remained at Changi until May 43. I had one month in Singapore in November and December 42 at River Valley Rd. During that period I had not any personal experiences of atrocities. I know some men were beaten up in working parties. I saw Lieut Archibald, of the 29 Bn, being carried in a stretcher one night; he was very badly injured, that was in December 42.

Locke

Richard Austin

I do not know the names of the guards in charge of working party.

I was in Selerang Square. I had nothing to do there with the negotiations with the Japanese.

I went with H Force to Thailand in May 43 as interpreter to the Australian group, about 600. The transport used was steel trucks, probably rice trucks. I was with Oakes in the Kanyu Area from May to September 43. As regards the names of Japanese I came in contact with at that stage, I can give you more or less the set-up of H Force, except for one name that I have forgotten. There was Captain Hachi Suga; Lieut Machimoto, Quartermaster Lieut Yamakawa Medical Sgt Makazumi, Interpreter Mr. Terao and Lieut Shingiochi, with clerks and odd people from HQ. As camp commanders there was Sgt Takaoka of Col Oakes' camp, Sgt Momba in charge of Hintok, and Sgt Hori in charge of Tonthan or Fantiye. Those were H Force camps. There were six parties in H Force. Hintok's was an English one, commanded first by Major Gaskill. Kanyu No. 3 was Col Oakes' party and later a party under Major Smythe of the Royal Norfolks, British troops joined us. Tampi was HQ under Col Humphries. Tampi South - Major Smythe had been there until he turned the camp over to us and a rear party were left in command of Major Malins, Royal Corps Sigs. Tonching was in command of Col Newey, S.F.V.F. and at Tarso was a party of 300 officers including 120 Australians, I think, in command of Col Whittenbury, of the Indian Army, the Australian element being commanded by Major Ball, of the 2/15 Fld Regt. Those officers were sent up from Changi about a month later than the rest of H Force with the express assurance from ~~them~~ that they would be used for administrative duties on the railway. On arrival in Siam they were made to work like common soldiers. Of others Japanese I came in contact with I remember Capt Hachisuga a Korean guard named Toyogima and one named Kurokuni were particularly brutal. These Japanese I have mentioned I had dealings with personally and would know them all again. Hachisuga gave me the impression that he was not particularly firm or useful when complaints were brought to him. It was the same with Machimoto. I think one of the difficulties with H Force and, as far as I know, with F Force was that although the forces were working in Thailand under engineers of the Thai command the actual administration of the forces remained with the Japanese in the Malayan command, and in consequence our treatment and rations were very much worse than the camps under the Thai command. It seemed to be quite impossible to refer complaints to any particular senior source. Hachisuga and Machimoto were aware of the conditions of those under their command. As regards Yamakawa I can only give hearsay evidence. Col Humphries repeatedly told me that Yamakawa had been more than unhelpful in his dealings with us and had withheld rations and pay. I had no particular complaint to make with regard to Takaoka personally. He always attempted to listen to grievances, but he had the failing which is almost universal in Japanese officers and sergeants of either not being able to or not bothering to control their guards, and instances of persons being hit by the two guards mentioned took place even when he was in the camp. The guard Toyogima I have seen striking an officer with a stick when drunk, and I have seen him striking a warrant officer who refused to sell him his watch. I have seen him hit perhaps a dozen people. I cannot say I know of any cases where this hitting resulted in fatal or permanent injury. Toyogima was not always sober. He used to go down to the river in command of parties and get hold of a few bottles of Japanese sake down there and come back drunk. As regards Kurokuni, on one occasion I saw him line up a group of men whom the doctor said were unfit for work in order to examine them, and as each man came before him he struck him the the face or kicked him. Some of the men were so weak that they fell down. Apart from these incidents there were isolated instances of people being struck but I would not class them as atrocities.

As regards the Engineer officers, I had dealings with the Engineer Lieutenant in charge of the Engineer Camp at Kanyu No. 3 in connection with brutalities committed by his engineers on our working parties, and sometimes those requests were received favourably, while at other times the man was insolently unhelpful.

L.S. from M.

W. G. G. G.

4 Col  
EA 7  
EA 7  
EA 7

General  
ARIMURAN  
EA 7  
EA 7

EA 7

I don't know the names of the guards on the railway. One who perpetrated most of the beatings was always called Musso by the men. I never knew his real name. I heard of an incident regarding his attempt to bury a man alive. Lieut Mansfield who had been working in charge of a party of the railway told me that Musso had ordered him to tip a truckload of gravel over a man who had fainted at his work, and had beaten him when he refused to do so. Lieut Mansfield is from the 8 Div Sigs and as far as I know is a Sydney man. I was the channel of complaint only as far as our own camp was concerned; that would be complaints to Takaoka. Complaints to Hackisuga would go through Col Humphries and his interpreter Wait, of the Intelligence Corps.

In September 43 I went to Kanburi Base Hospital as Chief Interpreter to Col Humphries. I was later joined by Capt Waller, SFVS who was an interpreter to F Force. It was a mixed camp of H and F forces and he and I assumed the duties of interpreter. I remained there until December 43 when I returned to Sime Road, Singapore Island, and I was there as interpreter until May 44. I was one of several interpreters there for Col Newey. In May 44 I went back to Changi where I was a HQ interpreter until the capitulation. From March to July 45 I assumed the duties of Chief Interpreter.

The Japanese HQ set-up at Changi was: the Commander was Lt-Gen Saito. His official title as far as I know was General Commanding Prisoners of War and Internees in Malaya and Sumatra. His headquarters office was in a house in what we called Halfmoon Street, just below the Changi Prison, and he lived in a villa about 3 miles from the camp. After the capitulation he gave me to understand that he had to refer to Japanese Supreme Commander Itoagaki, whose HQ were at Raffles Club, Singapore. His was definitely not a POW command; I think the Japanese called it 8 Area Army. He was one of the subordinates of Terachi. The only occasion when Itoagaki visited the POW camp at Changi was in July 45. As far as I know he had never been in the camp before. I never saw any indication before the capitulation or while I was there as interpreter that General Saito dealt on any matters direct with Tokio

The set up of General Saito's staff was: Senior Staff Officer was Lt. Col Banno, who had been sent to Thailand in March 43 as Commander of F Force; his Quartermaster and Paymaster was Major Tanaka and later Col Nagano; Adjutant and ADC Lieut Koteni; Transport Officer Capt Yamada, with Sgt Major Kasukawa; Intelligence Officer Lieut Wada; and the following officers who at times administered command of prison camps and at other times were attached to his HQ: Lieut Takahashi - he was not there at the time they surrendered; Lieut Toda; Lieut Wakabayashi; 2nd Lieut Homma; Lieut, later Captain, Miura; Interpreters Mr. Sagi and Mr. Koyama. Those I think are the only names I can remember. The Commander of Changi POW Camp was Capt Takahashi from May 44 until June 45. In other words that was from the time the camp was concentrated in the prison area until June. Takahashi joined a company of Engineers at Bukittima and command was taken by Lieut later Captain Miura, who had formerly been in Sumatra. The second in command was Lieut Homma, with the following 4 sergeants, later staff sergeants, Sato, Tsujibayashi, Fuji, and Itabashi, together with a half-dozen or so Korean clerks. The Interpreter was Mr. Kinoshita. The medical side of the camp was run by Capt Suzuki, Lieut Tanio, and Sgt Major Makazumi (formerly sergeant with H Force). I had no direct dealings with these medical personnel, as this was done by Lt-Col Neil, I.M.S. Lt-Col Glynn White, AIF, with Capt Waller as Interpreter, but it was common knowledge both amongst the prisoners and the Japanese that Capt Suzuki was seldom sober, and consequently it was very difficult to have any dealings with him. It is possible Lieut Tanio was on the railway or in Burma, but I never came across him there. I first met him at Singapore.

As regards the complicity of any of these personnel in war crimes, I cannot give any particular acts or atrocities, but I think as Col Banno was in charge of the 10,000 of whom half died in Thailand, he must be held responsible to a degree. I didn't have anything to do with him in any official capacity, but have spoken to him many times, and he gave me the impression of being old and completely ineffective, and was a laughing stock even amongst the Japanese. Capt Takahashi very often referred to him in uncomplimentary terms. As regards Takahashi and Miura I regard both as being particularly fine examples of Japanese. They both tried to do their best.

I have no knowledge of the unit responsible for the massacre of Chinese and Malays on the beach. That was in the early days.

I did not at any time see heads of decapitated persons displayed.

With regard to the completion of the Thailand railway by a certain time being a direct order of the Emperor, we were given to understand that the Engineer in command of building the railway had been ordered to have it completed by the end of August 43, and that failure to do so would have to be expiated by hari kari. It was not finished by then. They were working till November, I think. I don't know when the junction of the two constructions was made but I think it was some time in November. I never went to the Burma end; I never went farther north than Kanyu.

I don't know of the nicknames, if any, given to the Japanese apart from what I have already mentioned.

I don't know the name of the particular unit of the Japanese Imperial Guard who were said to be responsible for that massacre.

Most of my dealings were with the Camp Commandant at Changi, and it was not until after the surrender I spoke to Saito. I went down with various artisans to instal electric light; I never went to do any negotiating. Any orders at all that came into the camp from General Saito would come through Takahashi. As regards pay they very often came direct from Tanaka through the British Paymaster Major Byrne. Col Banno used to be referred to, ~~like~~ <sup>by the</sup> expression which is translated as Senior Officer. It might be what we call a Camp Commandant at Div HQ or Area Commandant. He was the second senior officer on that HQ immediately subordinate to Saito, but he was always treated by the Japanese with such amusement and contempt that I don't think he had any important position on the HQ.

When I was at Sime Road Camp Lieut Matsuda was Camp Commandant, and second in command was Lieut Fukuda. Beyond being unpleasant and unhelpful I had no particular complaint to make about him. It was the same Lieut Fukuda who was with F Force, although I am not certain he would be the man they were after. Fukuda just sat in the head office. He was indicted for selling Red Cross parcels.

One officer in H Force at Kanburi Hospital, Officer Cadet and 2nd Lieutenant Hotta, was commanding the camp. He was a good disciplinarian and quite helpful. Previous to him Sgt Major Takahashi had been in command. He was definitely inferior to Hotta. He is not identical with Capt Takahashi. <sup>whose</sup> name was Zempo Takahashi.

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I certify that the above evidence is true and correct.

*Richard Wigram Austin*

.....Lieut

~~Taken and sworn before me at  
Sydney on 10 November 1945~~

SWORN by the abovenamed deponent Richard Wigram Austin at Sydney this ~~10th~~ <sup>2d</sup> day of May One thousand nine hundred and forty-six.

Commissioner

BEFORE ME

*L.H. Jones JP*  
A Justice of the Peace

I, VX59345 Gunner Bertram John AUCHETTL, 4 Anti-Tank Regt A I F,  
now in Heidelberg Military Hospital, make oath and say as follows :

*g*

1. I was captured in SINGAPORE on 15 Feb 42 and went with "A" Force BURMA on 15 May 42.
2. We spent three days a TAUCI Staging Camp and while we were there eight men of my regiment who had attempted to escape were brought in and shot.
3. Capt SHIMA was the Japanese Camp Commandant who ordered the shooting.

SWORN at HEIDELBERG in the  
state of VICTORIA this 12<sup>th</sup>  
day of FEBRUARY, 1946.

*af.*

*Hand*

} B. J. Auchttl

Before me,

*William Watt Leggatt Lt. Col.*

(Lt Col William Watt LEGGATT)

An Officer of the Australian Military Forces



10/5/46

On this eighteenth day of April, One thousand nine hundred and forty-six, Thomas Bruce AUCHTERLONIE, of 7 Frances St., Epping, in the State of New South Wales, makes oath and says as follows:-

1. As NX54991, Cpl T.B. AUCHTERLONIE, of 2/3 MAC I was taken prisoner at Singapore on 15 Feb 42. As one of a party of three thousand (A Force) I was transferred from Changi on 15 May to VICTORIA POINT where 1,000 Australians landed. As one of 700 I was sent to the aerodrome Victoria Point.
2. The Officer in charge of the Australians was Major GREEN of 2/4 MNG Bn. The Commander of the Aerodrome PW Camp was Lieut EJGUCHI (OGUCHI), nicknamed "Smiler."
3. The Commander of the Victoria Point area was Capt YASUDA. Lieut SHIRASI was commander of the 300 PWs at Victoria Point (Proper). A description of Capt Yasuda is as follows - Height about 5'5", Age 43 yrs (approx), compact build, exceptionally dark complexion for a Jap and wore a moustache.
4. A description of Lieut EJGUCHI is as follows - height 5'9", Age 29 (approx), slim build, exceptionally good looking for a Jap. He was always smiling and was known as "Smiler". He was an ex bank clerk in Tokio.
5. A description of Lieut SHIRASI is as follows - height 5'9", Age 35 (approx), well built, rather protruding teeth.
6. I was employed with seven other Australians at Jap HQ as driver to Lieut EJGUCHI. Some time in July I saw a Burmese imprisoned in a "Dog Cage" at the radio station, Victoria Pt. A "Dog Cage" was a board structure no more than 3 ft by 5ft, used as a solitary confinement cell by the Japs.
7. A Jap told me that the prisoner was an ex-Burmese policeman and that he had been arrested for the purpose of gaining information about the British occupation.
8. I saw the Burmese in the "Dog Cage" on a number of occasions during the next fortnight. He was progressively more haggard during that period and the Japs told me that he had been repeatedly beaten.
9. At the end of the fortnight I drove Lieut EJGUCHI to the radio station. While sitting in the car I saw a number of wicker lounge chairs being placed in position. These were occupied by Capt YASUDA, Lieut EJGUCHI, Sgt-Major TAKAHASI, another Sgt-Major QM and a Sgt whom I could personally identify but whose names I

T.B. Auchterlonie  
18/4/46

do not know. Also present was the Japanese interpreter. He was 5'7" high; age about 27 yrs; slight build; lantern jawed and sunken eyed. He was a cruel looking person.

10. The prisoner was then brought out of the cage and his hands tied behind his back. The interpreter proceeded to interrogate him in Malay. I understood little Malay and could not gather the context of the conversation.

11. After each refusal to answer the prisoner was beaten by one or more of those present. Sticks of approximate diameter 1 1/2 ins and length 1 metre were used in the punishment. This continued for approximately half an hour, after which relays of four Japanese soldiers were called down from HQ to do the beating. The Burmese would evidently give no information.

12. He was then placed on a 44 gallon drum, all clothing removed; the rope tied to his hands was passed over a rafter under the Q Store verandah and tied at such a length that when the drum was kicked from under him no part of his body could touch the ground. After the drum had been kicked away the Burmese was spun around on the rope and beaten with sticks by four Japanese soldiers. This was stopped at intervals for interrogation but the Burmese still refused to answer.

13. After about fifteen minutes, his ankles were tied up behind his body with a rope around the neck, and a fire lit underneath him. He stood this for ten minutes and appeared to lose consciousness.

14. The Japanese then cut him down, placed him in a truck with two armed guards and two soldiers with digging tools. The truck was driven away and returned some twenty minutes later without the Burmese. The Japanese interpreter was one of the most vicious of the tormentors. This interpreter was nicknamed "Hurry Hurry".

15. There were no other Australian eye witnesses to the torture. I was ordered to turn the car around prior to the commencement of the torture but I observed from about 15 feet through the rear vision mirror.

16. Lieut IJGUCHI belonged to the KEMPEI TAI.

17. Lieut SHIRASI, during the time we were at Victoria Pt Camp, appeared to be more humane than his fellows.

SWORN by the abovenamed deponent,  
Thomas Bruce Auchterlone, at Sydney,  
this eighteenth day of April, One  
thousand nine hundred and forty-six

*T. B. Auchterlone*

BEFORE ME

*L. Shufeldt*

A Justice of the Peace

*IJGUCHI (OGUCHI) — NO TRACE.  
SHIRASI — NO TRACE.  
YASUDA — W.C.P. HAS — NO NEG'S.  
TAKAHASI — NO TRACE.*

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WAR CRIMES COMMISSION

Evidence taken before Mr. Justice Mansfield at Labuan Island, on 10 October 1945.

Capt. JOHN BARTHOLOMEW ATKINSON, being duly sworn, gives the following evidence:

My full name is John Bartholomew Atkinson. My private address is c/- Barclay's Bank, 308 Park Road, Hornsey, London, N.8.

I was first interned in Jesselton on 16 May 1942 and remained there until 5 September 1942. I think there were 86 prisoners there, who were all Europeans; they were all civilians. During that time, the conditions as compared with those later, were extremely good. We were confined in Barrack No. G.14. I was the rationing officer and the food was adequate in quantity and, compared with later food, was very good. We were given half a pound of <sup>meat</sup> ~~meat~~ a day and half a <sup>quintal</sup> ~~quintal~~ of rice eight <sup>times</sup> ~~times~~ and almost a full <sup>quintal</sup> ~~quintal~~ of potatoes. Fruit was supplied almost as we asked. The general treatment of the internees was quite good. There were one or two assaults, but in most cases they were deserved.

In September 1942 we moved to Kuching and remained there until September 1945. We were transported from Labuan in the hold of the ship, which was extremely uncomfortable. We were very crowded. The food was good; we were supplied with plenty of rice and sugar and on the wharf in Jesselton we were given a lot of bully beef and sardines and some tuna fish. The trip took us five days. There was just sufficient room to lie down. There was no ill-treatment during the trip. One thing we felt very badly was the fact that we had not been allowed to meet our wives or even see them for five months and when we were sent away we were given only half-an-hour to get ready. Col. Adams asked that we might be allowed to see our families but was merely told that if the guard allowed us to see our wives he would lose his head. We were then put in railway trucks with closed doors on the camp side; I was able to open my door a little and saw the women's camp but was told I must not wave.

When we arrived at Kuching there were already the same number as in our own party at the camp; they had come from Kuching, Miri and Sarawak. The Dutch from Pontianak were in a different camp and later came in with us. We noticed an immediate deterioration in food; first of all, there was the lack of meat. We had been getting adequate quantities of meat but now we received only about .2 of an ounce per man. Apart from this, there was a fair amount of rice, and at first we also had ubimanis.

We worked on the aerodrome and we used to be sent about three rice balls to us and we also had plentiful supplies of salt fish and even coffee. That went on for nearly a month. We then stopped work on the aerodrome on 26 September and our food immediately dropped, the reason given being that as we were not now doing hard work we would not require the extra food. The food we received was not a balanced diet by any means; there was no shortage of rice but the meals were most unappetising and we all got a bit thin because of that. We noticed particularly the lack of fish and oil; we ended by receiving very little fish, very little pork and less oil than we had been accustomed to before. Rice eventually went down to a very small quantity. In the middle of 1944 we all really started to go down in health but by then our own gardens were producing and the Japanese allowed us to use what we had grown ourselves. We contracted beri beri and oedema. That was stopped a good deal by the issuing of red rice which had been imported from Java by the Japanese. If we had not had that, we should have had very much more trouble than we actually did. There was a good bit of tropical ulcers in the camp in the latter period and quite a lot of sickness. The best illustration of that is the fact that in March 1945 we were compelled to turn out a gang of 100 men

to do the planting in the outside gardens. I was in charge of that gang and it was got up by a man called a labour master in the camp. At first, it was fairly easy to get the 100 men and even to give some men a day off in every five. That had to continue until we were stopped finally on 18 June. Towards the end, we were having to turn out extremely sick men - men who should never have been outside at all - in order to keep the number up. About every week Col. Adams used to protest against this and say that the men were not fit and tried to have the number reduced to 50 and then to 30, but the Japanese just laughed and said, "If you can't turn the men out, we will come into the camp and turn them out." That did happen on one occasion; they turned out men who were not fit to work. One or two men collapsed on the job.

We all suffered a good deal of eye trouble owing to the deficiency in food. I noticed that I could not read as well as before and I had to ~~take~~ recourse to my glasses again. That was a few months after our arrival at Kuching and the same trouble was prevalent throughout the camp. Men also suffered black-outs. We were doing a good deal of gardening at that time and when we would get up after bending down, things would suddenly go black.

We had no reason to complain of our accommodation; we had 36 or 37 men to a hut.

A number of the men who came out to work when they were not fit would be out only a day or perhaps a week and then have to stay in or collapse. Ulcers and oedema came out and the doctors said they could not risk these men going out to work. By that time, most of the camp had oedema and I had it very badly myself. As I was in charge of the gang and had to keep going, the doctor gave me some pills but I think I was the only man in the gang ~~who~~ who had them.

At first there was no illtreatment of the prisoners; we were then under regular troops on the aerodrome but towards the end the Formosan boys took over guard duties. They tried to be as soldierly as possible and ~~xxxxxxx~~ they were stupidly harsh on making men work when they were not fit. If they saw a man resting for a couple of minutes, they would descend upon him and threaten him if he did not keep on the job. Gradually, because, according to their own statement, they were told to do so by their officers, they began face-slapping and beating. I was working in the garden with another married man next to the camp in which our wives were kept and we were always in trouble. We used to try to smuggle things in and we were both assaulted once or twice because of that, but not seriously. I had a bad kick on the shins. If we were not standing to attention properly, it was a common practice for one of the guards to suddenly land out with a booted foot. I still bear the scar of one such kick I received.

Gradually, the guards became worse and in particular certain ones were renowned for the manner in which they behaved towards all prisoners, and in particular the prisoners-of-war. The first serious incident I can recall was in about the middle of 1944 or early in 1944, when a Mr. Kier, who was in charge of the inside gardens, was attending a tool ~~company~~ <sup>company</sup> outside the camp. I was present throughout the whole of the incident. The orders were that as we came out of the camp we had to bow to the Japanese sentry opposite the gate. Kier was repeatedly coming in and out of the camp, bringing his tools; on the first three or four occasions he bowed to the guard, who took no notice of him, and consequently he did not bow the next two or three times. A Japanese officer from outside the camp came in with one of the older soldiers and I think this guard then decided he would show how tough he really was. He was known to us as the Junior Ball Kicker. He first of all struck Kier for not saluting him and then started kicking him, and followed him all round the place trying to kick him in the testicles, and

doubled him up. However, the guard still work on. I believe he is about 60 years of age; he has just come back from hospital. It was a very vicious assault but I do not think Kier was actually hospitalised because of it.

The next assault was in the same year. A man from Jesselton, B. H. Bentham, was smoking ~~in~~ in the square and was caught by a guard known as The Weasel. He took Bentham outside the camp and gave him a terrific beating; his face was very swollen next morning and he bore the marks for many days; his mouth was badly lacerated and he could not eat.

I think probably the worst attack of all was made when some trouble occurred over a half-caste lady who made some allegation to the Japanese officials. A Japanese called The Red Indian took me aside one day in May 1945 and he said, "Look out today. There is trouble. I do not beat men but other guards come along and do so; you had better keep working." He led me over the brow of the hill and on the far side was a ~~group~~ <sup>group</sup> of British soldiers known to us as "Stengsh Mati" (Half dead). They were all men who should never have been out of the camp; they were all hospital cases, yet they were all working. The guard led me over to them and there I saw one of these ~~Japan~~ men suffering very badly from multiple ulcers and oedema being given a most savage beating; he was assaulted with fist, boot and rifle butt. He was thrown to the ground, picked up again, then thrown down again time and time again. Eventually, I turned to the man who was with me and said, "Can't you tell him to stop this?" He said, "No, I can't." I knew that if I went along and interfered it would only cause more trouble for the man himself and I would get into trouble also. Warrant Officer Williams, of the Indian Army Service Corps, who was in charge of the ~~camp~~ <sup>camp</sup>, actually tried to intervene but he could not do anything. The British soldier was then compelled to stand up with a weight over his head and knees bent until he collapsed. He was then kicked and made to stand up again. This was a favourite habit of the Japanese. The guard who was making the assault was known to us as Intercourse. The assault went on for some time and then another British soldier was called out and he was similarly beaten. I then went away. That same morning there was a certain amount of trouble; no matter how hard we worked, we could not do the right thing; I was not assaulted myself. I then went over again to look at some of my men and I saw another man being assaulted in the same manner; he was kicked and had to kneel down for a considerable time; the man responsible on this occasion was the Junior Ball Kicker.

The next assault was made on Linguard, Wrenn and myself. I saw one of the Japanese and was given an order to get firewood at 11.30 a.m. instead of twelve o'clock when we were going home. He told me to do that on the Saturday and I said to him, "Do you mean to do that every day?" He said, "Yes." The following Monday we had some regular soldiers who came to the camp in charge of us, so I got Linguard (who could speak Japanese) to come up and explain to them that we were to given instructions to get firewood ~~at~~ 11.30. They said, "Carry on." Accordingly, I fell the men in at half past 11 when suddenly the Weasel came up and asked me what did I think I was doing. I got Linguard to explain to him that I was merely carrying out the instructions given to me by the man in charge of the gardens, Takimura. He then told me I was a liar and proceeded to give me a beating. He was left-handed and I was watching his right hand and his rifle; but instead of changing hands he gave me a few clouts with his left fist. He then turned on Linguard, who had done nothing at all except act as interpreter, and assaulted him with his fist. Linguard unfortunately dodged one of the blows which, of course, is a very bad thing to do, and the Weasel proceeded to use his boot and rifle on him and gave him one particularly nasty hit with his rifle butt on the back. I was standing fairly near at the time and I thought Linguard would be seriously hurt but somehow he was not. Then Takimura came up and I turned to

him and said, "You told me on Saturday that I was to fall the men in on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 11.30." The Weasel then said something to him in Japanese and in response to what the Weasel apparently asked him, Takimura said, "No." Thereupon, the Weasel said, "You have been lying," and proceeded to give me another beating. This time he used his boots and rifle butt but I was not badly hurt. Then he turned to the men who had fallen in and picked on the man on the left in the front rank, P. H. Wrenn, who was doing nothing at all. There had been no order to come to attention although they were actually standing to attention, but Wrenn had a bad ulcer on his left foot and could not keep his heel on the ground, with the result that he had his heel slightly raised. He was a sick man and would never have been out if we had not been compelled to put out 100 men. The Weasel walked up to him and without any warning hit him on the jaw; Wrenn was not able to do anything and fell down. He managed to get up and was promptly given another couple of blows which ~~him~~ put him down for good. The Weasel then kicked him in the spine and also used his rifle butt on him, prodding him with it. I went forward to try and stop the kick but I was too late. Wrenn is a man over 50 years of age. We carried Wrenn into the hut. I was two beds from him and I could see that he was seriously hurt. He lay quiet and could not eat any lunch. The doctor came and had a look at him ~~in~~ and did what he could. That afternoon, while I was out at work, he had a stroke and was paralysed down his left side. Col. Adams went up ~~to see~~ Suga about this and complained of the assault. He was not there but it so happened that the Orderly Officer of the week was Dr. Yamamoto, who promptly came into our barracks, which was a very unusual thing for him to do, and ordered that Wrenn be kept quiet and that cold compresses be put on his head. As far as I know, no medicine turned up. Rowland, who was my neighbour, sat up all night with Wrenn; we were told that we had to keep someone sitting by the bedside because it was possible that Wrenn might take another stroke. Yamamoto came in for three ~~xxxx~~ days in succession to look at the patient and was very concerned about him. Col. Adams did see Col. Suga who said I was at fault because I had tried to put it across the Weasel and that I had deserved my beating. He admitted that Linguard had not done anything wrong and was obviously concerned about Wrenn. Wrenn never really recovered from that beating; knowing him and living in close proximity to him for 3½ years, I can only say that he has been affected mentally; he is apt to stare and not understand when you ask him a question.

Some British officers one morning fell in in front of the office and in passing one of them passed a remark, apparently, to the private or N.C.O. in the other ranks' camp, and the Count's Grandson, who disappeared from Kuching not long afterwards, came up behind him with a billet of wood and hit him on the head. The man collapsed and had to be carried into his camp; he was seriously ill for some time. I saw the assault myself.

Another Japanese who frequently committed rather savage assaults on people was an interpreter called Inagasuki. He was a civilian although he wore a sword and cap. He insisted on people saluting him and if any person did not do so properly or if he did not see someone salute him, he would come out of his office and assault him. I saw many men assaulted by that fellow; he would practise jiu jitsu on them, throwing them over his shoulder and all over the ground, kicking and hitting them as he did so.

The Japanese Camp Commandant was Col. Suga. His Adjutant was Lieut. Nagata and the other officer was Lieut. Ujima. Previously, we had a man called Nagai as Adjutant and another officer called Watanabe, but they have since gone. Ujima frequently visited the camp and always behaved extremely well towards me, but he would summon the guard and give him a real ticking off in Japanese, as I could see from his tone of voice and the way the guard stood to attention and answered. Not infrequently, after such a ticking off he would go away and then the heat would be

put on and we would be made to work much harder; men would be smacked for not working hard enough. On one occasion we were told to run round the square because he had been to a funeral and thought we were not working hard enough. Rowland was sentenced to 10 days' in the cells because he had been accused of trying to raise some money for a lady whom he had promised to look after by selling some M & V. The Japanese tried to pin this offence on Rowland and the man to whom he had sold the stuff; they were all imprisoned and Rowland was given a very severe beating on Ujima's orders by a sergeant named Kogo, who was known as Banjo Bill. After ten days' imprisonment, Rowland came out and would not say much about the assault, but I noticed that both legs were black from the hip to the knee both inside and out, in front and behind. Eventually, I questioned him on the subject and he told me that Kogo had committed the assault with a pole to try to make him confess.

The whole camp has been kept out late because of slack work on the part of one individual. Matsuda was known as The Little Pig; he was in charge of the gardens at one period and I had a lot to do with him. He never actually assaulted me but on one occasion he told me to send a working party of 25 men to do a job in the swamp. Naturally, as most of the gang had ulcers, I called for volunteers and only about 20 came forward. I then told the men that there would be trouble if we did not get the 25. It was never advisable to address any particular man because if I did that and he refused because of a bad ulcer the guard would always say to him, "You were told to come out. Why didn't you?" and he would then proceed to assault him. Eventually, 25 men did come out. Matsuda then called the rest up to the hut and made them fall in. He then proceeded to assault them. The first man he went to was Morris, who was an elderly man, and used his rifle butt on him. I had had a good many dealings with Matsuda so I stood in the way to try to stop the assault, knowing that I would not be touched myself. However, I was pushed ~~xxxx~~ aside although I protested against the beating of men whom I would not allow to go out to work; ~~xxxxxx~~ however, he said, "That doesn't matter." The Weasel then came up and joined the party and between them they gave the whole crowd of about 30 men a really good beating up. They did not touch me, however, no matter how much I interfered.

After the surrender, the Japanese produced a fair amount of drugs but before that they had been very scarce. Men died as a result of the lack of medical treatment; there were cases when M & B would have saved lives and when proper food would have made a big difference. Eggs were being sold on the black market and could be obtained by the women, so obviously the Japanese must have been able to get these supplies had they wished to do so. Col. Adams was always asking for eggs and special food so that the sick men could be given special diet, but the Japanese ~~xxxxxx~~ rarely, if ever, produced any eggs or other food fit for the sick men.

One man committed suicide in the guard room after being questioned, and Bidmead died in my presence from dropsy; I think he could have been saved had he been given proper food earlier. Altogether, about 12 or 14 men died, including Oeleimans and Shaw.

In March 1944 we each received one-sixth of an American Red Cross parcel. The Americans each received one parcel. Before they were issued, I actually saw a Japanese N.C.O. smoking a Chesterfield cigarette which I later discovered had been taken from one of the parcels. I saw the Japanese also wearing Red Cross boots which were issued to Indonesians who were engaged in guard duty. When the boxes were supplied to us they had all been opened and I think some things had been taken from them. Some of the cigarettes had a "V" sign on their cases and in many instances that sign had been knocked off; it was obvious, therefore, that the Japanese had gone through the boxes.

Our own camp was not marked with distinctive signs to show that it contained prisoners-of-war. Suga interviewed Col. Adams and

told him they were going to put up a notice reading "P.O.W." over the whole camp. I saw the notice board myself. I noticed that the Japanese barracks themselves were clearly marked; we could see that from our gardens. Later, the sign was taken away again.

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I certify that the above evidence is true and correct.

Taken and sworn before me at  
Labuan Island on 10 October  
1945.

*M. M. M. M.*

Commissioner.

*J. Atkinson*



On this Thirtieth day of May, One thousand nine hundred and forty-seven, Thomas Mervyn ATKINS, residing at 10 Bonna Vista Ave, MARQUESSA, - occupation, Country traveller for the firm of Messrs Bennett and Barkell Ltd, Sydney, makes oath and states as follows:-

- (1) Ex NX26968, Corporal, No.1 Coy. A.A.S.C., 8 Division, A.I.F. Captured at Singapore on the 15 February 1942.
- (2) Whilst a Prisoner of War I was at a time confined to OSAKA Camp. When at Osaka Camp our strength was 200. In May 1945, 167 men left this camp, including myself, for TAKEFU Camp, and were joined en route by 33 Americans, bringing our strength back to 200.
- (3) On arrival at Takefu we were set to work in a factory producing carbon elements and fertilizer. The work was wickedly hard. Weakened as we were by insufficient food at Osaka, and at Takefu our rations were considerably less. Three times a day we each received less than a small bowl of rice. The only vegetable given us being carrot tops, potato tops and a seaweed. Fish occasionally came to the camp, but our share, after the Japs had pilfered it was a piece less than the size of a matchbox per man.
- (4) Attached to this camp were three Japanese Army men who were there permanently to guard us.
- (5) One of these men, the senior, I knew as the "BOMBER". One of his subordinates being known to me as "HORSE FACE", the pther as "PRETTY BOY". I quote these seemingly factitious name s as you will most likely be able to identify them from these.
- (6) We were forced to work in clogs, having no issue of boots, and the majority of men's feet broke out in festers and sores caused by the fertilizer and carbon. Dr. STENNING, in charge of our camp Medical did most sterling work but was handicapped by lack of medicine and drugs. Sick men were every day dragged from their beds and forced to work.
- (7) During the time I was in the camp, I suffered two severe bashings. The first was at the hands of a civilian guard attached to the factory, who was known as "GOLD TEETH". He set about me with a hardwood stick in the shape of a sword, severely hitting me about the right side of the head and neck, the blows finally making me unconscious. From injuries I received in this attack I now receive a pension. The other bashing was given me by the three Japanese Army guards as mentioned in paragraphs (4) and (5) above.

(Continued - page 2)

Signature of deponent  
Witness to signature

*Thomas Mervyn Atkins*  
 .....  
*John Beffron*  
 .....  
 Justice of the Peace.

- (8) In July 1945, Allied planes raided a village adjacent to us and I was seen one night looking through the ventilation slats at the fires caused by the raiding planes. The next morning at 7.30 these three guards came to where I was working, stood me to attention and fired questions at me in Japanese language. I naturally could NOT answer nor understand them and when I told them so they set about bashing me.
- (9) The ringleader was the senior Jap known as the "BOMBER". I was bashed about the face with a rifle butt and kicked in the legs and testicles. After the three of them had been at me for an hour and I could stand no more, I was forced to kneel down on gravel with my feet extended - a piece of 2 inch by 2 inch hardwood was placed behind my knees on which I was forced to sit, then a four gallon tin of water was placed on my knees. After an hour of this I became unconscious - I was revived with water, threatened with a bayonet and set back in the original position. The pain caused me from this torture was shocking. At approximately 10 A.M. a Jap civilian foreman at the works intervened with the Jap soldiers and through his efforts I was allowed to go.
- (10) My workmates carried me to a shed where after about one hour I was able to stand up. Witnesses to this attack were as follows: L/cpl. H.ROBERTS, of Victoria - Dvr.W.ASKIN of Q'land- Pte.L.MORRIS of Melbourne, Pte.C.BILLS of Naremburn NSW, and Pte.D.MEDCRAP of Kensington, NSW. A witness of the first attack by the Jap civilian guard was a R.NEWLAND of Katoomba, NSW. I regret that I cannot think of the names of other men who were there at the time. The officer in charge of the camp was informed of these beatings and tortures but made no move to stop them.
- (11) Whilst in this camp the Japanese Officer in charge, had in the store a large number of Red Cross parcels which were NOT issued to us. At this time every man was in very poor physical condition and this food was urgently needed by us.

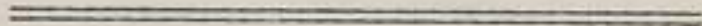
Sworn by the deponent )  
 Thomas Mervyn ATKINS )  
 at SYDNEY on the )  
 Thirtieth day of May, )  
 1947, (One thousand )  
 nine hundred and forty )  
 seven.) )



.....  
 Signature of deponent.

BEFORE ME

*Jessie Haffron*  
 .....  
 Justice of the Peace  
 for the State of New South Wales.



AFFIDAVIT

897

Summary of Examination of Lionel Atkins formerly NX 3598 of the Australian Imperial Forces.

Residing at Dilli, Portuguese Timor

duly sworn states:- I am 23 years of age, of Australian nationality and born at Miranda, New South Wales.

My permanent home is University Street, Miranda.

As a member of the 2nd Fourth Independent Company, I came to Portuguese Timor in September 1942 in the Australian destroyer "HMAS Voyager" and stayed in Portuguese Timor till January 1943, when the whole 2/4th Independent Coy., but for 17 men, were evacuated from Portuguese Timor. About a month later, these men were also evacuated from Timor to Fremantle and later rejoined the Company. The 2/4th Ind/ Coy. came to Timor to relieve the 2/2nd Ind. Coy.

While I was with my sub-section near Ermera a few natives came to ask for help against the Japanese who were burning their villages. This village was about three hours by foot from Ermera. I and four others of our sub-section went to the village and actually saw it burning. When we became near the Japanese opened fire. With the Japanese were about two hundred natives and the ones that had rifles also opened on us. I clearly saw the natives armed with rifles firing on us.

The Japanese and the armed natives were firing on us with explosive ammunition.

One of the natives who showed us the way to the village was wounded in the back. The wound was about two inches wide and two inches deep and I could easily see the wound was caused by explosive ammunition. The wound ran right across the back from one side to the other. I also saw several holes in the trees where the explosive bullets hit the tree. They were holes that could not possibly been made by ordinary bullets and one could easily put one's fists into the holes. Apart from that, I heard the explosion every time a bullet hit a tree. After we had driven out the Japs, I saw in the village two corpses, one of a man shot and one of a person lying burned in the smouldering ruins of a native hut.

The natives of the village told us that the Japanese had thrown this person - according to the natives it was a man -- alive in the fire.

Prior to my membership of the 2/4th Independent Coy., I had served in the combat areas in the Middle East, Libya, Greece and Crete and am able to state from my experience gained there that the explosive bullets used by the Japanese were entirely different to those used in those areas.

Dilli  
June 17 1946

signed *L. Atkins*

Sworn before me, Hugo Pos, Captain of the Netherlands East Indies Army, this Monday, June 17th, 1946

signed  
*H. Pos*

IN THE SUPREME COURT }  
OF VICTORIA }

I, IAN ALEX ATKYNS of Weed St DONALD in the State of Victoria  
ex-VX30257 Australian Imperial Forces make oath and say as  
follows :-

1. THAT between the periods of 15 Feb 42 and the end of hostilities  
I was a Prisoner of War at the KAWASAKI WAR CAMP, OSAKI AREA and  
SINGAPORE AREA. Of this time I spent 2 years 10 months in KAWASAKI  
CAMP : period Dec 42 until May 45.

2. THAT during the time I was in KAWASAKI Camp I can recall the  
following ill-treatment of POWs being committed :-

3. THAT Pte Jack HILL was accused of trading a belt with a Japanese  
guard. It so happened that one of the guards had asked HILL for  
the belt and HILL had no option but to give it to him. The Sgt-Maj.  
SAKAMOTO (known as "Big Bill") learned of the transaction and came  
to the guard house and bashed HILL with his fists and also belted him  
with the belt in question. The belt was an Army Pattern Belts Leather  
with brass buckle. At conclusion of the bashing HILL had weals across  
the face and was in a very dazed condition. This occurred approximately  
April 1943.

4. THAT on one occasion 90 members of the Royal Scottish Regt were  
brought into the Camp in a very weakened condition. They were stood  
on the parade ground whilst a hut was being prepared for them. On being  
called upon to enter the hut, those men who were too weak to hurry were  
badly beaten by MORIMOTO (known also as "Bonnie Leslie" and "Jack Oakie")  
an Officer, across their backs with the flat of his sword. Twenty-seven  
of these prisoners died within a very short time.

5. On page 2.

L.A.H. 

5. THaT a Japanese Private nicknamed "Bat-eye", "Gangrene" and "The Cats" (the same man) ill-treated every prisoner who infringed any regulation in the smallest detail. Usual methods were bashings with fists, bayonet scabbard and also kickings with the booted foot.

6. THaT a Japanese known as MIHARA, an interpreter in the Camp, ill-treated the prisoners in various ways but ~~mainly~~ how they suffered most was by his stealing of the prisoners rations.

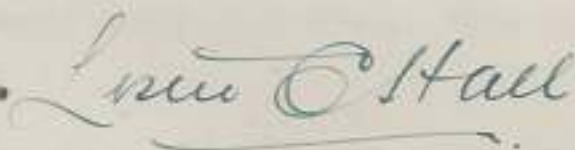
7. THaT two medical orderlies known as "DOPEY" and "HaPPY" I ~~have~~ had frequently seen bashing sick personnel with fists. These two also made a racket of selling medical supplies to outsiders. Most prisoners preferred to stay away from sick parades because of having to stand to attention for long periods .

SWORN at Donald in the ~~State~~ State )  
of Victoria this 15<sup>th</sup> day of  
MAY, One Thousand Nine Hundred  
and Forty-seven by the above-  
named



IAN ALEX ATKYNS

Before me •



~~Justice of the Peace,~~

a Commissioner of the Supreme Court of the State of Victoria for taking affidavits.

WAR OF 1939-45

Revised from 1

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