

CHRONOLOGICAL RECORD OF MOVEMENTS

OF

VX 18824 PTE. GEORGE ALLAN SAVAGE

SINCE DATE OF CAPTURE.

1 Jun. 41	Captured in Crete
3 Jul."	Escaped from P.W. Camp in Crete
Approx. 2 Aug."	Recaptured and confined in another temporary P.W. Camp in Crete. (near Rethymno)
" 14 Sept."	Entered RETHYMNO HOSPITAL.
" 2 Oct."	Discharge from RETHYMNO HOSPITAL and returned to P.W. Camp.
" 11 Oct."	Escaped from P.W. Camp and fled to the hills.
" 4 Nov. "	First attack of illness after discharge from Rethymno Hospital.
23 Nov."	Escaped from Crete.
28 Nov."	Arrived in Alexandria
Approx. 20 Dec."	Second attack of illness after discharge from Rethymno Hospital.
4 Aug. 42	Arrived in Australia.

STATEMENT

SECRET

by

VX.18824 PTE. George Allan SAVAGE

2/5 BN. A.I.F. (NOW 3RD SALVAGE & RECOVERY, FISHERMEN'S BEND

Present address: Salvage Detachment, Camp Hdqrs, Watsonia.

I was captured in Crete on 1 Jun.41 and was held in a P.W. camp there until 3 Jul.41. At that time I was a Corporal, but I and other N.C.Os were compelled to work. We were promised 18 drachma a day, but actually I never received any pay, although the reason for non-payment may possibly have been connected with my subsequent escapes.

On 3 Jul.41 I escaped with 2 others and dressed as civilians we lived in the hills with the Greeks. On being recaptured we were court-martialled and sentenced to a term of hard labour. At the court-martial we were not provided with counsel, but we were given the services of an interpreter. The hard labour consisted of 10 hours work a day erecting defence works around an aerodrome, and wire entanglements along the beaches. One meal only a day was provided, consisting of a handful of cooked beans and one slice of Greek bread at mid-day. About $\frac{1}{2}$ pint of drinking water was provided in the morning and in the evening, but nothing to drink was allowed with the mid-day meal. In consequence of this treatment I lost nearly 3 stone in weight. Later we were set to work mixing concrete at the BETHYMNO HOSPITAL.

Shortly after arrival at the place of work outside the hospital, a doctor came along and after casually watching us, he approached me and turned up my upper eyelid. The following day he came again and ordered me inside the hospital, and gave me a thorough general examination, x-rayed my chest, tested my urine and also my blood. (My blood grouping is B3). He then stated that I was sick, conducted me to a ward in which there were a number of German patients, and ordered me into one of 5 beds that had been set apart in the ward. During the course of the same day, 4 other Australians, names and numbers as follows, who had been working with me were also brought in and made to occupy the other 4 beds :

VX17814	Pte. D. CHEESEMAN	2/5 Bn. A.I.F.
VX4267	" S. WILLIAMS	" " "
NX8673	" J. DEVLIN	2/3 Bn. A.I.F.
NX5009	" W. LINDLEY	" "

On the following day we were again examined, temperature, pulse, and blood and urine tests. Later that day the doctor returned and withdrew half a syringe of blood (size of syringe about 6" long x $\frac{1}{2}$ " diameter) from the arm of a German patient in the room and immediately injected it into a vein in my arm, after first applying a tourniquet to my upper arm. The blood went into my arm without clotting.

The other four Australians received similar injections, but I do not know from whom the blood was taken, as I was not paying attention to them at the time.

The following day the doctor returned and after the customary examination, temperature, pulse, blood and urine he injected into the vein at the same place in my arm a clear fluid. The others were similarly treated. Following this injection we all became, within the space of 24 hours, feverish with high pulses, and felt very sick.

We were not provided with any medicine as a relief, but every morning thereafter until the 10th day the doctor examined us - eyes, temperature, pulse, blood, urine, and prodded and tested us for pains in various parts of our bodies. It seemed to me that he appeared to be disappointed on observing the colour of my urine.

By the 10th day the fever and body pains had gradually subsided, and we were then given a second injection of blood, on this occasion in the buttocks. I do not know from whom the blood which was injected into me on this occasion was taken. Two hours later we were all very ill, suffering all the discomfiture of the first attack, but to a greater degree.

On the 11th day a clear fluid was injected into each of us and thereafter until the 18th day the procedure was the same as between the 2nd and 10th days, except that several of my friends had a tube inserted into their stomachs through their throats. They did not know whether anything was put into the stomach or withdrawn from it. No medicine was administered to us, but our eyes were examined continually and each day we were subjected to a general examination.

The other occupants of the ward, who appeared to be Germans were all very sick, and received tablets and various other doses of medicine. I do not know what illnesses they were suffering from, or whether they all were suffering from the same complaint. We understood they were suffering from some fever. Several of them had a very yellow complexion, and one particularly was yellow in the eyes.

On the 18th day we were beginning to recover and I protested (in which protest the other 4 joined) against the treatment we were receiving. I stated that we all knew that we were being used for experimental purposes and objected. I was thereupon pulled out of bed, and punched and kicked by a W.O. and 2 Sgts. We were then told to dress and we were taken back to the P.W. Camp. No explanation as to our treatment was given by the doctor or the hospital authorities.

On arrival at the camp we were interrogated by the Camp Commandant as to what had caused us to be hospitalized and the treatment which we had received at the hospital. After hearing our story he became enraged at the hospital authorities, who had apparently informed him that we had fallen sick while working and required hospital treatment. He appeared to recognise that we had been wrongfully used for experimental purposes and apparently feeling his responsibility for us he was very indignant at the action of the hospital doctor. He stated that we would be allowed one week's rest from work, and he gave us a good meal, which we believed he drew from his own rations. He was sympathetic towards us, and stated that we would not again be sent to work near the BETHYMNO HOSPITAL.

After a week we were set to work again at the aerodrome and shortly after that I escaped alone from the P.W. camp to the hills, and later from Crete to Egypt. My four companions in the hospital remained on Crete.

I have several times had attacks of illness which I believe are attributable to the treatment which I received in the Rethymno hospital. The first attack, so far as I now recollect was about 4 weeks after discharge from the hospital, and the next attack about 4 to 6 weeks later. On each occasion I felt

very ill and had a high fever and body pains, especially in the back, and also cramp in the legs. The fever and illness subsided after about a week.

I had another attack about 9 months later (about 9 Sep.42) when in Seymour Camp and I was hospitalized. I had no temperature but a high pulse and aches and pains. I was later transferred to Stonnington. I understand that my case was diagnosed as mild anxiety neurosis. Later I was boarded at Caulfield and classed as A2.

I confirm the foregoing statement

G. Savage VX18824

10 Apr 43

AL 13(a)

Bureau 203

Capt Graham G.S.I. advised me by phone on 23 Mar 43 that a Sgt escapee How Aite has a story of being used for malaria experiments. He says Maj Russell Buchanan

Feb 25

Go DDMVS Vick G C can lead up trace the MCO answered. Try to locate him, if on interviewing you find anything on his story take a statement with a representative of DDMVS present to check medical aspects

Keep me advised

J. L. Cannon
D Col
27/3/43 DPM 41

Capt Watkins
for attention
2/2/43

TELEPHONE F 4646 DDMS/ /S; 2/4p.m

ARMY		
G255	1	79

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES.—SOUTHERN COMMAND

IN REPLY PLEASE QUOTE
No.

50241

DDMS VICTORIA L OF C AREA
AAMC Drill Hall
Cnr William & A'Beckett Sts
MELBOURNE 1.

2 APRIL 43

2 APR 1943

Checked for
Indexing

RECEIVED
3 APR AM

DGMS
LHQ

Alleged Experimentation on Australian POW in German Hospital
VX 18824 Pte SAVAGE G. A. - 2/5 Btn

1. The case of the above soldier was brought to notice by DPW LHQ who requested that particulars be forwarded to you, for consideration and service.
2. Copy of Clinical Notes from 107 Aust GH of 16.9.42 and 115 (H'berg) Military Hosp of 9.10.42, forwarded herewith, are self explanatory, and the story, if true, and there seems no reason to doubt the veracity, is one which merits any protest which can be lodged by DPW.
3. DPW has suggested that, after perusal of these enclosures, the soldier should be interviewed after which any necessary action could be considered.
4. This soldier appeared before a Referee (Psych) Medical Board, Melbourne, 11.11.42, and was classified Class A2. Apart from the fact he was rather underweight and mildly anxious about himself, he did not appear to be permanently invalidated by his alleged experiences.

Encl. (2)

*checked by
255/17*

P. Endershaw Colonel
DDMS VICTORIA L OF C AREA

Officer of DPW interviewed the above, and brought him along to this office on 2/4/43. He is to forward the copy of the report to this Directorate.

DGMS
5 APR 1943

Passed to A.M.D. 2
6443 aom

Hold
19/4

G. M. S. 550774
File No

No in
Admission
and Discharge
Book 5951
Year 1942

2/5 Aust Inf Bn. Age 21 Service 33/12

Disease P.U.O Pyrexia of Uncertain Origin

C & D: 12 months irregular illness

Past History:

Present Illness:

Taken prisoner in Crete June 1941

June 22nd: Inoculation by Germans; said to be T.A.B.

July 3rd: Escaped by pushing guard into Telegraph pole. Wandered about for 6 weeks, then got caught again. Taken to prison Camp, sent round to work at German hospital. German MO pounced on patient, took him inside and took a sample of blood and urine, and told patient he was sick, although he felt well. The X-rayed chest, and examined thoroughly and put him in a fever ward (which probably was full of typhus patients). Next day same thing happened to 4 other British prisoners. Blood taken from sick German patients in the Ward and some injected intravenously into each of the British patients. Every day, sample of blood taken from each of the 5 British prisoners and examined together with their urine. For two or 3 days each of the prisoners felt pretty crook with high temperatures.

After 10 days another blood injection into buttock. Between these two blood injections they were given injections of clear fluid. After 2nd dose blood more clear fluid samples of blood taken for 18 days together with urine, then kicked out of the hospital.

3 weeks later skittled a guard again and escaped to hills. Slept in snow for a while and then felt ill. Was in bed in Shepherds hut for 10 days. 3-4 weeks later escaped from Island in fishing smak, back to 2/5 Btn in Syria. After one week became ill and was sent to 1 Aust GH where he was very ill. On discharge from 1 Aust GH, given a letter which briefly said "interesting Pyrexia which we have investigated without success. Send patient to us if he becomes ill again." (patient has this note) Was well until return to Australia, now ill again.

P.U.O.

Apparently Typhus was the epidemic while in the German Military Hospital

The injections given produced sweating malaise, dying out in 10 days.

Then given another injection which would reproduce the symptoms.

1st injection- Blood - taken from a sick German)

4 days later- Injection clear fluid)

6 days later- " blood) about 14 months ago

4 days later- " clear fluid) in G. M. Hosp.

Blood was taken daily - water tested daily - abdomen and loins examined daily.

About 3 weeks ago after out of hospital. Further attack of ...

About 3 weeks ago after out of hospital, further attack of sweating and malaise lasting 1 week.

5 & 6 weeks: similar attack at 1 Aust GH - in hospital 1 month

Discharged Jan 42, and has been well since.

2 days ago: Shivers Malaise and frequency, but no sweats; some pain in back.

O.E.: Well nourished healthy looking lad. T 98 P 116

Lungs: Clear

Heart: No enlarged; sounds regular clear BP 140/90

Abdo: Clear

Throat:

Teeth:

CNS: General nerves Reflexes equal and active

17.9.42: Sent for Blood examination - Urine for microscopy

18.9.42 See result of Blood Test - Feels well today.

19.9.42: Feels well.

26.9.42: Would Maj Smith please advise any significance in Blood film.

I would recommend that he be re moved about again.

23.9.42: Up and about ~~again~~

25.9.42: Transfer to Stonnington for about 1 or 2 weeks.

115 (HEIDELBERG) MILITARY HOSPITAL.

LM
RE: 28824 -- SAVAGE, G.A. -- PTE. -- 2.5 BTN. 0 1/2 Seas. AGE 31.

DISEASE: PYREXIA OF UNCERTAIN ORIGIN.

9.10.42.

CAPT CATARINICH reports:

Enlisted A.I.F. 28 ~~months~~ March 1940. Chest X-rayed on enlistment. Went to M.E. 14th April, 1940. Slight attack sandfly fever July 1940. No malaria: No jaundice.

In September 1941 while a prisoner in German hospital at Crete was feeling very well at time when a German doctor had patient admitted to hospital where he had chest X-rayed and urine tested a blood sample taken.

Few days later was given about 10 cc of blood (from a sick German patient) intravenously.

A few days later was given an intramuscular injection of a clear fluid (about 1cc) into arm and 8 days later was given about 10 ccs of blood (presumably taken from the German patient) into his buttock.

Two days later was given another injection of clear fluid about 1cc into arm.

Each day a sample of blood was taken from vein^g and urine examined. Patient was thoroughly examined particularly about loins and abdomen.

Four other prisoners were similarly experimented on. Two had stomach contents examined prior to the blood injection.

Within 12-24 hours following the first injection of blood patient ran a temp 38.6 C per axilla had hot and cold shivers and general malaise, muscle weakness and aches and pains particularly in back and these pains would seem to work up towards the neck. Would be well again in one week.

Following the 2nd injection of blood had a much quicker reaction - within $\frac{1}{2}$ hour and symptoms were more severe. This lasted again about 1 week.

Patient escaped into mountains and 4-6 weeks after the injections had a recurrence of symptoms.

Escaped again from Crete and went to Egypt and then went to rejoin battalion in Syria, but again got return of symptoms - about 1 month from time of escaping from Crete. Investigated in 1 A.G.H. when condition was thought to be black-water fever, but no definite diagnosis was arrived at.

Since then has been well until he was back in Australia when got a recurrence about 10th September and was admitted to Pucka Hospital.

Clinically nothing was discovered except that he had an eosinophil count of 10%. Possibility of typhus was discussed. From Pucka was sent to Stonnington and thence to 115 G.H. for further investigation.

At moment feels well except for some ache across lumbar region which does not greatly inconvenience him, but which is constantly present.

For complete blood examination. Liver and spleen not palpable but slightly tender on palpation in R and L. hypochondrium.

11.10.42

LT COL LOVE reports:

Pyrexial attacks September 1941 (following inoculation of blood in Crete) October 1941, December 1941, Sept. 1942.

Last attack in September 1942, patient felt somewhat the same but there was no pyrexia and his back was bad.

Typhus and malaria were present in Crete but there seems no evidence of typhus in this man. He probably had or was given malaria.

Attack last month does not seem to resemble any of the previous attacks e.g. no fever and presence of lumbar fibrositis.

At present has dull ache in back - worse at night when going to sleep.

P.T.O.

WILHELM (LUELD) MILITARY HOSPITAL.

-- SAVAGE, G.A. -- PTE. -- 2/5 BTN. O/SEAS. AGE 21.

PAGE 2.

11.10.42
LT COL LOVE reports:

There is a lumbar fibrositis present. Teeth all good.
Tonsils absent.
If blood examination negative he can return to Unit.

12.10.42

MAJOR LUCY BRYCE reports:

HAEMOGLOBIN : 105% (=14.7 gms. per 100 ccs.)

RE BLOOD CELLS : 5,150,000 per cmm.

WHITE BLOOD CELLS : 12,000 per cmm.

FILM: R ed cells normal in size, shape and staining.

Platelets plentiful.

Differential Leucocyte Count.

Neutrophil Polymorphonuclears	=	52%
Eosinophil	"	10%
Basophil	"	1%
Old Metamyelocytes	=	4%
Monocytes	=	8%
Lymphocytes	=	25%

CAPT MERRY reports:

Blood film within normal limits.

14.10.42

R/T/U/ Five days light duties.

14.10.42

DISCHARGED TO DUTY.

115 (HEIDELBERG) MILITARY HOSPITAL.

19th October, 1942.