

Ex 1623

Evidentiary Document # 5457

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SYNOPSIS

HAINAN ISLAND.

a) Prosecution Document numbered 5335, the Affidavit of Dr. W. AITKEN, is now offered for identification, the marked excerpts being produced in evidence. This Affidavit states that in November, 1942, 263 officers and men P/W arrived in Hainan. The accommodation for the draft which consisted of sick, weak and aged men, was appalling. Huts were infested with vermin. Sanitary arrangements were primitive and since the camp was situated near a drainage swamp, mosquitoes were ubiquitous. Food was generally inadequate and sometimes grossly insufficient.

Between November, 1942 and August, 1945, there were 2,430 admissions to hospital. There were 60 deaths due to disease.

Sick men were forced to go on working parties, where the work was heavy. Men were frequently beaten.

A complaint to the Camp Commandant regarding the reduction of food resulted in the witness and another officer being beaten. Requests to the Japanese M.O. to supply drugs and for improved diet were ignored. Deaths were sometimes shown on death certificates as due to starvation. The M.O.'s reply was that if the witness continued to show death as due to starvation, he would show the prisoners what death from starvation really meant.

b) Prosecution document numbered 5264A, the Affidavit of Major I. F. MACRAE, is produced for identification, and the marked excerpts therein now offered in evidence. The document states that in November, 1942, the witness arrived in Hainan with a draft of men. He confirms the conditions described in the preceding document No. 5335. The men were engaged on building works for the use of the Japanese Army, and were beaten and kicked while so doing.

Many men went to work barefoot, owing to lack of footwear.

In Haisho there were many coolies working. They were starved and emaciated in appearance. The witness saw the dead bodies of coolies dragged out of the hospital, when he passed by; sometimes as many as ten to twelve.

For breaches of discipline, coolies were brought to the P/W Camp where they were flogged and given the water torture.

In July, 1943, about 120 Chinese were bayoneted to death outside the Camp.

c) Prosecution Document numbered 5250, the Affidavit of A. F. WINSOR, is now introduced for identification, the marked excerpts thereof being offered in evidence. The document states that about 120 Chinese were bayoneted to death in 1943, because narcotics had been illegally brought into a coolie camp and these men chosen at random were executed as a warning for the future.

d) prosecution document numbered 5251, the Affidavit of MAJOR R.G. TURNER, is produced for identification, the marked excerpts thereof being introduced in evidence. This Affidavit exhibits 29 official photographs taken by an Allied officer of prisoners of war recovered at Hainan Island in August, 1945. These exhibits are now tendered in evidence.