

IPS 5035

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HARRY STEWART GARDINER.

Evidentiary Document
5035B

NX.34480 Cpl. Harry Stewart Gardiner, being duly sworn, gives the following evidence:

My full name is Harry Stewart Gardiner. My home address is Mountain Glen, Gulgong, New South Wales.

I was first taken prisoner on 15 February 1942 and was imprisoned in Changi until about May 1942.

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In May 1942 I went to Victoria Point, Burma, and was there until about August 1942.

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In August 1942 I went to Tavoy by boat.

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In October 1942 we went up to Moulmein by boat.

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We arrived at 4 Kilo camp in about October and were there until the end of February 1943. There were 1000 Australians there under Major Green. We had a fair amount of rice and we were allowed two small beasts; the Japanese took about half and left us the remainder. Our huts had bamboo slat decking and were not sufficient to prevent the weather coming in. We had no mosquito nets. We were engaged in building a railway embankment and bridges. At the beginning, we had to do one cubic metre per man each day; we had to dig it out and cart the dirt up on to the embankment. This usually took us from about sunrise until about four or five o'clock in the afternoon. The health of the men was fairly good although a few were sick with dysentery and tropical ulcers. We had no footwear and were forced to go to work barefooted. The Japanese engineers were fairly decent and the guards also did not cause us any trouble.

From 4 Kilo we went to 14 Kilo camp; there were about 1000 Australians altogether. The food was insufficient here and the men began to suffer from starvation and malnutrition. Our accommodation was similar to what we had before and we still had to go to work with bare feet. We were now required to do 1.7 cubic metres per man per day and as we were digging in some pretty deep cuttings, the work was very much harder. One man died from dysentery and the Japanese also began to bash the men at this camp. They said we were lagging on the job and not doing sufficient work; we were belted with bamboos. Capt. Mull, Spr. Bell and another fellow tried to escape from the camp. One contracted dysentery the first night he was out so he lay out for ten days to give the others a chance of getting away and then he gave himself up. He was shot. The other two reached the Selwyn River, where Capt. Mull was shot and Spr. Bell was shot in the shoulder.

While at 4 Kilo camp, Driver Whitfield tried to escape. He was taken to Thambaisait and I was there when he came in. We heard that he had been pardoned but one morning I went up to the end of our hut where Whitfield was boiling a billy to make tea. The Japanese came up with a lorry and four men with a corporal, and were armed with rifles and carried a coffin. They grabbed Whitfield, tied his hands behind him and drove off with him in the truck to the cemetery. There was low bush between us and the cemetery and the Japanese put guards with fixed bayonets along there to stop us going across into the cemetery. Then we heard shots and the truck came back without Whitfield and the coffin. We did not see him again. Spr. Bell was also brought back to Thambaisait and shot

As a result of the men escaping, the Japanese took Capt. West, the orderly officer of the day, into the jungle and flogged him with a bull's penis which had been dried and had a wire shoved down through it. I saw him after the flogging and he was very badly hurt; he had weals all over him. The doctor treated him but he stayed in the camp. He recovered from the beating.

From 14 Kilo we went to 75 Kilo and remained there until March or April 1943. Our food became worse and was absolutely insufficient, with the result that the men began to go down in health. The Japanese lined up the sick and the guard went through the men himself and picked out those whom he thought should go to work; as a result, many sick men were forced to work. The accommodation was the same as we had before and we were very much overcrowded. There was a lot of dysentery and we contracted a jungle fever which was very bad. Tropical ulcers also gave us trouble. The really bad cases were shifted down to Thambaisait. The sick men who were made to work were sometimes unable to work, and in such cases the Japanese slapped them and tried to force them to work; however, no severe beatings were administered in this camp.

We left 75 Kilo at the beginning of the wet season, about May or June, and marched to 105 Kilo. That was a very bad march and we had no food. It took us a day and a half to march the 30 kilometres. Those who were really sick were left behind at 75 Kilo but the remainder were made to do the march. Quite a few collapsed on the road; some of these were put into trucks while others were helped along by their mates.

We reached 105 Kilo in about May or June and left there on 28 December 1943. Here we found the food to be practically non-existent. We had to go back to 95 Kilo and carry the supplies up ourselves. The men continued to go down in health. Tropical ulcers, fever and dysentery set in pretty badly and there was not sufficient room in the R.A.P. to hold all the men. There was absolutely nothing with which they could be treated. In fact, I was on sick parade myself one morning when Capt. Higgins, the Medical Officer, told one of the lads, "I am sorry, but there is little I can do for you. There is some charcoal, some sulphur and some lime. You can take your pick, but none of it will do you any good." I did not know of anyone who was really sick being forced to work, but those with only minor complaints were forced out. Our accommodation was the same as we had had all along and we were still very much overcrowded. The roofs leaked and water seced through the huts; we were wet all the time. We had very little clothes and no boots, which resulted in most of the tropical ulcers. I had one beating because I had an ulcer and did not go to work. The doctor said he would put me on camp duty, but the Japanese lined us up and said I was not sick enough to get off work; I was then hit with a bamboo. There were more beatings in that camp than in any other camp we had been in, but none was very serious. The Japanese used to go through the sick parade in the morning and the guard would pick those men who had to go to work. A camp was opened at 55 Kilo and all the serious cases were sent back there.

From 105 Kilo we went to Tamakan, in Thailand, where we arrived on New Year's Day, 1944.

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ハリー・スチュアート・ガーデイナー

N X 三四四八〇　ハリー・スチュアート・ガーデイナー
伍長ハ正當ニ宣誓言シ次ノ證言ヲシタ

私ノ姓名ハ、ハリー・スチュアート・ガーデイナーデ
アリマス。私ノ本籍ハ、ニューサウス・ウエルズ・グ
ルゴング・マウンテン・ジレンデアリマス。私が最初
ニ俘虜ニナツタノハ一九四二年二月十五日デアリマス
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一九四二年五月私ハビルマ・ヴィクトリア・ポイント
へ赴キ一九四二年八月頃迄同地ニ居リマシタ。同地ノ
狀況ハ非常ニヨクアリマセンデシタ。藥品ハ事實上皆
無デアリマシタ。食物ハ不充分デアツタガ外デ物ヲ買
フコトガ出来マシタ。我々ハ殆ド働カナカッタ。歩イ
テハイケナカッタ道ヲ歩イタト言フヤウナ實際何デモ
ナイコトデ日本人ニ頻繁ニ平手デ打タレマシタ。
一九四二年八月ニ私ハ「タヴオイ」へ行キマシタ
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我々ハ一九四二年十月ノ末迄「タヴオイ」ニ居リマシ
タ。食事ハ少シヨクナリ、我々ノヤツテホル仕事ニハ
充分デシタ。我々ハ輕労働丈ヲヤツテイマシタ。

我々ノ收容所ハ煉瓦建ノ校舎デ、カナリ良好デシタ
我々ハヨイ宿舍ヲ持ツテイマシタ。我々ノ衣類ハイタ
ミ始メ又非常ニ不足シテ居マシタ。赤痢ガ少々アツタ
ガ病人ハ病院ヘ移サレマシタ

INTERNATIONAL PROSECUTION SECTION

REQUEST FORM

1945

INCIDENT - ACCUSED

JUDGE ALBERT WILLIAMS

The undersigned requests the consideration of Document # 5035
(describe):

2 Excerpts from records of evidence of Cpl. Harry Stewart
Gardiner - ~~Singapore~~ Burma-Thailand Ry. and BURMA.
(Originals of records also herewith)

for introduction in evidence (specify purpose)

2 Documents 5035 A
5035 B

R. J. Davis

Staff Attorney

2 May

1946

7 MAY 1946

TO THE DOCUMENT OFFICER:

The above document has been approved for processing by you
with changes as follows:

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Judge Albert Williams
Document Control Attorney

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Secretary

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