

Ex 1600-4

Doc. No. 5101

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DEPOSITION

CANADA
Province of Manitoba
To Wit

) In the Matter of personnel held
) Prisoner of War by the Japanese and
) in the matter of the Deposition of
) H. 6047, L/Sgt. William Albert HALL
) Winnipeg Grenadiers, C.A.

I, No. H. 6047, L/Sgt. William Albert HALL, a member of His Majesty's Canadian Army, make oath and say:-

1. I am No. H. 6047, L/Sgt. William Albert HALL; I reside at 134 Main Street, Rideout, Kenora, Ontario. I am a member of His Majesty's Canadian Army and at all times pertinent hereto a member of the Winnipeg Grenadiers, C. A.

2. I was with "A" Company of the Winnipeg Grenadiers during the fighting on Hong Kong Island and was captured at Mount Butler on the 19th of December, 1941.

3. During the 19th of December, 1941, our Company had been fighting on Mount Butler under Major Greshan. Although I do not know the size of the Japanese forces with which we were engaged, I believe that it was at least a regiment. We had been fighting since dawn and were completely cut off from the other units when at about 4:00 p.m. Lieut. McKillop, who was the Senior Officer left alive, ordered our surrender, as our ammunition was practically exhausted and the large proportion of our Company had been killed or were badly wounded. About two platoons of Japanese dis-armed us; our numbers having been reduced to twenty all ranks.

4. We remained in the position where we had surrendered for about fifteen or twenty minutes and were then marched down towards a shack, about a half mile below in the valley called Butler's Gap and where we were forced to spend the night. On the way down, just as we were passing our old anti-aircraft post, three Grenadiers, namely: Pte. Whalen, B.B., L/Cpl. Land, R., and Pte. Osadchuk, were hauled out of our ranks by some Japanese soldiers who had been resting at the side of the path and before I had taken more than four or five paces, I saw Pte. Whalen hit on the head several times with the butt of a rifle and as he fell to the ground a Japanese soldier shot and killed him with a revolver. At the same time as Pte. Whalen was being murdered, L/Cpl. Land and Pte. Osadchuk were bayoneted by at least three or four other Japanese soldiers, and fell to the ground and appeared to die almost instantly. I could not identify the Japanese soldiers responsible for this and I do not know the name of their unit, but Sgt. Pugsley, Pte. Stewart,

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Pte. Bell, and L/Sgt. Currie, all of the Winnipeg Grenadiers, were also present.

5. There were about six Japanese soldiers who were actually responsible for the killing of Pte. Whalen, L/Cpl. Land and Pte. Osadchuk, although the soldiers who were marching us down to the shack took no steps to prevent these soldiers being murdered.

6. About fifty yards further down the path we came to a road along which we proceeded for about 200 or 300 yards until we came to the shack. It was here that I first saw a Japanese Officer although at the place we surrendered there had been several Noncommissioned officers and there also had been several Non-commissioned officers guarding us on the way down to the shack. I do not know the name or number of the Unit to which any of these men belonged, but it definitely was an Infantry Unit and it must have been a first or second regiment on to Hong Kong Island.

7. The Japanese Officer whom I saw at the shack on the 19th of December, 1941, was an Infantry Officer. He was short and stocky and weighed approximately 150 lbs. He was a Lieutenant; clean shaven, and spoke English slightly. I believe that he was an Officer belonging to the Unit which took us prisoners as our guards appeared to know him well.

8. During the night of the 19th of December, 1941, I was in the shack with approximately ninety other prisoners who included about thirty Canadians and the rest being made up of British, Indian, Hong Kong volunteers and one Chinaman. There were three Canadian Officers and one British officer in the shack. The ten Canadians who joined our group were brought down to the shack at a later time and they were all Winnipeg Grenadiers; but the only one I can remember by name was Sergeant Marsh.

9. During the night our own Artillery scored two direct hits on the shack and many of the prisoners of war including two of the officers were killed, and another officer Lieut. V. Mitchell of the Winnipeg Grenadiers was very badly wounded and I believe was killed in this shack by the Japanese after we had left in the morning.

10. On the morning of the 20th of December, 1941, those of us who were able to walk were moved to North Point Camp. Those who were unable to walk were left in the shack and none of them were heard of again. We were not permitted to carry those who were unable to walk; the Japanese guards stated that only those capable of walking unaided could proceed. Although Lieut. McKillop had been badly wounded, when the shack was hit during the night, he was able

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to walk unaided and he proceeded with us. I am convinced that the Japanese killed all those who were left, as one of the Japanese Non-commissioned officers stated that they, the Japanese, could not be bothered looking after those who were unable to walk.

11. Our group arrived at North Point Camp on the evening of the 20th of December, 1941, and on the following day several of us carried Lieut. McKillop to Argyle Street Barracks in Kowloon, where we were quartered until about the 30th of December, 1941. Lieut. McKillop died at Argyle Street Barracks about the 2nd of January, 1942, due largely I believe, to the lack of medical attention immediately after he was wounded at the shack. I did not see any of the wounded receive any medical attention whatsoever, although many of them had received very serious wounds.

12. I was moved to Sham Shui Po on or about the 30th of December, 1941 and remained there until the latter part of January, 1942. While at Sham Shui Po I did no work and although we received very little food I did not see any of the prisoners of war beaten. I saw several Chinese civilians tortured and tied up near the guard house at Sham Shui Po but I cannot now recall any specific instance nor do I know the names or units of the guards who were responsible for these atrocities.

13. About the end of January, 1942, I was taken with the rest of the Canadians to North Point Camp, where I remained until taken to Bowen Road Hospital in the latter part of August, 1942. While at North Point Camp I did no work until about June, 1942, when I went to work at the Kai-Tak Airport, about twice a week.

14. I was in the hospital at North Point Camp when four Canadian Prisoners of war escaped, namely: Sgt. Payne, Pte. Ellis, Pte. Adams and L/Cpl. Benzenski. I believe it was the 21st of August, 1942, when this escape took place. During the evening of the escape, I saw these four soldiers getting ready in the Orderly Room of the Hospital. My bed was at the end of the ward, closest to the Orderly Room and I had a good view of what they were doing. They each had a small pack, in which they placed food of all kinds. They were all dressed warmly and each one of them had a complete battle dress, which I believe they wore leaving the camp. I am not absolutely certain of the time I saw them in the Orderly room but it was between 10:00 and 11:00 o'clock and it took them nearly an hour to complete their preparations.

15. About 11:15 p.m. I saw the four of them leave the Orderly Room in the Hospital and about ten or fifteen minutes later I heard a clattering sound from the slate roof of the hospital and it was very evident that the sound which I heard was caused by persons clambering

over the roof. The clattering sounded very loud in the ward and when the noise on the roof stopped it was very quiet and I heard no shouting or shooting at any time throughout that night; although I lay awake for at least three hours after the four had gone. Immediately after I heard this noise on the roof stop one of the hospital Orderlies, whose name I cannot now recall, but who was a member of the Royal Rifles of Canada, came up to me and started to rub my feet to ease the pain, as I was suffering from beri beri of the feet and dysentery. This medical orderly remarked to me: "Well, they've finally got away". This orderly continued rubbing my feet for at least half an hour and then returned to the Orderly Room where I believe he remained for the rest of the night.

16. The Japanese apparently did not realize that anybody had escaped until the morning roll call which was held between 8:00 and 8:30 in the morning. Several of the Japanese came into the hospital and asked the patients various questions as to what they knew about the escape, but all of us advised them that we had heard and seen nothing.

17. The camp at North Point was surrounded by a barbed wire fence about seven feet high. Some time during the Spring or early Summer of 1942, an electric fence was constructed about eighteen inches outside the barbed wire fence and was made approximately the same height as the barbed wire fence. This electric fence was about the same distance outside the barbed wire fence all the way around the camp and although I am not sure of the exact distance between the fences, I remember on one occasion, about a month before the escape of the four soldiers, seeing a small dog electrocuted by having his nose touch the electric fence while the back of his body was against the barbed wire fence. This fence completely encircled North Point Camp except for the area directly behind the hospital where there was no fence, the fence being anchored to both ends of the hospital building.

18. During the evening of the day after the escape, I became semi-conscious and I am told at some time during the night or the following morning I was taken to Bowen Road Hospital although I was unconscious at the time. I remained at Bowen Road Hospital until the end of November, 1942.

19. While I was at Bowen Road Hospital, I remember seeing Col. Bowie and Major Boxer slapped in the face several times by one of the Naval Headquarters staff; Naval Headquarters being just down the hill from the Bowen Road Hospital. I do not now know the name of the Japanese who slapped Col. Bowie and Major Boxer but it was allegedly because there had been men seen cheering allied planes which had flown over the Hong Kong area when orders had previously been given that there would be no cheering, and no leaving the Hospital when Allied planes were in the vicinity.

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20. At the end of November, 1942, I was discharged from Bowen Road Hospital and was sent directly to Sham Shui Po, where I remained until about the 19th of January, 1943. While at Sham Shui Po, I did no work and remained in the camp.

21. One evening approximately the 16th of January, 1943, Pte. Hawes, M., Winnipeg Grenadier, and myself were beaten by the Kamloops Kid. The circumstances surrounding the beating being as follows: Hawes and myself were just proceeding from one hut to another, just at dusk, when we passed the Kamloops Kid. We saluted him, as per instructions that all prisoners of war would salute all Japanese soldiers and members of the camp staff. However, the Kamloops Kid apparently did not consider that we saluted sufficiently smartly and he stopped us and commenced striking Hawes and myself, with his fist, in the face. He struck Hawes four or five times in the face with his fist, knocking him down. While Hawes was down, the Kamloops Kid kicked him as hard as he could all over the body. Hawes managed to stand up and was again struck in the face four or five times by the Kamloops Kid, and was knocked down a second time. From time to time while the Kamloops Kid was hitting Hawes he struck me hitting me in the face with his fist four or five times, but he took most of his vengeance out on Hawes and I was able to get off comparatively lightly. The Kamloops Kid was about 5'8½" tall, weighed about 165 lbs., and was between 25 to 30 years old. He was a good looking and always very smart and neat in appearance and was clean shaven. He did not wear glasses.

22. On or about the 19th of January, 1943, I was sent in the first draft of Canadians from Sham Shui Po to Japan, where we arrived at Nagasaki after a trip of about five days. On arrival at Nagasaki we were sent directly by train to Camp 3^D at Kowasaki, which is between Tokyo and Yokohama. About five hundred Canadians under Capt. Reid, R.C.A.M.C. were in the draft which went to 3^D, and 3^D was entirely Canadian; we being the first prisoners to occupy this camp. There were British and American camps in the vicinity of 3^D but we had no communication with them.

23. All the time I was at Camp 3^D, Lieut. "Wamori" was the Camp Commandant, and he appeared to be fair in his treatment of the prisoners of war. Lieut. Wamori was about 5'10" tall, 35 years old, and weighed about 170 pounds. Lieut. Wamori stated that he was interested in athletics and he appeared to be well built for an athlete and was always smartly dressed.

24. While I was at 3^D, I worked in the shipyards of the Nippon Kokan Ship Yard Company. I reamed ships plates. I worked until about February, 1944, on reaming ships plates and the balance of my time in 3^D I was on the "Clean-Up Gang".

25. I was in the hospital at 3^D with Yellow Jaundice for about a month during July and August, 1943. During this time I saw S/Sgt.

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West and Rfmn. Patingale being exercised around camp during the morning by various members of the camp staff and on several different days I saw them beaten by members of the Camp Staff and by the guards outside the guard room. I believe that practically every member of the camp staff struck S/Sgt. West and Rfmn. Patingale at some time while they were being held under arrest.

I saw on various occasions at this time, Yamanaka, Baba, Kondo, and Shabata, strike S/Sgt. West and Rfmn. Patingale. They would be slapped and punched in the face and on one occasion I saw them being ~~hit~~ with a rubber hose.

26. Two or three days after I was released from the hospital, Kondo came into the hut one night with S/Sgt. West and made everyone stand to attention until the identity of the person from whom S/Sgt. West had obtained the shoes, had been determined. We stood at attention for about three hours until finally S/Sgt. West felt that there was no use in us all being punished and he pointed out Soroko as being the person whose shoes he had obtained; whereupon Kondo struck Soroko with his fists ten or twelve times and then took him with S/Sgt. West to the guard room. We were then permitted to go to bed.

27. On nearly every occasion in which Kondo beat up S/Sgt. West. Pete the Tramp, whose real name was "Ushita", was with him, and from time to time he would strike S/Sgt. West as did the other members of the camp staff.

28. About the middle of December, 1944, I was sent to Headquarters Camp in Tokyo with twenty-two other Canadians from Camp 3rd Dth. I remained at Headquarters Camp for three and a half months and while there, I was employed unloading rice, iron ore, paper and several other commodities from box cars. There were more than five hundred prisoners of war at Headquarters Camp when I arrived, with the majority being British and American. Our group of twenty-three were the only Canadians at the Camp, until February, 1945, when another seventy Canadians arrived from Shina Gawa.

29. While at Headquarters Camp I was beaten up by Sergeant Watenabe in January, 1945. The circumstances surrounding the beating were as follows: One of the prisoners of war had been doing a paint job in the camp and had left the tin of paint with the lid uncovered and the paint pot in the wrong place. Sgt. Watenabe immediately called out all Canadians and proceeded to beat us up with his fists and a stick. He struck me with his fist eight or ten times and also hit me across the neck with a stick which was slightly larger than a broom handle. I was knocked down twice but did not require medical attention, although I received a cut over my eye. I suffered no permanent injury.

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30. Some time after my beating by Sgt. Watenabe I saw S/Sgt. Barton knocked down and beaten by Sgt. Watenabe. The Circumstances surrounding the beating were as follows:- S/Sgt. Barton was late for his lunch one day and was in the middle of eating when Sgt. Watenabe came into the hut. Sgt. Watenabe insisted that when he came into the hut everybody would stand and bow and remain in that position until he granted permission for them to carry on. S/Sgt. Barton stood up and bowed as required but upon Sgt. Watenabe giving the order to carry on S/Sgt. Barton apparently sat down too quickly, which annoyed Watenabe, who went up to Barton and struck him ten or twelve times in the face with his fist, knocking him down and kicked him. He then pushed Barton out of the hut and continued kicking and hitting him for several minutes. This beating continued for about fifteen minutes and then Watenabe walked away and ordered S/Sgt. Barton to report to him at the orderly room that night. S/Sgt. Barton stated later that upon reporting to the Orderly Room he was made to stand outside the Orderly Room for about an hour and was then dismissed. S/Sgt. Barton received several bruises and several sore ribs as a result of the beating which I witnessed but he did not require medical attention. I was standing beside S/Sgt. Barton in the hut when Sgt. Watenabe started to beat him.

31. Sgt. Watenabe was nick-named the "Bird". He was about 5'6" tall, 30 years of age, weighed approximately 150 pounds. He was of medium build, clean shaven and smart in appearance.

32. About the end of March, 1945, I was sent from Headquarters camp Tokyo to Ohasi Camp 6 "B" and remained there until liberated on the 15th of September, 1945. Ohasi was approximately ten or twelve miles straight up the valley from Kamashi. There were about four hundred prisoners at Ohasi; two hundred being Canadian, the balance being British, American and Dutch. While at Ohasi, I worked in the iron mine at the five hundred feet level until the end of July, 1945, after which I worked on road construction until the 15th of August, when all work ceased.

33. About the first week of August, 1945, myself and Pte. Downie of the Winnipeg Grenadiers, were beaten up by the "Shadow", whose real name I do not know. He was about 5'5" tall, very thin, sallow complexioned, pock marked face and wore glasses; about 35 years old, and weighed approximately 125 pounds. The following are the circumstances surrounding the beating: Downie and myself were pushing a small car on the railroad track full of rock and dirt, when the "Shadow" came up behind us, carrying his walking stick with a hammer handle on the end of it, and proceeded to give us each two or three hits across the head with the head of the handle. My head was very sore after this beating

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and I had a large bump on the back of my head but I did not require medical attention. I cannot explain the reason for our beating but the "Shadow" stated that there should have been three men pushing the cart as it was too heavy for only two men. It appeared that as there were only two of us pushing the cart, we were beaten.

34. I remained at Chasi until liberated by the Americans on the 15th of September, 1945.

35. Except as herein stated I do not at this time recollect any further information of atrocities or incidents of mistreatment of Allied Prisoners of War.

SWORN before me at the City of Winnipeg)
in the Province of Manitoba, this 29th)
day of January, 1946. Consisting of)
seven pages, each signed by the Deponent.)

/s/ W. A. Hall
(H.6047, L/Sgt. W.A. Hall)
Winnipeg Grenadiers, C.A.

C. H. Johnson
(A Notary Public in and for the
Province of Manitoba).