

42 2130

AFFIDAVIT

NOURRIT Guy (Barrister)
Born 7 June 1916 at Marseilles.
Son of NOURRIT Jean and of
ARVAL Emmeline
Domicile: 40 Boulevard Gambetta HANOI.

AT HANOI

I was arrested on 19 May 1945 for belonging to a Resistance group. I was immediately shut up in a cell of the Surete (cell No. 16), where I found a person M. Leopold GIRAUD, arrested for the same reason on 1st April. Subsequently two other prisoners were to join me in this cell.

There were afterward two classes of prisoners:

- 1/ - Those who, like me, were put in cells.
- 2/ - Those who were put in a cage.

No special criterion decided the allotment to one or the other class. This appeared to be left solely to the whim of the Japanese jailers.

Differences:

The cell in which I found myself contained 4 prisoners, of whom one was an Annamite, a plunderer of corpses. The Japanese, in effect, spared no pains, to increase the inconveniences of the detention for the French, by putting with them one or more Annamites, common law felons. The cell contained a bunk on which only one of us could lie in a somewhat cramped position. The others were reduced to squatting on the earth at night. It was impossible to change position. The cell was only about 3 metres long. As to its breadth one could touch the opposite wall /s/ by stretching out the arms. Daylight penetrated by a 15 by 20 cm grating in the door. The latter was opened for 5 minutes every day to allow us to go to the W. C. We had no change of washing.

The prisoners who were put in a cage 20 metres long by 7 or 8 wide never went out of it at all, a W. C. being placed in a corner of the enclosure. Though they had the possibility of walking about and talking with about ten other co-prisoners and to see the daylight through 2 or 3 windows, the hygienic conditions of their stay were none the less extremely painful. There were 30 or 40 penned up in one enclosure. Vermin, as in the cells, swarmed. There was an occasion when a dead body, it was in summer, remained in the midst of the prisoners for 24 hours.

Ordinary Routine:

Twice a day at 2 P. M. and at 8 in the evening we received a ball of rice with a little salt, a bit of herbs and a cai-bat-coffee cup-

202130

of tea. It was, let me repeat, in summer and our bodies demanded a more abundant amount of liquid. We never had meat. A diet of this kind produced a perceptible loss of weight after a period of days. It was very weakening and as far as I myself was concerned continued to feel the effects for several months. We were not allowed to receive any /changes of/ linen.

The monotony of the imprisonment was broken by the interrogations which we underwent, the pleasure of being beaten up with clubs or better still, of torture by electric current. In this respect certain prisoners (Messrs. LANATA of the AIR FRANCE Company, Roger LAURENT of the Public Works, BJERRING former commandant of the 5th R. E. /Strangers Regiment/ were reduced to such a bad condition that the Japanese thought fit to have them hospitalized. Commandant BJERRING died in the hospital from tortures he had undergone.

Mr. GIRAUD (Leonold) who was in the same cell as I was, was one of the most tortured of the persons detained at the Surete. He was in the cell about 5 months and was sent to the Citadel by the Japanese in a state of extreme weakness. Mr. Roger LAURENT mentioned above was hospitalized for long months and also had his health particularly damaged.

/Signed/ Guy FOURRIT

FOURRIT Guy

Signed and attested under oath, on 7 Sept. 1946 before me the undersigned Investigation Officer assigned by the French Authority to the enquiries of which the present affidavit is the object.

/signed/ Captain Le SOURD

Witness for the verification of the Signature of Mr. FOURRIT placed on this affidavit .

HANOI /?/ Sept 1946

Chief of Civil Commission

//indiscipherable/