

Doc. No. 5544

Evidence taken in BRISBANE on November 5, 1945, before Mr. Justice Mansfield.

Mr. Herman DALLINGA being duly sworn gives the following evidence:

I am a civilian, my full name being Herman Dallinga. I was burgonaster at Menado.

I was interned on 10 January 1942 and on the following day I handed over the town to the Japanese. They told me then that I was to be placed in prison. I was put in a building belonging to a Chinese named Lie Boan Yat, which had been made into a barracks. Mr. Fockstra and I were confined in this place. He had been a civil officer dealing with the rural area, whereas I had been dealing as a civilian with the city area. I was five days in this Chinese building and then was taken to the Wilhelmina Hotel, in Menado. Already there were a number of Dutch men, women and children. After being kept there for a few days the women were taken to Tomohon, in the mountains, to the camp there. It was a Roman Catholic building. The men were taken to the Roman Catholic school St. Joseph in Menado. I was one of those taken. There were about 100 of us. There were about 400 women and children sent up to Tomohon.

I stayed with the others in the R.C. building for about a month during February 1942. On 31 March I went to the Dutch soldiers' barracks. Whilst in the Roman Catholic building we did not get anything to eat from the Japanese; we found some rice from the school, however, and from the hotel we had brought some tinned vegetables. The Japs gave us nothing at all. Jap soldiers guarded us. Towards the end of the month an NCO, YAMADA, came to the camp; he was in the Jap Navy. He brought us rice - but it was burnt rice. We had this burnt rice for a whole year.

In the Chinese building Mr. Fockstra and I were asked every day different questions; one night the Japs took Fockstra away for further interrogation and when he returned he was put in gaol. Another night they took me away for interrogation, which lasted all night, and they held pistols at my head. A Jap Colonel and a Staff Officer conducted the interrogation. After we went to the R.C. building later, one of the officers visited the place and knocked me on the face. I fell back. I was not put in gaol, however.



After leaving the Roman Catholic building, I was taken to Teling, the Dutch soldiers' barracks in Manado. There were about 100 men there, including Poekstra. I went there at the end of March 1942 and was there to 10 September 1944. There were about 150 men there at the finish. For one year we had burnt rice, ending in December 1942; then we got maize and tapioca. We grew our own vegetables. One day we got 12 kilogrammes of meat and bones for 150 men. In February 1944 some dysentery broke out; 10 men died. We had no medicines. Twelve men were allowed into hospital, in the R.C. school; most of the men died there, not in the camp. One Roman Catholic priest died prior to that - he was Father Groonen, who died on 19 August 1942. Another man who died there was Koenen, on 19 March 1942. The Resident from Manado, Mr. Hirschmann, died from dysentery on 19 March 1944. Brother Gevel died on 16 February 1944; Mr. De With died on 1 March 1944; Mr. Veldhuis, Protestant Minister, died on 4 March 1944; a 16-years-old son of Mr. Symons died on 12 February 1944; Mr. Petric died on 28 February 1944; Mr. Van Drunen, an agent from Escomptebank, died on 12 March 1944; and Mr. Rector, president of the Court in Manado, died on 29 March 1944.

YAMADA was a Japanese with a long black beard; he was known as Whiskers Blake.

In the Dutch barracks we had to work in the gardens - the big and the small gardens.

Yanada beat everyone. There were no rules in the camp and we did not know what was allowed and what was not; and Yanada used to go and beat the men when they did something supposed not to have been done. 4 January 1943 Mr. Symons was badly bashed; he was accused of having contact with somebody outside; everybody was lined up and in front of everyone Symons was beaten. He was put in gaol to 20 October 1943; the cell had only a cement floor; he was with Mr. D'Ancona, who later was killed. D'Ancona also was thrashed by Yanada, for a similar reason; he was beaten with sticks about the kidneys; he was made to hold up his arms and was beaten in that position; the beatings lasted about half an hour. He was unconscious, and the Japs threw water over him; then he was carried away and put in gaol for four months. This was at the end of 1943.



I was bashed and had some front teeth knocked out, by this Yamada.

Half the camp was thrashed by Yamada. In the gaol, Yamada came up to D'Ancona, who could not stand up, and kicked him on the shin, and he got a serious infection. Yamada used to belt people over the head. These bashings occurred quite frequently. The Roman Catholic priest was beaten in this way.

A Mr. Been was taken from the R.C. building, and put in gaol. An engineer, De Wolff, also was put in gaol; then Mr. De Jong. Mr. Been, a trader from the Moluccas, was forced to be a Q.M. for the Japanese; later he was executed, according to my information from Indonesians.

YONI (MUNAI) before the war a Japanese trader, was the man behind the execution of Been; also of the three Chinese -- Lie Bren Yat, Lie Tek Hien, and Lie Goan Ain.

De Wolff was executed on 3 July 1942; and De Jong also on that date. The executions occurred on the Hospital Hill there; I believe they were buried behind the hospital there.

De Jong had had some connection with the Bitoeng fish supplies and was executed for some reason relating to that; De Wolff was executed because he was an engineer and had destroyed some of the works before the Japs arrived.

Mr. Leeuw had been captured and brought in with us; he was executed shortly afterwards. I do not know the date. It was said that this Yamada carried this execution out. Commander of the whole of Menado area was Colonel HASHIMOTO.

On 3 July 1942, somewhere in or about Menado, an American Colonel, two RC priests (Pastor McLakon and Pastor Drone) and a Brother (Bro. Brown), were executed; they were from the Philippines. As far as I know, Yunai or Hashimoto was responsible.

We left the Dutch barracks on 10 September 1944 after Allied bombardments; we had had an American casualty, Billie Green. On 10 September 1944 we were put in the civil gaol in Menado - 10 men to a cell. There were about 150 of us. For three days we got no water or food. From then to 24 October we received a little food. Sick people remained there after 24 October - about 16 of them. I was returned to the camp.



Whilst I was in gaol, people died mostly from dysentery and lack of food. We got no medical attention. Most of the 16 left in gaol, died. Anybody becoming sick was put in the gaol; and of our camp of 150 men, about 68 men died. Five men were killed as the result of bombing.

In the Barracks we had to dig underground shelters. We had to load trucks. We got some rice once a day. We got no medicines. A lot of men became sick and died, there being no treatment for them. Three died in one day in the camp as the result of starvation, and some because of their malaria. YAMADA later went across to the women's camp; WATANABE, a former civilian Japanese was a very bad Japanese. He beat us with sticks and with his fists. Mr. Van Oostrun, in camp with me, was badly thrashed there. Watanabe was there for some time - we first encountered him during October 1944. There were never any markings on any of the camps to distinguish them as PW camps.

I was released from internment in September 1945.

Poekstra and d'Ancona were put in gaol once and later, 19 January 1945, were executed; it was said that Yanaguchi, head of the Tokki Tai, was responsible for this. I believe this occurred in Tondano; they were said to have been executed for communicating with outside people.

Allied airmen caught were killed. I heard that all Allied airmen shot down or landed in Menado were all killed. The Tokki Tai were said to have killed them. When I worked at the Tokki Tai building I saw three airmen - Americans, I believe. We saw them in the gaol, about June or July 1945; and I think they were executed in Tondano. Mr. Stelling was put in gaol and bamboo splinters were put under his nails; the Tokki Tai did this - Yanaguchi was the head of them.

Mr. Moelenaar died from bad treatment. One day his clothes were returned by the Japs and they were all blood-covered. He died on 16 February 1945.



Dr. MORI was the Jap doctor there. He did not do much about any of us; he only came through our group trying to buy watches; we never got any medicines or anything else from him.

- - -

I swear that the above evidence is true and correct.

/s/ Dallinga

Taken and sworn before me in  
BRISBANE on 5 November 1945

/s/ (Signature illegible)  
Commissioner