

Ex 1575-A  
P. 1 \*

Evidentiary Document # 5136.

AFFIDAVIT in the matter of Japanese War Crimes and in the matter of the ill-treatment, torture, starvation and murder of coolies on the Siam-Burma Railway.

THE DEPONENT (Captain E.H. Wallace, Indian Medical Service) wishes to make the following statement:-

1. Home Address: Captain Edwin Herbert Wallace, I.M.S.  
Mylnebeck House, Lake Road,  
WINDERMERE, Westmorland.

Unit: Indian Medical Service.  
On EX-F.O.W. Leave,  
attached to India Office, London.

2. Date & Place of Capture: 15.2.1942. Singapore.

3. Statement of Atrocities:

(1) KINSAYOK COOLIE HOSPITAL, SIAM. JULY, 1943.

When the Japanese Medical Authorities (that is, the opinion of the Japanese N.C.O. in local charge) considered that coolie cases of CHOLERA were dangerously ill and thought not to recover, or when the CHOLERA HOSPITAL (a meagre hut holding 40 mixed British F.O.W. and coolie patients) was full, then these patients were shoved into a small lean-to shelter of attap leaves and left to their fate. No provision was made for their feeding or drinking and the doctor i/c the Coolie Cholera Hospital was not given necessary medical supplies or staff to deal with these unwanted or excess patients. They were left to die. I saw coolies crawling from this hut on their knees begging for food and their only answer from the Japanese orderlies was abuse and kicks. In the Cholera Hospital itself the British M.O. i/c was overworked, under-staffed and so ill equipped with instruments and drugs that needles made from bamboo, cut by themselves, were used for intravenous saline infusions necessary for the treatment of cholera. This was seen by myself.

Witnesses: Captain Christison, R.A.M.C.  
Major Crawford, "

It was said of Cholera Hospitals in this area that excess or nearly dead coolie patients were forced into common pit graves and buried alive - if there was protest, the coolies were beaten down with spades by Japanese orderlies. This fact I often heard substantiated by many R.A.M.C. orderlies from different camps; eye-witness of this particular atrocity -

JAPANESE COMMANDANT - Names unknown.

(2) KINSAYOK COOLIE CAMP. JULY 1943.

I was told, in my capacity as doctor, to accompany the Japanese M.O. of the JAPANESE IMPERIAL ARMY HYGIENE UNIT, in order to give anti-cholera inoculations to coolies. We arrived at a Sanitary Cordon Hut on the path leading from the South along the railway line then being constructed. At dusk a long procession of coolies, carrying their belongings and children, and utterly exhausted, walked through the control barrier and so onwards to the camp where they would rest for the night. Instead of treating these coolies with consideration - they were already starved and had walked all day carrying loads without food - the Japanese 'doctors' made constant 'fun' of these exhausted coolies. The usual procedure at these points (a necessary one since cholera was rampant up and down the line at that time) was for an examination of the anus with a glass, metal or bamboo probe to be made, and the coolie sprayed with a disinfectant. This was all done in an atrocious manner. Female coolies, naturally, objected to lifting up their skirts in front of a jeering mob of white coated Japanese and their many friends standing in the rear - these women were picked out by the Japanese and often their skirts were thrown right over their heads, or their heads forced down to the ground, whilst a laughing crowd examined the woman's 'private parts'. If either a man or a woman, usually white haired and exhausted, lingered or seemed uncertain of what to do they were herded forward by smacks all over the body with large bamboo sticks or poles. If there was any hesitation whilst the spraying was done then the smarting disinfectant was purposely sprayed into the face and eyes. The anal examination was performed by Japanese medical orderlies, I gave the inoculations of anti-cholera serum; the Japanese M.O. himself stood at one side of the line of coolies waving a huge stick and many times, when coolies were bending down, he would strike them across the buttocks with a large bamboo pole, one inch thick at least, and also kick them, on doing this he would leap up into the air with glee and shouts of mirth, with his orderlies joining in upon each occasion. At the same time he himself wore a white face mask, white coat and big boots and he got an orderly to spray him all over every so often. On the way back, in halting English, he explained to my protests that these coolies were in his opinion sub-human and not worthy of any consideration and seemed surprised that I did not take the same view; he then passed on to a discussion of how Japanese surgical science was far in advance of the British and American efforts.

JAPANESE M.O.'s NAME: Unknown.

Witness: Captain Brown, R.A.M.C., 198 Field Ambulance.

(3) NIKAE COOLIE HOSPITAL. 133 Km. Siam Burma Border.  
July, 1943 - January, 1944.

Here was a very large coolie hospital even in the early days of 1943. Patients who were considered likely to die, or whose treatment would have to be prolonged, and who, after being cured and were considered

of no further use as labour on the railway, were all put into the "Dead House" (named so by the Japanese themselves). This was a long, badly made hut, liable to flooding, at the river side and allowed to get into a most delapidated condition and although 200-300 yards from the rest of the hospital huts not provided with its own fireplaces or kitchen. The Japanese medical orderlies very rarely visited this place and did not bother at all with its administration, and no British M.O. or R.A.M.C. orderly was allowed to visit it. The consequence of this lack of attention was that the "native" (Malay Tamil dressers usually) dressers and the Malayan Service Tamil "doctor" who was really an ex-dresser, were in charge of this hut and seriously misabused their position. Patients were left entirely without treatment for many days on end, food and water was not supplied to patients unable to rise from the bamboo frames on which they lay - the "stink" in consequence of unattended wounds and unattended excretions of nature was almost unbearable in the heat. I used to visit this "Dead House" and was told many piteous stories by the inmates - they accused the so-called native dressers of not bringing in their two meals of rice and chillie water (allowed by the Japanese) unless they were bribed to do so - some of them had even to pay ten dollars (\$10) for a container of water. They crawled about, or lay anywhere, as best they could.

I consider the frightful state of this particular "Dead House" (there was one in every Japanese coolie hospital) at that time to be a serious mis-use of medical privilege by the Japanese authorities running the coolie hospital. The truth is that conditions in this hut were so disgusting that the Japanese themselves preferred to keep away despite their medical responsibility.

JAPANESE M.O.'s NAME - forgotten.

Witnesses:- Captain J.L. Frew, Australian Medical Service, (13 A.G.H.)  
Lieut. P. Tomlinson, F.M.S.V.F. (Malayan Medical Service)  
Captain Gibson, R.A.M.C.

(4) NIKAL COOLIE CAMP. JULY, 1943 - JAN. 1944.

I lived in a tent opposite the guard-house of the Japanese Military Police (KEMTITAI). On many occasions I saw many coolies forced up the big trees near the guard-house by Japanese using long sharpened bamboo poles. When coolies had reached the top of the trees and could go no further they were repeatedly jabbed at by the Japanese guards with these sharpened poles. The cries of fear and horror of these men could be heard all over the camp, and they were often kept up in these positions for 48 hours at a time without food or water. On several occasions I saw coolies fall down off the trees when they were only snarled at and kicked by their captors. On one occasion I saw a coolie of age about 50-60 (grey hair and emaciated) thrown into the nearby swift river despite his exhaustion; he floated, repeatedly sinking, down the river and was rescued by a P.O.W. (a Private J. Dunk, R.A.M.C., attached F.M.S.V.F.) bathing further down.

Despite his state the coolie crawled into the jungle bleeding and presumably died later at night. At night time the coolies in the trees had no respite as the Japanese guards whenever they felt like it attached burning pitch faggots to the end of their poles and continued to jab away at the coolies above with fire - accompanied as usual by the howls of the men and the laughter and jers of the guards. At this same gan-house coolies caught for various misdemeanours (and I have to admit, that of stealing which the Japanese were very intolerant of - but generally on account of absenteeism from work) were flogged extremely severely by these Kempei guards - in several instances I have seen coolies faint off tied up against trees with their severe punishment.

NAMES OF GUARDS: Unknown. Witnesses: As in No. (3).

(5) KANBURI COOLIE HOSPITAL, SIAM. OCT. 1944 - MARCH, 1945.

I was placed in charge of the Dysentery ward of this Hospital - at this time there was an average of 40 patients daily, and an average of 1 - 3 deaths daily. My indictment is that patients were not given sufficient dressings for their wounds and totally insufficient drugs for treatment. Emetine Hydrochloride, the only drug capable of saving life in Amoebic Dysentery, was absolutely with-held despite almost daily protests. Every morning I had to attend the Japanese Medical Stores for my issue of drugs and dressings for this ward - although the ward was considered the "Dead House" by the rest of the hospital, and so admitted the most fulminating cases of Tropical Ulcer - cases in which one or both legs might have the bone completely exposed from knee to ankle - I was yet gravely every morning handed a piece of gauze, 3 inches by 3 inches, or smaller; one bandage every third or fourth day; half a dozen tablets of soda bicarbonate; one tablet of aspirin; a few crystals of potassium Permanganate; and 1 - 3 tablets of an antiseptic akin to Acriflavine called "Rivanol"; cotton wool, one handful if one was lucky. Consequently dressings had to be provided from the boiled clothing of coolies who had died, and when that was used up, just leaves. No instruments were supplied i.e. no scissors or forceps, bottles or jars rarely.

Due to the ill-equipped state coolies in the last stages of Dysentery had to be nursed on mats on the bare ground as the mats became filthier and filthier by excreta they could not be replaced despite protests. Food was supplied but was of such inferior quality (rice and vegetable soup chiefly) that it was impossible for patients to recover on it especially when already suffering from starvation, beri-beri and dysentery. During this period I remember at least three patients who committed suicide as they realised there was no hope for them; one suicide would commence a sequence of such acts throughout the hospital as the railway line was conveniently near.

I do not know whether I can directly blame the Japanese Commandant (Captain, now Major, KUDO of the I.J.A. Engineer Regt.) for these conditions. But there was a serious shortage of drugs, dressings and food in this camp - and the authorities which permitted such a state

and, I think, 6 or less Japanese orderlies. It is thus not surprising that there must have been leakages and thefts of food and drugs.

I do know that Major KUDO got drunk very frequently and that he chased any fair-looking coolie woman patient he ever saw and "slept" with her despite the husband's protests, and also that a Malay dresser wished to run away as his wife was being approached by the commandant. So it is not surprising that the rumour got around that the vegetables which should have been given as rations to the British P.O.Ws in the camp were sold in the coolie canteen and that prisoners (all M.Os and medical orderlies) could thus buy back their own rations at high rates.

CAMP COMMANDANT: Major (then Captain) KUDO, I.J.A. Engineers.

Witnesses: Lt.Col. BENSON, R.A.M.C., 27 Indian Field Ambulance.  
Sgt. STONEMAN, R.A.M.C., 198 Field Ambulance.

(6) In this Kanburi Coolie Hospital was a Mr. Chin (a Malay born Chinese, living before the war at Butterworth, near Penang). I have no proof but he was widely suspected by all P.O.W. as being an accomplice of the Japanese, and that he gave information away to the KEMPEI Police (Japanese Military Police) at Kanburi concerning leakage of news from the outside world into the camp - this incriminated friendly Siamese subjects and caused the torture of British P.O.W. under the Japanese police. He was definitely anti-British when I first knew him late in 1944 but gradually changed his views. At the time when there was a KEMPEI enquiry regarding British P.O.W. subversive activities I saw Mr. CHIN cycling into Kanburi town every morning which was an unusual practice for him as he worked in the hospital every morning as "head doctor". I have no definite information excepting for his original anti-British views and his opinion that we should lose the war. I have to say that his wife, name unknown, was friendly to British Prisoners and on one occasion gave one tied up against a pole at the Guard House a glass of water despite the objections of the Japanese Guards.

WITNESSES: Lieut. Col. Benson, R.A.M.C., 27th Indian Field Ambulance.  
Major Crawford, R.A.M.C., (Estate Doctor, JOHORE).

(7) The general medical and sanitary management of the entire coolie camps spread up and down the Siam-Burma Railway was absolutely deplorable, and conditions even at this late date seem unbelievable. The administration was such that whole bodies of thousands of coolies and British P.O.Ws would be marched all day to new camp sites; they would then be left to build their own huts and be left sometimes even without rice for food for days at a time. This occurred when "F" and "H" Forces of Prisoners arrived in Siam from Singapore. Considering the extremely hard manual labour of coolies and our own men the food during 1943 and early 1944 was absolutely inadequate. Men working from before dawn up till midnight had to go for periods of 4 to 8 weeks on a diet of rice and vegetable water only. It is not surprising that hundreds collapsed from

starvation and the consequent lowered resistance to tropical diseases such as malaria and dysentery. Although the Japanese Medical authorities knew the prevalence of malaria, mosquito nets during 1943 and early 1944 were not supplied to coolies or prisoners. There was a total lack of appreciation of the situation by local guards so that coolies and P.O.W. would arrive perhaps with plenty of rice but no containers to cook it in. Sickness throughout this period was not considered a cause of absenteeism, and coolie camp MANDORS (Chiefs) had to produce a certain fixed percentage of workers present every day - if the figure fell the Japanese guards would visit coolie and British Hospitals and whip the men with cones or strike them with bamboo poles and make them come out to work (I saw this done myself many a time in coolie hospitals and once at the British Hospital at KINSAYOK in July 1943 - the protests of British doctors were not considered and often the doctor ended up with a beating himself. The provision of sanitary facilities was ludicrous - merely pits without any shelter for thousands of men, and these had to be dug by patients from the hospitals as the rest of the camps were out working on the railway during daylight. The collection of flies round the open latrine pits was disgusting and by their dissemination amongst living huts and cookhouses diseases spread rapidly at every camp. With the advent of cholera to back up the dysentery and malaria the Japanese were forced to send down to Singapore, when it was already too late, for a party of 40 doctors and about 200 R.A.M.C. medical personnel in order to prevent the entire coolie and P.O.W. labour from being wiped out. By November, 1943, there were well over 5,000 deaths in the F & H British Force of Labour, and as regards coolies an estimation is difficult but I know that at SAN KRYER Coolie Camp (about 120 km. from TAMBUSAYAT, and a few km. above NIKAE) the death roll in November, 1943, was 40-50 daily for a period of 6-8 weeks in one small camp alone. On the march "up-country" from KINSAYOK to NIKAE, every hundred yards or so of the path worn by previous prisoners and coolies, we met dead bodies of coolies or the unmistakable smell of a decaying corpse - these were of men who had been forced to march in too exhausted a state or who had fallen ill on the way and had been left behind.

In some instances Japanese guards tried to amend the conditions but they were powerless in the face of a woefully inadequate supply and medical organisation.

In my opinion the Japanese Medical Colonel in charge of the Railway Medical & Sanitation Administration and whose H.Q. was at KAMBURI, and who described the Americans who built the Panama Canal as "big white beasts" is the Japanese officer directly to blame for the absolutely unnecessary high death roll amongst coolies and prisoners on the railway, certainly in 1943. He must take the blame for responsibility for racial hatred as witnessed by his speech to British doctors whom he made sit for an examination to prove they were doctors, and for his failure to transport medical, food and sanitary supplies to the forward camps cutting their way through virgin jungle. There was also inadequate supervision of Japanese medical guards and orderlies who were allowed to treat coolies as they thought fit and who were given far too wide powers of local administration.

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JAPANESE MEDICAL COLONEL'S NAME: Unknown - H.Q. at Kanburi, Siam,  
June - December 1943.

Witnesses: Major Crawford, R.A.M.C. (Estate Doctor, Johore, Malaya).  
Captain J.L. Frew, Australian Medical Service, 13 A.G.H.

(8) INFORMATION REGARDING NUMBER OF COOLIE DEATHS ON RAILWAY.

Estimation extremely difficult as I only saw one camp at a time and had no birds-eye view of the railway line as a whole. I have lived in six different coolie hospitals up and down the line and, together with discussion with other doctors, have formed the conclusion that I should not be surprised at any figure between 100,000 and 150,000 coolies throughout the early 1943-1945 period.

(Signed) E.H. WALLACE, Captain.  
Indian Medical Service.  
Member of "K" Medical force on  
Siam-Burma Railway June, 1943  
to August, 1945.

Windermere.  
17.2.46.

I, EDWIN HERBERT WALLACE, do solemnly and sincerely declare that the foregoing statement is true to the best of my knowledge and belief, and I make this solemn declaration conscientiously believing the same to be true.

(Signed) E.H. WALLACE. Captain.

DECLARED before me this 18th day of FEBRUARY, 1946.

(Signed) E.J. HEWETSON.  
Justice of the Peace for the  
County of Westmorland.

Examined with original affidavit at H.Q. ALFSEA this seventeenth day of April 1946, and certified a true copy.

(Signed) ?  
Lt.Col., Legal Staff,  
War Crimes Legal Section,  
ALFSEA, Singapore.