

Ex 1772-1

This day, Monday December 24, nineteen hundred forty five, appeared before me, Meester W. Beun, Substitute Public Prosecutor at the Court of Justice at Medan, in person:

A. E. PRINS-RÖHRBORN

to be heard as a witness in the case against a suspect, probably named DOBUTSJI and a second suspect not to be mentioned by name yet, suspect of Indonesian nationality.

After witness has declared to have known both the suspects before the deed of which they are now suspected, not to be related to them by blood, nor in law and not to be in their employment, witness answers the questions put to her as follows:

What is your surname and your Christian names?

Prins, born Röhrborn, Augusta, Eleonora

How old are you and what is your profession?

I am 43 years of age, without profession.

Where do you live?

Before Japanese invasion I lived at the rubber-estate Soengei Poetih, Galang, now I stay at Medan, 8 Mackaylaan.

As is supposed that witness will not appear at further investigations, she now swears the oath according to her religious principles, that, she will, as a witness speak the whole truth and nothing but the truth, and answers the questions put to her as follows:

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In the month of September 1944, Mrs. Eikens and I still occupied the function of camp-managers. The supply of food which the Japanese gave us was extra-ordinarily bad. For two and a half months we had been given neither sugar nor fat. The official rations, so we were informed by the Japanese, contained: rice for grown up people, 200 grams per head daily and for children 100 grams. Vegetables, 50 gr. per head daily. In reality we got 140 gr. rice for grown ups and 80 gr for children. Vegetables 20 gr. We complained continuously to the Japanese commandant about this treatment and when we got no result, we asked for an interview with the officer, TANAKA, who was occupied with the food-supply. He said, however, that he could not do this. But one day, when Tanaka came to visit our camp, he talked to him about this. After he was gone / our

our Japanese commandant was so furious that he struck both of us with his open hand. The discontentment about the shortness of food increased daily in the camp. The women threatened to break out of the camp to fetch it themselves. We proposed a hunger demonstration, whereupon the thinnest women accompanied by their division-leaders went to the Japanese guard. There we showed them to the Japanese commandant and said to him, that he could now see for himself the results of his hunger-system. We then demanded in the name of the whole camp for the supply of the official rations. The commandant promised us that he would go to Medan and see what he could do for us. When, however, there came no improvement we asked for permission to obtain food from people outside, by means of barter, but this was refused bluntly by the commandant. This went on until middle of November and the discontentment increased more and more.

In order to put off demonstrations which as we knew, could not be held in check much longer, we made a proposal to the inmates of the camp, to wait until November 25, 1944, before breaking out. We hoped vainly that on this date improvement should have come. The camp accorded with this and then we went again to the commandant. We informed him that we could not prevent the inmates from breaking out if no improvement came on the next supply of rations, which was due on November 20. We drew his attention to this: that he would certainly come into "Soesah" (trouble) with Medan, whereupon he replied that we were "Kapala Boesoek" (bad heads) but when we asked that he should name other managers, he said that this was not allowed by Medan. At last he promised me that our request for more food would be answered on November 20. The rations arrived but the amounts were the same as before. Again we went to the commandant and ^{after that} visited him daily with our complaints. Each time he gave us promises for next day, each time without any result and so came November 25.

Then we agreed that from each block-division some women in total 40 persons leave the camp on Sunday-afternoon November 26. However, people did not abide by the agreement and thus the next day about 3 o'clock 386 women left out of camp. To be ahead of events we went to the Japanese commandant and we saw him looking at the departure. He asked what this meant, insulted us again as "Kapala Boesoek" and ordered us to fetch the women back at once. If they would return at once he would not make a "pakara" (case). So we went out of the camp but each time we asked some women to go back we got the answer that they would not do this before they settled their business. The Japanese and Heiho's who had gone outside too, got no results. Later it appeared that someone had telephoned the M.P. at Kaban Djahé from the Japanese hospital situated across the road and from where the breaking out had

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been observed. About nine o'clock in the evening all were back again. Before this the first and second suspect had arrived with a Japanese whom we know by name of TOKASE. Mrs. Eikens and I were called in, whereupon the first suspect interrogated us with the assistance of an interpreter who ~~was~~ ~~not~~. When we had told him the real cause of the breaking out, he accused us of having incited the women to it and he boxed our ears with his open hand which was not very painful. We had just been sent away to our block, when we were called again because, as the commandant informed us the M.P. from Medan had arrived. We were ordered to line up the women who had been away. Thereupon the whole camp came to the office. The Japanese understood that not all women could have been guilty of disobeying the orders so that what they saw was but a demonstration. One of the Japanese got so furious, I cannot remember who it was, that he struck with the iron of a golf-club, on the head so that a little wound occurred that bled slightly. After about a quarter of an hour the women were dismissed but they protested when they saw that Mrs. EIKENS and I had to remain.

Again we were asked for the reason of the breaking out and our part in this, whereupon we naturally answered as before. Meanwhile, the second suspect struck me with his open hand about ten times in the face and stumped us on the back which was very painful. Then we got the order to write down all names of the guilty women and to send him this list next day. At about 3:30 o'clock in the night the nerve-racking show was over and totally exhausted we went to bed after we had asked all the block-leaders to write down the names of the women who lived in the camp. We took these lists at 7 am the next day, 27th to the commandant. There were all persons who had been present the evening before; also the block-leaders had been called. The latter were heard in different rooms by the M.P. and from everywhere we heard cries of pain, while Mrs. Eikens and I together with the block leaders whose turn had not come yet sat waiting in a room next to that in which first suspect together with the second suspect led the interrogation.

When I was sitting in the waiting room I heard that a certain moment that Sister Schuddeboom a nurse of about 50 years old, was treated so cruelly in the next room that I wanted to enter that room but was prevented by a few Japanese who guarded the open door. When I heard Sister Schuddeboom leaving I asked permission to enter and to be heard by the first suspect. When I entered I saw on the table at which both of the suspects sat, a curtain rod of about 1 m. long and $2\frac{1}{2}$ cm. thick which I supposed was used on Sister Schuddeboom. This on enquiry proved to be true. I protested severely against this maltreatment, whereupon first suspect said that further investigations would be stopped if we would plead guilty on our own accord.

I retorted sharply that the Japanese were guilty themselves, which outraged first suspect so much that he struck me about six times with the wooden curtain-rod so hard on my back, shoulders and neck that the stick broke. Meanwhile, the hearing of the block-leaders was finished and about six o'clock we were sent away with many insults. I had to be supported because I could not walk without help. My body ached everywhere, but the stroke on my back of my neck had been the most painful. Under ordinary circumstances I should have been unable to do my daily work for some days.

In the evening the Japanese called me again, but I sent the message that I was unable to walk and could not come. Early next morning, 28 November, 1944, Mrs. Eikens and I were again ordered to come to the Japanese office together with the ladies: J. Vijzelman, D. van Bloemendaal, Netty Hoets, Medy Claser, Hetty van de Lee and J. Scharenguivel. When we were all present Mrs. Eikens and I were driven by car and the others by bus to the Penitentiary at Kaban Djahe. When we arrived there our coats and hairpins if we had any were taken away, whereafter we were locked up. Mrs. Eikens and I each in a very small cell and the others together in a large one.

My cell and, as I was told later, Mrs. Eikens' also, was without light or ventilation; the floor was moist with urine, which former occupants had left and the walls were smeared with faeces. Afterwards I heard that these cells were destined for lunatics on transit. There was no bed and we had no sanitary toilet. Next morning November 29, 1944 I was taken by the jailor (toekang koentji) from my cell and taken to a room in the outer building at the back of the prison. First and second suspects were present. I saw lying on the table all kinds of cudgels, belts and whips and on the floor was a coal-fire with irons. Seeing these objects I understood this to be the torture-chamber. Very little light came through the window.

Again first suspect asked me the same questions as before. Indicating the weapons he threatened me to torture if I kept refusing to plead guilty. Finally, when he found that even his sweet words failed to bring results he made me stand on a chair, after he had tied my wrists tightly together behind my back. He tied a rope which ran over a pulley, right over my head to the cord round my wrists and pulled at the other end until I could hardly reach the seat of the chair with the points of my toes. Each time he saw that I lowered somewhat in the joints of my shoulders so that I could get a little more support for the seat of the chair with the points of my toes he drew the rope a little higher. Meanwhile, he stood before me and asked if I would plead guilty. Each time when I replied: "Nippon salah" (the Japanese are wrong), he beat me with a rubber stick very hard on my back which he did more than ten times. /

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After about ten minutes I shouted to him "Officier blanda tida tahoe ini matjem" (white officers do not behave like this), he suddenly let me go and the jerk caused me unbearable pain. Directly after this my nose bled profusely. Two Indonesian policemen were called and these men supported me back to my cell, giving evidence of their pity and disapproval. When I came to the cell, the jailer opened the door and this brute pushed me so hard in my back that I fell forwards on the dirty floor. I could not get up and lay there for a long time, totally numbed.

At about 9 o'clock I was again taken by the jailer to the torture-chamber. Again I was suspended, standing on the chair and again first suspect put the questions he had asked me innumerable times before. He did not beat me and after some time, somewhat shorter than in the morning, he let go the rope, meanwhile, the head of the M.P. had entered. He stood before me and in a fierce voice asked if I had anything to say about the Japanese officers. I replied that I had not referred to them, but to Netherlands officers, whereupon he slapped my face and ordered me to follow him to his office.

On arriving there he ordered a typewriter to be brought and ordered me to type out the names of the women who had been out of camp some days before. I told him that I was unable to do this because of the awful swellings on my hands and the unendurable pain in my arms and body. Then he told me to dictate the names to an Indonesian guard who was also present. As well as I could remember I dictated all the names of the women who lived in the camp with which I was occupied until 3 o'clock in the night, then I was taken back to the cell. For the first time since our arrival we got some food. Concerning me this consisted of precisely counted 72 grains of maize. This I cried out to Mrs. Eikens, who informed me in the same way that she had counted 78 grains. We got no water. Early next morning, November 30, 1944, I was taken out of my cell to the office of the head of the M.P. By use of second suspect, who acted as an interpreter, first suspect interrogated me about the same points as before, in the presence of the head of the M.P. and a certain TAKASE. They did not maltreat me. After some time I was told that they could have me shot as this was the punishment for escape according to international agreement. Thereupon, I was brought back to the cell and I saw Mrs. Eikens being taken away. She also told me afterwards that she had been condemned to death.

About an hour later we were put on a bus together with the other ladies and taken back to the camp. On arrival there we had to wait, standing before the guardroom of the heiho's. Mrs. Eikens and myself could not keep upright, broken as we were, and at last we were allowed to sit down on the grounds. About one hour later Mrs. Eikens and myself, also

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Mrs.

Ex 1773-A

A F F I D A V I T

Today, Friday 26th April 1946, there appeared before myself:
Evert van Essen, 1st Class Inspector of Police in the Netherlands Indies,
Member of the Netherlands War Crimes Investigation Team,

at: Nee Soon Camp at Singapore
a person who, on enquiry, declares himself to be:
Name: AMIR BIN SARODIN
Civilian Occupation: Farmer.
Address: Nee Soon Camp, Singapore.
Future Address: Mandailing, Padang Sidempoean.
(Sibolga Residency).
Age: 21

F. Can you give any information concerning acts of violence committed against yourself or others, which you have witnessed?

After the capitulation of the Netherlands Indies, I worked as a farmer at Mandailing, Padang Sidempoean.

One day in the year 1942, I cannot remember the exact date, whilst I was sitting at a wayside stall having a drink, I was suddenly arrested by Japs, put on a lorry with three other coolies and taken to Sibolga. From there I was taken to Tandjong Balei, where I received training to become a carpenter. Since the food was so bad and we were suffering from hunger, after half a year, I along with ten others managed to escape to Belawan Deli. There I was recaptured and taken to Singapore as a coolie. At Singapore, Tandjong Pagar, I again received a three months' training in rope-making and ferrying Indian boats (tongkangs).

Instruction was given by two Japanese instructors named: Funatshu and Tiutiia. One day they were angry because f.500 was alleged to have been stolen. Each took off a rubber shoe, and then all the pupils, - about 150, - were beaten. I, too, was hit several times with the shoe in my face by Funatshu, so that I had a great deal of pain and got a very swollen face. Furthermore, we had to remain kneeling from 3 o'clock in the afternoon until midnight.

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1773-A

DOCUMENT 5646

C E R T I F I C A T E

The undersigned CHARLES JONGENEEL, Captain R.N.I.A., head of War Crimes Section of NETHERLANDS FORCES INTELLIGENCE SERVICE (NEFIS) being first duly sworn on oath deposes and states that the annexed statement is a full, true, complete and accurate copy of the original Dutch document, entitled:

Sworn statement of Mrs. A. E. PRINS, nee Röhrborn, drawn up by W. BEUN, LL.D. Judge-advocate MEDAN, dated 24th December 1945, No. 2796/R,

which original document is a part of the official records of the NEFIS.

Batavia, August 28, 1946.

(S E A L)
(/s/ Ch. Jongeneel)

Subscribed and sworn to before me, K. A. DE WEERD, LL.D., Major Artillery R.N.I.A., Senior Official attached to the office of the Attorney-General N.E.I.

/s/ K. A. de Weerd

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