

EL 1920

Dunedin  
12th April 1946

I, Ian Douglas Newlands, :- do solemnly and sincerely declare

I am a single man, 26 years of age  
and I reside with my father The Rev. John Newlands at the Manse  
17 Jeffery Street- Andersons Bay-Dunedin.

I joined the Armed Forces for New Zealand on the 1st of December 1940.

I was attached to the Royal New Zealand Air Force, my regimental number  
was 404927.

Prior to joining up with the armed forces I was a student at the  
Canterbury University--Christchurch.

I sailed from New Zealand on the "S.S. Aorangi" for Vancouver on the  
26th of April 1941.

I was in Canada for a period of three months service flying training.

I arrived in England on the 18th August 1941. where I was attached to  
43 Squadron and after that to 232 Squadron. With the 232 Squadron

I went to Singapore arriving there in January 1942.

From the Singapore Base the Squadron was operating against the Japanese  
over the Malaya Peninsula.

I had to evacuate from Singapore on the "Empire Star" on the 11th of  
February 1942, and arrived at Batavia-Java on the 13/2/42.

From Batavia we continued operating against the Japanese until the

Capitulation of Java on the 8th March 1942. On the 8/3/42. I was

at Tasik Malaya, central Java. Advice was then received by the

No 1920

remaining members of the Squadron that we were to give ourselves up to the Japanese in command.

I understand that this advice came from the Dutch authorities in command.

After receiving this advice, I made an attempt to escape with the intention of reaching the south coast in the hope of being picked up by some ship.

About a week later I was captured and taken to Garoet in central Java. I was captured by the Japanese. On March the 25th 1942 I was removed by train to Batavia with other Air Force personal and placed in the Boei Glodok Prison. We remained there for a period of eight months-then we were shipped to Japan. I travelled on the Dianiche Maru to Singapore, where we stayed in the Changi Caol for Ten Days, after which I was placed on the Tohoku Maru with other Prisoners of War and taken to Moji in South Japan. At Moji I was placed in a temporary Hospital on account of my being very ill, suffering from Dysentery, and Fever. I was in this Hospital for a period of two months. The conditions in Hospital were not good, the food was bad and not suitable for sick Europeans. There were several Japanese Doctors in the Hospital but all medical attention was left to some American Prisoners who had been attached to Army Medical Corps.

There would be about approximately 180 European prisoners in this Hospital and during the two months that I was a patient about 50 died mostly from lack of medical attention.

The Hospital accomodation was exceedingly poor, and we had to sleep on wooden floors in small cubicles on loose straw. We were all huddled together and eight of us had to sleep in a small cubicle

about 12 feet by 10 feet. At this time there was about 2 feet of snow on the ground. <sup>at</sup>  
From Hospital, I was drafted to a Prison Camp "Murooran" on the Island of Hokkaido which is in the north of Japan.

The camp was known as "Hakodate No. I."

I remained in this Prison Camp from February 1943 until June 1945.

The Japanese Commanding Officer at "Hakodate No I. Prison Camp was Lieutenant Hirati. There were between 300 to 600 Prisoners of War of different Nationalities in the camp. The number kept varying from time to time on account of the men being drafted to other places. Lieutenant Hirati- had a staff of about 15 Guards (armed) and about ten Japanese civilians employed in the Office and Administration Buildings.

When I first entered this camp there were only 66 Europeans ~~in the~~ and 300 Japanese. The highest rating in our number was Flight Sergeant Crozier of the R.A.F. He was made our Officer.

During the first year in this Camp the conditions were very severe. Food was very short and unsuitable, all of us suffering from Beri-Beri and other forms of Malnutrition. There were no medical supplies, and a Japanese Sergeant Major who was in charge of the Hospital and sick parades was not a medical man. This Sergeant Major, (I can not remember his name) compelled men who were sick and unfit to work in the winter weather on outside heavy work such as shifting Coal, Iron ore and Ingots of iron, at the Murooran Steel Works where the prisoners in this camp were employed. We were forced to work

from daylight to dark for thirteen days on end and then we had one day off. It was quite a common practise for prisoners to be beaten by the Prison guards or factory bosses or overseers in the Factory, for practically no reason at all. In some instances the beatings were for not complying with orders which would be given in the Japanese language and which we could not understand.

I have received severe beatings with sticks-and was slapped practically every day. On numerous occasions when we were in camp-after work-at practically any hour of the night we were awakened, lined up in our rooms and made to march and do Japanese drill. On each of these occasions several men would receive punishment for not

satisfying the guards. It was difficult to know the names of the Guards as they were changed about every two or three weeks.

It was well known in the prison Camp that the Commanding Officer-"Hirati" was the instigator of this treatment.

One particular instance of ill treatment occurred on May 7th 1943. I personally witnessed the happening:- a Dutch prisoner named "Ballinco" a Soldier, was accused by some of the Japanese Guards-of stealing some articles. He was attached to a group of prisoners in the same compound in which I was. A few days before the 7/5/43 he was not allowed to go to the Steel Factory to work, but was placed in a cell at the rear of the Guard Room. At this time, I was confined to Camp on account of sickness and I saw what was going on. After he was placed in the Guard cell he was not supplied with any food and every few hours he was taken from the Cell and in full view

of myself and other sick prisoners he was beaten by the Guards with Sticks, belts-or hit with their fists. When he received these beatings he was only dressed in thin clothes. This continued until he finally died on the 7/5/43. On the 7/5/43. he was severely beaten on his bare back on which cuts, bruises and other marks could be plainly seen. A Dutch Doctor, (a Javanese) named Lutter-a fellow prisoner, was not allowed to render any aid to Ballinco. Commander Hireti was present on a number of occasions when Ballinco was beaten and appeared to be trying to make Ballinco make a confession of his guilt. It was a common Camp practise for Prisoners to be placed in the Guard Cells without food and beaten every few hours for slight offences for which in many instances they were quite innocent of.

Owing to my rank as a Sergeant Pilot I was made Orderly Sergeant of the week on different occasions.

On one occasion while I was orderly sergeant, the date was the 9th August 1943. I was told by Head Kitchen Guard "Sikista" to order a number of sick prisoners to do heavy camp work, carrying kitchen stores from motor lorries to the Cook house store.

"Sikista" could understand that-by what I told him that the prisoners were not fit to do any kind of work, and I refused to order them to do the work. "Sikista" then severely beat me with a thick leather belt which he was wearing-and took off. He beat me over the head and I put my hands up to avoid further hits over the head, and he then

beat me on the body. I was wearing thin clothes at the time and received numerous cuts about the arms, back and legs. He finally stopped-after he had been beating me for about five minutes, when the metal studs were torn out of the belt and the metal buckle broke. I was then made to continue on with my work. I have seen "Sibista" beat other prisoners in a similar manner- with anything he could pick up-for any slight provocation which upset him. He was a very bad tempered man. I know from my own personal knowledge that he would take food that was put out for the prisoners, and sell some to Japanese civilians in the neighbourhood. I have seen him passing the food out to the civilians. On account of this, we were deprived of food from the rations which were weighed out for us.

During the time I was employed in the Muroran Steel works, the work was for Military purposes, the steel being made and sent to an armament factory - producing Gun Barrels. The other factory being only a few miles away. The Muroran Steel Works was exposed to Bombing attacks by American Planes. In June 1945 the Muroran Steel Works were completely wiped out in a Bombing Raid and by Navy shellings. The steel works were not bombed during the period I was employed there. The bombing took place about three or four days after I left the Works and went to work in another Prison Camp at "Nisi Asibetu, situated in the centre of Hokkaido where I was employed in a Lumber Camp and finally in a Coal mine. I was working in the Coal mine when peace was declared on the 3rd or 4th of September 1945.

When I was transferred from Muroran Prison Camp to "Misi Isibetu" Prison Camp Commandant Hirati was also transferred.

He still continued being abusive to the Prisoners, and appeared to be indifferent as to what happened to the Prisoners.

Collective punishments which all prisoners were subjected to, consisted of making the entire camp go without a meal for some minor offence for which a culprit could not be found.

On these occasions the entire camp would be made to stand on parade during the period allowed for meal and on several occasions, we were made to stand up all night and then made to go to work at daylight the next morning. If any prisoner showed signs of going to sleep he was slapped by one of the Guards.

After peace was declared, Hirati made himself more pleasant and he ordered that all Officers and N.C.O's to attend a Japanese dinner at the Camp at which dinner he presided. I attended the dinner. The dinner was given just before the receiving forces arrived at the Camp.

I left Japan on the 11th of September 1945. and I arrived back in New Zealand about the 23rd of October 1945. I arrived back in New Zealand by the "S.V. Andes".

When I was taken prisoner my rank was "Sergeant Pilot" of the R.N.Z.A.F.

When I arrived back in New Zealand I was promoted to Warrant Officer.

/2/ I. D. Norlands 12/4/46

I - Ian Douglas Newlands of 17 Jeffery Street-  
Andersons Bay-Dunedin. New Zealand- apprentice  
carpenter declare that the five page statement was  
made by me concerning my treatment while a prisoner  
of War in Japan.  
And I make this solemn declaration conscientiously  
believing same to be true and by virtue of the  
Justices of the Peace Act 1927.  
Declared at Dunedin this 12th day of April 1946, before  
me.

/s/ R. Walls, J. P.  
Justice of the Peace.