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INTERNATIONAL PROSECUTION SECTION

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Evidentiary Document 5001

THOMAS WILLIAM BINDEMAN.

My full number, name, rank and unit are WX.11036 Chaplain Thomas William Bindeman, Sparrow Force, Timor. My home address is 1 Fortune Street, South Perth, Western Australia.

About a fortnight after the capitulation on 23 February 1942, I was sent out on burial parties at Baboe, Timor. I exhumed the body of Cpl. Guthrie, W.C., VX.23312, and verified the fact that he had met his death by hanging and had had his throat cut. His body had been placed in a slit trench and I recovered his identity discs and placed his body in a place where it might not escape notice. The rope was still around the neck when I exhumed the body. I also saw the bodies of three other Australians who had had their throats cut and had apparently met their death in the same way as Guthrie. I was unable to identify these bodies. I had records relating to these matters but they were taken from me during my imprisonment. I recollect that one of the three was probably a man named Klingliver, of 2.40 Infantry Battalian.

About two or three days later, whilst traversing country where the Okabeti and Tjemplong roads cross in Timor, looking for dead to give them burial, I came across the bodies of eight Australian soldiers tied together by rope around their wrists. Each had been shot through the head at close quarters; later, it was related by a man who had escaped that ll sick men were being removed to the Tjamplong hospital when captured by the Japanese.

In about April or May 1942, at Oesapa Besar prison camp, Private Terry, E.F. (TX.3597) left the camp driving a truck for the Japanese. He did not return to camp and later Lieut. Harada in conversation with me told me that Terry had been shot without trial. Lieut. Harada told me that in relation to the behaviour of the prisoners of war in the camp, we would have to be careful as one man had already been shot. Lieut. Harada was the second officer appointed to this prison camp succeeding Lieut. (later Captain) Fukada.

About the same time as the earlier incidents, a native familiarly known as "Tommy Broome" who had previously done my washing, spoke to me as I passed him on my way to bury dead and showed me a hernia. I told him that he would have to be careful of his condition. Hideshi Kicki, who seemed to be a member of the Japanese Intelligence Staff on Timor, was acting as guard and he said to me that I had had a busy morning, and would I like a cup of tea. I replied that I would. He then wrote something on a piece of paper and gave it to Tommy Broome, who went towards the guard tent about 300 yards away. I went on with my work and shortly after looked towards the guard tent and saw Tommy being beaten with a large piece of wood by the Jap guard. I attempted to intercede on his behalf but was unsuccessful. After he had been knocked down with this piece of wood, he was dragged into a building across the road and a shot rang out. Kioki smilingly told me that Japanese soldiers were merely taking care of my native friend. I did not see Tommy Broome again and his death was later confirmed by other natives.

IFTERNATIONAL PROSECUTION SECTION RECTEST FORM 1945 INCIDENT - ACCUSED JUDGE AIBERT VILLIA'S 5001 The undersigned requests the consideration of Document # 5001 (describe): Extracts from record of evidence of WX 11036 Chaplain T. W. BINDEMAN, Sparrow Force A. I.F. as to atrouties committed by Japanew on P.O.W. at Timor between February and Neary 1942. (Gregenal Record of Endence also herewith) for introduction in evidence (specify purpose) as to healment of Pow, Class B' Offences. Homer F. Mornanc Le 600 INTERNATIONAL PROSECUTION SECTION Staff Attorney 1946 TO THE DOCUMENT OFFICER:

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