

TX. 2827 Private Roderick Bruce CROW, 2/40 Aust. Infantry Battalion, being duly sworn, states:

My home address is Montague Bay, Tasmania.

I was captured in Timor and was confined in Osapa Besar camp. I was captured in April 1942.

Prior to this, about 20 February 1942 I was captured by paratroops and handed over to the Marines. We were captive about 30 hours and they took us out three at a time to shoot us. Eight were shot and another got away. Our hands were tied behind our backs. I saw them shoot Private Hurd. The Japanese who was to shoot me was only young. I hit him and escaped; he was on his back when I left him.

I was then taken to Osapa Besar. There was very little meat or rice and the food was poor. I was engaged unloading boats but we did not do much work at all. We were not paid.

I was then sent to Java at Tanjoeng Prick, here I remained for three months. There was a big improvement in the food position there.

I was then sent to Singapore and to Thailand. I was confined in Kinsio camp; 350 soldiers were in our party. The food there was bad and there were very little medical supplies. Capt. Godley was our medical officer. Some of the men had malaira and some had dysentery. We lost about 60 men out of the 350 due to cholera, dysentery and malaria. We were at Kinsio for about six months. I do not know the names of any of the guards. I contracted beri beri there.

I then went to Chungki, which was a base camp. Conditions there were improved. We had an Australian doctor, Col. Dunlop, in charge.

We went to Japan by ship; there 1000 Australians and about 50 Dutch on board. We were confined in the hold and were very crowded. There was not sufficient room to lie down. We were on board for 70 days, and one Australian died. Our main diet was dried fish and rice.

I was confined in No. 13 camp, Fukuoka, where I did factory work; the factory was a copper refinery. Conditions there were fairly good. I then went to No. 1 camp, Fukuoks, where I remained for about two months. We were frequently beaten there. I was sick with malaria and diarrhoea. I do not know the names of the Japanese guards, but "Bucktooth" was the chief basher.

I was then sent to No. 17 camp, where conditions were fairly good. I spent eight weeks convalescing and received some Red Cross parcels in January 1945. I remained there until March 1945. I was then put to work in the mine but I did not do too much work as I had beri and malaria. Many of the men were forced to work when they were sick. I think about 100 died out of 1800 in the last six months I was there. Some were killed in the mine and many died from pneumonia. When the war finished I weighed 8 stone 2 lbs; I now weigh 12 stones 4 lbs. I cannot remember the names of the Japanese guards.

I certify that the above evidence is true and correct.

Taken and sworn before me at Manila)
on the 1st day of October 1945)

R. B. Crow

Signature illegible

Commissioner

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A CERTIFIED TRUE COPY

/s/ Peter G. Guduras
Peter G. Guduras
2nd Lt Inf