

Ex 1937

Evidence taken at Manila on 6 October 1945.

Private Henry Horace PAWLEY being duly sworn gives the following evidence:

My Army number is NX5700; full name [Henry Horace Pawley; Private; unit 2/19 Bn] Home address: Cullingral Street, Merriwa, [New South Wales.]

[I was captured in Singapore;] this was [in February,] and until April 1942 [I was imprisoned at Changi camp. I was taken to Lornie Road camp on 5 May. In Changi the food was light; men were hungry. We were under our own administration there. I was at Lornie Road and the other two minor camps about the golf links until 29 November 1942. Conditions generally were fair. Food was not so bad. We worked on the shrine. Then later we did some road work.

In November 1942, we left for Japan in the Korakura Maru. We were badly overcrowded. The voyage occupied ten days. We were all on the top deck. Food was pretty light. We had two meals a day - breakfast at about 7 a.m. and the other meal at about 3 p.m. Men lost weight - I myself lost 10 kilos on the way. Some men contracted dysentery but there were no deaths, so far as I know.

[We were] taken to Nagasaki, then [sent to Kobe on 10 December 1942. I went to No. 3 camp and I was there until June 45. The living quarters were fair. We did shipyard work at the Kawasaki Coy's yards. The hours of work were from 7 a.m. to about half past five. There was a lot of sickness in the first winter. If I remember rightly, out of 500 men 157 were at one time down sick. Sick men mostly were forced to work and it was a common thing for men to collapse on the job. While I was there we had about 60 deaths. In the first winter we had about 35 deaths from pneumonia and malnutrition; they were starved and worked down to a frazzle. The 60 deaths included Australians, Dutch and English. The medical supplies were very poor. The only thing we did have most of the time was a little pill - we used to call it the Brown Bomber -- we got it for everything, from the Japs. Dysentery or a mine injury - we got it just the same. Our works guard there was Michikawa. There were many beatings there. I got some myself. This chap was always giving us bashings. The sgt/major in charge of the camp we called Big Bill gave us some severe bashings. There was also a two-star medical orderly whom we called Sleepy - he used to beat the sick and force them to work. Diarrhoea or dysentery was nothing at all to the Japs - it was not a reason for not working. Anything at all wrong with the stomach was no excuse

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or reason for staying away from the work. Once they knew you had any of those things, you either got bashed or went to work. They were terribly severe on those sicknesses. A man would have pretty bad diarrhoea and have to go to the lavatory 14 or 15 times a day and the Dutch doctor might decide to put him in hospital, and this Sleepy or some other Jap orderly would countermand the order. They would do anything to keep you from food. There is a Sig in this camp - Bob McIlwraith (I am not sure of the spelling) who had dysentery quite often there. He had it pretty well right through. He was told one lunch time not to have anything to eat; but he managed to eat something when the Japs were not looking. I was in hospital at the time, and McIlwraith was there also. When the Japs found he was eating he was pulled out of his bunk by this Sleepy, who took him out and did him over properly. I don't think there was a man in the camp who at one time or another was not beaten by Sleepy.

One chap we called Black Sam, a Dutchman, got 28 days for selling two Jap raincoats, and he was kept in the guard house during the middle of the winter. They took his clothes away from him every night. He got fed three rice-balls a day and was beaten day and night. After only 23 days there he died.

On one occasion the entire camp was paraded for two successive nights because some writing in English was discovered on the lavatory walls. Sherriff and a man named Donald Lynch put themselves in to try to get the rest of us out of it. Lynch later was punch-drunk from the beltings they gave him; he ended up, shortly afterwards, by falling out of his two-tiered bunk and injuring his spine or his neck and he died about two days later. He was never quite the same after that terrible beating.

We never had sufficient medical supplies. Half the time there was nothing at all. If the men had had proper care and proper food the great majority of the deaths would have been avoided. One chap named Mussett was in hospital and was down for light duties; he had diarrhoea badly. He got worse every day. He was a big fellow and came down to about 43 kilos. He got very weak in the hospital. Two days before he died this Sleepy got him out and beat him and was going to make him go to work. At the time this chap was too weak to feed himself.

After this I went to Ita camp, in June 1945. This was camp No. 27. Mostly the men were on mine work. I had had bronchitis quite a lot and I was not permitted by the Jap doctor to go underground any more. [I was on road work for a while and then was put in

charge of a garden party, and also what was called a snake party. The snake parties lasted about eight weeks. We used to go out and catch snakes for the kitchen, to eat. At first it was an everyday job; later it was done each second day. I think the L/Cpl who used to be in charge of our party had a connection outside with a woman for selling Australian cigarettes; he used to take a parcel of stuff with him - once, I think, I had to carry it for him.

Beatings there were pretty common. This was the worst camp I was ever in for discipline severity. Food was off and on. The quarters were pretty terrible. Mosquitoes, bugs and lice would just about carry you off the bunks. Men could not sleep. There was a lot of sickness there. The Japs there used to force the sick men to work - only a few men there were actually in hospital.

Three-star Pte. "The Black Angel" was one of the worst Jap guards at the camp.

Once at camp No. 27 the Japs put on an exhibition beating. There were two Americans - one had been caught with half a pumpkin and the other was caught picking up a green persimmon. One of them was called The Wop; the other American was Chief Petty Officer Daniells. Back from work the men were first of all put into the guardhouse; then it was announced that there was to be a camp parade at 7 o'clock. The parade was called, and the Japs lined the men up. They placed two tables out in front of us, one in front of the other. There also was a Dutchman with the two Americans, over something in regard to food. The three men were brought out; there was an interpreter there also. The camp commander came and stood on one of the tables. The men one by one were called over to him. They were stood on the other table in front of the camp commander. He turned each one round to face us. The interpreter said what the charge was. The camp commander told him that the punishment was something, and this was repeated to us by the interpreter. I saw The Wop get three days on half rations in the guardhouse. He was also beaten. The camp commander unbuckled his swordbelt, rolled his sleeves up, and preened himself. Then Daniells was beaten. When each man could not stand any longer, two guards were called and held each one up. The camp commander then kicked each man off the table. Daniells got about five or seven days in the guardhouse. This happened only a few days before the war finished; if the war had gone on much longer a lot more men would have died after their terrible beatings. The men came out of the guardhouse each morning at about halfpast six and then taken back again; they were not even allowed to wash. It was nothing for the guards each night to go

in and beat them to stop them going to sleep. _____

I certify that the above evidence is correct.

/s/ H. H. Pawley

Taken and sworn before me at Manila)

on this 6th day of October 1945)

/s/ A. J. Mansfield
Commissioner