

Ex 1518

Evidentiary Document No. 5057B.

The International Military
Tribunal for the Far East.

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND OTHERS

YAMAKI Sadao and others.

A F F I D A V I T.

I, WILLIAM JOHN CAMPBELL GUEST, of 4 Inscellon Avenue, Toorak, in the
State of Victoria, make oath and say:-

I was Acting Commissioner for the Australian Red Cross Society
in Malaya.

I went to Malaya in October, 1941, and was attached to the
Eighth Division, A.I.F. By previous arrangement, we were extending
Australian Red Cross benefits to the British Forces.

I became a prisoner of war on the 15th February, 1942. I spent
the whole of my time as a prisoner of war at the Chang Military prisoner
of war camp, except for three weeks at River Valley Camp. I was medically
unfit until September, 1942, and in that intervening period, Mr. W.E.
Roberts carried on as Acting Commissioner.

On the 31st December, 1942, Mr. Roberts was arrested by the
Japanese and imprisoned in the gaol at Outram Road. I took charge of the
Unit next day. I immediately made contact with the Camp Commandant's
office and interviewed Lieutenant Tanaka. I put before him the whole
position as regards Red Cross, quoting clauses of the Convention, which I
offered to quote to him in full. He stated that he had a copy of the
Convention and made notes of the clauses that I had quoted. I informed
him that we asked him for no extra privileges other than laid down in the
Convention. On being asked whether the Japanese had signed the 1929
Prisoners of War Convention, he would give me no definite answer.
However, I found from subsequent experience that they would quote clauses
out of it when it suited them. I quoted to him from the Hague Rules of 1907
and from what is known as the Red Cross Convention of 1929. He took notes
of these, but never denied that they applied. I also made applications in
writing to the Japanese, but written applications were quite useless.
They never on any occasion answered any letter that I wrote to them. I
always had to follow it up personally and they took so little interest
that very often, when I obtained an interview, they would not be able to
find the letter that had been written to them on the subject. I was sent
by Lieutenant Tanaka to see Captain Hachisuka, who appeared to be Adjutant
to General Arinura. Through his office I was permitted to make contact
with Mr. H. Schweizer, the International Red Cross delegate, with whom,
Hachisuka informed me, he had been in touch previously. I had made
applications for money through Red Cross channels and Hachisuka eventually

informed me that I could obtain 40,000 dollars from Mr. Schweizer on a promissory note. This money I eventually obtained in March 1943. Later on in 1943, I was able to obtain another 50,000 dollars, having been told in the meantime that the question of money was not one for the Japanese, who merely acted as intermediaries, but if Schweizer was willing to lend and I was willing to borrow, that was all there was to it. They gave the impression that they would grant facilities for a continuation to the obtaining of loans, but later refused it. The particular Japanese who refused it was Lieutenant Shimokawarra. He had taken Hachisuka's place about the end of April, 1943. On being refused facilities to obtain further loans, I interviewed Shimokawarra on many occasions, pointing out to him the urgent necessity for Red Cross financial assistance for the sick and wounded and prisoners of war generally, particularly in the absence of any regular supply of Red Cross goods from outside, but did not meet with any success. Eventually, the Japanese sent for Major Shean, who was the Liaison Officer between the camp and the Japanese camp office. He was informed by Tanaka, to use their own words, that they could not observe me any longer, because I had been taken with the fighting forces. Major Shean asked if they had any personal objection to me and their reply was there was nothing like that about it. He challenged them with a change of face and asked whether it was an instruction from higher up and on whose instruction this attitude was adopted. Tanaka said it was the opinion of General Arimura. He then said if there was a Swiss or Portuguese representative in Singapore, it would be different. Major Shean then repeated our oft-made request for Schweizer to come into the camp and do ordinary Red Cross work. They said they wanted this request in writing. It was given to them in writing by Colonel Holmes, who was Commander of the troops in Changi, and had taken General Percival's place. Later they sent for Colonel Holmes and told him that they could not acknowledge Schweizer because he had lived in Singapore prior to the capitulation and might be biased towards prisoners of war. There were no representatives of any other society, but the Australian in the camp, and as Acting Commissioner I had to make Red Cross representations on behalf of prisoners of war of all nationalities. After the refusal to allow me to obtain further funds, I was never again granted an interview with any Japanese official. They issued an instruction that from then on all Red Cross matters were to be done by correspondence through Colonel Holmes. I wrote several letters to Schweizer through this medium, but learnt from him after the Japanese surrender that he did not get them. Apparently the Japanese had no intention of forwarding them.

From November 1943 onwards our money being exhausted, the purchase of supplementary rations for hospital patients came to an end, and when our small stock of foodstuffs and comforts became exhausted in 1944, the work of the Australian Red Cross Unit practically ceased.

At no time was Red Cross allowed to function in the camp, except in a very limited manner, and no offer of facilities ever came from the Japanese side. Anything that we were allowed to do was only after representations had been made to them for permission, and as previously stated, our activities practically came to an end in March 1944.

As far as Lieutenant Shimokawarra was concerned, I had close dealings with him, including the arrangement of a loan of 50,000 dollars through the International Red Cross Delegate, on account of the Australian Red Cross Society. However, he would give me no facilities to go in Singapore and see the International Delegate, stating that this was against the Japanese rules. He brought the money out to the Changi Camp and I signed the documents there. He would give me no facilities to go out of the camp at all to make purchases. I took up with him the question of doing something for the prisoners of the Kempei in Outram Road Gaol, asking permission to send foodstuffs and clothing to them from our stocks in Changi, but he would not grant permission for this. He explained that the gaol was under Kempei administration and arrangements would have to be made through the Japanese High Command, as the POW administration could not approach the Commandant of the Outram Road Gaol direct. I brought this matter up with him on several occasions, but he eventually refused to listen to further requests. He admitted that the personnel were in a bad condition when they came out of the gaol, but said he could not do anything about it. I also suggested to him on one occasion, in an endeavour to get over the difficulty, that he could let the International Delegate know that there were prisoners of war in the Outram Road Gaol, and suggested that he call on the gaol commandant to see whether there was anything he could do for them. He would not do this and appeared to be more frightened of the Kempei than we were. Shimokawarra had in his office a copy of the Red Cross Convention in Japanese. On one occasion, when discussing Red Cross money with him, he said it was a matter between the International Delegate and myself. I informed him that I knew that Schweizer could loan me money and that I was quite willing to borrow it on behalf of the Australian Red Cross Society, as it was very necessary to help the prisoners of war generally as much as possible. I had been extending the service in the camp and instead of buying only supplementary rations for hospital demands, I had been allowing a small amount per head to purchase rations for all prisoners of war in the camp. He took me to task over this and I quoted the Hague Rules and Red Cross Convention and stated that the Red Cross Society looked after all prisoners of war and not only the sick ones. He referred to his copy of the Convention and started to read it. After a while, he said, "we will put that away", and placed it on the shelf in his office. He found out that it did not support his contention. This attitude was typical, not only of Shimokawarra, but of all Japanese with whom I had contact. They would quote the Conventions, even the prisoners of War Convention which they had not signed, when it suited them, but would put it aside when it did not.

Mr. Schweizer, the International Delegate, was never permitted to visit the Changi Camp until after the surrender of the Japanese, when orders were received from Tokyo that International Delegates must be allowed to function. I made many representations for Mr. Schweizer to be allowed to visit the camp, as also did the Army authorities, but we could never obtain permission either from the Camp Commandant's office or from the Headquarters of the POW Administration. Mr. Schweizer also made representations without success. As far as Mr. Schweizer was concerned

I think he tried very hard to carry out his duties as an International Delegate, approaching the Japanese in Singapore on his own account quite frequently on behalf of the prisoners of war and civilian internees. He was allowed to do slightly more for the internees than for the prisoners of war, but like the Australian Red Cross Society Unit, was never allowed anything approaching adequate facilities. He appeared to me to be trying all the time, for example, when Hachisuka left the POW Administration and took his place, I called on Shimokawarra three or four days later, to inform him of what had been going on in connection with Red Cross, particularly between Mr. Schweizer and myself, and was told by him that there was no need to explain as Mr. Schweizer had already been in touch with him and explained everything.

[Apart from the money which we were able to obtain through the International Red Cross, the following shipments were received from overseas. In August, 1942, 230 tons of foodstuffs arrived on a returning diplomatic exchange ship from Portuguese East Africa. In September 1942, 1690 tons arrived on a second exchange ship, also from Portuguese East Africa.] This was put into two go-downs in Singapore, and the Japanese asked for a representative of the Red Cross in the camp to go down and supervise the distribution. I went in with the British Army representative and stayed at the River Valley POW camp for nearly three weeks. However, the Japanese did not really allow us to supervise the distribution. They laid down a plan of allocation and all we could do was to try and persuade them to make a few small alterations in this allocation, such as sending more Marmite to the civilian camp for the use of interned children. We could not persuade them to make any material alteration in their plan and appeared to be only there as a way out for them if there were any complaints in the future.

[A further small shipment arrived in February 1944 which included medical supplies. We were never supplied with any lists other than Japanese ones of the total quantities in these shipments, so could not check them properly.]

With the exception of the September 1942 shipment mentioned above goods from these shipments were just delivered into the camps on Singapore Island by the Japanese authorities, but we know that they used some medical supplies for themselves, as the greater quantity of these were kept by the Japanese A.D.M.S., who dealt it out to us from time to time.

The weight of the food parcels which arrived in February 1944, was 11 pounds gross, and they contained approximately 8½ pounds of food. This shipment came from Goa in Portuguese East Africa and the only list which was held by the camp authorities was one given to one of our supply officers by a Japanese officer, showing what was delivered to the other camps and to the Japanese A.D.M.S. I understand that the supplying of this list was quite an unofficial matter and there appeared to be no particular reason why it should be given to us, by this Japanese officer.

A fourth shipment of Red Cross supplies arrived in March 1945, comprising Canadian, British and American food parcels, a small quantity of drugs and medical supplies and some clothing. These supplies were

handed over to the camp authorities, but as the Japanese rations were so scanty at the time, each POW in the camp was not handed out a parcel. The parcels were broken down and portioned out as an addition to rations, to make them last over a longer period. These supplies came on a mercy ship from Vladivostok, arranged by Red Cross. They were distributed without reference to the International Delegate or myself. As far as the International Delegate was concerned, none of the International Red Cross shipments were referred to him by the Japanese. Working parties were sent to Singapore from Changi to handle this shipment. They reported to me that the whole of the supplies were not distributed, some being set aside, they thought, for Burma and Sumatra, and a portion left unallocated. As far as I knew at the time, the Japanese had no means of getting these supplies to Burma or Sumatra. Burma at that stage was practically out of their control and their shipping position was very parlous. The supplies were just left in store and in spite of representations which were made to them to have some of the supplies sent out to Changi Camp, as people were dying for want of proper food, the Japanese would not comply with this request. After their surrender, they sent these supplies to the Changi Camp and other camps on Singapore Island, and generally tried to ingratiate this by making other supplies they had in store available and allowing Mr. Schweizer his drugs, so that they could be delivered quicker.

Among the supplies, in addition to the Red Cross supplies, the Japanese released cheese, condensed milk and other commodities which had been in Singapore since before its capture, which shows that they could have done a lot more for us during the period of our captivity.

The Japanese also sent out further medical supplies, of which we had been very short and which they informed us they could not supply. They had been in their Red Cross store in Singapore for some months.

As far as my personal treatment was concerned, it was the same as that meted out to any other officer. I feel that I must repeat that if I and other representatives of the Red Cross had not made representations for permission to do Red Cross work, we would have been left in the camp and ignored by the Japanese. No move ever came from their side to facilitate Red Cross work. Mr. Schweizer commented on this to me during a few moments we got together on our own on an occasion when Hachisuka took me into Singapore. Also, that on no occasion had he seen any representative of the Japanese Red Cross Society there. We both had to deal with authorities to whom Red Cross work was a side line and who regarded it generally speaking as rather a nuisance. As far as I am aware, there was no Red Cross representative in Malaya, and no representative of the Japanese Red Cross Society ever visited the Changi Camp. On one occasion, I heard

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that a POW Delegation was coming from Tokyo to inspect the POW Camps.
I made application to the Japanese camp authorities to meet the delegation
but the reply was that they were not coming and we did not see anyone.

Sworn at Melbourne in the State)
of Victoria this the tenth day)
of October 1946.)

(Signed) W.J. CAMPBELL GUEST.

Before me,

(Signed) S.E. ELDER.
A Commissioner of the Supreme Court of
Victoria for taking affidavits.