

E x 1739

AFFIDAVIT

This sixteenth day of August 1946 appeared before me F. H. von KRIEGER, ass. Judge Advocate, attached to the Temporary Court Martial at MAKASSAR, in charge of the investigation in the case of:

War Criminals,

the person of: "AMAT FANI";

summoned to bear witness of the truth in the case of the suspect mentioned, who, after having been remonstrated with about the obligation to tell the truth and nothing but the truth and the importance of the oath to be taken by him, answered as follows to the questions put to him:

What is your full name, age, profession, residence?

"AMAT FANI", 57 years of age, head-supervisor (mandoer) at SEMARANG.

Have you any legal reasons to refuse to bear witness in the case of this suspect?

No.

Tell me your experiences during the Japanese occupation?

In 1943 I was summoned to appear before the ass. wedana (ass.village-chief). Japs present there told me to go and work for them in Celebes for three months. I should receive a high salary, proper food and clothes. When we departed, there were 100 of us, and I was their leader. All of them were simple village people. Only 60 of them survived: the others died as a result of hunger, disease and bombardments. From Solo we were transferred to WOFOKROMO, where we had to perform coolie-work. The coolies received 50 cents per day, my wages were 75 cents although they had promised me f. 1.- This lasted two months. In the course of that period there were 9000 coolies collected at WOFOKROMO. With 1500 coolies I was sent to RAHA (MOENA), I was supervisor of 50 men. We made the trip in a wooden Japanese boat, in which these 1500 men were crammed. Twice a day we received a meal of rice with tainted fish (ikan gereh). In the morning we had coffee. There was no supply of drinking-water. Sometimes drink-ing water was stolen from the Japs, but on detection the thief was punished with a sound beating. After ten days we reached MAKASSAR, where we had one day of rest; a bath was permitted to us and we could wash our clothes. Moreover we could drink as much as we liked. Thereon we continued our journey to RAHA. During the journey nobody died.

Arrived at RAHA we had to set to work at once: unload the ship and clean it, which took us one week. We worked till 10 at night; sometimes the Japs threw petrol-drums into the water, with which the coolies had to swim ashore, whether they were able to do so or not. We received no money and food was supplied only once a day. When this task was finished, we had to construct an airfield. The wages for the coolies were f. o. 50 a day, I received f. o. 75. For food an amount of f.3.- had to be paid per head per month and f. 5. - had to be deposited to be sent to Java. Moreover f. 5.- was set aside per head per month. This blocked account was never paid out. Every day we had to work from 7 a. m. till 5 p. m., with a rest from 11 till 1. We had only one holiday per month, and 1 holiday on the occasion of the "Lebaran" (first day after the month of fasting). Wages during the holidays were not deducted. Sick persons were properly treated; there was a hospital for the serious patients with a Japanese doctor. Food consisted of 3 x 120 grams of rice daily, mixed with maize (corn), occasionally with vegetables, seldom with salted fish. When ever anything went wrong with the work, the mandoers (supervisors) had to line up, whereon we were rebuked and finally punished with a bad thrashing with a piece of wood, especially by beating on our heads. More than 500 coolies died in one year at MOENA, mainly as a result of shortage of food. It was impossible for us to buy any additional food or to try to find it, because we were locked up in camps.

Twice I complained about the food to a Jap dressed in uniform, with a star on his left breast. Both times the only result was that I received a heavy thrashing. We were not permitted to write letters, nor did we receive any. Collective punishments were regularly inflicted.

In February 1945 I was ordered to take 5 trucks to MAKASSAR with 110 men in a MAKASSAR-prahu. There were no Japs on board the ship. We were bombed by Allied planes; as a result the ship sank and 20 of us were killed. Fortunately this happened near the coast and we were able to beach the ship. I went to ATAMPONE to take the 40 wounded men to the hospital. Everyone of us received f.10.- and moreover one pair of pants, whereon we were taken to MAKASSAR on foot: the wounded men were loaded on a truck. After 9 days we reached our destination, dead-tired; we obtained one weeks holiday without payment. Afterwards I had to work at MALINO for f.1.75 per day, the coolies for f. 0. 75. Food was insufficient, but fortunately this period was not long. After the capitulation I was sent back to MAKASSAR on foot

Do you know other particulars that might be of importance to Justice?

No.

After the above questions and answers are read to witness clearly and slowly, translated in the Malay language by the sworn interpreter, witness declares to adhere to his statement and not to wish that anything should be added to it or changed in it, as proof whereof he signs his statement.

For the interpretation:
(w. s.)

The Witness:

(w. s.) "AMAT HANI"

Made in my presence,

the ass. Judge Advocate,

(w. s.) F. H. von MEIJERVELDT.

Whereon witness took the oath according to his creed to have told the truth and nothing but the truth.

the ass. Judge Advocate,

(w. s.) F. H. von MEIJERVELDT.

For true copy,
the 1st clerk,
(w. s.) A. W. de KAT.

For the confirmation on oath,
(w. s.)

Translated by Section V.

A. M. v. V. 18/9 '46