

DOC. 5089C

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To:- Officer Commanding,  
Military Hospital,  
Bowen Road,  
HONGKONG.

Appendix. E.

From:- Sergeant T.C. Cunningham, R.A.M.C.,  
No. 7262319

THIS IS THE EXHIBIT MARKED 'C' REFERRED  
TO IN THE AFFIDAVIT OF LIEUTENANT-COLO-  
NEL CEDRIC OVERTON SHACKLETON SWORN  
THIS ELEVENTH DAY OF DECEMBER 1945  
BEFORE ME

(SIGNED) A.A.P. HUNT.

Captain Legal Staff.

Sir,

The staff attached to the Advanced Dressing Station, Wongneichong on the 18 December 1941, were in addition to myself.

Captain B. De. Barclay, R.A.M.C.  
Private Evans, R.A.M.C.  
Private Jones, R.A.M.C.  
Driver Mapp, R.A.S.C.

Ten St. Johns Ambulance Brigade personnel. These latter were accommodated in the two adjoining Medical Shelters.

L/Corporal Linton, 1/Middlesex Regt. Brigade Clerk, slept in the A.D.S., at night.

An Indian Constable, attached to the Wongneichong Police Station, sustained facial and shrapnel wounds late in the evening. Captain Barclay arranged for him to sleep in one of the Medical Shelters as the Police Station was under fire.

In the afternoon Lieutenant Woodside, Royal Rifles of Canada, Brigade Intelligence Officer, told Captain Barclay that all the Brigade vehicles were immobilized by shell fire and suggested that Captain Barclay, knowing the local topography very well, stand by at the A.D.S., with his car as Brigadier Lawson would like to go around the posts.

At about 9.00 p.m. Lieutenant Woodside told us that the Japanese had landed on the Island. Captain Barclay telephoned Field Ambulance Headquarters and I think they suggested him to await local developments. A few hours later we were told that the Japanese had reached the Stubbs-Taihang Road Junction. From what I remember Captain Barclay phoned to Field Ambulance Headquarters and St. Alberts Hospital asking if we should remain at the A.D.S., I don't know what the gist of the messages were but I believe, on Lieutenant Woodside's request, we remained at the A.D.S., as we were in telephonic communication with Brigade Headquarters. We awaited there for a few hours until we found it impossible to escape. The Japanese had apparently suddenly surrounded our locality. It was now about 4 a.m. on 19 December. At day break we heard a party on the roof trying to force the ventilators open but they were unsuccessful. Later, after a series of explosions, we were able to see the St. Johns bearers with the Indian constable, all in some degree injured, come out of their shelters and surrender. Although the bearers were fully dressed, complete with Red Cross brassards, the Japanese killed everyone.

We awaited inside the building during the 19th and the morning of the 20th hoping for a possible counter attack by our forces, but from what we could hear the Japanese forces appeared to be everywhere. Several times they tried to enter, but beyond spraying the doors and windows with bullets, no determined effort was made. Captain Barclay during this time was rather worried about our position. Escape was proved impossible. He did not like surrendering, our rations were low, we had no apparent hope of relief. By the sounds we heard there seemed to be some wounded lying unattended. He said it was our duty to attend to them no matter what nationality they were. Eventually he improvised a Red Cross Flag and pinned to it a note saying who we were and the fact that we were unarmed. On pushing this through a window he barely escaped being shot as the Japanese opened fire at the first signs of life. Later we heard a large body assemble round the A.D.S., and some trying to force the doors. So we all came out and surrendered. We were then beaten, securely tied and our Red Cross brassards torn off. We were then brought before a few officers who did not seem to know much English. After interrogation we were again beaten, Captain Barclay

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bearing the brunt of it as he did his best to explain our position as Red Cross workers. Another prisoner, a Rajputana Sepoy, joined our party and we were driven up the stream along the valley facing the A.D.S. This place seemed alive with Japanese. I would estimate there was about one battalion of troops here and the majority of those we met, although our hands were fastened, seemed to think that we were playing at running the gauntlet. We then came to an encampment on the slopes of the valley overlooking the A.D.S., and fastened to the trees. The Japanese seemed to have a system of trench latrines for the purpose of accommodation, two men to a trench. These trenches were all around us. Soon we were blindfolded and except for a periodic beating left alone. At about 5 p.m. Private Jones and Driver Mapp were taken away, and later, I estimate at about 10 or 11 p.m. L/Cpl. Linton cut me free from the tree. Apparently the Indian Sepoy had a knife in his trousers pocket with which he freed himself. Then although he was in the centre of an armed camp he crawled around to our trees and freed Captain Barclay, Private Evans and myself. Captain Barclay deciding, I think, to head for Stanley left us and we crawled through the camp heading for the hills and Shaukiwan. We had decided by now that everywhere, except Stanley had capitulated, and we hoped to get to the mainland where we thought we would have a better chance to escape. Only for the help I received from Linton and Evans I would never have managed to get away as I was very exhausted. In fact they also did not feel very fit but they would not leave me.

After about an hours travel we landed on Sir. Cecil's Ride but we were met by rifle fire from ab ut 10 yards distance. We scattered in the dark. I headed up the hill again. I waited to see if I could contact the others but I could hear nothing but the Japanese, so I decided to keep moving, hoping that Linton and Evans were doing the same. The time was about midnight 20/21 December. The next morning I contacted Indian Troops who directed me to Ventris Terrace where a Company Headquarters was. The time was now about 7.30 a.m. 21.12.1941.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant.

(Signed) T.R. Cunningham.

Sgt. R.A.M.C. No. 7262319.

(Indorsed on margin)

THIS IS THE EXHIBIT MARKED 'C' REFERRED TO IN THE AFFIDAVIT OF LIEUTENANT-COLONEL CEDRIC OVERTON SHACKLETON SWORN THIS ELEVENTH DAY OF DECEMBER 1945 BEFORE ME,  
(SIGNED) A.A.F. HUNT,  
Captain Legal Staff.