

Evidence taken Manila 1/10/45
/s/ A.W. (?)

Ex 1781-A

When COMPLETED this document must be classified as SECRET

AUSTRALIAN WAR CRIMES COMMISSION

QUESTIONNAIRE

NOTES:-

- (a) This questionnaire should be completed by:-
 - (i) All repatriated Australian prisoners of war (A.I.F., R.A.A.F., and R.A.N.).
 - (ii) All repatriated Australian civil internees.
 - (iii) All repatriated British civil internees in the Pacific Area (excluding Malaya and China).
 - (IV) All members and ex-members of the Allied forces who have actual knowledge of war crimes committed by the enemy.
- (b) It will be completed in the presence of an officer who will counter-sign the signature of the person making the statement.
- (c) It is important that a full statement on page 3 (carried on to page 4 if necessary) be furnished as well as the answer to 8 (f).

- 1. Army number WX11036 2. Rank Chaplain
- 3. Full name (in Block Letters) BINDEMAN: Thomas William
- 4. Unit at time of capture and/or place of capture Sparrows Force, Timor
- 5. Home address 1 Fortune Street, South Perth W.A.
- 6. At what enemy camps and hospitals were you confined and when were you at each?

Oesapa Besar, Timor Feb. '42 - Sep. '42

Tandjong Priok, Java Oct '42 - Jan '43

Makasara, Java Jan '43 - Mar '43

10th Battalion, Java Mar '43 - Sep '43

Singapore Sep '43 - Oct '43

Shirakawa, Formosa Nov '43 - Feb '45

Fukuoka, Kyushu Feb '45 - Apr '45

Mukden, Manchukuo Apr '45 - Aug '45

- 7. Do you have any information about any atrocities against, or mistreatment of, Allied soldiers, prisoners of war, civilian internees, or the civilian population for which you think the perpetrators should be punished? (Answer by stating YES or NO in the spaces provided below)--
- (a) Killings or executions Yes
Yes or No
- (b) Rape, torture, beatings or other cruelties Yes
Yes or No
- (c) Imprisonment under improper conditions Yes
Yes or No

- (d) Massacres, wholesale looting, pillage, or burning of towns or villages No
Yes or No
- (e) Use of prisoners of war or civilians on enemy military works or operations Yes
Yes or No
- (f) Exposure of prisoners of war to danger of gunfire, bombing, torpedoing, or other hazards of war Yes
Yes or No
- (g) Transportation of prisoners of war under improper conditions or deportation of civilians Yes
Yes or No
- (h) Public exhibition or exposure to ridicule of prisoners of war Yes
Yes or No
- (i) Failure to provide prisoners of war or internees with proper medical care, food or quarters Yes
Yes or No
- (j) Collective punishment of a group for offence of others Yes
Yes or No
- (k) Breaches of rules relating to the Red Cross Yes
Yes or No
- (l) Cannibalism No
Yes or No
- (m) Mutilation of the dead No
Yes or No
- * (n) Any other war crimes not specifically mentioned above for which you think the guilty persons should be punished Yes
Yes or No

If any question is answered YES then state the facts in 8 (f) and on pages 3 and 4.

8 Details of Atrocities -

- (a) Kind of crime killing
- (b) When and where it happened
- (c) Who was the victim? (Give complete description including name and whether military or civilian personnel)
- (d) Who was the perpetrator? (Give as complete description and as much information as possible
- (e) State if you saw it yourself, if you did not see it, who told you about it? (Give names and addresses of other witnesses)
- (f) Give brief story of crime. Full statement required on pages 3 and 4.

*Other war crimes not specifically mentioned include:-

- (i) Usurpation of sovereignty during military occupation.
- (ii) Compulsory enlistment of soldiers among the inhabitants of occupied territory.
- (iii) Attempts to denationalize the inhabitants of occupied territory
- (iv) Confiscation of property.
- (v) Exaction of illegitimate or of exorbitant contributions and requisitions.
- (vi) Debasing of the currency and issue of spurious currency.
- (vii) Deliberate bombardment of undefended places.
- (viii) Wanton destruction of religious, charitable, educational and historical buildings and monuments.
- (ix) Use of explosive or expanding bullets and other inhuman appliances.
- (x) Directions to give no quarter and refusal of quarter.
- (xi) Misuse of flags of truce.

FULL STATEMENT OF ATROCITY OR CRIME

This MUST be signed by the person making the statement and countersigned by the interrogating officer at the end of the statement.

- I Cpl Guthrie; W.C.(VX 23312) who was unarmed, wearing the red cross upon his arm, and left in charge of the hospital at Baboe, Timor, from which, fortunately, patients had been removed a few hours before, was hanged from a tree and had his throat cut. Troops of the Sparrow Force reported this incident. Personally, I verified the fact that Cpl Guthrie had met his end in this way by having to exhume the body from a slit trench in which it had been placed temporarily, in order to recover his identity disc and place his body in a place where it might not escape notice.
- II While traversing country where the Okabeti and Tjamplong roads cross in Timor, looking for dead to give them burial I came across the bodies of 8 Australian soldiers tied together by rope around their wrists. Each had been shot through the head at close quarters. Later it was related that 11 sick men were being removed to the Tjamplong Hospital when captured by the Japanese. After some time the Japanese decided to shoot all the prisoners but three men succeeded in breaking their bonds and escaping. One of the men, whose name I lost during a voyage, reached the Oesapa Besar Prison Camp and confirmed my theory formed from the evidence I had discovered.
- III Pte Terry, E.F. (TX3597) was taken from the Oesapa Besar Prison Camp to drive a truck for the Japanese. During one of his trips he suffered a breakdown to his truck. He was charged by his guard with sabotage, became angry and struck him. For this offence he was shot without trial. Lt. Hirada admitted this. Lt. Hirada was the second officer appointed to the Oesapa Besar Prison Camp succeeding Lt., later Captain, Fukada.

IV A native, familiarly known as Tommy "Broome", the latter name because he had engaged in pearling in Broome, West Australia and was the proud possessor of a discharge certificate which stated that he had rendered faithful service in his work, spoke to me as I passed him on my way to bury dead after capitulation. Hidashi Hioki, who claimed to be attached to the Tokyo Times in normal times but seemed to be a member of Japanese Intelligence Staff during the war on Timor, was acting as guard and immediately took Tommy into custody. He had him soundly beaten with a large piece of wood, upon his arrival in Tjamplong, I interceded on the native's behalf but my efforts were fruitless. He was taken into a building and a shot rang out. Hioki smilingly told me that Japanese soldiers were merely taking care of my native "friend." His death was confirmed by another native later.

To the best of my belief the above particulars ^{/s/ T. W. Bindeman} are correct.

Affirmed before me at Manila this 1st day of October 1945

. /s/ . A. Walker, Capt.
 (Signature of Interrogating Officer)

/s/. T. W. Bindeman
 (Signature)