

No. 1456

For the War Crimes Office  
 Judge Advocate General's Department -- War Department  
 United States of America

\* \* \* \* \*

In the matter of the failure of the Japanese to provide adequate medical treatment and adequate medical supplies and food at Tayabas, Luzon, resulting in the death of unknown numbers of American soldiers.

\*Perpetuation of Testimony  
 of Charles Thomas Brown,  
 Major, O-301813

\* \* \* \* \*

Taken at: District Intelligence Office, San Antonio, Texas.  
 Date: 10 May 1945.  
 In the Presence of: Special Agent James C. Fitzgerald, Security and Intelligence Division, Headquarters Eighth Service Command, ASF. Maxine B. Stitt, Clerk-Stenographer, District Intelligence Office, San Antonio, Texas

Questions by: James C. Fitzgerald, Special Agent, SIC.

Q State your name, rank, serial number and permanent home address.

A My name is Charles Thomas Brown, Major, M.C., ASN O-301813, and my address is 311½ Bluebonnet Boulevard, San Antonio, Texas.

Q Have you recently been returned to the United States from overseas?

A Yes, I returned to Letterman General Hospital, San Francisco, California, on 16 March 1945.

Q Were you a prisoner of war?

A Yes, a prisoner of the Japanese.

Q At what places were you held and state the approximate dates?

A I was captured on 10 April 1942, at Mariveles on Bataan. I remained on Bataan at Field Hospital No. 1, until 18 June 1942. On that date I was moved to Bilibid Prison in Manila and on 19 June I went on a work detail to Tayabas and remained there until 10 July 1942. On this date I was returned to Bilibid Prison and remained there until 4 February 1945, when I was liberated by the American Forces.

Q Are you a practicing physician?

A Yes, I am.

Q Outline your medical education and your previous practice.

A I attended Baylor University, School of Medicine, at Dallas, Texas, and received my M.D. degree in 1932. Upon graduation I began my internship at Robert B. Green Memorial Hospital San Antonio, Texas, and remained there for one year. I began private practice in medicine in 1933, at San Marcos, Texas, and after practicing for one year there I went on active duty with the U. S. Army Medical Corps, and I have remained on active duty as an officer in the Army Medical Corps since that time.

Q Are you familiar with the circumstances surrounding the failure of the Japanese to furnish proper medical treatment, supplies and food to American soldiers on work details at Tayabas, Luzon, which resulted in the death of an unknown number of American soldiers?

A Yes, I am.

Q State what you know of your own knowledge about such failure on the part of the Japanese.

A On 19 June 1942, the Japanese ordered the Senior medical officer at Bilibid Prison, Manila, to furnish two medical officers and four medical corpsmen to go on detail. I volunteered to go on this requested detail. At that time thirty dying Americans had been brought into the prison hospital by the Japanese and we were told that other men were dying and hence the necessity for sending medical personnel to the suffering prisoners on the work detail. On or about the morning of 20 June, Captain Paul Ashton and four medical detachment corpsmen, whose names I do not now recall, and I were taken by truck to the province of Tayabas in southern Luzon to a point twenty kilometers from a town called Calauag. We arrived there at night and found on a small creek bed about three hundred American soldiers, sailors and marines in most pitiful conditions, some at the point of death, three already dead, and the living suffering from malaria, dysentery and malnutrition. The Japanese furnished us no medical supplies and Captain Ashton had only a small medical field pouch. This was all of the medicine we had. The Japanese then told us that medicine would come later. These three hundred men had been here for about three weeks having been picked at random from the survivors of the "Death March" at Camp O'Donnell. All were in poor physical condition when they were taken from Camp O'Donnell by truck. They were removed from Tayabas for the purpose of building a road through an almost impenetrable jungle. When we arrived we were told that thirty men had already died from dysentery, malaria and exposure, and the survivors were sleeping on the ground in the rocky creek bed, drinking filthy water from the creek, and living in the open without cover. These men were forced to work from daylight to dark. Men who were almost dead from malaria and dysentery were forced to work in the sun without clothing, cover or shoes, with a wheelbarrow, pick and shovel. Men were frequently beaten by guards for stopping to relieve themselves. Men too weak to work were beaten and prodded along by Japanese guards with pick handles, bayonet scabbards, or any other object they found around. When we arrived this had been going on for three weeks. Captain Ashton, who was in charge of our medical detail, immediately requested the Japanese to allow the medical detachment a free hand and asked that the dying men be allowed to rest and asked for supplies. I also interceded with the Japanese at various times on behalf of the sick. The food at the time of our arrival might be considered sufficient and had been for the previous three weeks, but due to severe illness from malaria and dysentery, men were unable to eat. This food was a stack pile of captured American food consisting of various canned goods. After the arrival of the medical detachment the food began to run out and at the end the detail survived on rice alone. It was impossible to prepare food due to the lack of cooking facilities and all food was prepared in one iron wheelbarrow with a fire built under it. The death rate for the next three weeks after my arrival was from three to four men a day. These men were buried near the camp site and given a decent burial. In order to keep the living clothed they had to strip the dead of their clothes. An accurate list of the dead was kept all the while by Captain Paul Ashton and has been, I believe, turned in to authorities at Letterman General Hospital. As time went on at the camp, conditions became worse and with flies and mosquitoes it was impossible to maintain sanitary conditions. We had no netting, no beds, although the Japanese guards had tents or Nipe barracks. On two occasions, in the last of June, as I remember, the Japanese medical officers inspected this work camp but did nothing to ameliorate conditions, although they promised aid. I do not remember the officer allowed us to send back to the prison hospital at Bilibid, thirty of the men in the most serious physical condition. Also on or about 1 July I believe the truck that took the thirty men to Bilibid brought the supplies back. We received some medical supplies from the Japanese which consisted only of a few hundred quinine tablets and a small amount of bandages, gauze and iodine, and possibly a few other items of no consequence. There were not enough medical supplies

sent by the Japanese to take care of ten men and there was not over five pounds of supplies in all. Captain Ashton made daily requests for medical supplies without success. Every effort was made on the part of the medical detachment to relieve conditions of the sick but without medical supplies little could be accomplished. On 10 July 1942, the Japanese medical officer again allowed us to send thirty men in the most serious condition to Bilibid Prison. I accompanied these men to Bilibid at the order of Captain Ashton, due to the fact that I was suffering from severe beri beri. Captain Ashton and the four corps men remained at the camp for about two or three weeks longer and then they were brought in with the survivors. I do not remember how many survived out of the original three hundred men. During the period I was there possibly fifty men died. I do not remember exactly how many. Had we been furnished with medical supplies and had we been able to improve living conditions, many of these men could have been saved. In my opinion, it was criminal to send these men to Tayabas from Camp O'Donnell as they had not received from the privations of Bataan and almost all of them had made the "Death March" from Bataan. I state unqualifiably that I held the Japanese government responsible for the death of every American who died at this camp. We called the attention of the Japanese to the terrible conditions daily and told them that these men would all die unless the Japanese would provide necessary clothing, quarters, food and medical supplies. Upon arrival at Bilibid Prison many of the survivors died as a result of their privations at Tayabas. I cannot state who the Japanese were who operated this camp, but I believe that Captain Ashton, who is now at Corona, California, has information as to the identity of these Japanese. As I recall, it was the general opinion that the troops in charge of this work detail were engineer troops from Osaka, but I cannot be sure about that.

/s/ Charles Thomas Brown  
 Charles Thomas Brown, Maj.,  
 USA

State of Texas            )  
                                   ) SS  
 County of Bexar         )

I, Charles Thomas Brown, of lawful age, being duly sworn on oath, state that I have read the foregoing transcription of my interrogation and all answers contained therein are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

/s/ Charles Thomas Brown  
 Charles Thomas Brown, Maj., USA

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 12 day of May 1945.

/s/ A. C. Mogford  
 A. C. Mogford  
 Captain, Inf.  
 Summary Court Officer

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, James C. Fitzgerald, Special Agent, Security and Intelligence Division, Headquarters Eighth Service Command, ASF, certify that on 10 May 1945, personally appeared before me Charles Thomas Brown, Major, O-301813, and gave the foregoing answers to the several questions set forth; that after his testimony had been transcribed, the said Charles Thomas Brown read the same and affixed his signature thereto in my presence.

/s/ James C. Fitzgerald  
 JAMES C. FITZGERALD

Place: San Antonio, Texas  
 Date: May 12, 1945  
 CERTIFIED TRUE COPY:  
 E. T. Edrington  
 WOJG, AUS

Special Agent, SIC

U.S.A. vs. Mascharu HOMMA  
 Prosecution Exhibit No. 322  
 Received 15 January 1946

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, T. R. C. King, Major, Inf. (TD), Executive Officer, Legal Section, General Headquarters, Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers, do hereby certify that the attached photostatic copy of the affidavit of MAJOR CHARLES THOMAS BROWN is a true and correct reproduction of the original affidavit; and that a signed and sworn copy of said affidavit is presently on file with this Section.

/s/ T. R. C. King  
T. R. C. King,  
Major, Inf. (TD)

Witness: /s/ John R. Pritchard

Sworn to before me this 14th day of  
November 1946, Tokyo, Japan.

/s/ John R. Pritchard  
Capt. Inf.  
Summary Court