

IPS 5070

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INTERNATIONAL PROSECUTION SECTION

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MAJOR PHILIP SYDNEY FISHBURN JACKSON

I, Major PHILIP SYDNEY FISHBURN JACKSON, Royal Artillery, with permanent home address at Simonburn Cottage, Hulshaugh, Hexham in the County of Northampton, make oath and say as follows:-

1. On February 15th 1942 I was captured and taken prisoner by the Japanese at SINGAPORE. I was imprisoned in CHANGI Barracks (Southern Area). On 24 October 1942 I was transferred into THAILAND for work in connection with the BANGKOK-BURMA railway.

2. From 4 November 1942 to 25 March 1943 and from 11 May 1943 to 25 August 1943 I was stationed at prisoner of war camp TONCHAN MAIN.....

5. During the period I was at TONCHAN MAIN there were approximately 1600 prisoners of war who were employed on the railway and who lived under the following conditions.

(a) Food. The ration scale was below starvation level and mainly consisted of rice.

(b) Accommodation. Prisoners were accommodated in small huts and each man had approximately one metre's bed space. He had to lie on bamboo slats since the ground was very muddy. The cookhouse was situated near a river 400 feet below the camp. I do not think that ARIATSU was really responsible for these conditions since he did what he could to improve them.

(c) Hours of work. Prisoners were sent to work at 0900 hours and worked on the railway until 1700 hours with a short break at lunchtime. There were seldom any rest days and we very often went three weeks without one.

The sick were sent to work along with the fit and I know that ARIATSU beat prisoners out of the hospitals to make them work.

(d) Medical. Medical arrangements were non-existent except as provided by our own doctors. Practically no drugs were available.

(e) Hygiene. This was deplorable and in consequence dysentery was rampant. The latrine accommodation etc., was non-existent on arrival but was improved by the prisoners of war themselves.

(f) Deaths. Of the 1600 prisoners of war, when I left the camp there were 80 to 120 graves in the cemetery. As far as personnel of my own Japanese Labour Battalion were concerned, out of 414 other ranks 143 died subsequently either at TONCHAN MAIN or at other camps where they went afterwards. The deaths in most cases were due to malnutrition and overwork causing dysentery and beri-beri.

6. I was at TONCHAN SOUTH CAMP from 25 March 1943 to 11 May 1943 and I was the Senior British Officer. There were approximately 600 prisoners of war and the Camp was a sub-camp of TONCHAN MAIN.
7. The camp was in charge of a Japanese Corporal who came under the orders of ARIMATSU. There were also Korean guards.
8. Conditions at this sub-camp were the same as at TONCHAN MAIN with the addition that the work was very much harder, and on some occasions prisoners had to work in shifts including night work.
9. There were arrangements at this camp whereby the sick who were unable to work were evacuated to the hospital at TARSOA. After a very short period of time 300 of such prisoners had been evacuated and TARSOA hospital became full. When this happened I was not allowed to send any more sick prisoners and the Japanese staff forced them to work. Eventually Lieutenant-Colonel HARVEY, RAMC, who was the senior British Medical Officer at TARSOA came down to my camp and gave a report to the Japanese that not one of the prisoners of war were fit to work. This report was not accepted in full but approximately 20 prisoners were evacuated. One died on the way to hospital. The average deaths at this camp were two per day, either in the camp itself, on the way to hospital or in hospital.

INTERNATIONAL PROSECUTION SECTION

REQUEST FORM

1945

INCIDENT - ACCUSED

JUDGE ALBERT WILLIAMS

The undersigned requests the consideration of Document # 5070
(describe):

*Excerpts from affidavit by Major P. S. F. Jackson dealing with Burma
Thailand Rly (first affidavit).*

for introduction in evidence (specify purpose)

Class B offences.

R. J. Davis

Staff Attorney

8 MAY 1946

6 May

1946

TO THE DOCUMENT OFFICER:

The above document has been approved for processing by you
with changes as follows:

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Albert Williams

Judge Albert Williams
Document Control Attorney

By

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Secretary