

MD/JAG/FS/JC/257 (3F)
DMH/JWG

IN THE MATTER OF JAPANESE WAR CRIMES AND IN
THE MATTER OF THE ILL-TREATMENT OF BRITISH
PRISONERS OF WAR AT KOBI, OSAMA GROUP, JAPAN
A F F I D A V I T

I, 3850599 [Warrant Officer Class II, James Gatley, The Loyal Regiment,] with permanent home address at 18 Annis Street, Preston, Lancs., make oath and say as follows:

1. [I was taken prisoner on 15 February 1942 at SINGAPORE. After six months at Singapore I was sent to KOREA and eventually to KOB I on 21 July 1943 where I remained until 15 July 1945.] I was then moved to MOTAYAMA and released by American forces on 13 September 1945.
2. The Japanese Commandant at Kobi Sub-Camp was a Lieutenant MORIMOTA. He was a large man for a Japanese; about 5 ft 9 in in height, weight 14 stone, broad, dark, no glasses, shifty eyes, good teeth and wore a perpetual smirk. A rough estimate of his age is about 40. He was later moved to OSAKA H. Q. as 2nd in command to Colonel MURATA.
3. At Kobi I remember a West Indian merchant seaman named WOOSTERMAN, whom we nicknamed "Black Sam". On 1 December 1944 Woosterman lost his raincoat and was accused of selling it to a Japanese workman. I saw him brought in front of the guard-room, where he was stripped naked, and Lieutenant Morimota and twelve Japanese guards gave him a severe beating with their hands and rifle butts and wooden swords. I cannot identify any of the guards concerned as they were stationed outside the camp and we did not know their names. After this beating Woosterman was put in the guard-room. He had no clothing whatsoever, but was given one blanket. The average temperature at this time was 20 degrees below zero. He was brought out daily at 10 a. m. when the Japanese guards were changed. He was beaten for half-an-hour by both the incoming and outgoing guards every day for 19 days. I personally witnessed a number of those beatings. Woosterman eventually went mad and on 22 December 1944 he died.
4. Also at Kobi Sub-Camp was a Japanese Quartermaster by name NISHIKAWA. He was a very good-looking man; average size, height 5 ft 3 in or 4 in, dark. Owing to an old wound in his right arm he could not raise it to even shoulder height and always saluted with his left hand. He was in charge of the stores. He beat everyone on the least provocation including, on more than one occasion, myself. One particular incident I remember happened towards the end of 1943 when he severely beat a Private LEATHER (Loyal Regiment, now transferred to RASC) for some very minor offence. Leather was beaten for at least three-quarters of an hour across the face with a rubber soled boot. His face is marked from this beating.
5. There was also at Kobi a Camp Sergeant Major nicknamed both "Big Bill" and "Black Bill". This man was always looking for an opportunity to beat one of the prisoners. He was one of the biggest Japanese I have seen; 5 ft 10 in in height, broad, dark, weight 13 stone, had a moustache, no peculiarities. The worst incident I remember in which he was concerned was when he beat up an Australian Company Sergeant Major named MOLKAY in June 1944. Molkey was beaten by "Big Bill" with his fists and his jaw was broken in two places. "Big Bill" refused medical treatment and made him continue work.

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6. A Japanese named NISHINACKER, nicknamed "The Snoop", was the Camp Interpreter. He was responsible for nearly all the misunderstandings that occurred and was always against the prisoners. He suffered from "escape mania" and turned many very minor incidents into "escape attempts". On one occasion he caught Private MILES (Loyal Regiment) making a fire in the camp to cook some food. Mirimota, the Camp Commandant, was present and both he and Nishinacker began severely beating Miles with their wooden swords. After some time had elapsed I saw what was happening and appealed to both of them to stop beating him. Apparently they were beating him in order to make him confess to another offence of a similar nature, but in spite of my appeal they continued to hit him until he did in fact confess to this second offence. Nishinacker was a small man about 5 ft 2 in in height, small and wiry, weight 8½ stone, had very black, evil-looking, protruding teeth. He was a civilian employed by the KAWASAKI INDUSTRIES, at whose steel works the prisoners were employed.

SWORN by the said JAMES GATLEY, at)
 6 Spring Gardens in the City of Westminster) (Signed) J. Gatley
 this eighteenth day of May 1946.)

BEFORE ME,

(Signed) Rathercedan,
 Major Legal Staff,
 Mil. Dept. Office of the Judge Advocate General

(Handwritten endorsement)

Compared with original and certified to
 be a true copy

/s/ Thomas F. Mornane Lt. Col.
 Australian Military Forces.