

Ex 1557

Evidentiary Document # 5368.

STATEMENT OF MR. J.H. WILLIAMS, Dental Surgeon,
Rangoon, Burma, re Internment Camps in Maymyo
and Tavoy.

Mr. J.H. WILLIAMS, duly sworn, states:-

I was taken as a prisoner of war by the Japanese in May 1943
and was sent to ~~TONBO Camp~~ in ~~MAYMYO~~.
^{Camp}

During my six weeks in this camp I witnessed extreme cruelty
inflicted on B.O.R. prisoners of war. On one occasion all the B.O.Rs.
were lined up and beaten with wooden swords. Many of them had their boots
taken from them, when transferred from Maymyo they were compelled to walk
bare-footed and only half clothed.

I also witnessed the death of two B.O.Rs. due to the inhumanity
of the M.O. in charge, a Lieut. about 5 ft. 7 ins. in height, light com-
plexion for a Jap; he also had a ^{thin} mustache; his name I do not remember.
He actually kicked one man to death for he was suffering from a stomach
complaint, and could not control his motions.

The Commandant of the camp was Capt. Yamakuchi. He also was very
cruel judging by the accounts of eye witnesses. The Capt. had a habit of
beating up all new prisoners just for the fun of it. I understand that
a British Major was hung upside down after being given the water treatment,
and also severely beaten at the same time by this officer.

In June 1943 I was transferred with others to KYAUKME. In this
camp we were fairly well treated. The C.O. was Maj. KOMOTO, and the senior
M.C.O. was Sgt. YANAGA.

Feb. 1944 we were taken back to Maymyo, but not to Tonbo Camp.
Our stay in this particular ^{Camp} was uneventful, except for an assault
on Mrs. Aung by a Jap soldier, because she had smiled in his presence.

In Nov. 1944 we were transferred to Tavoy camp where the con-
ditions were bad. New comers were not allowed to speak to each other,
men separated from their wives and children. The food was bad and 90%
of the inmates suffered from beri beri, pellaga, and other forms of mal-
nutrition.

L/Cpl. Takie was the big shot in this camp; his was a tyrannical
regime. The men were beaten by him almost daily. He also made advances
to most of the women in camp, including some of the nuns; this was told
me by his orderlies. I personally know of one case in which Mrs. Aung
was taken from her hut and brought before the Governor for the purpose of
rape. Mrs. Aung was with the Governor for several hours in a hut near
where my hut was situated. I therefore heard all that went on during the

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time that she was with him; this must have been a great ordeal for Mrs. Aung. An armed guard was placed outside ^{my} hut by Takie, apparently to prevent any of us from attempting to rescue Mrs. Aung. Takie was directly responsible for this attack. After this episode Takie began to make love to Mrs. Aung, and they were planning to clope to Russia after the war. I firmly believe however that Takie forced her to comply with his requests and desires.

In Mawmyo it was said that Mrs. Aung was forced to marry a Jap Col. Ajima between Sept. and Dec. 1943. I was told this by Father Clerici.

During the entire period of my internment I was made to do dental work for the Japanese, using my own tools, instruments and material, for which I received practically no pay; only for a short period of time when I was sent out of camp to the Jap hospitals to perform dental treatment was I paid; this was absolutely inadequate for the ~~treatment~~ treatment and services rendered.

(Signed) J.H. WILLIAMS.

Sworn before me (signature) A.M. MACGREGOR, (rank) Capt.
(description) War Crime Investigation, this 12th day of March 1946.

Detailed to examine the above by the Commander-in-Chief, Allied Land Forces, South East Asia.

(Authority: ALFSEA War Crimes Instruction No. 1 - para 7)

Certified that the above is the true copy of the statement of J.H. WILLIAMS

Date: 13.9.46.

(Signed) M.M. AGARWAL, Capt.
16 W.C.I.T.