

IPS 5049

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INTERNATIONAL PROSECUTION SECTION

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INTERNATIONAL PROSECUTION SECTION

REQUEST FORM

1946

INCIDENT - ACCUSED

JUDGE ALBERT WILLIAMS

The undersigned requests the consideration of Document # 5049
(describe):

**2 Excerpts from records of evidence of Bernard James Leggett -
Singapore and Burma-Thailand Ry.
(Originals of records also herewith)**

for introduction in evidence (specify purpose) **As to treatment of
POW - Class B offense**

*2 Documents - 5049 A
5049 B*

R. I. Davis

Staff Attorney

2 May

1946

7 MAY 1946

TO THE DOCUMENT OFFICER:

The above document has been approved for processing by you
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Albert Williams

Judge Albert Williams
Document Control Attorney

By

E. J.
Secretary

Evidentiary Document

5049A

BERNARD JAMES LEGGETT

2
Bernard James Leggett, sworn and examined.

I am OX.17599 Gun. Bernard James Leggett, 2/10 Field Regt.

I was taken prisoner at Singapore on 15 February 1942.

In March 1943 I went to Thailand with F Force. Col. Kappe was in command. I was in lowa. Sonkurai camp, known as No. 1 Camp, and in August I went to Sonkurai camp, No. 2 camp.

We were accommodated in atapp huts. They were built out of bamboo with an atapp roof. For the first couple of weeks after we arrived there, the huts were without roofs and for about a fortnight we had to sleep in the open. They supplied a few old flies and tents, but they leaked and were not much use as it rained every night.

Sanitation was very bad. We had the Japanese type of latrine and, when it rained, the trench would fill up and overflow. The overflow from one latrine used to go through one of the huts there. That was at Sonkurai camp.

We had to march 200 miles to that camp and by the time we got there we were all knocked up. The march lasted 15 days. We had no deaths on the trip. Throughout the march we were very poorly fed and sanitation was bad.

In No. 1 camp we were employed on building a portion of the railway line. We had to build embankments. About a week after we got there the monsoon started. It rained incessantly and we had to work under those conditions.

They would get us up about half past five in the morning and at times they kept us working until ten o'clock at night. It was usually eight or nine o'clock at night when we finished. On one occasion we worked right through until half past two in the morning.

A couple of weeks after we arrived cholera broke out. Quite a few men died of that. Dysentery and malaria were also troublesome. I contracted malaria and quite a few had ulcers. Unfit men were made to work. I think the M.O. managed to obtain exemption from work for men suffering with ulcers, but men with dysentery and what we used to call "yak feet" were made to work. We all suffered from that.

The Japanese seem to hate us and used to punish us to make us work. This is an instance of the treatment: A man suffering from dysentery would ask for permission to go and relieve himself. He might be refused and made to stand to attention. All of us received slappings and beatings across the face. The worst Japanese in the camp was Toyama. He used to beat the men with his open hands and fists. I cannot remember if he used a stick.

The food was terrible. At one time we were receiving only about six ounces of rice a day. That lasted for about three or four days. Apart from that occasion, the rice ration would be about twelve ounces a day. Rice and beans seemed to be the main diet. About September the rations started to improve. They brought in some preserved meat - yak meat - in boxes. When it arrived it would be alive with maggots. We used to take it out of the boxes and put it into a copper full of boiling water, let the maggots come to the top, scrape them off and cook the meat.

I forgot to mention that in Thailand in No. 1 camp I saw a man made to stand to attention by a Japanese engineer, and at the same time he was made to hold a big stone above his head. That happened to quite a few. I could not give the name of the Japanese engineer or the name of the man concerned.

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