[PS#5014]
(16)

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INTERNATIONAL PROSECUTION SECTION

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1945

INCIDENT - ACCUSED

JUDGE ALBERT VILLIAI'S

The undersigned requests the consideration of Document # 5014 (describe):

Excerpts from record of evidence of Capt. John Lawrence Hands, Burma-Thailand Ry. (Original of record also herewith)

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

R. S. Lanis.
 Staff Attorney

7 MAY 10AR

TO THE DOCUMENT OFFICER:

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

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Judge Albert Williams
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Secretary

Doc. # 5014 ジョ Z" -4 4

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Evedentiary Document # 5014

JOHN LATRENCE HANDS.

gives the following evidence:

My full name is John Laurence Hends. My home town is Bunbury, West Australia.

I was captured at Java on 9 March 1942.

We then went to Singapore and then to Thailand...., I was put in command of 400 Australians from 2/40 Battalion, and 600 Dutchmen. I commanded a camp called Hintok. We just marched into the jungle and the Japanese Commander, Lieut. Usuki, said. "This is your camp." We had to set to work burning the jungle. We were given about six tents for 1,000 men, which were increased later to 15 small tents capable of holding about 10 or 15 men each. The remainder had to sleep in the open.

We began the surveying for the railway. We were confined in that camp for about two months! The food was shocking; it was almost non-existent. Fortunately, we managed to get some canteen supplies, such as eggs, but there were not sufficient.

After we had been there for about a week, the Dutch had 200 cases of dysentery; the only supplies they got for the two months we were in the camp were four lbs. of magnesium sulphate. Quite a few men died. The Australians did not contract dysentery:

No clothing was issued at all. ..bout 30 per cent of the men were bare-footed and developed tropical ulcers. Sick men were made to work and some even collapsed on the job.

We then went on 17 March to Kinsick, with about 250 Australians. Altogether, there were about 400 Dutch and the 250 Australians; later, about 1,000 Fritish joined us. Our Quarters were fair; we were living in huts which leaked a fair bit. The food was bad and the men suffered from malnutrition. We were able to buy supplies, such as eggs, which saved the situation. We started to get sick there but of the 250 men only 12 were allowed to be sick, no matter what was wrong with the others. I therefore had to select the worst twelve to be let off work. Those who were sick were sent to work for 63 days without a rest; they used to go out just as darn was breaking and did not get back until 10 or 11 o'clock at night. They were repeatedly beaten by the Japanese. The Commander of the camp was Lieut. Tanaka. I complained to him and on one occasion refused to turn out the sick men. The Japanese came at me with a bumboo stick, but I took it from him and threw it away and went back to the camp. They then came over and turned out all the sick with the exception of four men. I said there were over 40 men who could not be sent to work; some of them were dying. However, all except the four were made to 60 out and two or three of them died a few days later as a result. The men had to work with malaria and dysentery. We were supplied with very few medical supplies and men suffered from malnutrition, beri beri, pellagra, dysentery and cholera.

Two British soldiers attempted to escape. They got away to another camp about 20 kilometres up the river. They were captured there in a P.O.W. camp and brought back. They were beaten up very badly by Tanaka, Takayama, Fumiyama and Moritama. They were both sick but were beaten unmercifully with

John Laurence Hands (cont.)

bemboos, rifles, shovels and fists. They were not severely injured but cut about a good deal. After about a fortnight of these repeated beatings, they were in a frightful condition; they were beaten every day for the fortnight. One day the Japanese took them out in a truck with rifles and picks and shovels. They were away for about three or four hours, but when the Japanese returned the two British were not with them. The rifles had been fired because one of our men had to clean them. One of the soldiers told me that the men had been made to dig their own graves and then had been shot. Tanaka told me finally that they had been shot so they could be struck off the records.

At Minsick, we lost about 20 men through malnutrition and their having to work when they were sick. Had we had adequate medical supplies or even proper rest, most of those men would have been saved. When I arrived there were 40 British and Australian soldiers in the cemetery; when I left there were 300. I arrived there on 17 March and left on 25 July.

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From Kinsiok I went to Klinklian with 125 Australians. There were 1200 in the camp all told; I was in command. The used to work 12-hour shifts - 12 on and 12 off, making a railway cutting. The food was not good. Medical supplies were hopelessly inadequate. The used to buy some supplies on the black market. There was a lot of malaria and tropical ulcers. About 12 men died from tropical ulcers. About 70 or 80 men with very tad ulcers were sent away to another camp and several of them subsequently lost limbs or died.

men had nothing at all - not even boots. 'e would occasionally get 100 pairs of Japanese rubber boots, which were quite inadequate, and we suffered badly especially as it was the wet season. We slept out in the rain for three weeks with no shelter whatever. The clothing was reduced to practically nothing.

About 200 of the 1200 were estimated to be sick although the food was not particularly bad. The sick men were forced to work. Tanaka was Commander of the camp. Bashings were frequent, some of them being severe. The guards were those I have mentioned before, and in addition there was one Morimoto. We did not receive any Red Cross parcels.

reasonable. We were required to do only maintenance work on the line and altogether it was not a bad camp. ...bout 900 were in this camp, including about 150 Australians.

From Tonchan I went to Tanuan, a camp with about 10,000 prisoners. I was adjutant in that camp. Conditions were quite good. Food was much better though quite inadequate. "e had a hospital with about 4000 patients; the doctors estimated that 50 per cent had dysentery.

From there I went to Japan.