

ID/JAG/FS/JC/30/3B)
RGLW/AKS.

IN THE MATTER OF THE ILL-TREATMENT OF
PRISONERS OF WAR AND ATROCITIES COMMITTED AT
HONGKONG FROM SEPTEMBER 1941 UNTIL APRIL 1944.

A F F I D A V I T

I, Lieutenant-colonel CEDRIC OVERTON SHACKLETON, Royal Army Medical Corps, with permanent address at : Care of Messrs. GLYN, MILLS & Co., Bankers (Holt's Branch), WHITEHALL, LONDON, S.W.1, MAKE OATH and say as follows :-

1. I was Senior British Medical Officer at HONGKONG and commanded BOWEN ROAD Hospital there from April 1939 and I was active in this capacity at BOWEN ROAD Hospital, HONGKONG when HONGKONG capitulated to the Japanese on 25 December 1941.

2. I remained at BOWEN ROAD from 25 December 1941 until 8 August 1942. I was then moved to ARGYLL STREET CAMP, known as Camp 'N', on the mainland where I stayed from 8 August 1942 until 20 April 1944. I then was transferred to SHAMSHUIPO Camp, known as Camp 'S' on the mainland where I remained for nine days. I left SHAMSHUIPO en route for JAPAN on 29 April 1944.

3. I now see before me two statements signed respectively by Miss A. F. GORDON, Territorial Army Nursing Service, and Mrs. J. ANDREWS-LEVINGE, marked respectively 'A' and 'B' and exhibited to this affidavit. I have many times spoken to both these ladies and they have described to me in person all the incidents to which they refer in their statements.

4. I now see before me copies of statements made by :

- No. 7262319 - Serjeant T.R. CUNNINGHAM, Royal Army Medical Corps;
- No. 7262538 - Corporal N.J. LEATH, Royal Army Medical Corps
- No. 7259991 - Serjeant H. PEASEGOOD, Royal Army Medical Corps; and
- No. 7262360 - Serjeant J. H. ANDERSON, Royal Army Medical Corps.

These copies are marked respectively 'C' to 'F' inclusive and are attached as exhibits to this affidavit.

I myself have discussed with these four Royal Army Medical Corps non-commissioned officers the conditions and experiences which they relate in their statements and can confirm that they mentioned these matters to me personally.

5. Some time in January 1942 Officers, Other Ranks, Nursing Staff and Patients at BOWEN ROAD were called upon by the Japanese to sign a statement to the effect that, as prisoners of war, we would make no attempt to escape. Nearly everybody refused to sign. However, we the medical staff agreed to an amended statement whereby we agreed not to attempt to escape while employed in the hospital. After we had signed the amended statement I know that all up-patients were taken in the heat of mid-day to an open space and a threat was made that they would be kept there until they signed the original form of affidavit. The Senior Naval Officer by the name of Captain CAMPBELL and the Senior Canadian Officer were taken away and were interrogated

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and, I understand, that they eventually signed under duress by reason of a threat that collective punishment would otherwise ensue. The Japanese who presented the ultimatum to me regarding the signing of the "no escape" affidavit was, I think, Lieutenant SAWADA who was Commandant of the hospital, and a Japanese corporal by the name of CIANO.

6. There was brought to BOWEN ROAD Hospital soon after Christmas 1941 a Canadian soldier; he was riddled with machine-gun bullets the wounds being infected with maggots. He was treated and eventually recovered. He subsequently told me that a number of Canadian prisoners who had surrendered were tied up together and machine-gunned in a heap. All were killed except him and he was left for dead.

7. A few days after Christmas 1941 I was informed by some of the civilian medical staff that they had seen the remains of some British officers who had been decapitated.

8. During the time that I was a prisoner at BOWEN ROAD Hospital I remained there and did not go out except with express permission and on the authority of a Pass which was given to me; the result was that I was rarely out of the hospital. I did make a visit with the Senior Japanese Medical Officer, a Major KORNISH, to STANLEY Prison, the internees' Camp and to the Japanese Headquarters. There, Major KORNISH interrogated me but his questions were quite proper; I do not complain of him. I must say, however, that the Japanese pursued an obstructive policy throughout and always met any objections which I submitted with threats of collective punishment. Save for reduced rations and the curtailment of our amusements and sports these threats were not carried out.

9. On 26 and 27 December 1941 I asked for permission to allow parties to go out to collect our wounded but permission was refused. Later I obtained permission to collect wounded who had been reported.

10. There was located at the SILESIA MISSION in HONGKONG a very large reserve of medical stores. About May or June 1942 a serious epidemic of diphtheria broke out at SHAMSHUIPO Camp. I had no contact with SHAMSHUIPO Camp but the Japanese sent to me cases whom I discovered were suffering from skin conditions affected by diphtheria organisms. Moreover, I heard rumours of the epidemic at SHAMSHUIPO. I several times asked both Lieutenant SAWADA and Corporal CIANO that anti-diphtheria serum - forming part of the said reserve store - should be made available. I was informed that this was impossible because the Japanese Navy had taken over the store.

11. On 8 August 1942 I was removed from BOWEN ROAD to ARGYLL STREET Camp (Camp 'N') on the mainland where I remained until 20 April 1944. There were thirteen medical officers there and I was the Senior Medical Officer.

12. During the whole time that I was senior medical officer at Camp 'N' the medicines provided were grossly inadequate to cope with the number of diseases caused by malnutrition, and such diseases as beri beri, palagra and failing vision. On dozens of occasions I have sent in official requests for drugs and increased diet to Colonel TOKENUGA and Captain SAITO who were, respectively, the Commandant and medical officer of all the camps in the area. These requests met with no response at all. I was, however, able to obtain some supplies of drugs

surreptitiously. Rations were extremely short during most of this period; in 1944 the grain ration fell as low as 480 grammes per head per diem. The calorific value of the ration in 1944 was 1556 ; in April and May 1944 it fell as low as 1348. The minimum calorific value to maintain health is estimated at 2500 per diem. The protein consumption was estimated at .5 grammes per kiloweight. One gramme is considered to be the minimum. These figures show that the food supplied was an absolute starvation diet. Had we been unable to obtain food from other sources there would have been many deaths from actual starvation. However, we were able to supplement the starvation ration from the canteen and from food parcels. This addition was just sufficient to support life; nevertheless, we always had many cases of deficiency diseases. The average loss of weight among the prisoners was approximately thirty-five pounds.

13. During the time that I was at Camp 'N' the total number of Red Cross packages received was one and one-fifth per prisoner. Enormous quantities of Red Cross parcels were stored at HOLTS WHARF, KOWLOON on the mainland. These were freely taken by the Japanese. I have seen Japanese consuming the contents of Red Cross parcels and I have ----- seen empty Red Cross packages in refuse bins behind the Japanese Prison Headquarters. All the Japanese there, including Colonel TOKENUGA, in my opinion, were involved.

14. While I was at Camp 'N' there were at least a dozen cases of ruptured gastric ulcers and acute appendicitis requiring immediate operations. Every time most dangerous delay was experienced because the Japanese refused to allow the matter to be dealt with at once. The Japanese directly responsible for this was Captain SAITO. No bearers were given to carry the patients to the theatre in the Indian Prisoner of War Camp which was a half to three-quarters of a mile away, and the surgeon, his assistant and the anaesthetist were obliged to carry the patients.

15. I have read the affidavit made on 23 November 1945 by Lieutenant-colonel F. D. FIELD, Royal Artillery. I confirm :

- (a) Paragraph 7 of the said affidavit. In this connection I remember that I tried to send Colonel NEWMAN's tooth-brush and shaving kit to him at STANLEY Gaol but was told by the Interpreter (probably NOMURA) that Colonel NEWMAN would have no need of these.
- (b) Paragraph 8 of the said affidavit. In addition I would say that Colonel LEVETT, Royal Corps of Signals, Commander W. F. CROWTHER, R. N. Retires, Captain WOODWARD, Indian Medical Service, also Lieutenant-colonel FIELD, Royal Artillery, were also removed from Camp 'N' in connection with this enquiry, kept in solitary confinement for three weeks in very severe conditions, starved and ill-treated. When I saw them three weeks later they were in very poor condition. These officers had been sworn to secrecy as regards their treatment. The Japanese responsible were the KEMPETAI.
- (c) Paragraph 14 of the said affidavit is confirmed in its entirety.

16. During the nine days I was in SHAMSHUIPO before leaving for TOKYO I asked a Japanese interpreter named HASEGAWA whether he could obtain for me any mail as I had received no letters for over a year. HASEGAWA was most helpful and kind; he promised to look and later produced to me nineteen letters. These he obtained from the Japanese Headquarters. It was, therefore, clear to me that the mail to the prisoners was being retained there. He told me that there were sacks of mail at the Japanese Headquarters

17. The following persons might be able to give useful evidence in regard to conditions at HONGKONG :-

Dr. SELWYN-CLARKE, D. M. S. (Civil), HONGKONG, who, I believe, is now at the EMPRESS CLUB, DOVER STREET, LONDON;

Miss DYSON, now of Queen Alexander's Imperial Military Nursing Service, who was at STANLEY INTERNMENT CAMP and, previously my matron at BOWEN ROAD ;

Miss KELLY, - - whose present address is "The COTTAGE", Betchworth, SURREY .

Major D. C. BOWIE, Royal Army Medical Corps, who followed me at BOWEN ROAD Hospital and would be likely to be able to give useful evidence.

18. I would describe Lieutenant SAWADA as aged about thirty-two height five feet six or seven inches; weight 120 pounds; black hair; wore glasses; clean shaven; sallow complexion; fairly lightly built.

I would describe Corporal CIANO as aged about twenty-two or twenty-three; height five feet; stockily built; weight 120 pounds. I believe he was a chemical laboratory student before the war. He was clean-shaven and did not wear glasses.

SWORN by the aforesaid CEDRIC OVERTON SHACKLETON)
at 6 Spring Gardens in the City of WESTMINSTER)
this ELEVENTH day of DECEMBER 1945.)

(SIGNED) C. O. SHACKLETON.

BEFORE ME,

(SIGNED) A.A.P. HUNT,
Captain Legal Staff.

Military Department,
Office of the Judge Advocate General
LONDON, S.W.1.

I certify that this is a true copy of the original affidavit.

(signed) R. G. del-Wormell, Major
Legal Staff,
Office of the Judge Advocate General.