

Ex 16 19-A

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

/s/ W. R. Galers Legal Staff,
Office of the Judge Advocate General

AD/JAG/FS/JC/117.
AMBN/AKS

IN THE MATTER OF JAPANESE WAR CRIMES AND
IN THE MATTER OF THE PRISONER OF WAR CAMP
AT KARENKO, FORMOSA.

A F F I D A V I T

I, Colonel CHARLES HERBERT STRINGER, D.S.O., O.B.E, Royal Army Medical Corps, at present stationed at Headquarters, Southern Command, SALISBURY, make oath and say as follows:-

1. I was taken prisoner on 15 February 1942 at SINGAPORE and was later transported together with a party of senior officers to FORMOSA; we arrived at KARENKO Camp, FORMOSA on 8 September 1942.

2. On arrival at KARENKO Camp, FORMOSA, all Officers and Other Ranks in the party were herded together in one room and stripped naked. We had to stand in this state for upwards of half an hour while our clothes and kits were examined in minute detail by Japanese privates and N.C.O's.

3. Apart from continued starvation on a breakfast cup full of plain boiled rice and a similar quantity of very thin vegetable soup three times a day we were not manhandled until 22 September 1942 when the "hate" first started with Major Generals BECKWITH SMITH and KEITH SIMONS being beaten for not saluting a Japanese soldier known as "Satan" or "Scarface" and said to be a Formosan. This man later attained an unavoidable notoriety in Karenko and TAMASATA Camps for repeated beatings of prisoners. He developed a technique of hiding so that the prisoners could not see him, then he would suddenly appear and beat the prisoner for not saluting him.

4. On 23 September 1942, Colonel LAWRENCE, United States Army, was badly beaten and knocked down for complaining about the poor rice ration. Brigadier BACKHOUSE was kicked repeatedly by a Japanese soldier, who passed behind him when he was washing his face, for

16/2/42

not saluting.

5. On 25 September 1942 there was a general orgy of beating of prisoners, mainly on the faked charge of not saluting. Generals WAINRIGHT (United States Army) and PERCIVAL interviewed the Camp Commandant (Captain INAMURA) to try and get this brutality stopped.

On 28 September 1942 there was a further recrudescence of beatings for all manner of so-called offences; no prisoner was safe. These beatings continued daily, waxing and waning in numbers.

6. By the middle of October 1942, owing to the continuous starvation, hunger oedema was prevalent amongst the prisoners and during this time and subsequently during our entire stay at KARENKO we were forced to do heavy manual work on the farm outside the camp morning and afternoon, a total of six hours daily. Only Lieutenant-Generals, Governors and those over 60 were exempt and they were employed on goat herding.

7. On 11 November 1942 Major-General BECKWITH died of diphtheria. He had been very ill for 48 hours before. Attempts to get the advice and assistance of the Japanese doctor and to get supplies of anti-diphtheria serum failed. At 4 A.M., when he was practically moribund, he was taken to a nearby Japanese hospital where a tracheotomy was done and he died shortly afterwards. No prisoner of war doctor was allowed to see him after his removal.

8. On 29 January 1943 Japanese reporters swarmed round the camp trying to get "happy prisoner" stories; instead they were told about the bad food, accommodation and heavy work. As a result from the 30th January to 3rd February inclusive an intensive orgy of face slappings and beatings went on all day and during the night.

9. The worst "hate" period began on 21 February 1943 and lasted until 3 March 1943; it went on day and night. In order to give the sentries plenty of scope, a series of ridiculous orders were issued, such as "all buttons will be done up, both indoors and outdoors, hands must never be put in pockets, nails must be closely trimmed and clean", etc. As a result, the only place where one was fairly safe was in the latrine which the Japanese very rarely visited as

it was always stinking and overflowing in spite of our repeated protests. The beatings during this period were exceptionally severe and prolonged, though no one was killed. Brigadier LUCAS had a tooth knocked out. Lieutenant-General HEATH was brutally assaulted on 27th because his broken arm was not held rigidly down to his thigh when he was saluting. A deliberate attempt was made to put his eye out by repeated blows. I examined his eye shortly afterwards and it was only by a miracle the sight was not lost. On 26 February 1943 a conference was held between the 2nd in command of the camp (Captain INAMURA would never interview prisoners) and some of the senior prisoners to try and stop these beatings. The latter were told by the 2nd in command that the sentries were always right in beating prisoners and that Japanese internees were being beaten by the English and Americans. This conference had no result except to intensify the vicious, sadistic behaviour of the Japanese guards, as was usually the case when protests were made. The guards were at liberty to devise and improve fresh punishments. For example, at 11:30 p.m. on 2 March 1943, I saw Colonel BERRY, United States Army, standing rigidly to attention outside the latrine. His arms were stretched out stiffly in front of him and between his outstretched hands he held a heavy wet wooden rice bucket weighing over 5 kilos. The hands supported the bucket by pressure from the sides, thus assuring a double strain on his muscles. He appeared to be alone when I first saw him but actually the sentry was prowling about watching him and any relaxation of his strain produced a jab with a bayonet or a blow from a rifle butt. He was kept in that position for half an hour and he never learned what his "crime" was.

10. On 7 March 1942, Group Captain BISHOP, Royal Air Force, was beaten on evening parade by Lieutenant NAKASHIMA ("Foxy Percy") with his scabbard. On 7 March 1942, BISHOP was taken to the conference room, knocked down by the Japanese Serjeant-Major (name unknown) and, whilst on the ground, was kicked by Lieutenant NAKASHIMA. His crime was wearing a khaki sweater on parade. The weather was cold and wet.

11. I consider Captain IMAMURA, Lieutenant WAKASUGI and Lieutenant NAKASHIMA responsible for instigating and abetting the brutal treatment of prisoners, only a few samples of which have been recorded above. That it was not due to the spontaneous and natural indignation of sentries regarding the way their own internee nationals were supposed to be treated was evidenced by:

- (i) The beatings carried out by these officers themselves;
- (ii) The manner in which all beatings were condoned;
- (iii) The way in which waves of brutality were turned off or on as occasion served, viz, a visit by Press reporters or complaints made by prisoners.

I also consider Lieutenant-General ANDO, Commander-in-Chief, FORMOSA, and Major-General IGUCHI, his Chief of Staff, and Admiral HASEGAYA, Governor of FORMOSA responsible for having visited the camp and condoned, if they had not already instigated, the brutalities there.

12. No hospital accommodation was provided in KARENKO. One room was allotted for medical inspection room and hospital war purposes. It was largely a thoroughfare and no equipment was provided. The prisoner had to bring in his own prison bedding. There patients were treated and recovered or died. The drugs used were mainly such as had been smuggled in by prisoners though much of this was seized by the Japanese on arrival or during later searches. Requests for medicines were largely either ignored or we were told they were not available. Some drugs, notably quinine and atabrine, were supplied, but in a niggardly manner and every tablet had to be accounted for.

Laboratory examinations of specimens were practically nonexistent. No equipment was provided. Occasionally, specimens were taken away for examination by the Japanese hospital and, as a rule, either no report could be obtained or a result was frequently given which was at variance with the clinical findings.

13. I agree with all the paragraphs of Major-General B. KEYES' affidavit regarding KARENKO CAMP.

SWORN by the foresaid CHARLES HERBERT STRINGER)
at 6 Spring Gardens in the City of WESTMINSTER)
this 25th day of February 1946)

BEFORE ME

(Signed) C. H. STRINGER

(Signed) A. M. BELL-MACDONALD
Major Legal Staff
Office of the Judge Advocate General
LONDON S.W.1.