

Ex 1558

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Evidentiary Document # 5369.

STATEMENT BY MRS. M.M. WILLIAMS, Station Road,
Rangoon re Internment in Maymyo and Tavoy.

Mrs. M.M. Williams, duly sworn states:-

In May 1943 I and my husband were arrested by the Japanese and interned in Tonbo Camp, Maymyo.

During the same month I witnessed the Camp Commandant, Capt. YAMAKUCHI, accompanied by the Jap M.O., a Licut. about 5 ft. 7 ins. in height, light complexion, thin moustache, beat with a sword, punch in the stomach about 40 British soldiers. These men were starving, and not fed for three days prior to interrogation. I heard them plead for food, and tell Capt. YAMAKUCHI, "Feed us, then we can talk". Prior to interrogation they were sprayed with disinfectant. Three died during my stay in camp, and I feel their death was due to the beatings and starvation. An Indian told me he had seen a British Major suspended upside down from a tree and water pouring from his mouth, YAMAKUCHI beating him with a stick. The M.O. accused me of being a spy and slapped me in the face.

About July 1943 I, my husband, Mrs. Scott Gray, Mr. Scott Gray and the Stanley family were transferred to Iyaukme Internment Camp. In this camp we were fairly well-treated by Maj. KOOTO and Sgt. YANAGA.

On Feb. 16th 1944 the abovementioned party and including Mr. Murphy, Ford, Sterling and Brindle were taken back to Maymyo, to a camp near the signal lines. Mrs. Aung told me she had been beaten, and I also saw her being struck with a rifle, and kicked in the groin, and slapped on the face by a Jap sentry. It was said in camp that Mrs. Aung had married a Japanese Colonel.

The following people on the 8th Nov. 1944 were transferred from Maymyo to Tavoy arriving there 1st Dec. 1944. Mr. and Mrs. Scott Gray, Mrs. Aung, Mr. Ford, Murphy, Sterling, Brindle, Stanley wife and family, Father Clerici, myself and my husband. A week after our arrival Takie asked if I wanted to change Rs. 1200/- in Indian currency to Japanese occupational notes. I did not agree but was compelled and received one for one. I did not spend any of this money and after peace was declared Takie refused to change it back into Indian currency. The Jap money is still in my possession.

On or about the 1st Feb. 1945 I saw Mrs. Scott Gray, Mrs. Aung and Florence Stanley standing in the sun for a supposed breach of camp rules ordered by Takie. Mrs. Scott Gray stood for seven hours, Mrs. Aung for ten and Florence Stanley for eight hours. Takie on this occasion also slapped Mrs. Aung and Mrs. Scott Gray.

The water carrier Mohd. Zaman told me that Mrs. Childers, Mother Guille and himself had been severely beaten with a leather buckled belt by Takie.

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Mr. Holden Harold and Sydney told me that Takie had attempted to seduce Enid, he (Mr. Holden) had applied for an interview with the Governor, this application was refused by Takie, and he had received a beating instead.

On or about the 1st April 1945 after an air pamphlet raid Takie came to House No. 12 occupied by myself, Mrs. Aung, Scott Gay, Stanley and Alexander called Mrs. Aung outside and took her to Capt. HIMURA in the construction office. She returned about 0330 hours with her clothes torn in shreds; she informed us that HIMURA had tried to rape her, but she had resisted.

After the above incident Takie had partitions erected in House No. 12 and visited Mrs. Aung very frequently, quite often staying until 0200 hours and I have every reason to believe that sexual intercourse took place.

During the monsoons in July 1945 I was extremely ill and could not get up for roll call; I was dragged out by a sentry, acting on Takie's orders, and made to stand in the sun for nine hours.

After our release and in Rangoon, Mrs. Forbes Itchell told me that on several occasions Takie had raped her in the construction office.

(Signed) M.M. WILLIAMS.

Sworn before me (signature) A.M. MACGREGOR, Capt. (description)
War Crimes 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 Mrs.
M.M. Williams.

Date: 13.9.46.

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