

INTERNATIONAL PROSECUTION SECTION

City to Tokyo)
) SS:
 Japan)

AFFIDAVIT

I, Richard E. Rudisill, Lt. Colonel, QMC, upon oath, make the following statement:

1. I am on duty as Chief of the Investigation Division, Legal Section, General Headquarters, Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers, Room 823, Meiji Building, Tokyo, Japan.

2. My official duties include the direction of investigating officers engaged in the investigation of the treatment of prisoners of war and other Allied nationals during the course of the war.

3. Captain John Hamas, United States Marine Corps, has been serving as investigating officer under my direction in the Investigation Division. On 1 October 1946, Captain Hamas filed a report based upon investigation made by him and also upon his personal experiences as a prisoner of war. This report presents the following statements of fact on the subject indicated:

- (1) SUBJECT: Improper transportation on high seas, clubbings, stealing of valuable personal property, starving of about eleven hundred (1100) Prisoners of War, from Wake Island to Woosung (Shanghai) China aboard the NITTA Maru from 12 January to 24 January 1942.
- (2) Upon embarkation on NITTA MARU I was brutally clubbed across my back with a heavy club, slapped in the face by the Jap Guards who searched my small bag, containing, one book, one undershirt, and some toilet gear.
- (3) The Guards clubbed and slapped Colonel J. P. S. Devereux, Commanding Officer, Wake Island Detachment, U. S. Marines, too.
- (4) Marines, Navy and Army Enlisted Men, Civilian Defense Workers, were forced to run through a gauntlet, they were barbarically clubbed, with baseball bats, kicked, slapped, by Captain SAITO's guards and NITTA MARU Captain OGAWA KIYOSHI's ships crew until many of the men were badly hurt and fell ill.
- (5) They were herded like cattle to holds, so crowded, that there was not enough room to stretch or lie down. Existing in dark, damp holds for two (2) weeks; humiliated, clubbed, starved, thirsty, forced to live dirty during the whole trip.
- (6) PFC Trefansky, USMC, who was seriously wounded in combat, was clubbed until the stitches on his back ripped and the poor man fell unconscious.
- (7) PFC Phillip Burford, Pvt. Todd, PFC Eugene Richter, Sgt. "Peepsight" Nassig, Seaman Doke, U.S.N., Joe O'Neill, John Pollock, Harry L. McDonal, Red Topham, civilians, and countless others clubbed terribly.

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- (8) As the result of this horrible nightmarish mistreatment, many of our young and husky Marines contracted tuberculosis, and other serious ailments. Amongst them was John Gutrie, Sgt. Bertel, and others, who all passed away during our internment in KIANGWAN CAMP.
- (9) I also have information concerning two very sick men aboard NITTA MARU (name not remembered) who were seen removed from one of the holds by the Japs, to the "sick-bay", but never returned.
- (10) Aviation Machinist Mate, 3rd Class FRANKLIN, U.S. Navy, and two other young American servicemen, who were detailed to help the officers never disembarked with us at Woosung, Shanghai. They disappeared too. It is very obvious that three (3) or the five (5), (perhaps all five) U.S. servicemen were beheaded, and their bodies thrown overboard.
- (11) Beheadings, clubbings, stripping the Prisoners of all belongings such as watches, rings, money, pens, pencils, toilet gear, clothing, even personal papers, letters and photographs.
- (12) Colonel DEVENTUX, after a repeated request, was denied the possession of his old "family papers". Perhaps some of these articles could be recovered yet.
- (13) Wounded and sick aboard were absolutely refused medical care by the Jap Doctor. I personally requested treatment for Captain FREULER who was suffering from infected shoulder wound and was refused. We tore up a towel and bandaged him up the best we could.
- (14) There was also a big, well-built, loud talking Nip Petty Officer, who clubbed Captain Wesley Platt, until he collapsed from possible internal injury. I witnessed the clubbing.
- (15) Great many others, service personnel and civilians alike were clubbed to insensibility.
- (16) During the voyage, Captain SAITO and his staff interrogated officers and men concerning military installations on MIDWAY, PALMYRA, JOHNSON ISLANDS and, in many cases, they threatened prisoners with beheading, unless the questions properly answered.
- (17) On or about 18 January 1942 the NITTA MARU anchored in Yokohama Harbor. The weather was freezing, none of us had warm clothing. The looting of our clothing and valuables caused our very destitute appearance, and not having adequate protection against the inclemencies of weather, great many of us fell sick from exposure.
- (18) All the prisoners were robbed of all their personal possessions. They imposed capital and corporal punishments, kept prisoners in cold, damp holds without light. They imposed unhealthy starvation. They failed to allow prisoners to stay in the open air, or exercise.
- (19) In addition to all the above, the Doctor failed to give medical aid to our wounded and ailing. And to all this: "The Commander of the Prisoner Escort NAVY OF THE GREAT JAPANESE EMPIRE" published the following: "Regulations for Prisoners".

- (20) "1. The prisoners disobeying the following orders will be punished with immediate death
- a. Those disobeying orders and instructions.
 - b. Those showing a motion of antagonism and raising a sign of opposition.
 - c. Those disordering the regulations by individualism, egoism, thinking only about yourself, rushing for your own goods.
 - d. Those talking without permission and raising loud voices.
 - e. Those walking and moving without order.
 - f. Those carrying unnecessary baggage in embarking.
 - g. Those resisting mutually.
 - h. Those touching the boat's materials, wires, electric lights, tools, switches, etc.
 - i. Those climbing ladder without order.
 - j. Those showing action of running away from the room or boat.
 - k. Those trying to take more meal than given to them.
 - l. Those using more than two blankets.

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- (21) 6. Navy of the Great Japanese Empire will not try to punish you all with death. Those obeying all the rules and regulations, and believing the action and purpose of the Japanese Navy, cooperating with Japan in constructing the "New Order of the Great Asia" which lead to the world's peace will be well treated.

The End
/s/ J. A. Jr.,"

- (22) Correspondence, food, clothing, packages were stolen.
- (23) My wife did send me some twenty-four (24) packages. Each was worth about fifty (50) dollars. I never received a single one. Most of the letters were held back in Japan, much destroyed. During three (3) years and nine (9) months in the hands of Japs I received one (1) letter, one (1) Christmas card and two (2) short radio messages at the end of the war from my wife, who wrote to me faithfully every chance she had. Many of her letters and postal cards were written in 1942-43-44-45 and just been returned as "undelivered from somewhere.
- (24) During the early part of 1945, just before our departure from China (KIANGWAN CAMP) a tall, slender, 60 year old Jap Prince of the royal-blood inspected us. He was the General Chairman of the Jap Red Cross from TOKYO. He did not bother to talk to our senior Marine officer, Colonel W. W. Ashurst, who could tell him plenty. The Jap Colonel OTERA just rushed him through the camp, he looked us over and departed.

(25) I still have a good size lump in my back, and a small hole in my skull. My head, left ear and leg is still aching at nights from the clubbings. Both of my legs are still sore and swelling from malnutrition, beri-beri, pelagra and other unpleasant complications forced upon me by the Japs. Even after a year of good American living.

4. I hereby certify, upon oath, that the preceding paragraphs beginning with the words: "SUBJECT: Improper transportation on high seas....." and ending with the words "...American living", consisting of twenty-five (25) paragraphs dated 1 October 1946 are a true copy of statements of fact as presented to my Division by Captain Hamas.

/s/ RICHARD E. RUDISILL
Richard E. Rudisill
Lt. Colonel, QMC

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 2nd day of January, 1947.

/s/ JAMES J. ROBINSON
Capt. USNR
52853

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