

Evidentiary Document 5005.

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Ex 1656

Evidence of MAHOMED

taken on 27th September, 1945, at the Prisoner-of-War and Internee Reception Depot, Morotai, in the presence of Mr. Justice Mansfield.

Sapper Clerk JOGINDAN SINGH, 17 Field Coy., is sworn as interpreter.

My number is 13133 and my unit the 2/15 Punjab Regiment. I was captured by the Japanese on 25th December, 1941, at Kuching. I was at Kuching for two months and for the rest of the imprisonment was at Kuala Balat.

At Kuching I was not given enough food, and was beaten whilst I was working on the air-strips. I was beaten with sticks, on the head and face. Another Indian who was beaten at Kuching camp was Fazal Kariem. He has now gone to Australia.

From Kuching I went to Saria camp, about seven miles from Kuala Balat. In Saria camp we were not given enough food and about 27 men die of diseases and starvation. I was beaten with sticks and leather belts.

I was suffering from dysentery and beri-beri at the time and was unable to work but the Japanese forced me to work. I could not work properly so they beat me. I was not badly wounded.

A Japanese there who beat me was L/Cpl Wada. I have heard that Wada went back to his unit in Burma.

At about 7 o'clock one night I was ordered to go into the jungle to make a track but at the time I was suffering from beri-beri and unable to work, and I asked to be allowed to stay behind. The Japs tied me and put me in a cell. They also beat me. At about midnight I loosened the rope tied around my hands and at the same time the Japs came in and saw I was loose. They again beat me. Next day they again took me to work, and they beat me again that night with sticks.

Many times the Japs asked us to join them against the British, but we refused. Indian officials were taken away from us to other camps. When we refused to join against the British, the Japs reduced our rations and made us work harder, and we were beaten whilst we worked.

Pte. Atada was one Jap soldier who beat me. He was still at Kuala Balat when I got away from there last June.

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On 16 June, this year the Japs put on a midnight rollcall. At that time I and another man were hiding in a trench near the camp. It was dark. I heard cries when the Japanese were beheading the Indians in the camp. In the morning I went back and saw the hands of all themen were tied, and they had been beheaded. There probably were 70 men there. The man who got away with me is Taj Mohd - he is now in Australia.

Cpl
A ~~Cap.~~ Hoira was there during that midnight rollcall and beheadings; I recognised his voice in the darkness.

We never had enough food anywhere. Those who were sick, as I was, were given less than those able to work.

Lt. Komimura was commander of the camp. Three of the guards were L/Cpl Oka, Cpl. Hoira, L/Cpl. Guchi. There also was 2nd. Lieut Ida, since promoted, I believe to Lieutenant. He was a commander there.

There also was a Pte Morizan; he beat the Indians many times. He also beat me. Once I was ordered to water plants in the garden; when I had finished I went back to the lines; Morizan looked for me in the garden, and when he found I was missing he ordered me back and kicked me, and slapped me, and I was ordered to run round the garden for an hour.

I have read what purports to be a transcription and translation of evidence given by MAHOMED before Mr. Justice Mansfield with myself as interpreter on 27 September, 1945, and state that it is a true and accurate translation of the evidence so given by the said MAHOMED. I was present before Mr. Justice Mansfield on this date when MAHOMED swore that the said evidence was true and correct in substance and in fact and immediately before the said MAHOMED so swore I read to him a true and accurate translation of the said evidence in the Indian language.

(Signed) Jogindan Singh.

I, MAHOMED, swear that the evidence read over to me by Jogindan Singh immediately prior to my taking this oath is to my knowledge true in substance and in fact.

(Signed) MAHOMED

Taken and sworn before me at)
MOROTAI on this 27th day of)
September, 1945.)

(Signed) A.J.Mansfield
Commissioner.