

Ex 1651-A

Exhibitory Document No. 5376.

In the International Military)
Tribunal for the Far East)

The United States of America and others

ARAKI, SADAO and others.

A F F I D A V I T

I, NESTA GWYNETH JAMES of 115 Australian General Hospital, Heidelberg, in the State of Victoria, Captain in the Australian Army Nursing Service make oath and say:-

1. I was taken prisoner at Muntok, Banka Island on 15th February 1942. Subsequently I was sent to Palembang, Sumatra.

2. In October, 1944, together with a party of women prisoners of war and internees, I embarked on a small boat at 8 o'clock at night. The space was so cramped that we could not move our legs. There were no sanitary arrangements on the boat. We remained at the wharf that night and left early the next morning for Banka Island arriving at about 5 o'clock in the evening.

3. In April, 1945, I was one of a party of women prisoners of war and internees who were shipped from Muntok to Palembang in a small ship. We had many stretcher cases and had to carry them together with our luggage down the long pier at Muntok. There we loaded them on to a tender and from a tender to the ship. One patient died on the wharf. We left at one o'clock in the afternoon. Shortly after this another patient died, stretcher patients and nursing sisters were on deck without any protection throughout the whole of the trip. We were stationed in the Musi River when darkness came on. We stayed there all night without any protection whatever and were bitten severely by mosquitoes. We had no warm clothes and suffered badly from the cold. We started again the next morning. The sun blazed down on us. It got so hot that the nursing sisters could hardly touch the patients - they were burning. The remainder of the sick and other passengers were carried down in the hold where they were compelled to remain for the whole voyage. There was no sanitation whatsoever on this ship and 75 percent of those on board were suffering from dysentery and diarrhoea. One patient died before we arrived at Palembang that evening, and another died just after we arrived there. In spite of our exhausted condition we had to remove all the patients from the ship and put them on the train.

Sworn at MELBOURNE in the State of Victoria,
this 8th day of October, 1946.) (Signed) NESTA JAMES

Before me (Signed) J. J. Hinley, Major, A.A.M.C.

1651-A