

Cx 1614-A

Evidentiary Document # 5117.

AFFIDAVIT SWORN BEFORE MAJOR H.W.A. BARRON
AT PORT BLAIR ON DECEMBER 4TH 1945.

MUHAMMAD HUSSAIN of ABERDEEN BAZAAR, having been
duly affirmed, states:-

On 2nd Aug. 45 I was arrested in my house in ABERDEEN BAZAAR by a police constable and I then joined another party who had been rounded up by six Japanese. Three of these Japanese I believe to be officers. I was taken to jail and locked in a cell with 9 other men whom I do not know (and whom were later drowned) until the 3rd Aug. 45. At about 5 p.m. on the 3rd I and the rest were taken to the main gate where JOCHI RYONOSUKE told us that it had already been published that as from August onwards no rations would be supplied to the public and that we were being sent to a new place to cultivate the land. There were a great number of people, I think about 700 or 800. We were loaded onto lorries and taken on to ABERDEEN JETTY under Japanese escort. I was put in one of the boats but could not observe what was happening outside my boat. At about 7 p.m., we sailed and in the early morning of the following day (about 2 a.m.) we reached a point approx. 400 yards from the shore where we were forced into the sea. The Japanese used sticks and bayonets and I was hit with both. In my boat there were only men and two or three children. I swam for the shore and there waited for the dawn. I believe about two hundred men and two or three children reached the shore in safety. With five other men I set off down the coast in search of food and shelter. We could find nothing and were forced to live under the trees eating anything we could find. I heard that BURMESE had looted other parties and also that the Japanese had bought a small amount of rice to the Island but we did not see either. One by one my companions died due to starvation and when the Japanese came, approx. one month and twenty days after, I was the only one left. The Japanese informed me that they had signed a Peace treaty and providing I would return to ABERDEEN they would feed me and treat me well. I was taken to a place where there were ten other men of whom I recognised BHAGAT SINGH, BULWAN SINGH and FUTWA. We were brought by the Purgingmaster SAZAO UCHIMURA and one Japanese officer and 10 or 12 soldiers to BAMBOO FLAT JETTY. From the Jetty we were taken and put in a room in the Doctor's bungalow at BAMBOO FLATS; we were there for four days and during that time were given a very small quantity of rice and water. We were not allowed out and no sanitary arrangements existed in the room. We were taken from there by the Purgingmaster SAZAO UCHIMURA and seven other Japanese, at night, to a tunnel where after four days FUTWA died due to the terrible conditions of water and cold. When he died his body was thrown back into the tunnel and the door closed. I do not know where the tunnel is because it was dark the whole of the time. We were taken to Japanese HQ at BAMBOO FLAT where

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our names were recorded. Then we were loaded on to a tarpaulin covered truck and taken to BAMBOO FLAT HOSPITAL. Of the eleven men only one was a BURMAN.

The Japanese boats could have gone in closer to the shore although the sea was a bit choppy.

I was a coolie working for the Japanese up til the evening before I was arrested. That evening my work ticket was taken off me.

I had never committed any crime against the Japanese or Civilians.

X

MOHAMED HUSSAIN.

Taken down by me at PORT BLAIR on December 4th 1945.

(Signed) H. BARRON, Major.
8th Bn. The Rajputana Rifles.