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Doc. No. 5100

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CANADA
Privince of Quebec
To Wit:

(In the Latter of Canadian
(Prisoners of War at Hong
(Kong and Vicinity.

I, Stanley M Banfill, a Captain in the Royal Canadian Army Medical Corps, presently residing at 4629 Kensington Avenue, Montreal, Quebec, make oath and say:-

1. I am a graduate in medicine and surgery of the University of McGill having graduated in May, 1933.

2. In December, 1941, I was attached to the Royal Rifles of Canada and on active service in Hong Kong. I had established a First Aid Post at the Salesian Mission which was across the main highway from the military area of Lei Mun. We originally had a First Aid Post at Lei Mun, overlooked from Devil's Peak on the mainland which was considered too dangerous and on 12 December 1941 we had moved across the road. This place was occupied by various Medical Services. There was a civilian First Aid Post under the Hong Kong Government. There was also the Central Military Medical Stores for the Island with an RASC Staff. The personnel on staff of the First Aid Post established by me were E-30067 L/Cpl A C HARRISON, E-30552 Rfn R J OAKLEY, my batman, who also acted as a First Aid man, an RASC driver named KELLY and myself. Though the Post was marked with Red Crosses, neither the RASC personnel or my own had been able to obtain any Red Cross arm bands, none were being worn. The RASC personnel had Red Cross Identification Cards, but the Royal Rifles personnel had none and neither did I.

3. On the evening of 18 December 1941, Major M T G MacAULAY of the Royal Rifles of Canada, who was in command of HQ Coy at Ty Tan, a personal friend of mine, came and advised me to evacuate the area. However, we had various reasons for not doing so. I had recommended a few days before that the FAP be moved and the Governor had reprimanded me for interfering with a civilian organization. I should say that though the Post was supposed to lock after civilians in Sau Ki Van area, of which there were about 20,000, I do not suppose more than 15 were brought in during the entire time I was there, certainly very few. Major MacAULAY said he would come back the next day with transport to move us and stores from the area. This was the night of 18 December, 1941. The RASC had picquets on the building facing the North, but apparently they noticed nothing unusual happening during the night. I had a very troubled sleep due to heavy shelling and did not find out till after that the shelling was our own guns from Stanley on the south side of the Island.

4. About dawn we were awakened by two British officers being helped in. One was wounded, the other died almost immediately. Up to that time we had no patients except one wounded Chinese. The wounded British officer was shot through the chest quite badly and on questioning he stated he wished to be taken back to Lieut-Colonel W J HOLE, RRC, at Ty Tan as he had very important information for him. He also made the request that I come down to where the Rajput First Aid Post was, about a mile and a half from my position, as there were a number of wounded there. I asked him

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about his wounds and he said he and his friend had been shot while attempting to get down the main road to Ty Tam by Canadians. He did not mention Japanese at all and as I knew the Canadians had been shooting recklessly down the road, it never occurred to me the people they were fighting were Japanese. I took this man, the wounded civilian and the dead man and put them in an ambulance together with three of my men, 2/Lieut Osler THOMAS, Hong Kong Volunteer Defence Corps, who had been attached to me a day or so before as a medical student; Rfa OAKLEY and Dvr KELLY, who were to take them there. They drove out of the courtyard on to the road and a moment later came back screaming that they had been machine gunned. Rfa OAKLEY had a machine gun bullet through his thigh. I do not remember if the ambulance was marked, it was an improvised vehicle.

5. Rfa OAKLEY insisted the people who fired were Japanese. We had never seen one until then. I went into the Mission and looked out from upstairs at the area they were shooting from and to my surprise there was a concentration of Japanese troops on the flat area behind the Mission. I was with them for some time afterwards. There were 3 Japanese Lieutenants and one Japanese Captain, I would say a company organization. I rushed downstairs shouting to the women in charge of the Civilian Aid Post and the other people to try and get them down into the depression in front of the building, towards the village of Sau Ki Wan. As I came into the main hall of the Mission a Japanese patrol had circled the building and were just coming in the front door of the Mission. I immediately put up my hands and took no interest in defending the place whatever. No one fired, I am positive of that.

6. The Japanese took us out into the courtyard and lined us up, soldiers together, St Johns Ambulance and women employees of the First Aid Post and civilian doctors, 40 or 50 altogether. The St John Ambulance people had on a distinctive uniform with Red Cross badges on the sleeve. The civilian Doctors had no markings whatsoever and our people had no Red Crosses. The Japanese ordered, more or less by gestures, that the people remove jackets and empty their pockets. The RANC personnel showed the Japanese their Red Cross Identification Cards with photographs, but they were simply snatched out of their hands and thrown to the ground. There was no one there to speak English. I do remember that the Japanese had some conversation with a Chinese Doctor and I have been told since that the Chinese Doctor told them who we were. They made everyone remove their boots except me. I had been identified as the leader of the group in this way. The Japanese came out of the building holding up a revolver and I claimed it. Apparently they associated this with senior rank and put me to one side.

7. They marched us out on to the road; St Johns Ambulance personnel towards Sau Ki Wan, the women towards Sai Wan which is a little further south than where we were. The RANC personnel, consisting of about 9 or 10 storemen, the civilian Doctors, HARRISON, KELLY and myself were marched off the road into a little gully which was bounded on the east by the back of the embankment which made up the road and on the west by Mt Parker. We marched a distance up the side of Mt Parker and then an English speaking

officer came along and started questioning me. I told him we were medical personnel from the First Aid Post and non-combatants. They took me off to one side, tied my arms behind my back with a loop around my neck and left me standing there. They marched the other personnel past me (I was the only one tied) across the gully and had them standing facing me with their backs to the embankment. There was a sound of shooting, I looked up and saw some of my friends falling down. Just at that moment a Japanese civilian came along, knocked me down and kicked me several times, to prevent me from seeing any more. This Japanese was dressed in a civilian overcoat and wore Japanese military shoes with the separated toe and was unarmed.

8. The officer who gave the order to tie me was not in charge. There was an officer senior to him in charge, but the ranks were unknown to me. The English speaking Japanese then came to me, got me on my feet and we started up the hill. I protested to him about shooting these people and he said they had an order to kill all captives, that "Order is, all captives must die", I said "You have not killed me" and he said "We will kill you - all captives must die, but we want you to help us". We started up the hill and arrived at a water cachement. We got in and followed it in the direction of Ty Tam, walked for about a mile, turned around and came back, then over the eastern shoulder of Mt Parker in the direction of Wong Nei Chong. This was the morning of 19 December 1941 and I think Brigadier Lawson was killed in the early morning or during the night at Wong Nei Chong. I arrived there in the late afternoon.

9. On the way across they untied my hands because I fell and put me on a leash. I had a good bit of conversation with the Lieutenant. He told me he had gone to St Paul's Mission School in Tokyo and had learned to speak English; that his mother and sisters were Christians, but that he was not sure of his own views on the subject; that he objected to war and thought everyone should be kind. He also spoke of French Canada, American movies, etc.

10. On this trip we rested frequently because the Japanese were carrying heavy equipment, such as a flame thrower which seemed difficult for two men to carry. This continued until late afternoon when we were stopped. The Japanese told me his name was pronounced FONDA, but spelt HONDA. He said, "I think it is a shame we have to kill you" or words to that effect, and "I will see if I can get permission to take you back to Headquarters". He spoke to his Commanding Officer whom I judged to be a Captain. He came back a few minutes after and said "I am very sorry, there is an order that all captives must die". Later he said "My Commander says I may take you back to Headquarters". We continued in a southwesterly direction towards Wong Nei Chong.

11. Two Japanese were in front of us as an advance party, HONDA and I were immediately behind them. We came across a British officer, wounded, who was crawling along the road. The Japanese bayoneted him, then took me up and asked me what his rank was. He was a young, very white-faced 2nd Lieutenant with the insignia of the Hong Kong and Singapore Royal Artillery on his shoulder. He was later identified in a PW Camp by Major Duncan, Commanding Officer of the HKSRA, as an Indian officer of that unit. This

happened twice more on that trip, they bayoneted wounded soldiers and threw them over the side and then shot them to make sure they were dead. I was not asked again to identify anyone. About 6 o'clock we arrived at Wong Nei Chong where there was a concentration of Japanese troops, at least a battalion and probably more.

12. It was at dawn, approximately 0800 hours on the 19 December 1941 when the Japanese arrived at Salesian Mission. They came from due south of the Mission, but had landed at the North. I believed it to be a company organization with 1 Captain and 3 Lieutenants although I am not positive of the ranks. The junior officer who spoke English told me he was a Lieutenant. I can't be positive of the rank of the Company Commander. They carried swords and staffs; wore khaki cotton uniforms covered with coarse netting; steel helmets covered with khaki canvas covering and coarse netting which was used to fasten foliage in for camouflage purposes. Their weapons were as follows - rifles; the non-commissioned officers had swords; they were carrying a heavy machine gun of Vickers pattern as well as some small mortars. A very heavy flame thrower was carried between two men slung on a pole. It resembled an Electrolux Vacuum Cleaner, only larger and slightly spherical, with flexible hose and nozzle. They also carried light machine guns with fixed bayonets. There were between 100 to 150 men and there was no transport. Their boots were black canvas, rubber soles, separated great toe, ankle boots fastened by snaps at the back. The officers and NCOs were wearing high and knee length boots and our type of Army ankle boot. Their equipment consisted of a leather ammunition container with two leather pouches and contained .26 calibre high velocity rifle ammunition. They also carried a canvas haversack slung over the shoulder which resembled our light haversack. I noticed at least one medical orderly and there were probably others. This one carried a leather case, not much larger than an attache case with a Red Cross on it. I do not recall arm bands. They had no stretchers, but I saw some evacuated casualties on stretchers made of boughs.

13. Two of the victims in some way lived through the shooting and escaped although one was hacked with swords by the Japanese as he was lying feigning death. One of these is 2/Lieut Osler THOMAS, HKVDC, who had been my assistant. He is easily identified as his father was the chief local employee of the Government Medical Service. He, himself, was a medical student at Hong Kong University and because of this had been detailed as my assistant. The other was Cpl LEITH of the RANC, who after his escape and subsequent recovery acted as clerk and secretary during the Prisoner of War period to Lieut-Colonel Bowie, Commander of Bowen Road Hospital.

14. Two of the ladies who had been in the civilian First Aid Post and who had marched off towards Sai Wan survived and could give evidence of the circumstances surrounding the capture. They are MISS FERON, who was born in China and later went to the United States and became a member of the American Women's Army Corps and MRS TINSON who was in charge of the civilian First Aid Post and is the widow of the Director of Civilian Communications at Hong Kong and a Barrister in civilian life in Hong Kong.

15. I estimate that the shooting took place not more than 200 yards from the large building of the Salesian Mission which we had occupied as a First Aid Post.

16. I would describe the English speaking Japanese officer named HONDA as about 23 yrs of age; 5'2" or 5'4"; 130 to 140 lbs; small, stocky, mongoloid appearing Japanese, solemn appearance, very large buck teeth with no gold in them as I remember and he wore horn-rimmed spectacles. He told me he had served in China and had been educated in St Paul's Church of England School in Tokyo; that his mother and sisters were Christians and that he was not sure of his own views on that subject. He did not mention having been wounded and stated that he did not approve of war. His description is somewhat like that of Lieut WADA, later a Camp Commandant at North Point and Shan Shui Po, but is not the same man.

17. The Japanese officer who was in charge of the party which captured the Salesian Mission was 5'8" to 5'10"; 150 lbs; in appearance not more than 25 years; very smooth, clear, olive complexion; regular features; not mongoloid; quite slender; somewhat Italian in appearance; striking and would be considered a very handsome gentleman in any race; wore no glasses and spoke no English as far as I know.

This affidavit of the deponent,)
 Stanley M BANFILL, consisting of)
 this and the preceding three pages,)
 each signed by the deponent and by)
 me, was sworn before me at the City)
 of Montreal, in the Province of)
 Quebec, this 22nd day of December)
 1945)

/s/ Gerard Nantel, Major

/s/ S. Martin Banfill, Capt
 (Stanley M BANFILL) Captain

A.J.A.G., H.Q., M.D. No. 4 Canadian Army

RCAMC

A Commissioner of the Superior

Court for the Province of Quebec.