

Excerpts.

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2. No. 7262360 Sgt. J.H. ANDERSON. states:-

"Towards mid-night on December 24 machine gun and mortar fire increased and numerous machine gun posts were set up in the grounds of the hospital. Later on these posts actually used bales of hospital blankets and mattresses from the linen stores to build machine gun nests within six yards of the entrance to the hospital reception hall. Guns were also set up on the rising ground behind the cook-house and another within arms reach of the flag-pole carrying the Red Cross. The machine gun outside Brigade HQ actually had to fire over the top of a large St. George Cross flag, (the only other Red Cross available) which had been hoisted over the end of the tennis courts. Firing and grenade fire increased until nearly dawn but it was too dangerous to go outside to see what the position was as the roads and verandahs were caught in a cross-fire. Just before dawn on December 25 British and Canadian forces dropped back without warning being given to the hospital and the first sign of capture was the arrival of four Japanese soldiers at the entrance to the hospital."

"Lt-Col. Black and myself went out to meet them, followed by Capt. Witney, Cpl. Noble and Pte Mooney, RAMC, were already outside under guard. The two officers, after their equipment had been removed, were taken round the corner of the building but the rest of us were lined up against the wall and had our arm bands inspected. One of the Japanese was sent back, apparently to report to some others who soon arrived, entered the main hall, and shepherded all the nurses and some of the patients out. As this was going on Sgt. Parkin, RAMC, who had been asleep in one of the rooms, made a dash for a window and was shot through the head. There were sounds of shouting and shooting as the Japanese ran down the main hall amongst the patients and any patients who were too slow in getting up out of bed, or who could not move owing to wounds were bayoneted or shot. Some of the KKVDC tried to escape and others put up a bit of a struggle but they were mostly all bayoneted or shot. The St. John Ambulance Brigade men were all put in one room and systematically butchered, one only remained alive to tell us what happened. All staff and patients were first of all herded into one of the store rooms and later, as all survivors were collected by the Japanese and daylight came, they were taken upstairs and put into the small students dormitories. The women were in one room with some Chinese girls."

"86 patients and staff, including myself, were in a room 9' by 12' 3". After threatening us with hand grenades and warning us not to escape the Japanese set up a machine gun in the passage outside. After numerous appeals one of the Japanese fetched us a large jug of water and some dry oatmeal. That was all the food or drink offered to us until 10 p.m. During the day, at intervals, parties of Japanese came along and peered in at us, on most of the occasions seizing one of the men and dragging him out to the corridor. The bodies of 4 of these men were afterwards found bayoneted and tortured, the sounds of this going on could be heard in the corridor. Up to about 7 p.m. we could still hear the women talking."

"About 10 p.m. a junior officer arrived and allowed us to move out some of the walking wounded to other rooms, still leaving about 40 people to spend the night

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of December 25/26th in the original small room, in which there was insufficient space to lie down properly. At our request the officer allowed us to bring up buckets of fire hydrant water but there was no sign of food and at no time from then onwards did the Japanese offer us any. S.M. Begg (a patient) whose wife was a V.A.D. asked me to try and find out something about the ladies."

"As soon as it was light on the morning of 26th December the Japanese collected all persons capable of walking and set them to cleaning up. They allowed myself and a patient to go down and get more water. During the cleaning up we found the bodies of the S.J.A.B. and H.K.V.D.C. The bodies of Lt-Col. Black and Capt. Witney, RAMC, were found in the staff lavatory and sitting room respectively, both had been searched and bayoneted or cut with swords. The bodies of three missing women were found in the grounds covered by a blanket. They had been cut to pieces - Mrs. Begg's head was almost severed from her body. It was not possible to make an examination of the bodies. Altogether about 60 to 70 bodies of patients and 25 bodies of staff were collected. Under orders from the Japanese a huge bonfire was built for the burning of the bodies."

"In the afternoon of Boxing Day the Japanese told us we could have the whole of the top floor of the hospital east wing. This was occupied and as much medical material as possible was collected. There was no medical officer left. Late that evening Lt-Col. Andrews-Levinge (+--) arrived from Stanley with some of the H.K.V.D.C. and just before dark they returned with a small van and succeeded in smuggling the remaining ladies out to the fort. Also they promised to send water and food the following day."

"By Saturday 27th, the water situation was desperate. The Japs had left the building altogether and by disconnecting the hot-water cisterns it was possible to get enough water to last two days."

"For some reason the promised supplies from Stanley had not arrived, probably going astray en route, but enough food had been salvaged from the wrecked stores to give everyone something to eat."

On the evening of the 29th a Japanese officer offered us a lorry to take up to Stanley fort with the remainder of the wounded patients. This was accepted and as much as could be carried was taken through to the Fort."

"Most of the St. Stephens hospital RAMC personnel were left at Stanley Fort and the remainder (12 O.R's) marched back to North Point Camp via Lyemun Gap, eventually arriving at Bowen Road."

(Signed) J.H. ANDERSON, Sgt. RAMC.

15/7/42

(---) (It has since been discovered that the officer was Captain STOKER and not Lt-Col. Andrews-Levinge).

(Indorsed on the margin of each page):

THIS IS THE EXHIBIT MARKED 'F' REFERRED TO IN THE AFFIDAVIT OF LIEUTENANT-COLONEL CEDRIC OVERTON SHACKLETON SWORN THIS ELEVENTH DAY OF DECEMBER 1945 BEFORE ME,

(SIGNED) A.A.P. HUNT, Captain Legal Staff.