

E 1514

Evidentiary Document No. 5397.

INTERNATIONAL MILITARY TRIBUNAL
OF THE FAR EAST.

NO. 1.
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND OTHERS

against
ARAKI, Sadao and others.

I, Alexander Gordon WEYNTON of Castlemaine, in the State of Victoria, Commonwealth of Australia, Lieutenant in the Australian Military Forces make oath and say as follows:-

1. On 8th March, 1944, I was shipped from Kuching to Singapore to serve a sentence of 10 years imprisonment imposed on me by a Japanese Court on 29th February, 1944. Nineteen other prisoners who had been sentenced to imprisonment by the same Court accompanied me.

2. On 11th March, 1944, we were taken to Outram Road Gaol. We were each given a shirt and a pair of shorts. Our own clothing was taken from us. Each of us was given a blanket, three wooden boards 6 feet long x 3 inches wide and a block of wood 1 foot long by 4 inches square; this block was slightly hollowed on one side to serve as a pillow. The pieces of board were for use as a bed. We were placed two men to a cell which was ten feet long by 4 feet wide by 12 feet high and made of concrete. There was an opening about a foot square in the top of the ceiling. There was just room for two men to lie down side by side. These cells had been previously used by the British to house one Asian prisoner in each.

3. Three times a day we received a soup made from root vegetables and refuse from the places of Japanese prisoners in the gaol boiled in water. We also received eight ounces of rice per day; once or twice a week we received a fried fish head. We received a quarter of pint of water three times a day. The Japanese refused to exceed this quantity as it would necessitate emptying the latrine can more than once a day.

4. For the first three or four days we were not permitted to leave the cells but were compelled to sit throughout the day cross-legged at attention. We could hear from the other cells the sounds of people being beaten and their screams.

5. After that we were taken out to work each day from 8 a.m. to noon and from 1 p.m. until 5 p.m. Some of the prisoners were engaged on various fatigues around the gaol, others in the gaol garden and the balance picking hemp. For hemp picking we were compelled to sit cross-legged on the ground. If the guard considered that a prisoner had not picked sufficient hemp he would reduce his already meagre ration.

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6. All of the 80 prisoners at the gaol at the time of our arrival were suffering from scabies. Prisoners were also suffering from dysentery, beri beri and malnutrition diseases. The sick were taken each day into an area which was marked off by four posts stuck in the ground with a covering over the top of these sticks. The sick were laid out under this cover with a guard over them. They were not allowed to talk. If they could sit up they were compelled to pick hemp. This sick party varied from 10 to 25 in a total complement of 80 to 85 prisoners. They only received half the normal food ration. They received no medical attention but were occasionally visited by a doctor who would decide whether to send any to hospital.

7. On 18th May, 1944, I was too sick to stand up and was sent to Changi Internment Camp Hospital suffering from dysentery, beri bero, scabies and pellagra. I remained there until 14th April, 1945, when I was returned to the gaol.

8. I was put on fatigue work until the first week in July, 1945, when I was sent to the Fukittimah Rifle Range. The work here was very heavy for prisoners in our weakened condition. It consisted of pick and shovel work, tunnelling, and its associated activities. The general nature of the work was erecting defensive positions for the Japanese.

9. Upon my return from hospital in April, 1945, I found that the food ration had been reduced to 6 ounces of rice per day, a spoonful of boiled green vegetables, and a small quantity of boiled blachan, which is made from decomposed prawns and crabs. That was all the food we received, until our release in August, 1945.

10. The sick were treated in the same manner as prior to my evacuation to hospital with the exception that they were not visited by a doctor.

11. Beatings were frequent and savage throughout the whole period of my confinement. Pieces of wood, swords and scabbards were used for the purpose.

A British artilleryman named Bradley was beaten on numerous occasions particularly by Japanese good conduct prisoners No. 52 and No. 66, who acted as guards. He was very badly maltreated a week before his death by guard No. 52. He was in a weakened condition. He had been sick and on half rations for some time. He was picked up and thrown down on to the ground. His arms, legs, neck and any part of his body that was projecting were screwed until he screamed at the top of his voice. His face was rubbed in the dirt. He was badly beaten about the body and kicked in the ribs, face and groin. He lost a large quantity of skin. I was in the cell adjoining his when he died. He was screaming and groaning. Nothing was done to help him; he was not

given medical attendance or attention. The guards withheld food and water from him on a number of occasions right up to the time of his death. Gradually his screams and groans became weaker and weaker and then he died a week after being beaten by No. 52.

I saw a Dutch Eurasian receive a similar beating to that which I have described as being administered to Bradley.

Another Dutchman named Kris was badly beaten up while suffering from dysentery and beri beri.

I was myself badly beaten and kicked in the ribs and on the thigh, for talking to the man sitting next to me. I had broken skin down the left side of my hip for three weeks after this.

12. In December, 1944, or January, 1945, a B29 which had been shot down in raids over Singapore caught fire. Two members of the crew were severely burnt. They were brought in to Outram Road Gaol. They were just one mass of burns and were black from head to foot. They were placed in a cell but were not allowed any medical treatment.

13. In June, 1945, I saw a party of nine Allied Airmen taken out from their cells on a Saturday afternoon. They were accompanied by a heavily armed guard and a Japanese burial party. Some of this party were Japanese good conduct prisoners. Several days later some of them told me that the 9 airmen had had their heads taken off and that they had helped to bury them.

14. In all between May and July, 1945, I saw 17 Allied airmen and 15 Chinese civilians taken out in similar circumstances for execution. The burial party returned but the prisoners did not. The burial party were in a dirty condition, as though they had been digging when they returned. I had some contact with the airmen as I was engaged in taking latrine cans to and from their cells. They told me that they had not been tried.

15. I was released when the Japanese surrendered in August, 1945.

SWORN AT TOKYO THIS)
THE 21ST DAY OF)
NOVEMBER, 1946)
BEFORE ME

(Sgd).A..G..Weynton

(Sgd).Thomas.F..Mornane
Lieutenant-Colonel
Australian Military Forces