

C. # 1929

Doc. No. 8263*

Page 1 *

When COMPLETED this document must be classified as SECRET.

[AUSTRALIAN] WAR CRIMES COMMISSION

QUESTIONNAIRE

Notes:--

(a) This questionnaire should be completed by:--

- (i) All repatriated Australian prisoners of war (A.I.F., R.A.A.F. and R.A.N.)
- (ii) All repatriated Australian civil internees.
- (iii) All repatriated British civil internees in the Pacific Area (excluding Malaya and China)
- (iv) All members and ex-members of the Allied forces who have actual knowledge of war crimes committed by the enemy.

(b) It will be completed in the presence of an officer who will countersign the signature of the person making the statement.

(c) It is important that a full statement on page 3 (carried on to page 4 if necessary) be furnished as well as the answer to 8 (f).

1. Army number 4737 2. Rank [Gunner (A/Bdr)]
3. Full name (in BLOCK letters) [MULLINS John Boud]
4. Unit at time of capture and/or place of capture 2/15 Field Regt. MALAYA
(State her unit in which soldier was serving at time of capture, e.g. 2/1 F or H.Q. 6 Aust. Div., &c)
5. Home address 19 Central Avenue, MANLY, NSW
6. At what enemy camps and hospitals were you confined and when were you at each? Jan-Oct. 42, CHANGI Oct 42-Mar 43, THAILAND. Mar 43-June 4, SHIKOKU, Japan from July until 13 Sept 45.

7. Do you have any information about any atrocities against, or mistreatment of, Allied soldiers, prisoners of war, civilian internees or the civilian population for which you think the perpetrator should be punished? (Answer by stating YES or NO in the spaces provided below)--

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| (a) Killings or executions | <u>no</u>
YES or NO |
| (b) Rape, torture, beatings and other cruelties | <u>yes</u>
YES or NO |
| (c) Imprisonment under improper conditions | <u>yes - general</u>
YES or NO |
| (d) Massacres, wholesale looting, pillage, or burning of towns, villages | <u>no</u>
YES or NO |
| (e) Use of prisoners of war or civilians on enemy military works or operations | <u>yes - general</u>
YES or NO |
| (f) Exposure of prisoners of war to danger of gunfire, bombing, torpedoing, or other hazards of war | <u>yes - general</u>
YES or NO |
| (g) Transportation of prisoners of war under improper conditions or deportation of civilians | <u>yes - general</u>
YES or NO |
| (h) Public exhibition or exposure to ridicule of prisoners of war | <u>no</u>
YES or NO |
| (i) Failure to provide prisoners of war or internees with proper medical care, food or quarters. | <u>yes - general</u>
YES or NO |
| (j) Collective punishment of a group for offence of others | <u>no</u>
YES or NO |
| (k) Breaches of rules relating to the Red Cross | <u>no</u>
YES or NO |

- (l) Cannibalism no
YES or NO
- (m) Mutilation of the dead no
YES or NO
- *(n) Any other war crimes not
specifically mentioned above
for which you think the guilty
persons should be punished no
YES or NO

If any question is answered YES then state the facts in 6(f)
on pages 3 and

8. Details of Atrocities.----

- (a) Kind of crime Many of these were general but 2
cases of TORTURE
- (b) When and where it happened Starvation of prisoners
occurred generally but particularly in JAPAN where
2 men were tortured.
- (c) Who was the victim? (Give complete description
including name and whether military or civilian
personnel) Gunners BASIL JONES and ALLAN ORR of
2/15 Fd Regt, both from NSW
- (d) Who was the perpetrator? (Give as complete des-
cription and as much information as possible).
Jap Warrant Officer known as "HAPPY JACK", real name
would be known to Lt. WITEXCOMBE of 2/15 Fd Regt,
and Lt. SANDERSON of 2/19 Inf. Bn. both of whom
were in the same camp at SHIKOKU
- (e) State if you saw it yourself. If you did not see it,
who told you about it? (Give names and addresses
of other witnesses) I saw the wounds the day
after torture, and was told the details by the
victims.

- (f) Give brief story of crime. Full statement required on pages 3 and 4. Victims had their hands

"SPIKE" to tables with spike files and then
their fingernails lifted with a paper knife.

To the best of my belief the above particulars are correct.

/s/ Not Legible
 (Signature of Interrogating Officer)

/s/ J. Mullins
 Signature

3 Nov 45
 (Date)

2/9 Aust General Hospital
 (Place and/or Unit at
 which interrogation was
 made.)

* * * * *

Comment by Interrogation Officer This recovered soldier
was in very bad condition when recovered from JAPANESE
hands, and would have died in a matter of days from MAL-
NUTRITION AND BERT BERT. He has now been cleared from the
D.I. List, after 6 weeks hospitalization, but is still on
the seriously ill list.

- - - -

- * Other war crimes not specifically mentioned include:--
- (i) Usurpation of sovereignty during military occupation.
 - (ii) Compulsory enlistment of soldiers among the inhabitants of occupied territory.
 - (iii) Attempts to denationalize the inhabitants of occupied territory.
 - (iv) Confiscation of property.
 - (v) Exaction of illegitimate or of exorbitant contributions and requisitions.
 - (vi) Debasement of the currency and issue of spurious currency.
 - (vii) Deliberate bombardment of undefended places.
 - (viii) Wanton destruction of religious, charitable, educational and historic buildings and monuments.
 - (ix) Use of explosive or expanding bullets and other inhuman appliances.
 - (x) Directions to give no quarter and refusal of quarter.
 - (xi) Misuse of flags of truce.

FULL STATEMENT OF ATROCITY OR CRIME.

This MUST be signed by the person making the statement and counter-signed by the interrogating officer at the end of the statement.

WITNESS BEING DULY SWORN STATES:-

[At YAMANI Camp on the JAP island of SHIKOKU, about March 1945, Gnr Basil JONES and Gnr Allan ORR, both of 2/15 Fd Regt were accused of stealing sugar.

They were taken away under the orders of the Jap WO known as "HAPPY JACK" for questioning. They denied having stolen the sugar and told the truth, that they had obtained it from their Jap guards in exchange for cigarettes from their Red Cross parcel.

"HAPPY JACK" refused to believe this, and in an effort to extract a confession of theft from them, HE SPIKED THEIR HANDS TO TABLES USING AN ORDINARY TYPE OF OFFICE SPIKE FILE. THE SPIKE WAS DRIVEN RIGHT THROUGH THE HAND SEVERAL TIMES NEAR THE KNUCKLE JOINTS. HE THEN PRIESTED AND LIFTED FORCIBLY THE FINGER NAILS OF THE MEN USING A PAPER KNIFE AS A LEVER. /s/ JR

I saw both JONES and ORR the following day, and their hands were in a shocking condition. They both told me what had occurred. I also know that on the day of the torture, "HAPPY JACK" gave Lt. WITHEYCOMBE an unmerciful beating Both JONES AND ORR had very bad hands for a long time, as a result of their tortures.

The Jap WO "HAPPY JACK" was responsible for frequently severely beating up the PW, his favorite weapon being a heavy wooden sword. He seemed to loath all whites, and indulged his cruel tendencies on every possible occasion.

The food conditions in this camp at SHIKOKU were very bad. We had to live on a very small quantity of rice and barley, and we used our few cents a day work pay to buy any food we could. We were so starved that we bought and ate the entrails of dogs, and when we could get it, horseflesh.

Our work was in the copper mine, the shifts being each 12 hours a day with one day off each month. (On this day they gave us less food still, on the grounds that we needed less because of no work). The mines had previously been closed because of the dangerous condition of working, but they opened the dangerous shafts for us to work. There were some deaths through accident.

Confirmation of all this evidence can be obtained from the officers named herein.

SWORN BEFORE ME AT MOROTAI, THIS THIRD DAY OF NOVEMBER
1945.

/s/ Not Legible MAJOR
INTERROGATING OFFICER
3 PW Contact & Enquiry Unit

/s/ J. Mullins

signature of Witness

A CERTIFIED TRUE COPY:

/s/ Everett Checket
EVERETT CHECKET
Major Infantry

Our work was in the copper mine, the shifts being each 12 hours a day with one day off each month. (On this day they gave us less food still, on the grounds that we needed less because of no work). The mines had previously been closed because of the dangerous condition of working, but they opened the dangerous shafts for us to work. There were some deaths through accident.

Confirmation of all this evidence can be obtained from the officers named herein.

SWORN BEFORE ME AT NOROTAI, THIS THIRD DAY OF NOVEMBER
1945.

/s/ Not Legible MAJOR
INTERROGATING OFFICER
3 PW Contact & Enquiry Unit

/s/ J. Mullins

signature of Witness

A CERTIFIED TRUE COPY:

/s/ Everett Checket
EVERETT CHECKET
Major Infantry