



12 SEPTEMBER 1946

I N D E X  
Of  
WITNESSES

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I N D E X  
Of  
EXHIBITS

<u>Pros.</u> <u>No.</u>	<u>Def.</u> <u>No.</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>For</u> <u>Ident.</u>	<u>In</u> <u>Evidence</u>
472		Map of Burma-Siam Railway and various Camps along it.		5452
473		Letter or telegram from Mr. Max Huber, Chairman of the International Red Cross Committee to the Foreign Minister dated 23 June 1944		5492

1 Thursday, 12 September, 1946

2 - - -

3  
4 INTERNATIONAL MILITARY TRIBUNAL  
5 FOR THE FAR EAST  
6 Court House of the Tribunal  
7 War Ministry Building  
8 Tokyo, Japan

9 The Tribunal met, pursuant to adjournment,  
10 at 0930.

11 - - -

12  
13 Appearances:

14 For the Tribunal, same as before.

15 For the Prosecution Section, same as before.

16 For the Defense Section, same as before.

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20 (English to Japanese and Japanese  
21 to English interpretation was made by the  
22 Language Section, IMTFE.)  
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1 DEPUTY MARSHAL OF THE COURT: The International  
2 Military Tribunal for the Far East is now in session.

3 THE PRESIDENT: Until I announce otherwise,  
4 it should be taken that all the accused are present  
5 except OKAWA and MATSUI, and that they are represent-  
6 ed by counsel.

7 Counsel will be at liberty to mention any  
8 matter at this stage of the proceedings each morning.

9 Mr. Comyns Carr.

10  
11 CYRIL HEW DALRYMPLE WILD,  
12 called as a witness on behalf of the prosecution,  
13 resumed the stand and testified as follows:

14 DIRECT EXAMINATION (Continued)

15 BY MR. COMYNS CARR:

16 Q Colonel Wild, would you now come to tell us  
17 about the building of the Burma-Siam Railway? What  
18 purpose did that railway serve?

19 A It was built as a means of supplying the  
20 Japanese forces in Burma, particularly as a preparation  
21 for the invasion of India.

22 Q When did prisoners of war begin to leave  
23 Singapore to work on that railway?

24 A About August 1942.

25 Q At that time did you or they know where they

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1 were going, or what for?

2 A No information whatever was given.

3 Q When and how did you first learn about the  
4 building of the railway?

5 A After my return to Changi in December 1942,  
6 from some men who had been working on the Burma-Siam  
7 Railway and had been sentenced to terms of imprison-  
8 ment in Outram Road Prison. They had been sentenced  
9 for offences in Siam and had been transferred to Changi  
10 from the prison owing to illness.

11 Q Who were the first prisoners of war to go  
12 there, and from what country did they come?

13 A The first to go to Burma were a party of  
14 Australians under Brigadier Varley called A Force.

15 Q Now, I think at this point it would be con-  
16 venient, in order to follow the remainder of your evi-  
17 dence, if we hand to the Members of the Tribunal a  
18 plan which you have had prepared of the railway and  
19 the various camps along it.

20 Were you subsequently sent to the railway  
21 yourself so that you are familiar with most of the  
22 ground shown on this plan?

23 A Yes.

24 Q Let us just get the main features of it clear  
25 before I take your evidence in detail.

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1 On the right hand of the plan it shows Bangkok,  
2 is that right? Bangkok on the extreme right?

3 A Yes.

4 Q And proceeding to the left, do you get just  
5 beyond the first straight line to Banpong? Was that  
6 the point at which contact was made by rail from  
7 Singapore?

8 A That was normally the detraining point. From  
9 there the old railway went up as far as Kanchanburi,  
10 five points to the north of Banpong.

11 Q Yes. Now, rather more than half way across the  
12 plan towards the left, do you come to the boundary  
13 between Burma and Siam?

14 A Yes, marked by dashes and dots.

15 Q Is that point known as the Three Pagodas Pass?

16 A Yes, it is.

17 Q And then on the Burma side, do you finally  
18 get down to the junction with the pre-existing railway  
19 at Thanbuyzayat?

20 A That is correct.

21 Q Are there any other general matters about  
22 this plan which you think it necessary to explain before  
23 you come to the detailed story?

24 A Only I think that from Kanchanburi at the  
25 50 kilo mark up to about the 364 kilo mark at Anaquin

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1 it was previously virgin, mountainous jungle.

2 Q Was it built from one end to the other, or  
3 from both ends simultaneously?

4 A From both ends simultaneously.

5 Q When was the work begun?

6 A In about August 1942.

7 Q And when and where were the two ends joined?

8 A The two ends were joined at the end of  
9 October 1943, at about the 257 kilo mark, Konquita.

10 Q The A Force whom you have mentioned, which  
11 end did they go to?

12 A They worked from Thanbuyzayat at the Moulmein  
13 end.

14 Q Did you personally have any contact with them  
15 after they left?

16 A Yes. They passed through my camp at Songkrai,  
17 287 kilo, laying the railway lines in late September  
18 1943.

19 Q Did you receive a report at that time from any  
20 of their officers?

21 A Yes. I spoke both to Brigadier Varley, the  
22 commander, and I had a long conversation with  
23 Lieutenant Colonel Anderson, V.C., and his interpreter,  
24 Captain Drower.

25 Q You are going to give us shortly your own



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1 account of what happened to your own force. Did their  
2 account of what happened to their force differ materially  
3 from that?

4 A Their experience had been very similar to that  
5 of my party, except that their food had been better  
6 and that they had not had to do a long march. As  
7 regards living and working conditions and treatment,  
8 I should say identical.

9 Q Did they report specially on the question of  
10 prisoners of war attempting to escape?

11 A Yes, they did. They told me that over twenty  
12 of their men had been shot without trial for alleged  
13 attempts to escape.

14 Q Did they mention any other work that the  
15 prisoners of war had been engaged on for the Japanese  
16 besides the railway?

17 A Yes. Their first work on leaving Singapore  
18 had been to build a military aerodrome for the Japanese  
19 at Victoria Point, in Burma.

20 Q When the railway was finished, what became  
21 of the surviving prisoners of war?

22 A Six thousand survivors of F and H Forces were  
23 sent back to Singapore. The remaining prisoners were  
24 concentrated in the plains of Siam, in the vicinity of  
25 Kanchanburi, the 50 kilo mark, and certain numbers



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1 were retained along the line for maintenance work.

2 Q As you have told us, you accompanied F Force.  
3 When did that start?

4 A The latter part of April 1943.

5 Q How many did it consist of at the start?

6 A Seven thousand, of whom about 3600 were  
7 Australian and 3400 British.

8 Q Were they there just about a year? I think  
9 you told us the survivors got back to Singapore in  
10 April 1944.

11 A They were in the jungle for just seven months,  
12 and the last of the survivors came back in April 1944,  
13 exactly a year after leaving.

14 Q During that period, how many of them died?

15 A Thirty-one hundred out of the seven thousand.

16 Q Who were the people who were guarding them?  
17 How many, and of what nationality?

18 A About 250 Koreans and about 30 or 40 Japanese.  
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1 Q Did any of them die?

2 A Yes, one Korean.

3 Q Is that all, either Koreans or Japanese?

4 A That is all that I ever heard of.

5 Q Do you know what the casualties were in

6 A force?

7 A During the same period, by Japanese accounts,  
8 nine hundred.9 Q Is that A force or H force you are speaking  
10 of?

11 A It was A force.

12 Q And in the same period, what was the posi-  
13 tion with regard to casualties amongst the guards?14 A Four of them died, of whom one was killed  
15 by bombing and another committed suicide.

16 Q Out of how many in all?

17 A I cannot recall the figure now.

18 Q Now, did H force come up about the same time  
19 as your own?

20 A Yes, a month later, in May, 1943.

21 Q What were their casualties?

22 A About nine hundred out of three thousand  
23 in seven months.24 Q Taking the prisoners of war as a whole,  
25 from what you knew at the time and have discovered

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1 since, what would you say were the total casualties  
2 during the construction of the railway?

3 A Sixteen thousand.

4 Q Out of about how many in all?

5 A Out of over forty thousand; I believe as  
6 many as forty-six thousand.

7 Q Now, were the whole of those deaths duly  
8 recorded, in the same way as you described yesterday,  
9 with the Japanese authorities?

10 A Yes. The Japanese made a great point of it,  
11 and we were not allowed to bury a dead body until all  
12 the facts had been officially given to them in accord-  
13 ance with their pro forma.

14 Q And did the officers to whom you had to  
15 report it tell you what was going to be done with  
16 the information?

17 A Yes. In my force, which remained under  
18 Malayan POW administration, the figures were always  
19 sent to the headquarters of the Japanese at Changi  
20 Camp for onward transmission to Tokyo as previously.  
21 As regards the other parties in Siam, which were  
22 under the Siam POW administration, their figures were  
23 similarly reported, as they occurred, to the Major  
24 General's headquarters at Tarso, Siam. One copy was  
25 forwarded by Major General SASSA to the headquarters

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1 of the POW administration in Tokyo.

2 Q Were the particulars as finally sent for-  
3 ward correct in all respects?

4 A No. In the many hundreds of cases where  
5 we reported the cause of death as dysentery, the  
6 lists were returned to us, and we were compelled by  
7 the Japanese to alter the cause of death to diarrhea.  
8 I remember protesting over that point myself, and the  
9 answer from the Japanese officer was that, unless  
10 such alteration was made, the lists would not be  
11 forwarded.

12 Q Did they explain why they wanted that  
13 particular alteration?

14 A Yes. The Japanese medical officer of F  
15 force -- I am quoting it wrongly. The Japanese  
16 interpreter of F force, when asked about this by  
17 me, said it was the orders of the Japanese medical  
18 officer of F force. He said that in the Japanese Army  
19 it was regarded as a disgrace to the administration  
20 and to the medical services if men in their charge  
21 died of infectious diseases.

22 Q Now, in addition to the prisoners of war,  
23 were there large numbers of laborers of various  
24 Asiatic races employed on the railway?

25 A Very large numbers; at least twice and

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1 probably three times as many as there were prisoners  
2 of war.

3 Q Did you, yourself, while you were there,  
4 have frequent contact with them?

5 A Frequent contact. Our camps were side by  
6 side, and our men were working with them.

7 Q What races did they chiefly belong to?

8 A The majority were Southern Indians, mainly  
9 Tamils. There were also a large number of Burmese,  
10 some Malays, and a few Chinese.

11 Q Any Siamese?

12 A I never met any in my area, but I under-  
13 stand there were some on the extreme sides.

14 Q Did you receive reports from those whom  
15 you met about the conditions under which they had  
16 come there, the conditions under which they were  
17 working?

18 A Frequent reports, and in F force there were  
19 many Englishmen who spoke Malay and Tamil.

20 Q What was the effect of their reports?

21 A The picture we got was that tens of thous-  
22 ands of them had been recruited in Singapore and  
23 Malaya. Two ways were normally employed for recruit-  
24 ing them: One was to promise the city dwellers, par-  
25 ticularly, good food and good treatment, and allow-

ances for their families if they, themselves, went to work in other towns, on anti-malaria work, and so on. The second method, particularly in the country districts of Malaya, was simply conscription. They were rounded up from rural states and tin mines and placed on the trains, often without opportunity of saying goodbye to their families. In all cases, they had been taken by train to Banpong and thence had walked into the jungle.

Q From what they told you and from what you saw yourself, would you say that their conditions were better or worse than those of the prisoners of war?

A They were worse.

Q Since the end of the war, has the war crimes organization in Southeast Asia been investigating, trying to ascertain the full numbers of casualties amongst these Asiatic laborers?

A Yes, in Burma, Siam, and Malaya for the last year.

Q What is the best estimate you can give us?

A The usually accepted estimate is one hundred fifty thousand Asiatic laborers of whom one hundred thousand died. I think you can take sixty thousand deaths as proved and certain. The exact figures are



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1 most difficult to obtain because the Japanese appear  
2 to have kept no records whatever.

3 Q Now, will you describe to us your personal  
4 experiences with F force. Begin at the beginning.  
5 How did the orders come for F force to start?

6 A The orders were first received in April,  
7 1943 by Colonel Holmes in Changi Camp from the head-  
8 quarters of Major General ARIMURA at Changi.

9 Q How many were required for the party?

10 A Seven thousand.

11 Q Did you personally interview anybody -- any  
12 Japanese officer about the arrangements?

13 A Yes. I paid two official visits to General  
14 ARIMURA's headquarters, once by myself and once with  
15 Colonel Harris, the commander of F force.

16 Q Tell us -- describe the interview.

17 A I was told by Colonel Holmes to explain that  
18 there were not seven thousand fit men in Changi; the  
19 most we could raise would be five thousand men; and,  
20 of these, all had been weakened by malnutrition dur-  
21 ing the past year, and some were convalescent.

22 Major General ARIMURA's headquarters were  
23 most reassuring about it all. We were officially told  
24 that we must take two thousand unfit men whom the  
25 Japanese agreed to classify as non-walking sick. I



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1 was told that the sole reason for the move was that  
2 the food situation was getting difficult on Singa-  
3 pore Island; we were not going to working camps but  
4 to health camps; it was a nice place in the mount-  
5 ains, and none of the men would be required to leave  
6 their health camps to work; the most that we should  
7 be required to do would be to look after ourselves  
8 and do necessary work inside the camp; it would be  
9 in the best interests of the sick men to take them  
10 because they would have a better chance of recover-  
11 ing in these health camps than if they remained in  
12 Changi, as the food was short.

13 I stressed again and again the physical  
14 condition of these men and supported my statement  
15 with written documents from the medical officers --  
16 our own medical officers. I was promised that there  
17 would be no marching whatever. After the first train  
18 parties had left, I was called again by the Japanese  
19 and told that there might be a short march of fifteen  
20 miles. Colonel Harris and I protested at this breach  
21 of their previous promises, and we were told that any  
22 really sick men would be taken in lorries and every-  
23 one's baggage would be carried, and the whole day  
24 would be allowed for covering the distance. I said,  
25 "Many of these men cannot walk fifteen yards, let

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1 alone fifteen miles"; and General ARIMURA's head-  
2 quarters said, "In that case, you have our promise  
3 that they will be carried by truck."

4 Q What were you told by them about the  
5 conditions inside the camp when you got there?

6 A I was only told there were big, large  
7 comfortable huts there.  
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1 Q You have spoken of Lieutenant Colonel  
2 Harris who was commanding one part of the proposed  
3 force. Was that the British or the Australian  
4 party?

5 A Both the British and the Australian. It  
6 was a small force headquarters recognized by the  
7 Japanese consisting of Lieutenant Colonel Harris,  
8 three other Lieutenant Colonels and myself.

9 Q Was there an Australian officer amongst  
10 the Lieutenant Colonels that you have spoken of?  
11 I want to get the names to link up with other evidence.

12 A Not in the little force headquarters itself,  
13 but with the Australians was their own senior officer,  
14 Lieutenant Colonel Kappe.

15 Q Have you told us all about the promises  
16 that were made to you by General ARIMURA's staff  
17 about this expedition?

18 A All that I have in my mind at the moment.

19 Q Yes. Did you start--Did the force start by  
20 train?

21 A Yes. We left in thirteen successive train  
22 parties, on thirteen successive nights, about five  
23 hundred strong each.

24 Q What were the conditions in the train ride?

25 A We traveled in roofed steel box cars,

1 normally used for carrying rice, twenty-seven men to  
2 a car sitting cross-legged on the floor. The journey  
3 took four days and four nights from Singapore to  
4 Banpong.

5 Q What were the food and water supplies like  
6 on the journey?

7 A The food consisted of rice and thin vege-  
8 table stew in somewhat inadequate quantities. In  
9 my own train we had no food or water for the last  
10 twenty-four hours, but I persuaded the engine driver  
11 to give me a few buckets of water out of his engine.

12 Q Were there any sanitary accommodations at all?

13 A Absolutely none. We used the tracks at halts,  
14 which had already been very badly fouled by previous  
15 train rides. As we had to eat at these halts, the  
16 flies were rather a serious menace.

17 Q When your train arrived in Banpong, tell me  
18 what happened then?

19 A We were marched from the train for a distance  
20 of about two miles to a so-called staging camp. We  
21 had been ordered by the Japanese to take fifty-seven  
22 lorry loads of baggage with our force, including all  
23 our heavy cooking gear and equipment for a four hundred  
24 bed hospital.

25 Q What became of the heavy baggage?

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1           A   All this heavy equipment was stacked by  
2   order of the Japanese in an unguarded dump on a  
3   piece of wasteland near the railway station. We  
4   had two boxcars full on my train, including two  
5   pianos which the Japanese had told us to take, also  
6   two heavy electric lighting sets and a good many  
7   miles of electric wire. All this was stacked on the  
8   dump by orders of the Japanese and I saw a number of  
9   Japanese and Siamese looting the dump as fast as we  
10   put our stuff onto it.

11           Q   What became of that material in the end?

12           A   Except for small quantities of drugs which  
13   we got permission to take from that dump and carry  
14   with us into the jungle by hand, the whole of our  
15   heavy supplies remained at Banpong for the next eight  
16   months. When we came back from the jungle in November,  
17   we got permission to go to Banpong and recover as much  
18   of it as we could. Most of the valuables had dis-  
19   appeared.

20           Q   Was this material which had been supplied  
21   by the Japanese, or was it your own -- this heavy  
22   baggage?

23           A   At least ninety-nine percent of it was our  
24   own.

25           Q   Well now, where did you and your men spend

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DIRECT

1 the night or what happened when you got off the  
2 train?

3 A We went into a so-called staging camp at  
4 the entrance of which was a notice in English,  
5 "Instructions to Coolies and Prisoners of War."

6 Q How far was it -- How far did you have to  
7 march to it?

8 A About two miles.

9 Q And what was its condition when you got there?

10 THE PRESIDENT: This is a convenient break,  
11 Mr. Carr. We will adjourn now for fifteen minutes.

12 (Whereupon, at 1045, a recess was taken  
13 until 1100, after which the proceedings were  
14 resumed as follows):  
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G 1 MARSHAL OF THE COURT: The Tribunal is  
o 2 now resumed.  
l 3

b 3 THE PRESIDENT: Mr. Comyns Carr.  
e 4

r 4 MR. COMYNS CARR: Before I proceed further,  
e 5 I should formally tender the map, prosecution's  
s 6 document No. 6525, in evidence.  
n 7

r 7 THE PRESIDENT: Admitted on the usual terms.  
a 8

t 8 CLERK OF THE COURT: Prosecution's document  
t 9 No. 6525 will receive exhibit No. 472.  
10

(Whereupon, prosecution's exhibit  
11 No. 472 was received in evidence.)  
12

DIRECT EXAMINATION (Continued)  
13

BY MR. COMYNS CARR:  
14

Q I was asking you about the state of the  
15 camp to which you were marched.  
16

A It was in a very dirty state, having previously been used, as you are informed, by many thousands of Asiatic laborers who had previously passed through it. The accommodations consisted of very large palm leaf roofs resting on the ground. There was room for the men on the bare ground under the roofs.  
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Q Then did you learn how you would have to make the next part of the journey?  
23  
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A Yes, I learned from the Australians in  
25



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1 Train Party No. 6, who were about to leave the  
2 camp on foot, that every man had to cover an un-  
3 specified distance on foot. The previous five train  
4 parties of about 2,500 Australians had already left  
5 on the five previous days by road for an unknown  
6 destination.

7 Q What did you do?

8 A I went with Lieutenant Colonel Harris to the  
9 office of a Japanese officer of the Malayan POW  
10 Administration. We made a very strong protest to  
11 him, reminding of the promises which had been made  
12 before we started by Major General ARIMURA. He said  
13 the march could not be helped, as there was no trans-  
14 port, but he would not tell us how far the men had  
15 got to go.

16 Q Actually, how far did you have to march with  
17 your force?

18 A Two hundred miles in two and one-half weeks.

19 Q Where to?

20 A From Banpong to Niki Niki, 276 kilomarks,  
21 and a large part of the men had to march to Songkrai,  
22 287 miles, or to an unmarked camp right on the Three  
23 Pagodas Pass, just to the north.

24 Q Were the men in a fit condition to do this  
25 march?

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1           A   Speaking of an infantry soldier, it would  
2 have been an arduous march for fit troops, the condi-  
3 tions being that from Kanchanburi, the 50-kilomark,  
4 up to the Three Pagodas Pass, we were marching by  
5 rough jungle tracks over mountainous country; and  
6 the marching was in fifteen night stages -- no day  
7 marching. Combat as we were, with not only with all  
8 the baggage we could carry, but with 2,000 non-walking  
9 sick, it was a very severe ordeal. All the fitter  
10 men had to help the sick along with arms around their  
11 shoulders; and in the worser cases we had to carry  
12 the sickest men for 200 miles on improvised stretchers.  
13 The monsoon rains broke in the middle of the march,  
14 and the last six stages were done in pitch darkness in  
15 torrential rain and through knee-deep mud.

16           Q   Were you, yourself, sent on by the Japanese  
17 officer with Lieutenant Colonel Harris and others  
18 to prospect this march -- to go on ahead?

19           A   Yes, by orders of the Japanese officer, we  
20 were sent to Tasoa by truck at the 124 mark on the  
21 left of the river, with orders to establish the POW  
22 Headquarters there.

23           Q   Then did you find the headquarters of a  
24 Japanese prisoner of war organization?

25           A   Yes, it was the headquarters of the

WILD

DIRECT

1 Japanese Major General who was G. O. C., Prisoners  
2 of War, Siam. I went there with Colonel Harris as  
3 soon as we arrived, and we tried to see the Japanese  
4 General. We were not allowed to get past the Japanese  
5 civilian interpreter, who said that F Force, our party,  
6 was under the control of the G. O. C., Prisoners of  
7 War, Malaya.

8 Q Generally speaking, was this division of  
9 responsibility a thing which resulted in conditions  
10 being better or worse?

11 A Well, I consider that this division of  
12 responsibility, which amounted to an evasion of  
13 responsibility by both of the Japanese Generals,  
14 aggravated our conditions during the succeeding  
15 months.

16 Q Did you then go to the Staging Camp at  
17 Tarsoe?

18 A Yes, it was the only one of the fifteen  
19 staging camps that I saw where any head cover was  
20 provided for any of the men during the daytime,  
21 about four small tents between five hundred men.

22 Q Whom did you find there, and in what state?

23 A I found there the first Australian marching  
24 party about to leave that night, having arrived the  
25 same morning. Most of them were drawn up on the far

1 side of the road, ready to march. About twenty of  
2 them who were obviously quite incapable of marching  
3 were sitting on the grass -- on the camp side of the  
4 road. The Japanese corporal in charge of the stag-  
5 ing camp was pulling these men to their feet and  
6 hitting them with a bamboo stick. If the men could  
7 limp or stagger a pace or two, they were struck on  
8 the back with a stick and sent across the road to  
9 join the marching party. I saw a man showing a  
10 large ulcer on his leg to the Japanese corporal. The  
11 Japanese corporal kicked it.

12 Q Did you succeed in preventing that behavior  
13 of the Japanese corporal?

14 A I told him what I thought of him, and the  
15 rest of the sick men were sent back to the camp.

16 Q When the next party arrived, did you have a  
17 discussion with Major Bruce Hunt, Australian medical  
18 officer?

19 A The next party of Australians arrived the  
20 following morning. I at once saw Major Bruce Hunt,  
21 of the Australian Army Medical Service -- Medical  
22 Corps, and I made a plan with him. In accordance  
23 with this I took fifty of these sick Australians  
24 two miles away to the headquarters of the Japanese  
25 General. I told the Japanese corporal to come too,

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DIRECT

1 and he did. I paraded these fifty men in front of  
2 a Japanese medical officer. He gave them some  
3 medical treatment, particularly the blisters and  
4 the sore feet, and agreed that thirty-six of them  
5 should not march that night. At my suggestion he  
6 gave this as an order to the Japanese corporal. I  
7 particularly pointed out to him an Australian chap-  
8 lain who had a weak heart, and he was included in  
9 the thirty-six. I then took the fifty men back to  
10 the camp and found on arrival that the Japanese  
11 corporal was giving instructions that only fourteen  
12 should stay behind that night instead of thirty-six.

13 Q I think we can shorten this part of the  
14 matter, Colonel Wild, a bit. Will you summarize the  
15 remainder of what happened about this?

16 A After reporting this again to the Japanese  
17 medical officer, he issued an order in writing to  
18 his own sergeant **major** that the thirty-six men  
19 should stay. This was given to the corporal. At  
20 the parade that night the corporal sent back four-  
21 teen of the men into the camp and ordered the other  
22 twenty-two to march. I objected to this, and I was  
23 beaten up with bamboos by the corporal and five of  
24 his men. Major Bruce Hunt got in front of me and  
25 held up his Red Cross arm band. He was -- he

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1 diverted the fire, and had a broken finger on his  
2 hand as a result. By this time the twenty-two men  
3 were calling out, "We are not going to see our offi-  
4 cers treated like this," and voluntarily crossed  
5 the road to the marching party. Three of them were  
6 carried back a few minutes after they had left,  
7 having collapsed, and the Australian chaplain died  
8 at the next camp.



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1 Q Did you go on about the 4th of May to  
2 Konquita Staging Camp?

3 A Yes, I did, and found a party of Australians  
4 there.

5 Q Which distance is that, which kilometer stage?

6 A 257.

7 Q What did you find the conditions there?

8 A I found that the Australian marching party  
9 was accomodated within a few yards of huts in which  
10 a large number of Asiatic laborers were dying from  
11 cholera. The ground of the staging camp was badly  
12 fouled with feces from these unfortunate people and  
13 the air was full of flies. I was told by an Austra-  
14 lian officer there that he had asked the Japanese  
15 engineers for tools to clean up the camp. He was  
16 contemptuously told to use his hands.

17 Q The same evening did you arrive at Lower  
18 Niki Camp?

19 A Niki Niki, 276.

20 Q Did you go with Colonel Harris to see anybody  
21 there?

22 A Yes, I went with Colonel Harris and saw  
23 Lieutenant Colonel BANNO, the Japanese commander of  
24 F Force. Colonel Harris described the situation at  
25 the staging camp at Konquita and said, "You must either



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1 stop the march or by pass Konquita. If you don't, we  
2 will have a violent outbreak of cholera in all our  
3 camps within a week." This was not done and every one  
4 of the fifteen marching parties had at least twelve or  
5 twenty-four hours in Konquita.

6 Q Did this Colonel BANNO that you have spoken  
7 of represent the prisoner of war administration or the  
8 army side?

9 A He was an officer of the POW Administration  
10 of Malaya and Sumatra.

11 Q Did you receive a report from an Australian  
12 medical officer shortly afterwards?

13 A A few evenings later the Australian medical  
14 officer in Lower Niki, or Niki Niki Camp, told me that  
15 he had diagnosed the first case of cholera. Within a  
16 fortnight cholera had broken out practically simul-  
17 taneously in the six working camps and we had 1500  
18 cases of it.

19 Q Did the Japanese provide any medical supplies  
20 for dealing with it either for you in your camps or  
21 for the Asiatic laborers?

22 A We were given cholera injections and Colonel  
23 BANNO supplied one Flit spray and a sack of chloride  
24 of lime. We, ourselves, had one cholera box which we  
25 had brought by road for the six camps but we were not

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1 allowed to go much from one camp to another.

2 Q What did you do?

3 A We made hollow needles from splinters of bamboo  
4 and we joined them by the rubber from doctors steth-  
5 escopes to a bamboo container. We then made a mixture  
6 of stream water and common table salt. We warmed it  
7 to blood heat, and with this apparatus we used to go  
8 up and down the line of cholera patients putting the  
9 mixture into the vein in the bend of their arm. We  
10 segregated everyone if he went down with cholera and  
11 fit men took turns in looking after them.

12 Q How many cholera cases did you have all together  
13 during that outbreak?

14 A About 1500.

15 Q And about how many did you manage to save by  
16 these methods?

17 A About 700.

18 Q Now, you have described to me at Singapore  
19 how the working parties were demanded by the army and  
20 made up by the Prisoner of War Administration. Was  
21 it the same way on the railway?

22 A Exactly the same.

23 Q Who were the people who were making the demands?

24 A The regiment of railway engineers who were  
25 responsible for the construction of the line, Fifth

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1 and Ninth.

2 Q And describe generally the results with re-  
3 gard to the type of men who were made to work and the  
4 hours they were made to work.

5 A Sick men were invariably made to work owing  
6 to the exorbitant demands that were made for labor.  
7 Malaria was not accepted as an excuse for not working  
8 unless the patient actually was in a rigor.

9 Q And with regard to the hours of work?

10 A The hours of work were from before first light  
11 until after dark, and in my camps there were a large  
12 number of men who had literally not seen their camps  
13 in daylight for many weeks. I remember one occasion  
14 when the men came back from work at 2:30 in the morn-  
15 ing and were paraded for work again at 6 o'clock the  
16 same morning. At that time the work consisted of pile  
17 driving in a swollen stream.

18 Q In which camps did you personally see this  
19 state of affairs?

20 A In Niki Niki Camp, in Niki itself, in the  
21 three Sonkurai camps which are not clearly marked here.

22 MR. LOGAN: We notice, if your Honor please,  
23 that the witness is recently referring to some docu-  
24 ment. We would like to know the document to which he  
25 is referring.

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1 Q Have you been referring to any document,  
2 Colonel?

3 A Not that I recall. I am referring to my own  
4 memory.

5 THE PRESIDENT: Well, what is that paper  
6 on the edge of the witness box?

7 THE WITNESS: This is the map of the railway,  
8 sir, with which I was supplied with a copy just before  
9 recess.

10 THE PRESIDENT: I have been watching him  
11 closely and that is the only document I have seen him  
12 handle.

13 Q What occurred with regard to the monsoon  
14 rains at this time?

15 A The monsoon rains broke about the 7th of  
16 May and it rained almost without cessation until the  
17 beginning of October.

18 Q Was that before you had completed the march,  
19 or after?

20 A The first six train parties, the Australians,  
21 had fortunately completed the march before the rains  
22 broke, but the British troops, who followed them, had  
23 to do from three to ten night marches through the  
24 tropical rains.

25 Q What was the result?

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1           A    The result was that even men who had started  
2 reasonable fit were broken in health before they  
3 reached their camps, largely because the best of them  
4 killed themselves looking after their friends.

5           Q    What were the conditions at the staging camps  
6 where they had to stop, under this rain?

7           A    They made themselves little shelters of  
8 leaves or ground sheets, if they had them, and some-  
9 times they were taken out for working parties by the  
10 Japanese during the day.

11          Q    Was any cover provided by the Japanese in any  
12 building with cover or any sort?

13          A    At Tasoia Camp there were a few small tents,  
14 but otherwise I do not remember any cover at any of  
15 the staging camps except, of course, for the Japanese  
16 guards.

17          Q    What were the food and drinking conditions at  
18 these camps?

19               THE PRESIDENT: We are about to break new  
20 ground now, Mr. Carr. We will adjourn until half past  
21 one.

22                       (Whereupon, at 1200, a recess was taken.)  
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## AFTERNOON SESSION

1 The Tribunal met, pursuant to recess, at  
2 1330.

3 DEPUTY MARSHAL OF THE COURT: The International  
4 Military Tribunal for the Far East is now resumed.  
5

6 THE PRESIDENT: Mr. Comyns Carr.  
7

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8 C Y R I L H E W D A L R Y M P L E W I L D ,

9 called as a witness on behalf of the prosecu-  
10 tion, resumed the stand and testified as follows:

## DIRECT EXAMINATION (Continued)

11  
12 BY MR. COMYNS CARR:

13 Q Colonel Wild, did you personally spend various  
14 periods of time in the camps, in each of the camps that  
15 you have mentioned?

16 A I was stationed for periods of time in Lower  
17 Niki Niki, and Songkrei camps, and I liaised from  
18 Songkrei to Lower Songkrei and Upper Songkrei camps.

19 Q In your capacity as Lieutenant Colonel Harris'  
20 staff officer, did you also have communications,  
21 written and oral, with the senior Allied officers in  
22 those various camps?

23 A Yes, I saw those officers or read their reports  
24 always.

25 Q What opportunities of contact did you have with



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1 the Japanese during the time you were on the railway?

2 A I was in frequent contact with Lieutenant  
3 Colonel BANNO, the commander of F Force, and had  
4 daily contact with the Japanese commanders of the  
5 camps where I happened to be stationed. I was also  
6 in continual contact with the guards.

7 Q And what about the Japanese railway engineers  
8 who were in charge of the work?

9 A I saw them less often; but I had to liaise  
10 with engineer officers and also stop trouble caused  
11 by the engineers themselves.

12 Q Substantially, was there any difference between  
13 the living conditions and treatment of prisoners of  
14 war in these various camps?

15 A None.

16 Q Will you describe one of them as an example?

17 A When I entered Songkrei camp on the third of  
18 August 1943, I went first to a very large hut accommo-  
19 dating about 700 men. The hut was of the usual pat-  
20 tern. On each side of an earthen gangway there was  
21 a 12-foot wide sleeping platform made of split bamboo.  
22 The roof was inadequately made with an insufficient  
23 quantity of palm leaves which let the rain through  
24 almost everywhere. There were no walls, and a stream  
25 of water was running down the earthen gangway. The



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1 framework of the hut was bamboo tied with creeper.

2 In this hut there were 700 sick men. They  
3 were lying two deep along each side of the hut on the  
4 split bamboo platform. Their bodies were touching one  
5 another down the whole length of the hut. They were  
6 all very thin and practically naked. In the middle of  
7 the hut were about 150 men suffering from tropical  
8 ulcers. These commonly stripped the whole of the  
9 flesh from a man's leg from the knee to the ankle.  
10 There was an almost overwhelming smell of putrefaction.  
11 The only dressings available were banana leaves tied  
12 around with puttees, and the only medicine was hot  
13 water. There was another hut further up the hill of  
14 similar design in which so-called fit men were kept,  
15 and one well-roofed and better constructed hut occupied  
16 by the Japanese guards.

17 Q Was any bedding supplied?

18 A None whatever.

19 Q What did they have to cover them from the rain?

20 A When we first entered these working camps  
21 none of them were roofed at all for the first few weeks.  
22 The monsoon had already broken, and during those weeks  
23 the men had nothing whatever to cover themselves from  
24 the rain except banana leaves. If they were strong  
25 enough each man cut a couple of banana leaves and put

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1 them over his own body.

2 Q Was any roofing material ever received?

3 A In my own camp 22 which I was in command,  
4 Lower Niki, we got a lorry load of atap palm, which  
5 was enough to roof half the hut in which the worst of  
6 the sick were lying. In Niki Camp no atap palm was  
7 ever received, but we got some rotten, leaking canvas.  
8 In the other four camps after a few weeks about enough  
9 atap palm was supplied to roof all the huts with about  
10 half the amount that was necessary. Again, this does  
11 not apply to the Japanese and Korean guards, who always  
12 had a proper roof over them.

13 Q By the middle of July 1943, that is, ten weeks  
14 after you had left Singapore, what was the state of  
15 F Force as a whole?

16 A We had 1700 deaths by that time, and 700 men  
17 out of the 7000 were going out to work. Of these 700,  
18 we British officers considered that 350 should have  
19 been lying down sick.

20 Q Did you make any report on that matter to the  
21 Japanese?

22 A I reported those figures at that time to  
23 Lieutenant Colonel BANNO. I also reminded him of the  
24 farewell address given to us by the Japanese officer  
25 at Singapore, which was that if we trusted to the

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1 Imperial Japanese Army no harm would come to us.

2 Q How soon had you discovered that the promises  
3 you told us were made to you in Singapore were not  
4 going to be fulfilled?

5 A There was not a suggestion of it until we  
6 reached Banpong.

7 Q By November 1943, seven months after you had  
8 left Singapore, what was the state of the force?

9 A Three thousand men had died.

10 Q Going forward a little, when you got back to  
11 Changi in January 1944, was there a medical inspection  
12 of the survivors conducted by the Japanese?

13 A Yes. Three thousand men who had been given  
14 six weeks' rest after returning to Singapore were exam-  
15 ined, with me as interpreter, by two Japanese medical  
16 officers. They passed 125 men out of the whole lot as  
17 fit for light duty.

18 Q You have accounted for 6000 out of the 7000.  
19 What had happened to the other 1000?

20 A Rather over 900 we had had to leave in impro-  
21 vised hospitals at Banpong either as being too sick to  
22 survive four days' journey in the train, or as medical  
23 and administrative personnel to look after them.

24 Q And the other 100?

25 A Well, 86 more died during that period.

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1 Q Now, did you make any inspection or did  
2 you move on the third of August, 1943 to Songkrai  
3 Camp?

4 A Yes, I did.

5 Q You needn't give us the general description  
6 of it because you have already told us it was the  
7 same as the others. What had happened about deaths  
8 in that camp, or what did happen while you were  
9 there?

10 A In that hut of 700 men, which I described,  
11 270 died during August. 16,000 men--- 1,600 men had  
12 marched into Songkrai Camp at the beginning of May,  
13 1943, and 1,200 of them were dead by November. I,  
14 myself, stayed there until November.

15 Q In September of that year, did you receive  
16 an order from a Japanese officer about that camp?

17 A I was told that as we were preventing more  
18 than 200 men from going out to work each day, we had  
19 got to evacuate the whole of that long hut within  
20 four days.

21 Q What was to happen to the sick who were still  
22 there?

23 A 700 men were to be put out into the jungle.

24 Q Did he tell you why?

25 A Because the hut was going to be filled up

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1 with Asiatic coolies, because they could do the work.

2 Q Was that, in fact, done, or did you succeed  
3 in preventing it?

4 A The Asiatic coolies did, in fact, arrive  
5 at the time stated, but I succeeded in preventing it.

6 Q What was the work which was supposed to be  
7 done at this camp?

8 A It consisted chiefly of building a high  
9 level, heavy timber bridge across a river gorge.  
10 Also, building the embankments and digging the cut-  
11 tings and approaches to it. The timber we felled and  
12 moved ourselves.

13 Q How many prisoners of war died over that  
14 job?

15 A I should say that that bridge cost a thousand  
16 British lives.

17 Q Did you see the working parties lined up to  
18 go out?

19 A I did.

20 Q Describe their condition.

21 A Well, every morning the same scene was re-  
22 peated. In the half light, about 200 men would be  
23 paraded in the mud. None of them had more than a  
24 pair of shorts to wear, and some had kilts made of  
25 sacking. Practically none of them had boots. Most of

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1 those who had not were suffering from swollen-red  
2 trench feet.

3 Q Were there also men working in a quarry?

4 A Some of them worked regularly in a quarry,  
5 and cut feet were a common source of trouble.

6 Q What was the result of the cut feet?

7 A Unfortunately, they often developed into  
8 these shocking tropical ulcers.

9 Q Were the Japanese engineers content with  
10 the number of men who turned out to work?

11 A They were never content, and they generally  
12 insisted on about thirty men from the hospital being  
13 paraded at the same time for their inspection.

14 Q Did you make any protest about that?

15 A Always, daily, most strongly.

16 Q On your own account or on behalf of the  
17 medical officers?

18 A Both.

19 Q How did the sick men, who were forced to go  
20 to work, get there?

21 A They were carried there with their arms  
22 'round two of their friends.

23 Q Was there another method besides that?

24 A Many of them used to pole themselves along  
25 with a long bamboo held in two hands at the side.



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1 They used to call themselves "the Gondoliers."

2 Q Was any clothing received from the Japan-  
3 ese during this period?

4 A We got a thousand pieces of sacking and a  
5 new suit of cotton drawers.

6 Q How were the working parties treated by  
7 the Japanese engineers?

8 A They were driven from morning 'til night  
9 without pity.

10 Q In what way?

11 A With a stick, sometimes with lashes of  
12 wire.

13 Q What happened to the prisoner of war  
14 officers?

15 A They always accompanied even the smallest  
16 party of their men to work, and it was their duty  
17 to try and stand between their men and the engineers.

18 Q What happened to them when they did so?

19 A They generally got beaten themselves, but  
20 sometimes they were able to do some good.

21 Q Do you remember making any protests your-  
22 self about this?

23 A I made many; but I remember once, in par-  
24 ticular, I complained to Colonel BANNO that a British  
25 Major had been beaten five times in that day, for

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1 that reason.

2 Q Did you get any satisfaction from that com-  
3 plaint?

4 A Colonel BANNO did instruct the junior officer  
5 not to allow it any more, but I am afraid the beatings  
6 continued.

7 Q Throughout your experience there, were  
8 you -- were there many occasions when you made pro-  
9 tests?

10 A Very many; because, as the headquarters  
11 group, we used to pass to the Japanese all the com-  
12 plaints which we got from the other camps as well.

13 Q Do you remember an occasion in October,  
14 1943 when A force, or some men from A force, arrived  
15 to do some work in the neighborhood of Songkrai camp?

16 A Yes, they were laying the railway lines  
17 through the camp along the cutting which we had  
18 made.

19 Q Do you remember any special incident which  
20 happened then?

21 A A Japanese engineer was standing on the  
22 truck containing the sleepers. As each pair of  
23 Australians came up to the truck to collect his  
24 sleeper -- collect their sleeper -- each pair of  
25 Australians used to come up to the truck to collect

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1 a sleeper. As each pair arrived at the truck, the  
2 Japanese systematically hit them on the head with a  
3 stick. It looked more like a matter of habit than  
4 a question of punishment.

5 Q Do you remember an incident about a cook?

6 A Yes, I was called out of my hut and saw  
7 one of our British cooks sitting on the ground with  
8 his head laid open. He had been struck on the head  
9 with an axe by a Japanese guard.

10 Q Did you make a complaint about that?

11 A I went and fetched a Japanese officer and  
12 showed him both the wounded man, the axe and the  
13 Japanese who had done it.

14 Q What happened?

15 A The Japanese officer said, very mildly to  
16 the Japanese, "That does not do." The guard was not  
17 punished.

18 Q With regard to officers, you have told us  
19 that the officers accompanied their men to the work-  
20 ing parties. Did the officers have to work them-  
21 selves?

22 A Not as laborers in my force, but they did  
23 to the south of us. All together, about 800 British  
24 officers were employed as laborers in coolie gangs  
25 for between two and three years. I saw them myself

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1 in Siam and talked to many of them.

2 Q Was there any particular reason why that  
3 happened in some places and not in others?

4 A It was a deliberate plan and order of the  
5 Japanese Army that these two big working parties  
6 of officers should be formed. They were sent from  
7 Singapore for this purpose in two formed parties of  
8 about four hundred each.

9 Q Were they chiefly drawn from any particular  
10 part of the Allied Army?

11 A They were chiefly British officers of the  
12 Indian Army.

13 Q Now, do you remember a matter in October,  
14 1943 with regard to Upper Songkrai Camp and a quarry  
15 there?

16 A Yes. I went to Upper Songkrai Camp on  
17 receipt of a report from the senior British medical  
18 officer of F force. What I saw there exactly con-  
19 firmed his report. There was a hut full of sick men,  
20 like the one I had described at Songkrai, with about  
21 five hundred men lying crammed tightly together under  
22 a light atap palm roof. The Japanese, for the whole  
23 week, had been carrying out blasting in a quarry  
24 close by in such a way that at every blast the shower  
25 of broken rock fell into the camp. This rock rained

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1 through the atap roof and fell onto the bodies of  
2 these sick men. The sick were in a very nervous  
3 state, never knowing when the next blast would come.  
4 Many of them sat up for hours together holding sleep-  
5 ing mats over their heads. I saw the ground of the  
6 camp around this hut covered thickly with broken  
7 rock.

8 Q Had anybody been injured in consequence?

9 A One sick man, I know of, had an arm broken  
10 and died two hours later.

11 Q Had the officer-in-charge made any protests?

12 A He had made several to the Japanese officer  
13 without effect.

14 Q Were you able to get anything done about it?

15 A I saw the Japanese officer, and I heard  
16 afterwards that, although the blasting continued,  
17 it was done in such a way that no more rock fell into  
18 the camp.

19 Q Do you remember anything about the lifting  
20 of tree trunks?

21 A The usual practice of the Japanese engineers  
22 was to use half as many prisoners of war to lift a  
23 tree trunk as Asiatics; and, when the tree trunk was  
24 up on the men's shoulders, they used to take half the  
25 men away leaving the rest to carry it.

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1 Q Have you seen that yourself?

2 A I have. I have seen men carrying such a  
3 tree trunk along the bed of a stream.

4 Q Did you make protests about that?

5 A I did, particularly on one occasion when a  
6 young Australian, who at the time was aged eighteen,  
7 slipped in the mud in his bare feet and his comrades  
8 were unable to hold up the tree trunk. It fell on  
9 his head and killed him.

10 Q Now, will you tell us about the facilities  
11 for treating the sick? Were there any infirmaries  
12 or hospitals?

13 A There were no infirmaries or hospitals in  
14 any of these six working camps except in one or two  
15 small isolation huts which we built for cholera cases.

16 Q How did the doctors manage?

17 A They collected the sick together in one of the  
18 ordinary camp huts and at night they used to look after  
19 them by the light of bamboo flares. In spite of these  
20 difficulties, if it had not been for the British and  
21 Australian and Indian doctors -- Anglo-Indian doctors  
22 with us -- I doubt if any men would have come out of  
23 there alive.

24 Q How were operations carried out?

25 A Generally in the open air under mosquito net



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1 to keep the flies off. In my force the doctors did  
2 over seventy amputations of legs on account of  
3 tropical ulcers.

4 Q Did you ever get any help from Japanese  
5 doctors or supplies of Japanese medical stores?

6 A As regards the urgently needed dressings,  
7 I got permission from Lieutenant Colonel BANNO to  
8 buy on our own money a considerable quantity of cotton  
9 cloth.

10 Q From whom did you buy it?

11 A From a Siamese merchant in a neighboring  
12 village. We divided this up between the six camps.  
13 We got quinine in special quantities to deal with  
14 those with active malaria but not for prophylactic  
15 purposes. Ninety-five percent of these survivors  
16 had malaria when they got back to Singapore.

17 Q Did Japanese doctors ever come at all?

18 A A Japanese doctor for F Force arrived in  
19 July, 1943.

20 Q What did he do?

21 A I believe he made one tour of the working  
22 camps just to look at them, but not more. He stayed  
23 at Niki at Colonel BANNO's headquarters and did the  
24 office work over the sick reports. I believe he did  
25 indent on the Japanese Army for drugs because I know

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1 on one occasion he received a hamper of them. This  
2 was opened in front of the British medical officer  
3 and all the valuable drugs had been removed.

4 Q Did you make any request to the Japanese  
5 with regard to the evacuation of your sick?

6 A We asked them again and again to evacuate  
7 our sick to the Siam plains by river from Niki.

8 Q Is that the river which is shown on the  
9 plan?

10 A Yes, it is. It is the main water route.

11 Q For what purpose did the Japanese use it?

12 A They used it for bringing up rice and the  
13 barges went down empty.

14 Q To your knowledge were any of the other  
15 prisoner of war camps allowed to evacuate some of  
16 their sick by those means?

17 A It was the usual way of evacuating the sick  
18 from the camps by the river south of us.

19 Q Was your request ever granted?

20 A No, it was refused.

21 Q Was anything ever done by the Japanese to  
22 provide an infirmary for the sick of F Force?

23 A Yes, at the end of August they established  
24 a so-called hospital camp in Burma about sixty miles  
25 to the north of Songkrai.

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1 Q Were any sent?

2 A We sent about two thousand from the various  
3 camps in open steel trucks.

4 Q You mean railway trucks or motor trucks?

5 A Motor trucks.

6 THE PRESIDENT: Mr. Carr, we will recess  
7 now for fifteen minutes.

8 (Whereupon, at 1445, a recess was  
9 taken until 1500, after which the proceedings  
10 were resumed as follows:)

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1 MARSHAL OF THE COURT: The Tribunal is now  
2 resumed.

3 THE PRESIDENT: Mr. Comyns Carr.

4 BY MR. COMYNS CARR (Continued):

5 Q Colonel Wild, you were telling us about the  
6 so-called "hospital" to which you were ordered to send  
7 two thousand men in August, 1943, and that they were  
8 sent in open box -- motor box cars. Now what were  
9 the circumstances of the journey and what happened  
10 to them?

11 A They were carried in these open steel  
12 trucks over a corduroy road, tree trunks laid on  
13 the earth. There were long delays. They had no  
14 shelter at night. Eighty of them died during the sixty  
15 mile journey.

16 Q When they got there, was the so-called  
17 "hospital" any better than the huts they had left?

18 A The huts were the same design but a little  
19 better. They were new.

20 Q Was there any hospital equipment?

21 A Only what they took with them.

22 Q How many of the two thousand died before the  
23 railway was completed four months later?

24 A Eight hundred.

25 Q When the railway was completed, what was done

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1 about removing the prisoners?

2 A They were sent on the newly completed line  
3 to Kanchanburi. All of them, including the sick,  
4 traveled in open trucks or roofed box cars.

5 Q Were you in charge of the party from  
6 Songkrai Camp?

7 A Yes, in charge of the last party of two  
8 or three hundred.

9 Q What happened?

10 A I got four hours to move -- four hours  
11 notice to move at night. I paraded the men, most  
12 of whom were sick, in the cutting through the camp  
13 in groups according to the number of trucks I was  
14 told were coming. It took me the full four hours  
15 to move the men a hundred yards as many of them had  
16 to be carried. I got the Japanese corporal to promise  
17 to leave the loading entirely in my hands.

18 Q Will you condense this a little bit? We  
19 don't want too much detail at this point.

20 A The train stopped too far down the line and  
21 was five trucks short. The Japanese and Koreans got  
22 very excited and forced the men down the track and  
23 into the trucks. I ended up with fifty-seven men in  
24 my box car. We were all standing packed together  
25 except two who were on the floor. One I remember had

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1 his leg off the day before. We traveled like that  
2 to Niki, when I reduced the numbers in the train  
3 to about twenty-seven per box car. There the Japanese  
4 medical officer gave me an order that I was not to  
5 bury any man who died. I told him that if we were  
6 likely to be in the train three or four days, that  
7 a number of men were certain to die. He gave the  
8 order to the Japanese guards, the Korean guards, that  
9 I was not to bury anyone.

10 Q What did you say to him?

11 A I told him he was a disgrace to the Japanese  
12 Army. Altogether seven of my men died between Niki  
13 and Kanchanburi. I disposed of six of the bodies  
14 to other prisoner of war camps along the line. There  
15 was no prisoner of war camp when the seventh man died.  
16 So I took him out of the train and buried him myself.

17 Q When the train got to Kanchanburi, what was  
18 done with the sick men?

19 A The men were taken out of the train about  
20 ten o'clock at night and left lying on the ground in  
21 the station yard for twelve hours.

22 Q What sort of a night was it?

23 A It was a very cold night in December and a  
24 lot of them -- several of them were dying the next  
25 morning. Quite a number died within the next few days.



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1 Q How long did you remain there?

2 A About three weeks.

3 Q And what happened then?

4 A I went back to Singapore with the last  
5 party, leaving only the sick behind in hospital.

6 Q Before you left, did you receive a visit  
7 from the Kempeitai?

8 A Yes. Lieutenant Colonel Dillon and I  
9 were visited by a civilian member of the Kempeitai  
10 in Kanchanburi. He said that Kempeitai had just  
11 received orders from the Japanese Government in  
12 Tokyo to inquire into the condition of prisoners  
13 of war in Siam. We decided -- he then asked us to  
14 write a true account of what had happened to F Force  
15 during the last few months. I decided it was genuine  
16 and we wrote a full account that night and particularly  
17 listed all the breaches of the convention.

18 Q Tell me, with regard to this request from  
19 the Kempeitai, did it surprise you that they should  
20 ask for this information?

21 A Yes, it did, partly because Kempeitai had been  
22 in the area where we were, and partly because it didn't  
23 seem in accordance with their ordinary behavior.

24 Q Had those Kempeitai who had been there been  
25 able to see the facts for themselves?

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1 A Yes, certainly.

2 Q When you had completed the report, to whom  
3 did you give it?

4 A We gave it to this member of the Kempeitai.

5 Q What did he say he was going to do with it?

6 A He came back to see us, and said that the  
7 Chief of Kempeitai in Kanchanburi had been very much  
8 pleased with it and had said that it was being sent  
9 to the Chief of Kempeitai in Bangkok for immediate  
10 transmission to Tokyo.

11 Q Did you ever hear anything more about it?

12 A No more than that.

13 Q Now there are a few matters still --  
14 general matters about the railway I want to ask.  
15 You have mentioned some of the diseases which pre-  
16 vailed there. Just give us a list of them, will you?

17 A Cholera, malaria, typhus, wet and dry beri-  
18 beri, tropical ulcers, small pox, diphtheria.

19 Q I think you told us before something about  
20 dysentery, but you didn't mention that in your list.

21 A Dysentery was almost universal, both anemic  
22 and bacillary dysentery.

23 Q Did you get cases of men suffering from more  
24 than one of those diseases?

25 A Frequently, more often than not, the men who

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1 died had two or more diseases. I, myself, have  
2 signed death certificates for as many as four diseases  
3 listed.

4 Q Now about food, will you tell us the relative  
5 food supplies given to the prisoners and to the Japanese  
6 themselves?

7 A The Japanese always had as much rice as they  
8 could eat, I should say six hundred grams a day or  
9 more certainly. They threw a lot away. In addition,  
10 the Japanese had considerable quantities of tinned  
11 food. The prisoners' ration varied from four hundred  
12 grams of rice per working man on a good day to two  
13 hundred grams or less which was the allotment for the  
14 sick.

15 Q Did they ever supply any of their tinned  
16 foods to the prisoners?

17 A No.

18 Q Was there ever any meat?

19 A A certain number of cattle were driven into  
20 the camps from Burma.

21 Q How were they divided?

22 A Usually, I should say half a bullock for  
23 fifty Japanese and the other half for every thousand  
24 prisoners.

25 Q What about the quality of the food?

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1           A    The quality of the food was poor, and besides  
2 rice it consisted mainly of beans which were particul-  
3 arly bad for people suffering from dysentery.

4           Q    Now you have mentioned just now that a man  
5 at work got four hundred grams and a sick man two  
6 hundred to two hundred and fifty. Was there any  
7 system about that, just explain to us?

8           A    The system was explained to us again and  
9 again by the Japanese. It was simply that if a man  
10 did not work, he could not expect to eat. The Japanese --  
11 we could not disabuse the Japanese of the idea that if  
12 **they** cut down the rations of sick men in the hospital,  
13 they would make them go out to work to get more food.  
14 Unfortunately there was no pretension about our men's  
15 sickness and the consequence -- as a consequence of  
16 this, there was a great many more deaths.  
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1 Q Was there any intermediate scale between the  
2 four hundred and the two hundred?

3 A There was a light duty scale in some camps  
4 whereby if men would get out of the so-called hospital  
5 hut and work around the camp they got a little more  
6 food.

7 Q Did you and other officers make protests  
8 about this?

9 A Yes, we did. I remember particularly one made  
10 by Major Bruce Hunt.

11 Q What reply did he get from the Japanese  
12 officer?

13 A He said, "In the past you have spoken some-  
14 what boastfully about humanity and the Geneva Conven-  
15 tion. You must realize that you are our prisoners  
16 and you are in our power and in these circumstances  
17 these things do not apply."

18 Q Do you remember any other conversation of a  
19 similar type?

20 A Yes. On this occasion we asked the Japanese  
21 officer how he thought Japan would be able to explain  
22 her treatment of prisoners after the war. His reply  
23 was, "A victorious Japan will not have to explain."

24 Q Were any Red Cross parcels or mail received  
25 while you were on the railway?

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1 K We received some mail when we got back to  
2 Kanchanburi, but no parcels while we were in Siam.

3 Q When you left Kanchanburi did you return to  
4 Singapore by train again?

5 A Yes, in the same way which we had come up,  
6 twenty-seven to a box car; four days. The conditions  
7 were exactly the same but it was harder on the men as  
8 they were all so broken in health.

9 Q Do you remember the circumstances of an escape  
10 from Sonkurai Camp and what happened about it after-  
11 wards?

12 A Eight British officers escaped from Sonkurai  
13 Camp in June, 1943. They had agreed to risk their  
14 lives in order to tell the outside world of the treat-  
15 ment we were getting. They were captured after fifty-  
16 two days in the jungle during which four of them died.  
17 They were brought back to Sonkurai Camp and I was told  
18 to see them, to go to see them shot. I protested about  
19 that and they were sent to Singapore where they were  
20 sentenced to ten and nine years penal servitude.

21 Q Was that after you, yourself, had returned to  
22 Singapore?

23 A Yes, that trial took place after I had  
24 returned.

25 Q At the end of the war were those men released



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with others from Outram Road Gaol?

1           A    One was released from Outram Gaol. The  
2 others had all been brought back to Changi Camp as  
3 seriously ill.

4           Q    Was there any difference in their treatment  
5 in Outram Road Gaol from what you have described  
6 already with regard to other prisoners?

7           A    Their treatment was exactly the same except  
8 that one who had dozens of ulcers on his legs and  
9 could only walk with crutches at the time I saw him.  
10 He told me that the bandages were removed as soon as  
11 he was put in his cell and that he got no medical  
12 treatment during his imprisonment.

13          Q    Amongst those ultimately released were there  
14 any Americans?

15          A    Among those released was the complete crew  
16 of an American B29. They had been shot down over  
17 Singapore in April, 1945.

18          Q    Was there any difference in their treatment  
19 from that of the others?

20          A    Yes. They were imprisoned under ground and  
21 given half the ration which was normally given even  
22 to Allied prisoners of war in the jail. In four months  
23 they had got into a very weak physical condition.

24          Q    In September, 1945, did you have the  
25

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1 satisfaction of attending the surrender of the Jap-  
2 anese to Admiral Lord Mountbatten?

3 A Yes. Admiral Lord Louis Mountbatten gave me  
4 a special seat to see General ITAGAKI surrender.

5 Q What was the 7th area or military district  
6 of the Japanese system in 1944 and 1945?

7 A I understand that the 7th Army took over from  
8 the Southern Army at Singapore in about March or April,  
9 1944.

10 MR. COMYNS CARR: The Tribunal will find, by  
11 looking at exhibit 110, that the accused ITAGAKI was  
12 appointed commander of the 7th Military District Army  
13 on the 7th of April, 1945 -- the last item in that  
14 biography or personnel record of him. And from  
15 exhibit 104, that the accused DOHIHARA had held the  
16 same position from March 22, 1944, down to that date.

17 I now propose to tender in evidence prosecu-  
18 tion document 1810 and, having read it, to ask this  
19 witness some questions about it.

20 THE PRESIDENT: Admitted on the usual terms.

21 CLERK OF THE COURT: Prosecution's document  
22 No. 1810A will receive exhibit No. 473.

23 (Whereupon, the document above referred  
24 to was marked prosecution's exhibit No. 473  
25 and was received in evidence.)

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1 MR. COMYNS CARR: It is really seven sep-  
2 arate documents, found upon a file of the Japanese  
3 War Ministry, relating to the matter about which the  
4 witness has been speaking.

5 In order of date, the first one is page 2  
6 of the document as it has been bound up. It is a  
7 letter, or telegram from Mr. Max Huber, Chairman of  
8 the International Red Cross Committee to the Foreign  
9 Minister, dated 23 June 1944. At that date the ac-  
10 cused SHIGEMITSU was Foreign Minister. It reads:

11 "Treatment of Prisoners of War in Burma and  
12 Siam.

13 "The International Red Cross Committee has  
14 the honor to inform the Japanese Government that it  
15 requests Japan to give every possible assistance for  
16 the well-being of the prisoners who are interned in  
17 the prisoner of war camps in Burma and Siam for the  
18 purpose of preparing for the traditional service  
19 which is offered voluntarily to all belligerent  
20 nations to guarantee more welfare of the prisoners  
21 of war and non-combatant civilian internees. They  
22 are suffering from illness due to medical and other  
23 causes, especially made morbid by the climatic con-  
24 ditions of the place of internment.

25 "Regarding this matter, the International

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1 Red Cross Committee has the honor to propose to the  
2 Japanese Government that she give consideration for  
3 entering into a reciprocal agreement with the govern-  
4 ments of the belligerent nations in reference to the  
5 transfer of those coming under Articles 69 and 72 of  
6 the Geneva Convention concluded in 1929 concerning  
7 the treatment of prisoners of war.

8 "The International Red Cross Committee re-  
9 quests the Japanese Government to consent to the  
10 transfer of said prisoners of war to an area with  
11 better climatic conditions, and to guarantee better  
12 conditions for prisoners of war as a first step until  
13 the settlement of such an arrangement. To achieve  
14 this objective, the International Red Cross Committee  
15 is prepared to collect necessary medical supplies if  
16 the Japanese Government will give consideration for  
17 their transportation and distribution. The International  
18 Red Cross Committee will greatly appreciate any  
19 intimation from your Government on this matter."

20 And then on page 1 of the document dated  
21 the eleventh of July, 1944, is a memorandum from  
22 Minister SUZUKI, who would be a subordinate of the  
23 accused SHIGEMITSU in the Foreign Office, to the  
24 Chief of Prisoner of War Information Bureau. Sub-  
25 ject "Treatment of Prisoners of War in Burma and Siam.

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1 "Regarding the treatment of prisoners of war  
2 interned in the prisoner of war camps in Burma and  
3 Siam, Mr. Max Huber, Chairman of the International  
4 Red Cross Committee in Geneva, sent us a telegram,  
5 as annexed in this report. Its translation is at-  
6 tached herewith.

7 "Concerning the return of seriously wounded  
8 and ill prisoners of war proposed by the International  
9 Red Cross Committee, there will be much difficulty in  
10 its execution and therefore an answer will be made  
11 that it would be difficult to make such arrangements  
12 at present. The problems of the transfer of prisoners  
13 and transportation and distribution of medical sup-  
14 plies requested should be included, together with  
15 the solution and execution of the transportation  
16 of relief supplies which is now being negotiated  
17 between Japan and Great Britain and between Japan  
18 and the United States.

19 "I would like to send the above reply, and  
20 would appreciate your suggestion."

21 And that is sent to the War Minister,  
22 The Prisoner of War Information Bureau, The Navy  
23 Ministry.

24 Then on page 3 there is a memorandum from  
25 the Chief of Prisoner of War Information Bureau, to

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1 the Chief of General Staff of the "I" Unit, Chiefs  
2 of Staff: OKA, MORI and TOMI Units, Commander of the  
3 Field Railway Unit of the Southern Army, Chiefs of  
4 Prisoner of War Camps in Burma and Siam. Subject:  
5 Concerning the treatment of British prisoners of  
6 war in Burma.

7 "Regarding the above subject, the Foreign  
8 Ministry has applied to the Prisoner of War Informa-  
9 tion Bureau as per enclosed. Please inform me im-  
10 mediately whether such conditions existed or not,  
11 and to submit confutation data."

12 That document bears no date and unfortunately  
13 at present we have not succeeded in finding the en-  
14 closed.

15 THE PRESIDENT: Major Furness.

16 MR. FURNESS: I am informed that the Jap-  
17 anese translation in the hands of Japanese counsel  
18 show that it is dated the 29th of July.

19 MR. COMYNS CARR: Which year?

20 MR. FURNESS: 1944.

21 MR. COMYNS CARR: Much obliged. I am ob-  
22 liged, but I think that must be a mistake, because  
23 it is the next document, which in the English copy  
24 bears that date, but it must have been around that  
25 date. The next document on page 4 does bear that



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1 date, and it is from the Chief of Prisoner of War  
2 Information Bureau to Minister SUZUKI, again at the  
3 time when the accused SHIGEMITSU was Foreign Minister.  
4 (Reading) "Treatment of British Prisoners of War in  
5 Burma.

6 "In reply to your telegram No. 599 regarding  
7 the above subject, I beg to reply as follows:

8 "(1) The prisoners of war in question interned in  
9 Burma belong to the prisoner of war camps in Siam or  
10 Malaya. The names of prisoners of war in Siam and  
11 Malaya camps have already been reported, which  
12 amounted to 10,000. The names of prisoners of war  
13 who died in that area are being reported successively."

14 MR. FURNESS: My Japanese counsel still  
15 states that document that was read just before this,  
16 page 3, was dated the 29th of July. I would like to  
17 call attention to the fact that this one which Mr.  
18 Comyns Carr has just read is Prisoner Supply No. 35  
19 and the one that he read before was Prisoner Supply  
20 No. 36.

21 MR. COMYNS CARR: That may be quite right.

22 MR. FURNESS: It therefore seems rather  
23 uncertain that either one is a reply to the other.  
24 I don't know.

25 MR. COMYNS CARR: I think my friend is

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1 quite right. Those two probably are not.

2 BY MR. COMYNS CARR: (Continued)

3 Q Colonel Wild in the last one which I read  
4 it is stated that the names of prisoners in Siam and  
5 Malays have already been reported, which amounted to  
6 10,000. What have you got to say about that?

7 A The number of prisoners of war in Burma and  
8 Siam at the time my party got up there in April, 1943,  
9 was over 30,000, and we in "H" Force swelled the num-  
10 ber by 10,000.

11 MR. COMYNS CARR: At the present time I  
12 need not read pages 5 and 6 and the next one in order  
13 of date is the last one, which begins on page 10.  
14 It is from the Chief of Prisoner of War Camp in Siam  
15 to Chief of Prisoner of War Information Bureau. Sub-  
16 ject: Information re: British Prisoners of War in  
17 Burma.

18 THE PRESIDENT: We will adjourn now until  
19 half past nine tomorrow morning.

20 (Whereupon, at 1600 an adjournment  
21 was taken until Friday, 13 September 1946, at  
22 0930.)  
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