

MD/JAG/FS/JT/4(D)
MEM/GJ

IN THE MATTER OF THE VOYAGE FROM
SINGAPORE TO SAIGON IN FEBRUARY 1945.

A F F I D A V I T

I, No. 97113 Captain S. XON GEOFFREY DAVES, formerly of 85 Anti-Tank Regiment, Royal Artillery, with permanent home address at Hesketh Hotel, Llanberis, North Wales, make oath and say as follows:-

1. I was taken prisoner in SINGAPORE in February 15, 1942. I was held in CLANGI Camp from then until May 1942. After that I was sent to RIVER VALLEY on SINGAPORE ISLAND in a Working Party building go-dons. After that I went up to the BANGKOK-KOOLMBEN railway line in THAILAND where I stayed until October 1944. I was then sent down to RIVER VALLEY Camp again with 500 men. We were told that we were going to be sent to J.P.N. The RIVER VALLEY Camp at this time was a transit camp for parties of prisoner of war on their way to J.P.N. There were about 2000 men there when I arrived. We were split up into groups of 500, each group being administered separately. There was a Japanese officer in charge of each of these groups. This officer was supposed to be responsible for all our administration and "Q" matters. The Japanese in charge of my group was Captain SUZUKI. SUZUKI scarcely interested himself in any of our troubles and made no effort to see that we had food or clothing. We stayed at RIVER VALLEY Transit Camp until February 1945.
2. On February 2nd, 1945 we embarked on a Dutch ship of about 1000 tons. She was an old ship and a cargo carrier and fully loaded with tin. There was scarcely any room on board for more than 500 men, nevertheless the Japanese crammed into her 2000 British prisoners of war. We were still divided into our groups of 500. I was in charge of one of them. Other groups were commanded by Major W. E. GILL and Captain PERMAN-BENICALL, both of the 137 Field Regiment, R.A. PERMAN-BENICALL's group consisted of approximately 1000 men. There were also about 500 natives from JAVA crowded in with us. Conditions on board were appalling, the men were packed so tightly together that it was impossible to move about anywhere on the ship. You simply had to stay where you were and lie down as best you could. The holds were jammed absolutely tight and the atmosphere was absolutely suffocating.
3. My group was in the same hold as the natives. The majority had dysentery and were so weak they could not get to the latrines even if they had been able to move, with the result that the smell and conditions were ghastly and our men had to cook and eat their rice in these conditions.

4. Our food consisted only of rice and fish water. The Japanese officers were eating our Red Cross rations but we were never given any ourselves. No provision was made for sick men and these men just lay wherever they could and were attended by medical orderlies. They were given no extra food or any of the Red Cross rations.

5. We were always in danger of being attacked by submarines but no arrangements were made for saving our lives if that happened. The Japanese officers however, saw to it that they would be saved as they slept in the life-boats, in fact on the 3rd day out the convoy of ships in which we were was attacked by submarine and two of the ships were sunk. As there were only three ships in the convoy we considered we were very lucky in getting away with our lives.

6. The complaints were continually being made by myself to Capt. SUZUKI. No personal interview was granted during the whole voyage. My complaints had to be confined to Japanese other ranks getting no further.

7. Despite these inhuman conditions no British prisoners of war lost his life though the Javanese natives were dying at the rate of six a day, the corpses were just thrown overboard by the Japanese. This voyage lasted 5 days during all that time none of the prisoners who were below decks were allowed on deck and despite my constant complaints nothing was done to alleviate their suffering.

8. I regard Capt. SUZUKI who was senior Japanese officer on the boat as being entirely responsible for these conditions. I would describe him as being a typical Japanese his only outstanding peculiarities were that he was bald and very fat. I do not know exactly what happened to SUZUKI but as far as I know he was in SAIGON at the time of the capitulation.

SWORN by the above-named SAXON GEOFFREY LAWES
at 6, Spring Gardens, in the City of Westminster) (Signed)
this fifth day of December 1945) S. G. DAWES.

BEFORE ME

(Signed) A.M. BELL MACDONALD,

Major Legal Staff,
Military Department,
Office of the Judge Advocate General,
London.

I certify that this is a true copy of the original affidavit.

/s/ A.M. Bell Macdonald, Major, Legal Staff
Office of the Judge Advocate General.

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「私ハ昭和十七年（一九四二年）二月十五日「シンガポール」ヲ掃蕩ニナリマシタ。

一千噸ノ和蘭船ニ乗組シマシタ。其ノ船ハ古船
 テ、貨物船テ、錫ヲ滿載シテ居マシタ。五百名
 以上ノ者ガ乗込ム餘地ハ殆ンドアリマセンデシ
 タガ、其レデモ日本人ハ船ニ英國人俘虜二千名
 ラ詰メ込ミマシタ。私達ハ五百名宛ノ組ニ分ケ
 ラレテ居リマシタ。私ハ其ノウチ一ツノ監督ト
 ナリマシタ。他ノ組ハ、孰レモ英國軍第百三千
 七野戰聯隊所屬ノ「ダブリユー・イー・ジル」
 少佐ト「フインレイ・ムンガル」大尉ニ指揮サ
 レマシタ。「フインレイ・ムンガル」ノ組ニハ千
 名近クノ者ガ居リマシタ。又「ジヤベ」カラ來
 タ約三百名ノ土人ガ私達ト一組ニ詰メ込マレマ

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シタ、船ノ状態ハ恐ロシキベカリデ、私達ハオ
互ニキツチリト詰メ込マレテ居マシタカラ船ノ
中デ其處等ヘ動キマヘルコトハ不可能デシタ。
單ニ自分ノ居場所ニ陣取ツテ、出來ルダケウマ
ク潰ニナラナケレベナリマセンデシタ。船倉ヘ
至クキツチリト閉切ラレテ居テ、空氣ハ本營ニ
息詰ルベカリデシタ。

私ノ組ハ土人連ト同ジ船倉ニ居マシタ。大多數
ノ者ハ赤痢ニ罹ツテ居テ、動クコトガ出來テモ
便所ヘ行ケナイ位衰弱シテ居マシタ。其ノ結果
臭氣ト状況トハ物凄ク、私達ハ此ノ状況下デ米
ヲ煮炊キシテ食ベナケレベナリマセンデシタ。

食事ハ米ト魚汁トダケデシタ。日本人將校ハ私
達ノ赤十字給與物ヲ食ベテ居マシタガ、一度モ
ソレヲ具ヘテ呉レマセンデシタ。病人ノ爲ニハ
何ノ設備モシテ呉レズ、病人ハ何處デモ勝手ナ
處ニ横ニナツテ看護兵ノ看護ヲ受ケテ居マシタ。
彼等ハ特別ナ食事トカ赤十字給與物トカ何モ具
ヘラレマセンデシタ。

私達ハ常ニ潛水艦カラ攻撃サレル危險ニ曝サレ
テ居マシタガ、ソシテ事ニナツテモ私達ノ生命
ヲ救フ用意ハ全然ナシレテ居マセンデシタ。然

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シ日本人將校ハ其レヲ見テ救助艇ノ中デ眠ツテ
居マシタカラ救助サレモシタデセウ。實際ニ私
達ノ乗ツテ居タ護送船四ガ出港シテ三日目ニ潘
水艦カラ攻撃ヲ受ケ、船四ノ二隻ハ沈没シマシ
タ。船四ニハタツタ三隻ノ船シカアリマセンデ
シタカラ、私達ハ生命ヲ全ウシタニトヲ全ク備
俾ダト考ヘマシタ。

※ 始終私ハ鈴木大尉ニ苦情ヲ云ヒマシタ。航海ノ
全期間個人的ナ面會ハ許サレマセンデシタ。私
ノ苦情ハ日本人下士官ノ手ニ廻ラレテ居テ、夫
レ以上ノ上官ニハ達シマセンデシタ。

セ 新様ナ強忍ナ仕打ヲ受ケテモ英國人俘虜ハ誰モ
生命ヲ喪ツタモノハアリマセンガ、ジャバノ
土人ハ一日ニ六人ノ割合デ死亡シテ居マシタ。
死骸ハ日本人ノ手デ海中ニ投ゲ込マレマシタ。
此ノ航海ハ五日間續キ、全期間ヲ通ジ下甲板ニ
居タ俘虜ハ誰モ上甲板ニ出ルコトヲ許サレズ、
私ガ屢々不平ヲ持込ンダニモ拘ラズ息ヒヲ緩和
スル何等ノ手段モ取ラレマセンデシタ。

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