

AFFIDAVIT

This 18th day of July 1947, appeared before me: Spier, Willem Theodoor, assigned to the Branch Office for War Crimes Investigations, holding office at Amsterdamsche straatweg 605 bis - Utrecht, a person, who declared to be:

Name NIEUWBOER, Pieter.

Rank Sergeant Major, R.N.I.A.

ASN 90927

Unit Military Police

Civilian Occupation None

Domicile Amsterdamsche Straatweg 605 bis - Utrecht.

Born Amsterdam on 9 January 1916.

Affiant is informed of the subject of interrogation, the subject being information and testimony concerning war crimes committed in Miyata Camp.

Affiant hereupon makes oath, according to his religious denomination, to state the whole truth and nothing but the truth, and, after having declared to stand by the above information, replies to questions put to him as follows:

1. Were you made a Prisoner of War or were you interned as a civilian? Prisoner of War.
2. By whom were you made a Prisoner of War or were you interned? The Japanese Army.
3. When and where did this occur? 8 March 1942 at Bandoeng.
4. In what Prisoner of War Camps or Internment Camps have you been confined, for how long and during what periods?  
8 Mar. 42 - 22 July 42, Bandoeng  
End of July 42 - 12 Feb. 43, Tjilatjap  
12 Feb. 43 - 7 May 43, Bandoeng  
7 May 43 - 31 Aug. 43, Tjimahi  
31 Aug. 43 - 19 Sept. 43, Batavia  
24 Sept. 43 - End of Oct. 43, at Singapore en route to Japan  
5 Dec. 43 - 15 Aug. 45, Camp Miyata, Fukuoka, Kyushu, Japan

5. Can you give information concerning maltreatments, of which you yourself or others were victims, and to which you were a witness, committed in Miyata Camp?

On a certain day in 1944, I was in the shoe and clothing Repair Shop of the Recreation Hall in the camp together with Navy Sergeant G. J. Klabbers. Klabbers was the tailor in the camp. We were suddenly ordered to move to room 1, hut 5.

A few weeks later, I was with Klabbers in his work shop, when Yama, a "seinen" (i.e. a junior soldier), who was on guard duty, ordered Klabbers to refit a new fatigue outfit, which Yama had stolen from the Japanese storeroom (as appeared later).

I speak Japanese fairly well and on request from Klabbers, who is a fairly nervous chap, I acted as an interpreter. Klabbers refused because he was afraid to get into trouble with the Japanese sergeant if he complied. As a result, Yama, after repeated requests, flew into a rage and stabbed with his rifle, with the bayonet fixed, in the direction of Klabbers. Klabbers dodged the stabs and grabbed hold of the bayonet. At this point, I intervened as I feared that accidents would happen and I told Yama that I would report him to the guard commander. I went outside, and looking back I saw that Yama, who apparently had become scared of my threat, left the room. I forgot to state that Yama, while stabbing at Klabbers, touched him in the side, but the stab did cause no wound, although it hurt him, as appeared later, when Klabbers reported to the Medical Officer. The Medical Officer, Dr. Hilffman, found no serious injury.

Approximately one hour after the occurrence, I was with Klabbers again in the work shop, as I worked there as a cobbler. Suddenly Yama appeared before the sliding door and called Klabbers out. Hereupon Yama proceeded to maltreat Klabbers at about two yards distance away from me. He swung the butt of his rifle with full force against Klabbers repeatedly and hit him wherever he could, except on the head. By way of introduction to this maltreatment, he first made gestures as of stabbing with the bayonet fixed on his rifle, but he did not touch Klabbers. Apparently these mock stabs were meant as a threat. I tried to intervene, but without result. The maltreatment lasted about ten minutes and Klabbers was badly punched and was kicked against the abdomen and legs. Klabbers, as I stated, was subsequently examined by Dr. Hilffman and appeared to have suffered no serious injuries, as a result of the maltreatment. He was, however, extremely upset. Yama has repeatedly hit Klabbers and myself on other occasions with his fist.

Q. Do you know on which date Klabbers suffered the above maltreatment?

A. I now recall that this occurred about May 1944. I know this, because in May we had to move suddenly, as a new draft of Prisoners of War was due in. Yama was nick-named "Tough". He beat extremely often and maltreated others even worse. However, I was no witness on those occasions. I now recall a case where Yama committed a maltreatment and to which I was a witness.

This occurred much later, I believe it was some months before the capitulation. I saw how he beat Westley, a regular Private in the R.N.I.A., in a bestial manner with a rifle butt. I was alerted by others to intervene if necessary. Westley was lying on the ground and Yama kicked him straight against the head. This maltreatment lasted at least fifteen minutes. Westley was sick in quarters when this occurred and was treated by Dr. Hilffman. He suffered no open cuts as a result of the maltreatment, but internal lesions. Two men had to support him when he was brought to the hospital.

Q. Was Yama guilty of other crimes?

A. Yes. He stole an amount of clothing, belonging to Prisoners of War, from the barrack room. He did this when we were out at work. When the Japanese Sergeant, Katsuki, searched his quarters, on which occasion Klabbers was present, the stolen goods ~~were~~ found. I did see those myself. This resulted in proceedings against Yama.

Q. Can you give a physical description of Yama?

A. He was about 5' 4", thin, had a small face, hollow cheeks and

a light complexion. He walked with his feet turned out <sup>ward</sup> ~~side~~. He <sup>J<sup>1941</sup></sup> made an awkward impression. Estimated age; 20 years. He wore glasses; he had very thin lips and flat feet.

Q. Can you give information on other crimes committed by Japanese in that camp?

A. Sergeant Katsuki, second in command in the camp, once punched my face with his fist, so that I lost one tooth. I suffered some five or six very hard fist blows. Katsuki was a muscular type and was powerfully built. The civilian Medical orderly, "Naugau", very often maltreated patients in the hospital. I was often a witness to this, but I do not longer remember names of victims. Naugau beat with his fist. The patients whom he beat were more or less seriously ill, because those ~~admitted~~ <sup>admitted</sup> to hospital were definitely not light cases. Dr. Hilffman is sure to be able to give more information concerning these cases. <sup>J<sup>1941</sup></sup>

Then there was a Corporal, nicknamed, "The Bald One". His name I do not longer know. He was attached to our camp during the last eight months and he was assigned to Supplies. He may be called the worst scoundrel of the camp, and he beat practically every day. He picked particularly on British Prisoners of War. The worst case, to which I myself was a witness, is his maltreatment of the whole cookhouse crew, among them (1) the one in charge of the cookhouse, a Mr. Penn, manager of a plantation, at present at Balikpapan, (2) Piet Stet, Corporal, cook, (3) the one in charge of the Japanese cookhouse, C. Vink, Militia Private, employee of the Lindeteves Stokvis Company and (4) Toonen, Corporal, Engineers, and some sixteen others. The <sup>J<sup>1941</sup></sup> Bald One made them all line up, after having maltreated Vink and Penn in the office. I was an eye witness to this. They were very badly beaten up with sticks, especially Penn. The cause for all this was in the dissatisfaction of the Japanese over the preparation of their food, for which Vink was responsible. Therefore, Penn, of the Dutch cookhouse, had actually nothing to do with the whole affair. This maltreatment of Penn and Vink lasted at least fifteen minutes. Those lined up, numbering some twenty, were all made to assume the on-the-hands-down position and were made to remain in that position for at least ~~a~~ half an hour.

<sup>J<sup>1941</sup></sup> After that, the Bald One beat up these people with a wooden rifle. He grabbed hold of the weapon at the wooden bayonet end and beat with a long powerful swing on backs, loins, legs and shoulders. He carried on for about an hour. When he tired of beating, he would rest a while and then I would try and calm him down, but without results. He continued beating with renewed vigor. When one of the victims lost his position on account of the beating, he would beat him mercilessly until the position was resumed. It seems fantastic to me that no deaths resulted. I believe that two persons were admitted to the hospital and I think that they were Fusilier de Boer and cook Stet.

Katsuki, the second in command, witnessed the whole punishment without interference.

Also, two Japanese seimen, one named Matsuoka, who were laughing at the punishment, aroused wrath and were beaten up badly by the Bald One. <sup>J<sup>1941</sup></sup>

After the punishment was over, the whole party was made to remain standing to attention under my supervision until one o'clock (this was at about 10 o'clock). They were given no water, except such as they could get furtively.

Naturally I did not make them remain standing to attention, except when he came to check up, which he did on two occasions. This Bald One definitely enjoyed beating. <sup>J<sup>1941</sup></sup>

Q. Can you give a physical description of the Bald One? J 1/11

A. Age, about 30; height, about 5' 7"; light complexion; round face; small eyes, with a mean expression. Powerful build. When he carried out this punishment, he was a Corporal. About one month prior to the capitulation, he was made a Sergeant, and he remained attached to the camp to the end.

Q. Can you give any other information, which might serve in this case?

A. Dr. Hilffman has recorded various phases of camp life in a diary and he is sure to know many details. Dr. Hilffman at present is in the Military Hospital at Batavia, room 5.

Also, I wish to mention the theft, on a ~~great~~<sup>large</sup> scale, of Red Cross articles in camp. The second in command, Sergeant Katsuki, had made Prisoners of War dig an air raid shelter in front of his quarters. When the shelter was ready, Klabbers and I were made to bring bags full of Red Cross articles (clothing, medicine, food, soap, etc.), sent by the American Red Cross, and four boxes of goods into the shelter. He stole these goods for his own benefit, and gave us strict instructions never to mention this affair. I reported these thefts to Dr. Hilffman. He ~~launched~~<sup>lodged</sup> protests with Katsuki and the Camp Commandant, a First Lieutenant of the Reserve. The Camp Commandant, however, referred him to the thief himself, so that no result at all was obtained. Among the stolen goods, there were medicines. The sick were given insufficient medicine and less milk, as a result of these thefts. Certainly not more than 30% of the contents of the parcels were issued to the camp. Immediately after the capitulation, we attempted to retrieve stolen stocks, but Katsuki had disappeared, along with his loot. One week before the capitulation, we were made to ~~hand~~<sup>hand</sup> in a Red Cross sewing machine. This one also disappeared. J 1/11

Q. Did any maltreatments in this camp result in death or in very serious injury?

A. Fusilier Willem Corlitz was stabbed one day, by a Japanese Sergeant, whose name I forget, who was in charge of the Guard Detachment, with a bayonet in the cardiac region, right through his greatcoat. The stab lodged about one half inch below the heart and he has been seriously ill for more than two months. Dr. Hilffman treated him.

I have nothing more to state.

6. What was the name or the nick-name of the perpetrator of the maltreatments, mentioned by you, and can you describe them?

7. Were any other persons a witness to these maltreatments?

8. Have you anything further to state, which might serve in this case?

Verification by the affiant:

I, the undersigned, P. Nieuweboer, aforesaid, hereby declare that I was summoned and interrogated under oath by the interrogator, who informed me that my oath is still binding upon me. After having

been read and shown the above sworn statement, in my native language, I declare that it is true and correct.

Utrecht 18 July 1947

The affiant aforesaid.

/s/ P. Nieuweboer.

I the undersigned, affiant, hereby declare that I have duly made oath in the presence of the interrogator and that I have signed the above record of statement on 18 July 1947.

/s/ P. Nieuweboer.

The above statements have been signed in my presence and this record has been drawn up accurately and thereupon signed by me, the interrogator, on 18 July 1947 at Utrecht.

The interrogator aforesaid.

/s/ W. Th. Spier.

I hereby certify the above to be a true and accurate translation of an original handwritten document, in Dutch, consisting of eight (8) pages and numbered 19690/R, and stamped, "Office of the Attorney General - Government Office for War Crimes Investigations", into English, to the best of my knowledge and ability.



G. J. JONGEJANS  
Captain, R.N.I.A.  
Liaison Officer  
Legal Section