ROYAL CANADIAN AIR FORCE

"WESTERN AIR COMMAND"

Vancouver, B.C.
12th April, 1946.

The Secretary,
Dept of National Defence for Air,
Liaison Building,
Ottawa, Ontario.

Depositions of Personnel repatriated from Far East -
Ex RCAF M.A. #784 Sgt. Aitken, G

1. As requested, we have obtained the required affidavit from the 2/3 ex POW and four copies are attached.

2. In the extract from P/O Turner's deposition, attached to your above referenced letter, Turner states that he witnessed an attack on Aitken in September, 1944, at Makaseura Prison Camp. Aitken states that this attack took place at Osaka Detention.

3. It is Aitken's opinion that Turner was confused, as the result of a severe beating and that Turner's memory was none too good. Turner was apparently shifted back and forth a number of times and it is natural that he might not be too sure of where a certain event took place.

4. Aitken states he was given a brief interrogation in Calcutta shortly after his release and was fully interrogated at Conford, England on October 4th, 1945, by the RAF. His Canadian number was E225973.

5. Aitken's memory is very good and I am reasonably sure that his statements as to the place of the attack mentioned by Turner is correct.

W.H.L. Whistler V/L
for 100 WAG
IN THE MATTER OF WAR CRIMES AND IN THE MATTER OF
British National Office Charge No.:
United Nations War Crimes Commission Reference:

APPLICATION

I, Clarence Atkin, formerly a Sg t Number R.295912, in the
Royal Canadian Air Force, and attached to 17th Bomb Group, at
Tjiacketa, Java, and of permanent address, 887 East 16th Avenue,
Vancouver, B.C., make oath and say as follows:-

I was attached to the U.S.A.A.F. 17th Bomb Group at Tjiacketa,
Java, when the drone was threatened by the Japanese. The field was
evacuated by air on March 6, 1942, and we landed at Batavia for
orders. The Americans went on, I think, to Australia but we R.A.F.
personnel were told to join a group of about 800 people who
were moved from place to place until March 21, 1942. At that time
we were at Wamarijak, and there we surrendered to the Japs. There
was nothing else to do.

March 21 to Aug 22, 1942 - Semplak.
Our group was split up and about 600, including myself, went to
Semplak prison camp. During the first three months we had very
little food, a cup of rice and two green onions per day. There
was a good deal of Malaria, for which no treatment was received,
and we were put to work repairing the aerodrome. So far as I know
there were no deaths in the camp during the time I was there.

Aug 22 1942 to Jan 30 1943 - Makassar.
On Aug 22 we all moved by train to a small camp at Makassar.
There were about 1000 in the camp and no provision had been made
for any sanitation - so we had to build our own as best we could.
The food began to improve in October, and we got some meat and
milk. Some men died of dysentery and there was considerable
vitaminosis. Up to October we had Japanese guards, and treatment
was reasonably good and fair. The Japs were replaced in late
October by Korean guards. They were harsh and knocked people about
considerably for no apparent reason.

In November 1942, at Makassar, I was doing some brickwork on
a stove, and was ordered to carry on and finish the job without
attending evening roll call. While I was working a guard came up
and asked why I was not on roll call. I told him, and he struck
me on the side of the head with his rifle butt. I do not remember
any more, but must have been kicked and beaten after I lost
consciousness, because I was in billet for four days with a cracked
rib, and my face was badly swollen and cut, and many of my teeth
were loose.

There were not any witnesses as everyone was on roll call parade.

There were numerous instances of much the same kind. One was
when S/L Beddell, R.A.F., was attacked by two or three guards in
the billets after dark, and badly beaten.

The Camp Commandant was a Lt. Yasaka, and was a weak character
who seems to have little control over the guards who did as they
pleased.

Jan 30 to Aug 16, 1943 - Tanjongprak.
At the end of January a large group of us moved by train and
marching, to a larger camp at Tanjongprak, about 20 miles inland
of Makassar. There were about 4000 in the camp, and the Camp
Commandant was fairly decent. There had been a lot of dysentery
but he had it pretty well under control. The food was good, and
the Commandant did all he could to make the camp as good as possible.
In mid-April a draft of about 1800 was made up for shipment to some South Pacific Island. I was on the draft, and went by train to Soerabaya, then I got a severe attack of Malaria, was taken off the draft and sent to Batavia, to a camp at which I was kept. Then I got a little quinine from an RAF Doctor. In the holding camp in Batavia, at the time I was there, there were about 1800, although a month previously there had been about 6000. The end of April I went to Cycle Camp, in Batavia, and spent about a week in a good hospital being treated for Malaria.

May 1943 to Feb 10 1944 - Bowie Gldok

Gldok was a Dutch civil prison, used by the Japs for POWs.

In September 1944, at Gldok, I was walking down an alley on my way to roll call, and saluted the guard as I passed him. I had had some trouble with him a few days previously, and he accused me of not having saluted. I said I had and he hit me, with the barrel of his rifle, knocking me down, and kicked me quite severely. I beat me with his fists for what seemed about ten minutes. In kicking me he took some skin off my ankle, and this developed into a bad ulcer that bothered me for months. I was off duty for three or four days as a result of this beating, which was witnessed by P/O B.I. Turner, CAN.J96720.

Most of the prisoners in the camp worked in a string factory, and were paid ten cents per day. Food was adequate, and medical treatment fair although there were few drugs. The camp was clean and sanitary, and we got a little quinine as an anti-malaria precaution.

Feb 10 1944 to May 1944 - Cycle Camp, Batavia.

In February Gldok camp was closed, and we moved everything to Cycle Camp by packing it on an 8 mile march, which was rather harrowing as everyone was quite weak.

The food at Cycle Camp was very poor, and the Camp badly crowded. There were about 6000 there, including British, Dutch, and other prisoners of all nationalities. The Korean guards were quite brutal, and a number of Dutch civilians were killed by being struck with rifle butts and barrels.

In March 1946, I was returning to the camp about 6.30 one morning in charge of a working party, after having been out for hours. In passing the guard at the main gate I had certain orders to give. We had formerly given these orders in Japanese, but the rule had been relaxed and we used either English or Malay, as many of the Dutch did not understand Japanese. I gave my orders in English, and the guard attacked me with a three inch club, knocked me down with a blow on the face that cut my lip, knocked out a tooth, cut my eye, and pretty badly pulsed my face. This was witnessed by the squad I had brought in, which included P/O McDonald, RAF, who acted as an interpreter, as he spoke Japanese well. He was formerly with the Malay Customs service and planned to go back there.

May 15 to End of War - Bendoeng

About mid-May most of the camp, about 4000, moved to Bendoeng. The food was very bad, and the camp very dirty, and swarmed with bugs and lice. Water was very short. Treatment was very harsh and a Sgt Major, who seemed to be in charge of the camp was particularly brutal. Many POWs were maltreated, but no-one I know of killed.

On August 25th we were told the War was over, and moved back to Cycle Camp in Batavia, where we stayed until Sept 17th when we were flown out.

Allied personnel parachuted to us on September 16th. We remained in camp from Aug 25th to September 17th and the Japs did their best to make things reasonable. We did not leave camp because there was a good deal of unrest outside, and it was safer inside.

At Semplak Camp, from March to August 1942, W/C Alexander; RAF, was the senior officer. He was also in charge at Makassar from
August 1942 to January 1943, and at Tanjongpriok from February 1943 to April was in charge of a unit of the camp under Lt. Col. Dobie, British Army.

At Glodok W/C Alexander was again senior officer, and at Cycle Camp from February to May 1943 he was in charge.

At Benoeng, from May to the end of the war, the senior officer was a Dutch Col named Veren. W/C Alexander worked with him.

With me as prisoners in most of these camps were only a few Canadians - about fourteen in all. The names of all I can recall are as follows:

W/C Woods - from Nova Scotia
S/L Jerdine - from Victoria
S/L Taylor - from Edmonton
F/O Turner - from Winnipeg
F/L Chater - who went to a prison camp in Japan
F/S E.H. McDonald of Toronto
LAC Vognich - of Galt
Sgt Monsell - of Montreal
Edwards - from Newfoundland

SWORN BEFORE ME AT THE
CITY OF VANCOUVER, in
the Province of British
Columbia, this 10th day
of April 1946

Signed: C. AITKEN

W.H. WHIMSTER, F/L
Western Air Command Headquarters,
Vancouver, B.C.
QUESTIONNAIRE FOR SERVICE PERSONNEL

1. Pre-Capture Experience
   (a) Left from Tjockarta, Java, on Mar 6 1942 at 0600hrs.
   (b) Landed at Batavia, and surrendered to Japs at Wanarajah on March 21 1942.
   (c) See attached
   (d) See attached

2. Camps in which Imprisoned
   (a) Semplak - March 21 to August 28 1942
   (b) Makassura - August 28 1942 to January 30 1943
   (c) Tanjongprik - January 31 to April 15 1943
   (d) Soerabaya - few days during illness
   (e) Gudok - end April 1943 to February 10 1944
   (f) Cycle Camp - February 10 to May 1945
   (g) Batavia - May 15 1945 to War end

3. Attempted Escapes
   N.A.

4. Escape Activities
   N.A.

5. Liberation
   Told war was over August 25th 1945
   Contacted by Allied personnel September 10 1945
   Flown out of camp at Bandoeng September 17, 1945

6. Personnel Data
   No. Ex RAF 541017
      RCAF R225913
   Rank: Sgt
   Name: Aitken, C
   Trade: A.E.M
   Squadron: 17th Bomb Group USAAF
   A/C Type: Liberator
   Present Address: 357 East 15th Avenue, Vancouver, B.C.
**FILE #:**

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<td>British Division Legal Section</td>
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This file transmitted to South East Asia Command for further disposition. See 0/8 1012/B/WCO dated 18 Jun 46 filed in correspondence II.