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9010613 (MR ALEXANDER PALMER)

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Written on board H.M.S. CILICIA
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I have the honour to submit reports on Prisoner of War Camps in Java where I was either Camp Commander or Senior British Officer.

2. The following Camps are reported on:-

1)	SINGOSARI Camp	MALANG
2)	H.B.S. School Camp	SOERABAIA
3)	DARMO Camp	"
4)	JAARMARKT Camp	"
5)	TJIMAHI Camp	BANDOENG AREA

3. Appendices are attached concerning the following subjects:
1) The execution of four Royal Air Force personnel at SINGOSARI.
2) Special reports on certain Officers.
3) The work done by a Chinese Doctor named ONG KIE HONG in the H.B.S. School Camp.

4. The reports are written from memory and are incomplete in certain respects, particularly when figures and statistics are concerned.
It was extremely difficult in some camps to keep records or diaries, as the Japanese were always suspicious of any written matter. All papers, no matter what they concerned, where liable to be seized and/or destroyed during the frequent searches.

5. I succeeded in keeping a rather limited amount of papers, copies of letters of complaints and protest to Japanese Commandants, lists of deaths etc. which I buried in a steel document box in No. 3 P.O.W. Camp, BANDOENG.

6. It was not possible to retrieve these papers before leaving JAVA, but a detailed description of the whereabouts of the box was left with Lt.Col. VAN DER POST who remained in BATAVIA working with the R.A.P.W.I. organisation. Lt.Col. VAN DER POST will forward the papers to me as soon as possible.

7. A few personal belongings of the four persons executed at SINGOSARI were concealed in BANDOENG. It is hoped that these will also be forwarded to me as they would almost certainly be appreciated by the next-of-kin.

8. Certain irregularities in connection with the Financial side of R.A.F. Welfare had to be investigated by a Court of Inquiry at SINGOSARI. The findings were inconclusive as the irregularities had started some time earlier and owing to some isolation, the requisite evidence was not available.
A further enquiry into the same subject was opened at H.B.S. School, SOERABAIA, but again it was not possible to reach any conclusive finding.

9. Copies of the proceedings of both these Courts of Inquiry are concealed with my other papers in BANDOENG and so, are at present, not available.

Believe written by W/Cdr W F Welch RAF

SINGOSARI CAMP MALANG AREA JAVA.

From:- April 2nd. 1942
To:- Sept. 1st. 1942

Japanese Camp Commandant
Lieut. HANAWA - Army (From June onwards).
Local Japanese O.C. P.O.W.s
Major MISOI or MISUI - Army)up to
Lieut. KOBOKI - Army Air Force)27-6-42.
Capt. OKI - Army after 27-6-42

Introduction.

I arrived in this Camp on April 2nd. 1942, having travelled by train from TASIK MALAYA. My party consisted of 400 Officers and men of the Royal Air Force.

The Camp was unoccupied when I arrived and I took command.

Two days after my arrival a furhter 570 Officers and men of the Royal Air Force arrived under the command of S/L E.E. HARDIE R.A.F.V.R.

A day or so later a new convoy arrived with about 30 Officers plus men and 20 or 25 vehicles. F/O K.N. HAMILTON brought this convoy.

The camp now contained 1000 R.A.F. personnel of which about 50 were Officers, and the whole was divided into two "Wings" under the command of S/Ldr. D.G.E. BENZIE R. A.F. and S/Ldr. E.E. HARDIE R.A.F.V.R.

The Camp was completely surrounded by high barbed wire and there was a Japanese guard mounted at the guard room at the Camp Entrance. The guard lived here but their meals were send in from the neighbouring Japanese Camp.

There was no actual Japanese Camp Commandant until June when a Lieut. HANAWA (Japanese Army) was appointed and came to live in the Camp.

Up to this time all requests, complaints, communications etc. with the Japanese were made either to Major MISOI or Lieut. KOBOKI his assistant. These two Officers belonged to a nearby Japanese Camp and were primarily concerned with work on the aerodrome. Looking after P.O.W.'s appeared to be of secondary consideration. Major MISOI may have been an engineer.

The Major was extremely difficult to approach, pretended not to understand English and would never make nay attempt to listen for more than a few minutes before sating "Conversation closed". Lieut. KOBOKI was much more reasonable and did assist where possible but his position appeared to be one without much authority.

On 8-7-42 a complete nominal roll of all personnel in the Camp was handed to the Japanese with the request that it be transmitted or forwarded to Geneva. Nothing further was heard and most probably the list was never sent.

No Japanese Standing Orders or Instructions were issued except verbally. They were there usually orders forbidding something which had been done and for which someone had already been punished.

Treatment and attitude generally was improved after the arrival of Lieut. OKI, who took over Major MISUI' s work and on the appointment of Lieut. HANAWA as Camp Coomandant. Both these changes were made in June.

On 8-8-42 a party of 400 Officers and men under S/L HARDIE left for BATAVIA, and later all but a dozen or so were sent on to BORNEO. It has since been learnt that of this BORNEO party only 20 R's and about 15 Officers are now alive.

Accommodation.

This was a recently completed stone built Dutch Camp which, it is believed, had never been occupied by the Dutch but had been used to accomodate U.S.Army Air Force personnel who had previously been operating from SINGOSARI Airodrome.

The camp was well laid out and apart from damage done to a few

buildings

buildings by bombing, was in good condition though rather dirty.

Officers and Warrant Officers were accommodated in former N.C.O.'s quarters, two to each small room. Other ranks were accommodated in barrack blocks. They slept on the tiled floor unless they possessed Camp beds. There was no furniture whatsoever. It is believed that this and many other fittings, (electrical and plumbing) had been looted from the Camp by natives before the Japanese occupation.

Sanitary Arrangements.

The bathrooms and latrines were excellent in themselves but difficulties were experienced due to ovalvading of the septum. The Camp was never designed for as many as 1000 and the septic tanks frequently had to be pumped out. There ware usually delays of several days before the one motor pump, which had to serve the whole MALANG district, could be obtained.

The water supply had been damaged by bombing and was out of order when we first arrived and all water had to be brought in drums on lorries from MALANG Town. A small dysentery outbreak is attributed to this cause.

Drinkwater supplied to working parties on the Aerodrome could not be boiled but all water in the Camp was boiled or made into tea.

Later on the system was repaired and although the situation was eased, particularly in respect of Kitchens and bathhouses, the trouble with the latrines was aggrivated by insufficient flushing water.

Trench latrines were finally resorted to.

Water was always short and pressure at the taps was poor throughout the entire period inthis Camp.

Hospital and Medical.

One block was set aside for use as a Hospital, treatment room and M.I. Room. Medical Orderlies were also accommodated in this block.

Flight Lieutenant ~~LIDDILL~~ FORBES was S.M.O. and was assisted by Flight Lieutenant LIDDILL. Both these Officers did excellent work.

The majority of the admissions to Hospital were on account of Malaria and ulcers resulting from cuts and obvasions inflicted on working parties. The Malaria cases were all contracted previously.

There were a large number suffering from poisoned feet as a result of having been forced on working parties when not in possession of any footwear. Sick men are constantly forced to work and threats were made to reduce the rations if the number called for on working parties was not forthcoming.

Personal who could not be treated in Camp Hospital were admitted to the SOEKEN Hospital, MALANG. Our own ambulance which came with the road convoy was used for transporting these cases. Later, the ambulance was taken away but it was obtainable when required for a specific journey.

A Japanese doctor visited the Camp frequently.

One day, a Japanese light bomber crashed about 100 yards outside the Camp. F/L FORBES and several medical orderlies dashed across the Camp, climbed over the barbed wire perimeter fence, and found and looked after the crew until Japanese help arrived. The Camp guards were somewhat alarmed at first but soon realised it was not an attempt at escape. F/L FORBES was later thaked for his action.

Kitchens, rations, etc.

There were two kitchens, both fitted with pressure cooking boilers which appear to be standard equipment on most Dutch Military camps.

The kitchens were not designed to cook for such a large number and consequently, additional boilers constructed from 64 gallon oil drums were improvised for the steaming of rice. The fuel used was wood.

Taken all round the Kitchens were satisfactory.

The

The rice provided was of poor quality and usually musty and full of weevils. Meat was good though the ration was rather small. Bread was supplied from time to time but was made from stale flour and full of weevils. Vegetables were of first class quality though quantity was rather small.

An officer was allowed to go into the MALANG Market with a Japanese guard to purchase the vegetables. He was allowed to buy practically what he wanted provided he did not spend more than Fl:100.oo per day, id. about 10 cents per head.

Exact figures of the ration scale cannot be given but the food was adequate. After experience in later Camps, the rations here could be regarded as excellent by comparison.

The ration contained no fruit. Fruit, biscuits, eggs etc. could however, be bought from native vendors through the barbed wire. This source of food was stopped from time to time, but was available during the greater part of the period.

A certain amount of R.P.A. tinned stores, which had been brought from Malaya was used to provide special diets for Hospital patients.

Parades, Searches etc.

No parades were ordered by the Japanese until after some attempted escapes which will be mentioned in a later section. Muster parades were then held daily, morning and evening.

No searches were made in this camp until the day prior to one move to SOERABAIA.

A wireless receiver was operated openly for ashort time and Japanese guards sometimes came in to listen.

Steel helmets were collected about the last week in August and there were a few unofficial searches by inquisitive guards in late August. Men were sometimes made to hand over their watches to the guards. A paltry payment of a few guilders was usually made.

Cameras.

All cameras were collected by the Japs in August. A receipt was given. The Japanese Commandant then purchased a few cameras from their respective owners and the receipted list for HQ had to be amended. The Commandant would not pass the amended list on to his HQ so a new list was prepared omitting those cameras which had been bought by the Commander, but this time a receipt was refused.

Discipline, Punishment etc.

At first the Japanese did not interfere with the administration of the Camp and discipline was maintained by noemal service means as far as conditions permitted.

Minor offences by airmen were dealt with by the British Camp Commander who awarded extra fatigues, etc., for more serious case, detention in cells.

The Japanese guards used to wander about inside the Camp and even in the barracks. No trouble was experienced except on a few occasions when drunken guards made a nuisance of themselves.

After the first week in June the guards were increased in number but although they made their prescence felt more than formerly there were few instances of beating.

Thefirst occasion on which an Officer was beaten by a Japanese soldier was on April 15th. A formal complaint was made. The Commandant later sent the officer (F/L BURGERS) a bottle of port.

Working parties.

On the evening of our arrival, all Officers were called together and addressed by Lt. KOBOKI, of the Japanese Army Air Force. He spoke in Malay and was interpreted by W.O. KEENEISON A.M.W.D. He informed us, inter-alis, that we were going to be employed on aerodrome reconstruction work. I immediately protested, pointing out that this was Military work and should not be carried out by P.O.W. He first stated that the aerodrome was only to be used for civil aircraft but after s short argument he ended by stating emphatically that it was a Japanese order which must be obeyed, or we should be severely punished.

Even at that early date, I anticipated the possibility of capital

punishment

punishment for refusal to obey Japanese orders and rather than run this risk, I decided that it would be more prudent to acceed to the demand. I did, however, request that I be given facilities to communicate with the Senior Air Force Officer in Java (A.V.M.MALTTY). This request was not received well but it was not actually refused. The next day after having written a letter ot the A.V.M. on the subject of Jilitary work, I was told that all communication was impossible and that I could not send my letter.

Within a day or two working parties were ordered to the aerodrome. The numbers called for at first were quite reasonable but gradually the figure was increased until finally 750 were required daily.

(Under Major MISOI all Officers except Camp Staff had to attend work parties but were not made to work.)

Kitchen staffs, Garage and Workshops personnel, Hospital Staff and patients, sanitary squads and other essential Camp duties considerably reduced the number of man available for the aerodrome, and even by cutting down the number of man on these duties to the barest minimum, it was finally necessary to send men excused duty or even S.I.Q. personnel on work parties to make up the required number.

Protests were made almost daily but no reduction in numbers was permitted. Theonly concession was that men with no shoes whatsoever were allowed to parade separately and could walk slowly to the aerodrome. They were then employed on lighter work and occasionally sent home early.

Themen were divided up into small parties by the Japanese and sent to work at various points on the aerodrome. One or two Officers were send with each party in an attempt to see that the men got fair treatment, stand-easies, etc. In actual fact, the officer had little or no say and frequently was cuffed and beaten for the petty misemdanours of his men.

Working hours were from 0900-1230 and 1330-1700 Hrs.

For the first few weeks there were no half days, but later we usually got 1 full day or 2 half days off each week. The half days were rather erratic.

Work consisted at first in filling bomb craters, Lorries were sent to bring stones from a river bed inthe vincinity, the craters were filled with stones, dredded with earth and finally rolled by steam rollers driven by natives.

Later, 100 Kg. bombs were collected from several dumps round the aerodrome and all placed in one stove. Hangars and general debris from bombing was cleaned up and finally work was started on the construction of a metalled runway.

The area to be metalled was first excavated to a depth of about 15". Large stones filled into one another by hand formed the foundation, subsequent layers of stones decreasing in sizw were then laid and a final surface of gravel mixed with bitumen was laid on top and rolled in by steam rollers.

The runway was laid about N.N.W./S.S.E. and was about 1400 yards long on completion of work by P.O.W. (It has since been learnt that it was extended each end to a total lenght of about 2100 yards).

Therunway had no system of drainage with the exeeption of three or four small "sumps" along each side. Before the runway was completed, it had already begun to sink in places and grass was beginning to grow through the surfaces.

The Japanese managed to repair one Fortress aircraft which had been left comparatively undamaged as far as could be seen. Therepairs took abouttwo months but the aircraft was finally flown off the runway. A Japanese Officer told me that it was still suffering some structual defect and had gone to BANDOENG for major repairs. I later heard that it crashed on landing at BONDOENG.

Other work carried out consisted of the removal of earthen aircraft pens, The earth was used to fill in an area of low ground thus extending the aerodrome surface slightly on the South side.

A stone crasher was assembled from parts (English) supplied by the Japanese. No drawings or instructions were provided for assembly. It was finally made to work and was used for providing the finer waves of stone for the runway constructions.

This

This machine, created clouds of dust and men employed on it suffered badly from sore throats, etc.

A large number of native coolies were working side by side with B.O.R's on the runway. A degrading position in which to put Europeans

One day, when ordered by the guard to dig with his work party F/L BLACKWOOD refused. He then went to complain to the Japanese Officer who beat up the guard who had given the order. Thefollowing day, the same thing happened, but when F/L BLACKWOOD went to complain he himself was beaten.

Men pushing heavily loaded Dekaville Rly trucks up an incline were sometimes beaten with bamboos as they passed the guard. These incidents give some idea of the treatment received by working parties.

One day an atap building, in which about forty men were working, collapsed. Therewere four or five cases of fractured spines as a result of this (sent to SOEKEH Hospital, MALANG) and many other men received minor injuries or bruises.

Camp Workshops, etc.

About 25 vehicles were brought by the road convoy. The two staff cars and the ambulance were soon taken by the Japanese and all thelorries were used on the aerodrome construction work. These lorries were always grossly overloaded and sometimes badly driven by Japanese drivers.

A garage was opened in the Camp (under Jap instruction) for the repair and maintenance of these vehicles. F/O K.W. HAMILTON was in charge and kept the trucks running in spite of difficulties of obtaining materials, oil and grease and assistance from the Japanese. An endeavour was made to keep the vehicles in good condition as it was hoped to retain them as transport for ourselves when moving camp. They were, however, finally taken over by the Japanese.

Other Camp workshops included carpenters, metal workers and cobblers shops, all run under the handicap of few tools and practically no materials.

The carpenters shop was run by F/O LUIZE A.M.W.D. who managed to turn out a limited quantity of furniture and stretchers from scrap timber. F/O MORGAN A.M.W.D. ran the metal workers shop.

Supply of Clothing and necessaries.

~~About~~ One woven grass mat per head was supplied by the Japanese for use as a mattress. No boots or clothing whatsoever were supplied with the exception of a few worn-out cast away Japanese canvas boots with rubber soles. This issue was made just before we left the Camp.

Many men were forced to walk up to 1½ miles to work twice dialy with no footwear at all.

Repeated protests and requests for supplies were ignored.

Local inhabitants of MALANG (mainly Dutch ladies) managed on several occasions to collect supplies of clothes which were picked up by the lorry collecting Camp rations and canteen supplies from MALANG. Without this assistance many men would have been extremely badly off for clothing. This source incedentally provided substantial quantities of fruit on several occasions.

Pay-Officers and OR's.

At no time in this Camp were either Officers or men issued with any pay at all. A request for pay for men employed on Japanese work was refused.

Church Services.

Church of England and Catholic Sercices were held every Sunday. S/L Rev WANLASS and S/L Rev Father RORKE officiating respectively. Mass was also said daily.

Recreation.

In the centre of the Camp was a football ground which was made use of. "League" matches were arranged between the various companies.

A theatre was rigged up in a spare building, complete with lighting orchestra pit, etc. Several vaudeville shows and one or two plays were produced.

A local branch of Toc H was opened in the Camp under the auspices of Padre WANLASS, and meetings were held regularly.

A Caledonian Society was formed by Officers and men of Scotland. There were also a number of lectures and talks from time to time as

as well as organised courses of instruction in various languages.

Mail, Red X Parcels etc.

No letters were received in this camp an none were allowed to be written. No International Red Cross Parcels were received, but as mentioned previously a local branch of the Red Cross organised by the woman Wellfare in MALANG sent on several occasions, quantities of clothing, fruit, table games, cards and sometimes sums of cash.

On July 8th visitors were allowed to the Camp and a room was set aside for them. Small parties of men were allowed to go in to talk and receive gifts of food, etc. The visitors were women and young girls and boys. The generosity of these women, in view of their own shortages, is worth of record.

Canteen.

A Camp shop was opened for the sale of cigarettes, cake, fruit chocolate, etc. The original stock was brought from TASIK MALAYA by the Welfare Officers, F/O IVONSIDE.

Profits were small and were devoted to the purchase of extra food for Hospital patients. No meals or drinks were served.

A seperate report on the financial affairs of this shop will be made as soon as papers buried in BANDOENG for safety have been recovered.

A court of Inquiry was necessary on account of the discovery of certain irregularities.

Inspections.

Prior to an inspection by a Senior Japanese Officer, the Camp was cleaned up on orders from the guard, who ordered such things to be done which gave a false impression of what the Camp was like under normal circumstances.

D A R M O CAMP.

Soerabaia Area.

From:- Dec 2nd 1942.
To: - Jan 10th 1943.

Japanese Camp Commandant	Lieut. KURASHIMA (Jap Army)
" Area Commander	Lt./Col. KAWABE.
Dutch Camp Commander	Lt. van der VLIET, (Royal Dutch Navy).
Officer i/c British personnel.	W/Cdr. W.R. WELCH. R.A.F.

Introduction, Administration, etc.

I arrived in this Camp on Dec. 2nd 1942 from the H.B.S. School Camp with a party of about 800 Officers and men of all three services.

The journey was made on foot, a distance of about 5 Miles, and all personnel had to carry their complete Kit, Sick patients were taken in trucks or ambulances.

On our arrival, the Camp already contained about 600 Ambonese troops and 20 or so Dutch Officers and ORs.

The Dutch Camp Commander had the Camp well organised and running well. In view of the large number of native troops and the satisfactory condition generally, I made no move to take over hte entire Camp, on the grounds of my rank but continued to command the British personnel only and work in cooperation with the Dutch Camp Commander a Lt. vander VLIET. This arrangement proved satisfactory in every way.

TheJapanese had a guard toom at the entrance to the Camp with a guard mounted. The guards were Koreans. They did not wander about the Camp as much as in the H.B.S.School and were kept under much better control generally. Interference with P.O.W.s being rduced to a minimum.

The Japanese administrative Staff had offices in the Camp, but lived in a small section completely fenced off and segregated from the main area.

The Camp Commandant also had an office in the Camp but he lived outside.

There was a Japanese interpreter who spoke Malay and a very little English.

Considerable attention was paid to fire precautions in this Camp. A certain amount of horses and equipment were provided and a fire picket was always on duty. Practices were carried out occasionally. Interest in this direction may have been stimulated by the rather inflammable nature of the buildings.

We were told on arrival that it was a comparatively easy period for the men, and the food was very much better than that which we had been given for the last 4 month.

Accommodation.

The buildings in this camp were mainly of a composite construction. The floors were concrete, walls were made of woven bamboo laths which had then been smeared with plaster so making them weatherproof and draughtproof. There were practically no windows in these buildings. The roofs were tiled.

The Officers were accommodated in what had probably been N.C.O.'s quarters and in three large rooms nearby.

The men were placed in the buildings previously described and had to sleep on the concrete floor. The allotment of space was considerable greater than in the last camp although more would have been desirable.

The troops were divided into Companies of about 200 with two Officers to look after them. There was also an Officers Company.

Sanitary arrangements.

Latrines and shower baths were satisfactory in themselves.

As in almost every case, the Camp was housing more personnel than it had been intended for and latrines etc. were rather too few. The usual sanitary squads were retailed for cleaning, latrines, bathrooms, drains etc.

When we first arrived, there eas a dangerously large number of flies about. TheKitchens were kept as clean as possible and refuse was deposited in covered containers. Finally it was realised that the flies were coming from outside the Camp. All personnel were still very "anti-dysentery" minded

ended as a result of their experiences of the last few months. At length a working party who went to clean up an adjacent camp which had been recently vacated, found an enormous amount of rotting waste, food etc. which was considered to be the course of all trouble. After this had been cleaned up the fly menace was very soon overcome.

This is mentioned rather fully as it shows the negative attitude on the part of the Japs. We had stated that the flies were housing outside and had requested that we be allowed to send a party out to investigate.

But no, this was not allowed. The Japs finally ordered the working party for another purpose and this party, infact found and destroyed the breeding place. The Japs "saved their face" by doing it this way.

Hospital, etc.

The British Hospital ~~accommodation~~ Staff consisted of:-

W/C C, W. COFFEY P.M.O.
F/L TIERNEY.
F/L THOMPSON.

The Hospital accommodation was good, and there was a separate building for the Isolation Hospital.

No medicines were supplied by the Japanese and such medicines as were available, had been bought from the H.B.S. Camp.

During our stay of approximately thirteen weeks in this Camp, there were only two occasions on which the Japanese Doctor paid a visit. ~~Due~~ Due to the hopelessly inadequate medical posetion many died during the dysentery epidemic in the previous Camp; about 70% of the British personnel in this Camp on arrival showed signs of malnutrition and deficiency diseases. This state of affairs was brought to the notice of the Japanese Doctor and promises were made to increase the diet, but nothing further materialised.

It must be remembered, however, that the food was already far superior to that in the previous Camp.

In order ot supplement the diet of the most serious deficiency cases some Katjang Idjoe beans were purchased out of Officers savings. The quantity available was small and only about 35 rations of about 60 grams each could be given daily.

Discipline.

There was no trouble with regard to discipline. The Japanese seldom interfered as long as their standing orders were carried out and from my point of view, as British Camp Commander, the discipline and general behaviour of the men left nothing to be desired.

Men were occasionally beaten, but usually for smoking outside or without an ashtray, or some petty action in contravention of Japanese orders. There were no serious cases of beating.

Working Parties, etc.

The working parties in this Camp were quite reasonable. Parties used to ho outside the Camp daily at first to do special work, sometimes at the docks, but the numbers called for could always be made up from fit men.

On Dec 12th, an area of ground immediately outside the Camp entrance was allotted to us for making into a Camp vegetable garden. When this was installed all available British men had to go out ot this area, they were however not made to work hard. As long as they were not actually idle, that was good enough. At first only two or three Officers had to supervise this party, but after a week or so 50% of the Officers had to go out in the morning and 50% in the afternoon. Officers did not heve to work.

Under these conditions the men made excellent headway with the garden and large quantities of beans etc. were planted, also fruit trees, Indian corn and so on. Unfortunately the Camp was closed before any crop was ready for gathering.

This gardening scheme might have been instituted for our own benefit but it is thought that another reason was to have Europeans working in sight of the natives. To the native, working on the soil is the lowest form of employment and it was degrading for Europeans to do this work under Jap guards while natives were free to look on.

under Japs guards while natives were free to look on.

Workshops, etc.

A small Camp workshop was run with Japanese consent and simple repairs to Camp Equipment were carried out.

Later several carpenters were employed on work for the Japanese.

A tailor shop was also opened for repair of clothing but it was always almost fully employed on work brought in by Japanese soldiers who demanded that their work be done before that of P.O.W.'s.

A number of carpenters were retained, when the Camp was closed to continue working for the Japs.

Supply of clothing, necessaries, etc.

No issues of clothing, soap or other necessaries were ever made except on Christmas day. On this occasion quite a large quantity of clothes were given to us for distribution, also some soap, tooth brushes and handkerchiefs. This was notout of generosity of the Japanese but was certainly obtained from the local Red Cross as on several articles of clothing (all of which was second-hand) were found the names of Dutch people known by one or other of the Dutch Officers in the Camp. (See also section headed Recreation).

Pay Officers and OR's.

Officers were paid at the same rate as at H.B.S.Camp with the same deductions for board, etc.

Men were paid the usual rate of 10¢ per day NCO's 25c/ whether employed on Japanese work, gardening or camp workshops etc.

This is the only camp in which Officers batmen were officially recognised by the Japanese and batmen were even included on the Jap pay roll. This never happened before or since.

Church services etc.

Church services were not permitted except at Christmas, when Holy Communion and Morning services were held. Permission was also granted for an evening of Carop singing ~~wer~~ on Christmas Eve, also a church service on New Years Day. S/L Rev A.S. GILES was the Senior R.A.F. Padre.

Recreation.

No books were allowed. No meetings or lectures were allowed.

The Japanese provided brass band instruments and a band was formed which played on several evenings on the football ground. A Japanese book of Songs and music was provided and every third or fourth number had to be Japanese.

On Christmas day a number of table games, draughts, monopoly etc. were received, also some tobacco, sweets etc.

The Japanese stated that htese were prescribed to us by themselves but it is believed that they were actually collected by the local Red Cross and perhaps taken over by the Japanese.

This is borne out in the case of the tobacco, a bale of which was clearly labelled Red X. The label was on the underside and apparently had not been noticed by the Japs.

A sports meeting was also held on Christmas Day. Several amusing events were included and the afternoon provided considerable enjoyment for the men.

Mail, Red Cross Parcels etc.

A few letters and some cables were received in this Camp. Am official postcard was issued to every Officer and men on Christmas Day, to enable them to write home. This is the first occasion on which these cards were issued. (Dec 25 1942 - 9½ months after capture.)

The card had to include three sentences selected from about 20 which werelaid down by the Japanese. Typical sentences were "I am now in a Japanese Prisoner of War Camp in Java". - "The Japanese treat us very kindly". - "I am receiving the pay of the equivalent rank in the Japanese Army", etc.

Apart from the three selected sentences, twenty free words were permitted. No date was allowed on the post-card.

No Red X Parcels were ever received in this Camp.

Canteen.

No facilities were available for opening our actual "shop", but all personnel were allowed to place an order about once a week and delivery was made in bulk. Only about 20 different lines were permitted but even this allowed a fairly reasonable choice. The main articles pruchased were bacon, peanut butter, jams, sauces, fruit, eggs, cigars, cigarettes from the Japanese.

General.

The use of the Japanese words of command on parade were made compulsory for the first time here. All Officers and men had to know the words of command.

An incident occurred on day, when the Japanese Commandant who was learning to drive a car allowed the car to get out of control. He was alone in the car driving along a road in the camp, when suddenly the car accelerated, getting faster and faster. It eventually left the road, c crashed into one of the Officers blocks - went right through one room and came to a standstill in the next.

Fortunately the rooms were almost empty at the time and the casualties were not very serious. One Dutch Officer had to go to Hospital - four or fove British Officers were suffering from cuts and bruises.

In general the treatment we received in this Camp was better than in most. Food was fairly good. There was not much interference from the guards, who were kept well under control. Working parties were fairly easy, and one or two points such as fairly liberal canteen purchasing facilities and batmen for Officers did a lot to alleviate other discomforts.

It was always possible to approach the Commandant for requests, complaints, etc. The Commandant himself suggested the starting of social evenings. Those present were to include himself - another Japanese Officer from HQ - and three or four British Officers, Different Officers were to attend each meeting and they were to be selected as being authorities on various subjects - e.g. photography, horse-racing, music, etc. No military matters were to be discussed. The Camp was closed before this scheme came to fruit.

It is believed that Lieut. KURASHIMA who gave us fair treatment in this Camp was responsible for a great deal of death and suffering later on, when he was in command of the working draft sent to the island of HAR OEKOE, near AMBON.

JAARMARKT CAMP. (No. 3 P.O.W.) Soerabaia Area.

From: - Jan 10th 1943.
To: - April 13the 1943.

Japanese Camp Commandant	Lieut. ASHIDA (Jap Army).
" Area Commander	Lt/Col KAWABE.
Dutch Camp Commander	Capt. BLOM (Dutch Army)
Officer i/c British personnel	W/Cdr. W.P. WELCH R.A.F.

Introduction, Administration, etc.

I arrived in this Camp on Jan 10th. 1943 from the DARMO Camp with about 800 Officers and men of the three services.

1 The journey was again made on foot, about 5 miles, and every Officer and man had to carry his entire kit.

Sick patients were transported in trucks.

On arrival at the Jaarmarkt Camp I found the remainder of the British personnel whom I had left in the H.B.S. Camp already there. A little later a further 200 Officers and men arrived from SEMARANG under W/C GREGSON.

The total strength in this Camp was about 6000 being composed of English, Australian, Dutch, Chinese, Ambonese and Menadonse. (The latter two being Dutch Native troops) The British numbered just under 2000.

The Japanese Administration here was on similar lines to other Camps. There was a guard room at the Camp entrance with a guard always on duty. Guards wandering round the camp became very trying on the nerves.

The changing of these sentries, which took place every hour necessitated the reliefs marching all round the Camp. Wherever you happened to be as long as you were within sight of the guards you had to bow or salute (when wearing a hat). It was more than worth ~~you~~ to do this as the guards were always watching for defaulters who when caught were invariable severely beaten up. Having to be on the alert the entire time for the routine patros and casual Jap guards wandering round the camp became very trying on the nerves.

The Camp Commandant and the Administrative Staff had offices and quarters in one of the few permanent buildings in the Camp.

As usual the guard seemed to belong to quite a different organisation to the Admin. Staff. The guard ran the Camp acording to the guard Commander's wish, and new orders were usually made as a result of a guard having found something going on in the Camp which he didn't like and for which he had probably already beaten some unfortunate individuals.

Neither the Camp Commandant nor his Staff had any authority over the guards who acted just as they pleased. There were frequently conflicting orders issued on the sime subject by guard or Staff.

The guards were Koreans and they were at liberty to wander all over the Camp and into any of the quarters by day or night.

The Camp Commandant was practically never available for interview and was only on very rare occasions even seen in the Camp.

There was a particularly brutal soldier in charge of the Office Staff. He was a bulking sadistic type of Korean who took delight in beating people, even for the most trivial offences. His name was OYAMA. No particular action of his can be singled out but his attitude throughout was one of studied brutality. He was later made a member of the guard and so took his turn as guard Commander, which gave him even greater opportunities for seeking his vengeance on prisoners.

The prisoners were divided up into Companies of about 200 with two or three Officers to run them. Nationalities were not mixed in any one Company.

Accommodation.

This Camp was built on the site of a former exhibition ground. There were a few permanent buildings. These included a large hall about 70' - 120 feet which was occupied by Dutch other ranks and a series of about 5 large rooms occupied by Dutch Officers. The Japanese Officers and quarters were also in this building. There was a series of small rooms along one side of the Camp which had originally been ticket Offices for the many turnstiles giving entrance to the exhibition ground. These rooms were

were all occupied by Dutch Officers. Other permanent buildings were ranged round the perimeter mostly closed on three sides and open on the side facing the Camp.

The greater part of the accommodation, however, which covered thecentre of the Camp, consisted of temporary bamboo buildings with atap roofs. (The long narrow leaves of palm trees so arranged to form a kind of thatch). These buildings were about 17 feet wide and of various lenghts up to about 80 yds.

Thet had earthen floors and were fitted with bali-bali beds, which consisted of a bamboo shelf about 7 feet wide running down each ~~side~~ side the full length of the building. The "Shelf" was raised a few feet off the ground and sloped slightly towards the centre. Each man had a space on the bali-bali about 60-65 cms. wide, and on this space he had to eat and sleep and to store everything he possessed.

All these buildings were in an extremely bad state of disrepair, the sides breaking away and everywhere there were holes in the roof. The heavy tropical rainfall used to flow in at the sides and made the narrow gangway between the bali-bali into a sez of mud and in places large areas of standing water. The rain drove in through the damaged sides and also poured through the roofs. It was practically impossible ~~for~~ for the men to keep their clothes dry. There was literally nowhere to stow anything away from the weather.

The bali-bali beds themselves were also inextrememly bad repair and there were many cases of men falling right through, this sometimes happened during the night when they were asleep.

One of these long buildings was built more firmly of proper timbres. This one had a tiled roof.

To sum up, the accommodation allotted to the British, viz., the atap huts, was grossly overcrowded, daily, far from weatherproof and infested with rats.

I should mention that I tried to come to some arrangements with Captain BLOM whereby the permanent buildings (which were weather-proof and clean, with tiled floors) be shared proportionately between the British and Dutch instead of being monopolised by the Dutch. Alternatively, that the British senior Officers at least be given accommodation in permanent buildings instead of in the atap huts.

His attitude can only be described as unco-operative, he hedged and made excuses that the accommodation plan was ordered by the Japanese, I did not believe this but rather thab have internal kissention in an already very unpleasant camp I eventually decided to pursue the matter no further. The British thus remained entirely in the atap huts and there was no alternative to having both Officers and men accommodated together in one of them. A partition was eventually rigged up.

Sanitary arrangements, etc.

Bathing arrangements consisted of groups of showers in the open. Some had a concrete floor others merely had wooden duckboards laid on the mud. The number of showers was just sufficient to cater for the 6000.

The latrine arrangements were open, uncovered box-holes. They were in the open, unscreened in any way, were most unsanitary and insufficient in number, Alternative sites were not abailable owing to the crowded nature of the Camp buildings and no materials were available for improving the existing arrangements.

Hospital, etc.

British medical staff consisted of:-

W/Cdr.	C.W.Coffey.
F/Lt.	TIERNEY
F/L	FORBES
F/L	PHELPS
F/L	BRAITHWAITE
F/L	THOMPSON
F/L	BEALES } Dentists.
F/L	ALLEN } Dentists.

A large atap hut was used as the general Hospital and had

accommodation

accommodation for 150-200 patients. Surgical cases were sent to CBZ Hospital in Soerabaia. Not much difficulty has been experienced in gaining admission for these cases.

There was a separate dysentery Hospital with facilities for 80 patients. The number of British dysentery cases never exceeded 30-40 at any one time. This is considered remarkably low considering the poor sanitary system.

Themen were mostly in poor condition on arrival at this Camp, showing signs ofprevious poor feeding, dysentery and malaria. Many were thin and emaciated and about 60% complained of defective vision. Pellagra and neuritis were also very common.

Thecanteen facilities were quite good, anyone who could afford to buy eggs, etc. could keep himself in good condition.

On recommendation of a medical Officer, men were supplied at the Hospital with free eggs, katjang idjoe (a type of bean) and milk. The attention of the Japanese Doctor was drawn to the condition of the men and he inspcted the Hospital and patients. For a period of about two weeks after this 1600 eggs and 400 litres of milk were supplied free of charge to the Hospital daily. Medicines and drugs were bought from Camp Funds.

Although working parties were very heavy and a severe strain on the men, therewas a tendency for the health of the Camp to improve.

Many fo the weaker men were employed in the rope factory, where work was very light. In this way they earned a little money with which to purchase extra food to augment the Camp diet which alone was insufficient to support life.

Due to the Camp being mixed British and Dutch difficulties were experienced from time to time in the distribution of food for the Camp Hospital. Eventually a mixed food distribution board was formed but it had hardly begun to get into its stride when the Camp was disbanded.

A medical inspection of the Camp was held at the end of March. The "Inspection" consisted of the entire personnel marching past the Japanese doctor in single file. About 3000 were picked out as fully fit and most of these were soon afterwards sent to the islands of HAROEKOE, AMBON, etc. Here they did extremely hard oork on aerodrome construction and suffered very heavily due to starvation and sickness.

Kitchens, rations, etc.

The cookhouse was built adjacent to the main entrance to the Exhibition ground and round a bicycle shed. There was no proper apparatus for cooking, the entire affair being improvised using 64 gallon petrol drums placed on top of crudely constructed open fire-places, and so on. There was practically no stovage space and the stoves were piled in the cornerof the kitchen itself.

There were no drains. It was impossible to get repairs done by the Nips on either the building or such apparatus as had been improvised.

No cleaning materials or brooms, etc, were supplied.

The entire set-up was inadequate for feeding 6000 but no further apparatus could be obtained and expansion fo floor area was impossible on account of the site.

Boilers were insufficient to permit of steaming rice twice a day (for the production of dry rice), and so rice porridge had to be given twice a day and dry steamed rice and soup in the evenings.

There were no containers to allow of the issue of food in bulk to each company for distribution and it was therefore necessary for the entire camp to be served on the queue system. Later on, some of the Officers drew their ration in bulk and distributed it in their hut.

Theentire kitchen was most unsatisfactory being cramped, short of apparatus and utensils and smoke from the open wood fire blowing around everywhere.

Clouds of dust would also be blown infrom the parade ground, which was adjacent. A large part of the kitchen even had no roof.

and difficult to keep anything like clean owing to the lack of drains and sintels

roof. The kitchen was staffed by equal numbers of Dutch and British. A Dutch Officer was in charge andF/Lt. ALLEN was in the kitchen to represent British. interests.

The position as regards rations may be summarised as follows:-

a) Rice. Basic Rations. 350 grams per day plus 200 grains extra for each working man plus 200 grams per day extra when the bread rations ceased on 16-1-44, a week after I arrived in the Camp.
The full amount was always supplied by the Japnese.

b) Meat. Basic Ration. 60 grams per day including bones + 60 grams per day per working man. Theoverall average received for the period 1-1-43 to 31-3-43 was 48 grams per day.
5-10 Kilograms was stolen by the Korean guards regularly and it is also felt that there was leakage among the Dutch a as on more than one occasion I saw Dutch Officers eating steaks of normal peace-time size. Theleakage was never traced satisfactoryly. Meat was issued raw to the Camp Hospital Kitchen and unfair distribution was observed there on occasion, until we got a number of British nursing Orderlies into the Hospital after which the British patients, at least, got a more or less square deal.

c) Vegetables. Basic Ration. 200 grams per man per day. The amount actually delivered was usually up to a sometimes slightly in excess of the basic ration, but on many days as much as half had to be thrown away as they were stale, slimy and rotting.The vegetables had obviously been put into the large delivery baskets days before and through rough handling had all become bruised so causing rot to start very quickly.
Green vegetables were never supplied, but always roots, e.g. Chinese radish, sweet potatoes sometives carrots. Java cucumbers and pumpkins were also supplied sometimes. The island abounds in all vegetables including European types but in spite of frequent requests, particularly for greens, the answer was always "Not available".

d) Sugar. Basic Ration 20 grams per day. This was never received regularly from the Japs and very often the kitchen had to book a sack as 100 Kgs. when the real w eight was only 85 Kgs. This was due to the fact that sugar was often delivered in double sacks.

e) Oil. Basic Ration 5 grams per day. This was never received regularly, and the amount supplied was nothing, like sufficient for cooking for the whole Camp.

f) Salt. Basic Ration. 5 Grams per day. Always plenty available.

Parades, Searches, etc.

We were not searched on arrival in this Camp.

Daily muster parades were held immediately after "reveille" (0730 Hrs). Theparade was formed up in Companies, which averaged about 200 men, each company was in column with four men in the front rank and about 50 more sections of forms in rear. ~~The Japanese soldier OYAMA mentioned in the introductory paragraph,~~ Thedressing had to be sempularly accurate, both as regards the front rank composed of the front section of four of each company, and also the dressing from front to rear. TheJapanese soldier OYAMA mentioned in the introductory paragraph, used to take each Company by turn. TheCompany Commander had to reportin Japanese. His total strength, Number on parade, number in Hospital, number sick in quarters and number working in the Kitchen or elsewhere. This had to be learnt parrot fashion and there were, of course, occasional mistakes. The Company theb had to number from front to rear in Japanese. Any of the four frontmen of hthe company might be called upon to number, and his column had ot count up 50 NSD from front to rear. Not a very easy method of numbering.

The least error in the parade state spoken in Japanese. The numbering in Japanese or the smallest discrepancy in the dressing was the cause of either the Company Commander or the individual concerned being beaten. Usually the Company Commander got the

the punishment.

On completion of the "count", OYAMA took up his position in front of the parade. TheDutch Camp Commander gave orders in Japanese firstly to "remove headdress", secondly "to bow to the sun", (which at that time was always just rising) and lastly to "replace headdress".

This performance was forced on us daily and was taken very seriously by the Japanese.

The men naturally did not take it seriously and from within the ranks could often be heard remarks such as "Goodmorning Mr. Roosevelt", as the bow was made to the sun.

After this performance an officer was called out in front of the parade and he led the whole in about 10 minutes P.T.

The parade was then dismissed for breakfast.

Apart from the daily parades therewere occasionally special snap muster parades. Special parades were also held when Senior Japanese Officers visited the Camp. On one of these occasions the parade stood for about two hours in the middle of the day awaiting the arrival of a Japanese General. When he did come he walked across the front of the parade, spent a few minutes in the workshops and walked back again. He paid no attention whatsoever to the parade and did not even return the salute.

Discipline, Punishments, etc.

Discipline in this Camp was kept to a high pitch by the constant patrolling through the Camp by guards who had their eyes skinned for the least contravention of Jap orders.

The following are some typical orders which were in force-

1) A bow or shout of KEIREI(salute)had to be made whereever a guard was in sight, no matter how far away.

2) When a guard entered a barrack everyone had to stand up and the Senior shout KEIREI.

3) No smoking was allowed out of doors.

4) No smoking was allowed in the barracks unless the smoker had two ashtrays, one dry and one half full of water, within his reach.

5) No smoking after 2200 Hrs (Lights out 2230 Hrs) and if a dirty ashtray was discovered after 2200 Hrs the person nearest it would be made to drink the water, containing ash and cigarette stubs etc.

6) You were allowed to lay down on your bed between 1400 + 1600 if you were not working. You were not allowed to go to sleep.

7) You could not lay down at any other time before 2200 Hrs.

Therediculousness of these last two orders can be understood when it is realised that the only space a man had in his billet was ~~in~~ his bed. There ~~wase~~ even no standing up room except in the narrow passage down the centre of the barrack. (See para headed accommodation)

Men and Officers were constantly being beaten for failing to comply with these trivial orders. On many occasions the reason for the beating was never known.

There were several cases of perforated eardrums as a result of these beatings. P/O G. ARMSTRONG and F/LH. GOUMBAR are two examples.

Company Commanders were frequently beaten for the petty offences of their men and they were sometimes ordered to beat the men themselves.

Work Parties, etc.

Working parties paraded at 0900 Hrs daily and usually returned about 1800 Hrs.

Parties always had an officer in charge, who himself did not have to work. The larger parties usually included am medical orderly.

Working parties were often employed in Military work, such as loading ships in the docks with petrol, bombs, etc. There was one case of a ship marked with the Red X being loaded with bombs, petrol

bicycles

bicycles and a heterigenious mixture of other items.

Beatings were frequent as most of these parties b but there was one particular one where the Officer i/c knewbefore starting out that he would become having been beaten at least once during the day.

Repeated complaints were made concerning this particular party and sometimes concerning others but no action was taken to alleviate the trouble.

many men were employed in the Camp in a rope making factory. At first they worked about the same hours as "outside" parties but later on, a night shift was put on. As time went on the numbers required for working parties were increased beyond the number of men available. Men ordered for "light duty" by the M.O. then had to be put on the outside parties to do very heavy work, and even sick in quarters personnel had to work in the Rope factory. This work, admittedly was done sitting down on the floor, but sick men should never have been employed on it

During most of March 1043 sick men were forced to work on outside parties, on extremely heavy work such as manhandling of bombs, loading or stacking full petrol drums at the docks, etc.

Sometimes parties went out after lunch but then had to work right through until 3 or 4 a.m.

During the whole time complaints and protests were made concerning the long working hours, heaviness of work and particularly the treatment of the men. Copies of several letters written to the Camp Commandant have been preserved but are not available until records buried in BANDOENG for safety have been recovered.

On certain occasionspromises were made to improve working conditions, but they never came to anything.

This hard work on small rations was further undermining the health of men who had already had a very bad period from August to November of the previous year.

It is not ot be wondered at, that when they were later sent to HAROEKOE and AMBON, nearly 50% perished. By that time they were too weak to do heavy work and had no reserves with which to combat disease.

Workshops etc.

A Camp Workshop was organised which could carry out repairs to Camp services such as kitchens-plumbing etc.

A cobblers shop was also opened but seldom had any laeather or brads for repair work.

Another shop used to turn out wooden clogs. These were in universal use in Camp, ad people preferred to save their leather shoes for working parties or for use when travelling from one Camp to another.

There was also a ahop for the repair of clothes but materials were very limitted.

Supply of clothing, necessaries etc.

At no time were any clothes, shoes, toilet requisities or any other necessaries supplied by the Japanese, with the following exception.

A working party at the WONOKROMO oil depot was employed on extremely dirty work and used to come home literally black from head to foot.

After several requests these men were given an small issue of soap.

Pay-Officers and OR's.

The usual rates of pay were in force for men employed on Japanese work and for Officers. Charges were made against Officers pay were made for board, and the bulk of the remained was put into the Jap savings account

Church services.

S/L Rev A.S. Giles was the senior British Padre. There were also S/L Rev TUCKEN and Rev GOSS and S/L Rev Father RORKE-R.C. priest.

Church services were only permitted on rare occasions, and then no sermons were allowed.

S/L GILES was put into solidary confinement in cells for three days for preaching a sermon on one occasion.

Recreation.

No books were allowed. No meetings or lectures were permitted and

there

there were no facilities for study or teaching.

Musical instruments were allowed and once or twice concerts were allowed, but these had to be composed of classical music.

1 Football matches were played on the one free afternoon each week. The football bround was good and there was a large stadion. This was part of the original exhibition ground.

There was a shop which was a trading centre, enabling personnel to expose for sale or exchange watches, fountain pens, knives and forks, etc.

There was also an Arts and crafts stall, where one could exhibit paintings, carving, models etc, all of which were done in the Camp.

Mail, Red X Parcels, etc.

No letters or parcels were ever received in this Camp.

I think ontwo occasions, all personnel were issued with an official postcard to enable them to write home.

Two or three specified sentences had to be used and a further 20 free words were allowed.

Canteen.

Two shops were opened for the sale of cigarettes, foodstuffs, etc. The food included such things as beans, dried meat, duck eggs, sugar, coffee and very occasionally, butter. The stocks were bought from the Camp fund in the first instance. Very high prices were charged and the resulting profits were first used to pay off the loan from Camp Funds.

Furhther profits were devoted to the purchase of extra food for hospital patients.

There was also a factory for the procuction of peanut butter and ting-ting(a native confection) Profits from the sale of these also sent towards the Hospital.

GENERAL:

On March 17th 1943 the Camp wasvisited by Maj/Gen MASATOSHI SAITO. The C. in C. of Prisoners of War in Java.

We were warned of the visit but it was described an an "Inspection by a high Japanese Officer". Everybody was put to work to clean the Camp, pulling up grass by hand and sweeping all roads, cleaning barracks etc.

When the Maj/General was due to arrive, the whole camp paraded, the various units falling in on the road-nearest their barrack.

The parade was kept waiting in the midday sun forabout 1½ Hrs and when the Inspecting Officer arrived he walked from the Camp entrance straight to the workshops which were at the far side of the Camp. After spending a few minutes there he went straight back to the Commandants Office near the entrance and was not seen again.

He did not inspect the prisoners, he did not even return the salutes given to him as he crossed the Camp. He went into none of the barracks, kitchen or Hospital, in fact he saw literally nothing of the Camp or its inmates, with the exception of the workshop.

Previous to his arrival I had submitted a written request for an interview with the Major General, in order that Imight being up certain points in connection with feeding, medical attention and working parties especially. No interview was granted.

.B.S. SCHOOL CAMP

Soerabaia Area.

From: Sept. 5th 1942
To: Dec. 2nd 1942

Japanese Camp Commandant. - Lieut. WIEDELA (spelling?)
" Area Commander.- Lt./Col. KAWABE
" C and C. P.O.W.s Java Maj/Gen. MASATOSHI SAITO.

Introduction and Administration.

I arrived in this camp on Sept. 5th. 1942, after having spent two days in the Jaarmarkt Camp since leaving SINGOSARI, Malang.

The Japanese Camp Commandant was Lieutenant WIEDELA (Japanese Army) who had an administrative staff with Office and living quarters in the the Camp.

A Japanese guard was mounted at the entrance to the School buildings. The guards lived in a building on the other side of the road.

On my arrival in the Camp with approximately 185 Officers 1400 other ranks. I found the Camp to contain various numbers of the following nationalities:- Chinese, Ambonese, Menadonese, American, Australian and English of the Navy, Army-Air Force. Also 1 Turk, 1 German and 1 Dutch.

Being the Senior British Officer in the Camp I took over command and had as Adjudant/Interpretor S/Ldr. J.W.HOFLIN R.A.F.V.R. who speaks Malaya.

The total Camp strength after my arrival was 2359.
The personnel were split up into Companies about 200 strong without mixing Nationalities in any Company.

Each company had 3 Officers appointed as Company Commander and Company Officers, who were responsible for the general Welfare of their men.

Company Commanders were:-

Lt.Cdr.	J.T. THEW	R.N.
S/L	J.E.D. TAYLER	R.A.F.
S/L	P.N. SOWMAN	R.A.F.
S/L	D.G.E. DENZIE	R.A.F.
F/L	HENCHMAN	R.A.F.V.R.
F/L	SHINNER	R.A.F.V.R.
F/L	MOORHOUSE	R.A.A.F.
F/L	WISDOM	R.A.F.

W/Cds.D.S.E. Vines R.A.F. (officers Company)

Accomodation.

The school buildings were originally built as a day school for 400 children.
There were now 2359 men living and sleeping in the Camp.

The Japanese Office and quarters also occupied several of the larger rooms.

The building was composed of a number of blocks, so laid out and interconnected that these blocks formed three closed squares, the courtyards so formed bring used for recreation and drying of laundry and later for trench latrines.

The rooms varied considerably in size, some bring only about 10ft. square and the largest formerly a lecture hall being about 40-60 ft. Everywhere men were sleeping at extremely close quarters, being allowed on the average and flour space of 60-180 Cms. with very narrow gangways with bedspaces two days each side. In the smaller rooms the bedspaces were arranged as best suited the shape of the room.

The verandahs which surrounded the courtyards on these sides were also crammed with men at the same density as in the buildings, The roof overhang on these verandahs was inadequate and whenever it rained the occupants and all their belongings became soaked.

Sacks, matting, woven bamboo strips etc. were rigged up where possible to provide protection, but nothing was capable of keeping out tropical rainstorms which were almost a daily occurence during most of the period spent in this camp.

There was practically no furniture in the camp. No bedsteds- men slept on the tiled floor- unless owning their own campbeds- no cupboards half a dozen or so tables and a few chairs.

In the courtyards and round the parade ground were a number of school desks with the seat attached, but neither these nor any other furniture could be used in the rooms owing to lack of flour spaces.

The Officers rooms were slightly less crowded and there was usually room for one small table.

It was realised from the start that living in these conditions was unhealthy and that an outbreak of discease would spread like wildfire with inevitable catastrophic results. Verbal and written requests were frequently submitted asking for more space or a move to some other camp. No attempt was made however on the partof the Japanese to alleviate the situation until dysentery broke out in late October and assumed such alarming proportions that further applications were made for greater space. Finally after 13 weeks as a result of dysentery, etc. about 1000 Officers and men including myself were moved to Darmo on Dec. 2nd. and the remainder of the Camp. was sent back to Jaarmarkt in early January. It should be mentioned that the Americans who numbered about 120, had left the Camp in August.

It was evident throughout that the Japanese Authorities were completely disinterested in our health and comfort. The Commandant was largely to blame for not representing the situation to his superior Lt./Col Kawabe, commanding P.O.W. in the Soerabaia area, but it is the confimed opinion of almost everybody that it was to Lt/Col. Kawabe that the real blame should be attached. He visited the Camp seldom until themen started dying. He then appeared fairly regularly at the General services and there is no doubt that he knew these deaths were the result of his consistent policy of taking no interest in his prisoners and completely ignoring all written requests for improvements. Several letters had been adressed to him personally through the Camp Commandant. Copy of many of these letters were preserved but are not avilable until records, buried in a Bandoeng Camp for safety, have been recovered. The quoting of only approximate figures, all from memory throughout the report is also made necessary by the absence of these records at the tome of writing.

Sanitary Arrangements.

Baths and latrines were Hopelessly inadequate in number for over 2300 men. There were two small blocks of showers for the use of the men. Officers had to bath in the open with only 2 drinking fountains to take the place of showers.

The number of latrines was also totally inadequate. From memory, these were only 13 latrines (excluding these in the Hospital) and these were frequently out of action. Improvised latrines were dug where possible but space was so limited that some of these had to be situated in the courtyards which were surrounded by the living quarters. Disinfectant was rarely obtainable and once dysentery started, the trench type latrines became as much of a menace as they were a blessing owing to the presence of swarms of flies. In spite of covers being improvised as well as possible.

The presence of flies in such numbers were due mainly to the inafficient arrangements for the emptying of refuse bins and the removal of waste from the Kitchen.

The number of dust bins was inadequate, none had proper lids and many had no bottoms. The overglow from these bins was collected in baskets if available or merely in heaps on the ground.

Refuse was supposed to be collected daily but frequently several days passed between visits of the refuse card. A request for permission to dig a refuse pit was refused. The inevitable result of all this was that flies bred at such a rate that mere "swatting" even when put on an organised basis could not possible keep pace.

The situation was aggravated throughout by the practice of the native troops (Ambonese and Menadonese) of relieving themselves wherever they felt like it and leaving their excrement in other than the proper places, for example in bathrooms or on the ground. This trouble could be overcome by day but during the night it was impossible to have "police" patrolling all over the Camp. Lights not allowed after "Light out".

An "anti dysentery squad" composed of volunteer Officers and led by F/L H.GROMBAR R.A.F.V.R. did excellent work in advising and even assisting the normal Camp Sanitary Squads. They were continually employed in looking for possible places of flies or harbours of dysentery germs etc. and their sensible and promt action did a lot to prevent the conditions from getting completely and entirely out of control.

Hospital, etc.

The Medical Staff consisted of L/C C.W. Coffey P.M.O.
S/L J.Mc Carthey.
F/L F.A. Forbes.
F/L W. Tierney.
F/L Braitenwaite
F/L Thompson.
F/L E. Allen and C.M.Beales (Dental Officers).
Dr. Ong Kie Hong (Chinese Civilian Doctor).

The hospital was set up in a building which has previously been the native servants quarters of the School. It consisted of about 13 small rooms, 9 feet square, in each of which 3 patients could sleep on the floor. A small number could in addition, be placed on verandah's. There was a small kitchen also.

The building was completely detached from all other buildings but was in extremely close proxinity to the Kitchen. No better site was available. Daily sick parades and treatment were attended to in a room inthe main building adjacent to two other rooms set aside fro an Officers-ward and overflow from the Hospital of non-infections cases.

The whole set-up was extremely cramped and badly off both in equipment and drugs. In the first instance every single piece of medical equipment had been brought by the doctors themselves or carried by other prisoners. The Japanese supplied very occasionally small quantities of drugs etc. A small Kitchen for preparation of special diets.

Many men were soon found to be suffering from avitaminosis due to malnutrition and Malaria was also prevalent. Very few had mosquits nets and none were forthcoming from the Japanese.

Frequent complaints as regards hospital facilities were made to the Japanese and also frequent requests for drugs, disinfectant, and additional food, fruit, eggs etc. for the patients. Very small quantities of drugs were supplied occasionally but all other requests were completely ignored. Copies of several of these written requests were preserved and buried for safety in Bandoeng. They have not been recovered at the time of writing.

When the dysentery epidemic broke out and it was not long before the Isolation Hospital became filled to capacity. The Japanese would still take no action and further cases had to be left in their normal bedspaces. Many of these cases were so weak that they could not get to and from the latrines without assistance, or else, particularly at night, could not get there in time, with the result that the courtyards and even verandahs of the building were soiled with dysentery infected excrement, Tins were distributed round the building for emergency use at night, but darkness and the weakness of patients prevented full use being made of these.

After several weeks of this, the Japanese permitted the use of a cycle shelter as an annex extension to he Hospital. This was a narrow construction about 60 ft. long. It had a cornyaled iron roof and nosides. Only one row of beds could be placed round the centre. There was no water laid on either inor near the shelter and a less suitable site for a dysentery hospital is impossible to conceive. It was in the opposite corner of the Campfrom the main Isolation Hospital.

It was only with the greatest difficulty that arrangements could be made to admit really serious cases to the C.B.Z, Hospital in Soerabaia. Even when these arrangements were made, the delly in admission was sometimes so great that it could be considered the cause of subsequent death.

In spite of the extremely high incidence of sickness and finally deaths occuring almost daily the Japanese doctor only visited the camp 2 or 3 times.

A steam disinfector was improvised for the sterlising of all dysentery patients clothes. Two courses against cholera, typhow and dysentery were supplied by the Japs. As regards dysentery these appeared ot be non effective.

There were instances of patients in the Hospitals being beaten by the guards. They were usually accuded of failing to "Keriri" (Salute). Bed patients were suffered to sit straight up in bed and face the guard as a salute but many patients were so weak that they could not raise themselves in their beds or were asleep when the guard entered.

On one occasion one of the Doctors (S/L Mc Carthey) then on duty in the Hospital was beaten by a guard.

Complaints were made to the Camp Commandant when these incidents occurred but the Camp Guards were attached to the Camp from some unit not connected with the Prison Organisation and the Commandant presumably did not refer the Complaints to the proper guards as the general attitude of the guards never altered.

Dr.ONG KIE HONG.

I wish to make special reference to a certain Chinese Doctor ONG KIE HONG. This, Chinese, who had had a civil practice in Java for many years, was interned in the H.B.S,Camp.

He assisted in the Camp Isolation Hospital in the treatment of dysentery patients.

Dr. Ong Kie Hong was, with his 16 years of practice in Java able to furnish very valuable information, assistance and suggestions. I feel sure that without his willing co-operation, without the extraordinarily high moral standard which he maintained himself and let in others, mortal casualties from dysentery would undoubtedly have been a lot higher than they were.

I sincerely hope that Dr. Ong Kie Hong may be given some official recognition for his excellent work.

Kitchens, Rations, etc.

The Camp kitchen was equipped with three gas fired pressure boilers of a pattern, as usually installed in Dutch Government Establishments. There was also an oven which was never serviceable.

The cooking facilities were inadequate for the quality of food to be dealt with and night shifts had to be run in order that rice could be cooked for use at Breakfast and Lunch.

The main difficulty was in the lack of containers, both for stoving the cooked food until the next meal, while the boilers were cooking the second half, and for issuing and serving the food to compnies.

Requests for further containers were made but very few forthcoming and it was not until November that we were able to purchase with our own money some large wooden tubs which eased the difficulties.

Ration Scale and Receipts. (Average)

	scale of Rations.	Amout received.
Rice	500 grams	500 grams
Flour	50 -	-
O.R.		
Rice	350 grams	350 grams
Bread	180 grams	150 grams
Vegetables	300 -	300 -
Meat or Fish	50 -	30 -
Oil	5 -	5 -
Salt	5 -	5 -
Sugar	20 -	Variable
Tea	3 -	"

The main bulk items, rice, bread and vegetables were fairly correct as regards quantities but quality was bad.

Rice was ofbroken quality and often musty but greatest trouble was with the vegetables. For long periods the vegetables were so aged and withever as to have little food value or were so rotten that little could be salvaged. This applied particularly to the period June to September. It seemed that the vegetables frequently were rotting more than the sweepings and left overs from the market.

Meat positions was always difficult. We had no facilities for checking weights, but even makeing the most generous allowances the weights were considered very low even if bone weight has included.

The Japanese guards used to help themselves freely to the choisest arts, items absorbing and considerable percentage of the total weight. Protests were unavailing.

With regard to sugar or sole "luxury"- Camp issues would be stopped at the wish of the Jap: Quartermaster, for apparently no reason. There were ample stocks in store. In addition heavy deprevations by guards went completely unchecked.

In October and November, stealing by the guards was reduced considerably and a new Jap Camp Quartermaster did his best to help as regards quality of vegetables. On two occasions in November a special issue of coffee, tobacco and butter was made to Officers only.

Repeated requests for improved feeding were ignored and they refused to supply and allow the purchase from our own funds of extra food until November was over.

There is no doubt that malnutrition was largely resposible for the high sickness and deathrate.

Towards the end of October we managed to start a scheme whereby Officers who had now started to receive pay loaned various sums for use as public money. Thesemonies were used to purchase extra vegetables etc. and eggs, milk and other essential requirements for hospital diets.

This was allowed by the Camp Commandant on his own initiative pending permission from H.Q. in Batavia.

Permission was refused and the scheme was stopped after 8 days.

It recommenced the first week in December and continued till Camp was closed.

After suffering from dysentery, the low vitality of personnel, poor food etc. resulted in almost universal deficiency diseases, esq. defective vision, lurning feet, sore tongues and so on.

For quite a long period (4-6 weeks) we were allowed to buy 14 KG. of liver daily for hospital patients. Local Red Cross supplied an ensignment of tinned milk (about 12 cases) and 18 tins of cocoa.

The accounting records of this scheme were maintained by S/Lds. E.A. James, and habe been preserved by burial in the ground at Bandoeng. They will be recovered in due course.

Parades- searches etc.

A muster parade was held every morning at 0730. These parades never took less than 1 Hr. and on occasion took over 3 Hrs.

Personnel on parade were counted comparatively quickly but to count the S.I.Q. and Hospital, Kitchen personnel etc. seemed to be beyond the capabilities of any Jap guard. They insisted on seeing every man.

The Camp buildings were like a rabbit warren.to go round and with so many dysentery patients who could not help leaving their beds for visits to the latrines, the problem of counting admittedly was difficult.

However, they would never rely on any Parade but insisted on counting and recounting the whole Camp until often through an arithmetical error the own figures happened to give the correct total.

Breakfast which consisted of boiled rice, porridge was ready for serving at about 8.30 but owing to the cooking in 2 stages half had already been standing for about 2 Hrs.. If the parade took a long time the whole breakfast would be ruined.

This was due to the fact that the rice porridge stoved in large barrels ready for serving held its heat so well, that it continued to go on cooking. You have only got to cook it very little too long forall the rice grains to disentegrate and dissolve and you are left with a watery gruel instead of a good stiff mixture which has some "body" in it.

As the duration of muster parades could never be forseen it was impossible for the kitchen to overcome the difficulty.

Searches were often made casually by inquisitive guards, and officially organised searches of all kit and belongings were made on arrival and on leaving the Camp.

A lot of personal property was taken which could in no way be considered contraband. It was never returned.

Discipline Punishment etc.

As Camp Commander, I had difficulty in maintaining dicipline on certain occasions, There were occasional instances when men refused to obey orders, etc. and I had no way of clothing punishment as a deterrand to others. Extra fatigues could be awarded but the men were already mostly working too long hours considering their health etc. They had no privileges which could be stopped as a punishment. I as not mean to infer that discipline was bad. On the contrary, considering the circumstances, I consider it excellent. There are, however, always one or two disserters who tend to incite others.

The Japanese way of maintaining discipline from their point of view was by the usual method of beating.

Officers and men were frequently beaten for trivial offences and often for so no reason at all.

The beatings increased in number and severity when the Japanese guards were replaced by Koreans on 27/9/42.

The lowest grade Jap: soldiers had to be saluted by British Officers, and there were many cases of beating for failure to comply with this order.

Two Ambonese native troops (Dutch Army) made an attempted escape. They were recaptured and had to submit to cruel and harsh treatment, amounting frequently to torture, This process went on daily for over two months. They were beaten and thrashed, filled up with water by means of hoses, had bamboo sticks forced into their ears and nostrils, cigarettes stubbed

out on their faces.
All day they were kept in a wire cage with no shelter from the sun - by night they were tied to trees close to the guard. This brutal treatment went on night and day. It is a source of annoyment to me that these men did not go mad. The cruelty ceased when the Camp moved but they were kept in cells for a further 4 months approach.
A Chinese was also extremely cruelly punished for bringing a small piece of iron into the Camp from a working party outside the Camp.

Working Parties.
Working partieswere taken out of the Camp daily. They were employed mainly in loading ships with drums of petrol, ammunition and bombs.
At one period men were for bidden to take shirts on working parties outside. The result was a number of serious cases of sunburn. After several protests this order was rescinded.

Workshops: A small camp workshop was opened which was able to carry out simple repairs to Camp equipment such as Kitchen boilers, plumbing,etc.

Supply of Clothing etc.
No boots of clothing were even supplied in that Camp. Men on working parties had to wear boots belonging to their friends who were not working that day.
No toilet requisited were supplied at all with the exception of an occasional small cake of soap which, it is believed, actually came from the local Red Cross.

Pay Officers.
In October Officers were paid 2 months pay for Sept. and Oct:

		Total Pay	Rations	Cash rec.	Savings.
Rates were approx:-	W/C	220.	60	20	150
	S/L	170.	60	20	90
	F/L	122.50	"	10	52.50
	F/O	95.00	"	10	25.00
	P/O	70.83	"	"	00.83

Part had to be put into the saving a/c but for one months (Dec.) we were allowed to draw on this account to supplement messing. After December thisscheme was stopped.

Pay. (O.R.)
Men were paid 10 cts. for each days work on Nipponese work.
Cpls. 15 cts. Sgts. and W.O.s 25cts per day.

Church Services.
Church Services were only allowed on Nov. 11th. and one other occasion in this Camp. S¾L Rev. Giles (C.of E.), S/L Rev. Father Rorke (R.C.) maintained an "underground" organisation for services for small numbers.

Recreation.
Once or two vaudeville shows were put on in the open courtyards, but a lot of enjoyment was spoiled by the guards, who always were present and who sometimes interfered or stopped the show half way though.
A library was opened, but there number of books was nothing like sufficient.
No facilities for study were permitted and no teaching, lectures or meetings were allowed.
Musical instruments were not allowed to be played, except during the occasional concerts.

Mail, Red X etc.
No letters or parcels were ever received, On two or three occasions in November small quantities of medical supplies were received from the local Red X.
We were allowed to write one letter. Certain phrases had to be included such as "I long to return to my home sweet home", "The Nipponese are treating very well" etc. A few free sentences were allowed.
The letters were collected without envelopes and although we were told they would be despatched. I believed they got no further than the Jap Office.

Canteen.

A system of supplying certain items for sale on a "per capida" basis was started in September. After Dec. 1st. unlimited buying was allowed. Cigarettes, tobacco, salt, sugar were made available. This continued till the Camp closed in Jan. Permission could not be obtained to run a stall selling tea or coffee.

General.

An application was put forward requesting an interview i with Maj/Gen. SAITO on the occasion of his visit to the Camp. The request was submitted on paper through the Camp Commandant.

The visit was extremely rushed, the inspection curscry. No interview was permitted.

Each time anyone entered the Jap. Camp Office, they had to bow first to the Office, then to the Jap. Flag on the wall, then to the Commandant. The same applied on leaving the Office,

Japanese guards had the free run of the whole Camp and were in the habit of entering the room, at any time - day or night,

It is considered that the bad feeding and general unhealthy conditions in this Camp were the cause of the undermining of the health and stamine or resistance to disease, of the men.

Many of them might have been able to survive the hard conditions later encountered if they had not had such a bad time in this early period of captivity.

The blame can be attached to the Camp Commandant as it was his duty to look after the Prisoners but is is my opinion and the opinion of many others that the Camp Commandant was almost invariably overruled by Lt/Col KAWABE, the area Commander, It happened that the Commandant was seldom allowed to act on his own initiative, and almost all requests were passed on ~~the~~ to Lt/Col KAWABE. Requests and protests alike were practically always either turned down or ignored by Lt/Col KAWABE who though his general disinterest a failure to take action where obviously necessary is considered blameworthly for the general low treatment of P.O.W. in the Soerabaia area.

TJIMAHI CAMP. BANDOENG AREA.

From: April 17th. 1943.
To: June 5th. 1943.

Japanese Camp Commandant	Lieut. YAMAGUCKI
Dutch Camp Commandant	Major HOEDT (Dutch Army)
Officer i/c British Personnel	L?/Cdr. W.?. WELCH R.A.D.

Introduction, Administration, etc,

I arrived in this Camp on April 17th, 1943 having travelled overnight by train from Soerabaia, I had a party of about 150 Officers (mainly Senior Officers) and men, and was joined a few days later by a further party of sick personnel from the Hospital of the Camp I had just left,

The Camp conatined about 6000 Officers and men, all Dutchm except for the small British party. Personnel were divided into "Wings" and then "barracks" for administration purposes. The British were attached to a Wing Commanded by a Major de VRIES (Dutch Army) and be provided a liaison Officer a Lt. van LOO, (Dutch Naval Reserve), who was extremely helpful and a very charming personality.

These two Officers went out of their way to do everything possible to help the British who were all in poor health and extremely badly off for kid after their bad period in Soerabaia,

The Japanese seemed to interfere very little with Camp Administration and Major HOEDT certainly knew how to handle the Commandant and I think, made him realise that the Camp could be run for more efficiehtly by Dutch Officers and provided of course that the Japanese standing Instructions and Orders were obeyed, Lieut. YAMAGUCKI appeared to agree,

This Camp stands out from all others for its smooth-running, high morale of all personnel, and general happiness of the prisoners, Japanese guards were only seen once or twice a day, and whenever they did enter the Camp, a system of "Hush Telegraph" quickly informed all parts of the Camp so that they were warmed of the presence of a guard.

Beatings were practically unheard of.

Accomodation.
Barrack accomodation for the men was good, although no beds were provided. The Dutch however, loaned us wooden bed boards to get people off the stone floors. All buildings were stone and weather proof.
Junior Officers were accomodated in a barrack block divided into cubicles,
Most if the Senior Officers lived in small houses, probably N.C.O. varried quarters in former times.

Sanitary Arrangements,
Both bathing and latrine arrangements were extremely good and plentiful, There was never any lack of water,

Hospital, etc.
The Hospital itself was rather small and not very well equipped but serious cases could always be admitted with little difficulty into the TJIMAHI MILITARY HOSPITAL which was just across the road and was being used as a Hospital for P.O.W.s and interness.
R.A.F, doctors assisted in the Camp Hospital and each barrack had an M.O. detailed for daily sick parades, etc.
L/Cdr. C.W, Coffey (P.M.O. Far East) and F/L Tierney were in this Camp and assisted in Medical work,

Discipline Punishments, Treatmentm etc.
Discipline, which incidentallywas enforced by the Camp Authorities and NOT theJapanese, was excellent. In the rare event of punishment being awarded, this was done by the Officers in charge of "Wings" or the Dutch Camp Commander. As regards the British personnel, I dealt with these myself.
No complaint can be made with regard to treatment by the Japanese in this Camp, by reason of the fact that they were rarely seen or come in contract with except by Major HOEDT and hisstaff.

Rations etc.
It isnot known exactly of what the Japanese ration consisted, but the ration was augmented by extra food, bought by the Camp from small subscriptions of 3 or 5 guilders per month per Officers and 10% of the earnings of working men.
The scheme worked admirably and I am sure no one complained of ~~the~~ too little or of bad quality food.

Parades, searches etc.
Parades were very rarely held, I think I only remember one muster parade during the 6 weeks Iwas in the Camp.
There were no searches on arrival, during the stay or on leaving the Camp.

Working Parties.
Work parties were required daily, but the numbers called for were reasonable and it was never necessary to send sick men as in other Camps. The work was mainly cleaning Japanese quarters, and the stables of the Japanese cavalry,
Junior Officers had to work every days on a neighbouring farm.

Supply of Clothes and necessaries.
No clothes or toilet articles etc. were supplied by the Japanese, but soap was always available from a factory in the Camp.

Pay-Officers and O.R.s.
The usual rates of pay for both Officers and men were continued in this Camp.

Church Services.
Church Services were held regularly for C.of E. and Catholic denominations.

Recreation.
These were ample recreational facilities including, football, boxing, theatre, library, arts and crafts section, Modelaero club, lectures on innumerable subjects and cafes, where usually a small orchestra played in the evenings. There were four or five such cafesm one of which has an Officer's Club.

Mail, Red Cross Parcels etc.

No Red X parcels were received. A few letters, perhaps 15, were received by the British. I think one standard postcard was written by all personnel.

Canteen.

There were two shops were day goods, fruit, bread and sundries could be purchased.

There were "grills" where one could purchase fried eggs, fish steaks, sambalsm sauces, etc., to augment the normal ration.

There were the several cafes already mentioned which sold tea, coffee and sweets.

There was no lack of any commodity in this Camp, especially food. It really was extraordinary where the supplies came from.

General.

There are no grounds for any complaint regarding TJIMAHI Camp, which was a Prisoner of War Camp must have been exceptional in every way. It really has more like a "holiday Camp".

I think the credit is due mainly to Major HOEDT, the Dutch Commander, who seemed to have Lieut. YAMAGUCKI eating out of his hand.

The attitude of the Dutch towards the British in this Camp was also extremely pleasant and all Dutch personnel seemed to find it a pleasure to assist us in every way. This was in contrast to their attitude in some other Camps.

Conclusion.

As Camp Commander and Senior British Officer in the undermentioned P.O.W. Camps the following remarks are submitted in conclusion.

1)	SINGOSARI CAMP	MALANG
2)	H.B.S. "	SOERABAIA.
3)	JAARMARKT "	"
4)	DARMO "	"
5)	TJIMAHI "	BANDOENG area.

Actual condition in each camp have already been described bur the points which are predominent throughout are overcrowding, inadequate and poor quality food, practically no medical assistance and heavy working parties. Sick men were frequently forced to work and although an increased ration was sometimes given, it was still for too little bearing in mind the long hours of physical exertion in tropical climate.

Men who were at SINGOSARI for the first five months of captivity were well fed on the whole and were in a better physical condition when they reached Soerabaia, than were those already there. Evidence of this was given by the comparative sickness incidence between the two parties.

The H.B.S. Camp wasthe worst of all I experienced. The extremely poor food and lack of sanitary arrangements led to a high incidence of avitaminosis and dysentery. The general levering of the standard of health in this and the Jaarmarkt Camp put all those personnel who were sent to the Islands of Haroekoe, Ambon etc. at a great disadvantage. From all accounts, the conditions on these Camps were outrageous, and far worse than anything in Java, but had the men been able to leave Java in a good state of health it seems certain their casualties on the Islands would have been considerably reduced.

Java is an Island of plenty feed Fruit and vegetables are abundant, yet the vegetables supplied by the Japanese were usually poor stuff and meagre in weight. Fruit was only occasionnaly provided by the Japanese and then normally one banana (3" long) per head. There seems to be no excuse for the continual refusal to supply larger quantities of fruit.

It ismy opinion that Lt/Col KAWABE who was Arae Commander for all P.O.W. Camps in the Soerabaia Area was responsible for the general policy of starvation, overcrowding and withholding of medical supplies.

SINGOSARI (Aerodrome) CAMP- MALANG.

J A V A.

Report of the execution of British Prisoners of War at Malang and of the events leading thereto.

I was the Senior British Officer in the P.O.W. Camp at Malang-Java from April 2nd 1942 to Sept. 1st. 1942 and was Camp Commander,

On the evening of 26th. April 1942, Flight Lieutenant GORDON and Pilot Officer R.G.F.CHEESEWRIGHT both of the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve went out of Camp.

It is believed that this was not an attempt to escape but a rather foolish prank to go to Malang Town, about 7 Kilometres away, in order to celebrate F/L Gordons birthday.

Japanese discipline up to this time had been fairly slack and there had been no written or verbal orders in respect of breaking Camp or of the punishments to be incursed for so doing.

On the night of the 28th/29th April, Warrant Officer KENNEISON of the Air Ministry works Directorate and Pilot Sergeant POLAND of the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve broke camp in an organised and prearranged attempt to escape. W/O Kenneison knew the district well from ahving in Java before the War and he also spoke Malay fluently. These two were equipped with maps, compass, water, a quantity of fairly concentrated food such as chocolate, oranges etc., a certain amount of first aid equipment and medicines and a small quantity of bedding.

On the 29th of April when I was on the aerodrome supervising the R.A.F. working parties, I was called to the tent, in the middle of the aerodrome, which was used by the Japanese Officer in charge of the aerodrome reconstruction work-Major MISOI or MISUI of the Japanese Army.

The Major was not present on this occasion but the tent was occupied by Lieutenant KOBOKI of the Japanese Army Air Force, who was Major MESOI's assistant and who up to now had been the only Japanese Officer with whom I had had dealings concerning the running of the Camp. Neither the Major nor he were actually part of the prison Camp organisation as far as I know but were concerned with the Aerodrome work. They were, however, the Japanese whom I contacted for the purpose of making requests, complaints, etc,m with regard to the Camp.

When I entered the tent Lieut, KOBOKI informed me that two men from my Camp had been recaptured outside. I was extremely surprised and rather sceptical as I did not know that F/L gordon and P/O Cheesewright were in fact absent from Camp.

I told Lieut, KOBOKI that I felt these was some mistake but he quickly became very irritated and told me that the men had been captured after having escaped from the Camp and that they would be shot. I protested immediately bu I realised that he was only a subordinate to Major MISOI and that it was to the latter that I must make my protest, At this time Major MISOI was away from Malang- probably in Soerabaia. Lt. KOBOKI tried to pronounce the names of the men who had been recaptured but I could not at the time recognise them. He also said that they had been taken to another Camp.

After my interview with KOBOKI I returned to my Camp and, on making enquiries, found out that F/L GORDON and P/O CHEESEWRIGHT had left the Camp about three days previously I then realised that these were the names that KOBOKI HAD been trying to pronounce.

I knew already that W/O kenneison and Sgt. Poland had made their attempt at escape the previous night, and now their were four absentees although the Japanese had only told me of the recapture of two, namely F/L Gordon and P/O Cheesewright.

During the lunch interval on April 29th. Lieut. KOBOKI came into the Camp and ordered me to hold a muster parade (there had been no muster parades up to this time) Accordingly, I got everybody on parade including Hospital Staff and Cooks. Patientsremained in the Hospital.

While the muster was on progress a Japanese lorry arrived with W/O Kenneison and Sgt Poland. This meant that the Japanese had now recaptured all four escapees.

With these four taken into account the muster showed everybody else present in Camp. W/O Kenneison and Sgt. Poland were brought in handcuffed and were stand in the centre of the parade which was drawn up on three sides of the football field.

They were beaten and knocked down and harshly treated generally, in full view of the whole parade. They were later taken to the guard room and placed in cells.

Before the parade was dismissed Lieut. KOBOKI gave me a long lecture in which he said that in the Japanese Army, men who escaped were shot, and that, as we were now subject to the discipline of the Japanese Army, these men would be shot. He went on to say that if there were any further similar occurances, not only would the escapees be shot but also their Squadron Commander and myself, as Camp Commander.

This information I was ordered to relay to the whole parade and also publish in Daily routine orders, the next day.

On April 30th and May 1st. I was again called to the tent on the aero-

drome and this time Major MISOI was there. He told me exactly the same things as Lt. KOBOKI had done and I immediately protested vigorously.

I pointed out that no Japanese orders had been issued with regard to escape or punishments and that these English personnel were doing their duty to their country in endeavouring to escape and rejpin thier own forces. The Major did not agree with this point of view.

I went on to say that they were to be punished, the death sentence was far too grave and out of all proportion to the crime. I continued to argue as best I could with the Major who pretended not to understand English and incidentally would not let me get an interpretor of my own for conversing in Malay, but finally he became adamant and, as was his usual habit, said "Conversation Closed", after which I could make no further progress.

On May 2nd.F/L Gordon and P/O Cheesewright were brought into Camp and put in the cells. I was called upon to indentify them, but was not allowed any conversation.

The four prisoners were now in the cells of the guard room with an R.A.F. Service Policeman to take them their food. No other contract was allowed.

I later learnt that F/L Gordon and P/O Cheesewright had been taken to a Dutch Camp on the morning following their escape. After being beaten up there, they were questioned by the Kampri (Military Police). They told the story that they had broken Camp for a joke in order to get some beer to celebrate a Birthday. They were informed that nothing further would be done to them on yhis occasion, but that they had been very foolish to disobey Japanese orders and that they must not do so in future or they would be seriously punished, They were then allowed to mingle and live with the Dutch P.O.W.'s. (Lieut. KLAVI of the Dutch Navy and Naval Reserve can corroborate the information in this paragraph.)

They stayed in this Camp until they were returned to SINGOSARI on May 2nd.

On May 2nd, and 3rd. I had a further talk with Major MISOI in my own office in the Camp. I endeavoured to make him see reason and to change his mind about taking the drastic measures that he had threatened.

It was no good, and I even begged him as a former Ally of Great Britain in the World War I to reconsider his decision, also saying that his threatened action was not in accordance with the High standard of morals which all the World knew was a predominant trait of the Japanese race.

It hurt my pride considerably to use such tactics but I was at a less to know what to do. However, my effects were in vain, He would listen no longer, but before he wet I told him that I would make it my duty to inform the British Government of his action at the earliest opportunity. (F/O D.C.DUFF my Camp Adjudant can corroborate the above.)

While I was in the middle of my lunch on May 4th, I was called to the Guard Room where I found about 12 armed Japanese soldiers. The four prisoners were standing outside the guard room with their hands tied together and all four linked by a long rope.

I knew now that their fate was decided.

The four were marched out of Camp, with guards on each side and in front and in rear of them, they were taken to a site alongside an aircraft pen on the aerodrome. I followed.

On the way to the aerodrome, the party was seen from hisroom by S/L Hardie who immediately picked up S/L D.G.I. Benzieand attempted to follow. These two Officers were in command of the two Wings into which the personnel of the Camp were divided. They were soon turned back.

On arrival at the site - I was the only British Officer present. Major MISOI and a Japanese Doctor (Lt.MIZANDE) were there and two or three other Japanese Officers whom I had never seen before.

A large quantity of flowers were laying at one side. (I learnt afterwards that they had been given to the prisoners in their cells earlier in the day.)

The four were blindfolded, had their hands tied in front of them and were stood against the side of the Aircraft pen.

The firing party consisted of, I think, 8 men.

On the first volley I went down, then two more and finally the fourth. None of them were dead and after repeated shooting which was inaffective, it ended by one Japanese soldier being instructed to fire from close quarters.

At the kneeling position, and with the muzzle of hisrifle at one or two inches from the temple of each man in turn, he put them out of their misery.

The whole proceedings were ghastly to witness and were an example of Japanese cruelty combined with their inefficiency.

The graves which were already prepared were about 5 ft. - 2 ft. - 1 ft. deep. I protested that they were not large enough and the firing party were then ordered to make them larger and deeper. They were finally made about 6 ft. - 2 ft. - 2 ft.. The bodies were then thrown into the graves and earth was casually filled in.

I was then allowed to arrange the flowers on each grave.

I returned to the Camp to find that the usual working party of 700-750 men had been marched to the aeridrime before the shooting and had been fallen in, with lorries mounting machine guns covering them on either flank.

They heard the shots fired but were prevented from seeing the proceeding by a slight rise in the ground.

A few days later, wooden crosses engraved with the names and ranks were created on the graves and a short service was held by S/L Rev, WANLASS.

A plan of the aerdrome is attached which shows the approximate position of the graves from memory. Service numbers and other details of the casualties are not known at present but are included in records buried at Bandoeng for safety and not recovered up to the time of leaving Java.

Then follows a SKETCH PLAN of Malang AERODROME,

The following remarks are made in connection with certain Officers, who have been in responsible positions in various P.O.W. Camps and who have done special work of various sorts which is considered worthy of special mention.

NAME	WORK	CAMP.
S/L Sowman P. F/L Henchman F/L Shinner S/L Benzie A.A.F. S/L Tayler J,E.D. F/O Hovil G.	Exceptionally good work as Company Commanders. These Officers have consistently shown up for their keenness in the welfare of their men and have been very valuable assistants to me in several Camps.	H.B.S.School Soerabaia Jaarmaarkt Soerabaia
F/L Tierney	Has worked extremely hard and concienciously in many camps where he has been in the Hospital. Particularly good work in H.B.S. Camp during dysenterie epidemic, when he was in charge of the Isolation Hospital.	H.B.S. Soerabaia Jaarmarkt S'baia Darmo "
F/L Forbes	Was in charge of the Hospital with F/Lt.Liddell as assistant. They both worked extremely well and kept the men in fair health during difficult times. Also excellent work in H.B.S. Camp Hospital. A very willing and conciencious medical Officer.	Singosari Malang H.B.S. Soerabaia.
F/L Andus H.A. F/Lt.Altson.	Both did valuable work in the production of yeast for Hospital use. Their technical knowledge enabled them to improvise apparatus for making yeast which in twin helped those persons suffering from avitaminosis.	No.1 Camp Batavia. Jaarmarkt Soerabaia,
F/Lt. Pickford A.M.W.D.	Has employed almost continually in work such as repair and maintenance of barracks,latrine building, camp surface desinge roadmaking,etc. A very keen and willing worker.	H.B.S. Soerabaia Jaarmarkt Soerabaia L.O. 9 Bandoeng.
F/O Jones	This Officer has made himself consistently useful and he is always keen to take on a job, no matter what it is. He has acted as Adjudant for the Officers Company and has maintained an attitude of extremely high morale and cheerfulnes throughout.	
S/Ldr. James E.A. F/O Raby	These two accountant Officers have been employed on work in connection with Camp account, airmen's pay, Canteen accounting etc. Both have worked extremely conciencious ly.	H.B.S. Soerabaia Jaarmarkt" Darmo " L.O.9 Bandoeng No.1 Camp Batavia

NAME	WORK	CAMP.
S/L Rev.Wanlass C.of E. chaplain.	Was largerly instrumental in maintaining the good spirit prevalent in Singosari Camp. He held regular services, meetings and opened a local branch of Toc H. for the Welfare of Prisoners.	Singosari Camp Malang.
S/L Rev.Father Rorke R.C.Chaplain.	This chaplain carried on his work in spite of many difficulties and obstructions on the part of the Japanese. He said Mass regularly and ran considerable personal risk is so doing contrary to Jap.orders.	Jaarmarkt, Soerabaia. Singosari, Malang. No.1 Camp Batavia.
S/L Rev.Giles A.S. C.of E. Chaplain.	S/L Giles has been the Senior chaplain in many Camps and has carried on his work under great difficulties. He has on several occasions been in close contact with Jap. Camp Commandants concerning religions and welfare matters and has always maintained a fine bearing and attitude in the face of Japanese.	H.B.S.Soerabaia. Jaarmarkt " Darmo " No.1 Camp Batavia etc.

WO 900

253/44

See 253/9

INFORMATION SUPPLIED BY: W.P.WELCH, Wing Commander (No.26217)

DATE 4th May, 1942.

PLACE SINGASARI CAMP, Malang, East Java.

PARTICULARS OF CRIME Execution by shooting.

The undermentioned four R.A.F. personnel broke camp, the first two on night 26/27 April, the other two on night 28/29 April.

F/Lt. GORDON R.A.F. (Equipment)
P/O A.G.F.CHEESEWRIGHT R.A.F.V.R. (A. & S.D.)
Pilot/Serg. POLAND R.A.F.V.R.
W/O KENNEISON A.M.W.D.
(joined AMWD in Kuala Lumpur,Malaya)

They were beaten and put in cells on recapture and executed on Malang aerodrome on 4/5'42. It is not denied that these four prisoners broke camp, but capital punishment is considered entirely unjustified. No orders had been issued by Japanese as regards their scala of punishments, or that escape was punishable by death.

It is believed that this was one of a number of similar cases about the same time, which indicates that one general order had been received from the High Command to enforce discipline by fear.

NAMES, RANK OF PERSONS CONCERNED Major M I S U I or MISOI Japanese Army. MISUI or MISOI

Slightly above average Japanese height, thick set, stoutish, black hair, small black Hitler type moustache.

Believed commander Japanese Camp near SINGASARI Aerodrome.

His unit uncertain but believed Engineer Unit attached to Army Air Force.

There was no actual Jap Commandant of P/W camp, but requests, complaints etc. were submitted to this officer who controlled P/W work parties on the aerodrome. It is believed he took his orders from Jap HQ SOURABAIA. MISUI had a Lieut. KOBOKI (Jap Army Air Force) through whom most of my dealings with MISUI were made, the latter seldom making himself available. Lieut. KOBOKI is not considered blameworthy for the act in question. KOBOKI

Another of MISUI's Staff was Capt.BAN Jap Army, possible an Engineer. He is not considered blameworthy either. BAN

Major MISUI left Malang about 27/6'42 and his place was taken by Captain OKI, Jap Army. It is believed that MISUI was promoted to Lt./Col. and was posted to Jap Supreme Headquarters, SINGAPORE,after leaving Malang. OKI

WITNESS There were no other eye witnesses to the actual execution. The following can testify to the truth of the statement:

S/O D.G.E. BENZIE A.A.F. 90372
F/Sgt. F. WATSON R.A.F.V.R. 105[illegible]