



Australian War Memorial

Series number: AWM 54

Control symbol: 1010/9/94

DPI: 300

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54

AUSTRALIAN ARCHIVES
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WAR OF 1939-45

Received from:

S.M.D.

Rabaul.

Class. No. 1010/9/94

Indexed 1010/2

A.W.M. File 422/7/8

Cannibalism -- Murder of Indian Prisoners of War
New Guinea -- 1943 -- 1944.

ATROCITY

WAR OF 1939-45
Received from: <i>S.M.D. Rabaul</i>
Class. No. <i>1010/9/298</i> ⁹⁴
Indexed <i>1010/2</i>
A.W.M. File <i>4327.7/8</i>

- (1) Cannibalism of Indians :
- 21791 L/Nk - ABDULLAH
 - 23367 Spr - FARZAND ALI
 - 21811 Spr - KAMAR DIN
 - 22444 Spr - JAHUR KHAN
 - 25822 Spr - ABDULLAH
 - 469 Nk - AHMAD HUSSEIN
 - F1187 Cook - MAHMOOD
 - 22295 Spr - SULE KHAN
 - 24148 Spr - MOHD SHARIF
 - 22490 L/Nk - MOHD SHARIF

HATAM ALI.

- (2) Murder of Indians :
- 20935 L/Nk - MOHD NAZIR
 - 21842 Spr - MOHD RAFIQ
 - 22166 L/Nk - MUZAFFAR HUSSAIN
 - 20289 Spr - ABDULLAH
 - 24648 Spr - NOOR ELAHI
 - 7002B Spr - UMRAO KHAN
 - 21829 Spr - SAGRE KHAN
 - F1089 W/C - SHAMAS DIN
 - 24032 Spr - HURMAT
 - F1514 Sep - CHHEDA

S.M.D. Rabaul
 1070

PLACE.

MANKUWARI, VINDISH, VARYANGHI, IDOR. (New Guinea)

DATE.

1943/1944.

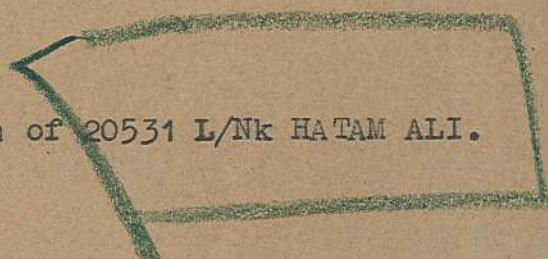
JAPANESE INVOLVED.

SAGAMOTO (BUTAI) UNIT.

- | | |
|--------------|---------------|
| Lt. KHAMIA | Capt SAGAMOTO |
| Cpl THUKADAR | Cpl OKONO |
| Cpl JAIMA | Pte HIAKAWA |
| Pte ESCONO | Cpl KHAMIKANI |
| Lt HUNDA | Capt ESHOGA |
| Cpl KAWAKANI | |

REFERENCES.

Statement and Declaration of 20531 L/Nk HATAM ALI.



NOTES.

Identified as unit & whereabouts of Japanese forces available 19/1/44

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES.

HEADQUARTERS
EIGHTH MILITARY DISTRICT
RABAU.

In Reply Please
QUOTE 137/24 (MI/21) A. 103

R544
1 AUST WAR CRIMES SEC (SEAC).

R540
Copy to AHQ, with copies of
documents listed below.

CANNIBALISM--MURDER OF INDIAN PW--NEW GUINEA--1943/1944.

REF: Your memos 434 of 30 May 46 & 1411 of 16 Nov 46.

1. It is advised that Lt-Col TANAKA Kengoro, Staff Officer HQ 18 Army and Capt ARAKI Kankichi, CO 18 Special Sea Service Coy, both of whom are at present held in this District, have been interrogated and copies of their interrogations are forwarded herewith.
2. The Japanese Army in RABAU was also required to answer the following questions:
 - "(1) Was there any unit serving in NEW GUINEA and known as SAGAMOTO (or SAKAMOTO) (BUTAI) Company?
 - (2) If so, what is the correct designation of the unit, and in what places did it serve and between what dates?
 - (3) Did the unit have charge of a group of Indian PW, and if so, what was the designation of that group?
 - (4) Who were the Japanese Officers of that unit?
 - (5) Were the following Japanese (or any men of similar names) members of that unit:-

Lt KHAMIA	Capt SAGAMOTO
Cpl THUKADAR	Cpl OKONO
Cpl JAIMA	Pte HIKAWA
Pte ESONO	Cpl KHAMIANANI
Lt HUNDA	Capt ESHOGA
Col KAWAKAMI.	
 - (6) What are the present whereabouts of the Japanese officers referred to in para 3 and of the Japanese named in para 5?
 - (7) Are any members of SAKAMOTO (BUTAI) Company now in RABAU? If so, details of AWC number (if any), rank, name, location are required."

In reply, the following information was supplied:

- "Information about Sagamoto (or Sakamoto) (Butai) Company:
1. The above mentioned Company and its officers and men, of which information was required, had been under the command of neither 8 Army Group nor 18 Army.
 2. I suppose the company might have been in western New Guinea.
 3. If so, it will be better to ask the following persons about this subject:

GOC 2 Army Group Lt-Gen TESHIMA Fusajiro.
He was in Solon when the war ended and now he is thought to have been transferred to Tokyo or Singapore.
Chief Staff Officer 2 Army Group Lt-Gen NUMATA Takazo. He is in Singapore now.
 4. SAKAMOTO (BUTAI) Company had never been stationed in RABAU. If I am to give similar names, I can name the following:

PA/101

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES.

(A) YAMAMOTO Company (CC Capt YAMAMOTO Hyotaro)
(B) SAKAMOTO Inf Regt (CC Col SAKAMOTO Yasukazu)
(C) SAKAMOTO Bde (GCC Lt-Gen SAKAMOTO Sueo)

1. CC of (A) Company was executed as war criminal in RABAUL.
2. (B) and (C) units had never employed Indian POW. Col SAKAMOTO of (B) repatriated in May 46 and Lt-Gen SAKAMOTO was transferred to Singapore in Nov 46."
3. It would appear that no further information can be procured in this District. Advice would be appreciated as to whether it is desired that Lt-Col TANAKA and Capt ARAKI should be returned as witnesses.

 Lt-Col.

AA & QMG HEADQUARTERS EIGHTH MILITARY DISTRICT.


27 Dec 46.

Enclosures to 1 ANCS SEAC:

Copy Interrogation of Lt-Col TANAKA Kengoro.
Copy Interrogation of Capt ARAKI Kenkichi.

Enclosures to AHQ:

Copy Statement by L/Nk HATAM ALI.
Copy Questionnaire to L/Nk HATAM ALI.
Copy Further Statement by L/Nk HATAM ALI.
Copy Interrogation of Lt-Col TANAKA Kengoro.
Copy Interrogation of Capt ARAKI Kenkichi.



Interrogation of Lt-Col TANAKA Kengoro, Staff Officer of
18 Army H.Q. by Lt.J.W.Backhouse on 11 ~~November~~ December 46
at RABAUL

Q. Do you know which troops served in Dutch New Guinea?

A. Units of 18 Army and 2 Army.

Q. Do you know of places called

MANKUWARI
VINDISH
VARYANGHI
IDOR

A. I know only MANKUWARI though I have not been there.

Q. What units served there?

A. H.Q. 2 Army and various other units. I do not know their designations. I think H.Q. 2 Army shifted to AMBON about middle of 1944.

Q. Were all the units changed over and sent to AMBON?

A. I am not sure of what happened in the upper part of New Guinea.

Q. Are there any members of 2 Army here in Rabaul?

A. I do not know of any.

Q. Who was in command of 2 Army?

A. Lt-Gen TESHIMA -----?.

Q. Did he have his H.Q. at MANKUWARI?

A. Yes, from about September 1943 till about the middle of 1944.

Q. What units were in Dutch New Guinea prior to 2 Army?

A. Units of 19 Army, the H.Q. were at AMBOINA.

Q. Where did 19 Army go when received by 2 Army?

A. H.Q. were at AMBOINA and the other units formed a defence group throughout the Islands North of ~~New Guinea~~ AUSTRALIA
W.A.D.

Q. Who was commander of 19 Army?

A. I cannot remember.

Q. Do you know of a SAGAMOTO Unit?

A. No.

Q. Did you ever hear of Indian P.W. being at MANKUWARI?

A. I did not hear about any.

Q. Are you sure you do not know the names of any units at MANKUWARI?

A. Apart from HQ 2 Army I think 35 Inf Division were there.

Q. Indian P.W. were under command of and attached to Special Sea Service Coys, is that right?

A. Yes, they were mainly attached to Special Sea Service Coys and also Land Service Coys and were used on construction jobs.

Q. When the Indian P.W. parties were formed they all departed from Singapore, is that so?

A. Yes.

田中兼五郎
.....

I, Sgt. DODDRIDGE, W.A. do hereby certify that the above statement was made by Lt-Col TANAKA Kengoro in Japanese, and after it had been written down in English and read back to him in Japanese before he signed it and the translation is a correct translation of the witness' evidence.

J. Backhouse Lt.

W. A. D. Dodridge
Interpreter.

Cannibalism

Dutch New Guinea

INTERROGATION of Capt ARAKI Kankichi, C.O. 18 Special Sea Service Coy by Lt. J.W. BACKHOUSE on 11 Dec 46 at RABAU.

Q. When were you in SINGAPORE?

A. April 43.

Q. What Div, Corps or Army was your Unit attached to?

A. I was attached to 18 Army in NEW GUINEA in the WEWAK area.

Q. You had 564 Indian P.W. attached to your Unit in SINGAPORE; now under what circumstances were these Indians allotted to your command?

A. Orders came from Southern Combined Forces H.Q., SAIGON, that 564 Indians would be allotted to my Unit. I sent guards to SELITAR, about 8 Kilometres from SINGAPORE, to escort the Indians to SINGAPORE where my Unit was stationed.

Q. At that time there were many Indian working parties allotted to various Japanese Units--is that so?

A. Yes, to Sea Service Coys and Land Service Coys.

Q. From whom was the order sent saying you would collect these P.W. and they would be under your command?

A. H.Q. Southern Combined Forces, SAIGON.

Q. Can you remember the person who originated the order?

A. The Commander in Chief of this group, Field Marshall TERAUCHI Juichi.

Q. Do you know anything about Dutch NEW GUINEA?

A. No.

Q. Do you know 2 Japanese Army?

A. Yes.

Q. What Units formed 2 Army?

A. I do not know.

Q. Do you know which Special Sea Service Coy or Land Service Coy were with 2 Army?

A. No.

Q. Have you heard about No. 1 P.W. Group?

A. No.

Q. Do you know SAGAMOTO (BUTAI) Coy?

A. No.

Q. Have you been to MANKUWARI?

A. I have heard of the name but I haven't been there.

Q. In what connection did you hear of it?

A. I have seen it on the map.

Q. Do you know what Units were stationed there?

A. No.

Q. Have you heard of a place called : VINDISH, VARYANGHI, IDOR?

A. No.

Q. What area did 2 Army occupy?

A. I do not know, the Units were throughout Dutch NEW GUINEA.

- 2 -
- Q. Do you know 19 Japanese Army?
A. I have heard of it.
- Q. Where did they serve?
A. I do not know.
- Q. Do you know any Units of 19 Army?
A. No.
- Q. I take it these Special Sea Service Coys started from No 1; now what number did they run to?
A. 1 to 30. That includes Sea Service Coys, Land Service Coys and Construction Coys.
- Q. Did they all have Indians attached to them?
A. Yes, they did.
- Q. Do you know No 1 Special Sea Service Coy?
A. Yes.
- Q. Do you know the C.O. of 1 Special Sea Service Coy?
A. Capt YABE-----?
- Q. Where did No 1 Special Sea Service Coy serve?
A. HOLLANDIA, ~~East~~ Dutch NEW GUINEA.
- Q. Do you know if 1 Special Sea Service Coy served in HOLLANDIA all the time or did they move about?
A. I do not know.
- Q. The Indian P.W. Groups were known by the number of the Unit they were attached to, is that correct?
A. No, my party was known as 18 Special Sea Service Coy and the Indians were part of it.
- Q. Do you know one of these Coys with a SAGAMOTO in charge?
A. No.
- Q. If there was a No 1 P.W. Group, would you take it that it was attached to No 1 Special Sea Service Coy?
A. No, I think not.
- Q. What makes you think not?
A. Because they were part of the Unit they were attached to?
- Q. Wouldn't that strongly indicate that No 1 P.W. Group was part of No 1 Special Sea Service Coy?
A. No, I think it was a separate Unit.
- Q. Couldn't No 1 Group be part of No 1 Special Sea Service Coy?
A. No.
- Q. What makes you think not?
A. All Indians were treated as civilians and were treated as part of the Unit to which they were attached.
- Q. You say there was no such thing as No 1, etc., P.W. Groups?
A. That is so.
- Q. Then No 1 P.W. Group would be No 1 Special Sea Service Coy?
A. ~~Yes.~~ No, that would not be so.
- Q. Where is Capt YABE?
A. I knew he was in HOLLANDIA.

Osaraki Kankichi
W.A. Doddridge

Q. Where was No 1 Special Sea Service Coy taken after the surrender?

A. I do not know.

Q. Do you know of a Service Coy with a SAGAMOTO in charge?

A. No, though I did not know all the Commanders.

Araki Kankichi

.....
ARAKI Kankichi

J. Backhouse Lt.

.....WITNESS
WAR CRIMES SECTION, HQ 8 MD.

I, Sgt W.A. DODDRIDGE interpreter of HQ 8 MD, hereby certify that the above statement was made by Capt ARAKI Kankichi in Japanese and that after same had been taken down in writing was read back to the witness in his own language before he signed it and that the translations are true and correct.

W.A. Doddridge.....
INTERPRETER.

Japanese Legal section
Dec 1946

TO
Capt Gerke
"A" Branch HQ 8 Military District.

INFORMATION ABOUT SAKAMOTO (OF SAKAMOTO)
(BUTAI) COMPANY.

1. The above-mentioned company and its officers and men, of which information was required, had been under the command of neither 8 Army group nor 18 Army.
2. I suppose the company might have been in western New Guinea.
3. If so, it will be better to ask the following persons about this subject.

G.O.C. 8 Army group Lt-gen TESHIMA Fusajiro.
He was in Solon when the war ended and now he is thought to have been transferred to Tokyo or Singapore.

Chief staff officer 8 Army group Lt-gen NUMATA Takazo.
He is in Singapore now.

4. SAKAMOTO (BUTAI) company had never been stationed in Rabaul.
If I am to give similar names, I can name the following:-

(A) YAMAMOTO company	(O.C. Capt YAMAMOTO Hyotaro)
(B) SAKAMOTO Inf Regt	(O.C. Col SAKAMOTO Yasukazu)
(C) SAKAMOTO Bde	(G.O.C. Lt-gen SAKAMOTO Sueo)

1. O.C. of (A) company was executed as war criminal in Rabaul.
2. (B) and (C) units had never employed Indian POW.
Col SAKAMOTO of (B) repatriated in May '46 and Lt-gen SAKAMOTO was transferred to Singapore in November '46.

.....Lt-col
Japanese Legal section

Quote. 137/24

JAPANESE LEGAL SECTION

Information is required on the following matters:-

- (1) Was there any unit serving in NEW GUINEA and known as SAGAMOTO (or SAKAMOTO) (BUTAI) Company.
- (2) If so what is the correct designation of the unit, and in what places did it serve and between what dates.
- (3) Did the unit have charge of a group of Indian PW and if so what was the designation of that group?
- (4) Who were the Japanese officers of that unit?
- (5) Were the following Japanese (or any men of similar names) members of that unit:-

LT	KHAMIA	CAPT	SAGAMOTO
CPL	THUKADAR	CPL	OKONO
CPL	JAIMA	PTE	HIKAWA
PTE	ESONO	CPL	KHAMIANANI
LT	HUNDA	CAPT	ESHOGA
CPL	KAWAKAMI		

- (6) What are the present whereabouts of the Japanese officers referred to in para 5 ~~and~~ and of the Japanese named in para 6?
- (7) Are any members of SAKAMOTO (BUTAI) Company now in RABAU? If so details of AWC number (if any) rank, name, location are required.

.....*J. Gerke*.....Capt
"A" Branch HQ 8th Military District
Dec 46.

137/24

John,

re the attached I wrote the
memo to Aust was Coines about Jul
46, the last paragraph mentions
Maj Sinha, this memo and the
affidavit are the only documents in the file,
when file is located hand to John
Carney. The incident occurred
in New Guinea

RSM
2/12.

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES

137/24.

Ref No. 1411.

1 Aust War Crimes Sec (SEAC)


16 November 1946

A.A. & W.M.G.
8 Military District
Rabaul.

Subject: Maltreatment report of No 20521 L/Cpl HATAM ALI
ex PW from 43 Fd. Pk. Coy

Ref your A696 of 2 Jul. 46.

2. Please find appended hereto, original and copy of affidavit from the abovenamed soldier.


.....Lt Col.
O.C. 1 Aust War Crimes Sec (SEAC)

No. 20531 L/Naik Hatam Ali having been duly affirmed makes the following statement:-

- (a) The designation of the Japanese Unit concerned is:-
SAGAMOTO (BATAI) Company, consisting of about 300 Japanese.
- (b) The P. W. Group I was attached to the Hwain New Guinea was "Number 1 Group".
- (c) Names of Japanese who actually ate Indian Prisoners:-

1. Lt. (Chui) Khamia.
2. Nk. (Ghunson) Thukadar.
3. Nk. (Ghunson) Jajma.
4. Sepoy (Hetal) Esono.
5. Lt. (Chui) Hunda.
6. Nk. (Ghunson) Kawa Kami.
7. Capt. (Thai) Eshoga.

Plus many others whose names are not known but whom I can identify.

- (d) Names of Japanese Officers and N.C.Os who were in charge of the Indian Prisoners :-

1. Capt. (Thai) Saga Moto.
2. Lt. (Chui) Khamia.
3. Nk. (Ghunson) Jajma.
4. Sepoy (Hetal) Esono.
5. Nk. (Ghunson) Okono.
6. Lt. (Chui) Hunda.
7. Nk. (Ghunson) Kawa Kami.
8. Capt. (Thai) Eshoga.
9. Sepoy (Hetal) Hia Kawa.
10. Nk. (Ghunson) Khamia Hani.
11. Nk. (Ghunson) Thakada.

- (e) I can identify all the Japanese whose names have been mentioned in para (c) and (d).

(f) I do not know the Name, Number or Unit to which the GURKHA belonged.

- (g) The incidents occurred at the following places:-

MANKUWARI, VINDISH, VARYANGHI, IDOR.

The above has been read over to No.20531 L/Nk. Hatam Ali who acknowledges the contents to be correct.

Recorded at Roorkee on 20/9/46 and read over to L/Nk. Hatam Ali who acknowledges same as correct.

Hatam Ali

[Signature]

Lt. Col. RIE.

Roorkee.
Dated. 20/9/46.

O.C Depot Wing K.G.V' O.Bengal RC RIE.

STATEMENT of No 20531 L/Nk HATAM ALI.

No 20531 L/Nk HATAM ALI (Ex POW from 43 Fd Pk Coy) having been duly affirmed make the following statement:

I was enlisted at Lala Musa on 2/10/35 and was sent to Roorkee where I joined the KVV's O Bengal S & M. In 1939 I was posted to 43 Fd Pk Coy and proceeded to Malaya with this unit in 1940. My unit was at a place about 50 miles from Jitra where the Japanese campaign started, I was taken prisoner at Singapore on 15/2/42. On 16/2/42 all Indian Prisoners were taken to Farrel Park and were lectured to by Mohan Singh and Pitram Singh and few Japanese including General Faujiware; all were wearing a band on their left arms with the letter "F" in it. After the lecture, prisoners were detailed for various camps. I was sent to Bida Dhari where I remained with others of 43 Coy doing fatigues for three months. A lot of INA propaganda was going on and a lot of prisoners volunteered. We were then moved to Karanjie Camp and after two weeks were taken to Tinja Air Fd for construction work, and later moved to Tarsal Pk. We were very badly treated and made to do long hours of fatigues on short rations and were beaten daily. After three months we were taken to Kurla Lipis where a lot of INA propaganda was going on and Jem Fazal Din of 54 Engineer Stores Coy and the following NCOs worked hard to prevent prisoners from volunteering: Hav. Rahim Shah Naik Fazal Dad, Naik Abdul Haq, Hav. Sabar Hussain Shah--all the personnel mentioned above were accused by the INA for being responsible for carrying an anti INA propaganda and they were all sent to the concentration camp where they been very badly beaten. We then moved to Kurla Lumpa--all were kept there for four or five months and were then moved to the River Valley Camp which was the worst camp of all and we were very badly treated in this camp. After a few months of this very bad treatment, a party of about a 1000 prisoners were selected for transfer to New Guinea. I was in this party under Jem. Fazal Din. We were put on ships and taken to Java--there were no arrangements for food or sanitation in those ships and the majority of persons got dysentery. We were kept for about four months at Batavia due to this illness, later we were taken by train to Sorabaya port and were all put in a very small ship and were taken to Dutch New Guinea. We were on this ship for 22 days, there was no room to sit or even sleep, we were short of rations and also very short of water. A lot of prisoners got very ill on this ship. On arrival at New Guinea the sick were separated and all those who were well were taken on to construction of Air Fields. After about three or four months a lot of air activity started and Allied planes used to come over every day and night and blow up everything. Jem. Fazal Din was wounded in his leg in one of these bombardments. The Japanese then took 207 prisoners for work at another place. Jem. Fazal Din remained in hospital and I did not see him again. There were 33 personnel of 3 Coy, 43 Coy and 54 Engineer Stores Coy with Jem. Fazal Din when I left them in April, 1944--their names and numbers are given below:

No	Rank	and	Name	Unit	No	Rank	and	NAME	Unit.
21759	Spr		Ghulam Haider	3	20206	Spr		Pahalwan Khan	43
F13387	Swp		Kundan	"	25980	"		Cl Qaim Din	"
21230	L/Nk		Mohd Suleman	"	23709	Spr		Rakahm Uddin	"
21522	Spr		Mohd Zaman	"		Barber		Sultan Maohd	3
25504	"	Cl	Nazir Mohd	"	20823	Spr		Abdul Ghani	43
14561	Spr		Abdullah	43	753	"		Barkat Ali	"
23367	"		Fazal Haq	"	21369	"		Fateh Mohd	"
21516	"		Fazal Elahi	"	23402	"		Fazal Dad	2
21659	"		Ghulam Hussain	"	21908	"		Mohd Afzal	"
21662	"		Hassan Khan	"	24627	"		Mohd Khan	"
20447	Hav.		Karam Din	"	21864	"		Mohd Ramzan	"
876	Spr		Kahwait Ali	"	14621	Jem.		Fazal Din	54
21858	"		Mohd Ramzan	"	931P	L/Nk		Ghulam Mohd	"
21942	"		Mohd Salim	"	1453	W/C		Mohd Hussain	"
21786	"		Mohd Shah	"	22087	L/Nk		Mohd Noor	"
323	"		Rahmat Khan	54	14941	"		Zangal Khan	"
22039	"		Saran Daz Khan	"					

I was included in this number. We were taken to a place about 300 miles away, we were employed for twelve hrs daily on hard fatigues and were given very little to eat. There was no medical treatment and all prisoners who fell ill were immediately killed by the Japanese. Later, due to Allied attacks and activity the Japs also ran out of rations. We prisoners were made to eat grass and leaves and due to starvation we even ate snakes, frogs and other insects. At this stage the Japanese starting selecting prisoners and every day one prisoner was taken out and killed and eaten by the Japanese. I personally saw this happen and about 100 prisoners were eaten at this place by the Japanese. The remainder of us were taken to another spot about 15 miles away where 10 prisoners died of sickness. At this place the Japanese again starting selecting prisoners to eat. Those selected were taken to a hut where flesh was cut from their bodies while they were alive and they were then thrown into a ditch alive where they later died. When flesh was being cut from those selected terrible cries and shrieks came from them and also from the ditch where they were later thrown. These cries used to gradually dim down when the unfortunate individuals were dying. We were not allowed to go near this ditch, no earth was thrown on the bodies and the smell was terrible. One day a Japanese told a Gurkha and myself that we two were the next to be eaten. A couple of days later this Gurkha and I were taken out and were led to the same place where others had been taken to be eaten. There were two Japanese with us and on the way we both ran away, the Japanese fired on us, I got a slight wound on my left ankle and the Gurkha was hit in the shoulder. I saw him fall and then get up and run away again, the Japanese followed a short way only, I did not see the Gurkha again. I wandered about the jungle for about 15 days and one day I met a Malayan Coolie who told me that a distance of about 15 miles on the coast Australian sea planes had been landing.

I made off in the direction he gave me and got to the coast. I was walking along the coast and came to a creek. I sat down as I was very weak and tired; after about half an hour a fighter plane came over and flew around; later I saw a sea plane coming down; this sea plane landed in this creek about 100 yards from the shore. I waved both hands; one of the occupants then appeared out of the plane and pointed his rifle at me. I called out and said that I was an Indian POW; he did not understand me, and shouted something back in English which I did not understand. I then spoke in Malayan and one of the other occupants understood me and spoke to me. The water was not deep and one of the occupants came ashore about waist deep; I showed him the cloth Prisoner of War sign I had with me and which had been issued to me at Singapore; he was satisfied and took me back to the plane. I was then flown to Australia in this plane and was put in hospital in Jun 45 where I remained. I arrived in Madras on 19/11/45; I was brought by plane and ship via Singapore; I was sent to the 145 IBGH hospital at Bangalore. At Bangalore I again met the Gurkha who had been wounded and who had escaped with me; he was in the Indian Military Hospital at the time. I do not know his name or number.

COPY QUESTIONNAIRE TO L/Nk HATAM ALI.

HQ Eighth Military District
A.696

1 Aust War Crimes SEAC

1. It is requested that the following information be obtained from No 20520 L/Nk HATAM ALI with the object of establishing the identity of
 - (a) The designation of the Japanese unit concerned.
 - (b) The PW group the Indian NCO was attached to in New Guinea.
 - (c) Names of Japanese Officers and NCOs who were in charge of the Indian party.
 - (d) Names of the Japanese alleged to have actually eaten Indian prisoners.
 - (e) If L/Nk HATAM ALI could identify any of the Japanese concerned.
 - (f) A statement from the GURKHA who was with L/Nk HATAM ALI in New Guinea during his escape and whom he later met in the Indian Military Hospital whilst he was in the 145 I B G H Hospital Bangalore or any other Indian who was with him in New Guinea who can corroborate his statement in whole or part.
 - (g) The names of the places or areas in New Guinea where these incidents occurred.

Signed) H A C Lt-Col.
AA&QMG 8TH MILITARY DISTRICT.

2 July 46.