

Pte. George Alan Savage:

His testimony about the Nazi medical experimentation in the following report, which had been kept secret for years, is now available and can be seen on the following pages.

ARCHIVES MP 742

4 MAY 1945

Australian Army Staff LONDON.

ALLEGED EXPERIMENTATION ON AUSTRALIAN P.W. IN RETHYMNO HOSPITAL CRETE.

Copy of a statement made by VX18824 Pte.George Allan Savago, 2/5 Bn.A.I.F., who escaped from a German P.W. camp in Crete in Oct. 41, concerning the treatment to which he and four other Aust. P.W. were allegedly subjected in Rethymno Hospital, Crete, is forwarded for information. It would be appreciated if a copy of the statement could be made available to the United Kingdom authorities for any action deemed necessary.

Details concerning the identity of the 4 Aust.P.W. referred to by Pte. Savage in his statement are as follows :-

VX17814 Pte. Douglas William Eric Cheeseman 2/5 Bn A.I.F. P.W. No. 3195 Stalag 8B.

Pte. Stanley John Williams 2/5 Bn. A.I.F. VX4267 P.W. No. 3208 Stalag 8B.

NX8673 Sgt. James Joseph Devlin 2/3 Bn. A.I.F. P.W. No. 3196 Stalag 8B.

NX5009 Pte. William John Lindley 2/3 Bn. A.I.F. P.W.No. 3200 Stalag 8B. Reported to have been shot while attempting to escape from a work camp at Knurnow. Died on 30 May 42. Buried at Knurnow Cemetery.

Major-General,

Adjutant-General. 21/5/43.

DGMS/MM/AC

THE ARMY DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE CO-ORDINATION

17 MAY MINUTE PAPER

SUBJECT: VX 18824 PTE SAVAGE G.A. - FORMER P.O.W.

D.P.W. & I.

Reference your minute dated 21/4/43:

Some enquiries have been made in connection with this case, hence the delay in replying to your minute.

The file is now returned for the action you propose.

17/5/43.

1). G. M. S. 550

Quote in reply

M 43

151

Headquarters

3rd. Australian Corps AIF

5 May 43. Jule D5ms

D. G. M. S., LHQ MELBOURNE

VX18824 Pte SAVAGE G.A. - Former P.O.W.

Reference 69566 of 28 Apr 43.

- 1. I remember the instance quoted of a patient at GAZA RIDGE making a similar complaint.
- 2. The name of the patient is not known. Capt Merritt 2/1 AGH was the M.O. concerned and the approximate date was Dec '41.
- 3. The final diagnosis was indefinite. Full investigation was made but no reason for the pyrexia was found.

4. I am under the impression that I forwarded the report to HQ AIF (M.E.).

D.D.M.S., 3 AUST CORPS.

D. G. M. S. S50/94

TELEPHONES: CENTRAL 7185 MXY 440



DGMS/EC.

Reply

(ADJUTANT-GENERAL)

ALLIED LAND FORCES HEADQUARTERS, VICTORIA BARRACKS

Quote in

Melbourne, S.C.1,

28th April, 1943.

Brig. J. Steigrad, D.D.M.S., Headquarters, 3 AUST CORPS.

VX.18824 PTE. GEORGE ALLAN SAVAGE (FORMER

P.O.W. IN CRETE).

The attached copy of a statement by the abovemamed is referred for comment.

Col N.H. Fairley has indicated that he had knowledge of a similar report by a patient in 2/1 A.G.H. at Gaza and suggests it might be the same man.

He further intimated that he thought you had taken the matter in hand and forwarded the report to higher authority.

Will you please advise if this was the case?

Major-General, D. G. M. S.

28th April, 1943.

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE XCOXORDINATION

FMS/DSB/NHF

MINUTE PAPER

255/1/79

6875.

SUBJECT: VX 18824 PTE. GEO. ALLAN SAVAGE (FORMER P.O.W. IN CRETE).

D.G.M.S.

A similar report to this was made by a member of the A.I.F. in 1941 who had escaped from Crete, and who was subsequently admitted to the 2/1 A.G.H. at Gaza. I interrogated the patient and suggested that a full report be made. Col. Steigrad had the matter in hand and I understand this report was forwarded through the appropriate channels. I cannot recall the name of the soldier but it is probably the same person. It might be advisable to have this checked.

W. Hamilton Fairley,

Colonel, Director of Medicine.

2/4/43.

Ang Eligrad toler asked for information in the file. On 21/4/4)

D.P.W.(A.G.13(a)/KC.)

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY.

MINUTE PAPER

SUBJECT: VX18824 PTE. GEORGE ALLAN SAVAGE FORMER P.W. IN

Tre D 9 m S 5.4.43

D.G.M.S.

With reference to the interrogation of Pte. G.A. Savage, carried out in collaboration with an officer of your Directorate, it is desired to forward for information the following documents:-

- (a) Chronological record of movements of Pte. G.A. Savage since date of capture.
- (b) Statement signed by Pte. Savage.
- 2. It is proposed to forward a copy of attached statement to A.A.S. London with a request that the matter be taken up with the United Kingdom authorities.

3. Do you concur?

14/4/43.

Passed to A.M.D.....

W6 fr Dynes.

D. P. W. & I.

A.