

AWM 54 10/10/4/144

IN THE MATTER of War Crimes

and

IN THE MATTER relating to conditions

on Transport "Rokyu Maru".

War Crimes Commission No.

Reference No.

PK

I HERBERT JOHN WALL of Kirup in the State of Western Australia Mill Hand being duly sworn make oath and say as follows :-

1. I am at present engaged as a Mill Hand at Kirup aforesaid but was formerly a member of the 2/4th Machine Gun Battalion Australian Imperial Forces my registration No. being WX 12989.

2. I was made a Prisoner by the Japanese at Singapore and left Singapore on the "Rokyu Maru" on or about the fourth day of September One thousand nine hundred and forty-three bound for Moochee Japan.

3. There were 719 Australian Prisoners of War on the said ship and we were placed amidship in a hole about four feet high. We were unable to stand up and were allowed only eighteen inches of space for each man to sit. The only ventilation being a small opening about 10 feet by 6 feet in centre of hull.

4. There was one small life belt issued to each Prisoner of War and in addition were a number of rafts sufficient for all the men.

5. There was no sanitary accommodation on board and we were allowed one tea cup of rice three times a day.

6. The "Rokyu Maru" was torpedoed when we were *eight* days out from Singapore and after I had been on the water for twenty-four hours I got into a life boat for another twenty-four hours then was picked up by a Japanese Corvette

(Sgd.)
C.E.J.

AWM 54 10.10/4/144

I was unable to remember the name of the Corvette or the names of any of the Officers on board.

SWORN at Bunbury in)
Western Australia this)
15th day of March One)
thousand nine hundred)
and forty-eight.)
Before me :-)

(Sgd.) H. J. Wall.

(Sgd.) C. E. Jenour.

A Commissioner of the Supreme Court of Western Australia for taking Affidavits.

We hereby certify that we have examined the above copy affidavit with the original of which it purports to be a copy and that the same is a true and correct copy in every particular.

Dated the 19th day of March, 1948.

W. C. Cappan
for
Perth

Beryl Anderson,
Typist,
Perth