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A. cont'd number of them. They were charged with malingering and they were all punished. I remember on two or three occasions that happened, and one particular occasion there must have been about 20 or 25 men in all so charged, and quite a number of the Japanese staff were present again.--Once again the Camp Commander being absent--and they were punished very severely for suggesting they were ill and ultimately sent back to their rooms without meals. And another occasion I can remember.....

Q. You say they were punished severely. How were they punished; in what way?

A. Well, I can quote one man anyway, a man called Palmer-- a corporal in the Royal Air Force. He was punched in the face by a Jap by the name of Sgt. Takahashi. This resulted in Palmer spilling himself in the office, and because of this I remember the same man, Takahashi, knocking him over a table and then whilst he was lying there hit him on the floor. And myself and one of the orderlies that were with me at the time went forward to pick him up and we were pushed back and he was allowed to lie there until he could get up himself. These other men, it happened on an occasion when certain men were invited to go to work. If they would go to work they would get a bun with their midday meal and some of them, although sick, were tempted and went out. And the others were beaten because, as I say, the Japanese considered they were malingering. And they were beaten and taken out to work anyway. And the remainder were so obviously sick, and I suppose the Japanese could see it, and they were allowed to go back to their room without their meal. Some of them anyway, whilst in the office were punished--beaten around the face and kicked.

Q. Well now, coming back to this supervising committee, how was it initiated? Did somebody carry on discussions or what? How did it come into being? It didn't just grow up overnight?

A. No, indeed not. Actually, I went to see the Camp Commander personally about this, and I was prompted by an incident that happened around about this time, for several things had happened up to about April--this mass punishment which was in any case always imminent, always threatening, always likely; and the deplorable state of the general state of the camp and the number of people that died that winter.

Q. How many had died that winter, can you say?

A. Yes, I know the exact number was 38; that was '43-'44; 37 from the original 200 that came in September and one man, an Able Seaman Humphries--only one man of the second 100 that came in January. And anyway, a certain Warrant Officer came to myself and Mr. Rogers and stated that in his room, No. 3 Man, a certain man had committed an offence. He had actually committed several similar offences; and for this occasion this room, No. 3 Room, had been punished with forfeiture of cigarettes. And at this particular time we had received some toilet requisites, shaving cream and tooth paste; and this room had been precluded an issue because of the conduct of this one man. And this Warrant Officer in charge of the room stated that already there had been several fights with this man over the matter.