

A. cont'd Subsequently a Jap by the name of Kitamura came in and asked to have Thompson brought down. Thompson was brought down and Kitamura told him, through Harvey, that he, Kitamura, was Nichoku on the day concerned, and that the responsibility was his and did he still prefer to accept the Japanese punishment. When he said this he brandished the wooden sword usually carried by the Nipponese guards. Harvey spoke to Thompson and telling him what had been said, and warned him not to accept it, but, Thompson was stubborn about it--the whole affair--and he told Kitamura that he would rather have a Nipponese punishment. Thereupon Kitamura gave him a bang over the head with this sword.

Q. Did you know a soldier named Bushell?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. He was a British soldier, was he not?

A. That is right, sir.

Q. Were you present any time when there was an incident involving Bushell?

A. Yes, sir. There were some floor boards missing from some of the American huts, and in No. 10 Hut, upstairs, were stored some Japanese doors. These doors were made of a wood framework. And some of these were missing. Akamatsu on that day in question threatened to cut out the evening meal unless the men guilty of taking these things and this offence were brought to justice, so to speak. I told the men in the lines about it and Purcell, I believe the American Nichoku that day, investigated the American end of it and Cpl. Purse of the Winnipeg Grenadiers reported to me about Bushell being seen coming from No. 10 Hut carrying some of this wood. We called Bushell down to the "Blue Room" and quite readily he confessed to this and offered to go across to the Japanese office to avoid any further punishment on the part of the men. I don't remember Bushell being punished by any one of us on that occasion. I do remember that subsequently Harvey gave him a packet of cigarettes and a cup of coffee for being so decent and coming forward. I even referred to him as being at that time a Shojiki Mon, meaning an honest person. And Akamatsu, I believe, on that occasion was inclined to favour Bushell somewhat.

CROSS-EXAMINED BY THE PROSECUTOR

Q. Sgt.-Major, I take it from your attitude that you approved of these punishments that were administered from time to time?

A. That is true, sir.

Q. I also assume that by reason of your military service and your active service and your rank, that you are familiar with the provisions of the Army Act dealing with corporal punishment?

A. I am, sir.

Q. Also familiar with the fact that a British soldier or a Canadian soldier is subject to the Army Act in all places at all times?

A. That is true, sir.