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Authority: NND 735027

By: NARA NARA Date: 1973

U. S. War Department

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File No. 48 - 35
Sub.

WAR CRIMES OFFICE

**Judge Advocate General's
Office**

See also Nos.
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U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 16-52270-1

0555

WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER
INCOMING CLEAR MESSAGE



From: CMO

To: SCAP

Info: War Department for JAG; CINCPAC/POA; SECNAV; National
War Crimes Office Wash; Room 4B 915 Pentagon Bldg Wash DC;

DTG: 291900Z

29 August 1946

Following notice forwarded for information Japanese Government (1) United States Military Commission convened by COMAREANAS will on 2 September 1946 or soon thereafter on Guam begin trial of one Japanese National accused of murder namely Ryoji formerly Lieut Gen

(2) Accused presently confined Guam

(3) Charge against accused will be murder the specification under the charge will allege the unlawful killing without justifiable cause at Mill Atoll Marshall Islands on 5 November 1942 2 Catholic priests name 1 Louis Durand a French National and 1 Leo Marquis a Swiss National both held captive by the Armed Forces of Japan maximum penalty for such offences is death

(4) A counsel consisting of at least 1 US Naval Officer and 1 Japanese civilian lawyer furnished by Japanese Government will be assigned the accused by convening authority.

End

ACTION: CAD

INFO: AAF, ID, P&O, SERVAT, PRD, CSA

MC IN 62772

(31 Aug 46)

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WAR DEPARTMENT
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CORRECTED COPY

Page 2

From: COMMARIANAS

DTG: 230229Z

23 August 1946

New Subject. Further request French and Swiss Governments be respectively notified through State Department of Trial as above indicated and invited to send observer if so desired to attend trial. JAG 311730 July refers.

End.

NOTE: Corrected copy of CM IN 5753 (26 Aug) CAD

ACTION: CAD

INFO: ID
P&O
SERVAT

CM-IN 6779

(30 Aug 46)

DTG 230229Z

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RESTRICTED
CORRECTED COPY

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COPY NO.

THE MAKING OF AN EXACT COPY OF THIS MESSAGE IS FORBIDDEN

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PN/BR/19653/45
6.5.45

French

S.M. Gerardine,
N.D. du S. C.
a Issoudun
France

Rev. Mother M. Majella,
c/o Post Office,
Ballymaha,
Co. Antrim,

BRUTAL TREATMENT OF Po/W BY JAPANESE

Extract from enclosure from Sr. M. Helena, F.M.D.S.C., Sacred Heart Mission, Abaiang, Gilbert Is., Pacific Ocean, dated 18.1.45.
"Here from December 1941 until November 1943 we were cut off from the other part of the world. Until September 1942 the wireless was still being worked by the New Zealand operators but in that month the Japanese arrived to fortify Tarawa and straight away collected all the poor unfortunate wireless operators soldiers, and a few other white men and kept them in Betio until the middle of October 1942 when they were all killed. The poor men were brutally treated by the enemy being tied to cocconut trees on their arrival in Tarawa and left there under the burning sun and rain for two or three days. Then they were forced to work. It was probably a happy release for them as the Japanese are terrible to their P.O.W.....
Here in Abaiang we have lost two young Fathers, Father Marquis (Swiss) and Father Durand (French). At the end of August 1942 the two Fathers with 7 of the school boys and some sailors left here on a large canoe to go to the island of Marakei. Which should be reached in about 6 hours. When there is a good wind, unfortunately they were dragged out of their course by the strong current and after nineteen days on the sea landed a mile south of the Marshall. Eight days after they left here they encountered a Japanese war ship but they were refused help. On the 9th of November the same year the two Fathers were taken on the beach and shot then stabbed by the Japs. Their bodies were thrown into the sea.....The waves washed the bodies ashore.....an Gilbertese Natives were able to bury them."

GILBERT ISLAND

Recorded -
etc.

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C O P Y

FR/BR/19653/45
6.5.45

French

S. M. Savatius.
N. B. du S. G.
a. Janssen
France

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c/o Post Office,
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French

FW/HR/19653/45
6.5.45

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