

1879A

Each page of the attached annexure comprising in all 15 pages was imprinted by OSAKI Toshihiko with his right thumb in my presence at Sugamo Prison, Tokyo, and the contents were sworn to be true before me this eighth day of August one thousand nine hundred and forty-six.

/s/ H. S. Williams, Major

Investigating Officer

2 Aust War Crimes Sec

Statement Concerning the British POW's on BALLALE Island
by Norihiko OZAKI, former Chief of the 18th Naval Construction
Battalion stationed on the Island. /Fingerprint/

(1) Foreword

As I am about to state my past life on BALLALE Island which was led under pressure and uncertainty by merely relying upon my memory, there may be some inaccuracies as regards the dates, time and figures, but same will probably become clarified by your referring to the corresponding Army or Navy records dealing with that time which are probably in your hands, which please note.

(2) Outline of Developments

(a) After my Battalion had failed twice in advancing to Guadalcanal Island, we immediately (on about 26 or 27 November 1942) left Buin on Bougainville Island, where we were standing by for Ballale Island, on receipt of orders to promptly construct an airfield on the said island.

(b) At that time this island was uninhabited. Although small, a preliminary survey and preparations had been made in outline on the island beforehand in order to reinforce the Buin airfield. My battalion consisted of some 120 petty officers and men as well as about 800 construction workmen and its working efficiency was extremely low.

The order from the 11th Air Fleet to which our battalion belonged stated: "Work under the direction of the Commander of the 26th Air Squadron, finish the construction of an airfield in outline in 45 days (?); the laborers will be reinforced by some 4,000 (?) men.

However, although we waited impatiently, the reinforcement of 4,000 men never arrived, and although workmen despatched by the 4th Construction and Service Department on Truk Island arrived temporarily, they were made to move up to Munda again after only about 2 days' stay (the majority of them being invalids, it was only natural that not much working power could be expected of the men of this unit.

In the circumstances, our battalion proceeded to ask for the military forces on Bougainville Island to aid us in our work and to send paymasters, 2nd lieutenants (Med.) and other necessary /T.N. Battalion/ personnel to the nearby islands such as Bougainville, Shortland and Fauro so as to employ natives by propagation in various places and to make use of their working power.

(c) It was perhaps a few days after having proceeded to the island when one evening a fairly large transport cast anchor there suddenly and hundreds of persons who looked like POWs began to land on this island. Before long

the commanding officer, an Army 2nd Lieutenant (according to my memory) came to see me and remarked, "I have brought along 527 (?) Army POW's from Rabaul by order. You may use them in constructing the airfield at your place." However, due to not having received any instructions or orders from any of my command channels such as the Supreme Naval Headquarters or the 26th Air Squadron, at first I declined his proposal.

But the military officer said, "That would put me in an awful fix. As a matter of fact, I have been ordered to depart on another mission as soon as the landing of the POW's is over. As soon as I return to my post, I will have matters duly settled through my seniors. It is the Army's duty to look after all the supervision, directing and controlling of the POW's on the island. The 18 military guards whom I have brought here for that reason will be stationed with the POW's throughout the whole of the period until their duties are over. You had better make use only of their working power at this time of shortage of same, hadn't you?" I replied, "As for our battalion, it would be very good to make use of them for some suitable work, but it would be embarrassing for me too to bear troublesome responsibility as I have not been contacted at all in the matter by my seniors. The only thing is that I feel confident of bearing utmost responsibility only as regards feeding them, apart from which I cannot do anything. Would only that be sufficient?" "Yes. It would be O.K. at that." After the foregoing controversy, I made up my mind to "take care of them for the time being" until instructions should come from my naval immediate superiors. (After all I received neither any instructions nor orders whatsoever to the very last).

(d) By this time, a 12 cm. AA Company commanded by Naval 1st Lieutenant MIYAKE had already been stationed on this island besides our battalion. In addition to the foregoing, a 12 cm. AA Company commanded by Naval 1st Lieutenant KIMBARA, an 8 cm. AA Company commanded by 2nd Lieutenant TAKAHASHI and half a 13 mm. AA M.G. division (maybe one division) were scheduled to advance to this island and engage in guard duties in the near future, but none of them had arrived there at that time except the above-mentioned MIYAKE Company.

Moreover, a force of about 2 battalions strong was scheduled to proceed to the island mainly to assist us in constructing our airfield with the understanding of the military forces at EREBENTA /phonetic/ on Bougainville Island who were waiting for the arrival of equipment from Japan proper.

(e) It was in the aforesaid manner that over 500 POW's were forced upon me, and although I felt greatly obliged for the supply of a considerable amount of working power at a time of shortage thereof, I was placed at my wit's end as I had never for a moment expected such a thing, as well as had never received any orders or instructions as to how to treat them, especially as I had no experience.

Here I shall explain my predicament in full detail. I am originally an engineering officer graduated from the Naval Engineering College, and was

called up to duty from the First Reserve. In the Japanese Navy the Naval Command Observance Regulations /T.N. "Gunrei Shoko Rei/ have hitherto been strictly adhered to, and at places where the so-called Line Officers having graduated from the Naval Academy are stationed, engineering officers are not given the right of command for general military operations. The right given to me was limited to the construction of the airfield and I was authorized to merely command my construction battalion under the command of my immediate superiors. (The title of "Engineering" was abolished from November 15, 1942 and accordingly I, too, was promoted to Lieutenant Commander from Engineer Lieutenant.) Therefore, all military operations on the island excepting for the Construction work should be placed under the command of Naval Lieutenant Kimbara (in case of his death 1st Lieutenant Takahashi).

However, being a special duty officer specially promoted from the ranks, Lieutenant Miyaki had no right to command me.

(f) In the circumstances, as regards the question of responsibility in the handling of the POW's for the sake of enabling everything to run smoothly hereafter:

1. The military guards who accompanied the POW's from Rabaul will take charge of all the duties such as supervising and commanding.
2. The foregoing military guards shall be placed under the command of the commanding officer of the two battalions of military troops coming from Erebenta /phonetic/.
3. Our battalion will assume responsibility as regards general maintenance such as food, medical supplies and housing.

That was because our battalion had--although none too much--some quantity of living necessities to spare, whereas the stocks of both the Naval and Military units were scanty (especially the Military unit had nothing at all).

As for this matter, it had been decided that our battalion would hold itself responsible for supplying the needs of not only the POW's, but also of the Military as well as native units.

4. After a few days, about two battalions of military troops arrived on the island as scheduled, and after a conference with the commander of the military forces, it was decided unanimously to put the above three items into effect.

5. The concrete details regarding the construction work were based on the general instructions received by me from the 26th Air Squadron Command (there was a period when I was temporarily under the command of the 204th Air Commander), on the basis of which our staff and the Military staff discussed the allotment of the details for the work, following which instructions were given to the guards by the Military Commander as to the duties

assigned to the POW's on the previous day or early in the morning of the said day. Thus the POW's performed their work under the direct supervision and direction of the guards.

I therefore believe that not even our staff officers meddled directly as regards the work of the POW's, and that everything was carried on smoothly under the hands of the Military authorities.

6. Some of the leading workers of our battalion who were designated by me supervised and directed the work of the native unit, and accordingly apart from our own men, our battalion took direct charge of only the native unit (which I believe numbered about 500 (?) at the most).

7. The supervising and directing of the POW's outside of their working hours was supposed to be undertaken by the 15 POW guards under the command of the Military Commander (Captain Senda at the outset) but, to the best of my memory, I believe that some of them were, at one time, placed under the command of the Miyake Company in connection with the living quarters as well as due to it being more convenient to utilize the look-out station of the Miyake Company for the sake of their daily work as well as air defence operations.

8. After the lapse of several days the Kimbara and Takahashi companies arrived at the Island, and I was placed under the command of Naval Lieutenant Kimbara as a natural result of the Navy's practice in accordance with the provisions of the Naval Command Observance Regulations /T.N. "Gunrei Shoko-Rei"/. The POW's however were handled as mentioned above without any special changes being made.

(g) Conditions at the time of arrival of the POW's on the Island.

1. On watching the POW's as they were disembarking from the transport, although there were some who were extremely "peppy," the majority of them were so weak that they could not walk by themselves and were only barely able to do so with the help of their comrades. Having observed this scene, I could not help from feeling somewhat apprehensive as regards how much contribution could be expected of them towards the rapid construction of the airfield.

2. As there were about 10 (?) medical personnel including a Captain of the Medical Corps (?) as well as other medical men, a medical examination was held by them in conjunction with our battalion's Medical Officer and his subordinates, a result of which it was said that there were many diphtheria patients as well as patients suffering from asthenia caused by chronic enteritis (have forgotten the number of cases).

Before being called to the colours, our Battalion's Medical Officer had made a special study regarding Diphtheria and was so well experienced as to have his doctorate thesis on the said subject under consideration at the time, so that I received a report later on that, due to the great interest

shown, and strenuous efforts exerted by him, that the Diphtheria epidemic was stamped out without expending so much.

It was so arranged that medical supplies and appliances were, whenever necessary, handed to the Medical Officer of the POW Unit en bloc (once a week ?) whenever requests were received from him, and daily diagnoses and medical treatment were effected independently by the POW unit in view of the shortage of hands. Needless to say, of course, in case of emergency our medical officers went to their aid whenever necessary. Consequently, the daily authorization of absence from work owing to illness of all POWs was left entirely to the free discretion of the Chief Medical Officer of the POW unit.

However, a fairly large number of deaths occurred from sickness (as far as I remember, there were times when there were as many as about three deaths in a day) due to the sudden change in living conditions, increased degree of asthenia or the usual aggravated form of diarrhoea due to drinking too much unboiled water.

3. As there were more than ten men connected with cooking including an Intendance Lieutenant, it was arranged that they would handle the cooking independently by speedily erecting a kitchen. It was also arranged that food-stuffs for a week were to be handed to them once a week all at once so that they could cook their own food in their own manner. I recollect that, as the supply officer told me that they specially preferred wheat flour and canned goods to rice, I tried as much as possible to meet their request and think that they were handed to them fairly plentifully. I was once invited to come over to inspect the place once as they had commenced baking bread with the use of oil-drums and coconut oil. Furthermore, tobacco was also supplied to them in accordance with a suggestion from the supply officer.

4. The general state of health of the POWs was, as mentioned above, and as their physical strength had declined considerably, the work they were engaged in throughout the entire period of the construction works consisted only of gathering pebbles from the reef along the shore facing the sea on the Eastern side of the Island (medium and small in size and used for filling in when levelling the runway and loading same into transport trucks). Besides, I remember that they were engaged a little in cleaning and clearing the airfield and neighboring taxi strips.

I remember also that I did not make them engage at all in labour with pickaxes and shovels, loading and unloading, as well as transportation of heavy goods, because of their weak knees and general declining strength. I think that, after all, the working efficiency throughout the entire period was rather poor in spite of their efforts.

Moreover, some of them volunteered to drive trucks, but this request was never granted as our battalion was amply provided with drivers.

5. Now, although the sharing of the respective responsibilities towards the POWs continued from start to finish as stated above, my battalion conformed to the form of Provisional Enlistment of all the POWs as regards the procedure for supply and accounts as we were providing them with all supplies.

This applies not only to the POWs but also to military units and even to naval personnel under a different jurisdiction. Our Navy makes it their customary practice to adopt such a procedure for supply and accounting reasons in order, for the sake of temporary convenience, to provide food and clothing to those who are not our regular battalion personnel and our battalion also merely followed this practice.

Accordingly, in view of the aforementioned circumstances, the POWs were considered as being a temporary enlisted unit and, in addition to our drawing up the POW muster-roll on the strength of the data submitted by them, any unforeseen occurrences like "Deaths from Sickness" or "Killed in Action" were recorded in my battalion's reports. The object thereof was to satisfy supply and accounting requirements, and I believe that the POW problem will become fully clarified by referring to the said reports.

6. As for the living quarters, being by all means a small island in the first place, there would be no alternative, after constructing a standard air base, than to utilize the remaining space left over. The maximum number of inhabitants on the island exceeded at one time the 6,000 mark so that I was much worried at one time over the selection of the living quarters regarding which the Air Force personnel enjoyed priority selecting rights, but finally this matter was settled by fixing same at a point northwest of the Miyake Company, west of the Military Unit, and southwest of the Takahashi Company, by taking into account the facts that the place was farthest from the airfield and at the same time adjacent to the location of the Military Unit under whose direct command they were. As for the dwelling facilities, inasmuch as the building materials stored by our battalion had been already fairly well used up and as the manner of use of all those on hand had already been decided, there was practically no surplus left over, but finally we succeeded in the speedy construction of a camp sufficient at least to shelter them from rain, by using the materials in store and those procured on the spot.

(h) Important Problems (No. 1)

Several days after the POWs were brought to the Island, approximately two battalions of Army troops which had been under request came from Eleventa /phonetic/ on Bougainville Island. The Commander at that time was Captain Senda.

Although there may have been incidental aims in the Army occupation, I believe that they strived to assist in the Navy's airfield work and receive all rations from the Navy in the meantime, and lighten the burden on the main force, instead of uselessly and aimlessly awaiting the arrival of armament.

As regards the actual problem of construction work, a definite talk between Captain Senda and myself was held and a division of work was established. It was the work which is to be carried out by the Army should be commanded by Captain Senda and that the Naval Construction Battalion should never directly interfere with any work of the Army. It is, moreover, a matter of course that no interference whatsoever should be made directly or indirectly in matters aside from Naval construction work. One day, several days after the occupation by the Army, there was an incident of mistaken firing upon the island by an Army force that was passing by. Directly after this, Captain Senda suggested that we should now make plans for the defense of the island and that studies and trainings were needed. However, since I am originally from the Navy Engineering Department and have some knowledge of engineering matters, but had neither knowledge, experience nor training in this matter /T. N. defense/, besides which I had no power of command. Therefore, I immediately requested Captain Senda to draw up the plans, and it was hurriedly decided in the names of Captain Senda and myself to adopt this plan temporarily until the arrival of Naval Commanding Officer who would direct me. However, several days later, the Kimbara Company came to the island, so I submitted to Lieutenant (S.G.) Kimbara /T.N. Navy/ the defense plans, and asked him to revise and establish same appropriately in the capacity of the Naval Commanding Officer.

In one part of this defense plan there was an item to the effect that prisoners will be disposed of in case the danger of an enemy landing becomes imminent. I remember that the method was by use of hand grenades and that it was up to one company of the Army forces (I do not remember the Company that was designated). A glance at the defense plan of the time in question will reveal this.

After Lieutenant Kimbara came to the island, the defense plan of Ballale Island was newly established and promulgated in the name of the Commanding Officer of the Navy Guard Unit. According to this plan, my Construction Battalion was to be a reserve unit, and was to withdraw to the opposite side from where the enemy makes an invasion, and await orders there. I do not remember other details, especially how matters such as

concerted action with the Army were decided. However, my sole duty was to exert my attention and efforts in regard to commanding and guiding my non-combatant subordinates in the form of approximately 800 workers as well as approximately 120 petty officers and men so as to minimize the casualties among these men as far as possible.

I believe it was in the early part of January 1943 that Naval Captain MIKI came to the island as the Supreme Commander, for the purpose of commanding the combined Army - Navy forces on Ballale Island. However, before he was in office for three months, he returned to Japan proper.

Before and after the time Captain MIKI took his office, the Army forces were being repeatedly replaced, and although I do not remember in detail the staff officers and the unit designations, I believe that the Army strength was generally and gradually decreased. I think this was only natural, as far as the Army's duties were concerned. I do not know whether or not the details of the Island's defense plan were changed while Captain MIKI was in office.

(i) Important Problems (No. 2)

In the meantime, the POWs did not readily recover from their asthenic condition which was attributed to diphtheria, chronic inflammation of the intestines, and other diseases from which they were suffering from even before their arrival to the Island, as mentioned in the foregoing. The number of deaths gradually increased. We, especially the medical officer and other persons concerned, did as much as possible, but the enemy's air raids became more and more intense as the days passed, and the casualties continued to increase. Patients suffering from exhaustion due to air raids carried out day and night, and other causes, continued to appear from all the units. At that time, as far as the Navy was concerned, our unit was the only one which had a medical officer, and all the other companies had only non-rated medical men. Being as such, the medical treatment of all the navy officers and men was charged to the medical officer and the medical ensign of our unit. At one time, even in our unit, about half of the men were ill in bed, and the situation was such that actually the medical staff were so busy as to have no time to spare. Later, I remember that it became absolutely impossible to deal with the situation so that we had a medical Lieutenant (J.G.) from the First Base Headquarters at Buin, and subsequently another medical Lieutenant (J.G.) from Lt. Kinbara's main unit come to our aid, as a result of which we finally succeeded in tiding over the crisis.

The names, dates of death, nature of diseases of the dead prisoners should be listed in my unit's Administrative Bulletin's File, so a glance will reveal them. I, the Chief of the unit that was in charge of medical treatment, feel extremely sorry that there were so many illnesses and deaths. However, on the other hand, at the time, the enemy's attacks became more

severe each day, without a single day's respite from the air raids. The POWs were in a weakened condition even before their arrival at the Island, and medical treatment could not be given them as I wished. Materials and supply situation became more difficult each day on our front line islands, and hands became short. It can also be thought that in view of the prevailing situation the result was truly unavoidable. The construction of the airfield did not progress as anticipated. Although the days passed by being hotly pressed /T.N. to speed up construction work/ and under mental agony and uneasiness, no orders or instructions from anywhere ever came to me until the end in regard to the handling of the POWs. What I feel most at the present time is that, if the POWs were employed for some appropriate work in the rear zone in a quiet and wide area far from Rabaul, it might have been another matter, but, I believe that it might be considered as unreasonable to use the POWs and limited working power by amassing them into concentrated units on a front line island where such ceaseless combat was carried out repeatedly.

Now, regarding the disposition of the corpses, there were opinions that if that small island where many people were massed and engaged in hard work became surrounded by grave-posts, it would influence everyone's morale to a great extent. Therefore, at first practically all of them were buried at sea, but due to the heat of the tropics, decomposition was rapid, so that there were opinions that this was intolerable as well as pitiful for both the dead and the burial parties. However, cremation was given up not so much because of fuel, but from the standpoint of air defense in connection with the rising of smoke. Consequently they were buried in the ground after that.

(j) Important Problems (No. 3)

It might have been around the middle of March, 1943, that there was a sudden air raid at night. Many bombs were dropped in the Army area, the POW area, and the Takahashi Company area, where there was practically no damage until then. There were three direct hits by large type bombs in the area where the POWs resided, resulting in 280 (this figure is not accurate. Should be recorded in the Battalion's Administrative Bulletin's File) some odd prisoners being blasted or burnt to death. The reason why there were so many casualties was because this spot was away from the approach course to the airfield and had not been bombed before, so it is said that most of the men, feeling confident, did not take any action to shelter themselves from the air raid.

I believe that it might have been at this time that Lt. Takahashi, the Naval Company Commander, too, was killed in action.

(k) Important Problems (No. 4)

I have forgotten whether it was toward the end of March, or the beginning of April, 1943, but anyhow, around evening one day we received

an urgent dispatch order from the headquarters at Buin to the following effect: "Several enemy cruisers and destroyers are cruising off Mono Island, and as a landing is most probable, all the units are to immediately prepare to check the enemy landing." By this time, the actual number of POWs had already dropped considerably to some 90 odd men (less than 100 at any rate). Excepting those connected with the kitchen, I believe most of the men had lost a great deal of their vigour. From the standpoint of the condition of troop equipment at the time, and also from the topography of the island, in the face of a powerful enemy assault, there were only two alternatives, total victory or total annihilation. In fact I believe that the latter seemed to be anticipated more strongly. I do not think that it was an unreasonable reasoning for all the men to resign themselves to death after eliminating "the fear of the tiger at the rear door" /T.N. refers to the POWs/. From such thought, the above-mentioned POWs were all bayoneted to death by an Army company charged with the duty in accordance with the previously established defense plan. (I do not know the unit designation. It is said that hand grenades were not used). All the units made preparations, feverishly working on defense measures against the enemy's surprise assault landing, and waited throughout the night, but the enemy did not attack this island after all.

Actually, I believe that the difficult and unfavorable turn of the battle situation strained our nerves to an extreme, and excited us too much /T.N. resulting in the killing of the POWs/. It can only be said that the Company merely followed the rules of the plan of defense mechanically, but I consider that same was also unavoidable in some respects, especially when placed face to face with such a tense situation.

(1) Important Problems (No. 5)

This matter concerns a certain First Lieutenant (both status and name unknown) who was shot to death on the very day of the landing. I believe a record of this case is set forth at the beginning of the report concerning POWs who were under the charge of my Battalion.

It was when the POW party was landed on this island, as a result of the negotiations which are mentioned in another section, with the Army officer who was in charge of them, it was arranged that the POWs should remain temporarily on this island. When I believed the said commander had returned to his transport vessel, he again appeared before me with a POW who was under arrest and being dragged along by soldiers, and said: "On returning to the ship, I found this POW had been arrested as he had tried secretly to escape by jumping into the water and swimming towards Shortland Island. So the number of POWs I reported to you before was less one. Will you receive him together with the others?" As for me, I did not know what to do. And, moreover, what I could do with such a man as he, who had dared try to escape even in such an environment, especially here, on this solitary island surrounded by water on all sides? Therefore I gave him a

firm refusal. He pressed me to accept him, saying, as before, that he had to attend to other duties at once and begged me to manage in some way or other. Then I questioned him as to what measure would be taken by the Army. He answered that in case of escape in the face of the enemy this would naturally be punished by death. As the matter had to be settled at once and, also, from the standpoint of our naval discipline, I simply believed that escape in the face of the enemy in wartime should as a matter of course call for capital punishment. I thought, also, that it could not be avoided from the viewpoint of making it an example for the strict enforcement of military discipline on this island in the future. Without any further consideration it was decided to execute him in the presence of both of us. And, finally, the Army guards shot him to death with their rifles on the beach near the secluded jungle on the eastern coast of the Island. (Presumably, these soldiers belonged under the aforesaid Army officer and were not the 15 guards attached to the POW unit). At first, I intended to behead him with my Japanese sword. But, at the last moment, I became timid and therefore could not do so. Since this happened, I have pondered over the case and have always felt the pangs of conscience. Not only have I been cautioning myself ever since against repeating such an action in the future, in whatever circumstances, but I also strictly warned my men not to act cruelly in speech or action towards the POWs. I feel my responsibility very acutely, especially in the case of this certain First Lieutenant.

III. Supplementary Remarks

I have found in the newspaper of the morning of 19th January 1946 that my arrest has been ordered as a war crime suspect. As I had been anyhow the central figure of the building work of the airfield on Ballale Island where had occurred the deaths of more than 500 POWs, I had already presumed that I would be the first to be so designated. But taking into consideration that, firstly, the time was extremely early, and secondly, that only I, who had no substantial power of command but only a superficial one, and who had been only a commander of construction work as it were, was so designated and no names of those with whom I had been acquainted were mentioned, I supposed that the investigation on the spot might have been surprisingly incomplete; consequently I was worried that, if I should make my appearance at once, I should be obliged to bring forward the names of too many other persons or would have to state matters which are unnecessary to mention in order to clarify all the facts in detail for the sake of impartial judgment; unless I were resolved to lay down my life, shouldering all the responsibilities by myself, letting everything to be left unsaid (although I have lost such a frame of mind now as I have been informed of the truths of various disclosed facts during nearly one year after the cessation of hostilities). Furthermore, I felt very pained at the idea of being placed under arrest which I had been taught traditionally as being a disgrace and I imprudently tried to escape this as long as possible as the result of various illusions. In the course of time, however,

I became convinced that I would not be able to conceal myself forever and also came to believe that the true facts concerning this matter might have been already investigated in detail and disclosed, then those which I would be obliged to state might probably have been already investigated in full detail and known, consequently the worry which I had as above-mentioned has ceased to exist as being uncalled for and no longer necessary. On or about the 25th of July, through the aid of the advice from a friend of mine, I learned that my flight had given much trouble to my relations, acquaintances and friends; furthermore he told me that such conduct had become an obstacle to Japan's faithful fulfillment of her obligations in connection with her acceptance of the Potsdam Declaration, implying that I was showing direct disloyalty to the state. When I came to think it over I became really shocked.

Ever since I decided to escape I had been thinking that it would be simple enough to kill myself if the worst should come, which amounted to nothing if I considered that I had died in the Solomons, and I should be able to shoulder all responsibilities by committing suicide. Although I made light of such matter, still I found that it could not be carried out so easily when the critical moment arrived. Since the latter part of July, I gave this matter thorough consideration, arranged all my personal matters in order, and after bidding farewell to my close relatives whom I asked to look after my family, on July 30 I gave myself up to a member of the Hoshimoto Police Station, Wakayama Prefecture, and I have remained here ever since. I realize that my responsibility is heavy for having evaded justice for nearly six months.

Now I should like to be subjected to impartial judgment, by stating all the facts most frankly and exposing everything to light. Individual subjects which I have written in this document may be identified and clarified still further by comparing same with the records of that time.

(The End)

This confession of mine represents, in its entirety, a frank description of actual facts, and contains no false statements.

The writer of the above:

Norihiko Ozaki

/fingerprint/

August 8, 1946.

1880A

GILBERT AND ELLICE ISLANDS COLONY

High Commissioner's Court for the Western Pacific.

Held at Tarawa, Gilbert and Ellice Islands Colony, on the sixteenth day of October, 1944, under the Pacific Order in Council, 1893, by me David Curtiss Innes Wernham, Deputy Commissioner for the Western Pacific.

(Sgd) D. C. I. Wernham
Deputy Commissioner for the
Western Pacific

DEATH INQUIRY

Whereas there is reason to believe that the deaths of
the following twenty two persons -

1. Reginald G. Morgan, Wireless Operator in the service of the Gilbert and Ellice Islands Colony at Tarawa.
2. Basil Cleary, Dispenser in the service of the Gilbert and Ellice Islands Colony at Tarawa.
3. Isaac R. Handley, retired Master Mariner, residing at Tarawa.
4. A. M. McArthur, retired Trader, of Nonouti, Gilbert and Ellice Islands Colony.
5. A. L. Sadd, Missionary, residing at Beru, Gilbert and Ellice Islands Colony.
6. A. C. Heenan, Wireless Operator in the service of the New Zealand Government and formerly stationed at Maiana, Gilbert and Ellice Islands Colony.
7. J. J. McCarthy, Wireless Operator in the service of the New Zealand Government and formerly stationed at Abemama, Gilbert and Ellice Islands Colony.
8. H. R. C. Hearn, Wireless Operator in the service of the New Zealand Government, and formerly stationed at Kuria, Gilbert and Ellice Islands Colony.
9. A. E. McKenna, Wireless Operator in the service of the New Zealand Government, and formerly stationed at Nonouti, Gilbert and Ellice Islands Colony.
10. A. L. Taylor, Wireless Operator in the service of the New Zealand Government, and formerly stationed at Beru, Gilbert and Ellice Islands Colony.

11. T. C. Murray, Wireless Operator in the service of the New Zealand Government, and formerly stationed at Beru, Gilbert and Ellice Islands Colony.
12. C. A. Pearsall, Wireless Operator in the service of the New Zealand Government, and formerly stationed at Tamana, Gilbert and Ellice Islands Colony.
13. L. B. Speedy, Private (64653), New Zealand Expeditionary Force, formerly stationed at Maiana, Gilbert and Ellice Islands Colony.
14. C. J. Owen, Private (64606), New Zealand Expeditionary Force, formerly stationed at Maiana, Gilbert and Ellice Islands Colony.
15. D. H. Howe, Private (64056), New Zealand Expeditionary Force, formerly stationed at Abemama, Gilbert and Ellice Islands Colony.
16. R. J. Hitchen, Private (63882), New Zealand Expeditionary Force, formerly stationed at Abemama, Gilbert and Ellice Islands Colony.
17. R. Jones, Private (64485), New Zealand Expeditionary Force, formerly stationed at Kuria, Gilbert and Ellice Islands Colony.
18. R. A. Ellis, Private (64382), New Zealand Expeditionary Force, formerly stationed at Kuria, Gilbert and Ellice Islands Colony.
19. C. A. Kilpin, Private (64057), New Zealand Expeditionary Force, formerly stationed at Nonouti, Gilbert and Ellice Islands Colony.
20. J. H. Nichol, Private (64062) New Zealand Expeditionary Force, formerly stationed at Nonouti, Gilbert and Ellice Islands Colony.
21. W. A. R. Parker, Private (64005), New Zealand Expeditionary Force, formerly stationed at Tamana, Gilbert and Ellice Islands Colony.
22. R. M. McKenzie, Private (64022), New Zealand Expeditionary Force, formerly stationed at Tamana, Gilbert and Ellice Islands Colony.

occurred at Tarawa in the Gilbert Islands District and were brought about by violence, it is therefore lawful for me to hold an inquiry, under section two of the Death and Fire Inquiries

Ordinance 1924, into the cause of the deaths of the twenty two persons aforesaid.

(Sgd) D. C. I. Wernham
Deputy Commissioner for the
Western Pacific.

List of Witnesses.

1. Tiriata, Clerk and Interpreter, Tarawa.
2. Frank Highland of Tarawa.
3. Mikaere of Tarawa.
4. Leslie Copeland of Tarawa.
5. Ikamawa of Ocean Island.
6. Captain O. J. Drennan, Gilbert and Ellice
Defence Force.

Tiriata, Clerk and Interpreter in the service of the Gilbert and Ellice Islands Colony, deposes on oath as follows:-

On September 3rd. 1942, the Japanese landed at Betio and occupied it. There were about six ships. On 17th September, 1942, I heard from Mr. Cleary that the Japanese commander was letting him leave Betio and go to stay at Abaokoro. On the same day, Bishop Terrienne, Rudolph Muller and three Europeans and two Gilbertese boys arrived by a big Japanese ship. I understand that they came from Abemama. Nabuti, one of the Gilbertese boys told me that they came from Abemama.

Q. Did you see Bishop Terrienne arrive?

A. I saw him, but I did not talk to him. Both he and Rudolph Muller were guarded by a Japanese soldier with a rifle and bayonet.

On the 23rd. September, 1941, the Japanese who was previously working for N.B.K. at Butaritari and was now in charge of the native labour under the Japanese at Betio, asked me to write a letter to Mr. Cleary at Abaokoro to come to Betio. Next day Mr. Cleary arrived and asked me why he had been sent for. I told him that I did not know. After he changed his clothes he went to look for Masibusi. Late on the same day, I heard that Mr. Cleary, Mr. Morgan and Captain Handley were taken by the Japanese to the lunatic enclosure. About 5.30 pm. Masibusi came to my house, wanting myself and Chief Kaubure Teurakai to leave Betio on a Japanese ship, early next morning. Next morning we left Betio on a big Japanese ship, accompanied by a warship

and one ship carrying equipment for listening for submarines. When we approached Beru, the warship first came up to anchorage at full speed and fired two or three shots. The ship on which we were travelling then anchored. Then we went ashore on the launch. The tide was too low to take the launch into the lagoon, so the Japanese soldiers jumped into the water and swam ashore. They could not find the Europeans on the Government station, but only a few natives. The Japanese then went separately to look for the Europeans. Two soldiers returned to the Government station with Mr. Sadd. They took him on board the ship.

Q. Did you see any Roman Catholic priest?

A. I saw Father Pouvreau in the District Officer's house, where the Japanese officer was.

Q. How did the Japanese treat Pouvreau?

A. I did not see. From Beru we left for Tamana. When the Japanese landed there, they asked the natives where the Europeans were. The natives told them that they were still in their house. On their way down to see the Europeans, I saw three Europeans walking towards them. The Japanese took them to the wireless station. The Europeans packed their clothes and were taken on board the ship.

Q. Do you know their names?

A. No, two were in uniform and the other was wearing a lavalava. I heard that he was a wireless operator. The Japanese took them on board the ship. Then the ship went to Tabiteuea. The Japanese landed on the Government Station. They asked if any Europeans were there. They found that there were no Europeans except the Roman Catholic missionaries. They wanted to see the priest and the Chinese but only saw one Chinaman. They had no chance to see the others because aeroplane engines were heard and they hurried back to the ship. When we reached the ship we went to Kuria. There Leslie Copeland, myself, Mr. Sadd and the three Europeans were shipped to another ship. Then Leslie and myself went ashore with Japanese soldiers. Other Japanese soldiers had already landed and were looking for one more European. Not long after they found him. They took the three Europeans on board.

Q. Do you know who they were?

A. I do not know their names.

Q. Had you seen them before?

A. No. Two were wearing uniform and the third one was wearing a lavalava. After that we left for Tarawa. When we reached Tarawa, we all went ashore, also these Europeans. We waited beside the Government store and the Europeans were taken away by Japanese soldiers. When the Japanese soldiers arrived, they all marched to the Japanese commander. Masibusi, Leslie Copeland, Fritz Reiher, Tourakai and myself followed the soldiers.

The soldiers lined up in front of the Japanese Commander's house, where I saw all the Europeans whom we had brought. They were handcuffed and tied against coconut trees. Not long after, Masibusi told Leslie and myself to be ready for the next trip. That day was 30th September, 1942. On 1st. October Masibusi called me and we went on board the ship. The ship sailed for Nonouti. When she reached Nonouti, I went ashore with the soldiers. They asked the natives where all the Europeans had run away to on their last visit. They were told that the Europeans were waiting for them on the Government Station. The Japanese found them inside the Native Government. Office. They called them and lined them up and questioned them.

Q. How many Europeans were there?

A. Four. I do not know their names except for Mr. MacArthur. While they lined up one Japanese came forward and hit them hard on the head with his hand and they fell down. Three Japanese officers with stripes on their collar were watching. Then they were all taken on board and the ship left for Tarawa.

Q. Did you see any Roman Catholic missionaries on the island?

A. No.

Q. How were these Europeans dressed?

A. All except MacArthur wore uniform. MacArthur wore white shirt and white trousers.

After the ship anchored at Tarawa, we all landed. The Europeans were taken away first. Masibusi and I followed them to the Japanese Commander's house. The four Europeans were handcuffed against other trees. The Europeans, whom had been brought from Beru, Tamana and Kuria, were still there, handcuffed and tied against the trees. I heard that they had been tied up for four days, before being taken to the Lunatic Asylum. A few days after that I left Betio to Bonriki and stayed there for two weeks. One day when I was fishing in the lagoon, an U.S. warship was shooting at Betio from outside. Two U.S. planes dropped bombs. Next day I went to Betio to find out what had happened. I first heard that all the Europeans had been killed, because one of them ran away from the Lunatic enclosure. I heard that the Japanese found him and took him back to the Lunatic Asylum.

Q. After seeing the European prisoners at the Commander's house, did you see them again?

A. Yes. I saw them twice after that. I think that I saw the whole lot except Captain Handley and Mr. MacArthur. They were working, carrying gravel near the Post Office.

Q. Whom did you recognize?

A. I recognized Mr. Sadd, the three Europeans from Tamana and the three Europeans from Kuria and the 3 from Nonouti I could not recognize the others, except Mr. Morgan and Mr. Cleary.

Q. About how many were there?

A. About twenty.

Q. How did the Japanese behave to the members of the Sacred Heart Mission?

A. Some of the Japanese Officers were kind to them, but most were not.

Q. Can you tell me any instances when they were insulted or badly treated by the Japanese.

A. No, but they took from the missionaries all their food and anything which the Japanese wanted.

Q. Do you know why the Japanese killed Mr. Sadd and none of the Catholic missionaries?

A. I tried to ask Masibusi why the Europeans were killed, but he only shrugged his shoulders.

Signed by me at Tarawa this sixteenth day of October, 1944.

(Signed) P. B. TIRIATA.

Before me

(Signed) D. C. I. WERNHAM
Deputy Commissioner for
the Western Pacific.

Frank Highland, of Tarawa deposes on oath as follows:-

My wife and myself were on Betio for three days, a week or two weeks before Betio was shelled for the first time by a U.S. ship (or sub) on October 15, 1942. I saw Reverent Sadd, one trader, McArthur by name, two New Zealanders in uniform (shorts and drill jackets with buttons) two New Zealanders in civilian clothes. Each one had his hands tied behind his back by several feet of rope, the other end was attached to coconut trees. This was in Burns Philips area. The hands of one soldier were swollen. A Jap went to him and said "Do you want to be untied a little?" The New Zealander said "no, you tied it tight, you can leave it on as it is." The same Jap went to McArthur and asked the same question. McArthur said, "Yes it is too tight". I and my wife saw them feed a tin of food and a handful of rice. Their hands were untied for this, a guard being with each man. My wife and I were about two fathoms away at the time. The same evening it rained. The men slept on the grass under the trees.

The third morning after that we saw them still tied up. My wife and I were not allowed to go near them. Midday that day we saw them locked up in the lunatic asylum. Their hands were not tied. We saw Mr. Cleary, Mr. Morgan and Capt. Handley with them. Mr. Cleary wrote me a letter, tied it to a stone and threw it outside the fence. The letter begged me to help them with sugar if I had any or if not, native molasses so after I read that letter the Jap saw me and rushed at me. He tried to hit me with a big stick. I just walked away I put a match to the letter after that. The same afternoon, I left Betio and came over to Eita. I stayed here for a few days then my wife and I took back to them some sugar the Japs had given my boy and two bottles of molasses. I threw the sugar over the fence. Mr. Morgan made signs to me to send a girl we had with us to go and talk to the guard at the gate of the enclosure. When the guard was busy with the girl I climbed up the fence. Mr. Cleary climbed up inside and I gave him the two bottles of molasses. Reverend Sadd saw this and got a tin of biscuits and threw it over the fence to some young boys with me and told them to keep it. The guard saw this and chased us away. We left Betio then.

Three days after the ship shelled Betio, I heard the news that they the European prisoners had been killed and went down with some native boys. I asked the natives working there where they were killed. They took me two hundred yards back of the west side of the lunatic asylum fence. There were many Japs around so next morning at nine I went with Constable Takaua and saw where the bodies were burned in a Babai pit. Takaua watched and I went in the pit and lifted up coconut branch and corrugated iron. The bodies were all partly burnt. I lifted one body with just an arm burnt and showed it to Takaua. There were no heads on the bodies. I saw another heap in the pit and under the iron were the skulls. When I saw this I dropped the tin. I then kept watch while Takaua looked. That is all I have to say.

Q. When you saw the bodies, did you attempt to count them?

A. No. They were covered with corrugated iron and coconut leaves on top of it.

Signed by me at Tarawa this 18th day of October, 1944.

Before me

(Signed) F. HIGHLAND

(Signed) D. C. I. WERNHAM
Deputy Commissioner for the
Western Pacific.

/ Mikaere of Tarawa, Gilbert and Ellice Islands Colony, deposes on oath as follows:-

When the first United States aeroplanes came to Betio, it was at about 2 o'clock in the afternoon. Two United States aeroplanes bombed Japanese ships in the port. All the native labourers ran on to the reef. When the two aeroplanes went away, the natives returned to the place where the British Government station used to be. I was with the Bishop in his house. One of the Japanese went to the natives and told them that one of the Europeans had escaped from the Lunatic Asylum enclosure. All the natives were sent to the building which was the office of the District Officer. After that they were sent back to their camp, because the Japanese said that the European had been caught.

Q. Did you remain with the Bishop or did you go to the office of the District Officer?

A. I went with the other natives to the office of the District Officer.

Q. Did the Japanese say who the European was who had escaped?

A. No. The natives all went to their camp and I went to the Bishop's house. Then one Japanese came to us and showed his sword to us. That sword was covered with blood. He said that he had killed the Europeans with his sword.

Q. Did you know who that Japanese was?

A. I do not know, but perhaps some of the natives might know. He was not a soldier, he used to sit all the time in the office.

Q. When he came to the Bishop's house to show his sword, from what direction did he come?

A. He came from the direction of the old native village. He left us and went to the former British Government Station. Shortly after 5 p.m. I went to cut toddy beside the Lunatic Asylum. I heard a lot of noise and saw a lot of Japanese inside the Lunatic Asylum enclosure. I wanted to see what was happening so I went to the house which was formerly used by the natives looking after the lunatics. When I reached the house I saw the Europeans sitting in a line inside the enclosures. While I lay in that house, the Europeans being already lined up, I saw one of the Europeans, it might have been Captain Handley, pulled out from the house by the Japanese and placed in front of the Europeans.

Q. Was he alive?

A. He was dead. When he was placed in front of the

Europeans, he was lying down, covered with blood. Then one Japanese started to kill the Europeans. He cut off the head of the first European, then the second, then the third, then I did not see any more because I fainted. When I came to, I saw the Japanese carrying the dead bodies to two pits on the West side of the Lunatic enclosure. I could not see how many bodies there were. When I was lying in the house, a Japanese coolie ran past and fell down close beside, with a tin full of European clothes. He put the tin down in the house, and went back to help to carry the corpses. I took the tin of clothes and went back to the Bishop's house. I informed the Bishop about the death of the Europeans. The clothes were taken from me by other natives, except for one pair of shorts and one shirt.

Q. Can you tell the date on which that happened?
A. I do not remember.

Q. About how many Europeans did you see lined up in the Lunatic Asylum Enclosure?
A. I did not count them. There were more than ten.

Q. Did you recognize the Japanese who cut off their heads?
A. He was the same man who came to show his sword to the Bishop.

Q. Were the Japanese who killed the Europeans coolies or soldiers?
A. They were all coolies.

Q. Do you know who was the European who escaped?
A. I do not know, but I heard from natives that it was Mr. Cleary.

Q. Did you recognize any of the Europeans, who were in the Lunatic enclosure, other than Captain Handley?
A. I recognised Mr. Sadd and Mr. McArthur. Before that day I had seen Mr. Cleary and other European prisoners working on the wharf at Betio. After the day on which I saw the Europeans killed, I did not see any Europeans on Betio except the Bishop, Father Viallon and Brother Conrad. About two days afterwards I saw the bodies of the murdered Europeans, but it was difficult to see them among the ashes, for the Japanese had burned them.

Signed by me at Tarawa this 18th day of
October, 1944.

(Signed) Mikaere.

I certify that the above statement was faithfully interpreted by me and re-interpreted to the witness before his signature was appended thereto.

(Signed) Ernest Milne.

Before me

(Signed) D. C. I. Wernham
Deputy Commissioner for
the Western Pacific.

Leslie Copeland of Tarawa deposes on oath as follows:-

The Japanese landed their troops on Betio on 2nd. September, 1942. When they landed Basil Cleary stayed in his house. Then the Japanese took over my house and Captain Handley's house. I stayed in a small house near the beach. Every night I went to see Mr. Cleary after dark. Then he told me that the Japanese were letting him go to stay on Abaokoro. The next day I saw Mr. Cleary on the beach ready to leave for Abaokoro. That was the last time I saw him. The day after that Tiriata and I went on board the Japanese ship and left for Beru.

Q. Why had you to go on board?

A. The Japanese told Tiriata and myself to go on board the ship. The next day, when we were at sea, Kansaki told us that we were going to Beru. After two days we arrived at Beru before 6 a.m. We left the ship at about 7 a.m. to go ashore in the launch.

Q. Was there only one ship?

A. One destroyer, one like an A.P.C. and one big cargo ship. When we went ashore the tide was falling but they still wanted to go ashore. I tried to get their launch left high and dry in the passage. I did this to give the wireless operator ashore more time. All the soldiers had to wade ashore. When we got ashore the wireless house was on fire. The wireless operator had cleared off. A few natives were on the Government Station, but they told the Japanese that they did not know where the Wireless Operators were. The natives told Kansaki that Mr. Sadd and the Roman Catholic Father were at their homes. Kansaki told me to go ahead to tell the Father and Mr. Sadd that they must wait in their houses. When I got to the Father's house, he was already hiding in the bush. Mr. Sadd was in his house. I told him that the Japanese were on their way. I returned to the Japanese as Kansaki had told me. When I reached the Father's place, the Japanese were there, and the Father was there. When they had finished talking to the Father in his house, we went on to Mr. Sadd's house. When they got there on the road they sent word to Mr. Sadd to come and see

them there. Mr. Sadd did not come till after the third message. The Japanese officer could not speak English and Kansaki was not there. They called Mr. Sadd a Wireless Operator. I succeeded at last in telling them that he was a missionary. Then he sent Mr. Sadd with one soldier guarding him to the Government Station. We continued to the last village in the North and then returned to the Government Station. We left Beru at about 5 p.m. with Mr. Sadd. We left Beru and went to Tanana. We went ashore at Tanana early next morning. The three Europeans stayed in their houses waiting for the Japanese.

Q. Do you know their names?

A. No, because the Japanese would not let us speak to them. We left Tanana at 2 p.m. taking the three Europeans with them.

Q. Who were these three Europeans?

A. Two were soldiers and one was an Wireless Operator. When I reached there, one soldier was in full uniform, the other was wearing a lavalava. The Japanese tied their hands, but in ten minutes time they untied them. The Japanese told them to get ready and they both left in uniform with kit bags. The third European was not in uniform. One of the soldiers was called "Mack" by the natives. He was dark, and very tall and strong. We left Tanana for Tabiteuea. We went ashore at Tabiteuea to look for wireless. A native told the Japanese that there was no Wireless Operator or wireless there. The Japanese did not meet any of the Roman Catholic missionaries there. We left Tabiteuea for Tarawa, but turned aside to call at Kuria. We arrived there in the evening and one Japanese ship was there before us. We went ashore and met Fritz Reiher and Tourakai there. As soon as we got ashore the Japanese from the first ship returned on board with Tourakai and Fritz. Fritz and Tourakai told us that the Japanese had found two of the coast-watchers. In about five minutes time we followed the Japanese officer down the road to the South, and the Wireless operator and some natives came to us. The Japanese took him aboard. He had only a white lavalava.

Q. Do you know his name?

A. No.

Q. Do you remember what he was like?

A. He was thin, and not very tall.

Q. Were the natives bringing this European to the Japanese?

A. I could not say, as I was a little way behind the Japanese officer. About half an hour later we went on board the other ship, where Fritz and Tourakai were. I did not see

the Europeans on board.

Q. Were there any Europeans or missionaries on Kuria?

A. I did not see any. Fritz and Tourakai did not know that we were on board till we reached Betio. Next morning we went ashore at Betio with those Europeans. We were all marched to the house where the Commander of the Japanese was, with those seven Europeans. After we had seen that, Kansaki told us that we could go home and Tiriata and I left. At about 4 p.m. the Japanese sent word that they wanted me again. I went to the Japanese commander's house. I saw those Europeans lying or sitting on the ground with their hands tied behind their backs and fixed to coconut palms.

Q. How many were there?

A. Once before that there were three. The natives said that they were from Abemama. But on that afternoon there were only the seven which had arrived on the same ship as I did. The Japanese told me to be ready to leave again at once. Kansaki took us on board a ship said by the Japanese to be the "Katori Maru", the same ship on which we went to Beru. Next morning we were off the passage at Abaiang. The ship anchored close to the passage and we went ashore in a landing boat. We slept in Bonriki village. Next morning we went as far as the South end, with Japanese soldiers searching in the bush. We returned to the Government Station by boat and slept there that night. Next day the Japanese marched to the North. We slept at Takarano village. Next morning the Japanese tried to get to Ribono, but when we reached the passage the Japanese officer in command changed his mind. We returned on a landing boat to the Government Station. As far as I can remember we left for the ship on the same day.

Q. Did the Japanese find any European missionaries there?

A. On the first day Kansaki went to see the Sisters at the Catholic seminary with the leader of the Japanese soldiers. I stayed on the road and did not see any of the missionaries. Next morning Kansaki and I cycled back to ask the sisters whether they had any tobacco. When we got there I heard one of the Sisters report to Kansaki that they had had a bad time with Japanese soldiers at night. The Japanese asked for matches and the Sisters threw the matches down to them, but the Japanese wanted the Sisters to come down to them. When we went North, Kansaki and the leader of the Japanese saw the Fathers at Koinawa. I did not see them, but waited with the other Japanese in the main road.

After we left Abaiang we went to Maiana, arriving in the morning. It was low water and we landed at Tebikerai.

The Japanese walked to the Government Station. Before they reached there they had been told that two of the Coast-Watchers were at the Government Station and that one was hiding in the bush. At the village before the Government Station, all the Japanese went to the bush to look for that man. About two hours later they returned from the bush without having found him. Some natives, whom I do not know told Kansaki that Maerere knew where the European was. They questioned the boy who kept on saying that he did not know where the European was. They tied his hand and took him to the Government Station. Between the village and the Government Station one native, whom I do not know, told Kansaki that he knew the part of the island where the coast-watcher was hiding. Kansaki told the Japanese leader and he sent back Kansaki with 6 Japanese the native boy, and myself. Kansaki and two or three soldiers went on the boundary of the piece of land and myself, the native boy and two soldiers were on the other boundary. We went right across the island. When we got there the two Japanese saw a big bush. The two Japanese pointed that they were going to the bush and when we were marching there I walked on some coconut leaves and I stood on top of the lid of the fox-hole without knowing it. The Japanese heard the noise, turned back and lifted the rubbish up and found the man there. The Japanese pushed myself and the native aside, and they all ran together. They took him with them. This happened about six and seven p.m. We reached the Government Station at about 10 p.m. Maerere was still tied up but they let him loose next morning. The two other Europeans had been taken on the Government Station on the evening before. The natives said that the Wireless Operator's name was Arthur, and that the man found in the bush was Leslie and the other man was Charlie. Between 6 a.m. and 10 a.m. the Japanese went to see the Fathers and Sisters. I saw the Fathers and Sisters on the Government Station; I think that the Japanese brought them there. We left Maiana in the afternoon and returned to Tarawa. We reached there in the evening. Next morning Masibusi told me that I could leave Betio. I made up my mind to go and see Captain Handley, Basil Cleary and Mr. Morgan. I tried to approach the lunatic asylum, where they were gaoled, from the back of the village. When I got close, I saw Basil Cleary inside the fence walking between two buildings. I tried to whistle softly because the guard was on the door, but he did not hear. I tried to throw a small stone, but he did not see. I stayed about quarter of an hour, then I returned slowly. I only saw Cleary. The same day I left Betio. That night I slept at Banraeaba. Then I left for Abaokoro, slept there two nights and went to Taborio and decided to build my house there. The same day a warship shelled the island. The date was the 15th October, 1942. The same night some natives came by canoe from Betio and told us that all the Europeans had been killed. On the 29th October, 1942, the Japanese ordered me to return to Betio.

Then Masibusi told me that all the Europeans who were in prison had been killed.

Q. How did the Japanese treat the members of the Sacred Heart Mission?

A. When the Japanese were coming from Buariki to Abaokoro, they always called at the Mission Station at Taborio. I think the reason was that they wanted to get wine from Father Grandgeorge. Generally the Japanese left the Missionaries alone unless they wished to go through the Father's gear to get clothing or fish-line.

Q. Can you tell me anything about Mr. Morgan?

A. Before I left for Beru, I saw Mr. Morgan in the Japanese Commander's house in the corner of the verandah. He was waving his hand to me. I asked when he was going back to Bairiki. He replied "Now". I went to the ship, but when I got back he was not in Bairiki and I heard that he was in the lunatic asylum.

Signed by me at Tarawa this 19th day
of October, 1944.

(Signed) L. Copeland.

Before me (Signed) D. C. I. WERNHAM
Deputy Commissioner for the
Western Pacific.

Ikanawa of Ocean Island, Native Clerk in the service of the Gilbert and Ellice Islands Colony, deposes on oath as follows:-

In 1942 I was at Beru. Japanese troops landed at about 5.30 a.m. on Beru on the 29th of September, 1942. Mr Allan L. Taylor and Mr. Thomas C. Murray were stationed on Beru as Wireless Operators. On that day Mr. Taylor was on watch from 4 a.m. to 8 a.m. When the Japanese arrived Tekarara assisted Mr. Taylor to send the messages. Then the Japanese shelled the island. Mr. Taylor and Mr. Murray ran away to the bush at Nuka village, and told Tekarara to burn the station as soon as the Japanese landed.

Q. How do you know that?

A. Mr. Taylor told me, when I saw him afterwards. The Japanese landed at the Government Station. About ten of them went to the Mission Station at Rongorongo. I saw Mr. A. L. Sadd in his house, but I did not speak to him. Then the Japanese came bringing Leslie Copeland with them. I ran to Tabiang. I never saw Mr. Sadd again. The Japanese all returned to their ship in the evening. Next day (Sunday) I saw Mr. Taylor and Mr. Murray. They had decided to escape from Peru, using the London Missionary Society launch and the Government whale-boat. They said that they would leave at 5 p.m. that day. They asked for three natives to

go with them and Constable Teikarawa, L.M.S. Teacher Tarieta and Irata were willing to go with them. I went to Tabiang to ask the natives to help to carry the stores to the boats. When I was there, a native arrived on a bicycle to tell me that Mr. Taylor and Mr. Murray were not going, and to tell me to go to Rongorongo at about 7 p.m. I went there, and they told me that they were not going because Pastor Iubili would not let them have the London Missionary Society launch, and the Native Government refused the Government whale-boat, because they were frightened of the Japanese. The natives said that, before he left, the Japanese Commander told them that the island would be shelled if the natives allowed the Europeans to leave the island. After that Mr. Taylor and Mr. Murray stayed at Rongorongo till the Japanese returned on the 7th of October, 1942. On that day I went to Rongorongo to see Mr. Taylor and Mr. Murray. A native boy came from the Government station to say that the Japanese had landed at the Government station and wanted to take Mr. Taylor and Mr. Murray. Mr. Taylor and Mr. Murray went to meet the Japanese. They told me not to go with them. So I went back, and they went towards the Government station. I never saw them again.

Q. Did you know the names of any of the other New Zealanders who were in the Gilbert Islands in 1942?

A. There were only two New Zealanders at Beru, Mr. Taylor and Mr. Murray. I do not know the names of any of the others.

Signed by me at Tarawa this 20th day of October, 1944.

(Signed) IKAMAWA

Before me

(Signed) D. C. I. WERNHAM
Deputy Commissioner for the
Western Pacific.

Oliver John Drennan, Captain in the Gilbert and Ellice Defence Force, and resident at Tarawa, deposes on oath as follows:-

I am an Assistant District Officer in the Gilbert Islands District. According to the records kept in the office of the District Officer, Gilbert Islands District, the following New Zealand personnel were on Coast-Watching duty in the Gilbert Islands, at the time of the Japanese occupation:-

At Little Makin:

Operator - M.P. McQuinn
Soldiers - Pte B. L. Were (64696)
- Pte L. E. H. Muller (65006)

At Butaritari:

Operator - J. M. Jones.
Soldiers - J. M. Menzies (36495)
 - M. Menzies.

At Abaiang.

Operator - S. R. Wallace.

At Maiana:

Operator - A. C. Heenan
Soldiers - Pte. L. B. Speedy (64653)
 - Pte C. J. Owen (64606)

At Kuria:

Operator - H. R. C. Hearn.
Soldiers - R. Jones (64485)
 - R.A. Ellis (64382)

At Abemama.

Operator - J. J. McCarthy
Soldiers - Pte. D. H. Howe (64056)
 - Pte. R. J. Hitchen (63882)

At Nonouti:

Operator - A. E. McKenna.
Soldiers - Pte. C. A. Kilpin (64057)
 - Pte. J. H. Nichol (64062)

At Beru:

Operators - A. L. Taylor
 - T. C. Murray.

At Tamana:

Operator - C. A. Pearsall
Soldiers - Pte W.A.R. Parker (64005)
 - Pte R. M. McKenzie (64022).

Signed by me at Tarawa this 20th day of October, 1944.

(Signed) O. J. Drennan.

Before me -

(Signed) D. C. I. Wernham
Deputy Commissioner for the Western Pacific.

FINDING

That it is established beyond doubt that the said twenty two persons, namely -

- | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Reginald G. Morgan | 12. C. A. Pearsall |
| 2. Basil Cleary | 13. L. B. Speedy |
| 3. Isaac R. Handley | 14. C. J. Owen |
| 4. A. M. McArthur | 15. D. H. Howe |
| 5. A. L. Sadd | 16. R. J. Hitchen |
| 6. A. C. Heenan | 17. R. Jones |
| 7. J. J. McCarthy | 18. R. A. Ellis |
| 8. H. R. C. Hearn | 19. C. A. Kilpin |
| 9. A. E. McKenna | 20. J. H. Nichol |
| 10. A. L. Taylor | 21. W. A. R. Parker |
| 11. T. C. Murray | 22. R. M. McKenzie |

were killed by Japanese at Betio, Tarawa on or about the fifteenth day of October, 1942.

(Signed) D.C.I. Wernham
Deputy Commissioner for the
Western Pacific.

20th October, 1944.

I certify that the presents typewritten on this and the fifteen preceeding pages are a true copy of the record of an Inquiry held at Tarawa on the sixteenth, eighteenth, nineteenth and twentieth days of October, 1944, under section two of the Death and Fire Inquiries Ordinance 1924.

At Tarawa, Gilbert and Ellice
Islands Colony, this nineteenth
day of March, 1946.

(Signed) D. C. I. Wernham
Deputy Commissioner for the
Western Pacific.

1881A

Page 1

EXHIBIT 18

NAURU ISLAND WAR CRIMES

I. EX10334 Major Douglas John McBAIN of Army Headquarters, Melbourne, make oath and say:-

1. I am an officer of the Australian Military Forces.
2. Annexed hereto and marked Exhibit "B" is a true copy of a report by Lt. SANTAMARTA USMCR and an affidavit by Mr. TAUA on 11th and 7th December, 1945, which I have in my custody in the course of my duties.
3. The original report and affidavit cannot be made available immediately as it is required for trials of minor war criminals.

Sworn before me at Melbourne this)
27th day of May, 1946.)

(Sgd) Douglas McBain
Major

(sgd) W. BUNSELL Capt.
An officer of the
Australian Military Forces.

SECRET.
File No. 1410.

Original report and Affidavit
forwarded to 8 MD on 26 Apr, 1946 -
Vide AHQ 36378 on file ON3.

REPORT OF INVESTIGATION OF ALLEGED
WAR CRIMES.

11 December, 1945.

CASE of the killing of Colonel F.H. Chalmers, Doctor,
B.H. Quinn, Mr. W. Shugg, Mr. Doyle, and Mr. Harner,
Australians.

1. This investigation was conducted in conformity with Cincpac-Cincpoa confidential letter, serial 07205, dated 4 September, 1945, by First Lieutenant Thomas Santanaria, USMCR, on December, 2, 1945.
2. These acts seem to be in direct violation of Article 46, Annex to Hague Convention No. 1V, of October, 18, 1907, as well as constituting the felony of murder.
3. (A) The testimony of the witness examined in the course of this investigation was secured through the use of an interpreter, after the witness had been sworn by me. The witness was given an opportunity to sign his testimony in my presence after such testimony had been transcribed and read to the witness

in his own language by the interpreter. The stenographic reporter and the interpreter were also sworn.

(E) The transcribed testimony of the witness whose name is below listed is hereto attached as an exhibit, the number of which is indicated immediately following the witness' name.

Mr. Taua Exhibit Number 1.

4. The witness had visual observation of the decapitation by a sword of five Australians on the island of Nauru. He saw a Japanese officer and three Japanese soldiers come up to the house in which the five victims were residing, and he saw the officer have each in turn step forward and bring his sword down upon the neck of each, severing it from the body in each case. The witness was unable to fix the date of this incident by reference to the calendar, but knew that it occurred at about 5.00 am of the morning following the first allied air strike at NAURU after it had been occupied by the Japanese.

5. The victims in this case, Colonel F. R. Chalmers, Doctor B. H. Quinn, Mr. W. Shugg, Mr. Doyle, and Mr. Harner, are all dead, and their burial place is unknown.

6. The only information the witness could supply as to the Japanese involved in this case was that there was one Army officer and three soldiers. He recalled the name of the Japanese Army commander on Nauru at the time as Takeuchi.

7. It appears from the investigation that the case involves the deliberate murder of five allied nationals, possibly in unlawful reprisal for the first allied air raid against the island of Nauru. From the fact that there was apparently a regularly constituted military detail assigned to execute the five victims, it is possible that the responsible Japanese Army command on Nauru ordered the action. It is recommended that the Japanese Army commander, Takeuchi, be questioned in an effort to fix further responsibility and to elicit the names of the four Japanese actually participating in the incident.

(Sgd) T. SANTAMARIA
1st. Lt. USMCR.,
Legal Officer,
Investigator.

SECRET

File No.
1410.

For the WAR CRIMES OFFICE
Judge Advocate General's Office -
Navy Department,
United States of America.

In the matter of the killing of
Colonel F.R. Chalmers,
Administrator of the Island
of Nauru, Doctor B.H. Quinn,
Government Medical Officer, Mr.
W. Shugg, Dispensary,
Government Hospital, Mr. Doyle
and Mr. Harner, Australians.

Perpetuation of Testimony of
Mr. Taua, civilian on Tol
Island, Truk and Central
Carolines.

Taken at: Fouba Village, Tol Island, Truk.

Date: December 2, 1945.

In the Presence of: Thomas Santanaria, first lieutenant, 032989,
U.S.M.C.R., Base Headquarters Company.
(Provisional) Island Command, Truk.
Oliver E. Benson, lieutenant (jg) 292201,
U.S.N.R., Military Government, Island
Command, Truk.

Reporter: George C. Lishka, Corporal, 879071, U.S.M.
C.R., Base Headquarters, Company,
(Provisional) Island Command, Truk.

Interpreter: Mr. Phillip W. Harris, Fouba Village, Tol
Island, Truk.

Questions by: Thomas Santanaria, first Lieutenant, 032989,
U.S.M.C.R.

Q. State your name, permanent home address and occupation.
A. Mr. Taua, Onotca Island, Gilbert. June 1941 employed
and transferred by British to Island of Nauru to work on mining
phosphate. In July, 1943, transported with Nauruans by Japanese
to the Island of Tol, Truk. Worked for Japanese in the
construction of an air field.

Q. What is your war time status?
A. I am a displaced civilian.

Q. In what localities were you on duty?

A. I was working on the construction of an air field at Param.

Q. Are you familiar with the circumstances in the killing of Colonel F. R. Chalmers, Doctor B. H. Quinn, Mr. W. Shugg, Mr. Doyle and Mr. Harner on the Island of Nauru?

A. Yes.

Q. State what you know of your own knowledge about the incident.

A. On the evening of the first allied bombing of Nauru I was in the Nauruan village with two Nauruan boys. The planes began bombing late in the evening. I ran to the hospital at the Chinese location to locate my two friends who were transferred with me from the Gilbert Islands and were burnt in the unloading of Japanese gasoline to see whether they had been removed to a place of safety. When I arrived there was only one of my friends behind. I asked him if I could help escort him to a safe place and thereafter remained with him for the rest of the night. After the planes left we returned to the hospital. At daybreak a motor truck came alongside the hospital and I saw four Japanese soldiers, one carrying a sword and three with rifles, enter a house close to the hospital. I was standing in the doorway of the hospital facing the house where the Japanese had stopped. One Japanese soldier opened the door of the house and called for them to come to the door and line up before him inside the house. Three Japanese with rifles stood outside the doorway of the house and the one with the sword was standing in front of them. The Japanese with the sword called for one of them to step close to him. Colonel F. R. Chalmers stepped forward and I saw him stoop over and the Japanese raised his sword with one hand and brought it down on the colonel's neck. His head was severed from the rest of his body. Then Doctor Quinn, Mr. Doyle, Mr. Harner and Mr. Shugg stepped forward one at a time and the Japanese with the sword went through the same motions until all the men mentioned had all been decapitated. After the execution I saw each body being carried to the motor truck and placed in a large box therein. The Japanese with the sword came up to where I was and asked, "Where are the white men", while he was wiping blood off his sword. I answered that I did not know. He then informed me that they were all carried away by American planes during the night. Then the Japanese entered the motor truck and drove off.

Q. How far from the hospital was the house where these five Australians were staying?

A. Approximately fifty feet.

Q. Was there anything between you and the house?

A. No.

Q. How many stories are there to the hospital?

A. One.

Q. Was there a fence between the hospital and house?

A. No.

Q. Did you know whether there were any officers in the group of Japanese at the house.

A. Yes.

Q. How many?

A. One. The one wearing the sword.

Q. Can you recognise a Japanese officer when you see one?

A. Yes.

Q. Can you tell the difference between a Japanese navy and army officer?

A. No.

Q. Can you recognise Japanese Army officers?

A. Yes.

Q. Can you tell the difference between a Japanese Army non-commissioned officer and a commissioned officer?

A. Yes.

Q. Were the three Japanese soldiers with rifles officers or enlisted men?

A. Enlisted men.

Q. Did you ever see any of these men before that night?

A. Yes, many times.

Q. Where did you see them?

A. They were sentries doing sentinal duty at different places in Nauru.

Q. Do you know any of their names?

A. No.

Q. Can you recognise them if you see them again?

A. Yes.

Q. Do you know any of the officers who were in charge of Japanese troops on Nauru at that time?

A. Yes.

Q. Who did you know?

A. The officer in charge of all troops.

Q. What was his name?
A. Takeuchi.

Q. Could you recognise him if you saw him again.
A. Yes.

Q. How many times did you see this man?
A. Once

Q. Where did you see him?
A. At the cemetery.

Q. Who was being buried?
A. A friend of mine.

Q. How did this man die?
A. He was fatally burned while unloading gasoline from Japanese ships.

Q. Was this before or after the air raid?
A. Before.

Q. How many days before?
A. Less than a month.

Q. How did the ship catch fire?
A. I do not know.

Q. What were you doing at the hospital?
A. I went there to help my friends who were patients to seek cover from bombing.

Q. How long did the bombing last?
A. About an hour.

Q. Was the hospital bombed?
A. No.

Q. How long after the bombing did you see this incident take place?
A. About five o'clock the morning following the air raid.

Q. Did you remain awake all night?
A. Yes.

Q. Why?
A. I was too frightened to sleep.

Q. Did you see the five Australians enter the house the night before?
A. No.

Q. Did you know these men?
A. Yes.

Q. Did you see any light in the house before or after the air raid?

A. No.

Q. When did you see those men the first time after the air raid?

A. In the morning when the Japanese came after them.

Q. Could the Japanese see you while they were at the house?

A. I don't know.

Q. Were you hiding?

A. No, I was sitting on a bed close to the doorway in the hospital.

Q. Do you know whether they saw you?

A. No.

Q. Was it possible for the Japanese to see you?

A. Yes.

Q. How long after the incident did the Japanese officer come to you.

A. Immediately thereafter.

Q. Did you notice much blood on the sword?

A. Yes.

Q. What was he wiping his sword with?

A. A piece of cloth.

Q. Did anyone else see what you saw?

A. No.

Q. Was anyone else close to the door with you?

A. No.

Q. Can you speak the Japanese language?

A. No.

Q. Can you understand it?

A. Yes, a little.

(sgd) TAUU
Mr. Taua,
Tol Island, Truk.

Tol Island,
Truk and Central Carolines.

I, Mr. Taua, of lawful age, being duly sworn on oath,
state that I have read the foregoing transcription of my

interrogation and all answers contained therein are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

(sgd) -TAUA

Mr. Taua.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 7th day of December, 1945.

(sgd) T. SANTAMARIA
1st. Lt., USMCR.

Tol Island.
Truk and Central Carolines.

I, Mr. Phillip W. Harris, of lawful age, being duly sworn upon oath state that I truly translated the questions asked and answers given and that after being transcribed, I truly translated the foregoing deposition containing 5 pages, to the witness; that the witness thereupon in my presence affixed his signature thereto.

(Sgd) PHILLIP W. HARRIS
Mr. Phillip W. Harris.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 7th day of December, 1945.

(sgd) T. SANTAMARIA
T. Santarmaria
1st. Lt. USMCR
Legal Officer.

I, T. Santamaria, first lieutenant, 032989, U.S.M.C.R., certify that on 7th December, 1945, personally appeared before me Mr. Taua, and gave the foregoing answers to the several questions set forth; that after his testimony had been transcribed, the said Mr. Taua read the same and affixed his signature thereto in my presence.

Place: Touba Village, Tol
Truk & Central Carolines.

T. Santamaria
T. SANTAMARIA

Date: 7 December, 1945.

1st. Lt. USMCR.,
Island Command, Truk.

Fingerpring of Mr. Taua, witness.

Fingerprint of Mr. Phillip
W. Harris, Interpreter.

This is the document marked Exhibit "B" referred to in the Affidavit of SX10334, Maj. D. J. McBain, A.H.Q., sworn before me this 27th day of May, 1946, as being produced and shown to him at this time of his swearing his said Affidavit.

(Sgd) W. BUNSELL Capt.

1881A

Page 1

EXHIBIT 10

NAURU ISLAND WAR CRIMES

I, EX10334 Major Douglas John McBAIN of Army Headquarters, Melbourne, make oath and say:-

1. I am an officer of the Australian Military Forces.
2. Annexed hereto and marked Exhibit "B" is a true copy of a report by Lt. SANTAMARTA USMCR and an affidavit by Mr. TAUA on 11th and 7th December, 1945, which I have in my custody in the course of my duties.
3. The original report and affidavit cannot be made available immediately as it is required for trials of minor war criminals.

Sworn before me at Melbourne this)
27th day of May, 1946.)

(Sgd) Douglas McBain
Major

(sgd) W. BUNSELL Capt.
An officer of the
Australian Military Forces.

SECRET.
File No. 1410.

Original report and Affidavit
forwarded to 8 MD on 26 Apr, 1946 -
Vide AHQ 36378 on file ON3.

REPORT OF INVESTIGATION OF ALLEGED
WAR CRIMES.

11 December, 1945.

CASE of the killing of Colonel F.H. Chalmers, Doctor,
B.H. Quinn, Mr. W. Shugg, Mr. Doyle, and Mr. Harner,
Australians.

1. This investigation was conducted in conformity with Cincpac-Cincpac confidential letter, serial 07205, dated 4 September, 1945, by First Lieutenant Thomas Santanaria, USMCR, on December, 2, 1945.
2. These acts seem to be in direct violation of Article 46, Annex to Hague Convention No. 1V, of October, 18, 1907, as well as constituting the felony of murder.
3. (A) The testimony of the witness examined in the course of this investigation was secured through the use of an interpreter, after the witness had been sworn by me. The witness was given an opportunity to sign his testimony in my presence after such testimony had been transcribed and read to the witness

in his own language by the interpreter. The stenographic reporter and the interpreter were also sworn.

(E) The transcribed testimony of the witness whose name is below listed is hereto attached as an exhibit, the number of which is indicated immediately following the witness' name.

Mr. Taua Exhibit Number 1.

4. The witness had visual observation of the decapitation by a sword of five Australians on the island of Nauru. He saw a Japanese officer and three Japanese soldiers come up to the house in which the five victims were residing, and he saw the officer have each in turn step forward and bring his sword down upon the neck of each, severing it from the body in each case. The witness was unable to fix the date of this incident by reference to the calendar, but knew that it occurred at about 5.00 am of the morning following the first allied air strike at NAURU after it had been occupied by the Japanese.

5. The victims in this case, Colonel F. R. Chalmers, Doctor B. H. Quinn, Mr. W. Shugg, Mr. Doyle, and Mr. Harner, are all dead, and their burial place is unknown.

6. The only information the witness could supply as to the Japanese involved in this case was that there was one Army officer and three soldiers. He recalled the name of the Japanese Army commander on Nauru at the time as Takeuchi.

7. It appears from the investigation that the case involves the deliberate murder of five allied nationals, possibly in unlawful reprisal for the first allied air raid against the island of Nauru. From the fact that there was apparently a regularly constituted military detail assigned to execute the five victims, it is possible that the responsible Japanese Army command on Nauru ordered the action. It is recommended that the Japanese Army commander, Takeuchi, be questioned in an effort to fix further responsibility and to elicit the names of the four Japanese actually participating in the incident.

(Sgd) T. SANTAMARIA
1st. Lt. USMCR.,
Legal Officer,
Investigator.

EXHIBIT

File No.
1410.

For the WAR CRIMES OFFICE
Judge Advocate General's Office -
Navy Department,
United States of America.

In the matter of the killing of Perpetuation of Testimony of
Colonel F.R. Chalmers, Mr. Taua, civilian on Tol
Administrator of the Island Island, Truk and Central
of Nauru, Doctor B.H. Quinn, Carolines.
Government Medical Officer, Mr.
W. Shugg, Dispenserer,
Government Hospital, Mr. Doyle
and Mr. Harner, Australians.

Taken at: Fouba Village, Tol Island, Truk.

Date: December 2, 1945.

In the Presence of: Thomas Santanaria, first lieutenant, 032989,
U.S.M.C.R., Base Headquarters Company.
(Provisional) Island Command, Truk.
Oliver E. Benson, lieutenant (jg) 292201,
U.S.N.R., Military Government, Island
Command, Truk.

Reporter: George C. Lishka, Corporal, 879071, U.S.M.
C.R., Base Headquarters, Company,
(Provisional) Island Command, Truk.

Interpreter: Mr. Phillip W. Harris, Fouba Village, Tol
Island, Truk.

Questions by: Thomas Santanaria, first Lieutenant, 032989,
U.S.M.C.R.

Q. State your name, permanent home address and occupation.
A. Mr. Taua, Onotca Island, Gilbert. June 1941 employed
and transferred by British to Island of Nauru to work on mining
phosphate. In July, 1943, transported with Nauruans by Japanese
to the Island of Tol, Truk. Worked for Japanese in the
construction of an air field.

Q. What is your war time status?
A. I am a displaced civilian.

Q. In what localities were you on duty?

A. I was working on the construction of an air field at Param.

Q. Are you familiar with the circumstances in the killing of Colonel F. R. Chalmers, Doctor B. H. Quinn, Mr. W. Shugg, Mr. Doyle and Mr. Harmer on the Island of Nauru?

A. Yes.

Q. State what you know of your own knowledge about the incident.

A. On the evening of the first allied bombing of Nauru I was in the Nauruan village with two Nauruan boys. The planes began bombing late in the evening. I ran to the hospital at the Chinese location to locate my two friends who were transferred with me from the Gilbert Islands and were burnt in the unloading of Japanese gasoline to see whether they had been removed to a place of safety. When I arrived there was only one of my friends behind. I asked him if I could help escort him to a safe place and thereafter remained with him for the rest of the night. After the planes left we returned to the hospital. At daybreak a motor truck came alongside the hospital and I saw four Japanese soldiers, one carrying a sword and three with rifles, enter a house close to the hospital. I was standing in the doorway of the hospital facing the house where the Japanese had stopped. One Japanese soldier opened the door of the house and called for them to come to the door and line up before him inside the house. Three Japanese with rifles stood outside the doorway of the house and the one with the sword was standing in front of them. The Japanese with the sword called for one of them to step close to him. Colonel F. R. Chalmers stepped forward and I saw him stoop over and the Japanese raised his sword with one hand and brought it down on the colonel's neck. His head was severed from the rest of his body. Then Doctor Quinn, Mr. Doyle, Mr. Harmer and Mr. Shugg stepped forward one at a time and the Japanese with the sword went through the same motions until all the men mentioned had all been decapitated. After the execution I saw each body being carried to the motor truck and placed in a large box therein. The Japanese with the sword came up to where I was and asked, "Where are the white men", while he was wiping blood off his sword. I answered that I did not know. He then informed me that they were all carried away by American planes during the night. Then the Japanese entered the motor truck and drove off.

Q. How far from the hospital was the house where these five Australians were staying?

A. Approximately fifty feet.

Q. Was there anything between you and the house?

A. No.

Q. How many stories are there to the hospital?

A. One.

Q. Was there a fence between the hospital and house?

A. No.

Q. Did you know whether there were any officers in the group of Japanese at the house.

A. Yes.

Q. How many?

A. One. The one wearing the sword.

Q. Can you recognise a Japanese officer when you see one?

A. Yes.

Q. Can you tell the difference between a Japanese navy and army officer?

A. No.

Q. Can you recognise Japanese Army officers?

A. Yes.

Q. Can you tell the difference between a Japanese Army non-commissioned officer and a commissioned officer?

A. Yes.

Q. Were the three Japanese soldiers with rifles officers or enlisted men?

A. Enlisted men.

Q. Did you ever see any of these men before that night?

A. Yes, many times.

Q. Where did you see them?

A. They were sentries doing sentinal duty at different places in Nauru.

Q. Do you know any of their names?

A. No.

Q. Can you recognise them if you see them again?

A. Yes.

Q. Do you know any of the officers who were in charge of Japanese troops on Nauru at that time?

A. Yes.

Q. Who did you know?

A. The officer in charge of all troops.

Q. What was his name?

A. Takouchi.

Q. Could you recognise him if you saw him again.

A. Yes.

Q. How many times did you see this man?

A. Once

Q. Where did you see him?

A. At the cemetery.

Q. Who was being buried?

A. A friend of mine.

Q. How did this man die?

A. He was fatally burned while unloading gasoline from Japanese ships.

Q. Was this before or after the air raid?

A. Before.

Q. How many days before?

A. Less than a month.

Q. How did the ship catch fire?

A. I do not know.

Q. What were you doing at the hospital?

A. I went there to help my friends who were patients to seek cover from bombing.

Q. How long did the bombing last?

A. About an hour.

Q. Was the hospital bombed?

A. No.

Q. How long after the bombing did you see this incident take place?

A. About five o'clock the morning following the air raid.

Q. Did you remain awake all night?

A. Yes.

Q. Why?

A. I was too frightened to sleep.

Q. Did you see the five Australians enter the house the night before?

A. No.

Q. Did you know these men?

A. Yes.

Q. Did you see any light in the house before or after the air raid?

A. No.

Q. When did you see those men the first time after the air raid?

A. In the morning when the Japanese came after them.

Q. Could the Japanese see you while they were at the house?

A. I don't know.

Q. Were you hiding?

A. No, I was sitting on a bed close to the doorway in the hospital.

Q. Do you know whether they saw you?

A. No.

Q. Was it possible for the Japanese to see you?

A. Yes.

Q. How long after the incident did the Japanese officer come to you.

A. Immediately thereafter.

Q. Did you notice much blood on the sword?

A. Yes.

Q. What was he wiping his sword with?

A. A piece of cloth.

Q. Did anyone else see what you saw?

A. No.

Q. Was anyone else close to the door with you?

A. No.

Q. Can you speak the Japanese language?

A. No.

Q. Can you understand it?

A. Yes, a little.

(sgd) TAUA
Mr. Taula,
Tol Island, Truk.

Tol Island,
Truk and Central Carolines.

I, Mr. Taula, of lawful age, being duly sworn on oath,
state that I have read the foregoing transcription of my

interrogation and all answers contained therein are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

(sgd) -TAUA

Mr. Taua.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 7th day of December, 1945.

(sgd) T. SANTAMARIA
1st. Lt., USMCR.

Tol Island.
Truk and Central Carolines.

I, Mr. Phillip W. Harris, of lawful age, being duly sworn upon oath state that I truly translated the questions asked and answers given and that after being transcribed, I truly translated the foregoing deposition containing 5 pages, to the witness; that the witness thereupon in my presence affixed his signature thereto.

(Sgd) PHILLIP W. HARRIS
Mr. Phillip W. Harris.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 7th day of December, 1945.

(sgd) T. SANTAMARIA
T. Santarmaria
1st. Lt. USMCR
Legal Officer.

I, T. Santamaria, first lieutenant, 032989, U.S.M.C.R., certify that on 7th December, 1945, personally appeared before me Mr. Taua, and gave the foregoing answers to the several questions set forth; that after his testimony had been transcribed, the said Mr. Taua read the same and affixed his signature thereto in my presence.

Place: Touba Village, Tol
Truk & Central Carolines.

T. Santamaria
T. SANTAMARIA

Date: 7 December, 1945.

1st. Lt. USMCR.,
Island Command, Truk.

Fingerpring of Mr. Taua, witness.

Fingerprint of Mr. Phillip
W. Harris, Interpreter.

This is the document marked Exhibit "B" referred to in the Affidavit of SX10334, Maj. D. J. McBain, A.H.Q., sworn before me this 27th day of May, 1946, as being produced and shown to him at this time of his swearing his said Affidavit.

(Sgd) W. BUNSELL Capt.

1882A

NAURU ISLAND WAR CRIMES

I, SX 10334 Major Douglas John McBAIN of Army Headquarters, Melbourne, make oath and say:

1. I am an officer of the Australian Military Forces.
2. Annexed hereto and marked Exhibit "A" is a true copy of a statement by Lee Chong Wong on which I have in my custody in the course of my duties.
3. The original signed statement cannot be made available immediately as it is required for trials of minor war criminals.

Sworn before me at Melbourne this)
27th day of May, 1946.) (Sgd) Douglas McBain (Major)

(Sgd) W. BUNSELL Capt.
An officer of the Australian
Military Forces.

LEE CHONG WONG - Houseboy to Col. CHALMERS states:

The Japanese first put me in the Chinese settlement. I cooked for the five white men and took the food in to them three times per day. I remember the American bombing raid about 8 o'clock on 25 Mar. 43. The bombs fell a long way away from the house where Col CHALMERS was imprisoned and the house was not damaged.

At 7 o'clock the next morning I went to Col. CHALMERS' house and there was a Japanese Guard at each door. They asked me why I had come. I said "Because I am the houseboy". It was told I could come inside. I went inside the house and found all the white men had gone.

All Col CHALMERS' clothes were there there except his pyjamas. I looked in Mr. Harner's drawer and found his razor there. I asked the Japanese guards where the white men were but they would not tell me. At 8 o'clock I went down to draw the rations for the Europeans and they told me "No more."

All the Europeans were in the house the previous night. They were all well except Dr. Quinn who could not walk. All clothing belongings to the other four whites was still in the house when I went the next morning. Prior to this time the Japanese had only one guard on the house.

When I went into the house at 7 o'clock that morning there was a long smear of blood on the floor from the position in which Dr. Quinn usually slept, the length of the room to the lower door as if a body had been dragged along the floor.

I was afraid to ask the Japanese the reason for the blood. I could not recognise any of the guards now. They changed every two hours. The last time I saw Col. Chambers was when I took him his evening meal on the night of 25 March, 1943.

This is the document marked Exhibit "A" referred to in the Affidavit of SX10334, Maj. D. J. McBain, A.H.Q., sworn before me this 27th day of May, 1946, as being produced and shown to him at this time of his swearing his said Affidavit.

(Sgd) W. BUNSELL Capt.

1883A

Evidentiary Document No. 5246.*

Exhibit 'B'

OCEAN ISLAND WAR CRIMES

I, SX10334 Major Douglas John McBAIN of Army Headquarters, Melbourne, make oath and say:

1. I am an officer of the Australian Military Forces.
2. Annexed hereto and marked Exhibit 'B' is a true copy of 31/51 Aust. Inf. Bn (A.I.F.) Nauru-Ocean Island Force, Investigations relating to fate of Europeans on Ocean Island made on 19 Oct. 1945 which I have in my custody in the course of my duties.
2. The original above mentioned document cannot be made available immediately as it is required for trials of minor war criminals.

Sworn before me at MELBOURNE)
this 27th day of May, 1946.) (sgd) DOUGLAS McBAIN Major.

(Sgd) W. BUNSELL Capt.
An officer of the
Australian Military Forces.

31/51 AUST. INF. BN (AIF)
NAURU OCEAN ISLAND FORCE

SECRET
19 Oct, 45,

Exhibit 'B'

INVESTIGATIONS RELATING TO FATE OF
EUROPEANS ON OCEAN ISLAND.

The following investigation was conducted on NAURU ISLAND at the direction of the Military Commander by questioning natives of OCEAN ISLAND whom had been transferred during Jap occupation of both islands. The natives questioned were DAVID MURDOCK, KATANGITANG and KIATRA, OCEAN ISLANDERS, on 19 Oct. 45.

On 20 Oct. 45 three other witnesses, NANTA, CHALLIE and MOTE, were interrogated.

DAVID MURDOCK, GILBERTESE, STATES:-

I left OCEAN ISLAND in July, 1943. I found the Japs to be very harsh and cruel.

There were six Europeans on the island:

Mr. CARTWRIGHT
Mr. MERCER
Mr. COLE
Mr. THIRD
Father PUJEBET and
Catholic Brother.

The first four Europeans were imprisoned and were moved about various places of imprisonment.

Father PUJEBET and the Brother were not imprisoned.

They were all treated harshly. I often saw Japanese Officers beating Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. MERCER and Mr. COLE, but not Mr. THIRD, with sticks and struck on the face and jaw. They were very thin and unhealthy and suffering from all the indignities and lack of food. Mr. CARTWRIGHT died on Good Friday 1943 as a result of starvation. He was buried in the European Cemetery at OOMA, one of the natives present was Sjt/Major NAPE. The grave was marked with a stone pillar. I know where the grave is.

Mr. MERCER died shortly after Mr. CARTWRIGHT, probably a few months. After Mr. CARTWRIGHT died the Japanese continued their ill treatment of the remaining Europeans. I saw Mr. MERCER a few days before his death, but did not speak to him. Other natives and Japs told us that Mr. MERCER had died. I was told he was buried by the Japs at TAPIWA.

A few months later I left for NAURU ISLAND. Prior to leaving I was questioned by the Japs in the Power House as to the whereabouts of certain spare parts which the BPC had buried. These parts were essential to start the Power House. I refused to give the information to the Jap Commander, DOYAMA, who then called in soldiers, who beat me with an iron pipe, and threatened me with rifle and sword. I was ordered outside. I could not walk, but crawled out. Mr. COLE, who was waiting outside was called in and likewise questioned. I saw them beating Mr. COLE with the same iron pipe, 1 1/2 inches diameter by 7 feet long. Mr. COLE's nose was bleeding. That was the last time that I saw Mr. COLE.

Q. Were the other Europeans alive, when Mr. MERCER died.

A. Yes, besides Mr. COLE, there was Mr. THIRD, who I never saw ill treated and appeared to be in good health. Father PUJEBET and the Brother (BRUMELL) were on the island, but neither were imprisoned. I did not see the Clergy ill treated, although I had heard of indignities against them.

Q. Is there any one else on the island, who knows what happened to the remaining civilians.

A. Yes. KATANGITANG, who is at present on NAURU may know.

Q. Were you ill treated prior to the incident you have mentioned (beating in the Power House)

A. Yes, I was taken prisoner on the first day and then after questioning was released.

Q. Why did they arrest you.

A. Because I was mistaken for a European, (Mr. MURDOCK is half-caste and has pronounced European features).

Q. What questions were you asked.

A. Where was the Australian money, to which I replied I did not know.

A few months later I was questioned again as to the whereabouts of certain BPC machinery. I denied all knowledge and was beaten with a stick. I was ordered not to leave my village at OOMA and was confined there.

Q. Were you continually confined there.

A. Yes, except when under escort for working parties did I leave the village. We were engaged in digging trenches, building emplacements etc.

Q. Do you know of any atrocities perpetrated against other natives, whilst you were there?

A. The Japs first landed in August, 1942. About 6 months after they landed three OCEAN ISLANDERS - TAMOA, TOANIKARAWA and ROBERT were beheaded in the native cemetery for stealing. All the native inhabitants on the island were ordered to witness this execution and were warned that a similar fate awaited those who did not attend. I did not see the first two, but did see ROBERT beheaded. The Jap Commander, DANURA, was present and the executioners were soldiers NOT officers.

Q. Were the natives tried before executions.

A. Yes.

DAVID MURDOCK CONTINUES:

Elec
four
About May, 1943, the Japs had completed the construction of an electric wire around OOMA POINT. Three native prisoners, named KAUBABA, BANGAL and TAUANTANG, all Gilbertese, were taken from the native prison. These three natives were dressed in military uniform and taken to the water's edge, facing the wire, and the winner of the race would gain first prize, which was a trip to KUSAI in the CAROLINES. (At this time food was scarce on OCEAN and prospects at KUSAI was considered very bright). The natives started the race and as they touched the wire they were electrocuted.

Q. Do you know the names of any Japs witnessing this event.

A. No, I will find out.

Q. What did they do to the native bodies.

A. I do not know.

Q. Who was the Jap Commander at this time.

A. DOYAMA

Q. Were there any other atrocities.

A. Not that I know of, there may have been.

Q. Was Mr. CARTWRIGHT and Mr. MERCER dead before this happened.

A. Yes. Not long before.

Q. How did you find conditions on NAURU compared to OCEAN.

A. Much better, although the Japs were cruel on NAURU, it was much worse on OCEAN. Beatings and severity was much more common.

Q. What was the name of the boat you came over in.

A. IKUDA MARU about 7,000 tons. We left OCEAN at 1700 hours one day and arrived NAURU 0400 hours the next morning.

Q. Who were the Jap Commanders whilst you were on the island.

A. (1) DANURA (? TANIURA)
(2) DOYANA (? TOYAMA)
MATAKE 2 i/c

Q. Did you see MATAKE perpetrate any cruelties.

A. He may have, being second in command.

Questioning of KATANGITANG a native of OCEAN, who was brought over to NAURU by the Japs, approximately Sept. 1943.

This native gave similar answers to the questions above.

Q. Were you ever maltreated on OCEAN ISLAND.

A. Yes, once I went to retrieve a broken husk of pawpaw in front of the No. 1 Jap Doctor's dwelling. He saw me and beat me with a hockey stick. I fell down after about twenty strokes. Three times I fell down, receiving about 60 strokes in all.

Q. When did you leave OCEAN.

A. About one or two months after MURDOCK

Q. Were the remaining four Europeans alive when you left.

A. The Father had died before I left. I do not know whether Mr. COLE or Mr. THIRD were alive or not. The Brother was alive.

Q. How did the Father die.

A. I heard from the Brother that Father PUJEBET who was quite well and not sick had been taken to the hospital and operated

on in the stomach. He was not seen again. The Brother told us that the Japs had killed the Father.

Q. Do you know where Father PUJEBET is buried.

A. No.

Q. Can you remember exact date when the Father died.

A. No, a few weeks before I left.

Q. Did any further OCEAN ISLANDERS come over after you left.

A. No, our ship was the last, about forty of us. It was a big ship.

Q. And who were the remaining Europeans.

A. Mr. COLE and the Brother I saw. I did not see Mr. THIRD.

Q. When was the last time you saw Mr. THIRD.

A. About three months before I left.

Q. Did you ever see Mr. THIRD ill treated.

A. No.

Q. Did you see the other Europeans being ill treated.

A. I saw Mr. COLE, being beaten and the others forced to do hard labour.

Q. Do you know the names of any Japs, who committed any cruelties.

A. No, I don't know their names, they were all cruel. The name of the officer, who took the Father away was KOTSUA.

Q. When was the last time you spoke to the Father.

A. About a week before he was taken away. He told me that this officer KOTSUA was continually pestering him, calling in at his house, searching through the trunks and rooms and often spitting in his face.

Q. What actually did the Brother tell you.

A. He said that the Father had died, and he thought that he had been murdered.

Q. What did KOTSUA do.

A. I do not know. He wore two stars.

Q. How many natives remained on the island after you left.

A. About 50 to 60 married, 160 single. We were told that the 50 married families were to go to the CAROLINES, whilst the 160 single were to remain. We were told they were going away for a week after we left.

Exhibitory Document No. 5246.

This is the document marked Exhibit 'B' referred to in the affidavit of SX10334, Maj. D. J. McBain, AHQ, sworn before me this 27th day of May, 1946, as being produced and shown to him at this time of his swearing his said affidavit.

(signed) W. BUNSELL, Capt.

OCEAN ISLAND WAR CRIMESExhibit "A"

I, SX 10334 Major Douglas John McBain of Army Headquarters, Melbourne, make oath and say:

1. I am an officer of the Australian Military Forces.
2. Annexed hereto and marked Exhibit ' ' is a true copy of The Interrogation of KABUNARE on which I have in my custody in the course of my duties.
3. The original above mentioned document cannot be made available immediately as it is required for trials of minor war criminals.

Sworn before me at Melbourne)
this 27th day of May, 1946) Signed Douglas McBain, Major

(signed) W. Bunsell Capt.
An Officer of the
Australian Military Forces.

EXHIBIT 'A'INTERROGATION OF KABUNARE

My name is KABUNARE and I am a native of NIKUNAI ISLAND. I am 28 years of age and single. I signed on with the British Phosphate Commissioners during the "TRIESTA" recruit at OMOTOA ISLAND about 18 months before the Japanese came to OCEAN IS.

2. My work on OCEAN IS before the Japanese came was on the cableway.

3. During the Japanese occupation I was employed as a fisherman and lived at TABWEWA Village. We fished from early in the morning until about 3 pm. Usually two men per canoe. The Japanese collected all the fish, but only occasionally gave us a little for our own use. Sometimes the Japanese came down to the shore to meet us coming in but usually we took the fish up to them. The Japanese to whom I took the fish was ("OCHISAN" - phoenetic spelling). If we did not catch any fish we were slapped on the face.

4. I knew NABETARI who was also a fisherman. I did not hear that he was planning to escape, but I heard after he had gone. I heard that three canoes had got away and thought that the Japanese would catch them.

5. There were no Europeans alive when NABETARI left OCEAN IS.

6. The Europeans I remember on the Island were Mr. CARTWRIGHT who died of malnutrition, Mr. COLE, Mr. THIRD, Mr. MERCER, Father PUJEBET and the Brother. I do not know where Mr. CARTWRIGHT was buried.

7. I once saw Mr. COLE outside his house at TABEWA working in the garden. He was weeding around the "Boi" plant. We were not allowed to speak to the Europeans.

8. I heard from TEIERU who had escaped with NABETARI that Mr. COLE was killed by stabbing with a knife while he was asleep in his house at TABWEWA. TEIERU also told me that MR. MERCER died of sickness and that Father PUJEBET went into hospital for an abdominal operation. He also told me that Mr. THIRD and the Brother were injected by the number two doctor (ARAHESHO).

9. About five months before the end of the war our section of fishermen at TABWEWA was transferred to UMA village. We were not told why we were transferred to UMA village. There were only three of us at TABWEWA - myself ERIM and ABERAM.

10. At UMA we joined the fishing section there. The names of the boys there were - ERIU, MITIRE, TUWEWI, TEBOITABU, BAITAU, BUARAKI, URIAM, TETEKKA, ANGKAM, ABA, BANEI and MAORI. We all lived in one European house up behind the Billiard Room. We fished from early in the morning, sometimes as early as 3 am until afternoon.

11. One evening "OSAKISO" (phoenetic) the Japanese who was in charge of the fishermen came into our house and told us that next morning we were to come back early from fishing, about nine or ten o'clock.

12. MAORI and I came back from fishing about 7 am the next morning. The rest came back about nine o'clock. We came back early because we had a lot of fish, then we all went to our quarters.

13. Somewhere after nine o'clock "OSAKISO" shouted out from the Billiard Room for all us fishermen to come down. We all came down and gathered beside the road at the Billiard Room. When we got there we found all the other boys on the Island already gathered there. There would be over a hundred.

14. We were all paraded in about five lines along the road. Some of the Japanese were gathered there when we arrived. There would be about 6. "SUKAISO" (Phoenetic) the No. 3 Commander spoke to us through OSAKISO the interpreter. He stood upon the verandah with the other five Japanese. He told us that the war is over but that we must still work for a while, and then the Japanese would be going away and leaving us here. Then we were told to go back to our houses.

15. We were too scared to show our happiness, so just bowed our heads and went to our house. Then we laughed and talked of the good news in our house.

16. We stayed in our house all the rest of the day and prepared our fishing gear for the next day. We were not allowed to go out and OSAKISO was angry if anyone asked permission to go out.

17. Next morning MAORI and I and everyone else went out fishing as usual while it was still dark. MAORI and I came back very early about eight o'clock because we had a lot of fish. The others came back about nine o'clock, they were earlier than usual too, because they had caught a lot of fish.

18. When we arrived back all the natives and a lot of the Japanese soldiers were gathered in the same place as we were gathered the previous day. The native soldiers were told to hand in their uniforms and arms. They handed them all in to the Billiard Room. The native soldiers had marched in, in their respective groups under their Japanese Leader.

19. Then OSAKISO called us from our house to come down to the road by the Billiard Room again. We came down and joined in the parade. SUKAISO spoke to us all again. He told us we were going to change over the sections again now. OSAKISO then divided us up into our new sections as instructed by SUKAISO. Our section was the last to be divided up.

20. The first section of about fifteen men was for BUKINTERIKE. One soldier went with them and they marched away. The second section of about fifteen men was for TABWEWA. One soldier went with them and they marched away. I would know the faces of each of the soldiers who went with these two groups. The third group was a bigger group, about 30 or 40 and was for TABIANG. One soldier marched away with them too. The fourth group was also about 30 or 40 and was for the Chinese Location. One soldier went with them. This last is the Toddy Cutter's group.

21. I was in the fifth group of eight men. We were to go to ETAN. BANABA and marched away with one soldier in charge. I do not know the name of this soldier, but would recognise him. There were still some natives left when we marched away.

22. We marched through below the Chinese quarters and above the Pastor's House and then through to the Police lines. The soldier in front with us behind.

23. When we arrived at the Police lines we saw a lot of Japanese soldiers in their quarters. They were all inside their houses. The Japanese soldier in charge of us told us to sit down in a line and then told us to face towards the East. Then he took out a little book from his pocket and asked us in turn how old we were. As each man told him how old he was the soldier wrote in his book. That was all we were asked.

24. When the soldier had almost finished writing down the ages, a (SHOTAISO) came up with another soldier from behind us and walked

out in front of us. The (SHOTAIISO) drew his sword and revolver, and the soldier drew a revolver and both pointed them at us. They did not speak to us, but called out for some more soldiers to come out. Each soldier stood in front of one man with the bayonet pointing at his stomach about six inches away.

25. Without anything being said, the soldier who had lead us up tied each man's hands in order with some string he had in his pocket. It was twine that is used for making rope. My hands were tied very tight. There was a length of rope left over loose after tying each man's hands.

26. Then the (SHOTAIISO) spoke to the soldier who had tied our hands and the soldier told us to stand up. Then the soldier gathered up all the long ends of rope so we could not run away.

27. Then the (SHOTAIISO) walked beside our group as we started walking down towards TABIANG Village. The soldier holding the ropes behind us and the other eight soldiers behind him. The one who had had the pistol with the (SHOTAIISO) stayed in the Police lines. All still had their bayonets ready as they filed down the track behind us.

28. We stopped by the engine room for about three minutes while the (SHOTAIISO) spoke to the men in the Power House. I do not know what they were talking about.

29. Then we walked on down the track across the road and on down to the cliffs below TABIANG Village.

30. When we got to the cliff the soldier released the strings and told us to line up on the edge of the cliff and squat down close together. Then our eyes were tied up with cloth. The same man who had tied our hands tied the blindfold on us. Then I could hear movements behind and felt as though the soldiers were behind us. I was the second man to have my eyes tied up.

31. FALAILIVA was the first man to be tied and was on my left. He said to me "Are you ready?" and I replied "Yes I am ready to die". Then FALAILIVA asked "You remember God?" and I replied "Yes I remember."

32. Then everything was quiet for a moment, then I fell over the cliff. I did not try to, but just fell. Almost at the same time I heard a scream and someone fell on top of me. I think it was FALAILIVA. I heard others fall, but no more screams. Then I heard a lot of shots fired. FALAILIVA was still on top of me and some of the bullets I could hear were close to me.

33. This was about three or four o'clock in the afternoon. The water kept breaking over us, but I could breathe as the water receded each time. I could see a little bit out of my left eye past

the blindfold, but I did not look up. I stayed there without moving until I thought the Japanese had gone. Then I bit FALAILIVA'S shoulder to see if he was still alive. He was still lying partly on top of me. FALAILIVA did not cry out so I knew he was dead.

34. I stayed about an hour in the water until I thought the Japanese would be gone, then I got up and went over to a sharp piece of the cliff where I cut the binding from my wrists. Then I removed the blindfold. Then I went round all the other bodies to see if any were alive. They were all dead and I looked at each man's face. There was a lot of blood about. I cannot say how all were killed, but I remember FALAILIVA had a wound in his left side, and blood was coming from it. UEANTEITI had a bullet hole in his head.

34. I stayed about on

35. After I found they were all dead, I looked for a place to hide and found a cave where I hid myself. I stayed in this cave all night.

36. The next morning I saw some of the bodies floating outside the cave. They were all swelled up bodies then. Two of the bodies washed into the entrance of the cave. I did not touch them and stayed inside the cave and only peeped outside.

37. About the middle of the day I heard the roar of a plane flying very low; I could hear the plane flying round for about half an hour or an hour. I did not see the plane and stayed in the cave.

38. After the plane left I could hear footsteps over the top of the cave and I could hear voices through one of the holes leading in behind the cave. Then I saw some Japanese soldiers walking along the reef. The tide was right out, just starting to come in. Some of the soldiers came by my cave. Two of them dragged one body out to the reef, then came back and dragged another body out to where there was deep water. I could not see them all the time from my cave and think they made other trips for the other bodies.

39. I did see these two soldiers make two trips. I saw two canoes each with two Japanese in them come in to pick up the bodies, from the soldiers who dragged them out to the reef. There was a launch too. Both the canoes and the launch came from the direction of TABWEWA. The canoes being paddled close inshore and the launch moving slowly further out. The canoes towed the bodies out to the launch.

40. Then the canoes paddled back towards TABWEWA and the launch went further out to sea.

41. I do not remember anything else that day.

42. I stayed in the cave this night.

43. Next day, I do not remember anything except hearing the flatcar moving along the rails.

44. That evening about seven or eight o'clock I left the cave to search for young coconuts and to find a new hiding place inland. While I was up the tree two Japanese came along poling a flat car towards TABWEWA and I stayed hidden up in the tree until they had gone.

45. Then I went to look for a hiding place and found a good bangabanga above the Police lines and I hid there. By then it would be early the next morning.

46. I stayed in hiding in this bangabanga until the day I met the two Gilbertese (2nd. Dec. 1945).

47. I used to go out at night and gather food, young coconuts and old coconuts and water.

48. Sometimes I came out and climbed a tall teitai tree to look round and see if any ships were about. I did not see the warship come but I saw some other ships. I thought they were more Japanese ships.

49. I saw the Union Jack flying from the staff in the Police lines but thought it was another Japanese trick, so did not go near.

50. I heard the bugler every day too, but I thought it was a Japanese too, because the Japanese had a lot of bugles.

51. One day while I was up the teitai tree I saw a motor car different from the Japanese kind and the people in it did not look like Japanese so I came down from the tree and hid by the road to wait for the motor car to come back.

52. I waited two or three hours, but the motor car did not come back. Then I heard the tinkle of bottles and saw two men. One I thought a native Gilbertese, but the other I thought Japanese, because he was wearing Japanese clothing and shoes. The one wearing the sulu and carrying the toddy bottles I knew was Gilbertese and I thought he spoke in Gilbertese.

53. After they had passed by I made up my mind for sure they were Gilbertese so followed them silently. When I got up close behind them I was sure they were Gilbertese, so I greeted them "Kam na mauri" (Greeting.) They seemed frightened of me for a minute and asked me where I had come from. I told them I had been here all

the time and was the remaining man of the killing. I asked "Where are the Japanese"? They told me the Japanese had all gone and that they had come on the second labour recruit.

54. They asked where I had hidden all the time and I showed them. When I changed from my napkins into my sulu which I had hidden in the hole.

55. I thanked the hole for saving my life and then came down to the Police lines and TEAUOKI took me to the District Commissioner.

I swear the above to be a true correct statement of the facts.

(SGD) KABUNARE

Witnesses R. W. WAKEFIELD - OCEAN ISLAND
TEAUOKI - OCEAN ISLAND

This is the document marked Exhibit 'A' referred to in the Affidavit of SX10334, Maj. D.J. McBain, A.H.Q. sworn before me this 27th day of May, 1946, as being produced and shown to him at this time of his swearing his said Affidavit.

(Sgd) W. BUNSELL Capt.

SAKATA, Jiro.SAKATA, Jiro, Naval Lt. of 67th Garrison Regt. states:-

.

Q. When you arrived at Ocean Island were there any Europeans there?

A. No.

.

Q. Who was in command of the island when you arrived?

A. Lt.-Commander SUSUKI who is now in No. 1 Compound.

Japanese
Admit

Q. What happened to the natives who were on the island?

A. There were about 100 natives on the island and when the food situation became critical they started to steal food and arms and they would not listen to reason. In Sept. or Oct. 44 at the command of Lt.-Commander SUSUKI they were attacked and killed. There were also cases of natives stealing arms and then leaving the island.

Q. Did not the Japanese in fact arm the natives?

A. In the beginning we armed some of the natives but when the situation became critical we took the arms off them. We disarmed some of the natives and with regard to the others we did not give them any ammunition for the rifles.

Q. When were they disarmed?

A. May or June 44.

Q. Were the natives all killed on the one day?

A. On the same day.

Q. Did you take any part in the action or did you see it?

A. They were all killed at different places around the shore of the island at the instruction of Lt.-Commander SUSUKI.

Q. Did you see any of this?

A. I saw one lot killed but did not use a weapon myself or give the order to fire.

Q. Where were the natives you saw?

A. They were killed in this area. (He points to a place on the shore about half way between SOLOMONS POINT AND LILLAN POINT.)

Q. How many were killed there?

A. There were about 20 killed there.

Q. Were they shot?

A. Yes, they were shot.

Q. Were they shot all at once or one at a time?

A. They were all shot at once.

/Q. were

Q. Were they lined up?
A. They were lined up on the shore and shot at the one time. Bayonets or other arms were not used only rifles.

Q. Who gave the order to fire for this particular group?
A. Ensign YAJI who was in charge of a Pl. Ensign YAJI actually gave the order to fire. I had been ordered by Lt.-Commander SUSUKI to have these natives shot and I gave the order to YAJI.

Q. Did this only apply to this area?
A. Yes. Other officers were sent to other areas by SUSUKI.

Q. Did you disarm the natives before shooting them?
A. Yes.

Q. How long before shooting them did you disarm them?
A. They did not have any arms when they were caught.

.

Q. Were all the natives on the island killed?
A. They were all males and were all killed.

.

Chief Petty Officer ARAI, KAKUZO states:-

I am attached to 67 Naval Garrison Unit. I was on Ocean Island from Aug. 42 until the cessation of the war. My Section Leader was Ensign Shinozawa YOSHIHARU (then W.O.). At that time my rank was the same one as Sgt. in the Army.

About 20 Aug. (I do not remember the date exactly) I was ordered by the Section Leader to go to the Administrative Office and bring natives who were to be transferred to my section that day. I received 8 natives from Lt. NARA to bring them to the front of the billet and handed them to the Section Leader.

I had been standing behind the natives when they were bound by the sailors, but I had had no weapon with me. And then I went to the shooting place by the sea without bringing any weapon with me.

I blindfolded the natives according to the order of W/O SHINOZAWA, Section Leader. Standing behind the sailors I was watching when they were shot to death. After finishing shooting I saluted them and expressed my deepest sorrow at their death and returned to our billet.

(Signed) (Japanese characters)
Chief P.O. ARAI.

I hereby certify that the above translation is true and correct.

(Signed) TSUKAHARA SHIGERO.

Certified true copy.

(Signed) T. MORNANE.
Lt.Col.

1886A