JAPANESE STATEMENTS REGARDING THE EXECUTION OF FIVE AMERICANS AT SINGKANG, SOUTHERN CELEBES 3-4 AUGUST 1945
EXCEP'TS TAKEN FROM SEPTEMBER 14, 1945, INFORMATION TAKEN BY COMMANDER MELVIN W. McCUY, U.S.N., UNCLASSIFIED


Lieut. Comdr. Andrew Earl Harris, USN - died in August 1942, while B.O.W. of the Japs.

Lieut. Vernon G. Floyd, USNR - died in Feb. 27, March 1943, of malnutrition, while P.O.W. of the Japs.

Ens. Illiff David Richardson, USNR - alive and free in Mindanao as of July 8, 1943.

CONFIDENTIAL
With the signing of the surrender terms by the Japanese government the Department of State is now in a position to give the American public information about the Department’s activities in behalf of American prisoners of war and civilian internees held by the Japanese. During hostilities it was not possible to release much of this information because the Japanese Government was quick to construe official releases regarding conditions in camps in Japan and regarding Japanese atrocities as “atrocities campaigns”. On several occasions officials of the Japanese Government informed the protecting Power representative in Tokyo that “atrocities campaigns” by the American authorities made conditions unfavorable for concluding negotiations for the shipment of relief supplies to Americans held in the Far East or for concluding arrangements for the repatriation of Americans. Thus, before releasing information about the treatment of Americans by the Japanese it was always necessary for the American authorities to give consideration to the possible consequences of such releases upon negotiations pending with the Japanese Government for sending relief supplies to Americans in the Far East or for arranging for their exchange. The decision as to whether or not to release official information about Japanese atrocities was made after consultation between the American military authorities, the State Department, and other interested Allied governments. The American public has of course been acquainted with conditions under which American prisoners of war were held by the Japanese by reason of the personal accounts which have been given by Americans who escaped from Japanese captivity.

From the outbreak of war until the capitulation of the Japanese the Department of State has striven to keep as well informed as possible concerning the conditions under which prisoners of war and civilian internees were held in the Far East. On the basis of this knowledge it has endeavored to better the conditions of their captivity. It has sought unceasingly to obtain Japanese consent for visits to all prisoner of war and civilian internees camps. It has repeatedly demanded that the names of all Americans held by the Japanese be reported promptly. It has supervised the spending of large sums of money to provide food and clothing for Americans held by the Japanese.
SUBJECT: Transmittal of Investigation File re: Ensign Frank Aydrey Coulson, Jr. (VIII), 666/159 and ABDIC Bruno Peter Galic, 300 20 02 UWM

To: Chief, Civil Affairs Division
    Washington 25, D. C.
    ATTENTION: War Crimes Branch

1. Herewith Investigation file on Case 2259 concerning the above-named persons. This is being forwarded in compliance with paragraph 4, 18 Informant to Letter, Navy Department to the Judge Advocate General, 12 March 1947.

2. Copy of reference communication is enclosed.

3. Indications:
   1. FIO Case 2259
   2. Ldr Navy w/3 Ind

WF11 BRENST

Major, Infantry
Executive Office

DIRECT

OAU War Crimes (Navy)
24-256 Pentagon
15 December 1948

To: Director, Navy Division, War Crimes Branch, CAG.

1. For information.

2. It is requested that brief letter and enclosure be forwarded to origination of basic request.

H. R. NAVY
From: Director, Navy Division, War Crimes Branch, C.O.D.
To: Chief, Bureau of Naval Personnel (Dept. P)
Subj: Certificate of death, request for.

Enclo: (A) Copy of CINCPAC Radio message P 17272 to CINCPAC-O GP Department of the Army dated 25 July 1948.

1. It is requested that this office be supplied with the certificate referred to in Enclosure (A).
2. The phase relating to Naval Personnel has been referred to the Naval Casualty Section.

[Signature]

M. M. HUNT

26 July 1948
18 May 1945.

From: Director, Navy Division, War Crimes Branch, CAD.
To: Chief, Bureau of Naval Personnel.
Attn: Pers 5521.


Enclos: (a) SCRM, Legal Section War Crimes Trial Status Report T-390, Estelle HAYE at al, dtd 23 March 1945.
(b) SCRM, Legal Section Informational Summary No. 241, dtd 27 March 1945.

1. Enclosures (a) and (b), which show the outcome of the trial of forty-six Japanese, who were accused of participation in the illegal killing of subject American naval personnel while such personnel were prisoners of war, are forwarded for your information.

2. It is noted that of the forty-six accused, forty-one were sentenced to death by hanging, one was sentenced to twenty years imprisonment, one was sentenced to five years imprisonment and two were acquitted.

N. M. HART

Enclosure 2 to ID Letter (AGM-94 CCO; 30 June 1945) 21 June 1945.
Serial: 10916

From: The Commander, Marshalls Area
To: The Chief of Naval Personnel

Subjects: Executions on Chichi Jima, Bonin Islands, report of

References:
(a) DeFazio Dispatch 311640 dated 27 August 1945.
(b) Copy of reference (a).

Enclosures:

1. In compliance with the request contained in reference (a), the following report is submitted:

(a) Aviation Radioman Second Class Lloyd Richard Weilhof, 629 6511, USNR, was shot down over Ani Jima, Bonin Islands, on or about 6 July 1944, and was captured by the Japanese forces on the island on or about that date. He was delivered to the Japanese Army headquarters on Chichi Jima, Bonin Islands, where he was kept for about a month. On or about 5 August 1944, Weilhof was executed in the Komako area on Chichi Jima, by being bayoneted and then beheaded. He was bayoneted by Sergeant Kanzuro Takano and Superior Private Masutaro Kido, and then beheaded by Lieutenant Colonel Katsugi Ito. His body was buried at the scene of execution. Weilhof's remains were exhumed after the end of the war by the Japanese, cremated, and reburied. His remains were exhumed by the United States Occupation Forces on 16 January 1946, and delivered to the United States Army on two Jima where they were buried in a grave, marked unknown.

(b) An unidentified American aviator, believed to have been Ensign Warren Arthur Strelow, 30670, USNR, was shot down in 3000-1 Number 30683, on or about 4 August 1944. He was the only living survivor of the crash of the aircraft and was captured by the Japanese forces on Chichi Jima on or about this date. He was delivered to the Japanese Army headquarters on Chichi Jima. On or about 5 August 1944, this unidentified aviator was executed in the Komako area on Chichi Jima, together with Weilhof (paragraph (a)) above. He was bayoneted by superior private Minoo Unuma and other Japanese unknown, and was then beheaded by Lieutenant Colonel Katsugi Ito. His body was buried at the scene of execution. His remains were exhumed after the end of the war by the Japanese, cremated, and reburied. Those remains, with those of Weilhof were exhumed by the United States Occupation Forces on 16 January 1946, and delivered to the United States Army on two Jima where they were buried in a grave, marked unknown. Lieutenant Colonel Ito, Captain Shigeo Hayama, Captain Seiji Higa, and Superior Private Shimura, have already been tried for these murders by the
NAVY DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE JUDGE ADVOCATE GENERAL
WASHINGTON, D.C.

CAD War Crimes (Navy)
22-670 Pentagon

27 October 1948

From: Director, Navy Division, War Crimes Branch, C.A.D.
To: Chief, Naval Personnel (FPO 3904).

Subject: Ensign Joseph Francis Florence 385837.

Enclosure: (A) DOC War Crimes Status re: File No. 7-310
and 16 August 1948.

1. In compliance with your recent telephone request for information
concerning the disposition of the Japanese responsible for the death of
Ensign Florence, enclosure (A) is forwarded.

[Signature]

H. M. Hunt

[Stamp: Approved by: E. E. Eisenhauer, A.D.]
[Stamp: Submitted to: G. W. Mosel, A.D.]