

SUMMARY OF THE FACTS AND EVIDENCE RELATING TO THE
MASSACRE OF BRITISH NATIONALS, PRISONERS OF WAR AND
CIVILIAN INTERNEES, BY THE JAPANESE AT BETIO, TARAWA,
ON 15th OCTOBER, 1942.

Name of Accused:

Matzu Shosa, Commander of Japanese Forces, Tarawa, and other Japanese soldiers under his command whose identity is unknown.

Facts:

On 15th October, 1942, the following British Nationals were beheaded, or in some instances, otherwise murdered by the Japanese at Betio, Tarawa.

Lieutenant Reginald G. Morgan, Wireless Operator in the service of the Gilbert and Ellice Islands Colony at Tarawa.

Basil Cleary, Dispenser in the service of the Gilbert and Ellice Islands Colony at Tarawa.

Isaac R. Handley, Retired Master Mariner, resident of Tarawa.

A. M. McArthur, Retired Trader of Nonouti, Gilbert and Ellice Islands Colony.

Revd. A. L. Sadd, Missionary, resident of Beru, Gilbert and Ellice Islands Colony.

The following wireless operators in the employ of the New Zealand Government and stationed in the Gilbert and Ellice Islands Colony.

| | <u>Station</u> |
|----------------|----------------|
| A. C. Heenan | Malana Island |
| J. J. McCarthy | Abemama " |
| H. R. C. Hearn | Kuria " |
| A. E. McKenna | Nonouti " |
| C. A. Pearsall | Tamana " |

The following members of the 2nd New Zealand Expeditionary Force:

| | | <u>Station.</u> |
|-------|-------------------|-----------------|
| 64653 | Pte. L. B. Speedy | Malana |
| 64606 | " C. J. Owen | Malana |
| 64056 | " D. H. Howe | Abemama |
| 63882 | " R. J. Hitchen | Abemama |
| 64485 | " R. Jones | Kuria |
| 64382 | " R. A. Ellis | Kuria |
| 64057 | " C. A. Kilpin | Nonouti |
| 64062 | " J. H. Nichol | Nonouti |
| 64005 | " W. A. R. Parker | Tamana |
| 64022 | " R. M. McKenzie | Tamana. |

Particulars of the Alleged Crime.

The alleged victims were stationed at or resident in various islands of the Gilbert and Ellice Group.

About 17th September 1942 the wireless operator and two members of 2nd New Zealand Expeditionary Force stationed on Abemama (Mr. J. J. McCarthy, wireless operator, and privates D. H. Howe and R. J. Hitchen) were taken from Abemama to Tarawa on board the Japanese ship "Daido Maru".

On 24th September 1942 Messrs. Cleary, Morgan and Handley who were on that date on Tarawa Island were there taken into custody by the Japanese. On 25th September a Japanese vessel left Tarawa and proceeded to Beru where Rev. Mr. A. L. Sadd was arrested and taken aboard the vessel. From Beru the Japanese proceeded to Tamana where they arrested three Europeans - one a wireless operator and the others soldiers of the 2nd New Zealand Expeditionary Force, (evidence will show that these men were C. A. Pearsall, Pte. W. A. R. Parker and Pte. R. M. McKenzie) - and took them aboard the vessel; thence to Tabiteuea where no arrests were made; thence to Kuria where the four prisoners

referred

referred to above were transhipped to another Japanese vessel. At Kuria three more Europeans (evidence will show that these men were Mr. H. R. C. Hearn, Wireless operator, and Privates R. Jones and R. A. Ellis, soldiers of the 2nd New Zealand Expeditionary Force) were arrested and taken aboard the Japanese vessel on which the other prisoners then were. The vessel then proceeded to Tarawa where the prisoners were debarked. The prisoners were taken to the Japanese Commander's house where they were handcuffed and tied to coconut trees.

On 1st October the Japanese set out from Tarawa for Nonouti. There they arrested four Europeans, one of whom was identified as Mr. A. M. McArthur. Evidence will show that the others were Mr. A. E. McKenna, wireless operator, and Privates C. A. Kilpin and J. H. Nichol, soldiers of the 2nd New Zealand Expeditionary Force. These men were taken by ship to Tarawa where they were taken to the Japanese Commander's house, handcuffed and tied to trees in like manner to the other prisoners. At this time all the prisoners who had been brought from Beru, Tamana and Kuria were still tied to trees.

On or about 1st October 1942 the "Katori Maru" left Betio and proceeded to Abaiang where no arrests were made, and thence to Maiana. There the wireless operator and two soldiers of the 2nd New Zealand Expeditionary Force were arrested and taken to Betio by ship. Evidence will show that these three men were wireless operator A. C. Heenan, and Privates L. B. Speedy and C. J. Owen. These three men were later seen in custody outside the Japanese Commander's house at Betio by Octave Terriene, Roman Catholic Bishop in this area.

There is also evidence that Messrs. A. L. Taylor and T. C. Murray, wireless operators stationed at Beru were arrested by the Japanese on 29th September 1942 but there is no evidence of their having been taken to Betio, or of their having been seen at Betio, and accordingly it cannot be said with any degree of certitude whether or not they were among the victims, and allegations that they were murdered by the Japanese are not being made at the present juncture. The matter is mentioned as it is thought that if and when the whole matter is investigated at Tarawa further evidence in respect of these two men may be forthcoming.

On the afternoon of 15th October 1942 Betio was bombarded by a United States warship and United States planes bombed Japanese ships lying off the island. During the shelling one of the men imprisoned in the lunatic compound escaped. The Japanese searched the houses in the village until they recaptured the escapee. Shortly afterwards the prisoners were executed by the Japanese. The prisoners were beheaded. The bodies were thrown into a common grave where they were seen by witnesses, who, because of the mutilated and charred conditions of the bodies, were unable to identify any of the victims. The heads of the victims were thrown into a separate grave. None of the victims were identified after their execution, but none of them were seen again on Betio. Exhumation of the bodies for possible identification was impossible as the site of the grave received a direct hit from bombs during the American landings on Tarawa.

Evidence in support.

General.

The execution was witnessed by Mikaere, a native of Tarawa, and the bodies of the victims were viewed by one Frank Highland and the Native Constable, Takaua, both of Tarawa. None of the victims, however, was identified. The evidence is that the bodies were incapable of identification because of their charred and mutilated condition. In view of these factors, it is necessary to rely on indirect evidence to establish the identity of the victims; - to prove that the alleged victims were in varying circumstances arrested by the Japanese prior to, and were in custody in the lunatic compound at Betio at the time of the mass execution, and that they were never seen again after the execution.

Summary:

Rev. A. L. Sadd:

Rev. A. L. Sadd:

Tiriata and Copeland both can give evidence of Mr. Sadd's arrest by the Japanese at Beru and of his transhipment to Betio, Tarawa. He was seen at Betio in the vicinity of the Japanese Commander's house by Bishop Terrienne and by Frank Highland. Both witnesses say Mr. Sadd's hands were tied behind his back and he was tied to a coconut tree.

Mr. A. M. McArthur:

Tiriata witnessed Macarthur's arrest at Nonouti and his subsequent transportation to Betio. Bishop Terrienne and Highland both saw him at Betio tied with his hands behind his back and tethered to a coconut tree.

Lieutenant R. G. Morgan

Basil Cleary.

Isaac Handley.

Cleary and Morgan were seen in custody outside the Japanese Commander's house by Bishop Terrienne and Titiata. Copeland saw Cleary in the lunatic enclosure. Highland saw the three of them locked in the lunatic enclosure.

Wireless operators in the employ of the New Zealand Government and members of the 2nd New Zealand Expeditionary Force:

These men were stationed on various islands in the Gilbert and Ellice Islands Group. Evidence as to their disposition can be given by Captain O. J. Drennan of the Gilbert and Ellice Islands Defence Force and Asst. District Officer in the Gilbert Islands District or other officer having custody of official records in the matter. This evidence will prove that the men concerned were stationed at the islands shown opposite their respective names in the summary of the facts above.

Mr. J. J. McCarthy.

64056 Pte. D. H. Howe,

63882 Pte R. J. Hitchen.

The above-named were stationed on Abemama. Bishop Terrienne saw them in custody at Abemama and travelled in the hold of a Japanese vessel with them to Betio. Tiriata saw them on the arrival at Betio.

Mr. C. A. Pearsall:

64005 Pte. W. A. R. Parker:

64022 Pte. R. M. McKenzie:

The above-named were stationed at Tamana. Evidence as to their arrest at Tamana by the Japanese can be given by both Tiriata and Copeland, both of whom accompanied them to Betio in a Japanese ship. Tiriata witnessed their being handcuffed and tied to coconut trees outside the Japanese Commander's house on the day they were landed at Betio, and saw them again in the same place and in the same circumstances after he returned from the expedition to Nonouti. Copeland also saw them in similar circumstances outside the Japanese Commander's house.

Mr. H. R. CY Hearn:

64485 Pte. R. Jones:

64382 Pte R. A. Ellis:

The above-named were stationed at Kuria. Evidence as to their arrest at Kuria by the Japanese and subsequent transhipment to Betio can be given by both Tiriata and Copeland, who also saw them both immediately after their arrival at Betio and subsequently, handcuffed and tied to coconut trees.

Mr. A. E. McKenna:

64057 Pte. C. A. Kilpin:

64062 Pte. J. H. Nichol:

The above-named were stationed at Nonouti. Titiata witnessed their arrest at Nonouti and travelled with them on a Japanese vessel to Betio. He saw them handcuffed and tied to coconut trees outside the Japanese Commander's house.

Mr. A. C. Heenan

Mr. A. C. Heenan:
64653 Pte. L. B. Speedy:
64606 Pte. C. J. Owen:

The above-named were stationed at Maiana. Copeland can depose as to their arrest at Maiana and their transhipment to Betio. Bishop Terrienne recognised these three men among the prisoners he saw tied up under the trees outside the Japanese Commander's house.

Evidence of Octave Terrienne, Vicar Apostolic of Gilbert and Ellice Islands (extracted from a statement made to Mr. D. C. I. Wernham, Deputy Commissioner for the Western Pacific, 29th December, 1943.)

"I arrived at Abemama on 2nd or 3rd September, 1942. The Japanese medical officer informed me that there were three European prisoners. I went with him to the tradestore at Kabangaki village where the three prisoners were About two weeks later the 'Daido Maru' arrived. When I went aboard, I was sent into the hold where I found the three prisoners. I saw no other prisoners on board. We sailed at about 8 or 9 o'clock in the evening and reached Betio next morning. I think I went ashore at Tarawa before the prisoners. One day, probably between 17th and 20th September, 1942, I met Mr. Cleary on the road near my station. I asked him what was his condition. He replied that he was free but that he had to go to Abakoro. But later on I saw Mr. Cleary among the European prisoners from the hospital going to work on the wharf.

I saw Europeans outside the house of the Japanese Commander (formerly the house of the Manager of Burns, Philp S. S. Coy) From this place the prisoners were being taken to the house for examination. When they were under the trees, the prisoners' hands were tied and possibly their feet. I recognised the wireless operator and two New Zealand soldiers from Maiana. One of these soldiers whom I knew well, raised his hand to greet me. I also remember seeing Mr. Sadd and Mr. McArthur there, but perhaps at a different time. The prisoners had been brought from different islands at different times. I saw Mr. Morgan on the verandah of the Japanese Commander's house.

After the examination of each batch of prisoners was completed, they were confined to the lunatic enclosure at the hospital.

On the afternoon of 15th October 1942 Betio was shelled. I saw the Korean labourers, who had been working on the Government station and hospital run into Betio village. I went to the lagoon beach. I believed we would be safer there. After the bombing and the shelling we waited a little and then returned to my house. We had not been there long when a crowd of Korean labourers arrived armed with axes and knives. One of their overseers had drawn a sword. He could speak a little English and he told me to go into my house and look everywhere because they were looking for a prisoner who had tried to escape. They searched my house and every other house in the village. A little while after they left our station, I heard five or six detonations, which I thought were rifle fire. Not long after the Korean labourers returned to the village. As they passed my house I asked them what had happened. They made signs expressing that they had shot somebody and that he had been killed. I heard no further shots, although I was not far from the lunatic asylum where the European prisoners were kept.

A few days before the shelling of Betio the Japanese told me I would be sent to Makin on 16th October. I made an attempt to see the prisoners. I asked Lieut. Yokota. He said he would ask the Japanese Commander. He later telephoned me and told me the Commander had refused permission. The name of the Japanese Commander was Matzu Shosa.

After the shelling of Betio I was told by Masibusi to go to my house and not to leave it. After that there were two soldiers guarding my house by day and three by night, until we were sent to Makin a week later. During that week we were not allowed to go outside the house and no native was allowed to speak to us."

Evidence of Tiriata, Native Clerk and Interpreter (extracted from a statement made to Mr. D. C. I. Wernham, Deputy Commissioner for the Western Pacific on 16th January, 1944.)

"On 17th

"On 17th September I saw Bishop Terrienne, Rudolph Muller, two Gilbertese boys and three Europeans arrive at Betio. They came on big Japanese ship. One of the Gilbertese boys told me that they came from Abemama.

On 23rd September 1942 Masibusu, who previously worked for N.B.K. at Butaritari and was now in charge of native labour under the Japanese at Betio told me to write to Mr. Cleary at Abaokoro to come to Betio. Next day Mr. Cleary arrived. Late 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 p.m. Masibusu came to my house, wanting myself and Tourakai 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. We went to Beru. The Japanese soldiers could not find the Europeans on the Government station. The Japanese went separately to look for the Europeans. Two soldiers returned to the station with Mr. Sadd. They took him on board the ship. From Beru we went to Tamana. The natives told the Japanese the Europeans were still in their house. On their way down to see the Europeans, I saw the three Europeans walking towards them. The Europeans packed their clothes and were taken on board the ship. I do not know their names. Two were in uniform and the other was wearing a lavalava. The ship went then to Tabiteuea. The Japanese landed on the Government Station. They found that there were no Europeans except the Roman Catholic missionaries. They had no chance to see these because plane engines were heard and they hurried back to the ship. When we reached the ship we went to Kuria. There Leslie Copeland, myself and 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 afterwards they found him. They took the three Europeans on board. I do not know their names and I had not seen them before. Two were wearing uniforms 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. Masibusu, 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. On 1st October Masibusu called me and we went on board the ship. When she reached Nonouti, I went ashore with the soldiers. The Japanese found the Europeans inside the Native Government Office. They called them and lined them up and questioned them.

There were four Europeans. I do not know their names except for Mr. McArthur. They were all taken aboard ship and the ship left for Tarawa. Mr. Macarthur wore white shirt and trousers. The rest wore uniform. After the ship anchored at Tarawa we all landed. The Europeans were taken away first. We followed them to the Japanese Commander's house. The four Europeans were handcuffed against other trees. The Europeans who had been brought from Beru, Tamana and Kuria were still there, handcuffed and tied against the trees. A few days after I left Betio to go to Bouriki and stayed there for two weeks. One day when I was fishing in the lagoon a U.S. warship was shelling Betio from the outside. Two U.S. planes dropped bombs. Before I left Betio I saw the European prisoners twice. I think I saw the whole lot except Captain Handley and Mr. Macarthur. They were working near the Post Office. I recognised Mr. Sadd, the three Europeans from Tamana, the three from Kuria and the three from Nonouti. I could not recognise the others except Mr. Morgan and Mr. Cleary. There were about twenty all told."

Evidence of Leslie Copeland, of Tarawa. (Extracted from a statement made to Mr. D. C. I. Wernham, Deputy Commissioner for the Western Pacific on 16th January 1944.)

"I went with Tiriata on the Japanese ship to Beru. When we went ashore I tried to get the launch high and dry in the passage to give the wireless operator more time. When we got ashore the wireless operators had cleared off. The Japanese called Mr. Sadd a wireless operator. I succeeded at last in telling them that he was a missionary. We left Beru about 5 p.m. with Mr. Sadd. We went to Tamana. We went ashore at Tamana
early

...y next morning. The three Europeans stayed at their house waiting for the Japanese. Two were soldiers, the other a wireless operator. I do not know their names as the Japanese would not let us speak to them. One of the soldiers was called "Mack" by the natives. The three Europeans were taken aboard and we left Tamana 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. We left Tabiteuea for Tarawa, but turned aside to call at Kuria. We went ashore. Another Japanese ship had arrived before us. The Japanese from the other ship had already captured two Europeans. 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. About half an hour later we went aboard the other ship. Next morning we went ashore at Betio with the Europeans. We all marched to the house where the Japanese Commander was, with those seven Europeans. After we had seen that, Kansaki told us we could go home and Titiata 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. Kansaki took us on board a ship said by the Japanese to be the "Kotari Maru". 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 at Bouriki and next morning we went as far as the South End, with Japanese soldiers, searching in the bush. After we left Abaiang we went to Maiana arriving in the morning. We landed at Tebikerai. The Japanese walked to the Government Station. Before they reached the Government Station they were told that two of the Coast-watchers were at the Government Station and that one was hiding in the bush. After searching a long time in the bush the Japanese found him. 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. When we returned to Betio Masibusu told me I could go. 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. The same night I left Betio."

Evidence of Frank Highland, of Tarawa. (Extracted from a statement made to Mr. D. C. I. Wernham, Deputy Commissioner of the Western Pacific on 30th December, 1943.)

"My wife and myself were on Betio for three days, a week or so before Betio was shelled for the first time by a U.S. ship on 15th October 1942. I saw Revd. Sadd, one trader, Macarthur by name, two New Zealanders in uniform (shorts and drill jackets with buttons) and two New Zealanders in civilian clothes. Each one had his hands tied behind his back by several feet of rope, the other end of which was tied to coconut trees. 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. We saw Mr. Morgan, Capt. Handley and Mr. Cleary with them. The same afternoon I left Betio..... Three days after the ship shelled Betio I heard the news that they were killed and went down with some native boys. The native boys took me two hundred yards back of the west side of the lunatic asylum fence. There were many Japs about so next morning at nine I went with Constable Takaua and saw where the bodies were burned in Babai pit. I went in the pit and lifted up coconut branches 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."

Evidence of Mikaere, native of Tarawa. (Extracted from a statement made before Mr. D. C. I. Wernham, Deputy Commissioner of the Western Pacific on 16th February 1944.)

"About a month after the Japanese occupied Betio one European ran away from the lunatic enclosure. After the aeroplanes flew over and had bombed the ships in the passage the Japanese were looking for him. I was with the Bishop and Father Viallon. The Japanese sent all the natives
back

back to their houses. I went to the Bishop's house. One Japanese came to the Bishop's house and showed us his sword which was stained with blood. It was fresh blood. The Japanese said that the European who had run away was dead. About 4 or 5 p.m. I went to cut toddy on the north side of the lunatic enclosure. I did not cut toddy because I heard a lot of noise in the lunatic enclosure. There was a lot of shouting going on. I ran into the house nearest the lunatic enclosure and sat on the floor. This house is about twenty fathoms from the lunatic enclosure. While I was sitting in the house I saw all the Europeans sitting down in line in front of the first house inside the lunatic enclosure. There were a lot of Japanese coolies inside the enclosure. One Japanese stepped forward to the first European and cut his head off. Then I saw a second European have his head cut off and I could not see the third one because I fainted. I do not know how long I lay in the house but I was there until one Japanese coolie came near the house where I was and fell down on the ground with a biscuit tin of clothing. He hid the tin in the dresser's cook house. After he left I went and took the biscuit tin containing the clothes to my house. When I reached the Bishop's house some natives came and took the clothes away, leaving me with only one pair of shorts and one shirt. There were no names on the shorts or shirt which I kept. I do not know the name of the Japanese who came to the Bishop's house. I know he was a labourer and I had seen him with the coolies. He used to work in the office which was formerly the District Officer's office. He was the man I saw cutting off the heads of the two Europeans. All the natives on Betio knew that Japanese. He used work on paper, writing. He was a leader of the Japanese labourers. I do not know what happened to the bodies of the Europeans who were executed. After I left I never went near that place again."

Evidence of Ikamawa, of Ocean Island, Native Clerk in the service of the Gilbert and Ellice Islands Colony. (Extracted from evidence on oath made before Mr. D. C. I. Wernham, Deputy Commissioner of Western Pacific.)

"In 1942 I was in Beru. Japanese troops landed at about 5-30 a.m. on 29th September, 1942. Mr. Allan L. Taylor and Mr. Thomas C. Murray were stationed at Beru as wireless operators. On that day Mr. Taylor was on watch from 4 a.m. to 8 a.m. When the Japanese arrived Tekerara 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 Tekerara to burn the station as soon as the Japanese landed. Mr. Taylor told me this 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 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 Beru, using the London Missionary Society launch and the Government whale boat. They said they would leave at 5 p.m. that day. I went to Tabiang to ask the natives to carry stores to the boats. When I was there, a native arrived by 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. They told me that 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 until the Japanese returned on 7th October, 1942. On that day I went to Rongorongo to see 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."

Mikere 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 onto 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?

Ans. 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?

Ans. 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. Do you know who that Japanese was?

Ans. 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?

Ans. He came from the direction of the old native village.

He left us and went to the former British Government Station. Shortly after 5p.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 enclosure. 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?

Ans. He was dead. When he was placed in front of the European, 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?

Ans. I do not remember.

Q. About how many Europeans did you see lined up in the Lunatic Asylum Enclosure?

Ans. I did not count them. There were more than ten.

Q. Did you recognize

Q. Did you recognize the Japanese who cut off their heads.

Ans. 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?

Ans. They were all coolies.

Q. Do you know who was the European who escaped?

Ans. 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?

Ans. 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 Parawa this 18th day of October, 1944,

.....

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

Robert J. Phipps

 Clerk-in-training.

Before me

[Signature]

 Deputy Commissioner,
 for the Western Pacific.