

1857

Evidentiary Document No. 5445.

SYNOPSIS - NEW BRITAIN

The next section deals with the treatment of prisoners of war and civilians in New Britain. The proof offered will be entirely documentary.

Prosecution Document No. 5311 is record of evidence given by Private William Cook of 2/10 Australian Field Ambulance. I tender the document for identification and the marked excerpts in evidence.

The deponent says that on 4th February, 1942, the Japanese captured a party of 24 Australian soldiers and one civilian at Tol in New Britain. The soldiers were Army Medical Corps men and drew the attention of the Japanese to their Red Cross armbands. The Japs ripped their armbands off. I will now read the third, fourth and fifth paragraphs on page 3 of the document.

Prosecution Document No. 5312 is a record of evidence of Driver Wilkie Desmond Collins of 2/10 Australian Field Ambulance. I tender it for identification and the marked excerpts in evidence

Collins was one of a party of 123 Australian soldiers captured by the Japs at Tol. They were broken up into parties of ten or twelve and marched into the bush. The members of his party were bayoneted or shot. He himself was shot but escaped after feigning death.

Prosecution Document No. 5313 is a record of the evidence of Private Hugh Joseph Webster of 2/22nd. Australian Infantry Battalion. I tender the document for identification and the marked excerpts in evidence.

The deponent says that on 4th February, 1942, he and eleven other Australian soldiers were captured by the Japanese at Waitavlo in New Britain, tied up and shot. Ten were killed. The deponent and one other man were wounded.

Prosecution Document No. 5400 is an affidavit made by Lieutenant WONG YO SIN of 200 Patalion, 67 Division, Chinese National Army. I tender the document for identification and the marked excerpts in evidence.

The deponent says that ten Chinese soldiers, whom he names, were shot and killed by the Japs at Labaul on 29th January, 1943, because they were too sick to work.

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Prosecution Document No. 5402 is an affidavit made by Major LEE WAI SIN of 3rd. Field Volunteer Army. I tender this document for identification and the marked excerpts in evidence.

.....

The deponent says that on 4th February, 1943, at Labaul the Japanese shot and killed six Chinese officers and soldiers because they were too ill to work.

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Prosecution Document No. 5393 is record of evidence given by Captain LIU WEI PAO of the Chinese National Army. I tender the document for identification and the marked excerpts in evidence.

.....

The affiant states that at Labaul on 3rd. March, 1943, the Japanese took 24 sick Chinese soldiers from the sick quarters, forced them into a grave that had already been dug and shot them all. On the 10th March, 1943, a further batch of six Chinese soldiers who were ill were killed by the Japanese in the same manner.

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Prosecution Document No. 5404 is an affidavit made by Captain YUNG PANG PAE of Central Volunteer Chinese Army Headquarters. I tender this document for identification and the marked excerpts in evidence.

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The deponent states that on 3rd. April, 1943, eleven sick Chinese soldiers were executed with swords, because they were too ill to work.

.....

Prosecution Document No. 5405 is record of evidence of Corporal Shier Tchen TSE of Chinese National Army. I tender this document for identification and the marked excerpts in evidence.

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The document refers to the same killing as the previous exhibit. It fixes KOKOPO as the place of execution.

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Prosecution Document No. 5406 is an affidavit made by Captain CHEUNG YEE YU of 3rd. Fd. Volunteer Army. I tender it for identification and the marked excerpts in evidence.

.....

I will read the first two paragraphs of this affidavit.

.....

Prosecution Document No. 5407 is an affidavit made by Lieutenant Tan Bai Ming of Central Chinese Volunteer Army. I tender it for identification and the marked excerpts in evidence.

.....

The deponent states that on 2nd. November, 1943, at KAI AWAT Aerodrome the Japanese killed by shooting a Chinese soldier who was too ill to work.

.....

Prosecution Document No. 5408 is an affidavit by Corporal PANG NAM TING of 88th Division. I tender it for identification and the marked excerpts in evidence.

.....

Deponent states that on 26th July, 1944, at Rabaul a Chinese soldier was clubbed to death by the Japanese because he was too ill to work.

.....

Prosecution Document No. 5409 is a record of evidence of Mrs. LEE YITSAI KUNYANG of Chinatown, Rabaul. I tender this document for identification and the marked excerpts in evidence

.....

The deponent is 59 years of age. In April, 1943, because of having a radio set she was beaten by the Japanese until she fainted. Her six sons were also beaten and finally one was beheaded.

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Prosecution Document No. 5217 is an affidavit made jointly by 1st. Lieutenant James A. McLUKIA, 2nd. Lieutenant Jose L. HOLQUIN and 2nd. Lieutenant Alphonse D. QUINONES all of 5th U.S. Air Force. I tender this document for identification and the marked excerpts in evidence.

.....

I will read the 4th paragraph of the affidavit.

.....

Prosecution Document No. 5438 is a statement made by Captain John J. MURPHY of Allied Intelligence Bureau. I tender the document for identification and the marked excerpts in evidence

.....

I will read this statement.

Prosecution Document No. 5410 is an affidavit made by MAUTA LEONARD, a native boy. I tender this document for identification and the marked excerpts in evidence.

.....

The deponent states that at Tobera Airfield a Japanese struck a native who retaliated by punching the Japanese in the eye. The native boy and four other native boys were tied up. The Japanese then struck them all on the head with a mallet. Three were killed in this manner. The whole five, including two who were still alive were then buried.

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Prosecution Document No. 5433 is a record of an Australian Military Court in relation to trial of Navy Workman KIKAWA, Haruo on two charges of murder. I tender the document for identification and the marked excerpts in evidence.

.....

This refers to the same happening as the previous exhibit. It fixes the time of the happening as August, 1943.

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Prosecution Document No. 5412 consists of affidavits of Sweeper GIANI and Pioneer LUNCI KOBE, both of Indian Army. I tender this document for identification and the marked excerpts in evidence.

.....

The deponents say that in lay, 1944, an Indian named FAKHRA was beaten by the Japs and then hung.

.....

Prosecution Document No. 5414 is a record of the evidence of JEL QUTUBUDDIN of 1st. Battalion Hyderabad Infantry. I tender this document for identification and the marked excerpts in evidence.

.....

The deponent with a party of 35 Indian was at NISHIZAKIYAMA in November, 1944, as prisoners of war. They were starved by the Japanese. Two sepcoys were alleged by the Japanese to have stolen rice. They were taken away and executed by the Japanese without any trial.

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Prosecution Document No. 5413 is a Statutory Declaration made by a native named NUMA. I tender it for identification and the marked excerpts in evidence.

.....

The declarant states that between December, 1944, and March, 1945, at NANGAGUA Japanese took a mosquito net and some calico from three Indian prisoners of war. The Indians objected to this, whereupon the Japanese had them beheaded.

.....

Prosecution Document No. 5411 is affidavit of Pioneer PARASURAM of the Indian Army. I tender it for identification and the marked excerpts in evidence.

.....

The deponent states that on 12 February, 1945, an Indian BINDHU LISTI became exhausted at his work and asked the Japanese commander for permission to rest. The prisoner was then beaten into unconsciousness by the Japanese Commander. The prisoner died two days later as a result of this treatment.

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Prosecution Document No. 5416 is an affidavit by Havildar Chandgi RAM of the Indian Army. I tender the document for identification and the marked excerpts in evidence.

.....

I will read the 2nd. and third paragraphs.

.....

THAT COMPLETES THE EVIDENCE FOR THE NEW BRITAIN SECTION OF THIS PHASE.

WILLIAM COOK

185217

NX56978, PRIVATE WILLIAM COOK, Details, 2/10 Field Ambulance, being duly sworn, states:

I am NX56978, Private William Cook of Details, 2/10 Field Ambulance.

I was a member of the original Details of 2/10 Field Ambulance which was sent to RABAU, sailing from here on the 12th March, 1941, and I remained with the Field Ambulance in NEW BRITAIN until the evacuation.

I was present with the Field Ambulance when orders were given on the 22nd. January, 1942, at about 1500 hours for the hospital to be evacuated from NAMANULA to the VUNAPOPE Mission site. I assisted during the movement of patients and equipment. I was in charge of the Isolation Dysentery ward at NAMANULA, and afterwards at VUNAPOPE.

On the morning of the 24th January, at about 0600 hours I received orders from Major Palmer, O.C. of the Ambulance, for the evacuation of the Ambulance personnel to MALABUNGA. It was understood that all sick and wounded patients were being left at VUNAPOPE, and, in order that they might be looked after, volunteers from the Ambulance personnel were called for to remain to look after the patients, and from those who volunteered, two were chosen - Private Max Langdon and Corporal L. Hudson. In addition to our own military patients who were being left behind, I know that the following civilian personnel also remained at VUNAPOPE when our party left, that is, two civilian medical assistants from the RAPENDIK Native Hospital two male members of the Public Health Department and seven civilian nurses from the RABAU District, together with a few civilians whose names I do not recall.

At about 0700 hours a convoy of the Details of the 2/10 Field Ambulance left from VUNAPOPE, and the party proceeded towards MALABUNGA.

Just before we got to MALABUNGA, we met a party of troops with a patient who had a broken leg. We took him on to MALABUNGA with us. At MALABUNGA, Major Palmer divided us into two parties. Five of the Details of the 2/10 Field Ambulance, two of the Dental Unit and one civilian stayed at MALABUNGA. The rest of the party proceeded towards the coast. I stayed with the first named party.

During the afternoon, two members of the Dental Unit and a civilian made off, leaving us, with the permission of Captain Robertson who was in charge of that party. About an hour later one of the Dental party returned. During the afternoon, Japanese planes flew very low overhead, and the same

the next morning, so Captain Robertson decided to push on. One of the 2/10 - the Dental Unit man who had returned - volunteered to stay behind with the patients. Captain Robertson, Robert Hennessey and Pearsall and myself then moved off towards the south coast at about midday on Saturday the 24th. We proceeded to LAMINGI MISSION where our party caught up with Major Palmer and the bulk of the details of the 2/10 Field Ambulance. There were also other troops in this body and, after we arrived, the total strength would be about 18. From here the party moved on under arrangements supervised by Major Palmer in parties of varying numbers, each party being separated some distance from the other. I was in one of the leading parties, and Major Palmer with a party brought up the rear to watch for stragglers and to generally supervise and control.

About the 29th my party arrived at ADLER BAY and we stayed there for three days.

The first party to leave ADLER BAY was Captain Robertson's comprising two of the 2/10, one man temporarily attached to the 2/10, with Captain Robertson. They left about the morning of the 31st. January. Another party of three left on the Saturday night, and six of us left on the Sunday morning, all making in the direction of WIDE BAY. Major Palmer with his party which consisted of a Sergeant and a Private went by another track right round ADLER BAY. He moved off on the Sunday morning and on Monday morning, 2nd. February, we caught up with the two men who were with Major Palmer, they having waited behind for us. That was about a day's journey from TOL.

The next day - the 2nd. February - we continued towards TOL. At this stage we saw the Japanese landing craft at about 0900 hours proceeding towards TOL, although we did not know that at the time. We then left a notice on a piece of paper on a bush on the track warning any troops following that the Japanese had been seen.

On Wednesday the 4th, when going along the track at about 0930 hours, we met Staff Sergeant Bower of the 2/22 Battalion. He informed us that the Japanese had left TOL, but not to move on until he made sure. He went on ahead - on reconnaissance. We waited just off the track, four of us having a game of cards and the other four cooking some food. Our first intimation that the Japs were there was when the four who were cooking ran past us, muttering "The Japs are on us." We were at the edge of the jungle. I myself ran into the jungle and hid. I saw my seven mates walk out with their hands up, so I went back with them. This was roughly about 1030 hours. We were taken to the main track under a party of Japanese in charge of whom was a Sergeant. He indicated by signs that he was a Sergeant.

We were searched for firearms and were allowed to sit down awaiting the rest of the Japanese party. Small parties

of Japanese came up with us with other prisoners until there were 23 prisoners in all.

Our identification discs were taken. By an officer we were given a book in which to sign our names and numbers.

When the party was about to move off, another Australian soldier crawled up to us, showing signs of fatigue, and complaining of hunger. We were told to treat him, and two of our men were detailed to carry him. The rest of us carried ammunition and a few rifles which the Japanese had capture.

About a quarter of a mile along the track, the two who were carrying the patient were, by signs, told to leave him on the ground, and we were marched off, a Japanese soldier staying behind with the patient. Shortly after, the Japanese soldier caught up with us, and we saw no more of the patient.

Just before reaching TOL, a civilian European policeman from RABAUL and another soldier were added to our party, making it 25 all told. On arriving at TOL, the Japanese soldiers were allowed to ransack our packs and to search for anything which may have been of value to them. Rings and watches were taken from us.

We were told to put everything out of our pockets on to the ground, and our pay books were collected. They then tied our hands behind our backs with fishing cord, and we were tied together in parties of twos and threes. They then separated from us the European member of the police force. They then took off our tin hats, and as we were marched off, they were questioning the member of the police force. They marked us to a plantation about half a mile from TOL in the direction of RABAUL. We were, by signs, told to sit down on a slight rise on the track leading into the plantation, with our back towards the plantation. At this stage we protested against the treatment, as we were of the Red Cross, and each of us wore a Red Cross arm band. The officer-in-charge just ripped our arm bands off our sleeves and kept them in his hand.

They started to take the men down the track in parties, but the first man was taken down separately. Then we followed in groups of two or three. I was in the second last party consisting of three. There were two in the last party.

The officer, by signs, asked us would we sooner be bayoneted or shot. We asked to be shot. We were taken down the track. When we reached the bottom of the track, three other Japanese with fixed bayonets intercepted us and walked behind us. The first blow knocked the

They then stabbed us in the back with their bayonets. The first blow knocked the three of us to the ground. Our thumbs were tied behind our backs and native lap laps were used to connect us together through our arms. They stood above us and stabbed us several more times. I received five stabs. I pretended death and held my breath.

9 The Japanese then walked away. The soldier who was lying next to me groaned. One Japanese came back and stabbed him again. I could not hold my breath any longer, and when I breathed he heard it and stabbed me another six times. The last thrust went through my ear, face and into my mouth, severing an artery which caused the blood to gush out of my mouth. He then placed cocconut fronds and vines over the three of us. I lay there and heard the last two men being shot.

I lay there for approximately one hour, when I decided to try to escape. I untied the cloth which connected me with the other two and walked towards the sea, which was about 50 yards away. After a few steps, I collapsed. It seemed only a short time before I regained consciousness. I then tried to saw the bonds from my thumbs on the iron heel of my boot, but could not do so because my thumbs were swollen. After a short while, I managed to get my leg between my two hands and I chewed at the knot until it became undone. I then walked towards the beach. I made my way along the beach, walking as much as possible in the water to avoid leaving traces of blood and at the same time bathing my back in the salt water. Just at dusk I sighted the smoke of a camp fire in the jungle near the beach, and made towards it.

After about 10 hours - as far as I can gather - I rested as near as I could judge near to where the fire was and had a few hours sleep. When I awoke I found the path leading towards this camp, and I followed it and found a small party of soldiers camped there. Colonel Scanlan was in charge of this party. I told him what had happened, and he dressed two of my wounds, not having sufficient material to do the rest.

I was allowed to sleep for a few hours, and when I awoke I was given some food to eat and then sent from there along the track with a native to find another party. Before meeting up with anybody else, the native left me and I walked a short distance and went into the bush for a rest.

Shortly afterwards a party of three soldiers came along the track. I attracted their attention and after a short conversation we decided to climb the mountains so as to go around the Japanese at TOL. After a week spent trying to climb the mountains we finished up exactly where we started. Then a native told us the Japanese had left and offered to guid us to the next mission. We passed through TOL till we came to a big river and were taken across by canoe and landed on a small island. We

stayed there for the night and next morning were making arrangements with other natives who had come along in the meantime to make a raft and so to cross another river.

Just then, a Japanese cruiser was sighted coming into TOL, so we swam on to the mainland and went bush for a while. We met another party of soldiers and the four of us kept on. Eventually I met up with Major Palmer. That was about the end of February, and from then on I was with his party until the evacuation. We came out from the South Coast.

BY THE COURT: After shaming dead at TOL, on your escape did you see any dead bodies of other Australian soldiers?---Yes, I saw three. I did not see others on account of the parties being taken to separate parts of the plantation.

You do not know the names of any of these three?--No, I do not.

Was there anything, to your knowledge, done by our troops when taken prisoner to warrant this massacre?--Definitely not.

(sgd) NX56978
Pte. W. Cook
5/6/42.

Certified true copy

(sgd) T. F. Mornane Lieut. Col.
Australian Military Forces.

WILKIE DESMOND COLLINS. *Byzometer* ✓
123SYDNEY, MONDAY, 8th JUNE, 1942, AT 12 NOON.

NX57343 DRIVER WILKIE DESMOND COLLINS, 2/10 F.A., being duly sworn, states:

I am NX57343, DRIVER WILKIE DESMOND COLLINS, 2/10 Field Ambulance. I arrived in New Britain in March, 1941, and remained with the 2/10 Field Ambulance until evacuated. Throughout this period I was at the hospital at NAMANULA, RABAUL, until the day before the Japanese landing. On that date I took a load of wounded to VUNAPOPE MISSION near KOKOPO where they were taken in. The civilian nurses were already at VUNAPOPE. The ARMY nurses arrived while I was there. The hospital was set up at the Mission Hospital. The Army and civilian nurses were quartered at the Mission two or three hundred yards from the hospital.

I left about 0800 on the day of the landing with an ambulance to go to TOMA expecting to pick up wounded. I was in a convoy with several trucks. We got to TOMA but there was nothing there so we went to MALABUNGA and set up a hospital at the Mission there under Major Palmer and Captain Robertson. We were there nearly all day, and then all troops were evacuated from the north to the hills and expected to continue fighting there. One of our medical officers picked out a number of medical volunteers to go with the troops, and I volunteered. We walked for two days in the hills and carried supplies and kept on going without any organisation, and could not find headquarters; so we kept going. Someone sprang a rumour that we were going to be evacuated from some point on the coast. We reached the coast at ADLER BAY. We were there for two days, and ~~many~~ ^{many} of the chaps were footsore and a couple of our chaps remained with them, and we were going further down the coast where there was supposed to be a teleradic. I did not get down that far, but was captured at TOL.

BY THE COURT: What happened when you got to Tol? Tell us how you came to be captured, what happened afterwards, and how you got away?---We were just past ROSS's plantation, and on the edge of the first of three rivers a lot of men were trying to cross. We were awaiting our turn, and five Japanese barges came into the bay and started shelling troops in the village, and machine gunning them, so we ran up the river to a point where we were able to wade across. We eventually crossed the three rivers, and at a Mission there there were Clissold and myself. Two barges landed, and we were caught there. We did not see them coming into the beach. They fired mortars and machine guns across the Mission and we dived into a creek. There was a party of Japanese above us, and they took us back and put us on one of the barges and took us to another plantation further south in the direction in which we were originally going. It was dark when they reached the shore, so they went back to Ross's plantation, just near TOL.

Were there any other Australians on the barges besides you two?---A civilian policeman named Noltz. They put us ashore at Ross's near TOL.

Up to that time, had they treated you well?---Yes, quite well.

Had they fed you?---No; but one chap gave us some of his rations; and they gave us cigarettes.

W.D. Collins (cont.)

Did they put you ashore at TOL?---Yes, at midnight, and all the troops they had captured in the morning were in that village. They put us in a hut in which there were about 60. At daybreak they took us out and took our names and numbers on a piece of paper, and later they lined us up and counted us, and they marched us to TOL. There were 123. The Japanese counted us in English and he said there should be more, and asked what happened to them. Then they marched the whole party to TOL about a mile away. At TOL we sat down for a while and then they took our identity discs and gave some of them back and then took them again, and then they took all our personal belongings and pay books and tied us up in parties of 10 or 12 after having tied our hands behind our backs. Some more chaps walked down then, and they were captured. They marched us back towards RABAUL on the track of the plantation and the parties broke off the track into the undergrowth.

How far was that from the house?---About a quarter of a mile.

What time of day was this?---About 1000 hours. Then they told us to sit down. All the parties went in different directions, and I could see only our own party of 12. An officer pulled out a sword and he cut one joker loose and he walked him into the bush signalling him to go. He followed with a fixed bayonet. I heard a scream, and the Japanese soldier came back wiping his bayonet. Another two or three went like that. One broke loose and jumped up and tried to run for it, and the officer hit him with his sword and then shot him. One chap asked to be shot - in my presence - and the officer shot him with an automatic revolver. Clissold got up with the Red Cross on his arm and tried to tell him that he was in the 2/10 Field Ambulance, but the Japanese just ripped off the arm band and took it.

Did the Japanese say anything?---No. I was the last one left, and the Japanese troops were away in the bush and the officer was left by himself. He put away his sword and took a rifle. He motioned me to get up and to walk. I took a few paces and he shot me through the shoulder. I fell on the ground and kept still. He fired again and he hit me through both wrists and in the back. He decided he had finished me, and he went away. I could not move for about a quarter of an hour. The bullet which went through my wrist had cut the line with which I had been tied, and I got up and made off into the bush.

Did you see any of the bodies of your mates before you left?---I saw about half a dozen bodies of my mates on the ground.

Had they covered you with leaves?---No.

Had they covered any of the others?---No. The men were just lying on the ground. I got up and walked about a mile and crawled into a big clump of bush at the foot of a range of hills and remained there for a few days. Then I climbed up to the top of the range and walked along, and came back through the bush to the house on Ross's plantation where they had been and the Japs had gone. I went into the hut and found a lot of bananas so I stayed there a couple of days and went to the place where we had been searched, to try to find any equipment that would be of use, but I found everything had been burned. I found two chaps, who had been bayoneted, in one of the huts.

W.D. Collins (cont.)

Do you know their names?---I had nothing with which to write their names down. They told me their names. I took them back to Ross's place where the bananas were and put them in the house. One of them was very bad, and the other chap might have lived. After putting them there I stayed there for a while, and eventually a party of civilians came. The party comprised W.O. Feetun, Mr. Crawley, Mr. Sexton and Mr. Palmer. I had been trying to get to the missionary to get the priest to look after these chaps, and I could not get over the rivers. When the civilians came, I went with them towards the mission. We just crossed the last of the rivers when a destroyer came into the harbour, and we went into the bush and stayed there two days. When we came out to see what was doing, the destroyer was just going out of ADLER BAY, and Ross's house was on fire. That was two days after I left the TOL plantation. We went on from there and came to a plantation, and just before the missionary had made arrangements with the planter there to feed us. Then a party from the north coast came to pick us up. It was Mr. Holland's party, and he went back to the north coast. Some other chaps who came along said they found two bodies in the house. I then came under Captain Appel's orders and eventually went to IBOKE and from there I was evacuated on the "Lakatoi".

What was your condition when you came out on the "Lakatoi"?---I was still pretty sick.

How was the treatment from the time you got back to the north coast?---It was good.

And on the "Lakatoi"?---Good. I could not have got better treatment. Mrs. Baker, Mr. Frank Holland and Capt. Appel did everything they could for us.

Did you see any officer there dressed in Australian uniform with the Japanese? ---No, but one of the wounded I took to Mrs. Ross's house told me that there was a Scotsman with the Japanese who said he had joined the Japanese to fight the Chinese, and could not get out of fighting the Australians for the Japs. This man did not say how that officer was dressed.

Do you know anything about a party of 23 who surrendered on the beach?--- I did not see it; but I saw the Japanese separating them.

When they lined you up and counted you, did they separate them?--- When they took us to TOL plantation and took our discs away, I think it was an attempt then to find those who had surrendered. They separated those chaps.

Was anything said about it?---The Japanese were arguing about it, and the Australians were arguing, too.

What was the argument about?---There were 22 surrendered in one place on the beach and another 20 somewhere else, and they all reckoned they all surrendered at the same time, and they were arguing about that. The Japanese did not agree, and said there were only 22. They separated 22 from the rest.

Did you see any incident or anything happen which might have led to some Japanese retaliation?---No, I did not see anything at all.

5312

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W.D. Collins (cont.)

was there any resistance by any of you after you were taken prisoner - any breakaway, or anything?---Unless it was that when they counted us and found there were 123 and said there should be more. Some of them might have escaped in the night.

However, the Japanese gave you no explanation nor did they say anything which would give you an idea of what was in their minds?---No.

As far as you could see, the behaviour of the troops after capture was correct and as it should have been?---Yes. I have no idea why it was done.

Is there anything else you could bring in which would help us?---I think I gave Colonel Hoare a statement.

Did you see any of the men actually being bayoneted?---Yes.

Not being taken into the bush at all?---Only the last couple, who were just near me.

I suppose the Japanese soldiers who did the bayoneting were ordered to do it?---I did not hear an order given by anyone at any time.

It was apparently all pre-arranged?---Yes.

(Sgd.) NX57343
W.D. Collins.

Certified true copy.

J.F. Moynane
..... Lieut. Col.
Australian Military Forces.

18544

HUGH JOSEPH WEBSTER.

VX23821, PRIVATE HUGH JOSEPH WEBSTER, 2/22nd Battalion, D Company, being duly sworn, states:-

I am VX23821, Private Hugh Joseph Webster, 2/22nd Battalion, D Company.

I went to RABAU with the 2/22 Battalion and was there till after the Japanese landing.

After the Japanese landing the Company retired into the bush and I went with it, and I made my way down to the South Coast with other members of the Battalion.

We arrived in the vicinity of TOL about February the 3rd, in the late afternoon. There were eight in our party, all of the 2/22.

On arrival at TOL we set about trying to get some food. We got a sheep and a bit of corn and cooked it. We slept the night in a native hut in the TOL Plantation. There were eight of us in the hut.

Next morning we ate for breakfast what food was left from the night before, and lay down again. There was a river ahead, and we were trying to organise a crossing of the river. While we were lying on the bunks there was a bit of a commotion outside. We went out to have a look and looked out to sea and could see sampans out in the Bay. We packed all our stuff in a hurry and went into the bush again. On the way to the bush we heard a type of mortar firing. We slept in the bush on the night of the 4th.

In the morning, it was our idea that the Japs would not stay long, so we posted two sentries to watch the Japs at the native huts. The sentries came rushing back and said a Japanese patrol was coming up. The patrol surrounded us and took us prisoners. We had picked up three more men by this time and were a party of eleven, and the only arms in the party was a revolver carried by Cpl. Walker. The Japs surrounded us and took us prisoner at about 9 or 10 in the morning. They made a search of the surrounding bush to see if there were any more and then took us to Japanese headquarters at WAITAVLO.

There was only our party at the Japanese headquarters at WAITAVLO at the time. There they gave us two sheets of paper. We had to sign our names and numbers twice. They took our identification discs from us and also all our personal belongings. Then they tied our hands behind our backs with rope and marched us just up behind WAITAVLO House, about 200 yards. There was a big group of Japanese at the Headquarters, cleaning machine guns and rifles and doing odd jobs and the Japanese that went with us behind WAITAVLO House numbered between 20 and 30.

There was a bit of cliff and they lined us up along that. They would not let us face them. We were not linked together. They then opened on us with rifles and light machine guns. I was wounded in the arm and side and fell down and lost consciousness.

at cliff edge machine gunning

H.J. Webster. (cont.)

I eventually recovered consciousness, and the Japs had gone. On recovering consciousness, I definitely saw the other ten of my mates lying there on the ground. I examined them and found that private Walkley was still alive. I got him to his feet and he and I went down into a bit of a gully. We were there for about three days. We then decided to set off, and we went through the thick bush. Walkley was in pretty bad condition. I was going ahead and missed him. I came back to find him, sang out and looked for him, but I was not able to find him at all and I thought he must have died in the bush.

I then went on by myself. While going on by myself I had only gone a short distance when I came on a number of bodies of other victims. I could not say definitely the number but, on a rough estimate, there would be about eight or nine. They were covered with coconut fronds. They were definitely Australian troops. I did not see them sufficiently to identify them.

I was eventually picked up by a party with Col. Scanlon and ultimately came out on the south coast with Major Palmer and Major Owen. I made a quick recovery from my bullet wounds.

I did not see anything which might have given the Japanese any ground for attack on our party. We were an unarmed party as far as they were concerned. We even throw away the revolver before they came up.

There was a Japanese officer who spoke English. I did not see any officer with them dressed in Australian uniform. There were local natives working for the Japanese at the headquarters.

I have given the names of my party to Records.

The evidence is read over to the witness.

(Sgd.) HUGH J. WEBSTER.

Certified true copy.

T. F. Moran
 Lieut. Col.
 Australian Military Forces.

1855A

Evidentiary Document No. 5400.

Lieut. WONG YO SIN of 200 Bn. 67 Div. Chinese National Army,
having been called on 16 Oct. 1945 and duly sworn, states:-

Pte CHOW KWONG PIT of my Battalion and Pte LONG MIN of my Battalion were killed by shooting by Japanese because they were too ill to work. They were shot by Pte SHIGEO and two Formosans, TAIWUN LIN YE and ORGABA YASI. All are from Jap Supplies Depot. This occurred in RABAUl on 25 Jan 43. They were both shot at the same time.

These men with others had been confined in a small space in the ship's hold since leaving SHANGHAI. There was insufficient ventilation and the men became ill. On arrival at RABAUl when all were disembarked, these two men were too sick to move and the Japanese immediately took them off the ship and shot them in the bush. I saw this happen. The shooting occurred two hours after we disembarked.

Evidence is read over to Witness and signed by him.

(Signed) WONG YO SIN

Interpreter's Certificate.

I, TIMOTHY MAK do hereby certify that this statement was made by Lieut WONG YO SIN in Chinese and after same had been written in English was read back to Witness in his own language before he signed it and the translation is a correct translation of the Witness' evidence.

(Signed) TIMOTHY MAK
Timothy Mak

(Signed) A. A. McLennan Capt.
CA.T A. A. McLELLAN

1857A

Evidentiary Document No. 5401.

Major LEE WAI SIN of the 3rd. Fd. Volunteer Army, having been ~~seen~~ on 17 Oct. 45 and duly sworn, states:-

called

- Private SO LIN SUNG
- " SUI YOONG CHEONG
- " SIN SIT MING
- " GOR TAI YEE
- " CHAI SEE DOE
- " YEE SUNG PING
- " GO TAI YORE
- " CHOW KUI SANG
- " PAN YOUNG MING
- " CHICK CHUI SUNG

The above mentioned names, members of 3rd. Fd. Volunteer Army, were killed by shooting by Japanese because they were too ill to work. They were shot by Corporal AYIZAWA HARUSAKO and a Formosan, HAYASI HACHIMA both from Supplies Depot. This occurred in RABAUl Jan 29th 43. They were shot at the same time.

These men with others had been confined in a small space in the ship's hold since leaving SHANGHAI. There was insufficient ventilation and little to eat. These men became ill. On arrival at RABAUl when all were disembarked, the above mentioned men were too sick to move and had no strength to work for the Japs. They have no medical men to attend them, no medicines and little to eat. The Japs took them into the bush and shot them. I saw this happen.

Evidence is read over to Witness and signed by him.

(Signed) LEE WAI SIN
2 i/c

Interpreter's Certificate.

I, TIMOTHY MAK do hereby certify that this statement was made by Major LEE WAI SIN in Chinese and after same had been written down in English was read back to Witness in his own language before he signed it and the translation is a correct translation of the Witness' evidence.

(Signed) TIMOTHY MAK

(Signed) Capt. Lan Yet Chai.

1857A

Major LEE WAI SIN of the 3rd. Fd. Volunteer Army, having been called on 18 Oct. 45 and duly sworn, states:

- Private CHEE YOKE LIN
- " LOOK SOON CHING
- " SING JEE MING
- Serjeant PUN CHAN MING
- 2nd.Ltd. CHAN KUE MING
- " PUN YEN JOONG

The above mentioned men, members of my formation, were killed by shooting by Japanese because they were too ill to work. They were shot by Corporal AYIZAWA HARU SAKO and a Formosan, TAKE HYASHI TSURUICHI, both are from Supplies Depot. This occurred in RABAU 4 Feb 43. They were shot at the same time.

These men with others had been confined in a small space in a ship's hold since leaving SHANGHAI. There was insufficient ventilation and little to eat. These men became ill. On arrival at RABAU when all men were disembarked the above mentioned were too sick to move and had no strength to work for the Japs. They have no medical men to attend them, no medicines and very little to eat. The Japs took them into the bush and shot them.

I saw this happen.

Evidence is read over to Witness and signed by Witness.

(Signed) LEE WAI SIN
2 i/c.

Interpreter's Certificate.

I, TIMOTHY MAK do hereby certify that this statement was made by Major LEE WAI SIN in Chinese and after same had been written down in English was read back to Witness in his own language before he signed it and the translation is a correct translation of the Witness' evidence.

(Signed) TIMOTHY MAK

(Signed) Capt. LAN YET CHAI

EXHIBIT "A"
E.C. MILLIKIN Major
President
10 April, 1946.

"We cannot understand the Japanese"

LIU WEI PAO being duly sworn is examined by the Prosecutor through interpreter J.S.R. Ferguson.

My full name and rank is Liu Wei Pao. I am a Capt. in the Chinese National Army. I came to Rabaul in 1943. It was in Jan. 1943. I was a POW controlled by the Japanese Army. I was living in Rabaul on 3rd. March 43. I know all of the men referred to as deceased in charge one. All these men were soldiers in the Chinese National Army. All these men were POW the same as myself. I last saw these men on 3rd. March 43. I know a Japanese named Matsushima. On the first day we arrived in Rabaul I met Matsushima. I can now see the man referred to as Matsushima (witness indicates accused Matsushima) I know a Japanese Ayizawa. I can now see him. (witness indicates accused Ayizawa). Those two men are members of a Japanese Supply Depot. I know a Formosan named Hayasi. I can now see him. (witness indicates accused Hayasi) I know a man called Okabayashi (witness indicates accused Okabayashi). I know a man named Kiohara (witness indicates accused Kiohara) I know a man named Yanagawa. (witness indicates accused Yanagawa) I know a Formosan known as Shimura. (witness indicates accused Shimura) I know a Formosan known as Furuya. (witness indicates accused Okabayashi) Witness points to each accused and identifies each by name. On 3rd. March 43 at about 8 o'clock I remember a Japanese truck coming into our camp. When the truck arrived in our camp area, Japanese and Formosans got down from the truck. There were approximately 14 in the truck, seven of whom would be Japanese and 7 Formosans. Those men came across to our living quarters. With me in the living quarters was Major Lee and Lt. Wong. All these accused were among the fourteen men. Ayizawa said to Major Lee and Lt. Wong and myself "Come with us to where the sick Chinese are." We three Chinese officers did as we were instructed. Each of the accused in court were with the party including us three Chinese officers which went to the place where the sick men were. Ayizawa instructed me to detail eight Chinese proceed to the mountain and dig a pit. I went with the eight Chinese soldiers and supervised the digging of the pit. After the Chinese had dug a very large pit I returned to our quarters and reported to Ayizawa. When I came back and reported to Ayizawa, Major Lee and Lt. Wong were with me. Ayizawa was at our quarters at this time. The party including the three Chinese officers as well as Ayizawa and each of the accused in Court together with a few others went to the sick Chinese quarters. The other few whom I referred to were a few of our own Chinese troops who were working around the area. Ayizawa instructed all the sick Chinese to get outside the sick quarters. He then proceeded to count them and counted 26. Ayizawa left the party for a few minutes and went in the direction

of his quarters. By quarters I mean in the direction of the building which the Japanese occupied when they were on duty. Within a few minutes he returned with two rifles and two pistols. He had the assistance of a Formosan to bring back these weapons. Ayizawa then instructed Major Lee to have each of the sick men taken to the mountain. When we had completed approximately half the journey to the pit, two Chinese soldiers ran away. Chiu Youn Sie and Eie Din Youn were the two men who ran away. I know these two men because they are at present living with us. These two men were among the 26 who were counted outside the sick quarters. To my memory they were suffering from Malaria. Two of the sick people were carried on the backs of others because of ulcers on the feet. The remaining 24 including the two that escaped went on foot. Major Lee and Lt. Wong were with me together with this party when we arrived at the hole. I know: Pte DOU CHIN CHUA, Pte Woo Shi Chan, Pte WIN VIE TSUN, Pte LO CHEE SUN, Pte FUO LAE KIN, Pte LOU SUN FONNA, Pte CHUN SUE GEN, Pte WONG SUN TOI, Pte FONG WEI SIE, Pte LIU PAO SUN, Cpl TSON VIN LING. The men to whom I referred were all at the pit at this time. Each of the accused were present at the pit. Ayizawa instructed the sick Chinese to go into the hole. At this time Major Lee and Lt. Wong were standing a few feet from the mouth of the hole.

Upon receiving instructions to get into the hole the Chinese refused to do so. They were then set upon by the whole party and using their hands and sticks and their boots and also with the butts of the two rifles were forced into the hole. The injuries to the sick people were extreme. Blood was flowing very freely from several ugly wounds inflicted by the kickings and punchings and one man's head had a large wound. The man who inflicted the large wound in the man's head was the accused Okabayashi. At this time Okabayash was using a stick. Ayizawa fired several shots into the hole and then four of the accused took the two rifles and the two pistols and together the four of them shot into the hole. The guns were then handed over to the other accused who then shot into the hole. Each group fired several rounds into the hole. I was a witness together with the other two Chinese officers of all this and when it was apparent that each of the twenty four men were dead Ayizawa said "Each of you (referring to the Japanese and Formosan party) may have another shot." Each of the accused did as was suggested. Ayizawa was the last in the party to shoot with the pistol, instructed us to fill in the hole and told the party to return to camp. I looked into the hole and whilst there were a few quiverings among the deceased it was evidence that each one was dead. We waited until these quiverings had ceased. We then filled in the hole. After we filled in the hole the Chinese who were in the party paid our last respects to the deceased and returned to camp.

On 11th March, 1943, in the morning a Japanese truck pulled up outside our quarters and a number of Japanese and Formosans left the truck. I heard Ayizawa give instructions for the day's work. Ayizawa said to Major Lee, Lt. Wong and I,

"We want to see the sick troops." Ayizawa and some of his party together with Major Lee Lt. Wong and myself went to the sick quarters of the Chinese troops. There were ten people lying ill in the hut. Ayizawa said "Send a Chinese working party out to the mountain to prepare a pit." Lt. Wong and I went with the working party. Major Lee remained behind. Ayizawa went with the working party. There were other Japanese and Formosans who sent with the working party. When the hole was quite large Ayizawa instructed the Formosans to return to the camp. Ayizawa instructed the Formosans to return to camp and escort the ten sick Chinese to the hole. Each of the Formosan party returned bringing with them only six of the ten sick men. I know each of: Pte TAI TSU WU, Pte CHUN MEI SUN, Pte KUO DJEN DEI, Pte WONG HONG QUE, Pte TSUN SIE SUNG, Pte HONG LIANG CHUI. The six men who I have mentioned were the men who were escorted by the Formosans to the hole. Each of these men were Privates in the Chinese National Army. These men were captured in China by the Japanese and were brought to Rabaul by them. There were seven Japanese at the pit. There are two Japanese who were in that party present in court today. One is called Ayizawa and the other is Matsushima. Each of the accused in Court today were present at the hole on 11th March, 1943. When the Formosans returned escorting the Chinese soldiers they were carrying with them two Japanese rifles and two pistols. Ayizawa instructed the six men to get into the pit. The six sick Chinese tried to break away and the Formosans and party set upon them with sticks and with the assistance of hands and feet forced them into the pit. Four of the accused then stepped forward in line and shot with their rifles and pistol. After firing several rounds handed the weapons over to the other accused who also fired into the pit. Ayizawa then took the pistol and firing several rounds into the pit instructed us to fill in the hole. I was standing a few feet from the mouth of the pit together with Major Lee and Lt. Wong and saw each of the six men were dead. We filled in the hole and paid our respects and returned to camp. On returning to camp Ayizawa came to Major Lee and said, "Where are the other four." Major Lee replied, "I do not know where they are." Ayizawa then said "If you do not find these four men I will shoot you." The next morning with two Chinese soldiers we set out in search of the four missing soldiers. After searching for several hours we came upon one named Lee Lo Youn hanging from a tree. On the 15th March with some Chinese soldiers I set out for a further search for the missing men. We found the three men near to each other hanging from a tree. Among the three was a Chinese and two Privates. The Lt's name was Ching Hei Pen, and the two soldiers were named Chin Yee Pu and the third Youn Ying Tsu. On the person of Lt. Ching I found a letter addressed to Col Woo Yien.

At first opportunity I gave this letter to Col Woo Yien. The letter was burnt by myself for fear of it falling into the hands of the Japanese. Col Woo Yien was with me when I burnt the letter. The gist of the letter was "We cannot understand the Japanese. We four have talked the matter over as to whether we should return, but as we know we shall be killed we feel it better to hang ourselves." The twenty four men named in the first charge are the twenty four men whom I saw shot in the pit and buried.

I CERTIFY that the foregoing is a true copy of a sworn statement made by Capt LNU WEI PAO tendered, read to him, admitted in evidence, marked Exhibit "A", signed by the President and annexed to the proceedings of a Military Court on the trial of Sgt. MATSUSHIMA Tozaburo and others held at RABAU on 10/16 April, 1946.

(Signed) A. F. Scott Capt.
Officer having the custody of the
Original proceedings.

Cpl. SHIER TCHEN TSE being duly sworn is examined by Prosecuting officer through interpreter J.S.R. Ferguson.

I am SHIER TCHEN TSE, a Cpl in the Chinese National Army. In April 43 I was a POW of the Japanese then living at Kokopo. I know a Chinese soldier named Yeh Fong Chien. I last saw him alive on 3rd. April 43. When at Kokopo I came to know a Japanese warrant officer in charge of the Chinese prisoners. I can now see him.

Witness indicates accused and identifies him by name of Kamitabe. On the day that Yeh FongChien met his death, he and some other Chinese soldiers were sick. Yeh was suffering from a sore on the leg and the others had light illnesses. I saw the accused on that day. As we were coming together on the late morning of 3rd. April for our food the accused arrived with two other Japanese and two Formosans. These were the people who were in charge of us at Kokopo. He asked the Chinese officer in charge of us how many sick people there were. Our officer replied there were 11 people who were a little sick and he said "I am going to send them to hospital. Our officer asked the accused whether he wanted them to take the personal equipment with them and he was told this was not necessary. The accused and his party then went to the sick men's quarters, and instructions were given for the sick men to leave their quarters. The Chinese did not come out quickly and the accused shouted to the interpreter and the interpreter shouted out to the men in the sick quarters "If you don't hurry up I will kill you here". Capt. Shiung went to him and tried to reason with him explaining that the men were not very ill and would be able to work again within a few days. The accused would not accept the reasoning of our officer and threatened to kill him if he said too much. The party of sick Chinese were then escorted by the accused and the other four people who were in control of us to a place not very far away. They were carrying three swords, a long rifle, and a revolver. Although we were instructed by the accused not to accompany the party we followed them. We went to a place which would be in the vicinity of about 50 feet from where the party had halted where there were some depressions in the ground. We were standing on an elevated position from where the party were standing and we saw quite clearly what followed. They had no sooner arrived at this place than the Japanese party started to behead the Chinese soldiers. A couple of them were not completely decapitated and the accused using the revolver which he was carrying fired one round at each of the two men.

Defending officer declines to cross-examine.

No questions by the Court.

CERTIFIED TRUE COPY

(Signed) T. MORNANE
Lt-Col.

Documentary Evidence No. 5405.

Page 2

I CERTIFY that this is a true copy of the official record of the evidence of Corporal SHIER TCHEN TSE contained in the proceedings of the Military Court relating to the trial of Lieutenant UETOGE KONOSUKE of 26 Supply Depot on the charge of murder in that he at KOKOPO on about 3rd. April, 1943, murdered Pte YEH FONG CHIEN and ten other members of the Chinese Army.

T. MORNANE
(Signed) LT. COL.
Australian Imperial Force

1861A

Evidentiary Document No. 5406.

Captain CHEUNG YEE YU of the 3rd. Fd. Volunteer Army, having been called on 9 Oct. 45 and duly sworn, states:-

Pte LO YAH CHEUNG of my 3rd. Fd. Volunteer Army, was shot by Japanese because he was too ill to work. He was shot by Lt. SASAKI, member of the (YANG Butai) No. 9644 KEREVAT Aerodrome. This occurred in KEREVAT 9 Oct 43. He was shot by rifles.

This man with his comrades was working together in KEREVAT Aerodrome - treated him like a slave, lived in filthy places, bitten by mosquitoes and became ill. No doctor attended him while he is sick, besides no medicine was given to him, supply insufficient food for him to eat - on account of this, he could not work, so this Lt. SASAKI, officer in charge of this party, take him into the bush and shot him through the skull.

I saw this happen.

Evidence is read over to Witness and signed by him.

(Signed) CHEUNG YEE YU

Interpreter's Certificate.

I XAVIER CHOI do hereby certify that this statement was made by Capt. CHEUNG YEE YU in Chinese and after some had been written down in English was read back to witness in his own language before he signed it and the translation is a correct translation of Witness' evidence.

(Signed) XAVIER CHOI

(Signed) Maj LEE WAI SIN

Lieut TAN BAI MING of the Central Chinese Volunteer Army, having been called on 18 Oct 45 and duly sworn, states:

Private CHIANG JIM LIN of my Central Chinese Volunteer Army was killed by shooting by Japanese, because he was too ill to work. He was shot by Lieut SASAKI, he was a member of (YANG BAIN) No. 9644 KARAWAT Aerodrome. This occurred in KARAWAT, Nov. 2nd. 43. He was shot by rifle.

This man with others was working in KARAWAT 'drome, bitten by mosquitoes fell ill, no medicines was given to him, and no doctor attended to him, the Japs gave him little to eat, because he could not work; so this Lieut SASAKI who was in charge of working party, took Pte CHIANG JIN LIM into the bush and shot him through his skull.

I saw this happen.

Evidence is read over to Witness and signed by him.

(Signed) TAN BAI MING

Interpreter's Certificate.

I, TIMOTHY MAK do hereby certify that this statement was made by Lt. TAN BAI MING in Chinese and after same had been written down in English was read back to him in his own language before he signed it and the translation is a correct translation of Witness' evidence.

(Signed) TIMOTHY MAK

(Signed) Maj LEE WAI SIN

18631A

Corporal PANG NAM TING of the 88th Division, having been called on 18 Oct. 45 and duly sworn, states:

Pte WONG SHUI CHUNG of my 88th Division was killed by beating with club by Japanese because he was too ill to work. He was beaten to death by Cpl OKAZAKI MAZUO, a member of the Supplies Depot. This occurred in RABAU on 26 Jul. 44. He was beaten to death. This man has been given little food to eat, bitten by mosquitoes became ill, no medical attention was given, he was forced to work carrying big heavy boxes, he could not carry them because he is too weak by illness, so the Corporal OKAZAKI beat him with a big club until he vomits blood and died.

I saw this happen.

Evidence is read over to witness and signed by him.

(Signed) PANG NAM TING

Interpreter's Certificate.

I, PETER CHAN do hereby certify that this statement was made by Corporal PANG NAM TING in Chinese and after same had been written down in English was read back to witness in his own language before he signed it and the translation is a correct translation of witness' evidence.

(Signed) PETER CHAN

(Signed) Maj. LEE WAI SIN

1864A

Mrs. LEE YITSAI KUNYANG, Chinatown, RABAUL, having been called on 20th October, 1945 and duly sworn, states:

I am a married woman and lived at RABAUL before the war for 44 years. My husband traded but has died during the War. I have a family of 9 children - six sons and three daughters. We were living at BAINING before the War and stayed there when the Japs came.

The native boys told the Military Police (Jap) that we had a radio in the house and were communicating with Americans; we had no radio. The Japs came out and took me and my family to RABAUL. We were put in a prison in Chinatown. The Jap police questioned me about the radio every day, 3 times a day. Each day they gave beatings to my sons. I was beaten 3 times. I was made to bend down and I was questioned. If I said "No" they beat me. They beat me with a thick stick. I got about 30 or 40 stroke. When I fainted they stopped beating me. The beating was done by two Jap policemen. I do not know their names. MATSI MOTO was there when they beat me. The beatings took place in April 43. After the first beating they beat me again two days later and again after another 2 days. MATSI MOTO was present on the first and third occasion but not on the second. I had black and red marks where I had been beaten. They were very painful. I am 59 years of age. The Japs gave me no treatment or medicine. My sons were beaten every day. I did not actually see the beatings but I heard them crying out. Afterwards they came to me and they were bleeding on the head, the side and the back. My sons told me they had been beaten. My sons names are WOO CHING KONG (43 years), WOO CHING FOOK (38), WOO CHING WAH (34), WOO CHING CHEONG (32) WOO CHING KEONG (23) WOO CHING ON (21).

My son KEONG was beheaded by the Japs. I did not see him killed. I have not found his body. I was told by two Chinese girls, ANNA CHAN and BETTY PANG, who had been told that KEONG had been beheaded.

While my sons and I were in prison we were given nothing but small quantities of rice and vegetables. We slept on the ground.

Statement is read over to Complainant and signed by Complainant.

Witness mark,
Signature of Complainant

Interpreter's Certificate.

I, AUGUST CHAN of Chinatown, RABAUL, do hereby certify that this statement was made by Mrs. LEE YITSAI KUNYANG in Chinese and after same had been written down in English was read back to Complainant in her own language before she signed it and the translation is a correct translation of Complainant's statement.

(sig. illegible) Major.
Interrogating Officer.

(Sgd) AUGUST CHAN (Interpreter)

Evidentiary Document No. 5217.

RESTRICTED.

1861A

Classification changed from "CONFIDENTIAL" to "RESTRICTED" by order of the Secretary of War by /s/ T.R.C.King, Lt. Col., Inf.

STATE OF WASHINGTON)
COUNTY OF PIERCE) SS

We, James A. McMurria, Josel. Holguin, and Alphonse D. Quinones, of Lawful age, being duly sworn, on oath depose and say:

I am 1st. Lt. James A. McMurria, ASN 0-372644. My permanent address is 933 Benning Blvd., Columbus, Ga. I was captured by the Japanese on 3 March, 1943, in New Guinea while serving with the 90th Bomb Group, 5th Air Force. I was taken to Rabaul in May, 1943, and remained there until March, 1944, when I was transferred to Tunnel Hill, where I remained until 7 September, 1945.

I am Jose L. Holguin, 2nd. Lt., ASN 0-72838. My permanent address is 1448 Court St., Los Angeles, Calif. I was captured on 19 July, 1943, at New Britain while serving with the 43rd. Bomb Group 5th Air Force. I was first taken to the town of Rabaul and in March of 1944 was transferred to Tunnel Hill, where I remained until liberated on 7 September, 1945.

I am Alphonse D. Quinones, 2nd. Lt., ASN 0-748875. My permanent address is 1448 Court St., Los Angeles, Calif. I was captured by the Japanese on Rabaul, New Britain, on 7 November, 1943, while serving with the 38th Fighter Squadron, 5th Air Force. I was held at the town of Rabaul until March, 1944, when I was transferred to Tunnel Hill, where I remained until liberated on 7 September, 1945.

While at Rabaul we were quartered in a small wood building where we slept on the floor. Conditions were very crowded and at times it was impossible for all of us to lie down. We received about a coffee cup three-fourths full of rice and half a cup of soup three times a day. Beating of prisoners was common at the camp for the slightest infraction of the rules and many times for no reason at all. These beatings were sometimes rather severe and Japanese often used bamboo clubs, bayonet cases, belts, their fists, and ramrods from their rifles. They also used rifle butts, and often when a prisoner was down they would kick him in the testicles. Corporal Wada was the worst offender in the beating of prisoners. He was nicknamed "the Bull." We had no American medical officer there, and the Japanese furnished practically no medical attention. At first there were 64 allied prisoners at the camp. Forty of these were reported by the Japanese as having been killed by bombing while being transported to another camp. Twelve American prisoners of war and five other American prisoners died in camp from

starvation, beri beri, dysentery, combined with lack of medical care. There were only six allied prisoners who were alive when the camp was liberated on 7 September, 1945.

The Japanese doctor who was responsible for our medical care was called "the Butcher." He was a captain, and was assigned to the Kempe Tai (Military Police detachment). The executive officer Matsuta in charge of the camp was a Major named Mazuta. There was a colonel over him who was really the commanding officer, but we do not recall his name. We can give no further description of persons responsible for conditions at Rabaul, and we can state no further details concerning the matters described in this affidavit.

/s/ James A McMurria 1st. Lieut
O-372644

/s/ Jose L. Holguin, 2nd. Lt. A.C.
O-72838.

/s/ Alphonse D. Quinones, 2nd. Lt.
O-748875

In the presence of

/s/ Donald W. Smith, Agent, SIC

A CERTIFIED TRUE COPY:

/s/ Edwin F. Svare
1st. Lt., Inf.

RESTRICTED /s/ T.R.C.K.

Evidentiary Document No. 5438.

1866 A
(CERTIFIED COPY)
APPENDIX C 15

Statement by Repatriated Prisoners of War at Australian
General Hospital, Jacquinot Bay, 9th September, 1945.

Norman Vickers of the Royal New Zealand Air Force, was with us
as a prisoner of war off Tunnel Hill Road, Rabaul.

He stated that he was shot down in the Bougainville-Shortlands
area I believe.

When he arrived at the prison camp in Rabaul he had been
cruelly ill-treated. He had been bound by ropes to which
fish hooks had been attached in such a way that whenever he
moved his head the fish hooks would pierce his face.

Vickers' health deteriorated and in July, 1944, he died in
my presence as the result of malnutrition and dysentery.

He did not name the person who ill-treated him,

(Signed) James A McMurria	(Signed) John J. Murphy
0 372644	NGX 310
1st. Lieutenant	Captain
90th Bomber Group	A.I.B.
5th U.S. Air Force.	

Witnessed:

W. F. Ingram
Flight Lieutenant
R.N.Z.A.F.

CERTIFIED TRUE COPY

(Signed) T. B. Hunt Brigadier
per Adjutant-General.

1867A

STATEMENT.

MAUTA LEONARD Native Boy of BITAGALIF NEW BRITAIN having been called on 29th October, 1945, and duly sworn states:-

I remember working at the TOBERA AIR Field with a party of natives. We were working with a truck. The engine broke down and one of the boys TO URAVAGIN told the Japanese that the engine would not work. The Japanese called him up and hit him on the head with a stick this was the Japanese interpreter. TO URAVAGIN retaliated by hitting the Japanese in the eye and breaking his glasses. We all then ran away. We were caught and taken back to the air field. There there Japanese tied us up together in two parties. Five together in one party, and the rest in another. The Japanese who had been struck by the Natives then took up a wooden mallet and hit the five who had been tied together on their heads. They all fell down. The Japanese who was with the interpreter and whose name is CHICABA took a stick and hit the natives who had fallen on the ground on the head. Three of them died immediately, but two of them did not die. The names of those who died immediately were, TO LUI, TO MORAC, TO EDIN, and two still alive were TO URAVAGIN and TO VARGIL. The Japanese then told the boys to pick up the five natives and carry them away to bury them. I saw that the two were still alive for I could see them moving. CHICABA told the rest of us not to look. The party went away and some Japanese went with them. Later the boys came back and told me that they had buried them all including the two still alive. They said that one of them had said "Better you kill me and then bury me, but kill me first," but the Japanese took no notice and they were told to hurry on with the burial. I saw all that happen up to the time when the burial party went away.

We were on our way to the MINSABU to complain about the Japanese guards treatment of TO URAVAGIN when he struck him when we were captured by the soldiers. We had been told we could complain of bad treatment to the MINSABU. CHICABA was a Navy Man.

LEONAT
Signature of Witness.

I, Father William Cadogan, Roman Catholic Missionary of RAMALI Mission do hereby certify that this statement was made by MAUTA LEONARD in pidgen and after same had been written down in English was read back to witness in pidgen before he signed it and the translation is a correct translation of the witness's evidence.

(sgd) William Cadogan
Signature of Interpreter
29 Oct. 1945.

Evidentiary Document No. 5433.

1868A

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES
RECORD OF MILITARY COURT (JAPANESE
WAR CRIMINALS)

AAF A117(A)

AWC No: 2676

Aust. M.C. List Ser No:

Accused: Navy Workman KIKAWA, Haruo.

Court Place: HAPPAUL

Date and 4 and 10 Jan 46.

Formation: 11 Aust. Div.

<u>Charge (s)</u>	<u>Plea</u>	<u>Verdict Finding</u>
<u>First Charge:</u> MURDER at TOBERA about Aug 43 murdered TO LUI TO MOFAG TO EDLIN	Not Guilty	Guilty
<u>Second Charge:</u> MURDER at TOBERA about Aug 43 murdered TO URAVAGI and TO VIRGIL	Not Guilty	Guilty

Precis of Evidence: About Aug 43 a number of native boys were employed on earthwork at TOBERA airfield. The accused KIKAWA was in charge of the Camp, welfare of the boys etc. A Jap called NAGAO who wore glasses was apparently in charge of a working party and struck one native with a plank. The native retaliated and broke NAGAO'S glasses. Natives ran away and were brought back to the field. Natives were lined up and the one concerned in the striking incident and four others were fallen out, tied up and hit on the head with a mallet. Three were apparently killed instantly and two still lived. A Japanese then struck all five with a piece of wood. The three dead and two living natives were buried. The evidence of two natives is in agreement except that one stated that KIKAWA used the mallet in the presence of NAGAO and the other states that NAGAO used the mallet and that KIKAWA helped tied the natives and struck them with the piece of wood. The defence is an alibi, supported by Lt. YUI that he arrived at the scene after the incidents detailed.

Sentence: To suffer death by hanging.

and Date: 10 January, 1946.

Confirmation Finding and sentence confirmed and warrant signed by
and by whom: Acting C-in-C. 26 February, 1946.

Promulgation: 17 January, 1946.

Petition: Submitted 23 Jan. 46 against Finding and Sentence of the Court.

J.A.G's Report on Petition: That Finding and Sentence be confirmed.

Action on Petition: Dismissed.

Filed in Attorney-General's Department and Numbered.

Certified true copy of official record.

(Sgd) T. MOHNANE
Lt. Col.

1869A
164314 Sweeper GIANI, C. Coy 13 Pioneer Bn, having been called on 5 Oct. 45 and duly sworn, states:

On 5 May 44 GUTHNU and I saw MATARI GUNSO beating FAKIRA severely and mercilessly in the jungle where petrol dumps were situated. LUNGI came to our hut about 9 pm that night and told us that FAKIRA's whereabouts were unknown and that we were to help look for him.

On 6th and 7th May 44 we all searched but could not find FAKIRA. Then on 8 May 44 FUJITA took us all to our old camp and there we saw the dead body of FAKIRA hanging from a tree. We were told to be careful. Before returning to work I saw that FAKIRA's left leg was broken and his chest, back and hands bore wounds of having been beaten by a stick. The rope round his neck was very loose, touching his chin at a distance of three or four inches from the throat. FUJITA and MATARI admitted that they had killed FAKIRA. They were proud of this fact.

Evidence is read over to witness and signed by witness.

(Finger mark of witness)
 Signature of Witness.

Interpreter's Certificate.

I, S/Clerk J. Clattery do hereby certify that this statement was made by GI ANI in Hindustani and after same had been written down in English was read back to witness in his own language before he signed it and the translation is a correct translation of Witness' evidence.

(Sgd) J. CLATTERY
 Signature of Interpreter.

453 Pioneer LUNGI KOBE having been called on 5 Oct 45 and duly sworn, states:

On 5 May 44 MATARI GUNSO took FAKIRA with him but I did not know why or where he took him. They both left Coastal house where FAKIRA and I were extracting oil at the time. At about 11 o'clock MATARI came and told me that he had killed FAKIRA but I did not believe it. At 1800 hours I went to our men who were working in the garden and enquired about FAKIRA but they knew nothing about him.

At about 1300 hours 8 May 44 MATARI took us to our old camp and there we saw FAKIRA hanging from a tree. FUJITA and MATARI warned us all to be careful, otherwise we would meet deaths similar to FAKIRA's. SHRI RAM and myself buried FAKIRA. FAKIRA's left leg was broken and had been bleeding. There was no

sign of blood on his ears, eyes nor mouth. The rope was very loose and touching the chin about three inches from the throat.

I know that FAKIRA was killed; he did not suicide.

Evidence is read over to Witness and signed by Witness.

(sgd) LUNGI KOBE.

Interpreter's Certificate.

I, S/Clerk J. Clattery do hereby certify that this statement was made by LUNGI KOBE in Hindustani and after same had been written down in English was read back to Witness in his own language before he signed it and the translation is a correct translation of Witness' evidence.

(sgd) J. CLATTERY
Signature of Interpreter.

Certified true copy.

(sgd) T. MORNANE Lt.-Col.

I certify that this sheet contains true copies of the official record of the evidence of 164314 Sweeper GIANI and 453 Pioneer LUNGI KOBE contained in the proceedings of a Military Court held at Rabaul relating to the trial of Sergeant MAWATARI KUNIYOSH on a charge of murder of FAKIRA a member of the Indian Army at Norga on or about 5th May, 1944.

(Sgd) Thomas F. Mornane Lt.-Col.

1870A

Evidentiary Document No. 5414.

Page 1.

SF6267 Jen QUTUBUDDIN 1 Bn. Hyderabad Inf. having been called on 19 September 1945 and duly sworn states:-

In the month of November, 1944, I was at NISHIZAKIYAMA with a party of 35 men. 2/Lt. FUKUHARA NICHOTAI was in charge of us. I and my men used to dig big shelters for coastal guns under CHIK-JEOLI (sappers and miners). Sometimes we used to fetch rations from a distance of 3 to 4 miles.

On 28 November, 1944, I and 29 other ranks were ordered by 2/Lt. GUKUHARA to bring rations from a distance of 4 miles. We brought all rations by 1500 hours. Regtl. No. 186 Sepoy ABDUL GAFFORE and Regtl. No. 830 Sepoy SHEIK SALEIGH BIN MOHD were detailed by the Japanese JOTAHAI FUZIWARA to dump all the rice bags and other articles in a neat manner. After an hour those two Sepoys were returned to their barracks. After the fatigue hours as usual the men were boiling the water, for cleaning their ulcers. At such a time a Ha-ho SHAKOTA (Ha-ho means one who works for Japanese. Indonesians from JAVA and SUMATRA were called Ha-Hos and as such they were Japanese troops) came to the place where my men were boiling their water. SHAKOTA after seeing this went to Japanese HOTOHAI FUZIWARA and complained as usual that Indians were cooking rice. On hearing this JOTOHAI FUZIWARA, JOTOHAI KASIYA (Nursing Orderly) and JOTOHAI MASHUSHU rushed to the scene and searched all the cooking utensils but they could not find a single grain of rice. Failing in the attempt, they ordered all the Indians to fall in. When all the Indians fell in, JOTOHAI FUZIWARA asked who was the one who was cooking rice. Nobody answered this question because nobody was cooking the rice. Some of the men brought the boiling water and showed it to enquiring Japanese. But FUZIWARA and KASIYA did not believe this and started beating brutally all the Indians for three hours. Since Japanese could not find out rice from my soldiers, they dismissed them. My men due to severe beatings and bootings could not sleep that night.

On 29 November, 1944, after Morning Roll-call we were not given usual food but ordered to proceed on fatigue empty stomachs. Whereas the Ha-Hos were given food on that morning even though they also did the fatigue of fetching rations with us.

Japanese used to give the following rations to Indian POW:-

- | | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|-------------|
| 1. Rice - 50 grammes. |) | |
| 2. Sweet potato - 100 grammes |) | No curry to |
| 3. Papaiah - 100 grams |) | Indians |
| 4. Sweet potato leave - 100 grammes) |) | |

Japanese used to give the following rations to Ha-Hos (apart of Japanese troops):

- | | | |
|--|---|------------|
| 1. Rice - 200 grammes |) | |
| 2. Sweet potatoes - 200 grammes |) | Good Curry |
| 3. Papaiah - 200 grammes |) | |
| 4. Sweet potatoe leaves - 100 grammes) |) | |

The abovementioned food was so little and fatigue so tremendous that those human beings can only realize who had been through it. While doing fatigue soldiers used to say "our stomachs are burning with hunger". My stomach too was burning with hunger because I used to get the same food as men. I repeatedly reported to Japanese about the food but 2/Lt. FUKIHARA and the Sigi JOTOHAI FUZIWARA put it on deaf ears. I and my men saw our rice, fish and salt being given to Kanakas daily in exchange of good fruit and fresh vegetables for Japanese.

Under the pressure of extreme hunger my men reported to one CHIK-GEOB officer 2/Lt. TAKAHARA who was in charge of our fatigue. This officer in turn told all the Japanese officers in CHIK-GEOB about the NICHOTAI officer 2/Lt. FUKIHARA who was starving the Indians to death. 2/Lt. TAKAHARA fatigue in charge officer of Indian POW called 2/Lt. FUKIHARA and told him that Indians are doing heavy fatigue and the food is hopelessly insufficient. He ordered 2/Lt. FUKIHARA to give more food to Indians but 2/Lt. FUKIHARA thought that he was offended and never cared to increase the food. Extreme malnutrition and the cry of hungry Indians spread throughout the CHIK-GEOB officers and men. 2/Lt FUKIHARA was humiliated and accused by his brother officer on this issue.

2/Lt FUKIHARA to keep up his prestige and to get rid of the accusation planned the following scheme to revenge us.

Pte FUZIWARA and Nursing Orderly KASIYA under the cover of darkness and with two bags of rice and threw them in the bush in front of our barracks. After an hour a Japanese search party started searching the bush where the Japs had thrown the bags. Hardly they had searched the bush for five minutes before Japanese produced two bags of rice.

We were again ordered to fall in that night. Japanese came out and produced the two bags of rice and told us that Indians alone have stolen them. All of us denied but to no good effect. On the other hand we got severe beating again and then dismissed.

On 29 November, 1944, when we were on fatigue with empty stomachs 2/Lt. FUKUHARA came and took away with him Regtl. No. 186 Sepoy ABDUL GAFFORE and Regtl. No. 830 Sepoy SHEIK SALEIGH BIN MOHD without asking me. When my two men were

thus being taken away, I became suspicious due to yesterday's made up story by Japanese and followed them. We went to our camp After half-an-hours rest in the camp 2/Lt. FUKIHARA took with him my Hav. Major MOHD NAVAZ KHAN, Sepoys ABDUL GAFFORE and SHEIK SALEIGH BIN MOHD without informing me. I saw 2/Lt. FUKUHARA was accompanied by Japanese soldiers KASIYA, MASHUSHI, and KHUDRA with rifles and spades. This sight made me more suspicious and restless and I asked Hav. Major NAVAZ KHAN to find out the full details.

After an hour my Hav Major MD NAVAZ KHAN returned and stated that Sepoys ABDUL GAFFORE and SHEIK SALEIGH BIN MOHD were shot by the orders of 2/Lt. FUKUHARA and 2/Lt. TAKAHEERA. Both these officers told Hav Major NAVAZ KHAN that abovementioned Sepoys were shot because of stealing rice.

I was an officer and was commanding a party of 35 men. 2/Lt. FUKUHARA did not either inform me that he was taking my men for shooting or enquire about them in full details. The abovementioned Japanese officers neither held any court-of-enquiry nor any court-martial but they straight away took two human beings and shot them ruthlessly like wild animals.

The statement is read over to the witness.

(Sgd) SF6267 QUTUBUDDIN Jem
Signature of Witness

Witness withdraws.

Certified true copy.
(sgd) T. MORNANE
Lt.-Col

I certify that this sheet and the preceding sheet bearing my signature is a true copy of the official record of evidence of SF6267 JEM QUTUBUDDIN contained in the proceedings of Military Court held at Rabaul relating to the trial of Captain NAKAMURA, MORIYAKI and Lieutenant FUKUHARA, SHOZO on a charge of murder in that they at NISHI ZAKIYAMA on or about 29th November, 1944, murdered Sepoy ABDUL GAFFORE and Sepoy SHEIK SALEIGH BIN MOHD both of 1 Bn HYDERABAD INFANTRY.

(Sgd) T. F. MORNANE
Lt. Col.

1871A

Evidentiary Document No. 5413.

STATUTORY DECLARATION

I, NUM-A of NANGAGUA, do solemnly and sincerely declare as follows:

- 1. I am a native of NANGAGUA. Between the months of Dec. 44 and Mar 45, a party of about 30 Japanese were living in NANGAGUA.
- 2. Three Indians, whose names I do not know, were living with the Japanese.
- 3. One day, between Dec. 44 and Mar 45, some of the JAPANESE took a mosquito net and some calico from the INDIANS. The INDIANS objected to this. This made the JAPANESE angry.
- 4. The JAPANESE commander, named YAMAMOTO, and his 2 i/c, named MIAKI, then beheaded the three INDIANS and threw their dead bodies into the SCREW RIVER.
- 5. On 29 Dec. 45, from a line-up of JAPANESE I identified YAMAMOTO (now known to me as Lt. YAMAMOTO Jintaro) and MIAKO (now known to me as Sgt-Maj MIYAKAWA Kazuo) and pointed them out to Captain JOHN DAVID STEED, AALC, att 6 Aust. Div.

AND I MAKE this solemn declaration by virtue of the provisions of the STATUTORY DECLARATIONS ACT 1911-22 conscientiously believing the statements contained herein to be true in every particular.

DECLARED AT MOEM This 2nd. day of)
January, 1946 before me) NUM-A His X MARK

(sgd) JOHN DAVID STEED Capt.
Officer of AMF.

I certify that I, AI-INGO, Tul tul of JAMA, read the contents of the above statement (as interpreted to me by Lt. MacGregor) to NUM-A in his native tongue and that he understood the effect of his declaration.

AI-INGO HIS X MARK

I certify that I read over and explained to the above-named AI-INGO in PIDGIN the above statement of NUM-A and the certificate which he, the said AI-INGO, subscribed.

(sgd) W. A. MACGREGOR LT.
A N G A U

Certified true copy.
(sgd) T. Mornane
Lt.-Col.

1872A

Evidentiary Document No. 5411.

164232 Pioneer PARASURAM, 13 Aux Pioneers, having been called on 7 Oct. 45 and duly sworn, states:

On 12 Feb 45, I was working with a fatigue party at THOMA Camp TAKAYA BITHAI. Bindhu Mistri of 13 Pioneers was also in the party, and we were engaged in rolling heavy petrol drum uphill and stacking them in a tunnel. BHINDU was exhausted and requested the Jap Commander to give him 5 minutes rest, after which he would resume his work. The Jap Commander - KISHI GUNZO - was very annoyed at this request and commenced kicking and beating BHINDU MISTRI with a stick, which he kept up for half an hour at the end of which BHINDU MISTRI was unconscious. KHISHI GUNSO ordered me and three others to carry BHINDU MISTRI to Indian house., where after an hour, blood was flowing from his mouth, nose, urine and stools, and continued until the morning of 14th when, at 8 am BHINDU MISTRI died. I was present when he died. No medical treatment had been rendered him by the Japs.

Evidence is read over to witness and signed by Witness.

(Signed) PARASURAM
(Signature of Witness)

Interpreter's Certificate.

I, S/Clerk J. Clattery do hereby certify that this statement was made by PARASURAM in Hindustani and after same had been written down in English was read back to Witness in his own language before he signed it and the translation is a correct translation of Witness's evidence.

(Signed) J. Clattery
(Signature of Interpreter)

Certified True copy.

(sgd) T. Mornane Lt. Col.

I certify that this is a true copy of the official record of the evidence of 164232 Pioneer PARASURAM contained in the proceedings of Military Court relating to the trial of Sergeant KISHI, RYOSHKU of 26 Motor Vehicle Depot on the charge of murdering BINDHU MISTRI of 13 Aux Pioneers, Indian Army at or near TOMA on or about 14th February, 1945.

(sgd) T. Mornane Lt. Col.

6564 HAY CHANDGI RAI of H.K.S.R.A., having been called on 30th October, 1945, and duly sworn, states:-

On 12 Nov 44 I was digging a trench for Japanese truck in TOTABIL Area. About 1600 hours one single engined U.S.A. fighter plane made a forced landing, about 100 yards away from where I was working. The Japanese belonging to GO BUTAI KENREBO Camp rushed to the spot and got hold of the pilot-aged about 19 years - who had come out of the machine himself before the Japanese reached him. General INAMORA also lived there in the Japanese Army Headquarters.

About half an hour from the time of forced landing, Japanese Military Police - KEMPEITAI - beheaded the Allied pilot. I saw this from behind a tree and noticed Japanese cut his flesh from arms, legs, chest and hips and carried the same to their quarters. I was shocked at the scene and followed the Japanese, just to find out, what they do to the flesh. They cut the flesh to small pieces and fried it. About 1800 hours a Japanese high official (a Major-General) addressed about 150 Japanese mostly officers. At the conclusion of the speech a piece of the fried flesh was given to all present, who ate it on the spot.

I do not know the name of Japanese taking part in the action, but can recognise them. Moreover, KAWAGUCHI TAI of OO BUTAI KENREBO and MASUDO Gunso of HAMADA TAI were present at the spot and could tell the name of Japanese actually involved in the affair.

Evidence is read over to Witness and signed by Witness

(Sgd) CHANDGI RAI Hay

(Sgd) A. McLellan Capt.
11 Aust. Div.

300000
3750

6564 HAY CHANDGI RAM of H.K.S.R.A., having been called on 30th October, 1945, and duly sworn, states:-

On 12 Nov 44 I was digging a trench for Japanese truck in TOTABIL Area. About 1600 hours one single engined U.S.A. fighter plane made a forced landing, about 100 yards away from where I was working. The Japanese belonging to GO BUTAI KENDEBO Camp rushed to the spot and got hold of the pilot-aged about 19 years - who had come out of the machine himself before the Japanese reached him. General INAMURA also lived there in the Japanese Army Headquarters.

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I do not know the name of Japanese taking part in the action, but can recognise them. Moreover, KAWAGUCHI TAI of OO BUTAI KENIMBO and MASUDO Gunso of HAMADA TAI were present at the spot and could tell the name of Japanese actually involved in the affair.

Evidence is read over to Witness and signed by Witness

(Sgd) CHANDGI RAM Hay

(Sgd) A. McLellan Capt.
11 Aust. Div.

US Flyer
Cannibal

Cannibalism

150

1874

SYNOPSIS - SOLOMONS ISLANDS,
GILBERT AND ELLICE ISLANDS, NAU
AND OCEAN ISLAND.

Prosecution Document No. 5447 is a record of the interrogation of Captain Watanabe, Kaoru and Major Ito, Taichi, both of 17 Army L.P. Unit. I tender it for identification and the marked excerpts in evidence.

.....

In the course of the interrogation it was admitted that two American airmen who had come down in the sea between Taiof Island and Porton in Bougainville were beheaded on orders of H.Q. 17 Army. This happened in December, 1943.

.....

Prosecution Document No. 5452 is a Netherlands Forces Intelligence Service report. I tender it for identification and marked excerpts in evidence.

.....

This report states that nine Ambonese members of N.E.I. Forces were executed by the Japanese at Bougainville in 1944 for stealing food.

.....

Prosecution Document No. 5262 is affidavit of Cher Chee a Chinese civilian captured in Hong Kong. I tender the document for identification and marked excerpts in evidence.

.....

I will read the marked excerpts of this affidavit.

.....

Prosecution Document No. 5263 is record of interrogation of KANESHIRO FUKUKAN a Formosan. I tender this document for identification and marked excerpts in evidence.

.....

The deponent said that in December, 1942, or January, 1943, 600 white prisoners of war landed on Ballah Island. He was told that one was beheaded by a Japanese GZAKI on the night they landed. On night of 30 June, 1943, Ballah Island was shelled. The Japs were afraid of an allied landing and killed by bayonets or swords the surviving prisoners.

.....

Prosecution Document No. 5425 is an affidavit by Lt. Commander Ozaki, Toshi iko of 18th Naval Construction Battalion. I tender it in evidence.

.....

The deponent says that towards the end of 1942, 527 white POWs were brought to Ballah Island. They were to be used as labour for the construction of an aerodrome. He says, "On watching the POWs 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." On the night the prisoners landed one was alleged to have attempted to escape. Upon recapture he was executed on instructions of deponent. Prisoners died rapidly owing to disease. At one stage three deaths were occurring daily. A large number of prisoners were killed by allied bombing.

A defence plan of the island was prepared. Under this prisoners of war were to be killed if an allied landing was made on the island. In April, 1943, news was received of the approach of allied ships. The surviving prisoners, about 90, were then bayoneted to death by the Japanese in accordance with plan.

.....

I refer the Tribunal to Prosecution Document No. 409A which is in evidence as Exhibit No.

I propose to read paragraph 8.

.....

Prosecution Document No. 5398 contains the proceedings of an inquest held at Tarawa in October, 1944. I tender the proceedings for identification and the marked excerpts in evidence.

.....

The coroner found that twenty-two prisoners were killed by the Japanese at Belio, Tarawa on or about 15th October, 1942. At about that time American planes had bombed Japanese shipping at the island. After this had happened the Japanese beheaded the prisoners eighteen of whom were coast watchers in the service of the New Zealand Government.

.....

Prosecution Document No. 5248 is affidavit of Mr. Taua, a civilian. I tender it for identification and marked excerpts in evidence

.....

The deponent says that on the night of the first Allied bombing of Nauru five white prisoners, including Colonel Chalmers were beheaded by the Japanese.

.....

Prosecution Document No. 5252 is a statement by LEE CHONG WONG, a Chinese. I tender it for identification and the marked excerpts in evidence.

.....

The deponent was house boy to Colonel Chalmers. An American bombing raid took place on 25th March, 1943. Deponent never saw Colonel Chalmers or other European prisoners after this. He noticed that there was blood on the floor of the house where the Europeans had lived.

.....

Prosecution Document No. 5246 is a record of interrogation of David Murdoch a Gilbertese. I tender it for identification and the marked excerpts in evidence.

.....

Murdoch was on Ocean Island up to July, 1943. There were six Europeans on the island. They were beaten and starved by the Japanese. Two of the Europeans had died by July, 1943. The Japs beheaded three natives for stealing early in 1943. Later the same year the Japanese erected an electric wire around Ooma Point. Three natives were told to race to the wire. As the natives touched the wire they were killed by electocution.

.....

Prosecution Document No. 5245 is record of interrogation of KABUNARE a native of NIKUNAU ISLAND. I tender it for identification and the marked excerpts in evidence.

.....

Kabunare states that all Europeans on Ocean Island died or were killed. There were about 100 natives on the island when the war ended. The Japanese formed them into sections and marched them away. The hands of the natives of KABUNARE'S section were tied. They were lined up on the edge of a cliff and the Japs opened fire. KABUNARE recovered consciousness in the sea. There were a lot of dead bodies around him. He hid in a cave. Later the Japanese towed the dead bodies out to sea. KABUNARE remained hidden until 2nd. December, 1945, when he first learnt that the Allies were in occupation of the island.

.....

Prosecution Document No. 5247 is a record of interrogation of Lieutenant Sakata, Jiro of 67 Garrison Regiment. I tender it for identification and the marked excerpts in evidence.

.....

Sakata says that in October, 1944, the natives on the island, about 100, were rounded up and killed by the Japanese.

.....

Evidentiary Document No. 5446.

Page 4.

Prosecution Document No. 5427 is a statement by Chief Petty Officer ARAI, KANUZO. I tender it for identification and the marked excerpts in evidence.

* * * * *

ARAI gives an account of the killing of 8 natives on Ocean Island on 20th August.

* * * * *

That completes the evidence relating to this section of the phase.

1875A

BOUGAINVILLE WAR CRIMES.

EXHIBIT "A"

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. *US Army pulled* Annexed hereto and marked Exhibit "A" *Japanese admit* is a true copy of an Interrogation of Capt. WATANABE KAORU and Major ITO, Taichi on 7 November, 1945, which I have in my custody in the course of my duties.
3. The original abovementioned 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.

Capt. WATANABE Kaoru of 17 Army MP Unit and later of 38 Bde MP Unit being questioned with the assistance of Sgt. M. RUGLESS (of RAAF att ATIS) states:

I arrived at RABAU 22 Mar 43,
EREVENTA 28 Mar 43
then to NEW GORGIA until Sep 43
then to EREVENTA until 27 Oct 43
then to TARLENA-PORTON area, arriving 6 Nov 43 departing 27 May 45 then to NUMA NUMA until surrender.

Q. At TARIENA did you have a w/o MORITA with you?
A. Yes - before I arrived there, several small MP units were operating under W/O MORITA Hachisaburo. When I arrived I took over from him and he remained with me.

Q. Where is MORITA now?
A. He died of malaria and another fever about 30 May 45 at NUMA NUMA.

Q. How many white prisoners did you know of while you were at TARLENA?
A. Three.

Q. Were they under your control or the control of any of your MPs?

A. The orders concerning them came from MP HQ at 17 Army HQ EREVENTA (Major ITO Taichi - now at FAURO ISLAND)

Q. Were they all together,
A. There was one on his own - the other two were together.

Q. When did you first see them?
A. One was at TARLENA when I arrived.

Q. Did you know about him before you arrived?
A. No.

Q. Who was in charge of the prisoners when you arrived?
A. MORITA, acting direct under orders from MP HQ at 17 Army

Q. What was their nationality and arm?

A. US flyers.

Q. What ranks?

A. Two were 2/Lts. and one a Sgt. They were all airmen - I think they were bomber pilots.

Q. Did you hear when and where they had been captured?

A. One, an officer, was captured at TARLENA about the beginning of Nov. 43. The other two in Dec. 43 at PORTON.

Q. Where were you when the latter two were captured?

A. About 6 kilometres from the coast at PORTON.

Q. Did you hear whether the first one came down at TARIENA or whether he was brought there from another island?

A. Natives handed him over to the local MPs.

Q. Was his name NORMAN?

A. I cannot recollect it - it may have been.

Q. What happened to him?

A. He went to RABOUL about the end of Nov 43 on a submarine.

Q. Did you see him go aboard the submarine?

A. No. I saw him on his way to it.

Q. Did you hear of him after that?

A. No.

Q. What unit would hold him at RABAUŁ?
A. No. 6 MP Field Unit.

Q. Were the two captured at PORTON shot down over that place?
A. I didn't see the crash but I heard they came down there.

Q. Crash land or parachutes?
A. Parachutes.

Q. Had there been a raid on PORTON at the time?
A. Yes. There were raids every day in that area.

Q. What type of plane was it?
A. I heard that they were Lightnings escorting the bombers, but I didn't see them.

Q. Did you hear their names?
A. Yes, at the time, but I can't recall them now.

Q. What happened to them?
A. They parachuted into the sea between TAI OF ISLAND and PORTON, and when they reached land they were taken to the MPs. Under Orders from 17 Army they were executed. They had attempted to escape. One of them had a pistol. They were recaptured. They were executed because of that.

Q. Who reported the attempted escape?
A. MORITA reported it to me and I reported it by signal to MP HQ at 17 Army EREVENTA.

Q. How long did it take to get the reply?
A. One week after I sent the wire I received the reply "They must be killed."

Q. Who did you order to carry that out?
A. I gave the order to MORITA who carried it out with two subordinates:

1. S/M ARIKAWA Tatsuo. He later went to RABAUŁ escorting Japanese soldiers for court-martial. On the way back the submarine was sunk and ARIKAWA drowned.
2. Sgt. SUZUKI Tainiji.

Q. Did MORITA report afterwards having carried out your orders?
A. Yes.

Q. Did you then report that to MP HQ at 17 Army?
A. Yes.

Q. Did MORITA say who had beheaded the prisoners?
A. S/M ARIKAWA beheaded one and KITAMURA the other

Q. Who is KITAMURA?
A. A supply officer - he was at the depot at EREVENTA before going to TARLENA.

Q. What had he to do with the matter?
A. The S/M's sword didn't cut too well so he handed over the 2nd. prisoner to KITAMURA.

Q. Why was KITAMURA at the execution?
A. His house was nearby and he must have gone as a spectator.

Q. Are those 3 the only white prisoners you have seen?
A. Yes.

Q. Did you meet Capt. (Then 1/Lt) IKEBA at TARIENA?
A. Yes.

Q. Were any of these white prisoners taken to IKEBA's hut at any time?
A. No.

Q. Do you speak English?
A. No.

Q. How did you talk to the prisoners?
A. I would use the interpreter OKUSA.

Q. How do you account for IKEBA saying that in Nov. 43 he had given a cup of tea to two US airmen prisoners?
A. IKEBA was at the wharf at PORTON and there saw 2 prisoners and invited them to his house for some tea. I forgot until you reminded me.

Q. Are you in the same compound as Major Ito?
A. Yes - No. 1 area.

MAJOR ITO Taichi of 17 Army MP Unit being questioned with the assistance of Agt. M. RUGLESS (of RAAF att ATIS) says:

Q. In Nov-Dec. 43 were you in charge of MP unit at 17 Army at EREVENTA?

A. Yes - from Oct. 43.

Q. Was WATANABE under your command?
A. Yes.

Q. In Dec. 43 did you receive a signal from WATANABE reference two US airmen?

A. Yes.

Q. What was in the signal?

A. This wire explained that they had tried to escape and offered resistance and asking for orders as to treatment of them.

Q. What did you do on receipt of that signal?

A. I took it to Maj (Now L-Col) MIYAKAWA at the office of Chief of staff 17 Army (Maj-Gen AKINAGA).

Q. Did MIYAKAWA tell you what to do?

A. We conferred and I think I wrote the reply, but I've handled so many signals that I do not remember now. As that was 2 years ago I cannot recall it very well.

Q. Whose decision was it?

A. It was not mine - it was the HQ.

Q. What was the reply?

A. That they should be killed.

Q. Did you or MIYAKAWA discuss the matter with anyone else before sending the reply?

A. I don't know. There were other officers at the HQ who may have come in.

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.

(Signed) ..W..BUNSELL...Capt.

187617

C E R T I F I C A T E

The undersigned CHARLES JONGENEEL, first Lieutenant R.N.I.A., head of the War Crimes Section of NETHERLANDS FORCES INTELLIGENCE SERVICE (NEFIS), being first duly sworn on oath deposes and states that the annexed reports are full, true, complete and accurate copies of the original documents entitled:

"NEFIS Interrogation Reports, Informants Frederik TAMAELE (No. 1976), Mesak SOPLANTILA (No. 1850), Jacob SIAHAJA (No. 1851/2) and Leonard Frans SAIJA (No. 1853), concerning the maltreatment and murder of ten (or nine) Ambonese N.C.O.'s and Soldiers R.N.I.A. by Japanese, on Bougainville Island, in September, 1944,"

which documents are part of the official records of NEFIS.

SIGNATURE:

Stamp of Intelligence Service
Netherlands Forces.

BATAVIA, June 7th, 1946.

Subscribed and sworn before me K.A. de WEEED, first Lieutenant R.N.I.A., Higher Official attached to the Office of the Attorney-General N.E.I.

SIGNATURE: K. A. de WEEED (Sgd).

PELUFESSI, Pte., AMBONESE, was maltreated and killed at TANIEABO, Bougainville, 13 Aug. 1944.

Informant: MESAK SOPLANTILA, Ambonese
Reliability: Intelligent; information considered reliable.
Person responsible: Sgt. MATSUASI, Japanese
Sgt. SUSUKI, Japanese
Cpl. KOPIASI, Japanese
Pte. TJOMORA, Japanese

HEARSAY:

On Sunday, 13 Aug. 1944, nine Ambonese members of the Heiho were shot because they had stolen food from a food godown. This had occurred during the past month. Not until three quarters of the stores were stolen were the thefts discovered by the Japanese. After investigation, which was led by the Japanese Commander IKEBA, the nine Ambonese were named as the perpetrators. During the investigation all Ambonese (82 men) were tied with their hands behind their backs, and they were forced to remain thus for 36 hours, during which time no food and no water was given them. All of them were beaten continuously for two hours by the Japanese attached to the Heiho Company. After 6 hours the perpetrators were found,

and taken from the others by the Japanese Sgt. MATSUASI, Japanese Sgt. SUSUKI, Cpl. KOBIASI, Pte. TJOMORA. Matsuasi carried an automatic rifle with him. The nine Ambonese were then shot, some one to 2 km from the place where the other Ambonese remained tied up. This was later told by the British Indians, who had to dig the graves for the victims. Names of the victims are:

Sgt. PATI
 Cpl. TONI LOHOLIMA
 Pte. PELUPESSI
 Pte. SUMOKIL
 Pte. 1st. cl. ROMOLEUNE
 Pte. LATUMAHENA
 Cpl. SOISA,
 Cpl. ORELAL
 Fus. TALAHATU

INTER. REPORT NO. 1850.

Further to the above reports:

Informant: SIAHAJA, Jacob, Ambonese.
 Reliability: Average intelligence, reliable.
 Person responsible: Japanese, names not stated.

HEARSAY:

At Kg. Teninbaubau, Bougainville Isl., April 1944, informant witnessed the tying together of all Ambonese Hehio Personnel (about 58). The Japanese picked out nine men at random, and shot them. The rest were tied up for two days. Informant heard that the reason for this action was because some of them had stolen food from the Japanese and thrown it away into the jungle so that the Japanese would starve. The names of the nine men who were killed (Ambonese NEI Army Personnel) are as follows:-

JOHANNES SOUMOKILL,	Private
WILHELMUS LATUMAHINA,	Private
TALAHATU,	Private
ZETH PATTY	Sergeant
SIMON THUNY	Corporal
SOUISA	Corporal
RUMALAIN	Private
ORILAL	Corporal
C. PELUPESSY	Private

INTER. REPORT NO. 1851/2.

Further to the above reports:

Informant: SAIJA, Leonard Frans, Ambonese.
 Reliability: Intelligence above average; his
 information is considered reliable.
 Person responsible: Japanese, names not stated.

FACTUAL:

At Teninbaubau, Bougainville Isl., Aug. 1944, nine Ambonese Heiho's were shot accused of stealing food from the Japanese. The other 58 Ambonese were tied together for 36 hours and received no food or drink during that time. They were beaten by the Japanese with carbines, shoes and sticks, etc.

INTER. REPORT NO. 1853.

Attached to the above report are the following names of the victims:

PELUPESSY	Private 1st. class
SOUMOKIL	Private
URILAL	Corporal
PATTY	Sergeant
TUNILUHULIMA	Corporal
SUISA	Corporal
HALATU	Private
LATUMAHINA	Private
RUMALAINY	Private 1st. class.

Further to the above reports:

Informant: TAMAELA, Frederik, Ambonese, Cpl R.N.I. Army.
 Reliability: Average intelligence, information is considered to
 be reliable.
 Person responsible: Japanese, names not stated.

Hearsay:

The undermentioned N.E.I. Army personnel have been killed by the Japanese in Teninbaubau (Bougainville Island) in Sept., 1944:

PATTY: Ambonese Sergeant	PELUPESSY: Ambonese Private
SOISA: " Corporal	SOUMOKIL: " "
TUNILUHULIMA " Corporal	LATUMAHINA " "
URILAL: " Corporal	TALAHATTU " "
RUMALOINE " Private 1st. Class.	SAHETAPIJ " "

INTER. REPORT NO. 1976.

NOTE: Whereas previous informants stated 9 were killed, this informant states 10 were killed.

CHER CFEE being duly sworn with the assistance of the Interpreter WONG YJ of ANGAU gives the following evidence:

I am a Chinese and was residing at HONG KONG and was captured there by the Japanese in December, 1941. I was taken from HONG KONG to CANTON and from there to SAIGON. From there I went to Batavia and then to SOURABAYA. From there I went to SINGAPORE and then to RABAU and then to TULAGI. In November, 1942, I was brought to BJIN area, and remained there until the war finished. I was a member of a labour party attached to the TANAKA battalion. In April or May, 1943, I was engaged in road making. About that time one of the Chinese became sick and was unable to work. I do not know what his name was.

Three or four of the guards took this man tied his thumb together behind his back and pulled him up with a block and tackle attached to his thumbs until he was off the ground. They left him like that for 20 minutes. They then took him down and he died, within a few minutes. I saw all this myself. About ten Chinese witnessed this incident. This took place about one mile from KAHILI, on the road. The guards used to be changed each day and the perpetrators of this incident were guarding us for this day only. The guards were private soldiers. I would not be able to identify them again. They were members of the TANAKA Battalion. Other Chinese took the body away to bury it.

Soon after this event another Chinese whose name I do not know was sick with fever. Allied planes came over BUIN and this Chinese was sick and frightened and made a noise. One of the guards went away and came back with two or three other Japanese. These men were private soldiers of the TANAKA Battalion. I heard them order some Chinese to dig a hole. Some Chinese went away and I heard them digging. When the Chinese came back they told me that the Chinese who was sick and had made a noise had been buried alive. I did not actually witness this. The sick man was quartered in a hut half a mile away and most of what I know of this incident is hearsay.

Some time in 1944 I was employed with other Chinese in felling trees to make a bridge over a small stream in a garden near the Mission Station at MUGUAI. After we had chopped a tree down the bridge was built. We told the guard that the tree was too heavy for two men to carry. The guard wrote the order in Chinese and we replied verbally in Chinese. The guard belonged to a unit the number of which was 4801. They were guarding No. 76 Hospital. Three of the guard struck me in the face with their open hand for about five minutes. They knocked twelve teeth out. They were all good strong teeth. There was only the other Chinese present. They then struck CHANG KOW YE, the other Chinaman in the same way but not so severely.

About April or May, 1943, near KAHILI a Chinese living in the same hut as me had been sick for four or five days and couldn't work. One of the Japanese guards told him that he was all right and was only trying to get out of work. The sick man was lying down and the guard poured a quantity of water down his throat until his stomach was swelled up. After this the guard brought two more Japanese and they place a board across the sick man's stomach while he was lying on the ground and one guard sat on each end of the board. The pressure made the water come back out of the man's mouth. A quantity of water came out of his mouth and a few minutes later he died. I do not know the name of this Chinese. The guards were privates of the TANAKA Battalion I do not know the names of the Japanese but I could recognise the guard who poured water. Four Chinese carried the body away for burial.

In this Field this 3rd. day of October, 1945.

Signature of Witness.

Examined by me with the original affidavit in the Australian Army War Crimes Registry at Melbourne. The original was signed in Chinese Character and certified by the Interpreter.

(sgd) R. B. LAMPE Lt-Col.

I certify that this is a true copy of the original.

(Sgd) R. B. Lamb.
Lt-Col.

17 April, 1946

This is the copy statement marked "R.S.L.6" referred to in the Affidavit of Lt. Col. RICHARD BEVIS LAMBE hereunto annexed, sworn before me this 18th day of April, 1946.

(sgd) E. L.,(?).....
Commissioner for Oaths.

R. S. L. 7.

CHEK CHEE on his former oath and with the assistance of the Interpreter LAURIE CHAN of ANGAU give the following evidence:-

In May, 1943, near BUIN I saw a white man dressed in overalls like a Pilot would wear. He was a young man. The Japanese tied his hands behind his back, and made him sit on the ground. They put a drum of boiling water beside him. About nine of them then filed past him and each one emptied a tin of boiling water over

him. The man screamed with pain. I saw him fall flat on the ground and lie still and he stopped screaming. He appeared to me to be dead. The Japanese were soldiers not officers. The white man was tall, of medium build, clean-shaven and fair. The overalls were khaki. I was the only Chinese who witnessed this.

There are Chinese in this Compound who can give evidence of about 300 white men who were either killed by the Japanese or died while they were held as prisoners on Shortlands Islands.

5 Oct. 1945.

Signature of Witness.

Examined by me with the original Affidavit in this War Crimes Registry at Australian Army Headquarters at Melbourne. The original was signed in Chinese Characters and certified by the Interpreter.

I certify that the above is a true copy of the original.

(Sgd) B. B. LAMBE Lt.-Col.
A.Q.G. War Crimes
H.Q. A.L.F.S.E.A.

17th April, 1946.

This is the copy statement marked "R.S.L.7" referred to in the Affidavit of Lt.Col. RICHARD BEVIS LAMBE hereunto annexed, sworn before me this 18th day of April, 1946.

(Sgd) E. L. (?)
Commissioner for Oaths.

INVESTIGATION - BALLALE IS.

Period Nov 42 to Sep 43.

KOREAN - KANESHIRO FUKUKANinterrogated by NX 70429
Maj. E. C. Millikin.*Korean*

I was on BALLALE IS from 3 Nov 42 to Aug 43. I was employed in a working gang, but because of my good knowledge of the Japanese language was employed to interpret any orders given by Japanese to my gang. I am NOT sure exactly when the white PW landed at BALLALE, but think it was Dec 42 or early Jan 43. The Japs told me there were about 600 PW. They landed from a large freighter, but I do NOT know the name of it. I was returning from work when I saw the PW marching from the disembarkation point towards their compound.

According to a Jap report current at the time the ship came from SINGAPORE. I have seen the PW at various times. I think they were ENGLISHMEN. Their clothes were light khaki, somewhat similar to clothes worn by Aust troops. Hats were slouchtype, some men wore forage caps and some officers type caps. Boots were of various types. Some of the men had tattoo marks on them. I particularly remember that some were anchors and some were English words. I can NOT remember details of any other tattoos. The general knowledge at the time was that the PW were Englishmen. That is to say it was mentioned by the Japanese and we overheard it. Witness is shown picture of RA badge - he states that he saw some PW wearing badges and he thinks some might have been the RA badge.

I heard a story from the Japanese that either the night of the landing or the next day a PW was beheaded by OZAKI. I do not know why this was done. I overheard a group of Japs discussing the matter. I have seen the grave, indicates on enlargement of BALLALE IS/1: 63360 (see portion of file War Crimes Investigation 13 Nov 45 23 Bde) reference 5025 0550. The grave was beside the road.

There was a group of army men in charge of the PW - I have no idea of the name of the unit nor of the soldiers names. I do NOT know if the army personnel lived with the PWs I only saw them escorting the PWs to and from work. I do NOT know of any illtreatment of the PW apart from the beheading as above, but I did hear from the Japs that if the PW were slow at their work they were beaten with a pole. I do NOT know of any other beheadings or shootings as individual incidents. (NOTE the matter of the mass killing was referred to at this stage, but not taken down, being kept for its proper sequence)

There was a lot of allied bombing and according to the Japs a lot of PW were killed and wounded, as there was a direct hit on the PW compound. I heard that the dead were buried, but I do NOT know where the grave is. I did NOT hear that PW who died of wounds were dumped at sea in rice sacks. The part of the island where the PW were quartered was out of bounds to all personnel except Japanese on duty.

After the air raids I saw only about 70 to 100 white PW.

I did NOT hear about the Jap kitchen being bombed and as a result the PW were all beaten.

The airstrip was never finished, there was always some work to be done repairing bomb damage etc.

/On

On the night of 30 June 43 the place was shelled from the sea, the Japs were afraid of a landing and killed the PW next day. I am certain the shelling was on 30 June. I do NOT know how many PW remained at this stage, but they were all killed by bayonets or swords. I heard that a large pit was dug, I do NOT know by whom and when the PW were killed they were buried there. I do NOT know where the grave is but I understand that it is in the vicinity of the PW compound. I do NOT know by whose order the PW were killed but OZAKI was the senior officer at that time.

I recall an incident when tobacco was fairly plentiful and I and some other Christians wanted to give some to the PW. As the Japs at all times were very harsh in their treatment of the PW we were afraid to approach them on behalf of the white PW.

I think that KONNO SEIGERU would know something about these things because he worked near the Koreans for a period of about a month and in that month the Koreans heard a fair bit about the PW from Japs who were working with KONNO. At this time KONNO was either a 1st or 2nd class P.O.

NOTE KONNO under persistent and repeated questioning gave very little information -

He admitted he was on BALLALE during the period. He was camped in the jungle area and saw some white PW at odd times, but NONE after about May 43. He had no idea of identity of units, nationality, where from, he heard some were killed in air raids but never heard what happened to the remainder.

With regard to other happenings on BALLALE, I have never heard about the American airman who was alleged to have had boiling water poured over him.

I did NOT at any time see any Chinese, but I heard that some came to the island to work on the air strip. I do NOT know how long they were on BALLALE.

With regard to White PW, I do NOT know of them having to work while they were sick. Nor did I at any time hear about any dying of malnutrition. I did NOT at any time hear that the PW used to take their sick mates to work and hide them in the scrub near the strip and then help them back to the compound after the days work was finished.

There was a lot of sickness amongst the Japs and Koreans, and if they had a fever they could rest, however men with tropical ulcers even if they were limping, had to work.

I do NOT know what were the rules about PW working when sick but in the working parties almost all of them appeared weak. I do NOT know anything about their food situation.

The PW were always in separate parties and at no time was I close enough to observe in order to base any opinion as to good or bad treatment of them by the Japs.

The above evidence was taken at No. 11 Compound, Kokopo and at Witnesses Compound, Rabaul.

/s/ E. C. Millikin, Major
Interrogating Officer

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 KILBARA, 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 necessaries 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. "Ganrei 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 "poppy," 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 Ballala 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 Abenama, 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 Abemana, Gilbert and Ellice Islands Colony.
16. R. J. Hitchen, Private (63882), New Zealand Expeditionary Force, formerly stationed at Aberama, 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 Noncuti 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 the other 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 then. 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 recognized 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 Tamana. We went ashore at Tamana 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 Tamana 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 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. 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 Abemana. 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 Masibusu 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 Abackoro, 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 Beru, 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 Tanana:

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. Bearn | 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. Wernhan
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. Wernhan
Deputy Commissioner for the
Western Pacific.

1881A

NAURU 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 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.A. 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. IV, 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.

(B) 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, Onotoa 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 inferred 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

NAURU ISLAND WAR CRIMES

SECRET

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 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.A. 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. IV, 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 Colonel F.R. Chalmers, Administrator of the Island of Nauru, Doctor B.H. Quinn, Government Medical Officer, Mr. W. Shugg, Dispenserer, 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. Penson, 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 those 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 these 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) TUA
Mr. Tava,
Tol Island, Truk.

Tol Island,
Truk and Central Carolines.

I, Mr. Tava, 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. Santarnmaria
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. Santanaria
T. SANTAMARIA

Date: 7 December, 1945.

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

Fingerpring of Mr. Taua, witness.

Fingerprint of Mr. Phillip
W. Harris, Interprter.

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.

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 (BRUMMELL) 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. SUKAIISO 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 SUKAIISO. 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 ETANI. 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 tying 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 an

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 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.

1885A

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.

.....

Japanese admit

Q. Who was in command of the island when you arrived?
A. Lt.-Commander SUSUKI who is now in No. 1 Compound.

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.

/s. 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. MORRANE.
Lt. Col.

Handwritten signature: R. H. D. G.