

DECLASSIFIED

NND 913096

RG

ENTRY

BOX

24

Bu Pers Casualty Br
re: POW's

✓ 1

RG 24 Records of the Bureau of
Naval Personnel

Casualty Branch

RECORDS RELATING TO JAPANESE
WAR CRIMES INVOLVING POWS

General

Box 1

NN3-38-90-4

H.M. 1991

HC1-48422620

1



JAPANESE STATEMENTS REGARDING THE EXECUTION OF FIVE AMERICANS AT SINGKANG, SOUTHERN CELEBES 3-4 AUGUST 1945

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Authority 913 096
By JM NARA Date 08/20

to Facility
Administrative Handling
Classification change
from

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

*Melvin
Coburn*

statements listed

EXCERPTS TAKEN FROM SEPTEMBER 14, 1943 INFORMATION GIVEN BY

COMMANDER Melvyn H. MC COY, U.S.N. UNCLASSIFIED

Lieutenant James E. Bullock, U.S.N. -- beheaded by Japs about
~~June 1942~~, in Philippines.

Radio Elec. John S. Leroy, Jr., U.S.N. -- executed by Japs about
middle of May 1942, in
Philippines.

Lieutenant Roy Del Gilbert, USNR ----- executed by Japs on 3 October
1942, in Philippines.

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

~~Lt. (jg) Vance C. Prewitt, USNR -----~~ Died in Feb. or March 1943,
of malnutrition, while P.O.W.
of the Japs.

Ens. Illiff David Richardson, USNR --- alive and free in Mindanao,
as of July 9, 1943.

*was in
miss Pres.
Soldier*

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Authority 913.096
By *JM* NARA Date *08/22*

POW ----- PHILIPPINE ISLANDS
EXECUTED

STATE DEPT. SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES IN BEHALF OF POW'S DURING WWII, 4 SEP 1945

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

FOR THE PRESS

SEPTEMBER 4, 1945
NO. 653

DECLASSIFIED
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

From the Special War Problems Division
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
Date: 9/5/45

~~FUTURE RELEASE~~
~~NOTE DATE~~

CONFIDENTIAL RELEASE FOR PUBLICATION AT 10:30 A.M., E.W.T.,
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 1945. NOT TO BE PRE-
VIOUSLY PUBLISHED, QUOTED FROM OR USED IN ANY WAY.

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

From the outbreak of war until the capitulation of the Japanese the Department of State has striven to keep as well informed as possible concerning the conditions under which prisoners of war and civilian internees were held in the Far East. On the basis of this knowledge it has endeavored to better the conditions of their captivity. It has sought unceasingly to obtain Japanese consent for visits to all prisoner of war and civilian internee camps. It has repeatedly demanded that the names of all Americans held by the Japanese be reported promptly. It has supervised the spending of large sums of money to provide food and clothing for Americans held by the Japanese.

With

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Authority 913 096
By JM NARA Date 08/20

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
SUPREME COMMANDER FOR THE ALLIED POWERS
LEGAL SECTION

293 (19 Nov 48) LS

AFG 500
19 November 1948

SUBJECT: Transmittal of Investigation File re: Ensign Frank
Woodrow O'FLAHERTY, A-V(N), 98693 and AMMlc Bruno Peter
GAIDO, 300 20 05 USN

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

1. Herewith Investigation file on Case 2259 concerning
the above-named persons. This is being forwarded in compliance
with paragraph 2, 3d indorsement to letter, Navy Department to
the Judge Advocate General, 13 March 1947.

2. Copy of reference communication is inclosed.

Theodore R. C. King
THEODORE R. C. KING
Major, Infantry
Executive Officer

- 2 Incls
1. Inv File Case 2259
2. Ltr Navy w/3 Ind

FIRST ENDORSEMENT

JAG:WC:HMH:ral
Serial: 354

CAD War Crimes (Navy)
2A-666 Pentagon

15 December 1948

From: Director, Navy Division, War Crimes Branch, CAD.
To: Chief, Bureau of Naval Personnel (Pers 532a).

1. Forwarded for information.
2. It is requested that basic letter and enclosures be
reforwarded to originator of basic request.

H. M. Hart
H. M. HART



ENS. W. O'FLAHERTY
BRUNO P. GAIDO
WAR CRIMES

MAR GRIMES - EXECUTION of two AIRMEN from USS ENTERPRISE, who CRASHED INTO THE SEA DURING THE BATTLE OF MIDWAY, AFTER BEING
RESCUED BY THE JAPANESE DESTROYER MAKIKUMO (ENS. W. O'FLAHERTY & AMMlc BRUNO P. GAIDO)

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Authority 913 096
By DM NARA Date 08/20

SECRET



(1)

DECLASSIFIED
 Authority 913 096
 By JM NARA Date 08/20

POW WAR CRIMES

ADDRESS
OFFICE OF THE JUDGE ADVOCATE GENERAL

AND REFER TO:

JAG:MC:HBI:ral
Serial: 221

NAVY DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE JUDGE ADVOCATE GENERAL
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.
CAD War Crimes (Navy)
2A-670 Pentagon

26 July 1948

From: Director, Navy Division, War Crimes Branch, CAD.
To: Chief, Bureau of Naval Personnel (Pers-532a).

Subj: Certificate of death, request for.

Encl: (A) Copy of CINCPAC Radio message Z 17172 to CSCAD-SC
Department of the Army dated 25 July 1948.

1. It is requested that this office be supplied with the certificate referred to in Enclosure (A).

2. The phase relating to Marine Personnel has been referred to the Marine Casualty Section.

H. M. Hart
H. M. HART



DECLASSIFIED
Authority 913 096
By Jm NARA Date 08/20

- 1 ORD
- 10 AG Casualty Branch
- 3 OJQM (Memorial Division)
- 2 COM NAV JAP
- 1 Yamaguchi Office (Info)
- 1 Osaka Office (Info)
- 1 Fukuoka Office (Info)
- 5 Inv Div (File 713)
- 1 Sendai
- 1 Sepporo
- 1 Nagoya

Encl. (B)

UNITED STATES PACIFIC FLEET
COMANDER MARIANAS

A16-2/FF12
13-JDM-wfr

27 August

Serial: 10916

From: The Commander, Marianas Area.
To : The Chief of Naval Personnel.

Subject: Executions on Chichi Jima, Bonin Islands, report of.

Reference: (a) BuPers Dispatch 211440 dated 22 August 1946.

Enclosure: (A) Copy of reference (a).

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

(a) Aviation Radioman Second Class Lloyd Richard Woellhof, 628 65 11, USNR, was shot down over Ani Jima, Bonin Islands, on or about 4 July 1944, and was captured by the Japanese forces on the island on or about that date. He was delivered to the Japanese Army headquarters on Chichi Jima, Bonin Islands, where he was kept for about a month. On or about 5 August 1944, Woellhof was executed in the Kominato area on Chichi Jima, by being bayoneted and then beheaded. He was bayoneted by Sergeant Masayoshi Takano and Superior Private Matsutaro Kido, and then beheaded by Lieutenant Colonel Kikuji-Ito. His body was buried at the scene of execution. Woellhof's remains were exhumed after the end of the war by the Japanese, cremated, and reburied. His remains were exhumed by the United States Occupation Forces on 16 January 1946, and delivered to the United States Army on Iwo Jima where they were buried in a grave, marked unknown.

(b) An unidentified American aviator, believed to have been Ensign Warren Arthur Hindenland, 30600, USNR, was shot down in PB4Y-1 Number 32263, on or about 4 August 1944. He was the only living survivor of the crash of the aircraft and was captured by the Japanese forces on Chichi Jima on or about this date. He was delivered to the Japanese Army headquarters on Chichi Jima. On or about 5 August 1944, this unidentified aviator was executed in the Kominato area on Chichi Jima, together with Woellhof (paragraph (a) above). He was bayoneted by Superior Private Hisao Shimura and other Japanese unknown, and was then beheaded by Lieutenant Colonel Kikuji Ito. His body was buried at the scene of execution. His remains were exhumed after the end of the war by the Japanese, cremated, and reburied. These remains, with those of Woellhof were exhumed by the United States Occupation Forces on 16 January 1946, and delivered to the United States Army on Iwo Jima where they were buried in a grave, marked unknown. Lieutenant Colonel Ito, Captain Shigeo Ikawa, Captain Seiichi Higashigi, and Superior Private Shimura, have already been tried for these murders by the

VB-1

all of crew
detained and
buried on Iwo Jima
Bonin Islands
VPB-119

Executions on
Chichi Jima

DECLASSIFIED
Authority 913 096
By JM NARA Date 08/20

POW WAR CRIME TRIALS

OFFICE OF THE JUDGE ADVOCATE GENERAL

AND REFER TO:
JAG:WC:HMH:ral
Serial: 285

NAVY DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE JUDGE ADVOCATE GENERAL
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.
CAD War Crimes (Navy)
2A-670 Pentagon

27 October 1948

From: Director, Navy Division, War Crimes Branch, CAD.
To: Chief, Naval Personnel (Pers 532A).
Subject: Ensign Joseph Francis Florence 382837.
Encl: (A) SCAP War Crimes Status re: File No. T-390
dtd 18 August 1948.

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

H. M. Hart
H. M. HART

DECLASSIFIED
Authority 913 0916
By DM NARA Date 08/10/00

