

NEI-280

59 (end)

DECLASSIFIED
Authority 775011
By *sm* NARA Date 08/21/19

DECLASSIFIED

Authority 775011

By *BM* NARA Date 08/21/14

CASE No. 1.

SUBJECT: EXECUTION THREE (3) VS ATROCI - MAY 15

CASE AGAINST: SAMARINDA ERIBITAI

I, LEE POOK CHEUNG, living at 19 BANGKAM Street (Passer) SAMARINDA, having been sworn to tell the truth in accordance with the form laid down in British Court of Justice in HONG KONG, STATE :-

I am a Chinese 19 years of age. When the Japanese were in SAMARINDA I was working in the Police Office. I had been arrested at SANDAKAN and brought here by the Japanese. I received no wages but got my food. I worked as a cleaner and general coolie

I see a photograph marked with a Chinese character "CHUNG" and an English letter. It is a picture of two Europeans who were prisoners at the Police Office, SAMARINDA sometime this year. I do not remember the date.

I see a picture marked with a Chinese character "SUU" and an English letter. I do not recognize the man in it, but I saw three Europeans at the Police Office. It is possible that the man in the photo, whom I do not recognize, was the third European. The last time I saw these three men was about 7 o'clock or 8 o'clock one night in the quadrangle of the police office. The three of them had their heads tied behind their back and a bandage over their eyes. There were some Japanese with them but I did not recognize them except SHINKICHI WADA. I did not see if the Japanese had any swords I did not take much notice of them. The Japanese took the Europeans away in the direction of the farms. I think there

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were about four Japanese who went with the Europeans. When the Japanese returned about an hour later they did not have the Europeans with them, and I have not seen them since. Soon after the Japanese returned I saw them together with four others drinking wine and eating salted fish. They appeared to be on 14 Oct 45 at SAMARINDA. Sjt BROCKENHURST read over to me a statement I had made to him in the Cantonese language. What he read over to me was a true account of what I told him.

SIGNED this FOURTEENTH day of OCTOBER in the year one thousand nine hundred and forty-five (1945)

李福祥

WITNESS

I interpreted the above statement to LEE POOK CHEUNG in the Cantonese language to the best of my ability. He said that what I read over to him was a true account of what he said.

W. Brockenhurst Jt

*Given at Samarinda the fourteenth day of October 1945 before me
Magid Jt.*

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SUBJECT: MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING - 1945

Case against KAMEKAWA KAMEKAWA.

I, KAMEKAWA, living at No. 1118 Main Street, Honolulu, having been sworn to tell the truth in accordance with the procedure laid down in British courts of justice in Hawaiian waters:

I am a Chinese, born in the Kingdom of the Sandwich Islands, 64 years of age. I was taken a prisoner by the Japanese and employed as a gardener at the police headquarters at Honolulu. On 14 Oct 45 I took down the pictures marked with the Chinese characters "shen," "shen" and English letters. I do not know the man on the photograph marked "shen" the other is a photograph of the man I know. They were two foreigners who were arrested by the Japanese and kept prisoner in the police office. I saw these two men arrive on the chair at Kamehameha on a launch and taken to the police office. I do not remember the date. It was in the afternoon about 4 o'clock. A few days later another foreigner was brought to the police office and put in one of the cells at the back. I saw the man in the cells for about 15 days. I do not know when they left the police office. After about 15 days I noticed they were not in the cells and I asked the warden they were. He told me they had been executed. I did not see them on the premises at the police office but on the beach near the river, opposite. I used to finish my work and leave the vicinity of the police office at 5 p.m.

郭蘇

On 14 Oct 45 at Kamehameha I read a true translation of the above statement to KAMEKAWA in the Hawaiian language. He signed the statement and said that what I had read to him was a true account of what I knew and what I told him.

J. C. [Signature]

Sworn at Kamehameha this fourteenth day of October 1945, before

Wright [Signature]

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DECLASSIFIED
Authority 775011
BY [Signature] MARA Date 08/21/14

Subject: EXECUTION THREE US AIRMEN SAMARINDA. CASE No. 1
CASE AGAINST: SAMARINDA KEBITAI.

EX95727 Sjt BROOKSHIRE, H., "C" Aust PS Sec, att
7 Aust Div, being duly sworn, states:

On 21 Sep 45 in company with Sjt OWEN, of "C" Aust
PS Sec, I was at the wharf at SAMARINDA when LO HONG identified
to me the following JAPANESE: TASUKI, TSUDA, OEN, SUGAWARA,
Shinkichi WADA, NISHIDA, NAGATA and OKADA. He wrote their
names on a piece of paper in KANJI characters. All the
JAPANESE identified themselves to me by name and also by the
KANJI characters. LO then took me to a house at Map Ref
92247 SAMARINDA 1:50,000 and showed me five wooden cells.
Each cell was approx 6 ft x 4 ft and 10 ft high. There were
no windows. The cells were clean. In one cell I saw
scratched on the wall the following letters: "868 Bomb Sq -
Cpl F J M, Sjt J W H, Lt L W J." There were other marks
scratched but they were very faint and I could NOT decipher
them. In the third cell from this one I saw scratched on the
wall the following "F J M - U S A." Opposite these cells
across a quadrangle about 20 ft square LO showed me a room.
In the door was a peep hole about three inches in diameter.
When I closed the door and looked through the hole I could get
a clear view of the quadrangle. LO then took me to a spot
about 500 yards from the cells (map ref approx 92455) and
showed me where the earth had apparently been disturbed.
About 1400 hrs that day I went with Sjt OWEN and Sjt ALLAN to
this spot and was present when a working party of JAPANESE
uncovered what appeared to me to be human remains about two feet
below the surface of the ground. The earth was removed from
around the spot and revealed what appeared to be three human
bodies, partly decomposed. The heads of two were completely
severed and placed on top of the bodies. The third head was
not quite severed and still on the body. All three heads had
blindfold bandages around the eyes.

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The features were NOT recognizable. I did NOT see any
rings on the fingers. I did NOT see any boots in the grave.
The clothing on the remains was so decayed that I could NOT
say whether it was AMERICAN issue. I was present when Capt
ARIOTTI medical officer of 2/4 Aust Fd Amb examined the remains.
I can NOT give any further information regarding the identity of
the bodies in the grave. On Sep 21 I went with LO HONG to the
HOTEL MAHALAM where there was a parade of AUSTRALIAN soldiers.
I spoke to Maj ANDREW OO "C" Coy 2/25 Aust Inf Bn about a letter
which I heard had been handed to an AUSTRALIAN soldier by LO
HONG. LO did NOT identify any AUSTRALIAN soldier. On 23
Sep I was at the wharf at SAMARINDA where I saw a JAPANESE
officer in custody. He said his name was YAMAGUCHI. LO
identified this man to me as the man he had mentioned in his
statement.

On 14 Oct 45 I took a statement from LO HONG in the MALAY
language. After he had made the statement I read over to him
a true translation of his statement. He signed the statement
and said it was correct.

The three bodies were re-interred in the same grave
and a Christian burial service read by Chaplain Eddcock, 2/25
Aust Inf Bn.

Signed this 14th day of October 1945 at SAMARINDA

H. Brookshire, Sjt
Sworn at Samarinda this fourteenth day of
October 1945, before me
Witness: *Harold G. Galt*

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CASE No. 1

Subject: EXECUTION THREE (3) US AIRMEN. May 45.

Case against Samarinda Kabitai.

NX200465 Capt L. ARIOTTI, 2/A Aust Pd Amb, being duly sworn states:

I am a legally qualified medical practitioner. At 1600 hrs on 21 Sep 45 I was taken by Sjt OWEN to view human remains exhumed from a common grave. There were three skulls and a corresponding number of bodies. I examined the skull of one of the bodies and its vertebrae. The third cervical vertebra had been severed as by a sharp instrument and in view of the history almost certainly by a sword. It is almost my opinion that the bodies were European.

Signed this 11th day of October 1945 at SAMARINDA

L. Ariotti
Sworn at Samarinda this fourteenth day of October 1945, before me

Witness: *W. J. Galt*

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Case No. 1

Subject: EXECUTION OF THREE (3) US AIRMEN.

Case Against SAMARINDA KEBITAI.

NX95727 Sjt BROOKSHIRE, H., "C" Aust PB Sec, having been duly sworn, states:

On 18 Oct 45 I interrogated an INDONESIAN named KATJONG who had been arrested in his house at Kaspong DJOLI early in October by Capt MACKINTOSH of "C" Aust PB Sec. On that occasion the following articles were taken from the house: 1 RAAF silk map of the GELMERES, 1 AAF silk map of AMBOINA, 1 RAAF silk map of the BALMAHERAS, 1 AAF silk map of NORTH CELEBES, 1 US \$5 note, 1 speedometer. KATJONG said the articles belonged to his son, HANSID, who told him he had found them in the wreckage of an Allied plane that had crashed near DJOLI some months before. On 19 Oct I went with KATJONG to DJOLI and saw HANSID who led me to the wreckage of the plane. The plane crashed at approx 011028 NARAKAM IBITA 1:250,000. The terrain is covered with thick rain forest and heavy undergrowth. There are no foot tracks and the ground is swampy and underwater at high tide. Wreckage of the plane is scattered over an area about 100 yards square and the fuselage is almost completely covered with mud. Already the tropical foliage is growing over the wreckage. I was unable to identify the type of plane. I did NOT see the bodies of any of the crew, nor did there appear to be the smell of a corpse in the area. I could find nothing that would serve to identify either the aircraft or its crew. I interrogated HANSID at great length regarding the circumstances in which he found the articles, but could discover little. He does NOT know his age, but his father says he is 12. He looks to be about 20 but has the mentality of a child of six. He was very vague in his facts and statements but added that in addition to the maps he had found a wallet containing the \$5 note, a silver coin with a bird on it, a gold coin with a bird on it and some papers. He did NOT know where the two coins and papers had gone. I interrogated KATJONG and other members of the family, but they also were of low mentality and were either unable or unwilling to add anything that could identify the aircraft or crew.

Signed at SAMARINDA this 19th day of October 1945

H. Brookshire Sjt
Sworn at Samarinda this 19th day of October 1945, before me
Witness: *W. J. Galt*

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WARCRIMES AGAINST U.S. AIRMEN IN DUTCH BORNEO

Original and Sect.

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DECLASSIFIED
Authority 775011
By JM NARA Date 08/21/14

Case No. 1.

CASE NO. 1: SAMARINDA KRIBIDAI

SUBJECT: EXECUTION THREE (3) US AIRMEN MAY 45

I, LO HICK HONG, known as LO HONG, living in Bawdjer Street, No 19, SAMARINDA, having been sworn to tell the truth in accordance with the form laid down in British Court of Justice in HONG HONG, state:-

I am a CHINESE, 25 Years of age, and have lived in SAMARINDA for nine years. From OCTOBER 1943 until the arrival of the AUSTRALIANS in SEPT 45 I was working at the office of the Japanese Special Police, MANAKAN Street, SAMARINDA, as a houseboy, washing clothes and sweeping floors. I was not actually employed by the Special Police. I was arrested for stealing food and was forced to work there. I was paid no wages, but received my food. I lived and slept on the premises. Some time in May 1945 I have forgotten the exact date I saw two Europeans brought to the wharf at Samarinda opposite the office of the Special Police. One was wounded and his right arm was in splints. There were bandages on his left arm and round both legs. They were dressed in shirts, long trousers and suede boots, all of a drab colour. The wounded one was wearing a Japanese type shirt. They were blindfolded and led to the cells at the rear of the office where they were chained together at the wrists. They were chained for about five or six days.

I see a photograph marked with a chinese character CHUNG and an English letter. It is a picture of the two Europeans who arrived that day. When they arrived at the wharf, on the ship were also SUGAWARA IKKIKIKIKIKIKIKI and HAGATA.

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I was in the front of the office when the party arrived at the wharf, I saw all this happen myself. About four (4) days later I saw another European arrive at the wharf on the police launch. SUGAWARA was on this launch. The European was blindfolded, his hands tied behind his back, and he was put into another cell. He wore a shirt, trousers and suede boots. Around his neck was a chain with a disc on the end of it. I saw a photograph marked with a Chinese character "SUN" and an English letter. It is a picture of this European. The Japanese in the picture I know to be a member of the KEBITAI at SANGA SANGA. I do not know his name.

Every day I took food to the three men and accompanied them when they went to the lavatory. They tried to speak to me but I could not understand what they said. I do not understand the English language. By signs they indicated they wanted food. When I gave them anything they used to say "Thank You". They were fed regularly at 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. daily. They were each given a handful of rice and vegetables at each meal. The food was left-overs of the Japanese meals. The Japanese never gave them tea or coffee or cigarettes. I had some cigarettes and food hidden in a hole and I used to give some of it to them when the Japanese guards were not looking. The Japanese gave them water to drink only at meal times.

One night the wounded man was taken to another room by TASUKI, OKU and NAGATA and another Japanese whose name I do not know. I think he was an English interpreter. Soon afterwards I heard the sound of someone moaning in the room. About an hour later I was ordered to take some water into the room. I did so and all the Japanese left the room, except NAGATA. He had a long bamboo in his hand. I gave the water to the European and he said "Thank you". His eyes were red and his eyes were swollen with mosquito bites. He appeared to have been crying. When I left the room the other three Japanese returned. I could hear them questioning the wounded man.

The next day a Japanese Doctor came and treated the wounded man.

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The doctor's name I do not know. When the bandages were removed I saw marks and bruises around the wound on his arm, and also on his shoulders as if he had been beaten with a stick. All the time the man was in the cell the bandages were changed only three times.

One day NAGATA told me that the three men were Americans. He said there were ten men in the plane when it crashed, seven of them were killed. He said the wounded man was the gunner, the man who arrived with him was the mechanic the third man the Navigator. The mechanic had a tattoo on his right upper arm, and all three wore plain gold-band rings.

The gunner and the mechanic were in the same cell all the time, the third man in another. They were not allowed to talk to each other. The men were kept in the cells for approximately a month. One night about 8 o'clock the Japanese told me to go to my room. I looked through a hole in the door, and could see the quadrangle adjoining the cells. I saw TSUDA, OKU, SUGAWARA, SHINICHI WADA, AOKI (who is now dead), YOSHINOBU WADA (who is now dead), NISHIDA, NAGATA and OKADA. I saw the Japanese blindfold the airmen and tie their hands behind their backs. I could not actually see who tied their hands or blindfolded them. There was slight moonlight and the night was cloudy. While their hands were being tied TASUKI arrived and spoke to them in a loud voice. By the way he kept looking at his watch I understood that he was telling the other Japanese to hurry. TASUKI and SUGAWARA had swords. I saw another Japanese with a sword but I do not remember exactly who it was. The wounded man was not wearing his boots. All the Japanese then left with the Americans except SHINICHI WADA and NAGATA. After they had left, I asked NAGATA where the Americans were and he said they had been killed and had gone to be killed. He told me not to say anything about it.

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About an hour later the Japanese returned. SUGAWARA was carrying two pairs of boots. They were the Americans boots. NASHIDA was carrying two hoes and a spade. TASUKI, OKU and YOSHINORI WADA were carrying swords. I saw them wipe them on some cloth. SUGAWARA examined his sword closely after he had wiped it and called YOSHINORI WADA over to him. SUGAWARA pointed to the blade of the sword and said something to WADA that I did not understand. They then hung the swords on the office wall. I had seen these swords before. They were always hanging on the office wall.

The next morning SHINKICHI WADA took one of the swords and told TJAING MUN KAY to sharpen it. TJAING was a Chinese who had been captured at SANDAKAN and used to work in the police office like myself. TJAING showed me that the sword was blunt and that it had been indented at one spot - there was a large gap in the blade. I used to wipe the swords every day and I am positive that the gap was not there before ~~last~~ night.

The next day SUGAWARA and NASHIDA gave me their clothes to wash. There was a lot of blood on the bottom of their trousers and some spots on the front of their jackets. All the other men gave me their clothes to wash. There was some blood on the clothes but I do not remember exactly whose clothes they were. I have not seen the airmen since that night.

On the afternoon before that night I saw NASHIDA, AOKI and the two WADAs digging a hole about a quarter of a mile from the cells. I saw them doing this when I was told to take some singkong (vegetable roots) out to them. On the morning after that night I saw that the hole had been filled in. On 21 SEP I showed Sjt BROKENSHERE of the Field Security this hole.

After the airmen had been in the cells a few days one of them made signs to me that he wanted to write something. I brought him a pencil and a piece of paper. Later he gave me

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a letter. I did not look at it as I was frightened the Japanese might find it, and I put it straight into my pillow. When the Australians arrived I took it out. It was a piece of paper about four inches square and was covered with writing I could not understand. On 17 SEP I handed the letter to an Australian soldier who was standing outside the MAHAKAM Hotel. He read, gave me two cigarettes and left. On 21 SEP, Sjt BROKENSHERE took me to the MAHAKAM Hotel; I saw many Australian soldiers there but I could not identify the one to whom I had given the letter.

On 21 SEP I showed Sjt BROKENSHERE the cells where the men were kept and also the room where I slept and from where I saw the men marched away that night. The same day Sjt BROKENSHERE showed me eight (8) Japanese. Until that day I did not know their names in Japanese, as I do not understand Japanese. I know how their names were written in Japanese KANJI characters, which are ~~similar~~ identical with Chinese, as they were written on the clothing I used to wash for them. I wrote these names down in Chinese characters. Sjt BROKENSHERE told me that the Japanese names were TASUKI, TSUDA, OKU, SUGAWARA, SHINKICHI WADA, NASHIDA, HAGATA and OHADA. I identified all these men as those concerned in the events I have described.

Two of the men I have mentioned - AOKI and YOSHINORI WADA - I believe are dead.

On 23 SEP I saw a Japanese whom I now know to be named YAMAGUCHI. He was the superior officer of all the Japanese police I have mentioned. He did not live in the police office but was frequently there, apparently giving instructions. When prisoners were being interrogated he used to visit the police office before and after the interrogation. On the day of the Americans disappeared he presided at a conference of all the police

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On 14 OCT 45, at SAMARINDA, Sjt BROKENSHIRE, read over to me a statement I had made to him in the Malay language. What he read over to me was a true account of what I told him.

SIGNED this fourteenth day of OCTOBER one thousand nine hundred and forty-five (1945)

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兆
鴻

WITNESS

I heard the above statement read over to LO HONG in the Malay language by Sjt BROKENSHIRE and in my opinion it was a true translation of the statement. I also saw LO HONG sign the statement.

K. B. Macarthy

Sworn at Samarinda this fourteenth day of October 1945 before me.

W. J. [Signature]

DECLASSIFIED
Authority 775011
By *SM* NARA Date 08/21/14

NEI-280

SUBJECT: EXECUTION THREE US AIRMEN - MAY 45

I, WISHIDA TAMEICHI 2nd Class P.O. make the following statement in connection with the execution of three US Airmen at SAMARINDA.

I was a member of the SAMARINDA TOKOSI TAI. Some time in January 45 three US Airmen were brought to our HQ. They had been captured when their plane crashed near SANDA SANDA.

The airmen were executed one night in February. I did not go to the place of execution but was posted as a guard near the place to prevent any natives from seeing the execution.

I am shown photographs which I recognize to be those of the three airmen who were executed. I do not remember their names.

This statement has been read to me in the Japanese language and is a true account of what I have said.

Signed at BALIKAPAPAN this 28th day of OCTOBER 1945.

上野 西田 義
.....
2nd Class P.O. WISHIDA TAMEICHI I

WITNESS... *Margill Galt*

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SUBJECT: EXECUTION OF THREE US AIRMEN - MAY 45

I, Sup P.O. WADA SHINKICHI make the following statement in connection with the execution of the three US Airmen at SAMARINDA.

I was a member of the SAMARINDA TOKOSI TAI. Some time in January 45 three US Airmen were brought to our HQ. They had been captured when their plane crashed near SANDA SANDA.

One evening after I had been out on patrol duties I returned to the HQ where I ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ heard that the three Americans were to be executed that evening. I did not go with the execution party. I was off duty and went to visit friends.

I am shown photographs which I recognize to be those of the US Airmen who were executed. I do not remember their names.

I have heard this statement read to me in the Japanese language and it is a true account of what I have said.

Signed at BALIKAPAPAN this 28th day of OCTOBER 1945.

上野 和田 新志
.....
Sup P.O. WADA SHINKICHI.

WITNESS... *Margill Galt*

DECLASSIFIED
Authority 775011
By *SM* NARA Date 08/21/14

NEI-280

SUBJECT: EXECUTION THREE U.S. AIRMEN - MAY 45

I, HAGATA KINROKU Sup P.O. make the following statement in regard to the execution of three US Airmen at SAMARINDA

I was a member of the SAMARINDA TOKKAI TAI, a branch of the KEIBITAI during the early months of this year. My rank then was 1st Class P.O.

Sometime in January 45 three US Airmen were brought to our HQ from S.MOA SANGA where they had been captured after their plane crashed.

I am shown photographs which I recognize to be those of the airmen concerned. I do not know their names.

I was employed as a guard when the airmen were being interrogated, to ensure there were no unauthorized persons in the vicinity. I entered the room several times during the interrogation.

During the interrogation I did not see the prisoners ill-treated in any way.

The airmen were held in custody for about one month.

One night I saw them being blindfolded which led me to believe they were to be executed. I heard TASUKI tell members of a guard that they were to be executed and I saw them taken away.

I think the airmen were executed because of an attempted escape. I know of no other reason.

I was not detailed, to nor did I attend the execution.

At no time did I beat or otherwise ill-treat the prisoners or any other persons.

I have heard this statement read to me in the Japanese language and it is a true account of what I have said.

SIGNED at BALIKPAPAN this 27th day of OCTOBER 1945.

Kinroku Hagata
.....
Sup.P.O. HAGATA KINROKU

WITNESS... *Shigetaka*

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SUBJECT: EXECUTION OF THREE U.S. AIRMEN - MAY 1945

I, Ensign TASUKI KIKOKI KIYATO make the following statement in regard to the execution of three US Airmen at SAMARINDA.

I was a Platoon Commander of the KEIBITAI at SAMARINDA in charge of a Special Detachment of eight men who carried out the duties of the TOKKAI TAI.

Some time in January 45 three US Airmen were brought to the KEIBITAI HQ at SAMARINDA. I am shown photographs of three US Airmen whom I recognize as the Airmen who were executed. attempted to 田 勤

About the 10th of February 45 the three airmen escaped but were recaptured. ~~about the 10th of February 45 the three airmen escaped but were recaptured.~~ I reported this incident to Lt. YAMAGUCHI.

Either the next day or the day following I received orders from Lt YAMAGUCHI that the three US Airmen were to be executed. The squad who carried out the execution consisted of five or six men among whom were TSUDA, SUGAWARA. I do not remember the names of the other members of the squad. I was in charge of the squad. The Airmen were taken about three hundred metres away from the KEIBITAI HQ about eight o'clock in the evening. Here the airmen were blindfolded and made to kneel by graves which had been prepared during the afternoon. Then I, TSUDA and SUGAWARA each beheaded one of the Airmen with our swords after which the bodies were buried.

We returned to KEIBITAI HQ and I reported the completion of the execution to Lt YAMAGUCHI about nine o'clock in the evening.

One of the men in the photograph showing two men together was named William JACOBSE I do not know which one, I executed the man who is not wounded.

I have heard this statement read to me in the Japanese language and it is a true account of what I have said.

Signed this 25th day of OCTOBER 1945.

AT BALIKPAPAN.

日本海軍少尉 田勤清人
.....
Ensign TASUKI KIYATO.

WITNESS... *Shigetaka*

DECLASSIFIED

Authority 775011

By *SM* NARA Date 08/21/19

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NEI-280

ATROCITY CASE at SAMARINDA

Statement by QX 6336, Maj. C.S. ANDREW, 2/25 Aust. Inf. Bn. concerning a letter allegedly handed by an Indonesian to an Australian Soldier near or at the MAHAKAM HOTEL, SAMARINDA on or about 18 Sept., 45.

At the time in question I was Officer Commanding Samarinda Force det. from 2/25 Aust. Inf. Bn.

I hereby declare that the following actions were taken in endeavouring to trace this letter in question.

All sub-units were notified of this incident and received an instruction to question all men under their commands if any person had received or knew of any letter being received from an Indonesian.

This question was put to the men during the admin. parade the following morning. Those men on essential duties at the time of the parade were questioned personally. A nil return was given.

One day later a muster parade was ordered, and held that afternoon to which an F.S. Sgt. brought the Indonesian concerned for the purpose of identifying the supposed recipient of the letter. The Indonesian failed to identify the recipient of the letter concerned.

En. H. Q. was subsequently notified of the result of the identification parade.

W. Andrew
.....Maj.
C.S. A Coy.,
2/25 Aust. Inf. Bn.

16 October, 45.



Orig in Aust. det.

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CASE ADAMETI SAMARINDA KRIBITAI

CASE NO 1.

SUBJECT: EXECUTION THREE U.S. AIRMEN - MAY 45

I, Sup P.O. OKU CHIZO make the following statement in connection with the execution of three US Airmen at SAMARINDA.

I was a member of the TOKKAI TAI of the SAMARINDA KRIBITAI. Towards the end of January 45 I was a member of a squad which interrogated three US Airmen who had been brought to SAMARINDA from RANGA RANGA where their plane had crashed. The interrogating squad was in charge of Ensign YASUKI and other members were HADATA, who acted as guard and OTA who acted as interpreter. I acted as clerk. During the interrogation I did not see the US Airmen ill treated in any way. They answered all questions put to them so that there was no occasion to beat them. Questions put to them concerned their place of departure, time of departure and target.

I was not present later when the Airmen were executed but was on duty behind the KRIBITAI HQ to keep all natives away from the place of execution. I am shown photographs which I recognize to be those of the three men who were executed. The man whose arm was injured I know as MAGBERTY. He was a machine gunner. The man who was in the photograph with the injured man I know as MORIBELLO. He was a mechanic. The third man whose photograph I am shown I know as WILLIAM JACOBS. He was a 2nd Lt.

This statement was read to me in the Japanese language and it is a true account of what I have said.

Signed at BALIKPAPAN this 26th day of OCTOBER 1946.

Oku Chizo
.....
Sup P.O. OKU CHIZO

WITNESS *Harold Bell*
.....

Original in Aust. det. NEI-280

CASE AGAINST: SAMARINDA KEIBITAI CASE NO 1.

SUBJECT: EXECUTION OF THREE US AIRMEN - MAY 1945

I, Sup. P.O. SUGUWARA ISABURO make the following statement in regard to the execution of three US Airmen at SAMARINDA.

I was a member of the Special Detachment of the TOKKAI TAI of the KEIBITAI at SAMARINDA.

During January 45 an American plane crashed near SANGA SANGA. Two of the crew were brought to the KEIBITAI HQ at SAMARINDA. A few days later I was sent with another man to SANGA SANGA to bring back a third member of the crew. This man had been injured when the plane crashed. I am shown photographs which I recognize to be those of the three Americans who were executed. I do not remember their names.

One night in February I heard a commotion at the rear of the KEIBITAI HQ but when I went to investigate I found that the US Airman had attempted to escape but had been captured just outside.

The following day I was a member of a party who were assigned to execute the Airmen. The party was in charge of Ensign TASUKI and the other members of the party were TSUDA, OKU, AOKI, NISHIDA, NAGATA and YOSHINORI WADA. About eight thirty in the evening this party took the three US Airmen who were blindfolded at the KEIBITAI HQ to a position about three hundred yards distant where they were made to kneel beside graves which had been prepared earlier in the day. Then Ensign TASUKI, TSUDA and myself each beheaded one of the airmen. I assisted to bury the bodies and then returned to the KEIBITAI HQ.

I have heard this statement read to me in the Japanese Language and it is a true account of what I have said.

Signed this 25th day of OCTOBER 1945.

At BALIKPAPAN.

海軍上等兵菅原支三郎
.....
Sup. P.O. SUGUWARA ISABURO

WITNESS.....*Shigeo Kashi*.....

DECLASSIFIED
Authority 775011
By *DM* NARA Date 08/21/14

Original copy sent.

NEI-280

CASE AGAINST SAMARINDA KEIBITAI CASE NO 1.

SUBJECT: EXECUTION THREE AIRMEN - MAY 1945

I, Capt. TSUJIMASHI formerly Chief of Staff to Vice Admiral KAMADA make the following statement in regard to the execution of three US Airmen at SAMARINDA.

During a tour of inspection I carried out either late in 1944 or early in 1945 of the SAMARINDA Area, I heard that three US Airmen had been captured from a plane which crashed at SANGA SANGA. I gave instructions that these airmen were to be sent to BALIKPAPAN. The airmen did not arrive at BALIKPAPAN and I understood that non availability of transport was the reason. Some time in March or April a message from Lt YAMAUCHI was brought by runner from SAMARINDA to the effect that the three US Airmen had attempted to escape and had been executed. I reported the execution to Vice Admiral KAMADA and as we were engaged in making plans for the expected invasion no further action was taken.

In such a case I can understand that Lt YAMAUCHI may have considered the incident as an emergency and may have felt justified in taking the action that he did.

I have heard this statement read to me in the Japanese language and it is a true account of what I have said.

Signed this 25th day of OCTOBER 1945.

At BALIKPAPAN.

辻橋文吉
.....
Capt TSUJIMASHI.

WITNESS.....*Shigeo Kashi*.....

NEI-280

Original avast. Section

CASE AGAINST

SAMARINDA KRIBITAI

CASE NO 1.

SUBJECT: EXECUTION OF THREE U.S. AIRMEN - MAY 1945.

I, W.O. TSUDA make the following statement in regard to the execution of three US Airmen at SAMARINDA.

I was a member of the TOKKEI TAI of the KRIBITAI at SAMARINDA. In January 45 three US Airmen whose plane had crashed near SANGA SANGA were brought to SAMARINDA and kept at the KRIBITAI HQ. I am shown photographs which I recognize as the three airmen who were executed.

During February 45 whilst one of the airmen was being taken to the latrine he attempted to escape. When he made his attempt the other two US Airmen also tried to escape but all were captured just outside.

The following day I was a member of a party assigned by Lt YAMAGUCHI to execute the three US Airmen. The party was in charge of Ensign TASUKI. The three airmen were blindfolded at the KRIBITAI HQ and taken to a position about three hundred yards distant at about eight thirty in the evening. When we reached this place the airmen were made to kneel by graves which had been dug earlier that day. TASUKI and I then each beheaded one of the Airmen. The third airmen was beheaded by one of the other members of the party - I don't know who.

The bodies were then buried and we returned to the KRIBITAI HQ.

I have heard this statement read to me in the Japanese language and it is a true account of what I have said.

Signed this 25th day of OCTOBER 1945
At BALIKPAPAN.

海軍兵曹長 津田孝次郎
.....
W.O. TSUDA

WITNESS.....
Shigeo Sato

DECLASSIFIED
Authority 775011
By JM NARA Date 08/21/14

Original and Sub.
NEI-280

CASE AGAINST: SAMARINDA KRIBITAI

CASE: No 1.

SUBJECT: EXECUTION 3 U.S. AIRMEN - MAY 45 STATEMENT No 1

I, Lt (j.g.) YAMAGUCHI SHINTARO formerly C.O. of the SAMARINDA KRIBITAI make the following statement in regard to the execution of 3 US Airmen at SAMARINDA.

In the middle of February 45 3 US Airmen whose names I cannot remember were brought to KRIBITAI HQ at SAMARINDA. I am shown 3 photographs two of whom I recognize as the US Airmen. I do not recognize the third nor do I recognize the Japanese in the photograph which I think was taken at SANGA SANGA. They had been captured after their plane had crashed at SANGA SANGA.

During the time they were held at the KRIBITAI HQ they were interrogated by Ensign TASUKI who was officer in charge of the TOKKEI a special branch of the KRIBITAI. They were interrogated as to their place of departure, time of departure, route and details of the air action in which they had been engaged. TASUKI submitted reports of these interrogations to me and I passed them on to KAMADA'S HQ at BALIKPAPAN.

One day TASUKI reported to me that the US Airmen had escaped but had been caught about three hundred yards from the KRIBITAI HQ. I reported this fact to HQ at BALIKPAPAN by telephone and requested instructions as to what I was to do with them. The following morning I received instructions by telephone from BALIKPAPAN that the Airmen were to be executed. I do not know who originated this message at the BALIKPAPAN HQ.

I passed these instructions to TASUKI who was placed in charge of the execution which was carried out that same evening. I know that TASUKI and KIKKER TSUDA were swordsmen but I do not know who the third swordsman was. TASUKI reported to me later that the execution had been carried out and I prepared and submitted a written report to HQ at BALIKPAPAN covering the execution.

Question by Officer conducting Investigation:

Q. 1. Did you receive orders from KAMADA'S HQ that the three US Airmen were to be despatched to BALIKPAPAN and submit a report to KAMADA to the effect that the Airmen had been despatched and lost at sea during the voyage as a result of Allied action.

A. 1. I did not receive any such order nor did I submit a report to the effect that they had been lost at sea.

Signed this 25th day of OCTOBER 1945
At BALIKPAPAN.

海軍中尉 山口善太郎
.....
Lt (j.g.) YAMAGUCHI SHINTARO

WITNESS.....
Shigeo Sato

Original and Sub.
NEI-280

CASE AGAINST: SAMARINDA KRIBITAI CASE NO 1.

SUBJECT: EXECUTION THREE U.S. AIRMEN - MAY 1945
STATEMENT No 2

I, Lt(j.g.) YAMAGUCHI SENTARO wish to make this additional statement in regard to the execution of the three US Airmen at SAMARINDA.

BACKGROUND

At the time of the American Airmen's attempted escape, which was referred to in my previous statement, Capt. TSUJIHASHI, who was Chief of Staff to KANADA was at SAMARINDA carrying out an inspection of the area.

I conferred with him as to what action was to be taken in regard to the Airmen. He said that he could not give a direction on the spot but would have to return to BALIKPAPAN to obtain a direction from KANADA. He returned to BALIKPAPAN that day and the next day a runner from BALIKPAPAN delivered a verbal message to me. The message was - "execute the Airmen at SAMARINDA".

The execution was then carried out as detailed in my previous statement.

I have heard this statement read to me in the Japanese language and it is a true account of what I have said.

Signed this 26th Day of OCTOBER 1945.
At BALIKPAPAN

昭海軍中尉 山口尊太郎
Lt(jg) YAMAGUCHI SENTARO

WITNESS.....*Hayid balt*.....

Orig in av. l. feet.
NEI-280

CASE AGAINST SAMARINDA KRIBITAI CASE NO 1.

SUBJECT: EXECUTION THREE U.S. AIRMEN - MAY 1945.
STATEMENT No 2

I, Lt (j.g.) Lt. YAMAGUCHI SENTARO wish to make a further statement in connection with the execution of the three US Airmen at SAMARINDA.

After giving further thought to the circumstances I now realize that previous statements made by me are not a true account of the incident.

During the time the American Airmen were held at KRIBITAI Bq I had a staff of only eighty men which had to provide defense for the MANAKAN area. We were under constant bombardment and in a very precarious position. When the US Airmen attempted to escape I gave orders for their execution as I thought that they might make further attempts to escape and promise native resistance against us.

After the execution I submitted a report to HQ at BALIKPAPAN.

I have heard this statement read to me in the Japanese language and it is a true account of what I have said.

Signed at BALIKPAPAN this 26th day of OCTOBER 45

昭海軍中尉 山口尊太郎
Lt(jg) YAMAGUCHI SENTARO

WITNESS.....*Hayid balt*.....

DECLASSIFIED
Authority 775011
By *DM* NARA Date 08/21/14

Orig in av. l. feet.
NEI-280

DECLASSIFIED
Authority 775011
By [signature] NARA Date 08/21/14

Subject: EXECUTION OF THREE US AIRMEN - MAY 45

Case against Samariada Kabitai.

On 16 Oct 45 I visited Vice Admiral KAMADA at his HQ SAMARINDA and questioned him on the above subject. He stated that he was in c of the JAPANESE naval force in Dutch Borneo with his HQ at BALIKPAPAN May and June of this year. The local commander at SAMARINDA was Rear Admiral KUROHARA.

Vice Admiral KAMADA said he heard of the capture of the US airmen. It was his principle to remove all PW to BANDJERMASIN, the farthest point from actual hostilities. He was told some time later that the three airmen had been drowned when the ship on which they had been travelling to BALIKPAPAN was sunk either by aircraft attack or submarine. He did NOT in fact know that they had been executed until the day following the recovery of the remains by the AUSTRALIANS.

Vice Admiral KAMADA added that the local commander at SAMARINDA had no authority to carry out executions. The execution was carried out entirely without his knowledge and authority and had he known at the time of this occurrence he would have taken disciplinary action against those responsible. He expressed his regrets at the execution, particularly as he felt it was his responsibility, being the Commander of the Force.

Vice Admiral KAMADA declared that the SAMARINDA branch of the KEBITAI was responsible to him through Rear Admiral KUROHARA. Messrs SHINTARO YAMAGUCHI was commander of the SAMARINDA detachment of the KEBITAI in May and June 45.

When asked if the names of the AMERICANS could be ascertained, Vice Admiral KAMADA said he did NOT know himself and expressed doubt whether the records could be discovered at this stage.

..... B. J. Rickard Capt.

Orig in aviat Sect.
NEF-280

CASE AGAINST SAMARINDA KEBITAI CASE NO 1.

SUBJECT: EXECUTION OF THREE US AIRMEN - MAY 45

I, OKADA KEIICHI make the following statement in connection with the execution of the three US Airmen at SAMARINDA.

I was a civilian attached to the TOKUBI TAI at SAMARINDA as a Malay Interpreter.

At the end of January 45 I was admitted to hospital suffering with Amoebic Dysentery. I remained in hospital until the middle of March 45. When I returned to duty I was told that the three US Airmen had been executed. I am shown photographs which I recognise to be those of the three US Airmen who had been executed. I do not know the names of any of them.

I have heard this statement read over to me in the Japanese language and it is a true account of what I have said.

Signed at BALIKPAPAN this 26th Day of OCTOBER 45

岡田 圭一
.....
OKADA KEIICHI

Witness *Harold Capt.*
.....

Orig in aviat Sect NEI-280

DECLASSIFIED
Authority 775011
By DM NARA Date 08/21/14

PREPARED BY RR.
CARDS MADE BY _____
EXTRACTS BY _____
SENT TO FILES _____

NO. NEI-280

LOCATION:

Town or Village SAMARINDA Island _____
District Bareno Country or Colony NEI

If a Prison Camp—

AREA

PREFECTURE

NUMBER

ISLAND

NAME

COUNTRY

NATURE OF FILE:

execution of three
(A Brief Statement of Crime involved or nature of the
American flyers
file)

VICTIMS:

three American flyers

PERPETRATORS:

members of SAMARINDA TOKKEI TAI unit

UNITS:

SAMARINDA TOKKEI TAI unit

DOCUMENTS:

WITNESSES:

TAMEICHI, NISHIDA - JAP -
MACKINTOSH, capt
BROCKENSHIRE, H - SGT

REFERENCES:

Investigation rpt. Oct. 1945

REMARKS:

Execution of three US airmen
at Samarinda in 1945 by Japanese