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RG

ENTRY

BOX

24

Bu Pers Casualty Br  
re: POW's

204

RG 24 Records of the Bureau of  
Naval Personnel

Casualty Branch

RECORDS RELATING TO JAPANESE  
WAR CRIMES INVOLVING POWS

Bonin Islands (Vols. I-III)

Box 4

NN3-38-90-4

H.M. 1991

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[1012 pages]

VOLUME I

1st - 20th day

Pages 1 to 368

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER  
UNITED STATES OCCUPATION FORCES  
BONIN ISLANDS AT COMMANDER MARIANAS

6 June, 1946.

The proceedings, findings, opinions and recommendations of the investigation in the attached case involving atrocities committed by Japanese forces in the Bonin Islands are approved.

This investigation represents the difficult work of approximately eight (8) months. Due to the complicated chain of command which existed in the Japanese forces on Chichi Jima, the serious nature of crimes committed, the attempts of concealment of the true disposition of American flyers by Japanese commanders, and the non-availability of willing witnesses such as natives and proselytes, this board of investigation was considered mandatory as a simple investigation could not have uncovered the full facts.

It is recommended that all guilty parties be tried by a Military Commission for their crimes in violation of the rules of war and their atrocities against humanity.

It is further recommended that those guilty of eating human flesh of captured Americans be tried for cannibalism if for no other purpose than to enlighten the Japanese people on the true character of their military men in responsible command positions.

P. N. RIXEY  
Colonel, U. S. Marine Corps,  
Commander, U. S. Occupation Forces,  
Bonin Islands.

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

of a

BOARD OF INVESTIGATION

convened at Headquarters of the Commander,  
United States Occupation Forces, Bonin Islands,  
Chichi Jima, Bonin Islands,

by order of

The Commander, United States Occupation Forces,  
Bonin Islands

To inquire into the circumstances involving the  
deaths of Allied Prisoners of War in custody  
of Japanese Military Forces, Chichi Jima,  
Bonin Islands

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| Ahn, Pyungehi, superior private, IJA         | 35                   | 636      |
| Arai, Masao, leading private, IJA            | 20                   | 362      |
| Arai, Shoshoku, gunzoku, IJN                 | 7                    | 95       |
| Ariga, Terusada, petty officer 2/c, IJN      | 31                   | 563      |
| Asanuma, Tsugio, corporal, IJA               | 60                   | 943      |
| Bannai, Yutaka, petty officer 1/c, IJN       | 25, 30               | 440, 528 |
| Chujo, Shigeto, 2d lieutenant, IJA           | 23, 29               | 406, 515 |
| Enjo, Genzo, captain, IJA                    | 50                   | 835      |
| Enomoto, Bunji, 1st lieutenant, IJA          | 19                   | 346      |
| Enomoto, Shirokichi, lieutenant, IJN         | 24, 29               | 433, 523 |
| Frazer, R. N., 2d lieutenant, USMCR          | 29                   | 518      |
| Fukuda, Katsuya, captain, IJA                | 22                   | 391      |
| Furuya, Goichi, lieutenant commander,<br>IJN | 16                   | 294      |
| Gilley, Jeffrey, gunzoku, IJA                | 8                    | 108      |
| Hamamatsu, Yoshio, petty officer 1/c,<br>IJN | 34                   | 614      |
| Harashima, Kanji, captain, IJA               | 44, 45               | 764, 768 |
| Hasegawa, Shigeo, sergeant major, IJA        | 37                   | 661      |
| Hasegawa, Taketoshi, lieutenant (jg),<br>IJN | 25, 35               | 456, 641 |
| Hayakawa, Hyonosuke, 1st lieutenant,<br>IJA  | 28                   | 505      |
| Hayashi, Minoru, lieutenant (jg), IJN        | 43                   | 751      |
| Hayashi, Toshio, superior private, IJA       | 37                   | 666      |
| Hidano, Raidenwaka, corporal, IJA            | 27                   | 480      |
| Higashigi, Seiji, captain, IJA               | 54                   | 867      |
| Hiroishi, Hajime, corporal, IJA              | 5, 23                | 59, 417  |

| Name of witness                               | Day of investigation     | Page                               |
|---|--------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Horie, Yoshitaka, major, IJA                  | 9, 10, 58                | 117, 155,<br>918                   |
| Iijima, Mayuki, ensign, IJN                   | 59                       | 934                                |
| Ikawa, Shigeo, captain, IJA                   | 16, 17, 51,<br>57        | 297, 309,<br>839, 910              |
| Ikeda, Kihei, sergeant major, IJA             | 21                       | 368                                |
| Inoguchi, Shizuo, petty officer 2/c, IJN      | 34                       | 621                                |
| Inoue, Chuichi, 1st lieutenant, IJA           | 27                       | 471A                               |
| Inoue, Toru, chief petty officer, IJN         | 25, 30                   | 439, 527                           |
| Ishino, Hideo, gunzoku, IJN                   | 42                       | 743                                |
| Ishiwata, Fukutaro, superior private,<br>IJA  | 27                       | 478                                |
| Iso, Shinichiro, corporal, IJA                | 34                       | 626                                |
| Isoda, Kyuryo, captain, IJA                   | 21                       | 376                                |
| Isogai, Gunji, 1st lieutenant, IJA            | 50                       | 528                                |
| Isono, Meguru, captain, IJA                   | 54                       | 857                                |
| Ito, Kikuji, lieutenant colonel, IJA          | 46                       | 736                                |
| Iwakawa, Nobutani, petty officer 1/c,<br>IJN  | 32                       | 584                                |
| Kamiura, Junnari, commander, IJN              | 49                       | 811                                |
| Kanaumi, Gentai, gunzoku, IJN                 | 7                        | 84                                 |
| Kanemori, Kasutoshi, sergeant, IJA            | 41                       | 710                                |
| Kanemura, Yasunaga, gunzoku, IJA              | 6                        | 75                                 |
| Kanmuri, Yoshiharu, captain, IJA              | 14, 15, 57               | 260, 269,<br>915                   |
| Kariya, Yasuo, captain, IJA                   | 59                       | 937                                |
| Kato, Takemune, colonel, IJA                  | 48, 51                   | 801, 841                           |
| Kawakami, Toshio, private first class,<br>IJA | 21, 22                   | 386, 401                           |
| Kim, Stephen, superior private, IJA           | 35                       | 639                                |
| Kishimoto, Masao, sergeant, IJA               | 50                       | 940                                |
| Konishi, Shinosuke, superior private,<br>IJA  | 41                       | 718                                |
| Kosuga, Tadaaki, captain, IJA                 | 17, 18, 19<br>27, 47, 57 | 314, 317,<br>336, 487,<br>795, 913 |
| Kudo, Fumio, captain, IJA                     | 28                       | 507                                |
| Kunori, Kou, sergeant, IJA                    | 50                       | 835                                |
| Kuriki, Rokuro, petty officer 2/c, IJN        | 32                       | 574                                |
| Kurimoto, Tsutomu, sergeant major, IJA        | 4, 38                    | 53, 672                            |
| Kurosawa, Toshio, 1st lieutenant, IJA         | 43                       | 748                                |
| Nachida, Matsui, petty officer 2/c, IJN       | 34                       | 623                                |
| Maikawa, Fukuichiro, corporal, IJA            | 12                       | 185A                               |
| Masaki, Hitoshi, colonel, IJA                 | 16                       | 292                                |
| Masutani, Shinichi, lieutenant, IJN           | 48                       | 807                                |
| Matoba, Sueo, major, IJA                      | 15, 39,<br>40, 47        | 286, 676,<br>695, 798              |
| Matsumura, Takeji, petty officer 2/c,<br>IJN  | 36                       | 647                                |
| Matsushita, Kanehisa, lieutenant, IJN         | 44, 49                   | 763, 821                           |
| Miyazaki, Kenji, lieutenant commander,<br>IJN | 59                       | 928                                |
| Miyashita, Minoru, warrant officer, IJN       | 43                       | 760                                |
| Miyashita, Tsunegoro, lieutenant (jg),<br>IJN | 46                       | 782                                |

| Name of witness                               | Day of investigation | Page             |
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| Mori, Kunizo, vice admiral, IJN               | 56, 57               | 893, 908         |
| Mori, Yasumasu, sergeant, IJA                 | 42                   | 739              |
| Naito, Kingoro, sergeant major, IJA           | 20                   | 354A             |
| Nakajima, Noboru, captain, IJA                | 14                   | 248              |
| Nakamura, Shigenobu, corporal, IJA            | 12, 13, 43           | 208, 221,<br>745 |
| Nakano, Masami, captain, IJA                  | 54, 55               | 861, 879         |
| Nishiyotsutsuji, Kimitomi, captain,<br>IJA    | 10, 11,<br>61        | 161, 177,<br>948 |
| Noda, Mamoru, lieutenant, IJN                 | 26                   | 450              |
| Noomi, Hidehiko, lieutenant (jg), IJN         | 36                   | 643              |
| Okamoto, Moriki, sergeant, IJA                | 62                   | 954              |
| Okiyama, Tsutomu, superior private,<br>IJA    | 54, 55               | 860, 883         |
| Okubo, Osamu, lieutenant, IJN                 | 33                   | 595              |
| Okubo, Shosuke, lieutenant (jg), IJN          | 43                   | 759              |
| Onodera, Kingo, sergeant, IJA                 | 41                   | 723              |
| Oshida, Takekasu, superior private,<br>IJA    | 56                   | 874              |
| Oyama, Shigeyasu, sergeant, IJA               | 29                   | 509              |
| Oyamada, Kazuo, petty officer 2/c, IJN        | 25, 30               | 448, 526         |
| Ryn, Chuksong, leading private, IJA           | 31                   | 569              |
| Sakai, Tadashi, lieutenant commander,<br>IJN  | 26                   | 460              |
| Sakamoto, Kaoru, petty officer 1/c,<br>IJN    | 31                   | 553              |
| Sasaki, Mitsuyoshi, lieutenant, IJN           | 48, 49               | 808, 820         |
| Sato, Hihei, captain, IJA                     | 18                   | 279              |
| Sato, Kesakichi, captain, IJA                 | 42                   | 731, 735         |
| Sato, Kizo, superior private, IJA             | 33                   | 604              |
| Sato, Masayasu, superior private, IJA         | 28                   | 490              |
| Savory, Frederick, civilian                   | 1, 2, 3              | 1, 10A,<br>20A   |
| Savory, Roger, civilian                       | 3                    | 33               |
| Savory, Samuel, civilian                      | 3                    | 27               |
| Savory, William, civilian                     | 3                    | 21               |
| Seino, Heijiro, sergeant, IJA                 | 50                   | 832              |
| Shina, Shohei, petty officer 2/c, IJN         | 32                   | 580              |
| Shimura, Hisao, leading private, IJA          | 45                   | 776              |
| Shinoda, Ichiro, lieutenant commander,<br>IJN | 24, 57               | 422, 903,<br>913 |
| Shoji, Nobuo, superior private, IJA           | 37                   | 669              |
| Soya, Saburo, warrant officer, IJA            | 13                   | 230              |
| Sugawara, Bunsuke, sergeant, IJA              | 4                    | 47               |
| Sugimura, Takatoshi, captain, IJA             | 23                   | 411              |
| Sugiyama, Akira, sergeant, IJA                | 41, 42               | 702, 736         |
| Suyeyoshi, Jitsuro, lieutenant, IJA           | 53                   | 847              |
| Suzuki, Kazunori, petty officer 2/c,<br>IJN   | 49                   | 816              |
| Tachibana, Yoshio, lieutenant general,<br>IJA | 56                   | 885              |
| Takahashi, Sawakichi, sergeant, IJA           | 55                   | 881              |
| Takeda, Jiro, captain, IJA                    | 28                   | 497              |
| Takenaka, Naoji, major, IJA                   | 28                   | 495              |
| Tanamura, Fumio, petty officer 1/c<br>IJN     | 30                   | 530              |

| Exhibit | Name of witness                             | Day of investigation | Page                |
|---------|---|----------------------|---------------------|
|         | Tanaka, Shigenori, 1st lieutenant, IJA      | 28                   | 502                 |
|         | Tani, Kiyoshi, petty officer 1/c, IJN       | 25, 30               | 443, 529            |
|         | Taniyama, Shinosuke, corporal, IJA          | 54                   | 865                 |
|         | Tokunaga, Tokumatsu, gunzoku, IJN           | 29                   | 521                 |
|         | Tsunoda, Shinichi, captain, IJA             | 19                   | 337                 |
|         | Umehara, Fukumatsu, sergeant major, IJA     | 50                   | 826                 |
|         | Utsuga, Heikichi, private first class, IJA  | 27                   | 475                 |
|         | Uzaki, Junko, lieutenant (jg), IJN          | 34                   | 616                 |
|         | Wada, Seiji, sergeant major, IJA            | 42                   | 726, 733 <i>EFF</i> |
|         | Washington, Richard, civilian               | 3                    | 42                  |
|         | Yokota, Sanichi, major, IJA                 | 36, 61               | 651, 952            |
|         | Yamashita, Masao, captain, IJA              | 46                   | 793                 |
|         | Yonehara, Minoru, lieutenant commander, IJN | 49, 61               | 822, 947            |
|         | Yoshida, Haruichi, petty officer 2/c, IJN   | 32                   | 591                 |
|         | Yoshida, Yoshitaro, captain, IJA            | 45, 52               | 779, 845            |
|         | Yoshida, Umon, superior private, IJA        | 21                   | 373                 |
|         | Yoshii, Shizuo, captain, IJN                | 51                   | 842                 |
|         | Yoshioka, Kenji, 1st lieutenant, IJA        | 26                   | 466                 |

#### Exhibits

| Exhibit | Character of   | Admitted in evidence |
|---------|--|----------------------|
| 1       | Statement of Mister Frederick Arthur Savory              | 4                    |
| 2       | Letter from Bunsuke Sugawara, sergeant, IJA              | 47                   |
| 3       | Interrogation of Bunsuke Sugawara, sergeant, IJA         | 48                   |
| 3A      | Statement of Yoshitaka Horie, major, IJA                 | 142                  |
| 4       | Statement of Shigenobu Nakamura, corporal, IJA           | 230                  |
| 5       | Statement of Noboru Nakajima, captain, IJA               | 260                  |
| 6       | Description of pencil                                    | 518                  |
| 7       | Statement of Yasumasu Mori, former sergeant, IJA         | 743                  |
| 8       | Statement of Minoru Hayashi, former lieutenant (jg), IJN | 759                  |
| 9       | Statement of Kanehisa Matsushita, former lieutenant, IJN | 764                  |
| 10      | Statement of Hisao Shimura, former leading private, IJA  | 779                  |
| 11      | Statement of Kikuji Ito, former lieutenant colonel, IJA  | 793                  |
| 12      | Statement of Sueo Matoba, major, IJA                     | 800                  |
| 13      | Statement of Takemune Kato, former colonel, IJA          | 807                  |
| 14      | Statement of Kikuji Ito, former lieutenant colonel, IJA  | 810                  |



Exhibits

| Exhibit | Character of  | Admitted in evidence |
|---------|---|----------------------|
| 15      | Statement of Mitsuyoshi Sasaki, former lieutenant, IJN  | 838                  |
| 16      | Interrogation of Tamio Abe, former corporal, IJA  | 844                  |
| 17      | Interrogation of Seiichi Higashigi, former captain, IJA   | 844                  |
| 18      | Interrogation of Neguru Isono, former captain, IJA  | 844                  |
| 19      | Interrogation of Juji Kono, former captain, IJA   | 844                  |
| 20      | Interrogation of Saburo Kondo, former lieutenant, IJN   | 844                  |
| 21      | Interrogation of Ichitaro Nakadai, former warrant officer, IJN  | 844                  |
| 22      | Statement of Ichitaro Nakadai, former warrant officer, IJN  | 844                  |
| 23      | Interrogation of Mitsuo Nakagawa, former first lieutenant, IJA  | 844                  |
| 24      | Interrogation of Itsuichi Suzuki, former corporal, IJA  | 844                  |
| 25      | Interrogation of Suganosuke Takeoka, former captain, IJA  | 844                  |
| 26      | Interrogation of Shinosuke Taniyama, former corporal, IJA   | 844                  |
| 27      | Statement of Shinosuke Taniyama, former corporal, IJA   | 866                  |
| 28      | Statement of Jitsuro Buyeyoshi, former lieutenant, IJN  | 892                  |
| 29      | Interrogation of Yoshio Kimura, former superior private, IJA  | 892                  |
| 30      | Interrogation of Kiyoshi Endo, former lieutenant (junior grade), IJN  | 892                  |
| 31      | Statement of Kunizo Mori, vice admiral, IJN   | 892                  |
| 32      | Statement of Kunizo Mori, vice admiral, IJN   | 897                  |
| 33      | Statement of Shizuo Yoshii, former captain, IJN   | 902                  |
| 34      | Certified copy of letter concerning the death of Yasuo Kurasaki, former lieutenant commander, IJN               | 946                  |
| 35      | Letter certifying the death of Takao Koyama, former, lieutenant (junior grade), IJN                             | 946                  |
| 36      | Report of examination of wrecked United States plane by Robert N. Fraser, second lieutenant, USMCR              | 946                  |
| 37      | Report of examination of wrecked United States plane by Robert N. Fraser, second lieutenant, USMCR              | 946                  |
| 37A     | Report of examination of wrecked United States plane by Eugene F. Poutasse, lieutenant (junior grade), NC, USNR | 946                  |

## Exhibits

| Exhibit | Character of   | Admitted in evidence |
|---------|--|----------------------|
| 38      | Report of examination of wrecked United States plane by Burd S. McGinnes, second lieutenant, USMCR   | 946                  |
| 39      | Report of examination of wrecked United States plane by Burd S. McGinnes, second lieutenant, USMCR   | 946                  |
| 40      | Report of examination of wrecked United States plane by Burd S. McGinnes, second lieutenant, USMCR   | 946                  |
| 41      | Report of grave exhumation and examination of wrecked United States plane by Burd S. McGinnes, second lieutenant, USMCR  | 946                  |
| 42      | Certified copy of G-2 report on planes and graves on Chichi Jima   | 946A                 |
| 43      | Statement of post-mortem examination of the body of Hironobu Morishita, former lieutenant (junior grade), IJN  | 946A                 |
| 44      | Certified copy of a dispatch and the answer thereto, concerning the status of Galvin D. Terry, lieutenant (junior grade); Connell, lieutenant (junior grade); and Oscar Long Doyle, petty officer  | 953                  |
| 45      | Certified copy of a dispatch and the answer thereto, concerning the status of Lloyd Richard Woellhof, aviation radioman second class, USNR   | 953                  |
| 46      | Certified copy of a memorandum, concerning the identification of Warren Earl Vaughn, second lieutenant, USMCR; James Wesley Dye, aviation radioman third class, USN; and Floyd Ewing Hall, ensign, USNR  | 959                  |
| 47      | Certified copy of statement concerning identification and death of Warren Earl Vaughn, second lieutenant, USMCR  | 959                  |
| 48      | Letter from convening authority, concerning disposition of remains exhumed on Chichi Jima  | 959                  |
| 49      | Certified copy of letter listing naval casualties occurring on action against the Bonin Islands  | 959                  |
| 50      | Overlay of Chichi Jima showing principal locations thereon   | 959                  |
| 51      | Certified copy of dispatch and the answer thereto concerning the identification of Grady Alvan York, aviation ordnanceman third class; Glenn Junior Frazier, aviation ordnanceman third class; Harvie William Mershen, aviation radioman third class | 960                  |
| 52      | Statement of Shigeo Ikawa, captain, IJN  | 960                  |
| 53      | Statement of Mayuki Iijima, former ensign, IJN   | 960                  |
| 54      | Statement of Masao Kishimoto, former sergeant, IJA   | 960                  |

23 December, 1945

From: Commander Occupation Forces, Japan.  
To: Major Robert B. Shaffer, U. S. Marine Corps.

Subject: **Exhibits**  
Board of Investigation to inquire into and  
report upon the circumstances involving the  
death of Allied prisoners of war in  
custody of Japanese Military Forces.

| Exhibit | Character of  | Admitted in evidence |
|---------|---|----------------------|
| 55      | Certified copy of interrogation of Kagetomo Hida, former lieutenant (junior grade), IJN | 960                  |
| 56      | Statement of Kagetomo Hida, former lieutenant (junior grade), IJN                       | 960                  |

Commander in Chief,  
Ocean Areas (USMC Report No. 1000) of 11 December 1945, a board of investigation, consisting of yourself as senior member and of First Lieutenant Wilbur Gentry, U. S. Marine Corps Reserve, Lieutenant (jg) Robert F. Frazier, (USN), U. S. Naval Reserve, as additional member, and Lieutenant (jg) Robert E. Farrell, U. S. Naval Reserve as recorder, will convene at Occupation Force Headquarters, Chikhi Jima, Bonin Islands, at the earliest opportunity for the purpose of inquiring into and reporting upon the circumstances involving the death of Allied prisoners of war in the custody of Japanese Military Forces, Chikhi Jima, Bonin Islands.

2. The board will thoroughly inquire into the matter hereby submitted to it and will include in its findings a full statement of the facts it may deem to be established. The board will further give its opinion as to whether any offenses have been committed or serious blame incurred, and, in case its opinion be that offenses have been committed or serious blame incurred, will specifically recommend what further proceedings should be had.

3. Each member of the board, the recorder, the reporter, and the interpreter, will be duly sworn.

4. The board is hereby empowered and directed to administer an oath to each witness appearing to testify or depose during the course of the proceedings of the board of investigation.

5. The attention of the board is particularly directed to the fact that the board is to report to the Commanding General, U. S. Marine Corps, Chikhi Jima, Bonin Islands, and to the Commanding General, U. S. Marine Corps, Japan.

6. The Commanding General of the U. S. Marine Corps, Chikhi Jima, is hereby directed to advise the board of the results of its investigation and to forward to the Commanding General, U. S. Marine Corps, Japan, a copy of its report.

W. W. RYAN,  
Colonel, U. S. Marine Corps,  
Commander Occupation Forces,  
Bonin Islands.



VOLUME II  
21st - 45th day  
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RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

of a

BOARD OF INVESTIGATION

convened at Headquarters of the Commander,

United States Occupation Forces, Bonin Islands,

Chichi Jima, Bonin Islands,

by order of

The Commander, United States Occupation Forces,

Bonin Islands

To inquire into the circumstances involving the

deaths of Allied Prisoners of War in custody

of Japanese Military Forces, Chichi Jima,

Bonin Islands

Requested by the recorder:

1. Q. What year, rank, and organization?
- A. 1941; sergeant major. Until July 1941, I was attached to the 30th Battalion Machine Gun Company, 1st Marine Division. I was attached to the Haken Shiroishi on that date. I held this position until we left for the Yonai Shiroishi. I stayed behind to look after the left-over supplies and to take care of them. I stayed at the Haken Shiroishi until the end of the war.
2. Q. Were you attached to the Yonai Shiroishi when it was captured?
- A. I was attached to the Yonai Shiroishi from July 1941 to about July 26th, 1941. The Yonai Shiroishi was captured and because the Haken Shiroishi, on or about August 1st, 1941.
3. Q. While you were at the Yonai Shiroishi, how many prisoners did you see?
- A. None.



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Exhibits

BONIN ISLANDS INVESTIGATION, VOL. III, PP 782-979 EXHIBITS

BONIN ISLANDS INVESTIGATION, VOL. III, PP 782-979 EXHIBITS

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

of a

BOARD OF INVESTIGATION

convened at Headquarters of the Commander,  
United States Occupation Forces, Bonin Islands,  
Chichi Jima, Bonin Islands,

by order of

The Commander, United States Occupation Forces,  
Bonin Islands

To inquire into the circumstances involving the  
deaths of Allied Prisoners of War in custody  
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Bonin Islands