

STATEMENT

Dorella M. M. President.

128

KANEHIRO YOSHIHIDE

Japanese Army Civilian Serviceman, Officer-Rank
Enlisted Number KEN 248.REGARDING SUB LT KATAYAMA HIDEO

Naval Lieutenant KATAYAMA HIDEO is one of the most intimate friend of mine since my arrival at AMBON area. At that time his rank was Sub Lieutenant. I arrived at AMBON on 25th February 1943. At that time, there were two high headquarters in AMBON, Army and Navy Headquarters. I was with the intelligence section of the Army HQ., while Mr. KATAYAMA, at the outset of our association, was with the Naval Communication Unit attached to the Naval HQ.

As far as I remember, I became acquainted with him since approximately May, 1943. My association with him at AMBON continued to the end of August, 1944, when my section moved to PASSO on the same island after the big air-assault on AMBON Town.

During the above period, Mr. KATAYAMA influenced me very much with great religious faith, kindness for prisoners of war and so forth.

With regard to his religious faith, he is a Protestant. He used to interpret me various religious stories in an attempt to invite me to the same religion. As I was bred up at a Buddhist temple, I found that I had a similar religious mind, but at that time I was very busy in my duty and unfortunately could not be indulged so much into religion as Mr. KATAYAMA was.

However, even now I can recollect a couple of religious good conducts of Mr. KATAYAMA. I am not certain about the time, but in one evening I called on him at his official residence. In the midst of our chat sitting in easy-chairs, an Indonesian visited him. Mr. KATAYAMA talked with the Indonesian a little while in my presence and gave him several notes of Japanese Military Money. At that time, I could not yet speak Malay, but Mr. KATAYAMA explained to me that the INDONESIAN was a Missionary and almost regularly Mr. KATAYAMA contributed money to the Missionary from his own salary and helped the Missionary's upkeep.

On Sunday morning, I was strolling along a street of AMBON Town, when I saw Mr. KATAYAMA speaking with a few Navy soldiers. It seemed that the soldiers were scolded by him. When I approached and saluted him saying "Good morning Mr. KATAYAMA", he smilingly explained to me that he was standing there in order to prevent any Japanese attempt to hamper the Sunday Prayer of the Church, because, so he added, some Japanese had no good feeling for Christians and there was every indications that those Japanese wanted to hamper the Sunday Prayer. Indeed, I noticed for the first time that there was a Church standing at the site.

With regard to Mr. KATAYAMA's kindness to the prisoner of war under my charge, I have too many experiences to state them all. My duty was to pick up Allied News and there were several prisoners of war under my charge for this purpose. Mr. KATAYAMA used to visit me frequently and occasionally he personally chatted with these prisoners of war. He always used to tell me that he was specially sympathized with these prisoners whose nationality was the same as that of his aunt, and he so frequently encouraged me to treat them well. When he found any kindness of mine for these prisoners of war, he was quite satisfied and appreciated me very much as if it was the kindness to himself. His appreciation was sometimes so great that I felt a little peculiar about it.

Of course, he helped me greatly for satisfying these prisoners of war. He gave these Pws Western made cigarrets, various kind of books in English etc. Especially what I appreciated most was that he frequently gave them very very good meals which he could obtain from Naval officer's restaurant. One day, he presented a very delicious porkmeal, while on another day he gave them chicken with potatoes and green peas. Even

now I can draw a picture of my prisoners of war taking these delicious meals with the utmost satisfaction.

I remember that on Christmas Eve, my prisoners of war were unexpectedly presented with delicious Christmas cakes and some Western style meals from Mr. KATAYAMA.

Mr. KATAYAMA always explained to me that the reason for his good conduct towards PWs was all attributed to his religious faith as a Christian and his yearning for his aunt, a woman of British descent.

I am very sorry that such a good man as Mr. KATAYAMA must be put under trial as a person accused of a war crime because of the bad position he occupied before. However, I firmly believe that Japan wants him badly in order to make herself a truly peace loving nation. Therefore, I sincerely wish generous and sympathetic decisions of the court for such good man.

I certify that the above statement is true and correct.

24 Feb 46

KANEHIRO YOSHIHIDE

Y. Kanehiro

*Donald Mc
President.*