

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS

UNITED STATES ARMY FORCES, PACIFIC

A.P.O. 500.

12 September 1945.



TYPICAL JAPANESE ATROCITIES

DURING THE

LIBERATION OF THE PHILIPPINES

 All the information disclosed in this report is taken from original sources. It is available in the form of sworn statements by eyewitnesses or victims. Photographs of many of the scenes of crime are available.

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 In August, 1942, 150 American prisoners of war arrived at Puerto Princesa, Palawan to build a landing strip for the Japanese. All construction was by hand, progress slow, treatment inhumane, food vile and inadequate.

 When the American convoy enroute to Kindoro passed Palawan on 14 December 1944, the local Japanese garrison believed the Americans intended to land. Prisoners of war were told hundreds of American planes were coming and herded into three covered ditches which served as air-raid shelters.

 A Japanese captain with 50 to 60 Japanese soldiers then came running toward the shelters carrying machine guns, rifles, and grenades. Lighted torches and buckets of gasoline were tossed into each of the shelters. As the men rushed out, on fire and screaming, they were mowed down by machine guns.

 Remains of these prisoners of war who perished have been found at Puerto Princesa. By a miraculous escape, a few men lived to tell what happened.

 There are numerous instances in which Japanese medical officers with their own swords beheaded prisoners of war. They have also used the prisoners of war for vivisection demonstrations.

 After the liberation of Santo Tomas, 3 February, evidence was captured disclosing the guards had orders to liquidate all males between the ages of 18 and 60.

 Official

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 Official Japanese Orders directed the burning of civilian homes and apartments in Manila and the systematic destruction of the occupants. Instructions cautioned against wasting ammunition and prescribed that bodies not burned should be thrown into the river. The procedure of burning and massacre was uniform; atrocities were widespread throughout the city. Many thousands of civilians were killed, regardless of age, nationality, or sex.

 A typical burning massacre occurred 12 February in Pasay.

 There was a small court consisting of four double houses facing one another. In the late afternoon, three Japanese officers and 15 naval personnel with guns, spears, and bottles of gasoline, herded the occupants of the court into one room. There were six Europeans and thirteen Filipinos; six males and thirteen females, of whom eight were children. Their ages ranged from 5 to 60 years. When the Japanese bound their hands the victims realized all were to be killed. They were made to kneel in a semicircle facing the wall. Behind them was piled furniture and bedding saturated with gasoline; the pile was lighted. As flames rose, hand grenades were tossed among the people. Several were shot dead from rifle fire for cringing. When the flames and smoke became dense, the executioners departed. Covered by smoke, a man and a woman escaped to tell of the crime.

At

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 At the Dy-Pac Lumber Company, Manila, some eighty-five shot and bayoneted bodies were found. Some of the women were pregnant. Nearby at a service station, eight women had been slashed by sabers and bayonets and one child had part of its skull sliced off.

 A priest who survived the massacre at De La Salle College related that a Japanese officer and 20 soldiers bayoneted 30 women and children, 12 men servants, 15 brothers and one priest. They then piled the dead upon the living, who, pinned down, slowly bled to death.

 At the Price residence on California Street, 45 men, women, and children were found dead from rifle fire. In the yard were many charred bodies.

 At Concordia College, the mother Superior related: "One night a body of Japanese soldiers came to the main door of the building and pounded loudly. A Chinese houseboy went to open the door, and as soon as the door was opened the Chinaman was bayoneted several times by a Jap soldier who then stripped the body and poured gasoline over the clothes, threw gasoline over the woodwork of the front of the building and set it afire. The Japs then posted themselves around the building and would allow no one to escape. Of the one hundred persons in the building, nineteen charred bodies were seen. An entire family of mother, father, and three small children, one an infant, lay on the flagstones of the court inside the main entrance, and these bodies were also badly burned."

Near

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 Near the ruins of Manila Cathedral, forty priests were found murdered. They had been tied, shot, bayoneted, and left where slain. During February, 1945, 82 priests and brothers are known to have been killed in Manila.

 An Augustinian Father relates how he was one of the eighty people driven into an enclosure in the Walled City. The entrance was blocked, hand grenades were thrown in, gasoline was poured over the people. Those who attempted to escape were shot; the others burned. Only the Father and one companion miraculously escaped after having spent 70 hours in the enclosure.

 In Fort Santiago, 600 Filipinos' bodies were discovered. Their appearance suggested starvation and possible suffocation.

 A Filipina student nurse, age 22, related that early in February she saw the Japanese go from house to house in the Walled City gathering men and boys and shooting them down cold-bloodily. On two occasions she witnessed the armed with automatic weapons mowed the people down with point blank fire. When womenfolk of the intended victims ran to the firing squad and pleaded for mercy, they likewise were shot. There was also much reckless bayoneting.

 Later, this nurse was in a shelter with other women and children. A baby was crying. A Japanese, explained to the sentry that only women and children were inside. The sentry told her to keep the baby quiet. As the nurse turned into the shelter

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he poured her legs full of automatic gunfire. While the girl feigned death, she watched the Japanese soldier thrust the blade of his bayonet into the head of the child. He then killed the mother with his rifle. For several days the nurse crawled by night and lay as dead by day until she finally reached the American lines.

 In a crowded Philippine Red Cross Station south of Manila on 10 February, the Japanese shot and bayoneted all patients and refugees, mostly women and children.

 The Japanese military inflict atrocities upon their own people. In a number of instances Japanese wounded soldiers are known to have been killed by their medical officers to avoid capture by the Americans. Throughout the Philippine operations no wounded prisoners have been taken other than those found on the field of battle. Since the Japanese had limited means of evacuation from the islands, it is possible they killed most of their hospital patients.

 At a residence on Taft Avenue, bodies of forty-five women, most of whom were blacks, were found. Evidence of assault was apparent on many of the women, and several had been pierced through their genital organs by bayonets. Counted among this group were several children, all of whom were bayoneted. At one of the few houses remaining in Ermita some 80 refugees had gathered. On the evening of 17 February a Japanese soldier entered the house and demanded a woman. This was

refused.

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refused. Later, the same soldier returned with six others. A group of men who tried to protect the women were driven into a corner of the room and shot. The soldiers then separated the men from the women. The men were forced into the bathroom and hand grenaded. The women were herded into the kitchen. Seven girls under 20 years of age, all pretty and white girls or mestizo, were taken into the dining room, completely undressed, and raped. A young and beautiful girl, the last taken, hit a soldier and tried to escape through the kitchen. She was shot twice in the abdomen and died in her sister's arms after telling what she had seen. Four Japanese soldiers fired at the women in the kitchen. Then they called them out by one saying "We will give you medicine." The first women who came out was bayoneted twice in the back; she fell and pretended to be dead. As the other women came out they were bayoneted, fell on top of her in a pile, and died. The first women then lost consciousness but regained it when a Japanese tore the rings from her fingers. Later her wounded husband found her. Finally they reached the American lines.

 On the 9th of February, when big fires in the Luneta started, several hundred women and children of various nationalities and races were brought by the Japanese to the Bayview Hotel. During the first night they were not disturbed, but the following night small groups of soldiers entered all rooms repeatedly with flashlights picked out women and girls as young as 14 years, and took them into empty rooms. For the next four days and nights this happened continuously. The girls prayed prayed

continuously

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continuously, mothers threw themselves over their daughters endeavoring to protect them, but the girls were dragged by force. One girl was raped in one night by as many as 14 soldiers. An elderly Japanese officer who obviously disapproved of the raping told the girls the Japanese expression for menstruation, hoping they might protect themselves, but the soldiers examined the girls to determine the veracity of their statements. The girls even resorted to lipstick in the hope to deceive. When the hotel was set on fire all women and children were assembled in the dining room on the first floor. As this room began to burn they tried to escape. Panic broke out, but soldiers with bayonets blocked the way. Finally, while many were suffocating, a captain said sneeringly, "You are free to go and find your homes", most of which were already destroyed.

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