

Before the
MILITARY COMMISSION
convened by the
COMMANDING GENERAL
United States Army Forces
Western Pacific

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)

vs)

JYUNJI SASAKI)

) Testimony of ALONZO GATUSLAO
)
)

PAGES 293-302

U.S.A. vs Bunji UNAI

PROSECUTION

~~DEFENSE~~

Exhibit No. 15

Received 5 July 1946

ALONSO GATUSLAO

a witness for the prosecution, being first duly sworn,
testified as follows:

DIRECT EXAMINATION

BY LIEUTENANT FINLEY:

Q What is your name?

A Alonso Gatuslao.

Q What is your age?

A 54.

Q What is your occupation?

A Actually, I am a farmer.

Q Were you at one time a member of the Philippine Army?

A I was, I am a retired major with the Philippine constabulary.

Q I would like for you to speak just a little louder, major.

A I was a member in the constabulary, and I am a retired major of the same organization.

Q During this time did you serve in any special capacity?

A I was the senior military aide to President Quezon.

Q Were you ever apprehended by the Japanese Military Police?

A Yes, sir, in Bacolod.

Q When were you apprehended?

A On November 11, 1944.

Q Are you acquainted with Sergeant Sasaki?

A Yes, sir.

Q Do you see him in this courtroom?

A I see him right here now.

Q Will you point him out.

A (Indicating)

LIEUTENANT FINLEY: May the record show that the witness properly identified the accused.

COLONEL PARMELEE: The record will so indicate.

Q Who arrested you, Major Gatuslao?

A The two members of the Japanese Kempei Tai; I don't know their names.

Q Did they confine you?

A They kept me in jail for thirty-three days.

Q At the time that you were arrested did they confine you?

A (No response.)

Q At the time that you were arrested did they confine you?

A They arrested me on November 11, 1944, and released me on December 14 of the same year.

Q The question is, at the time that they arrested you did they confine you?

A Yes, sir.

Q Where did they confine you?

A In the Kempei Tai jail.

Q Where was it located?

A In Negros Occidental, Bacolod City.

Q What place in Bacolod is the Kempei Tai jail?

A In Smith Street; I don't know the number.

Q What was that building known as?

A It used to be the private hospital before the war.

Q You were confined in this building and did you see Sergeant Sasaki there?

A Yes, sir, I saw him.

Q Were you investigated by Sergeant Sasaki?

A I was investigated by Sergeant Sasaki, yes sir.

Q Will you tell the Commission the circumstances of the investigation.

A Sergeant Sasaki had investigated me from November 25 to November 27.

Q Of what year was that?

A Of 1944. Prior to that -- that was on November 23 and November 24 -- they did not give me anything to eat, not even a drop of water. So Sergeant Sasaki began to investigate me, as I say, on November 25.

Q Take up the details of the investigation on November 25. Tell us what happened.

A On November 25, he wanted me to tell them the whereabouts of Governor Montelivano of the Free Negros, and also the high-ranking officials of the guerrillas, and I told him I don't know anything about it. He insisted that I was a member of the guerrillas and he could not believe why I do not know the whereabouts of these persons he was asking. And I refused to tell him that I was a member of the guerrilla. He started maltreating me with a cylinder-shaped bamboo about a yard long and about an inch and a half in diameter. He started beating me here (indicating), here, and especially in the head.

LIEUTENANT FINLEY: May the record show that the witness indicated the back of the shoulders.

A (Continuing) And I was whipped. I had not taken anything two days prior that; naturally, I could not defend myself very well. His intention was to hit me here in the head (indicating back of head), but I was trying to defend myself by my right arm. And he had been doing this to me for about three hours. It was lucky that the American air squadron had arrived and dropped some bombs on Bacolod City. We had to disperse and run to the air-raid shelter, and that was the time

that they stopped maltreating me. On that occasion I was weak and I could not walk. Very well. So they had to detail one Japanese soldier to bring me to my room. On the following morning -- that was November 26th -- I had my arm here all swollen, my back swollen, my face swollen, and he brought me up again to his quarters for an investigation. He kept on insisting that I should tell the whereabouts of Governor Montelibano and the ranking officials of the guerrillas, but I keep on denying it, because I told him that I don't know anything about it. Then he tortured me again. He started again with the same piece of bamboo, the same piece of bamboo that he used the day previous, and kept on beating me. That was the second day. As my body was swollen I could hardly move, but I keep on running in the room, running in the room, and he keep on chasing me, beat me right here (indicating small of back), and on one occasion he was able to hit me here on the head (indicating back of head), and I fall down unconscious. I did not know what he did to me then. But when I stood up I found myself here with everything swollen (indicating arms), so they hold me by the arms and put me in the chair and investigated me again. The same question was put to me, that I was a member of the guerrilla and that I know the whereabouts of Governor Montelibano and the ranking officials of the guerrillas, and that I had information concerning the military installations in the Province of Negros. I see, sir, he was surprised why it was that whenever any American airplanes came and dropped a bomb, the bomb always strikes on their hideout of the military supplies, and he told me, "Nobody could do that," with his hand pointing, "except you. And I hold you responsible for this and you have to tell everything or otherwise

you will be killed tomorrow." So I keep on refusing. I did not say anything. And that same procedure continued from the morning until in the afternoon his method of maltreating me was only interrupted whenever an American airplane arrived on over Negros and drops bombs, and that was the time we finished the investigation. We run into the air-raid shelter when the planes come over. That was on the 26th. On the 27th he made the same procedure. I could not move. I have been submitted to physical torture for the last two days. My body was swollen, face swollen, arms swollen, and I had even torn up with shirt.

Q Why did you have to cut your shirt?

A Because it came out too small for my arms already. My arm was swollen, both arms were swollen, and my shirt, I had to tear it to cut it, because it came out too small already. So on the same day -- that was on the 27th -- he read to me the names of those persons who are, according to him, with the persons used by me in the undercover work that I was doing in the City of Bacolod and the other places around Bacolod, and he told me --

Q Now, Major Gatuslao, let's go to the other beating he administered to you.

Q Did he beat you any more that day, the second day?

A Yes, sir, the third day.

Q All right. Did he beat you any more the second day?

A The second day?

Q What else did he do to you the second day? After the conversation about the papers did he beat you any more again?

A No, that was on the third day.

Q All right. On the third day after the conversation about the papers, did he beat you any more?

A Yes, sir.

Q What did he do?

A He hit me right here in the neck.

Q How many times did he hit you?

A Oh, I don't know because -- sometimes I become unconscious and I just allowed him to do whatever he wants to.

Q After the third day did he ever beat you any more after the third day?

A Yes, he beat me right here by the neck and right here (indicating).

Q After the third day?

A No, no more.

Q How long did you stay confined in the Kempei Tai?

A From November 11 to December 14, 1944.

Q What did you weigh when you were confined? How much did you weigh at the time you were confined?

A I was weighing around 170 pounds.

Q How much did you weigh at the time they released you?

A I don't believe I weighed around 120.

Q Major Gatuslao, while you were in the Kempei Tai headquarters did you see Marcelino Aru Cruz?

A I saw Marcelino Cruz, yes, sir.

Q Did you hear his voice at any time?

A I heard his voice upstairs, on the second floor, I mean.

Q What was he saying? What was the nature of the sounds that you heard?

A The nature was that like a man being punished.

Q Did you see Primitivo Villanueva in the Kempei Tai?

A I saw him also.

Q Did you see his condition?

A His condition is just as worse as mine.

Q Will you tell the Court anything that you remember about the condition of Primitivo Villanueva?

A I saw Primitivo Villanueva, his face bleeding, one afternoon when I went to the toilet, and his arm here swollen, his body here swollen (indicating back). I did not take much time to see him.

Q Did you see Ricardo de la Rama in the Kempei Tai?

A I saw Ricardo de la Rama also.

CAPTAIN POSSES: May I ask the question: are we through with the testimony with respect to the injuries of this Filipino he just identified just before this?

LIEUTENANT FINLEY: What are you talking about, Captain? You mean if I am going to ask him any more questions on that point?

CAPTAIN POSSES: All right. At this time I would like to strike all of this testimony. There is no connection

between the testimony, the alleged wounds, or whatever this witness saw, connecting him with the defendant in this case.

COLONEL PARMELEE: The Law Member will rule.

COLONEL HAUSE: Objection not sustained.

CAPTAIN POSES: I would like to note an exception.

COLONEL PARMELEE: Note an exception.

Q Major Gatuslao, did you see Ricardo de la Rama in the Kempei Tai?

A Yes, I saw him.

Q Did you notice his physical condition?

A His physical condition -- he was also having a swollen body, swollen face, arms, just about the same condition that Villanueva was.

Q Did you see Agaton Ramos?

A I saw Agaton Ramos.

Q What was his physical appearance?

A Oh, Agaton Ramos was very bad, swollen body right here (indicating), swollen in this part of his body (indicating back), his arms, and on one occasion when we went down to the air raid place he could hardly move.

Q Did you see Sergeant Sasaki strike Agaton Ramos?

A I saw Sergeant Sasaki once whip with the wire. He pulled a wire in that way (demonstrating) and then whipped Agaton Ramos?

Q Where was Agaton Ramos at the time Sergeant Sasaki whipped him with the wire?

A That was inside the building, near the dining hall.

Q Downstairs or upstairs?

A In the first floor, downstairs.

LIEUTENANT FINLEY: No further questions, sir.

COLONEL PARMELEE: Cross examination?

CROSS EXAMINATION

BY CAPTAIN POSES:

Q Do you have any permanent scars as a result of beatings allegedly given you by the defendant Sasaki?

A No, sir, but my arms -- I cannot use it; I cannot write my name. Once I hold the pen, it trembles, and I asked the Army doctor in Negros Occidental, of the 40th Division to examine it, and they told me that it will just recover. Just keep on exercising it. Exercise every morning and in a certain time I will just recover.

Q How many times were you arrested by the Kempei Tai?

A Just once..

Q Did you see other than this one case where you mentioned that you saw someone beaten by Sasaki, did you see any of the other persons you referred to in your testimony beaten by Sasaki?

A I have not seen that.

Q These wounds or the physical condition as described by you of them, you do not know who inflicted them, do you?

A I only presume because Sergeant Sasaki was investigating them and I saw him investigating them.

Q But you do testify here honestly that you are presuming. You do not know of your own knowledge?

A I have not seen him actually beating him.

CAPTAIN POSES: That's all.

COLONEL PARMELEE: Redirect?

LIEUTENANT FINLEY: No further questions, sir.

COLONEL PARMELEE: Questions by the Commission?

EXAMINATION BY THE COMMISSION

BY COLONEL PARMELEE:

Q When you were investigated or interrogated by Sergeant Sasaki was there an interpreter there?

A There was, a Japanese by the name of Ando.

Q Who did the beating on you?

A The beating was mostly, about 90% of the beating was done by Sergeant Sasaki.

Q Do you know whether that was the usual way the interrogation was carried out?

A I heard about it and I know it, because I had the experience.

Q Had you seen any other investigations to see who actually did the beating? Whether it was Sergeant Sasaki or the interpreter?

A The interpreter had also inflicted me physical injuries.

Q But on you 90% of the beating was done by Sergeant Sasaki.

A Yes, sir.

COLONEL PARMELEE: Further questions?

LIEUTENANT FINLEY: No further questions, sir.

CAPTAIN POSES: No, sir.

COLONEL PARMELEE: The witness is excused.

(Witness excused.)

LIEUTENANT FINLEY: If it please the Commission, the prosecution will call its next witness.

COLONEL PARMELEE: It is now about time that we agreed to recess. Is this a short witness or would you