

MILITARY COURT FOR THE TRIAL OF WAR CRIMINALS

508.

ACCUSED

(1) Col. TAMURA Teiichi,
(2) Major HIRANO Noboru,
(3) Capt. FUJINO Masazo,
all of the Imperial Japanese Army attached 2 Buffs.

PLACE AND
DATE OF TRIAL

HONG KONG. 30, 31 May and 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9,
13 June 1947.

COURT CONVENED BY

Commander Land Forces, Hong Kong.

PRESIDENT

Lt.Col. R.C.LAMING MBE Gen List Indian Army

MEMBERS

Major R.S.BUTTERFIELD Indian Grenadiers
Major J.T.LORANGER JAG Branch Canadian Army

CHARGE

COMMITTING A WAR CRIME, in that they, at ICHINOMIYA, JAPAN, on or about the 15 August 1945, the accused Colonel TAMURA Teiichi, as Commander of the 426th Infantry Regiment, the accused Major HIRANO Noboru as an officer on the Staff of the 147th Infantry Division, and the accused Captain FUJINO Masayo, as an Officer of the aforesaid 426th Infantry Regiment were, in violation of the laws and usages of war, together concerned in the killing of one FRED HOCKLEY, a Sub-Lieutenant of the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve.

PLEA

Each Accused - Not Guilty.

FINDING

Each Accused - Guilty.

SENTENCE

1st and 2nd Accused - Death by hanging. 13 June 47.
3rd Accused - 15 years imprisonment.

CONFIRMED

5th September 1947. By G.O.C. Land Forces, HONGKONG.

PROMULGATED

12th September 1947.

REMARKS

Death sentence imposed on accused 1 and 2 was put into execution at Stanley Prison, HONGKONG on 16 September 1947.

DISPOSAL OF
PROCEEDINGS

TO AG3 GHQ FARELF 30th Sep., 47
JAG of the Forces _____

DJAG FARELF.
Case No.65230 JAG.

ABSTRACT OF EVIDENCE

in the case of

Colonel TAMURA Teiichi
Major HIRANO Nobuo
Captain FUJINO Masayo

At approximately 0430 hours on the 15th. August 1945, Sub-Lieutenant FRED HOCKLEY, a British Naval Aviator from the air-craft carrier H.M.S. INDEFATIGABLE was shot down by the Japanese in the vicinity of HIGASHIMURA, CHIBAKEN, HONSHU, JAPAN. HOCKLEY was apparently uninjured when he parachuted down, and he was captured by a member of the Civil Air Defence, who turned him over to soldiers of the 426th. Infantry Regiment.

HOCKLEY was then taken by soldiers of this Regiment to the Regimental Headquarters near ICHINOMIYA. At about 0800 hours on the same day, the Regiment telephoned its next command, the 146th Infantry Division, and advised Division that an enemy airman had been captured. The Division stated that it would send transportation for the Prisoner, and that he would be taken to Divisional Headquarters at TSURUMAI. At 1200 hours the Emperor issued his Rescript announcing the end of Hostilities: this broadcast was heard by all troops. In the early part of the afternoon, the Regiment again telephoned Division and requested that instructions be issued regarding HOCKLEY as no transport had turned up. Major HIRANO then advised the Regiment through a subordinate Officer that Division did not want HOCKLEY and that Regiment should handle the matter by "disposing of" the Prisoner. This message was transmitted to Colonel TAMURA.

At about 1830 hours the same day, the Prisoner was still at Regimental HQ, and Colonel TAMURA told Lieutenant SASAKI that some officer should "take care" of the Prisoner after dark so that no soldier would see. These instructions were

passed on by Lt. SASAKI to the Adjutant, Lt. FUJINO, who told SASAKI to make arrangements for a grave to be dug.

At about 1900 hours, Capt. FUJINO led the Prisoner some distance away into the hills and, in the presence of several junior officers and men, shot HOCKLEY four or five times in the chest. HOCKLEY fell to the ground and Capt. FUJINO borrowed a sword from a Sgt. KUSUME and stabbed the still twitching body through the back several times. Capt. FUJINO then handed the sword back to Sgt. KUSUME who himself stabbed HOCKLEY's body once through the back. The body was then placed in the grave, and the grave filled in.

Some weeks later, the body was exhumed and cremated, the ashes, being buried at some Japanese Temple.

The Prosecution will tender sworn statements or interrogatories from the undermentioned witnesses and Accused:-

WITNESSES :

Sworn interrogatories by the u/m:-

Capt. HASEGAWA Seiichi
S/M. HITOMI Tadao
Lt. ISHIDA Heichiro
2/Lt. SHIHOMURA Tetsuhike
Civ. NAKAMURA Kiyozou
Sgt. KUSUME Yuel "BB"
Capt. SASAKI Masetaro "D"
Cpl. NIHEI Kiyoyi

The affidavit of Capt. Q. D. GRAHAM will be produced. "MM"

In addition, the Prosecution will produce the u/m statements and documents relating to the various Accused :-

"A" "N" "R" Colonel TAMURA Teiichi - 2 sworn interrogatories,
1 signed statement &
extracts from this officer note book.

"P" "Q" Major HIRANO Noboru - 2 sworn interrogatories
(No. 19471) & 1 statement.

"HH" Capt. FUJINO MASAZO - 1 signed statement.