

MILITARY COURT FOR THE TRIAL OF WAR CRIMINALS

ACCUSED

(1) Lt.Gen. NISHIMURA Takuma
 (2) Lt.Gen. KAWAMURA Saburo ✓
 (3) Lt.Col. OISHI Masayuki ✓
 (4) Lt.Col. YOKOTA Yoshitaka
 (5) Major JYO Tomotatsu
 (6) Major ONISHI Satorou
 (7) Capt. HISAMATSU Haruji
 all of the Imperial Japanese Army,
 attached 1st Bn. Seaforths.

PLACE AND DATE OF TRIAL Singapore 10,11,12,13,14,17,18,20,
 21,24,25,26,27, & 28 Mar 47.
 2 Apr 47.

COURT CONVENED BY Commander Singapore Dist.

PRESIDENT Lt.Col. P.A. FORSYTHE M.M. Kings Royal Rifle Corps.

MEMBERS

Major P. CLAGUE Royal Artillery
 Major A.A. FUTCHER Royal Artillery
 Major A.E. DENNIS M.M. Royal Engineers
 Capt. R.H. TYSON Intelligence Corps

CHARGE COMMITTING A WAR CRIME in that at Singapore Island between the 18th February and 3rd March 1942, the accused Lieut-General NISHIMURA TAKUMA, as Commander of the Imperial Guards Division, the accused Lieut-General KAWAMURA SABURO as Commander of the Keibitai and the other named accused as officers of the Kemp-eitai, being all responsible for the lives and safety of civilian inhabitants were, in violation of the laws and usages of war, together concerned in the massacre of Chinese residents of Singapore Island aforesaid and particularly at Ponggol, Changi Road, Amber Road, Singapore Docks, Mata Ikan, Changi Spit and Tanah Merah.

PLEA Each Accused - Not Guilty.

FINDING Each Accused - Guilty.

SENTENCE Accused 1, 4, 5, 6 & 7: To be imprisoned for life.
Accused 2 and 3 To suffer death by being hanged.

CONFIRMED 29th May 47 C-in-C, South East Asia Land Forces

PROMULGATED 13th June 47 - with the exception of Major ONISHI Satorou.
 25th June 47 - Major ONISHI Satorou.

REMARKS 26th June 47 Death sentence carried out on KAWAMURA SABURO and OISHI MASAYUKI at Changi Gaol, Singapore.

DISPOSAL OF PROCEEDINGS To AG3 GHQ SEALF 1st July 47
 JAG of the Forces 27th July 47.

DJAG SEALF
Case No. 65199

ABSTRACT OF EVIDENCE

In the case of

Lieut-Gen.	NISHIMURA	Takuma
Lieut-Gen.	KAWAMURA	Saburo
Lieut-Col.	OISHI	Masayuki
Lieut-Col.	YOKOTA	Yoshitaka
Major	ONISHI	Satorou
Capt.	HISAMATSU	Haruji
Major	JYO	Tomotatso

1. The surrender of Singapore early in February 1942 was closely followed by the entry onto the island of various formations of the Japanese Army under the overall command of Gen. YAMASHITA.

2. Different areas of the island were allocated by YAMASHITA to various formations, amongst which the Imperial Guards Division under the command of Lieut.Gen NISHIMURA was given the task of garrisoning and administering the Eastern half of the island. The area of Singapore town itself, and the district immediately adjacent to the perimeter of the town Area, all came under the jurisdiction of Major.Gen. KAWAMURA, who commanded the Keibitai, composed of No.2 Field Kempeitai, two battalions of infantry and five companies for Guard duties. The other sectors of the island, that to the North and that to the West, were commanded by Lieut.Gen MATSUI and Lieut.Gen MUTAGUCHI respectively.

3. The chain of Command down from Gen. YAMASHITA was therefore as follows:

Gen. YAMASHITA

Lt.Gen NISHIMURA Cmdg I.G.D.	Lt.Gen MUTAGUCHI Cmdg 18 Div	Maj.Gen KAWAMURA Cmdg KEIBITAI	Lt.Gen MATSUI Cmdg 5 Div
---------------------------------	------------------------------------	--------------------------------------	--------------------------------

Lt.Col OISHI O.C. No.2 Fd K.T.	Maj MYMOTO	Maj ICHIKAWA
-----------------------------------	------------	--------------

Garrison Troops drawn
from 5 Div

Lt.Col YOKOTA	Maj JYO	2 Coys HOJO KEMPEI
---------------	---------	--------------------

* Major ONISHI	* Capt. GOSHI	* Capt. MIZUNO	* Capt. HISAMATSU	* Capt. UEZONO
-------------------	------------------	-------------------	----------------------	-------------------

* Sector Commanders.

4. It can thus be seen that Major KAWAMURA divided the Keibitai area, i.e. the Singapore town Area, into three sub-areas, one of which was commanded by Lieut-Col OISHI, under whose command came all the Kempeitai in the town Area. Lieut.Col OISHI split his zone into five sectors; three of these, including those commanded by Major ONISHI and Capt GOSHI, came under Lieut.Col YOKOTA; the other two, including that commanded by Capt HISAMATSU, came under Major JYO.

5. When the occupation of the island was completed, a general directive was issued by Gen. YAMASHITA to his four area commanders viz. NISHIMURA, KAWAMURA, MATSUI, and MUTAGUCHI, to the effect that the Chinese population were to be mustered in Concentration areas where they were to be screened; and that undesirable elements e.g. those with anti-Jap sentiments, ex-Government employees etc; were to be taken away and killed. The original date set for the completion of the task was 23rd of Feb 1942, but the process of screening and killing alleged undesirables continued until the early part of March 1942.

6. These orders in amplified form were passed down by the area Commanders - by Gen NISHIMURA to his chiefs of Staff, by Gen KAWAMURA to his three sub-area Commanders. One of these sub-area Commanders was Lieut.Col OISHI, from whom the orders were passed down through Lieut.Col YOKOTA to Major ONISHI and Capt GOSHI on the one hand, through Major JYO to Capt HISAMATSU on the other hand.

7. The actual execution of the plans which had originated from Gen YAMASHITA was carried out by the sector Commanders, within whose scope and under whose initiative fell the responsibility of selecting the time, place and method of killing those Chinese coming within the various categories which had been specified in the original orders from G.H.Q. The powers thus exercised by the sector Commanders were discretionary rather than obligatory.

8. Massacres for which the Kenpei under Lt.Col OISHI can be considered responsible, were carried out not only inside the Kenpei Tai area, but also in the divisional areas. But, although the Kenpei Tai could enter divisional areas for shooting sites, they could not interfere in any way with the inhabitants domiciled in divisional areas. Any screening and shooting of the latter category was the responsibility of the Division in whose area they were living. This was the position up to the 1st March 42, after which the Keibi Tai were given wider powers.

9. The various massacres, therefore, to which the Prosecution evidence relates can thus be said to fall under two categories:-

(a) Massacres of civilians who were resident within the area of the Imperial Guards Division, i.e. those massacres detailed below as occurring at PONGGOL and 10th mile Changi Road. These are both the responsibility of Lt.Gen NISHIMURA.

(b) Massacres of civilians resident within the Keibi Tai area, including such massacres as actually occurred outside that area. Maj.Gen KAWAMURA is responsible for all of these, as also are Lt.Col OISHI and Lt.Col YOKOTA or Maj JYO through whom the orders were passed down to the sector commanders whose job it was to work out and put into practice the plans originating from the higher commanders.

10. Details of massacres coming under para 9(a) for which Lt. Gen NISHIMURA bears responsibility are as follows:-

PONGGOL. Orders were issued by NISHIMURA that Chinese inhabitants of the area which the IGD controlled should be assembled and screened, and that those found to have anti-Japanese sentiments should be disposed of.

On or about 23th February 1942 large numbers of Chinese living in the PONGGOL Road Area were rounded up and congregated at a place called Oehler's Lodge. There they were screened, and about three hundred of them were taken to the beaches at the end of the PONGGOL Road where they were shot. The two prosecution witnesses LOW SZE SOON and NG KIM SONG who were amongst those taken to the beaches managed to escape.

Inspection of the scene of the massacre during the following three days showed many corpses strewn about the foreshore and also floating in the sea. Bodies numbering about 150 were buried by a working party from the Rural Health Dept., under the supervision of K. ABRAHAM.

10th Mile Changi Road.

Towards the end of February 1942, following the posting of public notices by the Japanese, large numbers of Chinese were gathered near the 8½ mile-stone on the Changi Road.

On or about 1st March 1942, between two and three hundred were removed by truck under Japanese military escort to the area of SAMBA IKAT village, close to the 10th milestone CHANGI Road. They were killed by machine gun and rifle fire, the bodies being subsequently buried at the place of execution.

The following witnesses will appear for the Prosecution:-

LOW SZE SOON
NG KIM SONG
K. ABRAHAM
Y.H. CHIA
PUAY AH BOH
TAN HAI SUAR
CHEW HOCK CHUAN
NEO KUAY LEH
YEOH HUNG CHUNG
LEE CHEE CHENG
ONG ENG THONG

11 Massacres coming under para 9 (b) for which Major Gen KAWAMURA, Lt Col OISHI and Lt Col YOKOTA or Maj JYO all bear joint responsibility are as follows, such sector commanders as are specified also bearing responsibility:

(a) 7½ Mile-stone East Coast Road: Between 18th and 20th February 1942, all Chinese residents of the Geylang District were rounded up, and assembled at Teluk Kurau English School. There, following a conference addressed by Lt.Col OISHI, and attended by Lt (now Major) ONISHI, these Chinese were screened by various Kempai officers, including Lieut. ONISHI. Certain categories were then placed to one side, and removed on 23rd February by lorry to 7½ mile East Coast Road, where they were led off the road to prepared trenches, and killed by machine-gun fire. Those killed numbered about five hundred.

The Prosecution will call the following witnesses:-

LEE KENG JIN
HONG PECK HEE
J. WOULFE
KHOO AN LIM
TAY CHU LIEW

ANG AH MUI
WU CIM MUI
SIM SOON KEE

(b) Mata Ikan, Tanah Merah and Changi Spit

Between 18 and 20 February 1942, all Chinese civilians living in Jalan Besar area were driven from their houses and assembled at Victoria School Ground. Suspected anti-Jap elements were sorted out between the 20th and 23rd February, this being done by Kempei troops under the command of Lieut. ONISHI.

The suspects, numbering between seven and eight hundred, were taken away in batches, on a number of successive days, and massacred. The first of these massacres occurred at a point one mile from Mata Ikan village, and involved the death of about 120 Chinese. The other massacres occurred at Changi Beach, in the region of Tana Merah, from five to six hundred Chinese civilians being killed.

The Prosecution will call the following witnesses:-

LIM PENG KOEI
YUE CHOK MUI
T.M.R. SAEI
WONG PENG YIN
CHUA CHOON GUAN
CHENG KWANG YU
KANG THIAM HUAT
Madam WONG AH LONG
LEO. WONG SIN JOON
AUGUSTUS JOSEPH VAZ
CAR FRANCIS DE SOUZA

In addition, the Prosecution will tender Affidavits sworn by the following witnesses:-

Capt. A. ROY
Lieut. P.B. BROTCHE
N.A. DERBIE
N.A. MAYNE

(c) Singapore docks - Blakan Mati Islands.

Lieut. HISAMATSU Haruji, together with his unit of 20 Kempei Tai men and one hundred attached troops arrived at Tanjong Pagar Police Station on the 16th February 1942. After obtaining the surrender of the Singapore "D" Police Division, HISAMATSU established his HQ at the Tanjong Pagar Police Station, and proceeded to carry out the concentration of all Chinese residents at three assembly points - Tiong Bahru ground, Cantonment and Neil Roads, and the Harbour Board coolie lines. The interrogation and subsequent detention of undesirable Chinese at these musters was personally supervised by HISAMATSU, who had previously delivered a lecture to the civilian police staff emphasising the necessity for purging and punishing with death anti-Jap elements.

After interrogation, large groups of Chinese were driven away every evening to the Tanjong Pagar wharf for decapitation. Headless bodies were subsequently seen on the Yacht Club beach at Tanjong Pagar.

During this period motor launches were seen daily coming from Singapore harbour.

These launches, which were loaded with Chinese, went as far as a point about one mile from Blakan Mati Island, where the Chinese were pushed overboard and shot by these Japanese guards. About one hundred and fifty bodies were subsequently washed ashore onto Blakan Mati Island, some of them being dock labourers wearing the Singapore Harbour Board armband.

The Prosecution will call the following witnesses:

Arthur John
Thomas Isaac
YIP Peng Yew

In addition, affidavits of the following will be produced by the Prosecution:-

A.C. Smith
Major T.S. Christopher.
E.L. White
E.R.G. Bruce.

(d) Fort Canning arrests.

After establishing his K.T. Sector HQ in the Ord Road, Singapore, Capt GOSHI Kosuke sent out his Kempei subordinates and attached troops on 19th February 1942 to round-up all Chinese living in his Sector. By the 21st February several thousands had been assembled at the junction of River Valley and Ord Roads, and a three-day screening was carried out by the Kempei with the object of picking out undesirable elements. This screening was directly supervised by Capt GOSHI.

Between two and four hundred Chinese were finally selected for disposal, and these, after being handed over to a Coy Commander of the 100 Hojo Kempei which was attached to Capt GOSHI's Sector, were taken away in lorries on three consecutive days, and shot on the Changi beaches.

The following witnesses will be called for the Prosecution:-

YEO CHEE HIAM (2)
CHAN TECK LEE
TAN KAM BENG

(e) Massacre at Amber Road.

On 23rd February 1942 a massacre occurred, on the sea-beaches near Amber Road, Singapore, of about fifty Chinese males, who had been brought there by lorry. The bodies were subsequently buried at the place of execution.

The Prosecution will call the following witnesses:-

LEE SIEW KOH

12 Other witnesses to be called by the Prosecution are as follows:-

Colonel SUGITA Ichiji
SHINOZAKI Mamoru.

13. Sworn statements of the following will also be tendered:-

Colonel HASHIZUME Isamu
Lt.Col ICHIKAWA Tadashi
HISHIKARI Takafumi
Capt GOSHI Kosuke

14. The following Accused have made sworn, voluntary statements of the number set against their names. These statements will be produced by the Prosecution:

Lieut.Gen	NISHIMURA	Takuma	(2)
Major.Gen	KAWAMURA	Sanro	(1)
Lieut.Col	GISHI	Masayuki	(3)
Lieut.Col	YOKOTA	Yoshitaka	(1)
Major	ONISHI	Satorou	(3)
Capt	HISAMATSU	Haruji	(2)
Major	JYO	Tomotatso	(1)