

BR. 411

MILITARY COURT FOR THE TRIAL OF WAR CRIMINALS

ACCUSED (1) Capt. HAKUZAKI Toshikazu.
(2) S.M. YOSHIDA Daikichi.
(3) Korean Gd. KANAYASU Hochin.
(4) Korean Gd. KURESHIMA Kojun.
of the Imperial Japanese Army, att.
GHQ Signal Regiment S.E.A.C.

PLACE AND DATE OF TRIAL Singapore. 24,25,26,27 & 28th February '47
and 3,4 & 7th March, '47.

COURT CONVENED BY G.O.C. Singapore District.

PRESIDENT Lt-Col. H.E.R. SMITH. R.A.

MEMBERS Major. E.N. HEBDEN. R.A.
Major. A.A. FUTCHER. R.A.

CHARGE See charge sheet attached.

PLEA Each Accused - Each charge - Not Guilty.

FINDING Accused 1 - Not Guilty.
Accused 2 - 1st charge - Not Guilty.
2nd charge - Guilty.
Accused 3 - Guilty.
Accused 4 - Guilty.

SENTENCE 7 Mar, '47. Accused 2 - 2 years' Imprisonment.
Accused 3 - 5 years' Imprisonment.
Accused 4 - 6 years' Imprisonment.

CONFIRMED 28 Apr, '47. By offg. Commander Singapore Dist.

PROMULGATED 1 May, '47.

REMARKS

DISPOSAL OF PROCEEDINGS To AG3 GHQ SEALF 7th May, '47.
JAG of the Forces

JAG SEALF
ase No.65195 JAG.

CHARGE SHEET

1st Charge

Against all
the Accused.

COMMITTING A WAR CRIME

in that they
between the 1st June 1944 and the 31st
August 1945 at SAIGON Prisoner of War
Camp, FRENCH INDO-CHINA, while Members
of the Staff of the said Camp, in
violation of the laws and usages of War,
were together concerned in the ill-
treatment of British, American and Dutch
Prisoners of War interned therein, causing
bodily suffering to many of them.

2nd Charge

Against
Capt. HAKUZAKI
Toshikazu,
S/Major YOSHIDA
Daikichi,
Korean Guard
KANAYASU
Hochin.

COMMITTING A WAR CRIME

in that they
between the 1st January 1945 and the 30th
June 1945 at PHUMI Prisoner of War Camp,
FRENCH INDO-CHINA, the accused Captain,
HAKUZAKI as Commandant No. 8 Prisoner of
War Group and the other accused named, as
Members of the Staff of the PHUMI Prisoner
of War Camp, being responsible for the well-
being of British and Dutch Prisoners of War
interned in the said Camp, in violation of
the laws and usages of War were together
concerned in the illtreatment of the said
Prisoners of War, causing bodily suffering
to many of them.

3rd Charge

Against
Korean KURESHIMA
Kojun only.

COMMITTING A WAR CRIME

in that he
between the 25th February 1943
and the 1st June 1944 at SAIGON Prisoner
of War Camp, FRENCH INDO-CHINA, while a
Member of the Staff of the said Camp,
in violation of the laws and usages of
War was concerned in the ill-treatment
of British, American and Dutch Prisoners
of War interned therein, causing bodily
suffering to many of them.

ABSTRACT OF EVIDENCE

In respect of the accused :-

Captain	HAKUZAKI	Toshikazu
Sgt. Major	YOSHIDA	Daikichi
Korean Guard	KANAYASU	Hochin
Korean Guard	KURESHIMA	Kojun.

On the 4th April 1942 a party of 1,100 Prisoners of War moved from SINGAPORE to SAIGON in FRENCH INDO-CHINA to establish a Camp there which was known as No.4 Camp THAILAND. The senior British Officer was Lieutenant-Colonel HUGONIN. This Camp later became known as No.1 Group Prisoner of War Camp, and finally as No.8 Group Prisoner of War Camp SAIGON. In June 1943 Lieutenant-Colonel HUGONIN left and Major GLOSSOP became senior British Officer. On the Japanese side HAKUZAKI became Camp Commandant of SAIGON Prisoner of War Camp on the 11th June 1943, and under him were the remainder of the Accused as Members of his Staff, joining him at various dates in 1944, except KURESHIMA who was already in the Camp before HAKUZAKI arrived, and Lieutenant MORISHITA who arrived sometime in January 1945.

The events which give us the Third Charge took place in 1943, and will be dealt with first. Major GLOSSOP has made an affidavit concerning conditions in SAIGON Camp from August 1943 to April 1944, as being "A reign of terror". The Camp Commandant then had no control over his Koreans of whom KURESHIMA was one of the worst. Of the many instances which occurred, the following are noteworthy :-

- a) On 1st July 1943 a British Prisoner of War, one Gunner MAY, who was working as an orderly in the Japanese Office, was brought into the British Office by KURESHIMA in front of Major GLOSSOP and Captain TROLLEY, KURESHIMA complaining that Gunner MAY was not respectful enough. Although a volunteer replacement was produced immediately Gunner MAY was severely beaten by KURESHIMA.
- b) Again on 26th August 1943, Gunners PRIESTLEY, FOSTER, SAUNDY and HOWARTH were beaten up by KURESHIMA and one other, for an alleged theft of some shirts.
- c) Sometime in October 1943 there was a mass parade of all Prisoners of War which was a daily affair and constituted a roll-call. KURESHIMA was the Korean taking the roll-call. He alleged according to evidence that the Prisoners of War laughed at him and ordered the guard to go around and beat them all. This act was performed by the guard in such a way that some 50 of the Prisoners of War received head-wounds in various degrees of severity, from the guards' bayonets, and had to have them treated medically afterwards.
- d) On 5th June 1944 KURESHIMA was again involved in another vicious beating of a Prisoner of War Officer, Lieutenant SUTTON. Lieutenant SUTTON was travelling in a lorry with other Prisoners of War with KURESHIMA on board as well. When they reached their destination

/ KURESHIMA accused.....

KURESHIMA accused Lieutenant SUTTON of having made the "V" sign to some Annamites. On the next day he was sent for by KURESHIMA who beat him with his fists and with a hardwood pole. Lieutenant SUTTON was knocked down several times and kicked in the stomach either by KURESHIMA or another of the guard who was standing by. This beating lasted about an hour, and then during the night he was incarcerated in the guard-room until the next morning. It was while he was here that he was kicked and jumped on and burned. When he was released at 0700 hours the next morning, he collapsed on the way back to his quarters and was taken into hospital.

When HAKUZAKI took command in June 1943, Sgt. YOSHIDA was in charge of supplies and the Koreans were some of the Guards. The Camp itself, was a reasonable Camp compared to others which the Prisoners of War interned there had previously experienced. However, there was little sanitation, and accommodation was greatly overcrowded. The Korean guards seemed to do more or less what they pleased and very seldom if ever, was action taken against them by HAKUZAKI. The Prisoners of War there, consisted of Americans, Dutch and British, and all Sections have made various affidavits concerning the conditions and the treatment which they received. The work upon which they were employed was strenuous and varied. The greater proportion of the work seems to have been done at the Docks which were adjacent to the Prisoner of War Camp. This work consisted largely of matters in direct connection with operations of War, such as unloading ships with ammunition, aviation spirit, guns, and such like things. This work was also concerned with building of defences on land such as anti-aircraft emplacements, tunnels, and air-fields, all directly contrary to Article 6 of the Annexure to the Hague Convention 1907, which Convention was duly ratified by Japan. The system then in force for obtaining working parties for these duties was that the outside Unit used to apply to Captain HAKUZAKI to supply so many men, for such and such a job, and in fact SAIGON became nothing more or less than a labour pool.

In January 1945 SAIGON Camp was so overcrowded that certain sub-branches were set up in other parts of FRENCH INDO-CHINA, still nominally under command of Captain HAKUZAKI. One of these Camps were called PHUMI and it was in existence until the 30th June 1945. From January 1945 to the 30th March Sgt. Major YOSHIDA nick-named "BIG GUNSO" was in charge. Korean KANAYASU nicknamed "BUFF HEAD" was also at PHUMI. KURESHIMA remained behind at SAIGON. During its existence PHUMI Camp remained more or less at a constant level from the point of view of conditions. Under YOSHIDA's command, the Koreans behaved very badly. There are many instances of illtreatment given by the Korean Guards to Prisoners of War one of which is mentioned.

KANAYASU was concerned in the brutal thrashing of Pte RAYMOND. RAYMOND was one of 18 men detailed to go down the River to get rice and potatoes from the barges. The produce was loaded on to ox-carts and RAYMOND and a comrade called ROOTE had one ox-cart in their charge which started to lag behind the others. KANAYASU noticed this and proceeded immediately to assault ROOTE, striking him across the face with his cane, knocking him unconscious and kicking him in the stomach. KANAYASU then turned on RAYMOND and proceeded to thrash him with his cane

/ about 6 times.....

about 6 times across his back. RAYMOND then unloaded his cart and put ROOTE in it and himself dragged the cart back to the Camp to the Medical Officer. RAYMOND was then ordered to light-duties in the cook-house, while ROOTE was put in hospital, RAYMOND being so badly beaten on the face that he had to be led about wherever he went by his comrades. Two days later, KANAYASU visited the cook-house and found RAYMOND there, and assaulted him again before taking him down to the Medical Officer, and as RAYMOND says "I heard him addressing and punching the Medical Officer, I still could not see".

For SAIGON Camp, there are 4 witnesses, who are W.O. THYSEN, W.O. SMIT, Sgt. BALEMANS and W.O. VERBRAAK, all of the Dutch Army.

W.O. THYSEN will say that he was at SAIGON from middle of May 1944 until the capitulation, and that during that time the air-raid precautions for the Prisoners were completely inadequate, but despite this nobody was ever killed in an air-raid. Of the Camp Commandant, he will say that many times complaints were made but never did he carry out his promises that he would investigate matters. Of the Korean Guards, he mentions KURESHIMA nicknamed "BABY FACE" and KANAYASU and will go on to say that they were the Prisoners' greatest terror and continued beatings and thrashings despite protests, with little or no provocation. He gives the most frequent form of ill-treatment as slapping the ears so that the ear-drum burst, kicking the shins and the abdomen, and the knocking out of teeth.

W.O. SMIT was in SAIGON from the middle of April 1944 until the capitulation. SMIT will also tell of the air-raids and how ships in the harbour was hit by bombs and sunk and many shell splinters landed in the Camp, and also that anti-aircraft guns were around the Camp and in the immediate surrounding of the slit-trenches for the Prisoners. While working in the harbour, however, Prisoners of War were locked in a shed at the water-side in which gasoline was stored. Of the Commandant, he will say that he was completely indifferent to the complaints of the Prisoners of War and made no attempt to stop beatings. Of the Korean Guards, he mentions KURESHIMA as the "Terror" of the Camp. Of KANAYASU that he was also very bad indeed and anything which applies to KURESHIMA applies to this man also. Of the Hospital at SAIGON he will say that the building was not even weather-proof and patients used to be soaked wet, without being able to do anything about it. Every 5 days the Medical N.C.O. in the Hospital used to hold sick parades, and the advice of the Allied Doctors was completely ignored. He will also state that the work done at SAIGON was mostly in connection with the operations of War.

Sgt. BALEMANS will give evidence about SAIGON and PHUMI Camps. He indicts Sgt. YOSHIDA of tolerating bad conditions in PHUMI and permitting ill-treatment by the Korean Guards. Of KANAYASU both at SAIGON and at PHUMI, that he continuously thrashed sick and fit men together often using his rifle for this purpose. Of KURESHIMA he says that it appeared that he was eager to beat the Prisoners of War.

/ W.O. VERBRAAK.....

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/ W.O. VERBRAAK.....

W.O. VERBRAAK will state that he was at SAIGON from March 1944 until the Capitulation, as one of the Hut Commanders. He will state that the Camp on the whole was not bad but that the complaints lodged with the Camp Commandant were ignored. He will speak of work being carried on in air-raids and the proximity of Japanese anti-aircraft batteries to the Camp. Of KURESHIMA, he will state that he was the terror to all who came in contact with him: also KANAYASU as being similar case.

Affidavits and Statements made by the following will also be produced in evidence by the Prosecution.