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Trial against

Major CHIDA Sotomatsu
and
five others.

MILITARY COURTS FOR THE TRIAL OF WAR CRIMINALS

D.J.A.G's Case No. 65004/JAG

Name of Accused (including Rank, if any)	Arm or Former Arm of the Service	Age	Date and Place of Trial
Major Chida Sotomatsu Captain Komai Mitsuo Sergeant-Major Iijima Nobuo Sergeant Watanabe Masao Sergeant-Major Urikawa Yoshharu Sergeant Watanabe Seikeichi	All of Imperial Japanese Army		5-7 February 1946 SINGAPORE Convened by Commander Singapore District

JOINT CHARGES

1st Charge

COMMITTING A WAR CRIME, in that they at Kanburi Camp between 29 Aug and 10 Sep 43 in violation of the laws and usages of war cruelly beat and maltreated Sergeant-Major Thew at that time a prisoner of war in their custody in consequence whereof severe suffering and injuries were inflicted on the said prisoner of war.

2nd Charge

COMMITTING A WAR CRIME, in that they at Kanburi Camp between 1 and 29 Sep 43 in violation of the laws and usages of war cruelly beat and maltreated Major Slater, Major Smith, Lieutenant Collins, Lieutenant Lomax and Lieutenant Mackay at that time prisoners of war in their custody in consequence whereof severe suffering and injuries were inflicted on the said prisoners of war.

3rd Charge

COMMITTING A WAR CRIME, in that they at Kanburi Camp on or about 29 Sep 43 in violation of the laws and usages of war cruelly beat and maltreated Captain Hawley and Lieutenant Armitage at that time prisoners of war in their custody in consequence whereof the said prisoners of war met their deaths.

CHARGES

President and Members of the Court (except Legal Member)	Judge Advocate/Legal Member
Lt-col. L.G. COLEMAN Major W.M. GRAY Capt. R.D. KOHLI	Dept of J.A.G. in India Solicitor 1st Bn The Cameronians 2nd Bn The Punjab Regt. N/A

Pleaded	Finding
	GUILTY NOT GUILTY
Captain Komai Mitsuo - 1st Charge Not Guilty, 2nd & 3rd Charges Guilty. The remainder pleaded Not Guilty to all charges	Chida Sotomatsu 2nd & 3rd Charges 1st Charge Komai Mitsuo All Charges Iijima Nobuo All Charges Watanabe Masao 2nd & 3rd Charges 1st Charge Urikawa Yoshharu All Charges Watanabe Seikeichi " "

Sentence and Minute of Confirmation

Chida Sotomatsu 8 years imp Urikawa Yoshharu Imp for Life
Komai Mitsuo Death by hanging Watanabe Seikeichi Imp for Life
Iijima Nobuo Death by hanging
Watanabe Masao 1 day imp
Confirmed by GOC Singapore District
on 11 March 1946

When and where Promulgated :— 12 March 1946

Date of Receipt	To whom sent	Date sent	Purport

MILITARY COURTS FOR THE TRIAL OF WAR CRIMINALS

D.J.A.G's Case No. 65004 JAG.

Name of Accused (including Rank, if any)	Arm or Former Arm of the Service	Age	Date and Place of Trial
(1) Major CHIDA SOTOMATSU (2) Capt. KOMAI MITSUO (3) S.M. IIJIMA NOBUO (4) Sjt WATANABE MASAO (5) S.M. URIKAWA YOSHINARU (6) Sjt WATANABE SEIKEICHI	All of the Imperial Japanese Army		5, 6, and 7 Feb 46 SINGAPORE
			Convened by Commander Singapore District

CHARGES

- 1st Charge Committing a war crime, in that they at Kanburi Camp between 29 Aug and 10 Sep 43 in violation of the laws and usages of war cruelly beat and maltreated Serjeant-Major Thew at that time a prisoner of war in their custody in consequence whereof severe suffering and injuries were inflicted on the said prisoner-of-war
- 2nd Charge Committing a war crime, in that they at Kanburi Camp between 1 and 29 Sep 43 in violation of the laws and usages of war cruelly beat and maltreated Major Slater, Major Smith, Lieutenant Collins, Lieutenant Lomax and Lieutenant MacKay at that time prisoners of war in their custody in consequence whereof severe suffering and injuries were inflicted on the said prisoners of war.
- 3rd Charge Committing a war crime, in that they at Kanburi Camp on or about 29 Sep 43 in violation of the laws and usages of war cruelly beat and maltreated Captain Hawley and Lieutenant Armitage at that time prisoners of war in their custody in consequence whereof the said prisoners of war met their deaths.

President and Members of the Court (except Legal Member)	Judge Advocate/Legal Member
Lieut.Col. L.G. Coleman, Dept of the JAG in India Major W.M. Gray, 1st Bn The Cameronians Capt. R.D. Kohli 2nd Bn The Punjab Regt	

Pleaded	Finding
Accused Nos. 1, 3, 4, 5, & 6 All charges - Not Guilty Accused No. 2 - 1st Charge - Not guilty 2nd & 3rd Charges - Guilty	Accused No. 1 - 1st charge - Not Guilty 2nd & 3rd charges - Guilty Accused No. 2 - All charges - Guilty Accused No. 3 - All charges - Guilty Accused No. 4 - 1st charge - Not Guilty 2nd & 3rd charges - Guilty Accused 5 & 6 - All charges - Guilty

Sentence and Minute of Confirmation

Accused No. 1 - 8 years' Imprisonment ✓
 Accused Nos. 2 & 3 - death by hanging ✓
 Accused No. 4 - 1 days' Imprisonment ✓
 Accused Nos. 5 & 6 - Imprisonment for life ✓

Confirmed by GOC Singapore District on 11 Mar 46

When and where Promulgated :— 12 March 46

Date of Receipt	To whom sent	Date sent	Purport
	The above sentence imposed on S.M. IIJIMA NOBUO was put into execution at CHANGI on 14 March 1945 at 0927 hrs		
	The above sentence imposed on Captain KOMAI MITSUO was put into execution at CHANGI on 14 March 1946 at 1002 hrs		

MILITARY COURT FOR THE TRIAL OF WAR CRIMINALS.

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ACCUSED

(1) Major CHIDA SOTOMATSU
(2) Capt. KOMAI MITSUO
(3) S.M. IIJIMA NOBUO
(4) Sjt WATANABE MASAO
(5) S.M. URIKAWA YOSHINARU
(6) Sjt WATANABE SEIKEICHI
All of the Japanese Army
attached 3 Tpt Column RIASC.

PLACE & DATE
OF TRIAL

Singapore 5, 6 and 7 Feb 46.

COURT CONVENED BY

Commander Singapore District.

PRESIDENT

Lt Col. L.G. Coleman, Dept of the JAG in
India
Solicitor.

MEMBERS

Major W.M.Gray, 1st Bn The Cameronians
Capt. R.D.Kohli 2nd Bn The Punjab Regt.

CHARGE

See attached charge sheet.

PLEA

Accused (1) - All charges - Not Guilty
" (2) - 1st charge - Not Guilty
2 & 3 charges - Guilty
" (3) - All charges - Not Guilty
" (4) - All charges - Not Guilty
" (5) - All charges - Not Guilty
" (6) - All charges - Not Guilty

FINDING

Accused (1) - 1st charge - Not Guilty
2 & 3 charges - Guilty
" (2) - All charges - Guilty
" (3) - All charges - Guilty
" (4) - 1st charge - Not Guilty
2 & 3 charges - Guilty
" (5) - All charges - Guilty
" (6) - All charges - Guilty

SENTENCE

Accused (1) - 8 years Imprisonment.
" (2) & (3) - death by hanging.
" (4) - 1 days' Imprisonment.
" (5) & (6) - Imprisonment for life.

CONFIRMED

11 March 46. By GOC-Singapore District.

PROMULGATED

12 March 46.

REMARKS

DISPOSAL OF
PROCEEDINGS

To AG3 HQ ALFSEA ... 16 March 46
JAG of the Forces

DJAG ALFSEA
Case No. 65004 JAG.

MILITARY COURT FOR THE TRIAL OF WAR CRIMINALS.

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ACCUSED

(1) Major CHIDA SOTOMATSU
(2) Capt. KOMAI MITSUO
(3) S.M. IJIMA NOBUO
(4) Sjt WATANABE MASAO
(5) S.M. URIKAWA YOSHINARU
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Major W.M.Gray, 1st Bn The Cameronians
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CHARGE

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PLEA

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2 & 3 charges - Guilty
" (3) - All charges - Not Guilty
" (4) - All charges - Not Guilty
" (5) - All charges - Not Guilty
" (6) - All charges - Not Guilty

FINDING

Accused (1) - 1st charge - Not Guilty
2 & 3 charges - Guilty
" (2) - All charges - Guilty
" (3) - All charges - Guilty
" (4) - 1st charge - Not Guilty
2 & 3 charges - Guilty
" (5) - All charges - Guilty
" (6) - All charges - Guilty

SENTENCE

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REMARKS

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PROCEEDINGS

To AG3 HQ ALFSEA ... 16 MAR 46
JAG of the Forces

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7

CHARGE SHEET

1st Charge

Committing a war crime, in that they at Kanburi Camp between 29 Aug and 10 Sep 43 in violation of the laws and usages of war cruelly beat and maltreated Serjeant-Major Thew at that time a prisoner of war in their custody in consequence whereof severe suffering and injuries were inflicted on the said prisoner of war.

2nd Charge

Committing a war crime, in that they at Kanburi Camp between 1 and 29 Sep 43 in violation of the laws and usages of war cruelly beat and maltreated Major Slater, Major Smith, Lieutenant Collins, Lieutenant Lomax and Lieutenant MacKay at that time prisoners of war in their custody in consequence whereof severe suffering and injuries were inflicted on the said prisoners of war.

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Committing a war crime, in that they at Kanburi Camp on or about 29 Sep 43 in violation of the laws and usages of war cruelly beat and maltreated Captain Hawley and Lieutenant Armitage at that time prisoners of war in their custody in consequence whereof the said prisoners of war met their deaths.

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ABSTRACT OF EVIDENCE.

In the case of :-

Major	Chida Sotomatsu
Captain	Komai Mitsuo
Sergeant-Major	Iijima Nobuo
Sergeant	Watanabe Masao
Sergeant-Major	Urikawa Yoshinaru
Sergeant	Watanabe Seikeichi.

1. In August and September 1943, the accused Chida Sotomatsu was the Commandant of the Officers' P.O.W. Camp at Kanburi, Thailand. His adjutant was the accused Komai Mitsuo, and the remaining accused were members of his staff.
2. Towards the end of August 1943, a wireless set was discovered by the Jap Military Police in the possession of a British P.O.W. working with a nearby unit. On the 1st September, this prisoner (Sergeant-Major Thew) was brought to Kanburi Camp together with Sergeant Smith. They were ordered to make a written statement about the wireless set. They did this and were afterwards stood outside the guard room for 2 days. On the evening of the second day at about 8 o'clock, Thew was interrogated by Komai Mitsuo in the camp office. After he had answered a few questions, the escort was called to take him to the guard room. As the party were leaving the office, Komai ordered a Korean to follow them and beat "that Westerner" up. The Korean obeyed unwillingly and Komai expressed displeasure at the lightness of his blows. Thereupon Komai himself took part in the beating assisted by the other accused, with the exception of Major Chida Sotomatsu. After the beating Thew was left outside the guard room for 4 days. He was hardly conscious and could not stand. Amongst other injuries, he sustained a burst ear-drum.
3. Some days later 5 Officers, Major Slater, Major Smith, Lieutenant Lomax, Lieutenant Collins and Lieutenant Mackay, were brought into Kanburi Camp for interrogation in connection with the wireless incident. Having been searched, they were beaten before the office. Major Smith lost consciousness under the beating. Lieutenant Lomax had both arms broken. They were left as they were outside the office with no medical attention, but the following day a Dutch P.O.W. (Dr. Van der Eyden) attended Major Smith. Major Smith handed over some papers to the Doctor who passed them to Lieutenant Collins for safe custody. When this was discovered by Komai, he summoned Collins to the guard room and had him beaten.
4. The victims, after the interrogations, were handed over to the Military Police and eventually transferred to Singapore for trial by Court Martial. On or about 29th September, 2 more Officers, Captain Hawley and Lieutenant Armitage, were brought into Kanburi Camp and interrogated before the guard room under the direction of Komai. They were beaten by the accused for more than 4 hours. They both died under the beating.
5. Though the accused Chida Sotomatsu took no part in any of the beatings himself, there is evidence that he knew what was going on; that he actually witnessed some part of the beating of Hawley and Armitage. He took no action whatsoever to put a stop to the matter and, after the murder of Hawley and Armitage, did his best to conceal the affair and behaved in every way as an accomplice. Furthermore, as camp commandant he was responsible for the proper treatment of P.O.W. in his custody.
6. The following witnesses have made statements to the above effect and their evidence will be produced :-

Acting Under-Lieut.	Jo CaunR.N.E.I.A.
Captain	Th. J. Van der Eyden(formerly P.O.W. Camp doctor at Kanburi).
Ensign	S.J. SlotboomVL. Gr II (R.N.E.I.A.)

2.

Kunimoto Kensaku)	
Kanemitsu Takahiko)	
Iwao Takamini)	Koreans, formerly P.O.W. guards.

C.Q.M.S.	Lovell)	
Captain	Gregg)	
C.Q.M.S.	Knowles)	
Lieut-Colonel	Fitt)	formerly prisoners of war in
Captain	Renwick)	Kanburi Camp.
Captain	Gilchrist)	