

Sk. 456.

MILITARY COURT FOR THE TRIAL OF WAR CRIMINALS

ACCUSED

Civilians :- (1) TODA Mitsugu  
(2) NAKAMURA Katsumi  
(3) YONEMURA Matsatoshi  
(4) NAGAI Takegoro  
(5) CHO KUN TOKU  
(6) TAKEICHI Seichi  
(7) UTSONOMIYA Kozo  
(8) ZUSHI Teruo  
(9) SUENOBU Fumio

in the service of the Imperial Japanese Army  
attached to 1 Devon.

PLACE AND  
DATE OF TRIAL

HONG KONG. 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16,  
17, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, & 28 May 47.

COURT CONVENED BY

Commander Land Forces, HONG KONG.

PRESIDENT

Lt Col R.C. Laming M.B.E. Gen List Indian Army  
Barrister-at-law.

MEMBERS

Major R.S. Butterfield Indian Grenadiers  
Capt. K.R. Busfield RAC

CHARGE

1  
COMMITTING A WAR CRIME, in that they at KINKASEKI,  
FORMOSA, between December 1942 and May 1945, being  
on the staff of the KINKASEKI Nippon Mining Coy.,  
and as such being responsible for the safety and  
welfare of the British and American Prisoners of  
War employed in the mine under their supervision,  
were, in violation of the laws and usages of war,  
concerned in the illtreatment of the aforesaid  
Prisoners of War, contributing to the death of  
some of them and causing physical sufferings to  
the others.

PLEA

Each accused - NOT GUILTY.

FINDING

2  
No. 1 accused - GUILTY.  
No. 2 accused - GUILTY.  
No. 3 accused - NOT GUILTY.  
Nos. 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9 accused - GUILTY. Except  
for the words "Contributing to the death of some  
of them and".

SENTENCE

No. 1 accused - 1 year imprisonment. 28 May 47.  
No. 2 accused - 5 years imprisonment. " " "  
No. 4 accused - 10 years imprisonment. " " "  
No. 5 accused - 7 years imprisonment. " " "  
No. 6 accused - 2 years imprisonment. " " "  
No. 7 accused - 4 years imprisonment. " " "  
No. 8 accused - 10 years imprisonment. " " "  
No. 9 accused - 3 years imprisonment. " " "

CONFIRMED

8 August 47. By G.O.C. Land Forces HONG KONG.

PROMULGATED

13th August 47.

REMARKS

DISPOSAL OF  
PROCEEDINGS

To AG3 GHQ FARELF

2 Sep 47

JAG of the Forces

DJAG FARELF.  
Case No. 65223.

CHARGE SHEET

The Accused :-

Civilian	TODA Mitsugu
"	NAKAMURA Katsumi
"	YONEMURA Masatoshi
"	NAGAI Takegoro
"	CHO KUN TOKU
"	TAKEICHI Seichi
"	UTSUNOMIYA Kozo
"	ZUSHI Teruo
"	SUENOBU Fumio

in the service of the Imperial Japanese Forces  
attached  
are charged with

COMMITTING A WAR CRIME

in that they

at KINKASEKI, FORMOSA, between December 1942 and May 1945, being on the staff of the KINKASEKI Nippon Mining Coy., and as such being responsible for the safety and welfare of the British and American Prisoners of War employed in the mine under their supervision, were, in violation of the laws and usages of war, concerned in the illtreatment of the aforesaid Prisoners of War, contributing to the death of some of them and causing physical sufferings to the others.

1947.

Commanding

.....  
(Signature or initials of  
Convening Officer).

1947.

Commanding.

# ABSTRACT OF EVIDENCE

in the case of

Civilian	TODA Mitsugu
"	NAKAMURA Katsumi
"	YONEMURA Masatoshi
"	NAGAI Takegoro
"	CHO KUN TOKU
"	TAKEICHI Seichi
"	UTSONOMIYA Kozo
"	ZUSHI Teruo
"	SUENOBU Fumio

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About the month of December 1942 it was decided by the Taiwan Army HQ that the American and British Prisoners of War of No.1 Camp were to be employed in the Kinkaseki, Formosa Mine by the Nippon Mining Coy.

Civilian TODA Mitsugu was the General Manager, YONEMURA Masatoshi - Assistant Production Manager and NAKAMURA Katsumi was production supervisor of this Coy.

There were a number of supervisors who supervised the work of the Ps.O.W. Most of them were known to the Ps.O.W. by nicknames for example, NAGAI Takegoro was called "The Ghost", CHO KUN TOKU was known as "The Frying Pan", TAKEICHI Seichi as "Nelson", UTSONOMIYA Kozo as "Charlie Chaplin", ZUSHI Teruo as "The Eagle" and SUENOBU Fumio as the "Blackie".

The Mining Company was together with their subordinates responsible for the safe custody of all prisoners of war in their employ, during the time that they were absent from the Camp, at work, and until their return to the Camp.

The Camp Commandant on the other hand was responsible to carry out a regular weekly inspection of the Mine to ensure that the prisoner of war conventions were being obeyed.

The work in the beginning was to fill small baskets with copper ore, using a changkol or pointed hoe. Later the Ps.O.W. did all types of mining work, drilling, filling bogies, on an ever increasing scale, and filling up the used workings with waste rock etc.

The working conditions were very hard, unhealthy and unsafe. In some holes there was an incessant flow of acid water from the roof, in others it was not possible to stand upright, elsewhere there would be constant falling of large and small rocks from the roof and in some places the heat was so terrific that men became unconscious. These holes in which the Ps.O.W. were being used, had been closed for many years as the native labour, Chinese and others refused to work in them.

There was little lighting arrangement and whatever lights were carried by Ps.O.W. were extinguished owing to Air Pressure and Blasting. The result was that there were fatal accidents of Ps.O.W. falling down the chutes in the dark. Gunner MILLERSHIP fell down one of the chutes and was killed instantly.

The roofs in the mine were so unsafe that they sometimes fell down killing Ps.O.W. Two such deaths were those of Gunner Sweeney and Sergeant Pullinger. There were in all about 8 deaths due to such accidents including those of Millership & Pullinger.

The Ps.O.W. were organised in batches working under supervisors known as "hanchoes". Some of these hanchoes used to beat the prisoners brutally on the slightest provocation. Sick Ps.O.W. were also made to work and if they were slow they were brutally beaten. Sometimes men were set impossible tasks the failure of which afforded the hanchoes opportunities for beating them. The Ps.O.W. were in constant fear of being beaten by the hammers of the hanchoes.

In September 1944 a speed drive was started in the mine and this made the conditions of the Ps.O.W. worse than ever. These beatings used to be so severe that some of the men suffered permanent bodily injuries and others died. Men falling down unconscious was a common occurrence.

The combined effect of the atrocious conditions of work, brutal beatings coupled with insufficient food and lack of proper



medical attention made the Ps.O.W. regard the Mine as a veritable "hell spot"; a few died, several broke down in health and almost all had one injury or other. On top of these sufferings a few suffered from dysentery and ulcers.

All the above facts were brought to the notice of the authorities concerned by the Ps.O.W and the Personnel Administrator MAJOR CROSSLEY but conditions did not improve.

The first named accused TODA Mitsugu was General Manager of the Mine from June 1942 until the cessation of hostilities in 1945. The second named accused NAKAMURA was Mine Production Manager from May 1944 until March 1945. Amongst his duties was the task of controlling the HANCHOS, who looked after the Prisoners of War. It will also be stated by W.O. EDWARDS that the "speed drive" of September 1944 was introduced by this accused. In its short life the "speed drive" was a reign of terror for the Prisoners of War. A high quota of work was fixed and the more savage HANCHOS were outstandingly brutal during this period.

YONEMURA Masatoshi was assistant Production Manager and he was put directly in charge of the Ps.O.W. and he was responsible to NAKAMURA the production manager for every thing concerning the Ps.O.W.

The remaining accused were Hanchos (FOREMEN) employed to supervise Prisoner-of-War labour. NAGAI Takegoro known to the Prisoners of War as "The Ghost" had a brutal and sadistic nature. In the words of JO SHI KI, a Formosan Squad Supervisor, NAGAI Takegoro was "responsible for daily beatings, when the men in the level were lined up and were systematically beaten if they had not produced as much as was expected". Corroborative evidence will be given by Sgt. EWING, Driver HARVEY, Sgm. COATES, Cpl. BOWKETT, L/Sgt. SHEPARD, Driver GOWLAND, Sgm. DAVIS, Sgm. NORRIS and W.O. EDWARDS. W.O. EDWARDS will identify NAGAI Takegoro as being "the Ghost". CHO KUN TOKU, a one-bar HANCHO, known as the "Frying Pan", was another prime mover in the beating up of Prisoners of War with fists and

hammer strokes. The evidence will be found in the majority of affidavits to be produced.

TAKEUCHI Seichi, known as "NELSON" and UTSONOMIYA Kozo, known as "CHARLIE CHAPLIN" respectively are mentioned in the Affidavit of Gnr. Harvey who says :-

"Both these men treated prisoners cruelly and besides the usual beatings for not doing enough work they frequently beat up the whole squad for trifling disciplinary offences".

Further evidence will be found in Affidavits of Gnr. Williams, Sgm. Coates and L/Sgt. Shepard.

ZUSHI Teruo was known to the Ps.O.W. as "The Eagle". He and "Blackie" together with other hanchos were responsible for many deaths in the mines through brutal beatings. He would wait with a hammer in the tunnel and when Ps.O.W. were lined up would take a wicked lash at them if they were slow or their fingers were not stiff and heels together. He was a group supervisor and he besides striking Ps.O.W. personally directed the squad supervisors to beat them. His beatings were organised and regular. He would line up a squad and ask them to hold a pipe and then would beat each one of them.

SUENOBU Fumio was nicknamed "Blackie". He visited his level at intervals and each time he visited there was trouble. At the end of each shift men were lined up and those considered slow by him were selected for beating. He was moody and unpredictable; he frequently struck and kicked Ps.O.W. particularly for alleged minor offences, such as not saluting etc. He sometimes made one of the Ps.O.W. beat his comrades and if he did not hit hard SUENOBU would strike him too.

Failure to obtain necessary mining machinery and other materials used in the Mine combined to bring work to a standstill in March 1945 when the Prisoners of War were found other employment.

The following affidavits will be submitted by the  
Prosecution :-

JO SHO KI	-	Formosan Civilian
KAMEDA Kanamatsu	.	Formosan Civilian
SANNOMYIA Tsurumatsu	-	Formosan Civilian
Col. YOKOTA Hiroshi	-	Imperial Japanese Army
Col. NAKANO Junichi	-	Imperial Japanese Army
Gnr. GEORGE HOEY WILLIAMS		
Sgt. A. EWING.		
Driver DAVID ATWELL HARVEY.		
Sgm. WILLIAM HERBERT BARNARD COATES.		
Cpl. HAROLD VINCENT BOWKETT.		
L/Sgt. RICHARD ARTHUR SHEPARD.		
Driver CHARLES GOWLAND.		
Sgm. LESLIE ERIC DAVIS.		
Sgm. EDWARD JAMES MORRIS.		

W.O. EDWARDS and Major J.T.N. CROSS will give evidence  
in person at the trial and the latter will produce certified  
true copies of two letters written by Major (now Lt.Col.)  
J.F. CROSSLEY.