

MILITARY COURT FOR THE TRIAL OF WAR CRIMINALS

BR 426.

USED

Civ. KAMEI Kasaku, in the  
Service of the Occupying Power,  
att. Water Transport Coy RASC.  
(Singapore).

PLACE AND  
DATE OF TRIAL

Singapore. 8th & 9th May, 1947.

COURT CONVENED BY

Offg. Commander Singapore District.

PRESIDENT

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

MEMBERS

Major. E.N. HEBDEN. R.A.  
Major. N.S. BAINS. 1 Punjabs.

CHARGE

COMMITTING A WAR CRIME in that he in Siam,  
between June 1943 and March 1944, when in  
the service of the Occupying Power as sub-  
contractor on the construction of the Kra-  
Railway, was, in violation of the laws and  
usages of war, concerned in the gross ill-  
treatment of British subjects, coolies employed  
on the construction of the aforesaid railway.

PLEA

Not Guilty.

FINDING

Guilty, with the exception of the words  
"as sub-contractor" and the word "Gross".

SENTENCE

9 May, '47. 2 years Imprisonment.

CONFIRMED

21 May, '47. By offg. Commander Singapore Dist.

PROMULGATED

24 May, '47.

REMARKS

DISPOSAL OF  
PROCEEDINGS

To AG3 GHQ SEALF 3rd June, 1947.  
JAG of the Forces \_\_\_\_\_

DJAG SEALF  
Case No. 65206 JAG.

CHARGE SHEET

The Accused :-

Civilian KAMEI KASAKU

in the Service of the Occupying Power  
attached  
is charged with

COMMITTING A WAR CRIME

in that he

In Siam, between June 1943 and March 1944, when  
in the service of the Occupying Power as sub-  
contractor on the construction of the Kra Rail-  
way, was, in violation of the laws and usages of  
war, concerned in the gross illtreatment of  
coolies of British Nationality employed on the  
construction of the aforesaid railway.

1947.

Commanding

To be tried by Military Court.

1947.

Commanding

ABSTRACT OF EVIDENCE  
in the case of  
Civilian KAMEI KASAKU.  
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The accused Kamei Kasaku was at all material times a Civilian sub-contractor in charge of railway construction on the Kra Railway, an undertaking sponsored by the Japanese military forces. The actual construction work on the Railway was under contract to the Kinjohan Railway Construction Company and other Companies who engaged and paid coolies and supervised their work. The accused was an employee of this Company.

P.K. Chako will state that in July 1943 he became an overseer for the Kinjohan Company in the Chumporn Area of Siam. Whilst at 77 Kilo Camp and neighbouri Camps Kamei used to come there and was in the habit of beating and kicking coolies as a form of sport. He used a stick or his sword and the injuries he inflicted caused the victim to require long medical treatment. This was a common daily occurrence.

Payment to the coolies was made by the sub-contractor Kamei who withheld coolies pay. Theoretically they should have received 1.50 - 2.50 Bahts per cubic metre but in actual practise they received only 2 or 3 Bahts per head at the conclusion of the task, and they would then be promised by the accused that at the conclusion of the next task they would be fully paid. This promise the accused never carried out. In the witness' case he was due to receive 80 Bahts per month but never received any pay for two months and was informed by the accused that as he received food and lodging he could wait for his money.

Witness will state that he heard Kamei giving orders that sick coolies should receive neither pay nor rations. On one occasion 2 coolies were, to Kamei's knowledge, left to die at 77 Kilo Camp.

Lee An Huat will state that the accused used to beat coolies daily with the scabbard of his sword. As a result they used sometimes to bleed through their noses or mouths.

He never paid coolies in full. Sick coolies were never paid. If headmen asked for money they were usually very badly beaten.

Ramasamy (of Mary Estate, Batu Berjuntai) will appear as a witness to state that he was forced by the Japanese to join a party of labourers and sent to <sup>the</sup> Kra Railway in South Siam in September 1943. There the Japanese in charge i.e. the accused was very cruel and he often saw him dealing out savage beatings and driving out helpless sick men to work on the railway even at night time and in heavy rain.

Siwa Sangaran will state that he was forced by the Japanese to go to work on the Kra Railway construction in September 1943. He first worked at 30 Kilo Camp where the overseer was the accused KAMEI. Later he was transferred to 75 Kilo Camp where the accused was also the overseer. He saw on innumerable occasions the accused beating coolies with a stick until they collapsed and then he would continue kicking them all over the body. More than one hundred coolies were taken to hospital as a result of this savagery. Coolies received broken arms and legs at the hands of the accused as well as wounds and contusion of the face.

Kamei never paid the labourers more than one or two dollars per month. If they complained he beat them severely.

Appana will state that about August 1943 he went to Siam and was employed on the Kra Railway at 30 Kilo Camp and at 75 Kilo Camp. The Japanese in charge of both Camps was the accused Kamei. He saw him beat coolies daily with a stick.

One day when witness was too ill to work and unable to get up from his sleeping place Kamei entered the hut and beat him severely with a rottan for about 20 minutes. His right arm was rendered



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useless for more than two months. On the same occasion Kamei beat another Indian coolie on the head. The coolie became unconscious and was carried outside.

Ramaswamy (Bagan Dotah Estate) was taken to work in Siam on the Kra Railway in August 1943. He worked at 30 Kilo Camp of which the accused was in charge. One day Kamei, on the pretext that he was not working hard enough beat him with the flat of his scabbard until he (witness) fell down. Whilst semi-conscious the accused continued to beat him. He was carried to his hut vomiting blood and with considerable pain in the chest. On the following day the witness requested to be excused working but the accused threatened to beat him again if he did not work.

Tirupaya will state that he worked on the Kra Railway from August 1943, as a foreman. The Japanese in charge of 28 and 75 Kilo Camps where he worked was Kamei. The accused treated the labourers very badly, beating them ferociously if he was not satisfied with their work. Such beatings were a daily occurrence and were so severe that some victims had to be transferred to hospital in consequence of injuries received. Kamei withheld coolies pay and when approached to let the diseased and semi-starved coolies have some pay he beat the applicant unmercifully.

Awtar Singh will state that the accused was the worst type of Jap he ever came across and beat up several coolies daily. He used to beat and kick coolies as a form of sport. He used to carry a stick and always struck with full force sometimes causing serious injuries.

A statement by the accused will be tendered in evidence.