

✓ DPW(AG13(2a)) /WMcL /AR.

RECORD OF MILITARY COURT
(JAPANESE WAR CRIMINALS)

R100 Ans 97

AWC No. 2109, 2134

Accused: Civilian Officer YAMAMOTO Hisashi
Minor Civ. " KATAYAMA Fuminiko

Aust W.C. List Ser No.....

Court, Place, RABAUL
Date and 30 and 31 May 46
Formation: 8 MD

Charge(s)	Plea	Finding
MURDER (1) At RAMATA in or about April 1945 of TOPELIS a native of NEW BRITAIN	NOT GUILTY on both charges	GUILTY on both charges
(2) At RAMATA in or about April 1945 murdered TOKELE a native of NEW BRITAIN		

Precis of Evidence: 1. The deceased were natives of New Britain and in April 1945 they were being employed by the Japanese at RAMATA New Britain as labourers. Both the deceased had escaped from the Japanese and were incarcerated. TOPELIS again escaped from prison and was arrested some ten days later by Police Boys who were working for the Japanese. The accused YAMAMOTO was a Police Inspector and was in charge of the Detachment of Japanese at RAMATA. The accused KATAYAMA was in charge of the native police boys and he treated natives suffering from slight ailments. On the arrest of the deceased TOPELIS, the accused YAMAMOTO gave orders through the accused KATAYAMA for TOPELIS to be tied to a tree. About 10 police boys were then ordered to give TOPELIS ten blows each with a thick cane about 5 feet in length. Whilst the flogging was taking place both the accused were standing nearby. The deceased TOPELIS was screaming out in pain and the accused also beat him and one of them said (Over)

Sentence and Date: Accused YAMAMOTO H. TO SUFFER DEATH BY HANGING - 31 May 46
" KATAYAMA F. TO BE IMPRISONED FOR 5 YEARS - 31 May 46

Confirmation and by Whom: Lt-Gen V.A.H. STURDEE

Promulgation: Confirmation of finding and sentences promulgated to each accused on 5 Nov 46. Accused YAMAMOTO executed by hanging on 6 Nov 46 at RABAUL.

Petition: Lodged 13 June 46 against findings and sentences

J.A.G.'s Report on Petition: Confirm findings and sentences and dismiss petitions.

Action on Petition: Dismissed.

Filed in Attorney-General's Department and Numbered.....

Precis of Evidence (contd):

"You shut up, you trouble maker." The deceased TOPELIS was then released and two natives assisted him back to the prison. The accused ordered that he should be kept in prison and not be given any food or water. On arrival at the prison the police boys helped him to lie down and he was calling out in pain. He was not given any food or water and 4 days later he died. The deceased TOKELE was in prison at the time of the assault on the deceased TOPELIS. He had been in prison for a considerable time. The accused ordered that TOKELE should not be given any food or water. The deceased TOKELE was not in good health at the time and he died shortly after the deceased TOPELIS. Neither of the deceased received any medical treatment at all. Evidence to the above effect was given by four witnesses for the prosecution.

2. The accused both gave evidence in their defence. They denied ordering the beatings by the police boys and also denied that they were present thereat. They stated that they saw the deceased TOPELIS immediately after his capture and they alleged he had been beaten by the police boys when they captured him. Evidence was given by witnesses called on behalf of the accused to the effect that both the deceased were given food and water and that they had seen TOPELIS when he was recaptured and he bore evidence of having been beaten at that time.