

RECORD OF MILITARY COURT

(JAPANESE WAR CRIMINALS)

Accused: Sub Lt 1st Class HONJI, Matagi
2nd Class PO KUROKAWA, Eizo

AWC No.....

Asst W.C. List Ser No.....

Court Place: MOROTAI
Date and: 18 Feb 46
Formation: MOROTAI FORCE

Charge(s)	Plea	Finding
Committing a war crime that is to say murder of a prisoner of war in that they at or near HALONG AMBON on or about 30 April 1945 murdered VX19415 Pte SCHAEFER F.N. of 2/21 Australian Infantry Battalion then a prisoner of war held by the Japanese Armed Forces	NOT GUILTY	GUILTY

Precis of Evidence: The evidence shows that:

- (a) Pte SCHAEFER an Australian PW held by the Japanese in Tancoey Camp escaped on 26 Mar 45 and was recaptured 10 Apr 45.
- (b) The Shirozu Unit was responsible for the guarding and administration of PW in Tancoey Camp. Lt Miyazaki was 2 i/c Shirozu Unit and said that Schaefer was interrogated regarding the route taken during his freedom. According to Capt Shirozu, Comd of Shirozu Unit, Schaefer was questioned immediately after his recapture and "admitted the crime". These two interrogations were the only form of inquiry held on Schaefer's alleged crime between his recapture and execution.
- (c) It was not legal for a local Jap Comd to execute a PW for an alleged offence without a trial before a court martial.

(Over)

Sentence and Date: 18 Feb 46
HONJI, Matagi - TO SUFFER DEATH BY SHOOTING
KUROKAWA, Eizo - IMPRISONMENT FOR 15 YEARS

Confirmation and by Whom:

Promulgation:

Petition:

Findings and sentences confirmed by being taken in to 30 April 1946
Confirmation of findings and sentences promulgated to accused on 15 May 1946. Accused HONJI executed by shooting at Rabaul on 16 May 1946
Submitted against the Findings and Sentences of the Court.

J.A.G.'s Report on Petition: Findings and Sentences should NOT be confirmed.

Action on Petition:

Dismissed

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

