

# MILITARY COURTS FOR THE TRIAL OF WAR CRIMINALS

D.J.A.G's Case No. 65075/JAG

Name of Accused (including Rank, if any)	Arm or Former Arm of the Service	Age	Date and Place of Trial
2nd Lieut. KUWAHATA Tsugio Sgt. Major MURAKAMI Isao	Both of Japanese Kempai Tai		30 and 31 May and 5 June 1946 SINGAPORE
			Convened by Commander Singapore District

## CHARGES

### JOINT CHARGE

COMMITTING A WAR CRIME in that they at or near THU-DUC-MOT, FRENCH INDO CHINA, in or about the month of April 1945, in violation of the laws and usages of war, were concerned in the unlawful killings of First Lieutenant Claude Lamar and Sergeant Harold M. Belonier, both of the United States Army Air Force, American prisoners of war.

President and Members of the Court (except Legal Member)	Judge Advocate/Legal Member
Lt-col. G.A. PEACOCK Major R.J. TOPPING Major W.M. GRAY	Dept of J.A.G. in India Barrister-at-Law 6/8 Punjabs 1st Cameronians  N/A

Pleaded	Finding
Both pleaded Not Guilty	Both found GUILTY

## Sentence and Minute of Confirmation

KUWAHATA 1 years imp  
MURAKAMI 1 years imp

Confirmed by Commander Singapore District  
on 23 July 1946

When and where Promulgated :— 29 July 1946

Date of Receipt	To whom sent	Date sent	Purport

MILITARY COURT FOR THE TRIAL OF WAR CRIMINALS.

ACCUSED

2nd Lieut. KUWAHATA Tsugio  
Sgt Major MURAKAMI Isao  
of the Japanese Kempei Tai  
att 40 Tank Bde W/Shop, REME.

PLACE AND  
DATE OF TRIAL

Singapore 30,31 May 46, 5 Jun 46

COURT CONVENED BY

Commander Singapore District.

PRESIDENT

Lt Col G.A. PEACOCK, Dept of JAG in India  
Barrister-at-law.

MEMBERS

Major R.J. TOPPING, 6/8 Punjabs  
Major W.M. GRAY, 1st Cameronians.

CHARGE

Committing a war crime  
in that they  
at or near THU-DUC-MOT, FRENCH INDO CHINA, in or  
about the month of April 1945, in violation of the  
laws and usages of war, were concerned in the  
unlawful killings of First Lieutenant CLAUDE LAMAR  
and Sergeant HAROLD M. BELONIER, both of the United  
States Army Air Force, American prisoners of war.

PLEA

Each accused - Not Guilty

FINDING

Each accused - Guilty

SENTENCE

5 Jun 46 Each accused - one year's imprisonment.

CONFIRMED

23 Jul 46 By Comd Singapore District.

PROMULGATED

29 Jul 46

REMARKS

DISPOSAL OF  
PROCEEDINGS

To AG3 HQ ALFSEA

5 SEPT 46.

JAG of the Forces

DJAG ALFSEA  
Case No. 65075 JAG



ABSTRACT OF EVIDENCE.

In the case of :-

Second Lieutenant Tsugio KUWAHATA

Serjeant Major Isao MURAKAMI

1. On 21 March 1945, a U.S. AAF B-25 plane was shot down in the South China Sea at 120303 degrees North 10909 degrees East on the coast of French Indo-China in the vicinity of Nha Trang. At the time the plane was shot down it was engaged in straffing Japanese naval vessels. The survivors of this crash was 1st Lt. Claude H. Lamar, 2nd Lt. Alfred Dias and Staff Serjeant Harold M. Belonier. Lt. Lamar and Lt. Dias managed to swim to a small island nearby where they were reported to the Japanese and when the Japanese attempted to take the two men into custody a gul fight ensued from which Lt. Dias received wounds which caused his death during the trip back to Nha Trang on the mainland. Staff Serjeant Belonier was captured by the Japanese Navy and was also brought back to Nha Trang. Shortly thereafter both Lt. Lamar and Sjt Belonier were taken to Saigon and delivered into the custody of the Saigon Kempei Tai. The two men were incarcerated in the Kempei Tai Jail which was located in the Chamber of Commerce Building in Saigon for approximately one month after they were brought from Nha Trang, and during this period both men were interrogated several times and appear to have been mistreated to a small degree.

Around the end of April 1945, both Lt. Lamar and Sjt Belonier were taken to Thu Du Moc and executed. A party consisting of 2nd Lt. KUWAHATA, Serjeant IKUTA, Serjeant SATO and Sjt Major MURAKAMI took Lt. Lamar and Sjt Belonier to the grounds of a rubber plantation near Thu Du Moc, where Lt. KUWAHATA selected a place to perform the executions and a hole was dug. The two prisoners were brought forward one at a time, with their hands tied behind their back and their eyes blindfolded, and made to kneel in in turn before the hole, at which time, pursuant to an order

of Lt. KUWAHATA, Sjt Major MURAKAMI decapitated both men. Both bodies fell into the hole, the grave was then filled up and the four Japanese soldiers returned to Saigon.

From the time these two men were shot down until the time they were executed there is no indication that they were ever given any official court martial or military trial or hearing of any sort.

2. Evidence of the above will be furnished by the following statements :

Sjt Major.	Hideo TASHIRO	24 March 1946
Sjt	Atsushi TAKANO	25 March 1946
Sjt Major	Isao MURAKAMI	26 March 1946
Sjt	Torai SATO	24 March 1946
Sjt	Kasuharu IKUTA	24 March 1946
2nd Lt.	Tsugio KUWAHATA	28 March 1946
M. Jean Blaise	STEIN	12 December 1945
M. Raymond	GELOT	18 December 1945