

STATEMENT OF ITO TORAJI

On the 7th of October 1943 at about 5:30 P.M., I arrived from Kwajalein by plane and was assigned as Commanding Officer of headquarters company. Then Lt. Tachibana passed me an order saying that the headquarters company was ordered to shoot the prisoners of war to death.

At the command post I met one of the platoon leaders in the headquarters company (I think his name was Platoon Leader Nakamura) and told him that I was assigned as Company leader. I learned that the Headquarters Company was at the northern beach so I went there.

When I arrived at the northern beach I saw the Prisoners of War sitting side by side in a single file facing the beach, with their hands tied and blindfolded. About five or six meters behind each of them stood the riflemen. There were about one hundred but I couldn't see the men in the right flank distinctly. A platoon leader came up to me and said that everything was all set. So I said, "Go ahead as ordered."

A Platoon leader came over to me and said, "It is over," so I ordered him to report to Headquarters and then to go back to his post immediately. I went back to the command post (it was about 7 P.M.)

About a week later an order came by phone that someone saw a strange man who looked like an American and to search all their respective areas. After the search, I reported that everything was OK. Later I heard that an American was caught.

All that I stated on Wake Island is false.

- (a) I think it was the day of surrender that we were ordered to give the false statement.
- (b) All officers above Company Commander were ordered to muster at the Commanding Officer's quarters in the evening.
- (c) After the muster, the Commanding Officer said, "Half of the Prisoners of War died in the bombardment and the rest were executed because there were signs of a riot." He further stated that he had sent a dispatch to the homeland, and ordered us to testify within this scope.

I certify that the above statement is the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth.

December, 1945

Lt. Ito, Toraji

I saw the following three platoon leaders at the place of execution: Nakamura, Horie, Nonaka. I am not sure of these names.

I have made the above statement on my own free will.

Ito, Toraji

Witnessed:

Mitsuo Nakamura

A true copy. Attest:

Lieutenant, U. S. Naval Reserve,
Judge Advocate

CERTIFIED TO BE A TRUE COPY.
/s/ W.P. Mahoney

"Exhibit 7-B(1)"

Ex 2036c
No. 1

EVIDENTIARY DOCUMENT # 441

證言書

- 一 昭和十八年十月七日午後五時三十分頃タツゼリヨリ飛行機ヲ着任
本部中隊長ヲ命ぜらるゝタバハ大尉ヨリ本部中隊長ハ捕虜ヲ銃殺スル
任務ヲ受ケ居ルコトヲ申記^意ヲ受ケ
- 一 指揮所ヲ本部中隊長一名、小隊長(中尉)小隊長ト記憶ス^意ニ合^意
中隊長ニ着任セシ旨ツ云ハニ本部中隊長ハ海岸ニ居^意コトヲ知^意
北海岸ニ行^意ク
- 一 北海岸到着時
捕虜、自カ^意コトヲ^意チヲ縛^意シ海岸向^意テ一列横隊ニ座^意シ其後方約
五ニ米ニ銃手同人数位一列横隊ニ並^意ビ居^意ルヲ見^意ル(約百名俘^意キ右翼
ハ暗^意ク良^意ク見^意エカ^意ク。一名、小隊長來^意リテ用意^意ヨ^意リ自分ニ申^意セリ
自分ハ命令通り^意ト云^意ハス。
- 一 一名、小隊長來^意リテ終^意リ^意タ^意ト云^意ハスヨリ本部ニ報告セ^意テ命^意
直^意チニ戦闘配置ニ歸^意ル旨申^意傳^意ル(自分指揮所ニ歸^意リ^意タ^意リ一時間、
午後七時頃ト思^意ハス)
- 一 約一週間位後ヨリ米人^意ノ^意キモ^意ヲ見^意タ^意リ各受^意持^意込^意域^意ヲ^意ハ^意サ^意リ
セ^意ヨ^意ト^意ノ^意信^意号^意ヲ^意ハ^意サ^意リ^意後^意異^意狀^意ヲ^意届^意ケ^意タ^意リ其後時日不明米人
一名^意ト^意ウ^意コ^意ト^意ハ^意旨^意ヲ^意聞^意キ^意タ^意リ
- 一 大鳥島ニ於^意テ申^意申^意ベ^意シ快^意藤^意寅^意司^意、証言^意ハ事實間違^意ヲ居^意申^意立^意
テアリマス。
- 一 間違^意ヲ居^意申^意立^意テ^意セ^意テ、命^意ヲ受^意ケ^意タ^意リ時^意ノ^意状^意況^意
一 停戦確定^意ニ^意タ^意リ^意日^意ト^意思^意ハ^意ス
- 一 午後タ^意方中隊長以上集合^意ス^意テ、命^意ヲ^意リ^意タ^意リ。

Doc. 8441

右三筆記せし事、定む事實なること證明す。

昭和二十年十二月 日

海軍大學

快藤實司

一、死刑場所 三三三、小隊長ヲ見ル。

女科

堀江

野中

三ノ後、記憶す七光輝心ニ又

以上記した事項、自覚的・自分的に記したことを証明す

司寶藏

証人 中村 光男

昭和二十年十二月十日