

NO 2154

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Affidavit

No 1549 DDD

NAME: VONG DENG first class private - Army number 51626,
Born on the 15 July 1922 at YUAN-LAN (near Moncay).
Son of VON SY SENG and of KIM DI KU.

Address: 13th Company, Coastal forces--
S.P. 50.681 - BPN 406.

Deposition

I was serving at DINH LAP on the 9th March 1946. /T.N. 1945?/

On the 11th, at about 10 a.m., 20 trucks coming from AN CHAU stopped about 1 Km from the post and some Japanese got out and began to surround the post.

In the post were Sub-Lieutenant LEJEUNE, Corporal DURIC, a French sergeant who had arrived the evening before from LANGSON and an Annamese surgeon-lieutenant who had also come from LANGSON to make a medical inspection of the post. Sublieutenant LEJEUNE was in command of the garrison of the post.

The outer, Mobile Detachment with Captain BURGUE, 1st Sergeant BEZUTEAU, Master-Sergeant LEROY and Sergeant BROTHEAU stayed 200 m. from the post. The Mobile Detachment were the first to open fire against the Japanese. They broke off the fight after one hour of battle.

The Japanese who had approached the post charged from two sides at once. The post continued to fire with machine-guns, automatic rifles and grenade-throwers. I saw about thirty Japanese fall, I killed seven or eight with the machine gun. We had two Indochinese corporals killed as well as the European Sergeant from LANGSON and about fifteen wounded.

Sublieutenant LEJEUNE was also wounded with a bullet in the shoulder-blade.

The Japanese succeeded in entering the post, and the fighting came to an end, they tied up the sharpshooters by threes. Only Sub-lieutenant LEJEUNE and the Surgeon were tied up separately. It was about

noon.

The Japanese soldiers gathered the arms and the ammunition together and untied some of the sharpshooters leaving only the block-house riflemen (19) tied up.

A Japanese officer entered the post and fired two shots with his revolver at Sublieutenant LEHUNE who had his hands tied in front of his body. He fell near the trench which is behind the Captain's house. The Indochinese Surgeon Lieutenant was brought near Sublieutenant LEHUNE and the Japanese forced him to sit down.

The Japanese officer returned a few minutes later and decapitated Sublieutenant LEHUNE with his sword. The Lieutenant was on his knees on the edge of the trench. He decapitated in the same way the Indochinese Surgeon Lieutenant.

All of us were grouped in the yard at that time to witness these executions, the Japanese surrounding us.

The Japanese officer gave an order and the group, of which I was one, made up of 19 sharpshooters and European Corporal DURIC, was taken out from the post to near the post office. We were lined up at the side of the road, hands tied behind our backs, in groups of two.

A Japanese officer and six soldiers surrounded us. Two Japanese soldiers armed with rifles with bayonets fixed began to kill the prisoners. I fell down with five bayonet wounds, three in the neck and chest and did not move again. The Japanese left us at the side of the road till about 1600 hours. At that time the Japanese trucks set off again towards T'EN YEN and an old THO of the village came to see the corpses. He untied me and guided me to STUNG, a trader whom I knew.

The inhabitants buried near the road the eighteen dead riflemen and the French Corporal DURIC. As soon as I recovered I rejoined in China the French troops which had retreated to KWANTUNG.

Typed name of Deponent

/Signed in characters/ VOIC DEHC.

Signed and attested under oath on the 20th June 1946 at TIEN YEN before me, the undersigned Investigation Officer assigned by the French Authority for the enquiries of which the present affidavit is the object.

(Sgd./ JEAN

Typed name of Investigation officer:

A JEAN,
Captain of Colonial Infantry.

I, NGUYEN VAN VY, Lieutenant Interpreter of the Annamese Language certify that I have translated this affidavit and the oath of the witness who affirms that he has understood perfectly the present text.

Signature of Interpreter /indecipherable/

Typewritten name of Interpreter:

NGUYEN VAN VY,
Lt of Colonial Infantry.

I, RAULT LOUIS, Chief of Battalion, Commander of Constal Forces, certify as authentic the signatures on the present affidavit.

S/ RAULT.

Witness to the Legalization of signatures of Mr. VONG-DENG, Mr. JEAN, Mr. NGUYEN VAN VY, and Mr. RAULT affixed above

Hanoi, the 27th Sept. 1946.
Chief of Civil Service

S/ J. Lariviere.

/STAMP/