

no 2147

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AFFIDAVIT Le Dinh Bao, ex-sergeant of Mobile Detachment of the Aviation General Secretary of the Administration Committee of Vatchay, residence at Vatchay, (Tonking), born 23 December 1916 at Sadec (Cochin-China) son of Le-Dinh-Fhu and of Mai-Thi-Tram.

Deposition in the form of an Account: At Vatchay, Sept. 17, 1946.

"On the 13 of March 1945 the mobile detachment to which I belonged was in a position situated near the village of Tien Yen (Hai Ninh Province, Tonkin). It was commanded by Captain Estienne. It was composed of eight French soldiers and about 40 Indo-Chinese soldiers. At about 7:30 it was attacked by a strong party of Japanese. After a half hour fight the Japanese made an assault in the course of which all of the French soldiers were taken prisoner.

Prevented from fleeing by the wounds which I had received, I remained in their midst. About a half hour after having been captured, Captain Estienne and Adjutant-Chiefs Lavoiance and Butland were decapitated by blows with a saber. Next came the turn of Adjutant-Chiefs Poli and Ruffini and Adjutants Garnier, Carissan, and Fahun, who were massacred by blows with a bayonet.

In order to facilitate the penetration of the bayonets into the bodies of the victims, the Japanese had opened their clothing to bare a part of their chests.

Signature of deponent:

L. Bao

Typewritten name of deponent:

Le Dinh Bao

Signed and witnessed under oath 17 September 1946 at Vatchay before me, the undersigned, Investigating Officer accredited by the French authority for the investigations of which the present affidavit is the object.

Signature of the Investigating Officer:
(Illegible)

Typewritten name of Investigating Officer:
Captain F.T.N. (cer

For the purpose of legalization of the signature of Le Dinh Bao which appears opposite

Hongay 17 September 1946, The Delegate.
(STAMP)

Commisariat of the Republic
North Indo-China
Hongay Delegation - R.F.
(Signature over stamp illegible)