

Doc. 2485 Evid.

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INTERNATIONAL PROSECUTION SECTION

Doc. No. 2485

24 July 1946

ANALYSIS OF DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

DESCRIPTION OF ATTACHED DOCUMENT

Title and Nature: Affidavit of YAMAWAKI, Fusa-ichi, on Slaughter of American Airmen, CHICHIJIMA, 1944 and 1945

Date: 23 July 1946 Original  Copy  Language: Japanese, English

Has it been translated? Yes  No

Has it been photostated? Yes  No

LOCATION OF ORIGINAL

Document Division

SOURCE OF ORIGINAL: YAMAWAKI, Fusa-ichi

PERSONS IMPLICATED: TACHIBANA, (Major General), CHICHIJIMA Commander

CRIMES TO WHICH DOCUMENT APPLICABLE: Violation Geneva PW Convention

SUMMARY OF RELEVANT POINTS

YAMAWAKI, for one year a member of the island's garrison, recounts several specific instances he witnessed in which captured American airmen were tortured and later killed.

Analyst: W.H.Wagner

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A F F I D A V I T

I, Fusaichi YAMAWAKI, do swear or affirm according to my conscience that the following is true:

I served for one year as a member of the garrison troop on Chichi-Jima, the Ogosawara Islands, and was repatriated on 14 December 1945 (Showa 20), after the surrender of Japan. I know of many slaughter cases committed on American airmen during that period and I wish to help the authorities apprehend and punish those responsible.

On about September 1944 (Showa 19), just when the battle of Saipan was at its height, we had the first large scale air raid on Chichi-Jima. Two American planes were shot down and some airmen descended by parachutes. They were brought to the area where I was engaged in digging trenches. This was in Yobikodaira, where the Division Headquarters was situated. Two prisoners were brought to headquarters with their hands tied with rough straw ropes. A staff officer of the division questioned these two prisoners through an interpreter. During the hottest time of the day one of them was tied to a banana tree in a field and the other was tied to a pillar under the eaves. They were not fed but stood there quietly hanging their heads all day long. They were left there in such condition for two or three days. It is said that they were shot to death after having been handed over to the naval forces.

On a day in about February 1945 (Showa 20) when the air raids had become intense, five airmen prisoners, who had been shot down by the Japanese forces were brought to the Division District Headquarters. Three of them were still young. The youngest was about 19 years old. They also were tied to trees with rough ropes and were questioned by staff officers. Later one of these prisoners was set to work for awhile as a servant to a staff officer at the headquarters doing his washing and digging trenches but in the end he is said to have been shot or stabbed to death with a bamboo spear.

Another prisoner was slaughtered in a dreadful way. It was when I went to Kominato to carry provisions. It was raining and chilly that day. I saw many people gathered at a little barrack near the naval forces so I went there to see what it was all about. I encountered the most unscrupulous and cruel of spectacles. I could hardly bear the sight of it. I did not think that human beings were capable of such an act. I saw one airman tied to a pillar over and over again with a rough straw

rope which had cut into the flesh of his arms and legs. The cold rain fell continuously on the prisoner, who wore only a light shirt and he shivered with cold. I approached him, and being moved with compassion, I put a piece of caramel into his mouth. He said "thank you" and bowed to me. He was a pure hearted youth. I then left the place because I could not bear to see his last moments. I later heard that he was stabbed to death with a bamboo spear. I did not see the torture or the killings of the other three prisoners but I have heard that they were slaughtered in the same way. As for the killing of the two prisoners, I keenly feel that the Division Commander, Major General TACHIBANA, and other high officers, are responsible.

After the surrender we were ordered by the headquarters absolutely not to utter a word concerning the fate of the prisoners. We were threatened that if we should squeal, we would not be sent home. This headquarters order, which was originally in writing, but transmitted to us verbally, may be the only clue to the killing of the prisoners.

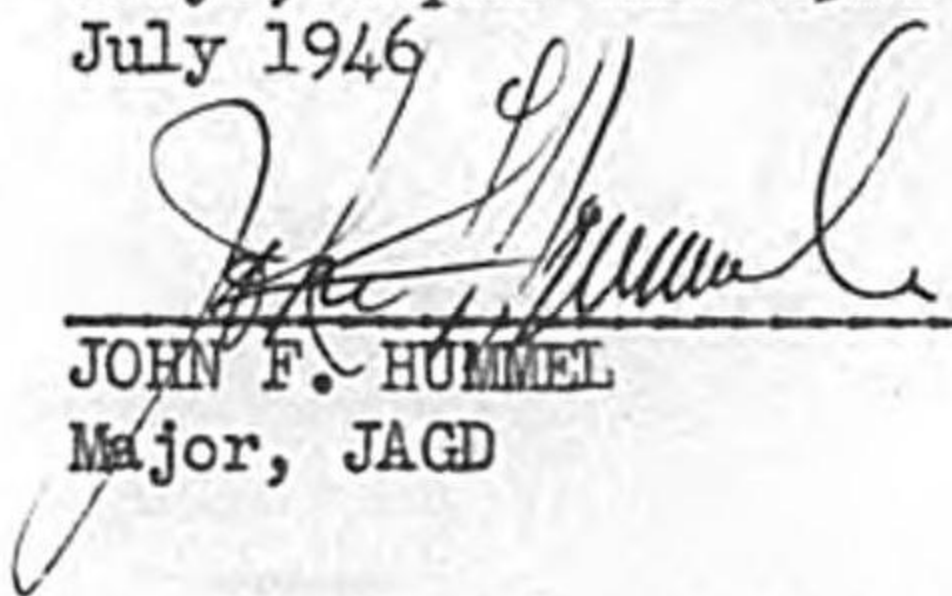
After the surrender, rumors were rife among the enlisted men of my organization at Chichi-Jima that the Division Headquarters explained the death of these seven prisoners by declaring they were drowned when transports bringing them to Japan or Iwo Jima were sunk by enemy submarines or that they were killed in enemy bombings of Chichi-Jima.

*Fusaichi Yamawaki.*

Fusaichi YAMAWAKI

山 脇 彦 —

Sworn to and subscribed by the above-named Fusaichi YAMAWAKI before the undersigned officer at the War Ministry Building, Tokyo, Japan this 23rd day of July 1946

  
JOHN F. HUMMEL  
Major, JAGD

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Fred F. Suzukawa, hereby certify that I am fully conversant with the Japanese and English languages and that

I this day read the foregoing affidavit to the above-named Fusaichi YAMAWAKI in Japanese and in so doing truly and correctly translated the contents thereof from English into Japanese and that said Fusaichi YAMAWAKI stated to me that the contents of said affidavit were the truth and that he was willing to sign said affidavit under oath and that said Fusaichi YAMAWAKI was duly sworn in my presence and signed said affidavit under oath in my presence and that all proceedings incidental to the administration of said oath and the signing of said affidavit were truly and correctly translated from Japanese into English and English into Japanese and fully understood and comprehended by said affiant.

Dated this 23rd day of July 1946 at the War Ministry Building, Tokyo, Japan.

*Fred F. Suzukawa*

FRED F. SUZUKAWA  
2nd Lt., Inf.

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### 口供書

私ハ山脇房一ト申シマス。私ノ良心ニ従ヒ、宣誓シテ、  
シ次ノ如ク確言致シマス。

私ハ小笠原列島父島守備隊ノ一員トシテ一年間  
勤務致シマシタ。ソレテ日本ノ降伏後一九四五年（四  
知廿年）十二月十四日ニ復員致シマシタ。私ハ其ノ期  
間中米國飛行士ニ加ヘラシタ澤山ノ虐殺事件ニ  
付イテ知ツテ居リマス。ソレテ私ハ当局ガ責任者ヲ逮  
捕シ處罰スルヲ援助シ度イト思ツテ居リマス。

昭和十九年即チ一九四四年九月頃サイパンノ戦闘ガ  
高潮ニ達シテ居ツタ時父島ニ第一回ノ大規模ノ空  
襲ガアリマシタ。米機貳機ガ射落サレマシタ。ソレ  
テ數人ノ飛行士ガ落下傘ヲ降リテ来マシタ。彼  
等ハ墜壕ヲ掘ツテ居タ場所ニ連シテ来ラシタ。此ノ  
場所ハ師團司令部ガ存在シテ居タ呼子平テアリ  
マシタ。ニ名ノ俘虜ガ荒縄ニテ彼等ノ手ヲ縛バラシテ  
司令部ニ連シテ来ラシマシタ。師團ノ參謀將校ハ通  
譯ヲ通ジテ前記ニ名ノ俘虜ヲ鞫問シタ。其ノ日ノ最  
モ暑イ時中彼等ノ一名ハ畑ノ中ノバナレノ木ニ縛リ  
付ケラレマシタ。ソレテ他ノ者ハ軒下ノ柱ニ縛リ付ケラレマシ  
タ。彼等ハ一日中靜ニ頭ヲ垂レテ食物モ與ヘラレズニ

立ッテ居リマシタ。彼等ハ兩三日ノ間斯カル状態デ放  
置セラシマシタ。彼等ハ海軍ニ引キ獲サシタ後射殺  
サレタトノコトデアリマス。

一九四五年（昭和二十年）二月頃ノ或ル日、空襲及カ列シク  
トッテ来タ時、日本軍ノ為メニ射サ落サシタ五名ノ飛行  
士ノ俘虜ガ師團司令部ニ連レテ来ラシマシタ。彼等ノ  
中三名ハ未ダ若クアリマシタ。最モ若キ者ハ約十九歳  
デアリマシタ。彼等モ亦荒蕪デ木ニ縛ハラレテ参謀特  
校ニヨッテ訊問サシマシタ。其ノ後、前記俘虜ノ中、一名  
ハ司令部ノ参謀將校ノ召シ便ヒトシテ彼ノ洗濯物ヲ為タ  
リ或ハ塹壕ヲ掘ツタリシテ傷カサシマシタ。然レテ遂ニ  
彼ハ射殺サレタトカ或ハ竹槍デ刺殺サレタトカトノ事  
デス。

他ノ俘虜ハ此ノヒ方法デ虐殺サシマシタ。其ノ日ハ雨  
中其レハ食糧ヲ運搬スル為メ小湊湊ニ行ツタ時デア  
リマシタ。其ノ日ハ雨が降ツテ寒ヒ日デアリマシタ。私ハ  
海軍部隊ノ附近ハ小サナ兵舎ニ澤山ノ人々ガ集ツテアルヲ  
目撃シマシタ。ソレデ私ハ何事デアルカ見ヨウト其ノ場所  
ニ行キマシタ。私ハ乱暴極ムル且ツ残酷ナ光景ニ遭遇シ  
マシタ。私ハ其レヲ程ド見ルニ忍ビマセンデシタ。私ハ人間

ガ斯カル行爲ヲ爲シ得ルトハ考ヘナカッタ。私ハ一名ノ屍  
 行士カ甚純テ柱ニヅルクト縛リツケラレテ居ルノヲ目撃  
 シマシタガ其ノ純ハ彼ノ牛足ノ内ニ喰ヒ込ニテ居リマシタ。左雨  
 ハ純ハ不薄イシヤツン故ヲ著テ寒氣ノ爲ニ震ヘテ居タ其ノ  
 俣膚ノ上ニ降り注ギマシタ。私ハ彼ニ近寄リツテ同情ノ念ニ  
 馳ラシテ彼ノ口ノ中へ一個ノギヤラメルヲ入レテヤリマシタ。彼  
 ハ有リ様ヲト謂ツテ私ニオ憐義ヲシマシタ。彼ハ純情ノ青  
 年ニテアリマシタ。私ハ其カラ其ノ場所ヲ誰シマシタ。何故  
 ナレバ私ハ彼ノ最後ノ瞬間ヲ見ルニ忍ビナカッタカラデアアリ  
 マス。私ハ其ノ後彼カ所槍ヲ刺殺サシタフトヲ聞キマシタ。  
 私ハ他ノ三名ノ俣膚ノ拷問或ハ殺害ヲ目撃<sup>以上</sup>シナカッタガ私ハ  
 彼等カ同様ニ虐殺サシタフトヲ聞キマシタ。俣<sup>以上</sup>ノ俣膚ノ  
 殺害ニ関シテ師團長橋陸軍少将及他ノ高級将校ガ責  
 任ア<sup>ン</sup>モトト切ニ感スルモノデアリマス。降伏後我々ハ司令部  
 カラ俣膚ノ運命ニ関シ總体ニ口外セヌコウニ命ケラレマシタ。  
 我々ハ若シモ口外スレバ家ニ帰<sup>ル</sup>サヌゾト脅カサレマシタ。  
 此ノ<sup>同時</sup>命令ハ文書ニハナツテオリマシタガ我々ニハ口頭ヲ  
 以テ示達サシマシタ。此ノ命令書ハ俣膚ノ殺害ニ対  
 スル唯一ノ牛掛リデア<sup>ル</sup>カモ知シマセン。降伏後師團司令  
 部ハ是等七名ノ俣膚ノ死ヲ説明シテ彼等ハ日本或ハ疏



黄島ニ護送セラル、途中敵潜水艦ニ依ツテ撃沈セラレ  
溺死シタカ或ハ父島ノ敵ノ爆撃ノ因ツテ殺セタト辯  
明シタト云フ噂ガ父島ノ私ノ部隊ノ兵卒ノ間ニ盛デア  
リマシタ。

*Jusaiichi Yamamachi.*

山脇 一 

昭和二十一年七月二十三日、日本、東京、元陸軍有ビルニ於  
テ下記將校ノ前デ前記山脇房一ニ依リ宣誓シ署名  
セラレタ。

*Jack H. Murray*  
Major, USAF.

証明書

私鈴川フレッドハ茲ニ英語ト日本語ニ通曉シ居ル事並  
ニ山脇房一ニセシメタル宣誓ヲ英語ヨリ日本語ニ或ハ日本  
語ヨリ英語ニ莫定ニ且ツ正確ニ魏訳シタル事ヲ証明ス而  
テ其性質及其目的ハ右宣誓者山脇房一ニ依リ完全ニ了解  
セラレタ。

*Jack F. Augerhaus*  
Lieut. Col.