

Ex 1544

Evidentiary Document No. 5347.

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FORM OF STATEMENT.

Summary of examination of Maung Kin Mg. occupation Student.

Address: Paukpanbyu St. Henzada.

Maung Kin Mg. duly affirmed states:-

I am 14 years of age of Burmese nationality and born at Henzada. My permanent home is at Henzada. I am at present living at Henzada.

One day in May, 1945, I took a Japanese Army bus from near the Railway Station Henzada to Ongun where I was employed as a Japanese interpreter.

When the bus arrived at Ongun, I alighted near the garage. At that moment, a Japanese Officer (1 line 3 stars) by the name of YAMADA called to me to accompany him to a trench situated close to the village guard post. I went with him.

In the trench, either standing or sitting, were seven Burmans. Their hands were all tied by the same piece of rope. The Japanese told me to ask the Burmans why they had been arrested. The Burmes replied that they were not guilty, but did not give me the reason for their arrest.

The time was then about 6 pm. Sitting quite near were two whit men, I believe they were tied.

One was over 6 feet tall and was wearing a khaki uniform slacks and a tunic. On his head was a peculiar sort of head gear. It had a flat at the back, netting over the top, a turned up peak in front, ear flaps with straps which fastened under the chin. On his shoulder there was something embroidered in English character, but I did not understand it. He was wearing black boots something like Jack-boots. On one of his forearms, he had a tatoo design, but it was partly covered by his sleeve and I do not remember what it was. He had brown hair and a beard. He had protruding teeth and protruding cheek bones. I could not judge his age, but he seemed to be about the age of the investigator (30). He was carrying a water bottle which had a blue-black cover. He had had a ring which the Japanese had confiscated. The ring was light yellow colour, it might have been gold. In the front was a three-teer gold circle and there was a monogram on it.

The other man was about the height of the average Burman (5' 4"). He had a pair of shorts which he carried under his arm and which the Japanese took from him. I saw YAMADA wearing the shorts the next day. He was dressed in exactly the same way as the first man except that he had nothing embroidered on his shoulder. On his shoulder strap he had a blue stripe. He had brown hair and a beard and seemed older than the first man.

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About 15 minutes later the Japanese officer with an escort of 25 soldiers led the 7 Burmans and the two white men to ONGUN cemetery. Before they were taken away these 7 Burmans of whom I knew 4 or 5 because they were my classmates in the Japanese language school, asked me as to how they were to be killed. They were frightened because the soldiers had fixed the bayonets.

I asked the Japanese officer who gave no reply.

At the cemetery the Jap officer and 3 soldiers looked for trenches in the vicinity. They found one close by.

I was standing about 70 yards away. I was asked by the Japanese to return to ONGUN but I wanted to see. As I was an interpreter I was allowed to stay.

It is a Burmese custom to pray before being executed and I asked YAMADA for permission for the men to pray. He allowed this.

One Burman was taken from the group and ordered to kneel on the edge of the trench. YAMADA cut off his head with a sword. The other Burmans and the two white men could see what was going on. Then the other men were killed one by one. I did not look. I shut my eyes, put my hands over my ears and turned away.

Although I had my hands over my ears I could hear the blows of the sword and the Japs saying "Oh, that one isn't dead yet, bayonet him". I heard cries of "Oh God" coming from the trench.

Next day came the execution of the two white men. They were stripped of their clothes and were completely naked. They made signs that they wanted to smoke and were each given a cigarette.

Then they were executed in the same way as the 7 Burmans. The tall man was executed first. Earth was thrown on the bodies and then the Japanese left taking the dead men's clothing with them.

The next morning I wanted to go out, but I was not allowed and I was warned by the Lt. Col. SAITO's driver that I was not to tell anybody about the execution. I was not allowed out for ten days and Lt. Col SAITO himself warned me that he would kill me if I told.

The murdered men I knew were Mg Than, age 24 of Henzada.
O Mg Than, age 35 of Taloketaw. Yauk Tet, age 20 of Henzada.
Ohn Mg., age 17 of Henzada., and a nephew of Daw Waing Gyi of Henzada.

I have heard from coolies working for the Japanese of other executions. Sometimes there were executions of batches of six people, sometimes of batches of up to 30 people. †

Of the two white men the tall was brought in about a month before the execution and the other one about 15 days before the execution. I think they had been brought from Pantanaw.

Two months before the arrival of the first of these men a man with "NEW ZEALAND" on his shoulders was brought to the ONGUN Garrison. I think he was an airman. He wore a gold coloured badge with two lions on it on his arms. He had brown hair and was clean shaven. I should think he was a tall man but I never saw him standing up. I think his back was broken as he sat with his torso hunched forward. He was never taken to hospital and never given medical attention. While he was at ONGUN he slept in the garden. The Japs had given him a mosquito net and a ground sheet. 4 or 5 days later the man disappeared. I think he was taken to Rangoon.

I can recognise the photograph of Thenouchi who was known as E Maung.

Signed Khin Maung.

Interpreter.

I certify that I duly translated the above summary to the witness in his own language prior to his signature which appears above.

Signed. Hla Nyunt.
Interpreter.

Affirmed before me d'Astugues A.R. Signature, Rank, Captain.

Description investigator 17 War Crimes Investigation Team, an Officer detailed to examine the above by the Commander-in-Chief, Allied Land Forces, South East Asia.

(Authority:- ALFSEA War Crimes Instruction No. 1 para 7).

It is certified that the above statement is the true copy of the Original Statement made by Mg Kin Mg, Studen Paukpanbyu St. Henzada.

Signed T. S. F. BURNETT Lt-Col.
O.C. 17 War Crimes Investigation Team