

P.I. - atrocity

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GENERAL HEADQUARTERS  
UNITED STATES ARMY FORCES, PACIFIC  
OFFICE OF THE THEATER JUDGE ADVOCATE  
WAR CRIMES BRANCH

AG 000.5 (3 Sep 45)JA

AP0 500  
3 September 1945

SUBJECT: Report of War Crimes Branch on Atrocities.

TO: The Judge Advocate General  
Washington 25, D. C.

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II. SUMMARY OF EVIDENCE:

Briefly summarized, the evidence adduced by the Investigator-Examiners is to the effect that:

Dr. Gilbert Isham CULLEN, an American citizen, age 68 years, was District Health Inspector and Quarantine Officer in charge of the United States Public Health Service at Iloilo City, Iloilo Province, Panay, Philippine Islands, and resided in that city. He had lived in Iloilo Province for thirty years prior to the Japanese capture of Panay Island on 16 April 1942, and during that period, in addition to his official duties, conducted the private practice of medicine among the inhabitants, including the Japanese population (R 1, 2, 3). About two or three days after the Japanese army entered the city, Dr. CULLEN was taken with others to a small house where he was held a prisoner by the Japanese until 29 April 1942. Then he was removed by the Japanese to the Provincial Prison of Iloilo City, where he remained until about 1 January 1943 (R 3).

Until 16 May 1942 he was well treated and subjected to nothing more than routine questioning, probably due to the fact that the employees and guards at the Provincial Prison were local Japanese who had known him previously. On 16 May 1942, however, another Japanese officer assumed command of this prison and Dr. CULLEN was taken for questioning before an examiner, a reporter, an interpreter, and two soldiers, all of whom were unknown to Dr. CULLEN (R 4). The questioning took place in the warden's office where, for a period of several hours, Dr. CULLEN was struck in the abdomen with a club, kicked while lying on the floor, slapped repeatedly with the heel of the hands of his inquisitors. They then took a pair of pliers and slowly pulled the toe-nail from Dr. CULLEN's great toe on his left foot. He was clubbed about the body, head and face and then suspended from a cross beam by his thumbs with his feet off the floor, and again later was hung by his ankles until his legs were badly cut by the ropes. The fingers of his left hand were bent and twisted until some of them were broken and dislocated.

As a result of the treatment above described, Dr. CULLEN suffered a broken nose, several cracked ribs, a broken right leg, loss of his great toe-nail, broken and dislocated fingers and an injury to his jaw which impaired its function (R 5, 6, 17). The injuries were inflicted upon Dr. CULLEN in an effort to make him reveal the names of local citizens who were sending radio messages and to force him to reveal information concerning various military subjects such as location and number of American troops (R 5, 6, 15). The torture lasted from morning until late in the afternoon (R 7, 14) and Dr. CULLEN still bears the marks of his torture, more than three years after their infliction (Ex. A-I).

During the remainder of his stay in the Provincial Prison, Dr. CULLEN received for food only a handful of rice daily and an occasional "little chunk" of meat and he lost ninety-two pounds in a period of eight months (R 7). Another witness reported that Dr. CULLEN was not served a sufficient amount of drinking water and his food rations consisted of rice and a little soy sauce (R 19). Because of his poor physical condition resulting from the torture and malnutrition, Dr. CULLEN was finally moved to St. Paul's Hospital in Iloilo City in January 1943. He remained there five months and then was taken to Santa Catalina Hospital at Santo Tomas in Manila (R 20) where he remained until liberated by the Americans (R 8).

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