(2539) Kurlda, Shigenori \mathcal{A}

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4

Date: 21 May 1947

Report of Investigation Division, Legal Section, GHQ, SCAP.

Inv. Div. No. 1393

CRD No.

Report by: L. H. Barnard, Maj., CMP

0-39540

Title: Shigenori KURODA

Synopsis of facts:

Prior to war, the town of LCPEZ had population of 24,000.

Present population 5,000. Civilians murdered by Japanese
Garrison and buried in backyard of LCPEZ Elementary School.

Town burned by Japanese prior to withdrawal.

- P -

Reference: Report of Capt James B. Lynn, dated 17 February 1947.

DETAILS:

At Tokyot

On 19 May 1947, the Manila Branch forwarded a check note transmitting the results of their investigation at Manila in this matter. Their investigative memorandum read as follows:

This investigation was conducted during the period 25-27 March 1947 by Capt. Fascual T. FOJAS, JAGS (PA), pertaining to the following:

Investigation of the massacre and/or atrocities of the civilian population at Lopez, Quezon (Tayabas) Province, Philippines, committed by the Japanese on March and April, 1944, and of determining whether said town is inhabited.

II. PROCEEDINGS:

1. The following named witnesses were duly sworm and testified as hereinafter appears:

NAME	AGE	SEX	MATICNALITY	ADDRESS		
ARGOSINO, Anite O.	36	7	Filipino		Quezon,	P. I.
MONDRAGON, Luisa V. PANGANIBAN, Efigenio		7	Fil ipino	Lopez.	Snezon	
C. C.	47	×	Filipino	Lopez.	Queson	

Distribution:

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3 Inv Div (File #1393)

Do not write in this space.

- 2. Mr. Benjamin U. de Gurman, 968 Constancia, Sampeloc, Mamila, P.I., was duly sworm and acted as reporter-interpreter.
- 3. The backyard of the Lopes Elementary School was investigated upon information of the townpeople that it was made the graveyard of the murdered civilians that were killed by the Japanese garrisoned at said town, and the investigator found traces of the numerous graves wherein the Japanese buried their victims.

III. The following were victimes

BANK	SEX	MATIONALITY		W. BESS		
APORDO, Ricardo	M	Filipino	Lopes.	Quezon,	P.I.	
ALFURTE, Francisco	H					
ARGOSINO, Dominador 2.	. M					
ARGOSINO, Dominador Jr.	M					
ARIT, Sebastian	N		Bafrio	Lalagun	s. Lopes	, mozon
ARIT, Basilies	F		Barrio	Lalegun	a. Lopes	, Quezon
ARIT, Jose	34		*			
ARIT. Alexander	246		**			
AUMIETADO, Mariano	M		Lopez,	Quezon,	P.I.	
BARON, Marcelo	M					
BARROS, Gerardo	M			**		
CANTARA, Mamorto	54		*			
CALVARIO, Macario	M		**	*		
CONDUCTO, Antonio	24		**			
CURIOSO, Dominador	N		**			
JIDA, Imeilo	M					
MARQUEZ, Miguel	N					
MARQUEZ, Philip	36	*				
MONDRAGON, Jesus A.	N	68	13			
PARIOSO, Urbano	M			Ħ		
SARDON, Basilio	M		**			
SIASON, Patricio	M	*		*		
EOSA, Donato de la	M		*			
ROSA, Vicente de la	M			n		
RICAFORT, Glicerto	34					
TARGA, Sixto	M			*		
VALENCIA, Josquin	M	**		*		
VILLAFUERTE, Montano	M					
VILLAPURRPE, Atilano	M		**	*		
VILLAPLANA, Luis	M					
VILLATI, Nemosio	14			20		
VILLATI. Bufine	34					
VILLEGAS, Francisco	M					
VILLEGAS, Sentiago	. M					
ZUBRANO, Epimaco	84					

IV. DISCUSSION:

- l. Efforts were exerted to contact the Municipal Mayor of Lopes, Queson, but unfortunately he was not available up to 27 March 1947. The Chief of Police of said town was also contacted but he could not give any information regarding the said Japanese atrocities as he was at Calausg, Queson, during the Japanese occupation.
- 2. Efforts were exerted to contact and get statements from Mr. Rafael MARQUEZ of Lopez, Queson, Nestoria MANAS of Barrio San Roque, Lopez, Queson, Gelestina JOBIDA, resident of Barrio Maguilayan, Lopez, Queson, and Rosario Maguilaya, resident of Barrio Manabahin Ilaya, Lopez, Queson, but unfortunately, we were not able to meet them because Mr. Rafael MARQUEZ was at that time in Lucena, Tayabas, and efforts to locate him in Lucena on the afternoon of the 27th and on the morning of the 28th were in vain; the others were in their respective barrios above-men-

tioned which were inaccessible due to poor road conditions. However, the Chief of Police promised us that he would send persons to contact them and tell them to come to the town proper, but they failed to come or contact us in the town proper up to 27 March 1947. Other persons in said town were contacted, but they do not have personal knowledge of the atrocities committed by the Japanese except from hearsay. It was gathered from the investigation that Lopez, prior to the war, had a population of around 24,000 and at present, the town proper has only a population of more or less 5.000 because the houses were all burned and/or destroyed by the retreating Japanese during the liberation. V. I believe that sufficient competent evidence now available has been perpetuated. There were attached to the foregoing memorandum, affidevite by Anita O. ARGOSING, Luisa V. MONDRAGON and Efigenio C. PANGARIBAN. Their statements read as follows: "ANITA C. ARGOSING, after having been duly sworn on oath, testified at the Municipal Building of Lopez, Quezon, P.I., on 25 March 1947, as follows: . Please state your name, age, nationality, occupation, residence, and other personal circumstances. A. Anita Olivenza ARGOSINO, 36 years of age, Filipina, widow, proprietor, native and resident of Lopez. Quezon (Tayabas) Province, Philippines. Q. Do you expect to remain at your present address, if not where do you intend to move? A. Yes. I expect to remain at my present address. Q. During the Japanese occupation, were you a resident of Lopez, Quezon Province, Philippines? A. Yes. Q. Do you know of any massescre committed by the Japanese forces here in your town, and if so, please relate in your own words what happened? Yes. During the months of March and April, 1944, the Japanese soldiers garrisoned here at Lopez arrested various peoples including men, women, and children. One of those arrested was my husband, Dominedor Z. ARGOSING. He was arrested on Merch 26, 1944, together with my son, Dominador ARGOSING, Jr. Both of them never returned home end I presumed that they were murdered by the Japanese, together with other people. On the 23rd of April, 1944, I. together with the other families of the fourteen prisoners visited the garrison to bring food, and we were informed that they were gone already, and from that time on, those sixteen prisoners, including my husband and son, were not seen anymore. Among those that I know aside from my husband and son, were Mamerto CANTARA, Jesus MONDRAGON, Epimaco ZURRANO, Miguel MARQUEZ, Pio TABING, Philip MARQUEZ, Honorato LACUARIN, Rufino VILLATI, Antonio COMDUCTO, Aproniano AUMENTADO, Basilio SEEDON, and others whose names I can no longer remember. These victims were all civilian Filipinos and residents of Lopes. Quezon. Please relate how your husband, Mr. Dominedor ARGOSINO and your son, Dominedor ARGOSING, Jr., were arrested by the Japanese on March 26, 1944. I cannot exactly remember the number of Japanese soldiers that went to our house and arrested my husband and son. I was at that time terribly afraid and almost lost consciousness. Did you witness the murder of your husband and son by the Japanese? No. I did not witness it. I only presumed that they were killed on the 23rd of April, 1944, because when I brought food for them in the garrison, my husband and son were not there anymore and since then they never returned home. Where was the Japanese garrison at Lopez located at that time? It was located at the Lopez Elementary School, Lopez, Quezon, Philippines.

Will you please give us the names of the Japanese officers and enlisted men responsible for the said atrocities and will you give a brief description of themi The Japanese commander of the garrison at that time was Captain OTO, I do not know his first name. The other officers were Captain CHICIWA, Captain PAGASA, Captain YAGI, and Colonel SEUGI. I do not know the names of the others. I also do not know the names of any of the enlisted men. Captain OTO was a tall fellow, medium built, and had short cropped hair. He did not wear glasses. That is all I remember of him. Captain CHICIWA was killed by the guerrillas. Captain PAGASA was a small robust fellow with a mustache. Colonel SHUGI was a small fellow, more or less around 50 years of age. I also remember enother Japanese by the name of HASHIMOTO, a teacher in Mippongo. He was a small fellow with a mustache and was rather thin. q. Do you know the reason or metive of the Japanese why your husband and son were arrested and killed? A. I do not know of any reason. Q. Do you know of any other persons that have knowledge of these atrocities, particularly the massacre committed by the Japanese during the months of March and April. 1944 here at Lopez. Queson? A. Yor. Rafael T. MATQUEZ, a resident of Lopez, Quezon; Nestoria MANAS, resident of Barrio San Roque, Lopez, Quezon; Celestina JOBIDA, resident of Barrio Magilayan, Lopez, Quezon; Rosario MAQUIDA, resident of Barrio Banabahin Ileya, Lopez, Quezon, and our Vice-Mayor, Efigenie C. PANGANIBAN. Q. Do you know of any survivor of the said atrocities committed by the Japanese? Bone. Do you have anything more to state in this connection? No mors." e/t/ Anits Olivenza ARGOSINO "LUISA V. MONDRAGON, after having been duly sworn, testified at the Municipal Building of Lopes, Quezon, P. I., on 25 March 1947, as follows: Q. Please state your maiden name, age, residence address, and other personal circumstances. Luisa VICTORIA, 49 years of age, Filipina, widow, housekeeper and proprietor, native and resident of Lopez, Quezon (Tayabas) Province. P. I. Q. Do you intend to remain at your present address, and if not, how can your whereabouts in the future be excertained? A. Lopez, Quezon is my permanent address and I do not intend to leave. During the Japanese occupation were you a resident of Lopez, Queson, P. I.? Yes, sir. Q. Do you know of any atrocities committed by the Japanese soldiers here in Lopez during the occupation, and if so, please state or relate said atrocities. A. During the year 1943, I do not remember the exact date, the Japanese garrison here in Lopez often times picked up men suspected as guerrillas and said men never returned to their homes, so it is presumed that they were killed or murdered by the Japanese. In the year 1944, beginning in the month of March up to April of the same year, various men were picked up by the Japanese soldiers here in our town. One of them was my husband by the name of Jesus A. MONDRAGON. About this time around a thousand men were garrisoned by the Japanese, including men, women, and children. Some of the women were even prognant and others delivered their child in the garrison. Some of them were later released and others never returned home. One of them was my husband who never returned home, and it is presumed that he was murdered by the Japanese together with other persons garrisoned by the Japanese.

Please state in detail how your husband was arrested and killed by the Japaness, mentioning particularly the exact date. It was on the month of March 1944, I cannot remember the exact day when my husband, Jesus A. MONDRAGON was arrested by the Japanese, garrisoned here at Lopez. He was carried to the garrison post situated at the Lopez Elementary School. I did not witness the killing of my husband, but I presumed that he was killed in the month of April. 1944. Since then I was not able to see him and he never returned home up to the present time. Will you please give an estimate of the number of people killed by the Japanese here in Lopez, Quezon during their occupation? A. Probably more or less one thousand. Q. Do you know of any reason or motive why the Japanese killed those people particularly your husband? A. Probably they suspected that they were guerrillas and pro-Americans. Q. Do you know the Japanese soldiers that arrested your husband? A. No. I do not know them, but if I will see them again, probably I can identify them. Q. Who was the commanding officer of the Japanese garrison at Lopes, Quezon at that time? A. I think it was Captain Ofo. Q. Please give us a description of said Captain Cro? A. He was a tall fellow. I can identify him if I will see him again. What was his first name? I do not know. Q. Will you please state the names of persons murdered and/or killed by the Japaness here in Lopez, their residences and nationalities? Jesus A. MONDRAGON, Dominador 2. ARGOSINO, Dominador ARGOSINO, Jr., Miguel MARQUEZ, Epimeco ZURBANO, Memorto CANTARA, Pio TABING, Lucilo JIDA, Philip MARQUEZ, Rufino VILLATI, Nemesio VILLATI, Patricio SIASON, Luie VILLAFLARA. Dominador CURIOSO, Francisco LAFUERTE, Marcelo BARON, Vicente DE LA ROSA, Donate DE LA ROSA, Gerardo BARROS, Glicerio RICAFORT, Sixto TARGA, Francisco VILLEGAS, Santiogo VILLEGAS, Basilio SARDON, Josquin VALENCIA, Montano VILLAFUERTE, Ricerdo APORDO, Atilano VILLAFUERTE, Urbano PARIOSO, Macario CALVARIO, and others whose names I do not know, and others that I can no lenger remember. All of these men were filipines and residents of Lopez, Queson. Do you have anything more to state in connection with this matter? The town proper of Lopez, including several houses in the barries of Tocal in, Rosario, Lalagona, and San Roque, were burned by the Japanese. Also in the barrio of Gibay houses were burned by the Japanese. When was that? During the liberation when the Japanese forces were retreating. Do you have anything more to state or add? No more. s/t/ Luisa Victoria MONDRAGON "EFIGENIO C. PANGANIBAN, after having been duly sworm, testified at the Municipal Building of Lopes, Quezon, Philippines, on 26 Merch 1947, as follows: Please state your name, age, nationality, occupation, residence and other personal circumstances. Efigenio C. PANGANIBAN, 47 years old, Filipino, Vice-Mayor of Lopez, Quezon Province. Philippines, and a native and resident of the said place.

During the Japanese occupation were you a resident of Lopez, Quezon (Tayabas) Province, Philippines? Yes. Do you know of any atrocities committed by the Japanese during their occupation here at Lopez? Yes. Please relate the atrocities committed by the Japanese that you know. During the months of March and April 1944, the Japanese garrison here at Lopes. Quezon, arrested various peoples and imprisoned them at the Lopez Blementary School. Many of the prople arrested never returned home, and it was presumed that they were all killed. Majority of those people arrested were civilians and those killed were buried in the backyard of the said Lopez Elementary School where their garrison was located. Up to the present traces of the graves of those persons killed can be seen. Please state the names of the persons that you know that were massacred by the Japanese. A. Jesus A. MONDRAGON, Dominador Z. ARGOSINO, Dominador ARGOSINO, Jr., Miguel MARQUEZ, Pio TABIEG. Lucilo JIDA, Ecimaco ZURBANO, Rufino VILLATI, Memerto CARTARA, Philip MARQUEZ, Dominador CURIOSO, Patricio SIASON, Memesia VILLATI, Luis VILLAPLANA, Francisco ALFUERTE, Donato DELA ROSA, Vicente DE LA ROSA, Gerardo RARROS, Marcelo BARON, Glicerio RICAFORT, Francisco VILLEGAS, Santiago VILLEGAS, Sixto TARGA, Basilio SARDON, Montano VILLAFUERTE, Atilano VILLAFUERTE. Josquin VALHECIA, Ricardo APCEDO, Macario CALVARIO, and Urbano PANIOSO, and Mariano AUM ENTADO. The others are not known to me. What other atrocities that you know that were committed by the Japanese? On March 14, 1944, the Japanese bombarded the barrios of Lalaguna and Rosario. The barrie of Lelaguna was bemberded for two days killing civilians and destroying houses. The houses of Faustina LABRADOR and Laureano BARING received direct hits and they were both totally destroyed. In the house of Faustina LABRADOR the following were killed: Sebastian ARIT, Basilian ARIT, Jose ARIT, Alexander ARIT, and Julia ARIT. Sebastian ARIT was the husband of said Faustina LABRADOR and the others were their sons and daughters. Do you know of any motive or cause why the Japanese committed said strecities? Those persons arrested were suspected as guerrillas and the said barrios were bomberded due to their belief that eaid places were the camps of the guerrilles. Do you know the names and a short description of the Japanese officers and soldiere responsible for the atrocities you mentioned? A. They were Colonel SHUGI, a small fellow, more or less around 50 years of age, with somewhat an ovel face: Capt. OTO, the garrison commander at Lopez, who was a tall fellow. Capt YAGI was a tall fellow with a mustache always carrying a long came. Capt. CHIGIWA was killed by the guerrillas. Do you have anything more to state in this connection? No more. e/t/ Efigenio C. PANGANIBAN The originals of the above mentioned documents are being transmitted to the Criminal Registry Division with their copy of this report. UNDEVELOPED LEADS: The Tokyo Office -- At Tokyo -- Will contact the GIS and obtain all available information concerning subject. Will report the result of the demand on the Japanese Covernment for the military and biographical history of KURODA. Will report the result of the interrogation of Professor CUERAN, with reference to the massacre of the town of Lopez, Tayabas Province, F.I.

Will interview subject at Sugamo Prison relative to the Lopez massacre.

Upon completion of the leads, will discuss this matter with the Prosecution Division for the purpose of determining whether or not a prosecution of subject will be entertained.

PENDING

LEGAL SECTION

ROUTING SLIP

ROM:	TIME:
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GENERAL HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES ARMY FORCES, PACIFIC

第一問昭和16年12月7日到昭和20年9月2日マテ女何か一辑移力 教育総路部本部長(陸軍),南方軍総参謀長.

第十四军司令官(比岛迅造).参謀本部附,为至牙豫備論人

通道流 KURODA SHIGENORI

本名以外人民名等

生年月日 华四阳

明治20年10月25日(25.10.1887) 岩

出生地 等五問

智鲜之物部银松村太宇田限加了新地

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傷跟、目門等

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES ARMY FORCES, PACIFIC

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第十一問 自分証明,標式入署罗等

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现在不可最高階級 第十三問

陸軍中特

昭和6年1月以来,職務.乃皆級等

教育統監部課員(中性) 答 多杂第五十九群隊是(大行左) 陸爾智 数 暴 誤 (大性)

却度駐劉武宣(大佐) 多謀 李部附(少特)

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GENERAL HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES ARMY FORCES, PACIFIC

教育総監部本部長(中华) 南方軍総多謀長(中华) 第十四軍司(中华) 等計 等部 (中华) 豫 说 (中华) 以下第十二間で

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Legal Section - (KURODA Shingenori)
(2539)

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(6)

SECTE

MANE: EURODA, Shigemori.

PRESENT STATUS: Confined in Sugamo Prison.

SUMMARY OF INFORMATION:

As Commander-in-Chief of all Japanese Forces in the Philippine Islands in 1942. SUBJECT bears command responsibility for numerous wholesale murders, massacres, rapes, cruelties and torgures of Filipino and U.S. citisens, and military personnel. SUBJECT was also Commanding General, 26th. Division in North China in 1941; Chief -of-Staff, Southern Expeditionary Army in 1942.

REMARKS:

An examination of the POW files in the office of the Philippine Division, Legal Section, GHQ, SCAP, will reyeal many atrocities committed during SUBJECT's tenure in the Philippine Islands. G-2 in a report dated 8 May 1947 recommends: "Unless Legal Section finds basis for war crimes charges in connection with KURCDA's commands and/or atrocities committed during his tenure in the Philippine Islands, G-2 recommends release of KURCDA from internment without preference of charges."

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that SUBJECT be retained in custody for trial as a Class B war criminal suspect.

Kuroda, St. Hen, CG Phillipmia 1943-1944

arrested 5 Oct 45 per SCHP ftr to CG 8th 11 sept 45Bases arrest: suspected complicity atrocities in Phila
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FAR EAST COMMAND CHECK SHEET

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File No:

Subject: KURODA Shigenori, Internee in Sugamo Prison

Note No.

From: G-2

Legal Section

Date:

Info Copy To:

GB/CIS/OD: TPD/FAF/mk

1. Curriculum Vitae of KURODA Shigenori (TAB A) indicates that he is a career army officer who was Chief of Staff of the Southern Army in China in July 1942 and Commander-in-Chief of the forces in the Philippine Islands from May 1943 to October 1944.

- 2. KURODA is said to be a very capable staff officer and to have been a member of the first group in his class to be promoted to Lt. General. Available information indicates that KURODA has had considerable staff experience but that he has not held command of first importance in battle. His Philippine command was prior to the Leyte invasion when General YAMASHITA Tomoyuki was named supreme commander in the Philippines.
- 3. Legal Section Investigation Division report No. 1393, dated 7 February 1947, mentions affidavits with respect to atrocities which may have been committed in the Philippines during KURODAN'S tenure of command. Legal Section will undoubtedly study KURODA's quan with respect to such activity with a view to prosecution or release.
- 4. Unless Legal Section finds basis for war crimes charges in connection with KURODA's commands and/or atrocities committed during his tenure in the Philippine Islands, G-2 recommends release of KURODA from internment without preference of charges.

TAB A = Curriculum_Vitae_of KURODA_Shigenori_

FPAC AGO Form No. 37

SEGRET

KURODA Shigenori, Internee in Sugamo Prison

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Legal Section

8 MAY 1947

Info Copy To: IP:

GB/CIS/OD: TPD/FAF/mk

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TAB A = Curriculum_Vitae_of KURODA_Shigenori_____C.A.W.__

SEGRET

Curriculum Vitae of KURODA Shigenori

Curriculum Vitae of KURODA Shigenori

1887	Born
1906 Dec	Entered 47th Infantry Regiment
1907 Dec	Entered Military Academy
1909 May	Graduated Military Academy
1909 Dec	Second Lieutenant
1913 Feb	First Lieutenant
1913 Dec	Entered Military Staff College
1916 Nov	Graduated Military Staff College
1917 Aug	Attached to Headquarters of the Inspector-General of Military Education
1918 Aug	Company Commander, 47th Infantry Regiment 1918 Aug-1919 Apr Participated in the battles and guard in
	Siberia
1919 Jun	Captain after return to Japan
1919 Jul	Member of Headquarters of the Inspector-General of Military Education
1921 May	Despatched to England
1924 Aug	Major
1925 May	Returned to Japan
1928 Mar	Battalion Commander, 57th Infantry Regiment
1928 Aug	Lieutenant Colonel
1929 Aug	Member of Headquarters of the Inspector-General of Military Education
1932 Aug	Colonel
1932 Aug	Commander, 59th Infantry Regiment
	1932 Sep-1933 Aug Participated in the battles and guard in
	various places of Manchuria
1933 Aug	Chief, Conscription Section of Military Affairs Bureau,
	Ministry of War
1935 Aug	Resident Military Officer in India
1937 Mar	Major General
1937 May	Returned to Japan
1937 Oct	Commander, Infantry Corps of 26th Division
	1938 Feb-1938 Nov Participated in the operations of various places in Northern China and engaged in the guard of Tatun
1938 Nov	Commander, 4th Independent Garrison Unit in Manchuria
1939 Aug	Lieutenant General
1939 Aug	Commander, 26th Division in Northern China
1941 Jun	Deputy Inspector-General of Military Education
1941 Dec	Acting Inspector-General of Military Education
1942 Jul	Chief of Staff of the Southern Army Arrived at Singapore via Shanghai, Taihoku and Saigon
1943 May	Arrived at Manila
	1943 May-1944 Participated in the operation of the
	Philippine Islands
1944 Jul	Commander-in-Chief, 14th Army Area
1944 Sep	Attached to Military General Staff
1944 Oct	Left Manila
1944 Dec	Retired from service
1945 Dec	Interned in Sugamo Prison as a war crimes suspect