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DOCUMENT 2719

JOSE G. TUPAZ, after having been duly sworn, testified at Tigbauan, Iloilo Province, Panay, P. I., on 6 November 1945, as follows:

- Q Will you please state your name, age, nationality and present address.
- A Jose G. TUPAZ, 45 years old, a Filipino citizen, and I live in Tigbauan, Iloilo Province, Panay, P. I.
- Q Where were you during the month of August, 1943?
- A I was in Barrio Bolocawe, Tigbauan, where I was evacuated because of the occupation of the Japanese.
- Q On any occasion did the Japanese commit any atrocities to which you were an eye witness?
- A Yes. On August 10th, 1943, I was an eye witness to the beheading of twenty-six Filipino civilians - 23 men and 3 women, the clubbing to death of a Filipino male, and the bayonetting of a 3-month-old baby. This occurred at a concentration camp in which I was. The camp was near Barrio Parara, Tigbauan.
- Q How did you come to be at this concentration camp?
- A Because my family and I were captured by the Japanese while we were hiding from them, and we along with approximately 50 other civilians were taken to this concentration camp. We were taken principally to be questioned as to the identity and whereabouts of the guerrillas.
- Q Can you tell us what happened at the concentration camp while you were there?
- A We were divided into groups, and the groups were interrogated simultaneously by the Japanese in an attempt to obtain information as to the whereabouts and identity of the guerrillas operating in this area. During the process of investigation, they tortured the civilians who were not able to give them satisfactory explanations. A Filipino, whose family name was TRISTEZA, age 25, a resident of the Barrio Buyuan, Tigbauan, I saw severely tortured by being pushed into the burning fire; he was then made to lie upon the ground, face up, a bamboo pole was placed across his neck and two Japanese soldiers stood, one on each end of the pole, choking the victim. As the torture of this individual continued, they took the points of their bayonets and drilled holes in the man's temples. The reason for his being tortured in this manner was that he was suspected of being a guerrilla.

After the investigation, which lasted for about an hour, the twenty-four males and three women were all tied with hands behind their backs, and later on they were retied on a piece of strong rope, like cattle, and were pulled to a thicket about 25 meters away from the concentration camp where they were beheaded. A baby, three months old, the 28th member of the group, was thrown into the air by the Japanese and impaled upon a bayonet. One man, Ramon TOLEGIDA, of this group of twenty-eight, was killed when the Japanese struck him on the side of the head with a hardwood club. The other members of the group were all beheaded. I saw all this as I sat on a mound within the concentration camp.

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Q Were you included in this group?

A No, because I was holding my year-old child in my arms. The Japanese let me go.

Q Can you give us any of the names of the people that were killed at this time - as many as you know, and their approximate ages?

A Vicente LEDESMA, 45; Miss Lilia TUVILLA, 21; Umay PULA, 50; Ramon TOLEGIDA, 50; Rufino MANGALA, 50; Ango TRISTEZA, 25; and Mrs. Alejandro TUVILLA, 22, and baby; all Filipinos.

Q Can you give us any of the names of the Japanese who were in charge of the groups which conducted this investigation and killing?

A Yes, Captain WATANABE was in command of the group. Sergeant MATSUZAKI was in charge of the torturing of TRISTEZA and was also responsible for the rounding up of all the civilians. It was Captain WATANABE who gave the command to execute these civilians.

Q Were the bodies of the killed civilians buried there at the site of the killing?

A Only one that I know of; he was buried by his relatives. Others were buried at places I do not know. Unclaimed bodies were cremated by some of the civilians who returned two days later.

Q After the killing, what happened?

A The rest of us were confined in the concentration camp for three days. During this time we were not given water or food, and at the end of the third day we were released and told to surrender the following day. The town surrendered the following day, but we did not return to the town.

Q Would you be willing to testify against these Japanese if and when they are brought to trial?

A Very willing.

Q Is there anything else you would like to add to this statement?

A I have nothing further to add.

/s/ Jose G. Tupaz
JOSE G. TUPAZ

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COMMONWEALTH OF THE PHILIPPINES)
PROVINCE OF ILOILO, PANAY ISLAND) ; SS
TOWN OF TIGBAUAN

I, JOSE G. TUPAZ, being duly sworn on oath, state that I have read and understood the foregoing transcription of my interrogation and all answers contained therein, consisting of two (2) pages, are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

/s/ Jose G. Tupaz
JOSE G. TUPAZ

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 10th day of November, 1945.

/s/ Francis C. Lund, 2d Lt, FA
FRANCIS C. LUND, 2d Lt, FA
Investigating Officer, War Crimes In-
vestigating Detachment.

C E R T I F I C A T E

We, FRANCIS C. LUND, 2d Lieutenant, O-1186157, FA, and LEO J. LAPORTE, 2d Lieutenant, O-1597713, QMC, certify that on the 6th day of November, 1945, personally appeared before us JOSE G. TUPAZ, and gave the foregoing answers to the several questions set forth; that after his testimony had been transcribed, the said JOSE G. TUPAZ read the same and affixed his signature thereto in our presence.

/s/ Francis C. Lund, 2d Lt, FA
FRANCIS C. LUND, 2d Lt, FA
Investigating Officer, War Crimes
Investigating Detachment.

Tigbauan, Iloilo
Panay, P. I.

10 November 1945.

/s/ Leo J. LaPorte,
LEO J. LAPORTE, 2d Lt, QMC
Investigating Officer, War Crimes
Investigating Detachment.

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C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Alva C. Carpenter, Chief, Legal Section
General Headquarters, Supreme Commander for the
Allied Powers, do hereby certify that the attached
photostatic copy of the affidavit of JOSE G. TUPAZ
is a true and correct reproduction of the original
affidavit; and that a signed and sworn copy of
said affidavit is presently on file with this
Section.

/s/ Alva C. Carpenter
Alva C. Carpenter,
Chief, Legal Section.

Witness: /s/ John R. Pritchard

Sworn to before me this 29th day of
October, 1946, Tokyo, Japan.

/s/ John R. Pritchard
Captain, Infantry
Summary Court