

NENA ALBAN

called as a witness on behalf of the Prosecution, being first duly sworn, was examined and testified as follows:

DIRECT EXAMINATION

Q (By Colonel Lim) Please state your name, age and nationality.

A I am Mrs. Nena Alban, 40 years old. I live at 338 Raon, Santa Cruz, Manila. I am a Filipina.

Q You testified before, a couple of days ago?

A Yes.

Q You said that you were a social worker?

A Yes, sir.

Q You were employed in 1941 by the American and Philippine Red Cross?

A Yes, sir.

Q Now, Mrs. Alban, I would like you to relate to the Commission in a few words whether or not you have witnessed, personally, any crimes of rape in the City of Manila?

A Yes, sir.

Q If so, when?

A On the first morning of the Japanese in Manila, that was on the 3rd day of January, 1942, I reported to the office of the Red Cross about 7:30 in the morning, and passing through the Quezon Bridge, I went that way — when I reached the Quezon Bridge I met six Japanese sentries. They stopped me. They inspected me by touching all the parts of my body, and they squeezed my breasts — (witness crying)

Q Take your time.

GENERAL DONOVAN: I understood the other day, when this witness was on the stand, that she was working in a hospital out there, or as a nurse or a social worker.

COLONEL LIM: She said she started working as a supervising nurse at the hospital after May of 1942, and now she is talking about January of 1942.

THE WITNESS: When the Japanese sentry squeezed my breast I stepped backwards. I showed them that I am not afraid to die, and they were trying to pull my dress up. It is hard to tell this (crying).

Q Let's forget that incident.

GENERAL DONOVAN: Just take your time.

COLONEL LIM: I will not ask you to proceed with that.

THE WITNESS: I pulled my dress down and I explained to them, I said, "I am a Red Cross worker. Do you see my uniform?" Then they stopped doing it, and they took all my jewelry that I had, and they asked for my handbag, and they inspected the inside of my handbag and they found 350 pesos cash and they took it away from me.

Q (By Colonel Lim) Have you seen any rape cases in the city?

A Then after they took everything they slapped me and then let me go, so I had to proceed to the Red Cross. Then when I reached in front of the Metropolitan Theatre I saw six Japanese officers sitting on the stairs right in front of the theatre, and I already passed --

LIEUTENANT PELZ: Where was that in front of?

COLONEL LIM: The Metropolitan Theatre.

GENERAL DONOVAN: Read that answer back.

(Answer read.)

THE WITNESS: One of the Japanese officers called me in English. So I approached him, and as soon as I approached him one of the Japanese officers slapped me, and then after slapping me they ordered me to bow. After I bowed they let me go.

Q (By Colonel Lim) Mrs. Alban, let us forget these atrocities which you suffered. My question was this: Do you remember having seen any actual cases of rape?

A Yes, sir.

Q Or rapings in the City of Manila?

A Yes, sir.

Q When was this?

A The first week of January in 1942, I was assigned in the Sampaloc District.

Q Assigned by whom?

A By the Red Cross office as a field worker.

Q As a field worker?

A Yes,

Q Go ahead, please.

A I went to my destination by walking because there was no transportation in those days. As soon as I reached the Quezon Boulevard, after I passed the corner of Azcarraga I saw three Japanese -- I saw some naked ones near the corner of Espana and Quezon Boulevard. That is the AFWESPAC Headquarters now; the Far Eastern University.

Q What were the Japanese doing?

A While I was still far away I saw two Japanese like rolling on the street. When I was nearing -- when I was nearing I saw two Filipino women pause by the Japanese right on the street. The Japanese abused the women and the women were trying to get away from them. When I was very near I saw the Japanese take a hold of the women's legs until the women cannot move any more. Then when I saw that I tried to get away from that place because I was afraid the Japanese could see me, so I proceeded a little bit farther, and I was about five yards away and I turned back and the Japanese were still doing the work.

Q Doing what?

A Were still doing such things.

Q They were using the girl?

A Yes, sir.

COLONEL LIM: That is all of the witness.

CROSS EXAMINATION

Q (By Lieutenant Pelz) Mrs. Alban, what time of the day was it that you came to the corner of Espana and Quezon Boulevard?

A That was between 10:00 and 11:00, if my mind doesn't fail, in the morning.

Q Was it a clear day?

A Yes, sir, that was a hot day.

Q Were there other people on the street?

A Very few people. I could not see any women but myself and those two girls that were abused.

Q And the girls were naked?

A Yes, sir.

Q And the Japanese soldiers were naked?

A Yes, sir.

Q Wore they on the sidewalk or in the street?

A They were right by the side of the street.

Q Was there any traffic?

A No, sir, not right in the corner.

Q Did you see the clothing of the soldiers?

A No, sir.

Q Did you see the clothing of the Filipino women?

A No, sir; I had no time to look around so much.

Q You say the Filipino women were trying to kick away. Did you hear them scream?

A They were trying to scream, but I just could hear "Ah, ah, ah."

Q That was as loud as they could?

A Because the Japanese took hold of the neck of the girls, forcing the neck down.

Q The Japanese were holding their necks?

A Yes, sir.

Q The necks of the two girls?

A Pushing the neck against the street.

Q And at the same time committing this act?

A Yes, sir.

Q Did you report this to anyone?

A No, sir, I did not, because I just could not, because it makes me cry.

Q Were there any Manila Police around?

A No, sir.

Q No Military Police men at Espana and Quezon?

A No, sir; that was just two or three days after Japanese were in Manila.

Q Isn't it true that the Manila Constabulary was still operating in Manila?

A I hadn't seen any Military Police, Filipino Police.

Q No Military Police?

A Not seen any on duty. I could see only Japanese sentries.

Q You couldn't see any Filipino Police men?

A I have not seen them on duty. I don't know about that.

Q This morning when you were on Quezon Bridge was that in broad daylight, too?

A That was 7:30 in the morning.

Q Was there any traffic at that time?

A There were only Japanese that I could see.

Q You couldn't see any other traffic? No military police men?

A Just Japanese sentries, alone.

Q When you walked along the theater that was still in broad daylight?

A That was about eight o'clock.

Q Did you see any people in the street at that time?

A Only Japanese.

Q Did you make any complaint about this to the Japanese authorities?
A No, sir, I didn't, because I didn't know that I could make complaint to the Japanese.

Q Did you make any complaint to the local Manila authorities?
A No, sir, I did not know that I could report such things, because I did not know about the Japanese order, Japanese regulation.

LIEUTENANT PELZ: I have no further questions.

GENERAL DONOVAN: Any questions by the Commission?

(No response.)

GENERAL DONOVAN: The witness is excused.

(Witness excused.)

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, T. R. C. King, Major, Inf. (TD), Executive Officer, Legal Section, General Headquarters, Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers, do hereby certify that Document 2886 is a true and correct copy of the transcript of the testimony offered by NENA ALBAN in the trial of the case against Masaharu HOMMA, Lieutenant General, Imperial Japanese Army, before a Military Commission in Manila; and that the whole record of the case, including the transcript of all testimonies taken, as well as the affidavits admitted in evidence, are now on file with this Section.

/s/ T. R. C. King
T. R. C. King,
Major, Inf. (TD)

Witness: /s/ John R. Pritchard

Sworn to before me this 29th day of

November 1946, Tokyo, Japan.

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