

DEPOSITION OF MRS. REINGEREAU (PAULETTE)

Received by us, Raymond GUIHLEN, Professor of the Faculties of Law, charged with the investigation of War Crimes in North Indo-China.

The 9th of March I was in the company of Adjutant PERIOLA when about 1930 we heard some Japanese singing followed immediately by firing. The Japanese broke into the veranda. We were engaged on the stairway of the cellar which we reached; we remained there till seven in the morning. The Japanese pillaged all night. As soon as we appeared outside the cellar two Japanese took us prisoner immediately, asking possession of jewels and of my bag. We were led to the square opposite the old ba-quan /natives' administrative office/. After one hour we went up to the first /U.S. second/ floor of the ba-quan. At that time there were twenty-six of us Europeans, of whom two were women. My five-year-old son was with me all the time; I have nothing to reproach the Japanese with in this connection.

Everybody had to sit down; I on a bunk. At that moment the Japanese forced all the men present to remove their shorts and drawers to undergo a minute examination without their being touched, an examination whose purpose we did not understand. Then a Japanese called me and had me placed in the middle of the room. He made me open my blouse and Mrs. V..... /hers/. Quiet till 1400. At that moment 22 prisoners were taken away, among them Mr. PERIOLA. To my question as to the reason for their leaving, they answered that the major wished to interrogate them regarding their functions in order to reestablish them in their duties. There remained with the two ladies Messrs. JOUBERT (Adjutant), FLOURET and a sailor.

Toward 1900 or 2000 a Japanese had me go out onto the stairway and gagged me with a napkin. I was able to pull off the napkin, cry out and, despite being tripped up, return to the bunk. An hour of quiet followed, I was then motioned to get off the bunk. I refused. Then I was struck by a Japanese with the flat of the bayonet on the abdomen and the thighs, and by another Japanese by rattar blows. I was also slapped. New respite. Then to see whether I was asleep they would strike my feet with their bayonets or burn my ankles with cigarettes.

The next day, 11 March, toward 10000 the Japanese brought in 10 prisoners. It was then that a Japanese made a sign to Mrs. V..... and to me from the door to follow him. Then, accompanied by one other,

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he made us go up to the third /U.S. fourth/ floor. Mrs. V..... had to follow a Japanese into a room. Another Japanese, in turn, made me take off my slip and stretch out on a mat. My state of pregnancy saved me. Mrs. V..... came down a moment after me. Immediately she confided to me that she had been violated. In the course of the day they came for her five times. The husband of Mrs. V..... was slapped in order that he would not oppose the successive departures of his wife.

During the day of the 12th Mrs. V..... was again violated five times. They left me on the other hand in complete peace.

On the evening of the 12th, toward 1600, Major SAKANO and the interpreter YAMADA had us leave, Mr. and Mrs. V....., my son and me.

The Major ordered me to go to Major MOULLET's and Mr. and Mrs. V..... to prison. We were assembled with Major MOULLET and Mrs. MOULLET in the home of Captain VAILLANT. There were 17 of us. During a month and a half nothing to report.

One day after Major SAKANO came with the soldier YANO to compel me to go to serve coffee at the house of the Nipponese officers. The Annamite women, he said, resembled monkeys and were not pretty. I had SAKANO told that I had been attending the Japanese for three days at the hospital (in reality I had only been taking medicines from boxes), that that was enough for me. SAKANO said then that I should go to serve coffee some day. I had him told that I would not go, that I had been pregnant for two months.

Another month of writing: nothing to report.

When Mr. CUBRI went to get milk the morning of the 11th he crossed over the YEN BIEN bridge and saw the soldiers to the left of the bridge. According to the testimony of a Legionnaire who was only wounded and could flee to the mountains, Mr. PERIOL was among them. He could have saved himself but caused himself to be noticed by crying "my wife, my child!". His head was cut off.

29 October 1945

Certified True Copy

President of the Commission. (sgd) GUILIEN

FOR CERTIFICATION

For certification:
THE HIGH COMMISSIONER OF
FRANCE FOR INDO-CHINA.

By Authority:

The Commissioner of Justice
/Signature illegible/
/SEAL/

Saigon, 20 May 1946
Lt. Colonel Y. TURCK, O.I.A.
Chief of Federal War Crimes Service

/SEAL/
/SIGNED:/ Y. TURCK

Certificate:-

I, Yale Maxon, hereby certify that I am thoroughly conversant with the French and English languages, and as a result of the comparison between the French and the English texts, I have established that this is a true and correct translation of International Prosecution Document No. 2772-A-5

/S/ Yale Maxon