

NO 2143

Form Q War Crimes Information supplied by ex-Prisoners of War

Number: 1932 Name: ANTOUARD leon Rank: Warrant Officer: Detachment of Gendarmerie of Cochinchina-Cambodge
 Home Address: Gendarmerie, Saigon
 Date and Place of Capture: March 9, 1945, at 8:30 p.m. at my house situated 7 Avenue of Oyries, at Mytho City.

| Date, Camp or Place | Particulars of the Criminal Act or Violation | Names where known, description rank, appointment, unit, etc., of enemy personnel concerned and any other detail to fix their identity. | Names of other Witnesses |
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| 9, 10 to 11 March 1945 at Mytho City | <p>Immediately after my capture I was taken to the post of the Japanese Kempeitai at Mytho, and immediately bound with ropes. Some were so tight that they made deep wounds on my wrists and fore arms. I was not untied until 12 o'clock of the following day.</p> <p>At 18 o'clock of the same I was taken away and locked up at the Mytho Provincial Prison. I was again threatened with the sword by Sgt. Kona, chief of the Japanese post at Mytho. I was not taken out until 11 o'clock of the following day to be taken to the former barracks of the Annamese Rifle Regiment at Mytho where I was detained until the following 24th of March, date of my transfer to "Virgil" Camp. (5th Colonial Artillery).</p> | <p>Kona, 1st Sergeant of the Kempeitai commanding the Japanese post at Mytho. Aided by Japanese civilians whose identity is unknown but whom I could recognize.</p> | <p>All the French in the City of Mytho and, as far as the provincial prison is concerned: The Chief of Gendarmerie Sergeant Andrew; Police Inspector Lecan, and the director of Mytho College. Mr. Duong, who was also imprisoned there.</p> |
| <p>From 9 to 28 May 1945 in the cells of the Japanese Kempeitai installed in the premises of the Chamber of Commerce, 1 Quai de Belgique, Saigon</p> | <p>With the aim of obtaining information on the organization of the /French Interior Forces/ at Mytho as well as other information on the hideout; the meetings in the Province of Mytho and at Saigon, family residence, etc. of Police Inspector Girard (who had fled on 9 March). At about 11 o'clock on 9 May I was taken away to the Japanese Kempeitai at Saigon after having already undergone five interrogations in the Service Room of "Virgil" Camp during the previous days.</p> | <p>I do not know the names authors of the tortures and violence inflicted in these interrogations. They were done by two non-commissioned officers of the Kempeitai and an Annamite interpreter in their service. It would be easy for me to recognize them if I should see them. Neither do I know the names of the heads of the post and the men of the troop attached to the Kempeitai who were also guilty of committing violence on prisoners in</p> | <p>The tortures of and violence undergone in the interrogations were witnessed only by those who were inflicting them. The violence and ill treatment inflicted on those in the cells which I occupied were witnessed by Frenchmen: N. N. Combes, Lieut. de Vaisseau Du Chene, Commissioner of Police; Waser, Aviation</p> |

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| <p>I was put to four other interrogations - two lasting about 1½ hours each on the afternoon of May 9, the third on the next day from 9 to 12:30 o'clock; and the last on the following day from 10:30 to 17:30. In the course of these last four interrogations, I was very often struck on all parts of the body with fists, feet, and sticks, and particularly on the soles of my feet. At each one of these, I was placed on my back on a bench and firmly tied down so as to undergo "torture by water" which consisted in causing the first stages of asphyxiation by the absorption of water into the respiratory tract. Water was poured at the same time into the nose and the mouth, which is kept open with a whip or a staff slipped between the teeth, or on a rag held firmly over these two orifices. A plate carrying an electrical current was also applied to my feet, but did not work.</p> | <p>the cells while carrying on their duties as guards. However I could recognize a good number of them if I were able to see them.</p> | <p>Colonel in Retirement; Yung, Squadron leader at the 5th Reg. Colonial Artillery. Faufin, Doctor of Medicine; Romerio, Judge; Ogoyard, warden of prison; Abovt, Planter; Huchet, Merchant.</p> | |
| | <p>In course of these last four interrogations, I had one rib bashed in, ten teeth completely loosened, (4 already fallen and the 6 others will follow them before long), and many contusions, of which one received at the joint of the left knee has made me suffer in particular.</p> | | |
| | <p>No information having been extracted from me, I was left in my cell for 17 days more without being interrogated, and at last brought back to "Virgil" Camp on the following May 28 in a miserable state.</p> | | |
| | <p>There were no witnesses to these interrogations. They were conducted by two non-commissioned officers of the Kempeitai, assisted by interpreters, one of whom helped them to pour water into my nose and mouth. I do not know their names, but it would be easy for me to recognize them.</p> | | |

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In the course of these 20 days, of incarceration, I was still the object of daily violences, such as kickings, beating on the head with a stick from the guards (troops attached to the Kempeitai), who savagely beat the prisoners, without reason, because such was their amusement.

The food was insufficient. It consisted three times a day of a little rice ball and one-fourth of a cucumber or a radish of ordinary size. Beverage was also given in very insufficient quantity and almost always boiling. It was usually only water.

No care for cleanliness was allowed. The detained were not even able to wash their hands, with which they handled their food nevertheless.

The were obliged to remain sitting directly on the floor of their cell from the time they got up until the evening roll-call, which took place at 21 o'clock. During all this time, they were not permitted to speak, to lean, to lie, nor to sleep. They were strictly watched over and all infractions were immediately punished by a sound cudgelling.

The electric light was never put out, and it was not possible to protect oneself from it, for it was prohibited to sleep on one's stomach.

My cell, measuring 4' x 4' was occupied by a soil-bucket and 17 prisoners, among whom there were many Annamites, common law prisoners. Most of them were itchy or covered with sores or ring worms. One of them was even suffering from acute gonorrhoea. During the night, the prisoners lay down, their bodies touching one another and, because of a complete absence of ventilation, the heat became intolerable.

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No care was given to the prisoners who were ill, even in very serious cases; thus Mr. Nico-Can, Chief Engineer of Public Works of Cochinchina, died one hour after having been taken out of my cell where he had remained dying and without any care for 5 or 6 days. As for me, I had not gone to the stool for 19 days when I was brought to "Virgil" Camp, where they took care of me at once. A first assistant surgeon (medical lieutenant) though having been informed of my state on about the 10th day did not have any medicine given to me.

Moreover, when I left the Japanese Kempeitai some small personal objects of slight value which had been taken from me when I was imprisoned, were not restored to me even though they had given me a receipt one hour before when they drew up an inventory of them.

(Statement) made at "Martin des Pallienes"
Camp 16 September 1945

(signed) Antouard

For certification of the facts opposite: Saigon, 3 January 1946,

Lt. Colonel Turck, Chief of War Crimes Service

Signed: Turck

(stamp)

Certificate:-

I, George Buffington, 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-J-2

/s/ George Buffington