

No 2136

4 2136

A F F I D A V I T

Monsieur Francois LIMOUSIS
Born: 27-4-1893 at Carcassonne
(Aude).
Parents: Emile and Anna BARAT.

Profession: Dock Director HAIPHONG

Home address: 9 Rue de Marechal
Joffre, HAIPHONG.

I was arrested on 12 April as an F.F.I. The Japanese Military Police took me to the Shell premises in the Boulevard Gambetta where they shut me up in an underground dungeon after taking away from me everything I had in my possession. There were about twenty French in the dungeon and some verminous, scabious Annamites who, in the course of a few days, covered us all with lice. Each of us received daily about 150 grams of rice, in all three (3) bowls.

The military police forced us to remain from morning till bedtime sitting in the Japanese fashion with the legs crossed. It was forbidden to lean against the wall or change one's position. We were also forbidden to receive anything at all from outside.

On 17 April I was taken to the second story where my interrogation began. I was clubbed on the head by the Japanese interpreter and a gendarme. This treatment continued on the 18th, 19th and 20th April. For 17 days I never had a motion of the bowels owing to the scanty amount of food. Some of my companions did not have a motion for 26 days. On 10 May we were removed to the Central Prison in Hanoi ill and weak and subject to fainting fits.

There we were lodged 45 of us in a room built for twenty-four (24). There was one bucket in the middle of the floor for relieving ourselves. The food was tainted, composed of rice of the poorest quality, uncleaned and frequently sour. The only seasoning was a few slices of sweet potato and some broken bits of dried fish.

Towards the 22nd of May a Japanese gendarme called me, handcuffed me and chained me to another comrade of the F.F.I. named PORNIN and took us, guarded by two Japanese soldiers, to the police station where I was once more interrogated. My negative answers got me a very severe beating and electrodes were fixed to my ears and connected with a magneto. When further interrogation failed to give satisfaction to the Japanese the magneto was started

and I was subjected, for an hour or more, to electric shocks of high frequency which flung me about uncontrolledly and caused me to lose consciousness several times.

In order to get admissions about certain tasks which had been entrusted to me these experiences were repeated for four days. In my firm decision not to utter a word and never to betray the oath which I had made to my chief, the Commandant DJERRING, I clenched my tongue firmly between my teeth. A violent electric shock with the electrodes in my nostrils contracted and paralysed my jaws. I bit through my tongue on each side, blood flooded from my mouth and I fell insensible.

I was taken back to prison where I was overcome by nervous tremblings, my tongue was swollen and I could not move my jaw to the extent that I was unable to swallow solid food or speak for about 20 days. On the following day the Japanese at the place of interrogation, realizing that I could not speak beat me and after jesting for a while seized my sexual organs in his bare hands and twisted them violently causing me horrible pain, cold sweat and complete unconsciousness.

I was brought to myself by being kicked in the ribs and taken back to prison. My friends attended to me and treated my inflamed and swollen organs with cold compresses. This was the last time I was tortured. My chief, Commandant DJERRING, died as a result of the ill-treatment and privations which he had endured.

I was imprisoned in the citadel at Hanoi on 29 May 1945. I found that I had lost 17 kilogrammes (40 lbs) in weight since my first imprisonment. The doctor who examined me found I had a hernia on the right side and a rupture on the left, both due either to the treatment or the privations I had experienced.

The gendarme who worked the magneto and twisted my testicles was called "The American". I can recognize him.

(Signed) FRANCOIS LIMOUSIS
Monsieur LIMOUSIS Francois

Declaration made and signed under oath on
18 Sept. 1946 before the undersigned Investigation
Officer, assigned by the French authorities to the
inquiries of which the present affidavit is the subject.

(Signed) Sub-Lieut. MASSOT
Martial

Witness to the signature of M. LIMOUSIS affixed above.

HANOI, 20 Sept. 1946

(STAMP OF CIVIL SERVICE HANOI)
Commissariat of the Republic
Tonkin and North Annam.

Chief of Civil Service
/signature illegible/

Certificate

I, A. ASHTON, 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 Docu-
ment No. 2772-G-2.

(Sgd) A. ASHTON