

RESTRICTED

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
SUPREME COMMANDER FOR THE ALLIED POWERS
LEGAL SECTION, MANILAAPO 500
1 May 1946

MEMORANDUM TO: Prosecution Section (Report No. 298)
 THRU: Executive Officer, Legal Section, Manila
 SUBJECT: Massacres in Camotes Islands, Cebu, P.I., December 1944.

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II. SUMMARY OF EVIDENCE:

On 8 December 1944, Japanese soldiers rounded up about forty-five Filipino men, women and children in Sitio Canugkay, Pilar, Camotes Islands. The prisoners were tied together by the hands and were led to the seashore in Sitio Toong where they were separated into four groups and then bayoneted. Thirty-seven of the victims were killed while the rest survived despite severe bayonet wounds (R 57, 58, 60, 61, 64, 65, 66).

On 27 December 1944, eight Japanese soldiers took eleven men, women and children from a house in Sitio Cabahit, Pilar, tied seven of them to banana trees and bayoneted them to death. A young man who was slow in leaving the house died immediately after being bayoneted in the chest. Two victims were severely beaten until they fell on the ground unconscious and a Japanese soldier jumped on the body and neck of one of them several times. A three-year-old child was hurled by a Japanese soldier at a horse and fell to the ground unconscious (R 44, 45, 46).

On 29 December 1944, the slaughter of men, women and children in Camotes Islands reached its frenzied height. In Barrio Dapdap, Pilar, between eight hundred and one thousand civilians were assembled in the church, numbered and led out to the fields, coconut plantations and other secluded places where they were bayoneted by Japanese soldiers. Others who were left in the church were bayoneted and shot and then covered with dry banana leaves, coconut leaves and mats. At least seventy-three persons were identified as killed, twenty were wounded, while the rest were also probably killed (R 1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 10, 11, 12, 15, 16, 19, 20, 21). In Barrio Esperanza, Pilar, more than three hundred people were assembled in the plaza. They were first soaked with water and then Japanese soldiers rushed upon them with fixed bayonets until all the victims fell to the ground. Thirty-seven persons were identified as killed and only about five survived the bayonetting (R 24, 25, 26, 29, 30, 31, 34, 37). And in Sitio Opao, Barrio Lanao, Pilar, about thirty-eight civilians were taken to the mountains and bayoneted. Twenty-eight of these civilians were killed and ten were wounded (R 40, 41, 48, 49).

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