

JOSE HABANA

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

DIRECT EXAMINATION

Q (By Captain Hill) Will you state your name?

A Jose Habana.

Q Where do you reside?

A Calamba, Laguna.

Q What is your nationality?

A Filipino.

Q How old are you?

A Thirty-five years.

Q Were you residing in Calamba, Laguna Province, during February of this year?

A Yes, sir.

Q Do you recall going to the Catholic Church in Calamba on 12 February 1945?

A Yes, sir.

Q Will you tell the Commission the occasion for you going to that place?

A Well, it was in the morning of February 12, --

Q Speak a little louder.

A (Continuing) -- 1945, when a Japanese, four of them, went to our place -- our house, I mean. They talked with my father and say that there will be a meeting in the church. And we were around six that were taken --

Q Did this Japanese speak Tagalog?

A Well, they speak a little.

Q Enough so that you could understand what he wanted you to do?

A Yes.

Q Did he tell you why?

A They say there will be a meeting, and the captain wants to meet us there.

Q Did they take both the men and women of your household?

A No.

Q To the church?

A No; it is only the men that they have taken.

Q And what time did you arrive at the church?

A That is around, I think, eight o'clock in the morning.

Q And when you arrived there did you find other people gathered at the church?

A Yes, sir.

Q How long did you remain at the church that day?

A Until around 5:00 five to six o'clock in the afternoon.

Q And during the time that you were there at the church, can you give the Commission an estimate of how many people were gathered there?

A Well, to my estimation, sir, around 2,000.

Q Can you give the approximate dimensions of the church, or the space in the church where these people, these 2,000 persons were gathered?

A Well, this is only an estimate: Well, the length of the church, I think, is around about 50 to 70 meters in length, and the width is around, I think, around 20. But it is better -- I think they have taken the picture, and it is better.

Q We don't have the picture here. It is a very large church, in comparison with the churches here in the Philippines?

A Yes, it is a very large church.

Q Now, did the Japanese hold any kind of a meeting there at the church that day?

A No, but we expected that.

Q Did they tell the persons gathered there anything more about what they were going to do with you after you arrived?

A No. It is only -- our presumption was only --

Q Well, did they tell you anything?

A Nothing.

Q Then you say you left there about four or five o'clock in the afternoon?

A Well, in our bunch.

Q Had other persons left the church before that during the day?

A Yes, sir.

Q And tell the Commission about the people leaving the church during the afternoon.

A Well, it is after lunch time; there were trucks outside the church.

Q Were these Japanese trucks?

A Yes, sir. They take around about 30 to 40 persons, and have them brought in the truck.

Q Taking them away from the church?

A Yes, away from the church.

Q Did they all go in the same direction?

A Yes, sir.

Q And did this continue during the afternoon, that is, the taking of persons away in the truck?

A Yes.

Q Were all the persons gathered there in the church men?

A Yes, men.

Q And when they took you away at four or five o'clock in the afternoon, where did they take you to?

A We were taken to the Barrio of Real.

Q How far is that from the town of Calamba?

A It is around one and a half miles.

Q And can you tell the Commission about how many was on the truck that you were on?

A I think we were around 30 to 40.

Q Go ahead and tell the Commission just where the

Japanese took you and what they did to you after you arrived at your destination.

A When we arrived in Real where the truck stopped, it is not far from the house where we were being taken, and we, each of us, were required to bow when the truck stopped, so that each of us were ordered to go down, one by one. In my case, when it was my turn, when I went down the truck --

Q You mean when you jumped off the truck?

A Yes. (Continuing) -- a Japanese took my arms and had me tied in my back.

Q Tied your hands behind your back?

A Yes, behind my back. And then blindfolded me with a cloth.

Q Had you seen the Japanese do the same thing with other persons that had jumped off the truck ahead of you?

A No, because we were taken one by one, and we can't see what is going on.

Q And where did they take you to then?

A Then I was taken in the house, farther from the place we were; we stopped. I was brought out by a Japanese to the stairs of the house, and then from the stairs there are Japanese that meet me there.

Q Were you taken upstairs to the house?

A Yes, I was taken upstairs of the house.

Q What did they do to you upstairs?

A When I was taken upstairs, then they let me seated in a bench, and that is what I feel: it is a bench. And there they begin to stab me, bayonet me.

Q How many times did they bayonet you?

A Several times.

Q How many?

A Well, after I have been massacred, about seven wounds.

Q And tell the Commission where those wounds are on your body.

A The principal thing is in the chest, near the heart.

Q How many?

A Here is about two (indicating), and one here near to my sexual (indicating), and one in the shoulder (indicating), two here.

Q Well, after you were bayoneted did you retain your consciousness?

A Yes.

Q Did you fall to the floor?

A I fell on some bodies.

Q On some bodies?

A Yes.

Q Well, after that were you able to get the blindfold off your eyes and remove the rope from your arms?

A Yes, it was after.

Q How long afterwards?

A It is about a half-hour.

Q And when you removed the blindfold, tell the Commission what you saw there in this room.

A When I removed my hands and the cloth that had blindfolded me, I saw five feet, around five feet of bodies. Some were still alive.

Q You mean bodies stacked five feet high in the room?
A Five feet high in the room.

Q How large a room was this?

A It is around about 15 meters long, about three to four meters wide.

Q A very large room?

A It is a house; there is no room, what they call. It is the whole from the sala up to the kitchen is one room.

Q Can you give the Commission an estimate of about how many bodies you think were in that room?

A Well, to my estimate it is around 500, because of the heaps of the bodies that are there.

Q What did you do then, after you were able to free your hands and remove your blindfold?

A I have to -- when I stood up somebody called me, and it is my brother, my youngest brother, and he is already loosing his tie, and I told him to keep low, because there is still Japanese around the house.

Q How long did you remain there in that house then?

A Well, we have to remain around about 15 minutes.

Q What did you do then?

A I have to wait for the fire to be big enough so that we will not be detected in jumping from the house.

Q You mean the house was on fire when you left?

A Yes.

Q Do you know how the house caught fire?

A Well, what I have heard is only the shot, and then the fire started.

Q You didn't see the house set afire?

A Yes.

Q Well, then, you were able to escape from the house?

A Yes. The fire was around about one and a half meters from where I jumped, when my brother and me jumped from the house.

Q Did you jump out of the upstairs window, you mean?

A No, in the back. We have to turn down the walls of the kitchen so that we could pass there undetected.

Q How many of your relatives were killed by the Japanese there at Calamba that day, if you know?

A There were four.

Q What are their names?

A There is my father, Doctor Habana; my brother, Mariano Escueta; Balbino Alejar; my younger brother, Foracio.

Q Now, of those 2,000 people, or about 2,000 people that you saw there in the church, were they civilians?

A Yes.

Q Were they armed in any way?

A Not even a single bolo.

Q Were they offering any resistance to the Japanese?

A No.

Q And the Japanese that you saw there in Calamba that day, and those that took you out to the Barrio Real, to which branch of the Japanese armed forces did they belong?

A Well, that is what I don't know, but they are with the regular stars.

Q Stars?

A Yes, with stars.

CAPTAIN HILL: Take the witness.

CROSS EXAMINATION

Q (By Captain Reel) These 2,000 civilians -- do you know whether any of them were guerrillas?

A No.

Q You don't know?

A I don't know.

Q Do you know whether any of them helped the guerrillas?

A Help?

Q You don't know whether any of them helped the guerrillas?

A I don't know.

Q So you don't know that they were noncombatant civilians?

A I don't know.

CAPTAIN REEL: That is all.

CAPTAIN HILL: That is all.

(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 2884 is a true and correct copy of the transcript of the testimony offered by JOSE FABANA in the trial of the case against Tomoyuki YAMASHITA, 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 20th day
of November, 1946, Tokyo, Japan.

John R. Pritchard
Capt., Inf.
Summary Court