

Evidentiary document # 5143.

I, William John Davies, an officer of His Majesty's Forces at HQ, AUSA, having been duly sworn state:

On the 18th February 1946 at IPOH, Malaya, I acted as prosecuting officer at the trial of Sgt. YOSHIMURA Etsio, of the Japanese Kempai Tai, who was charged with illtreating civilian residents of IPOH.

Part of the abstract of evidence in this case were relevant portions of written statement by Mrs. A.C. KATHIGASU. During the trial the accused changed his plea from Not Guilty to Guilty and the abstract of evidence was submitted to the court under P.O. 37 B. The Court asked for the original statement of Mrs. A.C. Kathigasu to be handed in. I handed in the original statement including the irrelevant portions. A true copy of the said statement is annexed hereto and marked exhibit "A" and signed by me.

Sworn before me

(Signed) W.J. DAVIES
Maj. R.A.

this 18th day of April 1946.

(Signed) CHARLES FINE, Capt. R.A.

An officer detailed to examine the above by Commander-in-Chief, Allied Land Forces, South East Asia.

I, Mrs. A.C. KATHIGASU nee SYBIL DALY of 141 Brewster Road, Ipoh, make the following statement:-

I was arrested on the 1st August 1943 in Papan at 9.30 and taken to Ipoh Central Police Station that same night. A week later I was charged for treating; providing foodstuffs, and supplying medicines, clothing and money for the members of the Anti-Japanese Campaign (but the Japanese have always called us Communists).

I daresay that my arrest had a lot to do with professional jealousies and this added more fuel to the fire when the C.I.D. who were spying on me for the past six months, obtained proofs from several of our members who were arrested previously and had turned traitors, by pointing me as the one who treated them.

A letter from Headquarters fell into their hands made matters worse. I was branded as a spy owing to several questions in that letter which I had to report to Headquarters regarding Jap Military Movements in town.

In all the tortures that I went through not once did I betray any of my members or Europeans hiding up the hills - so I invented a story saying that I was forced to treat them under the threat of being shot, and that all questions asked in the letter was answered with the words "I don't know". I stuck to this to the last.

Here are the list of my tortures:-

- (1) Water.
- (2) Needles pricked in between my finger-nails.
- (3) Iron rods wercheated in the fire, and then applied on my legs and back.
- (4) Slaps and clenched blows were rained constantly on my face.
- (5) I was made to stand in the middle of the room with Japs in the formation of four at each corner of the room kept banging arm-chairs on my head until I collapsed on the floor.
- (6) Canes from one inch to three and a half inches were used to thrash me, many were broken or split in several pieces.
- (7) Pinching my arms and legs was another favourite pastime of the of the Japs till they were quite sore, swollen and very painful.
- (8) Canes with blunt ends were thrust into the sockets of both my knee-caps and the Japs began twisting the cane.
- (9) A long cane was placed between the fingers of both my hands, with one Jap holding the tips of my fingers and another supporting my elbows, while two other Japs hung on either ends of the cane playing a see-saw stunt thereby tearing the flesh in between my fingers.
- (10) I have been ju-jitsued a few times.
- (11) Kicking me with their heavy boots was their daily greeting which lasted throughout each statement.
- (12) I was hung up by one leg, head downwards for several hours at a time.
- (13) I stayed in the Central Police Station for 3½ months and was fed

on 4 tahils of tapioca in the evening and a coconut-shell of sago congee mixed with a few grains of rice in the morning.

All these tortures were administered by the Japs alone and as they were constantly changed I cannot remember them nor do I know their names. I was always carried back to my cell in a very dazed and collapsed condition.)

As regards M.P. YOSHIMURA I was taken by him to M.P. Headquarters at Gopong Road 3½ months after from the Central Police Station charged with listening to radio news at papan. After admitting the radio charge I was asked to answer questions again regarding the help and services rendered to the Anti-Jap campaign. Since M.P. YOSHIMURA could get nothing more further in the matter he used the most painful torture on me - as I had to choose between duty and honour and the life of my child.

My child was hung from a tree about 10 to 12 feet in height, with a fire blazing under her, while I was tied to a post, and lashed with a big stick which broke in two. YOSHIMURA was shouting at me to speak out and speaking out meant death for thousands of people up in the hills. My child answered for me "Be very brave, Mummy. Don't tell. We will both die, and Jesus will wait for us in Heaven above". On hearing these words, I asked YOSHIMURA that he can cut those ropes and burn my baby. I told him that my answer is no, and I would never tell. All I can remember is as they were cutting the rope, God answered my prayer. Some Jap Officers took pity and ordered my child to be taken down. She was sent home and I was sent back to my cell. I stayed over a month at the M.P. Headquarters where I was sent to Batu Gajah jail.

My diet consisted of small cups of compressed rice with few grains of salt, and 2 tumbler tubes of water in 24 hours. No bath and change of clothings. The cells were full of vermins, fleas and bugs. The night soil bucket which consisted of a kerosene tin was emptied when it pleased them to do so. My legs were gradually becoming weaker from the police station and after my arrival at Batu Gajah jail, I lost the use of my legs up till today. I was tried and recommended to be sentenced to death, which was commuted later to penal servitude for life. The food was thoroughly rotten right through, and six months ago I was put into a dark cell by the Jap Superintendent, NAJIMURA, who put me on M.P. diet and one suit of clothes, which I wore till my release. No bath nor any sort of covering was given and I was made to feel the bitter cold at night. This was because I refused to stitch puttees and socks for Nippon soldiers fighting at the Burma front.

I have read this statement and it is true.

(Sgd.) SYBIL KATHIGASU.

(Witnessed) SPELDWINDE.

This is exhibit "A" referred to in the sworn statement made by me this 18th day of April 1946 being a true copy of the original statement of Mrs. A.C. Kathigasu.

(Sgd.) W.J. DAVIES

Maj. R.A.

Before me,

(Sgd.) CHARLES PILE, Capt. R.A.