

P. I. - Atrocity

ARMANDO ALVAREZ

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

DIRECT EXAMINATION

Q (By Captain Pace) Give your name, please.

A Armando Alvarez.

Q Where do you live?

A (Through the Interpreter) 2296 Juan Luna, Tondo.

Q Where did you work in February, 1945?

A At the Bank of the Philippine Islands.

Q What did you do on February 5, 1945?

A Between four and five o'clock on the afternoon of that day we were all ordered out by the guards, I, my companions, my wife and two children.

Q Ordered out of the Bank of the Philippines Building?

A Yes.

Q Where did you go then?

A Opposite the Bank of the Philippine Islands.

Q Did you see anything unusual happen?

A During the whole midnight nothing unusual happened except we heard shots being fired. The following morning, four o'clock, we were ordered out of the Bank of the Philippine Islands.

Q What did you see then?

A When we were ordered out, I first evacuated my two children, and with me ^{was} a guard, and we went to the opposite side. I took my children to Dasmarias Street and stopped at the corner of Rosario and Dasmarias, and left my children there under the care of my companions; also the guard.

Q Did you see anything happen?

A When I returned to take my wife, I saw that all our property was scattered, and I saw on the other side a group of Japanese soldiers. Because I want to find out what this Japanese soldiers will do, I tried to recover my property and the articles they had scattered, slowly.

Q What did the Japs do?

A The Japanese were trying to break down door, but when they could not, they break down the glass windows.

Q The door of what building?

A The door of the Bank of the Philippine Islands.

Q Will you point out the location of the Bank of the Philippines Building on Exhibit 193?

(The witness indicated on Prosecution's Exhibit No. 193.)

CAPTAIN PACE: Let the record show the witness indicated the letter "G".

Q (By Captain Pace) What did they do after they broke the window?

A They were trying to break down the door again, but they could not because there is iron bar. I heard a voice order, give command, and I saw a soldier scurry away in the direction of Dasmarias. He came back carrying rags. The soldier laid the rags in front of two cans of gasoline. One soldier pour gasoline on the rags, and with the help of the other soldiers they began throwing the rags inside the edifice. When they finished throwing the rags inside the edifice, one soldier ran away carrying a long pole. At the tip of the

pole seemed to be rags tied, and it smelled with gasoline. He went directly to an office adjacent to the bank, which is burning; he dipped the tip of the pole where is the fire that was lit, and he came back to the edifice of the Bank of the Philippine Islands and threw that pole with the burning tip inside, and suddenly fire spurted out as far as the door where the Japanese stood, so the Japanese ran away. I ran away to help quickly my wife, gather those things we had left, went back to the place where my two children were, took them, and we went away.

Q Was there anything on the end of the pole that he took across the street to set fire to?

A Yes, a white -- looks white. It is considered rags.

Q Was the Bank of the Philippine Islands burning when you left?

A Yes, the whole down part was burning.

Q Did you return in about a week?

A The following morning I tried to return, but I was prevented by the guards. I went back after one week and I found out the whole place was scorched, burnt down.

(A photograph was marked
Prosecution Exhibit No. 195 for
Identification.)

Q I show you Prosecution's Exhibit 195 for Identification and ask if you can describe what the first page of that exhibit shows.

A Yes. This part is burned (indicating).

Q What is that a picture of?

A Picture of the Bank of the Philippine Islands.

Q Is that the way it looked when you returned and saw it?

A Exactly the appearance, after one week.

Q Will you look at page 2 and state what that is?

A This is the remains of the Bank of the Philippine Islands.

CAPTAIN PAGE: I offer Exhibit 195 for Identification in Evidence, if it please the Commission.

GENERAL REYNOLDS: There being no objection, it is accepted in evidence.

(Prosecution's Exhibit No. 195 for
Identification was received in Evidence
and so marked.)

CAPTAIN PAGE: You may inquire.

CROSS EXAMINATION

Q (By Captain Reel) How many floors did the Bank of the Philippine Islands have?

A Two stories: one down- and one upstairs.

Q And was the entire building occupied by the bank?

A Yes.

Q And do you know whether the Japanese kept their funds, or any of their funds, in that bank?

A No.

GENERAL REYNOLDS: I don't understand --

Q (By Captain Reel) Were there some vaults in the basement of that bank?

GENERAL REYNOLDS: I don't understand --

A Yes, there are iron vaults.

GENERAL REYNOLDS: You asked if the Japanese kept funds in that bank. I did not understand whether the witness meant to answer he did not know, or that they had no funds in the bank. Will you clear that up?

CAPTAIN REEL: I will straighten that out, sir.

Q (By Captain Reel) When you answered the question relative to funds in the bank, did you mean by your answer that you don't know whether they have funds in there?

A Yes. But what I know is the Japanese Mickey Mouse money.

GENERAL REYNOLDS: Well, is it correct, then, when he said the Japanese did have --

CAPTAIN REEL: Did have funds in that bank.

GENERAL REYNOLDS: They did have. Very well.

Q (By Captain Reel) One more question: Did you see whether these Japanese were Army or Navy soldiers?

A I cannot tell exactly, but what I know, they are Japanese soldiers with caps.

Q Did you see any insignia of anchors on them?

A At that time it was very dark. I cannot tell.

CAPTAIN REEL: That is all.

CAPTAIN PACE: Thank you very much.

(Witness excused.)

DOCUMENT 2867

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 2867 is a true and correct copy of the transcript of the testimony offered by ARMANDO ALVAREZ 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 15th day
of November 1946, Tokyo, Japan.

/s/ John R. Pritchard
Capt, Inf,
Summary Court