

## Report on Torture by the Japanese Military Police (Kempei Tai)

I was arrested by the Kempei tai at 13.00 hours on February 4, 1943.

Kempei-Tai investigations in Buitenzorg of the leading men of the underground organization with which I was connected had brought the Buitenzorg Kempei-Tai in the possession of my name and that of one of my helpers in Batavia, Miss T. Thierens.

Owing to a stupidity of the Kempei-tai officers my wife and I succeeded in destroying practically all evidence in my house, copies of telegrams and original reports of my informers, which afterwards helped to trouble the whole atmosphere and made all searchings of my house (which took place at least five times after my arrest) fruitless. In the afternoon of the same day Miss Thierens and I were taken into a room of the Kempei-Tai office at the Koninsplein in Batavia.

The Buitenzorg Kempei-tai sergeant (Major?) YOSHIDA then took a wooden club about three feet in length, at the 'working-end' about three inches thick and tapering towards the handle.

The investigation centred upon two points: one was my being an active spy and/or leader of a spy-gang who gave their news to me after which I despatched it to Buitenzorg. The second point was the fact, that I knew the names of my best assistant and his address, which two facts the Kempei tai tried to get out of me.

In the Kempei-tai at the Koningsplein YOSHIDA questioned me about my Chinese helper and each denial of knowing a Chinese spy whose name started with a T (Thio) which fact was known to the Kempei-Tai when I was arrested, was followed by a blow with the wooden club at the back of the body near or approximately upon the kidneys. The beating was done systematically, each new blow being placed close to the preceding one. YOSHIDA in this way gave me between twenty and thirty blows, causing heavy subcutaneous haemorrhages and contusions. The beating caused big swellings and a blackish-blue discolouring of the skin which remained visible for at least two months.

After my interrogation was over YOSHIDA handled Miss Thierens in the same way until she too was suffering from severe pains and big swellings.

Miss Thierens until now suffers from kidney-trouble. The same holds for me, although I have the impression that Miss Thierens's case is much more serious than mine. After this examination was over we were put in the cells but towards the night I was handcuffed and Miss Thierens and I were transported by car to Buitenzorg, where we were jailed in the Buitenzorg Kempei-Tai.

On February 5, towards dusk, I was taken from my cell and once more questioned by YOSHIDA. I refused to admit that I was mixed up in espionage or that I knew a Chinese spy, after which YOSHIDA took me to another room, telling me that he was going to 'hang me'.

The system is quite simple and very effective. I was placed on a small wooden case, with the hands ropebound behind my back and the ankles bound. After this a thick rope was pulled under my armpits, lead through a wooden beam over the door so that when the wooden case was kicked away I was hung with my full weight from my armpits. By the pull of the weight of the body, nerves and bloodvessels were tied off, and gradually I felt my hands first, then my wrists and after that my arms 'die'. During the hanging, which may have taken any time from half an hour to one hour and a half (in my case as in all cases I know of it is very difficult to decide how long the torture took: all sense of time is lost) the torturer was sitting behind me, whispering his questions and trying to make me confess that I was a spy, which I denied.

When, after squeezing and pinching my arms and skin the torturer found out that I no longer reacted and did not feel pain or touch, he put the case back under my feet, questioned me again and then slowly lowered me. I found out that both my arms were paralysed completely.

The paralysis in the left arm lasted for only a fortnight and I was able to use the hand again, albeit not without a peculiar burning feeling in the fingertips, caused by the fact that the finer nerves were paralysed. The right arm was a much more serious case: it remained completely paralysed from some months after which life slowly began to return. First I was able to move the little finger and gradually life returned in the other fingers, the hand, wrist and arm.

Up till now the arm is not completely normal, it hurts when I use it in heavy manual work meanwhile the fingers of the right hand quite often are more or less stiff.)

Miss Thierens also was hung, though not in my presence. Yet it seems, that the torturers have considerable anatomical knowledge and understand quite well how to bind their victims in such a way that they effect paralysis or do not effect paralysis at will. In Miss Thierens's case no paralysis developed and I know also of other cases in which no paralysis was originated. However: there are also cases in which the paralysis lasted much longer than in my case and in which the after-effects were even more serious.

On February 8, 1943 I was taken to YOSHIDA's room once more for an examination and when once more I refused to admit any espionage - activities whatsoever YOSHIDA took me to the bathroom, where, with the aid of a native assistant he gave me the so-called water-test (water-proof in Dutch). I guess that this proof lasted for some twenty minutes, after which YOSHIDA took me to his room again and there confronted me with Miss Thierens, who under severe torture (hanging) and had confessed that she had acted as a messenger and had taken telegrams, which I had composed, from Batavia to Buitenzorg, where she handed them over to the Buitenzorg-branch of the organisation, which arranged to transmit them from near Buitenzorg by wireless to Australia.

I succeeded in getting some information as about the extent of Miss Thierens's confession by pretending that I was very angry and shouting at her in Dutch after which she answered in Dutch, and gave me the information I needed. It was of no use to deny any longer that I had been doing spy-work and I confessed exactly the same things as Miss Thierens had confessed to have done. YOSHIDA then took her from the room, gave me several blows on the right arm with a wooden leg of a chair (according to the opinion of internment camp Kedung Badak the bad state of the arm may have been caused by these blows) and told me that now that I had confessed that I was a spy I would understand that this was a crime which would be punished by death.

After a final blow on my head with the chair's leg I was taken back to the cell. On February 21 I was taken from my cell and brought into the presence of sergeant-major BANG of the Kempei-tai (known among Kempei-Tai prisoners as "Emperor Ming") who, together with the interpreter TAMAMINI, another Japanese, gave me the water-test for the second time. The general system of giving this water-test is always the same and it may have its purpose to describe it here more or less in details.

I was bound tightly and in a horizontal position on a wooden bench. There was no rope used but electrical wire of rubber with a copper kernel, which the torturers seem to prefer because it does not stretch. The wire is bound around the body from the feet upwards to the shoulders in such a way that the victim is unable to move at all. Over the throat a thin wire is bound so that the victim can not move his head without cutting his throat. After this was done a thick handkerchief was used to strap the mouth and prevent me from closing it.

In this case the torturers, BANG and TAMAMINI were trying to get information out of me about the Chinese assistant I mentioned before, but whose address nor name they knew. They only knew that the name started with a T and the name Thio was also known to them.

They asked me once more if I was willing to tell them the name and address of my Chinese and once more I played the innocent.

After some face-slapping (which was done so regularly that one forgets how many times it happened) they started the water-test by bringing a rubber hosepipe between my front-teeth and opening the tap. (there are several cases in which they used beer-bottles instead of the hosepipe). Water was in this way poured into my mouth, causing me almost to suffocate. It may be that the word is not right: they tried to drown me. As soon as I was on the verge of getting unconscious they stopped the water but opened the tap again at the very moment I tried to breathe. Sometimes they gave a few moments of relaxation by letting the water flow into the eyes, the nose or the ears and a trick to stop the water and get some breathing-space was to shout "I want to speak". Then they stopped the water, found out that I had to say nothing worth while after which they started again. Sometimes the question repeated if I already knew name and address of "that Chinaman" and as soon as I answered that I did not know anything about a Chinese they opened the tap again.

When they showed me photographs of Chinese, whom they suspected of being my helpers, I denied ever having seen them, which resulted in a heavy blow in the face by TAMAMINI which I at that moment did not experience as very painful. How strong the blow had been was clearly shown by the fact, that the eye-socket remained dark blue for at least a week afterwards.

If my sense of time was right this water-test took about one hour and a half. Of course I did not mention the name and address of my Chinese helper. Many victims of the watertest told me, that usually after the torture with water the kompei tao torturers amused themselves by burning the body of their victims with glowing cigarette-ends. I saw several victims of these tortures suffering from blisters and wounds caused hereby.)

One of these was a certain De Rooy, who was afterwards beheaded about 1 May 1943, but who was with me in the same cell in Feb-Mar 43.

Another one is Lie Bong Giok, sentenced to death on Aug. 16, 1943, but granted a pardon and sentenced to 15 years in prison. Freed from Tjipinang-prison on September 29, 1945. Address: Petjenonganweg 48b, Batavia C.

Dr. OLAF MUNCK from Buitenzorg was hung by YOSHIDA until both arms were paralysed completely. They never recovered and when Dr. Munck was executed (beheaded) and June 1943 his arms still were paralysed according to a statement made to me by Lie Bong Giok. When I saw Dr. Munck last (on February 21, 1943 both his arms were still paralysed. He died in Tjimahi.

General remarks re torturing: It seems that the torturers of the Kompei-tai, at least those in Buitenzorg, specialised in their own branches. YOSHIDA was a specialist in hanging and kidney-beating. Apparently he was training in giving the water-test when he water-tested me on Feb 8, 1943.

BANG was a specialist in beating people who were hand cuffed to their chair and a specialist in water-tests, in which he was so far as I know always assisted by TAMAMINI.

There are cases known of BANG practising electrization on his victims but it seems that such was nothing but experimental. The real expert for electrization was YAMADA who was known for his merciless electrization. I never was treated that way myself, but I saw several victims who told me that for this torture a telephone apparatus of the old type was used, in which an electric current is created by turning a handle. Two wires were laid on the victims: one on each ear, in the corners of the mouth, on the finger-joints, the nose-hobs (or elsewhere) and the current was chased through the body of the victim.)

TAMAMINI whose official role was that of an interpreter always was a willing helper of the torturers. I always had the impression, both from my own observation and from talks with other victims, that Tamamini was a student of the Kempei tai who found quite a lot of amusement in kicking and beating the helpless victims during the different tortures they were subjected to. However: I never heard of a case in which Tamamini did the torturing alone: in all cases I know of he was second man.

Other cases of torturing. Other cases of torturing would be extremely easy to produce. I spoke to many victims of the Kempei tai investigation methods and will gladly furnish names of people who fell a victim to those to these methods. However: in most cases we always meet the same names of torturers where the Suintenzorg Kempeitai is concerned.

(A. Zimmerman)

Major of Infantry Royal Neth. Indies Army.

Name	Water Test	Electrization	Mishandled	Hung	Paral	Dead
Capt. Vellenga	?	Yes	Yes	No	No	Beheaded
Dr. Ir. Kramer	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No +)
Ir. Coster	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	Beheaded
H. Drielsma	No	No	Yes	No	No	Beheaded
Dr. O Munck	No	?	Yes	Yes	Yes	Beheaded
K. Welter	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Beheaded
Petri	No	No	Yes	No	No	Beheaded
De Rooy	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Beheaded
Bakhuis	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Beheaded
Slis	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Beheaded
Blusse	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Beheaded
Kooy	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	Beheaded
Pieters	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	Beheaded
van der Veen	No	No	Yes	No	No	Beheaded
Wernink	Yes	Yes	Yes	?	?	Beheaded
Tjoa Tek Swat	Yes (2 x)	Yes -	Yes	No	No	Beheaded
Ong Tjang Kie	No	No	Yes	No	No	Alive
Mulder	No	No	Yes	No	No	Beheaded
Ir. J.v. Beugen	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	Alive
Miss Thierons	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	Alive
Maj Zimmerman	Yes (2 X)	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Alive
Lie Bong Giok	Yes (2 X)	Yes (39 x)	Yes (1 x)	Yes	No	Alive
Ir. Willem Boer	?	?	Yes	Yes	Yes	No +) }

Water tests were given by BANG and TAMAMINI and YOSHIDA.

Electrization was given by YAMADA AND BANG

Manhandling was done by BANG TAMMINI YOSHIDA YAMADA and all others

Hanging was done by YOSHIDA

†) Died of natural causes (weakened by tortures etc.)

List is based on information given by Major Zimmerman and Lee Bang Giok both of whom met most of the victims personally, saw them in the Kempeitai-cells and received first hand information.

List is in-complete: there are many more cases. Burning with cigarette-ends is left out of list, was a routine-question only seldom left out of an examination.)

C E R T I F I C A T E

The undersigned CHARLES JONGENEEL, first Lieutenant R.N.I.A., head of the War Crimes Section of NETHERLANDS FORCES INTELLIGENCE SERVICE (NEFIS) being first duly sworn on oath deposes and states that the annexed report is a full, true, complete and accurate copy of the original document entitled:

" Report on torture by the Japanese Military Police (Kempei Tai) drawn up by Major ZIMMERMAN R.N.I.A., No. OM/235/E."

which document is a part of the official records of the NEFIS.

SIGNATURE:

(SEAL)

BATAVIA, June 7th. 1946.

Subscribed and sworn to before me K. A. de WEERD, first Lieutenant R.N.I.A. Higher Official attached to the office of the Attorney-General N.E.I.

(Signed) K. A. de Weerd