

Ex 1802

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S T A T E M E N T

1. I am Col. KOBA, Shigeru, Commander, TALAUD Garrison.
2. Of my own free will, in order to assist the inquiry, I am making a statement giving the facts as they are known to me.
3. In BEO, there were four allied airmen, and in RAINUS there was one. They were held as prisoners.
4. I was in hospital from 20 Dec 44 until 10 Mar 45, and the hospital records will show that.
5. I enquired from Manado Headquarters, the Commander of which was Major General KATSURA. Under him was Lt.Col. KOMURA, what was to be done with these airmen.
6. The answer was "You punish them on your own spot". This meant to me that I should execute these men, and since no further reply came, from KATSURA. I believed it was my duty to execute these men.
7. I believe the reply to my question came from MANADO about the end of January, or beginning of February 1945.
8. Then I gave a verbal order to Capt (now Major) TAMURA to execute these men. At that time there were only four airmen. I was still recovering from illness and on 23 Mar 45 they were executed. TAKEHASHI was not there, but he knew about it.
9. TAMURA reported to me a few days later that he had executed the men. (I was not present at the execution). I then reported to MANADA that the men had been executed.
10. I understand that when the above order came from KATSURA to deal with the matter on the spot, or to dispose of them on the spot, that the matter was to remain a secret. I therefore gave an order to the effect that no one was to talk or enquire about the matter.
11. In the beginning of Jun 45 I gave TAMURA a verbal order that the prisoner at RAINUS must be executed. I understood this was my duty as covered by the previous order from MANADO. I was NOT at the execution but TAMURA reported to me some time after the 10th June 45 that it had been done. I think it was done on the 10th June.
12. In times of war, the only thing for me to do was to act in accordance with orders of my superiors.

(Signed) ..... Col KOBA.

(Signed) Capt J.A. Louwitch  
(Witness)



Translated and  
Interrogated by Capt J.A. LOUWITCH ATIS.

(Signed) Capt J.A. Louwitch

Interrogation directed by Capt E.S. DURANCE Adv HQ AMF

E. DURANCE Capt.

Certified true copy.

/s/ Mornane  
Lt.Col.