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Evidentiary Document No. 5214.

Examination of Tong Ah Seong

Tong Ah Seong, worker at saw mill in Mengattal, duly sworn, states:-

I am 42 years of age, of Chinese nationality, and now living in Mengattal, where I am employed sawing timber.

I was a member of the guerrillas and took part in the rising of October, 1943. When I surrendered to the Japanese, they pardoned me on condition that I worked for them. I was made to do all kinds of work for them at Tuaran and Jesselton.

One day in February, 1944, the Japanese told me that I was to accompany them on an expedition they were making by boat. We left Jesselton in a motor-boat at night. There were about eight K.T. in the party, some soldiers, some native police, Bachee (an Interpreter), and a Suluk. The next morning we arrived at Mentanani Island. We went ashore in a bay in the south of the island. The motor-boat remained at anchor with a small party aboard. The rest of us proceeded up the coast on foot to Kg. Mantanani.

When we reached the kg., the headman and the inhabitants were summoned to a large building. Over a hundred of them came together. The Japanese then spoke to them. One of the Japanese read out a list of names. He said these were names of Suluk people who had taken part in the rising. Then the Japanese arrested all the men in the building and tied their hands behind their backs. Some of the Suluks managed to escape. While this was going on I saw one Suluk beheaded by Masuda, the interpreter.

We then went back to the boat, taking with us the Suluks we had arrested. I think there were 58 of them. We returned to Jesselton.

Soon after we had returned to Jesselton we set out again for Mantanani Island. On this second visit we reached the island late in the afternoon. We went on foot from the 'South Bay' to the kg. where we spent the night by the mosque. The next day was spent in searching the island. The Japanese were anxious to find a guerrilla named Lin Tin Fatt. In the afternoon we returned to South Bay and spent the night on the beach. The motor-boat was sent out to sea.

The next morning the Japanese divided their men into three parties to beat through the island. One party went up the west side of the island, another went up the

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centre, and the third went up the eastern part of the island. I went with the eastern party. Yamakata was in command of it. Masuda the interpreter came with us, and some soldiers and two native police. I saw Bachee go with Shimizu's party.

My party had been going for about half an hour and was moving from the north towards the village, along a track, when we heard firing in a south-westerly direction. We were then about 200 yards from the kg. We hurried forward towards the sound of the firing. On the edge of the village near the mosque we found the women together in a building. They had hung up a white flag. Masuda the interpreter told me to remain and guard the women, and not let them go. No one else was left with me. The rest of my party went towards the firing. I could see people moving about at a place near the shore where the firing seemed to be, but it was about 400 yards away and I could not distinguish what was happening. I cannot remember clearly if there was machine-gun firing or rifle-fire. I heard some shots fired, which might have been pistol shots, some minutes after my party had gone. I stayed there guarding the women for a long time. I think it must have been about four hours, but I did not have a watch and cannot recall how long it was. Afterwards I heard that during this time the Japanese had taken some dead and wounded on to their boat.

At length the Japanese all arrived at the kg., bringing some rations with them. Bachee accompanied them. The Japanese ordered Bachee to collect all the gold rings and the money from the women. He handed them to me. Nine rings and about a hundred dollars in Japanese currency notes were collected. When I arrived back in Jesselton, Masuda the interpreter took these from me.

Masuda then gave the order that all the women were to be tied with their hands behind their backs. This was done and then a rope was put through the back of their arms, so that the women were all strung together. The ends of the rope were made fast to two pillars in the mosque. There were about twenty or thirty women thus tied up, and about four or five children with them.

Masuda told the women that Shimizu had ordered them to be shot because the Suluk people had killed Japanese. He spoke in Malay, which I understand. The women cried

Then the machine-gun was fired into the women. The firing lasted only a few seconds. When it stopped some of the women were still alive. I saw the K.T. go forward and shoot the wounded with their pistols. Everyone who came on this second visit to Mantanani Island was present at the killing by the mosque, except for the two dead soldiers, the two wounded K.T., a small party of soldiers who were on board the ship, and

the native police who had been sent away just before the firing took place.

After the killing, Shimizu gave orders that the Kg. was to be burnt. When that was done we all went back to the boat which we reached just as it was getting dark. We then returned to Jesselton.

I never saw or heard of any Suluk in the island having fire arms.

I never saw any attack on the Japanese by the Suluks.

I do not know the names of any Suluk people who were killed on this occasion.

About three days after we had returned, the Japs went again to Mantanani Island, taking Bachee with them. I did not go this time. Bachee told me when he got back that he had seen the dead bodies of the women, and that they were smelling.

These are the names of the Japanese K.T. who came on the second trip, and whose names I can remember and can write. There are others I do not remember clearly. There was also Inaba, who was wounded. I cannot write his name in characters.

(Sino-Japanese characters)

These were all present at the killing at the mosque, except the second one (reading from the right) who had been wounded. I saw each of these men, except the second one, kill wounded women and children with pistols, after the machine-gunning at the mosque.

(Signed)

I certify that I duly translated the above summary to the witness in his own language, prior to his signature which appears above.

(Signed) Interpreter.

SWORN before me, M.G. Dickson, Captain,
No. 8. W.C.I.T. this fifteenth day of March, 1946, detailed to
examine the above by the C-in-C ALFSEA.

The above characters represent +
Japanese names which may be anglicised as Shimizu, Kiuchi,
Yamakata, Kato, Kakimoto, Masuda.

(Signed) R. Snelling, E/O. SEATIC.
+ reading the characters from the right. CERTIFIED TRUE COPY
(Signed) M.G. Dickson, 9.5.46.