

No. 1416

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
UNITED STATES ARMY FORCES, PACIFIC
WAR CRIMES BRANCH

Exh. 1416

15 January 1946

MEMORANDUM TO: Prosecution Section (Report No. 161)

THRU: Executive Officer, War Crimes Branch

SUBJECT: Additional torture and murder by Kempei-Tai stationed at Bacolod, Occidental Province, Negros, P.I., in February and March 1945.

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II. SUMMARY OF EVIDENCE

Approximately 21 May 1942, the Japanese invaded Negros island. Many of the citizens had fled to the hills. After a month or two, some of the citizens of Bacolod returned voluntarily or upon threats by the Japanese that their refusal to do so would be considered a hostile act. In December 1942, some of the prominent male citizens of Bacolod and Talisay organized an espionage group of intelligence operators for the purpose of furnishing guerrillas information concerning the Japanese strength, troop movements, warehouses, depots, garrisons and food supply in the Bacolod-Murcia and Talisay area. From time to time their leaders and messengers were apprehended or had to flee and be replaced (R 20, 21). It is doubtful if any one person knew who all of the operators were. Even their families were ignorant of their under cover operations (R 2, 6, 8, 18). In September 1944, Atty. Ramon DUMLAO became chief of the district and used the code name "Poison" (R 2, 21). Simon RAMIREZ became the contact man with the guerrillas (R 17, 21). In January or February 1945, after American bombings (presumably very effective), the Japanese brought in a strong counter-intelligence force. A trap was set for RAMIREZ and around 10 February 1945 he was caught (R 21). He was taken to the Kempei-Tai headquarters in Bacolod and other places where he was questioned and tortured. He was seen by other prisoners hardly able to walk, his clothes were clotted with blood, his face was swollen and unshaven, and scars were visible from being whipped with a wire (R 2, 18, 21). During the torture, it is believed that RAMIREZ disclosed the identity of other operators, as thereafter over a period of two or three weeks one by one a total of twelve known members of the intelligence group were arrested (R 2, 17, 21, 22). When RAMIREZ was arrested, the Japanese

DOCUMENT 2804

found on his person two reports in DUMLAO's handwriting and signed "Poison". These reports gave the location of Japanese military establishments, companies, names of commanding officers and their approximate strength. DUMLAO had been the attorney for the Japanese Taiwan Branch Bank in Bacolod and by comparison his handwriting was recognized (R 23). He was arrested and placed in prison by the Japanese (R 7). One of the first men arrested after DUMLAO was Agustin SEGOVIA, Secretary to the Provincial Governor, who was released of espionage charges when in fact he was one of the members of the ring. He warned the others, but they were afraid to flee, fearing the Japanese would retaliate against their families (R 21). Five of the twelve arrested were released after being interrogated. They and others were tortured. One could hardly stand or lie down as his entire body was swollen. Another was mangled and black and blue. Still another was beaten severely with a police club and thrown by Ju-jitsu. One man was beaten with a club, thrown across the floor and the next night was forced to jump from a window eighteen or twenty feet above asphalt pavement, which dislocated his his causing him to lose his power of locomotion for about four months. Another man was thrown from a staircase about twelve feet high (R 13, 14, 17). Some of the men were released through the influence of the Provincial Governor (R 17), and one was released because a friendly interpreter substituted answers that were satisfactory to the Japanese (R 2, 22). Seven of the twelve men arrested have never been seen since. At least one was in the jail on 9 March 1945. All prisoners in the jail were released by American forces on 30 March 1945. The seven men were not among those liberated (R 2, 5, 8, 17). One of the perpetrators admits that two of the victims were executed by his order. He stated that he was carrying out the order of General KONO (R 3, 6, 8, 10, Ex A). No trial was given these men (R 3).

While confined by the Japanese, the following method of torture was observed, though it is not known who these victims were. It is possible they were other members of the espionage ring. One man was beaten until he was a mass of blood. Another man was strapped to a table and his wrists burned with an alcohol flame until the odor of burning flesh filled the room. A third man had a bayonet thrust through his arm at the wrist, and as he was being questioned, the bayonet was gradually forced down his arm (R 14).