

A F F I D A V I T

COUDOX, Jean Francois  
Born at BA DON (Donghoi) on  
1 Feb. 1910, son of Paraon  
Coudoux and Tran Thi Thai.  
Address in Indo-China:  
At PAKSONG via Pakse, LAOS.

AT VINH:

I was arrested on 13 June 1945 with my brothers, Gaston and Lucien, at PHU QUY by Chief Sergeant MAORII of the Japanese Military Police for having hidden and supplied with food Tisserand and Lieut. Chenives, the latter being a fugitive from the fight at KEHEO.

I was taken to the Japanese Military Police H.Q. at Vinh on 14 June 1945 about 10 A.M., there I remained till 18 August 1945.

I was interrogated by Chief Sergeant ARATA and the interpreter KAWAI. I received some blows with a cudgel during the interrogation. I was on the same food ration as my brother Gaston, and after 30 days of this diet I was quite feeble and unable to eat the little pellet of rice that they gave me for each meal. I was six days without taking anything and should probably have died of starvation like my comrades, URIET and GOUDERANT, if Dr. Mathieu had not had bananas passed to me by stealth through my brother Gaston, who used to go to get treatment at the hospital.

After my liberation on 18 August 1945 I was sent to hospital for physical debility. While I was in confinement I heard at least four times the punishments inflicted on Mr. SUREAU, who was in the cell with us. It went on about 4 meters away from the cell door and always during the night.

These corporal punishments were inflicted by a sergeant dressed in civilian clothes. He had long hair, was of medium height and slender. I do not know his name but I will be able to recognize him. He was the most feared of the military police.

Mr. Sureau was undressed and laid on the ground naked, his arms stretched out and fastened to a bar. This sergeant abused himself by passing a lighted torch soaked in petrol all over his body, burning him on different parts of his body, some more sensitive, others less, to cause him to utter cries more or less loud. He had burns all over his body, chest, legs, back, hands and soles of the feet.

At times the torture changed. They submitted Sureau to the water punishment (see deposition of Gaston Coudoux) also causing an electric current to be passed into his body or to his jaw. These proceedings lasted as a rule for three hours.

I then used to see this brave Mr. Sureau return exhausted, his whole body covered with burns, with wounds running blood. For 10 days they refused to let him attend to these wounds, which had festered and were eaten by maggots (see deposition of Dr. Mathieu on this subject).

Mr. Sureau's testicles were also swollen as a result of the blows received. He could not wash on account of the burns received on the soles of his feet and we had to support him when he went to relieve himself.

In spite of this inhuman treatment he always kept his chin up and kept his head before his persecutors, who were never able to drag a confession from him. When he was at the point of death he was hospitalized and died of his injuries about 20 August.

In similar circumstances I witnessed the corporal punishments inflicted on Mr. Uriet, who was also shut up with us in the same cell.

On 28 June 1945, he was interrogated for the last time, on his knees with his trunk bare, by the same Annamese interpreter, and the same sergeant in civilian clothes. He was struck on the back and on the arms with a heavy cudgel by Sgt. ARATA and another sergeant. After two days of this treatment the body of Uriet was covered with wounds and purple all over. He could no longer either move or lie down.

What with the diet of the ball of rice and the tortures inflicted on him, he went downhill very rapidly and the 29th day he was so feeble that we ourselves asked the Japanese to have him sent to the hospital. They refused. On the 30th day he was in a dying condition in the cell and the Japanese placed him on a ricksha in order to transfer him to the Provincial Liaison of the Citadel, but he died in the ricksha during this transfer.

(Sgd) J. COUDOUX  
Coudoux, Jean Francois

Signed and attested under oath on 12 September 1946 at Hanoi, before me the undersigned Investigation Officer, assigned by the French authorities for the investigation of which the present affidavit is the subject.

(Sgd) LE SOURD  
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Captain Le Sourd

Witnessed for the legalization of the signature of M. COUDOUX, placed opposite.

Hanoi, 12 Sept. 1946  
Chief of Service E. C.

(Signature illegible)

(SEAL) (COMMISSARIAT of the  
{ REPUBLIC of Tonkin  
{ and North Annam.

Certificate

I, George Buffington, hereby certify that I am thoroughly conversant with the French and English languages and as a result of the comparison between the French and the English texts, I have established that this is a true and correct translation of International Prosecution Document No. 2772-I-2.

(Sgd) GEORGE BUFFINGTON  
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