

No. 1437

Ex 1437

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GENERAL HEADQUARTERS  
UNITED STATES ARMY FORCES, PACIFIC  
WAR CRIMES BRANCH

8 January 1946

MEMORANDUM TO: Prosecution Section (Report No. 151)  
THRU: Executive Officer, War Crimes Branch  
SUBJECT: Murder and attempted murder of Filipino  
civilians and the wanton destruction of  
private property in various Barrios of  
Malvar, Batangas Province, Luzon, P.I.,  
during January, February and March 1945.

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II. SUMMARY OF EVIDENCE:

Early on the morning of 26 January 1945, Japanese soldiers entered Barrio San Andres, Malvar, Batangas Province. They rounded up the inhabitants in small groups and took them toward the school building. About fifty blood-covered bodies were scattered over the area, and three Filipinos, whose hands were tied behind their backs, were bayoneted to death. One of a group of five Filipinos ran away as he was being led towards the school, and though wounded when the Japanese shot at him, managed to escape (R 7, 8). Two other Filipinos sought shelter in a dugout, but were discovered by Japanese soldiers who fired a machine gun at them. The two men feigned death and later sought shelter elsewhere, but were again discovered by fifteen Japanese soldiers. One of the men was beheaded, but the other ran away and escaped as the Japanese fired at him (R 11, 12). Another Filipino while attempting to escape, was bayoneted by five Japanese soldiers, one of whom shot him in the head with a pistol. One of the other soldiers bayoneted the wounded man through the chest and left him for dead, but the victim managed to survive and recover. The Japanese then burned about ninety houses in the barrio (R 15, 16).

On 19 February 1945, about thirty Japanese soldiers and Makapilis approached the house of Santiago de la PENA in Barrio Begong Pock, Malvar. The Japanese surrounded the house which contained six persons and one of the Japanese entered the home. After a little while he came out, and the soldiers then took torches and burned the house down. The bodies of the six occupants were found in the charred ruins of the house (R 18).

On 25 March 1945, at Barrio San Pedro, one man was intercepted by Japanese soldiers and bayoneted five times when he was unable to tell them where all the inhabitants were. Though seriously wounded, he survived (R 21, 22, Exs B, C). On the same day in the same barrio, four other Filipino men whose hands were tied behind their backs were thrown into a deep well by Japanese soldiers and drowned (R 24, 25; Ex D). Two other men were drowned by the Japanese in the same manner at Barrio San Pedro on 27 March 1945 (R 28, 29; Ex E).

On another day in March 1945 at Barrio San Isidro, Bulshan, Malvar, Batangas Province, three Filipinos were captured by Japanese soldiers. Their hands were tied behind their backs and they were pushed into a deep well. Two of them were drowned but one managed to get his hands untied and held on to a piece of bamboo until he was rescued (R 32, 33; Ex F).

On 29 March 1945, at Duhat near Barrio San Juan, Japanese soldiers approached the home of a Filipino family of six who fled in an effort to escape. One pregnant woman was overtaken by the pursuing Japanese and shot with a rifle. Though seriously wounded, she survived. The other members of the family escaped unharmed. One other man was wounded by the Japanese at the same time and place and died later in a hospital (R 36, 37).

About 1000 hours on 28 March 1945, two hundred Japanese soldiers entered Barrio San Isidro, Buliban, Malvar. The residents scattered for safety, but one man, his child, and two women were captured. After being threatened, the man agreed to serve as a guide for the Japanese, and his companions apparently released. As he was guiding the Japanese towards Lipa, the Japanese were attacked, probably by guerrillas, and one of the Japanese soldiers bayoneted the guide six times and left him. Though seriously wounded, he recovered (R 41, 42; Exs. H, I).

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