

Doc. 2743 Evid

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INTERNATIONAL PROSECUTION SECTION

Doc. Nos. 2742, 2743

28 October 1946

ANALYSIS OF DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

DESCRIPTION OF ATTACHED DOCUMENT

Title and Nature: Affidavits of a) Major Charles Thomas BROWN and b) Estellita MORALES on Japanese Atrocities, Philippine Islands

Date: 1945-46 Original () Copy (x) Language: English

Has it been translated? Yes () No (x)

Has it been photostated? Yes () No (x)

LOCATION OF ORIGINAL

Legal Section, SCAP

SOURCE OF ORIGINAL: War Crimes Investigation Detachments or Agents, War Crimes Office, JAGD, War Department

PERSONS IMPLICATED:

CRIMES TO WHICH DOCUMENT APPLICABLE: Violation Geneva Convention; Crimes Against Humanity; Atrocities, Philippines

SUMMARY OF RELEVANT POINTS

Doc. No. 2742 - Affidavit of Major Charles T. BROWN, treats of conditions at POW Camp in Tayabas Province, Luzon, where about 300 American soldiers, many dying, were forced to work on a road (in June and July 1942 (see p. 2).

No medical supplies were furnished and due to this and other causes, Brown states categorically he holds "the Japanese Government responsible for the death of every American who died at this camp".

Doc. No. 2743 - Affidavit of Estrellita MORALES is story of Japanese troops bayoneting of fifteen Filipino civilians, eight of them children, at BOGO, CEBU, in October 1944

Analyst: W.H.WAGNER

Doc. Nos. 2742-2743

ESTELITA MORALES, after having been duly sworn, testified at Palo, Leyte, P. I., on 17 January 1946, as follows:

Q Please state your name, age, nationality and address?
A Estrellita MORALES, 19 years old, Filipino, and a resident of Binulho, Albuera, Leyte, P. I.

Q Do you intend to live at this address permanently?
A Yes, sir.

Q Did you ever live in Cebu?
A Yes, sir, in the town of Bogo.

Q What family did you live with at Bogo?
A I was living with the SY family.

Q Can you give us the names, ages and sexes of the members of that family?
A Yes, sir. They are:

NAME	AGE	SEX
Manuel SY		
Mrs. Agripina SY	30	M
Kia La YAP	25	F
Filotea SY	28	F
Arsenia SY	17	F
Tan San SY	16	F
Manuel SY, Jr.	40	M
Maria Teresa SY	14	M
Maria Corazon SY	9	F
Sonny Roberto SY	7	F
Maria Pacita SY	5	M
Maria Carmelita SY	3	F
Lydia (illegitimate daughter of Kia La YAP)	1	F
Adriana Canete (servant of the family)	4	F
	25	F

Q What happened to the members of this family?
A They were all killed by the Japanese.

Q Can you tell us in your own words how the Japanese killed this family?
A Yes, sir. At 2:00 PM on the 17th day of October, 1944, a Japanese soldier came to the house of my master in Bogo and asked from him some clothings. Manuel SY, the head of the family, gave the Japanese soldier a suit of westpoint khaki and thereafter the Japanese went away. Immediately afterwards the same Japanese came back with two other Japanese soldiers and these three made us go downstairs and there we were all investigated. From that point we were made to march to the direction of the sugar central. When we reached the provincial road, our hands were all tied behind our backs with a rope. Then we were made to continue our march towards the sugar central. When we reached a house beside the road the owner of which is "TIBONG", I only know the nickname, we were made to go upstairs, except Filotea SY and Arsenia. We were made to march on to the sugar central and then to go on. When we reached upstairs, we were all pushed flat on the floor and then the Japanese began

bayoneting us. At this time when I was hit four times on my legs by bayonet, I pretended to be dead, and observed carefully what the Japanese would be doing. The Japanese then took the nipa walls of the kitchen of "Tibong's" house and they covered us with them. They then set on fire the walls that covered us and left the house. When the fire was blazing, I immediately left the house, leaving the rest who I believe they were all dead, and ran to a bamboo thicket and hid for a while.

Q Did you ever see any members of this family after you left the house?

A From that time I never saw them again.

Q Did you ever return to that house to try to find any of the bodies?

A No, sir.

Q How many Japanese were present and took part in the bayoneting?

A There were two Japanese who bayoneted us and one guarded us.

Q Were there any other prisoners in the house, besides this family?

A Yes, sir, we were 26 in all bayoneted and, in addition to the members of the family I enumerated, they are:

NAME	AGE	SEX
Pedro HERRERA	50	M
Lourdes HERRERA	10	F
Ting SUAN	40	M
Pu Ya YAP	45	M
Bec HON	40	F
Domy YAP	12	M
"Tata" YAP	8	M
Lucia HERRERA	18	F
Teresita HERRERA	10	F
ONG, first name unknown, Chinese	43	M
Sim PONG	48	M

and two other persons who were visitors of Pedro HERRERA.

Q Did the three Japanese that you mentioned as being present kill all these people?

A Only two killed all these people and one guarded us.

Q Was one of the Japanese who took part in the bayoneting the one you identified in the POW Stockade #1 in Leyte Detention Center this afternoon?

A Yes, sir. (Note: Investigator identified this man as Sgt-Major Katsushiro UENO, POW #51J-155059.)

Q How long were you kept prisoners by the Japanese in this house?

A About ten minutes.

Q Why were all these people killed by the Japanese?

A I do not know, sir, but I learned from information of Pedro HERRERA that the pipes and faucets of the water

system in the Medellin Japanese garrison were stolen, a truckload of Japanese soldiers were ambushed by the guerrillas, and a Japanese plane that made a force landing in Medellin was burned by the guerrillas, and that was why the Japanese, I believe, were conducting a reprisal.

Q How long was it from the time you were arrested until the time you were bayoneted?

A About one and a half hours.

Q How did you manage to escape?

A As I said the Japanese, after setting afire the nipa walls that covered us, left the house. At that time I was below the dead bodies of Agripina SY and Pedro HERRERA. I pushed them aside and ran downstairs as fast as my legs could carry me towards the bamboo thicket.

Q Did you observe what happened at the house after you left it?

A I never looked back and I never heard any noise in there.

Q Where did you go after you left the bamboo thicket?

A For about three hours and a half I hid from one bamboo thicket to another and from one bush to another, as the Japanese were still around the area. When it got dark I went to the house where I was staying and there I found three old folks who managed to hide from the Japanese. They are: Jose SY Jong Suy, Maria SY, Sa Tsim, and they are presently residing at Binulho, Albuera, Leyte, P. I.

Q Did you remain at this house?

A Yes, sir, until we went to Binulho, Albuera, Leyte, in January, 1945.

Q Who treated your bayonet wounds?

A I was treated by Jose SY Jong Suy.

Q I hand you what I have marked as Exhibit "A", and ask you to identify it?

A That is a sketch of the house of my master, Manuel SY and the route to "Tibong's" house and the room marked "X" is where all the persons were killed.

Q Can you identify any of the other Japanese that were present during your arrest, investigation or bayoneting?

A Yes, sir, the other six I identified in Stockade #1 in Leyte Detention Center this afternoon were present during our arrest and investigation, but I did not see them do anything wrong. (Note: Investigator identified these six Japanese as: Civ. Kiyoshi YAMADA, POW #51J-51060; L/Pvt. Whikane TAGUCHI, POW #51J-67511; 1st Lt. Iwao MIKI, POW #51J-41063; Lt. (J.G.) Mitsutada SUZUKI, POW #51J-41056; Civ. Teiichi FUJIKAWA, POW #51J-42104; and Yoshi-neri KANEKO, POW #51J-151818.

Q Will you describe more in detail exactly what happened during the time members of the SY family were bayoneted? They made us squat on the floor of the sala close to each other and the two Japanese bayoneted us beginning from the extremities and meeting on the middle and the guard, I believe, watched the windows and door. During the bayoneting the bodies of Agripina SY and Pedro HERRERA fell over my body which prevented a bayonet from penetrating

the vital parts of my body. At that time we were all untied and when we were all squatting on the floor, each and every one of us, except the eleven children, bent our heads and some were embracing each and every member of their families and prayed. Later on before the bayoneting I flatly lay down on the floor near Agripina SY and Pedro HERRERA. During the bayoneting the Japanese stabbed only two or three times on the vital parts of the bodies; the adults made only a low groan and the children made their loudest cry, and this is the reason why it took only a short period of time to kill everyone in the house.

Q Did you hear any of the Japanese that you identified this afternoon issue any orders to other Japanese that were present at this time?

A No, sir.

Q Was any Japanese that you identified this afternoon in command of the Japanese who arrested, investigated or bayoneted you?

A I cannot tell, sir.

Q Do you know of any witnesses who can corroborate your testimony?

A Andres HERRERA who was taken along with Filetea SY and Arsenia SY toward the Sugar Central now resides at Panagnawan, Medellin, Cebu, P. I.

Q Do you have anything further to add to this statement?

A No more, sir.

/s/ Estelita Morales
ESTELITA MORALES

COMMONWEALTH OF THE PHILIPPINES)
PROVINCE OF LEYTE) SS
TOWN OF PALO

I, ESTELITA MORALES, being duly sworn on oath, state that I had read to me and understood the translation of the foregoing transcription of my interrogation and all answers contained therein, consisting of four pages, and are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

/s/ Estelita Morales
ESTELITA MORALES

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 25th day of January, 1946.

/s/ Frank S. Johnson
FRANK S. JOHNSON, Capt., Inf.
Investigating Officer, War
Crimes Invest. Detachment