

No. 1413

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
 UNITED STATES ARMY FORCES, PACIFIC
 OFFICE OF THE THEATER JUDGE ADVOCATE
 WAR CRIMES BRANCH

APO 500
 27 November 1945

MEMORANDUM TO: Prosecution Section (Report No. 109)
 THRU: Executive Officer, War Crimes Branch
 SUBJECT: Atrocities committed at Fort Santiago, Intramuros
 Manila, P. I.

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II. SUMMARY OF EVIDENCE:

The record in this case, consisting of four hundred and sixty-one pages, contains innumerable instances of the brutal and barbaric treatment of many persons taken to Fort Santiago for questioning. The practice of inhuman treatment prevailed from the time of the Japanese occupation in January 1942 to February 1945. When the Japanese realized that Manila was lost they engaged in a final orgy of mass murder by shooting, bayonetting and burning alive of all prisoners remaining inside the fort. It is impractical to detail the treatment received by each individual, but in general the forms of torture summarized below were imposed in whole or in part upon the prisoners. Some of the victims were American prisoners of war and American nationals. The treatment given specific individuals may be learned by referring to the record citation opposite their names in the list of victims herein.

Upon arrival at Fort Santiago for "investigation", a person was placed in a cell approximately sixteen feet long and thirteen and one half feet wide in which had been placed many other people so that there was not sufficient room for all of them to lie down (R 13, 19, 39, 239). Talking was prohibited (R 14, 20, 32, 65). The diet was entirely inadequate and consisted of a small amount of rice, and occasionally some native vegetables or greens (R 9, 14, 38). Practically all of the witnesses suffered a loss of weight ranging from twenty-five to seventy-five pounds during the time they were held (R 15, 45, 197, 301). One person was incarcerated for thirty-three days and lost thirty-two pounds (R 266). Sanitary conditions were almost unbearable, the only toilet facility being an opening in the floor at one end of the cell (R 75, 92, 324, 340) which was never cleaned more than once a day, and the receptacles were entirely inadequate (R 14, 251). There was not sufficient water provided, though apparently in each cell was a faucet from which a few drops of water was obtainable (R 14, 32, 154). The prisoners were not issued soap (R 32, 65, 240, 251). Generally, bathing was infrequent and sometimes less than once a week (R 14, 21, 92). Usually all in a cell, sometimes numbering eighteen or twenty, were allowed five or ten minutes for the entire group to bathe (R 14, 33, 261). Men were forced to bathe in view of women prisoners (R 351). The only ventilation in the cells were small windows high at one end, and the stench of human waste and dirty bodies was over-powering. The cells were infested with lice and vermin (R 21, 240, 286). Persons who had been tortured were returned to the cell in a wounded condition, some were helpless (R 20, 53, 98, 106, 122, 146, 241), and some died in the cell (R 126, 146, 300, 312, 350). There is only one instance of rape (R 334).

Of the various forms of torture administered by the personnel at Fort Santiago the following are typical:

Some prisoners were kicked and slapped across the face, beaten with the flat of a sheathed sword across the back, shoulders and kidneys (R 13, 74, 135). Others were beaten with iron rods (R 30, 84), or with baseball bats, clubs, poles, and telephone wires (R 2, 66, 92, 104, 132, 250, 306, 316), and some were thrown by Jiu Jitsu methods (R 45, 74, 104, 134, 316). The water cure was frequently employed. This consisted of tying the victim to a bench, putting a cloth over the face and inserting a water hose in the mouth or nostrils. Water was forced into his stomach until he became unconscious, and then the Japanese pressed and jumped on his stomach to force the water out (R 45, 104, 132, 139, 163, 175, 249, 279). Prisoners had their arms tied behind their backs, a pole inserted through the arms at the elbows, and then were raised and suspended from the floor. Others were hung for hours by the arms (R 92, 134, 149, 163, 175, 250, 279). Some had sticks inserted in the opening of the penis or vagina (R 127, 133, 175), and others were burned about the body with lighted cigarettes or cigars (R 133, 162, 252, 307). Ammunition would be placed between the fingers and then the fingers were squeezed until the bones would break (R 175). Small bamboo slits, or other instruments were placed under toe nails and finger nails (R 81, 133) and finger and toe nails were pulled out with pliers (R 195, 307). Electricity was used to shock or burn the victims (R 81, 175, 229, 329). A piece of skin was sliced from the back of one man's hand and he was forced to eat it. The skin on his face and arm was twisted with a pair of wooden pliers (R 81), and he was hit in the testicles (R 81, 170). The Japanese guards ground the prisoner's toes under their hob-nailed boots (R 81). Three American pilots who had been shot down during the bombing of Manila received a sword thrust through the shoulder, wire inserted through cigarette holes were made in their fingers, or were burned by lighted cigarette prisoners were then suspended by the wires. One pilot's whole body was burned, another was paralyzed and they were taken to a hospital (R 197). American soldiers were shot (R 2, 111). Many prisoners from Fort Santiago were executed at the Chinese Cemetery (R 203, 212, 217) or buried there (R 212, 219, 222). As a form of intimidation and bloody as a result of beatings they could not be recognized. Intestines of some men were removed while they were still alive in the presence of other prisoners (R 280). Dead bodies with their hands tied behind their backs were thrown into the Pasig River which forced to behead two other prisoners (R 281). Torture as described above was administered not only to men but to women (R 31, 66, 67, 114, 115, 133, 146, 198, 255, 267, 288). Some of the women were nuns (R 178, 271, 297). Some of the men were priests (R 107, 135, 170, 192). Some victims died after being released as a result of their treatment at Fort Santiago (R 343, 345 to 347, 361). In February of 1945 the cells in Fort Santiago were packed with people who resided within the Walled City. Doors were barricaded, gasoline was poured around, set afire and hundreds were burned to death (R 369, 378, 380, 396). Others were executed (R 373, 395). Hundreds of bodies were discovered by American troops when Fort Santiago was taken (R 406 to 435, 441, 447). Many of the civilians were able to escape the burning buildings only to be shot by Japanese guards as they escaped or when attempting to swim across the Pasig River (R 369, 379, 387, 388, 396). Some however, survived and lived to relate the horror to which they had been subjected.

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