

Ex 1779

Class B and C Offenses:

PROSECUTION DOCUMENT

No. 5682.

NETHERLANDS INDIES

TIMOR and LESSER SUNDA ISLANDS

Synopsis

Netherlands Division I.P.S.

December, 1946.

Lt.Col. J.S.Sinninghe Damstè,

R.N.I.A.,

Assistant Prosecutor.

1779

TIMOR and LESSER SUNDA ISLANDS

## Synopsis.

Occupation by the Japanese Navy.I. PRISONERS OF WAR.1. Murder.

Captured troops were murdered in the most cruel way.

- a. At Oesapa Besar, Dutch Timor, about February 1942 eight Australian P.O.W. were shot after capture, without any trial. This appears from the affidavit by the Australian Pte. R.R. CROW, Prosecution Document 5571.

The Prosecution enters this document 5571 for identification and the excerpts as an exhibit.

- b. At Babaoe (Baboe), Dutch Timor, about February 1942, an Australian Medical Corporal, who was left in charge of the hospital, was hanged and had his throat cut. This is stated in the interrogation-report of the Australian Army Chaplain TH. W. BINDEMAN, Prosecution Document 5573, who also affirmed the murder at Oesapa Besar, already mentioned.

The Prosecution enters this document 5573 for identification and the excerpts as an exhibit.

- c. At Babaoe, in February 1942 also three Australian P.O.W. were killed; they were tied to each other by string around their wrists and their throats were cut. This is stated by the Australian Lt. Colonel W.W. LEGGATT, Prosecution Document 5579.

The Prosecution enters this document 5579 for identification and the excerpts as an exhibit.

- d. At Tatu Meta, Portuguese Timor, in February 1942 seven Australian soldiers were captured. The Japanese bound their hands behind their backs by telephone wire which had been pierced through their wrists. Then they were bayoneted. The bayonetting lasted for twenty minutes before they were dead. This appears from the affidavit by S. GRACA; Prosecution Document 5802.

At Dilli, Portuguese Timor, in March 1942 a Dutch officer was tied to a tree and pricked by a Japanese officer with his bayonet for about twenty /minutes;

minutes; chest and stomach were pierced many times; then he was stabbed to death. This is related by GRACA as well.

The Prosecution enters this document 5802 for identification and the excerpts as an exhibit.

- e. At Soeway, Portuguese Timor, in August 1942 the Japanese, commanded by a Captain, murdered the captured Dutch sub-lieutenant STIEPKENS by beheading. This is reported by M. AUGUSTUN, who acted as an interpreter. Prosecution Document 5585.

The Prosecution enters this document 5585 for identification and the excerpts as an exhibit.

## 2. Camps.

Conditions were about the same as in the camps in the other areas.

- a. At the P.O.W. camp, Oesapa Besar, conditions were decidedly bad as regards food, drinking facilities, accommodation and sanitation. Medicines were not provided but the P.O.W. happened to have sufficient drugs of their own. This is contained in the affidavit of Lt. Colonel LEGGATT, exhibit \_\_\_\_.
- b. At Flores Island, West of Timor, conditions were terrible. In the first months no dwellings were provided, the P.O.W., also the sick people, had to stay in the open air. Sanitation, hygienic and medical conditions were appalling. In the ward of the seriously ill patients no bedpans were available, therefore a little hole was dug next to each bedplace and the patients had to roll over it. Because a stool of 40 to 60 times a day was not an exception, time and again new holes had to be dug round the patient until there was no place left and a new bed had to be found. In case the patient was too weak to roll over the hole next to his bed, one was dug under it and a hole made through his sleeping mat. Food was bad. Consequently health deteriorated and more than half were ill. Still the sick were forced to labour. Of these 2079 Dutch P.O.W. 211 died from illness within a year's time. Discipline was harsh; corporal punishments were frequent, causing injuries and even indirectly death. P.O.W. were not protected against air attacks.

This is the sad story told in the report of Captain A.C.J. DE THOUARS, R.N.I.A., the camp commandant; Pte. C.K. BRANTS, R.N.I.A., and 1st Lieutenant H.H.J. DE VRIES, R.N.I.A.; Prosecution Document 5578.

The Prosecution enters this document 5578 for identification and the excerpts as an exhibit.

- c. At Soemba Island, West of Timor, interrogations were held under beatings and threats. As is reported in the affidavit of the Australian F/Lt. L.L. MCKENZIE; Prosecution Document 5583.

The Prosecution enters this document 5583 for identification and the excerpts as an exhibit.

- d. At P.O.W. camp Koepang, Dutch Timor, P.O.W. were forced to an exhausting march under harsh beatings; food; sanitary conditions and medical care were bad; labour was exhausting. As appears from the affidavit of Sgt. CH. VAN DER SLOOT, R.N.I.A., Prosecution Document 5597.

The Prosecution enters this document 5597 for identification and the excerpts as an exhibit.

### 3. Executions.

- a. At Oesapa Besar-camp an Australian P.O.W. who had struck a Japanese N.C.O and escaped was killed. This was explained in a letter written on behalf of the C.O. by a Japanese corporal who states: "In Japanese forces when a person strikes an officer or N.C.O. of higher rank the penalty is always death." However this P.O.W. was executed without trial but only on instructions from Headquarters. This appears from the affidavit of Lt. Colonel LEGGATT, exhibit \_\_\_\_.
- b. At P.O.W. camp, Flores, two P.O.W. were executed without trial. As is stated in the report of Capt. DE THOUARS c.s., exhibit \_\_\_\_.

## II. CIVILIANS.

### A. Internees.

Most of the European population was interned, also in Portuguese Timor, and their conditions were not much different from those in the civilian internees camps in other areas.

- a. At Soemba conditions were bad, although there was only a small number of internees. Accommodation and food were inadequate; their property was looted; severe beatings occurred causing injuries. As appears from the affidavit of the Controller (civil servant) W.F.H. PLAS, Prosecution Document 5596.

The Prosecution enters this document 5596 as an exhibit.

- b. At Liquica, Portuguese Timor, the Portuguese civilians were concentrated and interned. Conditions were as usual: bad accommodation, food, medical care; exposure to air attacks without protection, attracted especially by firing from a hospital. Particulars are given in the affidavit of GRACA, already introduced, exhibit \_\_\_\_\_, and the affidavit by C.J. SEQUEIRA; Prosecution Document 5803.

The Prosecution enters this document 5803 for identification and the excerpts as an exhibit.

B. Non-Interned.

1. Murder.

- a. At Aileu, Portuguese Timor, in September 1942 the Japanese, disguised as natives, made an attack upon the Portuguese guards, who had been sent off duty, and killed most of them. This is stated by a survivor, the Portuguese Pte. E. SIMOES, Prosecution Document 5804.

The Prosecution enters this document 5804 for identification and the excerpts as an exhibit.

- b. At Ainaro, Portuguese Timor, in October 1942 two Roman Catholic priests were murdered.

At Atsabe, Portuguese Timor, in December 1942 the Japanese used, when attacking the Australian forces, 50 to 60 natives as a screen, of whom a number was killed.

The Japanese burned the native huts in the area of Mt. Katrai, Portuguese Timor, and shot the women and children as they ran from the huts. This was a regular practice.

These facts are related by the Australian F/O W.A. BEATTIE, Prosecution /Document

Document 5805.

The Prosecution enters this document 5805 as an exhibit.

- c. The Japanese attacked and sacked also other native villages in Portuguese Timor, using indiscriminate machinegun fire, e.g. Kelical and Nahareca, as appears from the affidavit by the Portuguese L.A.N. RODREIGUES Prosecution Document 5806.

The Prosecution enters this document 5806 for identification and the excerpts as an exhibit.

- d. At Koepang, two natives were killed without proper trial; as appears from the affidavit of VAN DER SLOOT, already introduced, exhibit \_\_\_\_.
- e. At Oesapa, a native was killed without trial, as stated in the report of Chaplain BINDEMAN, already introduced, exhibit \_\_\_\_.
- f. In September 1944 General TANAKA ordered a punitive action against the islanders of Loeang and Sermata, East of Timor, because some Kempeitai men had been murdered by the native population. The local Rajah of Loeang was ordered to search for the chief of the so-called mutiny and was executed because he could not find the mutineer. The chief of the rebels and two others were executed at Lautem, Portuguese Timor. Of the other Loeang rebels 34 were executed on Moa Island, and 60 of the 650 Sermata rebels were killed.

This appears from the report of Major General Y. TANAKA, Prosecution Document 5594.

The Prosecution enters this document 5594 for identification and the excerpts as an exhibit.

A Japanese Lieutenant gives a further description of the killing on Moa Island. The natives were killed by bayonetting, three at a time by 21 Japanese soldiers. He himself organised a brothel in which he forced five native women to act as prostitutes as a punishment for the deeds of their fathers. Statement by Lt. S. OHARA, Prosecution Document 5591.

The Prosecution enters this document 5591 as an exhibit.

2. Kempeitai.

The Military Police operating in this area applied the well-known Kempei methods of interrogation, torture, punishment and treatment. Burning with cigarettes, watertest, hanging, kneeling upon sharp stones; severe beatings. Even killing.

- a. L.A.N. RODREICUES describes instances of torture at Ossu, Portuguese Timor, in his affidavit, exhibit \_\_\_\_\_, and also mentions that the Japanese forced the local chiefs to provide girls for the brothels.
- b. The Chinese CHUNG HAI CHENG, or HA HOI, acted as an interpreter for the Kempeitai at Dilli. In his affidavit he relates several cases of ill-treatment; Prosecution Document 5807.

Conditions in the prison were very bad as may easily be understood by the statement of HA HOI, Prosecution Document 5807. The Australian prisoners in the gaol at Dilli were very weak and exhausted. Women prisoners were beaten as well as men.

The Prosecution enters this document 5807 for identification and the excerpts as an exhibit.

- c. At Manatuto, Portuguese Timor, the Portuguese Chef de poste (administrator) was murdered by the Kempei; his cut-up remains were put in a sack and sent to his wife. As stated in the affidavit by F/O BEATTIE, already introduced, exhibit \_\_\_\_\_.

---

This completes the presentation of evidence regarding the Japanese war crimes committed in the Timor area.

---