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MEMORANDUM TO: Prosecution Section (Report No. 140)

THRU: Executive Officer, War Crimes Branch

SUBJECT: Punitive expeditions on Panay Island by Japanese forces against civilians in September 1943 and October 1943.

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II. SUMMARY OF EVIDENCE:

Under the command of Colonel WATANABE (R 11) a group of Japanese were stationed at Iloilo City, Panay, and from time to time smaller groups, commanded by himself or other officers, would be formed to go on punitive expeditions throughout the island (R1). One such group was under a Captain WATANABE, and his principal subordinates were Lieutenant OTSUKA, Sergeant HIRATA, Warrant Officer SHIN, Sergeant MATSUZAKI (R 1). This group left Iloilo City on 10 September 1943 and went to Passi by truck (R 1). A patrol brought back two Filipino boys and one girl who were questioned all night while tied to a stake. The next morning they were beheaded, after which the Japanese left (R 1). Two of the Filipino "cargadors" were beheaded by Sergeant HIRATA because they could no longer carry the baggage of the Japanese officers to whom they were assigned (R 1). In Barrio Lungao, Passi, many Filipino civilian men, women and children were questioned by the Japanese then killed and their bodies thrown into a fire. The whole barrio was burned (R 1). Many other civilians were killed in other barrios. The Japanese known to have participated in the beheadings are Captain WATANABE, Warrant Officer SHIN, and Sergeant HIRATA (R 1) and Lieutenant OTSUKA (R 2). SHIN and OTSUKA executed the family of Mariano LIM in barrio Jimomonua, Nueva Inencion, consisting of the man, his wife, and three children (R 10). In the same barrio the civilians were questioned and asked if they were any relation to the BALLEZA family. Many of those questioned answered that they were because BALLEZA was prominent family in the community. All of this group were shot and their bodies thrown into a fire (R 2). From the remaining civilians a woman and her six children, aged one to twelve, were questioned and denied being related to a certain man who had previously attempted to escape. Her youngest child was torn from her arms by Captain WATANABE and its body smashed against the road, the blood splattering onto the clothes of the witnesses (R 3). Other soldiers seized the other children by the feet and used them as clubs to beat the man and the woman. Then all of them were dragged into a fire, though the mother was still alive at that time (R 3). At another place two girls, one of whom was pregnant, were caught by the Japanese and made to dance naked until they were exhausted. The next morning Captain WATANABE ordered the girls bayoneted to death (R 3). This group of Japanese killed six hundred and fifty people (R 3). Another group traveled to the towns of Ajuy and Sara killing many civilians on the way (R 5, 6). Atrocities committed in these two cities by some of the same Japanese mentioned in this report is the subject of report number 131. Lieutenant OTSUKA was seen to have killed one person in Ajuy (R 11) and two others on the way to Sara (R 11). In Sara the Japanese sent a message to guerrillas to surrender with the promise that nothing would be done to them. Two guerrillas did surrender, but after questioning them, Sergeant MATSUZAKI beheaded them (R 6). The group of

Japanese continued their travels and beheaded bodies of many men, women, and children still gushing blood were observed along the way (R 6). In one barrio at least one hundred men, women, and children were beheaded by Captain WATANABE, Sergeant MATSUZAKI and others (R 6). Others were beheaded by SHIN (R 6, 7). At one barrio Lieutenant OTZUKA and two others beheaded thirty people (R 10), and fifty more were executed at another location (R 11).

On 17 October 1943 another punitive expedition of Japanese started from Iloilo City by motor launch and arrived at the town of Batan on the north coast of Panay Island on 18 October 1943 (R 14). All the civilians in the town were investigated by the light of a bonfire and during the investigation were beaten with clubs and made to walk through the fire (R 14). About three o'clock in the morning the Japanese received orders to proceed and approximately one hundred and forty civilians including two priests were beheaded by OTSUKA, KUWANO and other Japanese soldiers (R 14, 15, 19). Other officers of the expedition were Lieutenant Colonel TOZUKA, the Island commander, Captain WATANABE, who was second in command of the expedition and two Japanese named KUMAI and KAI (R 14, 15). The expedition lasted for sixty-four days and went to many towns, among them being New Washington, Balete, Libacao, Banga, and several towns on Tablas Island off the northwest coast of Panay Island. Part of the expedition then came back to New Washington, went through several small villages along mountain trails, and arrived in Banga on 1 December 1943. From there they went to Pandan and left Pandan on 18 December by motor launch for Iloilo City arriving on 19 December 1943. While in the town of Altavas, KUWANO and OTSUKA killed between thirty and forty old men, women, and children (R 16), and in Balete thirty men were killed by these two men (R 16). Other people were tortured and killed in various places (R 16). Lieutenant Colonel TOZUKA headed one patrol of Japanese (R 16, 20). The Japanese reasoning was that an old man was likely to be the father of a son or have a son-in-law in the Philippine Army, the women either had a husband or brother or son in the army and therefore all were considered guilty of guerrilla activities (R 16). While on the Island of Tablas the Japanese came across two people living in small huts in the mountain. They were investigated but did not give the proper answers, and the man, who was about seventy years old, was stabbed in the back with a bolo upon Lieutenant KUMAI's order (R 17). A blind woman, who had been unable to flee from the Japanese, was discovered the next day, taken from her house, and her clothes were stripped from her body. Some of the Japanese manhandled her private parts. She screamed and cried, but Lieutenant KUMAI had Japanese soldiers tie her hands behind her back, then tie her legs to her hands and suspend the woman from a tree with her head hanging down. The Japanese then moved on leaving her hanging on the tree (R 17). Another group of Japanese that started out on the same expedition executed hundreds of people in Batan, Altavas, Balete, Libacao and other places and returned to Iloilo City by boat from New Washington (R 19, 20). Another member of the expedition was Lieutenant FUJII (R 21).