

PRO JUSTITIA

Doc. 5597

Government Bureau for
the Investigation of
War Crimes.

Ex 1787-A

OFFICIAL RECORD

Today, 15 March 1946, I, Gerrit Jan SIP, 1st class Inspector of Police, charged with investigation of war crimes, have interrogated the person: Charles van der SLOOT, born at The Hague on 20 February 1917, enlisted in the "landstorm" (Tr.note: territorial militia army), acting as interpreter at the Office for Japanese Affairs, residing at Park Hotel, Batavia, who, on enquiry, stated as follows:

I served in the R.N.I.A. as an interpreter for the Moluccas area and was stationed at Ambon. On 30 January 1942 it became known that Japanese troops had landed on Ambon. After some battles in which I personally took no part, the Staff of troops stationed in Ambon was taken prisoner near PASSO (Lateri) on 2 February 1942 at 3 a.m.

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On 16 February 1942 I along with some 20 Javanese soldiers of the R.N.I.A. was taken by ship to Timor. The voyage lasted four days during which we were badly fed and one day were given nothing to drink. After disembarkation Koepong airfield proved to be our destination. The journey on foot took 5 days which I covered with hands tied behind my back. I was so exhausted that on arrival I lay unconscious for 5 hours. The next day I had to act as an interpreter between the Japanese and Australian Prisoners-of-war. There were more than one thousand Australians amongst whom were many wounded and malaria and dysentery patients.

An Australian medical officer asked for medical treatment and medicines for his sick. The Japanese officer named FUKADA bluntly refused. These Australians lived in an enclosure fenced in with barbed wire and bamboo, practically in the open air. I stayed there for about a fortnight and during that time about fifty Australians died and had to be buried within that same enclosure. The area in which more than one thousand Australians lived was about two acres. Food for these Australians was very poor. Only dry rice was supplied; they had to do their own cooking. Equipment for that purpose was insufficient so that preparation and serving of breakfast consisting of rice porridge lasted from 6 till 11 a.m. The Australian officer, a Lieutenant Colonel, asked my intermediary in order to get conditions improved. I translated this request to the Japanese named FUKADA but once again I received a blunt refusal. The Japanese supplied only rice, never vegetables or meat. During those two weeks I asked for improvement several times at the request of the Australian Lieutenant Colonel; I did the same of my own accord but it was all to no avail.

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The Japanese demanded a working-party of 500 men each day to repair roads, to cut trees and to do digging. The Australian officer could at most detail 300 men a day fit to do some work. The remainder was sick or too weak. The food supplied amounted to one liter of rice porridge per man per day.

The Australians had wounded personnel among them. During my two weeks' stay there about 30 men were operated upon for extraction of shell splinters among other things. These operations were carried out by their own doctors in the open air with the patient seated on and tied to a chair. The doctors were compelled in some cases to operate without anaesthetics. Medical treatment as well as admission to the hospital at Koepang were refused nor were anaesthetics given.

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In July 1942 a Timorese had cut a telephone wire at that place. The delinquent was caught in the act and arrested, along with two brothers of DENOE who happened to be in the neighbourhood. I am convinced they were not guilty; one was 21 years of age and the other 16. That very day they were sentenced to death which was done in the following way. In my presence and through my intermediary as an interpreter the suspect was merely asked his name and why he had cut the wire by KAWAKE. He stated his name and said further he wanted the wire for private use. The two brothers of DENOE were never asked a question. That same day on orders from KAWAKE and without any form of trial I had to draw up a document in the Malay language announcing the death sentence of these three which was placarded in the market-place. The public was instructed to come and look on. Rajas and I myself were told to attend. When I arrived on the spot I saw three new-dug graves. After a few minutes the three convicted with hands tied behind their backs were led in. One after another had to kneel before the graves facing the firing squad and the public. They were not blindfolded. A Japanese, Lieutenant KAWAKE read the sentence in Japanese warning that everybody who committed sabotage would be shot. I had to translate this in Malay to the public. Hereafter the three were shot; all three fell backwards in their grave. The 16 years old was immediately dead, the 21 years old received a coup de grace. The suspect was still alive and moaned. A Japanese soldier armed with a rifle and bayonet compelled one of the bystanders to take a heavy stone and to throw this into the grave at the head of the wounded man. The sight shocked me so that I went away. The graves have been filled up by bystanders on orders from the Japanese as I heard afterwards. Attending this execution were Lieutenant KAWAKE and Corporals KAWASAKI and KATC.

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Charles van der SLOOT, mentioned above, was duly sworn before me at the beginning of his statement in the manner prescribed to state the truth and nothing but the truth, while he, after having completed his statement and after having had it read to him adheres to it and signs it

/s/ Ch. van der SLOOT.

And I have embodied it in this official record in pursuance of the oath, taken by me on the assumption of my office and it has been signed and concluded by me, at Batavia, on 19 March 1946

The Inspector of Police
/s/ G.J. SIP

CERTIFICATE.

The undersigned CHARLES JONGENEEL, Captain RNIA, head of War Crimes Section of NETHERLANDS FORCES INTELLIGENCE SERVICE (NEFIS), being first duly sworn on oath deposes and states that the annexed statement is a full, true, complete and accurate copy of the original Dutch document entitled:

Sworn statement of Charles van der SLOOT, interpreter, drawn up by G.J. SIP, inspector of police, dated 15th March 1946, No.2750/R,

which original document is a part of the official records of NEFIS,

signature:

sgd. Ch. Jongeneel
September 2, 1946.

Subscribed and sworn to before me K.A. de WEERD, LL.D., Major Artillery RNIA Senior Official attached to the Office of the Attorney-General N.E.I.

signature:

sgd. K.A. de WEERD.