

Ex 2036-C

STATEMENT OF ITO TORAJI

On the 7th of October 1943 at about 5:30 P.M., I arrived from Kwajalein by plane and was assigned as Commanding Officer of headquarters company. Then Lt. Machilana passed me an order saying that the headquarters company was ordered to shoot the prisoners of war to death.

At the command post I met one of the platoon leaders in the headquarters company (I think his name was Platoon Leader Nakamura) and told him that I was assigned as Company leader. I learned that the Headquarters Company was at the northern beach so I went there.

When I arrived at the northern beach I saw the Prisoners of War sitting side by side in a single file facing the beach, with their hands tied and blindfolded. About five or six meters behind each of them stood the riflemen. There were about one hundred but I couldn't see the men in the right flank distinctly. A platoon leader came up to me and said that everything was all set. So I said, "Go ahead as ordered."

A Platoon leader came over to me and said, "It is over," so I ordered him to report to Headquarters and then to go back to his post immediately. I went back to the command post (it was about 7 P.M.)

About a week later an order came by phone that someone saw a strange man who looked like an American and to search all their respective areas. After the search, I reported that everything was OK. Later I heard that an American was caught.

All that I stated on Wako Island is false.

- (a) I think it was the day of surrender that we were ordered to give the false statement.
- (b) All officers above Company Commander were ordered to muster at the Commanding Officer's quarters in the evening.
- (c) After the muster, the Commanding Officer said, "Half of the Prisoners of War died in the bombardment and the rest were executed because there were signs of a riot." He further stated that he had sent a dispatch to the homeland, and ordered us to testify within this scope.

I certify that the above statement is the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth.

December, 1945

Lt. Ito, Toraji

I saw the following three platoon leaders at the place of execution: Nakamura, Horie, Nonaka. I am not sure of these names.

I have made the above statement on my own free will.

Ito, Toraji

Witnessed:

Mitsuo Nakamura

A true copy. Attest:

Lieutenant, U. S. Naval Reserve,
Judge Advocate

CERTIFIED TO BE A TRUE COPY
/s/ W.P. Mahoney

"Exhibit 7-B(1)"