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INTERNATIONAL PROSECUTION SECTION

Doc. No. 3335

17 Dec 1947

ANALYSIS OF DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

DESCRIPTION OF ATTACHED DOCUMENT

Title and Nature: "Application for Production of Evidence in the Case against the Japanese Government submitted by Fedor Grigoryevich Peregud-Pogorelsky, Representative of the Ivanovka Village Community, of the Irkutsk Court Chamber residing in Blagoveschensk, 55 Bolshaya Street"

Date: 27 Dec 1920 Original () Copy (x) Language: English

Has it been translated? Yes () No (x)

LOCATION OF ORIGINAL

State Central Historical Archives of the State Central Historical Archives of the U.S.S.R.

SOURCE OF ORIGINAL: Same as above

PERSONS IMPLICATED: None

CRIMES TO WHICH DOCUMENT APPLICABLE: Atrocities

SUMMARY OF RELEVANT POINTS

Affidavits concerning Japanese atrocities in Ivanovka village, March 1919

Analyst: JAMES HOYT

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INTERNATIONAL PROSECUTION SECTION

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(Date) 16 Dec

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Date: Dec 27, 1920 Original () Copy (x) Language: Eng

Has it been translated? Yes () No (x)

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SOURCE OF ORIGINAL:

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None

CRIMES TO WHICH DOCUMENT APPLICABLE:

Atrocities ~~committed~~

SUMMARY OF RELEVANT POINTS

Affidavits concerning Japanese atrocities in IVANOVKA village, March 1919.

Analyst: *Hoyt*

Doc. No. 3335

Copy

Application for the production of evidence submitted in the case against Japanese government by Fedor Grigoryevich Peregud-Pogorelsky, representative of the Ivanovka village community, attorney of the Irkutsk Court chamber residing in Blagoveschensk, 55 Bolshaya Street.

On March 22, 1919 the troops of the 12th Japanese division destroyed 188 cottages with out-buildings, movable property and live stock. Moreover, 216 people were shot to death and more than a 1000 children became orphans. The cost of the damage amounts to fifty million roubles.

The circumstances of the destruction of property and the extermination of the population may be confirmed by the eye-witnesses, namely: Peter Akakievich Zaloga, the Ivanovka post master and by Feodor Germanovich Zidenkopf and Yan Yanovich Babenets. They all reside in the Ivanovka village.

Keeping in mind that evidence might become unavailable in the future and in compliance with article 82 of the Charter of Civil Courts I hereby request that the above-mentioned eye-witnesses be interrogated to secure the evidence without calling the other party.

Representative of the Ivanovka village community,
attorney.

/ Signature /

prof. V. Maksakov,
Director of the State Central
Historical Archives of the U.S.S.R.

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INTEROGATION

On February 19, 1920 the application for the production of evidence submitted by F.G. Peregud-Pogorelsky, attorney, representative of the Ivanovka village community was heard at the open session before A.N. Glazunov, member of the legal section in the lawsuit brought by the above-mentioned community against the Japanese Government to repay 50 million roubles for the damage caused.

Representative F.G. Peregud-Pogorelsky and witnesses Peter Akakievich Zaloga, Theodor Germanovich Zigentopf and Yan Ivanovich Babinets were present at the session.

The representative Peregud-Pogorelsky in arguing his application stated that he requested the witnesses be interrogated without calling the other party due to the fact that the witnesses may soon go home and they will not be available for examination.

The member of the Section ordered that the witnesses be interrogated to provide evidence without calling the other party.

The witnesses being duly warned of the responsibility for giving false testimony and being interrogated separately testified as follows:

1. I, Peter Akakievich Zaloga, am now the post master of the Ivanovka village. I am 32 years of age. None of those who suffered losses in the village of Ivanovka were among my relations. On February 10 last year an organized detachment of the Red Army visited the village of Ivanovka for the first time. After its departure I read in newspapers the announcement of the Japanese Command that the population billeting the Red Army detachment would be severely punished and that their village would be burnt. The above-mentioned order was not officially announced in the village of Ivanovka.

In the evening of March 16 the village of Ivanovka was again visited by a small detachment of 15 Red Armymen who left the village in the evening of March 17. As this detachment committed some acts of violence against the peaceful citizens and as the members of that detachment did not behave as the true defenders of people's interests, the visit of this detachment was reported to the authorities in the town of Blagovestchensk. During the period from the 17th to 22nd of March nobody visited the village of Ivanovka and the villagers were engaged in everyday peaceful labor.

On March 22 at about 1300 hours gun-fire was opened from the village of Dmutrievka which was located at the distance of 5 kilometers from the village of Ivanovka. The gun-fire was commenced without any warning! At that time I was discharging my duties at the post office. I hid my family in the ice-cellar and began my observation, the shells which exploded in the village set fire in various places. The gunfiring continued for an hour. Mr. Scherbak, a postman joined me and in order to stop the shelling of the village and its inhabitants we decided to hoist a three colored state flag with the post insignia on a high pole.

The shelling stopped. In about an hour after this, a group of Japanese Cavalry ~~of~~ about 10 or 15 men strong appeared in the Bolshaya Street followed by a large group of Japanese infantry. The Japanese infantry soldiers had special appliances for setting fire to the buildings; some of them carried straw, the others ~~then~~ with kerosene. On their way the Japanese soldiers were setting fire to the houses choosing those which could more easily be set on fire. Thus, if there was any shed around a house with straw roof the Japanese set fire to it.

They entered small porches, drove the people out of their houses, put straw on the floor, poured kerosene over it, set fire to it and having waited for the fire to leap into flames proceeded further with the same aim in view. Besides the losses from the shelling some peaceful citizens of the Ivanovka village were shot to death. Thus Vasily Ulyanovich Kantemirov, the 67 year old owner of the house in which an office is located met the Japanese soldiers with bread and salt on a tray in front of his house. The Japanese soldiers led him away after he had passed the tray on to his wife and later on shot him to death. Later on I heard and read in the papers that during the shelling of the village of Ivanovka there was a detachment of the Reds in the village. I positively state that there was no detachment in the village at that time and I also state that there was no detachment in the village in the period between the second visit of the Reds which I already referred to and the ~~time~~ of the shelling. ~~total~~ The sum of the losses inflicted upon the inhabitants of the village of Ivanovka from the shelling, shooting of people and arson amounts according to the conservative estimate to not less than forty-five or fifty million roubles.

From subsequent events I draw a conclusion that the fact of the second appearance of the Red Army detachment was reported to the authorities and I admit that it could be done by those who had been either detained or mistreated by the Red Armymen.

I personally do not know who made such a report. I do not know exactly how many people were killed during the shelling of the village of Ivanovka but at any rate not less than two hundred men. I do not know what unit participated in the shelling of and the arson in the village of Ivanovka. The total number of burnt houses amounted to about one hundred and fifty. But it might be more than that. The inhabitants of the village of Ivanovka were unarmed. Most of the men who could work were not in Ivanovka but in the fields gathering crops.

I have nothing to add. My testimony was read to me. It is recorded correctly.

(Signed) Peter Akakievich Zaloga;
A. Glagunov,
Member of the section.

2. I, Theodor Germanovich Zidentopf, am a citizen of the Republic of France and employed by the local Ivanovka workshops. Ivanovka is my permanent place of residence where I work in the government agricultural workshop. From March 17 to March 22, last year every thing was quiet in the Ivanovka village; the inhabitants were engaged in every day peaceful labour. At that time I did not see any detachments or individual armed persons in the Ivanovka village. At about 10 a.m. while I was working in the workshop which was on the outskirts of the village I heard distant gun fire from the direction of the village of Cheremushky. After the completion of my work at 12.00 I went home with my friend Babinets. My house was also located on the outskirts of the village of Ivanovka, but on the other side of the village from the workshop I served in the workshop as a technician. While I was proceeding to my quarters every thing was quiet and there were no indications of the forthcoming events.

When we began our dinner the closer gun fire was heard from the direction of the village of Dmitrievka which was at the distance of 5 versts from the village of Ivanovka. I went out into the yard and saw that the whole of the Ivanovka village was encircled by some military forces at a distance not less than three versts from the center. Due to a long distance it was impossible to determine to what nationality they belonged. As the shells exploded in the village fires were started. I hid myself in a cellar. I found out that four guns were shelling the village of Ivanovka, that the fire was rapid and it continued for about an hour.

Later I found fragments of exploded shrapnel shells and grenades in the yard of my house. During the shelling a panic arose among the inhabitants and whole families began to leave the village using carts and sleighs. Being aware of ~~that~~ the fact that we as foreigners were protected against any violence, I and my friend Babinets remained at home. Then the firing ceased and for about five or 10 minutes everything was silent. Then the Japanese cavalry appeared and began to set fire to the houses. Three Japanese cavalerymen came into my house and were soon followed by infantrymen. The bayonets of their rifles of the latter were covered with blood. The Japanese took some rags and began to clean the bayonets. After their entering the village of Ivanovka the Japanese began to set fire to the houses and to shoot the inhabitants. I saw myself how the Japanese entered the house of the whiteguard Nezhinsky, a rich peasant whose house was in front of mine and asked him whether he was a bolshevik or a whiteguard. They showed him a conventional sign with their fingers (the fingers were clenched in a fist with a thumb and a little finger sticking out). And when Nezhinsky who apparently did not know and did not understand the sign asked them "What is it?" they shot him. In the yard near my house a peasant was chopping fire-wood. The Japanese came into the yard and shot him at once. The Japanese arrested me and Babinets and led us to the church. In front of the church a company of Japanese soldiers stood in line and every other soldier had a tin with kerosene. At the church we were joined to the group of the previously arrested peasants of about 25 men, then we were sent to the Japanese headquarters which consisted of six Japanese officers and was located near the wooden bridge on the road leading from Ivanovka to Dmitrievka. This group of the arrested peasants included eight or ten old men who were separated from the rest by the staff officers and were sent back to the village whereas we were interrogated. The Japanese officers asked me what the population of Ivanovka was, I said "7,000 people" "Is that all?" asked the officer pointing at the arrested peasants. I replied that the rest had fled. The officer asked me "Why didn't you flee?" I replied to him that as a foreigner I was not exposed to any danger and therefore I remained in the village.

After the interrogation the headquarters ordered two Japanese soldiers to escort us. Even the soldiers themselves did not know what place we should be brought to. They asked us about some large building, as I understood about the church or about the district administration office and at our direction brought us first to the church and then to the office, but both buildings were empty. On our way I saw the Russian national three-coloured flag hoisted on the pole near the post office which was opposite

to the district administration office. Being at loss, what to do and thinking that our workshop was also in a large building I pointed it to the Japanese and we proceeded there. When we were approaching it we heard machine-gun fire from the opposite direction near a small forest and the guards led us there; when we came there we found members of the detachment taking away a machine-gun. On the ground there were lying about 150 bodies of Ivanovka peasants who were machine-gunned. All the arrested were before the Japanese soldiers which pointed their rifles at them. I started running, but saw my friend Babenets near the cart on which the Japanese officers and Russian officers were sitting. Babenets was showing them his papers. I pushed my way to that cart.

By this time all the arrested peasants of our group were already shot from the rifles. Among the victims there were also the peasants who expressed their sympathy with the whiteguards and opposed the Reds, for instance, Bukhantsev. In spite of all his efforts to convince the officers that he was not a bolshivik a Japanese officer said "Take him there!" pointing at the place of the mass shooting and Buchantsev was also shot. I and my friend Babenets were carried in a cart to the village of Dmitrievka and there we were tried. In the evening we were released. The number of the shot peasants of the village of Ivanovka amounted to not less than two hundred people. About the same number of houses were burnt down. The total losses inflicted by shooting, shelling and arson were estimated at not less than sixty or seventy million roubles. During the shelling the population of the Ivanovka village was unarmed. All the weapons had been confiscated long before.

I must add that when we were being led past the burning houses we heard the cracking of the burning dry wood. The Japanese were pointing in the direction of the burning houses and were saying "tuh, tuh" trying to explain to us that that cracking was a result of the explosion of the cartridges which had been left by the population of the village. I explained to them that that was the way the dry wood generally burns.

The testimony was read to me, recorded correctly

/signed/ F.G. Zedertopf;
A. Glazunov,
member of the section

3. Yan Yanovich Babenets, citizen of Czechoslovakia, resident of the village of Ivanovka and at present fore-
man in the

foreman in the Government workshop of agricultural implements. This witness gave the same testimony as witness Zidentopf. He added, that when he and Zidentopf were led to the forest where the machine-gunning of the peasants took place he saw a group of the Japanese carrying away the machine-guns and ^{the} rest of the Japanese killing with pistols and bayonets inhabitants of the Ivanovka village who survived the machine-gunning. He also said that during the trial which took place in Dmitriivka the Japanese insisted that they be extradited and shot. But the Russian officer who was present there refused them and said that he also had the right to try them. The shelling of the Ivanovka village was conducted by Japanese regular troops but the witness does not know the number of the unit which did it. As a result of fires the public school, the house of the priest and the premises of the village administration office were burnt.

When they were being led by the Japanese they saw that the workshop also caught fire. The witness read in the papers that the inhabitants of the village offered armed resistance to the Japanese, but he contends that there was not a single case of armed resistance.

The testimony of Zidentopf as well as mine were read to me and I hereby certify that they are recorded correctly.

Yan Yanovich Babonets;
A. Glazunov,
member of the section.

F. Peregud-Pogorelsky, the representative of the Ivanovka community asked for a copy of the interrogation.

The member of the section ordered that the requested copy be given.

A. Glazunov, member of the section.

Seven sheets are numbered, taped and sealed.

A. Glazunov, member of the legal
section. (Seal)

Acting secretary / Signature /

This copy is given to citizen Peregud-Pogorelsky the

representative of the Amur Region People's Revolutionary Committee in compliance with the decision of the District People's Revolutionary Committee No. 15277 dated December 20, 1920. He is empowered to collect information concerning the expeditions of the Japanese troops and the losses inflicted by the Japanese occupation of the Amur Region.

Chief of the legal section.

/ signature /

Acting secretary

/ signature /

December 27, 1920. No. 4890

☞ The Copy is correct ☞

Prof. V. Maksakov,
Director of the State Central
Historical Archives of the
U.S.S.R.

Проберено:
14. XII 42. *[Signature]*

192 Doc No. 3332

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Major N.A. Bazenko, Chief of the Document Room, Soviet Division, I.P.S., hereby certify that the attached copy of the document entitled " Application for production of evidence in the case against the Japanese government submitted by Fedor Grigoryevich Peregud-Pogorelsky, representative of the Ivanovka village community, of the Irkutsk Court chamber residing in Blagoveschenski, 55 Bolshaya street" was received by me on October 15, 1947, from the State Central Historical Archives of the U.S.S.R. The original is in the custody of the State Central Historical Archives of the U.S.S.R.

Major Bazenko,
Chief of the Document room,
Soviet Division, I.P.S.

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