

Ex 1684-A

Evidentiary Document No. 5213.

Examination of Lajun.

Lajun, a farmer, at present without occupation, of Inanam, duly sworn, states:

I am a Dusun, of Inanam, which is my permanent home and where I am living now. I am aged 45. I am an agricultural worker, now not employed. I was born in Inanam.

At the beginning of the Japanese occupation I was living in Inanam, working as a paddy planter. After the rising, the Japanese arrested me, saying that I had killed Japanese. I was taken to the K.T. office at Jesselton and kept there for three weeks. I was beaten once during this time. While I was detained there, I saw a great many people being beaten and tortured. I cannot remember the names of any now but I would recognise the K.T. who did the beating. After I was released I went back to work but soon after I was sent for and told I was to work as a warder in Jesselton Prison. I cannot remember when this was. It was about a month after my release. I worked as a warder for about a year until the time when Jesselton was bombed.

The prisoners I looked after were native peoples and Chinese who had been sentenced for Civil offenses like stealing. I did not work in the blocks where the Japanese kept men they suspected of opposing the Japanese government.

On many occasions I saw prisoners being tortured by the K.T. who came to the jail for this. The torturing took place in a building in the prison compound. It had an atap roof and low walls, only two or three feet high, so it was easy to see what was happening inside.

During the time I was a warder, many Suluks were brought into the prison. I never saw any actually arrive. I saw them in jail after they arrived. They were not kept in my block with the civil prisoners. I saw Suluks being questioned in the building I have described, and being tortured by the K.T. They were nearly always beaten with heavy sticks all over the body. Often I saw the water torture used on Suluks. When the stomach was filled with water, the K.T. put a wooden board on the stomach and then pressed or jumped on this. When the man became unconscious, which he usually did, the K.T. dragged out the body into the sun. I also saw the K.T. apply burning faggots to the bodies of Suluks and other prisoners, especially to the thighs. I did not witness any prisoner dying during the torture, I know from other warders that many Suluks died soon after their torture.

I never saw any trial at the jail, nor at the K.T.H.Q. when I was there. I never heard of anyone having a trial in Jesselton by the Japs. Arrested men were just questioned and beaten.

I could recognise many of the K.T. who took part in the tortures at the jail.

I can only remember the name of one Sulu I saw in jail. I knew him previously because he often used to visit Jesselton. His name was Panglima Ali. He was one of some Suluks who were already in jail when I took up my duties. I think he was beaten in jail but I did not see the beating. But I saw him hanged. He was one of four Suluks hanged at the same time. After the hanging the bodies were put in two coffins and carried away for burial by eight prisoners. I could recognise the K.T. who were present at the hanging. One of the prisoners afterwards told me where the body was buried.

(Signed) Lajun

I CERTIFY that I duly translated the above summary to the witness in his own language prior to his signature which appears above.

(Signed) M. G. Dickson Capt.

SWORN before me, M.G. DICKSON, Capt. No. 8. W.C.I.T., this 25th day of March, 1946, detailed to examine the above by the C in C ALFSEA

(Signed) M.G. Dickson Capt.