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A Sometime in the latter part of September 1944 I heard that an American B-24 crash-landed in the water somewhere near Boeol which is in the province of Tolitoli. The natives in this area reported to the Tolitoli Seaplane Base that there were eight survivors in this crash. The standing patrol of the Tolitoli Seaplane Base was accordingly dispatched to Boeol to capture these survivors. However, when they arrived the naval police inspector and his subordinates had already captured these eight fliers. The naval police inspector at Boeol at this time was IWANE. His rank was police inspector. I do not know the names of any of his subordinates. The Tolitoli patrol which was dispatched to Boeol stayed at this place that night and the next day they returned to Tolitoli with the eight fliers. They returned by truck. These eight fliers were detained in the naval police detention cell in Tolitoli. The chief of the naval police in Tolitoli was AWAZU. He was a civilian attached to the navy with a rank of naval police inspector. These fliers were detained at the naval police detention cell in Tolitoli for about one month. These fliers were originally supposed to be sent to Balikpapan. However, I heard that an order was received from the 22nd Special Naval Base in Balikpapan to detain the fliers in Tolitoli and to execute them there. These fliers were executed on ~~at~~ about the 23rd of October 1944. I think this is the correct date, however I am not certain.

Q Please tell me everything that you know of the execution and the incidents leading up to it.

A At about 5:00 or 6:00 o'clock in the afternoon on or about the 22nd of October 1944 Warrant Officer SUITSU, who was in charge of the Seaplane Base at that time, or Lt IGAMI sent a telephone message to me. At the time that this message came over the phone I was out fixing the antenna for one of the wireless sets. When I returned to the office I was told that the message had been sent to me. The message said, "The commander of the Seaplane Base called you up and said tomorrow is the execution. You will be one of the executioners. Prepare your sword. The execution will be early tomorrow morning. The execution will be in the rear of the communication point near the Tolitoli cemetery."

Later that same evening about 7:00 o'clock another message came for me telling me that I should report to the execution place at 7:00 o'clock the following morning. The next morning I got up a little after 6:00 o'clock, dressed and ate my breakfast and went out on the porch of my house and waited. This morning I was dressed in my full uniform with boots and cap and I was wearing my Japanese sword. I waited on the porch about twenty minutes and then I saw about twenty members of the Naval Seaplane Base Unit come walking by my house on the way to the execution place. I cannot recall any of the names of the persons who were in this group of twenty. As soon as this group had passed my house I followed them at a distance of about twenty or thirty meters.

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The execution place was about one kilometer from my house. I arrived at the execution place about fifteen minutes later. This was about 7:00 or 7:30 in the morning. I am not certain about the time. When I arrived at the place of execution I saw the eight fliers standing about 100 meters from a hole which was freshly dug. These fliers were all blindfolded and their hands were tied behind their backs. They were wearing khaki colored clothes. Some of them had field jackets with zippers on them. I don't think any of them had hats on. And I think that they wore brown colored shoes. There were about fifty or sixty guards and spectators standing around the eight fliers. Warrant Officer SUITSU was in charge of the execution party and he had already designated the executioners the previous evening. Warrant Officer SUITSU ordered the first prisoner to be brought to the place of execution. Warrant Officer SUITSU then ordered me to execute the first prisoner. I complained and said that I did not wish to execute the first prisoner. Warrant Officer SUITSU said that I must execute the first prisoner because I was the oldest member and that I should execute the first prisoner. I think two guards led the first flier to the hole. The flier was made to kneel in front of the hole, facing the hole. The two guards then stepped away from the prisoner and one of them said to me, "Alright" so I stepped up behind the prisoner and took a position about two feet to the left rear of him. My feet were about one foot apart. I raised my sword over my right shoulder and swung the sword downward against the prisoner's neck with both hands. When the sword struck the prisoner's neck his head was not completely severed from his body but his head flopped against his chest and blood spurted from his neck. The prisoner's body then rolled into the hole. I am sure that he died instantly. After I had executed the prisoner I stood with my hands in an attitude of prayer and prayed to my god that this flier I had just executed would go to heaven. I then withdrew about three to five meters and took a position among the other spectators. I stood in this position among the spectators and saw the second, third and fourth executions. I cannot remember the names of the executioners but I think they were all fliers from the Naval Seaplane Base in Tolitoli. I actually saw these executioners swing their swords and kill the second, third and fourth prisoners. After the fourth execution I left the place and returned to my quarters. Later I heard that Second Class Petty Officer TANAKA had executed the seventh prisoner, that Warrant Officer SUITSU had executed the sixth prisoner and that Administrative Officer IMAKI had executed the last prisoner. I do not recall from whom I heard this but everyone was talking about it.]

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- Q I now show you a sheet of legal size onion skin paper upon which Japanese characters are written in pencil. Will you tell me what they represent if you know?
- A This is the paper upon which I drew a diagram of the execution place of the eight American fliers. This diagram shows the hole where the Americans were executed, it also shows the road leading to the execution place. The diagram shows where my living quarters were located and also shows where other buildings in Tolitoli were located. I have signed and dated this diagram.
- Q Who was Warrant Officer SUITSU's commanding officer?
- A Warrant Officer SUITSU was under the command of Seaplane Base Aviation Unit which was part of the 22nd Special Naval Base Unit at Balikpapan. I, however, do not know who Warrant Officer SUITSU's commanding officer was or who the commanding officer of the 22nd Special Naval Base was.
- Q Do you know the names, ranks, description, or nationality of these eight fliers?
- A I do not know their names and I cannot describe them but I do remember that three of them were officers and the other five were non-commissioned officers. I think that two of the officers were second lieutenants and one was a first lieutenant. That's all I can recall about them. These fliers were all Americans.
- Q How do you know they were Americans?
- A I heard that police inspector AWAZU investigated these fliers and during the course of investigation he found out that these fliers were all Americans.
- Q Were these fliers ever given a hearing or a court martial?
- A I don't think that they were given court-martial or hearing.
- Q Why were these fliers executed?
- A I do not know.
- Q Tell me all of the persons that you can remember that either participated in or were present at the execution of the eight Americans.
- A Outside of the executioners whose names I have already given you I can remember no other persons. There were, however, a large number of people present.
- Q Can you tell me the first names and the present whereabouts of Administrative Officer IMKI and Warrant Officer SUITSU?

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A I do not know either of these persons' first names. I heard that Administrative Officer IMAKI is dead. I heard that Warrant Officer SUITSU is either in Balikpapan or Singapore, I do not know which.

Q Was force, threats, duress, or coercion used in taking this statement from you?

A No.

Q Was any promise of reward, immunity, or consideration given as a result of this statement?

A No.

Q Have you anything further to add to your statement?

A No.



[/s/ Yoshinori Hayashi
YOSHINORI HAYASHI]

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NETHERLANDS INDIES)
 ISLAND OF CELEBES) SS
 TOWN OF MANADO)

I, YOSHINORI HAYASHI, being duly sworn on oath, state that I had read to me and understood the translation of the foregoing transcription of my interrogation and all answers contained therein consisting of four (4) pages, are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

/s/ Yoshinori Hayashi
 YOSHINORI HAYASHI

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 1st day of May, 1946.

/s/ John D. Schwenker
 JOHN D. SCHWENKER, Capt., FA
 Investigating Officer, War Crimes
 Investigating Detachment

NETHERLANDS INDIES)
 ISLAND OF CELEBES) SS
 TOWN OF MANADO)

I, SEISHUN KUBA, T/3, ASN 30110981, War Crimes Branch, being duly sworn on oath, state that I truly translated the questions and answers given from English to Japanese and from Japanese to English respectively, and that after being transcribed, I truly translated the foregoing deposition containing four (4) pages, to the witness; that the witness thereupon in my presence affixed his signature thereto.

/s/ Seishun Kuba
 SEISHUN KUBA

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 1st day of May, 1946.

/s/ John D. Schwenker
 JOHN D. SCHWENKER, Capt., FA
 Investigating Officer, War Crimes
 Investigating Detachment

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C E R T I F I C A T E

I, JOHN D. SCHWENKER, Capt., O-54438, FA, certify that on 30th day of April, 1946, personally appeared before me YOSHINORI HAYASHI, and according to SEISHUN KURA, gave the foregoing answers to the several questions set forth therein; that after his testimony had been transcribed, the said YOSHINORI HAYASHI had read to him by the said interpreter the same and affixed his signature thereto in my presence.

Manado, Celebes
(Place)

1 May 1946
(Date)

/s/ John D. Schwenger
JOHN D. SCHWENKER, Capt., FA
Investigating Officer, War Crimes
Investigating Detachment