

Ex 1694

503/R

DOCUMENT 5271

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OFFICIAL RECORD

Interrogation of Witness

Today, 7 February 1946, there appeared before myself, M. Niemoijer, attorney-at-law, Temporary 2nd Lieutenant (Reserve), charged with the investigation of war crimes in general, the person of:

MOHR A.M.L.

Summoned to give true testimony in the above mentioned matters, and who, after having been notified of his duty to tell the whole truth and nothing but the truth, and of the importance of the oath to be taken by him, answered each of the questions put to him as is stated below:

What is your full name, age, occupation, and address?

Mohr, Aloesius, Maria, Leonardus.  
35 years; Sergeant; Allona Kangaroo Point  
Red Break House. Brisbane.

Whereupon the witness takes the oath in accordance with his religious convictions to state the whole truth and nothing but the truth.

At PONTIANAK on June 17th 1942 I witnessed the decapitation of Lt. van REEDE and the Lance Corporals TIMMER and v.d. NEULEN. The name of the Japanese Com-mandér at Pontianak at that time, a Captain, I cannot remember. The incident took place as follows: Lt. van REEDE had stated more than once that he could not bear life as a Jap P.O.W. any longer and that he intended to commit suicide by drowning in the KAPOELAS river. When the Dutch officers discovered that he was missing in the evening of June 15th, they reported this to the Jap guard, because they thought Lt. van REEDE had indeed drowned himself. This was reported at about 2300 hrs. At about 0230 hrs. roll-call was held when it appeared that Lt. van REEDE was absent. At 5.00 hrs. another roll-call was held at which it appeared that Lance Corporals TIMMER and v.d. NEULEN were also absent. Patrols were sent out to find them and we heard the coming and going of motorcars the whole night. Mrs. DIBBELS who lived outside the camp, told that the son of the Sultan of PONTIANAK had also set out with a patrol of natives and that he had caught the Lt. and the two corporals in a village about 20 kilometers from PONTIANAK, and that he had handed them over to the Japanese. The three escaped persons were publicly maltreated in a serious manner with sticks and sheathed Samourai-swords, by a number of Japanese in front of the house of the Ass.Res. EUGELS at PONTIANAK. Our labour-gang had to attend, who described the incident to us during lunchtime. The labour-gang had had to stand at such a short

distance

distance, that they heard Lt. van REEDE say to the corporals that they should keep silent and not ask "ampoan" (E.I. pardon). In the evening the men of the labour-gang told us that they had seen the Lt. and the two corporals tied to "the clock" at PONTIANAK. Lt. van REEDE's bones were said to be visible in various places. He was hanging limp in the rope. Something was written in Malay on a placard placed beside them. The labour-gang also reported that the three victims would be executed the following morning. Probably this was written on the placard. The next morning they were blindfolded together with 2 native soldiers and taken to the quay in front of the Mission-House. The native soldiers seemed to be escaped persons also. We were lodged in the Mission-House and could follow the proceedings from the garden. Then the "tong-tong" (signal block in guard houses) was beaten and the natives came flocking to the place of execution. Our officers had to fall in line in full dress, just behind the victims. The three European victims were placed quite close to the bank of the river, and had to kneel blindfolded with their hands tied on their backs. They were decapitated with a sword and kicked into the river. For Corporal v. d. MEULEN a second cut was necessary as the first only hit his head. We asked the Japanese Commandant of the guard, who was apparently somewhat displeased with these proceedings, whether we were permitted to take away the corpses and to bury them, which request was granted. We dug graves and some of us searched the river in the evening. The moment that we found the corpse of Cpl. TIMMER, we were ordered by the Commandant of the Guard to let it go, because some officers were approaching, who intended to give the salute on the spot of the execution. The corpses were drifting to and fro with the tide in the neighbourhood for about 4 days. The two native soldiers were not decapitated but sentenced to imprisonment at SINGAPORE. We met them at KOENJING about one year later.

After the above answers have been slowly and clearly read to the witness, he stated that he adheres to them and did not desire to add or alter anything therein, in proof whereof he has signed his statement.

The witness:

/s/ A.L.M. Mohr

Drawn up and signed by myself, the recorder:

/s/ M. Niemeijer

Certified a true copy

/s/ M. Niemeijer

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CERTIFICATE.

The undersigned CHARLES JONGENEEL, Captain R.N.I.A., 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 A.M.L. TOHR, drawn up by W. NIEVEYER, LL.D., 2nd Lieutenant R.N.I.A., dated February 7, 1946, No. 503/R,

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

Batavia, 26th August 1946.

(SEAL)

/s/ Ch. Jongeneel

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

/s/ K. A. de Weerd

(SEAL)