

NO 2146



Ex 2146

AFFIDAVIT:

Medico - Legal Report  
of Doctor QUENARDEL  
on War Crimes and  
Atrocities which he  
witnessed:

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 Hygiene Society at HANOI. Former Externe of  
 Paris Hospitals. Former student of the  
 Pasteur Institute of Paris. Born at Reims  
 7 Feb 1893. Son of Albert QUENARDEL and of  
 Pauline QUENARDEL. Home: 5 rue de Tuyen-Quang  
 at HANOI. DONCHERY (Ardennes).

I have told elsewhere what I had to suffer, both as a man and as a prisoner, from the Japanese. Here, as a medical man, Chief Medical Officer of Hygiene of a town, on the one hand, and as a prisoner, undergoing the lot of a prisoner, on the other hand, I shall relate only what I have learned about the ignorance on the part of the Japanese of the International Conventions of Geneva, the severe atrocities they have inflicted on prisoners, the inhuman, and furthermore, deliberately-degrading, treatment accorded to some among them (the prisoners).

This report will therefore be only a medico-legal account of this aspect of Japanese War Crimes.

I. Violation of the Geneva Convention:

1. On 9 March towards 2100 hours had been collected by my care, bandaged for 3 sabre-cuts which he had taken, then evacuated to the Military Hospital.

Our method of evacuation was by an ambulance vehicle in the following conditions, a Frenchman at the wheel, an Annamite assistant-chauffeur holding a searchlight to light up the Red Cross markings on the right side of our vehicle, a second Annamite assistant holding a second searchlight to light up the Red Cross markings on the left side of our vehicle. And we set off.... Just as we were going to pass from one boulevard to another boulevard, I saw a vehicle barricade of iron wire. I slowed up, and at the same instant and for several seconds, we were pinned under very heavy rifle fire from front and flank, which gave us the impression of being point-blank fire.

In the midst of this confusion one of our searchlights came down. Our assistant-chauffeur groaned and covered me with his blood. He had had his arm shot off. As for myself I was deafened and suffered /pain/ in one eye. And under a continuous crackle of bullets we abandoned our vehicle and took refuge in a nearby house, now, three of us wounded (2 more than when we set out).

2. Our assistant-chauffeur having had an amputation during the 10th, I set out that very afternoon to look for another of our chauffeurs who, not being able to cross the battle zone, had not rejoined.

By making a detour I was able easily to go from the Japanese combat zone to the French lines. I entered them, specifically, at a point of



contact with a small French post defended by a machine-gun and its crew, one of them a French Sergeant. This Sergeant then showed me a Japanese vehicle which had just attacked them . . . Now, this vehicle, which was stopped, had on each of its surfaces the Red Cross insignia.

3. One of the most painful spectacles during the period which followed the fight of 9-10 March was to see the forlorn condition in which the wounded soldiers of the French Army were left by the Japanese.

In one of the barracks - that of the 1st R. T. T. /Tonkinese Sharpshooters Regiment/ the Senior Medical Officer, Medical Major COUPE, had met with massacre at the hands of the Japanese. All the wounded were abandoned and it was not until some time during the third day that we were able to go to their aid. We retain, in particular, the memory of a sharpshooter seriously wounded in the thigh in the middle of a courtyard, who had to lie there unable to move for three nights and three days on end, bathed in his blood and dying of thirst without receiving the least assistance from numerous Japanese passing close beside him. These Japanese, over and above, formally forbade the French wounded to leave the places where they had been gathered together.

## II. Fatal Cruelties /Perpetrated/ on Prisoners.

1. I was ordered by the Japanese on 10 March towards 1700 hours, to go to the citadel to collect dead and wounded. It was not until towards 2200 hours that the small Japanese posts allowed us after plenty of threats to enter this Citadel and that we were able to carry out our task.

We were not a little surprised to come across, among the dead--I will state only the cases of which I was an eye-witness--Battalion Commander ESQUER witnessed several other cases -- A sub-Lieutenant and two adjutants with their hands tied behind their backs and showing a bullet wound at the height of the heart. Without any doubt at all this was a case of execution of prisoners and of officers for choice. It is impossible for us to clarify the reason for such executions, the bodies of those executed being very frequently mingled with other corpses.

2. Slaughter of Medical Commandant /Major/ COSTE:- It was with Medical Captain ROUAN that I found the body of this Senior Officer. Doctor COSTE was lying /dead/ in his medical office which was situated in the middle of his hospital, copiously provided with Red Cross markings.

Doctor COSTE's body had the right hand severed, attached to the forearm only by a strip of skin; a wide wound on the right side of the neck and a still more enormous wound on the left side of the neck where the spinal column was severed. Doctor COSTE had been partly stripped, his tunic was unbuttoned, his trousers and boots had been taken away.

I satisfied myself that the body of our comrade had not been abused. . . More simply, Medical Commandant COSTE, killed by sabre strokes, had



subsequently been robbed of his trousers and boots by his butchers. The greed of the Japanese in this respect being well known.

In the butchery of this Doctor there had been a threefold crime; violation of the Geneva Convention, with death, slaying of a prisoner, and disgusting plundering of a dead officer.

III. Slow and Long Continued Cruelties, directed against a certain class of Prisoners, with deliberate, studied debasement of human dignity.

The prisoners belonging to the Resistance and shut up at the "SHELL" were, in particular, the object of active hatred /on the part/ of the Japanese.

1. The place of their imprisonment. These prisoners were shut up in kinds of barred cages with a low door by which it was impossible to enter except by bending double. The prisoners were crammed therein, in too great number, mixed with Annamites infested with lice and scabies and even leprosy; as bedding they had some tattered straw mats and dirty coverings.

It could not escape /the knowledge of/ a medical officer of health that there were there, by design or as a simple fact, all the combined factors for causing the prisoners to contract a mixture of diseases such as typhus, itch, and leprosy.

Contagion had a better chance of operating in as much as we were forbidden to bathe and were beaten if soap was discovered in our possession. Thus cases of scabies and typhus were numerous among us, and in particular, I had to treat in secret (. . . .) my friend and neighbour, Mr. Francois MARTIN, who caught typhus and died of it.

2. Food. This was, at the "SHELL" strictly limited to three bowls of rice. to the exclusion of all other nourishment. The total weight of this rice, correct to a few grammes, was from 200 to 250 grammes uncooked, say 600 to 750 calories if we express it in energy value. It is a well-known fact that an adult of 60 kilograms /T.N. roughly 132 lbs./ not doing any manual labour needs maintenance at a rate of 1,500 calories.

Such a diet, insufficient as it was in quantity, was essentially inadequate in quality and must inevitably end in malnutrition diseases, especially beri-beri. This malady, in fact, attacked very many prisoners, and most of them became human derelicts and showed plainly excessive lassitude and very noticeable edemata of the lower limbs. This deficiency in quality was also, sooner or later, the favoring cause of many digestive troubles, particularly bacillary dysentery, and was at the root of an organic weakening of such a degree that our men, as a result, fell easy victims to typhus, paludism, /marsh fever, /malaria/ respiratory troubles, etc. . . .



There also, by design or /at any rate/ in fact, the Japanese brought together the conditions necessary for the development, among the prisoners, of illnesses of the most serious nature.

3. General punishments. These have been described at length by many others. I /we/ shall dwell upon their characteristic of extreme violence. Certain individuals among our brutal captors were chosen from among the most vigorous and the blows were always laid on us with great force; sometimes the instrument the Japanese used was broken.

The beatings were particularly hateful when administered to the sick, men in a burning fever who could not stand on their legs.

I have retained a very vivid and grievous memory of young ROGGIALE 20 years old, who, during the course of a bout of paludism /marsh-fever, malaria/, not being able to stand up to answer his name at roll-call, was forced to stand at attention and was, from this position, flung to the ground time after time in a most lamentable manner by violent kicks dealt him by a Japanese Military Policeman.

4. Absence of all medical care. Complete nothingness existed here. The prisoner had no right to any form of care whatsoever. To be at the point of death was the only thing which could have any effect in favour of an evacuation to hospital.

Thus it was secretly, by stealth, and occasionally by the influence of a Japanese who felt some pity, that I was able to get some scanty medicines which I distributed to my sick comrades. But, alas! with such a little I remained powerless to aid those stricken with typhus or dysentery /or to relieve/ the savage twistings of the testicles which our brutal jailers inflicted on some of the prisoners. . . .

5. Debasement of human dignity. This was a constant policy, as much at the SHELL as at the General Prison; that of making the prisoner live in a state of inferiority complex.

It was necessary, in order to debase him, that the Frenchman should be kept filthy, covered with vermin, and that he should no longer have the right to use soap and water.

It was necessary in order to bring him low, to herd him with bandits and thieves, our prison companions.

It was necessary, in order to render us utterly despicable, that we should receive our food in our hands and eat with our fingers.

Finally, it was necessary, in order to show the supremacy of the Yellow over the White that the Yellow should beat us and break its clubs over the faces of anaemic Frenchmen, no longer able to withstand, but still able to look proudly straight into the eyes of their tormentors.



It was necessary still more that the Yellow /man/ should become a beast and that he should avenge himself to the death on the virility of the White /man/ which he strove to twist and to crush. For it was thus that Commandant /Major/ BJERRING, one of the greatest of our leaders of the Resistance, met his death. He died in one of the dungeons of the Military Hospital after having had his testicles crushed.

N.B. - 100 grammes of ingested rice give 300 calories, deducting 10% of the meal which is not assimilated.

/Sig./ Andre Quenardel

Signed and attested under oath on 11 Sept. 1946 at HANOI, before me, the undersigned Investigation Officer, assigned by the French Authority for the enquiries of which the present affidavit is the object.

/Sig./ Captain Le SOURD

Witnessed for the verification of the signation of Mr. Quenardel and Captain Le Sourd placed on this affidavit.

HANOI 11th September 1946.  
Chief Civil Service Commissioner  
/Signed/ indecipherable/

Stamp (Commissariat of the Republic  
( Civil Commission  
( HANOI  
(Tonkin and North Annam.



C E R T I F I C A T E

I, A. ASHTON, hereby certify that I am thoroughly conversant with the French and English languages, and as a result of the comparison between the French and the English texts, I have established that this is a true and correct translation of International Prosecution Document No. 2772 D-2.

/S/ A Ashton.