

NO P397

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
UNITED STATES ARMY FORCES, PACIFIC
WAR CRIMES BRANCH

29 March 1946

MEMORANDUM TO: Prosecution Section (Report No. 263)

THRU: Executive Officer, War Crimes Branch

SUBJECT: Murder of approximately ninety Filipino civilians on the shores of Tagbueros River, Palawan Island, P.I., on or about 1 March 1945, and murder of three Filipino civilians at Irauan, Palawan Island, P.I., on 4 March 1945.

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II. SUMMARY OF EVIDENCE:

a. On or about 1 March 1945, Luis SABAN and a companion were taken by a group of sixty Japanese soldiers to the bank of the Tagbueros River where they joined approximately thirty-five Filipino prisoners, among whom were women and children. These prisoners were divided into three groups, SABAN being in a group of twenty (R 1). He was struck with a saber, bayoneted and fell unconscious for fifteen minutes (R 2). When he regained consciousness, the Japanese had gone and he saw the dead bodies of the other prisoners in his group scattered around him. All had wounds on their bodies (R 3).

b. On or about 1 March 1945, about one hundred Japanese soldiers were seen with approximately seventy Filipino civilians, including women and children, near the Tagbueros River. The victims were tied, lined up along the river and all were bayoneted to death by the Japanese (R 6, 7).

c. On 4 March 1945, Sofronio BOHOL heard screams coming from his wife and two grandchildren in his house. He saw five Japanese soldiers with fixed bayonets going up the house, but believing there was nothing he could do, BOHOL ran away but came back the next morning to find the dead bodies of his wife and grandchildren. All the bodies bore bayonet wounds (R 12).

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