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Page I

Statement on oath made by KOPER, romusha No. 8942.

After being duly sworn on oath according to his religious convictions, witness KOPER makes the following statement.

My name is KOPER, I was born at the village of KARANGSARI, I am about 20 years of age, my nationality is Javanese. I am at present living at DJATINEGARA.

About three years ago I was summoned by my village chief (that was the village of KARANGSARI, district of KARANGMONTJOL, regency of POERBOLINGGO, Middle-Java), because an order had been issued by the Japanese military authorities that I had to become a romusha (coolie) to work outside the island of JAVA.

Besides myself there were also other farmers who were forced to become a romusha at the time. We were ordered to go to POERBOLINGGO (approximately seven kilometers); there we went on a train to KLENDER (near Batavia); three days later we were transported to TANDJONG PRIOK; we went on a ship there and sailed straight to SINGAPORE, from where we were transported to KUALA LUMPUR, and when we had been there a fortnight we were transported straight to SIAM by train. The train journey lasted five days; in SIAM we were transported to a certain working place called TJIMPON, where we had to work on the railroad line.

The food in SIAM was no good at all and not sufficient; sometimes we received no food at all for three consecutive days.

We received very poor medical treatment; there was sufficient medicine, but we did not receive it; there were sufficient doctors and male nurses, but they did not attend us. Therefore it is not surprising at all that approximately thirty percent (30%) of the total number of romusha at TJIMPON died.

Working hours were from 7.30 to 16.30; free days there were none. The romusha were often beaten when they did not immediately execute the orders given them by the Nippon authorities.

This statement is the full truth, in evidence of which I put my signature.

was signed : KOPER

Before the signing of this statement, I Kyai Hadji Moehammad Moechtar bin Hadji Abdulmoethalib, assistant Head-Priest of the district of DJATINEGARA, living at Djatinegara, have read out this statement to KOPER, whereupon KOPER states that it was according to the truth.

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Then

Then KOPER was duly sworn by me on oath in the way as prescribed by the Islam faith.

was signed: K.H. Meehammed Moechtar.

Subscribed and sworn to before me K.A.de WEERD, LL.D., first lieutenant R.N.I.A., senior official attached to the Attorney-General N.E.I., on this fourth day of July, 1946.

was signed: K.A. DE WEERD.

C E R T I F I C A T E

The undersigned, CHARLES JONGENEEL, Captain R.N.I.A., head of the War Crimes Section of NETHERLANDS FORCES INTELLIGENCE SERVICE (NEFIS) being first duly sworn on oath deposes and states that the annexed original Malay document (with English translation), entitled:

Sworn statement of KOPER, romusha No. 3942, dated 4th July 1946,
has been taken from the official records of the NEFIS.

Signature: /s/ Ch. Jongeneel

Batavia, July 9th 1946.

Subscribed and sworn to before me, K.A. de Weerd, first Lieutenant R.N.I.A., Higher Official attached to the Office of the Attorney-General N.E.I.

/s/ K. A. de Weerd