

Ex 1685

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 Dutch affidavit (with English translation) is a full, true, complete and accurate copy of the original document, entitled:

Sworn statement of J.W.J. MULLER, dated Balikpapan July 27, 1946, concerning mass-murder at Tarakan in January, 1942,

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

Batavia, August 20, 1946.

(signed) Ch Jongeneel

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

(signed) K. A. de Weerd

(SEAL)

Ex 1685

PRO JUSTITIA.REPORT ON INTERROGATION

Today Firday the twenty seventh day of July 1946 appeared before me "C. STEWENSZ", B.L., Judge advocate attached to the Temporary Court Martial at BALIKPAPAN: "J.M.J. MULLER", who answered to the questions put to him as follows:

QUESTIONSANSWERS

1. What is your full name, where and when were you born. What is your present & your future address?

My full name is: "JAN MARTIJN JOZEF MULLER", born at MAKASSAR, November 20, 1906. My profession is Sen.N.C.O.Inf, K.N.I.L., No. 84105, at present serving with the Depot-Company of the Troop-command BALIKPAPAN, and living in PANDANSARIE-encampment in this place.

2. where and when were you made a P.O.W.?

I was made a P.O.W. on January 16th 1942, after the capitulation of TARAkan on January 12, 1942.

3. How long were you kept at TARAkan as a P.O.W.?

From January 16th 1942 until and including June 3, 1942, when I was transferred to BALIKPAPAN.

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7. Can you give information, if possible fully detailed, of atrocities, terrorism, executions, etc. committed by Japs, of which you were informed by others?

Yes, I know 2 (two) cases of a beastly massacre of P.W.'s.

1. During activities in the surroundings of TARAkan (terrain near the military post Tg. Batoe), a squad of about 32 men of infantry troops, amongst whom was Capt. "BENDELER", 1st.Lt. "de VOS" and myself, were made prisoners on January 11th 1942. After we had been asked for the direction to TARAkan and an answer to this question was flatly refused by the Europeans as well as by the natives, we were informed by a Jap interpreter (each squad had a Jap interpreter at their disposal) that we should be killed if we did not give information concerning the road leading to Tarakan. The Jap infantry likewise threatened us by gestures. When even this had no success we were handcuffed and with 5 or 6 men tied together, led away right across the swampy terrain. At 2000 hrs we had to bivouac in the open after a day of all possible hardships (neither food nor drink had been supplied). On the following day, January 12, 1942, when TARAkan capitulated, we were tied together in groups of 10 and led away at a distance of about 20 to 25 metres from the bivouac. A Jap interpreter asked our names and ages. Then we were blindfolded and, with our hands tied behind our backs, we were slaughtered with bayonet thrusts by about 15 Japanese soldiers (so-called Star-troops). We were bayoneted until we

gave no more sign of life. (These beasts in human shape practised in this manner in man-to-man fighting).

I belonged to the first group of 10 men and experienced this slaughter. After the 5th stab I collapsed, but fortunately I was only unconscious. In total I received 7 stabs, two of which hit my lungs on both sides. After having been unconscious for about four hours, I came to, suffering fierce pains all over my body and at the back of my head. I waited for half an hour (I was not aware of the fact that the Star-troops had left), then after many efforts I untied my hands and crawled away from the grave of branches, grass, leaves, etc., with which our murderers had covered us. Thereon I went to have a look at my fellow-victims, none of whom, thirty in all, gave any sign of life. They too, had been covered by a layer of about 40 c.m. of grass, leaves, etc.

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Being dangerously wounded I decided to go to TARAKAN to have myself admitted in the military hospital, as this was my only chance to save my life. Because my lungs were hit, I continually expectorated blood. This, combined with the fact that my other wounds were serious too, only permitted me to advance slowly. The distance of 11 kilometres took me 5 days - during which period the only food I could lay hands on and ate was 1 pineapple and one banana - to walk and crawl right across the drilling-plant (of the B.P.M. Oil-plant) which was still ablaze and guarded by Japanese sentinels. Here I arrived on the fourth day. Only then did I learn that TARAKAN had surrendered. When I arrived at TARAKAN, the Japanese guard-commandant refused me admittance; only after Dr. "van der PERK" (Med. Off. 2nd. Cl.) came to explain to the Jap that I was dangerously wounded and needed hospital treatment and after I had shown my wounds, I was admitted. For 10 days I was hovering between life and death (as I was informed afterwards by the doctor). On February 25th 1942, the patients, doctors, personnel, nurses, lottas, etc. were transferred to the P.W. camp. Most of the patients were still seriously ill.

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Second Massacre: The occupation forces of the second position Karoengan-Peningki, consisting of about 215 men, were murdered by the Japs in a similar beastly manner. These forces, according to the Japanese, would have disobeyed the capitulation orders. Notwithstanding the capitulation of Tarakan, the position KAROENGAN, namely, had fired with coastal guns at some warships which were sailing into the harbour of LINGKAS on January 12th 1942, with the result that 2 destroyers immediately sank. The situation at that moment was as follows:

Communication with TARAKAN was cut off, presumably by the Japanese Infantry squads, already operating in the vicinity of the positions, Tg. Batoe, Anal, Karoengan and Peningki. As retaliatory measures the entire occupation of Karoengan-Peningki was killed by the Japanese. I was personally informed of these facts by a Japanese guard, about July 1942 (I was already at BALIKPAPAN at that time). This guard had personally witnessed the execution on board a light cruiser, where abovementioned 215 military were machine-gunned and "buried" at sea.

8. Can you mention names of Japanese who must be held responsible for the murder of this occupation? No, our then Jap C.O. at BALIKPAPAN, Capt. "YOSHIMURA", who is presumably detained at BALIKPAPAN as a war criminal, hinted at this massacre in his numerous unintelligible speeches which he delivered to the P.W.'s, so I am sure he knows more of this slaughter.

9. Can you give names of persons able to give information regarding this incident? Yes, the following persons: Med. Off. 2nd. Cl. "TAN". "JOOSTEN" (gunner). All the officers, N.C.O.'s and O/R's of the Troop command TARAKAN, who were made P.W.'s after the proclamation of the surrender of TARAKAN.

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After informant read these questions and answers and after I had read them to him, he declares to persist in what he has stated and does not wish any additions or alterations.

The Informant,
w.s. "J.M.J. MULLER"

The Judge Advocate,
w.s. "C. STEEVENSZ", B.L.

Hereon informant swears on oath, according to his religion, to have told the truth and nothing but the truth.

For confirmation on oath
w.s. "J.M.J. MULLER".

The Judge Advocate
w.s. "C. STEEVENSZ", B.L.

For true copy
The Judge Advocate
w.s. "C. STEEVENSZ".