

Ex 1556

Evidentiary Document # 5367.

Appendix "A" part II
ALFSEA War Crimes Instruction No. 1.

FORM OF STATEMENT.

Summary of Examination of Occupation Address
TAN HAIN ENG
Assistant Manager, Match Factory.
127 Hanthawaddy Rd., Kemmendine.

Duly sworn states, I am 32 years of age, of Chinese Nationality and born at AIOY, China.

My permanent address is 127 Hanthawaddy Rd., Kemmendine.
I am now living at 127 Hanthawaddy Rd., Kemmendine.

From May to November 1942 I was made to work by the Japs at the western Kempei Tai branch at Prome Court as a temporary interpreter. At that time a Jap named Lt. (later Capt.) MIYAMA was O.C.

MIYAMA: Lieutenant, promoted at end of 1942 to Captain.
Age: just over 40, looked 50.
Height: about 5 ft. 3 ins.
Stout build
Going bald on top. Black hair, close cropped back and sides.
Small dark eyes.
Fairly large nose.
Small moustache
Small mouth. Fairly full lips.
Round face.

I remember the occasion of the execution of 5 Chinese from Rangoon at the Kemmendine Chinese Cemetery, but I cannot remember the exact date.

The 5 Chinese were:-
CHAN BOON CHAO
YEUP KHAI SOO
YEO BENG TWAY
LEE HYE SOM
LIM KAH CHAO

The day before the execution my cousin, TAN SIN KAR, came and told me that his brother-in-law, CHAN BOON CHAO, was going to be executed. I do not know how he knew this.

I went to a sergeant at Prome Court named ARAHORI, and asked him to intervene on his behalf as he was a relative of mine.

ARAHORI: Sergeant
Age: about 30
Height: about 5 ft. 2 ins.
Slim build
Short black hair.

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Dark eyes. No spectacles.
Straight nose.
Fairly thin lips. No moustache.
Long face.
No scar.

ARAHORI went, I believe, to Lt. MIYAMA, but when he returned said that nothing could be done as the order for the execution had come from H.Q. I then asked on my cousin's behalf if I could arrange for the burial of CHAN BOON CHAO in the Chinese fashion. This request was granted.

The next morning I went to Prome Court as usual. I was asking Sgt. ARAHORI what I should do about collecting the body, when an officer came in and told me to go to Lt. MIYAMA. I could not recognise the officer who gave me the order.

Between 7 and 8 a.m. I left Prome Court in a car with Lt. MIYAMA and another officer who may have been a doctor.

I could not now recognise the officer who accompanied us as I saw him only on that occasion.

Upon our arrival at the cemetery we went in. I forget now whether the prisoners arrived before or after we did.

Other Japs had arrived from the East Kempei Tai branch and H.Q.

Altogether there were 7 or 8 officers, of whom I knew:

Lt. MIYAMA, O.C. West Kempei Tai, described above.
Lt. KINOSTA, O.C. East Kempei Tai, branch.

KINOSTA: Lieutenant (later promoted to Captain)
Age: about 35 or 40.
Height: about 5 ft. 6 ins.
Well built.
Short black hair.
No spectacles. Brown eyes.
No moustache.
Straight nose
Fairly wide mouth. Thin lips.
Long face.
No scars.

Seven or eight N.C.Os were there of whom I knew three from Prome Court.

Sgt. ARAHORI: described above.
Sgt. UCHIDA: on charge of H.T. at Prome Court.
Sgt. MITOMA:

UCHIDA: Sergeant
Age: about 30
Height: about 5 ft. 4 ins.
Well built.
Short black hair.
Dark eyes. No spectacles.
Rather flat nose.
No moustaches.
Small thin lips
Oval face.

MITOMA: Sergeant
Age: about 30
Height: about 5 ft. 3 ins.
Thin build
Short black hair
Grey eyes. No spectacles.
Long pointed nose.
No moustache.
Wide mouth. Thin lips
Long face.
No scars.

There were about 10 private soldiers with rifles.

Also there were 3 other people in civilian dress who I took to be interpreters from other Kempei Tai branches.

A table had been brought, on which were a white cloth, some flowers, one or two bottles of saki, and some glasses.

The prisoners were seated together on the ground. They were not bound. Lt. MIYAMA read a few words to them from a paper to the effect that they had been working against the Japs and collecting money for anti-Japanese activities, with the result that orders had come from HQ for their execution.

I translated it to them

Lt. MIYAMA then asked if they wanted to send any messages to their families. He gave me a pencil and paper and told me to pretend to write.

All the prisoners were talking at once and I would not have been able to take it all down in any case. I simply wrote the name CHAN BOON CHAO on the paper.

Lt. MIYAMA then told me to go. I went away to a distance of about 30 yards.

The 5 prisoners were made to sit with their legs in the graves which were already dug. Their backs were against boards stuck in the ground at the head of each grave, which bore their names. They were tied to the boards in some manner. Their eyes were bandaged and another cloth was put round each man's forehead with a black spot in the centres, presumably to act as a target.

5 soldiers placed their rifles on stands. 5 or 6 other soldiers stood a little way behind them.

All the officers and N.C.Os except MIYAMA moved off to a distance of about 30 yards.

Lt. MIYAMA then gave the order to fire.

After that the officers and N.C.Os moved across to see the bodies, and I left the cemetery to order a coffin at a shop just down the road, for CHANBOON CHAO's body.

When I returned, 4 of the bodies had been put in the graves and the soldiers and some Burman's were filling them in.

The body of CHAN BOON CHAO was lying by an empty grave.

I arranged for the body to be put in the coffin and carried to a nearby hut. This took about 20 minutes and when I came away from the hut the Japs were leaving the cemetery.

On the road outside I met my cousin TAN SIN KAR on his way to the cemetery. I told him I had arranged about the body and then returned to the factory at which I work.

(Signed) TAN HAIN ENG.

Sworn before me (signature)

Captain, F.S.O.

Commanding 598 F.S. Section, S.E.A.C.

This 2nd day of July 1946.

Detailed to examine the above by the Commander-in-Chief, Allied Land Forces, South East Asia.

Authority: ALFSEA War Crimes Instruction No. 1 para 7.

I hereby certify that this is a true copy of the sworn statement made by TAN HAIN ENG, Assistant Manager, Match Factory, 127 Hanthawaddy Rd., Rangoon, before
Captain, F.S.O. Commanding 588, F.S. Section, S.E.A.C., this 2nd July 1946

(Signed) J.S.F. BURNETT.

Lt. Col.

O.C. 17 War Crimes Investigation Team.

(Lt.Col. J.S.F.A.F. BURNETT, DSO, MC)