

Doc 8439 Evid.

Folder 24

(6)



INTERNATIONAL PROSECUTION SECTION

REQUEST FORM

26 Dec. 1946

INCIDENT -- ACCUSED

~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ MR. TAVENNER

The undersigned requests the consideration of Document # 8439  
(Describe):

A Statement ("Exhibit 5-B") signed Sakaibara, Shigematsu., certified to be a true copy by Wm. Mahoney.

Please process the entire document in English & Japanese.

NOTE: Japanese translation is attached. This translation is part of official Navy Dept. files & must be returned to Capt. Robinson.

for introduction in evidence (specify purpose)

As part of phase dealing with atrocities on Pacific Islands and at sea.



J. J. ROBINSON

Staff Attorney

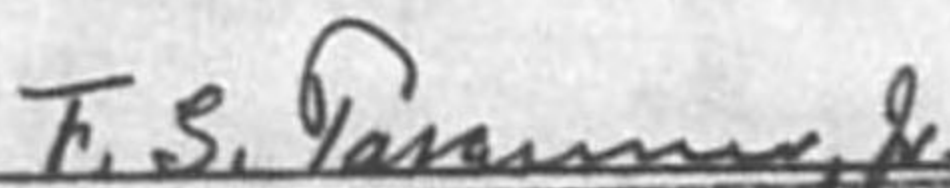
26 Dec.

1946

TO THE DOCUMENT OFFICER:

The above document has been approved for processing by you with changes as follows:

✓



~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~  
Document Control Attorney

By \_\_\_\_\_

Secretary



答申

酒井原繁松

(一) 昭和十八年十月七日

本部中隊少兼副少代理タリ。橋大尉(現在少佐)本部  
 中隊ヲ通宜使用シ陣地ニ移ラサルニ於テ、俘虜全員  
 ヲ銃殺スベシト令ス。日没後一時内後位ト記憶ス(確定  
 ナラス)。命令ニ要シタル時間記憶確實ナラサルモ發令後一時  
 向半以上後ニ伊藤大尉ヲ指キ中村少尉報告アリシト思ス。  
 処分人員九十六名他一名逃亡

(二) 昭和十八年七月頃再ニ本部糧食庫ヲ破リテ侵入シ、竊盜スル者マリ  
 之ヲ庫内ニ捕ヘタル。ト云フ。

カネテヨリ糧食ハ本島ノ死命ヲ決スルモノニシテ、之ガ竊盜ヲ行フ  
 モノハ嚴罰スベシトコトヲ一經ニ達シテ軍紀維持ヲ怠ラズ  
 中隊大尉ノ内地轉送ニ於テ斬首セシム。

本職現場ニ立合ヘリ。(十月七日傷内地ニ送レリ)

逃刑前ニ本職作製シテ之ヲ英譯センノ野元大尉ヲシテ死

刑宣告ノ理由書ヲ讀ミ聞カセタル。

(四) 昭和十八年十月十五日頃ト思フ。

十月七日俘虜此分ノ際逃亡シタルモノノ神社側ノ糧食  
 庫ヨリ糧食ヲ得附近ニ隠レ居ルヲ発見逮捕シタルカ時通  
 艦隊(六根)ノ情况及命令ヲ新ニ編制セル更ニ有力ナル機  
 動部隊布哇ヲ出港セラマシヤル方面第一警戒配備大島島ハ  
 攻略部隊ニ備ヘヨリ警戒中ナリキ。危険惹起ヲ除ク  
 タメニ己ナリ同日日没後三十分羽島ニ於テ本職逃令  
 (斬首)捕虜係將校中村少尉ト兵数名同所ニ在リ。



(三) 联合国側、独逸戦争犯罪<sup>(延)</sup>処分<sup>(延)</sup>ニ関スルサンフランシスコ  
 救護ニヨレバ、同法ハ命令者及ソノ命令ヲ実施シタル者ヲモ  
 処分<sup>(延)</sup>ストアル。若シ本職ノ行ハシメタル諸行為ガ非難ヲ  
 受ケルコトアリ<sup>(延)</sup>場合ニ於テハ、部下ニ迷惑ヲカクルコトニナル。  
<sup>(延)</sup>コルガ絶対服従ノ命令ヲ発スル指揮官ニトリコレ程甚キ  
 コトナレ。因テ、如何ナル場合ニ於テモ部下ノ責ヲ道レンレメン  
 トセンタメナリ。

(次頁ニ續ク)



(四) 本職ノ独断ニシテ他人ノ意見ヲ問ハズ。本職公室ニ科長反  
関係中隊長ヲ集メ「オレハ若クテルカラオレノ云フ通りニテレ  
ト命ジテ偽証ヲ作ラシメ偽証ニ従テ本職ガアラクジト考ヘ  
タモノヲ裁合シタ。

(一) 二面目ニハ宮本兵<sup>(長)</sup>他出席シ<sup>(記)</sup>カカ氣境明ナラス。

(五) 停戦当時ポツダム宣言ノ内容<sup>(旨)</sup>ヲ知ルコト出来ズ其後  
以テ日本ノ無條件降服ナルコトガ判リ米國ノ命ニ其ノ  
マシテ<sup>(可)</sup>可キコトガ判リタリ又詔書、電報ニ「國際ニ信ヲ  
失フコトナリトアルヲ思ヒヨリ實ヲ言フ述ブルカヨイト思ヒ  
改メタ。

(六) 待遇ヲ良クセラレ感謝ス。  
吾ハ本職<sup>(旨)</sup>ノ自発的ニテ實ヲ認メタルモノニシテ裁判  
ニ於テ証據トシテ使用然ル可キモノニ降参候 (終)

酒井原敏系松  
中村光男

昭和二十二年十二月五日



(1) October 7, 1943.

I gave the following order to Lt. (SG) Tachibana (at present a Lieutenant Commander) who was the Commanding Officer of the headquarters company as well as my acting Executive officer: "Using the men of the headquarters company appropriately and at a place which will not interfere with our positions, execute by firing squad all prisoners of war." I remember it was about one hour after sunset (not definite). Although my recollection of the hour of execution is not definite, I remember that there was a report made by Ensign Nakamura, command platoon leader under Lt. (SG) Ito, more than an hour and a half after my issuance of the order. Ninety-six (96) prisoners were executed and one escaped.

(2) (a) Around July 1943 an unknown person frequently broke into the headquarters company's food stores and this person was captured in the food stores. His name is Jack. Previously a warning was given that since the food meant life and death on the island any person stealing food will be severely punished. In order to maintain military discipline it was necessary that the man be executed, so Lt. (jg) Nonaka (transferred to Japan in October, 1943, at present a Lt. (SG) executed the said person on Hajima (Peale Island) by decapitation. Before the execution was carried out, I wrote a statement giving the reason for the execution and had this translated, and it was read to the person to be executed by Lt. (SG) Nomoto (injured on October 7 and later sent back to Japan).

(b) I believe it was about October 15, 1943. The prisoner who escaped on October 7 when the executions were held was discovered and captured near the vicinity of the food stores, located near the shrine, where he obtained his food. At that time, we frequently received situation reports and orders from the fleet (6th based). One of them being that, "A new and powerful task force was organized and has departed from Hawaii, therefore the Marshalls Area will go into their 1st defensive positions. Wake Island will prepare for an attack force." Thus we were in the midst of an alerted condition. In order to suppress any danger arising from him, I was forced to execute the said person on Hajima (Peale Island) about thirty minutes after sunset on the same day. (Execution by decapitation). The officer in charge of prisoners, Ensign Nakamura, and several other enlisted men were also present at the scene.

(3) According to the news broadcast from San Francisco regarding the war criminal trials of Germans by the Allied nations, it was said that the issuer of the orders as well as the executors of the orders will be persecuted. In case the various actions which were carried out to my orders because the source of any trouble, it will mean that my subordinates too will be involved. There is no greater grief for the commanding officer whose subordinates had to suffer because they had to carry out his absolute orders. Therefore in all cases I would like to shoulder the responsibility for my subordinates.

(4) I voluntarily and without consulting any other officer called all company commanders involved and department heads to a meeting in the conference room, and ordered that a false story be made, saying, "I have an idea so just do as I say". I had made up this false story beforehand and then I issued the order. Note: at the second meeting I cannot recollect if Petty Officer Miyaki and the others were present.

(5) After the end of the war, it was impossible for me to obtain the contents of the Potsdam proclamation, and thereafter I began to realize that Japan was about to surrender unconditionally. I then realized that we had to obey United States orders. And in considering that in the Imperial rescript it said, "Not to lose faith in the allied nations", I reconsidered and decided to confess the truth without hesitation.



(6) I appreciate the good treatment I am receiving.

The above statement is true to the best of my knowledge and recollection. I have given it freely and voluntarily and without being threatened and forced to do so.

Sakibara, Shigematsu

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Witnessed.

CERTIFIED TO BE A TRUE COPY

/s/ W. P. Mahoney

"Exhibit 5-B (2)"