

STATEMENT BY ISHII, Fujio, Formosan, SUGA BUTAI.

I, ISHII, Fujio, Formosan, former member of SUGA BUTAI, testify as follows:-

I left Labuan 9 February 1945 and with Capt. NAGAI, 2/Lt. SUZUKI and Sgts. FEPPU and OKADA went to Ranau arriving 23rd of the same month. There were PWs left on Labuan on our departure and there were about 100 PWs at Ranau when we arrived. There were also PWs at Pugnitan at that time.

I remember the rice carrying parties that used to bring rice from Ranau to Pugnitan, each journey taking about 5 days. If a man became sick on the way to Pugnitan he was left there to recover and sent back with a later party. I do not know what happened to the sick PWs that were left behind at Pugnitan when W/O Kinder brought in the last of the PWs from there.

I remember HANEDA Kiyoshi taking the 10 PWs to the 110 mile camp. On 28 April 1945, Capt. NAGAI, Sgts. FEPPU, OKADA, TAKAHARA Kizuo and myself and half the men went to the 110 mile camp to build a new camp. It was sometime in May when HANEDA brought over the 10 men from the old camp. When NAGAI arrived at the 110 mile camp he received orders from Army HQ to move to Tenom and he left about the middle of May. 2 Lt. SUZUKI was left behind in charge on his departure.

On the same day that HANEDA took the 10 PWs to the 110 mile camp, the 8 PWs that were left behind in the No. 1 Camp were killed. I was present and this is what happened. 2/Lt. SUZUKI and Sgt. IWABE ordered us (ISHII, Fujio; KAWAKAMI, Kiyoshi; TAKATA, YANAI, Kenji; SUZUKI, Saburo; SUZUKI Taiichi;) to take the PWs to the hospital. This proved to be a lie for the PWs were actually carried out and shot outside the building. We had carried two PWs out of the building on the way to the hospital and had gone about 100 yards from the hut when 2/Lt. SUZUKI said to let those two men walk and go back with the stretchers and get two more. We only had two stretchers so had to bring them up two at a time. As we went back for the other PWs I heard shots and thought that the PWs must have attempted to escape. I found out later that they had been killed in cold blood. The only ones present with the first two PWs when they were killed were 2/Lt. SUZUKI, Sgt. IWABE and SUZUKI, Taiichi. 2/Lt. SUZUKI had a pistol, the remainder had rifles. When the second two had been brought up there was present in addition to the officer and NCO, KAWAKAMI, TAKATA, ISHII, YANAI, SUZUKI Saburo and SUZUKI Taiichi. We were then ordered to fire on the two PWs. Everyone fired at least one shot and most of us two. I personally did, as my first shot entered below the breastbone and did not kill the man. At the time the PWs were killed they were lying on the ground too sick to move and so did not have their hands tied behind their backs.

They had no chance to escape and did not make any effort to do so. The same procedure was followed as the rest of them were brought up and all the bodies were buried in the one hole IWABE was wearing a sword but did not to my knowledge draw it at any time. I did not have a rifle at the time but when SUZUKI Taiichi had fired he gave me his to use. Every man that I have detailed above fired at the PWs. Apart from this instance I have never at any time received orders to kill PWs nor have I done so.

The day that the rest of the PWs were killed in the 110 mile camp I was out of camp looking for S/M STICPEWICH. Present in the party were Sgt. IWABE, ISHII Fujio, SUGITA Shoiichi and SAITO Hideo (deceased). Sgt. IWABE was with us the whole time and did not return to camp. He could not have been present at the killings. When I returned to camp about 2 August all the PWs were dead. It is impossible that natives could have seen PWs about the middle of August as they were all dead by this time. Our orders were to shoot S/M STICPEWICH on sight. Although I have heard nothing I should say that from my knowledge of the Japanese the probability is that the balance of the PWs were shot at Sandakan the same as they were elsewhere.

I, ISHII Fujio, solemnly affirm and declare that the above statement is the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth.

(Signed in Japanese characters)

Certified true copy.

(Signed) T. MORNANE.
Lt.Col.

(Reverse side.)

The statement on the face hereof has been read over to me by and I clearly understand the meaning and contents thereof. Further I make this statement voluntarily and without any undue pressure or duress being brought to bear.

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I, (Sgd.) Allan Reginald Townsend, certify that I have this day read the statement on the face hereof to the declarant in Japanese and I solemnly declare that I have truthfully and faithfully conveyed the meaning of the English to the declarant to the best of my ability.

(Sgd.) A.R. TOWNSEND, Cpl.

Declared before me at Labuan 10 Dec 1945.

(Sgd.) J.E. OHAM, Lt.

COMMENT BY S/M STICPEWICK. I had no dealings with this man. He came from Labuan to Ranau and was never in Sandakan. While at Ranau I did not come in contact with him.

I certify that I compared the above with the original statement of ISHII Fujio, and that it is a true copy thereof.

(Sgd.) H.G. Reynolds, Lt.Col.
PRESIDENT.