

Ex 1885

SAKATA, Jiro.

SAKATA, Jiro, Naval Lt. of 67th Garrison Regt. states:-

.....

Q. When you arrived at Ocean Island were there any Europeans there?  
A. No.

.....

Q. Who was in command of the island when you arrived?  
A. Lt.-Commander SUSUKI who is now in No. 1 Compound.

Q. What happened to the natives who were on the island?  
A. There were about 100 natives on the island and when the food situation became critical they started to steal food and arms and they would not listen to reason. In Sept. or Oct. 44 at the command of Lt.-Commander SUSUKI they were attacked and killed. There were also cases of natives stealing arms and then leaving the island.

Q. Did not the Japanese in fact arm the natives?  
A. In the beginning we armed some of the natives but when the situation became critical we took the arms off them. We disarmed some of the natives and with regard to the others we did not give them any ammunition for the rifles.

Q. When were they disarmed?  
A. May or June 44.

Q. Were the natives all killed on the one day?  
A. On the same day.

Q. Did you take any part in the action or did you see it?  
A. They were all killed at different places around the shore of the island at the instruction of Lt.-Commander SUSUKI.

Q. Did you see any of this?  
A. I saw one lot killed but did not use a weapon myself or give the order to fire.

Q. Where were the natives you saw?  
A. They were killed in this area. (He points to a place on the shore about half way between SOLOMONS POINT AND LILLIAN POINT.)

Q. How many were killed there?  
A. There were about 20 killed there.

Q. Were they shot?  
A. Yes, they were shot.

Q. Were they shot all at once or one at a time?  
A. They were all shot at once.

/Q. were

Q. Were they lined up?  
 A. They were lined up on the shore and shot at the one time. Bayonets or other arms were not used only rifles.

Q. Who gave the order to fire for this particular group?  
 A. Ensign YAJI who was in charge of a Pl. Ensign YAJI actually gave the order to fire. I had been ordered by Lt.-Commander SUSUKI to have these natives shot and I gave the order to YAJI.

Q. Did this only apply to this area?  
 A. Yes. Other officers were sent to other areas by SUSUKI.

Q. Did you disarm the natives before shooting them?  
 A. Yes.

Q. How long before shooting them did you disarm them?  
 A. They did not have any arms when they were caught.

.....

Q. Were all the natives on the island killed?  
 A. They were all males and were all killed.

.....  
-----