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Omit

Title: Reference cases of Fort Santiago Massacre,

Origin: Fort Santiago, Manila P. I.

AGP 89

Dates: 1944-45 Classification:

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Source: Investigation Section

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AG-KI Form 91 (20 July 1945)

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Authority NND 883678

REGIMENT GENERAL'S OFFICE
RECOVERED PERSONNEL BRANCH
ROUTING SLIP

FROM Capt Otter

8/2 1945

TO: Lt Shaw

FOR:

Approval _____
Information _____
Initials _____
Signature _____
Appropriate Action X
Correction _____
Note & Return X

Chief of Branch _____
Executive Officer _____
Asst Ex. Officer _____
Judge Advocate _____
Liaison Officer _____

Administration Section _____
Allot & Benefits _____
Plans & Operations _____

Adjudication Section ~~_____~~
AUS Sub-section _____
Civ Sub-section _____
PS Sub-section _____

Investigation & Review Sec X
Archives Sub-section _____
201 Files _____

Finance Section _____
Disbursing Section _____

Chief Clerk _____

Please expedite as I am
working on this case now.

Request that the
persons on the
attached sheet be
contacted in the
order named in
the Fort Santiago
massacre.

JPS

ANTONIO ISAAC

④ 19 VALLANZUELLA- San Juan District

Imprisoned at Ft Santiago July 1943 to Oct 14, 1943.

LEADS:

① Jose Topacio NUENO (Former Counselor)

(USAFPE)

② Hermineido Atienza (Former Counselor President)

Antonio Astodillo

Corner San Lazaro St & Rizal Ave (Tony's Bar)

③ Mr. Sison (Rosie's father)

1152 Bambang St.
imprisoned in Ft Santiago from Aug to Nov 1944.
Should be a good source.

JPS

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
UNITED STATES ARMY FORCES, PACIFIC

CHECK SHEET

(Do not remove from attached sheets)

File No.: 332

Investigation of Fort Santiago Massacre
Subject: and circumstances thereof.

From: FROM: AG-KI To: AG-KJ Date: 30 September 1945
NOTE Investigation Section Determination Section
NO.

Reference case of FORT SANTIAGO MASSACRE, records of this office and outside sources of information have been checked.

Upon interrogation of Mrs. Kaimo, 821 Adela Street, she stated that she was interned at Fort Santiago from 22 July 1944 to 3 August 1944 and that the Commandant of the camp was a Mr. Tachibano. A Mr. Kawata and a Mr. Irasi were in charge of the investigation and the torture of prisoners. Fort Santiago was a prison for the internment of violators of military orders issued by the Japanese Army. Mrs. Kaimo was charged with the crime of buying and selling Philippine currency. She was tortured by having her fingers burned by cigarettes and was also beaten with 2 x 4 boards. She stated that slapping was a common occurrence and that the prisoners were often kicked. Mrs. Kaimo was fined 20,000 pesos and thereafter released. She stated that she had seen prisoners being starved to death and prodded by bayonets and that on one occasion she was forced to hold a chair over her head and was prodded by a bayonet at any time when chair was lowered.

Upon interrogation of Mr. Pedro Provideo, who was interned at Fort Santiago from 24 August 1944 until 19 September 1944, he stated that he was interviewed and beaten by a Mr. Namaki. He was charged with having participated in guerrilla activities. Mr. Provideo was at one time tied to a bench and water was allowed to run into his face by use of a hose until he was unconscious. He would then be revived and the same treatment repeated.

Upon interrogation of Mrs. Maria Martinez, 72 Gastambita Street, who was interned in Fort Santiago from 13 September 1944 until 9 October 1944, she stated that she was imprisoned because of aid rendered to American POWs. Upon being interned she was fingerprinted and a photograph was made and thereafter she was placed in cell No. 14 with 20 other women. The cell was built to hold 4 people. On 13 September 1944 she was interrogated without being mistreated. On 14 September 1944 she was again questioned and beaten by 2 x 4 boards for a period of four hours. On 15 September 1944 she was again questioned and beaten for five hours after which she was dragged back to her cell and was allowed seven days to recover. During the time of her internment there was little food available and less water. On 27 September 1944 beating of the prisoners was started again following an American air raid and the meals were cut down to one a day. On 9 October 1944 she was transferred to Bilibid Prison and there remained until 23

November 1944. During this latter period of time she was tortured by having to sit for 24 hours a day without talking. She was forced to undress in the presence of the Japanese and was slapped. She stated that 21 or more persons died each day in the Bilibid Prison.

The following information, as related by Mrs. Maria Martinez, is based on hearsay:

The Fort Santiago Massacre occurred between Christmas and New Year of 1944. 3000 people were tortured and starved to death. These persons were beaten and bayoneted. None were shot for tortures were the customary practice. The water cure was administered by forcing a tube up the rectum and allowing water to enter until the lungs were filled, thereby causing the death by choking. Burning was also used to kill prisoners. The man in charge of such torture methods were Captain Kabiasi and Nagahama Nisimura. 3000 men were taken from neighboring prisons and gathered at Fort Santiago and were killed by torture and burning. Most of these were bayoneted to death. No one escaped the massacre. The reason for this brutality was the repeated American attacks by air and the possible landing of American Forces on Luzon.

Submitted herewith and made a part of this report of investigation are affidavits of Jose Topacio Nueno, Hermenecildo Atienza, Andres D. Sison and Ernest Stanley. There is also attached and made a part of this report an article entitled "Story of Fort Santiago" which appeared in the March 3, 1945 issue of the "Free Philippines", a Manila newspaper. Also submitted are signed statements of Aurelio L. Lucero, Serafin Aquino, M.F. Tauwangco and an affidavit of Irineo Buenconcejo.

HFM

(G.S.B.)
R.W.B.

Disposition of Prisoners taken by Japanese
Military Police

-000-

By Jose Topacio Nuevo

Guerilla Prisoner in Fort Santiago and Bilibid for
five months under the Japanese Military Police.

Sept. 1943 - February 1944

The usual practice of the Japanese Military Police was to arrest Filipinos, suspected of guerilla activities or pro-American leaning, at midnight or very early in the morning. The hands or arms of the accused were at once tied to prevent escape or retaliation, and was kicked or slapped several times. Oftentimes he was beaten with iron ~~or~~ tube or piece of wood. The accused was presumed to be guilty and his inquisitorial investigation was premised on that presumption of guilt.

The prisoner was taken first to the garrison of the arresting Military Officer, accompanied by a dozen or six soldiers.

They had different garrison units in the City of Manila and the provinces. There the prisoner was subjected to all kinds of physical torture, such as - beating, burning, hanging, water cure, starvation and placing him in the open air, rain or shine, while he was tied at a post, big stone or iron.

If he confessed, he was either killed in the garrison or taken to Fort Santiago for confinement. Oftentimes he could not stand the torture and all sorts of punishment, and he died without the knowledge of anyone.

There in Fort Santiago, the prisoner was subjected again to all kinds of torture to extract a confession of guilt. Many accused were forced to confess altho they were innocent.

Some were tried by a fake Court Martial for public show. But many were taken at night to the cemetery and killed with the sword or bayonet.

No one could visit any prisoner in Fort Santiago or any garrison.

Prisoners were killed by common soldiers even without the knowledge or consent of the responsible officers. The Japanese M. P. simply enjoyed to see Filipinos and Americans humiliated, starved to death and murdered. No information to relatives or anyone was given even after death. They kept it secret.

4 J. Nuevo

20 September 1947

SUBJECT: Fort Santiago
TO : Office of Recovered Personnel

1. I was arrested and brought to Fort Santiago at about 2:00 a.m., March 23, 1943 and confined in said Fort until August 18, 1943; on said date I was transferred to the Old Bilibid Prison, awaiting trial. I was court-martialed on September 11, 1943 and sentenced to five (5) years imprisonment. I was transferred to Muntinlupa Prison on September 14, 1943 and served my term until rescued by the guerrillas on August 25, 1944. I was arrested and sentenced for organizing guerrillas in Manila. I was an officer of the Anti-Sabotage Regiment, USAFFE, when the war broke out in December 1941. After the fall of Batuan, I did not surrender, but joined Col. Hugh Straughn and organized guerrillas late in 1942.

2. Fort Santiago-Nature of-Fort Santiago was not a military prison or a concentration camp for political prisoners. Rather, it was used by the Japanese as a detention prison for persons under investigation by the Kempei Tai. For this reason not only those charged with guerrilla activities, propaganda or hostile acts were confined therein for investigation. Those charged with counterfeiting, looting, bribery, racketeering, violations of Jap proclamations, etc., were equally confined there for investigation. It was not limited to Americans or Filipinos, but also Chinese, Spaniards, French and even Japanese (not only civilians but soldiers and officers).

While evidence is being gathered against a prisoner, he is confined at Fort Santiago, where he undergoes all sorts of torture, punishment and third degree to extract the desired information from him. As soon as the Kempei Tai is satisfied they have enough evidence and necessary confessions obtained and signed by the accused, he is generally transferred to the Judge Advocate's prison at Old Bilibid, Manila, where the Persecutor conducts another investigation based in the Kempei's reports. The accused are then sent to Court-Martial where sentence is meted out. Those sentenced to death, are executed in one of the neighboring cemeteries and those sentenced to prison terms are transferred to Muntinlupa.

However, Fort Santiago had also a sort of Military Police Court for minor cases; and short time sentences were also pronounced and served in the Fort itself. A seventy-year old American, Fred Luis, and a negro, Claude Leftridge, cellmates of mine, were given 90 days each, which they served in the Fort, for violating their passes to go out of internment at Sta. Tomas. Another American, Keyser, another cell-mate of mine got 60 days for failure to surrender within the time set for civilians to be interned. A Filipino boy, 19-year, Felipe de Leon, in my cell got 45 days for selling military goods. A Japanese soldier Sigemitsu, got 5 days for drunkenness.

Investigation may take one day, but rarely over 6 months. The longest detention we knew of was a Frenchman, (we called him Frenchy) 16 months, but it was probably because they forgot all about him. He was charged with being a De Gaullist. There were several other detention places of the Kempei, notably Far Eastern University and Airport Studio (Tondo).

3. Administration - As far as I could find out, Col. [redacted] head of the Japanese Military Police, had supervision over all these investigation prisons. Fort Santiago was under direct supervision of his second-in-command, Major Nishimura. The Manila Buntal (the unit in charge of cases in Greater Manila) was under the command of Capt. Koike.

4. Living Conditions, Diet - Cells were especially built in the stone walls of the Fort, made of wood. The wooden floors were elevated about 1 meter from the ground and there were wooden bars and wire-screen enclosing the cells. Wooden partitions separated the cells. Each cell had a small door and a small window about six-inches square, thru which the guards peer to see the inmates and thru which food was transmitted. At the back end of the room were 2 holes, one in each corner, about 6 inches x 12 inches. One was a water faucet, and the other was the latrine of the pail system with a wood cover.

There were 2 roll-calls (count-off in Japanese) daily - one at sun rise, the other before retiring. Food was served 3 times a day consisting of rice in small tin enamelled saucers about 4 inches in diameter. On top of the rice was placed some vegetable. Three times a day we had camotes (sweet potatoes) on top of the rice, for a month. The next month they changed to squash; the next month, "Kangkong", a native green. Sometimes they served radish in the noon meal and the radish leaves at night. Occasionally, we had a cube of meat about an inch square, fried fish, seaweeds, or small clams. On the Emperor's birthday (April 30) they gave us one banana each. There was no sugar given us for 6 months.

Twice a week we were taken out into the open court for a bath. We were stripped naked and used only one faucet. Every other afternoon we were lined up on the corridor next to our cell for calisthenics.

Light and ventilation inside were very poor. The whole day we had to be almost naked with only drawers or G-strings (Japanese Fundori) because of the heat. The whole day an electric light had to be on for it was dark.

Each cell, about 4 by 6 meters, housed about 16 to 20 people. During the latter part of my confinement, wholesale arrest caused packing up to 30 people. The day before I was transferred there were 32 sleeping in my cell on the small floor space, including 2 American priests. We scarcely had space to sleep on our sides. No pillows, blankets, mats or mattresses were furnished. We slept on the floor and rolled up our clothes for pillows. Those who were sick were sometimes loaned blankets. When the cells were all packed up, we learned that several others who could no longer be accommodated, were placed in the old Spanish dungeons of old stone walls and ~~XXX~~ floor.

There were 16 cells, 15 for males and 1 for females and children. The Japanese detained children less than 2 years of age and suckling babies as hostages. At one time in one cell there were 14 women and 10 babies. They were crying the whole day and the whole night, one is reminded of a maternity hospital. The children had the same diet as the adults and were occasionally allowed in the sun with their mothers, depending on the mood of the chief of the guards on duty (Jancho).

5. Discipline and Punishments - After breakfast at 6:00 a.m. everyone was compelled to sit on the floor, squatting with legs crossed

after count-off, everyone was required to lie down to sleep. During the 13 hours of sitting, speaking was absolutely prohibited. Standing, walking or supporting one's weight by the hands as props were prohibited. One could stand only to go to the latrine.

Violation of these rules generally called for a hand slap in the face. More severe cases called for beating with clubs, or the saber of the guards, or beating on the head with the heels of the Japanese shoes. A negro was boxed and slapped until he fell and then he was kicked around until he fainted. On one occasion I was caught talking with a cell-mate. We were made to stand and face each and start slapping each other until I fell dizzy. Sometimes a guard would make an inmate stand in the middle of the room with his hands up in the air for an hour and he would be beaten if he put his arms down. One man was made to stand on his head with his feet in the air leaning against the wall. For one hour a man was made to assume a horizontal position, face downwards, his hands stretched perpendicular to and resting on the floor supporting his body, as in the start of a dipping exercise. Depriving one of meals for a day or two was also an ordinary punishment. In one case a man had no food for two weeks, he was so weak he could not stand for questioning and had to be carried out of the cell by his mates. For minor offenses, one was deprived of the bathing privilege or the chance for calisthenics. An American officer, Capt. Joseph Barker, was confined in his cell for six months without getting out to take a bath or calisthenics. At the end of the period he was allowed to go out as he was getting crazy being inside all the time.

6. Investigation, Torture - All persons under investigation were called out by turns to the investigation rooms. These rooms were located in a building facing the Pasig River. Each room had an investigator, usually a non-commissioned officer, altho in more important cases lieutenants took charge. There were also one interpreter and one or two "muscle men". Base ball bats, golf clubs, table legs, black jack and ropes were visible paraphernalia in each room.


Beating with a base ball bat or wooden club was a common resort to extract testimony and confessions. The "water-cure" was most notorious. A man is made to lie down, a towel placed on his eyes, his hands and legs tied and a garden hose is placed in his mouth and water is pumped into his lungs until he choked. Many are known to have drowned this way. When one's stomach gets filled up with water and gets bloated, they would step on it until the water rushes out of the mouth and nostrils.

Hanging is another torture very common. A Chinese cell mate of mine had his hands tied behind him and a rope was tied to his hands, set to a pulley overhead and pulled until he hung about a foot from the ground. He hung for three hours. After that, his hands were paralyzed for two months and we had to feed him as he lay helpless, his arms dead. Jui-jitsu was a common practice and the muscle men resorted to this for exercise. Grabbing their victims by the hands, they would pass them over their shoulders, hit them on the floor and roll them to the other side of the room. We could hear the cries of pain and moaning of those whose bones were breaking in this manner and later we would see them carried helpless and unconscious to their cells. A Japanese merchant named "Maki" was made to kneel with his shins resting on a piece of wood about 2 inches wide with sharp edges. Then he was made to hold a swivel chair high over

his head. He kept this position for an hour and the terrible beating everytime he lowered the heavy chair. Slapping, boxing and hitting on the face with anything available was ordinary. A man in my cell lost all his front teeth, and his tongue and walls of the mouth and palate were terribly battered when a soldier took off his shoes and hit him mercilessly on both cheeks with the spiked heel. For weeks he could not eat and could drink only with great difficulty. A man was made to stand on a narrow piece of wood about 2 inches wide with his heels together and toes of each foot pointing to the opposite direction, outward, Charlie Chaplin style. Naturally the tendency was to stand bow legged. He knees and shins were beaten with a club until he stood with the legs straight together.

Nuisance torture, such as placing a bullet or a pencil between the fingers and pressing the hand tight was also common. Burning cigar or cigarette butts would be stuck into the groins, under the testicles, in the armpits and other sensitive spots of the body. I have seen boys with huge ulcers and itches scattered around their groins and armpits, and they me they were cigar burns. Hog-tying the hands and feet to prevent escapes was done, and several men would be tied together by their hands and feet for several days until they are ready for questioning. Some Chinese millionares were handcuffed for six months before they were released.

After they are satisfied with the evidence, they prepare a booklet in Japanese characters and the accused is made to sign and thumbmark these booklets. Later at the court-martial I learned they were my statements and confession. Investigations may take one day and may extend to months. I have known of friends who were released the day following their arrest and preliminary questioning. In my case, it took six months, and ended only when Col. Straughn was finally captured and had corroborated many of the statements, I and several of my co-accused, had made. I had lost about 60 pounds.


HERMENEGLDO ATIENZA
Lt. Col. Inf. PA (RES)
18 Hipodromo, Sta. Mesa
Manila, Philippines.

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MANILA

FREE PHILIPPINES

Vol. 1

Free Copy

Manila, Saturday, March 3, 1945

Free Copy

No. 15

U. S. FORCES SMASH ON PALAWAN

Carrier Planes Smash Tokyo Again

Big Industrial Area Destroyed In City's Heart

GUAM—Squadron after squadron of U. S. Navy carrier bombers blasted Tokyo Monday for the second consecutive day, and also swung 175 miles southward to batter installations on Biache Island, following Sunday's double blow by carrier planes and Super Fortress bombers on the Japanese capital.

Thursday's communique from Pacific fleet headquarters, summarizing the results of Vice Admiral Marc Mitscher's carrier task force attack, revealed that Navy planes damaged two airplane factories in northern Tokyo and destroyed or costed 233 enemy aircraft or a total of nine planes. Two of our surface units suffered minor damage.

At the same time, Super-Fortress headquarters in the Marianas released photographs showing that the fleet of over 200 B-29's in Sunday's attack knocked out the large Edo railway station and freight yards and burned out 240 blocks in the most congested industrial area of Tokyo, without losing a single plane.

Camacho Lauds Gen. MacArthur

MEXICO CITY — President Avila Camacho has congratulated General Douglas MacArthur on his brilliant campaigns which resulted in the liberation of Manila. To President Sergio Osmeña, Camacho wrote "our people will fraternalize in the sacrifice which destiny demands of men and nations who do not admit servitude, who prefer fighting to abdication, and death if necessary to slavery."

Churchill Reports On Crimea Meeting

LONDON — Prime Minister Churchill, reporting on the results of the Crimea conference with Roosevelt and Stalin, told the House of Commons Tuesday that the Allies are more strongly united than ever before, and are completely prepared for the lapse of Germany.

He said that he and President Roosevelt conferred at Malta on Pacific war plans.

Germans In Full Retreat Before Rhine Offensive

PARIS — German forces were in full retreat across the Rhine Plain Thursday before the massed might of American First and Ninth Army mobile columns, in what from lion dispatches described as a "virtual rout."

General Eisenhower clamped a news-blackout on the swift movement of the Ninth Army as many German units were isolated far to the rear in fluid and confused fighting. Unofficial estimates placed at least 25,000 German prisoners in American hands in the current six-day offensive.

The First Army, driving into

the center of the German line, forced three bridgeheads across the last major water barrier before the Rhine, capturing one bridge intact. One crossing was made only 2 1/2 miles southwest of Cologne, while to the north, Canadian First Army troops moved within 30 miles of a junction with Ninth Army spearheads.

The air offensive went into its 16th straight day Wednesday as two great fleets of U. S. and British heavies joined in strong attacks on rail and industrial targets in northwestern Germany.

450 Pre-War Police Return to Duty

Pending the re-establishment of the civil courts in Manila, violators of peace and order regulations are being handled by the Manila Police Court at the Manila Police Station. Minor offenders, who do not merit their being turned over to the Military Police, are hailed into Police Court and disposed of promptly; the police lack the necessary facilities for handling detention prisoners.

Manila Police Court is presided over by Capt. Gabriel Laynes, a veteran police officer who is also a lawyer. Police officers making the arrests handle the prosecution of their respective cases. Cases arising from personal quarrels are customarily patched up quickly by the court and the disputants sent home. Gamblers and allied disturbers of the peace usually get off with a stiff warning. Beto beto paraphernalia is destroyed by the police and their operators are sent home with a warning.

Of Manila's total force of about 1,200 police officers and men before the outbreak of the current war, about 450 have already reported. About half of this number are operating under the American Military Police and PCAU, while the rest are under Col. Antonio Torres, pre-war head of the Manila Police Department. Colonel Torres and his men are directly responsible to the Provost Marshal of Manila.

Black market operators and profiteers are dealt with by a special unit of the police force. Arrests made by this detail are reported to PCAU, which handles this type of offender. The uniformed officers are assigned in their duties by a small group in

Osmeña Thanks FDR On Filipinos' Behalf

Immediately after establishing his office in Malacañan, President Sergio Osmeña sent the following telegram to President Franklin D. Roosevelt:

"Upon the re-establishment today of the government of the Commonwealth of the Philippines in the city of Manila, permit me to express to you and to the people of the United States the most profound gratitude of the Filipino people for our liberation.

"To you, Mr. President, who, in our grim days in Corregidor and Batuan solemnly pledged to us in the name of the American people the men and resources of the U. S. to free us from enslavement, this day must be a day of happiness over a pledge fulfilled, in spite of the sufferings and miseries inflicted on us by a brutal enemy.

"Inspired by Filipino loyalty to the United States and the cause of democracy, he raised Manila and to many of our cities and towns the ground and murdered hundreds of thousands of our people. But the spiritual strength of the Filipino people remains unshaken. We will continue the struggle with every ounce of our strength until final victory is achieved. Once again, Manila, we shall build a new city and over the ruins of war there shall arise a stronger Filipino nation ready to consecrate its all in close cooperation with the United States to the freedom and security, the peace and happiness of mankind."

The original secret service men who have thus far reported for duty. This unit is under Colonel Isaacson Eugenio Dizon.

Seize Puerta Princesa and Two Airfields

American troops landed Wednesday on Palawan, fifth largest island in the Philippines, General MacArthur's communique said Friday. The American 1st division, sectors of Hollandia, Waikiki and Riak, pushed swiftly inland from the beachhead to capture Puerta Princesa, capital and principal city of the island, and two nearby airfields.

The enemy garrison, caught flat-footed, fled to the hills. Our losses were very light.

MacArthur's communique says: "Engrossed in operations elsewhere, the enemy again failed to diagnose our plans and properly prepare his defense."

Seizure of Palawan airbases gives MacArthur's armies command of the western end of the south passage through the Philippines, and places them within 500 miles of enemy bases in North Borneo.

The Jap pocket of resistance in south Manila has been reduced to a single holdout group in the Finance building with occasional snipers being routed from the wrecks of sunken ships in Manila Bay. Thirty-seventh division troops were using mortars on the blasted hulks and keeping the enemy penned in the Finance building with machineguns and rifle fire.

American troops fighting on Luzon have captured Coraon, on the north shore of Laguna de Bay, and Maringal in the Caraballo mountains. Fighting along the Kobayashi Line from Wawa to Antipolo is increasing in intensity. The Sixth division east of Montalban destroyed three enemy counterattacks supported by intense rocket fire.

The 25th division attacking from Carrangalan is pushing into Digdig on the Balete Pass road. Other units patrolling in the Caraballo and Benguet ranges are meeting little enemy opposition.

Two New Members of Rehabilitation Body

WASHINGTON — Senator Carlos Garcia of Bohol and Pedro Lopez of Cebu have been appointed to the Filipino Rehabilitation Commission in Washington, by President Sergio Osmeña, according to reports of Finance Jaime Hernandez, Philippine secretary of finance.

Garcia and Lopez, who were elected to the Philippine congress in the last peace-time election, actively engaged in guerrilla warfare during the Japanese occupation,

2057 Arcarrage
Manila

To whom it may concern;

I Ernest Stanley (British subject, missionary) presently employed by the U. S. Office of War Information, formerly interned at the Santo Tomas Internee Camp where I acted as interpreter for the Internee Committee, do hereby state that to my knowledge it was the custom and practice of the Japanese Military Police (Kempei) to arrest and carry off persons, the whereabouts and disposal of whom they never divulged any information.

Ernest Stanley
Signed Ernest Stanley

I was apprehended by a Japanese Military Police in plain cloth at the intersection of Andalucia and Requesen streets in the morning of August 17, 1944. My hands tied behind me and was brought to Fort Santiago. There I was tied to a post and was left alone until past midnight when three Japanese, one supposed to be my interpreter, the other who apprehended me and one who was very much intoxicated with liquor brought me to a small room with a table and two chairs. I was asked to place all my possessions on the table and to stand firm. Accusation against me were as follows:

1. That I traffic in firearms for guerillas.
2. That I am repairing radio equipments of the guerillas.
3. That I am communicating with the guerillas located in the islands of Cebu, Iloilo and Davao. I was asked to produce the radio transmitter and receiver I have been using.
4. That according to their spies I am aiding the guerillas.
5. That I am an officer of the guerillas and wanted to find out the name of my organization, its whereabouts and the names of all members.
6. That I am hiding an American friend and would like to know where he is.

After that, the drunken Jap tied my hands behind my back again and hoisted the other end of the rope to one of the rafters and pulled it thus dangling me about one foot from the floor. In this condition, questions were lashed at me and before I could answer a 3"x3"x24" inches mahogany block was applied to me mercilessly. Hitting me at will and without much ado until the mahogany block broke in two. After almost two hours of continuous questioning and beating the interpreter dropped me down and removed the rope that bound my hands. Needless to say, I could not stand and my body was numbed all over. I was dragged to an adjoining chamber and a Jap sentry kept vigil on me while the three Japs were performing another brutally to an unfortunate one like me.

At about three o'clock in the morning I was directed to a cell. For five days I have been nursing my wounds and swollen limbs. I could not stand nor move my left arms. My face, and my whole body had swollen considerably and ached with pain. The cell I was in was numbered Three. This, was one of the sixteen cells in a row. We were twenty-eight persons of three nationalities. The cell was approximately four by eight meters. In the far end of the cell we have a small faucet at the left and at the right we have our latrin.

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Body odor plus the smell of the latrin was unbearable. The wooden bars of the cell has screen wire (meshed wire) all over and these too was covered with dirt and dust so practically air was impossible to penetrate through. We were all depending on a small opening where we usually reach for our ration on meal time for a bit of fresh air, we call it. We have electric bulb of 20 watt on the ceiling and this was on 24 hours a day. After the elapsed of five days I was again summoned to appear and answer my case Nos. 2-3-4 This time I was ~~again~~ not hanged by the hand but I was made to lay on my back to a long ladder tying my both hands and feet and neck against the ladder and raised it in a reversed ~~direction~~ and in the inclined position. On this condition the interpreter keep on pouring question one after the other for over an hour until finally a small towel was placed on my face and holding my mouth tight and began pouring water all over my face especially in my nose until I suffocated.

This brutal treatment was done ~~done~~ three time between questions. On the third I lost consciousness. When I opened my eyes I found myself lying ~~myself~~ on a wornout native mat and I was no longer tied to the ladder. The Jap officer lead me to my cell. After three days I was again called to answer case Nos. 5-6 with the same treatment as of Nos. 2-3-4. In addition I was not given food for a period of five days. The last three investigations was as bad as my previous investigation. After several days in cell No. 3 I was transferred to cell No.13. This place was ~~much more~~ smaller than No.3 and yet we were 28 to 32 in numbers at times, since political prisoners "came and go" in Fort Santiago. Here in Fort Santiago I saw General Lim and some of his boys. General Baja and his entire family. Lt. Jose Flores, (the officer who went to Mindanao to meet the American submarine and received his order.) I have no news of them now.

After a month of confinement that was around the middle of September we noticed that our rations were reduced considerably to one half of a saucer daily. Since I became a prisoner our food daily had never been changed and comprased the following:
Morning meal - Rice porridge, with some sliced sweet potatoes.
Noon meal - Boil rice with sweet potatoss.
Supper meal - Same as noon meal.

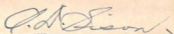
As usual we were allowed about a minute bath daily either in the morning or in the afternoon. This time seldom we could take a bath and if we happen to do, ten seconds was long enough for each person. Beginning September 20th, our food was irregular. We seldom get three meals a day. Several times we have to be contented with little grain of salt and about a glass full of water each time we feel hungry. The salt was the only possession we can have in the cell as it was rationed twice or sometime thrice in a week and was about three or four pinch each person. I still do remember we were given on three different occasions food burned out like cinder and several times deteriorated food which was presumably cooked two or three days ago were also given to us to eat.

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In my two and a half months of confinement in Fort Santiago, I got contaminated with all kinds of skin deceases as we do have persons with tuberculosis, syphilis, dysentery, wounds obtained from brutal treatment and became gangrened, and lots of other sickness which I do not know how to describe.

I came out from the gate of Fort Santiago on temporary liberty on November 3rd, 1944.



ANDRES D. SISON

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COMMONWEALTH OF THE PHILIPPINES
ARMY HEADQUARTERS
APO 501

28 September 1945

MEMORANDUM -
G - 1, HPA

In compliance with your Memo dated 21 September 1945, I submit the following report for transmittal to Mr. Henry Majewski, Representative, Recovered Personnel Division, GHQ, AFPAC, for his information and such use he may make of my statements:

I was arrested from my office in the Tagapamayanitan at Tulong Sa Madla (Liaison and Public Assistance Service) a civilian office under Japanese control at the Metropolitan Theater Building on or about 3:00 PM, 14 February 1944. I was not surprised because I belong legitimately to the underground movement as a member of the Maharlika Guerrilla Unit, as a Special Intelligence Agent of Brigadier General Mateo M. Capinpin and of Mr. Enrico Pirovano, who was a member of the Espionage Group of Brigadier General Manuel Roxas, Senator Jose Ozamis and Mr. Juan Elizalde and a Propagandist of the 34th Division (still unrecognized). When, therefore, Senators Ozamis, Mr. Juan Elizalde and Mr. Pirovano were arrested ahead, I knew something was going to happen to me. I destroyed all incriminating records, warned others who were going to be implicated and was preparing to go to the province to hide (in fact I sent my wife ahead to the province already) when the Kenpei Tai (Japanese Military Police) caught up with me.

My personal experience and observation, during my three months confinement in Fort Santiago, February 14 to May 15, 1944, convinced me beyond any doubt that Fort Santiago is a torture chamber used to extort information. My case is a typical instance. Immediately upon my arrival and after my personal data was taken, I was made to strip my shirt and undershirt so that I was uncovered from waist up. On the table before me were placed a pistol, a big rope (abaca), a wide leather belt and a big stick one and a half (1½) inches times one and a half (1½) about a yard long. I was told by my investigator that they were not responsible for my life if something happened to me if I did not tell them what they wanted me to tell. They whipped me on my bare back three (3) times before they fired any questions. Then they commenced

BASIC: Memorandum fr Captain Aurelio L. Lucero, AGS, Chief, AG-CP, MPA APO 501 dtd 28 Sept 45 sent to G-1, MPA re prisoners in Fort Santiago.

asking. I had previously made up my mind what to tell them and I stuck to my resolution. My answers were, I knew, very unsatisfactory to them because I failed to give them the answer they wanted and the information they sought. It is no exaggeration to say that every question was preceded by beating with the stick, whipping with the leather belt, boxing, kicking and threats of the pistol. Both my investigator and his interpreter vied with each other in inflicting corporal punishment on me. I was brought after 8:00 PM that day to my cell, a 5-meter by 6-meter dark room, inaccessible to any ray of light the whole day, already occupied by twenty (20) other people ahead of me. I was not given food that evening. I was given instructions by other prisoners regarding the behavior and conduct expected of me.

About 8:00 PM, I was brought again for questioning. I gave the same answers because the questions were the same and I got the same punishments, only they showed more cruelty. I was returned to the cell at 11:00 PM with a big black left eye struck by the buckle of the belt when I was whipped on the head and face. There was no chance to avoid or evade being struck as my hands were tied at the back, I was kicked on my belly so hard for a period of two (2) weeks, the bruise in the form of a foot-print could be seen everytime I stripped for bath.

I was taken out again on the following day to the Investigation Room. Each subject was investigated in a separate improvised cell. Across neighboring partitions, you can hear the cries of pains, groans, shouts, thuds of thick bars against beaten bodies, curses and all kinds of admixtures of expressions of misery and pain. There were cries of old men, of young men, of women and of boys in their "teens". (Later I met some twenty (20) boys aged from thirteen (13) to sixteen (16) at the New Bilibid Prisons, Muntinlupa, Rizal). My second day of investigation was a repetition of the first day.

My third day was the climax of my physical punishment. This time they were bent on breaking me down. I was kicked, rolled on the floor, stepped on, beaten with bat, whipped, jujitsued still without their getting what they wanted. Finally, they tied my hands behind by my thumbs, wound the rope about my body and tied also my feet together and hanged me with my toes not touching the floor. The greatest strain was imposed on my thumbs and arms. For one (1) hour, I was thus hanging and I was questioned.

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Chief, AG-OP, MPA APO 501 dtd 28 Sept 45 sent
to G-1, MPA re prisoners in Fort Santiago,

They did not stop kicking me either. After one hour of such punishment, I was brought to the floor and I could not move my arms for a long time. It took more than a month for my thumbs to go back to normal after that with massaging applied almost hourly. Everytime one of us arrived in the cell after investigation, we would show what we received from the investigators. Here are some of the punishments received by others personally witnessed by me or known by me by the physical injury seen on the persons:

- a. I saw a prisoner whose body was full of cigarette burns all over from face to foot.
- b. Several in our rooms were denied for periods varying from 5 days to 21 days.
- c. I saw evidence of a prisoner having been made to kneel on the sharp edges of a board laid on edge.

I talked with others who told me about:

- a. Being charged with electricity.
- b. Being pumped with water and when bloated, they jumped on him. I remember that a cell-mate of mine, Dr. Muangi was asked to see a woman in another cell, Miss Ester Belarmino, a cousin of Speaker Pro Tempore Prospero Sanidad of our National Assembly, who could not eat. She could not eat because she was badly beaten up.

We were made to sit the whole day on the floor in the Japanese way with legs crossed. Stretching of legs was forbidden; leaning on the walls or even on your arms was taboo. Silence was strictly observed. Lying hours was from 7:00 PM to 7:00 AM. Even when awake, were not permitted to sit up. At night, we got tired of lying down and at daytime of sitting in one monotonous position. Food was diminished scientifically in quantities almost unnoticeable but which you cannot fail to notice after a long stay.

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Prisoners in Fort Santiago are disposed as follows:

a. A few are liberated. Even the most innocent (this is true in 1944) had to stay at least three (3) months inside.

b. A few are liquidated in the course of investigation. The fellow just disappear.

c. Many are sent to the Old Bilibid Prisons Building at the compound facing the Far Eastern University Building. From my experience, those who have prima facie evidence on their cases are sent to Old Bilibid Prisons to wait disposition by a Court Martial.

d. Those left behind never showed up either in the Old Bilibid Prisons or at the New Bilibid Prisons at Muntinglupa. Some died of sickness (mostly a product or result of malnutrition) but I believed most were liquidated.

Those brought to the Old Bilibid Prisons are disposed similarly.

The group I was, is a typical group. It consisted of about ninety people among them prominent persons, including:

- 1 - Hon. Jose Ozamis, Senator
- 2 - Mr. Juan Elizalde, a millionaire, brother of the former Resident Commissioner.
- 3 - Mr. Enrico Pirovano, millionaire - Manager, De la Rama Steamship Co.
- 4 - Mr. Cirilo B. Perez, Librarian, Bureau of science.
- 5 - Father Rufino J. Santos, Secretary Archbishop of the Philippines.
- 6 - Mr. Virgilio Lobraget, Manager, Elizalde Rope Factory.
- 7 - Capt. Manosa of President Quezon's Yatch "Casiana".

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- 8 - Lt.-Col. Atanacio, PA.
- 9 - Lt.-Col. Manuel B. Enriquez, PA.
- 10 - Capt. Nestor Reinosa, PA.
- 11 - 1st Lt Thomas Acep, PA.
- 12 - Mr. Rafael Rocas, Jr., newspaper columnist.
- 13 - Mr. Manuel E. Aguilla, Author.
- 14 - Mrs. Stagg, wife of a prominent pastor.
- 15 - Mrs. Jureka.
- 16 - Dr. Darby.
- 17 - Two (2) Sisters of the Merry Knoll Orders.
- 18 - Mr. A. Maximiano Razon, Personnel Officer, Bureau of Education.
- 19 - Mr. Salvador, Academic Supervisor, Bureau of Education.
- 20 - Capt. Gepte.
- 21 - Lt Francisco de Leon.
- 22 - Lt Yap.

We were all tried, eighty nine of us, two having previously died, on August 25, 1944. No sentence was read in open court. In fact the whole day was devoted to reading for charges for each and everyone of us. Many collapsed in the courtroom because they were sick and weak.

The day following, they secluded in three (3) small cells about 45 of us. They were kept inside and were strictly guarded to avoid any possible communication with them. Then they were taken out from the Old Bilibid Prisons on September 1, 1944 and since then, there had never been a trace of them. Of those listed above, only Nos. 5, 18 and 19 came out alive because they were not in the group taken out that day. Later in the New Bilibid Prisons No. 19 also died of malnutrition.

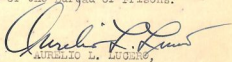
From time to time as prisoners arrived in the New Bilibid Prisons where I was sent to serve a fifteen-years imprisonment for Anti-Japanese activities, I questioned them about those left behind in Fort Santiago. They told me of cell mates who were kept there without being informed of charges. I never met any of them since. They must have died there, killed without accounting.

This is only an inadequate description of a part of my experience. Undoubtedly, more details could be revealed under stimulation of questioning, to which I

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would anxiously submit in order to bring light on many
phases of the hell that was "Fort Santiago".

Before closing - and this I almost forgot to
relate - being sentenced by Court-Martial for a definite
number of years is not a guarantee that one's life is
spared. For it is a fact that in the New Bilibid Pri-
sons in Muntinlupa, for no reason at all except that
their whims so dictated, they executed by shooting more
than thirty-five (35) military prisoners whose sentences
ranged from 15 years to life imprisonment. I was spared
my life to relate this history only because I was reported
to have died of sickness previously and my name and iden-
tity changed in the records of the Bureau of Prisons.



AURELIO L. LUCERO,
Captain, AGS,
Chief, Officers' Section, AGO.

I was taken by the Japanese Military Police from my house, No. 413, Apollo, Pace, Manila, midnight, February 2, 1944. My arms were tied behind me and I was struck before my wife and children. My face was swollen and my mouth was bleeding when they took me away in a truck to Fort Santiago. Five other people, three men and two women, were in the same truck with me under heavy guard.

At Fort Santiago, we were questioned, finger printed and lodged in different cells. I was lodged in Cell No. 5 where in the following morning I found there were five Japanese and nine Filipino prisoners. The Japanese prisoners were given privileges of extra rations. They could talk among themselves in low tones even when there were guards around. They were empowered to punish Filipino prisoners for talking or for making signs to one another. The Japanese prisoners insulted and punished us at will. We could not defend ourselves because the Japanese had the guards to sack them up and punish us if we did. The Japanese prisoners would push and kick us. When we became very crowded in the cell, some of us had to sleep on the toilet.

I was charged with active membership in the guerrilla forces, hiding enemies of the Japanese empire and distributing radio news. I was questioned during my first two days in Fort Santiago, again for two days about two weeks later, and finally about the last day of March or first day of April.

I was handcuffed during my first investigation, boxed, kicked, and severely beaten with a Japanese wooden sword (used for Japanese fencing). Both my investigator and his interpreter showed no mercy whatsoever for me. My investigator would harshly ask a question and before his interpreter could finish telling me the question, he would hit me on all parts of my body with his wooden sword. The Japanese fencing sword is covered with bamboo strips and when used to hit someone makes plenty of noise. The edge of the bamboo strips cut into my flesh and I had cuts and contusions all over my body. After the first few beatings, I was numbed to the point of unconsciousness. Somehow I still knew the two Japanese were beating me but I felt no pain. I fell on the floor several times but each time I summoned all my remaining will power to get up and save myself from further merciless kicks of the two Japanese. They were mad at me for being a USAFFE officer and having been educated in the States. The punishments I received in my first investigation were repeated in the following investigations that had come to mean as much terror for me. There were occasions when investigators in the adjoining rooms went to my investigator and complained of the noise caused by the heavy pummeling I received. The punishment I received at my last investigation was the worst. My investigator had two other investigators with him who mocked and jeered at me and told me I was a liar. My investigator made me kneel in front of his desk. He was handling the wooden handle of an American broom. Another Japanese had the wooden sword mentioned

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before and the third Japanese held a wooden plank 1" x 2" x 4". Before asking me any question, the three Japanese gave me the worst beating of my life. I was battered and bruised when they stopped to ask me to give them the identity of my companions in the guerrilla and propaganda activities. They wanted to find out whether my bureau directors (Public Instruction), Secretary Oasin, Dean Kalaw and others were engaged in guerrilla and propaganda activities. When I denied knowledge of guerrilla activities of the persons asked me, they threatened me with further punishment. I stuck to my decision not to incriminate other persons who were engaged in guerrilla and propaganda activities against the Japanese. I did not divulge to them the whereabouts of Messrs. Go Puan Song (Publisher Peckien Times) and C. C. Young (Gen. Sec., Chinese Chamber of Commerce) who were hiding in my land in Ipo, Nagsabaran. My investigator finally let me off saying in Tagalog "Matigsa ka" (You are tough). I nursed and bore the painful swollen bruises for over twenty days after my last beating.

This corporal punishment which caused the death of many guerrilleros is not the only kind meted out by the Japanese. Prisoners were systematically starved. There were times during our detention in Fort Santiago, at the city jail and in Muntinlupa when our ration was cut down to almost nothing. We used to be given little salt in Fort Santiago to eat with our rice. When the guards found out we were saving salt to eat little by little when we drank water to appease hunger, they stopped giving us salt. On the pretext that the water was poisoned, the Japanese guards at the City Jail prohibited us from drinking water for over a week. They promised to give us tea for drinking but there were days when we were not given a drop of tea. At the city jail many prisoners contracted diarrhea and dysentery. Burned rice soaked in water is claimed good for diarrhea. Whether this is true or not the little piece of burned rice (tutong) was a welcome addition to our small ration. The Japanese guards learned to eat tutong and no more tutong were given to us.

Upon orders from investigators there were prisoners in Fort Santiago who were not given food for a period of 8 to 20 or more days. Several of my companions received this punishment, and we contributed little from our ration to give to them when the guards were not around. One American prisoner who was not given food for a number of days felt so weak that he could not walk to the investigation room. He had to crawl on his hands and feet as he was pushed, kicked and driven by the Japanese guards. I believe that fellow died.

At the city jail, the Japanese guards were fond of depriving prisoners of food on the mere suspicion of talking to each other. There was one guard who would sneak around when ration was being distributed. Even if a prisoner did not talk but turned to face another prisoner, his ration would be taken from him, the guard would eat the ration in full sight of the prisoner and the empty dish would be returned to the prisoner.

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At Mantinlupa where food from families of the prisoners were at times permitted to be brought inside the prison, the Japanese guards at the entrance would take what they wanted of the food, the guard to the brigade would also take his share leaving the prisoner what was left. There were times when M.P. guards would sweep on the different brigades and confiscate money, cigarettes and stored food of the prisoners. Prisoners from whom food were confiscated were punished by the guards. Food and cigarettes confiscated from prisoners in the hospital were sold to the prisoners in the brigades.

The death rate of prisoners in Mantinlupa due to starvation was appalling. It averaged more than twenty a day.

The beating given me was not the only kind of punishment given to prisoners in Fort Santiago and the city jail. Below are accounts related to me by fellow prisoners:

Tom Myers - Luson Brokerage Co. He had a big cut on the right forehead caused by the thrust of a rifle butt. Three of his ribs were smashed in and he had bruises and contusions on his body. He was surprised he was not then killed by the Japanese. His wife and his little daughter 5 years old witnessed the brutal punishment and killing of an American soldier in one of the dungeon cells at Fort Santiago.

The soldier was caught with guerrilleros. He was taken into the cell where Mrs. Myers and her little girl were locked. Two Japanese guards and an officer struck the American with rifle butts. The American was badly battered, his eyeballs went out of their sockets, he was down on the floor groping helplessly. Finally he was beheaded by the officer. Mrs. Myers and daughter who witnessed everything were made to sleep in the same cell.

Juan Elisalde - He was my companion in Cell No. 5, Fort Santiago. In the first month, he was called to the investigation room, morning, afternoon and evening for 27 days. He was tortured and his body was bruised. He was ~~made~~ kneel on pebbles at one time for an hour while he was being investigated. He was required to kneel erect and any time he shifted his position he would be hit mercilessly by his investigator with a piece of wood. At another time he was made to kneel on the edge of an open box while he was holding a rattan chair with outstretched arm. Any time the arm went down he received a beating.

Corporal punishment was meted also to women prisoners in Fort Santiago. There was a young lady who was so terribly punished and who was taken by the guards to her cell, next to ours in a semi-conscious state. She moaned and cried the whole night and for days. She became sick and I believe she must have died. Mrs. Mary B. Stagg was also terribly punished. She got sick, had high fever and kept asking for water, but the Japanese guards would not give her water to drink. No medical treatment or medicine was given to sick prisoners.

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A companion was made to handle live electric wire which was later used in flogging him. He was not given food for one week. At another time, the Japanese investigator put three pistol bullets between his fingers and pressed them hard. He was beaten with a half inch G.I. pipe.

A fellow's legs were put through a sort of wooden press. The screws were tightened until he lost consciousness.

Three types of "water cure" were used by the Japanese in Fort Santiago and the city jail. In one type they inserted a rubber tube through a man's throat and they filled him with water. In another case, a fellow had his hands and feet tied and while lying on his back, his face was covered with an empty sack. A water hose was turned full on his face until he lost consciousness. The sack was removed from his face and he was questioned when he regained consciousness. Every time he gave a negative answer the process was repeated.

The emersion of prisoners in drums of water caused the deaths of some prisoners. If prisoners do not die from asphyxiation, they develop water in the lungs. Several of our companions who were given this "water cure" in Fort Santiago died in Muntinlupa.

Fort Santiago had many kinds of gadgets used for extorting confessions from war prisoners. Prisoners who were taken to Fort Santiago in November and December 1944 including our companions who were left there were presumably executed because none came out to tell what had happened.

There was an exodus of prisoners taken to the city jail beginning August last year. Every cell was jammed full of prisoners and many had to sleep sitting. Investigation went on night and day and the howling and crying of prisoners from torture and punishment could be heard throughout day and night.

We know about 150 prisoners in the city jail were executed late November last year. A companion who was among the last bunch transferred to Muntinlupa worked as tailor for Japanese officers in the city jail. He made the eye bands for those sentenced to be executed. He counted the number of eyebands he made and the guards who were friendly to him told him the number executed every day. The condemned prisoners were taken at dawn in trucks to the North Cemetery where they were beheaded. Guards come into the tailor shop to wipe fresh blood stains from their swords with pieces of cloth.

Political prisoners in Muntinlupa were scheduled for execution. On the morning of Saturday, February 3, 1945, ten of our companions who were sentenced to 15 years and above were taken by the guards. They were instructed to bring everything they had. We thought they would be transferred to another place. Upon reaching the guard house, the prisoners were ordered to leave their luggage.

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They were accompanied by ten soldiers and marched to Camp 3 (cemetery). We heard ten shots. After a while the soldiers returned and told us by signs what had happened to the ten prisoners.

The guards told us there would be no shooting on Sunday, Feb. 4th, but immediately after breakfast they called names. Nineteen were taken and marched to Camp 3. Several of this number were able to escape by jumping into the canal before the soldiers could fire and hiding in the woods. Eleven prisoners who were called in the afternoon (Feb. 4th) had their hands tied securely behind their back before they were marched to Camp 3. They were all shot dead.

We knew then that we were all to be executed. We were like mad dogs in our cells. We were planning for a mass escape. That night we slept with shoes and everything ready for the coming of the guerrillas who would come to free us. The Japanese must have gotten wind of our intention. They kept the light on the whole night and doubled the guards.

The following morning, we learned the Americans were in Manila and the Japanese soldiers in Muntinlupa were leaving. There was tearful rejoicing among the prisoners which broke in pandemonium at 2 o'clock when the Assistant Director of Prison told us we were freemen and could go home. Many of us gathered in silent prayer to thank GOD for our deliverance.

We were released from Muntinlupa February 5, 1945. After spending a week in a friend's house, I walked home to Manila with another friend. We spent three days on the way and when we arrived in Manila, we found our homes burned. I found two of my children, a son and a daughter living with friends in Tondo. They came from our farm in Ipo, Norasagaray, Bulacan where they evacuated with their mother, brother and sisters late in December 1944. The Japanese ejected them from our house in Ipo, confiscated food stuff, chickens, four carabao, four cows, two horses and even our dogs.

My wife, four children, three grand children and mother-in-law were cut off by the Japanese who would not permit them to go to the lowlands. They went with the barrio people to the mountains. Our house in Ipo was burned by the Japanese and my family is still missing. I went to search for them several times and I have made preparations to lead a search party October 5 to comb the mountains for the missing members of my family.

Serafin Aquino
SERAFIN AQUINO
Captain, Inf.
On Duty Sp. Services (PA)

27 September 1945.

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A F F I D A V I T

I, IRIBO BUENCONCEJO, Colonel, (PA), ASN O-1027, 58 years old, married, residing at 2432 Isagani St., Manila, after having been duly sworn according to law, depose and say:

That at the outbreak of the war, I was the Assistant Chief of Staff, G-1, PA; that on or about 20 Dec 41, I was directed by the Chief of Staff to organize the "Anti-Sabotage Regiment"; that on or about 24 December 41, the "Anti-Sabotage Regiment" relieved two Constabulary Regiments of their duties in guarding military and vital civil installations in Manila and the concentration camps where Japs civilians were concentrated; that on 26 December 41, the City of Manila was declared an "Open City" and the Anti-Sabotage Regiment under my command was ordered by the Chief of Staff to remain in Manila to perform police duties; that after the entry of the Japs on the evening of 2 Jan 42, I was taken by the Japs Kempei but was allowed to return to my office at midnight after I had convinced them that I was left in the city to protect the inhabitants thereof from lawless elements; that after the entry of the Japs many of my men escaped and only about 500 officers and men remained; that on 3 Jan 42, the Chief of the Kempei, Col. Ohta, directed me, after we were disarmed, to continue our duties as police officers; that on 31 Jan 42, the Regiment was disbanded but I was, together with several ranking Constabulary Officers who were attached to my Regiment, directed to remain on duty and organize the Bureau of Constabulary and on 2 Feb 42, I was appointed First Assistant Director of the Constabulary.

That during the months of January, February, March and April, 42, with the help of Col. Guido and Capt. Villafría of the Intelligence Division, PC, who were also left in Manila and attached to my Regiment, I secured information of some value to our forces in Corregidor and Bataan and transmitted such information thru Major Rueda, who is now in the United States.

That many officers who escaped from the "death march" and later engaged in guerrilla or underground resistance movement activities came to see me for advise.

That I made arrangements with the Executive Officer of the San Lazaro Hospital for the accommodation of the sick soldiers who escaped from the Death March, having brought there for treatment and hospitalization several of them.

That unfortunately, my activities have been found out by the Kempei and early on the morning of 19 July 42, I was arrested by Kempeis under command of a Captain Hanasi (my home searched) together with my son Oscar, a corporal who manage to escape from the "Death March", and my nephew, Tomas Inocencio.

That upon arrival at Fort Santiago we were separated. I was tagged on my shirt and after removing my belt, I was shoved into room No. 2, about 10' x 14' where about eleven persons were confined. Before entering the room I found out that Col. Guido, Capt Villafria (and two other officers of my Regiment who were released after 2-1/2 months) Senator Rodriguez and his son, Governor Rodriguez were also arrested.

The cell was poorly ventilated and dark that a 10 watt bulb had to be kept lighted day and night. At the Northwest corner there was a hole in the floor about 8" x 16" in which a metal basin was kept for toilet. The basin was not big enough to contain the urine, etc, of ten men for 12 hours and as it was emptied only every morning the contents used to overflow. This with the stench of dirty bodies was just too much for anyone to endure that when I entered that cell I thought I'd suffocate. Nature, however, adjusts itself that after two or three weeks I became "part of it". At the Northeast corner was another hole with an inverted faucet about 4" below the floor level where the guests could drink by kneeling down and bending down and drink water as chickens do. Here we used to wash our hands and faces also and due to scanty ration of toilet paper, only four pieces each per day, many had to wash their buttocks after using the toilet least particles of dirt be left on their drawers which would naturally increase the body aroma. After two hours two other prisoners were stuffed in that room - a total of 14 in a place small enough for seven.

The prisoners were made to sit on the floor with the feet closed together, knees at the height of the chin, hands clasped together below the knees; no talking, no looking around, allowed to stand only when going to the toilet or drinking hole; no leaning against the wall. Violation of any of these would mean slapping or kicking - not only of the violators but all the prisoners in the room. I was slapped several times that way. Sitting as above described is from "reveille" to about 9 PM. Buttocks of prisoners became black and calloused and, I supposed, if continued for years, prisoners would develop "monkey seats".

There was no clothing nor blankets issued. Many prisoners, specially those arrested at night came in with only their undershirts and drawers - some only with drawers - they were not allowed to put on anything, they had to come in the clothing they had at the time of their arrests.

We had to sleep on the floor like sardines - some had to lie down over the toilet covers and over the cover of the drinking hole. With the light on, the howling of victims in the torture chambers nearby, specially the gasping of those under water cure (investigations conducted day and night) the kicking of horses in the stables close to the walls of the cells, the stamping of boots on the floors by haughty Kempels, the whipping and slapping, the angry voices of the investigators, made sleep impossible for new comers, let alone the worry and fear of the fate awaiting him. They would open the cell door violently at night and call out a prisoner for investigation; some of them I learned later never came back - might have been released of

Prisoners as a rule were kept in Fort Santiago only for two or three months but there were two cases I knew of a prisoner who had been there for more than seven months - forgotten, until by accident they were noticed and set free - "sorry, sorry, Mistake". My son Oscar was released after two months, but my nephew, Tomas Inocencio, who had no fault at all except that he was under my care was released after three months. After the investigation of each case is completed the prisoner (if he survived) was transferred to Bilibid Prison to await Court Martial trial.

During the first month of my stay there we were not given bath nor taken out to sunlight, after that we were taken out of the room once a week for bath under a faucet - with only five minutes time for all the inmates of the room. We had to do it rush or else!

Food - a saucerful of rice, often times improperly cooked, on top of which was a spoonful or two of either "boiled" "cancong" leaves or "gabi" leaves which is irritating when properly cooked - for breakfast, lunch, and dinner. On several occasions we had "tulla" shells over our rice - with no "tulla" meats - but we were glad of the water in which it was boiled soaked in the rice. On rare instances we were given a small amount of fish - but meat and ~~fork~~ never.

No haircut - men who have been there for over three months were unrecognizable. I had grown a goatee and a long Kaiser Bill's mustache.

On my way out to the investigation room I noticed a group of four persons tied with wire together back to back forming a circle; they were on their way to a torture chamber proceeding thereto, urged by the blows of a ^Kempei - like crabs. I have not seen them returned to their chambers. This was about August, 1942.

On several occasions, I noticed prisoners on their way to their cells naked, with their backs "Blue and Red" due to severe beatings.

I was charged for "espionage", listening to foreign broadcasts and circulating "false rumors" and heading the guerrillas in Manila. My investigation lasted three weeks including the writing of my biography. They had sufficient evidence against me that it was useless to deny. I was almost tortured, however, when they were forcing me to complicate other officers of the Constabulary, and civil puppet officials including Secretary Vargas. I was investigated in different torture chambers where I saw evidence of the deviltry used in forcing confessions. The floors were spotted with blood.

Two prisoners, one of them was Manuel Fruto who was charged with "Propaganda" at first stoutly denied to reveal his companions despite untold tortures, became crazy after two months in Fort Santiago. He used to shout at any time, specially at night, and on one occasion the guard came out, made him sit down and gave him a severe kick on the chest that he fell backwards. Later he was shouting again and in his ravings, he mentioned the name of his companion "Raul Manlapos" - who was arrested the following day. (Manlapos was sent to Muntinlupa Prison - rescued - and is now a news reporter in Japan with the Army of Occupation).

Lady prisoners, including Miss Raymunda Guidote and Mrs. Baja (who was taken because they could not find Col Baja) were also crowded in one cell - and were treated just as anyone of us - no consideration of any kind.

The inmates in the cells frequently vary in number but the congestion is just temporarily relieved when others are taken out for release or otherwise, as new prisoners would certainly fill up the space. If they came in handcuffed, the irons were not removed till after one or two days. One was shoved in, badly bruised and bleeding with the handcuffs on and had to adjust himself in that condition for two days before they removed the handcuffs.

On 27 Oct 42, about 50 of us prisoners including Senator Rodriguez and his son Governor Rodriguez, Col. Guido and Capt Villafria were transferred to Bilibid prison where, before we were taken to the rooms, our long hair and beard were clipped. We were then to be known by numbers only. I was number 395. The conditions in Bilibid is just the continuation of Fort Santiago minus the stables near by. We had to spend our first two nights therein handcuffed in "pairs".

One prisoner in Bilibid who was accused for having taken part on the assault against a Japanese detachment in Bulacan told me that he was innocent but had to admit it after having been tortured and after several of his co-accused have died in the torture chamber.

On 11 Feb 42, Senator Rodriguez, Col. Guido, Capt Villafria, Governor Rodriguez and I, with others, were pardoned and released from Bilibid prisons after having been told that we must cooperate in the establishment of the New Philippines. In my case I was told to rejoin the Constabulary as soon as possible. I lost 45 pounds out of my original weight of 185 pounds - suffering from beri-beri, trench mouth or pporches, etc. The day previous our release our heads and faces were shaved "so that we may appear handsome". When I came out my best friends and even my wife could not recognize me - except for my voice.

On 27 May 43, I had been reappointed in a reduced rank (was dismissed as 1st Asst Director) as First Class Inspector of the Bureau of Constabulary (Lt.-Col) and assigned Superintendent of the Constabulary Academy.

On 20th Feb 44, my son, Lt Irineo Euenconcejo Jr, a veteran of Bataan, Oscar Ochoa, formerly a Cadet Colonel of the Far Eastern University, and Lt. Porfirio Bretana who was a guerrilla operative from Panay, Romblon and Mindoro, were arrested by the Kempei for organizing guerrilla units in Manila. Despite my warning, something went wrong and several handgrenades distributed by Lt. Bretana have been found - one of them in my own home. The boys apparently sustained, despite of tortures, that I had no knowledge of their activities. I was told to report to Fort Santiago but was released after three hours of questioning as to my connection with the activities of my son.

On July 44, I requested a Jap Kempei who was an instructor in the Constabulary Academy to deliver an undershirt and a pair of drawers to

my son in Fort Santiago but on the following day he returned me the clothing saying that my son was not there anymore.

On Sept 44, I requested the Director of Prison to find out the whereabouts of my son and his companions. He showed me the list of all the military and political prisoners in Muntinglupa but none of them appear in that list.

On or about Dec 44, I met several prisoners who were released from Fort Santiago one of them Lt. Fausto Tady who was arrested August 44. Lt Tady informed me that he was informed that my son was taken out one night already expiring after he was tortured that day. I have not met any one who can testify as to his death for which his widow and his little son have not as yet received any money - back pay, etc. All those imprisoned during 1944, testify that they were given only a very small amount of rice once a day. As those boys have not been heard from since then, I am positively sure that they must have died thru starvation at least. No one can live for more than seven months in Fort Santiago under such conditions.

On or about 20 Dec 44, several high ranking officers of the Constabulary, General Natividad, Colonel Fidel Cruz, Tomas Dumagal, Lt. Col. Francisco Luna, Major Monsod, Captain Villafria and Major Umali (Veterans of Bataan with the exception of Gen. Natividad, Major Umali and Capt Villafria) were arrested by the Kempei and have never been heard of. Major Ojeda was also arrested but was released about 15 Jan 45. Many civilians were also arrested and very few if any have returned home.

At about 7 PM 20 Jan 45, I was walking down Quezon Avenue when I noticed three trucks, covered with tarpaulin and guarded by Kempeis. At first I thought that they were loaded with coconuts but one of the "Coconuts" lifted itself high enough to partly lift the canvas and I noticed they were prisoners on the way to the North cemetery!.

Thru my own observation Fort Santiago has been used as:

a. A torture chamber used to extort information from persons taken there and as a warning to those who can not or refused to swallow the "Co-prosperity Sphere".

b. In 1942, and early part of 1943, not only important military or political personages were taken there but also any one who may be pointed out by their spies as USAFFE men who did not surrender, and those who tamper with "Zealed Bodegas". On Jan 42, Col. Ohta was relieved by Col Nagahama as Chief Kempei in the P.I. The latter initiated a policy of "Attraction" to win full cooperation of the Filipinos and because of that police eleven of us were released 11 Feb 43, and several others were released later - either from Fort Santiago or Muntinglupa.

c. Later in 1944, suspected guerrillas, non-collaborationists (one of those was Col Baja who had been arrested for the second time) persons suspected of listening to foreign broadcasts were taken in. That only a few of those taken in 1944 were released - due to anger of Col Nagahama for the failure of his "policy of attraction".

d. That very few persons were released and able to tell of something of the tortures inflicted to others and what had happened to them; we could only hear the howling and beating and watering but could not see them. (I forget to mention on the above paragraphs, the burning by cigars or cigarettes). When a victim is taken out of the room and is not returned, he may have been released, transferred to Bilibid or to Heaven.

e. That none of the well-known persons such as General Lim, Gen. Matividad, General de Jesus, Colonels, Moran, Magtoto, Fidel Cruz, Pastor Martelino, Tomas Dumacal, Lt. Col. Francisco Luna, Major Monsod and Urali who were arrested on the later part of 1944 and taken to Fort Santiago have not been seen or heard from. Several rumors, possibly propagated by Kempeis, have been circulated that Major Monsod was hanged by the feet and his head was covered with papers, soaked with oil and burned; That Gen de Jesus was fed alive to the crocodiles in the aquarium.

f. That upon reoccupation of the Philippines no prisoners were recovered from Fort Santiago. I tried my best to find out about it because of my son who might be one of them but found no one. I can not testify as to any records or documents that might have been seized although I presume that there was none as the buildings have been burned.

g. It is a well known fact that no Filipino Prisoners have been taken to prison camps in Taiwan, Korea, Japan or elsewhere.

The Kempei Chiefs were: Col. Ohta later relieved by Col. Nagahama, Lieut Col. Kudama, Major Numura and Captain Hanasi, Chief of Investigations. The highest ranking NCO investigator was Sgt-Major Shibata. Investigations were never conducted by officers because they are supposed to be "civilized". Enlisted men investigators had the power and authority to do anything with the prisoners.

Immo B. Bunc
IMMO BUNCONGEO
Col. Inf (GSC)
#1027

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to before me this 27 day of Sept
1945, at Manila

J. Janway
(Administering Officer)
Major. GSC
(Bank and Br of Sv)

Officers I know to have been picked up by Japanese Military Police. Information is to the effect that they have been killed.

NAMES	:	RANK	:	REMARKS
1. Vicente Lim	:	Brig-Gen	:	CO, 41st Inf Div (PA). Was (PA) : taken into custody by Jap : : MP sometime in August, 1944
2. Fidel Segundo	:	Brig-Gen	:	CO, 1st Regular Division (PS) : (PA). Picked by Jap MP about : : later part of November, 1944
3. Simeon de Jesus	:	Brig-Gen	:	On duty, G-2, USAFFE, Bataan. (PA) : Picked about September, 1944
4. Manuel Olympia	:	Colonel	:	Chief, MS (PA) after death (PA) : of Col Luna. Picked early : : part of August, 1944.
5. Juan Moran	:	Colonel	:	Chief of Staff, 11th Inf Div (PS) : (PA). Picked between November : : and December, 1944.
6. Alejandro Garcia	:	Colonel	:	Artillery Commander, 2nd Reg- (PS) : ular Division (PA). Picked : : earlier than 1944.
7. Fidel N. Cruz	:	Lt.-Col	:	CO, 41st Inf Regt (PA). Picked (PA) : about December, 1944
8. Arsenio Natividad	:	Colonel	:	Anti-Sabotage Regiment. Pick- (PA) : ed about December, 1944.
9. Francisco Luna	:	Major	:	G-3, 21st Inf Div (PA). Pick- (PA) : ed around December, 1944
10. Pastor Martelino	:	Colonel	:	Chief of Staff, 31st Inf Div (PS) : (PA). Picked around November : : or December, 1944
11. Eustaquio Esclig	:	Colonel	:	Chief of Staff, 101st Inf Div (PS) : (PA). No idea as to date picked.
12. Lorenzo Santa Maria	:	Major	:	On duty, G-4, USAFFE. No idea (PA) : when picked.
13. Vivencio Orais	:	Major	:	Chief of Staff (PA) : : :
14. Jacinto R. Aguila	:	Major	:	CO of a Bn, 71st Inf Div (PA) (PA) : No idea when taken by Jap MP
15. Alberto O. Fenix	:	Captain	:	Asst. Adjutant General, 2nd (PA) : Regular Division (PA). No : : idea when taken into custody
16. Jose P. Guido	:	Lt.-Col	:	With Anti-Sabotage Regiment. (PA) : Date picked up by Jap MP, - : : I have no idea.
17. Avelino D. Villafría	:	Captain	:	With Anti-Sabotage Regiment. (PA) : May have been picked up : : around December, 1944

Cont'd -

18. Godofredo R. Monsod	: Major	: CC, 2nd Bn, 4th MC Regt.	: Picked up around December, 1944
	: (PA)		
19. Tomas Domasal	: Lt.-Col	: Chief of Staff, 41st Inf Div	: (PA). Picked around Dec., 1944
	: (PA)		

M. F. Tauwauco
M. F. Tauwauco, F-1362
Major 95C

Note: Am not sure as to time when above-named officers were picked up by Lap Det.

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IV.

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Cremated Re-
mains