

Dec. 24, 1946

Minutes of the Court.

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Reuter

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I N D E X  
Of  
WITNESSES

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I N D E X  
Of  
EXHIBITS

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1  
2 Tuesday, 24 December, 1946

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5 INTERNATIONAL MILITARY TRIBUNAL  
6 FOR THE FAR EAST  
7 Court House of the Tribunal  
8 War Ministry Building  
9 Tokyo, Japan

10 The Tribunal met, pursuant to adjournment,  
11 at 0930.

12 Appearances:

13 For the Tribunal, same as before with the  
14 exception of: HONORABLE JUSTICE D. JARANILLA, Member  
15 from the Republic of the Philippines, not sitting.

16 For the Prosecution Section, same as before.

17 For the Defense Section, same as before.

18 The accused:

19 All present except OKAWA, Shunel, who is  
20 represented by his counsel.

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23 English to Japanese and Japanese  
24 to English interpretation was made by the  
25 Language Section, IMTFE.)



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1 MARSHAL OF THE COURT: The International  
2 Military Tribunal for the Far East is now in  
3 session.

4 THE PRESIDENT: At the close of the prose-  
5 cution's case the Tribunal will be prepared to enter-  
6 tain any motion the defense may care to make to dis-  
7 miss the case on some or all of the counts on the  
8 ground that there is not sufficient evidence to  
9 warrant a conviction.

10 Mr. Levin, do you want anything elucidated?

11 MR. LEVIN: No, your Honor. That is quite  
12 satisfactory.

13 THE PRESIDENT: I do not know whether you  
14 want to submit on all the counts or on some only that  
15 there is not sufficient evidence, but we will hear  
16 whatever motion you have to make in that regard.  
17 I understand you want one general motion and a  
18 motion in respect of individual accused; is that so?

19 MR. LEVIN: That is correct, Mr. President.  
20 The motion would address itself, Mr. President, to  
21 the individual counts and also to the individual  
22 defendants.

23 THE PRESIDENT: I am asked to stress the  
24 fact that the accused, by their counsel, applied to  
25 me in Chambers for liberty to make that motion. I,



1 of course, left it to the whole Bench.

2 I understand that you will reduce what you  
3 have to say to writing in each case so that we may  
4 have simultaneous translations. You might let the  
5 prosecution know beforehand so that they may do like-  
6 wise if they decide to oppose the motion, as they  
7 will, of course.

8 MR. LEVIN: I assume from the character of  
9 the motions, Mr. President, that it will be neces-  
10 sary for counsel to prepare their motions in writing  
11 in advance, and, naturally, they could have copies  
12 for translation purposes given to the interpreters.  
13 I presume it would not be necessary for us to serve  
14 the prosecution with copies of our motions in ad-  
15 vance.

16 THE PRESIDENT: We would like a simultaneous  
17 translation of the prosecution's reply. That is why  
18 you would have to give them your argument in advance.

19 MR. LEVIN: As these will be prepared, I am  
20 sure that we can readily comply with that suggestion,  
21 Mr. President.

22 THE PRESIDENT: Have you any idea how long  
23 it will take?

24 MR. LEVIN: I haven't now, Mr. President,  
25 but I should imagine it would take at least a day.



RINGER

DIRECT

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

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MR. LEVIN: With regard to the statement that you made to the effect that the defense called on you in Chambers with reference to making this motion, we, of course, appreciate that all Proceedings in Chambers are part of the record, and, of course, therefore, it is part of the record, and it is fully recorded.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, that is arguable, but they are being kept as though they were.

Colonel Damste.

LIEUT. COLONEL DAMSTE: With your permission, your Honor.

- - -

M I C H A E L C. G. R I N G E R, called as a witness on behalf of the prosecution, resumed the stand and testified as follows:

DIRECT EXAMINATION

BY LIEUT. COLONEL DAMSTE (Continued):

Q Major, yesterday we were speaking about the kind of work that prisoners of war had to do. Was work heavy, the race of the prisoners and the climate considered?

A Yes. For white men in the tropics, working in the sun all day -- it was very exhausting work,



RINGER

DIRECT

1 - especially lastly when there was insufficient food.

2 Q It was manual labor, all?

3 A Yes, all heavy manual labor.

4 Q Can you give examples of the kind of work?

5 A Worked on airdromes right through the heat  
6 of the day; working on the docks unloading cement in  
7 holes with cement dust all over men's bare bodies;  
8 working in swamps building ack-ack and searchlight  
9 battery sights; in the Pakan Baru area, working on  
10 railroads.

11 Q What were their working hours, Major?

12 A In our camp, working hours were from eight  
13 a.m. to one p.m., from three p.m. to six p.m. This  
14 was Tokyo time which was two hours ahead of sun time.

15 Q And what about the holidays?

16 A At first we had one day off a week; later-  
17 ally, a half day. But, in this half day, we had to  
18 do camp fatigue, that is, just digging graves.

19 Q Did the sick have to work?

20 A Yes, because, if they didn't work, they would  
21 be on minimum rations. So, men were working practic-  
22 ally up to the last day of their lives.

23 Q But were they also ordered to work if they  
24 were sick?

25 A We were told to send down a quota of workers



RINGER

DIRECT

1 every day, and we had to fulfill this quota irre-  
2 spective of whether the men were sick or not.

3 Q Who supervised the work?

4 A The work was supervised by camp guards  
5 and also guards from the companies that employed  
6 the prisoner of war labor.

7 Q How did the supervisors behave?

8 A Supervisors were very strict, and any  
9 slackness brought beatings with bamboo or leather  
10 belts; and often men were made to stand with heavy  
11 logs of wood held over their heads for many hours  
12 in the sun.

13 Q Were complaints lodged about beatings?

14 A At first, yes, both written and verbal.

15 Q And did the Camp Commandant correct those  
16 subordinates?

17 A No. We were advised by the interpreter not  
18 to send in letters of complaint, that it would merely  
19 annow the senior staff. On one occasion, after we  
20 had complained, the commander -- Commander Reed and  
21 myself were brutally beaten.

22 Q How were alleged offenses against the orders  
23 dealt with?

24 A By corporal punishment, the spot and mass  
25 camp punishments.



RINGER

DIRECT

1 Q You say "on the spot." So, not after  
2 court martial or after proper investigation?

3 A No, not after investigations or court  
4 martials except in one case: Corporal Saunders  
5 who allegedly hit a Japanese soldier. He was court  
6 martialed and imprisoned for a term of five years  
7 and died of beri-beri in March, 1943.

8 Q How do you know this?

9 A We were told by the Japanese that he had  
10 been sentenced, and we later had an official death  
11 certificate sent to the camp. We were told this was  
12 an example case and that any further alleged hitting  
13 of Japanese would be punished even more severely.

14 Q What was the nature of the corporal punish-  
15 ment inflicted?

16 A Slappings, beatings with sticks and leather  
17 belts.

18 Q Beatings for a long time or just a few  
19 slaps?

20 A Usually the men were beaten until they  
21 fell, and then they were kicked until they were un-  
22 conscious.

23 Q Were there any injuries inflicted?

24 A Yes, many cases of broken limbs, fractured  
25 jaws, cracked eardrums.



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Q More serious cases even?

A In two cases, after men had been beaten, they became so despondent that they gave up the ghost and died three weeks to four weeks later.



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1 Q Were prisoners tortured?

2 A Yes.

3 Q In which way?

4 A By putting bamboos between the prisoners'  
5 fingers and squeezing the bamboos together till  
6 their fingers were crushed.

7 Prisoners were laid in a squatting position  
8 and a log of wood was put under their knees and guards  
9 would jump on the ends of the logs.

10 Prisoners were burned, the soles of their  
11 feet and their hands, with lighted cigarettes.

12 On one occasion -- I was present -- the  
13 prisoner had his head forced into a bucket of chili  
14 water. He was blind for six days after.

15 Q Did the Japanese commandant know about these  
16 brutalities?

17 A Yes, from our complaints; and also in the  
18 chili water case the Japanese camp commandant was  
19 actually present.

20 THE MONITOR: Mr. Witness, by "chilly" water  
21 do you mean cold water, ice water, something like that?

22 THE WITNESS: No, it was water with chili.

23 THE MONITOR: Chili in it -- oh, I see.

24 I am sorry.

25 Q What was the sort of confinement that was



RINGER

DIRECT

1 applied?

2 A In our camp a wire cage, barbed wire cage  
3 was built, 6 by 4. It had a flat atap roof and no  
4 protection on the sides at all. It was built on the  
5 plain earth and on top of a red ants' nest. At one  
6 time there were nine prisoners confined in this  
7 cage. They were on minimum ration of just rice and  
8 water and no salt. They had to stand at attention  
9 all day long, and most of them had to stand most of  
10 the night as there wasn't any room even to sit. Two  
11 of these prisoners had been sentenced to ninety days  
12 and sixty days, respectively, but after sixteen days  
13 they were so covered with tropical ulcers that they  
14 were allowed to go to the hospital.

15 Q Was that the only place of confinement?

16 A In other camps wooden cells were built with  
17 no light in.

18 Q Apart from the case you mentioned, was food  
19 withheld by way of punishment?

20 A In one case the whole camp was shut up for  
21 three days on a minimum ration of 150 grams of rice  
22 a day.

23 Q Was collective punishment inflicted in  
24 other ways also?

25 A Yes. On another occasion at ten o'clock at



RINGER

DIRECT

1       night we were all paraded at camp, including sick from  
2       the hospital. We were there until four o'clock in the  
3       morning. Owing to exhaustion and the cold, three of  
4       the hospital patients died during the next day.

5               Q     What was the reason for this punishment?

6               A     It was alleged that someone had stole some  
7       tapioca roots from our own gardens and until those  
8       who confessed came forward we were told we had to  
9       stay on parade.

10              Q     Do you know, Major, what happened to recap-  
11       tured escapees?

12              A     Yes. In March 1942, three Australians tried  
13       to escape and were caught. They were brought back  
14       and beheaded. There was no investigation or court-  
15       martial.

16                     Another case in the Pakan Baru Camp, a Dutch  
17       soldier by the name of Aldering, who was a mental  
18       case, was caught outside the camp and was severely  
19       beaten by the Kempeitai. He was handed over to the  
20       Japanese camp commandant, who put him in a cell with  
21       no food or water at all until he died.  
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RINGER

DIRECT

1 THE PRESIDENT: Do you know the names of  
2 the Australians who were decapitated?

3 THE WITNESS: No, sir. One was a warrant  
4 officer and the other two were sergeants.

5 Q Did the Allied senior officers protest  
6 against these brutalities, and to whom?

7 A Yes, in the case of Aldering the camp com-  
8 mander complained to the Japanese camp commandant,  
9 who showed us an order which was also in our camp,  
10 dated April '43, Tokyo. In this order there were  
11 twenty-eight offenses listed and the punishments  
12 applicable. The punishment for attempted escape  
13 was death.

14 Q How did the Japanese act against the native  
15 population?

16 A On one occasion, during an air raid pre-  
17 cautions, an Indonesian was found just outside our  
18 camp with a fire. He was brought up to the guard  
19 room where he was severely beaten and tortured.  
20 Boiling water from our cook house was taken and  
21 poured over him. We heard his screams until about  
22 three o'clock next morning, and the next morning we  
23 saw his dead body in front of the guard room.

24 THE PRESIDENT: Have you any further de-  
25 tails about that alleged Tokyo order?



RINGER

DIRECT

1 THE WITNESS: Yes, sir. In September 1944  
2 this order was put up on the camp notice board.  
3 Such offenses as hitting Japanese soldiers, spying,  
4 making maps, were some of the offenses listed.

5 THE PRESIDENT: Did it purport to come  
6 from any particular persons or body in Tokyo?

7 THE WITNESS: No, sir. It was merely  
8 dated Tokyo, April 1943.

9 THE PRESIDENT: It didn't refer to any  
10 particular command?

11 THE WITNESS: Down at the bottom it was  
12 signed in Japanese, but I don't know what the  
13 Japanese meant.

14 THE PRESIDENT: Were the three Australians  
15 airmen?

16 THE WITNESS: No, sir; they were Australian  
17 artillery men.

18 Q Do you know other cases about acting of the  
19 Japanese against the native population of Sumatra?

20 A After the surrender the Javanese chief of a  
21 coolie party came to see us and asked if we could  
22 help his men. Two thousand Javanese coolies had  
23 been brought up in October 1943 to make an air-  
24 strip just behind our camp. In June 1945 when this  
25 strip had been completed the Japanese took no



RINGER

DIRECT

1 responsibility for these coolies and gave them no  
2 pay or food. When the chief reported to us there  
3 were only 700 coolies left. Even these were in a  
4 dreadful state with tropical ulcers, and although  
5 we did our best still many died. On many occasions  
6 when I was in charge of working parties in the city  
7 I saw Indonesians tied to trees and lamp posts.  
8 Any Japanese who passed them was entitled to beat  
9 them and they usually did. Some of these men were  
10 there for three or four days, until they died.

11 Q Were the prisoners of war allowed to keep  
12 their valuables and money?

13 A No, we were not allowed to have any more  
14 money in our possession than camp pay. All valuables  
15 had to be handed in to the Japanese commandant's  
16 office.

17 Q And did you get them back after the war?

18 A About thirty to forty per cent was received  
19 back at the end of the war. For the rest the men  
20 were given a certain amount of money which these  
21 goods were allegedly sold for.

22 Q What kind of money?

23 A Japanese occupation guilders, which were  
24 practically useless after the surrender.

25 Q You said the prisoners were paid. How



RINGER

DIRECT

1 much?

2 A Senior officers received 50 occupation  
3 guilders a month, junior officers 40. NCOs and  
4 other ranks, if they worked, were paid 25 cents  
5 and 15 cents a day, respectively.  
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1 Q Were the prisoners of war allowed to buy  
2 supplementary food and clothing?

3 A Yes, up to the total amount of their camp  
4 pay. As one shirt cost approximately three hundred  
5 guilders, it was impossible to buy any clothing.

6 Q When drafted to another camp, were the  
7 prisoners allowed to take their belongings with them?

8 A Prisoners of war were only allowed to take  
9 what they could carry, which meant that those who had  
10 acquired any bedding or mosquito netting or such would  
11 have to leave them behind.

12 Q Were belongings searched when arriving at  
13 a new camp?

14 A All personal effects were searched on leaving  
15 a camp or entering a new camp; and any valuables or  
16 anything the guard would like, he looted it.

17 Q Were prisoners allowed to write letters?

18 A No, only post cards twice a year and were  
19 only allowed to send twenty-five words on each post  
20 card.

21 Q Were these letters ever received as far as  
22 you know?

23 A Yes. Most of the post cards were actually  
24 received.

25 Q And did the prisoners receive letters?



RINGER

DIRECT

1           A    In our camp odd batches were received.  
2    After we were released, when I was in Singapore I  
3    was acting as adjutant for the prisoners of war who  
4    had been released from our camp. I was given thousands  
5    of letters that had been stored in Singapore and not  
6    delivered to us.

7           Q    Were next of kind informed of the death of  
8    a prisoner of war?

9           A    No, next of kin were not informed.

10          Q    What happened to the belongings of those  
11    who died?

12          A    The belongings of those who died were taken  
13    to Japanese headquarters where they were sold and  
14    the money accruing was supposed to be credited to  
15    the next of kin. The usual procedure was that the  
16    Japanese officers would buy this stuff at official  
17    prices and then resell it in the market at black  
18    market prices.

19          Q    Were any Red Cross parcels distributed?

20          A    Yes. In November, 1942, we received a fairly  
21    large shipment of Red Cross goods. Again in September,  
22    1944, we received a very small amount; but one parcel  
23    for sixteen men.

24          Q    Had these parcels been opened before or not?

25          A    Not in November, 1942; but in September, 1944



RINGER

DIRECT

1 most of these parcels had been opened and the  
2 cigarettes, American Chesterfields and Lucky Strikes,  
3 were taken out. Out of the medical supplies our  
4 liaison officer actually saw the Japanese doctor  
5 take out the M and B tablets.

6 Q What recreation did the Japanese allow?

7 A We were allowed to read books when we could  
8 get them. All the books had to have a censorship  
9 stamp in them. Even our Bibles and prayer books  
10 had to be stamped. We were allowed to play cards  
11 and bridge, chess, draughts, and other such games.

12 Q Was any canteen allowed?

13 A Yes. We were allowed a canteen; but latterly  
14 we were only allowed to buy at official prices and  
15 there were no goods available at official prices.

16 Q What about sport? Was that possible and  
17 allowed?

18 A Yes. At first we were allowed to play at  
19 basketball; but latterly, owing to malnutrition and  
20 exhaustion, prisoners were much too tired to play  
21 any sports.

22 THE PRESIDENT: You need not cover all  
23 breaches of the Geneva Convention, Colonel.

24 Q Were prisoners of war exposed to air attacks?

25 A Yes. We had no air raid trenches; and during



RINGER

DIRECT

1 an air raid we were shut up in the atap huts with  
2 no protection whatsoever. After the raid in August,  
3 1944, we never had any lights in the camp at all.  
4 After a raid of the 25th of January, 1945, two bombs  
5 were dropped on the perimeter of the camp. Several  
6 prisoners were injured, but in spite of this we were  
7 still not allowed to dig trenches.

8 Q Were the camps visited by high-ranking  
9 Japanese officers?

10 A Only once were we visited, and that was by  
11 General SAITO in April, 1944.

12 Q Were opportunities given to the prisoners  
13 of war to lodge complaints on such occasions?

14 A No. We were all concentrated on the parade  
15 ground and heavily guarded while the General walked  
16 around the camp.

17 Q Did conditions change after that inspection?

18 A No. After this particular inspection con-  
19 ditions became worse. Prisoners of war had to shave  
20 their heads. We had orders that all prisoner of war  
21 officers and men would pay respects to all Japanese  
22 whether officers or other ranks. We were forced to  
23 give orders to our own men in the Japanese language.

24 Q After the war was over, did the Japanese High  
25 Command appear to be aware of the conditions that had



RINGER

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1 existed in prisoner of war camps?

2 MR. BLEWETT: We object to that question,  
3 if your Honor please, unless the witness knows of  
4 his own knowledge.

5 A Yes. I interviewed the staff officers of  
6 the Japanese 25th Army including General TANABE  
7 himself.

8 THE PRESIDENT: Colonel Damste, were you  
9 endeavoring to establish that the Japanese disregarded  
10 the Prisoners of War Convention in every detail?

11 LIEUT. COLONEL DAMSTE: In the most important  
12 details, sir. I have almost finished my interrogation.

13 THE PRESIDENT: Perhaps we should let you  
14 show that it was entirely disregarded if you are in  
15 a position to do so.

16 We will recess for fifteen minutes.

17 (Whereupon, at 1045, a recess was taken  
18 until 1100, after which the proceedings were  
19 resumed as follows:)  
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1 MARSHAL OF THE COURT: The International  
2 Military Tribunal for the Far East is now resumed.

3 THE PRESIDENT: Colonel Damste.

4 BY LIEUT. COLONEL DAMSTE: (Continued)

5 Q Major, you were speaking about General TANABE,  
6 was he aware of the conditions in prisoner of war  
7 camps that existed during his command?

8 A He appeared to be completely ignorant of the  
9 brutalities and the tortures that were going on in the  
10 camps. He was aware of the ration scales laid down.

11 Q Could he explain the lack of control?

12 A He stated his staff officers were too busy  
13 to inspect prisoner of war camps.

14 Q Major, have you omitted anything that might  
15 be said in favor of the treatment of the Japanese  
16 towards the prisoners of war?

17 A Yes. After we signed the parole forms Major  
18 MATSUDAIRA, our Japanese Commandant, did his best for  
19 us. When the first Red Cross parcels arrived in Octo-  
20 ber he personally superintended the issue of these  
21 and none were looted. He even tried to assist us in  
22 sending some to the women internees. But this request  
23 was turned down by the governor of Palembang. He,  
24 unfortunately, left us in early 1943.

25 Q Major, have you witnessed or investigated



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1 any other atrocities?

2 A The day I was captured a Mr. Bowden, the  
3 Australian Trade Commissioner from Singapore, was on  
4 the same launch. As senior man who could speak  
5 Japanese, he took on the job of interpreter. A month  
6 after we were taken to a large cinema hall where our  
7 baggage was searched by a Japanese corporal. Mr. Bow-  
8 den claimed diplomatic privileges. This Japanese  
9 corporal, I was standing about five feet away from  
10 him, beat him over the face and kicked him. He called  
11 to his private to bring his rifle. Mr. Bowden was  
12 marched out. We heard two shots. The Japanese cor-  
13 poral and the private then came back into the cinema  
14 hall. The private cleaned the rifle and put it back  
15 in the rack. Soon after this we moved up to coolie  
16 lines where internees and prisoners of war were all  
17 mixed. I took over as interpreter. I checked through  
18 the guardroom and a Corporal McGahan of the RAF told  
19 me that he and two companions had surrendered to a  
20 Japanese patrol. They had their hands up but were  
21 promptly bayoneted and were kicked into the ditch by  
22 the side of the road and again bayoneted. Corporal  
23 McGahan had three bayonet wounds through his body.

24 A few days later I checked through the guard-  
25 room and Stoker Loyd, he was the only one that had



DAMSTE

DIRECT

1 escaped from a party of 16 men who had been shot and  
2 bayoneted on the beaches of Bangka.

3 And again towards the end of February I  
4 checked through the guardroom, Sister Bullwinkle --  
5 Sister Bullwinkle was the only survivor of some 22  
6 women who had been shot on the beaches of Bangka.

7 In July 1943 we were all of a sudden taken  
8 home from our working parties and shut up into the  
9 camp. Our sick from the Charitas Hospital were brought  
10 into camp. That evening Lieutenant Visser and a Dutch  
11 sergeant were arrested by the Kempei Tai. Dr. Teck-  
12 lenberg, Senior Medical Officer of the hospital, and  
13 all his staff including the Roman Catholic nuns were  
14 arrested. On the third day we resumed working parties.  
15 Three weeks later Lieutenant Visser and the Dutch  
16 sergeant were brought back into our camp. Their bodies  
17 were in a fearful state. They told us they had suf-  
18 fered the water torture; lighted cigars had been put  
19 out on their stomachs and private parts until they  
20 were forced to confess. About ten days later they  
21 were re-arrested by the Kempei Tai and were court  
22 martialed to prison sentences. After the surrender  
23 the two sisters who were serving prison sentences  
24 were released by the Kempei Tai and we accommodated  
25 them in our camp. Sister told me that Dr. Tecklenberg



DAMSTE

DIRECT

1 had been sentenced to work in the tin mines at Bangka.  
2 Dr. Tecklenberg died while he was working in the  
3 mines.  
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RINGER

DIRECT

1 THE PRESIDENT: What offense was alleged  
2 against him and the others?

3 THE WITNESS: The offenses alleged, sir, were  
4 that these men had been implicated in stirring up  
5 Ambon troops and telling them to hide arms, et cetera,  
6 for the return of the Allied troops; that messages  
7 from Lieutenant Visser were being sent through the  
8 Charitus Hospital which was being used as a spy center.

9 THE PRESIDENT: Were the sisters charged as  
10 spies?

11 THE WITNESS: No, they definitely were not  
12 spying.

13 THE PRESIDENT: Were they charged as such?

14 THE WITNESS: Yes, sir. They were charged as  
15 spies and saboteurs.

16 THE PRESIDENT: What nationality were they?

17 THE WITNESS: They were all Dutch, sir.

18 The sister herself had been beaten unconscious.  
19 When she recovered, her husband was brought in and she  
20 was told that unless she confessed her husband would  
21 be killed. Her husband, with eighty other Ambonese,  
22 were taken some eighteen miles down Palembang and  
23 murdered. We exhumed their bodies after the surrender.

24 THE PRESIDENT: Were any of those people given  
25 a trial?



RINGER

DIRECT

1 THE WITNESS: Dr. Tecklenberg, Lieutenant  
2 Visser, and the sergeant were given a trial, but the  
3 others were forced to confess and were given no trial.

4 THE PRESIDENT: Have you any information about  
5 the kind of trial they got?

6 THE WITNESS: Yes, sir. A Japanese military  
7 court martial with five judges. No defense counsel  
8 was allowed.

9 THE PRESIDENT: Did they understand what was  
10 said at the trial.

11 THE WITNESS: Yes, there was an interpreter  
12 there. The younger sister who refused to confess,  
13 she was taken -- she was stripped naked, taken to  
14 the door of the Kempei Tai building, and told she  
15 would be marched into the city and tied and left to  
16 a tree. So she confessed.

17 The chief of the Japanese coolies reported  
18 to us that from the air raid of January 25th two air-  
19 men had bailed out of an aircraft over the landing  
20 strip. One, who landed on the strip, was promptly  
21 beheaded; the second man was hung up in a tree and  
22 was bayoneted. Again on the raid of the 29th of Janu-  
23 ary, 1945, a burning aircraft tried to make a forced  
24 landing on the strip. Two airmen got out of the plane  
25 but were thrown back into flames by the Japanese.



RINGER

DIRECT

1 After the surrender -- we had seen on these two air  
2 riads seven airmen who had been exhibited in the city  
3 of Palembang blindfolded -- we asked the Kempei Tai  
4 what had happened to these seven men. They denied  
5 all knowledge. However, we searched the Kempei Tai  
6 building and we found their names written on the cell  
7 wall. They then admitted that these men had been sent  
8 to Singapore. These men were executed in Singapore  
9 in June, 1945. The Japanese responsible made full  
10 confessions and committed suicide. The case was known  
11 as "Operation Meridian."

12 BY. LIEUT. COLONEL DAMSTE:

13 Q Do you know of other cases?

14 A I investigated a case as an investigator in  
15 Medan, a party of prisoners of war who were escaping  
16 from Padang. These were caught, six British and two  
17 Dutch. They were taken out to an island and executed.  
18 One of our investigators went to the island last  
19 Ausut and the Javanese who actually buried these men  
20 showed us their graves and we exhumed the bones. These  
21 men were six British and two Dutch.

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Q Which was the island?

A The island was called Siberoeft.

Q Do you know about the cases in other camps?

A I have heard and read affidavits of other atrocities in other camps. On the island of Sabang on the north coast of Sumatra, 22 Dutch, the Governor of the island and his staff were all murdered.

Q Do you know about the other cases in other prisoner of war camps?

MR. LEVIN: Mr. President, it would seem to me that in view of the fact that we have had direct testimony as to conditions in other prisoner of war camps, that this evidence could only be hearsay, that this testimony now would be cumulative at best and not worth a great deal.

THE PRESIDENT: Evidence does not become cumulative merely because it is confirmatory. If the defense are not contesting what was said by other witnesses there is no need to examine this witness on the same matters. I think we can judge the defense's attitude from the absence of cross-examination. Perhaps you can take a hint from Mr. Levin, Colonel.

LIEUT. COLONEL DAMSTE: I finished my questions, Mr. President. I am still waiting for the answer of the witness.



RINGER

DIRECT

1           A    I cannot remember any other particular  
2 bad case.

3           MR. LEVIN: Mr. President.

4           THE PRESIDENT: Mr. Levin.

5           MR. LEVIN: There is no cross-examination  
6 of this witness.

7           THE PRESIDENT: The witness is released.

8           Is there any re-examination -- there would  
9 not be, of course.

10          The witness is released on the usual terms.

11                   (Whereupon, the witness was excused.)

12          THE PRESIDENT: What is next?

13          LIEUT. COLONEL DAMSTE: Mr. President, I  
14 would like to proceed with the area of Java.

15                 I offer prosecution document 5681 as an  
16 exhibit, being my synopsis about the area of Java.

17          THE PRESIDENT: Admitted on the usual terms.

18          CLERK OF THE COURT: Prosecution's document  
19 No. 5681 will receive exhibit No. 1703.

20                   (Whereupon, the document above  
21 referred to was marked prosecution's exhibit  
22 No. 1703 and received in evidence.)

23          THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

24          LIEUT. COLONEL DAMSTE: (Reading)

25                 "The Occupation by the Japanese Army; from



1 about 1 March 1942 until 2 September 1945, after the  
2 Japanese surrender.

3 "I. PRISONERS OF WAR:"--

4 MR. LEVIN: Mr. President.

5 THE PRESIDENT: Yes, Mr. Levin.

6 MR. LEVIN: I desire to object to the first  
7 paragraph of this exhibit on the grounds it again  
8 offends the rule of the Court, and that it is argu-  
9 mentative and a summation of evidence, and that it  
10 violates the rule laid down by the Court in connection  
11 with the use of the summaries in lieu of the statements  
12 themselves.

13 THE PRESIDENT: When we allowed a synopsis  
14 we expected a precis of the evidence and not a judge-  
15 ment on that evidence. The statement to which Mr.  
16 Levin refers appears to be very objectionable. You  
17 should read the affidavit on which it is based first  
18 so that we may form our own opinion.

19 LIEUT. COLONEL DAMSTE: As our affidavits  
20 mentioned between "a" and "c" the prosecution enters  
21 document 5778 of the prosecution for identification  
22 and the excerpt therefrom as an exhibit.

23 THE PRESIDENT: Admitted on the usual terms.

24 CLERK OF THE COURT: Prosecution's document  
25 No. 5778 will receive exhibit No. 1704 for identification



1 only. The excerpts therefrom, bearing the same docu-  
2 ment number, will receive exhibit No. 1704-A.

3 (Whereupon, the document above  
4 referred to was marked prosecution's  
5 exhibit No. 1704 for identification; the  
6 excerpt therefrom being marked prosecution's  
7 exhibit No. 1704-A and received in evidence.)  
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1                   LIEUT. COLONEL DAMSTE: I will read the  
2 statement, that is, page 2:

3                   "Around March 29, 1942, as a prisoner of  
4 war of the Japanese, I was in the M.U.L.O. -  
5 school building, corner Sumatrastraat/Javastraat,  
6 BANDOENG. Several medical officers had been  
7 sheltered there. It was known to us that there  
8 must be unburied bodies along the roads of action.  
9 Further it had come to our ears, via a soldier in  
10 the military hospital, that a mass execution had  
11 taken place near the turnpike on the road to the  
12 Tanghoeban Prahoe.

13                   "We, officers, urged Colonel Van Manen  
14 to go and look for these bodies; after much trouble  
15 Colonel Van Manen obtained at last, after three  
16 weeks, permission from the Japanese authorities to  
17 send a group of medical officers and subordinates  
18 with salvage tools. This group consisted of some  
19 thirty men under the leadership of Doctor Heystek.

20                   "On March 29, 1942, the medical officers,  
21 Doctor Wolthuis and I arrived at a quinquina planta-  
22 tion, situated at 300 meters from the principal  
23 road from Lembang to Soebang. Going towards Soebang  
24 left from the road and about 1 km. past the bifurca-  
25 tion 'turnpike'. There I saw in an uncovered spot



1 in young quinquina plants in a rectangular field of  
2 200 x 75 meters a great number of bodies in groups.  
3 These proved to be bodies of soldiers, in a far  
4 state of decomposition. On a closer view I noticed  
5 that these bodies were in groups of three or five  
6 people; these groups were bound together with puttees  
7 and ropes. I saw that on many corpses the hands  
8 were bound on the back, also with puttees, and that  
9 from nearly all bodies fingers had been cut off.

10 "No rings were found on the bodies. Be-  
11 tween the groups and the bodies themselves I saw  
12 several opened food tins. Then in collaboration  
13 with Doctor Wolthuis, each with a crew of subordin-  
14 ates we started on the identification of the bodies.  
15 Many bodies still had identity plates, which we  
16 collected, as well as the remaining personal prop-  
17 erties, like a few pocketbooks, paybooks, and so  
18 forth.

19 "During my internment I met two soldiers,  
20 survivors of the detachment of Lieutenant Postuma.  
21 In 1943, I do not remember the exact date, I spoke  
22 in the 15th Battalion, Bandoeng, with a soldier,  
23 which as I remember vaguely was called De Jong, of  
24 Dutch nationality, about thirty years of age, pro-  
25 fessional soldier. This person told me that he had



1 belonged to the detachment of Postuma and that,  
2 after a battle, he and the detachment had been  
3 made prisoner at the Tjiater. They had been  
4 brought together in a group of 70 men and put under  
5 guard. In the beginning there was no evidence of  
6 evil intentions on the part of the Japanese. They  
7 had even received cigarettes from the Japanese.  
8 After a few hours they had noticed that the frame  
9 of mind among the guards became nervous. Machine  
10 guns were installed by the guards and the soldiers  
11 tied together in groups with puttees. This binding  
12 had been done rather hard-handedly. All had realized  
13 that the end had come. One of the soldiers prayed  
14 for all. Then they had been led to an open field  
15 and had been machine gunned. The soldier in question  
16 told me further, that he had received a few shots  
17 in his legs. After all groups had been machine  
18 gunned and were lying on the field, Japanese soldiers  
19 came with their bayonets along the field and went  
20 between the victims. My informant declared that he  
21 had pretended to be dead and when the Japanese had  
22 gone he had succeeded in disengaging himself from  
23 his group and, after difficult wanderings had reached  
24 the main road. From there he was taken to Bandoeng  
25 in a passing Japanese truck, where he was accommodated



1 in the hospital. After his recovery he had been  
2 interned in the camp's 'Lands Opvoedings Gesticht'  
3 at Bandoeng. From there he was transferred in 1943  
4 as a former soldier to the 15th Battalion, Bandoeng;  
5 where he is now I don't know. In the 10th Battalion,  
6 Batavia, I met in 1944, but I do not remember the  
7 correct date, a second soldier surviving from the  
8 above mentioned detachment. This soldier, age also  
9 about 30, was a Eurasian. He told me the following:

10 "I was orderly to Lieutenant Postuma. Our  
11 detachment was taken prisoner at Tjiater, after a  
12 hard battle, even a hand-to-hand fight. I remember,  
13 for instance, that a European soldier made terrible  
14 havoc among the Japanese with his klewang. When  
15 Lieutenant Postuma decided to lay down arms, we all  
16 regretted it very much. After being apprehended I  
17 saw that that European soldier was thoroughly ill  
18 treated.

19 "Lieutenant Postuma had given us the order  
20 not to tell who was the commanding officer of our  
21 detachment, because he feared that the Japanese  
22 would interrogate him concerning the position of the  
23 Dutch troops. The Japanese put us together with 70  
24 soldiers in an open field and later we were tied  
25 together in groups of three or five with puttees and



1 rope. Thereupon we were machine gunned by the  
2 Japanese. I was tied fast to the group of  
3 Lieutenant Postuma; when we were machine gunned  
4 the lieutenant received a shot in the back of his  
5 head. He did not die at once and asked me not to  
6 leave him. A little later the lieutenant died. I  
7 was not fatally wounded myself, succeeded in dis-  
8 engaging myself and to reach the main road. Then I  
9 landed in the Bardoeng hospital. What his name is  
10 and where he is now, I don't know."

11 THE PRESIDENT: If that affidavit is true,  
12 what you have said about the episode is quite correct  
13 but, nevertheless, we do not want your assistance  
14 along those lines. We can form our own conclusion  
15 so we will disregard what you said and uphold the  
16 objection.

17 Apparently you intended to read the last  
18 affidavit because the interpreters were able to  
19 translate it simultaneously. Do you intend to read  
20 the others?

21 LIEUT. COLONEL DAMSTE: I intend to read  
22 No. 5779 after introducing it.

23 The prosecution enters document No. 5779  
24 for identification and the excerpt therefrom as an  
25 exhibit.



1 I may point out, Mr. President, that I  
2 had to change the sequence because of the fact of  
3 the objection of the defense because "a" and "c"  
4 deal with the fact that the prisoners of war were  
5 not immediately murdered.

6 THE PRESIDENT: We do not quite appreciate  
7 why you should do that, Colonel, but probably you  
8 have a good reason.

9 LIEUT. COLONEL DAMSTE: I prefer to read  
10 my synopsis in the sequence it was planned.

11 THE PRESIDENT: Document No. 5779 is  
12 admitted on the usual terms.

13 CLERK OF THE COURT: Prosecution's document  
14 No. 5779 will receive exhibit No. 1705 for identifi-  
15 cation only and the excerpt therefrom will receive  
16 exhibit No. 1705-A.

17 (Whereupon, the document above  
18 referred to was marked prosecution's exhibit  
19 No. 1705 for identification only; the excerpt  
20 therefrom being marked prosecution's exhibit  
21 No. 1705-A and received in evidence.)

22 LIEUT. COLONEL DAMSTE: With the Court's  
23 permission I would like to read the greater part of  
24 this affidavit. Before doing this I have to make a  
25 correction. For unknown reasons--



1 THE PRESIDENT: What is the correction,  
2 Colonel?

3 LIEUT. COLONEL DAMSTE: For unknown reasons  
4 the first seven lines of the statement of the depon-  
5 ent Moes have not been translated into Japanese.  
6 However, the court interpreter has been informed  
7 and has made the Japanese translation beforehand  
8 so at the same moment that I will read the seven  
9 lines in English the simultaneous translation of  
10 the Japanese will be read over the IBM.

11 THE PRESIDENT: We will hear the reading  
12 of this document on Thursday. We will adjourn  
13 until half-past nine on Thursday morning.

14 Whereupon, at 1155, an adjourn-  
15 ment was taken until Thursday, 26 December  
16 1946 at 0930.)

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