

Form Q War Crimes Information supplied by ex-Prisoners of War

2143A

Number: 1932 Name: ANTOUARD leon Rank: Warrant Officer: Detachment of Gendarmerie of Cochinchina-Cambodge  
Home Address: Gendarmerie, Saigon  
Date and Place of Capture: March 9, 1945, at 8:30 p.m. at my house situated 7 Avenue of Oyries, at Mytho City.

Date, Camp or Place	Particulars of the Criminal Act or Violation	Names where known, description rank, appointment, unit, etc., of enemy personnel concerned and any other detail to fix their identity.	Names of other Witnesses
9, 10 to 11 March 1945 at Mytho City	<p>Immediately after my capture I was taken to the post of the Japanese Kempeitai at Mytho, and immediately bound with ropes. Some were so tight that they made deep wounds on my wrists and fore arms. I was not untied until 12 o'clock of the following day.</p> <p>At 18 o'clock of the same I was taken away and locked up at the Mytho Provincial Prison. I was again threatened with the sword by Sgt. Kona, chief of the Japanese post at Mytho. I was not taken out until 11 o'clock of the following day to be taken to the former barracks of the Annamese Rifle Regiment at Mytho where I was detained until the following 24th of March, date of my transfer to "Virgil" Camp. (5th Colonial Artillery).</p>	<p>Kona, 1st Sergeant of the Kempeitai commanding the Japanese post at Mytho. Aided by Japanese civilians whose identity is unknown but whom I could recognize.</p>	<p>All the French in the City of Mytho and, as far as the provincial prison is concerned: The Chief of Gendarmerie Sergeant Andrew; Police Inspector Lecan, and the director of Mytho College. Mr. Duong, who was also imprisoned there.</p>
From 9 to 28 May 1945 in the cells of the Japanese Kempeitai installed in the premises of the Chamber of Commerce, 1 Quai de Belgique, Saigon	<p>With the aim of obtaining information on the organization of the /French Interior Forces/ at Mytho as well as other information on the hideout; the meetings in the Province of Mytho and at Saigon; family residence, etc. of Police Inspector Girard (who had fled on 9 March). At about 11 o'clock on 9 May I was taken away to the Japanese Kempeitai at Saigon after having already undergone five interrogations in the Service Room of "Virgil" Camp during the previous days.</p>	<p>I do not know the names authors of the tortures and violence inflicted in these interrogations. They were done by two non-commissioned officers of the Kempeitai and an Annamite interpreter in their service. It would be easy for me to recognize them if I should see them. Neither do I know the names of the heads of the post and the men of the troop attached to the Kempeitai who were also guilty of committing violence on prisoners in</p>	<p>The tortures of and violence undergone in the interrogations were witnessed only by those who were inflicting them. The violence and ill treatment inflicted on those in the cells which I occupied were witnessed by Frenchmen: N. N. Combes, Lieut. de Vaisseau Du Chene, Commissioner of Police; Waser, Aviation</p>



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I was put to four other interrogations - two lasting about 1½ hours each on the afternoon of May 9, the third on the next day from 9 to 12:30 o'clock; and the last on the following day from 10:30 to 17:30. In the course of these last four interrogations, I was very often struck on all parts of the body with fists, feet, and sticks, and particularly on the soles of my feet. At each one of these, I was placed on my back on a bench and firmly tied down so as to undergo "torture by water" which consisted in causing the first stages of asphyxiation by the absorption of water into the respiratory tract. Water was poured at the same time into the nose and the mouth, which is kept open with a whip or a staff slipped between the teeth, or on a rag held firmly over these two orifices. A plate carrying an electrical current was also applied to my feet, but did not work.

In course of these last four interrogations, I had one rib bashed in, ten teeth completely loosened, (4 already fallen and the 6 others will follow them before long), and many contusions, of which one received at the joint of the left knee has made me suffer in particular.

No information having been extracted from me, I was left in my cell for 17 days more without being interrogated, and at last brought back to "Virgil" Camp on the following May 28 in a miserable state.

There were no witnesses to these interrogations. They were conducted by two non-commissioned officers of the Kempeitai, assisted by interpreters, one of whom helped them to pour water into my nose and mouth. I do not know their names, but it would be easy for me to recognize them.

the cells while carrying on their duties as guards. However I could recognize a good number of them if I were able to see them.

Colonel in Retirement;  
Yung, Squadron leader at  
the 5th Reg. Colonial  
Artillery. Faufin,  
Doctor of Medicine;  
Romerio, Judge; Ogoyard,  
warden of prison; Abovt,  
Planter; Huchet, Merchant.



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In the course of these 20 days, of incarceration, I was still the object of daily violences, such as kickings, beating on the head with a stick from the guards (troops attached to the Kempeitai), who savagely beat the prisoners, without reason, because such was their amusement.

The food was insufficient. It consisted three times a day of a little rice ball and one-fourth of a cucumber or a radish of ordinary size. Beverage was also given in very insufficient quantity and almost always boiling. It was usually only water.

No care for cleanliness was allowed. The detained were not even able to wash their hands, with which they handled their food nevertheless.

The were obliged to remain sitting directly on the floor of their cell from the time they got up until the evening roll-call, which took place at 21 o'clock. During all this time, they were not permitted to speak, to lean, to lie, nor to sleep. They were strictly watched over and all infractions were immediately punished by a sound cudgelling.

The electric light was never put out, and it was not possible to protect oneself from it, for it was prohibited to sleep on one's stomach.

My cell, measuring 4' x 4' was occupied by a soil-bucket and 17 prisoners, among whom there were many Annamites, common law prisoners. Most of them were itchy or covered with sores or ring worms. One of them was even suffering from acute gonorrhea. During the night, the prisoners lay down, their bodies touching one another and, because of a complete absence of ventilation, the heat became intolerable.



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Date, Camp or Place    Particulars of the Criminal Act or Violation

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No care was given to the prisoners who were ill, even in very serious cases; thus Mr. Nico-Can, Chief Engineer of Public Works of Cochinchina, died one hour after having been taken out of my cell where he had remained dying and without any care for 5 or 6 days. As for me, I had not gone to the stool for 19 days when I was brought to "Virgil" Camp, where they took care of me at once. A first assistant surgeon (medical lieutenant) though having been informed of my state on about the 10th day did not have any medicine given to me.

Moreover, when I left the Japanese Kempeitai some small personal objects of slight value which had been taken from me when I was imprisoned, were not restored to me even though they had given me a receipt one hour before when they drew up an inventory of them.

(Statement) made at "Martin des Pallienes"  
Camp 16 September 1945

(signed) Antouard

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For certification of the facts opposite: Saigon, 3 January 1946,

Lt. Colonel Turck, Chief of War Crimes Service

Signed: Turck

(stamp)



Certificate:-

I, George Buffington, hereby certify that I am thoroughly conversant with the French and English languages, and as a result of the comparison between the French and the English texts, I have established that this is a true and correct translation of International Prosecution Document No. 2772-J-2

/s/ George Buffington



R E P O R T  
OF CAPTAIN BEAUVALLET

Bearing on his imprisonment at Japanese Kempei Tai Headquarters between March and August 1945. SAIGON

I. Appointments held by me previous to 9 March.

-Chief of G2 on the Staff of the D.C.C. /Cochin China and Cambodia Division.

-Assistant to General DELSUC for all questions concerning the "Resistance" and by virtue of this title, Liaison Officer between General DELSUC, the Chief of the local SA /Active Service/ (Captain PAUMELLS) and the political delegate (MONSIEUR NICOLAU).

II. Circumstances of my imprisonment at the Japanese Kempei Tai Headquarters.

Made prisoner on 9 March at 21:15 hrs. at the Staff Office of the D.C.C. /Cochin China and Cambodia Division/. I was at first interned at the Prisoners of War Camp in the Quarter.

On 17 March, in the morning Kempei /Japanese/ in civilian clothes came to fetch me and took me to Japanese Kempei Tai Headquarters (Chamber of Commerce). There I was interrogated by a non-commissioned officer of the Kempei tai in civilian clothes (whom I believe to be the Adjutant SUMIMOTO). I state definitely now that all interrogations were conducted through interpreters, some Japanese, others Annamites or half-breeds of ambiguous origin. Most of them spoke French very badly.

The interrogator asked me first some questions on the powers of G2 and then accused me "of having done wrong to the Japanese Army" and required me to give him what information I had on the French S.R. /Intelligence Bureau/ and the civilian organizations of the S.R. and of the Resistance of which he considered me to be the chief.

I confined myself to denying that I was the chief of such organizations, and as the interrogation became more pressing in order to obtain the information which he desired on the S.R. and the Resistance "in order," he said, "that the Japanese army could destroy them", I emphasized in my reply that I would answer his questions only in so far as the information which he might ask for should not be considered by me as secret. This reply angered him. He grasped his pistol and bade me remember that I was "in his power". Seeing that I kept silence he informed me that he ceased to consider me as an officer, that I was going to be shut up and allotted to more unkind interrogators.

I was, in fact, taken into a building adjoining the Chamber of Commerce where some cells had been set up. My badges of rank were taken away from me as well as the greater part of my effects except an undershirt and shorts. I was imprisoned in cell 3 where there were already some Europeans (among whom were Messrs. KERJEAN, DANNEMASSE, SALMON and two Annamite common criminals.



### III. Life at the Japanese Kempei tai Headquarters.

I make a digression here in order to describe what was the routine imposed on European detainees by the Japanese Kempei tai. The Japanese Kempei tai had set up, in a building adjoining the Chamber of Commerce (situated on the left, as one enters by the main gate), six cells. For this purpose they had made use of six magazines and had closed their inner openings with grills made of wooden bars. These grills gave a veritable cage-like aspect to the cells. They allowed the guards to watch the detainees all the time. The entrance was a little door less than 1 metre in height fastened with a padlock. The cells were about 4 metres by 5, with plank floors and permanently lit by a central lamp.

A wooden bucket with a cover was put at the disposal of the imprisoned for their needs. It was emptied daily by a detainee accompanied by a sentry. Some straw mats, about one between two were distributed among the prisoners. In the evening bedding was given out on an average of one piece for three persons.

There were three meals a day, one about 8 o'clock, the second about noon, the third about 1800. Each meal consisted of a ball of rice and either a piece of salted cucumber or a vegetable soup (not very appetizing but generally edible). This soup was distributed in porringers at the rate of one for four or five detainees, who were furthermore compelled to help themselves with their fingers.

A little tea or hot water was distributed under the same conditions after each meal and before bedtime (one porringer to three or four). After the end of May there were fairly frequent supplementary distributions of tea in the interval between meals (one in the morning, one in the afternoon).

The time was taken up as follows: Reveille about 0700, meals under the conditions outlined above, in the evening, toward 2100, roll call, inspection by the duty officer, recitation by the detainees, aloud, of a notice written in French, Annamite, Japanese, and entitled "To the Prisoners," beginning with this phrase which was not without savor: "Corrects himself with a view toward a better future" and enumerating the duties of prisoners: discipline, silence, etc. . . . , after the roll-call, distribution of covers of tea and /then/ to bed.

In the interval between reveille and going to bed the detainees were forced to remain seated "tailor-fashion." Certain N.C.O. of the guard (the majority even) prohibited the detainees from leaning against the walls. This prolonged sitting position, without support, was particularly fatiguing.

The detainees did not have the right to talk. In fact, they availed themselves of their guards' lapses of attention to converse in low voices, and the bits of news (or lies) brought by those last arrested circulated fairly rapidly.



The hygienic conditions imposed on the detainees were lamentable. If my memory serves me well, between 17 March and 10 June there were at most three showers (none between 20 March and 9 May). The interned women and some of the sick (including me from 9 May to 10 June) benefitted from a more favorable regimen and had a shower (unfortunately without soap) almost every day. I may add that at night the mosquitoes were very numerous in the cells and that it was very hot there. The quota was actually raised to 20 detainees per cell (for an area of 20 meters /sic/).

Medical care was provided by a Japanese attendant who came around very irregularly. The care was limited, moreover, to applications of iodized alcohol or sulphur solution, to eye washes and the distribution of quinine. The intervention of a physician was very rare. And further, it was most often without effect. The seriously sick were not cared for or insufficiently cared for, and the only measure that might have been efficacious for them, evacuation to a hospital, was decided on too late.

Of the six detainees who to my knowledge died at Kempei tai Headquarters or shortly after their release therefrom (Mr. FOURNIER, Mr. NICOLAU, Mr. CHABERT, Major LANGELLIER-BELLEVUE, Mr. FINOT, and Mr. BERTRAND) the majority died both from the bad treatment undergone and from a lack of care.

A last point remains concerning life in the cells of the Japanese Kempei tai: the attitude of the guards of the guard-house. The guard-house was commanded by a non-commissioned officer of the Kempei tai. His contingent was six or seven men at the beginning, reduced later to four or five. The guards were soldiers of the land army on detached duty with the Kempei tai.

Certain of the N. C. O. guard-house commanders, or soldiers of the guard, gave evidence under various circumstances of great brutality. They inflicted on the detainees whom they accused, sometimes wrongfully, of having spoken or of having misbehaved, painful punishments: blows with a stick, often very violent, whipping with a leather belt, standing up with arms in the air or extended for several hours.

It should be noted that certain Japanese non-commissioned officers and soldiers maintained a proper and at times even a kind attitude. They were on the whole proper vis-a-vis women.

The foregoing expose shows that the mere fact of incarceration in the cells of the Japanese Kempei tai imposed on the Europeans who underwent it a truly miserable life. The deplorable hygienic conditions, unpleasant promiscuity with the ordinary Annamite or Chinese lawbreakers, food insufficient in quantity and especially in quality, physical fatigue due to the discomfort of the positions which were imposed and a very painful morale impression, that of being treated as beasts by savages.

The questions and the brutalities accompanying them constituted a further cause of suffering for those of the internees who had to submit to them.



#### IV. My Stay at the Kempei Tai Headquarters.

Incarcerated 17 March I remained at the Japanese Kempei tai Headquarters till 11 June on which date I was transferred to Central Prison. I was taken again to the Kempei tai Headquarters 24 July and remained there until 2 August. On that date I was freed at the same time as Captain PAUMELLS and sent to the internee Civil Camp at the Normal School and then admitted to the GRALL Hospital 22 August.

On 2 August before my liberation I was led with Captain PAUMELLS before Adjutant SUMINOTC /TN: sic/, who read us a lecture saying that we had both merited being shot for having wished "to destroy the Nipponese Army", and that, if we had had a court martial, we should certainly have been sentenced to death. That moreover, by a special favor of the Japanese High Command, it had been agreed that we should be treated as military personnel and sent to an internment camp on condition that we should thenceforth keep quiet.

#### V. Life at Central Prison.

Some brief indications of the life at Central Prison whose conditions though preferable to those of the Japanese Kempei tai Headquarters, were still very uncomfortable.

At the time I was at Central Prison (from 11 June to 24 July) the European detainees coming from the Kempei tai Headquarters had been distributed into two large rooms (7 and 8, I believe) to the number of 26 and 42, respectively.

The rooms were large enough, light, and well ventilated. The detainees slept on a mat placed right on the cement. A tub filled with potable water permitted drinking and washing. From time to time, almost every day, the detainees were able to go out on the verandah situated in front of the cells. A water plug made it possible to take a shower there.

It was possible to converse freely in the rooms. The rooms were locked and the sole Japanese guard was posted outside under the verandah. In general, one might say that the Japanese guards who were on duty at Central Prison were correct; certain ones even seemed to be trying to show kindness by distributing cigarettes.

There were two meals a day, one about 1030, the other about 1700. Further, about eight o'clock in the morning a little tea was distributed. The meals consisted of rice (generally red rice) with a little dried fish (generally spoiled or almost) or a little fresh fish (some fish heads floating in a salty sauce) or a hard-boiled egg or some bits of bacon fat; further a piece of pumpkin or, by way of exception, a sweet potato or a piece of manioc. On the whole these meals were very insufficient.



An Annamite attendant who came by fairly irregularly (once or twice a week) who was usually impolite to the patients and seemed uninterested in them, took /medical/ care of us. During my stay at Central Prison I was seriously ill, suffering from boils, infected itch, swelling of the legs, and was also in a state of great feebleness, being barely able to hold myself on my feet and spending all my nights without being able to sleep. Although I pointed out my state each time the attendant came by, I was unable to get myself evacuated to a hospital or even visited by a physician.

On the other hand, I wish to point out that one warden of Central Prison named ROSENTHAL (European or mixed) who had remained on duty succeeded in passing some news into the cells, in forwarding correspondence both ways between some of the detainees and their families, and also in getting some medicines and cigarettes passed. Further a man named RAISON sentenced /for a breach/ of ordinary law, who was in a neighboring cell succeeded in getting into Cell 7 some ham, bacon, and sausage which he had bought for himself at the prison store. The deed was discovered by the Japanese guard and RAISON was punished.

#### VI. QUESTIONINGS UNDERGONE.

1. Month of March. After the questioning of 17 March I had been incarcerated, as I have explained above, in one of the cells of the Kempei tai Headquarters.

On the evening of the 19th an interpreter came to me to transmit the order to get up under the pretext that I was to be called immediately to the office. At the end of an hour, seeing that nobody came for me, I was on the point of sitting down again when I was prevented by the N.C.O. of the guard. I then understood that it was an ordeal that had been imposed on me with a view to "preparing" me for a questioning which would probably take place the next day. It didn't occur to me, however, that this ordeal was to last seven days and seven nights handrunning.

On the morning of 20 March I was taken in for interrogation. The same questions as on the 17th were asked me concerning the S.R. and the Resistance. I maintained the same attitude so well that the interrogator sent me away with the announcement that I was going to resume my "picket". I was subsequently interrogated on the 23rd by a cor oral of the Japanese Kempei tai, who asked me several questions without interest which led me to suppose that the interrogation had no purpose beyond checking the state of my fatigue.

I remained standing in my cell until 26 March under the surveillance of guards who, as soon as I weakened and looked as if I were going to sit down, took it upon themselves to renew my respect for orders with their clubs.

I must, nevertheless, admit having found a Japanese corporal and a soldier who in the course of each of the nights of the 22nd, 23rd, and 24th permitted me to stretch out for an hour. The same cor oral also permitted me to sit down during some meals. These short moments of respite doubtless helped



me to take this ordeal a little better. It did not prevent me from being exhausted from fatigue at the end of this period of seven days and particularly in the course of the night of 25/26 March, when I felt an almost unbearable pain in my feet, suffered nervous tensions which came close to throwing me on the floor, and I was even a victim of delirium.

The morning of the 26th I was again led before my interrogator (Adjutant SUMIMOTO). He asked me with an ironic smile whether I was tired. I managed enough strength to raise a protest against the manner in which I was treated. I explained what my grievances were:

- (1) That they had removed my stripes.
- (2) That they had placed me in with prisoners who were common law-breakers.
- (3) That they were trying to exert pressure on me to force me to reveal information which I considered secret.

I concluded by stating that such acts were absolutely contrary to all the international rules concerning the treatment of prisoners of war and by expressing my astonishment at seeing the Japanese Army disregard these rules.

Just then there occurred an air-raid alert. I was taken back down to my cell and put back on "picket". However, at the end of the alert, a Kempei came back with an interpreter. This latter informed me very politely that the "punishment" was over.

## 2. Month of April.

Although not interrogated during the first weeks of the month I was able to follow the progress of the inquiry by observing the arrivals of detainees and by conversing with those who were incarcerated in my cell.

While in the month of March the arrests were directed against some lawyers and the personnel of the radio service and of the French Broadcasting Company, in the month of April I saw arrive successively:

- 1 April: 3 Commissioners of the Surete.
- 7 April: Capt. LAHALLE of BAM (Military organ dealing with S.R.) and, approximately on the same date, two non-commissioned officers of his service.
- 15 April: Col. BAILLY, director of artillery (it was in the director of artillery's building /Direction d'artillerie/ that the quarters were placed at the disposal of Capt. FAUWELLS, chief of the S.A. Sud.) On 9 March there still remained some undistributed materiel, tommy guns, in particular; it was in all probability--the fact was later confirmed by Col. BAILLY--the discovery of this materiel by the Japanese which brought about the arrest of the Director of Artillery.
- About 19 April: Capt. FAUWELLS.

The Japanese had then definitely laid their hands on the S.R. and the S.A. which I tried to cover by my silence in March. On 22 April I was



taken from my cell and interrogated by a Kempei tai Adjutant--whose name I do not know--assisted by two or three Kempei. I was asked to give all the information I possessed on the FFI (the Japanese always designated thus the members of the Resistance organizations throughout the inquiry). [As I refused to speak I was subjected to a seance of tortures which was particularly painful. Bound to a bench with an extremely tight rope which cut into flesh, I was subjected for about an hour and a half simultaneously to double torture:

-On the one hand, bludgeoning of the soles of the feet by the adjutant provided with a hard-wood club and by another Kempei provided with a rattan cane  
-On the other, water asphyxiation.

Besides this, another Kempei gave me a few body burns with cigarette ashes.

I shall dwell somewhat on the first two tortures, for I carried away the impression that they were applied with particular cruelty. As for the bludgeoning of the feet, I find it hard to say how many blows I received, perhaps 200, perhaps a few less. From time to time some blows were applied to the tibias and the ropes which bound my ankle bones, driving them into the flesh and producing wounds which lasted a long time (along with those of the tibias). Several cudgel blows were also laid on my toes, and the nail of the right big toe in particular was torn out.

As a result of this treatment my feet swelled considerably. For several days it was impossible for me to stand on my feet. To get up I had to have the help of two cell-mates and for the questionings the Japanese Kempei carried me on their backs. At the present moment, more than four months after this series of tortures, my right foot remains deformed.

As for the water asphyxiation, it was inflicted on me under particularly painful conditions. A Kempei pressed against my belly to fill out my chest. A gag had been put on my nose and mouth forcing me to inhale to get a little air. The interrogator poured on my gag the water from a kettle which he had refilled as soon as empty. It was impossible for me under these circumstances to avoid swallowing water and losing my breath fairly rapidly. The one pouring would stop then to begin again as soon as I had succeeded in catching a bit of air. This struggle for an hour and a half against asphyxiation exhausted me completely.

At the end of an hour and a half the adjutant-interrogator, wishing no doubt to vary the pleasures, placed the bench vertically in such a way that I was hanging head down held by the ropes around my ankles which went deeper and deeper into the wounds which had been made in me. I remained about a half hour under these conditions, the interrogator continuing to apply the cudgel blows to my feet and pouring water from time to time down my nostrils.

I was then unbound, placed on a bench in front of a table and Adjutant SUMIMOTO, entering the room, resumed the interrogation punctuated by numerous



↓ cudgel blows on my head, arms, and shoulders.]

Reduced to a state of utter exhaustion, it was difficult to maintain absolute muteness. Nevertheless, I decided to limit myself to a short statement in which:

-I admitted my position in the Resistance organization, deputy to General DELSUC and Liaison Officer between General DELSUC and Captain PAUMELLS Chief of the S.A.

\*I acknowledged that some arms had been received by parachute while pretending not to know the number.

-I minimized the recruitment of civilians, presenting it as a sort of clandestine partial mobilization concerning only a small number of reservists and conferring upon them the status of mobilized personnel, the military authority taking the entire responsibility for this mobilization.

Some other questions were asked me regarding Allied parachutists having landed on the territory of Southern Indo-China. I pretended not to be au courant, which brought me a few more blows.

The interrogation stopped at that point, fortunately, for I was at the end of my strength.

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On 23 April I was again interrogated by the same adjutant who had subjected me to the tortures the day before. The interrogation, this time, was very calm. Some questions were asked me regarding the S.R. which it was possible for me to answer, because I had learned from a non-commissioned officer of BAM who was incarcerated in the same cell with me just how far the BAM inquiry had progressed.

Furthermore, some questions were asked me on the administrative organization of Indo-China, on the stationing of troops before 9 March, and various questions unrelated to my functions, for example, what had been the role of Mrs. DECOUX (?) in Indo-Chinese politics.

During this session I received only one blow with the stick for an answer to a question which I no longer remember, but which seemed not to satisfy the interrogator.

On 24 April I was taken in for interrogation about 9 o'clock in the evening. After some anodyne questions, the adjutant (the same one as the two preceding days) went after me again regarding the FFI. Since I appeared reticent and my answers were simple dilutions of my statements of the 22nd, the interrogator tied me to a bench taking pains to pass the cords, which were very tight, right through the wounds which had been made two days before. He told me that he would leave me in this position--which was very painful--until I consented to talk and, if need be, the whole night. I was



left tied to the bunch for about an hour. As luck would have it, about 11 o'clock at night, probably feeling tired and not knowing how to keep me under guard during the night, the interrogator had me unbound and taken back to my cell, telling me to think things over very carefully and that I should be re-interrogated the following day.

As a matter of fact he gave it up, for they left me in peace in my cell until about the middle of May.

I fell sick there, however, as a consequence of the tortures endured. In particular, the struggle that I had carried on against asphyxiation by water had brought on some stomach troubles. It was impossible to assimilate food without vomiting. I remained in this state 17 consecutive days, eating, so to speak, nothing, except some bananas which were passed on to me by a fellow-detainee receiving his meals from outside.

Several times I asked to be visited by a physician. I got no satisfaction until 9 May. On that date a Japanese medical captain came to see me. I explained my case to him and requested evacuation to a hospital, being at the time in a state of great weakness. I thought I understood from his answer that he was not empowered to decide such an evacuation and that a decision by the command was necessary. I was then presented to the duty officer who merely asked me whether I was FFI. Since I answered that I had been thoroughly interrogated on that matter, I read in his face that I had no chance of being evacuated to a hospital.

These visits had at least one result. Beginning 9 May I had at least the right to a shower every day and the N.C.O. of the guard received the order to admit to my cell the food that the other detainees receiving their meals from outside were kind enough to send me. In this way I was able to regain some strength.

### 3. Month of May.

In the course of the first fortnight of May I was subjected to two brief interrogations, the first on parachuting, the second on the FFI of Cambodia, interrogations which were interrupted before I could make the slightest statement, the interrogator having noticed that there had been an error and I had been brought in instead of Captain PAUMELS (whose name was pronounced the same as mine, which accounts for the error).

These interrogations permitted me at least to learn that the inquiry was already well advanced, and that, in particular, the Kempeitai knew the names of the principal members of the Resistance in Cambodia, Mr. JOUBERT and Mr. LASSON, whose names the interrogator mentioned to me to ask whether I knew them.

Further, the numerous arrests which had been made confirmed the development of the inquiry.



In the course of the second fortnight of May I underwent two series of interrogations:

-One from 17 to 26 May, almost daily interrogations concerning the Resistance.

-The second on 22, 23, and 24 May, concerning the S.R. and my supposed relations with the American authorities.

(a) Interrogations concerning the Resistance. These interrogations were conducted by a technical sergeant whose name I do not know. He was always correct and even sympathetic, taking it upon himself to go look for a change of clothes in the room that I had previously occupied in town and intervening to help me obtain an authorization to receive my meals from a hotel in town, a step which I benefitted from between 18 May and my departure for Central Prison 11 June. The questions asked me dealt with:

- My role in the organization of the FFI.
- The orders given by General DELSUC concerning the Resistance, the S.R., political action.
- The organization of the FFI in the South.
- Their radio network.
- Parachuting.
- Material received.
- Lieutenant LOISEL's mission.
- Funds placed at the disposal of the Resistance.

Finally several questions were put to me about the American (?) parachutists who had been able to land in Indo-China and about the alleged setting-up by the French Army of secret depots of arms, munitions, fuel.

Considering the point reached by the inquiry and the Japanese already possessing extensive information on the different questions put to me, I decided that /further/ silence on my part would be pointless. I resolved then to make some statements to give the interrogator as far as possible the impression of frankness while trying to remain within the limits of the information already known to the Japanese. I also deemed it possible to make use of these statements in clearing up certain questions which might have been misunderstood and which the Japanese might give a tendentious interpretation. I also intended to renew my statement of 22 April according to which the military authority covered completely the civilians incorporated into the FFI and considered them mobilized.

It was in this spirit that I answered the questions asked. On 20 May I took advantage of a moment when the interrogator seemed particularly well disposed to set forth my point of view concerning civilians belonging to the Resistance, namely that when contacted by the military authority to be mobilized they had responded to this appeal in a spirit of national discipline which did them honor, that it was consequently inadmissible to treat them as they had been at Kempei tai Headquarters and that at most internment as prisoners of war could be envisaged for them. The interrogator seemed to me very



understanding in this matter. He even agreed that Japanese placed under the same circumstances would probably have acted similarly and stated to me that the civilians arrested as having belonged to the FFI would be transferred to internment camps.

Pending this step I asked him that certain improvements be made in the regimen of the European detainees of the Kempei tai--in particular:

- Increase of the tea ration.
- Thinning out of the cells whose personnel reached 20 per cell at the time.
- Orders to be given to the guard for the suppression of the too frequent brutalities. This request seemed to be taken into consideration--unless another cause was working simultaneously--for:

- (1) Beginning that day two supplementary rations of tea were distributed.
- (2) The next day numerous Annamites were transferred out, the number in the cells dropping to 12 or 13.
- (3) I had the impression that after that day the guard was more proper towards the European detainees.

(b) Interrogations concerning the S.R. These interrogations were conducted by Adjutant SUMIMOTO. They took place on 22, 23, and 24 May and revolved around this one point: I was accused of having been in touch (1) with General MacARTHUR to whom I was supposed to have communicated, via the civilian radio service, information regarding Japanese shipping convoys, (2) with American submarines. [My denials only served to bring about a new series of brutalities. On the 22nd I received violent head blows with a stick. On the 23rd Adjutant SUMIMOTO himself hammered my face with extremely violent blows of his fist, further forcing me to remain kneeling during the interrogation. Finally, on the 24th, a new series of tortures was inflicted, comprising:

- The tearing out of tufts of hair from my head and beard.
- The twisting of my wrists and arms.
- Asphyxiation by strangulation.
- A wound on my foot caused by a see-saw movement pressed on a cord just at the point of a wound made in April. (This unattended wound got infected and was at the bottom of a pit of boils which has continued up to the present time.
- Finally, asphyxiation by water.]

At the end of my strength I finally consented to do what was demanded of me, namely, to sign a statement by which I admitted having enciphered some telegrams destined for MacARTHUR and American submarines signaling to them the movements of Japanese maritime convoys--telegrams which I was supposed to have sent to Mr. LOGNON of the radio service for despatching. (Later on I was compelled to make this statement over by replacing the name of Mr. LOGNON by that of a radio engineer at BLENHOA named CHARMOIT, who, moreover, did not exist unless, making allowance for the mistakes in spelling made by the Japanese, Mr



SAIGON of the radio service, was meant //).

I made clear before signing that this statement was without value since it did not correspond to the truth and since it was extracted from me by violence. That brought the reply: "Sign anyhow; that doesn't matter."

4. Interrogations in June and July.

At the beginning of June before my departure for Central Prison I was interrogated twice by Technical Sergeant ARAI, who accused me of having helped the six American aviators who were picked up on 12 January escape. I succeeded in convincing him that that was a movement regularly operated under orders from HANOI. He interrogated me likewise on the revictualing of Allied submarines. I answered that I had no knowledge of such facts. He did not insist.

In the course of my stay in Central Prison and of the last eight days spent at the Kempei tai Headquarters from 24 July to 2 August I underwent no interrogation.

SAIGON, 2 September 1945

/Signed/Beauvalet /sic/

Certified to be exact and true copy  
Lieutenant Colonel Y Turck, Chief of the War Crimes Service

/signed/ Y. Turck.



A F F I D A V I T

ROUAN, George Germain  
Medical Captain of Colonial Troops  
Born at la Fleche (Sarthe)  
21 November 1908  
Son of Armand Rouan and Marie Pelissou  
Residence: Hotel Splendid, Hanoi

At Hanoi

In the afternoon of 12th March, I found the corpse of Doctor-Commandant Coste in his office, at the hospital of the First Tonkinese Sharpshooters Regiment /R.T.T./. His head lay toward the door and the feet toward the office desk, the lower part of the body was stripped completely naked, the face was composed, the corpse was still wearing a white shirt bearing the insignia of the Red Cross. The office was in disorder, there was blood everywhere and chiefly a big pool on a level with the head of the corpse.

When I lifted the body, I noted that one wound injured the lower part of the lobe of the right ear, laying bare the right jaw and gashing the neck. A second wound on the left side was deep and transversal, injuring the whole of the back of the neck on the left and the spinal column. The right hand was attached to the arm by a mere shred of flesh (it fell off in the course of handling).

It appears that the doctor-Commandant Coste was struck twice with a saber, once on the right, which he attempted to fend off with his right hand, the other on the left.

According to the reports of eye witnesses, at the moment of the fifth Japanese drive on the night of March 9/10, Commandant Coste presented himself in full light before the Japanese dressed in his shirt bearing the red cross. He was shoved toward the interior of his office, then killed.

The Indo-Chinese male nurse on duty who was with him was killed by a sabre blow which almost decapitated him; his body was on the veranda joining the office.

According to the subsequent declaration of Medical Lieutenant Kobayashi, this latter belonged to the unit which attacked the First R.T.T. /Regiment des Tirailleurs Tonkinois/.

(Signature) Georges Rouan

(Stamp) Commission of the Republic  
Tonkin and North Annam  
States Civil - Hanoi



(Written over  
stamp)

For the purpose of legalization of the  
signature of Mr. Rouan which appears  
opposite.

Hanoi 12 Sept. the year 1946  
Chief of the Service.  
(illegible)

Signed and witnessed under oath 10 September 1946 at Hanoi  
before me, the undersigned, investigating officer accredited by the  
French authorities for the investigations of which the present  
affidavit is the object.

(signature)

Captain le Sourd



AFFIDAVIT:

Medico - Legal Report  
of Doctor QUENARDEL  
on War Crimes and  
Atrocities which he  
witnessed:

QUENARDEL, Andre, Doctor of Medicine  
Principal Medical Officer Director of French  
Hygiene Society at HANOI. Former Externe of  
Paris Hospitals. Former student of the  
Pasteur Institute of Paris. Born at Reims  
7 Feb 1893. Son of Albert QUENARDEL and of  
Pauline QUENARDEL. Home: 5 rue de Tuyen-Quang  
at HANOI. DONCHERY (Ardennes).

I have told elsewhere what I had to suffer, both as a man and as a prisoner, from the Japanese. Here, as a medical man, Chief Medical Officer of Hygiene of a town, on the one hand, and as a prisoner, undergoing the lot of a prisoner, on the other hand, I shall relate only what I have learned about the ignorance on the part of the Japanese of the International Conventions of Geneva, the severe atrocities they have inflicted on prisoners, the inhuman, and furthermore, deliberately-degrading, treatment accorded to some among them (the prisoners).

This report will therefore be only a medico-legal account of this aspect of Japanese War Crimes.

I. Violation of the Geneva Convention:

1. On 9 March towards 2100 hours had been collected by my care, bandaged for 3 sabre-cuts which he had taken, then evacuated to the Military Hospital.

Our method of evacuation was by an ambulance vehicle in the following conditions, a Frenchman at the wheel, an Annamite assistant-chauffeur holding a searchlight to light up the Red Cross markings on the right side of our vehicle, a second Annamite assistant holding a second searchlight to light up the Red Cross markings on the left side of our vehicle. And we set off.... Just as we were going to pass from one boulevard to another boulevard, I saw a vehicle barricade of iron wire. I slowed up, and at the same instant and for several seconds, we were pinned under very heavy rifle fire from front and flank, which gave us the impression of being point-blank fire.

In the midst of this confusion one of our searchlights came down. Our assistant-chauffeur groaned and covered me with his blood. He had had his arm shot off. As for myself I was deafened and suffered /pain/ in one eye. And under a continuous crackle of bullets we abandoned our vehicle and took refuge in a nearby house, now, three of us wounded (2 more than when we set out).

2. Our assistant-chauffeur having had an amputation during the 10th, I set out that very afternoon to look for another of our chauffeurs who, not being able to cross the battle zone, had not rejoined.

By making a detour I was able easily to go from the Japanese combat zone to the French lines. I entered them, specifically, at a point of



contact with a small French post defended by a machine-gun and its crew, one of them a French Sergeant. This Sergeant then showed me a Japanese vehicle which had just attacked them . . . Now, this vehicle, which was stopped, had on each of its surfaces the Red Cross insignia.

3. One of the most painful spectacles during the period which followed the fight of 9-10 March was to see the forlorn condition in which the wounded soldiers of the French Army were left by the Japanese.

In one of the barracks - that of the 1st R. T. T. /Tonkinese Sharpshooters Regiment/ the Senior Medical Officer, Medical Major COSTE had met with massacre at the hands of the Japanese. All the wounded were abandoned and it was not until some time during the third day that we were able to go to their aid. We retain, in particular, the memory of a sharpshooter seriously wounded in the thigh in the middle of a courtyard, who had to lie there unable to move for three nights and three days on end, bathed in his blood and dying of thirst without receiving the least assistance from numerous Japanese passing close beside him. These Japanese, over and above, formally forbade the French wounded to leave the places where they had been gathered together.

## II. Fatal Cruelties /Perpetrated/ on Prisoners.

1. I was ordered by the Japanese on 10 March towards 1700 hours, to go to the citadel to collect dead and wounded. It was not until towards 2200 hours that the small Japanese posts allowed us after plenty of threats to enter this Citadel and that we were able to carry out our task.

We were not a little surprised to come across, among the dead--I will state only the cases of which I was an eye-witness--Battalion Commander ESQUER witnessed several other cases -- A sub-Lieutenant and two adjutants with their hands tied behind their backs and showing a bullet wound at the height of the heart. Without any doubt at all this was a case of execution of prisoners and of officers for choice. It is impossible for us to clarify the reason for such executions, the bodies of those executed being very frequently mingled with other corpses.

2. Slaughter of Medical Commandant /Major/ COSTE:-- It was with Medical Captain ROUAN that I found the body of this Senior Officer. Doctor COSTE was lying /dead/ in his medical office which was situated in the middle of his hospital, copiously provided with Red Cross markings.

Doctor COSTE's body had the right hand severed, attached to the forearm only by a strip of skin; a wide wound on the right side of the neck and a still more enormous wound on the left side of the neck where the spinal column was severed. Doctor COSTE had been partly stripped, his tunic was unbuttoned, his trousers and boots had been taken away.

I satisfied myself that the body of our comrade had not been abused. . . More simply, Medical Commandant COSTE, killed by sabre strokes, had



subsequently been robbed of his trousers and boots by his butchers. The greed of the Japanese in this respect being well known.

In the butchery of this Doctor there had been a threefold crime; violation of the Geneva Convention, with death, slaying of a prisoner, and disgusting plundering of a dead officer.

III. Slow and Long Continued Cruelties directed against a certain class of Prisoners, with deliberate, studied debasement of human dignity.

The prisoners belonging to the Resistance and shut up at the "SHELL" were, in particular, the object of active hatred /on the part/ of the Japanese.

1. The place of their imprisonment. These prisoners were shut up in kinds of barred cages with a low door by which it was impossible to enter except by bending double. The prisoners were crammed therein, in too great number, mixed with Annamites infested with lice and scabies and even leprosy; as bedding they had some tattered straw mats and dirty coverings.

It could not escape /the knowledge of/ a medical officer of health that there were there, by design or as a simple fact, all the combined factors for causing the prisoners to contract a mixture of diseases such as typhus, itch, and leprosy.

Contagion had a better chance of operating in as much as we were forbidden to bathe and were beaten if soap was discovered in our possession. Thus cases of scabies and typhus were numerous among us, and in particular, I had to treat in secret (. . . .) my friend and neighbour, Mr. Francois MARTIN, who caught typhus and died of it.

2. Food. This was, at the "SHELL" strictly limited to three bowls of rice. to the exclusion of all other nourishment. The total weight of this rice, correct to a few grammes, was from 200 to 250 grammes uncooked, say 600 to 750 calories if we express it in energy value. It is a well-known fact that an adult of 60 kilograms /T.N. roughly 132 lbs./ not doing any manual labour needs maintenance at a rate of 1,500 calories,

Such a diet, insufficient as it was in quantity, was essentially inadequate in quality and must inevitably end in malnutrition diseases, especially beri-beri. This malady, in fact, attacked very many prisoners, and most of them became human derelicts and showed plainly excessive lassitude and very noticeable edemata of the lower limbs. This deficiency in quality was also, sooner or later, the favoring cause of many digestive troubles, particularly bacillary dysentery, and was at the root of an organic weakening of such a degree that our men, as a result, fell easy victims to typhus, paludism, /marsh fever, malaria/ respiratory troubles, etc. . . .



There also, by design or /at any rate/ in fact, the Japanese brought together the conditions necessary for the development, among the prisoners, of illnesses of the most serious nature.

3. Corporal punishments: These have been described at length by many others. I /we/ shall dwell upon their characteristic of extreme violence. Certain individuals among our brutal captors were chosen from among the most vigorous and the blows were always laid on us with great force; sometimes the instrument the Japanese used was broken.

The beatings were particularly hateful when administered to the sick, men in a burning fever who could not stand on their legs.

I have retained a very vivid and grievous memory of young ROGGIALE 20 years old, who, during the course of a bout of paludism /marsh-fever, malaria/, not being able to stand up to answer his name at roll-call, was forced to stand at attention and was, from this position, flung to the ground time after time in a most lamentable manner by violent kicks dealt him by a Japanese Military Policeman.

4. Absence of all medical care. Complete nothingness existed here. The prisoner had no right to any form of care whatsoever. To be at the point of death was the only thing which could have any effect in favour of an evacuation to hospital.

Thus it was secretly, by stealth, and occasionally by the influence of a Japanese who felt sympathy, that I was able to get some scanty medicines which I distributed to my sick comrades. But, alas! with such a little I remained powerless to aid those stricken with typhus or dysentery /or to relieve/ the savage twistings of the testicles which our brutal jailers inflicted on some of the prisoners. . . .

5. Debasement of human dignity. This was a constant policy, as much at the SHELLE as at the Central Prison; that of making the prisoner live in a state of inferiority complex.

It was necessary, in order to debase him, that the Frenchman should be kept filthy, covered with vermin, and that he should no longer have the right to use soap and water.

It was necessary in order to bring him low, to herd him with bandits and thieves, our prison companions.

It was necessary, in order to render us utterly despicable, that we should receive our food in our hands and eat with our fingers.

Finally, it was necessary, in order to show the supremacy of the Yellow over the White that the Yellow should beat us and break its clubs over the faces of anemic Frenchmen, no longer able to withstand, but still able to look proudly straight into the eyes of their tormentors.



It was necessary still more that the Yellow /man/ should become a beast and that he should avenge himself to the death on the virility of the White /man/ which he strove to twist and to crush. For it was thus that Commandant /Major/ BJERRING, one of the greatest of our leaders of the Resistance, met his death. He died in one of the dungeons of the Military Hospital after having had his testicles crushed.

N.B. - 100 grammes of ingested rice give 300 calories, deducting 10% of the meal which is not assimilated.

/Sig./ Andre Quenardel

Signed and attested under oath on 11 Sept. 1946 at HANOI, before me, the undersigned Investigation Officer, assigned by the French Authority for the enquiries of which the present affidavit is the object.

/Sig./ Captain Le SOURD

Witnessed for the verification of the signation of Mr. Quenardel and Captain Le Sourd placed on this affidavit.

HANOI 11th September 1946.  
Chief Civil Service Commissioner  
/Signed/ indecipherable/

Stamp (Commissariat of the Republic  
( Civil Commission  
( HANOI  
(Tonkin and North Annam.



C E R T I F I C A T E

I, A. ASHTON, hereby certify that I am thoroughly conversant with the French and English languages, and as a result of the comparison between the French and the English texts, I have established that this is a true and correct translation of International Prosecution Document No. 2772 D-2.

/S/ A Ashton.



2147  
AFFIDAVIT Le Dink Bao, ex-sergeant of  
Mobile Detachment of the Aviation General  
Secretary of the Administration Committee  
of Vatchay, residence at Vatchay, (Tonking),  
born 23 December 1916 at Sadec (Cochin-China)  
son of Le-Dinh-Phu and of Mai-Thi-Tram.

Deposition in the form of an Account: At Vatchay, Sept. 17, 1946.

"On the 13 of March 1945 the mobile detachment to which I belonged was in a position situated near the village of Tien Yen (Hai Ninh Province, Tonkin). It was commanded by Captain Estienne. It was composed of eight French soldiers and about 40 Indo-Chinese soldiers. At about 7:30 it was attacked by a strong party of Japanese. After a half hour fight the Japanese made an assault in the course of which all of the French soldiers were taken prisoner.

Prevented from fleeing by the wounds which I had received, I remained in their midst. About a half hour after having been captured, Captain Estienne and Adjutant-Chiefs Lavoiance and Butland were decapitated by blows with a saber. Next came the turn of Adjutant-Chiefs Poli and Ruffini and Adjutants Garnier, Carissan, and Fahun, who were massacred by blows with a bayonet.

In order to facilitate the penetration of the bayonets into the bodies of the victims, the Japanese had opened their clothing to bare a part of their chests.

Signature of deponent:

L. Bao

Typewritten name of deponent:

Le Dinh Bao

Signed and witnessed under oath 17 September 1946 at Vatchay before me, the undersigned, Investigating Officer accredited by the French authority for the investigations of which the present affidavit is the object.

Signature of the Investigating Officer:  
(Illegible)

Typewritten name of Investigating Officer:  
Captain F.T.N. (cer

For the purpose of legalization  
of the signature of Le Dinh Bao  
which appears opposite

Hongay 17 September 1946, The Delegate.  
(STAMP)

Commisariat of the Republic  
North Indo-China

Hongay Delegation - R.F.

(Signature over stamp illegible)



AFFIDAVIT:

2148  
PORTE, Laurent  
Medical Officer Colonial Troops.  
Son of PORTE Louis and LION Emilie.  
Born 6 Sept. 1913 at TOULON (Var)  
Living at SAIGON, 14 Rue d'Arclause.

Duration of work and effective strength.

30 June, 1500 men left  
11 June, 300 men left  
1 Aug. 1275 men left  
TOTAL : 3075 men

The return was staggered from 22 to 27 August. The P.W.s were distributed in various camps, from Kilometer 40 up to beyond HOA-BINH. We shall call the camps by the names of the medical officers who were in charge.

Accommodation. In most of the camps the Japanese had made no preparation to receive the P.W.s, who remained exposed to the inclement weather during the days necessary to construct a roof of latanias.

In Dr. PORTE's camp they forbade the construction of floor-boards, thus obliging the prisoners to sleep in water every time it rained.

In one of Dr. MATHURIN's dependent camps they had some floor-boards constructed, but put prisoners above and below. Most of the prisoners did not have mosquito nets; many were without cover.

Diet. Rice, of quality varying widely over the days and the camps. Annamite aqueous vegetables (water bindweeds, lotus leaves, pumpkin): 100 to 150 gr.  
5 to 10 gr. of starches (Potatoes, sweet potatoes, and taros.  
10 gr. of salt.

During the whole month of July no fat, meat, fish, eggs, nor sugar. Tiny quantities of the latter were allotted from time to time in the month of August.

Minimum ration, say: 1,180 calories

Maximum ration, say: 2,020 calories

The sick only got half-rations.

In several camps, in particular Dr. PORTE's, the Japanese arranged that the prisoners should touch less than one liter of tea a day. They were thus forced to drink the dirty water of the rice-paddies. The cases of dysentery were very numerous.

Work: It consisted of:

Embankments for the construction of mountain roads and trails.  
Placing of wooden bridges.  
Boring of numerous tunnels in the mountains.



Timbering of those tunnels.

Transport of blocks and planks necessary for this work on the backs of men driven by blows from cudgels.

The work was stopped 16 August.

Evacuations and Medicines. Formal refusal of medical evacuations on and from July 10th, and of all medicines up to August 15th.

Death-rate:

Died on the spot	: 62 (Sixty-two)
Died on return to the fortress:	36 (Thirty-six)
TOTAL	: 98 dead. (List discontinued from

12 Sept: percentage 3.3%).

Note: This percentage gives no account of the actual facts since the detachment that left on August, generally speaking, did not undergo sufferings protracted enough to produce death. The percentage under 1,800, that is, 5.6% is far nearer the truth.

Disease-rate:

490 seriously-ill patients sent to hospitals at LANESSAN Hospital and at the Fortress Infirmary.

About 300 patients in the Camp not sent to hospital owing to lack of space in the medical units.

Total - 790 patients, that is, a percentage of 26%.

Marsh fever, dysentery, beri-beri, oedema, and so forth were predominant in the death and disease rate.

Atrocities and Ill-Treatment:

In Dr. FLOTTES's camp, a man was beheaded (of the special account tendered by this doctor).

In a camp under the control of Dr. MATHURIN, the dysentery cases were shut up in a cage, excrement and all. A little water and rice was handed in to them through a hole in the partition.

All in all, there were not many atrocities in the strict sense of the word, but (a good deal) of systematic ill-treatment with the definite intention of inducing death.

Excessive amount of work at all times, even at night.

A diet both inadequate and completely unbalanced, owing to the almost total lack of albuminoids and fats.

Systematic sending out of the sick to work, with blows from sticks. In my camp a soldier called MATSUMOTO, the Annamite interpreter, was especially energetic at this business.

Beatings up on the slightest pretext.

Refusal of medicines and medical evacuations.

The intentions of the Japanese Officers were revealed by the words of the captain who commanded my camp. In the course of an interview in which I was begging, as usual, for an improvement, he replied: "You are prisoners,



you have no right to complain. You're welcome to kill yourselves if you are not satisfied. If I feel I want to, I shall stop the food supply for a day, for several days. As for the sick, those already dead and those yet to die, they don't matter a damn."

The lists of the dead and the sick tell their own tale. They allow one to glimpse the treatments that would have ensued if the work had lasted just one month longer.

Signature of Deponent:

(Illegible)

Captain Laurent FORTE, Medical Corps

Signed and witnessed under oath this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_ before me, the undersigned, official investigator accredited by the French authorities for the enquiries to which the present affidavit pertains.

Signature of the Official Investigator

(Illegible)

Captain Claude Le SOURD

Certificate

I, A. ASHTON, hereby certify that I am thoroughly conversant with the French and English languages, and as a result of the comparison between the French and the English texts, I have established that this is a true and correct translation of International Prosecution Document No. 2772B-1.

/s/ A Ashton



DEPOSITION OF THE CHIEF ADJUTANT SURYAU

Subject: Massacres at HAGIANG

After the surrender of the barracks of the Legion, which had become untenable, the French were taken into the courtyard in three groups:

The first group in front of the entrance door was composed of Captains Bertard and Jeannenelle, Dr. Courbiere taken as a hostage, Adjutant Jost, Sgt. Leverrier, two sailors and myself.

The second group, at a short distance from the first, was composed of several N.C.O's and their men.

The third group, near the canteen, was composed of N.C.O's of the Legion, a sailor and some Colonials.

An officer or NCO of the Police Force asked Lt. MORIOKA, who was there dressed as a civilian, what he should do with the prisoners; he replied by making a sign of sweeping them away. The Japanese soldiers then fell upon the prisoners of the second group, threw them to the ground and slaughtered them with bayonet thrusts; at the same time the prisoners of the third group were killed with revolver shots by three Annamites, whose names I do not know but whom I would easily recognize. Lt. MORIOKA then took a sword from the hands of a Japanese NCO and began to strike Capt. Bertard. A first thrust struck him in the back, a second thrust removed his right cheek and ear. The Captain then said: "But what have I done to you?" and he was then finished off by a pistol shot right in the heart

The other members of the first group were simply beaten. My forehead was hammered with bullet points /of a clip/. This massacre cost the lives of 44 men.

The survivors were taken to the Residence to obtain the surrender of Commander Moullet. Six or seven Japanese officers were behind us with revolvers and threatened to kill us.

After the surrender of the Commander we were taken to prison. Later, when I asked for news of Sgt. Bitkus and of the group of Legionnaires sent to the Residence at aperitif time, the Japanese told me that they had been killed in combat, but some civilian prisoners told us that they had been shot behind the church.

INTERROGATING

WITNESS: (Sgd) SURYAU

OFFICER: (Signature illegible)

PRESIDENT OF THE COMMISSION (Sgd) GUILLIEN



FOR CERTIFICATION

SAIGON, 20 May 1946

Lt. Col. Y. TURCK, O.L.A.  
Chief of Federal War Crimes  
Service

(SEAL) WAR CRIMES SERVICE  
SAIGON, 21 May 1946  
(Signature illegible)

FOR CERTIFICATION:

French High Commissioner for Indo-China

By authorization: The Commissioner of Justice  
(Sgd) DE LA CHARIERE

(SEAL) FEDERAL GOVERNMENT OF INDO-CHINA  
Commissioner of Justice

Certificate

I, YALE MAXON, hereby certify that I am thoroughly conversant with the French and English languages, and as a result of the comparison between the French and the English texts, I have established that this is a true and correct translation of International Prosecution Document No. 2772-A-1.

(Sgd) YALE MAXON



AFFIDAVIT - LAURENT Henri, Master-Sergeant  
of Colonial Artillery,  
born on May 28, 1918, at Montbozon  
(Haute-Saone)  
son of Hortense LAURENT.  
Residence in France:  
MONTBOZON (HAUTE-SAONE)

2149

1) Sent on August 1st to HOA BINH - reprisals camp of  
45 Kilometer camp - I was a witness to the following facts:

Every morning, before leaving for the work, sick persons - especially those ill with malaria and dysentery - would be mustered out before the thatches where they slept. At this time, a Japanese non-commissioned officer, group leader, would strike the men several times with a club until they fell to the earth half-unconscious, then he would make them get up and beat them again until they were carried away absolutely limp. It is to be remembered that these sick men were deprived of food, one meal out of every two, because they did not take part in the work.

2) For the most part the concubines of the Europeans at LANGSON were rounded up on about March 15 by the Japanese authorities to go to Tien Yen to furnish a traveling house of prostitution for the troops in the field there. They stayed there about one month and out of sympathy for our physical misery, carried us tobacco and articles of food in spite of the contingent reprisals. I do not know how they were treated because it was impossible to talk with them as a result of the dilligence of our guards.

For the legalization of the signature:  
Chief of the Special Section of the  
Federal Surety  
certifies that the person who signed  
the Declaration is indeed Mr. LAURENT

Laurent /signature/  
LAURENT Henri, M.d.l. (Master  
Sergeant) Colonial Artillery.

SEAL

/signature/  
Henri Le Cuir  
Superintendent of Police

Signed and certified upon oath, on the 23 August 1946,  
at Saigon (IndoChina) before me, the undersigned investigating  
officer authorized by French Authority for the investigation  
of which the present affidavit is the subject.

/signature/  
Captain DUCASSE, Jean



Certificate:-

I, George W. Buffington, hereby certify that I am thoroughly conversant with the French and English languages, and as a result of the comparison between the French and the English texts, I have established that this is a true and correct translation of International Prosecution Document No. 2772-B-2.

/s/ George Buffington



EVIDENCE OF CHIEF ADJUTANT, MALE NURSE POTIN ON THE  
SUBJECT OF ASSASSINATIONS AT HAGIANG.

After having been taken prisoner I saw about twenty bodies on the bank of the river but I did not see their execution.

On the 12th March, about 11 o'clock, some Annamite nurses told me that Legionnaire Helenol was hidden in the rocks behind the infirmary; I sent to tell him to try and join us by taking advantage of the night but this was not possible as we were taken to the civilian hospital. I learned later that Helenol was taken prisoner and shot, as well as Mechazi, who had escaped from the massacres by the river.

On the 15th March, I learned from the civilian prisoners that Legionnaire Ivanof, who was hidden in a little pagoda behind the Residence, had been taken by the Japanese. Shortly after, from the window of my room at the military hospital, I saw Ivanof arrive with two Japanese sentinels, they stopped just in front of my window and Lt. MURASAKI arrived, had Ivanof bound, ordered him to sit down on the ground and called a female Annamite interpreter named MISOKO. MURASAKI began by throwing stones right in the face of the prisoner, then made him get up and conducted him to the bank of the river, below the bridge; a Japanese sergeant took off Ivanof's jacket and pulled his shirt up over his face, then MURASAKI had a rifle with a bayonet brought to him and killed Ivanof with a bayonet thrust in the chest.

INTERROGATING OFFICER  
(Signature illegible)

WITNESS: (Signed) POTIN

PRESIDENT OF THE COMMISSION  
(Signed) GUILLIEN

FOR CERTIFICATION

FOR CERTIFICATION  
HIGH COMMISSIONER OF  
FRANCE FOR INDO-CHINA  
By authorization of the  
Commissioner of Justice.

(Signed) De La Charriere  
(SEAL) FEDERAL GOV'T OF INDO-CHINA  
Commissioner of Justice

SAIGON, 20th May 1946

Lt.Col. Y. TURCK, O.L.A.  
Chief of Federal War Crimes Office

(SEAL) WAR CRIMES SERVICE  
Saigon, 21 May 1946



Certificate

I, GEORGE BUFFINGTON, hereby certify that I am thoroughly conversant with the French and English languages, and as a result of the comparison between the French and the English texts, I have established that this is a true and correct translation of International Prosecution Document No. 2772-A-2.

(Signed) GEORGE BUFFINGTON



2152

Federal War Crimes Service  
S A I G O N  
(Cochinchina)  
Official Report  
of 9th December 1945

Republic of France

In the year 1946 on the 9th December.

I, Captain Claude LE SOURD, Attache to the Federal War Crimes Service, assisted by Miss Monique LEPELLETIER, Interpreter, and Miss DEMENAIS acting as clerk, proceeded, as follows, to the interrogation of the hereinafter named:

Questioned as to his civil status, he declared:

My name is FURUKAWA, born on 29 April 1918, at Miyajiricho, UJIYAMADA City, Mie Ken, son of FURUKAWA Seikichi and FURUKAWA Fusa, following the profession of Captain commander of the 6th Company of the 2nd Battalion of the 226th Regiment.

Q. When did you arrive in French Indo China?

A. Coming from China, I arrived:

- on the 8th February 1945 at TINNAN QUAN,
- on the 12th Feb. 1945 at LANGSON,
- on the 18th February 1945 at CO-LOW,
- on the 20th Feb. 1945 at BAC NINH,
- on the 24th Feb. 1945 at HA GIANG,
- on the 20th May 1945 at 16 Kms of HANOI,
- on the end of June 1945 at SAIGON
- on the 5th July 1945 at PINOM-PENH,
- on the end of July 1945 at BANGKOK.

Q. Will you tell me what happened at HA GIANG at the beginning of March 1945?

A. The 2nd Battalion of the 226 R.I. /Infantry Regiment/ began the fighting on 9 March, towards half-past 7 P.M. by attacking from the rear of the fortress. The combat lasted for about 4 hours. At daybreak, after the surrender, I assembled the prisoners of my company and sent them to the Battalion.

At 16.00, on 10 March, I left with my company for THANH TRUY.

Three days after, I went out with my company to LAOTSCHAY, then to HOANG SU PHU, afterwards XIN MAN. I watched these different positions for a week; to be exact, a week at each place. Then on 15 May, we were relieved and sent to HANOI.



Q. Did you take Major MOULLET with you to HOANG SU PFY and THANH TFUY?

A. Yes.

Q. What can you tell about the violation of a French-woman of which you are accused?

A. On 15 or 16 March, on my arrival at HOANG SU PFY, the Tri-Chau /Provincial-Chief/ informed me, through an interpreter from HOANG SU PFY, of the presence of 2 young French girls on the second floor of the house situated at the bottom of the yard. He added, "Go and see them." This I immediately did. I took with me two armed soldiers and, crossing the yard, I went up to the 2nd floor. Finally, after having opened the door of a room, I found 2 young girls lying in a bed. They got up and I searched them, wanting to make sure that they were not hiding any arms. Then, thinking that this search was not sufficient, I opened a door communicating with another room, and had them enter in, and followed them in leaving the two soldiers in the first room. Having shut the communicating door, I made the two young girls understand, under the menace of my revolver, to undress themselves. I made the younger go on down, and stayed alone with the other. I possessed her in spite of her cries.

The act accomplished, I returned to the first room where I occupied myself in a search of the baggage of these two persons. I found in it, 300 piastres which I appropriated to myself. I confiscated for my benefit almost all the belongings discovered which I put back into their valise.

Q. What do you know about the murder of Captain PARES and Lieutenant De PARELLE? On about 25th May?

A. Embarrassed by my prisoners, I decided to rid myself of them taking advantage of a lull.

Going out for this purpose from XIN MAN with 3 or 4 armed soldiers and 2 prisoners, I myself killed first the captain with a bullet through the heart, and then the lieutenant, leaving the corpses to the care of my soldiers for the burial. This finished, I returned to XIN MAN.

The execution took place along a track.

I kept the third French officer, a major, for the purpose of sending him to the Staff of the Battalion.



Q. And about the massacre of French soldiers, what do you know?

A. I was afraid of a revolt by my prisoners from FOANG SU PHY. Between the 20th and the 25th, I executed my plan. One day, about 11.00, I made the prisoners go out one by one from the yard of the Tri-Chau's house by a gate at the back, and helped by TAKETSUBO, I decapitated them one by one with my sword. 5 soldiers witnessed the execution of 40 French and Indochinese prisoners. Three of these prisoners succeeded in escaping a little before. At 13.00, the execution was finished, and the corpses buried by the 5 soldiers. I do not know what units my victims belonged to, but I can say that the highest in rank was a Warrant Officer.

Q. Was it you that had the two women, one of whom had been raped by you, killed?

A. Thinking that the young women of FOANG SU PHY might furnish some useful information to the emissaries of the French, I decided to cause them to disappear.

On 3rd May, about 19.00 or 20.00, accompanied by TAKETSUBO, I made them go out and took them out behind the house where they lived. I fired a shot with my revolver into the back of the neck of the elder, while TAKETSUBO killed the younger in the same way. Helped by TAKETSUBO, I dug two holes where they were buried.

Nothing more being said, the above affidavit was read, translated, affirmed and signed before me and the interpreter.

The accused  
/s/ (in Japanese characters)  
FURUKAWA Shinichi

The Attache to  
the War Crimes Commission  
/s/ Capt. LE SOURD

The interpreter  
/s/ Miss LEPILLETIER

The Clerk  
/s/ Miss DEMENAIS

#### Certificate

I, A. Ashton, hereby certify that I thoroughly conversant with the French and English languages, and as a result of the comparison between the French and the English texts, I have established that this is a true and correct translation of International Prosecution Document No. 2772-A-7.

/s/ A. Ashton



Federal War Crimes Service  
S A I G O N  
(Cochinchina)  
Official Report  
of 9th December 1945

Republic of France

In the year 1946 on the 9th December.

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Nothing more being said, the above affidavit was read, translated, affirmed and signed before me and the interpreter.

The accused  
/s/ (in Japanese characters)  
FURUKAWA Shinichi

The Attache to  
the War Crimes Commission  
/s/ Capt. LE SOURD

The interpreter  
/s/ Miss LEPHLETTIER

The Clerk  
/s/ Miss DEMENAIIS

#### Certificate

I, A. Ashton, hereby certify that I thoroughly conversant with the French and English languages, and as a result of the comparison between the French and the English texts, I have established that this is a true and correct translation of International Prosecution Document No. 2772-A-7.

/s/ A. Ashton



AFFIDAVIT

Name: SI A PHUC

Profession: Farmer

Born 18th June 1931 at DAM HA, son of SI A SOI and SONG SY.

Lives in DAM HA (Province of HAI NINH)

I was at DAM HA on the 16th March 1945 when the Japanese who came from TIEN YEN, attacked the French post. The fighting lasted all day, and at the beginning of the night there were some shots.

I was at the home of my parents who live 200 meters from the French post and we dared not go out for fear of being killed.

The next morning, I saw the Japanese at the French post, I learned later that the French had left during the night.

About 9 AM a Japanese soldier came into my house and asked me to go to the post where I saw some Chinese pirates with the Japanese. I saw as I walked in, to the right of the gate, near the blockhouse, two corpses of French soldiers, a negro whom I knew and another that I could not recognize.

The Japanese ordered me through a Chinese to sweep the yard; to gather the sweepings, and to throw them into the river. I saw them making a funeral pyre near the gate on which they put the two corpses, and about noon they doused them with gasoline and set them on fire.

About 1400 a bearded French soldier, whom I did not know, arrived at the post by truck, his arms bound behind his back. The Japanese brought him up on to the concrete terrace behind the office and again bound his arms and legs with iron wire.

The Chinese coolies received an order to go and bring wood from near the kitchen and the Japanese made a pyre with the soldier in the middle, the whole bound with iron wire. They prepared also wood on the ground and a Japanese soldier doused the French soldier and the wood with a can of gasoline. He set the fire to his feet. The soldier cried out a great deal for several minutes and the flames rose everywhere. The Chinese coolies continued to bring wood. About 1600 the two coolies who had dug a



hole near the gate came to take out the burned bones, and then threw them in the hole where there were already the ashes of the two corpses burned in the morning.

I saw all that with my own eyes.

The Japanese compelled me to go and fetch water for the kitchen and, in the evening, I returned to my house.

The Japanese left the French post by truck the next morning for HACOI and left some Chinese pirates of their service at the French post.

(Sgd) SI A PHUC

Signed and attested under oath on 18 September 1945 at DAM HA before me, the undersigned Investigation Officer assigned by the French Authority for the inquiries of which the present affidavit is the object.

(Sgd) JEAN A.

JEAN A.

Captain of Colonial Infantry

I, the undersigned HOANG HUU DZUNG, sub-lieutenant, Interpreter of the Chinese language, certify that I have translated this affidavit and the oath of the witness who affirms that he has understood the present text perfectly.

(Sgd) HOANG HUU DZUNG

S/Lieutenant, Interpreter of the Chinese language.

I, the undersigned, RAULT Louis, Chief of Battalion Commander of the Coast Forces certify the authenticity of the signatures on the present affidavit.

(Sgd) RAULT

Witness to the legalization of the signatures of Messrs. SI A PHUC, JEAN, NGUYEN, VAN, VY and RAULT affixed above.

Hanoi, 27 Sept. 1946  
Chief of Civil Service

(Sgd) J. Lariviere

(SEAL)



Affidavit

No 1549 DDD

NAME: VONG DENG first class private - Army number 51626,  
Born on the 15 July 1922 at XUAN-LAN (near Moncay).  
Son of VON SY SENG and of KIM DI KU.

Address: 13th Company, Coastal forces--  
S.P. 50.681 - BPM 406.

Deposition

I was serving at DINH LAP on the 9th March 1946. /T.N. 1945?/

On the 11th, at about 10 a.m., 20 trucks coming from AN CHAU stopped about 1 Km from the post and some Japanese got out and began to surround the post.

In the post were Sub-Lieutenant LEJEUNE, Corporal DURIC, a French sergeant who had arrived the evening before from LANGSON and an Annamese surgeon-lieutenant who had also come from LANGSON to make a medical inspection of the post. Sublieutenant LEJEUNE was in command of the garrison of the post.

The outer, Mobile Detachment with Captain BERGUE, 1st Sergeant BEZUTEAU, Master-Sergeant LEROY and Sergeant BROTTTEAU stayed 200 m. from the post. The Mobile Detachment were the first to open fire against the Japanese. They broke off the fight after one hour of battle.

The Japanese who had approached the post charged from two sides at once. The post continued to fire with machine-guns, automatic rifles and grenade-throwers. I saw about thirty Japanese fall, I killed seven or eight with the machine gun. We had two Indochinese corporals killed as well as the European Sergeant from LANGSON and about fifteen wounded.

Sublieutenant LEJEUNE was also wounded with a bullet in the shoulder-blade.

The Japanese succeeded in entering the post, and the fighting came to an end, they tied up the sharpshooters by threes. Only Sub-lieutenant LEJEUNE and the Surgeon were tied up separately. It was about



noon.

The Japanese soldiers gathered the arms and the ammunition together and untied some of the sharpshooters leaving only the block-house riflemen (19) tied up.

A Japanese officer entered the post and fired two shots with his revolver at Sublieutenant LEFFUNE who had his hands tied in front of his body. He fell near the trench which is behind the Captain's house. The Indochinese Surgeon Lieutenant was brought near Sublieutenant LEFFUNE and the Japanese forced him to sit down.

The Japanese officer returned a few minutes later and decapitated Sublieutenant LEFFUNE with his sword. The Lieutenant was on his knees on the edge of the trench. He decapitated in the same way the Indochinese Surgeon Lieutenant.

All of us were grouped in the yard at that time to witness these executions, the Japanese surrounding us.

The Japanese officer gave an order and the group, of which I was one, made up of 19 sharpshooters and European Corporal DURIC, was taken out from the post to near the post office. We were lined up at the side of the road, hands tied behind our backs, in groups of two.

A Japanese officer and six soldiers surrounded us. Two Japanese soldiers armed with rifles with bayonets fixed began to kill the prisoners. I fell down with five bayonet wounds, three in the neck and chest and did not move again. The Japanese left us at the side of the road till about 1600 hours. At that time the Japanese trucks set off again towards TIEN YEN and an old THO of the village came to see the corpses. He untied me and guided me to SI UNG, a trader whom I knew.

The inhabitants buried near the road the eighteen dead riflemen and the French Corporal DURIC. As soon as I recovered I rejoined in China the French troops which had retreated to KWANTUNG.

Typed name of Deponent

/Signed in characters/ VOIC DEIC.



Signed and attested under oath on the 20th June 1946 at  
TIEN YEN before me, the undersigned Investigation Officer assigned  
by the French Authority for the enquiries of which the present affidavit  
is the object.

(Sgd./ JEAN

Typed name of Investigation officer:

A JEAN,  
Captain of Colonial Infantry.

I, NGUYEN VAN VY, Lieutenant Interpreter of the Annamese Language  
certify that I have translated this affidavit and the oath of the  
witness who affirms that he has understood perfectly the present text.

Signature of Interpreter /indecipherable/

Typewritten name of Interpreter:

NGUYEN VAN VY,  
Lt of Colonial Infantry.

I, RAULT LOUIS, Chief of Battalion,  
Commander of Coastal Forces, certify  
as authentic the signatures on the  
present affidavit.

S/ RAULT.

Witness to the Legalization of  
signatures of Mr. VONG-DENG,  
Mr. JEAN, Mr. NGUYEN VAN VY,  
and Mr. RAULT affixed above

Hanoi, the 27th Sept. 1946.  
Chief of Civil Service  
S/ J. Lariviere.

/STAMP/



18th Military District  
Place de Hoch Fort  
3rd Colonial Infantry Regiment  
No. 46/SM

2155  
Official Report of Evidence  
by the Witness

SECRET

In the year 1945 on the 12th December at 15 hours

Before me, Captain CADET Rene of the 3rd R.I.C. acting by virtue of the Judicial Mandate dated 23rd October 1945, of Monsieur GUILLIEN, charged with the enquiry into war crimes in North Indo China

And delegated by Colonel CARIOU, Commander of the 3rd Regiment of Colonial Infantry

First-class soldier CHON Fernand, Registered No. 14170 presented himself, a survivor of the Fort of DONG DANG, whom I sent for in accordance with various paragraphs in the Judicial Mandate cited above. We have recorded his replies which appear in the official report.

1. Describe all that you saw at DONG DANG before and after the surrender of the Fortress giving all details.

Belonging to the 3rd R.T.T. I was attached to the Post of DONG DANG the 1st August 1944. It was a fortified post held by the 6th Company of the 3rd R.T.T. and commanded by Captain HANAUS who had under his orders: Lieutenant SACOBI, Cadet DECOUVREUR, Master-Sergeants BONDU, ISTOUELLE, ABSALON; Sergeants SALMON and LLLIEVRE, five Indo-Chinese Master Sergeants and Sergeants, twenty-four French Master-Corporals, Corporals and soldiers and about one hundred and forty Indo-Chinese. In addition, attached to the Post, Commander SOULIER, Commander of the Administration Center of DONG DANG and Master-Sergeant SERDIN of the Engineers.

The company was divided into three F.V. Sections and one Machine gun Section.

I, CHON, was employed as telephone operator at the Post.

Some while back, the Captain had warned us, without giving details that we should expect a heavy attack. We carried out exercises for alerts and action stations night and day three or four times a week. Frenchmen and Indo-Chinese alike waited calmly for the announced attack.



The 9th March 1945 the Post was manned about mid-day, the action stations occupied. About 20 hours 30, the telephone line was cut.

In the evening at 21.15 hours, the Japanese announced the attack by a salvo of 6 guns which were afterwards repeated. Towards 23 hours, taking advantage of the darkness, the Japanese crawled towards the Fort and placed ladders against the wall of the enclosure. Eight of them succeeded in getting over. This break in brought about a combat lasting until 3 o'clock in the morning during which Commander SOULIER, Sergeant SAIMON and an Indo-Chinese were killed. The eight Japanese, among whom was a Lieutenant of the Japanese Mission stationed at DONG LANG, were killed during the fighting. The fighting went on for some time as an exchange of artillery and machine gun fire.

During the day of 10th March it was relatively quiet; however, in the evening the Japanese launched an attack, but they did not succeed in getting as far as the Fortress as we lit fires on the four corners of the Fort which allowed us to carry out the flanking fire we had arranged for previously. They reached the barbed wire but were unable to place the ladders. During the night they carried out several unfruitful attempts.

The 11th March began quietly. Towards 10 o'clock two Japanese emissaries presented themselves demanding the surrender of the Post. The Captain sent them away with a refusal. During the afternoon towards 16 hours a French officer taken prisoner at LANGSON was sent by the Japanese to let the Captain know that if within 24 hours the Post did not surrender, they would use the necessary force. The Captain replied that they would have to use such force.

A Section, commanded by Lieutenant JACOBI was sent out on reconnaissance. It went towards the station and suffered a check, and in the course of this action Sergeant LELIEVRE and two sharpshooters disappeared. The Section brought back with them to the Fort the customs official of DONG LANG who had been unable to leave his home.

The fighting began again and once more the Japanese tried to penetrate into the Fort by means of ladders but without success. On the 12th March, about 11 a.m. the Japanese in force succeeded in scaling the perimeter wall and when I, CRON, got out of my demolished dug-out, there were more than 800 Japanese in the Fort, commanded by a general.



We were assembled under the veranda of the Fortress. The general had the French flag hauled down and in its place, had their flag flown. Our flag was carried off. He made us pay honours, congratulated us and said he was proud to have fought us because we had fought like lions.

After this he sent for the Captain, made him sit on a chair in the middle of the court-yard of the Fortress and designated 9 French military personnel among whom I was, the customs official, and 40 Indo-Chinese.

While this was going on I saw two Japanese officers talking to the Captain and one of them a Lieutenant struck the Captain on the nape of the neck with a sword and he fell to the ground.

The military personnel designated as explained above were conducted in a double file to the Customs House, where we were locked up. In the evening about 18 hours we were undressed by Japanese soldiers who bound our hands behind our backs and led us to the hill where the Japanese Mission was situated.

They made us kneel at the edge of a trench and began to massacre us by sword strokes on the back of the neck. When this was finished they went away. I understood later that they had gone to fetch gasoline. I fled with the two sharp-shooters--one of whom had untied my hands and then run off -- and I carried one of them on my back. I had run about 300 metres when I saw a great light coming from the place where we had just been struck with swords; they were burning the bodies.

I fled into the mountains. I left the sharp-shooter in a village with some relatives who gave me some Indo-Chinese clothes as I only had on undershirt and a singlet.

I managed to get back to the Post of DIEMPE which I found abandoned. I found the occupants in the mountains. From there, I rejoined the detachment of Captain MICHEL on the 14th March. We found at BAO LAC the detachment of Colonel SEGUIN and crossed the Chinese frontier.

2. Give the names and addresses of other surviving witnesses.

Out of 50 military personnel designated for the massacre above-mentioned, I only saw the two sharp-shooters whom I have cited escape. I do not know their identity or their registration No. One fled as soon as he had untied my hands. The second I left in a village at some relatives. I cannot name the village.



I can give no other information on the other combatants since my departure from the Fort.

3. Give a list of the dead as known to you; give the precise date, place and type of death of each one as far as possible.

Major SOUCIER, Sergeant SALMON, 1 sharp-shooter, killed in battle the night of 9/10th March 1945.

Sergeant LELIEVRE and 2 sharp-shooters vanished during the reconnaissance of 11/10 March.

Second-class soldier GUCFET, killed in combat the 12th March.

Executed the 12th March 1945: Master-Sergeant BONDU; Master Sergeant SAKDIN, Master-Corporal BRYER; First-class soldiers RIGACHE, deLUCAS, Second-class BRAWAKI, MACCOURSOU, Gunner MINO, and thirty-eight Indo-Chinese.

I cannot certify that Captain FANAUS was dead when I left the Fort.

The preceding official report having been read to the witness he states that his declaration has been faithfully transcribed and he affirms them and signs with us.

Executed at ROCHFORD S/MER  
the 12th December 1945

Private CRON, Witness:  
/s/ CRON

Captain CADET  
/s/ CADET

Certified true copy for Chief of Federal Service of War Crimes in French Indo-China and by order,

The Delegate  
/s/ (indiscipherable)

Saigon, Dec. 16, 1946

Certificate

I, A. Ashton, hereby certify that I am thoroughly conversant with the French and English languages, and as a result of the comparison between the French and the English texts, I have established that this is a true and correct translation of International Prosecution Document No. 2772-E-7.

/s/ A. Ashton



A F F I D A V I T 2156

CHOMETTE, Louis, Jean-Marie, Leon;  
Sub-Lieutenant.

Born 8 December 1919 at St. Etienne  
(Loire)

Son of Elie Chomette and Leontine  
Durand.

Address in France: 19 Rue St.  
Claire, Clermond-Ferrand  
(Puy-de-Dome).

Immediately after the surrender of the fort on 10 March at 1600 hours, the Japanese looted all the premises and more especially the Officers' Quarters; all the prisoners were searched and relieved of all they possessed (money, watches, papers, rings and wedding rings, etc.) but I managed however to conceal a little money and my signet ring in one of my shoes.

The Japanese absolutely refused to evacuate our seriously wounded to the hospital of Langson. Next day, about 1600 hours, all the prisoners, with the exception of some seriously wounded (Battalion Commander Boery, Adjutant Chief, Celestin, Private Gauthier and others whose names I do not know) were divided into four groups, three groups of about 20 soldiers each and a group of officers (5), and fastened to each other by the left wrist. These groups were taken, in succession, on to the ramp of the fort and placed one behind the other. Shortly after, about 15 Japanese, armed with rifles and two machine guns, took up a position some meters away from us; each of us immediately understood the fate which had been reserved for us. Lt. Dronsey asked the Japanese, without success, that the massacre might be limited to the officers. The men were very steady and calmly said goodbye to us, expressing the hope that we should be avenged.

At the moment when the Japanese took aim at us all the condemned struck up the "Marseillaise". The Japanese let us sing about two couplets and then fired.

The number of shots fired was comparatively few. One round each from the rifle and two short bursts of machine gun fire. Many of us were wounded, particularly about the legs, but I have the impression that the number of dead was not high; nevertheless we tumbled one on the other. During the two hours which followed, scenes of unparalleled savagery took place, beginning with the Japanese throwing themselves upon us, yelling and using our bodies as fencing targets for the bayonet. Then they amused themselves by firing rifle or revolver shots in the ear of those who did not appear quite dead. The least tremble called forth roars



of laughter and loud shouts of joy and marked a new victim whom they immediately set upon with the bayonet. I myself was wounded four times, in the arm, in the chest and in the right buttock.

When the Japanese considered that not a single one more remained alive they had us removed by Annamites (our irregulars) and thrown into a ravine. The bodies thus thrown rolled for 200 to 250 meters. I came to myself, lying head downwards, near a track which I knew well and lay without moving till nightfall. Around me were some twenty dead bodies among which only Chief Corporal Saladini was still alive.

After night had fallen it was at last possible for us to get up and make our way back with difficulty to the hospital of Langsen.

As far as concerns the fate of the Battalion Commander Boery, and some severely wounded who were not shot with us, I have been able to gather from Private Vo Thanh (an Eurasian, considered an Annamite by the Japanese, who was looked after at Langson and then disappeared) the following details: The Commandant and the other wounded were led to the top of the wall of the Fort where there were two Japanese captains, one of whom was a doctor (names unknown). They /the French officers/ were spectators at the execution of all their comrades and were then executed in their turn by revolver bullets and thrown on to the heap of other dead.

The account of Vo Thanh seems to me the more reliable as there was a moment when I received an impression that something soft had fallen near me.

CHOMETTE

(Signed) Lieutenant CHOMETTE

Signed and attested under oath on 27 August 1946 at Saigon, before me the undersigned Investigation Officer, assigned by the French authorities to the inquiries of which the present affidavit is the object.

(Signed) LE SOURD

Captain Le Sourd

Witnessed for the verification of the signatures:

Director of Police and Federal Security

(Signature illegible)

(STAMP) (HIGH COMMISSIONER OF FRANCE FOR INDO-CHINA.  
(Administration of Police and Federal Security



Certificate

I, A. ASHTON, hereby certify that I am thoroughly conversant with the French and English languages, and as a result of the comparison between the French and the English texts, I have established that this is a true and correct translation of International Prosecution Document No. 2772-E-6.

(Sgd) A. ASHTON



STATEMENT MADE IN TOKYO 7 JANUARY 1947  
BEFORE MR. ROBERT ONETO, ASSOCIATE-  
PROSECUTOR FOR FRANCE

.....

My name is Fernand GABRILLAGUES, born 1 January 1918 at Paris, Bachelor of Letters, Master of Laws. I am an officer of the French Army and a representative of the War Crimes Service of Indo-China. I live at Saigon, 181 Rue Mayer.

Being in charge of the investigation bureau for war criminal suspects I have been led in the performance of my functions to study a comprehensive body of documents and /this fact/ has permitted me to have cognizance of the war crimes committed in Indo-China by the Japanese forces.

The number of these crimes is considerable, the documentation concerning them is voluminous, and there could be no question of making a complete expose of them. Certain of them are and will remain unknown because of the absence of witnesses and the systematic destruction of their files carried out by the Japanese in anticipation of the Allied landings.

I will leave aside the blows at the liberty and dignity of individuals, the pillage, theft, various cruelties and even murders, mentioning only certain salient facts.

I propose to call attention particularly:

1. To the atrocities committed on the premises of the Kempeitai and in the Prisoner of War camps.
2. To the massacres of Prisoners of War and civilians.

Whilst the Japanese Command in Indo-China was concentrating all the French population in the cities within enclosures where they were often the most exposed to Allied bombardments, the KEMPEITAI was signaling itself by its atrocities. Hundreds of Frenchmen were imprisoned and subjected to a state of affairs worse than that of common



criminals: penned up in cramped quarters and under distressing sanitary conditions, without clothes, without medical care, without water, sometimes deprived of food for whole weeks, most often receiving all in all nothing but a single ball of rice, excessively filthy and presented under loathsomely dirty conditions.

On the pretext of interrogation a great variety of tortures were systematically inflicted: clubbings that left lesions and fractures, lighted matches slipped under the nails, burns by cigarettes and by lighted tapers, torture by sharp-edged blocks, torture by water, torture by electricity, hanging by the thumbs, and others.....

These conditions of life and these tortures caused the death of many prisoners, some having been tortured to death, others having died in the course of their stay in prison, exhausted by abuse and sickness. At Hanoi, at Haiphong, at Vinh, at Hue, at Saigon, at Phom-Penh and in all the places where the Kempeitai raged, hundreds of Frenchmen of all conditions as well as a certain number of nationals of Allied Nations were subjected to degrading treatment from which a great many had no deliverance save by death. Those who by reason of Japan's defeat were able to escape certain death left the Kempeitai prisons mere skin and bones, their health definitely broken.

The examination of the files makes clear the identity of the methods employed in Indo-China in the different local sections of the Gendarmerie.

In the Prisoner of War camps the atrocities committed did not lag behind those habitual to the Kempeitai. These officers and men were forced to work like convicts at defense works. Even the sick, who were soon a considerable number, were also forced to work and were clubbed and beaten with iron bars at the slightest faltering. Scarcely fed, left without medical care, herded like beasts into huts which they had, with great difficulty, constructed with crude means subjected to exhausting labor. The prisoners died in great numbers: 98 over a period of fifty days in the Hoa-Binh camp at Tonkin.

But above all ----- in many parts of Indo-China the Japanese massacred the Prisoners of War.



At Langson sixty defenders of Fort Bricre de l'Isle were shot and finished off with the bayonets immediately after the fighting was ended.

At Langson also, at the Citadelle, more than 200 French prisoners were massacred. The execution took place in successive batches of 50 men each: the butchers worked with sabres, with bayonets, with blows of pick axes, and threw themselves upon the survivors. From the second batch on the new victims stood on soil running with blood.

Massacres of Prisoners of war and of civilians took place in various other parts of the city of Langson. General Lecomnier, Colonel Robert, the Resident of the province were among the victims. A child only a few months old, in its mother's arms, had its skull smashed. The mother, by a miracle, survived the massacre.



At DONG-DANG, after a fight which lasted three days, the garrison gave it-  
self up and received the congratulations of the Japanese officers for its  
heroism. A few moments later the Captain commanding the garrison was slaughter-  
ed under the eyes of his men. Thereafter, it was the turn of all the other  
defenders, executed by sabre and bayonet and of all the Europeans in DONG-  
DANG. The only survivor of the massacre, Corporal CRON, describes the  
execution of the Captain and fifty of his men.

At DINH LAP, all French Survivors as well as Annamite Tirailleurs were  
massacred. Similar massacres of prisoners at TIEN-YEN, at HANOI, at DAM-HA,  
particularly as far as this last mentioned post is concerned, evidence shows  
that four wounded Annamites and one European were burned alive.

The massacres mentioned above were the work of the 225th Regiment of the  
37th Division, commanded by Colonel SHIZUME.

The 226th Regiment which belonged to the same Division has to its credit  
in particular the massacres of XIN-MAN, HOANG-SU-PHI and HAGIANG where  
French prisoners to the number of a hundred were massacred.

In the last mentioned regions, several cases of rape of French women  
occurred. A woman and her sister aged 14 years were compelled to cohabit  
for weeks with 50 Japanese soldiers who treated them brutally as well as  
violating them. One of them went mad and both were subsequently executed.  
Another example; a young French girl of 15 years and her mother were violated  
and then assassinated.

Over and above, in several regions, native women were forced into  
prostitution.

In the section of another Japanese unit, the 21st Division, massacres of  
French prisoners were equally frequent. They took place, in particular, dur-  
ing pursuit actions with the rearguards of General ALESSANDRI which, departing  
from the HANOI region, tried to reach China and got there at the price of  
heavy losses. At TONG, five Frenchmen and 12 Annamite Tirailleurs - prisoners -  
were executed. At TAN-QUI, fourteen French prisoners were killed by sabre  
and bayonet; there was a single survivor, Corporal JUBIN, who describes the  
massacre. Similarly, (there were) executions of prisoners at YEN-BAY, PHUO,  
SONLA, LAICHAU, MALITA).....

Finally, in LARS at TAKHEK, a town likewise occupied by the 21st Division,  
practically all the male European population was massacred. Fifty five French  
were thus executed. Two Bishops, the Resident of the Province, two women  
and a child figured among the victims.

I must add that Colonel TSUNEYASHI, Chief of Staff of the 37th Division,  
now under detention at SAIGON, in the course of an interrogation before an  
Investigating Officer of the War Crimes Service stated particularly that  
General NAGANO, commanding the 37th Division had congratulated the troops of  
Colonel SHIZUME after the end of the fighting and massacres at LANGSON and



that the General considered these massacres to be an act of war.

Colonel TSUNEYOSHI further stated that General TSUCHIHASHI, Commander in Chief of the Japanese troops in Indo-China, to whom the massacres of the prisoners at LANGSON were reported declared in these very words: "Act as if I knew nothing about it."

Under oath I certify that the foregoing statements are true.

Captain F. GABRILLAGUES,  
Delegate of the Indo-China Federal  
War Crimes Service

Deposition taken at Tokyo,  
Tuesday, 7 January 1947

R. ONETO  
Associate Prosecutor for France

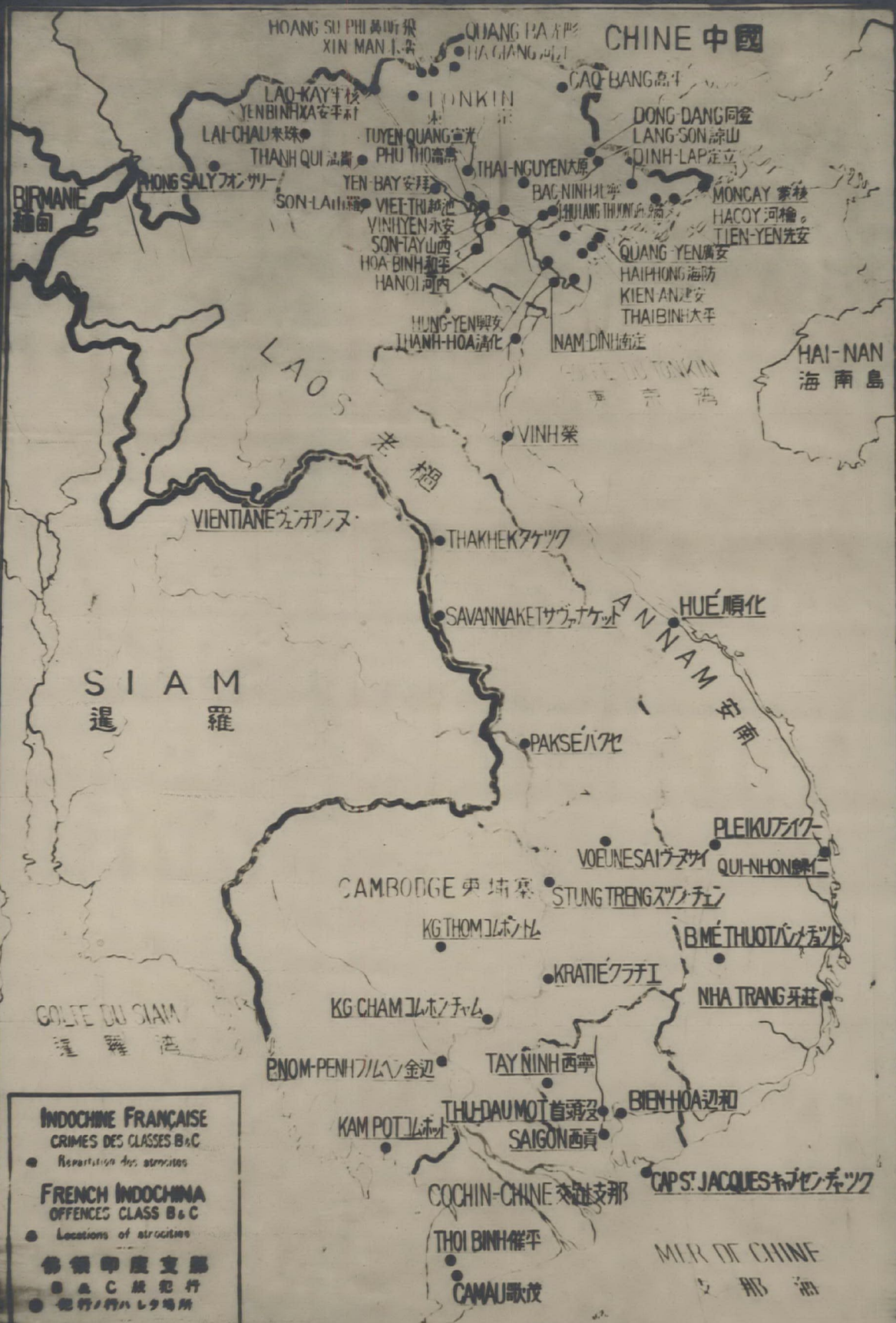


C E R T I F I C A T E

The attached outline map indicates the whereabouts of the majority of the localities in Indochina where murders and atrocities with respect to the civil population and prisoners of war surviving the occupation by the Japanese armies, were committed.

Capt. GABRILLAGUES  
Delegate of the War Crimes Office





**INDOCHINE FRANÇAISE**  
**CRIMES DES CLASSES B & C**

● Répartition des atrocités

**FRENCH INDOCHINA**  
**OFFENCES CLASS B & C**

● Locations of atrocities

**佛領印度支那**

● B & C 級犯行

● 犯行ノ行ハレタ場所

1967, French Division, Jun 1967

ECHELLE 縮尺 1 : 650.000