

CONFIDENTIAL.

No. 65008 JAG
HQ Allied Land Forces,
South East Asia Command.
21st February, 1946.

GOC-in-C,
Malaya Command.

Subject: War Crimes Trials.

Reference the proceedings of the trial by military court of Sjt OTODA Hiroshi, and the attached petition.

1. The accused was tried by a Military Court on 11 Feb 46 on 4 charges for brutally ill-treating four Chinese civilians under arrest and in his custody, thereby causing the death of three of them and driving the fourth to commit suicide. He pleaded guilty and was sentenced to death by hanging.
2. The facts of this case are contained in the abstract of evidence attached to the proceedings.
3. The full significance of the accused's pleas of guilty was carefully explained to him by the president. The accused thereupon made a statement to the effect that he arrested four communists and as a member of the Japanese Army and the Kempei Tai he carried out his duty. The accused stated that the Japanese Army had issued an order to the effect that all communists should be destroyed. He pleaded that extreme measures were necessary for the purposes of his investigations.
4. In his petition against the sentence the accused merely repeats that he did his duty as a WO of the Kempei Tai, carrying out its policy and living up to its traditions. He avers that he had no personal hatred for the deceased and believed that his treatment of them was for the common good.
5. The petition contains nothing whatever to justify interference with the sentence of the court and I advise that the petition be dismissed and the proceedings confirmed.

F. C. Davis

Brigadier,
D.J.A.G. Allied Land Forces, S.E.A.

FGTD/RAP