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BEFORE THE  
MILITARY COMMISSION  
convened by the  
COMMANDING GENERAL  
United States Army Forces  
Western Pacific

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

vs

MIKIO TANEICHI  
YUZO SAKATA  
TAICHI YAMADA  
BUNJI KANTO

)  
PUBLIC TRIAL

VOLUME IV  
PAGES 182 TO 191 INCL.

MANILA, P. I.

DATE 4 June 1946

COPY NO.: 1

CERTIFICATION

THIS CERTIFIES that this volume is a part of the proceedings of the Military Commission appointed by

Paragraph 26, Special Orders No. 119, Headquarters  
United States Army Forces, Western Pacific  
dated 24 May 1946,

in the trial of the case of the United States of America against  
Mikio Taneichi, Yuzo Sakata, Taichi Yamada, and Bunji Kanto.

Dated 12 June 1946.

*V. W. Wortman*

V. W. WORTMAN  
Colonel, CAC  
President of Commission

Before the  
MILITARY COMMISSION  
convened by the  
COMMANDING GENERAL  
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vs

MIKIO TANEICHI  
YUZO SAKATA  
TAICHI YAMADA  
BUNJI KANTO

PUBLIC TRIAL

Court No. 1  
High Commissioner's Residence  
Manila, P. I.  
4 June 1946

Met, pursuant to adjournment, at 1115 hours.

MEMBERS OF MILITARY COMMISSION:

COLONEL VOLNEY W. WORTMAN, CAC, President  
COLONEL WILLIAM R. HAMBY, CAV, Law Member  
LIEUTENANT COLONEL JOHN B. MADDEN, CMP  
LIEUTENANT COLONEL JOHN A. CHASE (CMP), FA  
LIEUTENANT COLONEL MAMERTO A. MONTEMAYOR, JAGS (PA)  
(Absent)

APPEARANCES:

FOR THE PROSECUTION:

2D LIEUTENANT ERNEST G. PHARR  
1ST LIEUTENANT AGUSTIN R. BANZON

FOR THE DEFENSE:

CAPTAIN JOHN J. GREER  
1ST LIEUTENANT JACK D. CARR

OFFICIAL INTERPRETERS FOR THE COMMISSION:

2D LIEUTENANT FRANK YAMAMOTO )  
T/SGT. YOSHIKI OGITA ) JAPANESE  
T/3 JAMES IWANAGA )

MRS. R. F. RODAS )  
MRS. A. JAVIER ) TAGALOG  
MRS. CAMPOMANES )

OFFICIAL REPORTERS FOR THE COMMISSION:

HELEN R. SOLOMON  
S. CORNELIA PEVETO  
HOPE WIDEEN

4 June 46

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P R O C E E D I N G S

The Commission reconvened, pursuant to adjournment, at 1115 hours, 3 June 1946, in Court No. 1, High Commissioner's Residence, Manila, P.I.

COLONEL WORTMAN: The Commission is in open session.

LIEUTENANT PHARR: The Commission, the accused, the defense counsel, and prosecutors are present. At this time the prosecution requests permission to withdraw from the record all original exhibits, and to substitute therefor true certified copies.

COLONEL WORTMAN: The request of the prosecution is approved.

CAPTAIN GREER: The defense at this time would like to ask permission to withdraw the original copy of Exhibit "A". All of the other originals may stay in the record, if it please the Commission.

COLONEL WORTMAN: Do you intend to substitute a true certified copy of Exhibit "A"?

CAPTAIN GREER: We will substitute true certified copies throughout.

COLONEL WORTMAN: The request of the defense is approved by the Commission.

As we approach the conclusion of this case, the Commission desires to compliment both the prosecution and the defense on the able and dignified manner in which they have presented their respective cases.

The Charge and Specifications in this case appear in detail on pages 9, 10, and 11 of these proceedings and will

not be repeated at this time.

The crimes charged are most flagrant derelictions of the laws of war and cannot be countenanced or condoned by civilized nations.

The Commission has heard, carefully examined and evaluated all evidence in this case. Moreover, during the entire consideration of the case, the Commission has kept in mind the then existing tactical situation, the character, training, and capacity of staff officers and subordinate commanders, as well as the traits of character and training of the troops, since these matters have a very direct bearing on the conduct of troops in this case.

As a result of the foregoing, the Commission has arrived at a finding and sentence in connection with each of the accused individually and will now announce them.

The accused, Mikio Taneichi, with his chief defense counsel and his assistant and the official interpreter, will take position before the Commission.

(Accused Taneichi, defense counsels, and official interpreter took position before the Commission.)

MIKIO TANEICHI: (Through Interpreter Ogita) I have something to say.

COLONEL WORTMAN: Will the defense counsel advise the Commission as to whether or not the defendant now before the Commission desires at this time to make a statement before he is sentenced.

CAPTAIN GREER: The accused has indicated a desire to make a statement at this time.

COLONEL WORTMAN: He may do so.

(Interpreter Ogita advised the accused that he could make a statement.)

MIKIO TANEICHI: (Through Interpreter Ogita) I believe there is no reason that I should be charged with issuing orders for massacre or taking part in a massacre or of raping anyone because I have never committed any such acts. I reiterate, forever that I am not guilty. The testimonies of the Filipinos are ridiculous and they are false, especially in the case of the rape case. The blame is not on myself, I did not commit it.

COLONEL WORTMAN: Does that complete the statement of the accused?

MIKIO TANEICHI: (Through Interpreter Ogita) I still have some more.

COLONEL WORTMAN: You may continue.

MIKIO TANEICHI: (Continuing through Interpreter Ogita) Although I belonged to the defeated nation it is regrettable that such crimes that I did not commit are charged against me. Righteousness will win in the end and the truth will come out. We have no connection with the crimes, we do not want to be charged with crimes which were committed by men who have already died in action. I cannot stand it when the fault charged of rape is pressed against me. That is all.

COLONEL WORTMAN:

#### FINDINGS AND SENTENCE

Mikio Taneichi, the Commission in closed session and upon secret written ballot, two-thirds or more of the members present concurring in the finding of guilt and sentence, finds you:-<sup>222</sup>

COLONEL WORTMAN: He may do so.

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COLONEL WORTMAN:

#### FINDINGS AND SENTENCE

Mikio Taneichi, the Commission in closed session and upon secret written ballot, two-thirds or more of the members present concurring in the finding of guilt and sentence, finds you:-<sup>222</sup>



Of Specification 1: GUILTY, except the words "or members of the Imperial Japanese Armed Forces under his control and acting with his permission," without substitution; and except the words "did willfully and unlawfully kill," substituting therefor the words "was accessory before, during and after the fact to the willful and unlawful killing of"; of the excepted words, NOT GUILTY; of the substituted words, GUILTY.

Of Specification 2: GUILTY, except the words "or members of the Japanese Armed Forces under his control and acting with his permission," without substitution; and except the words "did willfully and unlawfully attempt," substituting therefor the words "was accessory before, during and after the fact to willful and unlawful attempts"; of the excepted words, NOT GUILTY; of the substituted words, GUILTY.

Of Specification 3: GUILTY.

Of Specification 4: GUILTY, except the words "or members of the Imperial Japanese Armed Forces under their control and acting with their permission," without substitution; and except the words "did unlawfully and wrongfully kill," substituting therefor the words "were accessories before, during and after the fact to the willful and unlawful killing of"; and except the words and figures "one thousand (1,000)," substituting therefor the words and figures "five hundred (500)"; of the excepted words and figures, NOT GUILTY; of the substituted words and figures, GUILTY.

Of Specification 5: GUILTY, except the words "or members of the Japanese Armed Forces under their command and acting with their permission," without substitution; and except the words "did unlawfully and wrongfully attempt," substituting

Of Specification 1: GUILTY, except the words "or members of the Imperial Japanese Armed Forces under his control and acting with his permission," without substitution; and except the words "did willfully and unlawfully kill," substituting therefor the words "was accessory before, during and after the fact to the willful and unlawful killing of"; of the excepted words, NOT GUILTY; of the substituted words, GUILTY.

Of Specification 2: GUILTY, except the words "or members of the Japanese Armed Forces under his control and acting with his permission," without substitution; and except the words "did willfully and unlawfully attempt," substituting therefor the words "was accessory before, during and after the fact to willful and unlawful attempts"; of the excepted words, NOT GUILTY; of the substituted words, GUILTY.

Of Specification 3: GUILTY.

Of Specification 4: GUILTY, except the words "or members of the Imperial Japanese Armed Forces under their control and acting with their permission," without substitution; and except the words "did unlawfully and wrongfully kill," substituting therefor the words "were accessories before, during and after the fact to the willful and unlawful killing of"; and except the words and figures "one thousand (1,000)," substituting therefor the words and figures "five hundred (500)"; of the excepted words and figures, NOT GUILTY; of the substituted words and figures, GUILTY.

Of Specification 5: GUILTY, except the words "or members of the Japanese Armed Forces under their command and acting with their permission," without substitution; and except the words "did unlawfully and wrongfully attempt," substituting

therefor the words "were accessories before, during and after the fact to willful and unlawful attempts"; and except the words and figures "thirty-five (35)," substituting therefor the words and figures "five (5)"; of the excepted words, NOT GUILTY; of the substituted words, GUILTY.

Of the Charge: GUILTY, except the words "unlawfully disregarded and failed to discharge their duty," without substitution; and the words "in that they failed to control the operations of the members of those forces under their commands," without substitution; and the words "and permitted such forces wrongfully to kill and attempt," substituting therefor the words "were accessories before, during and after the fact to the wrongful killing of and to attempts"; and except the words "and that the said Mikio Taneichi, Yuzo Sakato, Taichi Yamada and Bunji Kanto, at the times and places aforesaid did unlawfully kill and did unlawfully order the forces under their commands to kill unarmed, noncombatant Filipino and Chinese civilians, which orders were duly executed at the times and places aforesaid," without substitution; of the excepted words, NOT GUILTY; of the substituted words, GUILTY.

As a result of the foregoing, the Commission sentences you to DEATH BY HANGING.

The interpreter will interpret the findings and sentence to the accused.

(Interpreter Ogita interpreted the findings and sentence to accused, Taneichi.)

COLONEL WORTMAN: It is the desire of the Commission that the defendant and his chief counsel and interpreter stand at ease.

(The chief counsel, the defendant, and interpreter stood at ease.)

COLONEL WORTMAN: (To Interpreter Ogita) Have you completed the translation of the findings and the sentence to the accused?

INTERPRETER OGITA: Yes, Sir.

COLONEL WORTMAN: The military police will escort the prisoner from the courtroom.

(Mikio Taneichi was escorted from the courtroom by the military police.)

COLONEL WORTMAN: The accused, Yuzo Sakata, Taichi Yamada, and Bunji Kanto, with their chief defense counsel and assistant and the official interpreter, will take a position in front of the Commission.

(Accused Sakata, Yamada and Kanto, with their chief defense counsel and assistant and the official interpreter took positions before the Commission.)

COLONEL WORTMAN: If any of the accused desire to make statements before the findings and sentences are announced, I would like to have a request from the defense counsel to that effect.

CAPTAIN GREER: (To Interpreter Ogita) Will you ask them if any of them would like to make a statement before they are sentenced?

(Interpreter Ogita interpreted the above to the accused.)

INTERPRETER OGITA: He, alone, would like to make a statement.

CAPTAIN GREER: Tell him that he may proceed at this time with his statement.

COLONEL WORTMAN: Let the record show the name of the accused desiring to make a statement.

CAPTAIN GREER: Yuzo Sakata.

COLONEL WORTMAN: Very well. Yuzo Sakata, you may make any statement you desire at this time.

YUZO SAKATA: (Through Interpreter Ogita) I will relate the actual situation at the time of the punitive expeditions. We received a sudden order from Captain Saito to participate in the punitive expeditions. However, we did not know the context nor the manner in which the punitive expeditions were to be carried out. Naturally, Yamada and Kanto, who are standing here, did not know what it was all about because even I, myself, did not know. Yamada was my subordinate at the time and he was a platoon leader. Kanto was a warrant officer at the time and he was also a platoon leader. These platoon leaders had just a few men. The platoon consisted of only about a squad of men. In so far as I am concerned, it is extremely regrettable that these two men were also charged with the crimes. These men simply carried out the orders which I gave them which originated from Captain Saito. That was to gather the people and watch the church. That was all they did. It seems the reason we are charged with the crimes is because too many people were killed in the Town of Calamba. It seems that that is the only reason. We did not know that the result was going to be like that. I believe that if I brought one man to the church and I am not guilty of anything, I am not guilty when I bring many people to the church. At that time there were many officers and soldiers

participating in the subjugation programs. Of those men only four of us are here. Many of the men who participated that day are dead. Some of them, knowing that they were to be charged with the crimes, escaped and today only four of us are left. I feel sympathy and compassion towards the people of Calamba, to the Filipinos at Calamba, to the Filipinos that were killed and to the members of the families in which people were killed. I see no reason why we are charged with the crime just because our buddies who have already died in action committed these acts. I don't see why I should be charged with these crimes just because I am a fellow Japanese. There are many people in Calamba who will tell you exactly what we did there. Although a thousand persons were killed in Calamba, not one witness came up and said that we participated in the killing. Just this fact alone will show you we are not guilty of any of these crimes. In other trials, when only three or four persons are killed, witnesses come in and point to the accused and say: "He is the man who committed the crimes." However, in this case, a thousand persons were killed and not a single witness came up and pointed to us and said we committed those crimes. This fact alone should prove to you that we had nothing to do with the actual crimes.

Next, I will speak of Mikio Taneichi, who was charged with rape. I associated with him for a long time during our army careers and I know that he is not that type of a person. I know his character and he is not capable of doing such an act. Finally, I wish to thank you for providing us with such good defense counsel and they have worked night and day for us. That is all.

COLONEL WORTMAN: Yuzo Sakata, Taichi Yamada, and Bunji Kanto, the Commission in closed session and upon secret written ballot, two-thirds or more of the members present concurring in the finding of guilt and sentence, as to each of you individually, finds each of you individually:

Of Specification 4, GUILTY, except the words "or members of the Imperial Japanese Armed Forces under their control and acting with their permission," without substitution; and except the words "did unlawfully and wrongfully kill," substituting therefor the words "were accessories before, during and after the fact to the willful and unlawful killing of"; and except the words and figures "one thousand (1,000)," substituting therefor the words and figures "five hundred (500)"; of the excepted words and figures, NOT GUILTY; of the substituted words and figures, GUILTY.

Of Specification 5, GUILTY, except the words "or members of the Japanese Armed Forces under their command and acting with their permission," without substitution; and except the words "did unlawfully and wrongfully attempt," substituting therefor the words "were accessories before, during and after the fact to willful and unlawful attempts"; and except the words and figures "thirty-five (35)," substituting therefor the words and figures "five (5)"; of the excepted words, NOT GUILTY; of the substituted words, GUILTY.

Of the Charge, GUILTY, except the words "unlawfully disregarded and failed to discharge their duty," without substitution; and the words "in that they failed to control the operations of the members of those forces under their commands," without substitution; and the words "and permitted such forces

wrongfully to kill and attempt," substituting therefor the words "were accessories before, during and after the fact to the wrongful killing of and to attempts"; and except the words "and that the said Mikio Taneichi, Yuzo Sakata, Taichi Yamada and Bunji Kanto, at the times and places aforesaid did unlawfully kill and did unlawfully order the forces under their commands to kill unarmed, noncombatant Filipino and Chinese civilians, which orders were duly executed at the times and places aforesaid," without substitution; of the excepted words, NOT GUILTY; of the substituted words, GUILTY.

As a result of the foregoing, the Commission sentences each one of you individually TO BE CONFINED AT HARD LABOR FOR THIRTY (30) YEARS.

The official interpreter will translate the findings and sentences to the accused.

(Interpreter Ogita translated the findings and sentences to the accused.)

COLONEL WORTMAN: Has the translation of the findings and sentences to the accused been completed?

INTERPRETER OGITA: Yes, Sir.

COLONEL WORTMAN: The military police will escort the prisoners from the courtroom.

(The military police escorted the prisoners from the courtroom.)

COLONEL WORTMAN: The Commission adjourns sine die.

(The Commission adjourned at 1145 hours, 3 June 1946.)



AUTHENTICATION OF RECORD

The foregoing 191 pages, contained in Volumes I to IV inclusive (together with Prosecution Exhibits 1 to 8 inclusive, Defense Exhibits A to F inclusive, and Commission's Exhibits 1, 2, 2-A, 3, 3-A, 4 and 4-A inclusive) are hereby certified as the record of the proceedings of the Military Commission appointed by

Paragraph 26, Special Orders No. 119,  
Headquarters, United States Army Forces,  
Western Pacific, dated 24 May 1946,

in the trial of the case of the United States of America against Mikio Taneichi, Yuzo Sakata, Taichi Yamada, and Bunji Kanto.

Dated 17 June 1946.

*V. W. Wortman*

V. W. WORTMAN  
Colonel, CAC  
President of Commission

THIS ACKNOWLEDGES that the above-described record was submitted to defense counsel prior to being certified by the President of the Commission.

*John J. Greer*  
JOHN J. GREER  
Captain, INF  
Chief Defense Counsel

*Jack D. Carr*  
JACK D. CARR  
1st Lieutenant, INF  
Assistant Defense Counsel