

BR. 336

MILITARY COURT FOR THE TRIAL OF WAR CRIMINALS

ACCUSED

2/Lt. MURAKAMI SHUJI
of the Imperial Japanese Army

PLACE AND DATE OF TRIAL

Kuala Lumpur 1st & 2nd July, 1946.

COURT CONVENED BY

G.O.C. Malaya Command.

PRESIDENT

Lt-Col. G.C.H. CULLEY General List
Solicitor

MEMBERS

CHARGE

1st Charge

COMMITTING A WAR CRIME
in that he, at Kuala Lumpur, on or
about the 31st August 1943, in
violation of the laws and usages
of war did illtreat Mrs. Doris Van
der Straaten, a civilian prisoner
under interrogation by him at
Kempeitai HQ.

2nd Charge

COMMITTING A WAR CRIME
in that he, at Kuala Lumpur, on the
day following that averred in the
first charge, in violation of the
laws and usages of war, did cause
the death of the aforesaid Mrs.
Doris Van der Straaten.

PLEA

Each charge - Not Guilty.

FINDING

Each Charge - Not Guilty.

SENTENCE

CONFIRMED

PROMULGATED

REMARKS

DISPOSAL OF PROCEEDINGS

To AG3 GHQ SEALF

JAG of the Forces 30th July 47

DJAG SEALF
Case No. 65082

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ABSTRACT OF EVIDENCE

In the case of

2/Lt MURAKAMI Shuji

At the fall of Malaya in 1942 a Mrs. DORIS VAN DER STRAATEN wife of P.G. VAN DER STRAATEN and her husband escaped into the jungle in Siam. They eventually became separated and Mrs. Van der Straaten was captured by the Japanese and interned in Taiping gaol. A Japanese Lt Col KODA who was in charge of this gaol apparently took pity on this woman and released her from the gaol to live in his house in Kuala Lumpur. In August or September 1943 Lt Col KODA was arrested and court-martialled by the Japanese on a charge of making illegal profits.

In connection with the investigation of the case of Lt Col KODA, 2/Lt MURAKAMI, the accused then a Warrant Officer and a member of the Kempeitai was moved from Alor Star to Kuala Lumpur. A few days after his arrival he became aware that KODA knew Mrs. Van Der Straaten and he had her arrested and brought to the Headquarters of the Kempeitai at Cecil Street, Kuala Lumpur. On a date at the end of August or beginning of September Mrs. Van Der Straaten was interrogated by the accused in a room on the second floor of this Kempeitai Headquarters. Present in the room were a Chinese female, a man named SAM AH NGAU and REGINALS MALCOM RAJGO, an Indian who had thrown in his lot with the Japanese. MURAKAMI accused Mrs. Van Der Straaten of being KODA's mistress, which she denied. He then caught her by the hair and shook her for about 30 seconds, during which time she screamed with pain. Throughout the interrogation, whenever Mrs. Van Der Straaten gave MURAKAMI an unsatisfactory answer, he beat her on the back, finally throwing her to the ground and stamping on her buttocks. At this stage Mrs. Van Der Straaten fainted. Later he threatened that unless she would tell the truth, he would strip and rape her. Part at least of this threat was carried out, because the witness SAM AH NGAU later saw this woman stripped naked in the interrogation room, MURAKAMI being present. She was then crying bitterly.

This incident forms the subject of the first charge on which SAM AH NGAU will give evidence in person. This witness identified the accused at an identification parade, of which evidence will be given.

On the day following this illtreatment SAM AH NGAU was again sent for to act as interpreter during the interrogation of Mrs. Van Der Straaten. On this occasion he saw this woman sitting on a bench in the interrogation room on the second floor of the Kempeitai Headquarters in Cecil Street. MURAKAMI asked her why she was trying to hide that she was getting military information from KODA. She denied having done so. After some further questioning MURAKAMI thumped the table with his fists, grabbed hold of the woman, pulled her up from the bench and slapped her with his hand. He then gripped her by the breasts and told her to tell the truth. She did not reply. He then kicked her on the shins, whereupon she yelled at him "Tyrant you can't do this to me", at the same time slapping him on the face. MURAKAMI then appeared to lose control and still gripping her by the breast with one hand, he caught her by her dress with the other and lifting her up, threw her head first out of the window. MURAKAMI and the female interpreter then looked out the window and immediately ran out of the room and down into the street where he was seen by the witness GOH KWEE TING who has identified him at an identification parade.

The witness TAM AH TAI will state that in September 1943 he was passing the Kempeitai building in Cecil Street and saw the body of a woman falling head first on to the pavement. This witness together with SAM AH NGAW and GOH KWEE TING will state that they saw the Japanese then covering the body with a sack and carry this inside Kempeitai building. TAM AL TAI later saw the body lying in the compound and also saw MURAKAMI and the Japanese woman interpreter making frequent trips to look at it. The witness ARSHAD will state that he saw the body of a European lady lying in the compound of the Kempeitai Headquarters covered with a red blanket and will depose that he saw a Doctor lifting up the blanket and holding the wrist, as if to feel the pulse. He then covered the body and went back into the Kempeitai building. At about 7 p.m. the body was put into ARSHAD's truck and he brought it to the General Hospital, where he later saw it lying on a table.

W. Van Der Straaten will state that in April 1944 he was called to the Kempeitai Headquarters in Cecil Street, where a Japanese showed him some belongings stating that they were for him, and also gave him a snap-shot of Mrs. Van Der Straaten and informed him that she was dead. The woman's husband P.G. Van Der Straaten will identify this photograph as being that of his wife.

The death of Mrs. Van Straaten forms the subject of the second charge.

The following witnesses will appear in person:

SAM AH NGAW

TAM AH TAI

GOH KWEE TING

R.M. RAJOO

ALIAS BIN HAJI ARSHAD

CHEN AH KEW

P.G. VAN DER STRAATEN

W. VAN DER STRAATEN and

Captain C.A.S. HILL

The last named witness will prove a statement by the accused and will give evidence of the identification parade.