

Press Release No. 217 - 46.

GUAM, M. I., June 11—Capt. Noboru Nakajima, war criminal, late last week was sentenced to die by hanging for beating to death an unnamed American aviator on Chichi Jima, Bonin Islands, in February, 1945.

At the same time the death sentence was handed Capt. Nakajima, a U. S. Military Commission here ~~late last week~~ rendered a "not guilty" verdict in the case of the convicted captain's alleged accomplice, Capt. Meguru Isono.

Capt. Isono claimed that his only physical contact with the prisoner was a light slap given the airman on the cheek to bolster him in his weakened condition. Simultaneously he had supported the prisoner-of-war with his left hand, he decreed. His statements were introduced to the trials by a U. S. board of investigation.

No evidence or statement in mitigation of Capt. Nakajima's criminally beating the American flyer had been offered during the court sessions.

An attempt by the defense to gain a verdict of manslaughter on the grounds that Capt. Nakajima committed the acts while drunk, was unsuccessful.

Whereas the convicted murderer stated that he had struck his victim four times on the back of the head with his walking stick, he claimed that he was merely following orders in trying to obtain information from the prisoner, who "refused to answer" his questions.