



AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES

AAF A117(a)
(Introduced Jan '46)
HQ AMF Use Only

RECORD OF MILITARY COURT

(JAPANESE WAR CRIMINALS)

AWC No. 2113, 2130, 2133,
2669, 2905, 2108, 2846,
2131, 2132.

AWC No.

Aust W.C. List Ser No.

It-Gen ITO Takeo
It-Col SATO Tadahiko
Capt OTSUKA Masanori
WO MATSUMOTO Tsugi ji
Accused: WO UENO Koichi
S/H MAHANURA Kageaki
Sgt SHIRAKI Jinichi

Cpl WATANABE Hoju (Not Guilty)
Cpl KAWASAKI Masatoshi (Not guilty)

Court, Place, Date and Formation: RABAUL 24 May 46
8 ID

Charge(s) Plea Finding

MURDER at NEW IRELAND in or about 1944-45 of a number of chinese civilians, half caste civilians, and natives.

Not Guilty

All accused guilty except WATANABE and KAWASAKI.

Precis of Evidence: The evidence for the prosecution consisted of written statements made by two natives, interrogations reduced to writing and written statements by certain accused and two Japanese soldiers.
2. In substance the admitted facts were that the Japanese from April or May until the cessation of hostilities suspected certain Chinese civilians, half caste civilians and natives of espionage. Throughout the whole case no evidence was brought forward by the defence to establish any actual cases of espionage and only very general statements were made in regard thereto. Certain inhabitants of the Island were arrested and at various times executions took place. One witness for the prosecution furnished the names of some of the persons who were executed and stated that there were many more. Prior to such executions certain investigations were made and statements were obtained and forwarded to the accused MATSUMOTO who was in charge of a detachment of Military Police. The accused MATSUMOTO passed the documents to his CO the accused OTSUKA who was in charge of the Military Police. (Over)

Sentence and Date: The convicted accused, ITO, T SATO T. Death by shooting - 24 May 46.
The remaining convicted accused - Death by hanging - 24 May 46.

Confirmation and by Whom: Finding and sentences in each case NOT confirmed.

Promulgation: Non-confirmation of findings and sentences promulgated to each accused (except MATSUMOTO, UENO and SHIRAKI) on 18 Oct 46. Accused MATSUMOTO, UENO and SHIRAKI executed on 26 Jun 46 in respect of RABAUL COURT filed in Attorney-General's Department and numbered 80782.

Petitions: Petition lodged 5 Jun 46 by convicted accused ITO T against finding only. Petitions lodged 5 Jun 46 by all other convicted accused against findings and sentences.

JAG's Report on Petition: That the findings and sentences should not be confirmed.

Action on Petition: PETITIONS UPHELD.

Filed in Attorney-General's Department and Numbered.....

