

17 March 1944
Sugamo Prison

AFFIDAVIT

Sgt. Major SUGIMOTO, Takeji
(Headquarters, South Seas Kempetai)

1. Adjutant ICHIKAWA knows the details.

2. I will tell as much as I know.

(a) Date and time - One night in July or August 1944 (during the battle of Peleliu).

(b) Place - Gasupan Hill, about 3,000 meters to the south (refer to outline map on separate paper).

(c) Persons who went to the scene:

Unit Commander - Lieutenant Colonel MIYAZAKI, Aritsune;
Adjutant - 2nd Lieutenant ICHIKAWA, Yokichi;
Head of Special Police - 2nd Lieutenant SANO, Giichi;
Special Police - Warrant Officer AJIOKA, Misao;
General Affairs - Sergeant Major SUGIMOTO, Takeji;
Sergeant TAKAHASHI, Genji (?) not sure;
Sergeant YOKOYAMA, Kyohisa;
Sergeant TAMAMOTO, Tadashi

No. 1 Detachment Commander - 1st Lieutenant NAKAMURA, Kazuo;
Sergeant ICHIMIYA, Masao;
Warrant Officer NAKAMURA, Yoshitaro;
Sergeant Major KOKUBO, Chihisa;
Sergeant OZAKI, Katsutoshi;
Sergeant YAMADA, Kiyoshi;
Corporal NAKAGAWA, Takeo (?) not sure;

Auxiliary Kempeis - a few (2nd Lieutenant ICHIKAWA knows the details);

Sumida Unit - 1st Lt. YAMAMOTO (adjutant) (Motor Unit)
A few enlisted men.
Two trucks.

The orders were given out directly by Lieutenant Colonel MIYAZAKI (unit commander) but we did not know their purpose until we went to the scene.

The missionaries and the natives were in the Nantaku barracks at that time.

The trucks were on the main road.

Lieutenant Colonel MIYAZAKI and 1st Lieutenant NAKAMURA, No. 1 Detachment Commander, went to the missionaries' barracks, brought all of them back and loaded them on the trucks.

We went part way in the trucks and then two men accompanied each missionary to the place where we were going.

At that time as I was in what was called the No. 3 Team, two of us, one auxiliary kempei (I have forgotten his name) and myself, went to the scene third in line from the front.

When we arrived at the scene we were lined up from the right in teams, Team No. 1, Team No. 2, Team No. 3, Team No. 4, Team No. 5, etc.

There, for the first time we received orders from the unit commander (Lieutenant Colonel MIYAZAKI) that the enlisted men from the Sumida Unit were to carry out (TN - the execution) for the No. 1 team, the No. 2 team and the No. 3 team, counting from the right. Therefore I withdrew two or three meters from that place and looked on holding a candle in my right hand. 2nd Lieutenant ICHIKAWA was also holding a candle and looking on from a spot about two or three meters away from me.

If the case is thoroughly investigated it will be proved that I did not participate directly.

I do not remember the exact appearance of the scene or our relative positions but it was generally as shown on the separate paper.

After the entire execution was over we returned to the unit.

As shown above, I only went to the scene with everyone. There is absolutely no reason for me to have denied these facts except that out of friendship for my buddies and superior officers, I could not bear (TN - to reveal them).

However, since a statement (written in his hand) has been presented by 2nd Lieutenant ICHIKAWA (the adjutant), I realize it would now be wrong to cause the investigator any more trouble and so I have told the truth.

Please look at the map of the general location.

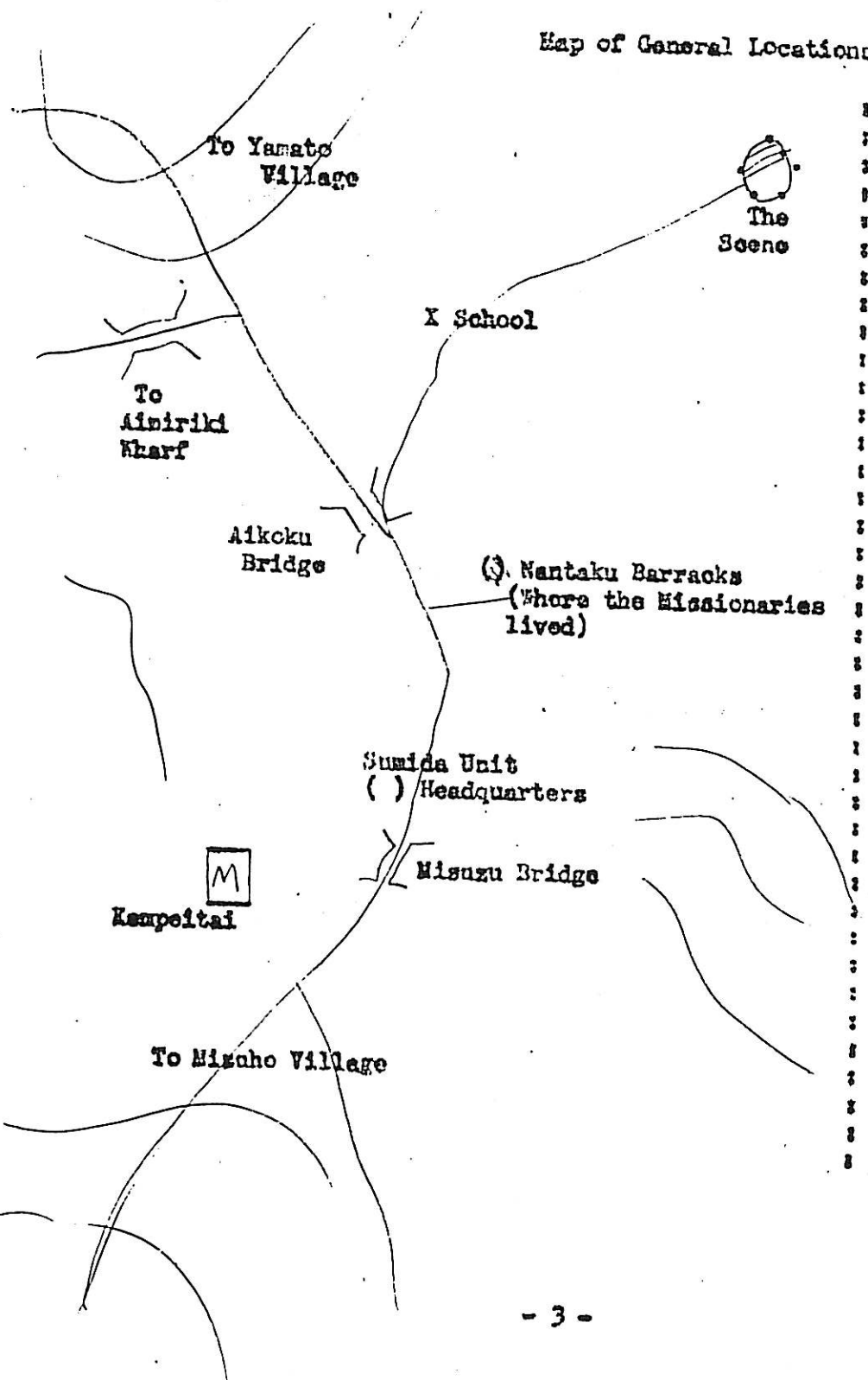
Reference

1. Adjutant ICHIKAWA (ICHIKAWA, Yokichi) was the unit commander's assistant and when the unit commander made a mistake in his actions I believe he could voice his opinion against it.

I also think the other leaders, No. 1, Detachment Commander 1st Lieutenant NAKAMURA, Kazuo, and Head of Special Police SANO, Giichi were able to do the same thing.

2. When we low ranking men said anything we were not taken seriously. From the standpoint of decision, orders were made up and passed on to us.

Map of General Locations



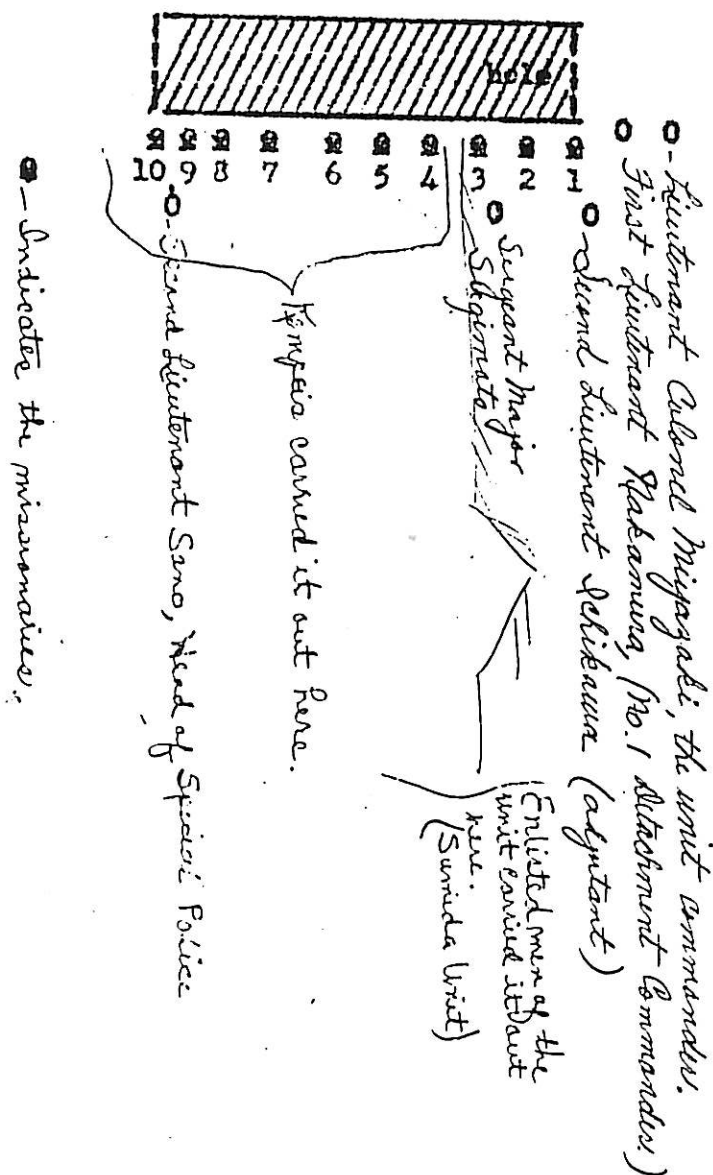
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CERTIFIED TO BE A TRUE COPY

J. P. Kerry Lt. USN

"Exhibit 10(a)(3)"

1. My memories of that time are not very clear but I think, in general, the relative positions were as they are in the following map.
2. Up to the third man from the right were members of the motor transport unit. From there on down the line, Kempels carried out the execution.
3. I am not absolutely clear about the executioners in each team, but since enlisted men who carried it out up to the third man from the right there were two other (TH. Kempels) besides myself who did not take part in carrying out the execution.



I saw with my own eyes:

Warrant Officer NAKAMURA (NAKAMURA, Yoshitaro) execute with Lieutenant Colonel MIYAZAKI's pistol and the enlisted men of the unit execute with rifles;

Lieutenant Colonel MIYAZAKI (unit commander) shoot last to make sure they were dead.

As for the rest, since it was done by candle light because it was dark, I was unable to see very far. For the details please investigate Adjutant ICHIKAWA (ICHIKAWA, Yokichi).

Reference:

1. On account of the intense airraids there was quite a food shortage going on at that time.
2. Unit Commander MIYAZAKI's nerves seemed to be on edge on account of the advances on Pelelieu Island.

I hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and complete translation, to the best of my ability, of the original document in Japanese.

/s/ Frederick F. Tremayne
Frederick F. Tremayne,
Lieutenant (junior grade),
United States Naval Reserve,
Interpreter,
year?