

PRISON TORTURES RETOLD IN MANILA

Atrocities at Fort Santiago, Santo Tomas Killing Put in Evidence in Homma Case

By Wireless to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

MANILA, Tuesday, Jan. 8—

The ingenious horrors perpetrated by Japanese military police upon Americans, Filipinos and other Allied nationals in the infamous dungeons of Fort Santiago were described by victims of these tortures who testified today in the war-crimes trial of Lieut. Gen. Masaharu Homma.

Col. Seichi Ohta, first commandant of the Fort Santiago investigation unit, was sentenced last week to hang. The Homma commission has promised defense counsel that the execution would be stayed if necessary so that Colonel Ohta could testify in the present trial.

Filipino witnesses on the stand this morning told of being beaten, burned by cigarettes, and severely manhandled by judo practices.

Witnesses said the moanings and screams of the tortured in Fort Santiago was so continuous that sound sleep was impossible. Wives of suspected Filipinos were also tortured in the prison.

Throughout the grisly recitals General Homma sat at the defense table with head deeply bowed.

Execution Is Described

The execution by the Japanese of one Australian and of two British civilian internees at Santo Tomas was described by an eye witness yesterday.

Ernest Stanley, also a British citizen, who occasionally interpreted for his fellow internees in dealing with their Japanese jailors

at Santo Tomas, related details of the shooting of Thomas Henry Fletcher and Edward Weeks, of England, and a Mr. Laycock, of Australia, for the offense of being out of Santo Tomas camp without permission.

Through Mr. Stanley as interpreter, Carroll Grinnell, chairman of the internees' camp executive committee, was informed of the death sentence by the camp commandant, a Japanese Army lieutenant. Mr. Stanley said that the committee immediately drafted a letter to the High Command (presumably General Homma's headquarters) asking a reprieve. There was no record of any action taken on this request.

Story of the Execution

"The next day, a Sunday morning, Mr. Grinnell, Rev. Griffiths and myself, with one other, were ordered into cars and taken to witness the execution," Mr. Stanley said. "Arriving at the North Cemetery, the prisoners were unloaded from the bus with their hands tied. The Japanese interpreter refused to have anything to do with them and I was ordered to inform them they were to be executed for escaping."

The Rev. Mr. Griffiths spoke to the men for five minutes, and then, one by one, they produced their wallets and pictures and gave them to their fellow internees with the request that they be sent to their wives.

"They were then made to sit with their feet dangling in prepared graves," Mr. Stanley related. "Three Japanese M. P.'s with revolvers shot them from about fifty feet. They collapsed into the grave and then the M. P.'s stepped forward and fired into the pit. Mr. Grinnell counted thirteen shots. We could hear moans and groans from the grave, indicating that they were still alive."

Japanese Sentenced to Death

YOKOHAMA, Japan, Jan. 7 (UP)—An American military commission today found Lieut. Kei

Yuri, former commandant of the Omuta war prisoner camp, guilty of ordering an American prisoner's death by bayoneting and the starvation death of another, and sentenced him to be hanged.

"Glass Eye's" Wife Indignant

TOKYO, Jan. 7 (AP)—The wife of Tatsuo Tsuchiya, "Little Glass Eye," today wrote Yomiuri Hochi, Tokyo newspaper, that if Americans imprison her husband for life because of atrocities committed

against United States prisoners, Japanese military leaders should be condemned to death for atrocities against the Japanese themselves.

Japanese superior officers beat soldiers for neglecting to salute on the streets "and from this one could imagine what went on in the barracks," she said.

"Through judgment of Tsuchiya I am burning anew with a fierce hatred against the military," she wrote.