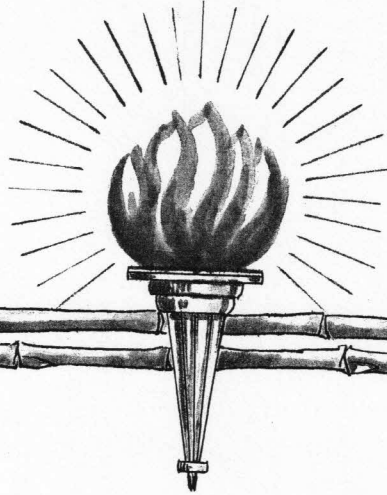


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Historical Record

MINDANAO GUERRILLA RESISTANCE MOVEMENT



TENTH MILITARY DISTRICT

FROM

16 Sept 1942 TO 30 June 1945

COL. WENDELL W. FERTIG
COMMANDING

CHAPTER XI

A. JAPANESE ATROCITIES

It would be practically impossible to record here all the atrocities perpetrated by the Japanese on the island of Mindanao. Their acts of barbarism and brutalities are now too well known to the world for any special comment here. However, some of their third degree methods; their treatment of soldiers and civilians alike and their handling of Prisoners of War are here made a matter of record.

A. THIRD DEGREE

Inquisitorial methods of fiendish tortures were invariably employed by the Japs in their barbarous treatment of prisoners in an effort to obtain information.

Water: A person is first tied securely with a rope to a bench, face up and mouth forced wide open by inserting between a piece of wood between the teeth. The Japs directed water from a hose at full blast to the open mouth of the prisoners. Before long, the victim is rendered unconscious. When he regains consciousness he is made to confess his guilt. If he answers in the negative, the terrible process is repeated. If he admits his guilt, or owns it even if he is not, a more heinous fate awaits him. This procedure caused the death of many suspects.

Electricity: The prisoner is made to sit plumb on a bucket full of water charged with electricity. The shock is so terrific that the victim either pleads guilty or, in most cases, to stop the inhuman torture, admits his guilt even if in reality he is innocent.

Fire: The prisoner is required to strip off naked, after which a lighted cigar is applied to his private parts; or he is made to step on live coals; or the glowing end of a heated piece of iron is pressed on his belly.

Beating: The victim is made to stand erect, after binding his hands behind him. Then two husky Japs begin beating him all over the body with sticks. When he falls down unconscious, he is revived by applying fire to the pit of his stomach. If he remains adamant, the procedure is repeated.

Rounded Stick: The wife of the prisoner is disrobed before her helpless husband who is tied to a chair, and in the presence of a number of tittering Japs, a rounded piece of stick is forcibly inserted into herself. The hateful torture is only stopped when the husband, maddened by the cries of his wife, breaks down.

Food: The prisoner is given no food and only little water.

Nails Pulled: The prisoner is securely tied to a chair. A Jap begins pulling out the victim's nails one by one with a pair of pliers.

Hanging: The victim is hanged by his thumbs.

Salt: The prisoner is stripped naked and bound hand and feet. His thighs are slashed with a razor. Then salt is applied to his wounds.

B. JAPANESE BRUTALITIES - TO CIVILIANS AND SOLDIERS

On the island of Mindanao there are recorded acts of brutalities on the part of the Japanese against the population, some apparently for no reasons; others because it was the only way the Japs could get information regarding guerrilla troops or obtain the names of leaders of the resistance movement.

That so many of the sufferers chose to maintain their integrity, come what might, in the face of terrific punishment to themselves and loved ones, speaks well for the faith of the people in its government; in the guerrilla resistance movement; in the cause of freedom from oppression.

(1)

On 3 January 1944, at Tuburan, El Salvador, Misamis Oriental, soldiers and enlisted men of the 109th Inf Regt were caught unawares at their own quarters near the Hq early in the morning. Upon inspection made by Major YIDENCIO M. LAPLAP, CO, 109th Inf Regt, the dead bodies of the following were found buried in the 50 caliber MG emplacements at the beach of Tagnipa, El Salvador, the next morning:

- a) 1st Lieut FIEL SARA - with 9 bayonet wounds mostly through the heart, and the face severely smashed.
- b) 2nd Lieut EUPRONIO JABULIN - with 6 bayonet wounds, mostly through the heart. The eyes were badly smashed; left arm broken; all parts of the body bruised and tattooed with wounds.
- c) Sgt GORGONIO MAGAPAYAG - with one wound through the heart (left breast) 2 wounds below the heart and face blackened by severe butt strokes.
- d) Corp G. SAQUIN - with 3 wounds through the heart; the breast battered by blows.
- e) Pvt E. ELING - with 4 wounds through the heart and hands tied behind.
- f) CHONG ING (civilian) - bayoneted through the heart 4 times.

(2)

In the evening of 24 December 1943, there were no less than 4,000 people in the town of Sagay, Misamis Oriental, to celebrate Christmas Eve and hear the Midnight Mass. They had a play shown to the public in the plaza. While the affair was thus going on, the Japanese soldiers were stealthily placing themselves in the shadows, waiting for the fun to stop and the people to go to church and then return home. It was when the civilians were going home that the Japs seized them one by one, giving preference to the women. The girls were held prisoners for three days during the stay of the Japs in the town.

- a) FRANCISCO CHAVEZ, Commonwealth Mayor of the town, was caught and bayoneted without cause.

(3)

On 11 March 1945, the latest Jap atrocity which can hardly be paralleled in brutality and grotesque were the tortures and murders, for an unknown reason, of three innocent civilians, namely, a couple, GABRIEL DEVINA, 55 years old and EUGENIA PASCHA DE DEVINA, 50 years old, and PASQUAL PERITO, 20 years old, of Calut, Butuan, Agusan, who were caught by the Japanese patrol. Their dead bodies were discovered by Agents of the 113th Inf Regt near TOLENTINO's house at Km 1.5, Butuan. The following were noted:

- a) GABRIEL DEVINA's lifeless form was tied to a banana tree. His head, completely severed from the body, was just 5 meters away from his feet. His body bore 5 bayonet wounds through the breast and abdomen.
- b) EUGENIA DE DEVINA's corpse was hanging by the neck in a nearby tree. A bayonet wound in the middle of her breast and in the ribs immediately below the right nipple stood out a glaring evidence of tortures before or during hanging.
- c) PASQUAL PERITO was tied to a nearby tree and his head on the ground. Two bayonet wounds in the abdomen indicated tortures before execution.

(4)

This happened in the area of the 117th Inf, 109th Division. A member of a Jap patrol asked a Manobo boy, about 7 years of age, the whereabouts of the Provincial Governor. The boy at the time was pounding paly. The poor boy did not know the whereabouts of the Governor and told them so. Not satisfied with his answer, the Japs performed the painful ordeal of cutting one leg of the boy and took off his eyeballs. Civilians who were captured and who failed to give the information they desired were kicked, slapped and butt stroked, regardless of sex and age. (The report has no date but it was embodied in the inspection report of the area of the 117th Inf made by Major CRISPINO M. DE CASTRO, Chief of Staff, 109th Division, dated 1 February 1944. The incident must have taken place in the month of January 1944).

(5)

On 8 December 1943, about 500 Japanese soldiers and 100 B.G.s led by Capt KIYO, UNO and NISHIKAWA, penetrated Mlang, Cotabato proper, area of the 2nd Bn, 116th Inf. Regardless of age and sex, civilians were captured and used as shields in the encounter with the guerrillas. In this way, many civilians were wounded and some died. During their stay at Mlang, they killed Mrs. EMILIO GUNOO and her three children and ten other civilians, for no apparent reason at all. Then they went on looting the people and abusing women and young girls. Jewellries, money and other valuables were appropriated whenever found in houses they sacked. Houses along the trails they passed were burned. They captured around 700 civilians, men and women, tied them up with ropes and brought them to Kabacan under the guise "segregating them from the out-laws."

(6)

Sometime on 27 February 1945, a fighter plane crashed through enemy action in Pantukan, Davao. The Japs, bent on capturing the pilot, Major MAY, surrounded the barrio with Jap and Filipino soldiers. When they failed, they arrested civilians suspected of helping the pilot in escaping. These people were then investigated, tortured and several were killed. In one instance, a man strongly suspected was slightly bayoneted at the sides of the body, tied to the floor with his hands stretched up. Two Japs sat on a big piece of log placed over his belly, rolled over his body, causing his blood to spurt out through the wounds. This procedure was repeated when answers to questionnaires were not satisfactory. The man could endure the torture, and loss of blood caused his death before the Japs were through with their investigation.

(7)

On 6 December 1944, in upper Tambongan, Davao, MARITA FERNANDEZ with her 18-year old sister, went to a nearby place to gather "kangkong" leaves for viand. Suddenly they saw 5 Japanese soldiers approaching them. While running for safety the two sisters were separated. Having been chased, MARITA, unfortunately, fell into the hands of the Japanese. Her hands were then securely tied together with "lopis" (abaca strings). Firmly bound, she was led to the house of one BENITO (IMING) some 40 meters away from the place where she was caught. The house was left vacant by the occupants who happened to notice the presence of the Japanese.

Inside the house 2 Japs, armed with pistol, untied her and started to undress the girl, whereupon she shouted and resisted in an effort to escape. As a result they gagged her with their dirty handkerchief and pointed a bayonet at her abdomen threatening to kill her if she continued to resist. In spite of all her efforts to escape she fell a helpless victim of rape. They did the act one after the other without even giving time for the poor abducted girl to rest. Satisfied of their animal desires, they left her weak and half conscious; while they laughed at their vain glory.

(8)

On 4 February 1945, a group of 5 Japs raped a married woman, MARIA JAMBOY, in Bay-ang, Cabadbaran, Agusan. This woman died a few days afterwards as a result of the physical torture she suffered. On the same day, a Jap patrol caught an unarmed civilian, ANACLETO DURTOS, at Calamba, Cabadbaran, Agusan. For no cause he was bayoneted and he died instantly.

(9)

On 11 February 1944, MANUEL AMATIN, 60 year-old, a butcher by profession, was caught at barrio Del Pilar, Baliangao, Misamis Occidental, together with 14 others who were lined up by a steep river bank. They were investigated as to the whereabouts of the guerrilla soldiers, their strength and the people feeding the guerrillas and facilitating their movements. Two among the groups were mothers, one carrying a child in her arms. The Japanese snatched the children from their mothers' arms and smashed their heads against a coconut tree trunk. For failing to give the needed information, they were all bayoneted. The dying bodies were pushed over the high cliff. AMATIN was able to escape by turning around when he was bayoneted so that instead of being hit at the back through his stomach, he was hit at his elbow. He then tumbled down the steep bank towards the river.

(10)

On 20 November 1944, 15 armed Japanese soldiers pushed towards Inasukan, Gatabato, and as usual brutally killed civilians on their way without any reason at all. At this particular place one soldier and four civilians were killed. Proceeding farther to Balulao, an old woman and a small girl suffered the same fate after they were brutally battered, tortured and sent to their doom without any cause whatsoever.

(11)

On 15 February 1944, in a suburb of Floridel, Misamis Occidental, ESTEBAN COMPANIA was tortured to death for refusing to give information regarding the much sought-for electric generator. His feet were tied together and the loose portion of the rope passed over the lower part of a roof truss. He was raised up and the rope released instantly for several times, his head smashing on the floor each time. He was left dead, his head smashed beyond recognition.

(12)

On 15 October 1944, a liberator flew very low over Butuan, Agusan, dropping leaflets. The Japanese were very careful not to let anybody pick up and read those leaflets dropped by the Liberator plane. Civilians were warned and driven out of the area wherever leaflets fell. However, some civilians, eager and just simply happy for the coming of American aid, took the risk. Some were caught and punished without mercy. Later pockets of civilians and Hqs were inspected and those found possessing a copy of these leaflets were shot at once.

(13)

On 26 September 1943, in Polo, Zamboanga, Japanese soldiers burned the "Tabo" (market) and several houses, without reason and arrested several civilians. They machine-gunned the barrier for 15 minutes and fired 5 mortar shells, killing some civilians.

(14)

On 23 September 1943, an enemy patrol reached Gabugsoak, near Manapa, Butuan, Agusan, and surrounded the home of Dr. MARIANO ATEGA. They accused him of cooperating with the guerrillas, then grilled and manhandled him. He was struck with the blunt side of the swords and bayonets or with the butt of a rifle, during the investigation. As ATEGA had nothing to tell, the Japs finally left him, half-dead. The victim was once a Provincial Governor for Agusan and is one of its respected citizens.

(15)

On 23 February 1944, a Japanese patrol found TIMOTEO SU and one Chinese companion in the former's house in Baliangao, Misamis Occidental. For having been found in possession of a radio receiver and battery charger, and portraits of Generalissimo CHIANG KAI SHEK, both were tied inside the house and the house then burned.

(16)

On 7 October 1944, at 4:30 p.m., Lieuts. ADOLFO SANCHES, BAJA, DOMINGO LOPEZ and GEORGE were brought to the old cemetery near the barracks formerly occupied by the 115th Inf Regt near Butuan,

Agusan. They were strongly tied. The Jap escorts brought spades and forks. Upon reaching the place, these guerrilla officers were made to dig their own graves. They were then bayoneted shoved into the hole while still alive.

(17)

On 9 March 1945, a small Japanese patrol came across a man of 35 years old and a boy of 13 years old fishing near Kingta Hill, Agusan. These innocent civilians were suspected as spies by the enemy due to the Army blanket found in their possession. They became victims of tortures before the Jap patrol put them to death.

(18)

On 12 May 1944, the Japanese, without warning or cause, burned the barrio of Carmen, Nasipit, Agusan, resulting in the destruction of lives and property. The Japanese brutally shot and bayoneted mercilessly innocent civilians regardless of sex or age, killing over 50 and wounding many others.

(19)

On 27 December 1943, 300 Japanese soldiers searched and ransacked all houses in Guinsiliban, Sagay, Misamis Oriental. During those days the Japanese soldiers were very particular on capturing anyone wearing blue denim cloth, believing that the wearer was a soldier of the Philippine Army. ENRIQUE ABESA was caught wearing such clothes, and although not a soldier, he was tortured and killed without further investigation. Another resident of the community, PTO ROLA, was killed by the Japs after they ransacked his house and gotten many of his valuables.

(20)

On 6 March 1945, four civilians passed by Minnang, Agusan. Upon reaching the bridge, these civilians were caught by the Japanese and were ruthlessly killed for no reason at all.

(21)

From 8 to 9 February 1944, INAYO VELEZ, a civilian, was butt-stroked and was not allowed to eat or drink for six consecutive days for failure to give information on the whereabouts of the electric generator owned by ex-Mayer BERNARDO NERI of Floridel, Misamis Occidental. On the sixth day he was saved by another man who was able to locate the generator.

(22)

On 19 February 1944, at Floridel, Misamis Occidental, FRANCISCO DOMINICE was roasted alive by the Japs for being known as a soldier. His hands were tied at the back and his feet were also tied together. A long pole was passed through the openings of his arms and legs and the pole was supported at the end. A fire was built under DOMINICE, burning him to death.

(23)

On 14 October 1943, Capt HABAON and Lieut PATIGDAS left Buena-vista, Agusan, for Cebu, after accomplishing a certain mission to the 110th Division. For an unknown reason they came back on or about the 15th of the same month and landed 3 kilometers west of

Sakol (between Buenavista and Nasipit), not knowing that the Japanese had already occupied the shores. Caught by surprise, they were soon captured including their arms, ammunition and money. They were mercilessly and brutally tortured, bayoneted and buried while still alive.

(24)

On 23 February 1944, LOGA TAN and his wife were captured in Baliangao, Misamis Occidental, by the Japanese. After the wife had been abused in the presence of the husband, both LOGA and the wife were bayoneted to death. The Japs took from his possession a bag containing some P17,000.00, in Philippine Treasury Notes, coins and emergency notes.

(25)

On 21 February 1944, in a barrie near Floridel, Misamis Occidental, a Japanese patrol found a Chinese hiding in a box. Instead of letting him go out of the box, the Japanese built fire around it. The Chinaman was burned to death.

(26)

May 1945:

- a) Filipinos evacuating away from areas near bombing targets sent by Jap military authorities to designated zones. In several instances, girls from 14 years old and up were held up by soldiers, detained and sent to houses where they were raped by the soldiers.
- b) In Biao and Talomo River, Davao City, families were killed without any cause. Girls killed after they were raped by the soldiers. This was related by three girls of 15, 19 and 25 years of age.
- c) Japs patrolling for food killed harmless civilian evacuees when caught by surprise in their evacuation houses. One incident which happened in Malabog, Davao City, interior site about 23 miles northeast of Davao City, wherein a group of Ilocanos were surprised by the Japs in their houses. One among the group was a woman on the family way, mercilessly bayoneted on the abdomen killing her instantly. A leg of the child came out of the wound.

C. TREATMENT OF PRISONERS OF WAR

Those who, in the beginning, believed that Japan was waging a civilized warfare notwithstanding the Pearl Harbor Treachery, were doomed to disappointment when after surrendering to the enemy they received from him all kinds of treatment except fair and human. The Japs, never really civilized - their national mentality essentially wicked - and embarking upon a war more for spite than for the redress of a righteous grievance, accentuated by the dictates of brazen cupidity, never showed any signs of having a universal grasp of the fundamental bases of International Law. Fanatics to the bone, they had not given thought to the Golden Rule and its manifold amplifications. Convinced by one-sided propaganda that there was not the remotest possibility for Japan to be defeated, they did whatever they liked, believing blindly that in the end they would dictate the terms anyhow!

DAVAO PRISONERS OF WAR

By international comity, a prisoner of war is only in a little less category than a guest. Restraint and nothing else is about the only imposition to be made on him; restraint so he could not in any way assist his compatriots in the war effort. But the Japs could not think this way. A prisoner to them is a slave as the warlords and their mercenaries were wont to consider him in the Medieval Ages.

In Davao, as in any other places where the Japs had prison compounds, the War Prisoners were rationed during mealtimes with one-third cup of either too hot or too cold rice porridge each. Those of them who did not have the fortune of owning some semblance of a receptacle were forced, by hunger, to cup their hands to receive their share of the food, only to drop it if the boiled rice was still hot.

Clothing was very scarce. The prisoners had to economize on whatever clothes they had originally. As time went on they had to split one pair of trunks into pieces to serve as G-strings to avoid going around completely naked.

Comfort, as has been well-provided for in American concentration camps for Axis prisoners, was absolutely unheard of in Japanese prison compounds. A room ordinarily unfit for the accommodation of a dozen persons were crammed with two score prisoners. At the start when the Japs had not relaxed their vigilance and cruelty, the prisoners stayed in one room close together, ate there, sat there, slept there, passed water and moved their bowels there - and most of them, died there!

On 4 March 1944, some four hundred prisoners were herded to work unceasingly in different projects in and around Bunawan, Davao. The prisoners were not allowed to rest. Anyone seen slowing down in his labors was knocked on the head with the butt or barrel of the Japanese rifle. In going to the field and coming back to the camp, the prisoners were all tied together with a strong, long rope. In the place where they worked they were told not to go over the lines indicated by the ropes fencing the site. One prisoner who tried to retrieve a tool which slid outside of the rope boundary was fired at and though missed, had the scare of his life. Hunger, sickness or fatigue were no excuse from working. The prisoners were dealt with as if they were less deserving of good treatment than animals.

The work lasted two months. Whatever little clothing the prisoners had before the work started in the Litanan Airfield and the Quarry near the Tibungko Lumber Company and Pier, in Bunawan, were torn into rags not long after. Some had to tie dirty sacks around their waists to serve as clothing. The sight was sickening.

Sometimes, the prisoners who were driven to work without stopping, fell exhausted. Yet this was not accepted as an excuse for relief. This and the fact that they were constantly on starvation diet worsened matters. Many became terribly ill and a considerable number of them died.

18 AMERICANS ESCAPED FROM DAVAO PENAL COLONY

Ten Americans successfully escaped from the Davao Penal Colony on 3 April 1943. This party consisted of the following:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1) Lt Comdr MELVIN MCCOY, USN | 6) 1st Lt JACK HAWKINS, USMC |
| 2) Major STEPHEN MELLNICK, USA | 7) 1st Lt MICHAEL DONERVICH, USA |
| 3) Major WILLIAM DYSEN, USAG | 8) 2nd Lt PAUL H. MARSHALL, USA |
| 4) Capt. SAMUEL GRASHIO, USA | 9) 1st Lt LEO BOELENS, USAG |
| 5) Capt. AUSTIN SHOFNER, USMC | 10) Sgt ROBERT B. SPIELMAN, USA |

They were taken out by submarine in June, September and November 1943 except BOELENS (later killed in guerrilla action) and MARSHALL and SPIELMAN who chose to remain behind and fight with the guerrillas.

This escape was followed by that of Sgt ROBERT L. FEASE and Pvt OSCAR B. BROWN on 25 October 1943.

The third and the last to be made was a party of 11 on 27 March 1944. Of this party six got away safely, namely:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1) Capt MARK WHELFIELD, USA | 4) Lt HOWARD WATSON, USA |
| 2) Lt JAMES E. MCCLINE, USA | 5) Lt A. T. DUKOVICH, USA |
| 3) Lt JAMES MAYBURN, USA | 6) Lt M. H. CAMPBELL, USA |

Ensign BOONE was killed in the attempt and 4 were recaptured and returned to the Penal Colony for perhaps a fate worse than death. These were Captains SCHLER and FANLER, Lts WRIGHT and CARMICHAEL.

Each and every prisoner had to undergo horrible experiences, detailed reports of which have already been forwarded to the War Department. One experience, that of

JAP ATROCITIES BROADCAST TO THE WORLD

"The MELLNICK MCCOY Party was the first escapees from a Japanese Prison Camp to bring news to the outside world of the barbarous attitude of the Japs towards Prisoners of War. Their stories, complete in all the gory details, are a matter of record in the War Department."