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HEADQUARTERS EIGHTH ARMY
United States Army
Office of the Staff Judge Advocate

Yokohama, Japan
16 June 1948

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA VS NARUMI OOTA
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA VS TADAO SHIBANO
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA VS YUJI AOKI
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA VS MICHIO KURIYAMA
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA VS YOSHIO TAGUCHI
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA VS HIROAKI KONO
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA VS KENGO KATAYAMA

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#137

TAGUCHI, YOSHIO
et al

Review of the Staff Judge Advocate

1. The attached record of trial of Narumi Oota, Tadao Shibano, Yuji Aoki; Michio Kuriyama, Yoshio Taguchi, Hiroaki Kono, and Kengo Katayama, at Yokohama, Japan, from 21 November 1946 to 3 February 1947, by a Military Commission appointed by paragraph 11, Special Orders No. 290, Headquarters Eighth Army, dated 18 November 1946, as amended by paragraph 1, Special Order No. 293, Headquarters Eighth Army, dated 21 November 1946, having been referred to the Staff Judge Advocate, this review thereof is submitted to the Commanding General.

Personal Data Concerning Accused

NAME: Narumi Oota
AGE: 41
RESIDENCE: Niigata Prefecture,
Nakakubiki-gun, Naoetsu, Oaza, Yakata-
ku, 12 Banchi
MARITAL STATUS: Married
RELATIVES: Wife and four children
EDUCATION: Graduate middle school
VOCATION: Clerk and secretarial worker
MILITARY CAREER: Inducted in Army as
private in 1938, later made NCO. Made
a preparatory school Lt. and on
June 17, 1941 was inducted in Takada
67th Regiment of the Japanese Army;
made camp commander 4-B Niigata
January 15, 1943.

DATE OF CONFINEMENT: 16 November 1945
DATE OF ARRAIGNMENT: 21 November 1946
PLACE OF TRIAL: Yokohama, Japan
PERIOD OF TRIAL: 21 November 1946 to
3 February 1947
DATE OF SENTENCE: 3 February 1947
SENTENCE: CHL for life
CLEMENCY RECOMMENDED BY COMMISSION:
No

NAME: Yuji Aoki
AGE: Not shown
RESIDENCE: Niigata Prefecture, Santo-
gun, Shinsai Mura, Katayama 152
MARITAL STATUS: Married
RELATIVES: Wife, one child, father,
mother
EDUCATION: Graduate grammar school,
two years at middle school and two
years at technical school.
VOCATION: Farmer and industrial worker
MILITARY CAREER: Served two years in
Korea and 9 months in Niigata. In-
ducted again in 1942 in Takada Infantry
Regiment, serving six months. Ordered
to work at POW camp, stayed until end
of war.

DATE OF CONFINEMENT: 3 November 1945
DATE OF ARRAIGNMENT: 21 November 1946
PLACE OF TRIAL: Yokohama, Japan
PERIOD OF TRIAL: 21 November 1946 to
3 February 1947
DATE OF SENTENCE: 3 February 1947
SENTENCE: Hanged by neck until dead
CLEMENCY RECOMMENDED BY COMMISSION:
No

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NAME: Tadao Shibano
AGE: 29
RESIDENCE: Yokohama City, Nishi-ku,
Motokubomachi #94
MARITAL STATUS: Single
RELATIVES: Not shown
EDUCATION: Not shown
VOCATION: Student
MILITARY CAREER: Combat duty in China.
Came to Camp Niigata 4-B in December
1942 as army sgt. where he remained
until end of war.

DATE OF CONFINEMENT: 21 November 1945
DATE OF ARRAIGNMENT: 21 November 1946
PLACE OF TRIAL: Yokohama, Japan
PERIOD OF TRIAL: 21 November 1946 to
3 February 1947
DATE OF SENTENCE: 3 February 1947
SENTENCE: Hanged by neck until dead
CLEMENCY RECOMMENDED BY COMMISSION:
No

NAME: Michio Kuriyama
AGE: 30
RESIDENCE: City of Tokyo, Asakusa-ku,
Katobuki-cho, 1 chome 24
MARITAL STATUS: Single
RELATIVES: Not shown
EDUCATION: Not shown
VOCATION: Student
MILITARY CAREER: Served with Fumoto
Company of the Tobu 77 Unit. Later
assigned to Unit 1904 POW Camp, and
served as interpreter at camps during
the war.

DATE OF CONFINEMENT: 17 November 1945
DATE OF ARRAIGNMENT: 21 November 1946
PLACE OF TRIAL: Yokohama, Japan
PERIOD OF TRIAL: 21 November 1946 to
3 February 1947
DATE OF SENTENCE: 3 February 1947
SENTENCE: CHL for life
CLEMENCY RECOMMENDED BY COMMISSION:
No

NAME: Kengo Katayama
AGE: 29
RESIDENCE: Niigata Prefecture, Niigata
City, Gakko-cho, 2 Banchi
MARITAL STATUS: Married
RELATIVES: Wife, father and mother
EDUCATION: Graduate of middle school,
Aoyama Gakuin Specialized Training
School
VOCATION: For about one month between
graduation and entry into Army worked
for Nippon Agriculture Company
MILITARY CAREER: In February 1942 con-
scripted into Army, assigned to Takada's
67th Unit; during maneuvers hurt leg;
sent to hospital for two months, and,
after six months' training was sent to
Niigata Camp 4-B as an interpreter.

DATE OF CONFINEMENT: 9 December 1945
DATE OF ARRAIGNMENT: 21 November 1946
PLACE OF TRIAL: Yokohama, Japan
PERIOD OF TRIAL: 21 November 1946 to
3 February 1947
DATE OF SENTENCE: 3 February 1947
SENTENCE: CHL for 20 years
CLEMENCY RECOMMENDED BY COMMISSION:
No

NAME: Yoshio Taguchi
AGE: 28
RESIDENCE: City of Tokyo, Kamata-ku,
Misono 2-10
MARITAL STATUS: Single
RELATIVES: Father and mother
EDUCATION: Not shown
VOCATION: Clerk
MILITARY CAREER: Inducted in Army in
December 1942. In January 1943 sent to
Sagamihara Army Hospital for two months'
training as medical orderly and in March
1943 was sent to Eastern 68 Regiment,
where he received one month's training
as a soldier and in June 1943 was sent
to Niigata Camp 4-B as medical orderly.

DATE OF CONFINEMENT: 26 October 1946
DATE OF ARRAIGNMENT: 21 November 1946
PLACE OF TRIAL: Yokohama, Japan
PERIOD OF TRIAL: 21 November 1946 to
3 February 1947
DATE OF SENTENCE: 3 February 1947
SENTENCE: CHL for life
CLEMENCY RECOMMENDED BY COMMISSION:
No

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NAME: Hiroaki Kono
AGE: 28
RESIDENCE: Fukushima Prefecture,
Tamara-gun, Mikaru-machi, Kitamachi, 64.
MARITAL STATUS: Single
RELATIVES: Mother, sister and two brothers
EDUCATION: Five years in middle school,
three years of literature in high
school, including one year of medicine
VOCATION: Student
MILITARY CAREER: Conscripted in Army in
October 1942. Assigned to Muramatsu
Regiment and sent to POW Camp Niigata,
4-B, on July 1, 1943.

DATE OF CONFINEMENT: 14 October 1946
DATE OF ARRAIGNMENT: 21 November 1946
PLACE OF TRIAL: Yokohama, Japan
PERIOD OF TRIAL: 21 November 1946 to
3 February 1947
DATE OF SENTENCE: 3 February 1947
SENTENCE: CHL for life
CLEMENCY RECOMMENDED BY COMMISSION:
No

2. Synopsis of Charges, Pleas, Findings, Legal Sufficiency and Sentence:

<u>Charge and Specifications:</u>	<u>Pleas</u>	<u>Findings</u>	<u>Legally Sustained</u>
<u>OOA</u>			
Charge: Accused, at the times and places set forth in the specifications hereto attached, did violate the Laws and Customs of War.	NG	G	Yes
Sp 1: Between 20 January 1943 and 23 January 1945, at or near Naoetsu POW Camp 4-B, Niigata, Honshu, Japan, the accused did willfully and unlawfully misappropriate and misuse Red Cross food and supplies intended for the use of Allied PW's.	NG	Guilty; except the words, "willfully and unlawfully misappropriate", "and supplies"; of the excepted words Not Guilty.	Yes
Sp 2: Between 20 January 1943 and 23 January 1945, at and near Naoetsu POW Camp 4-B, Niigata, Honshu, Japan, the accused did unlawfully disregard and fail to discharge his duty as Commander of said camp by neglecting, refusing and denying necessary and available food, clothing, and proper medical care, attention, and supplies to Allied PW's despite repeated requests and protestations by Allied PW authorities, thereby contributing to and accelerating the deaths of Allied PW's.	NG	NG	---
Sp 3: Between 20 January 1943 and 23 January 1945, at and near Naoetsu POW Camp 4-B, Niigata, Honshu, Japan, the accused did unlawfully disregard and fail to discharge his duty as Commander of said camp to restrain and control members of his command and persons under his supervision and control, by permitting them to commit the following atrocities and other offenses against Allied PW's:			
a. Between 1 September 1943 and 27 January 1944, the unlawful mistreatment, torture, and abuse by one Sgt. Shibano, one Sgt. Aoki, one Pvt. Kawano of Pvt. Robert G. Farley, an Australian PW, by	NG	Guilty, excepting the words, "one Sgt. Aoki, one Pvt. Kawano", and the words, "and compelling him to stand in	Yes, in part

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repeatedly beating him and compelling him to stand in snow for long periods of time, to sleep without blankets in winter, and to work while sick, thereby contributing to and accelerating his death. NG snow for long periods of time, to sleep without blankets in winter, and to work while sick," of the excepted words Not Guilty.

b. Between 1 January 1944 and 21 January 1944, the unlawful mistreatment, torture and abuse by one Sgt. Shibano and one Sgt. Aoki of Signalman D. Fraser, an Australian PW, by beating him with belts and swords for approximately five hours as he stood exposed to the waist in the snow, thereby contributing to and accelerating his death. NG G No

c. Between 1 August 1943 and 13 November 1943, the unlawful mistreatment and abuse by one Sgt. Aoki and two Japanese known as "Gummy" and "Fishface", of Corp. G. L. Judd, an Australian PW, by compelling him to work and by repeatedly beating him while sick and physically unfit to perform such work, thereby contributing to and accelerating his death. NG G Yes

d. Between 1 January 1943 and 15 December 1943, the unlawful mistreatment and abuse by one "Gummy", one "Fishface", one Pvt. Kawano, and one Sgt. Aoki, of Pvt. A. V. Burns, an Australian PW, by beating him, compelling him to work while sick, and refusing him medical attention and supplies at a critical stage of his illness, thereby contributing to and accelerating his death. NG Guilty, Yes excepting the words, "and refusing him medical attention and supplies at a critical stage of his illness, thereby contributing to and accelerating his death," of the excepted words Not Guilty.

e. Between 1 March 1943 and 26 October 1943, the unlawful mistreatment, torture, and abuse by one Sgt. Aoki, one "Gummy", one "Sailor", and one Pvt. Taguchi of Pvt. T. M. Comerford, an Australian PW, by repeatedly beating him and compelling him to perform heavy duties while seriously ill and physically unfit to perform such duties, thereby contributing to and accelerating his death. NG G Yes, in part

f. Between 1 March 1943 and 13 September 1943, the unlawful mistreatment, torture, and abuse by one Sgt. Aoki of Signalman J. H. Baker, an Australian PW, by repeatedly beating him and compelling him to work while sick and physically unfit to perform such labor, thereby contributing to and accelerating his death. NG Guilty, Yes, in part excepting the words, "thereby contributing to and accelerating his death," of the excepted words Not Guilty.

g. Between 1 March 1943 and 30 December 1943, the unlawful mistreatment and abuse by one Sgt. Aoki of Pvt. J. G. Harper, an Australian PW, by compelling him to work when sick and physically unfit to perform such work, thereby contributing to and accelerating his death. NG G Yes

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