

*Restricted*

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

Yokohama, Japan  
11 February 1949

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA VS YUTAKA ODZAWA  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA VS KAORU OKUMA  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA VS NAOTADA FUJIHIRA  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA VS KIYOHISA NOTO  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA VS TSUNEHICO YAMAMOTO

Review of the Staff Judge Advocate

1. The attached record of trial of the Case of Yutaka Odazawa, Kaoru Okuma, Naotada Fujihira, Kiyohisa Noto, and Tsunehiko Yamamoto, tried at Yokohama, Japan, from 22 June 1948 to 6 July 1948, by a Military Commission appointed by paragraph 2, Special Orders Number 136, Headquarters Eighth Army, United States Army, dated 16 June 1948, having been referred to the Staff Judge Advocate, this review thereof is submitted to the Commanding General.

Personal Data Concerning Accused

NAME: Yutaka Odazawa	DATE OF CONFINEMENT: 22 January 1948
AGE: 39	DATE OF ARRAIGNMENT: 22 June 1948
RESIDENCE: Gumma-ken, Tonegun, Shirasawa-mura, Sai 922	PLACE OF TRIAL: Yokohama, Japan
MARITAL STATUS: Married	PERIOD OF TRIAL: 22 June 1948 - 6 July 1948
RELATIVES: Wife, 1 Child, & 1 Brother	DATE OF SENTENCE: 6 July 1948
EDUCATION: Primary School, Naval Gunner School.	SENTENCE: CHL for life
VOCATION: Farmer	CLEMENCY RECOMMENDED BY COMMISSION: No.
MILITARY CAREER: Japanese Navy since 1929 - Discharged 17 January 1946; Highest rank: Lieutenant Junior Grade	

---

NAME: Kaoru Okuma	DATE OF CONFINEMENT: 29 April 1948
AGE: 35	DATE OF ARRAIGNMENT: 22 June 1948
RESIDENCE: 735 Saijo-machi, Kamo-gun, Hiroshima-ken	PLACE OF TRIAL: Yokohama, Japan
MARITAL STATUS: Married	PERIOD OF TRIAL: 22 June 1948 - 6 July 1948
RELATIVES: Wife, 1 Child, Father, Mother, & 3 Brothers	DATE OF SENTENCE: 6 July 1948
EDUCATION: Naval Engineer Academy	SENTENCE: Death by hanging
VOCATION: Not Given	CLEMENCY RECOMMENDED BY COMMISSION: No
MILITARY CAREER: Japanese Navy since 25 March 1937 - Discharged 25 January 1946; Highest Rank: Lieutenant Commander	

---

NAME: Naotada Fujihira	DATE OF CONFINEMENT: 10 May 1948
AGE: 37	DATE OF ARRAIGNMENT: 22 June 1948
RESIDENCE: Chiba-ken, Isumi-gun, Azuma-mura, 420 Nittano	PLACE OF TRIAL: Yokohama, Japan
MARITAL STATUS: Married	PERIOD OF TRIAL: 22 June 1948 - 6 July 1948

*Restricted*

*Restricted*

RELATIVES: Wife, 1 Child, & Father  
EDUCATION: Primary School, 8 years;  
Naval Intendance School, 7 months  
VOCATION: Farmer  
MILITARY CAREER: Japanese Navy since  
1 June 1929 - Discharged 18 January  
1946; Highest rank: Ensign

DATE OF SENTENCE: 6 July 1948  
SENTENCE: CHL for life  
CLEMENCY RECOMMENDED BY COMMISSION: No

NAME: Kiyohisa Noto  
AGE: 46  
RESIDENCE: 414 1 Chome, Nishiokubo,  
Shinjiku-ku, Tokyo-to  
MARITAL STATUS: Married  
RELATIVES: Wife, 2 Sons, Father, Mother,  
3 Brothers, & 3 Sisters  
EDUCATION: Graduate Naval Officers  
Training School  
VOCATION: Navy  
MILITARY CAREER: Japanese Navy since  
1920; Highest rank: Captain

DATE OF CONFINEMENT: 29 January 1947  
DATE OF ARRAIGNMENT: 22 June 1948  
PLACE OF TRIAL: Yokohama, Japan  
PERIOD OF TRIAL: 22 June 1948 - 6  
July 1948  
DATE OF SENTENCE: 6 July 1948  
SENTENCE: CHL for 20 years  
CLEMENCY RECOMMENDED BY COMMISSION: No

NAME: Tsunehiko Yamamoto  
AGE: 28  
RESIDENCE: Inatori-machi, Kamo-gun,  
Shizuoka Prefecture; Inatori  
Vocational School  
MARITAL STATUS: Single  
RELATIVES: Father, Mother, 2  
Brothers, & 1 Sister  
EDUCATION: Tokyo Agricultural  
University  
VOCATION: Assistant Professor, High  
School  
MILITARY CAREER: Japanese Navy since  
October 1942 - Discharged 24  
January 1946; Highest Rank:  
Lieutenant

DATE OF CONFINEMENT: 30 April 1948  
DATE OF ARRAIGNMENT: 22 June 1948  
PLACE OF TRIAL: Yokohama, Japan  
PERIOD OF TRIAL: 22 June 1948 - 6  
July 1948  
DATE OF SENTENCE: 6 July 1948  
SENTENCE: CHL for life  
CLEMENCY RECOMMENDED BY COMMISSION: No

3. Synopsis of Charges, Pleas, Findings, and Legal Sufficiency:

<u>Charges and Specifications:</u>	<u>Pleas:</u>	<u>Findings:</u>	<u>Legally Sustained:</u>
<u>ODAZAWA:</u> Charge: Accused, at the times and places set forth in the specifications hereto attached, did violate the Laws and Customs of War.	N G	G	Yes
Sp: That in or about June 1944, at Kairiru Island, New Guinea, the accused did willfully and unlawfully kill Second Lieutenant Robert Thorpe, an American Prisoner of War, by beheading him. (As amended R 5)	N G	G	Yes

*Restricted*

OKUMA:

*Restricted*

Charge: Accused, at the times and places set forth in the specifications hereto attached, did violate the Laws and Customs of War. N G G Yes

Sp 1: That in or about June 1944, at Kairiru Island, New Guinea, the accused did willfully and unlawfully mistreat Second Lieutenant Robert Thorpe, an American Prisoner of War, by beating him. G G Yes

Sp 2: That in or about June 1944, at Kairiru Island, New Guinea, the accused did willfully and unlawfully order, cause, direct, and permit the beating of Second Lieutenant Robert Thorpe, an American Prisoner of War. G G Yes

Sp 3: That in or about June 1944, at Kairiru Island, New Guinea, the accused, did, with others, willfully and unlawfully participate in the unlawful killing of Second Lieutenant Robert Thorpe, an American Prisoner of War. N G G Yes

Sp 4: That in or about June 1944, at Kairiru Island, New Guinea, the accused did willfully and unlawfully order, cause, direct, and permit the unlawful killing of Second Lieutenant Robert Thorpe, an American Prisoner of War. N G G Yes

Sp 5: That in or about June 1944, at Kairiru Island, New Guinea, the accused did willfully and unlawfully order, cause, direct, and permit the unlawful desecration of the body of Second Lieutenant Robert Thorpe, an American Prisoner of War. N G N G

FUJIIHIRA:

Charge: Accused, at the times and places set forth in the specifications hereto attached, did violate the Laws and Customs of War. N G G Yes

Sp 1: That in or about June 1944, on Kairiru Island, New Guinea, the accused did willfully and unlawfully mistreat Second Lieutenant Robert Thorpe, an American Prisoner of War, by beating him. N G G Yes

Sp 2: That in or about June 1944, on Kairiru Island, New Guinea, the accused did, with others, willfully and unlawfully participate in the unlawful killing of Second Lieutenant Robert Thorpe, an American Prisoner of War. N G G Yes

*Restricted*

NOTO:

*Restricted*

Charge: Accused, at the times and places set forth in the specifications hereto attached, did violate the Laws and Customs of War. G G Yes

Sp: That in or about June 1944, at Kairiru Island, New Guinea, the accused did willfully and unlawfully order, direct, cause, and permit the unlawful killing of Second Lieutenant Robert Thorpe, an American Prisoner of War. G G Yes

YAMAMOTO:

Charge: Accused, at the times and places set forth in the specifications hereto attached, did violate the Laws and Customs of War. N G G Yes

Sp 1: That in or about June 1944, on Kairiru Island, New Guinea, the accused did willfully and unlawfully mistreat Second Lieutenant Robert Thorpe, an American Prisoner of War, by beating him. N G G Yes

Sp 2: That in or about June 1944, on Kairiru Island, New Guinea, the accused did, with others, willfully and unlawfully participate in the unlawful killing of Second Lieutenant Robert Thorpe, an American Prisoner of War. N G G Yes

3. Summary of the Evidence:

a. In General:

About 27 May 1944, Second Lieutenant Robert Thorpe, an American pilot, was shot down over Kairiru Island, New Guinea. He swam ashore and was captured by the 27th Special Naval Base Force, a Japanese Naval Unit stationed there. He was brought to Headquarters, interrogated, beaten, used as a target for pistol practice, and beheaded (Exhibits 2, 3, 6, 8, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14).

The following personnel of the Unit and its Headquarters are mentioned in this review:-

Sato, Rear Admiral - Commanding Officer (a suicide) (Exs 2, 3, 6, 12).  
Noto, Captain - Chief of Staff and Senior Staff Officer (Exs 2, 3, 6).  
Okuma - Lieutenant Commander - Adjutant, Engineer Officer (Exs 6, 11; R117).  
Yamamoto, Ensign (R 136) - Telephone orderly (Ex 12; R 138).  
Odazawa, Lieutenant - Platoon Leader (Ex 12).  
Fujihira, Chief Petty Officer - Liaison Officer (Ex 13); Intendance Off. (Ex 6).  
Amenomori, Lieutenant - Chief Intendance Officer (Ex 6); Paymaster (Ex 3).  
Kawada, Lieutenant - Adjutant (Ex 6).  
Maruyama, Lieutenant Commander - Chief Surgeon (Ex 5).  
Suzuki, W.O. - Medical Section (Ex 7).  
Ogawa, Petty Officer - Medical Section (a suicide) (Exs 3, 7, 12).  
Ushioji, Lieutenant Commander - Staff Officer and Area Company Commander (Ex 2).

*Restricted*