PROCEEDINGS OF A MILITARY COURT
Held at HONG KONG

on the Twentyfirst day of May 1948

At 0945 hours the Court assembles.

PRESIDENT

Rank	Name	Unit
Lt-Col	F.G.B. PULLEN ED PSL Inf AMF	1 Aust War Crimes Sec

MEMBERS

Rank	Name	Unit
Major	J.K. LLOYD ED 3MD Spec List AMF	1 Aust War Crimes Sec
Major	N.F. QUINTON AA Pro C AMF	1 Aust War Crimes Sec
Capt	M.B. TINDALE Aus Int Corps AMF	2 Aust War Crimes Sec

THE ACCUSED

SAGEJIMA Mangaw	former Lieutenant of the Imperial Japanese Navy
HOYAMA Kenzo	former Petty Officer of the Imperial Japanese Navy
KOHAMA Shozuke	former Civilian Administrator att Imperial Japanese Navy.

are before the Court.

The Order for the Assembly of the Court is read.

The President and Members are duly sworn.

SHORTHAND WRITERS

Miss M.E. RENNY

Miss V.A. NATION and

Miss J. MACGREGOR

are duly sworn as Shorthand Writers.

INTERPRETERS

Mr George TONG

is duly sworn and

Mr HIROKA Goro and

Mr KANO Masamichi

are duly affirmed as Interpreters.

The Accused are arraigned on the Charge in the Schedule to the Order for the Assembly of the COURT.

Question to the Accused: SAGEJIMA Mangan	Are you guilty or not guilty of the charge against you which you have heard read?
Answer:	I plead not guilty.
Question to the Accused: HOYAMA Kenzo	Are you guilty or not guilty of the charge against you which you have heard read?
Answer:	I plead not guilty.
Question to the Accused: KOHAMA Shozuke	Are you guilty or not guilty of the charge against you which you have heard read?
Answer:	I plead not guilty.

PROSECUTING OFFICER: Major A.D. MACKAY, AALC, a Barrister of the Supreme Court of Western Australia.

COUNSEL FOR DEFENCE: Mr KAKEHI Masao, Bachelor of Law of the HOSEI University of JAPAN and former Judge of the Circuit Court of JAPAN. Assisted by Capt J.V. WOGAN-BROWNE (The BUFFS).

Question to Accused: Do you wish to apply for an adjournment on the grounds that any of the rules relating to procedure before trial have not been complied with and that you have been prejudiced thereby, or that you have not had sufficient opportunity for preparing your defence?

Answer: No.

CASE FOR THE PROSECUTION

PROSECUTING OFFICER: Before making my Opening Address I wish to hand to the Court a map of the AROE Islands showing the locality concerning this Charge. This map will be formally tendered by me immediately at the conclusion of my address, it may assist the Court in following the places mentioned during my Address. If my friend has no objection I will hand it to you and formally tender it at the conclusion of my Address.

If I may here mention I would like you to have that map returned to me at the condusion of the case as it is an official map which I borrowed from SCAP and I am bound to return it. I wish you to mark it for identification.

"A" The Prosecuting Officer hands in a written address which is read, marked "A", signed by the President and attached to the proceedings.

ABSTRACT OF EVIDENCE

ON THE CHARGE: COMMITTING A WAR CRIME in that they at DOBO in the AROE Islands on 5 February 1943 were, in violation of the laws and usages of war, together concerned in the unlawful killing of the Rev. LEONARD KENTISH an Australian civilian internee, then held in the custody of the Japanese armed forces

AGAINST : SAGEJIMA MANGAN former Lieutenant Imperial Japanese Navy

HOYAMA KENZO former Petty Officer Imperial Japanese Navy

KOHAMA SHOZUKE former Civilian Administrator attached Imperial Japanese Navy

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Interrogation Report

SAGEJIMA Mangan

Conducted in Japanese

19 May 47

SUBJECT : Execution of the Rev L. N. KENTISH

1. Name : SAGEJIMA Mangan

2. Address : TOTORI-Ken, SAIHAKU-gun, TOKOROGO-mura, O-AZA, SUEYOSHI.

3. Age : 42 years

4. Occupation : Farmer

5. Background Information :

1923	Inducted into Navy
1935	Placed on reserve
Aug 1938	Recalled - rank PO Class I
Mar 1940	Placed on reserve
Sep 1941	Mobilized and attached to KURE Garrison Unit with rank of WO
Jul 1942	4th Garrison Force at TIMOR
Nov 1942	24th Naval Base Force AMBON
Nov 1942	24th Naval Base Force detachment at DOBO, AROE Is.
Jul 1943	Returned to AMBON as a platoon commander of Coastal Defence Arty
Oct 1944	Promoted Sub Lt
Aug 1945	Promoted Lt
Jun 1946	Repatriated

6. Narrative :

(a) Naval Forces at DOBO :

(i) Rifle Coy under command of 2nd Lt KITAYAMA. In Dec 42 KITAYAMA relieved by 2nd Lt TOKUYAMA.

(ii) Communication and Liaison Section under command of WO SAGEJIMA

(iii) Small sea plane recce unit.

Total strength of navy detachment was approximately 200 men. In Feb/Mar 43 (i) and (iii) left DOBO leaving approx 30 men under command of WO SAGEJIMA.

SAGEJIMA recalled the following names of personnel of his detachment :

P/O class I TAKARA Tadaichi
" " " BABA Toshio
Ldg Seaman NIKI Toyoichi

all of whom were repatriated with him.

(b) A seaplane captured an Australian civilian who was a survivor from a small ship which had been bombed just north of Australia. The prisoner was brought to DOBO and held in custody by the seaplane unit.

(c) The prisoner was placed in SAGEJIMA's custody when the seaplane unit left DOBO. DOBO was heavily bombed by Allied planes on frequent occasions. On one of these occasions approximately 2 weeks after the prisoner was placed in his custody, 2 members of SAGEJIMA's unit were killed and 6 or 8 others wounded. SAGEJIMA stated that he was so enraged at the loss of life to members of his unit that he decided to execute the prisoner.

(d) SAGEJIMA borrowed a sword from KOHAMA Shosuke and, at twilight that day, (he could not supply the date) he personally executed the prisoner by decapitation. He remembered that KOHAMA was a witness to this execution but could not recall if there were any other witnesses.

(e) The execution took place beside a bomb crater in which the body was buried.

(f) SAGEJIMA, on hearing that KOHAMA had been interrogated and had given information, confessed to having carried out the execution on his own initiative. He received no instructions from higher authorities and does not recall having reported the incident to his senior command.

7. COMMENT :

SAGEJIMA submitted a brief sworn statement, which, together with a translation, will be attached to this report.

SAGEJIMA was placed under arrest and confined at SUGAMO Prison.

.....Capt
(J. C. VAN NOOTEN)
Investigating Officer
2 Aust War Crimes Sec
May 47

カンゴクノ場所ニ行キ
堤島兵曹長ト小濱、自分ト
ダデス 堤島兵曹長ハ自分ニ命令シ
カンゴクカラ日本墓地ノ後ニオツレ行キ
小濱ハコノ刀デ切ッテクレト自分ハソレヲカリ
坐ラシ自カクレテ切リオトレテ
其ノ立合人ハ堤島兵曹長ト小濱デス
其ノ他陸軍五ヶ国兵五名デス
私ハ堤島兵曹長ノ命令デ切リマシタ

宣誓書
良心ニ従ヒ真実ヲ述テ何事ヲモ黙
秘セス又何事ヲモ附加セサルコトヲ
誓フ

法山謙三

Drawn to, signed & unpunished with the thumb of the right hand by HOYAMA Kenzo at TOKYO this 31 day July 1947 before me.

Marcellus Cox. 33511.
(M.C. McLACHLAN) Capt
an officer of the Australian military forces.

Hoyama Kenzo's interrogation statement made in Tokyo, 31 July 1947.
[Item 336/1/1273 (3 of 4), MP742/1, NAA]

IN THE MATTER of War Crimes

and

IN THE MATTER of the Sinking of H. M. A. S. "Patricia Cam" - Execution of REV. KENTISH

War Crimes Commission No.

Reference No.

I, JOHN LEGGOE, formerly a Lieutenant of the R.A.N.V.R. but now of 7 ~~Green~~ Grange Street, Claremont, in the State of Western Australia, being duly sworn make oath and say as follows:-

1. DURING a period of my war service I was attached to H.M.A.S. "Patricia Cam" which was at the time operating off the coast of Arnhem Land in January 1943. There was a Missionary named Rev. Kentish on board and approximately on the 22nd day of January 1943 the ship was attacked by a Japanese float plane. I had been asleep but was awakened by the explosion and the ship sank a few minutes after the attack. I swam towards a raft and was clinging to it along with Rev. Kentish and several others who were members of the crew.

2. THE float plane approached and as we thought we may be machine-gunned several of us swam away from the raft and spread out. By the time the float plane alighted the Rev. Kentish had swum to the edge of the circle of wreckage and the plane taxied up to where he was floating. Two of the plane's crew moved to the floats and beckoned to Rev. Kentish. I saw him being dragged aboard and the plane then took off with him.

3. I recognise the photograph now produced and shown to me and marked "A" as being that of the said Rev. Kentish.

SWORN by the abovenamed JOHN LEGGOE at Perth in the State of Western Australia this 17th day of September 1947, before me -

John Leggoe

A Commissioner of the Supreme Court of Western Australia for taking Affidavits.

Witness John Leggoe, a former Lieutenant in the Royal Australian Naval Volunteer Reserve (RANVR) who served in HMAS Patricia Cam, identified a photograph of the Reverend Kentish. His affidavit of identification dated 17 September 1947 was admitted in evidence by the prosecuting officer. [Item 336/1/1273 (2 of 4), MP742/1, NAA]

War Crimes Commission No.

Reference No.

I, JOHN LEGGOE, formerly a Lieutenant of the R.A.N.V.R. but now of 7 ~~Green~~ Grange Street, Claremont, in the State of Western

and marked "A" as being that of the said Rev. Kentish.

SWORN by the abovenamed JOHN LEGGOE at Perth in the State of Western Australia this 17th day of September 1947, before me -

John Leggoe

Howard A. Johnson

A Commissioner of the Supreme Court of Western Australia for taking Affidavits.

Witness John Leggoe's sworn affidavit to the War Crimes Commission. [Item 1010/3/12, AWM54]

COPY

PETITION.

THE CONFIRMING AUTHORITY.
H.Q. LAND FORCES,
HONG KONG.

I, SAGEJIMA MANGAN, wish to make the following petition against the finding and sentence by a Military Court at HONG KONG on 27th MAY, 1948:-

I was charged with the murder of a Rev. L. KENTISH at DOBO on 5th Feb. 1943. There has been no evidence produced by the prosecution other than some shreds of indirect evidence that a European who was killed at DOBO was in fact this Rev. L. KENTISH.

Even the prosecuting officer in his closing address, said (page 12 of this document) that "if the court are NOT satisfied beyond reasonable doubt that the victim of this crime was in fact the Rev. LEONARD KENTISH, but was nevertheless an Australian or an Allied prisoner of war, the court may under the provisions of R.P. 44(D) make a special finding as long as you are satisfied that the requirements of Section 7 and 12 of the act concerning your jurisdiction are complied with." This was because the prosecuting officer knew his evidence was weak in proof of the facts contained in the charge. But the court, however, did not make such a finding.

I consider I am NOT guilty of the charge, and had a special finding been made the sentence would not have been so severe. The weaknesses in the case for the prosecution are discussed in the Defence Closing Address.

I made a decision to kill a European at DOBO for the reasons I have stated in my evidence. I was conscript W.O. at the time and had no superior officer to turn to for guidance. We were being blasted mercilessly by the enemy and the situation appeared pretty hopeless. I have accepted full responsibility for my actions and have realised since the event that my actions were extremely rash but I was not of that opinion at the time.

I have been in custody for over a year in connection with this incident and have suffered great mental agony and remorse for my actions. I know I was wrong and only wish the opportunity of being able to prove it by being allowed to live and for the remainder of my life to be able to devote myself to the principles of humanity.

I earnestly beseach the confirming authority to consider this, my petition when receiving the finding and sentence in this case.

(Sgd.)
SIGNATURE OF PETITIONER

STANLEY PRISON
7th JUNE, 1948.

I certify the above signature in Kanji to be that of SAGEJIMA MANGAN
R.A. FLOWER S/Sgt
Witness

Sagejima Mangan's petition against the finding and sentence of the Military Court. All three prisoners submitted petitions for clemency to the court. [Item 1010/3/12, AWM54]

Taisho-dori,
Kaitaichi-machi,
Hiroshima,
Nov. 9/48.

Gen. Douglas MacArthur,
Supreme Commander Allied Powers,
Tokio.

DEAR SIR:-

We the undersigned beg to you for your most unfailing kindness, understanding and power with which you are so famous.

If it's within your means and if possible, we implore with you for the transfer of KENSO HOYAMA from STANLEY PRISON, HONG-KONG to one in Japan.

He was called to SUGAMO PRISON on 1 Aug. 1947 and sent to HONG KONG on 2 Dec. 1947 where he was tried for war crimes and given death sentence on 27 May 1948. This was commuted to life imprisonment on 17 Aug. 1948.

His aged mother TOMIYO HOYAMA of 1281-1 Taisho-dori, Kaitaichi-machi, Hiroshima is worried sick over her son

A petition addressed to General Douglas MacArthur by the family of Kenso HOYAMA, 9 November 1948.
[Item 336/1/1273 (4 of 4), MP742/1, NAA]

KENSO and is gradually losing her health. We firmly believe that if she can be assured that her son has a chance of being transfered to Japan where she may visit him occassionally it would help her tremendously.

Hoping that this petition is given due consideration, we remain,

Yours Respectfully,

Shizuoka Kenmin

法山 博子 (法山)
Hoyama Hiroko

法山カヅエ (法山)

肥田仁三郎 (肥田)

肥田トモ (肥田)

肥田末雄 (肥田)

肥田ナガ子 (肥田)

大久保熊男 (大久保)

大久保ハル子 (大久保)

大久保ミツ (大久保)

梶山ミサ子 (梶山)

貞金シマノ (貞金)

貞金實夫 (貞金)

貞金ヨシエ (貞金)

鼻岐武 (鼻岐)

小沢静男 (小沢)

小沢ミサヲ (小沢)

小沢五朗 (小沢)

小沢義弘 (小沢)

和田一人 (和田)

宮本義明 (宮本)

小沢トヨ子 (小沢)

小沢登美枝 (小沢)

小沢サナエ (小沢)

千栩 [illegible] (千栩)

千栩 [illegible] (千栩)

千栩敏訓 (千栩)

[illegible] (鼻岐)

[illegible] (鼻岐)

[illegible] (千栩)

[illegible] (千栩)

A petition addressed to General Douglas MacArthur by the family of Kenso HOYAMA, 9 November 1948.
[Item 336/1/1273 (4 of 4), MP742/1, NAA]

TELEPHONES: CENTRAL 7185 MXY 440

DPW(AG13(2a))/AR...

336/1/1567

AIR MAIL

13 AUG Recd

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY.

MILITARY BOARD
(ADJUTANT-GENERAL)

Army HEADQUARTERS,
VICTORIA BARRACKS

Quote 20555

Reply

Melbourne, S.C.1,

4 Aug 48

DESPATCH
5 AUG 1948

1 AUST WAR CRIMES SEC
HONG KONG

TRIAL BY MILITARY COURT:- SUB-LT. SAGEJIMA Mangan
P.O. HOYAMA Kenzo
CIV. KOHAMA Shozuke

1. I refer to your 2458/A6/38 of the 31 May 48 forwarding the above proceedings and advise that the proceedings and petitions of the accused who were convicted on the charge of :-

"COMMITTING A WAR CRIME that is to say MURDER in that they at DOBO in the AROE ISLANDS on the 5 Feb 43 murdered the Rev.LEONARD KENTISH an Australian Missionary, then held in the custody of the Japanese Armed Forces."

have been considered. The Confirming authority has :-

(a) Confirmed the findings of Guilty
(b) Confirmed the sentence of Death by hanging in the case of Sub-Lt.SAGEJIMA Mangan.
In the case of P.O. HOYAMA Kenzo
Commuted the sentence of Death by Hanging to Imprisonment for LIFE and confirmed the sentence as so commuted.

In the case of Civ KOHAMA Shozuke commuted the sentence of Death by Hanging to Imprisonment for LIFE and confirmed the sentence as so commuted.

2. It is requested that the finding and sentences as confirmed be promulgated to the accused. Promulgation should be effected by an officer. Certificates of promulgation in the form attached will be forwarded to this HQ for attachment to the proceedings.

3. Herewith warrant for the execution of the sentence of death by hanging in the case of Sub-Lt.SAGEJIMA Mangan.

4. Herewith committal orders for the imprisonment of :-

P.O. HOYAMA Kenzo
CIV. KOHAMA Shozuke

J.W. Flanagan.

Lieutenant-Colonel,
Director of Prisoners of War
and Internees.

The outcome. Both Petty Officer Hoyama Kenzo and Kohama Shozuke were reprieved from death by hanging and their sentences were commuted to 'imprisonment for life'. [Item 1010/3/12, AWM54]

CONFIDENTIAL
HQ Land Forces,
HONG KONG.

Tel: 34121 Ext: 137
Ref: 1876 A

To:- Commissioner of Prisons, Stanley Prison.
OC No.1 Australian War Crimes Court.

19 Aug '48.

CRASC.
CRAOC.
APM.
OC 2 Buffs.

Subject:- EXECUTION OF SAGEJIMA MANGAN.

1. The abovenamed member of the late Imperial Japanese Army will be executed at Stanley Prison between 0600hrs and 0800hrs on Tuesday 24th August, 1948.

2. Administrative arrangements are as follows:-

(i) APM will attend.

(ii) OC No.1 Australian War Crimes Sec will ensure that the mandatory witness and Japanese interpreter attend.

(iii) 2 Buffs are responsible for :-

(a) Preparation of body for burial.
(b) Detailing necessary personnel, and 1 x 15 cwt truck, to report at Stanley Prison at 1400hrs on Tuesday 24th August, 1948 and collect the body.

(c) Transporting the body to TAI TAM TUK where a launch will be waiting.

(d) Burying the body at sea.

(iv) CRASC will please arrange for a launch to be at TAI TAM TUK at 1430hrs on Tuesday 24th August, 1948 for the purpose of taking the body out to sea for burial.

(v) CRAOC will please supply canvas, needle and thread adequate to cover and sew up the body for burial at sea. This should be delivered to the Superintendent, Stanley Prison by 1500hrs on Monday 23rd August, 1948.

Major-General,
General Officer Commanding,
Land Forces, HONG KONG.
(IAM/KE/RVW)

O.C., 1 Aust War Crimes Sec.

I have to advise that I attended this execution Mandatory Officer at 0700 hours this day, 24th August 1948.

Lt.Col.

Lieutenant Sagejima Mangan was hanged on 24 August 1948 at Hong Kong. [Item 336/1/1273 (4 of 4), MP742/1, NAA]

DBG/SME/bej

(11) (51 Pt 1) WC3253 EXECUTION OF WAR CRIMINAL - HONG KONG

Australian Div Liaison Div 26 Aug 48

1. Further to this Division's check sheet WC3230 of 19 Aug 48.

2. The undermentioned Japanese war criminal was executed by hanging at HONG KONG on 24 Aug 48. He was executed in accordance with applicable law, by virtue of the order of Headquarters, Australian Military Forces, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia.

NAME	RANK	UNIT	HOME ADDRESS
SAGEJIMA Mangan	Lt.	24 Naval Base Force Det. DOBO.	TOTORI-Ken, SAIHAKU-Gun, TOKOROGO-Mura, OAZA SUEYOSHI.

.....Lt Col
(D. Beresford GOSLETT)
O.C. 2 Aust War Crimes Sec SCAP

Lieutenant Sagejima Mangan was hanged on 24 August 1948 at Hong Kong. [Item 336/1/1273 (4 of 4), MP742/1, NAA]