

File: 704 Bk. XVII

Title: Casualty Information Concerning Filipinos and Foreign  
Nationals executed by Japanese Military Authorities and  
Burial in Del Norte Cemetery.

Origin: Affidavit of Pelagio Reyes, Chief of Section of Cemeteries,  
Del Norte Cemetery, dated 9 May 45.

Dates: 1942 to 1945

Authenticity: Duplicate copy, unsigned

Sources: Unknown

Extracted by: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Microfilmed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

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Mr. PELAGIO REYES, after having sworn before Lt. Col. C. M. Smith, U.S.A., to tell the truth and nothing but the truth, testified as follows:

QUESTIONS BY LT. COL. C. M. SMITH:

- Q. State your name, residence and occupation.
- A. Pelagio Reyes, residing at 467 Dimasalang, Manila. I am at present Chief, Section of Cemeteries, Department of Health, City of Manila.
- Q. How long have you been in that position?
- A. About three years as Chief. Before that, I was in charge of the cemetery for four months. I have been working in the Del Norte Cemetery since 1918.
- Q. Under the Japanese occupation, which was your position?
- A. Also, Chief of Section of Cemeteries, Del Norte Cemetery.
- Q. What were your duties in that occupation?
- A. Receive orders from our Chief and do anything that I was ordered to do.
- Q. Were you in charge of burials in the Cementerio del Norte at that time?
- A. Yes, sir.
- Q. Were any burials made of persons executed by the Japanese military authorities?
- A. Yes, sir.
- Q. Did you keep a record of them?
- A. I record them secretly without the knowledge of the Japanese authorities.
- Q. Do you have that record?
- A. Yes, sir.
- Q. Were you able to record the names of those executed?
- A. No, sir. I just recorded the number of bodies buried.
- Q. Can you tell the nationalities?
- A. Sometimes.
- Q. Do you have the dates?
- A. Yes, sir.

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Q. Have you that record with you?

A. Yes, sir. I brought it with me.

(Witness produced a memorandum book which contains the record)

Q. Mr. Reyes, will you read your record of these burials of persons executed by the Japanese into your statement?

A. Yes, sir.

On February 10, 1942	4	Filipinos	
February 15, 1942	3	British	
April 11, 1942	9	assorted	
April 15, 1942	9	"	
April 17, 1942	8	"	
May 3, 1942	1	Filipino	
June 2, 1942	1	"	
June 4, 1942	31	assorted	
June 19, 1942	5	Chinese & 1 Filipino	
June 30, 1942	15	assorted	
July 9, 1942	15	"	
July 18, 1942	20	Filipinos	
July 27, 1942	20	"	
August 19, 1942	25	"	
October 1, 1942	14	Americans, Filipinos & Chinese	
October 27, 1942	9	Filipinos	
November 9, 1942	23	assorted	
November 10, 1942	4	coffins. I do not know how many bodies were in each coffin as they were closed.	

Q. Were the coffins heavy?

A. Yes, sir, very heavy.

December 2, 1942	13	Filipinos	
December 6, 1942	1	in coffin	
December 12, 1942	13	remains assorted	
December 27, 1942	1	box with 2 persons. Convicted by Navy court martial	
December 28, 1942	1	box with 2 persons. Navy court martial	
December 28, 1942	2	extra heavy coffins. Convicted by Japanese military police	
January 16, 1943	1	body - Navy court martial	
January 18, 1943	2	persons - Japanese military police	
April 18, 1943	1	person - -do-	
June 18, 1943	2	persons - Navy court martial	
July 24, 1943	2	persons - Japanese military police	

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July	29, 1943	2 persons	- Navy court martial
August	10, 1943	5 "	- Japanese military police
August	28, 1943	10 persons	- do-
September	16, 1943	10 "	- do-
October	2, 1943	40 "	- do-
October	18, 1943	7 "	- do-
November	18, 1943	3 "	- do-
November	23, 1943	1 person	- do-
January	5, 1944	1 "	- do-
January	27, 1944	15 persons	- do-
February	10, 1944	10 "	- Navy court martial
February	13, 1944	7 "	- Japanese Military police
April	15, 1944	1 person	- Navy court martial
June	10, 1944	1 "	- Japanese military police
June	27, 1944	4 persons	- do-
July	4, 1944	5 "	- do-
July	5, 1944	6 "	- Navy court martial
July	21, 1944	8 "	- Japanese military police
July	24, 1944	8 "	- do-
July	24, 1944	6p.m. 2 persons	- Japanese military police
July	28, 1944	15 persons	- Navy court martial
July	28, 1944	9p.m. 10 persons	- Japanese military police
July	29, 1944	5 persons	- Japanese military police
August	2, 1944	6 "	- do-
August	4, 1944	3 "	- Navy court martial
August	8, 1944	25 "	- Japanese military police
August	12, 1944	25 "	- do-
August	13, 1944	10 "	- do-
August	13, 1944	3 "	- do-
August	21, 1944	Question mark (?)	Did not say how many.
August	31, 1944	6 persons	- Japanese military police
September	1, 1944	3 "	- do-
September	2, 1944	(?) "	- do-
September	6, 1944	(?) "	-They would not tell how many. Convicted by Japanese military police
September	12, 1944	10 persons	- Japanese military police
September	27, 1944	15 "	- do-
September	29, 1944	12 "	- do-
September	29, 1944	in p.m. 1 person	- Japanese military police
October	4, 1944	1 person	- Japanese military police

- October 20, 1944 1 person - Japanese military police
- October 22, 1944 7 persons - -do-
- October 31, 1944 25 " - -do-
- November 2, 1944 15 " - -do-
- Q. Most of these November 3, 1944 8 " were - Navy court martial
- November 5, 1944 5 " - Japanese military police
- December 2, 1944 12 " - -do-
- Q. Did you witness December 3, 1944 About 700 bodies hauled in trucks already dead. They started digging at about 9:00 o'clock. They were buried at night.
- Q. Yes, sir, because the killing place was there. He could see what the Japanese military officer would ask my son and myself to go away
- Q. How many trucks were used to haul these bodies? 100 steel houses, which was about 200 yards distant. There we stayed until they
- A. In ten trucks.
- Q. People already dead? They had been executed.
- A. Yes, sir. They put them in line near the hole and shot them. They saw, if they feel like doing it, they get their swords
- Q. Were these due to zonification? No, they were shot.
- A. Probably on account of zonification.
- Q. Do you know where the trucks came from? From the back and side of the hole. They took their clothes and used them to bury
- A. No, sir.
- Q. Were they? December 7, 1944 2 persons - Japanese military police
- A. Yes, sir. December 10, 1944 45 " - -do-
- December 12, 1944 5 " - Navy court martial
- Q. Were they? December 13, 1944 55 " were shot - Japanese military police
- A. Yes, sir. December 15, 1944 10 " and they died -do- they were not yet
- December 22, 1944 155 " with their swords -do-
- Q. Were these 155 executed there? Yes, they were killed, by shooting with swords or bayonets?
- A. Yes, sir. They were executed there, near the hole. Some of them were killed by sword, by beheading, especially
- Q. How were they executed? Some were shot and some had their heads cut off by the sword, whichever appeal to them.
- A. Some were bayoneted, some were shot and some had their heads cut off by the sword, whichever appeal to them.
- A. Yes, sir. December 23, 1944 40 persons - Japanese military police
- December 26, 1944 20 " - Navy court martial
- December 28, 1944 12 " - Japanese military police
- December 31, 1944 11 " - -do-

January	2, 1944	15 persons	- Japanese military police
January	3, 1944	20 "	-do-
January	7, 1944	35 "	-do-

- Q. Most of these people, except the <sup>700</sup> 700, were they executed there?
- A. They were killed there.
- Q. Did you witness their killing there?
- A. Yes, sir, because the killing place was about 200 yards from our place. We could see what they were doing because the Japanese military officer would ask my men and myself to go away from the place of execution and we would go to the tool house, which was about 200 yards distant. There we stayed until they call for us.
- Q. What was the usual method for execution?
- A. They usually put them in line near the hole and shoot them. Next time, if they feel like doing it, they get their swords and let the people stand near the hole and cut their necks.
- Q. Are the people tied?
- A. Yes, sir. They were all tied with their hands at the back and blindfolded. They tear their clothes and used them to blindfold them.
- Q. Were they sometimes bayoneted?
- A. Yes, sir.
- Q. Were they shot too? Do they shoot them sometimes?
- A. Yes, sir. After they were bayoneted and they find that they were not yet dead, they shoot them with their revolvers.
- Q. What would you say the majority of them were killed, by shooting sword or bayonet?
- A. The majority were killed by sword, by beheading, especially those in 1944. They did not want to use their guns.
- Q. Did you see any case where they used bayonet practice in killing them?
- A. Yes, sir. They will get about 5 meters away from the place where the people are lined and then push them with their bayonets.
- Q. Can you see the bones of people who have been executed there in the cemetery now?

- A. Yes, sir, if we take them off we can see.
- Q. Have you seen the skulls and bones of some of them scattered around there?
- A. Yes, sir, because they do not dig deep enough so that if the rain falls, the skulls and bones come up.
- Q. So there are many bones and skulls exposed there?
- A. Yes, sir.
- Q. Did you notice any Americans in uniform (in khaki) taken out there?
- A. I did not see at any time. We only saw those in civilian clothes.
- Q. Did you see any women?
- A. There were several women, Filipinos. There were also some whites. I could not tell their nationality because when they passed by the office they were covered by canvas and only the color of the skins could be seen.

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P. REYES

Personally appeared before me, Mr. Pelagio Reyes, this 9th day of May, 1945, who being duly sworn deposes and says that the facts stated in the foregoing affidavit are true as he verily believes.

3 May 1945

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JAMES A. CALLENDER  
Capt., AGD  
Asst. AG

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