

JAP ADMITS CANNIBALISM: ATE DIGGER'S FLESH

From Noel Ottaway, "News" Correspondent

WEWAK, Today.—A Japanese lieutenant admitted before a military court today, that he had mutilated the body of a Queensland soldier in July this year, and eaten portion of it. It was the first cannibalism trial in the South-West Pacific Area.

DEFENDANT is First Lieutenant Takehiko Tazaki. He pleaded not guilty.

He made a signed statement before the investigating officers. Before the trial was made the Australians knew nothing of the crime. The body of the Australian has not yet been recovered.

Corporal Eichi Yamamoto gave evidence that the Australian body was cut up and eaten. Tazaki and Lance-Corporal Mew Tazaki told witness that he had eaten the Australian, adding "Man's flesh is delicious."

Tazaki flinched when Yamamoto went over and touched him for identification.

Cross-examined, Yamamoto admitted that he had not actually seen the body being cut up.

Captain Douglas Bruce, an investigating officer of the War Crimes Commission, submitted statements which, he said, Tazaki had made and signed.

In these he admitted having eaten the Australian, explaining

that he was hungry, and in the past had eaten various types of flesh, including snakes.

Giving evidence on his own behalf, Tazaki said that for a year he lived without meat, and at least twice a month suffered malaria attacks.

Fourteen of his men were killed in an attack on July 19, and this made him very bitter. One Australian was killed. He stripped the body of its clothes, and after