

by soldiers of the assembled company of Japanese. I approached Chena once more and asked permission to speak with the men prior to execution to ascertain their religious denominations. This request was refused, his reply being; "After dead you may see them." The firing party was then placed in position with two Japanese soldiers standing at five paces from each of the men. The order was given to load, to present, and then the order to fire was given by Chena to the Japanese sergeant in charge of the squad. I am unaware of this sergeant's name. He gave the order to fire and four volleys were then fired into each of the men, death being, in my opinion, instantaneous. After the execution the firing squad presented arms and the entire assembled company of Japanese saluted. Chena then smiled to me and condescendingly said, "Now you can see them." I then searched the men to ascertain whether they had any personal effects and to collect their identity discs. Padre Smith was sent for and the burial party brought in. The men were then cut down and placed in the graves. Padre Smith agreed that as we were unaware of the religious denominations of the men we would bury four men each. The graves are located at the eastern end of the local Chinese cemetery at Tayoy (opposite the aerodrome) Brigadier Varley did all in his power to save the men even shouting to Major Itsui when he had attempted to interview him, "Whoever ordered this execution will pay for it after the war." Chena acted in a callous manner throughout the entire proceedings.

On 15.3.43 at THAMBYUZAYAT Camp, I interviewed POW No. 2867 Pte Bell A J AIF. At that time he was confined after being recaptured following his escape on 12.2.43. At that time he had no knowledge that he was under sentence of death, nor did I have any such knowledge. He was, in fact, executed at 0815 hours on 16.3.43 - the day after I interviewed him. So far as I am aware he was given no trial.

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