

MINUTE PAPER

SUBJECT: TRIAL OF JAPANESE WAR CRIMINAL - S/MAJ. K. MORIMOTO.

D.P.W. & I (for Confirming Authority).

I have read through the proceedings of the Military Court convened under the War Crimes Act of 1945 when the accused was charged with murder of prisoners of war, in that he at Kaaten in or about the month of August, 1945 murdered two prisoners of war, members of the R.A.A.F. then held by the Japanese Forces and was sentenced to death by shooting.

2. I have also read the petition of the accused dated 7th February, 1946 against the finding and sentence.

3. This S/Maj. was in charge of a party of Japanese who on an evening in August 45 took the two airmen prisoners of war out of the cells and chloroformed one of them and buried him and partially chloroformed another and then strangled him and buried him.

4. There is evidence to support the finding and it and the sentence may be validly confirmed.

5. I would also recommend that the petition should be dismissed. This senior N.C.O. was in charge of the party and in my opinion must be held responsible for this murder of two helpless prisoners of war.

25.2.46.

Thomas L. Baker
JUDGE ADVOCATE GENERAL.