

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES
MINUTE PAPER

SUBJECT: TRIAL OF JAPANESE WAR CRIMINAL - LT. T. KATAGIRI.

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

I have read through the proceedings of the Court convened under the War Crimes Act for the trial of the above officer when he was charged with murder, in that he in the Northern Celebes in the month of June 1945 aided and abetted Lt. Yunomura in the murder of two Australian prisoners of war held by the Japanese, and was found guilty and sentenced to imprisonment for 10 years.

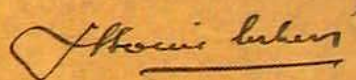
2. I have also read the petition of the accused against the severity of the sentence.

3. This is the same incident that Lt. Yunomura was tried for by another Court and also Rear Admiral Hamanaka and Lt-Comdr. Baron Takasaki.

4. In my opinion the Court were justified in believing that the accused recommended the execution to the Admiral although that execution was in compliance with an order issued by a higher command. I am of the opinion that the proceedings were rightly confirmed and other than my general remarks in previous Courts about the undesirability of holding Japanese prisoners for long terms in gaol, I do not consider that the sentence is excessive.

5. This prisoner certainly in my opinion has a greater degree of guilt than Lt. Yunomura and I should have thought an equal degree of guilt with the Admiral.

6. I would recommend that the petition should be dismissed.

JUDGE ADVOCATE GENERAL.

15.3.46.