

FILIPINO SURVIVORS TELL OF SLAUGHTER

400 Captives Killed on Bataan in Mass Outrage, Officers Testify at Homma Trial

By Wireless to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

MANILA, Friday, Jan. 11—One of the first great atrocities of the Japanese in the Philippines was the massacre of some 400 Filipino soldiers near the Pantingan River on Bataan Peninsula on April 12, 1942, according to testimony yesterday and today in the war crimes trial of Lieut. Gen. Masaharu Homma, commander of the Japanese forces at Bataan and Corregidor.

Two officers of the Philippine Army, Capt. Pedro Felix and Maj. Eduardo Vargas, who may be the only survivors of that horrible incident, told yesterday and this morning how they were disarmed, tied with telephone wire and then bayoneted by Japanese troops. Many of the victims were beheaded.

Both officers removed their Army shirts at the commission's direction to bare their bayonet scars before the court. They were left by the river for dead.

Capt. Alberto Abelada, another Filipino survivor of the "Death March," said that Japanese soldiers in passing trucks amused themselves by clubbing the miserable marchers—"those they could reach"—with sticks and rifle butts. Captain Abelada described numerous roadside murders of helpless, unarmed and sick marchers done so callously and needlessly that to call them executions would be to dignify the deeds.

Homma Again Identified

Once, said Captain Abelada, "a big flashy car" stopped beside the marching line of sick and haggard prisoners. In the car, he said, were General Homma "and a Japanese lady."

General Homma, who was listening intently, quickly removed his horn-rimmed glasses and shook his head violently. At numerous times during the "Death March" testimony General Homma has made gestures of negation and has jotted down many pages of notes.

The commission president, Maj. Gen. Leo B. Donovan, asked the witness if he were "absolutely certain" that he saw General Homma.

"After looking at General Homma here," said Captain Abelada, "I have no doubt that it was the same officer.

T/Sgt. Horace M. Clark testified that many empty Japanese trucks traveled along the path of the "Death March." This is a significant point, since the failure to use available transportation for prisoners is a recognized violation of the laws of war.

Officer Visibly Moved

Unable to restrain his tears of frustrated fury and humiliation as he told the story of the "Death March," Col. John H. Ball of Williamsport, Pa., held close attention at the morning session yesterday. Several times during his testimony Colonel Ball halted and his eyes filled as he recalled the days and nights of horror.

He did not look at the man who

commanded the troops whose bestiality left such a deep mark on his mind, but General Homma watched Colonel Ball, apparently fascinated, himself, by the recital of such incredible mistreatment.

"I saw many Filipinos shot and bayoneted because they couldn't keep on," Colonel Ball said. "One Filipino went out of his mind and collapsed, face down in a pool of water. A Japanese sank his bayonet between his shoulders, and the Filipino made a noise like a baby crying. This was one of those things you can't forget."

When Colonel Ball was asked by an assistant prosecutor, Lieut. Abram Raff of Brooklyn, whether he felt he had been treated as a prisoner of war, defense counsel objected, but the commission president snapped: "The witness may answer the question, though his answer would appear to be obvious after listening to this testimony for an hour."

"We were not treated as prisoners of war, according to any covenant between nations," Colonel Ball answered.

Japanese Is Convicted

YOKOHAMA, Friday, Jan. 11 (AP)—Lieut. Chotaro Furushima was convicted today by a United States military commission of mistreating American prisoners of war and was sentenced to life imprisonment.