

Chena and expressed a desire to see and speak to the men prior to their execution. Chena refused this and told us, "After dead you may see them". Chena explained that according to IJA discipline once a man had been condemned no person might speak with him prior to execution. I was informed that the men were to be executed near the aerodrome, and a working party had been detailed (40 men) to dig graves. I went to the place of execution and on reaching the roda leading to it was passed by a truck carrying the men under armed escort. This truck was followed by a car carrying Chena and Brigadier Varley, who was returning from Tavoy after the Brigadier's vain attempt to obtain a reprieve and fair trial for the men. Brigadier Varley beckoned me to follow and I did so, stopping at the track leading to the place of execution where I encountered Chena and again asked permission to speak to the men. He refused this and ordered me to join Brigadier Varley at the place of execution.

The men were taken from the truck and their hands tied behind their backs. By this time I had joined the Brigadier at the place of execution. At this spot eight graves had been dug and at the eastern end of each grave a post was erected. A group of Japanese officers and NCO's stood nearby and a firing squad of 16 Japanese soldiers lined up in the adjacent shade. All the assembled Japanese seemed to treat the matter as a joke or picnic. The men were then blindfolded and brought to the place of execution four at a time. They were forced to sit down, each with his back to the post and his legs spread apart. Each was then tied to the post. The Japanese sentries kicked several of the men in order to get them into position. After they were so tied to the posts the firing party was ordered out. Lieutenant Chena then arrived at the place of execution and was greeted by salutes by the assembled company of Japanese.