

I interviewed these men the night before they were executed. They had attempted to prove that they were not escaped prisoners; but were Malays. Brigadier Varley and Major Haartzenberg interviewed Lt NAITO who apparently took the attitude that the only question was whether these men were, in fact, escapees, of which as I understand, there was abundant proof, and they were sentenced to death. Naito allowed me to speak with the men for half an hour prior to their execution and also permitted the men civilised courtesies by allowing them to speak with their friends, to write letters to their next of kin, and to have as many cigarettes as they wished. He also had the men brought to the hut of Brigadier Varley and Major Haartzenberg, where he produced a bottle of Japanese brandy, and, after a speech about the spirit of Japan, he asked the condemned men to drink the health of their own Queen.

The executions took place by firing squad commanded by Naito at 0800 hrs on 27.12.42. I was not present at their executions but officiated as padre at their funerals.

On 13.12.42 NX69005 Pte WHITFIELD G H, AIF, arrived at Thanbyuzayat camp. He had escaped some weeks before from Kandaw camp, roughly $4\frac{1}{2}$ kilometres from Thanbyuzayat. Our medical officers were of opinion that Whitfield was not mentally sound. Brigadier Varley interviewed Naito for the purpose of discovering what would be the punishment of a man who escaped and gave himself up, but not being mentally sound. Naito informed the Brigadier that such a man would not be shot. Whitfield was not confined but allowed to remain in the hospital hut.