

5/25/44

Statement by Mr. Laderer:

For the purpose of the record I would like to state that as District Attorney of Modoc County, State of California, I have asked the name of the guard at the gate who actually shot the decedent, but due to Army Regulations I cannot produce it.

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State of California )

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County of Modoc )

In the matter of inquest upon the body of Shochi Okamoto, before John C. Sharp, Coroner, we, the undersigned jury summoned to appear of California, at Newell, California, on the 25th day of May, 1944, to inquire into the death of Shochi Okamoto, have been sworn and charged according to the law and have made such inquisition as regards the decedent, and have adduced upon our authority, and for all to see, that we find that the decedent was named Shochi Okamoto, and that he came to his death on the 25th day of May, 1944, at Newell, California, by gunshot wounds, (in the county of Modoc, State of California,) by a member of the United States Armed Forces while in the line of duty.

Signed this 26th day of May, 1944

W. Loudon, Foreman

Charles Callendine

Phil J. Fish

John O'Shea

Mrs. E. C. Cox

Mrs. Anne Janison

R. R. Baker

Daniel Mr. Crawford



CORONER'S INQUEST TO DETERMINE THE CAUSE AND RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE  
DEATH OF SHOCHI OKAMOTO, 3002-A, TULE LAKE SEGREGATION CENTER, NEWELL, CALIFORNIA

May 25, 1944

Jurors: W. Loudon, Foreman  
Charles Callendine  
Phil J. Fish  
John O'Shea  
Mrs. E. C. Cox  
Mrs. Anne Jumison  
R. R. Baker  
Daniel H. Crawford

For the purpose of the record it is herewith recorded that the jury was duly sworn by E. B. Server, Under-Sheriff of Modoc County, California.

Mr. Charles Laderer, District Attorney of Modoc County, California, will conduct the hearing at the request of the Coroner.

HENRY SHIOHAMA, first witness.

For the purpose of the record it is herewith recorded that the witness was duly sworn.

Q. Will you state your name please?

A. Henry Shiohama

Q. Where do you live?

A. 1219-F, Tule Lake Center.

Q. That is on the WRA, at Newell?

A. Yes.

Q. How long have you been here?

A. From the beginning.

Q. Can you give us the definite date of your arrival?

A. January 26, I guess, 1942.

Q. Did you know Mr. Okamoto?

A. Yes.

Q. How long have you known him?

A. Since January sometime.

Q. Since January, 1944?

A. Yes.

Q. He died, did He?

A. Yes, that is what I hear.

Q. When did you see him last before he died?

A. Yesterday at approximately two o'clock, a little after two.

Q. Where was that?

A. At the front gate.

Q. When you say the front gate, there are several front gates. There is the military entrance, and there is another entrance which was used before the military put in the entrance on the side road. Are you referring to the old entrance?

A. The old entrance, in front of the old post office building.

Q. That is the one that comes in from the old highway?

A. Yes.

Q. What were you doing there?

A. We went there after some lumber for the construction department.



- Q. With a motor vehicle of some kind?  
A. Yes.  
Q. What kind?  
A. A cargo truck, a Dodge.  
Q. Who was on the truck?  
A. Okamoto and me.  
Q. Just the two of you?  
A. Yes.  
Q. Who was driving the truck?  
A. Okamoto.  
Q. Under whose instructions was he driving this truck?  
A. He is detailed from the Motor Pool and assigned to the construction department.  
Q. As a driver?  
A. Yes, as a driver.  
Q. Was there a military sentry stationed at this gate?  
A. Yes.  
Q. How many times did you go in and out of this gate yesterday?  
A. Twice.  
Q. You went out twice, and came in twice?  
A. Yes.  
Q. When was the first time you went out?  
A. Sometime in the morning, about 9:30.  
Q. And when did you return?  
A. Right after I finished my job-it didn't take more than ten or fifteen minutes.  
Q. Then when was the next time you went out?  
A. I couldn't say the exact time, about two o'clock, I suppose.  
Q. That was the next time you went out?  
A. Yes.  
Q. And when did you say you returned?  
A. About 2:18, or so, I suppose.  
Q. On both of those occasions there was military sentry at this gate?  
A. Yes.  
Q. Was the same individual stationed there in the morning as in the afternoon?  
A. No. There was a different sentry.  
Q. Is it customary for trucks to go in and out of this gate?  
A. Well, recently we have been going out of this gate for small loads of lumber mostly.  
Q. When you go out of this gate does the sentry bring you to a halt for any purpose?  
A. To inspect the badge. Also they ask where you are going and we usually tell that we are going to the lumber yard.  
Q. Did you stop in the morning when you went out?  
A. No, we didn't stop. After we did stop and the sentry asked us if we were going to the lumber yard, and we said "yes."  
Q. Did the sentry in the morning walk up to the truck when he was talking to you?  
A. Yes.  
Q. Did you have any visible means of identification on you at all times?  
A. Yes.  
Q. And what is that visible means of identification?  
A. A red badge.  
Q. Would you mind showing it to the jury?  
A. (Badge displayed by witness).  
Q. And where do you wear that badge?



- A. On the clothing-on the chest.
- Q. Did you have that badge on yesterday?
- A. Yes.
- Q. And did Mr. Okamoto, and do you know where he was wearing that badge?
- A. Yes, on his left chest.
- Q. And in the morning when you went out you showed the sentry both your passes, or badges?
- A. No, I didn't.
- Q. Did he walk up to the side of the truck to see if you had badges?
- A. I suppose he did.
- Q. In the afternoon going out of the gate did the sentry stop you?
- A. Yes.
- Q. And did you say it was different sentry?
- A. Yes.
- Q. That was soldier?
- A. Yes.
- Q. And did he ask you for your identification?
- A. Yes.
- Q. And did you show it to him?
- A. Yes.
- Q. Did Mr. Okamoto show him his?
- A. Yes.
- Q. You have another pass beside the red badge you wear? What kind?
- A. A blue pass.
- Q. A paper pass?
- A. Yes.
- Q. May I see it?
- A. (Pass is displayed by witness.) Description of pass read to jury by Mr. Laderer: "In the uppermost left corner" 'This is No. 18 Badge,' "next line is," 'SHIOHAMA, Henry Hiroshi,' and under a caption entitled Signer Identification No. is the No. 7753-D. "The next line is," Age 25, Height 5'10", Sex-Male. "And under the caption Signature of Bearer appears the witness' signature. Then underneath there in capital letters, 'MILITARY POLICE PERMIT THE BEARER TO LEAVE COLONY LIMITS TO WORK AT CONSTRUCTION.' Next line, 'Between the hours of 8 o'clock a.m. to 5:30 p.m.' and signed 'W.E. Schmidt' on the right lower corner, and on left lower corner 'Frank D. Fagan, Personnel Officer.'
- Q. May I ask then, do all of you boys who are permitted to leave the Colony have blue tag like this?
- A. Yes.
- Q. On the reverse side is another card entitled 'Employees Driver's Licence,' is that part of the card?
- A. No.
- Q. But the sole permit necessary to show the sentry at the gate is this blue pass?
- A. Yes.
- Q. Do you know if Mr. Okamoto had one of those blue passes?
- A. Yes, he did.
- Q. Did you show your pass to the sentry in the morning?
- A. No.
- Q. Did you show it to him in the afternoon when you went out the gate?
- A. Yes.
- Q. Did Mr. Okamoto show his pass too?
- A. Yes.
- Q. Do I understand you correctly that in addition to the orange badge you wear you have a blue pass which you must present as well?
- A. Yes.



- Q. I understand that the orange badge is your identification number, and the blue pass is a pass entitling you to leave the boundaries of the Center, is that correct?
- A. Yes.
- Q. Did anything occur out of the ordinary in the morning when you first went out?
- A. No.
- Q. Did anything out of the ordinary occur at about two o'clock when you went out of the gate?
- A. Well he was more or less stricter. He wanted to see where Mr. Okamoto had his badge on. He asked him "where is your badge", and Mr. Okamoto answered, "right here," and he pointed to his chest and then this sentry without leaning up or doing nothing just said, "where I can't see it," and then Mr. Okamoto raised it up and showed it.
- Q. When sitting in a truck how low is the window--I mean by that, when you are sitting in the driver's seat could a person standing on the ground walk up to the driver and see a badge on a person from the ground?
- A. I don't think this fellow could, he was more or less short, the sentry was.
- Q. And Mr. Okamoto raised his pass badge up?
- A. Yes.
- Q. Did he produce the blue pass?
- A. Yes, at first he produced the blue pass.
- Q. Is your orange badge no. 818?
- A. Yes.
- Q. That number that I read into the record a few minutes ago as appearing in the left hand side of the upper portion of the blue pass as 818, that apparently is the number that appears on your orange identification button?
- A. Yes.
- Q. And then what took place after he raised his badge up and the sentry observed it?
- A. He said, "go ahead."
- Q. Did anything else take place?
- A. No.
- Q. Did Mr. Okamoto say anything more?
- A. No.
- Q. Then about 2:18 as I understand, you came back?
- A. Yes.
- Q. Did anything unusual take place then?
- A. I suppose you would call it that.
- Q. What I am getting at, it was then the incident took place. Tell us what happened.
- A. Well, this sentry kind of raised his hand. We were not sure whether he meant for us to stop or go in.
- Q. Was he in a standing position?
- A. Yes.
- Q. Where was he in relation to the gate?
- A. Right along side of the gate.
- Q. On the inside of the fence would you say, or on the outside?
- A. On the outside.
- Q. And he raised his hand?
- A. Yes.
- Q. How high?
- A. About waist high.
- Q. And then you say he moved his hand, what do you mean by that?



- A. Well, we were not sure what he meant by that, so we don't know whether he means for us to stop or go on. So presuming like when we were going out he wanted us to stop, so we stopped.
- Q. When you say 'we presumed' did Mr. Okamoto say anything to you?
- A. Yes, he says "I guess we better stop." We didn't know what he means by that so we better stop.
- Q. Okamoto told you then that he didn't know what the soldier meant so you better stop. Then did you stop?
- A. Yes.
- Q. What took place then?
- A. Okamoto took out his wallet and showed his pass up high.
- Q. Did the soldier take it?
- A. No, he seen him show the pass and then he said "Don't get fresh."
- Q. Did Okamoto do anything which would lead the soldier to believe that he was getting fresh?
- A. Probably the way he waved he meant for us to pass, but since we stopped and showed him the pass it might have got him sore.
- Q. And what did he do then?
- A. Mr. Okamoto said, "You wanted to see my pass so I am showing it to you,"
- Q. And then what happened?
- A. Then the sentry said, "You and Your WRA friends are trying to run this camp."
- Q. And then what happened?
- A. Then he cocked his gun.
- Q. What did Okamoto do?
- A. He was just sitting there.
- Q. And then what happened?
- A. Then he went around the front side of the car to the other side, to the driver's side, and then he told him to get out. First he didn't get out but at that second command he got out.
- Q. Did he say anything when the soldier first told him to get out?
- A. No.
- Q. How long a time elapsed before the second command?
- A. Right away.
- Q. And you say he did get out?
- A. Yes.
- Q. And what did he do?
- A. He got outside the truck and stood there.
- Q. The driver of the truck?
- A. Yes.
- Q. On the driver's side?
- A. Yes.
- Q. And then what happened?
- A. By that time a Ford V-8 came up in back of our truck and I thought it was an Internal Security car, but I wasn't sure and this sentry ordered Okamoto to go toward the car.
- Q. Toward the V-8?
- A. Yes. He hesitated and didn't move. He lighted his pipe and the sentry kind of pushed him with the gun, motioning him to go toward the car.
- Q. Do I understand you correctly, the sentry pushed him toward the car, and you thought this V-8 was a WRA police car?
- A. Yes.
- Q. And Okamoto lighted his pipe?
- A. Yes.
- Q. How was the soldier holding the gun, do you know?
- A. No.
- Q. How did he push Okamoto?
- A. He just gave him a shove.



- Q. Was he facing the soldier or did he have his back to the soldier?  
A. He was more or less facing him.  
Q. When you say more or less facing him do you mean partly sidewise?  
A. Partly side toward the other car, not enough to say sidewise.  
Q. He was facing the soldier?  
A. Yes.  
Q. And the soldier then pushed him with the gun and ordered him to go toward the V-8?  
A. Yes;  
Q. After he was pushed what did he do?  
A. He sort of warded off the blow.  
Q. Did he raise his right arm?  
A. More or less to ward off the blow.  
Q. In what manner though did he try to push the gun away--did he raise his arm from the elbow up toward his face, and did he have his fist closed or open?  
A. No, his fist was not closed.  
Q. When he did that how close was the soldier to him?  
A. Right up against him.  
Q. That was with his right hand that he tried to ward off the gun?  
A. Yes.  
Q. Where was his left hand?  
A. On his side.  
Q. What did he have in his hand?  
A. Nothing.  
Q. Where was his pipe?  
A. In his mouth.  
Q. Was he saying anything at the time?  
A. No.  
Q. Did he say anything to the soldier at any time?  
A. No.  
Q. Did he lean forward or move in any direction?  
A. Well, just a little toward the car - the V-8, when he got shoved.  
Q. Where was this V-8 Ford in relation to the truck?  
A. In the back.  
Q. And he leaned toward the V-8?  
A. I mean toward the V-8 on the fender side. Kind of more or less staggering a little.  
Q. At the same time the soldier was trying to push him?  
A. At the same time.  
Q. Did he stagger back toward the V-8?  
A. Not toward the V-8 but when he got pushed he warded off the blow, but the blow from the gun was enough to stagger him a little.  
Q. If the soldier pushed him with the gun when he was facing him and he staggered he would stagger backward would he not?  
A. It was on the arm that he got pushed.  
Q. He pushed him on the right arm?  
A. Yes.  
Q. Do you know what portion of the arm was touched by the gun?  
A. Right on the elbow.  
Q. So he must have been turning a little bit, or he had been turned when the soldier pushed this gun up, and he kind of staggered sidewise then?  
A. Yes.  
Q. Do you know how many steps he took back?  
A. Just about a half a step.  
Q. Did the soldier say anything when he pushed him?  
A. No.



- Q. Did Okamoto say anything?  
A. No.  
Q. And what happened then, if anything?  
A. And then the sentry stepped back and fired.  
Q. What position was his gun in?  
A. About waist high.  
Q. Would you stand up, Henry, and show the jury as near as you can, just the position the gun was in at the time he shot, as nearly as you can remember?  
A. Witness stands showing the left hand extended forward about waist high.  
Q. Now how would the soldier and Okamoto compare in height?  
A. Okamoto is a little taller.  
Q. How much taller--would you say?  
A. I don't know.  
Q. Are you sure now, to the best of your recollection, that when the soldier shot he had the gun at hip height?  
A. Yes, it was waist high.  
Q. You would say, as nearly as you can remember, it was waist high?  
A. Yes.  
Q. Was Okamoto staggering at the time he was shot?  
A. No.  
Q. He didn't lean forward?  
A. No.  
Q. He didn't lean backward?  
A. No.  
Q. There was no motion at all?  
A. No.  
Q. Can you again stand up, Henry, and show us as nearly as you can remember the position Okamoto was in when he was shot?  
A. More or less like that.  
Q. And where was the soldier?  
A. Right in front.  
Q. He was standing erect?  
A. Yes.  
Q. He was standing on his feet?  
A. Yes.  
Q. Were his knees bent any?  
A. Not to my knowledge. I couldn't see, I was still in the truck.  
Q. As far as you could see he was standing straight up?  
A. Yes.  
Q. And during all of this time you were in the cab of the truck?  
A. Yes.  
Q. And he was doing the driving?  
A. Yes.  
Q. And you were sitting at the driver's right?  
A. Yes.  
Q. Had you seen Okamoto stand along the side of the truck before this particular occasion?  
A. Yes.  
Q. Now, for the purpose of refreshing your memory, would you say that his height was about the same as when he stands up erect when you saw him on previous occasions?  
A. Well, on previous occasions I never took notice of how tall he was up against the cab.  
Q. So you would not know then whether he was sitting down or standing up?  
A. He was standing up.  
Q. You know he was standing up?



- A. Yes.
- Q. Did you see his arm move to ward off the blow?
- A. Yes.
- Q. Did he raise it from the shoulder or did he raise it by the elbow?
- A. Around the elbow.
- Q. The upper part of his arm did not move?
- A. It might have moved a little.
- Q. When the soldier was pushing him, did he try to push the soldier back?
- A. No.
- Q. Did he try to grab the gun to stop the soldier from hitting him?
- A. No.
- Q. Do you know whether or not he touched the gun at all.
- A. First time he pushed it because the gun was right against his elbow.
- Q. But the time he touched the gun it did not go off?
- A. No.
- Q. When you say he tried to ward off the blow do you mean he tried to keep from being pushed?
- A. Yes.
- Q. Do you know what it means to Port Arms.
- A. No.
- Q. Did you ever see a soldier put his gun in that position before when he halted a car?
- A. No.
- Q. When he did stop the car he had the gun with the butt toward the ground with his right hand on the barrel?
- A. When he stopped the car first I never noticed.
- Q. What was the position of the gun when he was talking to Mr. Okamoto just before the shooting?
- A. Right after he pushed him he shot.
- Q. When did he put the gun in that position is what I am getting at.
- A. When he told him to move toward the V-8.
- Q. And the barrel of the gun was up in the air and the gun was against his breast, is that correct?
- A. Something like that.
- Q. When did he put the gun in that position the first time?
- A. When he told him to move toward the V-8.
- Q. Did you see anything else--the soldier said nothing more?
- A. No.
- Q. At that particular time did Okamoto say anything?
- A. No.
- Q. Neither said anything at all?
- A. No.
- Q. When he started staggering did the soldier do anything?
- A. No.
- Q. Did the soldier stood straight?
- A. Yes.
- Q. How long after he staggered did the soldier shoot?
- A. Right after he raised his hand to ward off the blow the soldier stepped back and fired.
- Q. When he warded off the blow the soldier stepped back and shot?
- A. Yes.
- Q. There was no time passed between the time he raised his arm to ward off the blow and the time the soldier shot?
- A. Not much.
- Q. It was almost one act followed the other immediately?
- A. Yes.
- Q. How long has Okamoto driven a truck at the camp here, do you know?
- A. Since January sometime.



- Q. He has been driving since January?
- A. Yes.
- Q. Do you know how many times he has gone in and out of the gate where this thing happened, was it many times?
- A. No, not very many.
- Q. Was it daily or weekly that he would go out?
- A. Sometimes when we have any orders for small lot of lumber we go out. No regular trips.
- Q. How long have you worked with him on the truck that he drives?
- A. Since that time in January.
- Q. And since January would you say how many times that you and he have come out of the same gate?
- A. Not very many.
- Q. Can you give me an approximate number?
- A. About ten or so.
- Q. During that ten times was there ever a time that no soldier was at the gate?
- A. There was a soldier every time.
- Q. And did you use the same procedure each time?
- A. No.
- Q. What was the change, can you tell me?
- A. Well, we usually tell them we want to go up to the lumber yard and then he will ask 'have you anybody in the back.'
- Q. You didn't show your blue pass at all?
- A. We usually have it out so he can see it.
- Q. Did anything pertaining to your pass, or to your identification, take place differently this day in the other ten times that you were out, except the fact that the soldier told him to get out of the truck?
- A. Well he was more or less sarcastic.
- Q. Did you ever go out of the gate with this soldier on guard before?
- A. No.
- Q. Do you know anything about the orders of the soldier--what he is supposed to do?
- A. No.
- Q. Outside of being sarcastic he used the same procedure as the other soldiers he asked for your pass, your badge, and asked where you were going outside, if you had proper authorization?
- A. Yes.
- Q. Did Okamoto say anything at all to cause the soldier to become sarcastic?
- A. No.
- Q. When he showed him his badge, or pass, did he say anything at all that would cause the soldier to become sarcastic?
- A. Not to my knowledge.
- Q. And you were there all the time so that you would know it if he had said anything.
- A. Yes.
- Q. Is there anything else you can tell this jury about this case that I may have overlooked, I am trying to bring out all of the facts and if you can think of any specific event that I have overlooked will you please tell us?
- A. Well after he got shot he fell down and then he started beating his chest, at which time I was still in the car, and there was truck in front of us, or three trucks, and a couple of boys with heavy equipment, and I was those boys start running toward the old post office building, and I believed and started for the first telephone to call up somebody and I called the police and the hospital.
- Q. Where was the soldier when you ran?
- A. I didn't notice.



- Q. You do not know what became of the soldier afterward?
- A. No.
- Q. How many times did the soldier shoot?
- A. Just once.
- Q. He shot no more after he shot the one time at Okamoto?
- A. No.
- Q. Do you know who was in the V-8 behind that truck?
- A. No I do not.
- Q. Did you see the police come down after you called?
- A. I seen a couple of cars come up. I was about three barracks away from the old Post Office at the apartment and where they had the telephone, and I was trying to get in touch with Best's office.
- Q. Is there anything else that you can think of?
- A. No.
- Q. Has the jury any questions they wish to ask?
- (No questions)
- At this point a recess was declared.
- Witness recalled to the stand by Mr. Laderer and the questioning continued.
- Q. Just before the recess I said that was all the questions. I want to ask you one more question, if I may. At the time that this soldier pushed Okamoto with his gun you say he staggered toward the V-8, is that correct?
- If that is not correct you tell me.
- A. Did I say that on the record? Yes, he staggered, but I didn't say which way.
- Q. Can you tell me which way he did stagger?
- A. No.
- Q. Did you see him stagger?
- A. Yes.
- Q. When you say you could not tell which way what do you mean by that?
- A. Well he kind of moved but that's about all.
- Q. He moved - toward the V-8 which was standing behind the truck?
- A. You can call it toward the V-8 a little.
- Q. Well let me start that over again - he was facing toward the front end of the truck, is that right?
- A. No, I didn't say that, did I?
- Q. If that is not right you correct me.
- A. He was facing toward the sentry.
- Q. And the sentry was facing him?
- A. Yes.
- Q. Who was facing the front end of the truck, the motor end of the truck?
- A. They were both looking at each other but nobody was looking toward the front end of the truck.
- Q. Which way was Okamoto facing?
- A. He was facing this way.
- Q. He had his back to the truck?
- A. Yes.
- Q. When you say he moved then he was standing with his back toward the window of the driver's seat?
- A. Yes.
- Q. You were sitting in the compartment of the truck next to the driver's seat?
- A. Yes.
- Q. When he moved you could not tell which way he moved?
- A. When he got pushed on the elbow naturally he moved this way a little.
- Q. He had his back toward the window of the driver's compartment, and when he was pushed he moved to his left toward the V-8.
- A. Yes.
- Q. When the soldier backed up he backed away from the truck?
- A. Yes, away from the truck.



- Q. Was there anything behind the soldier?  
A. No.  
Q. Does the gate open outward, that is toward the road?  
A. I never noticed.  
Q. Do you know whether or not the gate, if it were opened, would be behind the soldier?  
A. I didn't notice it.  
Q. Did you notice whether or not when the soldier backed up he was near, or touched anything with his back.  
A. No I did not.  
Q. When Okamoto staggered did he touch anything behind him, that is the truck or the body of the truck, that is what I am referring to?  
A. I didn't notice it whether he touched it or not.  
Q. You cannot tell us which way he staggered?  
A. When he got pushed?  
Q. Yes.  
A. I already made that statement that I didn't.  
Q. Will you repeat that statement?  
A. I said he got pushed on his elbow so naturally he would go toward his left a little.  
Q. How do you know whether or not he actually moved.  
A. He actually moved toward his left.  
Q. When the soldier shot him did he fall?  
A. Yes, he fell.  
Q. Which way did he fall--forward or backward or sidewise?  
A. I didn't notice which way he turned. He fell but the last I noticed was that he was thumping his chest and groaning, that is the last thing I remember at the scene, and then I got out of the truck and ran.  
Q. Did you see him lying on the ground?  
A. When he was thumping his chest I think he must have been on the ground but I am not sure.  
Q. You didn't notice whether he was still standing or lying on the ground?  
A. Well he was in a position on the ground or about ready to hit the ground. The heavy equipment crew that was there could probably tell you better about that.  
Q. When he staggered toward the V-8 did he stagger beyond the view of the window?  
A. No he still was in my view.  
Q. You think he staggered about a half step?  
A. Yes.  
Q. Was he still in your view at the time he was shot?  
A. Yes his back was toward me.  
Q. And was the soldier in plain view?  
A. Yes.  
Q. Did you see any motion with his left hand at all?  
A. No.  
Q. And the only motion you saw with his right hand was when he pushed the gun away immediately before he was shot?  
A. Yes.  
Q. When he came up with his right hand did he bend his knees at all?  
A. Not that I noticed.  
Q. Can you tell us how much of his head or body did you see from the window?  
A. Well the door was open so naturally I saw about all of him except probably his left hand I didn't see.  
Q. Had he bent his knees or made any other motion you would have seen it?



- A. Well I was looking at his arm that he was raising up and I probably missed the other part.
- Q. Did his shoulder go down?
- A. No.
- Q. It stayed in the same position?
- A. Yes.
- Q. I mean the level of his shoulder did not go down, is that correct?
- A. Yes.
- Q. Who else was there besides yourself who might have seen this occurrence?
- A. I noticed there were three trucks, no two cargoes and one pickup, and one V-8 that came in the back but I didn't know at that time whose those people on the front or back trucks were. I know that they were boys from the heavy equipment crew.
- Q. Are you referring to Japanese boys when you say 'from the heavy equipment crew'?
- A. Yes.
- Q. Did you later find out who they were?
- A. Yes.
- Q. Would you give me their names?
- A. Charlie Antoku, Gen Hitomi, Jiro Snow, and the rest I don't know their names.
- Q. Did you know at that time the soldier's name?
- A. I didn't know.
- Q. Have you later found out who the soldier was?
- A. No.
- Q. Do you know anybody else who saw this incident?
- A. That V-8 probably seen it.
- Q. Do you know who was in the V-8?
- A. No I don't.
- Q. Can you give us the names of anybody else who may know anything about this incident?
- A. No.
- Q. Has the jury any questions they wish to ask?  
(No questions.)  
Witness dismissed.



CHARLIE ANTOKU, 2nd witness.

For the purpose of the record it is herewith recorded that the witness was duly sworn. Questioned by Mr. Laderer.

- Q. Will you state your name please?  
A. Charlie Antoku.  
Q. And how old are you?  
A. 21  
Q. When were you 21?  
A. January 10.  
Q. You are a person of Japanese ancestry?  
A. Yes, sir.  
Q. And you live at 4401-A, in the WRA Center at Newell, California, in this country?  
A. Yes.  
Q. You speak English do you not, and you understand English?  
A. Yes.  
Q. Did you understand when Mr. Server stood and administered the oath what that meant?  
A. Yes.  
Q. Charlie, this is a coroner's inquest, investigating the death, cause of death, and the person responsible, if any one, concerning Shochi Okamoto. Are you acquainted with him?  
A. I knew him when I formerly worked at the motor pool.  
Q. You just know him but didn't know him personally?  
A. No, I didn't.  
Q. Did you know him by sight?  
A. Yes.  
Q. How big a man would you say he was?  
A. 5'10 $\frac{1}{2}$ ", something like that.  
Q. How heavy a man would you say he was?  
A. About 200.  
Q. Do you know that on May 24th he was supposed to have been shot?  
A. Yes, sir.  
Q. And do you know that he really died?  
A. Yes, sir.  
Q. Were you present at the time he was shot?  
A. Yes, sir.  
Q. When did you first see Mr. Okamoto yesterday-that is on the 24th of May.  
A. At two, a little after two when he left the gate.  
Q. He was on his way out?  
A. Yes.  
Q. Where were you?  
A. About 25 or 30 feet away from the gate awaiting for an escort.  
Q. You were going out the gate too?  
A. Yes, we were waiting for the escort.  
Q. I notice you have on you a badge with number, what is that badge?  
A. The Army badge that is issued to us to go on the outside of the area.  
Q. Is that an identification badge?  
A. I imagine you could call it an identification badge.  
Q. What do you do with that badge when you leave the colony?  
A. That is supposed to be in sight.  
Q. Do you show it to the guard when you leave the camp?  
A. We are supposed to have a blue pass when we go outside.  
Q. And do you work outside the confines of the camp?  
A. Sometime we do and sometimes not.  
Q. When you leave the camp do you show both the badge and pass?  
A. We have been out once since we got this badge. I have used it once.



- Q. The place where this shooting took place is an entrance to the camp off the main highway, the state highway, lets refer to this as the old entrance. The shooting took place at the old entrance did it not?
- A. Yes.
- Q. Every time that you went in and out was there a soldier on guard?
- A. Yes.
- Q. When you passed that soldier what did you necessarily do?
- A. Stop and show him the pass.
- Q. Do you show the blue pass?
- A. Yes.
- Q. And he also looks at the badge on the breast?
- A. I can't say - we have it out for them to see.
- Q. Do you know the difference between the colors of the passes - why that some are green and some red, and other colors?
- A. White passes are for the administrative section, and the red ones are also for the administrative section but used during the day time, and the green ones are for the outside area like the farm, to haul gravel on trucks, and like that.
- Q. Now, getting back to yesterday, May 24th, when you were standing by the gate were you on the ground within the camp area, or were you on the outside of the gate toward the highway?
- A. On the inside.
- Q. Did you see the truck pull up that Okamoto was driving?
- A. Yes.
- Q. Which side of the gate were you on?
- A. More on about the driver's side. Kind of in between sitting on the fender of the truck. Our truck was facing toward the highway.
- Q. Your truck was facing to the highway, and which side of the truck would the truck in which Okamoto was riding pass you?
- A. Passed on our left.
- Q. How were you sitting?
- A. I was sitting on the driver's side, on the fender.
- Q. Did you notice that truck stop at the gate on the way out?
- A. Yes.
- Q. Did he present his identification to the guard on duty at that time?
- A. I couldn't say.
- Q. The truck stopped at the gate and then proceeded on its way and you did not know what transpired when the truck stopped?
- A. No.
- Q. Did you hear any discussion of any kind?
- A. No.
- Q. Was there anything to attract your attention to the truck?
- A. No.
- Q. Were you there when the truck returned?
- A. Yes.
- Q. Were you sitting in the same position?
- A. Yes.
- Q. Was that what put you on the driver's side?
- A. Yes.
- Q. When the truck drove up where was the soldier?
- A. He was in that little shack there.
- Q. And which side of the truck would that be on, would that be on the driver's side?
- A. It would be on the opposite side.
- Q. Did the truck stop on its way in?
- A. Yes.



- Q. And what did you see - what did the soldier do, and what did Okamoto do?
- A. The sentry came out and said "All you Japs with the WRA think you are going to run the WRA."
- Q. And who did he say that to?
- A. He was looking at Okamoto at the time.
- Q. He was looking at Okamoto?
- A. Yes.
- Q. And then what did he do?
- A. He came around the front of the truck to the driver's side and ordered him to get off the truck.
- Q. How far were you sitting away from this truck when it stopped?
- A. About 25 feet.
- Q. Was there anybody else on the fender beside you?
- A. No.
- Q. Who was the nearest person to you?
- A. Two were sitting in the cab of the truck and two in the back.
- Q. Who were those men, may I ask?
- A. Gen Hitomi, and Tomotsu Kadowaki, and on top Kampo Ogawa and Frank Amemiya.
- Q. Was your motor running at the time?
- A. No.
- Q. Was the truck coming in with its motor running at that time?
- A. Yes, its motor was running.
- Q. You say you were waiting for an escort?
- A. Yes.
- Q. What took place then?
- A. The sentry ordered Okamoto to get off the truck. Then he looked toward the other fellow sitting on the side and asked him to drive the truck in. Shiohama nodded 'no' and again the sentry ordered Okamoto to get off the truck but at the time he was lighting his pipe and then he got off, and the sentry ordered him to get back, pointing his gun. In the meantime he was also sucking his pipe, then the sentry butted him with the gun which Okamoto in order to defend himself raised his arm, then the sentry pulled back and fired.
- Q. The sentry told him to get out of the truck?
- A. Yes.
- Q. Did you see for what reason?
- A. No I did not.
- Q. Could you hear him?
- A. Yes.
- Q. Did he say anything else besides 'get off of the truck'?
- A. No.
- Q. How long a period elapsed before he ordered him to get out the second time?
- A. Just a few seconds, when he ordered the other fellow to take the truck in.
- Q. When he came around to the driver's side of the truck you say he ordered Okamoto to get out of the truck?
- A. Yes.
- Q. What did Okamoto do?
- A. At the time he was lighting his pipe.
- Q. In the truck?
- A. Yes.
- Q. Did he finish lighting his pipe before he got out?
- A. I couldn't notice.
- Q. Did Okamoto say anything before he got out of the truck?
- A. That I couldn't say - it didn't seem like he said anything.
- Q. You couldn't hear what he said?
- A. No.



- Q. He didn't move at all?
- A. No.
- Q. When the soldier told him the second time to get out of the truck did he hesitate?
- A. He got out.
- Q. Did he say anything to the soldier when he got out?
- A. No.
- Q. Did the soldier say anything to him?
- A. He ordered him to get back, in other words out toward the highway.
- Q. He told him to get out toward the highway?
- A. Yes.
- Q. Was there anything behind this truck?
- A. That I didn't notice.
- Q. You didn't notice whether there was anybody or any other car?
- A. I think I seen a car but I am not positive.
- Q. Do you know whether any other Japanese boys were behind the truck?
- A. That I couldn't say, they might have been back up in the lumber yard.
- Q. When he ordered him back there was no more said by the soldier other than to get back?
- A. He ordered him twice to get back.
- Q. Did he indicate what he meant when he said to get back, did he want him to get back behind the truck?
- A. That I do not know.
- Q. And as far as you know the soldier did not tell him why?
- A. Yes.
- Q. You say he ordered him back two times. The first time he ordered him back what did he do, I am referring to Mr. Okamoto.
- A. He was smoking his pipe then.
- Q. Did he stop and light his pipe then?
- A. That I could not say.
- Q. Did the soldier do anything at that time?
- A. Well he ordered him to get back.
- Q. That is the second time?
- A. Yes.
- Q. Between the first time and the second time did the soldier make any move toward him?
- A. He took a pace toward him.
- Q. The soldier took a pace toward Okamoto?
- A. Yes.
- Q. What did Mr. Okamoto do?
- A. Nothing - just that one pace back.
- Q. Let me understand you correctly: When the sentry on duty told Mr. Okamoto to get back he stopped back one pace?
- A. Yes, right when he was ordering him the second time.
- Q. The first time when the sentry ordered Okamoto to get back what did Okamoto do?
- A. Nothing, he was smoking his pipe.
- Q. Did he raise his hands any?
- A. No.
- Q. Did he have anything in his hands?
- A. No.
- Q. You don't know whether he lit his pipe then or not?
- A. I couldn't say.
- Q. Referring to the first command, now when the soldier told him to get back did he move his hand at all?
- A. No.
- Q. Do you know what position his hands were in on the first command to get back?
- A. He had his left hand down and his right hand holding his pipe.



- Q. That is on the first command?  
A. Yes.  
Q. What did the soldier do when he ordered him to get back the first time?  
A. I don't know.  
Q. Did the soldier make any move at all, did he move his gun or change the position of his gun?  
A. He raised his gun a little.  
Q. What position was the gun in at the time he made his first command to get back?  
A. Right about here. He had the butt of the gun a little bit above his hip and the barrel of the gun pointing up in the air, pointing straight.  
Q. Over Okamoto's head?  
A. Toward his body.  
Q. That is on the first command?  
A. Yes.  
Q. How long a period elapsed between the first and the second time?  
A. Just a few seconds.  
Q. Did either parties change positions?  
A. I don't think so.  
Q. Then when he ordered him to get back the second time what did Okamoto do?  
A. He took a pace back and the sentry moved a pace forward.  
Q. Did either say anything to the other?  
A. All the sentry said was for him to get back.  
Q. Was the second command louder than the first?  
A. Yes.  
Q. Was the man excited, did he sound more excited?  
A. He did say it a little louder than the first.  
Q. Then did the soldier change the position of his gun?  
A. He still had it in the air.  
Q. He still had it in the same position?  
A. Yes.  
Q. When Okamoto took a step back which way did he stop?  
A. He pulls his left foot back and just once pace.  
Q. Toward the back of the truck or the gate?  
A. Toward the back of the truck.  
Q. Was he facing the gate?  
A. Yes, he was.  
Q. And where was the soldier?  
A. I imagine he was around about 4 or 5 feet from Okamoto.  
Q. About 4 or 5 feet, facing Okamoto?  
A. Yes.  
Q. So the soldier was facing the back of the truck and Okamoto was facing the motor of the truck and toward the gate?  
A. Will you explain that again?  
Q. The soldier had his back toward the gate facing Okamoto, and Okamoto was facing the soldier with his back toward the back of the truck and his face to the front of the truck, facing the soldier?  
A. His back was toward the back of the truck and the sentry he was on a angle facing in toward the colony and having his back toward the gate.  
Q. Do you know whether that gate swings toward the outside or toward the project?  
A. It seems that it swings either way.  
Q. Do you know which way the gate was open that afternoon?  
A. One I think was in this way toward the project looking out toward the gate no, the left gate was in the project, the right-hand gate outside the project.



- Q. Then the gate on the driver's side of the truck was open toward the highway when the truck was coming in at the time of this incident?
- A. I want to make a correction there. Both gates were in the project facing toward the project, because I remember there was a jeep at the gate and he was back of there.
- Q. If the gate had been shut how far would the soldier have been from the gate toward the highway at the time of the order to go to the back of the truck?
- A. It was about in the center.
- Q. And how far away toward the highway?
- A. The length of the fence.
- Q. How far out toward the highway, though?
- A. About 50 feet away from the fence. He was standing in the center in line with the fence.
- Q. How far out toward the highway?
- A. I mean he was standing in line with the fence.
- Q. Was he standing right opposite the driver's compartment of the truck?
- A. What do you mean by that?
- Q. When the truck drove in it stopped. Was he standing right along side the driver's side of the truck when he ordered Okamoto to stand back?
- A. He was a couple of feet away from the truck.
- Q. But along aside of the driver's seat of the truck?
- A. Yes.
- Q. When the truck pulled up there did you see the soldier make any motion to the truck?
- A. No I didn't.
- Q. Did the soldier when he first came out of the house?
- A. No.
- Q. When he came out of this little house and he walked up toward the truck and the truck was coming in did he motion with his hands?
- A. That I didn't see.
- Q. But he was in your full view?
- A. Yes.
- Q. If he had made a motion you would have seen it.
- A. I might have but I don't say that.
- Q. Do you know when the soldier first walked out of the guard house to the truck when the truck was first coming in, did you notice the position of the guard's hands?
- A. No, I didn't.
- Q. Did you see the gun?
- A. I seen the gun, yes.
- Q. Where was the gun?
- A. That I couldn't answer, I didn't notice, but I know he had the gun.
- Q. When was the first time you saw the gun in the position where you testified?
- A. When he ordered Okamoto to get off the truck.
- Q. That is the first time he put the gun in the position that you first testified to?
- A. Yes.
- Q. Did you ever see this soldier standing there with the gun in a position with his right hand holding the barrel, the butt of the gun in his left, and holding the gun across his breast?
- A. That is when he ordered Okamoto to get off the truck first, then he changed the position.
- Q. When did he change the position of the gun from which he originally had it into Port Arms position?
- A. After he ordered Okamoto to get off the truck.
- Q. From what position to what position?
- A. From across here (his chest) to this way down.



- Q. And when Okamoto got out of the truck he had the gun pointing toward him, is that correct?
- A. Directly toward him but first down toward the ground, about from his waist down here.
- Q. And when he ordered Okamoto back to the car did he change position of the gun then?
- A. A little higher.
- Q. Where was the gun pointing, approximately, at Okamoto?
- A. Toward his stomach.
- Q. Then when Okamoto took a step back and the guard took a step forward at the second command did he change the position of the gun then?
- A. Not at the time. When he ordered him to get back the sentry butted him with the gun.
- Q. Was that on the first or second command?
- A. The second command.
- Q. Was that when Okamoto took a step back - when he butted him with the gun?
- A. Right as he took a step back.
- Q. What part of the gun did he butt him with?
- A. The lower end of the gun.
- Q. And what part of the body was struck?
- A. He defended himself with the left hand and he got him across the chest.
- Q. Did he hit him very hard?
- A. It was not strong enough force.
- Q. Did it stagger him?
- A. It threw him off balance.
- Q. Did he hit him on the head, the face, the arms, or the legs, with the gun?
- A. When Okamoto defended himself the sentry was going to butt him and Okamoto raised his arm and he got him across the chest.
- Q. And you say he staggered a little bit. Did he fall against the truck?
- A. No.
- Q. It was not hard enough to make him stagger against the truck?
- A. No.
- Q. Did the soldier come back before he went forward with the gun when he hit him?
- A. No, he didn't.
- Q. Do you know what part of the butt of the gun hit Okamoto? Was it the edge of the gun or the flat part of the butt? Did he take the gun up and hit him with the butt of the gun or the flat edge of the gun?
- A. That I couldn't say. The action was kind of fast there.
- Q. But you know that he hit him some place across the chest?
- A. Yes.
- Q. Do you think that it was hard enough to leave a bruise or cause blood?
- A. No, I don't imagine it was that hard.
- Q. When he raised his arm to defend himself it was his left hand?
- A. Yes.
- Q. Did he touch the gun with his left arm and push the gun away?
- A. Yes.
- Q. What did he do with his right hand?
- A. He had his right hand down.
- Q. His right arm never moved?
- A. No he was puffing his pipe.
- Q. Did he move toward the sentry then?
- A. No.
- Q. Did he have anything in his hand?
- A. No, he didn't.



- Q. How long after he defended himself against the blow did the soldier shoot him?
- A. As soon as he defended himself the sentry took a pace back and fired.
- Q. Did you see the sentry load his gun?
- A. That I didn't see.
- Q. Did the sentry do anything to prepare the gun to shoot that you saw?
- A. He pointed it toward Okamoto.
- Q. Did he throw a cartridge into the barrel?
- A. That I didn't see.
- Q. But you do know that he raised his left arm to ward off the blow of the gun?
- A. Yes.
- Q. Did the soldier push Okamoto?
- A. That I can't recall.
- Q. Did he hit him any other time?
- A. That is the only time.
- Q. Did you hear any conversation between the soldier and Okamoto, either then or immediately following?
- A. No.
- Q. Did you hear any conversation?
- A. No.
- Q. When Okamoto stepped back how far was that step taken in relation to the cab of the truck? Do you understand? He stepped out from the cab of the truck right along side of the cab then he stepped back when the guard ordered him the first time to move back. How far back did that take him beyond the cab of the truck?
- A. About a foot.
- Q. Did you see his knees bend at any time either from the blow or for any other reason?
- A. No.
- Q. Can you tell the jury what position that gun was in when the soldier actually shot, as nearly as you can remember?
- A. At approximately about here - then fired.
- Q. He had the butt of the gun against his right shoulder?
- A. Not quite up to his shoulder.
- Q. What position was Okamoto in when he was shot, was he standing straight up?
- A. He was warding off the blow when the sentry took a pace back and fired the shot.
- Q. He had his left elbow up?
- A. Yes.
- Q. Then as nearly as you could observe his knees were straight?
- A. Yes.
- Q. When did he move the gun from his hip to his shoulder?
- A. As soon as he butted him he brought it back here.
- Q. He took a step back immediately and shot, is that correct?
- A. Yes.
- Q. At the time he shot, where did you say the gun was pointing - at what part of Okamoto's body?
- A. Seems as though the way I seen it, it was between the chest and the stomach.
- Q. What did you do then, if anything?
- A. As soon as the sentry fired he turned toward us, at the rest of the fellows that were there, and he said "The rest of you fellows get the hell out of here."
- Q. How many times did the soldier shoot?
- A. Just once.
- Q. You only heard one shot?
- A. Yes.



- Q. He did not shoot in your direction while you were running?
- A. That I couldn't say.
- Q. Did you see Okamoto when he fell to the ground?
- A. Yes.
- Q. Which way did he fall, forward, backward or sidewise?
- A. Forward on his left side and back.
- Q. And what did the soldier do then?
- A. He turned toward us and ordered us to get the hell out of here.
- Q. Were you there when the police and army got there?
- A. No, I wasn't.
- Q. From then on you don't know what happened?
- A. No, I don't.
- Q. Just before the soldier shot he stepped back, how far was he from the opening of the gate when he shot, did you say? Do you understand what I mean?
- A. No.
- Q. How far away was his back from the end of the opening of the gate when he shot?
- A. Give me a better picture than that.
- Q. What was the distance between the driver's side of the truck and the opening of the gate where you were sitting, approximately?
- A. 9 or ten feet.
- Q. And when the soldier ordered Okamoto to go back to the truck he was standing with his back toward the colony, as I understand, is that your testimony?
- A. Yes.
- Q. How far was his back from that edge of the opening of that gate did you say?
- A. I imagine about 7 or 8 feet.
- Q. At the time he shot Okamoto how far did you say the edge of the gate was from his back?
- A. About 4 feet.
- Q. How, when the soldier backed up to take this shot Okamoto did not move at all?
- A. No, he didn't.
- Q. He was standing facing more toward the colony?
- A. Yes.
- Q. Which side was facing the barrel of the gun, his left or his right side?
- A. More of his left.
- Q. In other words the gun barrel was facing his left side?
- A. Yes.
- Q. When he fell he patted his left side?
- A. He patted over this way, toward the stomach.
- Q. Toward the left of the stomach, or abdomen, are you sure of that?
- A. Yes.
- Q. Are you sure it was the left side, and he was patting his left side when he fell?
- A. Yes.
- Q. Just to make sure that we are right, Charlie, would you mind getting up on your feet just a moment and use the court reporter here as the soldier, and show us the position he was standing in when he was shot?
- A. (Description of action of witness-You are standing with your left side toward the court reporter, is that correct (yes) and the court reporter would be about 4 or 5 feet away from you and she would be in the same position as the soldier, and the gun in the soldier's hand would be pointed toward the left side of the body toward the stomach between the chest and the stomach at the time of firing.)



- Q. Is there anything else that you can add that we may have overlooked?  
A. I guess that is about all.  
Q. If you have anything else that I have forgotten to ask I would appreciate your telling the jury about it.  
A. I can't think of anything else.  
Q. Has the jury any questions that they wish to ask?  
(No questions)  
Witness dismissed.

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GEN HITOMI, 3rd Witness.

For the purpose of the record it is herewith recorded that the witness was duly sworn, Questioned by Mr. Laderer.

- Q. Will you state your name please?  
A. Gen Hitomi.  
Q. How old are you?  
A. 23  
Q. You are a person of the Japanese race are you not?  
A. Yes.  
Q. You live at the WRA Center, Newell, California, Modoc County?  
A. Yes.  
Q. How long have you resided here?  
A. Almost two years June 5.  
Q. Gen, this is a coroner's inquest, investigating the death, the cause of death, and find out the responsible party if any, pertaining to Mr. Okamoto. Did you know Mr. Okamoto in his lifetime?  
A. No. I never met him.  
Q. Would you recognize him if you saw him?  
A. Yes.  
Q. When was the first time you saw him?  
A. It was that day when he got shot.  
Q. That was the afternoon of May 24?  
A. Yes.  
Q. Was that the first time?  
A. Yes.  
Q. Where did you first see him?  
A. When he got off the truck.  
Q. Where did he get off the truck?  
A. At gate No. 4.  
Q. Do you recall the gate which was used for the main entrance to the WRA prior to the time the Army put in the new set-up. Do you remember how the people used to get in?  
A. They used to go in this No. 4 gate.  
Q. We will refer in this record to that as the old entrance, it is the same gate as you refer to as No. 4.  
A. Yes.  
Q. That is the gate that you saw Mr. Okamoto at just before he was shot?  
A. Yes.  
Q. Was he going out of the project or coming in when you first saw him?  
A. I seen the truck go out then when he came in I saw him.  
Q. The first time he was returning?  
A. Yes.  
Q. Where were you when he was coming back?  
A. I was sitting in the grease monkey truck No. 136.  
Q. In what part of the truck were you?  
A. In the driver's seat the right-hand side.  
Q. Was there a soldier at the gate?  
A. There was a M.P. on sentry.  
Q. When did you first see the soldier come out to the truck?  
A. You mean when the truck came back?  
Q. Yes, when it returned.  
A. As soon as the truck came back it stopped and the M.P. came out of the shack.  
Q. The truck came up and stopped and you saw the soldier come out of the house?  
A. Yes.



- Q. Where did the truck stop-by that I mean, was the front end of the truck on the inside of the gate before it stopped, or was it still on the outside before it stopped?
- A. I couldn't tell, but I think it stopped before it hit the gate.
- Q. So the truck and the soldier were in your view all the time then, and when the soldier came out of this guard house did you see him signal the truck?
- A. No.
- Q. Had he signalled the truck would you have seen it?
- A. Yes, if he made a motion to stop I would see that.
- Q. But you saw him come out of the house and go around the truck?
- A. Yes.
- Q. Did he make any motion with his hands?
- A. Not that I saw.
- Q. Did you notice whether or not he had a gun on his person when he came out?
- A. He had the gun with him.
- Q. Do you know what Port Arms means in the Army?
- A. No.
- Q. To designate with the hands the position the Army calls 'Port Arms', the right hand on the barrel with the butt toward the ground, and the gun being held across the body- that is the position he had the gun?
- A. Yes.
- Q. Was the truck running?
- A. No, we had stopped and we were waiting for an escort.
- Q. Do you know whether the truck Okamoto was driving was running?
- A. Yes.
- Q. Could you hear any conversation?
- A. No, I didn't hear. The only thing I heard was the M.P. give the order to get off the truck.
- Q. Was that the only time he told him to get out, or did he tell him twice?
- A. Once is the only time I heard. Then Mr. Okamoto got out of the truck.
- Q. Where was he when he gave that order to get out of the truck - in relation to Mr. Okamoto's truck?
- A. The MP went around the front of the truck, the driver side, and gave the order. The truck was facing toward the Ad. (Administration) Building.
- Q. And Okamoto did get out of the truck?
- A. Yes.
- Q. When he got out which way did he face?
- A. The M.P. told him to get off and he got off. The M.P. was saying something but he was facing out toward the road and motioned with the gun toward the highway. Mr. Okamoto had his pipe in his mouth and the M.P. struck him with the butt.
- Q. When the soldier was motioning with his gun toward the highway Mr. Okamoto was lighting his pipe?
- A. He started to light his pipe.
- Q. Where were his feet at that time?
- A. Both feet on the ground.
- Q. Which part of the gun hit Mr. Okamoto?
- A. The butt.
- Q. Could you see where he was hit - what part of his body?
- A. About on the neck.
- Q. The back of the neck on the right side?
- A. Left hand side.
- Q. And his arm was in a horizontal position?
- A. As the M.P. swung his butt around Mr. Okamoto swung his arm up to defend himself.
- Q. You say the butt actually hit Mr. Okamoto?
- A. No, he had his arm like this in order to defend himself.



- Q. What part of Mr. Okamoto was actually hit by the butt of the gun?
- A. His arm and back of neck.
- Q. Left arm?
- A. Yes.
- Q. What part of the arm did you say was struck?
- A. On the back of his arm.
- Q. Could you tell us whether he struck him with the edge of the butt of the gun or with the side of the gun?
- A. I would say the edge of the gun, he had a full swing on it.
- Q. He was then at Port Arms and he brought the gun up over his shoulder, or did he just come and hit with the side of the gun?
- A. Just enough to get a edge on.
- Q. You would say the edge of the butt hit his arm and the back of his neck on the side?
- A. The side of his neck.
- Q. You would say the edge of the gun hit him?
- A. Yes.
- Q. Did it stagger him?
- A. It bent him back when he hit his arm, then the M.P. just backed up and pulled the trigger.
- Q. When he was hit did he fall back around the truck?
- A. No.
- Q. He threw his left arm up to protect himself?
- A. Yes.
- Q. What did he do with his right arm?
- A. He held it at his side.
- Q. When did he drop his right arm - he was lighting his pipe - when did he stop?
- A. As soon as the M.P. threw up his butt he dropped his hand.
- Q. Did he grab the gun?
- A. No.
- Q. Did he have anything in his hands?
- A. No, just lighting his pipe.
- Q. He threw up his left hand?
- A. Yes.
- Q. You say the soldier immediately stepped back and shot?
- A. Yes.
- Q. What was the position of his gun when he shot?
- A. About right in the pit of his arm, of his right shoulder.
- Q. How was Mr. Okamoto standing when he was shot?
- A. He didn't have very much chance to come back, he was standing almost straight facing the soldier, bending sideways toward the truck.
- Q. Was he facing the soldier or was he turned sideways?
- A. His face was turned toward the soldier but I can't tell about the body. I would say he was facing toward the gun. He was bent toward the side.
- Q. Could you tell us what part of the body the gun was pointing to when it went off, at the time the soldier shot?
- A. As I say, I can't just say what angle he was facing, he was facing toward the M.P. though. I would say almost straight facing the M.P.
- Q. Did he move at all before he was shot, except from this blow that you are talking about?
- A. He didn't move.
- Q. Did he step back or step toward the soldier?
- A. He didn't step toward the soldier.
- Q. Did he make any motion?
- A. Not against the M.P.
- Q. In any way did he step back?
- A. When the M.P. threw up his gun his arm moved.



- Q. Did his feet move?  
A. I couldn't say.  
Q. Did the soldier step toward him when he hit him?  
A. Yes.  
Q. Would you say that blow was hard enough to leave a bruise and cause blood?  
A. I could not tell.  
Q. You could not tell how hard he delivered that blow?  
A. No.  
Q. How hard a blow did he hit Okamoto?  
A. Enough to give him a sting for a minute or so maybe.  
Q. Did he point the rifle at Okamoto at any other time except the time he shot?  
A. The only time he told him to get off the truck he had it like this when he told him to get off.  
Q. He had it in a position pointed toward Okamoto and the point of the gun was resting near his hip?  
A. Yes.  
Q. Did you see him cock the gun or load it?  
A. After the M.P. came around the side of the truck he cocked the gun.  
Q. How did he cock the gun?  
A. It is a bolt action and he cocked it like this.  
Q. Are you acquainted with guns - do you know what bolt action is?  
A. I am not familiar with guns very much, but he brought the bolt back and then pushed it forward again to cock the gun.  
Q. Did you actually see the soldier do that?  
A. Yes, when he came in front of the truck.  
Q. When he came in front of the truck you saw him pull the bolt back and then forward?  
A. Yes.  
Q. Just before he shot did he do anything else to the gun in the way of loading it or getting it ready fire?  
A. No.  
Q. Did you know that soldier who was on guard that did the shooting?  
A. No, I never saw him before in my life.  
Q. You don't know his name?  
A. No.  
Q. After Mr. Okamoto was shot did he fell down?  
A. Yes.  
Q. What did he do when he fell?  
A. Last I seen he was hitting himself, on the side, like this.  
Q. Around his heart?  
A. He was hitting himself and saying in Japanese words, "It hurts, it hurts."  
Q. Using his right hand and hitting on the left side?  
A. Yes.  
Q. Then what did you do, did you do anything yourself?  
A. The M.P. Pointed the gun in the air and said for us to beat it, up in the air like this and told us to the hell out of there.  
Q. Was it pointed directly at you or above your heads?  
A. Above our heads.  
Q. Did he reload the gun or work the bolt action?  
A. I didn't see that part.  
Q. How many shots were fired?  
A. One.  
Q. And then did you leave?  
A. Yes, I left when he told us to get out of the truck and scram.  
Q. Were you there when the military police officers, or the WRA police got there?  
A. No.



- Q. Is there anything you wish to add to assist the jurors in determining the cause of death, and placing the responsibility on the responsible party? You understand we are trying to bring out all of the facts whether it is for or against anybody. If I have forgotten to ask you a question it is by inadvertence, and I want to bring out all the facts.
- A. That is all I know about it.
- Q. Is there any part of the testimony that you want to change or that you are in doubt about?
- A. If I can read what she took down maybe, but I told what I know.
- Q. What you told is what you want to appear on record, there is nothing else you can add then?
- A. No.
- Q. Has the jury and questions they wish to ask?  
(No questions)  
Witness dismissed.

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For the purpose of the record it is herewith recorded that the witness was duly sworn, Mr. Laderer questions.

Q. Will you state your name please?

A. Tom Kaduwaki.

Q. And where do you live, Tom?

A. 4413-E.

Q. That is at the WRA Tule Lake Center at Newell, Modoc County, California?

A. Yes.

Q. You are a person of the Japanese race are you not, Tom?

A. Yes.

Q. Tom, this is a coroner's inquest. The gentlemen and ladies of the jury will place the responsibility upon the person responsible, if any, which caused the death of Mr. Okamoto, did you know Mr. Okamoto?

A. No, I didn't.

Q. Would you know him if you saw him?

A. I guess I would.

Q. Did you see a Japanese boy get shot - did you know who that was?

A. I didn't know his name, but I know him when I see him what he did, that's all.

Q. How long have you been at this Center, Tom?

A. About two years, I guess.

Q. Do you remember a gate that was used as the main entrance to the Community of the WRA from the highway, immediately off the highway, before the military put in the new gate?

A. Yes.

Q. Is that the gate where Mr. Okamoto was shot?

A. Yes.

Q. If we refer to that gate as the old entrance you will know what I am referring?

A. Yes.

Q. You speak English and understand English, do you not?

A. Yes.

Q. If you do not understand any questions I ask you will say so?

A. Yes.

Q. Where were you at the old gate entrance when this thing occurred?

A. Riding the truck, cargo truck 136.

Q. Where were you?

A. I was the driver.

Q. Did you see the truck that Mr. Okamoto was driving as it went out?

A. Yes.

Q. Did the truck stop as it went out?

A. Yes.

Q. Did you know whether or not he showed his identification card?

A. No, I didn't.

Q. There was no trouble when he went out?

A. No.

Q. Were you still there when he came back?

A. Yes.

Q. When he came back which side of the truck would you be nearest-Mr. Okamoto or the other?

A. The driver's side.

Q. Was the soldier at the gate?

A. Yes.

Q. Did you see the soldier approach the truck?

A. Yes.



- Q. Where did he come from?
- A. He came from where he is stationed, I guess, you would call it the little house there. He came from there. He went around the other side of the car.
- Q. Did the truck stop before he came out of the guard house?
- A. He was outside waiting and he told them to stop.
- Q. He told them to stop?
- A. He told them to halt.
- Q. Did you see him come out of the house?
- A. No I never, he was standing there.
- Q. How long had he been standing there, Tom?
- A. I don't know.
- Q. How long were you sitting there in this truck?
- A. We had waited quite a long time, for an escort.
- Q. How long were you waiting for your escort?
- A. About 35 minutes.
- Q. Can you give us any estimate of the time the guard was waiting at the gate for the truck to come back?
- A. No.
- Q. But you do know that the guard was standing at the gate at the time the truck made the turn in there?
- A. Yes.
- Q. Did you see the guard tell the truck to stop?
- A. Yes.
- Q. What did he do?
- A. He hollered 'Halt' and went around the other side.
- Q. Did he make any motion with his gun or hands?
- A. No, I don't believe he did.
- Q. Do you know the position of his gun when he told the truck to halt?
- A. He was just holding on to it, that is all I know.
- Q. Did he approach the driver's side of the car first, or did he approach the side of the truck opposite the driver's side?
- A. He was on the opposite side of the driver.
- Q. Did he have any conversation?
- A. I couldn't hear but I know they were saying something, but I couldn't hear.
- Q. Then he went around the driver's side, and what took place then?
- A. He said 'get out of the truck.' All of a sudden he shot, that is all I know.
- Q. Did you notice the position of his gun when he was talking to the man sitting next the driver?
- A. He was holding it-
- Q. I meant before he went around.
- A. I guess he was holding it pointed at the car.
- Q. Then he went around to the driver's side of the car?
- A. Yes.
- Q. Did he change the position of the gun when he went around?
- A. I am not sure.
- Q. Did he do anything to the gun?
- A. I never noticed that part.
- Q. You do not know whether he loaded the gun or not?
- A. No.
- Q. Did you see him at any time load the gun?
- A. No.
- Q. Did you hear him to tell the driver to get out of the car?
- A. Yes.
- Q. How many times?
- A. I am not certain. I know he said it once very loud.



- Q. Mr. Okamoto was driving the truck?  
A. Yes.  
Q. Did you see Mr. Okamoto get out?  
A. Yes.  
Q. What did Mr. Okamoto do when he got out of the truck?  
A. After that I didn't pay much attention until the shot, then I looked up and he was on the ground.  
Q. Did Mr. Okamoto strike the soldier?  
A. I never noticed that.  
Q. Did the soldier strike Mr. Okamoto?  
A. I never noticed that either.  
Q. Did he hit him with the gun?  
A. I never noticed, the only time I looked up the soldier fired at him.  
Q. Did you notice the position of the soldier when he shot?  
A. He was facing toward the driver - the soldier was facing toward the front.  
Q. They were facing each other?  
A. Yes.  
Q. When he shot what position were Mr. Okamoto's hands in?  
A. I don't know for sure.  
Q. Could you tell us the position of Mr. Okamoto - was he facing directly toward the soldier, or was he facing toward one side or the other?  
A. I couldn't tell definitely.  
Q. Could you tell from where you sat what position the gun was in?  
A. I guess he had it down here.  
Q. He had it resting upon or near his hip?  
A. Someway like that, he didn't take aim or anything.  
Q. Was the gun on the soldier's shoulder?  
A. I don't think it was.  
Q. Was it any place in his armpit, or below his armpit?  
A. That's the way I noticed it, right here. I don't know exactly.  
Q. As near as you can remember?  
A. Between the hip and the shoulder.  
Q. Was the gun pointing upward or straight at Mr. Okamoto, or was it pointed down: in other words, I am trying to find out what part of the body the gun was pointed to?  
A. It was pointed at him but I don't know exactly.  
Q. Was Mr. Okamoto standing straight up when he shot?  
A. Yes.  
Q. Were his knees bent?  
A. I don't know.  
Q. In other words, all you know is that the soldier shot and hit Mr. Okamoto?  
A. Yes.  
Q. You don't know how it happened, nor the cause?  
A. No.  
Q. Whether one hit the other or not?  
A. No.  
Q. How far did you say you were away from the soldier when Mr. Okamoto was shot?  
A. About 50 feet I guess.  
Q. And you say the soldier backed up a couple of steps before he shot?  
A. He took one step back and then shot.  
Q. How far was he away from the edge of the gate when he shot?  
A. I am not positive. I don't know.  
Q. Did you hear any other conversation except the one command to get out of truck?  
A. That is all I heard.  
Q. If there was other conversation you couldn't hear it?  
A. No, I couldn't.



- Q. But this one command to get out was loud enough that you could hear it 50 feet away?
- A. Yes.
- Q. Did the soldier appear to be excited?
- A. He was calm.
- Q. But he just spoke loud?
- A. Yes.
- Q. Has the jury any questions to ask?
- (No questions)
- Q. (Mr. Laderer) Is there anything that you can add that we may have overlooked and did not ask you about? We want to get all the facts.
- A. After the shot was fired I ran away.
- Q. Do you know which way Mr. Okamoto fell?
- A. No I don't, I am not positive.
- Q. You ran away then?
- A. Yes.
- Q. Did the soldier order you to go?
- A. He told us to get off the truck so we got off and ran.
- Q. How many shots did you hear?
- A. Just one.
- Q. Is there anything else that you can add?
- A. That is all that I know of.
- Q. Is there any part of the testimony that you want to change, or that you wish to have corrected?
- A. No, I don't believe so.
- Q. All you know is what you have told us?
- A. Yes.

Witness dismissed

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DR. JACK C. SLEATH - 5th Witness

For the purpose of the record it is herewith recorded that the witness was duly sworn.

- Q. Will you state your name please?  
A. Jack C. Sleath.  
Q. What is your occupation and profession?  
A. Physician and Surgeon.  
Q. You are duly licensed to practice medicine and surgery in the State of California?  
A. Yes.  
Q. You are connected with the WRA Tule Lake Project, Newell, Modoc County, California?  
A. Yes.  
Q. Doctor, were you present when the person by the name of Shochi Okamoto was brought to the hospital?  
A. I was.  
Q. For what reason was he brought to the hospital?  
A. It was reported that he had suffered an injury.  
Q. Did you examine him?  
A. Yes, I did.  
Q. What did your examination disclose as to what type of injury?  
A. It was disclosed that he had abdominal wounds and was suffering from shock.  
Q. Will you describe the wounds to the jury, Doctor?  
A. The examination showed a small penetrating wound in the right side of the man's body which was in the region of the 8th rib, which would be about in the region of the nipple, and there was another wound on the left-hand side of the body about at the same level and perhaps a little bit lower. This wound was about  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inches in diameter and it was located a little bit outside the area of the other wound, that is outside the nipple, and from this <sup>wound</sup> abdominal contents were protruding. There was a small laceration on the left arm in the region of the elbow. The man was in a condition which we recognized to be shock, and which we interpreted to be traumatic shock arising from internal injuries.  
Q. What kind of treatment did you prescribe, if any?  
A. The initial treatment was directed toward attempting to get the patient out of shock. The patient made a very poor response to this treatment, in spite of the fact that the treatment given was quite extensive and was given to the best of our ability to utilize all known methods, to us at least, which can be utilized in attempting to control shock of this kind.  
Q. What drugs were administered to him?  
A. A variety of drugs; shall I name them?  
Q. Yes.  
A. Morphine Sulphate  
Blood Plasma  
External heat applications  
Blood transfusions  
Adrenalin injections  
These are some that I remember.  
Q. Do you have your hospital record with you?  
A. I have a portion of the hospital record which has been completed so far.  
Q. Will that disclose any further drugs that have been administered?  
A. Yes.  
Q. Would you mind reading those, Doctor?



A. In addition to the drugs already mentioned I add:

Tetanus Anti-Toxin

Oxygen

Ephedrin Sulphate

Peraldehyde

Calcium Gluconate

Artificial Respiration

I think that covers about all the drugs.

Q. He was operated upon; did you operate, Doctor?

A. Dr. Hashiba and I, and two other doctors operated.

Q. These doctors were administering before and after surgery - all at one time?

A. They were administering during the course of the treatment.

Q. When did he die, Doctor?

A. At 12 minutes after 12, this date.

Q. Can you describe to the jury, doctor, the physical condition of Mr. Okamoto - his height, his weight, whether he was muscular or not?

A. I would say he was around 5'9" or 10" tall, he weighed I would say, in the neighborhood of 180 pounds. He was a solid, stocky type of individual, and well-developed. I would say he looked more or less an athletic-laborer type. That is about all I guess in the way of physical description.

Q. Subsequent to his death, doctor, did you attend the autopsy?

A. On the advice of the coroner, Yes.

Q. Would you say, doctor, that a bullet from a 30 caliber rifle could cause this injury?

A. I have had a little experience with gunshot wounds and on the basis of common sense I would feel that such a bullet could have produced this injury.

Q. Could you trace the course of the bullet for the jury?

A. I can tell them the damage which was found in the region of the scene. In the right chest area was this hole which was about one centimeter in diameter and this was a flash wound that connected to the man's insides. There were some large rents that had been torn through the man's liver and his stomach had been shattered so that when it was first seen at the operation it was not possible to recognize the pieces as a stomach. The portion of his liver on the left side of his body was also cut up pretty badly and the area on the left-hand side of his body, as I stated before, had his internal contents pushed out through the cavity so that it was sticking out and draped on the outside of his body, and this particular material was covered with sticky contents, a portion of which we recognized as spaghetti.

Q. Doctor, from your experience with gunshot wounds which would you say was the point of entrance, and which the point of exit?

A. Based on what I have learned about gunshot wounds I would interpret the small hole on the right hand side of the body to be the point of entrance, and the large hole on the left-hand side of the body to be the point of exit.

Q. Would you mind demonstrating to the jury on your own body just the point of entrance and the point of exit.

A. I am pointing approximately at the 8th interspace between the 8th and 9th rib, which would be approximately the location of the wound on the right side of the body. That would be the small hole, and this hole would be about his location and be about this large. I am pointing to the left hand side of my body below the nipple toward the outside of the nipple, at approximately the same level as the area on the right side.



- Q. Doctor, from your examination of the patient, and from the knowledge gained from the autopsy, after death, what in your opinion was cause of death?
- A. Undoubtedly the cause of death was due to shock.
- Q. Resulting from what, doctor?
- A. Originally from the internal damage which he received, which was the primary factor in the production of the shock and from which he never recovered.
- Q. Doctor, you have consulted with two other doctors in this case, have you not?
- A. There were three other doctors on the case.
- Q. Three - would you name them please?
- A. Dr. George Hashiba  
Dr. Paul Yamauchi  
Dr. Kazuo Miyamoto
- Q. Have all four of the doctors arrived at the same result, doctor?
- A. Yes, we have.
- Q. And I understand you are all going to sign the same report?
- A. Yes, we are signing a joint report for the record, meaning the hospital record.
- Q. Doctor, could you make a copy of that record available for the coroner's record?
- A. I don't know whether or not that is allowable. I am sure I don't believe it is. I believe, however, that information from the record is available to this record if it is needed.
- Q. In other words we cannot obtain a signed copy of the report for this report?
- A. That is my understanding - that you cannot.
- Q. Are all four doctors present at the Center tonight?
- A. As far as I know they are.
- Q. Has the jury any questions they wish to ask?  
(No questions)

Witness dismissed.

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DR. GEORGE HASHIBA - 6th Witness

For the purpose of the record it is herewith recorded that the witness was duly sworn.

- Q. Will you state your name, doctor?  
A. George Hashiba.  
Q. You are a medical doctor are you not?  
A. Yes.  
Q. You are duly licensed to practice in the State of California?  
A. Yes.  
Q. You are now located at the WRA Tule Lake Center, Newell, Modoc County, California?  
A. Yes.  
Q. You are one of the doctors at the hospital at the WRA?  
A. Yes.  
Q. Were you one of the doctors that attended Mr. Okamoto when he arrived at the hospital?  
A. Yes.  
Q. Doctor, rather than ask you all of the questions asked Dr. Sleath, may I ask you whether you were in the room when Dr. Sleath was testifying?  
A. Yes, sir.  
Q. You heard all of the questions that were asked of him?  
A. Yes.  
Q. And you also heard the answers?  
A. Yes.  
Q. If the same questions were asked of you would your answers be the same in all particulars?  
A. Yes, sir.  
Q. He stated that there were four medical men attended Mr. Okamoto?  
A. Yes.  
Q. And all four concurred in the one opinion or conclusion?  
A. Yes.  
Q. All four of you are going to sign the same report?  
A. Yes.  
Q. Were you present when this conference was held among all four doctors?  
A. Yes.  
Q. And did you hear all four doctors agree to that?  
A. Yes.  
Q. Is there any change or anything in addition to the testimony of Dr. Sleath?  
A. No, sir.  
Q. There is nothing further that you have to add?  
A. No, sir.  
Q. Has the jury any question?  
(NO questions)

Witness dismissed

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ROY S. CAMPBELL, 7th Witness

For the purpose of the record it is herewith recorded that the witness was duly sworn.

- Q. Will you state your name please?  
A. Roy S. Campbell.  
Q. Where do you live, Mr. Campbell?  
A. Close to Tule Lake.  
Q. And what is your position, or occupation?  
A. At present I am employed by the WRA.  
Q. In what capacity?  
A. Construction foreman.  
Q. Were you such on May 24, 1944?  
A. Yes.  
Q. Did you know Mr. Okamoto?  
A. Not personally.  
Q. Was he assigned to you?  
A. Well his truck sometimes delivered stuff for construction. I wasn't acquainted with him and he never did any delivering for me.  
Q. Do you know who, if anybody, authorized this truck to leave the project, who in authority with the WRA. I am referring to the truck driven by Mr. Okamoto.  
A. I think that truck was hauling material, I think for the high school in the colony and they have the authority to go out this old gate across the highway and railroad to our lumber yard. Who told him to go I could not say.  
Q. Who is in charge of the construction with the high school?  
A. I think it is Richard Kondo. I think now that is who it was. I haven't been over there for quite a while.  
Q. Were you present when Mr. Okamoto was shot?  
A. I was.  
Q. That was at the gate that we have been referring to as the old entrance?  
A. Yes, it was.  
Q. Where were you Mr. Campbell?  
A. I was in the Ford V-8 sitting back of the truck that the Jap was driving-the Jap that was shot.  
Q. Did you follow the truck to the entrance?  
A. No I didn't.  
Q. Was the truck stopped when you got there?  
A. It was.  
Q. Had you seen the truck in motion?  
A. No.  
Q. What did you first observe when you first drove up, Mr. Campbell?  
A. I stopped behind the truck and the guard motioned me through, but the truck being in the center of the gate-way and the gate on my left was open toward me at an angle, there wasn't enough room to get through.  
Q. Where was the guard standing then?  
A. The guard was standing opposite of the cab on the driver's side.  
Q. The first time you saw the soldier was when you drove up?  
A. That's right.  
Q. Did you hear any conversation between the guard and the driver?  
A. He was arguing with the Jap in the cab. I am certain he was talking but I couldn't understand what they were saying.  
Q. When you say 'arguing' what do you mean, Mr. Campbell?  
A. I could hear voices but I could not understand a word.  
Q. Then you mean they were just talking, or they were arguing?



- A. Talking then if you want to call it that.
- Q. What motions did you see by either party?
- A. Well right at that time there were no motions. The guard was standing there.
- Q. What did you observe than?
- A. Well, he stopped talking to the Jap in the cab, then he either said "Get out of that truck", or "Stay in that truck," I don't know which. Anyway the Jap got out, stepped on the running board, stepped down on the ground and the guard said "Don't come any closer," and called him some kind of name, I think it was 'bastard' (He had not quite got his balance I would say and the guard brought the rifle up. I would say left-handed, and was going to hit him with the butt of the rifle, and he brought it around but I don't think he even touched him. Then the Jap made some body movement and he faced a little bit toward me and kind of humped his shoulder up and made a step below or out a little ways from the truck and the guard jumped back three feet or such and held the gun in a position such as this and fired.
- Q. He held the gun with the butt on his left side of his body?
- A. More on the shoulder.
- Q. Left side of his body?
- A. Well it looked that way to me, it looked like the guard was left-handed. I shoot left-handed myself, and there was just about the position of the gun.
- Q. You think the gun was under the left forearm?
- A. That's right, because before that when he was going to strike with butt the rifle he came this way.
- Q. The only conversation you heard between the soldier and the driver of this truck was when the guard said "Don't come any closer."
- A. That's right.
- Q. Did you see any motions of the guard indicating that he wanted the driver of the truck to go back of the truck or toward the back end of the truck?
- A. No, all he said was "Don't come any closer."
- Q. Which way was the soldier facing?
- A. He was facing toward the truck and the Jap.
- Q. And which way was Okamoto facing?
- A. He was facing toward the guard, north. Might have been at a slight angle.
- Q. Did Okamoto move before he was shot?
- A. I picture him standing still.
- Q. Did you know how tall Okamoto was, or what would you estimate?
- A. I would estimate a little shorter than I, I am about 5'9".
- Q. How tall would you estimate the guard to be?
- A. Just about neck and neck, the way I picture them.
- Q. You think that they were both about the same height?
- A. Approximately.
- Q. What was the difference in their build?
- A. Well the Jap I would say was quite a little bit stockier, heavier.
- Q. How far about would you say the guard was from Mr. Okamoto when he shot?
- A. I would say about 3 or 4 feet.
- Q. Did he move just before he shot?
- A. The Jap?
- Q. No, the guard.
- A. No, he was standing still.
- Q. He made no motion before he shot, then did he take a step backward?
- A. Yes he did step back about 3 feet until he came to this position then there was no more movement after that time. That is when he had the gun ready to shoot.
- Q. Could you tell from where you were what portion of the body the gun was pointed at the time he was shot?



- A. It looked to me from side view like right in the middle of the stomach.
- Q. What side of the body, left or right?
- A. I could hardly see because I was sitting right here and the Jap was standing and facing that way and it looked like he pointed the gun right in the middle.
- Q. Directly in the middle of his stomach?
- A. That is the way it looked from where I sat.
- Q. Just to clarify a point, when the guard or the soldier raised his rifle you say the Jap moved?
- A. You mean when he raised the rifle to strike him?
- Q. Yes.
- A. Yes, he gave a slight body movement.
- Q. Could you describe that body movement more clearly?
- A. He was facing toward me this way and had to step toward me a little with the rifle up, and hit the Jap on the right-hand side of the neck, and he kind of came something like this, kind of a ducking motion and at the same time a step forward.
- Q. And bended his knees - did you bend your knees just then?
- A. If that is what I did maybe he did. I never noticed his knees.
- Q. Is that the moment that the guard stepped back and fired, when Mr. Okamoto made that motion?
- A. That is right.
- Q. Did any time elapse?
- A. No, it was quick.
- Q. You think then the time the guard came up with the butt of his gun Mr. Okamoto took one step forward with his left foot?
- A. Well, I didn't say left foot but probably that would be the logical foot to take; first he kind of humped and came toward me.
- Q. Again, I repeat, Mr. Campbell - I was trying to describe just exactly what you did for the record, and I noticed you did move forward with your left foot when you demonstrated for the jury. If that is not right let us correct it for the jury.
- A. That is the movement he made, but I didn't see his foot.
- Q. Did you see his body move forward - you are sure of that?
- A. He naturally would have taken a short step like I tried to explain to you there.
- Q. Are there any further questions by the jury?
- Q. How long was the conversation after you stopped - was the driver still on the truck, or did you hear two voices when you got there?
- A. I couldn't distinguish one from the other - I couldn't understand a single word.
- Q. How long would you estimate that went on before he stepped out of the truck?
- A. Probably 30 seconds.

Witness dismissed.

\*\*\*\*\*



GIRO SNOW - 8th Witness

For the purpose of the record it is herewith recorded that the witness was duly sworn.

Q. Will you state your name please?

A. Giro Snow.

Q. Were you present when the person by the name of Shochi Okamoto was shot?

A. Yes.

Q. Where were you?

A. About 15 feet away from the old post office building.

Q. Did you hear any of the discussion?

A. Well I heard just one phrase - he ordered this fellow out to the fence.

Q. To the fence or to the highway?

A. To the highway.

Q. Will you tell in your own words just what happened?

A. After the soldier ordered Okamoto out he seemed to hesitate going out there. He got back into the truck and then the soldier told him to get off again which he did, and then after he got off the truck again he started to go toward the highway again and he stopped, and then the soldier prodded him with the point of the gun which must have struck him because he pushed it aside, then the soldier stepped back and fired the shot. Then he ordered us off the place.

Q. Do you know whether the soldier who was on duty was the regular guard?

A. I think he was.

Q. Has the jury any questions they wish to ask?

(No questions)

Witness dismissed.

\*\*\*\*\*



MASAO TOKUYOSHI - 9th Witness

For the purpose of the record it is herewith recorded that the witness was duly sworn.

Q. Will you state your name please?

A. Masao Tokuyoshi

Q. Where do you live?

A. 3705-A

Q. Were you present at the time Mr. Okamoto was shot?

A. Yes, our truck was parked right back of two of the construction truck.

Q. Did you see him shot?

A. I saw him when he was shot.

Q. Will you tell the jury what you saw and heard?

A. I saw him when the soldier was pointing a gun at him then he fired a shot and Okamoto flopped right down, he flopped pretty bad and all the boys in the front were running for their lives. The soldier pointed his gun and ordered us to get out of there. Everybody started running so I started running too for protection.

Q. Did you see what happened immediately before the shot was fired?

A. I saw him at the truck when Okamoto was out of the truck, we were inside the pickup and chewing the rag together, waiting for the escort to go out to the pits.

Q. You heard no conversation?

A. No, we didn't hear any conversation. We didn't know what the score was.

Q. Is that all you know about this?

A. Yes.

Q. The soldier was on duty there, was he not?

A. I guess he was on duty there.

Q. The soldier was stopping all the cars that came in?

A. Yes, I think so, I didn't pay any attention to that. Our duty was to go out there and fix the tractors.

Q. That is all you know about this?

A. Yes.

Q. Has the jury any questions to ask?

(No questions)

Witness dismissed.

\*\*\*\*\*



FRANK TAKAHARU AMEMIYA - 10th Witness

For the purpose of the record it is herewith recorded that the witness was duly sworn.

Q. What is your name please?

A. Frank Takaharu Amemiya.

Q. Where do you live?

A. 403

Q. Did you know Mr. Okamoto?

A. No.

Q. Were you present when he was shot?

A. Yes.

Q. This is an coroner's jury investigating the cause of his death, and to place responsibility on the person causing his death, if any. Will you tell the jury where you were at the time this shooting happened?

A. I was on a truck on top of the cab, I was from the fence about 30 feet as the guard changed, I think the guard changed at two, and around maybe ten or fifteen minutes later this WRA truck came by to the gate and apparently he was trying to go to the other side to the lumber yard. That truck was lumber construction truck and as I say I could see there was two men in it and the sentry halted the car to show the driver's pass, and then they went by, and in about ten or 15 minutes later they came back again and the guard halted the driver and I don't know what started the argument but all of a sudden I saw the guard flare up and he was cussing to this Jap up and down and this guard he cocks his gun and came around to the driver's side and about 5 feet from the driver's side of the truck he commanded the driver to come down out of the truck, and the driver was sort of hesitating about what to do, and for about a minute I think he was in a daze, then he came down, as he came down the guard rushed him from behind and hit him with his fist and at the same time he tried to hit Mr. Okamoto with his rifle barrel. As he did so Mr. Okamoto turned around and tried to avoid the blow and as he did the guard took one step behind and shot him. After he shot the guard commanded us to get the hell out of there so we naturally got out of the car and sought shelter behind the old post office. That is as far as I can say now.

Q. You say the soldier loaded his gun?

A. After he came around to the driver's side he cocked his gun.

Q. How did he cock it?

A. Something like this - those bolt king, you know.

Q. Do you know anything about bolt action guns?

A. No, I don't know. As far as I could see he cocked the gun. You could hear the gun click.

Q. You say the guard cussed the driver of the truck?

A. He was cussing him in a language I couldn't express and then all of a sudden flared up and came around the driver's side and commanded him to get off. Mr. Okamoto was in a daze and I don't think he know what to do, then he came off the truck. After he did so this guard rushed him from behind and hit him with his first. At the same time he had his rifle in his left hand and took a swing with his rifle barrel. Mr. Okamoto raised his left hand and right hand to avoid the blow and as he did so this sentry took one step back one shot Mr. Okamoto.

Q. You say this soldier held the gun in one hand hit Mr. Okamoto?

A. When he rushed him he hit him with his right hand when Mr. Okamoto was trying to go to the gate. As he took one step this guard rushed him from behind and hit him with his right hand and at the same time he hit him with the rifle barrel. Then Mr. Okamoto tried to avoid the blow with his right hand and at the same time he shot.

Q. Mr. Okamoto was going away from the soldier when he hit him?



- A. Yes.
- Q. Did he have his back toward the soldier when the soldier shot?
- A. No, when he shot him naturally he tried to avoid the blow and he turned around like this. He was facing kind of sideways, or facing him, I don't know which was it any way.
- Q. Did you say the soldier actually hit Mr. Okamoto?
- A. Yes.
- Q. Where did he hit him?
- A. Someplace right back here, not in the head, in the back of neck someplace around there.
- Q. Did he hit him very hard?
- A. Yes he rushed him quite hard.
- Q. You say Mr. Okamoto was dazed from the blow?
- A. When the guard told him to come off the truck he didn't know what to do. After he came down the guard told him to go to the back of the truck—that is outside of the fence.
- Q. Did you hear anything that Mr. Okamoto said to the guard?
- A. No, as far as I could say the time he came off the truck and the time he got shot he didn't say a word.
- Q. Did he say anything before he got down from the truck?
- A. I didn't hear any conversation. The only thing I could hear was the loud talking of this guard. That was all I could hear.
- Q. Do you remember anything the soldier said when he was talking?
- A. First thing the truck stopped. I don't know what made him flare up. He said "You Japs think you are going to run the WRA. Don't think you are going to get fresh with me." Or something like that.
- Q. What did Mr. Okamoto say?
- A. I couldn't hear the conversation.
- Q. You just heard the soldier?
- A. I just heard the loud talk of soldier.
- Q. When he came around the truck did you hear him tell Mr. Okamoto to get off the truck?
- A. He told him to get off the truck.
- Q. Was that loud?
- A. Yes, it was very loud.
- Q. Did he talk louder when he told him to get off the truck than he did before?
- A. The expression of the voice was about the same when he cussed this Jap the time he came around the driver's side, the same voice, it is not a normal voice, but it is a very loud voice.
- Q. After he hit Mr. Okamoto with his fist he hit him with the barrel of the gun?
- A. I think he hit him then he swung at him and at the same time Mr. Okamoto tried to avoid the blow.
- Q. He had his back toward him?
- A. Yes, he took the blow of the barrel coming toward him and he tried to avoid it.
- Q. What part of the gun was he trying to hit him with, the barrel of the butt?
- A. The barrel.
- Q. Has the jury any further questions to ask?  
(No questions)
- Witness dismissed.

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TSUGIO SOGA - 10th Witness

For the purpose of the record it is herewith recorded that the witness was duly sworn.

Q. Will you state your name please?

A. Tsugio Soga.

Q. Where do you live?

A. Block 3901-c

Q. This is a coroner's inquest to determine the cause of the death of Mr. Okamoto, and to place the responsibility upon the responsible person, if any. Did you know Mr. Okamoto?

A. No, I didn't.

Q. Did you see him shot?

A. Yes.

Q. Where were you?

A. I was leaning on the fender of a truck - that was an oil truck.

Q. By the old entrance to the camp?

A. Yes.

Q. How far away were you from where he was shot?

A. Well I don't exactly know how far it was.

Q. Approximately?

A. Let's see - from that corner to that corner, about 25 or 30 feet.

Q. 25 or 30 feet?

A. Yes.

Q. Did you hear any conversation between the soldier and Mr. Okamoto?

A. No, I don't know.

Q. You didn't hear?

A. No.

Q. Will you tell the jury what you saw then?

A. I don't know exactly what time it was but we were waiting for the escort to get out of the gate. I was there about 1:30 with the rest of the heavy equipment crew. Well we had to wait for quite a while and I saw a truck coming toward the camp and stop at the gate, and before about 2:00 they change the guard out there at the gate, and it was around 2:15 when the truck comes toward the camp and he stopped at the gate and I heard the M.P. was cussing like anything. I didn't know the words exactly, all I heard was the word 'Jap' and I turned around and to see what is going on out there and the M.P. started walking toward the driver and told him to get off the truck, and the driver got off the truck, and the M.P. said 'get outside' and the driver he didn't want to go out he was about to go inside the truck again. At that time the M.P. shoves him out with rifle. He got out and the M.P. told him 'get outside, get.' And he strikes at the driver and the driver tried to protect himself by throwing his arm. He threw the arm and guard drew back and he fired. After he fired naturally the driver went down suffering, and he turned around sharp and he pointed the gun at us boys and so we scrambled out of there pretty fast, and that is about all I saw out there.

Q. You say the guard told him to go outside the gate, or go back toward to end of the truck?

A. Told him to go outside gate?

Q. He was inside the gate.

A. He was inside the gate. The guard told him to go outside. He was pointing the gun with the grip on the trigger ready. If he went out he got shot right there.

Q. Where was he standing in relation to the truck?



- A. You mean the driver - the driver got off. He got off the truck and the guard told him to go outside the gate.
- Q. What part of the truck was he standing by the motor, or by the front bumper, the cab, or the body of the truck?
- A. Beside the door.
- Q. And the guard told him to go back toward the end of the truck outside the gate?
- A. Yes, outside.
- Q. The back of the truck was outside the gate?
- A. I don't know how long the truck motor was inside the gate.
- Q. How did he shove him out?
- A. He used the rifle.
- Q. Pushed him out with the rifle - he held the rifle in both hand?
- A. The guard tried to force him out. The driver tried to defend himself.
- Q. I do not understand how the guard was holding the gun. Will you explain again?
- A. He was holding about like this and telling the driver to get out of here.
- Q. He was holding the gun pointed at the driver and the butt of the gun was near his hip?
- A. Not toward his hip. It was right here - pretty high on here.
- Q. I meant the soldier - how did he have the gun?
- A. Naturally he was holding by his hip.
- Q. The butt was by the hip and the front of the gun was pointed to the driver?
- A. Naturally.
- Q. When he tried to strike the driver of the truck what part of the gun was he trying to strike with?
- A. He was trying to strike with the barrel.
- Q. You think he hit him on the arm?
- A. He struck at the driver.
- Q. With the barrel of the gun?
- A. Yes.
- Q. And he tried to protect himself?
- A. He tried to defend himself by raising his arm.
- Q. His right arm?
- A. Yes, his right arm. At that time he tried to draw back about three feet and he fired right at him.
- Q. Did he hit him any other place except the arm?
- A. No, I don't think so.
- Q. Did he hit the driver with his fist?
- A. You mean the guard hit the driver - no, just with the barrel, of the gun.
- Q. Do you remember what position his arm was in when he was hit, that is when Okamoto was hit?
- A. He went quick, so fast, up in the air with his arm.
- Q. Was that when the guard stepped back and shot?
- A. As soon as he went like that the guard drew back quick and fired.
- Q. Did Okamoto go out of the gate before he was shot?
- A. No, he didn't went out of the gate.
- Q. Did he start back out of the gate?
- A. No.
- Q. He didn't move?
- A. He stepped out of the truck and stand there steady in the same position and was smoking a pipe, not saying a word, just standing. At that time the guard struck him and he threw his arm, and at that time the guard drew back and fired.



Q. Did this guard use any other force except the gun?

A. He didn't use anything but that gun.

Q. That guard was the guard on duty at the gate?

A. Yes.

Q. Has the jury any questions?

(NO QUESTIONS)

Witness dismissed.

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For the purpose of the record it is herewith recorded that the witness was duly sworn.

Q. Will you state your name?

A. Ben Watanabe.

Q. Where do you live?

A. 7902-D

Q. Did you see Mr. Okamoto get shot?

A. Yes.

Q. Will you tell the jury where you were and what you saw?

A. I was in back of the second truck from the gate. The first truck was the grease truck and I was standing on the back of the truck. The truck I was standing on had the canvas thrown half way in the back so I could stand on the seat and I saw everything that happened. I saw the truck leave the lumber yard and head toward the gate and it stopped before it reached the gate. Then it kind of started off again and I heard the guard at the gate yell 'Halt' and the truck stopped at the gate. Then I saw him come out and order the man on the left side of the truck, that's the driver's helper, off the truck. Then he went around in front of the truck toward the driver's side and he ordered Mr. Okamoto to get off the truck and Mr. Okamoto got off his truck. Then he told him to get outside the gate. Then I saw Mr. Okamoto get in his truck and then the guard ordered him off again and then the guard swung the butt of his rifle at Mr. Okamoto and Mr. Okamoto lifted his left arm to ward off the blow, to protect his face. Then I saw the guard push the muzzle of his gun in Mr. Okamoto's chest and Mr. Okamoto warded it off with his left hand. Then the guard stepped back and shot him. Then Mr. Okamoto fell face up with his head toward the outside of the gate. Then the guard ordered everybody away from the place, so we all ran behind the old post office. We stayed there for two or three seconds and heard Mr. Okamoto groaning. Then we headed toward the hospital and asked the hospital staff to send an ambulance to get Mr. Okamoto, then we stayed there until the ambulance brought him in. That is all.

Q. You say the guard ordered the driver's helper out. Did he get out?

A. Yes he got out and stayed on the ground.

Q. The driver got out too?

A. Yes.

Q. Did the guard hit him?

A. No.

Q. Did the guard threaten him?

A. I didn't see him threaten him. He just ordered him to get off the truck.

Q. There were only two men in the truck?

A. Yes.

Q. Both get out?

A. Yes.

Q. Who was the driver's helper?

A. I believe it is the first fellow that came in here.

Q. What would you say if he testified that he didn't get out of the truck?

A. I saw him get out of the truck. He might have gotten in later. My attention was toward Mr. Okamoto.

Q. And you saw the guard put the muzzle of his gun against Okamoto's chest?

A. Mr. Okamoto's chest, yes. It is more of a stab than a push.

Q. You don't mean the butt of the gun?

A. No, I mean the muzzle.



- Q. Did you see the guard load the gun?  
A. Yes.  
Q. Where did he load the gun?  
A. It was a new shift then and when he got off the truck he filled his magazine when the truck stopped the second time I heard him pull back the bolt.  
Q. From what distance?  
A. About 100 feet, I guess, I don't know exactly because it's got to be measured.  
Q. What would you measure it?  
A. I believe around about 100 feet, I guess. Maybe less.  
Q. Then it could have been 30 feet?  
A. I couldn't be sure.  
Q. Would you know the difference between 100 feet and 30 feet?  
A. I think I would.  
Q. Did you ever see the guard hit Okamoto with his fist?  
A. No.  
Q. If he had would you have seen it?  
A. Yes, I think I would, because I was over 10 feet up in the air.  
Q. Has the jury any questions?  
Q. (By jurer) Was Mr. Okamoto facing the sentry when he shot him?  
A. I think he was.  
Q. Full face?  
A. No, but full face, it would be about quarter.  
Q. But he wasn't sideways?  
A. No he wasn't sideways.  
Q. What side of Okamoto was facing the guard?  
A. The right side at an angle faced the guard.

Witness dismissed.

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For the purpose of the record it is herewith recorded that the witness was duly sworn.

- Q. Will you please state your name?  
A. Joe J. Nishishaki  
Q. Where do you live?  
A. 5206-A  
Q. Did you see Mr. Okamoto shot?  
A. Yes.  
Q. Where were you at the time?  
A. I was on the second truck reading a magazine. There was a great truck and I was on the second truck.  
Q. You were two trucks away?  
A. One grease truck in the front of me, and I was on the second truck reading a magazine.  
Q. That is by the old entrance to the Center?  
A. Right at the entrance.  
Q. Will you tell the jury what you saw and what you heard?  
A. We were out there waiting for an escort to go out to the Cinder Pit and I was just reading a magazine and I noticed a car come into the gate and I noticed the guard. He went from the right to the left side and I heard him order him to get off the truck, and the driver got off and then he was standing there for a while and then the sentry struck him with the gun butt and then the driver put up his arm just naturally as if he was going to protect himself. He raises his left arm up to protect himself then the sentry twisted the gun around and shot him instantly right there and the driver dropped. Then the sentry ordered us to get out of the truck and I just threw my magazine and ran behind the old post office as fast as I could. That is all I know. Only thing I heard was "Get off the truck," and he motioned him to get outside the fence or somewhere, I was too far away to hear.  
Q. You didn't hear any of the conversation?  
A. Nothing except "Get off the truck."  
Q. He was saying that loud enough for you to hear him?  
A. Yes.  
Q. How far away were you?  
A. Approximately 60 to 100 feet.  
Q. You were the length of the two trucks away?  
A. Yes.  
Q. Did anything attract your attention to the truck when it came in?  
A. No, it came and I just looked up.  
Q. What attracted your attention to which whether the guard was going to shoot this man or not?  
A. When he had him get off the truck I naturally thought something would happen. I just kept on looking.  
Q. That was the first thing you heard?  
A. I kept on looking because naturally the sentry did say go ahead, but he came around by the driver's seat.  
Q. That was the first thing you hear - the only thing you heard?  
A. Yes, the only thing.  
Q. But you saw him motion the driver back?  
A. Yes, after he yelled 'get off' I noticed him motion.  
Q. You say the guard hit him with the butt of the gun?  
A. Yes.  
Q. Where?  
A. Behind here some place.  
Q. In the back of the neck?  
A. Yes.



- Q. How was Mr. Okamoto facing when he was hit?  
A. He was just standing.  
Q. Facing the guard?  
A. Yes, he was facing the guard.  
Q. And he brought his gun up and hit him?  
A. The sentry hit him, I noticed that.  
Q. How did he hit him in the back of the neck?  
A. Just twisted the gun around and hit him.  
Q. Did Mr. Okamoto move or make any motion?  
A. No, he just lifted his left arm to protect himself.  
Q. That was just before the guard shot that he lifted his left arm?  
A. When the guard struck him he lifted his arm.  
Q. How long after that was he shot?  
A. Instantly - the guard just twisted the gun around and shot him.  
Q. Which way was Okamoto facing when he was shot, in relation to the guard?  
A. He was facing toward the front direction.  
Q. What part of the body was the gun pointed to when he was shot?  
A. I don't know Mr. Okamoto warded off the blow and took one step backward, kind of sideways like this.  
Q. Where do you think the bullet went in. Could you point to that on your own body? Where do you think the bullet entered the body?  
A. I don't know. I heard the shot and I just scrambled.  
Q. Are there any questions, the jury wishes to ask?

No questions

Witness dismissed.

\*\*\*\*\*



GEORGE YASUSHI YAMASHITA - 13th Witness

For the purpose of the record it is herewith recorded that the witness was duly sworn.

Q. What is your name please?

A. George Yasushi Yamashita.

Q. Where do you live?

A. 614-B

Q. Were you present when Mr. Okamoto was shot?

A. Yes.

Q. Where were you?

A. Sitting back on a pickup.

Q. Where was it?

A. Parked between the old post office and the gate.

Q. How far away the pickup from the place where Mr. Okamoto was shot?

A. About 75 feet.

Q. Will you tell this jury in your own words what you heard and observed?

A. The first thing I heard was the soldier told Mr. Okamoto to get off the truck, but Mr. Okamoto didn't want to get off the truck so the soldier pulled the hammer on his gun and then he went around to Okamoto's side and then he told him to get off the truck which Mr. Okamoto didn't want to, but he did, then the soldier told Mr. Okamoto to start walking toward the highway, which Mr. Okamoto didn't do. The soldier pushed him with the butt of his gun and Mr. Okamoto guarded himself with his left arm and the soldier stepped back and just shot him. Then Mr. Okamoto fell and started pounding his chest. After that the soldier told us to get off from the scene so we started running.

Q. You hear no other conversation between the soldier and the driver?

A. The time I was watching Mr. Okamoto never spoke any word.

Q. He said nothing?

A. No.

Q. Did you hear anything the soldier said?

A. The only thing I remember clearly was that he told him to get off the truck.

Q. But you heard him order the driver off the truck, distinctly?

A. Yes.

Q. You could hear 75 feet away?

A. Yes.

Q. Did the soldier strike the driver?

A. I am not sure that I could say.

Q. Has the jury any further questions?

Q. (By jurer) Are you a driver of any of these trucks?

A. No.

Q. Are you given any instructions concerning what to do in case these sentries give you an order?

A. To obey him.

Q. Did the driver's helper get out of the truck?

A. After the driver was shot, not before.

Q. What made you think that the driver didn't want to get out of the truck?

A. Well, the soldier repeated it more than once, then he went around to the driver's side.

Q. Any further questions.

No questions.

Witness dismissed.

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KANPO OGAWA - 14th Witness

For the purpose of the record it is herewith recorded that the witness was duly sworn.

- Q. Will you tell us your name?  
A. Kanpo Ogawa.  
Q. Where do you live?  
A. 619-A  
Q. Were you present when Mr. Okamoto was shot?  
A. Yes.  
Q. Where were you?  
A. On the truck cab lying down.  
Q. Was there more than one truck?  
A. Two cargoes and one pickup. I was on the first truck.  
Q. You were on the back end of the truck?  
A. I was on the cab, I had my feet and legs on the canvas rack.  
Q. On the back?  
A. Yes.  
Q. Will you tell the jury what you saw and heard, what you heard in reference to the shooting?  
A. The first I noticed this truck coming in and I heard this soldier, he was cussing at the driver and late I heard the driver was ordered to get off of the truck, and he ordered him several times, and then finally I heard a shot and naturally I got up and I saw him moaning. Then he ordered us to get out. I didn't know that but the rest of them started running and I started running too.  
Q. Did you hear anything Mr. Okamoto said?  
A. No, not a thing.  
Q. You heard nothing Mr. Okamoto said?  
A. No, nothing.  
Q. Has the jury any further questions to ask?  
A. (No questions)

Witness dismissed.

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For the purpose of the record it is herewith recorded that the witness was duly sworn.

Q. What is your name?

A. Kazuto Matsumoto.

Q. Where do you live?

A. 601-C

Q. Did you see Mr. Okamoto shot?

A. Yes, I did.

Q. Where were you?

A. I was in third truck, approximately 75 or 100 feet.

Q. Was that the pickup?

A. Yes, that's the pickup.

Q. Will you tell the jury what you heard, and observed?

A. Well, I was sitting in the pickup and just then I saw a truck come slowly up to the gate and stop and I didn't hear the soldier talk but I saw him the right side of the truck, then he came around to the driver's side and ordered Mr. Okamoto to get out of the truck. He was cussing him to get out. He got out and was standing by the truck. Then this soldier ordered Mr. Okamoto to go across the gate. He shouted at him several times. Okamoto made intention to go but he didn't go, he turned toward the car and stood on the right side of the truck. Then the soldier came up to him and struck him with the butt end of the gun and then he took a step back and immediately shot this fellow. Then he shouted all of us to get out of here and we all ran back of the old post office and phoned for the ambulance and called to the Ad. building and the hospital and told the people.

Q. What was the first thing you saw when the trouble started.

A. First thing the truck came up to the gate and stopped.

Q. What attracted your attention to this truck?

A. We were all facing toward the road. We were not directly in back.

Q. Where were you sitting?

A. In the front seat in the center.

Q. What else did you hear besides the soldier cussing the driver?

A. I didn't hear the conversation in the truck with the boys but I did hear just the soldier shouting.

Q. What was he shouting?

A. "Get off the truck," at first, that's what I heard.

Q. When did you hear the soldier cuss the driver?

A. When he told him to go across the gate.

Q. That was after he got out of the truck?

A. That is right.

Q. Where did he hit him with the butt of the gun?

A. I think it was right on the arm, or on the chest.

Q. Could you see if he hit him very hard?

A. I don't know if he did hit him hard or not, anyway he threw a swing, lifted his gun up and came down with the butt. When he hit him with the gun he raised up his hand to protect himself.

Q. He had his right arm straight forward?

A. Out from his body - up more.

Q. Over the shoulder?

A. No, I don't think it was above his shoulder, about even with his shoulder.

Q. Did he touch the gun?

A. That I don't know. I could not see.

Q. You didn't know whether he held the gun away?

A. No, I don't know. All I know is when he struck he put up his hand.

Q. Has the jury any questions, they wish to ask?

No questions.

Witness dismissed.



MASAKI MAKAMOTO - 16th Witness

For the purpose of the record it is herewith recorded that the witness was duly sworn.

- Q. What is your name please?  
A. Masaki Makamoto.  
Q. Where do you live?  
A. 4007-B.  
Q. Were you present when Mr. Okamoto was shot?  
A. Yes.  
Q. Where were you?  
A. I was quite a ways back. I was on the second truck on the side on the side of the truck.  
Q. Will you tell the jury in your own words what you saw and heard?  
A. I was quite a ways back so I couldn't see everything that actually happened, but what I saw might be wrong too, you know.  
Q. Just tell us what you saw and what you heard?  
A. I was quite a ways back. I couldn't hear much what he say. Anyway he told him to get off the truck, and I didn't know what was all the commotion. He got off and then it looked like he was told to walk out of the gate or something. Then he came back and the next thing I see a rifle against him, and him defending himself and next thing I know was a shot.  
Q. When you say he was defending himself - what did he do to defend himself?  
A. All I know he had his arm like that and it looked like the gun was against him.  
Q. His left arm was in the air?  
A. Yes.  
Q. Where was the gun?  
A. I couldn't say exactly.  
Q. You didn't see the soldier hit the driver?  
A. Anyway the gun was up against him otherwise he wouldn't have his arm there I couldn't see which side the gun was against him.  
Q. What did the soldier do?  
A. It looks like he drew back and shot him.  
Q. Did you see the soldier make any motion to move toward the back end of the truck?  
A. I don't know - I didn't see that.  
Q. That is all you know?  
A. Next thing after he got shot he was hitting his chest like this. I couldn't describe how he fell.  
Q. Then you left?  
A. Then everybody in the front started running so I started running with them.  
Q. Did you hear the soldier tell him to get out of the truck?  
A. I could hear that when he hollered.  
Q. You heard him holler to get out of the truck?  
A. Yes.  
Q. Did he holler more than once?  
A. I don't know.  
Q. How many times did you hear him?  
A. All I heard was once I guess.  
Q. You heard that once.  
A. Yes.



- Q. In a loud tone of voice?  
A. Yes.  
Q. Is there anything else that you know that I have forgotten to ask you about?  
A. No that I know about, I just followed the bunch to the hospital.  
Q. Did you see the soldier hit the driver with anything but the butt of the gun?  
A. That is all I could see.  
Q. That is the only thing you saw?  
A. That is all. I was quite a ways back, and after all I was fooling around back there and I didn't pay too much attention.  
Q. You didn't see the soldier hit him with anything but the gun?  
A. That is all.  
Q. Has the jury any questions to ask?

No questions  
Witness dismissed.

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SADAO YAMANE - 17th Witness

For the purpose of the record it is herewith recorded that the witness was duly sworn.

Q. What is your name please?

A. Sadao Yamane.

Q. Where do you live?

A. 4809-B

Q. Were you present when Mr. Okamoto was shot?

A. No, I was not there.

Q. Do you know anything about it?

A. I tell my assistant to come back and report, than I know, but not before

Q. You know Mr. Okamoto?

A. Yes, I know.

Q. He drives a truck?

A. Yes, he drives for me.

Q. And you are the foreman - did you send him out after lumber?

A. Yes.

Q. Is it necessary to go out that gate?

A. Yes.

Q. He was out under orders from you at that time?

A. Yes.

Q. You told him to go get the lumber and come back?

A. Yes, I told him.

Q. Has the jury any questions to ask?

No questions.

Witness dismissed.

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