

William Howard Taft, the civilian governor of the islands, referred to the insurrectionists as "traitors," a curious choice of terms for people who did not subscribe to the United States Constitution. The unorthodox character of such wars (as we were to learn again in Vietnam sixty years later) provoked horrible atrocities on both sides. In this selection, former Sergeant Leroy E. Hallock described the "water cure" torture used to gain information, and the burning of native villages.

Washington, D. C., Saturday, May 3, 1902.

... Q. Where was your regiment stationed during the period you were in the Philippine Islands?—A. The first three months I was stationed at Iloilo. After that the headquarters of the company was Leon, Panay.

Q. Did you see any cases of water cure or torture applied to the natives?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Where?—A. At Leon.

Q. State the circumstances, please.—A. There were about ten or a dozen natives captured that were thought to be implicated in the murder of one of the members of our company.

Q. O'Hearn?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. It was stated in one of the reports that he was roasted over a slow fire and then hacked to death with bolos.—A. That is the confession of the natives; yes.

Q. And these men were captured who were believed to have had something to do with that?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Now you may go on and state the circumstances.—A. What led to the capture of these natives, it was reported that Captain Glenn or some soldiers under his orders gave the water cure to a native and he confessed and told who the others were that took part in the killing of O'Hearn, and these members of our company captured these natives and gave them the water cure, and they confessed it.

By Senator BURROWS:

Q. Confessed to what?—A. To having a part in the killing of O'Hearn.

Q. Having had a part in it?—A. Yes, sir.

By the CHAIRMAN [Senator Lodge]:

Q. Who inflicted this punishment upon the natives?—A. The members of Company I.

Q. Were they ordered to do so?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Who ordered them to do so?—A. The first sergeant.

Q. Who was the first sergeant?—A. Januarius Manning.

Q. Do you know him?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Is he now a resident of Boston?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. You may state any details you wish in regard to the treatment of these natives.

Senator ALLISON. You saw this?

The WITNESS. Yes, sir.

By the CHAIRMAN:

Q. You saw the water cure inflicted?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Did you take part in it?—A. No, sir.

By Senator RAWLINS:

Q. Who was in command of this company at that time?—A. Alexander Gregg.

Q. How many troops were at Leon at the time this occurred?—A. About half of the company, I should say.

Q. Was Captain Gregg there at the time?—A. Yes, sir; he was there at the quarters.

Q. How far from the quarters was this torture inflicted?—A. Less than a hundred yards.

Q. Did all the command know about it at the time?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Captain Gregg knew about it?—A. I don't know how he could help knowing it.

Q. You say that a member of your company had been reported killed?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. That information, I understand you to say, was derived from Captain Glenn?—A. I think a detail of our company was out looking for O'Hearn and they made a detail under Captain Glenn, and they got some native and gave him the water cure and he confessed and gave the others away and told who took part in it.

Q. That was, as you understand it, the result of the application of this torture; as a result of that torture some native, to relieve himself, stated he had taken part in the killing of this soldier?—A. Yes, sir.

Senator ALLISON. I object to Senator Rawlins putting words in the mouth of the witness—"to relieve himself." He said nothing of the kind.

By Senator RAWLINS:

Q. I am asking if that was not what was reported to you; that, as a result of this torture, this native stated he had participated in this killing?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. And named about a dozen other natives?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. And these twelve who were also reported by Captain Glenn to have been named by this native after the water cure had been given to him, where did they live?—A. In the vicinity of 5 or 6 miles from our quarters.

Q. Five or six miles from the army?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. And upon that information they were arrested?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. And brought to Leon?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. And they were taken out and the water torture applied to each of them?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. You may state whether it was given to them more than once.—A. It was given to them on two different days; it was given to them on August 21, 1900, and on August 23, 1900, to the best of my recollection.

Q. And what was the purpose of subjecting them to the torture?—A. To see if they had participated in the murder of O'Hearn.

Q. The first day they did not get all the information they desired—was that it?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. And so the torture was repeated the following day?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. And on the following day, as I understand you, these persons who were subjected to this torture confessed that they participated in the killing of the soldier?—A. On the 21st and 23d of August.

The CHAIRMAN. Was this 1900?

The WITNESS. Yes, sir.

By Senator RAWLINS:

Q. What was the effect upon these natives of giving this water cure?—A. They would swell up—their stomach would swell up pretty large—and I have seen blood come from their mouth after they had been given a good deal of it.

Q. And on the second day, do you know what information they gave; how was it obtained?—A. No, sir; only that they confessed to having had a part in it. . . .

Q. What was done with these 12 men after they had been subjected to the water cure?—A. They were confined there in the guardhouse. Some of them escaped and some of them were killed while trying to escape.

Q. How many of them were shot to your knowledge?—A. I should say five or six.

Q. You know of five or six of them having been shot?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. How soon after the infliction of the water torture?—A. I could not state the exact time. It was before we left there.

Senator BEVERIDGE. Shot while trying to escape?

The WITNESS. Yes, sir. . . .

Q. While you were there were there any villages burned?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. How many?—A. I was only present at the time one was burned; but I have known of as many as half a dozen being burned.

Q. How large were these villages?—A. The one that I witnessed being burned I should say was three or four thousand people; that that many people lived there. . . .

Q. Do you know of these towns being burned simply by hearsay?—A. I witnessed one of them.

Q. But the others; do you know of their being burned simply by hearsay?—A.

I know of their being burned by the members of the company talking about them.

Q. Can you name the member of the company who told you about that now?—A. I could not name anyone that told me, but I can name several that were present.

Q. Can you name anyone who told you?—A. No, sir.

Senator BEVERIDGE. I object to any testimony on this subject that is hearsay.

By Senator RAWLINS:

Q. I will ask the witness this. You observed the flames in the distance, did you?—A. The smoke; not the flames.

Senator BEVERIDGE. Is this direct examination?

Senator RAWLINS. This is cross-examination.

Q. And you saw the smoke of the villages that you did not see being burned?—A. I saw smoke from this town of Tubungan when that was burned.

Q. Have you been over the ground where these towns were, that you learned were burned? Have you been over that ground since they were burned?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. And what have you observed there at those towns; were they left or were they burned?—A. They appeared to be deserted; everything was burned, houses and shacks, with the exception, perhaps, of a few on the outside of the town, on the roads or trails that would not be burned, that were close to the town. . . .

Q. What became of these people who inhabited these towns that were burned?—A. I think they went into other towns. They didn't build up the towns at all.

Q. They did not attempt to rebuild the towns?—A. Not to my knowledge.

Q. Do you know whether or not they were permitted to rebuild these towns that were destroyed?—A. I could not say.

Q. Do you know of any attempt on the part of the natives to rebuild any town that was destroyed?—A. No, sir.

Q. Did you know of any natives around Leon who were begging for food?—A. Yes, sir. They have a market day there in those towns once a week, and on that day a good many beggars would be around.

Q. You may state to what extent the burning went in the case of these towns that were burned—whether it extended to food and household articles and things of that description.—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Did it so extend?—A. The one that I witnessed being burned, they did not have time to get anything out to speak of; they might have had time to get what valuables they had out, but they did not have time to move their furniture or food.

By Senator ALLISON:

Q. You only witnessed the burning of one town?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. And that was done rapidly?—A. Yes, sir.