

Ex 1507.1

Evidentiary Document No. 5373.

Auckland,  
NEW ZEALAND.

12th June 1946.

[Joseph Wilfred CRAVEN solemnly and sincerely declares as follows:]

I am medical Superintendent of the Auckland Public Hospital, Auckland, New Zealand. I reside at the Medical Superintendent's residence at the Hospital, Auckland.

I was on the reserve of officers Territorial Army Royal Army Medical Corps on the outbreak of World War II. I was posted by the War Office to the Alexandra Military Hospital, Singapore, and appointed Officer Commanding. My rank then was Lieutenant Colonel and I was holding that position when Singapore fell to the Japanese, on the 15th February 1942.

About 4 p.m. on the 14th February 1942 the Japanese overran the Hospital which was clearly marked with Red Cross markings. A number of patients and staff were killed and wounded by explosives and bayonets. About 200 more patients and staff were removed under escort by the Japanese. They were kept in three very small rooms without food or water or any attention till midday on the 15th February 1942, when they were taken out in small groups and bayoneted to death.

During May 1942, at the request of the British Malaya Command, I compiled a full and detailed report of the incidents surrounding the overrunning of the Alexandra Military Hospital by the Japanese. I handed this report to Brigadier Stringer, D.S.O., O.B.E., Deputy Director Medical Services Malaya Command. I retained a copy of this report and on my release as a prisoner of war about the 14th September 1945, I handed my copy of this report to an officer attached to the War Crimes Investigation Commission, at Changi Gaol, Singapore.

On the 12th June 1946 I was shown by Detective Jones an extract of my report referred to above. This extract reads as follows:-

"Tues. 17 Feb. 1942.

The Japanese G.O.C. called at the hospital at 3 p.m. Nipponese time. Through an interpreter he expressed regret for the hard time the hospital had had, and assured me that the Japanese were hard fighters but kindly captors and that we had nothing to fear. The Japanese proverb about nursing the wounded bird to the hunter's breast was quoted to us as an assurance. This is what I gathered. Before leaving he visited parts of the hospital and finally I was told that I was to regard his visit as being that of a direct representative of the Japanese Emperor, and that no higher honour could be paid us."

I identify this extract as being a true extract from the report which I made in May 1942.

No. 1507

Evidentiary Document No. 5373.

2.

I have been shown a photograph by Detective Jones and I identify it as being Lieut. General Ronyu MUTAGUCHI, who was the Japanese General Officer Commanding referred to in the extract above.

And I make this solemn declaration conscientiously believing the same to be true and by virtue of the Justices of the Peace Act 1927.

Declared at Auckland this 12th day )  
of June 1946, before me )

(Signed) J.W. CRAVIN.

(Signed) GLADYS FOWLER, J.P.  
Justice of the peace in  
and for the Dominion of  
New Zealand.

Statement taken and witnessed by:-

(Signed) D.L. JONES.  
Detective 3272