

Cx1833

Evidentiary Document No. 5379.

INTERNATIONAL MILITARY TRIBUNAL OF THE FAR EAST

NO. 1.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND OTHERS

- against -

ARAKI, Sadao and OTHERS

I, Charles Henry BICKS, of "Standford", Amy Street, Hawthorne, at present attached to Northern Command Discharge Depot, Hedbank, QX 47482, make oath and say as follows:-

1. I am at present a Major in the Australian Military Forces.
2. In August, 1942, I was a Captain attached to the 61st. Australian Infantry Battalion, and I was OC of "B" Coy.
3. I was at Milne Bay on Tuesday, 25th August, 1942, when the Japanese landed in that area, and I took part in the fighting which occurred in that area between the Japanese and Australian Forces from the 25th August, 1942 until the 31st. August, 1942.
4. On the morning of the 30th August, 1942, I took a patrol consisting of myself and four others into Japanese occupied territory. At a place called MOTEU, where our forces had engaged the Japanese on the night of the 26th, I saw a native lying on his face in the middle of the road. His hands were tied behind him with signal wire (Don-3 Cable). He had been shot three or four times through the body, and he had also been bayoneted through the stomach about three times. I did not know/who this native was, but he appeared to me to have been a native of that district. From my observations, I would say definitely that he had been bayoneted and shot after having been tied up.
5. Further on in the jungle, near the same village, I found the body of a native woman. She had been tied down with signal wire by the wrists and legs to stakes. She was lying on her back and was naked. She had been killed by a knife or a bayonet slash from the stomach upwards.
6. Further on near KOEBELE, where fighting had taken place on the night of the 27th, between the 2/10th and the Japanese, I found the bodies of six Australians lying near the track. Their hands had been tied behind their backs with signal wire, and they had been bayoneted through the stomach. Two of them had had their arms smashed with rifle bullets fired at close range. These men were lying with their knees up. I looked for the Identity Discs, but these had all been removed.
7. On the beach near the KOEBELE JETTY I saw the bodies of two

Artillery officers. They were naked, and had apparently been killed by machine gun fire, and the flesh seemed to be burnt. As these bodies were lying near the corner of a hut which had been burnt, I consider that the hut had caught fire and they had been burnt in this fire.

SWORN BEFORE ME AT)
BRISBANE ON THE 23rd.)
DAY OF AUGUST, 1946.) /s/ C. H. Bicks, Major.

/s/ A. J. Mansfield
Judge of Supreme Court of Queensland.