

Evidentiary Document No. 5387.

Ex 1845

WAR CRIMES

INVESTIGATION INTO THE DEATH OF:

SUBEDAR ISHAR SINGH, SUBEDAR GANDA SINGH, JEMADARS RAM SINGH,  
and BAHADUR SINGH all of 2/12 Frontier Force.

DECLARATION OF SGT. HAMIR SINGH.

I, Sgt. HAMIR SINGH of 2/12 Frontier Force do solemnly and sincerely declare that:

1. I am Sgt. HAMIR SINGH of 2/12 Frontier Force.
2. While in New Guinea as an Indian PW I was a member of 19 Indian Working Party.
3. At the beginning of February, 1945, I and the other members of 19 Indian Working Party left YAWA for YAKANO. Subedar ISHAR SINGH, SUBEDAR GANDA SINGH, JEMADAR RAM SINGH and JEMADAR BAHADUR SINGH were too weak to carry their loads and were left in YAWA. I have been told by Pte RAM SINGH and Pte SAPURAN SINGH (both now deceased) that Lt. MITSUBA ordered them to march to YAPANO and that they refused stating that they were too sick to walk.
4. Lt. MITSUBA, Nursing Orderly MAIDA, Cpl HATA and a Japanese whose name I do not know went into the hut in which the Indian Officers had been left. At that time I was outside a hut approximately 150 yards distant. Inside this, this hut, were Sgt/Maj DHAMESHO RAM and Pte PURAN SINGH (both now deceased) who were sick and who were not going on the march. I heard five shots four of them being fired in quick succession and the last one a couple of minutes later. About twenty minutes after the shooting Lt. MITSUBA and the other three Japanese emerged from the hut and joined my party about 200 yards away. I then also joined my party.
5. About half an hour after the shooting I went back to the hut in which were Sgt/Maj DHAMESHO RAM and Pte PURAN SINGH. The former told me that he had been across to the Officers' hut and that he had seen the bodies of the four officers lying on the floor under some blankets. They were dead.
6. I was present at a parade of Japanese soldiers on 9 Nov. 45 at WEWAK. The Japanese whom I there pointed out to Lt. LIPSCOMBE of ATIS att 6 Div as Lt. MITSUBA, Cpl HATA and Nursing Orderly MAIDA are the persons mentioned in paras 3 and 4 hereof by those names, and are the individuals whose photographs are exhibited hereto and numbered 70, 87 and 101 respectively.

7. I further pointed out to the said Lt. LIPSCOMBE a Japanese soldier whom I now know as Cpl HIROOKA who is the unnamed Japanese referred to in para 4 hereof and who is the individual whose photograph is exhibited hereto and numbered 89.

AND I make this solemn declaration by virtue of the Statutory Declarations Act 1911-1922 conscientiously believing the statements contained therein to be true in every particular.

DECLARED in the field this)  
11th day of Nov. 1945: )

HAMIR SINGH

(Sgd) JOHN COWAN LOWRY Major  
Officer of AIF

CERTIFIED TRUE COPY

(Signed) T. MORRANE Lt-Col