

Ex. 1670

Evidentiary Document No. 5423.

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JOINT STATEMENT MADE BY CHENKAY, CHIN KIN  
and LO TONG WHO RESIDE NEAR THE 15 $\frac{1}{2}$  MILE POST,  
SANDAKAN.

EXECUTION OF ALLIED SERVICEMEN

We all live in the region of 15 $\frac{1}{2}$  mile post, SANDAKAN. About the end of May or it may have been early in June, 1945, a large number of Australian and other Allied Servicemen were being marched along the LABUK ROAD from the PW camp SANDAKAN. The soldiers arrived at about the 15 $\frac{1}{2}$  mile post at approximately 11 o'clock in the morning. They stopped there and cooked a meal. At about 2 o'clock in the afternoon, while some of the soldiers were still eating others still cooking, four airplanes came over. They were allied planes. As the airplanes swooped over the men scattered off the road in different directions thinking that the airplanes might strafe them. The airplanes passed over without shooting and the men then continued to cook and eat their meals - others were resting. As many were very sick all the party continued to rest until about 5.30 pm. when the Japanese Guards ordered the men to march. All the men got up with the exception of seven (7) who were too ill to walk and had been using sticks. Two Japanese guards and one Malay soldier remained behind with the seven allied servicemen. The guards then started to urge the seven men along, kicking them and hitting them with the sticks which the allied servicemen had carried. Although the men were very weak the Japanese guards managed to urge the soldiers about 30 yards along the road. The two Japanese guards then took the rifle from the Malay soldier and urging the men off the road then commenced to shoot the allied servicemen in the back. The men were then in the rear of CHIN KIN's house. Four of the men were killed instantly and two were wounded. One man escaped for the time being and hid himself a little further along the road. After the shooting, which took place about 6 pm the two Japanese guards and the Malay soldier continued their march without examining the soldiers, possibly believing them all to have been killed. The soldier who managed to hide himself and who we believe was an Australian was found by a KEMPETI soldier the next day at about 2 pm. This KEMPETI soldier went into his house next door and brought his rifle and then shot the two men who were still alive through the head. The shooting of the two men took place as the three of us were digging a grave for the four men who had been shot the previous evening and we all saw the shooting take place.

The KEMPETI soldier then left the spot where we buried the six soldiers and started looking around. We then heard a shot fired. We were too afraid to go and look in the direction from where the shot came and continued to dig in the garden.

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After we had completed the burial of the six soldiers we then went to look for the other soldier in the direction where the last shot had been heard. We found the soldier who had been shot through the stomach and was lying dead. We then buried him immediately.

We solemnly declare that the statement we have made is the truth. This statement is made on the twenty-fourth of October 1944 before Squadron Leader F.G. BIRCHALL (252031) RAAF.

Witness (Signed) F.G. BIRCHALL.  
Squadron Leader.

Certified true copy.

(Signed) T. MORNANE.  
Lt.Col.