

Ex 1562

Evidentiary Document # 5041.

INTERNATIONAL MILITARY TRIBUNAL FOR THE FAR EAST

NO. 1.

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, AND ORS

- AGAINST -

ARAKI, SADAO, AND ORS.

I, CHARLES ROWLAND BROMLEY RICHARDS of Sydney in the state of New South Wales, Medical Practitioner, make oath and say as follows:

1. I was NX70273 Captain Charles Rowland Bromley Richards, A.A.M.C., attached to 2/15 Australian Field Regiment when I became a Prisoner of War of the Japanese at Singapore, on 15 February 1942.
2. Between the 30th July and 30th August 1943 I was at 80 Kilo Camp (APERONG) with a party of about 900 Australians belonging to No. 3 Branch.
3. When we arrived there, there were approximately 200 Australians, Americans, and Dutchmen belonging to No. 5 Branch suffering very badly from Dysentery, Beri Beri, Malaria, and Tropical Ulcers.
4. They were in a hospital camp about 300 yards from where we were. The accommodation at this camp consisted of Attap huts, which were in a filthy condition. The huts were not sufficient to keep out the rain, and the men were continually drenched. There were no fit men in this hospital camp to look after the sick.
5. The average deaths were from two to six per day, and sick men had to carry their dead comrades to the graves.
6. The Japanese refused to allow us to look after these sick men, but we managed to go down secretly and examine them. They were in charge of an American Medical Officer who was not able to get a proper grip of the circumstances.
7. The food given to these men consisted of rice in very small quantities.
8. The only medical supplies were secured by barter with the Japanese, such as a watch for a bottle of Iodoform. I believe that the Japanese themselves had medical supplies which could have been made available for the prisoners.
9. On one occasion it was necessary for an amputation to be performed on one of these patients. Major Krants and I managed to have the man transferred to our camp without the knowledge of the Japanese, but

during the operation they found out and came and watched. We anaesthized the patient with a small amount of anaesthetic, which we had, and used a hacksaw for the operation.

10. The policy of the Japanese Commander in that area was that whilst men were working they would receive food, but as soon as they became ill they were "written off" and were sent down to this particular hospital to live there to die.

11. I can imagine nothing more appalling than conditions under which these men lived and died. It was in effect a living morgue.

SWORN before me at Sydney on the)
Fifth day of September 1946.)

(Signed) C.R.B. RICHARDS.

(Signed) A.J. MANSFIELD.
Judge of Supreme Court of Queensland.