

13. Lieut Cheena then approached the place of execution and was the recipient of the salutes and bows of the assembled company. The firing party was then marched out, two riflemen to each of the condemned men, taking their positions five yards away. At this juncture I made a final appeal to Lieut Cheena to be allowed to find out their religious denominations, to be only again told, "After dead you can see them."

14. The order "to load" was then given and then "the present." At this moment each man called "Cheerio" to each other. The order to fire was then given, four bullets being fired into each man. In my opinion death was instantaneous.

15. Lieut Cheena ordered "present arms", after which with a sneering smile on his face and an indifferent wave of the hand said, "Now you can see", indicating that I could inspect the deceased personnel.

16. The burial party was then ordered in and the eight bodies being deposited in the graves, four of them buried by Padre Smith and four by myself. The execution took place at 1800 hrs.

17. Brigadier Varley and his staff did all in their power to obtain a reprieve for these men without avail, as did Padre Smith and myself.

18. The attitude of Lieut Cheena throughout the proceedings was one of utter callousness.

SWORN by the abovenamed deponent, )  
Chaplain Frederick Hugh Bashford, )  
at Sydney, this *Fitch* day of )  
April, One thousand nine hundred )  
and forty-six )

*F. H. Bashford*

BEFORE ME

*B. T. C. King*  
Brian Thomas Claude King, Captain,  
An Officer of the Australian  
Military Forces.