

Def. Doc. #2779

Exh. No. 3450

Translated by
Defense Language Branch

INTERNATIONAL MILITARY TRIBUNAL FOR THE FAR EAST

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, et al

-vs-

ARAKI, Sadao, et al

Sworn Deposition

Deponent: OHIRA, Hideo

Having first duly sworn an oath as on attached sheet and in accordance with the procedure followed in my country I hereby depose as follows.

1. My name is OHIRA, Hideo. I was formerly a Major-General of the Japanese Army. From 14 April 1943 to 1 April 1944 I was the Chief of Staff of the Second Imperial Guard Division which was stationed in Sumatra, under Lt.-General MUTO, Akira. From then until immediately before the end of the war, I was a staff officer of the 25th. Army.
2. While Lt. General MUTO was in that position, the garrison-area under the Imperial Guard Division (from 1 June 1943 it was called the Second Imperial Guard Division) was gradually reduced as stated below:
 - a. From the outbreak of war to April 1943: "Western Coast

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Province of Sumatra, Rio Province, Tapanori Province, Eastern Coast Province and Acjie Province.

b. From May 1943: Tapanori Province, Eastern Coast Province and Acjie Province.

c. From January 1944: Eastern Coast Province and Acjie Province.

3. The Commander of the Imperial Guard Division had nothing to do with the military administration established in the garrison-area. The commander was authorized only to give necessary instructions as to defense, and only when the garrison-area might be attacked by the enemy.

4. With regard to the treatment of prisoners of war in Sumatra, I heard that, in the early stage of the war, the temporary POW camp was established by the Imperial Guard Division which occupied the area. In the meantime, however, administration of the prisoners of war was taken over by the personnel whom the Commander of the 25th. Army at Singapore despatched directly. And about July 1942 the POW camp was built according to an order from Tokyo. Lt. General MUTO arrived at Medan to take command about 11 May 1942. Thus, at that time, the administration of the POW camp was already not in the hands of the commander of the Imperial Guard Division. The POW camp, from that time on, was administered as a branch of the Malay POW camp at Singapore, which was under the General Headquarters of the Japanese Army of the South. The commander of the Second Imperial Guard

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Division had nothing to do with the administration of the POW camp in the garrison-area of the division.

5. With regard to the administration of the civilian internees' camps, the governor of the province, an official of the military government organization, was in charge of them.

The military government was also responsible for the guarding of these internees' camps. However, when a request was made for help, owing to the shortage of personnel, the commander of the Second Imperial Guard Division made it a rule to comply. Thereafter, from 1 April 1944, the headquarters of the 25th. Army directly administered these civilian internees' camps. At the same time, the Second Imperial Guard Division had been put under an obligation to assist the headquarters in the construction of the camps, and as to supplies. However, as stated above, the division had not been responsible at all for the administration of these camps.

6. In this last paragraph I would like to make a statement about the military discipline and morale of the soldiers of the Imperial Guard Division. Originally the principal duties of this division were to guard the Imperial Palace and to escort the Emperor. It was composed of excellent young men chosen from all over Japan. The statistics regarding crime in the army at that time indicated that the 25th. Army was the one whose discipline was the most strict and that, of all units, under the 25th. Army, the Second Imperial Guard

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Division gave the best showing. I have no recollection of any complaint brought to me by the Military Government organization or from the native inhabitants regarding any misconduct of members of the Imperial Guard Division.

certified at Tokyo,
or this 20 day of October, 1947

/S/ OHIRA, Hideo (seal)

I hereby certify that the above signature and seal were affixed hereto in the presence of the Witness.

at the same place, on this same date.

Witness: /S/ SAEKI, Chiaki (seal)

OATH

In accordance with my conscience I swear to tell the whole truth withholding nothing and adding nothing.

/S/ OHIRA, Hideo. (seal)