

Affidavit of witness Chernopyatko, an eye-witness of
the Khassan Lake of February 26, 1946.

A F F I D A V I T

OF THE WITNESS INTERROGATION

Moscow, February 26, 1946.

I, military interrogator for the U.S.S.R. in the International Military Tribunal in Tokyo, Colonel Dolitsky examined and warned of the responsibility for false testimony under article 95 of the R.S.F.S.R. Criminal Code, the witness mentioned below, who testified:

Chernopyatko Ivan Davidovitch, born in 1914, in Voroshilovgradsky District, Kaganovitch region; rank-major, Hero of the Soviet Union, address:- Moscow, 5 Jamskoye Polye street; 19/21, flat 356.

The certificate of the witness duly warned of the responsibility for false testimony is attached.

In 1938 I was a platoon commander of the 59th frontier detachment.

From the 29-th of July to the 31-st July, 1938, I took part in the battles against the Japanese troops who attacked the Soviet frontier patrol on the Hill Zaozernaya.

Some time before the 29th of July 1938 for two weeks the Japanese troops were seen from the Hill Zaozernaya to be concentrating in this area, occupying the commanding hills where the artillery was being mounted and other fire nests were being built.

To my calculation by the 29th of July the Japanese had drawn up about an infantry regiment strengthened by artillery and mortars. There were 2 artillery divisions.

We, Soviet frontier troops on the Soviet part of the Hill Zaozernaya, were about 30 men. One night we heard noise and screams of women and children coming from the village Khamoki situated at the foot of the Hill Zaozernaya on the Manchurian territory. In the morning it turned out that there were no local inhabitants, and the village was occupied by the Japanese soldiers.

The Japanese carefully watched the Zaozernaya Hill and sent single scouts to our territory.

In the area of the Zaozernaya hill during the 18-th through the 20th of July, 1938 at different times our frontier outpost guards captured two local

civilians with letters from the chief of the Japanese detachment at Khunchun addressed to the Chief of the 59th frontier detachment demanding to clear all the territory of the Zaozernaya Hill including Lake Hassan, otherwise threatening to occupy this Soviet territory by force. We did not answer and went on guarding the state frontier, running atop the Zaozernaya Hill, staying all the time on the Soviet territory.

On the 29th of July 1938 at 16.30 hours the Japanese troops, 100-120 men strong made a surprise attack under the cover of fog on the adjacent Soviet frontier patrol, consisting of 11 frontier guards. We heard rifle and machine-gun fire and watched the development of fighting. Some advance movement of the Japanese on the Soviet territory on the hill Bezmyannaya, became noticeable.

The frontier guards retreated into the depth of our territory. Our reinforcement four men strong were sent out under the command of the section commander Batarshin, stopped the Japanese and after that the latter retreated beyond the State Frontier.

Shortly afterwards, 5 killed and 6 wounded soldiers of the Soviet frontier guards were brought from the hill Bezmyannaya to the place where my patrol and I were stationed. All of them were cut with sabres and had bullet wounds.

On the night of the 31st of July 1938 I was sent on a reconnaissance party into the depth of our territory for guarding the flank and rear of our disposition. About 12 o'clock at night I heard noise in the grass and Japanese speech. This was on the Soviet territory 200 meters deep of the State Frontier.

The Japanese also caught sight of us and opened fire. In a few minutes the Japanese batteries from the adjacent hills opened hurricane artillery and mortar fire on the Zaozernaya Hill.

After a short artillery preparation the Japanese troops simultaneously began attacking Zaozernaya Hill from all sides going deep into the Soviet territory everywhere. In the battle, at about 6 o'clock in the morning I was badly wounded and carried away from the battlefield, and then evacuated to the hospital.

I may testify that during the whole time of my service in the 59th frontier detachment there was not a single case of breach of the State Soviet-Manchurian frontier by the frontier guards of our detachment, in spite of a number of provocations on the part of the Japanese-Manchurian troops.

Of the participants in the defence of the Hill Zaozernaya besides Batarshin I remember the chief of the outpost Peter Fedorovich Tereshkin from Moscow now in the rank of Lt.-Col.

I have nothing else to testify. My testimony has been written down and read to me, to which I sign my name

The Investigator of the Prosecutor at the International
Military Tribunal in Tokyo.

Colonel Dolitsky.

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSLATION OF THE ABOVE DOCUMENT:

I, M. Menshova, hereby certify that I am thoroughly conversant with the Russian and English languages: and the above is a correct and true translation of the indicated document.

Signature: /s/ Menshova