

Ex 2559

DEF. DOC. #1391

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: ARAKI, Kiyoji

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. I was born at SAKAMOTO, AZA, MIZUHO-MURA, KIDAKA-GUN, Tottori Prefecture, September 9th, 1898 (the 31st year of Meiji). My permanent domicile is No. 239, MINAMITAKEO-CHO, Hiroshima-shi and am presently residing at No. 241, KUROSUMA-CHO, Chiba-shi.
2. An outline of my career may be summarized as follows:
The 8th year of Taisho (TN: 1919)
Graduated from the military academy, June, 13th year of Showa (TN: 1938).
Saw service in the field in the central China area as Staff-Officer of the 6th Division, June, 14th year of Showa (TN: 1939). Staff-Officer in the Manchuria area; later Chief of Staff of the Keijo Divisional District.

DEF. DOC. #1391

3. At the time the Central China Expeditionary Force captured Hankow I was among those who first entered the city limits of Hankow as I was an advance party staff officer with the 6th Division. In the following, I shall relate the battle conditions and the state of affairs within the city at that time:

As the 6th Division had promised to give the honor of first entering Hankow to the 2nd Army commanded by Prince HIGASHIKUNI at the time we were preparing at KWANGTSI for pursuit of the enemy, our Division tried to restrain in the pursuit of the enemy as much as possible, but as the pursuit progressed more rapidly than our expectations, as a matter of fact a part of the 6th Division did enter Hankow and it finally ended up with the 2nd Division never doing so. And at the time of entering the fortress city, the large force was accommodated in a high school outside the city, and only a small force entered the city fairly and properly.

4. I will start with the battle situation. The 6th Division temporarily formed a motorized unit with about a regiment of infantry and some heavy and light tanks under the command of Regimental Commander SANO, Torata, on 23 October, 1938 and pursuing the enemy entered KWANGHSI. As the bridge was destroyed here, we pursued the enemy along the road with a force consisting of a tank unit of small numbers and about a battalion of infantry from the morning of the 24th. As our troop strength was small in number and as our advance was so rapid at this time it was as though we were marching abreast with the retreating

DEF. DOC. #1391

enemy and we had no time to capture the enemy, and took no prisoners whatsoever. When we came to CHANGKUNGTI, a suburb of Henkow, we found the levee broken by the CHANG, Kai-Shek forces, the place flooded, and finding no way to cross the river, we had to resign ourselves to giving up the pursuit. When a part of the motorized unit and the MATSUZAKI 3rd Battalion of the SANO Regiment arrived on the spot with five tanks, the defeated enemy who had failed to escape were mustering while waiting for a ferry, and many refugees were also by the place of crossing.

Without casting a glance at them, however, the Japanese soldiers began to prepare to cross to the opposite bank and decided to do so by means of one big sailboat and six small four or five-seater boats which were nearby. But as the capacity to cross the river was so little, it was decided that the 3rd Battalion only would be carried across first, and beginning from the night of the 24th it took until the following morning. By this time the enemy on the opposite bank had already escaped, and there was no resistance or fighting at all.

5. I also crossed the river on the morning of the 25th and after getting in touch with the 3rd Battalion Commander MATSUZAKI, entered the fortress with a very small number of troops, which had just finished crossing the river at this time, fairly and properly and in regular ranks. Furthermore at the time of entry, no battle took place and not a shot was fired. The troops were composed and orderly; no air to kill prevailed and the entry was accomplished very tranquilly. As Commander HATA strictly

DEF. DOC. #1391

maintained military discipline and morals, we strictly observed his orders even from before at the entrance of the city such foreigners as Germans, French, and Italians came to meet us. In order to avoid trouble, we did not go through the British concession and entered the city by another way under the guidance of a French missionary.

Accordingly there was no trouble whatsoever and we even took up our lodgings in accordance with these people's introductions.

I understand that the above missionary did much in caring for and protecting refugees at Shanghai and Nanking also.

6. As I mentioned above, the Japanese forces tranquilly entered the fortress in good order and it is not possible that such cruelties as plunder, rape, killing and wounding could have been done after this entry.

Accordingly I did not ever see even one corpse or the like inside the city. The majority of the citizens of the city did not run away and apparently only locked up their doors. And not long after the entry they reopened their shops and began doing business. Since conditions were like this, the foreigners resident there were favorably disposed towards the Japanese forces. In the occupation of Hankow, the navy took charge of occupying the river side area the Japanese, French and British concessions area and the army took over the air-field and the western area of Hankow.

At this time, more than 1500 or 1600 Chinese ships having a full load of Chinese were sailing all over the Yantze-kiang with identification

DEF. DOC. #1391

marks of neutral and foreign countries. Thus I think it was absolutely impossible that butchery could have been openly committed on the banks of the Yantze-kiang in full view of the public.

Jan. 31, 1947

At No. 241, Kurosuna-cho, Chiba-shi

/s/ AKIJI, Kiyoji (seal)

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

at the same place,

on the same date

Witness: (signed) IEMARI, Yasutaro (seal)

OATH

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

/s/ AKIJI, Kiyoji (seal)

DEF. DOC. #1391

TRANSLATION CERTIFICATE

I, Yukio, KIYAMOTO, of the Defense Language Branch, hereby certify that the foregoing translation described in the above certificate is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, a correct translation and is as near as possible to the meaning of the original document.

/s/ Yukio, KIYAMOTO

Tokyo, Japan

Date 30 April, 1947

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