

No. 3207

INTERNATIONAL MILITARY TRIBUNAL FOR THE FAR EAST

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,)	
et al)	
)	AFFIDAVIT OF
vs)	DR. CHARLES NELSON SPINKS
)	
ARAKI, Sadao, et al,)	
Defendants)	

My name is Charles Nelson Spinks. I am presently employed as a War Department civilian employee in Tokyo. In the autumn of 1945 I was a Lieutenant Commander in the United States Naval Reserve and was in Tokyo as Chief of the Manpower, Food and Civilian Supplies Division of the United States Strategic Bombing Survey.

I understand and speak Japanese and was present at several of the interviews between Japanese and the Bombing Survey. Our purpose was to find out the effects of warfare on the Japanese economy and industry, particularly the effects of aerial bombing. We found that many of the Japanese whom we interviewed were reluctant to talk to us since they did not know our purpose and thought we might be investigating war criminal responsibility. It was necessary, therefore, to put them at their ease and reassure them that this was not our purpose and that we wanted information for Bombing Survey purposes only.

I cannot say whether or not any of the Japanese interviewed were made positive promises or assurances that the interviews would not be used against them in any war crimes prosecution, although they might well have gotten that impression from the preliminary remarks I witnessed. One of our members usually had a preliminary conversation with the interviewee to put him at ease and explain our aim so that he would speak freely during the interview. Certainly we exerted whatever efforts were necessary in the circumstances to allay suspicion and overcome any reluctance to give us the information we desired.

I was present at the interviews with HOSHINO, Naoki, during November, 1945. HOSHINO was not placed under oath and the interrogations were conducted in a friendly and informal atmosphere. The only interpreter was a missionary, much overworked, whose Japanese was good, although he often needed help from me in translating technical terms. I have been shown by counsel Exhibit No. 454 for identification, which is a transcript of the Bombing Survey interviews with HOSHINO in November, 1945. I would say that this transcript is accurate so far as the questions put to HOSHINO are concerned. It does not, however, contain the preliminary remarks at the beginning of the interviews, nor does it contain an exact or full record of HOSHINO's answers to the questions.

Def. Doc. No. 2584 (cont.)

When asked a question, HOSHINO often spoke for several minutes at a time, sometimes as long as five minutes, before his remarks were translated. I could not always follow him or retain the full substance of his longer replies, and the same was true of the interpreter. In such cases the interpreter translated as much as he could remember, or gave the gist of the answer to the stenographer. Sometimes we had to go over the answers after the interview in order to edit them, correct passages, or fill in portions which had been missed, or where the exact words or sentences had been forgotten. I recall that several times during the interview HOSHINO attempted to make corrections, but so far as I know HOSHINO was not shown the final transcripts after editing and corrections were made following the interviews.

There was only one stenographer to record the interviews. Neither the interpreter nor the stenographer was sworn.

At Tokyo, Japan, this 15th day of September, 1947.

/S/ CHARLES NELSON SPINKS

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 15th day of September, 1947.

/S/ B. A. HARGADON
1st Lt., Inf.
Personnel Officer