

26 Aug. 1947

Report by  
J. G. Lambert

MEMORANDUM:

TO: Mr. Sutton; Mr. Comyns-Carr; Mr. Brown  
FROM: E. P. Monaghan, Chief, Investigative Division

A check of the Investigative files, IPS reveals that the following named persons are referred to as indicated;

<u>Witness</u>	<u>Requested by</u>	<u>File Reference</u>
ARITA, Hachiro	ARAKI SHIRATORI TOJO OSHIMA	Case File 345
YOKOMIZO, Koki	ARAKI	No. info
ISHIWATA, Sotaro	TOJO ARAKI	Case file 257
ABE, Nobuyuki	SATO ARAKI	Case file 153
TOMITA, Kenji	ARAKI	File No. 5 Ser 6, 83, 84 File No. 59 Ser 4, 11, 52 164, 249 File No. 68 Ser 6 File No. 89 Ser 15 File No. 270 Ser 1 File No. 436 Ser 187 File No. 440 Ser 86 File No. 447 Ser 69 File No. 463 Ser 23 File No. 91 Ser 84
YASUOKA, Masaatsu	ARAKI	File No. 185 Ser 19 File No. 251 Ser 11
MATSUYAMA, Tsunejiro	ARAKI	No information
OMORI, Soyen	ARAKI	No information
OBATA, Kazuo	ARAKI	No information
MAEDA, Masami	ARAKI	No information
NAKAMURA, Kaju	ARAKI	File No. 462 Ser 2
SHIMIZU, Shigeo	ARAKI	No information

Sworn 2/8



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INTERNATIONAL MILITARY TRIBUNAL FOR THE FAR EAST

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, et al

-vs-

ARAKI, Sadao, et al

*offered attempt  
to assassinate Gen Arah  
by Shimpei Tai  
in 1933*

Sworn Deposition

Deponent: OMORI Sogen

*Detained + sent Gen Hayashi  
War Minister -  
"EKKYO SHOGUN"*

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.

*See  
Yonemitsu  
2241*

My name is OMORI Sogen. I am a priest in a temple called TOJO-IN located at TOJI-IN Kitamachi, Kamikyo-Ku Kyoto.

I was formerly known as OMORI Issei. Deploring the national situation, I had been taking part in a national reform movement since 1925-26 (14th or 15th year of Taisho) and came to know SUZUKI Zenichi who had been taking part in similar movement since 1928-29 (3rd or 4th year of Showa).

The SHIMPEI-TAI Incident which was to be carried out on July 7, 1933 (8th year of Showa) and later postponed to the 11th of the same month had been planned by SUZUKI Zenichi and his group. Minister of War General ARAKI, Sadao was the chief object of their assassination. I would here like to relate this fact.

On the night of July 5, 1933, I heard of this plan in detail from SUZUKI, Zenichi who was the chief of staff in the

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SHIMPEI-TAI and was asked to take an active part in the plan. I not only opposed this plan, but did what I could to emphasize my opposition and advised to stop the plan, going with SUZUKI Zenichi to the commander of the SHIMPEI-TAI MAEDA, Torao, the staff-officers KATAOKA, Shun, OKUKO, Tario, and others, who were staying at the MANNEN-YA Hotel at 6-chome Aoyama Kita-machi, Akasaka Ward. This was because General ARAKI was counted among their objects of attack. That is, according to this plan, Minister of War General ARAKI was to be attacked at the Commencement of the Military Academy or on his way to the place.

According to SUZUKI, the Chief of Staff of the SHIMPEI-TAI, the reason for making Minister of War ARAKI as an object for attack was that Gen. ARAKI's negative attitude of trying to keep the Manchurian Incident within the narrowest possible limits by his non-expansion policy was in accordance with the policies of the conservatives of the political parties and the ZAIBATSU, thus interfering with the realization of the reformers' continental policy of securing the nation's life line. Therefore it was planned to kill Gen. ARAKI, and to place Gen. HAYASHI, Senjuro at the head of the War Ministry with the purpose of accomplishing their more positive policy.

General HAYASHI had been the Commander-in-Chief of the Army in Korea at the outbreak of the Manchurian Incident and was popularly known by a brave nickname of EKKYO SHOGUN (a general crossing the borders without the Emperor's permission).

W.C.  
Gen Hayashi was  
recommended by Arai.  
e his success  
see Yomotsu 2241

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However, because I had always held the greatest reverence for General ARAKI's personal character and respected his views on our national Constitution and the Imperial Army I interceded with the aforementioned men. Gen. ARAKI told me that the Japanese should obey the august benevolence of the Emperor and serve to manifest the Imperial virtues, and that it was absolutely necessary to avoid anything like war, and even in an unavoidable self-defensive war, to prevent its damages as much as possible. Accordingly he made every possible effort concerning the Manchurian Incident, from this viewpoint, to prevent an all-front war between China and Japan by settling it as soon as possible.

For the above reasons I opposed such an extreme action plan to assassinate this sound and moderate general with a view to aggravating the Manchurian Incident, not only for the General's sake but because I knew it should not be allowed for the national welfare as well. However, by some circumstances in the SHIMPEI-TAI the time of action was postponed to July 11 and the plotters were arrested early on the morning of the 11th before they could carry out their plan in any way.

on this 1st day of April, 1947  
at Tokyo

Deponent OMORI, Sogen (seal)

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I, SUGAHARA, Yutaka hereby certify that the above statement was sworn by the Deponent, who affixed his signature and seal thereto in the presence of this Witness.

On the same date

At Tokyo

Witness: (signed) SUGAHARA, Yutaka (seal)

OATH

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

OMORI, Sogen (seal)