

Ex 3705

Def. Doc. 2909  
(Umezu)

INTERNATIONAL MILITARY TRIBUNAL FOR THE FAR EAST

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, et al

-vs-

ARAKI Sadao, et al

- Defendants -

A F F I D A V I T

SHIMOMURA SADAMU

Having first duly sworn an oath as on the attached sheet, in accordance with the procedure prevailing in my country, I hereby depose as follows:

After General Anami, the then Minister of War, committed suicide with a sword on 15 August 1945, the Premier assumed the portfolio for a time and subsequently I was appointed as War Minister on 23 August and assumed office on that same day.

I learned first after my appointment of the execution of American pilots in Japan Proper, without trial or by sentence of the courts martial. I thought it my responsibility as Minister of War to punish these violations strictly, and so informed the Chief of the General Staff, General Umezu. He was very much surprised, and agreed with my opinion, saying about as follows: "Until this moment I did not know of these facts at all. Even if these violations were the result of indignation over indiscriminate bombing by American planes, it is quite unjust to punish the pilots without legal processes. Therefore, it is unnecessary to await the instructions of the Allied forces in this matter, and we must voluntarily impose punishment strictly and fairly, after investigating the facts."

He added his hope and opinion as follows: "We must be most fair when we give up our arms to the Allied forces after the surrender. We should most carefully control any illegal manipulation of arms, such as concealment or damage, etc., and we must bring our Army to a successful end, carrying out faithfully the conditions of the surrender. I hope you will exercise strict control." His opinion about this matter being quite the same as mine, I exerted my best efforts to supervise and regulate things so as to prevent any such illegal operations.

Def. Doc. 2909

O A T H

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

Shimomura Sadamu (seal)

On this 30th day of April, 1947

At Tokyo

Deponent: Shimomura Sadamu (seal)

I, Ikeda Sumihisa, hereby certify that the above statement was sworn to by the deponent, who affixed his signature and seal thereto in the presence of this witness.

On the same date

At Tokyo

Witness: Ikeda Sumihisa (seal)

Translation Certificate

I, Nishi Haruhiko, of the defense, hereby certify that I am conversant with the English and Japanese languages, and that the foregoing is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, a correct translation of the original document.

Nishi Haruhiko

Tokyo  
7 May 1947

Sub 2909

Exh. 3

辯護側文書第二九〇九號「下村定」

正

誤

表

中洪書

二頁二行目「肅正公明ニ」を「嚴正公明ニ」と改む。  
二頁四行目「隠匿又ハ毀壞」を「隠匿又ハ毀壞」と改む。

FILE COPY RETURN TO ROOM 361

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Def. DOC. #2909

極東國際軍事裁判所

亞米利加合衆國其他

對

荒木貞夫 其他

宣誓供述書

供述者 下村 定

自分儀我國ニ行ハルル方式ニ從ヒ先ヅ別紙ノ通宣誓ヲ爲シタル上次ノ如ク陳述致シマス

予ハ陸軍大臣阿南大將ガ昭和二十年（一九四五年）八月十五日自刃後一時總理大臣が陸軍大臣ヲ兼攝シテイタガ予ハ專任陸軍大臣トシテ八月廿三日親任セラレ同日ヨリ其職務ヲ執ツタ

同年七月及八月内地ニ於テ行ハレタル米軍飛行機搭乗員ニ對スル軍律會議ニヨル死刑執行及裁判ニヨラスシテ殺害セル事件ハ予ハ着任後ニ於テ承知シタ予ハカ、ル非違行爲ニ就テハ陸軍大臣トシテ當然嚴重處分スヘ

キデアルトノ責任ヲ感シ梅津參謀總長ニ對シ其旨告ゲタル處同氏モ非常ニ驚キ予ノ意見ニ全然同意デアルトテ次ノ如ク述ベタ

「此事ハ始メテ承知セル事ナルガ此ノ如キ非違行爲ハ假令米機ノ無差別爆撃ニ對スル憤滿ノ結果デアツタトシテモ苟クモ之ヲ不法ニ處斷スルコ

トハ甚ダ失當デアアル依テ米軍側ノ指示ヲ待ツ迄モナク自發的ニ真相ヲ探  
究シ肅正公明ニ處斷スベキデアアルト  
又同氏ハ「日本軍ノ降伏ニ伴ヒ兵器等ヲ聯合軍ニ引渡スコトハ最モ公明  
デナケレバナラヌ隱匿又ハ毀壞等ノ不法處置ヲ戒メ降伏條項ヲ誠實ニ實  
施シ陸軍ノ最后ヲ全ウセネバナラヌ充分取締ラレ度」トノ希望意見ヲ述  
ベタ  
予ノ考ヘテイタ事ト全ク同一デアツタ予ハ非違行爲ノ監督取締ニ努力ヲ  
拂ヒ最善ヲ盡シテ來タ

昭和二十二年（一九四七年）四月三十日 於東京

供述者 下 村 定 印

右ハ當立會人ノ面前ニ於テ宣誓シ且署名捺印シタルコトヲ證明シマス

同日 於東京

立會人 池 田 純 久 印