

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: KITANO, Kenzo

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 am KITANO, Kenzo, an ex-Lieutenant-General, aged 59, and presently living at No. 29, Goban-cho, HIKONE City.
2. I held the post of Chief of Staff of the Korean Army as a major-general from early in March, 1938 (the 13th year of SHOWA) to September, 1939 (the 14th year of SHOWA). The commander of the Army at that time was General KOISO, until July 15, 1938 (the 13th year of SHOWA), when he was succeeded by General NAKAMURA.
3. As for Commander KOISO's intentions and actions prior to the outbreak of the UCHUNGKUFENG Incident, I will depose as follows:
 - A. The Commander of the Korean Army in 1938 (the 13th year of SHOWA) had no operational duties but was only charged with the

duty of defending Korea. He was not invested with any war-time duties. He was therefore, as it were, a commander of a caretaker army.

As regards the 2 divisions in Korea, the command of the Army Commander was confined to the defence of Korea and, so far as the duty of wartime operations was concerned, the Chief of the General Staff was directly in charge. At the time of the CHANGKUFENG Incident, the 20th Division was in North China, so the only field division in Korea was the 19th Division.

- B. Such being the case, the troops under its command were constantly required to absolutely keep from exciting the Soviet Army. Especially since the China Incident was then in progress, were they warned to be extremely cautious as any dispute outbreak with the Soviet Union would be an obstacle in carrying out the policy of the central authorities towards China. Again the likes of watch-post line of our border guards were laid, within our territory of defence back from the frontier line in many places. On the occasion of inspections or observations, they were done at the spot of the watch-post line or at the headquarters of units, never going close to the frontier line. Such being the case, it was the principle for all troops from the Army Commander down to do their utmost not to excite the Soviet. Therefore, such an attempt as to invade Soviet territory was quite out of the question and was impossible from the standpoint of military strength.

C. Just before the outbreak of the CHANGKUFENG Incident in July, 1938 (the 13th year of SHOWA), I was in TOKYO to attend the conference of the chiefs of staff, and was completely ignorant of any changes in the situation of the Soviet Army on the frontier with the central authorities at TOKYO also, who naturally, never expected such a border dispute, gave neither orders instructions nor warning whatsoever concerning this during my stay in TOKYO.

As the conference concluded I left TOKYO and returned to SEOUL on July 15. For the first time I learned that the situation of the Soviet troops in the vicinity of CHANGKUFENG had changed, that the Commander of the 19th Division had applied for concentrating its main force on the bank of the TUMEN River to secure the complete defense of Korea, and that the Army Commander was asking the central Army authorities for instructions.

Telegraphic instructions from the Central Authorities in reply to the above application reached the Army Commander on July 16. Its gist was "Against the Soviet troops in the vicinity of CHANGKUFENG, should they cross the frontier into our territory, the troops in Korea under your command, as occasion demands, may be concentrated to the vicinity of the frontier.

On the other hand Army Commander KOISO on the previous day, in other words July 15, had been transferred and attached to

General Staff Headquarters.

I remember, as a result, I presented the telegraphic instructions from the Central Authorities to General NAKAMURA, Kotaro, the succeeding Army Commander, who arrived at SEOUL on July 17, and asked the new commander for necessary instructions and measures were made for the troops under his command.

As stated above, Korean Army orders to units of part of the 20th Division relative to the Soviet-Manchurian frontier dispute were given by General NAKAMURA, the new Army Commander, and had nothing to do with General KOISO.

On this 4th day of Sept., 1947

At Tokyo

Deponent: /s/ KITANO, Kenzo (seal)

I, TANAKA, Kazuya, 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 the same place.

Witness: /s/ TAKAGI, Kazuya (seal)

OATH

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

/s/ KITANO, Kenzo (seal)

3385

Def, Doc, # 2501

Exh, #

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 北野憲造

自分錢我國ニ行ハルル方式ニ從ヒ先ツ別紙ノ通り宣誓ヲ爲シタル上次ノ如ク供述致シマス

昭和二十二年（一九四七年）九月四日於東京

供述者 北野憲造

右ハ當立會人ノ面前ニテ宣誓シ且ツ署名捺印シタルコトヲ證明シマス

同日於同所

立會人 高木一也

宣

誓

書

良心ニ從ヒ眞實ヲ述ベ何事ヲモ黙秘セズ又何事ヲモ附加セザルコトヲ誓フ

(署
捺印名)

北

野

憲

造

一、私ハ北野憲造デ、元陸軍中將デアリマシテ、年齢五十九歳、現在彦根市五番町二十九番地ニ居住致シテ居リマス。

一、私ハ陸軍少將ノ階級デ一九三八年ハ昭和十三年ハ三月上旬ヨリ一九三九年（昭和十四年）九月迄朝鮮軍參謀長ノ職ニアリマシタ當時ノ軍司令官ハ一九三八年ハ昭和十三年ハ七月十五日迄ハ小磯大将デアリ、其以後ハ中村大将デアリマシタ。

一、張鼓峰事件ノ發生前ニ於ケル小磯司令官ノ意圖及行動ニツイテ、次ノ通陳述致シマス。

一、一九三八年（昭和十三年）頃ニ於ケル朝鮮軍司令官ハ作戰任務ヲ有セズ、朝鮮防衛ノミノ任務デアリマシテ、戰時ノ任務ヲ與ハラレテ居リマセンデシタ。従ツテ留守軍司令官ノ如キ状態デアリマセタ。朝鮮軍ハ在ルニ分師團ハ單ニ朝鮮ノ防衛ニ當シテノミ軍司令官之ヲ統率シ、兩師團ノ戰時作戰任務ハ參謀總長ノ直接司令所デアリマシタ。張鼓峰事件當時第二師團ハ北支ニ出動中デアリマシタノデ、朝鮮ニ在ツタ野戰師團ハ第十九師團ノミデアリマシタ。以上ノ如キ状態デアリマシタノデ蘇軍ニ對シテハ絶對ニ刺戟ヲ與ヘナイ様ニ當ニ機下部隊ニ要求セラレテ居リマシタ。殊ニ當時ハ支那軍變ノ進行中デアリマシテ、萬一對蘇紛争デモ惹起スレバ中央ノ對支方針ニ一大支障ヲ來スモノトシテ、極力戒メラレテ居タ所デアリマシタ。

又國境守備ノ監視線ノ如キモ寧ロ國境ヨリ我守備地域内ニ後退シテ配置セラレタ所モアリ。檢閲。觀察ノ際ノ如キモ決シテ國境線ニ近ヅカズ、監視線ノ位置又ハ部隊ノ本部ニ於テ行ハレタ様ナ状態デ。軍司令官以下蘇聯側チ極力刺戟セヌト云フノガ方針デ。蘇聯ヘノ侵略ナド全ク忌ヒモヨラズ又兵力上不可能ナ事柄デアリマシタ。

一、一九三八年（昭和十三年）七月張鼓峰事件ノ發生直前、私ハ參謀長會議ニ出席ノルモ東京ニ出張中デ。國境ニ於ケル蘇軍情況ノ變化ニ就テハ少シモ知りマセンデシタ。東京ノ中央部ニ於テモ、勿論國境紛争等ガ起ロウトハ豫知シテ居ナカツタ爲。私ガ在京中ニ何等之ニ關スル命令、訓令漁意ノ如キモノハ與ヘラレマセンデシタ。

參謀長會議ガ終了シタノデ、私ハ東京ヲ辭シ、七月十五日京城ニ歸着シマシタガ、其ノ際初メテ張鼓峰附近ニ於ケル蘇軍ノ情況ノ變化ト、第十九師團長カラ朝鮮防衛ノ萬全ヲ期スル爲、同師團ノ主力ヲ豆滿江岸ニ集結シタキ旨、申請シテ來タノニ對シ、軍司令官ハ軍中央部ニ對シ請訓中デアルコトヲ承知シマシタ。

右ノ請訓ニ對スル中央部カラノ訓電ハ七月十六日軍司令官ニ到着シマシタ。ソノ要旨ハ、一張鼓峰附近「ソ」軍ノ不法越境ニ對シ所要ニ應ジ、在鮮ノ隸

下部隊ヲ國境近クニ集中スルコトヲ得。一ト言フノデアリマシタ。然ルニ、小磯軍司令官ハ其ノ前日即チ七月十五日附テ以テ參謀本部附ニ轉職セラレマシタ。

之ガ爲、私ハ七月十七日京城ニ着任セラレタル後任軍司令官中村孝太郎大將ニ、中央カラノ訓電ヲ提出シ、新軍司令官ヨリ所要ノ指示ヲ仰ギ隷下部隊ニ對スル處置ガ講ビラレタコトヲ記憶致シテ居リマス

以上ノ通りデアリマシテ蘇滿國境ニ對スル第二十師團一部ノ部隊ニ關スル朝鮮軍命令ハ、新軍司令官中村大將ニ依リ發セラレタモノデ、小磯大將ニハ關係アリマセン。