

INTERNATIONAL MILITARY TRIBUNAL FOR THE FAR EAST

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, et al

-vs-

ARAKI, Sadao, et al

3147

Sworn Deposition

Deponent: MURATA, Yachiho

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

(I) I served in the Bureau of Decorations of the Cabinet for more than nine years from February, 1938 (Showa 13) and at present occupy a high position in the Bureau next to the President.

(II) The granting of rewards comes under the charge of the Bureau of Decorations. I have personal knowledge of the rewards that were awarded after I entered the service such as those of the China Incident, and also I know of the rewards prior to the Incident in general since I investigated them as part of my duties.

(III) The extensive rewards granted as in the Manchurian and China Incidents were granted through the following procedure:

(a) First, the standing rules regarding rewards are made according to the decisions of the Cabinet meeting.

(b) Next, the Ministries concerned apply to the Bureau of Decorations for rewards within the fixed number, and at the same time have their officials in charge explain to the Bureau their reasons orally.

(c) The Bureau of Decorations on its part expresses its opinion on the above.

(d) Thus, finally, as a result of deliberation on both sides, the rewards bill is drafted.

(e) The above bill is submitted to the Rewards Conference which is composed of fifteen regular councillors (besides two members of the Imperial family) and when the Conference passes the bill, it is presented to the Prime Minister.

(f) The Prime Minister reports of it to the Throne to obtain Imperial sanction.

(g) When Imperial sanction is given, the rewards are then granted.

(IV) Even with rewards on a small scale as the time of the anti-Comintern act, the same procedure as mentioned above was used with the exception that standing rules were not made.

(V) The rewards include the grant of decorations, cups and money.

(VI) Those who were granted rewards in the Manchurian Incident total 452,826. Among them, those who rendered distinguished services (given the Order of the Golden Kite) reached 9,096; those who performed meritorious service (chiefly given the Order of the Rising Sun) numbered 158,593 and those who rendered services (chiefly given the Order of the Sacred Treasure), 153,881. Among those who were awarded the rewards are WAKATSUKI, Reijiro (given a set of gold cups), SHIDEHARA, Kijuro (given a set of gold cups), General UGAKI, Kazushige (given a set of gold cups), HAYASHI, Ryujiro (given the 2nd Class Order of the Rising Sun), MORISHIMA, Morito (given the Order of the Rising Sun, 2nd Class) and Major General TANAKA, Ryukichi (given the Order of the Rising Sun, 4th Class in the first awards and the 3rd Class Order in the second). WAKATSUKI, SHIDEHARA and UGAKI were given a set of gold cups respectively in lieu of decorations because they had already higher class decorations.

(VII) Those who were granted rewards at the time of the anti-Comintern Pact total 49; of which 11 were given decorations and 38 were given cups. Among those who were given decorations were ARIMA, Hachiro (given the Order of the Rising Sun, 1st Class, as Foreign Minister), MUSHAKOJI, Kintomo (given the Order of the Rising Sun, 1st Class, as the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to Germany), HORINOUCHI, Komsuko (given the Order of the Rising Sun, 2nd Class, as Vice-Foreign Minister) and KURIYAMA, Shigoru (given the Order of the Rising Sun, 3rd Class, as Director of the Treaty Bureau in the Foreign Office). Among those who were granted silver cups were HAYASHI, Raizaburo (given a set of silver cups as the Minister of Justice) and IWAMURA, Michiyo (given a silver cup as the Director of the Bureau of Criminal Affairs).

(VIII) Those who were granted rewards in the China Incident total 3,319,548. Among them, those who rendered A-Class distinguished services reached 3,370 and those who rendered B-Class distinguished services, 182,992 (they were both given the Orders of the Golden Kite); next, those who performed meritoriously (chiefly given the Orders of the Rising Sun) reached 1,768,053 and those who rendered exceptional services (chiefly given the Orders of the Sacred Treasure) reached 605,173. Among those who were granted decorations were Lieutenant General ISHIHARA, Kanji (given the Order of the Sacred Treasure, 1st Class) and Major General TANAKA, Ryukichi (given the Order of the Golden Kite, 3rd Class, and the Order of the Rising Sun, 2nd Class).

(IX) There was no one who was granted rewards in recognition of their services in concluding the Triple Alliance on September 27, 1900. On the other hand, 15 persons were granted rewards in consideration of their services in concluding the Anglo-Japanese Pact in 1902 (Meiji 35) and a total of 29 were given rewards for their services in concluding the French-Japanese and Russo-Japanese Pacts in 1907 (Meiji 40).

(X) Formerly, some were created peers in recognition of their meritorious services in war and in conclusion of treaties. Creation of peerage, however, is in the charge of the Bureau of Peerage and Heraldry in the Imperial Household Department and is not within the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Decorations, so I am not in a position to speak about the matter.

On this 19th day of August, 1947

At Tokyo

Deponent: MURATA, Yachiho (seal)

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I, SAKUMA, Shin, 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: Defense Counsel at the IMTFF

/s/ Shin Sakuma (seal)

OATH

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

/s/ Yachiho Murata (seal)