

EXHIBIT No. 3081

(10)

Def. Doc. # 1705

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: KURODA, Shigenori

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.

I. I was born on 25, October, 1887, in the city of OMUTA, FUKUOKA Prefecture, which is also my permanent domicile. I am now in SUGAMO Prison.

II. My past career is roughly as follows:

Oct., 1937. Commander of Infantry of the 26th Division.

(Maj. General)

Nov., 1938. Commander of the 4th Independent Garrison at MUTANKIANG, Manchuria.

Aug., 1931. Commander of the 26th Division (Lt. General)

Aug., 1941. Chief of Staff of the Department of Military Education.

Since then up to November 1944, I served first as the Chief of Staff of the Singapore Army and then as the Commander

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of the Manila Army. In December, 1944, I was placed on the on the reserve list.

III. Late in January, 1940, in my capacity as the Commander of the 26th Division, under the Central Mongolian Army commanded by Lt. Gen. OKABE Naosaburo, I was engaged, with the cooperation of our cavalry corps, in operations in the WUYUAN district to suppress TIEN Tso-yi's forces there. Our troops advanced from PACTOU by motor vehicles and defeated the enemy. The battle ended in about ten days. The forces under my command evacuated the town of WUYUAN immediately after occupation and after that the town was guarded by forces commanded by Lt. Gen. OKABE Naosaburo.

IV. I used to warn my troops never to treat the nationals cruelly and this intention of mine was fully understood by all, from the regimental commanders down.

I instructed my troops to be kind towards the Chinese people. This instruction was obeyed faithfully by all. My 26th Division was noted for its discipline, and was known as the model division in Norths China.

V. For the following reasons, I definitely deny the accusation of the 2nd and 3rd of February, 1940, some of the soldiers of the 13th Regiment of the 26th Division, committed outrage and slaughter: --

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The battle of WUYUAN was fought on the open plain of WUYUAN, and no attack was attempted on the town. Moreover, all the inhabitants had taken refuge in the interior and there was not one left. Therefore, no such violence could take place. Besides, any such unlawful acts could not and in fact were not committed by my troops, nor by the troops of Maj. Gen. ADACHI, the Commander of the Infantry Corps and Col. ISHIGURO, the Commander of the regiment, both of whom were particularly scrupulous about discipline. If there had been any of such unlawful acts, they would have been reported to me for, thanks to the satisfactory communication with various localities at that time, I could receive and carefully examine all the reports coming from everywhere. However, no such cases of violence came to my notice. Moreover, if such an act had been committed, it would have been brought before a court martial for strict punishment, but no case of this nature was tried by a court martial.

I insist that there were absolutely no such incidents.

On the contrary, the fact was that, Japanese troops were massacred in the said Wuyuan district. Late in March, 1940, as the snow began to melt, a number of Japanese soldiers and officials of the OKABE group, who were guarding the town of WUYUAN after the WUYUAN operations, were massacred by TIEN Tso-yi's forces who invaded the town.

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As that was the situation the allegation that the Japanese army or troops under my command committed outrage and slaughter etc. is absolutely untrue.

On this 115th day of July, 1947,
at I.M.T.F.E.

DEPONENT/s/ KURODA, Shigenori (seal)

I, IMANARI, Yasutaro, hereby certify that the above statement was sworn by the Dep^onent, who affixed his signature and seal thereto in the presence of this witness.

On the same date,

at SAME PLACE.

Witness: /s/ IMANARI, Yasutaro (seal)

OATH

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

/s/ KURODA, Shigerori (seal)