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Translated by  
Defense Language Branch

## INTERNATIONAL MILITARY TRIBUNAL FOR THE FAR EAST

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, et al.

- v. -

ARAKI Sadao, et al.

Affidavit (translation)

Affiant YOSHIBASHI Kaizo

I, YOSHIBASHI Kaizo, being first duly sworn as on attached sheet and in accordance with the customary formality in this country depose and state as follows:

1. I was born at HIGASHI-SHIROKABE-CHO, NAGOYA, on November 11, the 39th year of Meiji(1906). My permanent address is No. 228, MURE, MITAKA-ITCHI, KITATAMA-GUN, TOKYO-TO. At present, I live at No. 4, KIOI-CHO, KOJIMACHI-KU, TOKYO-TO.

2. My past career is summarized as follows. In October in the 2nd year of SHOWA(T.N.-1927) was commissioned Sub-lieutenant. In June in the 13th year of SHOWA(T.N.-1938) was promoted to Captain and attached to the Staff of the Second Army.

From October in the 13th year of SHOWA(T.N.-1938) till August in the 14th year(T.N.-1939) was posted mainly at Hankow. In November in the 13th year of SHOWA(T.N.-1938) was appointed Staff Officer to the 11th Army and, then instructor at the Military Staff College. In October in the 15th year of SHOWA(T.N.-1940) was appointed Staff Officer to the Expeditionary

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Forces to China. After October in the 16th year of SHOWA(T.N.-1941) was appointed instructor of the Military Staff College and, then, Aide-de-camp to His Majesty.

3. At the time of the attack upon Hankow, I was a captain and was attached to the Staff of the Second Army. I crossed the Tapich Mountains together with the 16th Division. On October 25, 1938, a part of the 6th Division advanced into Hankow, and the Japanese forces occupied the whole city on October 27.

I was directed by telegram on October 25 to assist Staff Officer ODAIRA in making preparations for the entry of our forces into Hankow. I met Staff Officer ODAIRA at Sungfow, and in the afternoon of October 29th entered Hankow from Tsaichieshan, about 6 kilometers northeast of Hankow. At that time, the outer Changkung bank was overflowing. Crossing it, I went to the Headquarters of the 6th Division which was then located at the Chiangnan Middle School, where I met Commander of the same Division Lieutenant-General INABA, who informed me of the details of the entry of our troops into Hankow. Moreover, I closely inspected the city and its vicinity.

And I made sure that our troops entered Hankow peacefully without carrying out any hostile actions, and that no trouble such as looting, violence, rape or bloodshed occurred on the part of our soldiers. When I came to Hankow, the city was, needless to say, in a peaceful state and not a single shot was heard.

When our entry took place, only a minor unit, short of a regiment, which was selected from among the 6th Division was admitted into the city area for purposes of defense, by order of the army commander and the rest were

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all prohibited from entering within 10 kilometers' of Hankow.

The naval forces coming up the Yangtze River arrived in Hankow at the same time as the Army. Just then the Army troops which came up the same river also reached there. But all of them were prohibited from landing, and, the River was crowded with our ships full of soldiers.

Entering Hankow in the afternoon of 29th, I walked about every quarter in and around the city, but I never sighted any corpses.

As I stayed in Hankow from that time till August of the following year, I frequently inspected various parts of the city. And, it never failed to occur to me that if the enemy had offered us serious resistance, it would have been considerably difficult for us to capture the so-called 'three strong holds of Wuhan', and so it was very fortunate for our forces that the enemy had no idea of resisting us.

4. Our Army Commander had issued very strict order concerning military discipline. On the other hand, our army authorities made every effort to establish recreation centers in order to prevent, positively, the occurrence of vicious crimes, and you can imagine how surprised I was at the sight of the Japanese female recreation corps which, came up the Yangtze River to Hankow as early as Nov. 1. By such means, while our army authorities strictly punished the offenders against military disciplines, they were never too careful in installing such facilities.

At the time of our entry into Hankow the city was guarded by a minor unit under the command of Major General USHIJIMA, Mitsuru of the Six Division as stated above. But as the Sixth Division moved southwards to attack Ye-chow, the Second Army was ordered to take their place.

Our army authorities allowed only a small number of units selected from

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among each Division, to enter the city and made efforts to maintain strict military discipline, to prevent from being held in contempt by foreign nationals. The main body of the army was directed to stay in the suburbs and was prohibited from entering the city. French residents in the French Concession appreciated us because they were well conscious of the fact that disciplines were being strictly maintained by the Japanese forces. When the guarding unit of the 13th Division were ordered on Nov. 3 to be quartered at dirty buildings in the outskirts of Hankow, because our troops were banned from entering the city, an adjutant of the corps came along and sterned at me in excitement. "Such treatment is an insult to the army". However, I could not allow them to enter the city on account of the order. After the occupation of Hankow, our army authorities clearly divided the areas into that for use of Japanese forces, the one for joint use by the Japanese and the Chinese and that to accommodate refugees. And for the Chinese residents in the Japanese-Chinese joint area our Special Service authorities issued certificates of residence, which were given to them to avoid trouble. At any rate, the most close precautions and strict supervision were exercised, to prevent our soldiers from committing any outrageous acts. Therefore, I affirm here that such scandals as murders and rape of the Chinese people never occurred in Hankow. After the capture of Hankow, however, we were greatly worried by fires caused by the Chinese Plain Clothes Corps which somehow made their way into the city.

December 24, 1946

At No. 4, KIOI-CHO,  
KOJIMACHI-KU, TOKYO-TO

/s./ YOSHIBASHI, Kaizo(seal)

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I hereby certify that the above statement was sworn <sup>R</sup> by the deponent,  
who affixed his signature and seal thereto in the presence of this  
witness.

On this 24th day of December 1946. At the same place.

Witness /s./ KONUBU, Tomoharu(seal)

Oath

I swear according to my conscience to state the whole truth,  
withholding nothing and adding nothing.

YOSHIMISHI, Kaizo

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TRANSLATION CERTIFICATE

I, William E. Clarke, of the Defense Language Branch, hereby certify that the foregoing translation described in the above certificate is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, a correct translation and is as near as possible to the meaning of the original document.

/s/ William E. Clarke

Tokyo, Japan  
Date 3 February 1947