

EXHIBIT No. 3188

(16)



INTERNATIONAL MILITARY TRIBUNAL FOR THE FAR EAST

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, et al )  
- vs - ) AFFIDAVIT  
ARAKI, Sadao, et al )

I, KAWABE, Torashiro, of lawful age, having been duly sworn on oath, in accordance with the procedure followed in my country, make the following statement, of my own free will and accord:

I first became acquainted with the accused DOHIHARA, Kenji, in 1934, at which time he was Chief of the Special Service Organ in Mukden, Manchuria. At that time I held the post of Staff Officer of the Kwantung Army. I held this post from August, 1934, until March, 1936. During this period my work often brought me in contact with General DOHIHARA and I became familiar with the methods he used in the administration of his official affairs and also became intimately acquainted with him from a personal standpoint and learned his viewpoints with reference to the relationship of Japan and China. I observed that he administered his official duties in a sincere manner and did not tend to enlarge or to detract from facts which were dealt with in his official reports. He did not hesitate to speak his mind with regard to his personal feelings as to the conduct of the Japanese toward the Chinese people. On one occasion we asked him to deliver a speech on this subject, which was entitled "How to Act with the Chinese People." This speech was to be delivered to the junior officers and I distinctly recall his words to this very day, when he summed up his lecture with the following words:



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"There is no distinction whatsoever between the Japanese people and the Chinese. The most important and <sup>the</sup> best way to meet people so that you can convey your thoughts fully is to be sincere." He felt, and often expressed such opinion to me, that the best interests of Japan and China lay in a mutual understanding of the people of those nations of each other. He did not believe that war between the two nations could settle any issues. On the contrary, he believed it would drive the peoples of those nations further apart. I personally know that he was opposed to the outbreak of war, or to a show of force by arms against China.

When General DOHIHARA was Inspector General of the Army Air Force, I served under him as Chief of the General Affairs Section of the Army Air Force. He was my immediate superior officer. During this period of time I became very familiar with the duties and responsibilities of the Inspector General of the Army Air Force and desire to make the following observation with reference thereto:

The Inspector General of the Army Air Force was under the direct command of the Emperor and was subordinate only to the Minister of War, insofar as his duties were concerned. The Inspector General of the Army Air Force was in charge of the technical education, which was his primary duty, and although the Chief of the Army Air Command Headquarters was subordinate to the Minister of War with reference to maintenance, supply, etc., neither of them had authority to participate or to advise in operational matters, and were precluded from participating in the preparation or planning of any operational mission with reference



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to armed forces in the field or in war. I have mentioned the Inspector General of the Army Air Force and the Chief of the Army Air Force Command Headquarters, which were two distinct posts. In order to clearly show General DOHIHARA's position, I feel it best to explain the command relationship between these two posts, both of which General DOHIHARA held simultaneously.

As Inspector General of the Army Air Force, which was concerned only with technical educational matters and had nothing to do with planning and operational matters, General DOHIHARA was under the direct command of the Emperor. As Chief of the Army Air Command Headquarters, the chain of command went from the Emperor through the War Ministry, then to General DOHIHARA as Chief of the Army Air Command Headquarters. In this position he did have some duties with reference to Air Corps supply, but did not participate in planning and operational matters.

At the time General DOHIHARA was Inspector General of Military Education, I did not serve under him, but because of the close connection which I formerly had with that office, I am fully acquainted with its operations and responsibilities. The Inspector General of Military Education was responsible for the administration of the various technical schools and Army Service Schools generally, and the educational matter of the Army, with the exception of technical matters pertaining to aviation. However, he had no authority, and as a matter of practice did not take part in any planning or operational matter, and had absolutely no voice in any decision with reference to planning and operation of the Army in the field.



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Because of my many experiences in the Army, I am fully acquainted with the Supreme War Council, of which General DOHIHARA was at one time a member. The Supreme War Council is more of an honorary position than an actual integral part of the Army Command, and was simply a military inquiry organ, whose duty was to respond to the Emperor's questions on important military problems. It had little or no practical authority and was, in fact, an organ which received reports on general affairs and the current military situation from various Army leaders in the central or main commands.

From my observations of General DOHIHARA, I know he cared little for civilian politics and that he considered himself strictly as an Army man, and as such did not feel that he should engage in politics. He has often expressed this thought to me and advised me not to engage in civilian politics. While he was Chief of the Air Command Headquarters, I know of occasions where he was required to deal with various civilian aircraft industry problems, involving political significance. When these matters came up, he merely clarified the position of the Army, its objects and expectations and left all concrete measures entirely in the hands of the industrialists and refused to engage in politics with them. I have never known him to offer them a hand for the sake of political artifice. On the contrary, he remained aloof almost in the extreme.

I have been asked if I knew anything of General DOHIHARA's views on the Pacific war. With respect to this I wish to state that General DOHIHARA assumed his post as Inspector General of the Army Air Forces and Chief of the Army Air Command Headquarters six months prior to the



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outbreak of the Pacific war, at which time, as previously stated, I was appointed his Assistant as head of the General Affairs Section. General DOHIHARA discussed the problems with me on many occasions and from these discussions I know he had scarcely any knowledge up to the outbreak of the war of the various essential problems of political and military significance in our country. The reason I dare say this is that finally, and just before the outbreak of the war, when I asked General DOHIHARA a few questions concerning what appeared to me to be a strained and gloomy prospect, he did not have the slightest idea whatsoever as to the import of my questioning, and instead asked me what it was all about. After discussing the problems, he ordered me to get information from the War Ministry and the General Staff Headquarters so that he would have the knowledge which we deemed necessary to the discharge of his duties.

I have also been asked about the decoration which General DOHIHARA received from Germany. This was received by General DOHIHARA during the time he was Inspector General of the Army Air Force, and as his subordinate I was present at the time he received it. As I recall, he was decorated with the Grand Cross by the German Government. I knew personally that General DOHIHARA had never undertaken any political action, or, for that matter, any action of any kind to strengthen or enlarge the triple alliance between Japan, Germany and Italy, and we were surprised that he received the medal. The only reason that we could attribute at that time for him having received the medal was due to the fact that he was the head of the Department. I distinctly remember that the General himself uttered words of surprise upon receiving the decoration.



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IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 15th day of  
December, 1947.

KAWABE, Torashiro (seal)

On the same date  
At ~~the~~ same place.

Witness: (signed)

OTA, Kinjiro (seal)

OATH

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

KAWABE, Torashiro (seal)