

EC 2422

Def. Doc. No. 926

International Military Tribunal for the Far East

The United States of America, et al)
- - versus - -)
ARAKI, Sadao, et al)

A F F I D A V I T

I, TANGE, Junji, born November 22, 1885, and residing at 2372 Midorigaoka, Meguro-ku, Tokyo, having sworn as shown in the attached written oath, depose and state as follows:

I retired from the Navy in November 1936 with the title of Rear-Admiral, and have been engaged in business since then till the termination of the war.

I was appointed captain of the cruiser HIRATO (approximately 5,000 tons) in December 1930. The cruiser HIRATO was attached to the First Overseas Service Squadron at that time and was engaged in the guarding of the Yangtze River waters. Since the outbreak of the Manchurian Incident in September 1931 the anti-Japanese movement became acute in the districts along the Yangtze River, including Shanghai, Nanking and Hankow.

On January 27, 1932, the cruiser HIRATO, which had been anchored at Shanghai, weighed anchor and reached Nanking on the 28th. At the time of departure Rear-Admiral SHIOZAWA, Koichi, commander of the Squadron, instructed me as follows:

"Both the Japanese Government and Navy are taking the policy of localizing the Manchurian Incident. Attend to the protection of the residents in Nanking with the utmost care and prudence so that no trouble may be caused."

With the news of the outbreak of the Shanghai Incident on January 29, 1932, the Japanese consul, the resident military and naval officers, and all the other Japanese residents took refuge in the Japanese steamship "UN-YO-MARU" as an emergency measure. The luggage of the residents was carried

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to a wharf of the NISSHIN Steamship Co., where it was guarded by a section of the landing forces dispatched from the cruiser "TENRYU". On the Yangtze River off Nanking, there were at that time six Japanese naval vessels including the cruisers "HIRATO", "TENRYU" and "TSUSHIMA" and three destroyers together with one British warship, one American destroyer and about ten Chinese warships.

In the early morning of January 29th Commander SHIOZAWA sent a message, through myself, to Admiral CHEN Shao-Kuan, the Chief of the Chinese Navy Department, in which he stated, "Although an untoward incident has broken out in Shanghai, Japan does not regard China as an enemy, but is merely hostile towards the 19th Route Army which has assumed a defiant attitude towards Japan. I hope the intimate friendship between China and Japan may be continued as before." To this Admiral CHEN Shao-Kuan replied that he agreed with Commander SHIOZAWA and that he would see to it that when passing by a Japanese warship the Chinese vessels would avoid any action which might cause a misunderstanding. On the morning of February 1st, Captain KAO Hsien-chia, Captain of the Chinese warship "HAIYUNG" paid us a visit and said it was regrettable that the 19th Route Army was fighting the Japanese in Shanghai, and it was the desire of the Chinese Navy to remain on friendly terms with the Japanese. In the afternoon I went to return his call. And otherwise everything went on as usual.

At about eleven o'clock in the night of February 1st, there was firing from the SHIHTZESHAN Battery in the line of forts near Nanking. Shots were heard from the wharf of the NISSHIN Steamship Company. Just then I perceived our comrade vessels "TENRYU" and "TSUSHIMA" returning the fire, and then we received a request for assistance from the section guarding the wharf. The above-mentioned shots from the wharf were heard almost simultaneously with the bombardment from SHIHTZESHAN Battery and it was the sound of rifle fire and grenades coming from a point on the Chinese side near the wharf. One of our third grade seamen was killed and another wounded as a result of the firing.

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To cope with this situation, I, being the commander-in-chief, ordered the steamship "UN-YO-MARU" (anchored alongside the wharf of the NISSHIN Steamship Company) to weigh anchor, as I was worried about the possible danger to the residents. I also commanded the section guarding the wharf to return to the comrade vessel "TEMRYU". Since no more attacks from the battery followed, I ordered our warships to "hold fire" and then to "cease firing". We informed the British and American warships, which were anchored at the place, of the situation.

We observed the situation until morning with every precaution. However, the skirmish seemed to have come to an end, as there was no further bombardment from the fort. We had merely shelled several times in response. The distance between the SHIHTZESHAN Battery and Japanese warships was two thousand meters. We lodged a protest with the Chinese authorities through our consul and requested them to make reparation for the death of the sailor and for the luggage carried off the wharf.

Tange, Kunji (Signed) (Seal)

This 28th day of March 1947.

I hereby certify that the above affiant swore and stated, and signed and sealed in my presence.

Witness: Seriya, Shinji

This 28th day of March 1947.

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On this 18th day of March, 1947.

At Tokyo.

DEPONENT TANGE, Kunji (seal)

I, TANGE, Kunji, 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 Tokyo.

Witness: (signed) SOMIYA, Shinji (seal)

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OATH

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

(signed) TANGE, Kunji (seal)

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I M T F E

The United States of America, et al

vs

ARAKI, Sadao, et al

SWORN DEPOSITION

Deponent : TANGE, Kunji

Address: No. 2372, Midorigaoka, Meguro-ku, Tokyo.

Date of birth: November 22, 1885.

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.

Translation Certificate

I, Charles D. Sheldon, Chief 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/ Charles D. Sheldon

Tokyo, Japan
Date 2 April 1947

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