

Exhibit 2672

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Def. Doc. 1155

INTERNATIONAL MILITARY TRIBUNAL  
FOR THE FAR EAST

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, et al

vs

ARAKI, Sadao, et al

SWORN DEPOSITION

Deponent: Yano Masao

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:



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I am an ex-Lieutenant General of the Japanese Army, and now living at No. 55 2 Chome Nagahanacho, Fukuoka.

Since November 1944 I served as the Chief of Staff of the Third District Army under General Ushiroku's command, and stayed in Titiher until March 1945. I subsequently became commander of the 57th Division and went to "Sanshinfu". Upon my arrival there I received an order from the Kwantung Army and was transferred along with my division from Manchuria to Fukuoka for joining in the Pacific War.

I was connected with the drawing up of the plan of operations of the Third District Army for the year 1945 while I was the Chief of Staff of that Army. The circumstances are stated as follows:

Although I am not well acquainted with the plan of operations before 1945, I knew that the outline of the plan was to defend against possible attacks of the USSR, the line of the right bank of the Amour River in the north, and the line of Hailan and Great Hsingan mountains in the west. However, when I arrived there, I received a new instruction regarding new operation plans from the headquarters of the Kwantung Army. According to this, the Third District Army was to make gradual retreat after offering a slight resistance in the area of Songo and H Hailan, and was to make the final resistance on the line of Feien, Nonko, Jarantong and Hsingan. Following this instruction, the Third District Army drew up a concrete plan and when the plan was about to be reported to the Commander-in-Chief of the Kwantung Army, I was transferred.

At that time the Third District Army was composed of three divisions and one brigade. The divisions were the 57th, 107th and 119th, and only the 57th division was well seasoned, the others being newly organized inferior divisions.

I became the commander of this well seasoned 57th Division. However, this division was also transferred to Japan proper for the Pacific War. A newly organized division was substituted for it, thus rendering all divisions of the Third District Army inferior in quality.

After I arrived in Japan proper, I was told that the headquarters of the Third District Army was transferred from Titiher to Mukuden.



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On this 27th day of Jan. 1944

At Tokyo

DEPONENT: Yano Masao (seal)

I, Ikeda Sumihisa, 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) Ikeda Sumihisa (seal)



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OATH

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

Yano Masao (seal)