

Def. Doc. No. 487

Exh. No. 3413

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: /S/ NAKAMURA, Kōtarō

I have duly sworn an oath in accordance with the customary formality in my country and as on attached sheets hereby depose as follows:

(1) I was born on the 28th of August in the 14th year of Meiji (TN: 1881). At the end of this war, I was a general in the reserves. The outline of my career since the second year of Showa (TN: 1927) is as follows:  
Commander of the 39th Infantry Brigade (July 1927, Heijō),  
Chief of Staff of the Korean Army (August 1929, Seoul),  
Director of the Personnel Bureau of the War Ministry (December 1930, Tokyo), Commander-in Chief of the Japanese Garrison Forces in China (February 1932, Tientsin), Commander of the 8th Division March 1934, Hiroasaki), Chief

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of the General Affairs Department of the Inspectorate General of Military Education (December 1935, Tokyo), War Minister (February 1937, Tokyo), Supreme War Councillor (March 1937, Tokyo), Commander of the Tokyo Garrison Concurrently (August 1937, Tokyo), Commander of the Korean Army (July 1938, Seoul), Supreme War Councillor (July 1941, Tokyo), Retired from military service (September 1941), recalled as Commander-in-Chief of the Eastern Defense District (December 1941, Tokyo), relieved from the call (May 1943).

(2) In the 6th year of Showa (TN: 1931) I was working under War Minister MINAMI as Chief of the Personnel Bureau of the War Ministry. According to what I learned from my position, the TAKATSUKI Cabinet at that time was taking up a retrenchment policy as the previous HAMAGUCHI Cabinet had done and was trying to carry out administrative readjustment on a large scale to reduce the budget. In the latter part of July, Finance Minister INOUE presented a bill for the revision of the Pension Law, in which he demanded a reduction and amendment to military men's pensions. This problem was carefully deliberated upon at the War Ministry. Reduction of military men's salaries was in the jurisdiction of the Military Affairs Bureau

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and the Accounts Bureau and was not under my jurisdiction, but I heard that it was reduced on a scale similar to those of civil officials. Since conditions were such, expenses necessary for the renovation of various systems in the army and materials of arms, etc., could not be supplied by government finance. Accordingly, there was no alternative but to curtail the expenses of the army itself and to use sums for only the most urgent items, for example, organizing an air force or mechanized unit by abolishing the cavalry. Moreover, the WAKATSUKI Cabinet was organized after the close of the Diet session. Therefore, although the reformation of the organization and the equipment of the army had been planned within the budget of the ex-Cabinet, the plan was suspended, owing to this change of the Cabinet. Japanese army equipment in those days was the same as that in the early stages of the 1st World War. Compared with those of other powers, it was very much out of date and extremely inferior.

(3) The Council of Division Commanders was, as an established custom, convened every year in Tokyo. They discussed on their business at the War Ministry, the Headquarters of the Army General Staff, and Inspectorate General of Military Education. The Council of the 6th year of Showa (TN: 1931) took place on the 4th of August for the first time after MINAMI became the War Minis' . . . address made in the

took place on the 4th of August for the first time after MINAMI became the War Minister. In his address made in the council, there was a passage: "As the current situation in Manchuria and Mongolia is, to my regret, growing worse, those who are engaged in military service should make increasingly greater efforts in military education and training, and to fulfil their duties." Some newspapers criticized this statement saying that it inspired militarism or it meant political intervention by the military circles. It must be only natural, however, that the War Minister would demand Commanders of Divisions to understand the oversea situation and to wish to have them try their best in the education and training of the army itself. Moreover, I could not help but think that the reason why his address brought about great reaction from the public was, after all, due to a plot laid by a section of some political party who, taking advantage of the instability of the political situation in those days planned to overthrow the government by tripping up a member of the Cabinet.

(4) The news of an incident having broken out at Liutiaokou in MUKDEN on the night of the 18th of September 1931 and that Japanese and Chinese forces began fighting one another, was brought to me at 8 o'clock the following morning at the War Ministry.

Now a vital element in combat is the assignment of personnel, especially of officers. Concerning this incident, however, the fact that I, as Chief of the Personnel Bureau of the War Ministry, did not know anything about the personnel beforehand, that there was no preparation, and that the Incident was truly unexpected to me makes it quite obvious that there was no previous plan. Moreover, as it was just at a time when the army itself was taking a retrenchment policy, and that the organization and equipment of the army was very imperfect, it was not likely that Japan would take the initiative in bringing about trouble. Subsequently, a gap took place between the Cabinet's policy of "Non-enlargement and local settlement of the incident" and the movements of the army situated there whose actions were governed by strategy and as a result of which the War Ministry, that is, the War Minister found himself in a very difficult situation. This was because strategic operations were under the control of the Military Command of Chief of the General Staff, and outside the authority of the War Minister.

December 22nd, 21st year of Showa (1946)

Deponent: /S/ NAKAMURA, Kōtarō

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I certify that the above mentioned person took an oath and affixed his signature and seal hereto in my presence.

On the same date

In Tokyo.

Witness: /s/ BANNO, Junkichi

OATH

I swear to state the whole truth, conceal nothing and add nothing according to my conscience.

/s/ NAKAMURA, Kōtarō

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極中國際軍事裁判所

亞米利加合衆國其他

對

荒木貞夫其他

宣誓供述書

供述者 中村孝太郎

自分儀我國ニ行ハルル方式ニ從ヒ先ツ別紙ノ通り宣誓ヲ爲シタル上次ノ如ク供述致シマス

1)

中村孝太郎大將供述書

(一) 自分ハ明治十四年八月二十八日主シテ、終戦ノ時ハ豫備陸軍大將デアツ  
夕。昭和二年(一九二七)以降ノ略歴ハ左ノ通りデアル。

- 昭和二年 七月 歩兵第三十九旅團長(平壤)
- 同 四年 八月 朝鮮軍參謀長(京城)
- 同 五年十二月 陸軍省人事局長(東京)
- 同 七年 二月 支那駐屯軍司令官(天津)
- 同 九年 三月 第八師團長(弘前)
- 同 十年十二月 教育總監部本部長(東京)
- 同 十二年 二月 陸軍大臣(東京)
- 同 三月 軍事參議官(東京)
- 同 八月 兼東京警備司令官(東京)



同 十三年 七月 朝鮮軍司令官（京城）

同 十六年 七月 軍事參議官（東京）

九月 退職

十二月 應召東部軍司令官（東京）

同 十八年 五月 召集解除

(二) 昭和六年（一九三一年）當時ハ南陸相ノ下ニ於テ陸軍省人事局長ノ職ニ  
アツタ。其ノ立場ヨリ知り得タ所ニ依レバ當時ノ若槻内閣ハ前任ノ濱口内  
閣ト同様ニ緊縮政策ヲ採リ、豫算削除ノ爲ニ、大イニ行政整理ヲ實行セン  
トシタ。七月下旬ニハ井上藏相ヨリ恩給法改正案ノ提出アリ武官恩給ノ削  
減修正ヲ要望サレタノデ、陸軍省ニ於テハ慎重ナル審議ヲ重ネタコトデア  
ツタ。又武官俸給ノ削減ハ軍務局及ヒ經理局ノ關係デ自分ノ所管事項デア

ナイガ文官ノ方ト歩調ヲ合セテ改正サレタコトヲ聞イテ并ル。斯様ナ狀況デアツタカラ、諸制度、兵器材料等刷新ヲ要スルモノノ經費ヲ國庫ヨリ仰グワケニハ行カズ、僅カニ陸軍自体ノ豫算ヲ節約捻出シテ最モ緊急ノ事項例ヘバ騎兵隊等ヲ廢シテ飛行隊又ハ器械化部隊ノ編成等ニ充當スルヨリ仕方ガナカツタ。

而モ若槻内閣ハ議會後成立セルヲ以テ前内閣豫算内ニ於テ編成裝備等ノ改正ヲ企圖セルモ、内閣更迭ノ爲改正案モ中止セラレタ。當時ノ裝備ハ前大戰初期ノ程度テ列國ニ比較シテ時代遅レノモノデアツテ甚シク見劣リガシタモノデアル。

(三) 師團長會議ハ毎年恒例トシテ、東京ニ招集セラレ、陸軍省、參謀本部、教育總監部ニ於テ事務打合せヲナスモノデアルガ昭和六年ニ於テハ南陸相就任後初メテ八月四日ニ開催サレタ。其ノ時ノ講演中、藉蒙ノ情勢ガ不良

化スルハ甚ダ遺憾トスル所ニシテ、軍務ニ従事スルモノハ益々教育ニ訓練  
ニ努カシ、其ノ本分ヲ完フスルヲ期スベシトノ一頂ガアリ、之ヲ以テ新聞  
ノアルモノハ軍國主義鼓吹ノ如ク、又軍人ノ政治關與ノ如ク論難シタ。然  
乍ラ陸軍大臣ガ師團長ニ對シ、海外ノ情勢ノ認識ヲ求メ軍自体ノ教育訓練  
ニ努カスベキヲ望ムノハ當然ノ事デナケレバナラヌ。然モ、之ガ世間ニ反  
響ヲ呼ビ起シタ所以ハ要スルニ當時ノ政治情勢ノ動搖ニ乘ジ閣僚ノ言葉尻  
ヲ捕ヘテ倒閣ヲ計ラントスル政黨一部ノ策動トシカ者ヘラレナカツタ。

(四) 昭和六年九月十八日夜、奉天柳條溝ニ於テ事件突發シ、日支軍ガ戦闘ヲ  
始メタト云フ報知ハ翌朝八時頃陸軍省ニ於テ聞イタノデアアル。

抑々戦闘ニ最モ必要ナル要素ハ人員殊ニ將校ノ配屬充用デアアル。然ルニ本  
事件ニ關シテハ、人事局長デアアル自分ガ人事ニ付テ豫メ聞クコトモナク  
準備スルコトモナク全ク突然デアツタト云フ事實ヲ以テ見ルモ、何等ノ計

畫モナカツタコトハ明瞭デアル。

殊ニ陸軍自体ガ緊縮政策ヲ採ツテ居ル際デアリ軍ノ編成、裝備甚ダ不備ナル時ニ自ラ事端ヲ開クガ如キハ到底アリ得ナイ所デアル。其ノ後事件不擴大、局地解決ヲ目的トスル内閣ノ見解ト現地軍ノ戰略的行動トノ間ニ開キガ生シタ爲陸軍省即チ陸相トシテノ立場ガ、非常ニ困難トナツテ來タ。蓋シ戰略的行動ハ軍令系統即チ參謀總長ノ統轄スルモノデ陸相ノ權限外ニナツテ并ルカラデアル。

昭和二十一年（一九四六年）十二月二十二日 於東京

供述者 中村孝太郎 ㊟

右八當立會人ノ面前ニテ宣誓シ且ツ署名捺印シタルコトヲ證明シマス

同日 於東京

立會人

阪谷 塾 孝吉 ㊟

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宣 誓 書

良心ニ從ヒ眞迷ヲ迷ベ何事ヲモ默秘セズ又何事ヲモ附加セザルコトヲ誓フ

中 村 孝 太 郎 印