

Doc 3356 Evid

Folder 12

(8)

EXCERPT from INTERROGATION of HASHIMOTO, Kingoro

17 January 1946

- Q. Under whose orders did you act when you shelled the Ladybird?
- A. This was under orders from Lt. Gen. YANAGAWA. These orders read as follows: "Nanking being in a state of siege, and it appearing that enemy troops will attempt to flee upstream, Colonel HASHIMOTO is to sink all vessels proceeding towards Nanking without regard to nationality." I believe these orders were issued two days before the fall of Nanking. I believe that was about the 10th of December 1937. These orders were received about 0200 when I was about 5 or 6 kilos downstream from Wuhu. Having received the orders I returned to Wuhu and prepared my guns. The next morning the river was heavily fog bound and when the fog lifted at about 1000 I noticed four ships were in the stream, three of which were gray and one ship was painted white. I immediately started shelling them and the three gray ships fled downstream. The white ship came towards our position and it turned out to be the British gun-boat, "Ladybird." The other three were Chinese ships which had been landing troops on the shore. While the Ladybird was in my custody, evidently they received a wireless communication to the effect that the Panay had been hit, and the Commanding Officer of the Ladybird asked my permission to go to the rescue of the Panay.

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(Comment on introduction of IPS Document 3356)

Prosecution offers in rebuttal IPS Document No. 3356, which is excerpt from the interrogation of HASHIMOTO, Kingoro, of 17 January 1946, which contradicts the testimony of Defendant HASHIMOTO as to the shelling of the British ship "Ladybird," appearing at Transcript page 28,796, wherein he stated the shelling of the "Ladybird" was by mistake and the testimony of defense witness OBATA, Minoru, appearing in Transcript at pages 28,769-70, wherein he quoted a different order from Lt. General YANAGAWA, and stated the shelling started before dawn.

No. 3346

EX. 3846

檢察側文書第三三五六號

一九四六年一月十七日橋本欣五郎

ニ對スル訊問抜孝

問、

貴方ガレデイバード / LADY BIR

COOPY

答、

柳川 / YAMAGAWA / 中將ノ命令デアリマシ

タ。コノ命令ハ次ノ如クデアリマス。一南京

ハ包圍ノ状態ニアリ敵軍ハ上流ニ向ツテ逃亡

ヲ企テル模様ニ付橋本大佐ハ口辯ノ如何ヲ問

ハズ南京ニ向ツテ航行スル船ヲ全部沈没スル

云々。コノ命令ハ南京陥落ノ二日前ニ發セラ

レタト思ヒマス。ソレハ一九三七年十二月十

日頃デアツタト思ヒマス。命令ハ私ガ蕪湖ノ

WUHU / 下流、約五キロカ六キロノ所ニ居

タ時二時頃受ケ取りマシタ。命令ヲ受ケテカ

ラ私ハ蕪湖 / WUHU / ニ歸リ私ノ砲ノ數門ノ

ノ準備ヲ致シマシタ。翌朝、河ハ濃霧ニ閉サ

レテ居リ、十時頃霧ガ上ツタ時、江面ニ四艘

ノ船ヲ認メマシタ。ソノ中三艘ハ灰色デ一艇

ハ白ク塗ツテアリマシタ。私ハ直ニソレ等ニ

砲撃ヲ始メマシタ所三艇ノ灰色ノ船ハ下流ニ

逃亡致シマシタ。白イ船ハ我々ノ陣地ニ向ツ

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テ來マシタ。ソシテソレガ英艦ノ砲艦「レデ
 イバード」/LADY BIRDノ號デアル事ガ解リ
 マシタ。他ノ三隻ハ江岸デ軍隊ヲ上陸サセテ
 キタ中ノ船デアリマシタ。レデイバードノ
 LADY BIRDノガ私ノ手許デ抑留中バネーノ
 PANAYノ號ガ他艦ヲ受ケテ被弾シタ旨彼等
 ガ無線通信ヲ受接シタノハ明カデ、レデイバ
 ード/LADY BIRDノ艦長ハ、バネー/PANAYノ號ノ救助ニ行ク爲私ノ許可ヲ得タイト
 申出デマシタ

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CHARGE OUT SLIP

Date: 20 Jan 1948

EVIDENTIARY DOC. NO. 3356

TRIAL BRIEF _____

EXHIBIT NO. _____

BACKGROUT DOC. NO. _____

FILE NO. _____

PRESSTRANS _____

U.S.S.B.S. _____

DEFENSE DOC. NO. _____

Signature Woolworth

Room # 378

INTERNATIONAL PROSECUTION SECTION

Doc. No. 3356

20 Jan 1948

ANALYSIS OF DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

DESCRIPTION OF ATTACHED DOCUMENT

Title and Nature: Excerpt from Interrogation of HASHIMOTO, Kingoro (See also IPS Doc. No. 1875)

Date: 17 Jan 1946 Original Copy Language: English

Has it been translated? Yes No

LOCATION OF ORIGINAL

Court Exhibit 2188

SOURCE OF ORIGINAL (See Case File No. 343)

PERSONS IMPLICATED: HASHIMOTO, Kingoro

CRIMES TO WHICH DOCUMENT APPLICABLE: Ladybird Incident

SUMMARY OF RELEVANT POINTS

Part of this excerpt already appears in evidence in Transcript pages 15,678-9.

This excerpt contradicts testimony of HASHIMOTO appearing in paragraph 16 on Transcript page 28,796. The excerpt also contradicts the testimony of Obata, Minoru, particularly that appearing on Transcript page 28,769-70.

Excerpt concerns orders given by LtGen Yanagawa to "sink all vessels proceeding towards Nanking without regard to nationality".

Analyst: James Hoyt

Doc. No. 3356

INTERNATIONAL PROSECUTION SECTION

MEMORANDUM

12 January 1948

TO: Chairman, Rebuttal Committee
FROM: G. S. Woolworth
SUBJECT: HASHIMOTO, Kingoro

I recommend that the following excerpt from the interrogation of HASHIMOTO, Kingoro of 17 January 1946 be processed:

- 25
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3
- "Q. Under whose orders did you act when you shelled the Ladybird?
A. This was under orders from Lt. Gen. YANAGAWA. These orders read as follows: 'Nanking being in a state of siege, and it appearing that enemy troops will attempt to flee upstream, Colonel HASHIMOTO is to sink all vessels proceeding towards Nanking without regard to nationality.' I believe these orders were issued two days before the fall of Nanking. I believe that was about the 10th of December 1937. These orders were received about 0200 when I was about 5 or 6 miles downstream from Wuhu. Having received the orders I returned to Wuhu and prepared my guns. The next morning the river was heavily fog bound and when the fog lifted at about 1000 I noticed four ships were in the stream, three of which were gray and one ship was painted white. I immediately started shelling them and the three gray ships fled downstream. The white ship came towards our position and it turned out to be the British gun-boat, "Ladybird." The other three were Chinese ships which had been landing troops on the shore. While the Ladybird was in my custody, evidently they received a wireless communication to the effect that the Panay had been hit, and the Commanding Officer of the Ladybird asked my permission to go to the rescue of the Panay."

Part of this excerpt already appears in evidence at Transcript pages 15,678-9, but the balance of the answer following the quotation of the order from Lt. General YANAGAWA was not included in the record.

This excerpt contradicts the testimony of HASHIMOTO appearing in paragraph 16 on Transcript page 28,796, which reads as follows:

"16. While I was at the front, pursuant to the order of Commanding General of the Army YANAGAWA, at Wuhu I fired at ships fleeing from Nanking which were carrying retreating Chinese soldiers. Unfortunately, on that occasion the British Gun Boat 'Lady Bird,' which was among the Chinese ships, was struck and an incident was created. But the fact that the shooting was by mistake due to the dense fog which made me take it for a Chinese ship was brought to light and I was set free from any responsibility."

The excerpt also contradicts the testimony of OBATA, Minoru, particularly the following paragraph appearing at Transcript page 28,769-70, which reads as follows:

"When he arrived at the point about 8 miles (8 RI) west of Wuhu on December 11, 1937, Colonel HASHIMOTO received the following order from Commanding General YANAGAWA and thereupon returned to Wuhu immediately: 'Unit Commander HASHIMOTO shall command his regiment together with one field artillery battalion and one infantry battalion and attack at the point near Wuhu ships which are carrying Chinese soldiers and sailing up on the Yangtse.' This order came about 2 a.m. Colonel HASHIMOTO's order then to me was, 'Major OBATA shall command his own unit together with one artillery battalion and occupy a position at the wharf of Wuhu and attack fleeing Chinese fleet.' This order came about 5 a.m.

By order of Colonel HASHIMOTO, Lieutenant NAKAMURA was to advance to a point about 2,000 meters downstream and to wave a handkerchief whenever he saw the fleeing enemy ships by telescope. When I saw the handkerchief waved by Lieutenant NAKAMURA I was to fire upon these ships. It was still before dawn and not yet light: Lieutenant NAKAMURA waved the handkerchief. I saw through the telescope a fleet of 5 or 6 ships all gathered and anchored about 50 meters apart. I instantly began firing upon this fleet. The distance was about 4,000 meters.

Even after dawn it was very difficult to see the ships clearly because of deep fog on that day, which was very typical on the Yangtse. I could only discern ships loaded with Chinese soldiers."

G. S. WOOLWORTH