

Ref Doc. 1605

Yasumichi
Sakurai

極東國際軍事裁判所

亞米利加合衆國其他

對

荒木貞夫 其他

宣誓供述書

供述書

櫻井德太郎

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

619

一、私、櫻井徳太郎ハ元陸軍少将デアリマシテ、明治三十年六月二十日生レ。現住所ハ宮崎縣児湯郡都農町。昭和十八年九月ヨリ昭和二十年二月迄第五十五師團ノ歩

兵團長トシテ印緬國境ヲアキヤブ方面ノ防衛ヲ担当シ、次テビルマ国防軍最高顧問トシテ從事シ、ビルマ国防軍叛乱直後、昭和二十年 月 歩兵學校附ヲ命ゼラレ、次テ師團長トナリ終戦ニ及ビマシタ

二、木村大將ガ著作セラレタノハ、昭和十九年九月中旬テ

アリマシテ、インパール^ル作戦失敗後デアリマシタ。私ハ
 櫻支隊長トシテ、歩兵三大隊、砲兵一大隊、騎兵聯
 隊、~~砲兵大隊~~ヲ基幹トスル約三千七百名ヲ指揮シ、アキヤ^ク
 正面ノ防衛ヲ担當スルコトトナリ、^{第五}十五師團主カハ、^クバセ
 イン^ク方面ニ轉進シマシタ。

三、木村大將ハ著任後、特ニ軍紀、志氣ノ振作、民心把握ニ關シ
 強調訓示セラレ、其後更ニ數回同趣旨ノ訓示ガアリマシタ。
 吾々ハ其意圖ヲ體シ、嚴格ナル軍紀コソ無言最高ノ
 民心把握ノルヲ部下ニ徹底シ、自肅自戒、此ト莫

ニ関シテハ 最大ノ努力ヲ傾注シ 軍紀ハ 極メテ 嚴正デシタ

四、木村大將ハ ビルマ^ル人トノ 親善 融和ト 民生ノ 安定ニハ 非常

ニ 熱心デアリマシテ、^{コト}ビルマ^ル人ニ 対スル 心得^ル ナル 冊子ヲ

編纂シ 隷下ノ 軍隊ニ 配布セラレマシタ。私共ハ之ニ

基キマシテ、部下ヲ 指導シ、私ノ 守備区域内デハ 一兵ニ

至ル迄 嚴ニ コト^ルビルマ^ル人ニ 対スル 心得^ルニ 基キ 注意シテ

行動シ 民生ノ 壓迫ヤ 民衆ノ 虐待等ハ 一ツモ アリマセンテ

シタ。又 民衆生活向上ノ 爲メ、現住民ニ 對シ 農具^器ヤ

鉋^ノヲ 作ツタリ 舟^ヲ 作ツテ 興^ヘタリシテ 居リマシタノデ。

ビルマ⁷人ハ非常ニ喜ンデ居リマシタ。日緬間ノ友情ハ濃
 ヤカチアリマシタ。從フテ、後方輸送ヤ、第一線ノ糧秣、患者
 ノ輸送~~機~~デサヘ、現地人ノ自發的意志ニ基クバカラノ協
 カヲ受ケ米等モ民衆ガ喜ンデ提供シテ呉レル有様デ
 シタ。昭和二十年一月ニ轉進スル時ハ米五萬七モ積ンデ
 居タ様ナ譯ケデ~~有~~アリマス。單獨デ交通スル兵等モ危
 険ナドハ全然ナク、食事等モ途々進ンデ現地人が饗
 應シテクレル様ナ有様デシタ。

日本軍ハ特ニビルマ⁷人ノ宗教ヲ尊重保護シテ居リ

マシタノデ、現地民トハ極メテ融和シテ居リマシタ。

海岸正面テハ「ビルマ」ハ「ビルマ」人が守ルト言ツテ、現住民が

海岸警備ヲヤツテ居リマシテ、敵が上陸シタ時ニハ信號

ナドシテ報告シテ呉レマシタ。一度ハ「インテン」附近ノ村長

が上陸スル敵ヲ妨害シテ戦死シタコトガアリマシタ。

五、ソレカエ、私ハ「ビルマ」国防軍 指導ノ最高顧問トシテ

短期間服役シマシタが、間モナク、一九四五年三月末突如

叛乱スルニ至リ自ラ解職サレ、内地ニ轉任 歸國シ

マシタが、其ノ叛乱直前ニハ日緬兩軍ニテ作戰協定ヲ
司令部で行ヒ又出陣式ヲ行ヒ之ヲ祝ヒシ有様ニテ

日本軍トシテハ其ノ叛乱ハ今ヲ際期シテ居リマセンデシタ
 カ。叛乱軍ハ事前ヨリ討画シテオタ實情デアリマシテ
 今ヲ飼犬ニ手ヲ噛マシタ感アリシハ當時ノ實感デアリマシタ
 然ルニ、木村大將ハ彼等ノ立場ヲ考ヘラレ、且ツ從來ノ親
 和協力ヲ思ヒ、感情ニ捉ハルコトナク冷静ニ處置セ
 ラレ、特ニ報復的小策ヲ~~禁~~禁ジ、帰順スルモノハ既往ヲ問ハズ、
 保護スベキ布告ヲ出サレ、唯、作戦的ニ處置セラレタ~~ニ~~過ギ
 ナイ寛裕ノ態度デアリマシタ。

以上

#1605

TITLE _____

TRANSLATION BY Fujii Kotaro COMPLETED May, 26

CHECKED BY I. MATSUHARA COMPLETED May 27, 1947 / May 28

TYPED BY _____ COMPLETED _____

My Doc # 1605

I N T E R

The United States of America, et al

vs

ARAKI, Sadao, et al

SWORN DEPOSITION

Deponent : SAKURAI, Tokentaro

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.

1.

I, SAKURAI, Tokutarō, ex-Major General, was born on June 21, 1897. My present address is TSUNO-~~CHO~~^{Machi}, KOYU -~~GUN~~^{gun}, Miyazaki prefecture. I was in charge of the defense ^{of the} in Akyah area on the border between India and Burma as a commander of the Infantry corps of the 55th Division from September, 1943 to February, 1945. Then I served as the chief advisor ^{to} of the Burmese National Defense Army. Immediately after the Burmese National Defense Army rose in revolt ~~against the Japanese army~~, I was ordered to be attached to the Infantry School in 1945. ^{Later}, I became divisional-~~Afterwards~~, I served as a commander of a ~~certain division~~ ^{and remained as} until the ~~surrender of Japan~~ ^{end of hostilities}.

2. It was after the military operation ~~of~~

2.

~~Capturing~~ ^{of} IMPHAL ^{which} ended in a failure, ⁱⁿ ~~at~~
the middle ~~of~~ -September, 1944, that General
KIMURA ^{came into} ~~took~~ office. As the commander of
the ^{Sakura} ~~Detached~~ ^{ment} force, I took command
of ~~the~~ force numbering about 3,700, with
three Infantry battalions, one artillery battalion
and one cavalry regiment as ^{In nucleus} ~~the main force~~ ²
and was in charge of the defense ^{to} ~~of~~ the
front of ^{Kyab} ~~AKHAB~~, while the main force
of the 55th Division moved to ^{the} ~~the direction of~~ ^{area} ~~BASSETN~~.

3. General KIMURA, ^{when he came into} ~~after having taken~~ office,
^{especially} stressed and advised that we should
strive to win the confidence of the people,
as well as to enforce strict military
discipline and to raise the morale of the
men. Later ~~or~~ he delivered ~~several times~~

~~the~~ instructions ^{several times} to the same effect. In compliance with his instructions, we brought it home to our subordinates that ~~the~~ very strict military discipline ~~is~~ ^{was} the best way to win the confidence of the people.

We did our utmost to behave ~~ourselves~~ as prudently as possible, so that strict military discipline ^{was strictly} maintained.

4. General KIMURA ^{was so earnest} ~~had such deep concern~~ ^{about} ~~over~~ the promotion of friendship and harmony between the Japanese army and the Burmese and ~~over~~ the stabilization of their ^{latter's} livelihood that he made his subordinates compile ~~the~~ ^a pamphlet entitled "The ^{Attitude to take Towards} ~~Directions concerning~~ the Burmese", and distributed them to the members of the units under his command. We guided

our subordinates on the basis ^{laid in} of this pamphlet.

^{Because of this}
~~Based on it,~~ ^{all} ~~the~~ ^{men} ~~rank and file~~ in my
garrison area behaved themselves so ^{well, and} ~~prudently~~
^{being rigidly} to "The Attitude to take Towards the Burmese," in which
that there was not a single case ~~where~~

the Burmese were persecuted or maltreated.

In addition, in order to raise the standard of ^{the}
people's living, we made and gave
agricultural ^{implements} ~~appliances~~, hatchets and boats
to them, so that they were extremely grateful

to us. In short, ~~the~~ friendly relations between
^{the} Japan ^{and} Burma ^{was} very ^{strong} ~~close~~. Therefore,

they were willing to ^{help} ~~cooperate~~ with us ^{with}
~~the~~ ^{in the rear areas} ~~rear~~ transport ^{the} and in transport of ^{ation}
^{and the sick evacuat} ~~the~~ provisions ~~to~~ the front ^{voluntarily,} and of

patients. They were willing ^{enough} to ⁱⁿ supply ^{ing} us
with such food as rice and the like. By the
^{It was such that}
~~same token~~, when we moved to ^{any} other area

5.

in January, 1945, we transported no less than 50,000 tons of rice. ~~It was~~ ^{There} ~~not~~ ^{no} dangerous at all for Japanese soldiers to travel anywhere ~~by themselves~~ ^{alone} ~~&~~ ^{and} the inhabitants ~~were~~ ^{gladly} willing to serve ^d us ~~dinner~~ ^{meals} on the way.

The Japanese army ^{particularly} respected and protected the religion of the Burmese, so ~~much~~ ^{that} ~~so~~ ^{they were} ~~that~~ ^{very much} ~~it was~~ ^{the army} in ^{perfect} harmony with the inhabitants.

The Burmese, ^{said} ~~insisting~~ that so far as the ~~front~~ of the seashore was concerned, they themselves would defend it ^{and} kept watch long on the seashore. When the enemy landed, they reported it to us by means of signals and the like. Once a village headman ^{in the} ~~around~~ neighborhood of Inten (IN: phonetic) ^{in action} was killed while obstructing the landing of the enemy.

(6)

5. Then I served as the chief ^{to} adviser of the
Burmese National Defense Army for a short period. ~~In the~~
~~But soon afterwards,~~ ^{late in March, 1945, the army}
meantime, ~~it~~ suddenly rose in revolt, ~~against the~~
~~Japanese Army late in March, 1945.~~ Therefore, I was
obliged to resign my post and was transferred to
Japan. Immediately before ~~the~~ ^{however,} revolt, the Japanese
and the Burmese Armies made ^{an agreement} ~~arrangements~~ ^{on} for
~~the~~ military operations at ~~the~~ Headquarters of ~~the~~
~~Japanese Army~~ and ~~the~~ ceremony in honor of our
departure for the front was held. Such being the
case, we did not expect ^{the revolt} ~~such a~~ incident
in the least. The fact was, ^{however} that they ^{had been} plotting
the revolt ^{for some time previously} ~~beforehand~~. ^{so that} ~~we really felt~~ ^{at that time}
we ~~felt~~ ^{had} actually that we ^{had} warmed a snake in
our bosom, ^{so to speak.} However, General KIMURA, making
allowances for the cooperation and friendship
which ^{they} ~~had~~ ^{shown to} ~~existed~~ between us ~~and~~ them as
well as ^{considering} ~~for~~ their ^{standpoint} ~~position~~, dealt with the incident

(7)

in a ^{cool-headed} ~~peaceful~~ way without being carried away by his feeling. Especially he forbade us to resort to any retaliatory measures.

He issued ~~the~~ proclamation to the effect that those who ^{would} pledge allegiance to the Japanese Army again ~~shall~~ ^{should} ~~would~~ be protected by the Japanese Army instead of being called to account for what ^{they} ~~had~~ ^{done} ~~happened~~. He was so indulgent as to deal with them only from the standpoint of strategy. So generous was his attitude that he disposed of the matter with only operational considerations ~~in~~ ^{scope} ~~mind~~. The only factor:

On this 14th day of May, 1947
Tsuno-Mechi Koyu
at FONO-CHO ~~HEA~~ GUN, MIYAZAKI
Prefecture

DEPONENT SAKURAI Tokentaro (seal)

I, KORETSUNE Tatsumi 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 the same place

Witness: (signed) KORETSUNE Tatsumi (seal)

OATH

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

SAKURAI Tokutaro (seal)

My #1605

Sovata sheet

P.1, line 4 from bottom

"----- to the Infantry School in 1945." should be corrected "to the Infantry School on 5th. April, 1945."

正詩表

辯護側書記一六〇五

一頁五行目

昭和三十年

月 7 昭和三十年四月五日 訂正

二頁五行目

民生ノ圧迫ヤ民衆ノ待等ハツモアリマセン

ヲ

民生ノ圧迫ヤ民衆ノ虐待等ハツモアリマセン

ニ訂正アリ度