

No. 3409

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 (Translation)

Deponent: OKADA Takashi

Having been duly sworn in accordance with the procedure followed in my country, I do hereby depose and say as follows:

- (1) I studied the Chinese language and the current history of China at the TOA DOBUN SHOIN (East Asia's Common Language College) and after graduating from the same college I became a lecturer at the Shanghai Political Middle School. Through this career, I have made many friends and acquaintances among important Chinese people.
- (2) As my deceased father was an intimate friend of General MATSUI's, I have been well acquainted with the General since my childhood.

Prior to his departure from Tokyo in August, 1937, as Commander of the Expeditionary Force to Shanghai, the General called me to his house at OMORI and told me that he wanted to take me to Shanghai to assist in his work as a non-regular official attached to his headquarters. I consented. Concerning my duties, the General said as follows:

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"I have been a faithful follower of the late General KAWAKAMI, Soroku, a senior leader of the Japanese Army, and of Dr. Sun Yet-sen, 'National Father of China' and have endeavored for the past few decades for the friendship and coalition of Japan and China the sake of the emancipation and renovation of Asia. Despite the earnest efforts of mine and my friends, this unhappy Incident has taken place between the two countries, and I am now filled with strange emotion on being appointed quite unexpectedly as Commander of the Expeditionary Force.

"The reason for installing an old man like me out of the reserve list into this post of importance seems that, instead of aiming at the achievement of glorious military feats, I, with my thorough knowledge and warm love for China, am hoped to settle the Incident absolutely on the non-aggravation principle and at the least possible sacrifice on either side.

"It is of course necessary to demand a responsible attitude from the Chinese authorities who have violated the Japanese rights and interests and endangered the lives and property of our residents in Shanghai by all manners of antagonistic and insolent actions against Japan. However, it is a concurrent result of long accumulated causes that has led up to the present open dispute, and both Japan and China should be responsible for that. I am sincerely anxious to have this earnest desire of mine thoroughly understood by both nations and open a way for reconciliation with the least possible fighting.

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"Therefore when you land at Shanghai, it will be your first duty to get in touch with as many Chinese influentials as possible and tell them that Commander MATSUI never wants to fight with China, that he will see to the safety of their lives, property and all else during the fighting and will endeavor for a prompt solution of the unhappy Incident with the hope that they will render him cooperation and assistance therein."

The General went on saying "If necessary, we could defeat a large enemy with a smaller and poorer equipped force by skilful use of tactics. But that would be only for a military victory and the result in the long run would be disastrous because forced fighting necessarily requires great sacrifices of human life and undue hostile feelings from the soldiers. It is therefore more desirable to win an immediate and overwhelming victory by using sufficient numbers of well-equipped troops and thereby avoid prolongation of tragic fighting. This is the most effective way to make our non-aggravation principle really work for the immediate restoration of peace.

"I have therefore requested our Government to provide me with at least five divisions, but the War Minister has decided that three divisions will be sufficient. I regret the War Minister's lack of knowledge of the recent conditions in China and cannot help feeling uneasy about the fate of our non-aggravation policy."

(3) I landed in Shanghai at the end of August when the Incident was at the very initial stage. (Commander MATSUI was then still on board

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the ship). I at once looked for my Chinese acquaintances in the Concessions in order to communicate to them Commander MATSUI's intention. (I kept communications with the Commander through Mr. HARADA, Kumakichi, Chief of the Special Service Division.) I found opportunities to talk with Mr. Tang Shao-i, a great senior friend of mine and veteran statesman of China, and also with Mr. Li Tse-i who was well informed of the circumstances of Japan. We talked about and actually worked in concert for the elimination of the distressful Sino-Japanese relations.

I also tried to get in touch with Mr. Tu Yuch-shang, my father's friend, and ask for his help for the preservation of peace and order in Shanghai, which was then an international city, but could not get a chance before his departure for Hongkong.

(4) Accompanying the Army Commander, I went to his headquarters in Soochow on the 8th of December. On his arrival at Soochow, General MATSUI had a note advising the Chinese army to immediate surrender and had bills bearing the same note scattered over the walled city of Nanking from the air on December 9. His purpose was to capture the city without bloodshed and with the least possible destruction of the capital. At the same time he took precautions against rash attacks on the city by different army units, each striving to be the first to enter the city and thereby causing unnecessary destruction of the city and aggravation of the suffering of the citizens. So he issued orders on or about Dec. 9, if I remember right, for all the units under his command to stop the general attack and stand in their positions around the city until the

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issue of further orders. At the same time he gave instructions to the entire army to see to the safe preservation of the Chung-shan Ling (Dr. Sun Yat-sen's tomb) and various cultural establishments in the neighborhood as well as of foreign rights and interests, and also to maintain strict military discipline.

I was suddenly called into the staff-officers' room late at night (about 2,00 A.M.) of Dec. 3th and was made to translate into Chinese a note of the following purport:

"Your answer to our written advice for surrender shall be waited for at the sentry-line on the Nanking-Chuyang Road outside the Chung-shan Gate at noon of December 10. If your army send responsible persons representing your Commander-in-Chief to the appointed place, we are prepared to negotiate with them concerning agreements for the taking over the city of Nanking. If, however, we do not have your answer by the designated hour, our troops will be obliged to begin attacking the city."

The above note was written on bills and cast down within the walls of Nanking from the air, together with the other ^{set} of bills advising surrender on Dec. 9.

I started from Soochow by car on the morning of Dec. 9, together with C of S TSUKUDA and staff-officers KIMURA and NAKAYAMA, and on reaching the suburbs of Nanking, we passed the night at a certain unit quarters. On the following day, at 11:00 A.M. we (TSUKUDA, KIMURA, NAKAYAMA and I) went to the outside of Chung-Shan Gate and waited there for the arrival of the Chinese parlementaires for two hours until 1:00

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P.M., but they did not appear after all. So we left there, and immediately after that, the order for the general attack was given, if I remember right.

(5) When I entered the city of Nanking with Lt. Col. MURAKAMI soon after its fall on the early morning of Dec. 13, the city seemed to be rather peaceful, considering the fact that it was immediately after the furious battles. What attracted our attention most was the enormous quantity of military uniform and arms left by Chinese soldiers and scattered on the streets. I found people taking refuge in some quarters of the city and took some 50 of them to the Metropolitan Hotel which was to be the Commander's residence and had them help the soldiers of the administrative department of the Headquarters sweep and clean the interior of the Hotel. These refugees and other peaceful citizens, who were made to work for our army, received payments from the Headquarters and were given sufficient quantity of the remnants of the soldiers' meals. So they worked willingly.

At that time I remember an old man by the name of Sun, about 60 years of age, who spoke some Japanese, coming to our Headquarters and the Japanese Consulate and, by our approval, at once organizing a self-governing community.

(6) From Dec. 17 on, the Commander lodged at the Metropolitan Hotel and I was given a room near those of the Commander. A celebration banquet was given on the evening of the 17th attended by the Commander and the rest of the officers. When, on the following morning, I called on

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the Commander in his room, he was alone, and looked extremely ~~bad~~. After a usual morning salutation, I asked him if there had been any unpleasant matter worrying him, because he did not look at all like a general who had captured the enemy's capital after so brilliant a victory. He quietly ^{said} "I have visited this city of Nanking many times before for the sole purpose of realizing peaceful relations between Japan and China for which I have hoped and worked for these over 30 years. But I now realize that we have unknowingly wrought a most grievous effect on this city. When I think on the feelings and sentiments of many of my Chinese friends who have fled from Nanking and on the future of the two countries, I cannot but feel depressed. I am very lonely and can never get in a mood to rejoice at the victory.

I could not help sympathizing with him when he spoke to me in this grave, sorrowful tone. I knew that many of leading officers in the Japanese Navy and Army had been interested in the study of affairs concerning Europe and America and were apt to despise any study of China, but that General MATSUI had almost singly devoted himself to Chinese questions since his youth and that his promotion to the rank of general because of his merit in his studies of China was indeed an exceptional case. I also knew that there was no other man in the Army who had so many friends in China as he did.

I think the feelings and sentiments of the General at that time are well expressed in the Chinese poem which he composed in Nanking on New Year's Day of 1938 and which he showed me when I called at his official

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residence for New Year's greetings. It reads in English something like the following:

Riding north and south for scores of years,

I have worked for the recreation of Asia but alas!

In a war camp I now greet my sixty-first year:

Even so, death shall not overtake my youthful hopes.

General MATSUI expounded on the poem as follows:

"Through my travels in China for scores of years I have, with all my heart and strength, ever prayed and worked for peace and development of Asia. But on reflecting on what I have actually done, I am ashamed of the limitation of my ability. I am now in my sixty-first year and in a campaign. But my ardent hopes cherished since my youthful days can not be overtaken by age. I will forever, even after my body perishes, strive to accomplish the purpose."

(7) On Dec. 19, Commander MATSUI, for the purpose of inspecting the battle-fields visited Chingling Hill and the Astronomical Observatory, accompanied by his staff-officers, and took a wide view of the city from there while listening to the explanations of his staff-officers. The General expressed joy and gratitude at the sight of the perfect condition of the Chung-shan Ling and told his officers that he was sorry for the interruption of General Chiang's endeavor for the unification of China. He added that if General Chiang had been patient for a few years longer and avoided hostilities, Japan would have understood the disadvantage of trying to solve the issue between the two countries by the use of arms, so that there would not have occurred this tragedy of two brothers

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fighting against each other within the same house. His staff-officers looked curious to hear their General talk in this manner, I stood by and also listened to him.

On his way back, the Commander surprised his staff-officers by saying that he would like to see the conditions of the refugees in the neighborhood. And he did go to see them. He asked them about the dangers they had undergone during the fighting and various other pertinent matters, and comforted them saying that despite his strict orders for the soldiers to be careful not to harm the refugees, they might sometimes find themselves in trouble because of the inability of the Japanese soldiers to understand their language, but that the days of peace and prosperity would surely come soon, so that they should be engaged in their professions without anxiety.

The above speech was interpreted word by word by me.

(8) The Commander greatly feared the relaxation of discipline which is apt to follow severe fighting. So he warned C of S TSUKUDA time again and ordered him to see to the maintenance of discipline and morale by means of strict orders and severe punishment, and I was often by his side to hear him giving such instructions. Later I saw some officers and soldiers being sent home from Shanghai as criminals under severe punishment.

In the middle of February, General MATSUI was ordered home after being discharged from his post as part of the reorganization of the army. He said to me then with a sigh:

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"It is my great regret to be called home in the middle of my task, which would be a far more honorable mission for me to accomplish than holding the Commander-ship of the army -- the task which consists in stopping armed hostilities at the fall of Nanking and concentrating our efforts in the reconciliation with the Chinese Government without extending the fighting line up-stream beyond Nanking, but since my discharge from this post has been commanded by the Emperor, I must obey as a subject should."

(9) On Dec. 21, after a few days' stay in the city, Commander MATSUI left Nanking on board a Japanese destroyer and returned on the 23rd to the Area Army's Headquarters in Shanghai after visiting the old battlefields of Niao-lung-Shan and Chenkiang on his way. On board the ship with the General, I had opportunities for free and leisurely conversations with him. The following is the gist of what he said to me on this occasion:

"The unhappy war between Japan and China should never be allowed to spread further. In consequence of the anti-Japanese education in China since the Manchurian Incident, anti-Japanese feelings have been aggravated among the military circles as well as among students, with the result to endanger the Japanese rights and interests and lives and property of our residents in China. Accordingly our country has been obliged to appeal to arms in order to defend them, and at last for force of circumstance we have come to this disaster and been forced to capture the Chinese capital. However, the issue between the two countries can never be solved by the sword. It may temporarily, but never permanently.

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If we do not thoroughly clear the mutual misunderstandings by peaceful steps, that is by diplomatic measures, the two nations will certainly fall into further and greater misfortunes. I am therefore determined to endeavor for the establishment of permanent peace. My mission as Commander has been primarily in the working out of peace and not in the military operations that I have been engaged in so far. If military operations were the only aim, there would have been no reason for picking up an old man like me from the reserve service since there are so many fine generals to choose from on the active list.

"Since the two countries have got into belligerent state, negotiations for peace by military authorities on both sides will be more than ever difficult the most desirable way therefore seems to me that both nations should get into negotiations through their respective economic representatives (or cultural representatives though the former are more preferable) and let them work out, quite apart from military operations, a way for peace based on reasonable thinking and persuade each government into their view so that a peaceful atmosphere may be created so effectively between the two countries that their governments would eventually dissolve the state of hostility without losing their respective honor and credit."

I quite agreed with the above view of the General, and after some discussion we decided that the fittest Chinese prominent to play this role was Sung Tsu-wen. As soon as I returned to Shanghai, I called by

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the General's order on Mr. Li Tse-i in the French Concession, conveyed to him the Commander's intention and asked for his approval. Toward the end of January Mr. Li met General MATSUI and agreed that he would convey the General's message to Mr. Sung and ask for his action.

So I disguised myself as a Chinese, and Mr. Li and I left Shanghai on board a British steamer on Jan. 4 and arrived in secret in Hongkong around Jan. 10. I stayed in Kowloon and waited for the results of Mr. Li's interviews with Mr. Sung. On Jan. 15, I called on Mr. Li at Hongkong Hotel and received the following report from him:

"Through repeated interviews with Mr. Sung, it has been ascertained that Mr. Sung is almost of the same opinion as we. He regards this unhappy Incident as a misfortune not only of Japan and China but of the entire mankind, and therefore the prevention of its further development as humanity's common responsibility. If General MATSUI sincerely holds to that view as representing the Japanese side, Mr. Sung is ready to act on his part along this line."

I heartily thanked Mr. Li for this hopeful report and returned to my hotel after requesting him to go farther into concrete negotiations. However, on the following Feb. 16, the KONOE Declaration of Chiang Kai-shek's Government" was published by the Japanese Consulate General. "we ignore the existence
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On the day after that, a telegram came from Col. USUDA in Shanghai, saying "Commander MATSUI ordered to change. Come back to Shanghai at once." This finished everything. Thus our endeavors were all

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brought to naught just before getting the final decision from Mr. Sung.

(10) Commander MLTSUI left Shanghai on Feb. 23 and returned to Japan. A few days before his departure, he invited Mr. Li and me to a supper at his residence. On that occasion he said:

(A) "It is to my great regret that I have lost the chance to stay on in Shanghai and accomplish peace negotiations, but after returning home and being discharged of my post, I will continue my efforts for bringing about permanent peace between China and Japan as a free man MLTSUI out of military uniform.

"I have no ambition whatsoever for honor or wealth and much less for political activity. The only desire I have now is to become ambassador to China and devote the rest of my life to the realization of peace between the two countries. However, it is very doubtful whether our government, especially our military authorities, will wish my activity in that field.

(B) "As Army Commander, I feel responsible for the fact of tens of thousands of soldiers having fallen on both sides for the sake of their respective countries in the severe battles that we have had to fight. So, as soon as I get home, I want to erect a statue of Bodhisattva (Buddhist goddess of mercy) and offer prayers for the eternal repose of these departed souls. For the moulding of the holy statue, I want to mix in the clay some of the soil which sacked the precious blood of Chinese and Japanese warriors. So I wish to have a handful

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of earth from Tachangchen, when the severest of battles was fought, sent to me by convenient mail.'

In compliance with the above request of the General, I went to Tachangchen and got a handful of soil from beneath the remains of a Chinese and a Japanese soldier and sent it to the General by air mail. Using the earth, he got a statue of Bodhisattva made, whose noble and beautiful figure can be seen today on the top of a hill near his house at IZUSAN, ATAMI. Furthermore he had a temple built for the statue and dedicated the same temple to the souls of Chinese and Japanese war-dead, and every morning, fine or foul, he climbed the hill to the sacred temple and offered prayers for the repose of the soldiers' souls and for eternal peace of Asia.

(11) The General is a man with a strong sense of justice. When I was in Fuchow in China, a People's Revolutionary Government was organized in Fukien province in opposition to General Chiang. At that time General M. TSUI was Commander of the Formosan Army. When he was informed of an attempt among some Japanese people to restrain the Nationalist Government by supporting the People's Revolutionary Government in Fukien province and of General Chiang's worry about it, he declared that no Japanese should ever support a government which might hinder the unification of China. The Commander's determination was communicated to General Chiang Kai-shek through Mr. Li Tse-i who was then in Formosa, and I know General Chiang was very much pleased with it.

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Meanwhile Staff-officer TSUCHIHASHI of the Formosan Army was sent to the People's Revolutionary Government in Fukien with General MATSUI's advice that since civil war was most disastrous to peaceful people, the Revolutionary troops should retreat without fighting with the nationalist army. In compliance with General MATSUI's advice, the Revolutionary Army peacefully retreated to Canton and the Nationalist army took over Fukien province without bloodshed. I was then in Fuchow and took part in the affair, so I am well informed of its actual circumstances.

(12) The following are some instances of the humaneness and kind-heartedness shown by General MATSUI in January of 1938 when he was in Shanghai soon after the close of the battles:

(A) Supreme Commander MATSUI presented ten thousand yen to Jaquinot, a French missionary, on Jan. 14 for the purpose of repaying his acts of charity and for the relief of the poor in the Nan-Shih refugee quarters. Father Jaquinot had, out of his humane spirit, fought for the establishment of the Nan-shih refugee quarters in the northern section of Nan-shih and living in a Christian church there, he himself was supervising the relief work. His acts of Charity had been gratefully appreciated by different circles.

(B) Mr. NIKAI, Masasuke (aged 32), a teacher at the SAUMEI Primary School in Osaka, came to Shanghai as a non-regular officer of the

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Osaka Educational Society, bringing with him school children's free-drawings, letters, and presents of candies for the soldiers. When he saw Commander M.TSUI, the General, pointing out the fact that every letter of encouragement from Japanese children was full of such phrases as "hateful Chinese" and "Chastisement of insolent China" betraying the low level of Japanese education, strictly warned the school teacher against having the children use such phrases again.

From these words and deeds of his, we can easily understand that General M.TSUI is a man who never loses sight of human justice.

On this 10 day of Dec., 1946

at Atami

DEPONENT /S/ OKADA Takashi (seal)

I, ITO Kiyoshi, 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 _____

WITNESS: /S/ ITO, Kiyoshi (seal)

OATH

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

/S/ OKADA Takashi (seal)