

no. 2998



Translated by  
Defence Language Branch

INTERNATIONAL MILITARY TRIBUNAL FOR THE FAR EAST

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, et al.

-vs-

ARAKI, Sadao, et al

Sworn Deposition

Deponent:-- WAKAMATSU, Makoto

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.

My name is WAKAMATSU, Makoto and I reside at No. 774, Karuizawa, Karuizawa-machi, Nagano Prefecture. I wish to make the following statement:

1. I was an employee of the NANYO KOHATSU KABUSHIKI-KAISHA (South Seas Development Co., Ltd.). As an employee of the said company, I was on Tinian Island under Japanese mandated rule from January to October 1935, on Rota Island from October of the same year to January, 1937, and on Saipan Island from January 1937 to April 1946. On June 14, 1944 the United States forces landed on Saipan and I was in custody of the forces from



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July 13, 1944 to April, 1946 when I was repatriated to Japan.

2. During my internment, on or about March 16, 1946, I was summoned to the United States Military Government in Saipan and examined by a young American Lieutenant (1st Lt.) about twenty years old. He knew Japanese and interrogated me in that language. His Japanese was not fluent, but good enough to make himself understood. He wrote down my statement in English and had me sign it but he did not translate it and read it to me.

I have looked at the original document numbered Prosecution Exhibit 384 which was shown to me by Defense counsel at the time I was interviewed here in this building. I do not understand spoken English. I can only understand written English if I have an English-Japanese dictionary before me and considerable time to ponder over the written material. On the original document is a statement by Ensign Charles D. Sheldon which reads as follows:

"I swear that I am familiar with both the English language and the Japanese language and that before the above statement was signed I read same in the Japanese language to the person who signed same."

This statement is in error. A translation of this English document was not given to me either orally or in written form. The manner in which I was questioned is as follows: The American Lieutenant asked me questions in Japanese to which I responded. When, writing with a fountain pen on a piece of paper, he appeared to be making out a statement. The interview lasted about 20 minutes, at the end of which time



the Lieutenant gave the handwritten piece of paper to a Navy enlisted man who typed out the piece of paper which I ultimately signed in the same room. I knew Ensign Sheldon by sight since he was in charge of the Japanese internees at my camp and I saw him almost every day. However, I had never spoken to him nor he to me. Therefore, the inaccuracies and mistakes appearing in the affidavit, Court Exhibit 884 in regard to which I shall make my statement, must have occurred because the English was never translated into Japanese and read back to me for confirmation.

3. I want to point out inaccuracies and mistakes in the affidavit (Court Exhibit 884) which is purported to be the record of my oral statement, as follows:

(a) In the above-mentioned affidavit it is written: "I observed the various military installations in the vicinity of ASLITO Field on which construction was commenced in 1933." However, I merely stated: "I think that ASLITO Air Field had been there about two years before I reached S.I.P.N." I did not state "I observed various military installations."

(b) In the same affidavit it is written: "Two years before the outbreak of the war, the Japanese military built a series of concrete trenches and shelters around the ASLITO Air Field which were designed to serve as means of protection in case of air raids." However, this is an error. I stated: "One or two years before the U.S. forces occupied



SAIPAN, I saw concrete air-raid shelters along the road near the Air Field."

(c) In the same affidavit it is written: "In 1940, I happened to see some Japanese Navy Men storing a huge amount of ammunition in some warehouses in ASLITO Air Field. These warehouses were situated in a forest section and were camouflaged to look like trees." This also is a mistake. I merely stated: "About one year before the occupation by the U. S. forces I saw camouflaged warehouses on the hillside of ASLITO." And when I was questioned in regard to what was contained in those warehouses, I answered: "I don't know."

(d) In the same affidavit it is written: "There were coastal guns located on AGINGAN Point and NAFUTAN Point." However, actually I answered: "About one year before the occupation of the U. S. forces, I heard that there were coastal guns on AGINGAN Point and NAFUTAN Point."

(e) In the same affidavit it is written: "I heard after from NKK officials that there was an anti-submarine net in TANAPAG Harbour placed there just before December, 1941." However, the fact is that when I was asked "you know that there was an anti-submarine net in TANAPAG Harbour, don't you?" I answered: "I don't know about it."

4. Since, as above mentioned, I stayed on SAIPAN, TINIAN and ROTA Islands for about ten years from 1935 to 1946, I am very familiar with conditions



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in these islands. The cultivation of sugar-cane, the manufacture of sugar and alcohol, and the improvement of fishing and fisheries, etc. in these islands were promoted by the Japanese. Beside the Japanese, the CHIMORROCS, KANAKAS and other natives were also employed, and they were engaged in the above productive industries, thereby elevating their economic standard of living to a remarkable extent.

In each island, besides schools for the Japanese, public schools for the natives were established. Primary education was widely carried on. Secondary education was given to both the Japanese and the natives together in the Japanese school. Some of the natives who graduated from intermediate school went to Japan to be educated in colleges. The Japanese made almost no discrimination in their treatment of the natives. It is true that the standard of living of the natives was lower than that of the Japanese, but generally the Japanese were kind to them, and never worked the native laborers excessively. Therefore, the natives always felt well disposed toward the Japanese.

On this 22nd day of May, 1947.

at I. M. T. F. E.

DEPONENT /S/ NAKAMITSU, Makoto (seal)

I, ONO, Seiichiro 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/ ONO, Seiichiro (seal)



OATH

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

/S/ WAKAMATSU, Makoto (seal)