

A F F I D A V I T

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, et al

- vs -

ARAKI, Sadao, et al

OMERO PRINCIPINI, being duly sworn, deposes and says:

I am at present living in Atami, Shizuoka Prefecture, Japan, awaiting repatriation to Italy, with my family.

In 1938 I was Military Attache in Shanghai, China.

As the members of the staff of the Italian Consulate in Hankow were all indisposed, in late October of that year I requested permission of the Japanese authorities to enter Hankow and in accordance with said permission I entered the city on or about 3 November. Of course I was also particularly interested in the military occupation of Hankow by the Japanese and in order to report properly to my government I immediately set about exploring and examining the city. Besides my own activities I made it a point to consult our own attaches, foreigners and local business men and natives.

I found the Japanese concession had been completely burned by the Chinese before they abandoned the city. The railway station was severely damaged and in the yards of the station I saw blown up, wrecked and burned locomotives, and not far from the station armored cars and coaches. As in the case of the Japanese concession, the destruction had been carried out by the retreating Chinese troops.

I made particular efforts to learn of the conduct of the Japanese troops and relations between Chinese civilians and Japanese troops. My inquiries from all sources at my disposal revealed the occupation was a peaceful one and marked by absence of friction between the Chinese and the occupying troops. From all I learned, General Hata had issued orders that only the best disciplined troops should enter the city.

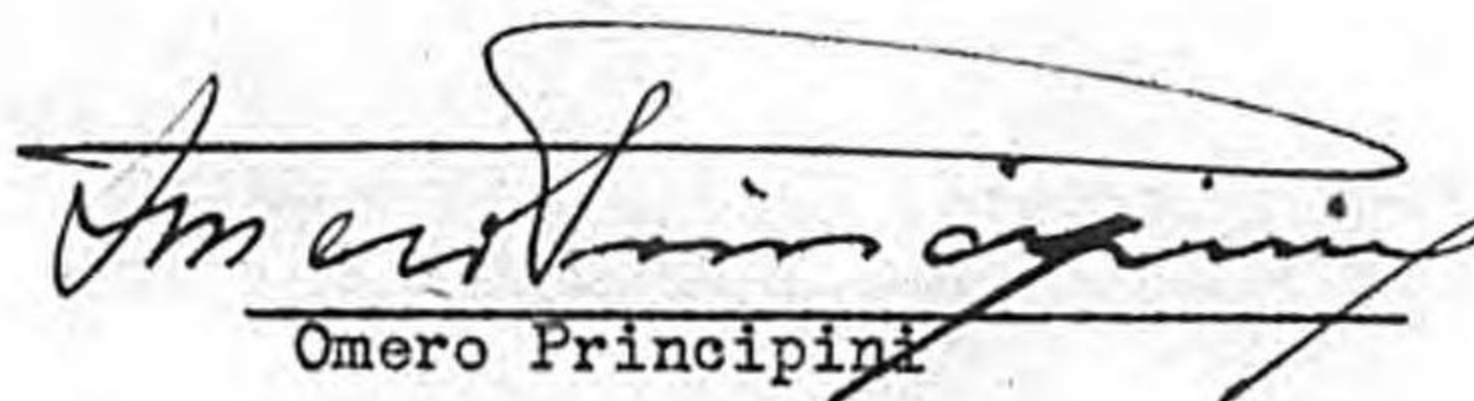
From no one did I hear of special atrocities and my own observations did not cause me to believe otherwise.

I also learned that Father Jacquinot, a French Catholic priest, had at the very last moment succeeded in persuading the Chinese authorities not to destroy the main foreign buildings in the city, as planned. I further learned that Father Jacquinot had set up safety zones in the city.

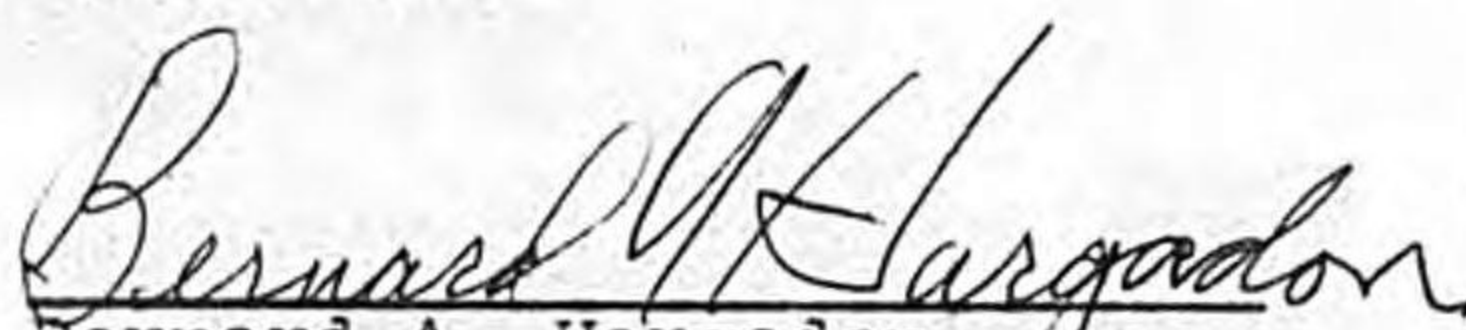
I stayed in Hankow a month constantly observing the situation, in my capacity as a military attache. At night security was maintained and in going in or around the city I never saw untoward acts by the occupying troops. The discipline maintained by General Hata's troops was indeed excellent. In the following years I had the opportunity to know him as a most strict disciplinarian.

I am well versed in the English language and I make this affidavit in that language.

Dated this 18th day of February, 1947 at Tokyo.


Omero Principini

I, Bernard A. Hargadon 1st Lt. Inf. certify that I am the duly assigned Administrative Officer for the Defense Section of the International Military Tribunal For The Far East. Sworn and Subscribed to before me this 18th day of Feb. 1947, at Tokyo, Japan.


Bernard A. Hargadon
1st Lt. Inf. 01334284
Administrative Officer
Defense Section