

Translated by ISHISAKA
Checked by FEGEN

Prefecture: ^E IHIME ^P prefecture.

Date of birth: ^B April 10, 1898

Full Name: ABE, ^{Yoshimitsu} ~~YOSHIMITSU~~

March 20, 1916 Graduated from the ^E IHIME ^P prefectural

^P IMAHARI Middle School.

October 13, 1917 ^{Appointed} Ordered a Cadet, and ^{assigned} was detailed War Ministry

to the 20th Regiment of Infantry

December 1, 1917 ^{Joined} Entered the 20th Regiment of Infantry

December 1, 1917 Given ^{the} grade of a first class private, 20th Regiment

of Infantry

June 1, 1918 Raised to the ^{rank} grade of a Superior The same

^P private.

August 1, 1918 Raised to the ^{rank} grade of a Corporal. The same

September 1, 1918 Raised to the ^{rank} grade of a Sergeant. The same

December 1, 1918

Entered ^{the 11th} a military academy.

May 26, 1920

Graduated from a military academy.

May 30, 1920

Came back to the ^{original unit} home regiment.

May 30, 1920

Raised to the ^{rank} grade of a sergeant-

Major; ^{nominated} ordered a ^{probationary} probational officer. 20th ^{regiment} of infantry

November 27, 1920

Passed, under ~~the~~ article 10 of the ^{army} replacement regulations, the Selection Conference for ^{officer} Military Officer.

December 25, 1920

Appointed ^{an Infantry} a Second Lieutenant of Cabinet

foot.

^{Resigned} Ordered to attach to ^{the} 20th War Ministry Regiment of Infantry.

January 20, 1921

~~to~~ Awarded
Raised to the Senior grade of

3

the 8th class Court Rank

December 15
1923

Promoted to ~~the~~ Infantry
Appointed a First-Lieutenant of Cabinet

post.

March 1,
1924

Raised to the Junior grade of

the 7th class Court Rank.

July 10
1925

Relieved of ^{current post} regular occupation, War Ministry
and assigned
ordered to attach to ^{the 2nd} No. 63 Regiment
of Infantry

Ordered to ^{teach at the} serve in TOTORI The same

prefectural Technical School.

June 30
1928

Ordered to ^{teach} serve concurrently The same
at the ^p TOTORI prefectural YONAGO

Commercial and Sericultural School.

August 10

4

1928

Relieved of ~~my~~ ^{duties at the} ~~service in~~ TOTTORI

War Ministry

prefectural Technical School and

Concurrently in ^{at the} TOTTORI prefectural

YONAGO Commercial and Sericultural School.

May 2
1929

Raised to the Senior Grade of

the 7th class Court Rank.

March 6
1930

Promoted to Infantry Captain.

Appointed a Captain of foot.

Cabinet

Appointed ^B Battalion Adjutant ^A

War Ministry

of the No. 63rd Regiment of Infantry.

December 12
1930

Entered the ^{General} Military Staff College War Ministry

College.

April 11
1932

Attached to ^{the} No. 63rd Regiment of Infantry War Ministry

Regiment of Infantry

August 16

1932

^{Awarded}
Decorated with the 6th Order of

Merit with the Order of the Sacred Treasury

November

22, 1933

Appointed a Company Commander War ministry
of No. 63rd Regiment of Infantry

June 1

1934

Raised to ^{the} Junior grade of the
6th class Court rank.

April 29

1934

^{Awarded}
Decorated with the 5th Order of
Merit with the Order of the Double
Rays of the Rising Sun in recognition of
my service in the Incident from 1931 to
1934.

June 20

1935

Appointed a member of the headquarters War ministry
of ^{the} Railway ^{Line Sector} district of KWANTUNG Army.

Not published in the Official

	gazette.	
August 1 1935	Promoted to Infantry Major. Ordered a major of foot.	Cabinet
June 4 1938.	Appointed ^{an Administrative} a business official of	
	MANCHURIAN Affairs Bureau.	Cabinet
June 4 1938	Ordered to serve in the Industrial	Cabinet
	Section and concurrently in the	
	Administrative Section of MANCHURIAN	
	Affairs Bureau.	
June 4 1938	Appointed Ordered a Commissioner of the	
	Army ^{Military} Affairs Bureau. Not published War Ministry	
	in the Official Gazette.	
July 10 1936	Awarded Decorated with the 4th order of	
	merit with the Small Cordon of the	
	Rising Sun in recognition of any	

services in the Incident from 1931 to
1934.

July 15
1938 Promoted to Infantry
Appointed Lieutenant Colonel Cabinet
of foot.

September 19
1938 Ordered to serve in the General Cabinet
Affairs Section and concurrently in the
Industrial Section of MANCHURIAN
Affairs Bureau

September 1
1938 Raised to the Senior Grade of
the 6th class Court Rank.

November 24
1938 Ordered to travel to
Suburban Prefecture
districts of OSAKA on official
business. Not published in the
Official Gazette.

October 15

1940

Awarded
Decorated with the 3rd order

8

of Merit with the Order of the Sacred Treasure

December 2

1940

Relieved of ^{duties as administrative} ~~the business~~ official Cabinet

of MANCHURIAN Affairs Bureau.

March 1

1941

Promoted to Infantry Colonel.
Appointed a Colonel of foot. Cabinet

March 15

1941

Raised to the Junior Grade of

5th class Court Rank.

April 29

1940

Decorated with the 3rd Order of

Merit with the Middle Cordon of the

Rising Sun in recognition of my

services in the CHINESE Incident.

June 10

1945

Promoted to Infantry
Appointed a Major-General of Cabinet

foot.

August 1
1945

Raised to the Senior Grade of
the 5th class Court ^R Clerk.

June 15
1946

Appointed a local ^{administrative} ~~business~~
official.

December 28
1946

Raised to the 2nd grade. Cabinet
Relieved of my ^{duties} ~~regular occupations~~
^{own}
at my request.

12 Sept. '47

Personal History of ABE, Yoshimitsu

N Prefecture: EHIME Prefecture.

Date of Birth: April 10, 1898

Name: ABE, Yoshimitsu

* * * * *

March 20, 1916	Graduated from the EHIME Prefectural IMABARI Middle School.	
Oct. 13, 1917	Appointed Cadet, and assigned to the 20th Infantry Regiment.	War Ministry
Dec. 1, 1917	Joined the 20th Infantry Regiment.	
Dec. 1, 1917	Given the grade of a First Class Private.	20th Infantry Regiment
June 1, 1918	Raised to the rank of Superior Private.	The same
Aug. 1, 1918	Raised to the rank of a Corporal.	"
Sep. 1, 1918	Raised to the rank of a Sergeant.	"
Dec. 1, 1918	Entered the Military Academy.	
May 26, 1920	Graduated from the Military Academy.	
May 30, 1920	Came back to original unit.	
May 30, 1920	Raised to the rank of Sergeant-Major, nominated a probationary Officer.	20th Infantry Regiment
Nov. 27, 1920	Passed, under Article 10 of the Army Replacement Regulations, the Selection Conference re Military Officer.	
Dec. 25, 1920	Appointed an Infantry Second-Lieutenant. Assigned to the 20th Infantry Regiment.	Cabinet War Ministry
Jan. 20, 1921	Awarded the Senior Grade of the 8th Court Rank.	
Dec. 15, 1923	Promoted to Infantry First-Lieutenant.	Cabinet

March 1, 1924	Raised to the Junior Grade of the 7th Court Rank.	
July 10, 1925	Relieved of current post and assigned to the 63rd Infantry Regiment. Ordered to teach at the TOTORI Prefectural Technical School.	War Ministry "
June 30, 1926	Ordered to teach concurrently at the TOTORI Prefectural YONAGO Commercial and Sericultural School.	"
Aug. 10, 1928	Relieved of duties at the TOTORI Prefectural Technical School and concurrently at the TOTORI Prefectural YONAGO Commercial and Sericultural School.	War Ministry
May 2, 1929	Raised to the Senior Grade of the 7th Court Rank.	
March 6, 1930	Promoted to Infantry Captain. Appointed Battalion Adjutant of the 63rd Infantry Regiment.	Cabinet War Ministry
Dec. 12, 1930	Entered the Military General Staff College.	"
April 11, 1932	Attached to the 63rd Infantry Regiment.	"
Aug. 16, 1932	Awarded the 6th Order of Merit with the Order of the Sacred Treasure.	
Nov. 22, 1933	Appointed a Company Commander of the 63rd Infantry Regiment.	War Ministry
June 1, 1934	Raised to the Junior Grade of the 6th Court Rank.	
April 29, 1934	Awarded the 5th Order of Merit with the Order of the Double Rays of the Rising Sun in recognition of services in the Incident from 1931 to 1934.	
June 20, 1935	Appointed a member of the Headquarters of the Railway Line Sector of KWANTUNG Army. Not published in the Official Gazette.	War Ministry
Aug. 1, 1935	Promoted to Infantry Major.	Cabinet
June 4, 1938	Appointed an Administrative official of MANCHURIAN Affairs Bureau.	Cabinet
June 4, 1938	Ordered to serve in the Industrial Section and concurrently in the Administrative Section of MANCHURIAN Affairs Bureau.	Cabinet

June 4 1938	Appointed Commissioner of the Military Affairs Bureau. Not published in the Official Gazette.	War Ministry
July 10, 1936	Awarded the 4th Order of Merit with the Small Cordon of the Rising Sun in recognition of service in the Incident from 1931 to 1934.	
July 15, 1938	Promoted to Infantry Lieutenant Colonel.	Cabinet
Sept. 19, 1938	Ordered to serve in the General Affairs Section and Concurrently in the Industrial Section of MANCHURIAN Affairs Bureau.	
Sept. 1, 1938	Raised to the Senior Grade of the 6th Court Rank.	
Nov. 24, 1938	Ordered to travel to OSAKA Prefecture on official business. Not published in the Official Gazette.	Cabinet
Oct. 15, 1940	Awarded the 3rd Order of Merit with the Order of the Sacred Treasure.	
Dec. 2, 1940	Relieved of duties as administrative official of MANCHURIAN Affairs Bureau.	Cabinet
March 1, 1941	Promoted to Infantry Colonel.	Cabinet
March 15, 1941	Raised to the Junior Grade of 5th Court Rank.	
April 29, 1940	Decorated with the 3rd Order of Merit with the Middle Cordon of the Rising Sun in recognition of services in the CHINA Incident.	
June 10, 1945	Promoted to Infantry Major-General.	Cabinet
Aug. 1, 1945	Raised to the Senior Grade of the 5th Court Rank.	
June 15, 1946	Appointed a local Administrative official. Raised to the 2nd Grade.	Cabinet
Dec. 28, 1946	Relieved of duties at own request.	

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DIRECT EXAMINATION OF ABE, Yoshimitsu
BY MR. FREEMAN

27,513 The witness identified Exhibit No. 3082 as his affidavit and
27,519 verified it. The witness was Chief of Staff * of the 38th Division and
in that capacity, took part in the battle of Hong Kong which started by
order of the 23rd Army on the morning of December 8, 1941. They had no
27,520 information that there were Soviet ships * in the harbor before or during
the landing operations. They saw three or four sunken ships in the harbor
before the attack, but didn't know whether it was due to bombing by a
chance shell or from scuttling. The bombardment was concentrated on enemy
ground positions near the landing point. There was no need to fire at
ships in the harbor. It is not true that they fired on ships at anchor.
Enemy shell might have hit the anchored ships since they were directing
fire at Japanese landing craft.

27,521 Japanese troops did not open fire until they landed. They put
up a smoke screen while the enemy fired. Landing operations began about
9 PM while dark, so although the enemy used searchlights, their firing
was hit and miss and it is possible that some of the merchant ships might
have been hit. * They were positive that the Japanese never committed
such acts as locking up the crews and confiscating their belongings. It
cannot be denied that the Chinese in the occupied area after the landing
plundered evacuated houses and warehouses day and night and looted the
ships in the harbor. Since the division was still attacking interior
positions, it was difficult to suppress such disorders.

27,522 To avoid further sacrifice of human life, the 23rd Army twice
sent Chief of Staff TADA to advise the British to surrender. On the
second occasion, they suggested to the British that they consider
evacuating the women and children. This was not accepted. The division
took charge of only disarming and watching prisoners of war, and he did
not know * how many British prisoners of war there were. He thought
there were fifteen in Kowloon and 6,000 in Hong Kong. The British dis-
armed themselves and gathered in barracks, so there was no incident.
Handling of prisoners of war was then completely under the 23rd Army.
The 23rd Army took charge of non-combatants in Hong Kong, but they were
few in number since most had evacuated before the battle began. The
remainder continued to live in hotels or homes.

The forces were deeply moved by the Imperial command which
gave them the honor of capturing Hong Kong and news of their heavy
responsibility. The divisional commander on several occasions intructed

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27,523 them that the attack differed from garrisoning in China. * It was an attack on a well prepared fortress and a strong Army. The history of the battle will be closely examined and commented on by future historians. They must stake their lives on a victory in this battle and no act of illegal conduct shall be committed such as murder, atrocities, plunder and destruction. The attitude must be gentlemanly so they would not suffer the slightest criticism. This was strictly obeyed throughout the battle.

27,524 After the division broke through the border and captured the principal position, tactics demanded that the Army storm Kowloon so that the garrison there would be prevented from retreating to Hong Kong. It was plain that the entry of large numbers into Kowloon would throw it into confusion and the Army was ordered to halt north of the city and the two best trained infantry battalions were ordered to enter. The town was thus saved from confusion. During landing operations on Hong Kong enemy artillery within the town fired fiercely. Despite this the troops were forbidden to bombard and were ordered to aim at pillbox positions higher on the hill than the residential district. This was a great tactical disadvantage, but despite it they did their best to protect Hong Kong from disaster.

27,525 Since the troops could not attack inside the city * Hong Kong remains as it used to be. There were no casualties. After the surrender at least three battalions were ordinarily needed to maintain peace and order and disarm the enemy. They, however, used only one of the best infantry battalions for this task, cutting the number to the least possible and placing the men on their honor. They performed wonderfully. Even after capture there were only three select infantry battalions in the town because of incidents that might follow mass entry. The main forces were in the suburbs north of the town of Kowloon and restrictions on entry were placed on the soldiers. No incidents took place, although the soldiers complained.

27,526 The Chinese refugees looted, taking advantage even during the battle. The Japanese therefore strictly prohibited the public from going out at night. Since the refugees broke into evacuated houses during broad daylight and night * preventing looting was difficult. After occupation the Chinese refugees opened markets in Kowloon and Hong Kong, but most of their goods was stolen. He was convinced there was no murder, atrocities, and looting by the officers and men of his division. He did not know the number of British soldiers killed and wounded, but the British took care of the wounded for the most part. Some were searched

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for and found by Japanese troops. When the dead were discovered, they were buried respectfully and the wounded were taken to hospitals.

27,527

The attention of the Tribunal * was called to the testimony of Captain Barnett, page 13,112, and to exhibits No. 1590 to 1608 inclusive, and exhibits No. 818 to 821.

There was no cross-examination of the witness.

27,528

The witness reported * that the number of prisoners taken at Kowloon was fifteen.

Name: ABE, Katsuo (seal)

Permanent Domicile: 117 Nakashima, Ino-oka, Iwami-mura, Nishiiwari-gun
Iwate Prefecture.

Social Rank: Commoner

Birthplace: Same as the permanent domicile

Born: 18 April 1891

Family Members and their Dates of Birth:

Wife: Yoshi, born on 4 March 1902, married on 18 April 1919

Eldest Daughter: Kimiko, born on 1 Aug. 1920

Eldest Son: Yasuhiko, born on 15 August 1923

Second Son: Tsunihiko (Died on 5 September 1930)

Third Son: Nohuhiko, born on 3 May 1928

Fourth Son: Hidehiko, born on 4 March 1931

Fifth Son: Takahiko, born on 31 July 1935

Sep 11 1909 J	Ordered to become student of the Naval Academy.	Naval Academy
Jul 17 1902	Graduated from the Naval Academy.	"
"	Appointed a midshipman.	Navy Ministry
"	Ordered to serve on board the SOYA	"
Aug 22 1912	Sailed to DAIREN and RYOTUN from Jinsen, returned to Sasebo on 4 September.	
Dec 5 1912	Left Yokosuka on a cruise to Australia, re- turned to Yokosuka on 21 April 1913.	
May 1 1913	Transferred from the SOYA to the YAHAGI of the Second Fleet	Navy Ministry
Dec 1 1913	Appointed Ensign	Cabinet
"	Transferred to the IBUKI, 1st reserve vessel	Navy Ministry
Jan 30 1914	Conferred the 8th Court Rank, Senior Grade	Imperial Household Min.
Apr 15 1914	The IBUKI as the 2nd reserve vessel.	
Aug 18 1914	The IBUKI as a patrol vessel.	
Aug 23 1914	Entered war with Germany.	
Aug 26, 1914	Left Miyajima to participate in the war, returning to Kojima on 25 December.	
Oct 1 1914	The IBUKI became part of a squadron specially dispatched to the southern region.	

Dec 28 1914	Transferred from the IBUKI to the KIRISHIMA	Navy Ministry
Apr 19 1915	The KIRISHIMA as the 1st reserve vessel.	
Jun 12 1915	Assigned to the 1st fleet and engaged in homefront job for the war.	
Nov 7 1915	Decorated with the 6th Order of Merit with the Single Rayed Rising Sun and granted the sum of ¥350 for the service in the war of 1915-15.	Board of Decorations
"	Decorated with the War Medal in commemoration of the war of 1914-15.	"
Nov 10 1915	Given the Commemoration Medal for Coronation in accordance with the Imperial Ordinance No. 154.	"
Dec 13 1915	Promoted to Sub-Lieutenant Relieved of assignment aboard the KIRISHIMA Assigned student in general course of Naval Torpedo School.	Cabinet Navy Ministry "
Jan 21 1916	Conferred the 7th Court Rank, Junior Grade	Imperial Household Min.
Jun 1 1916	Relieved of student in general course of Naval Torpedo School upon completion of the course, and assigned as student in general course of Naval Gunnery School.	Navy Ministry
Dec 1 1916	Relieved as student in general course of Naval Gunnery School upon completion of the course. Assigned aboard the training ship, YAKUMO. The YAKUMO was concurrently made guard ship on the 11th.	" Navy Ministry
Dec 13 1916	Granted 1st grade salary.	
Dec 12 1916	Sailed from SASEBO for China (guard). Returned to JINSEN on Jan 2 1917 (returned home temporarily)	
Apr 5 1917	Sailed from Yokosuka for coast of North America (guard). Returned to TAKU HO on July 30.	
Aug 23 1917	Relieved of assignment aboard the YAKUMO and assigned aboard the ARARE.	Navy Ministry
Jul 19 1918	Sailed from RASHIN HO for VLADIVOSTOK (War duty)	
Dec 1 1918	Promoted to First Lieutenant Relieved of assignment aboard the ARARE	Cabinet Navy Ministry

	Assigned student in higher course of Navy Gunnery School.	Navy Ministry
Jan 10 1919	Conferred Senior Grade of 7th Court Rank	Imperial Household Min
Jan 28 1919	Applied for marriage. Approved on 31st of same month.	
Sep 25 1919	Attached to Headquarters of the 7th Fleet during Grand Maneuvers of 1919	Navy Ministry
Nov 28 1919	Decorated with 5th Order of Merit with Order of Sacred Treasure	Bureau of Decorations
Dec 1 1919	Relieved as student in higher course of Naval Gunnery School. Assigned gunnery officer and additionally division officer of the ISOKAZE	Navy Ministry "
Jun 3 1920	Relieved of main and additional duties and assigned gunnery officer and additionally division officer of the SAWAKAZE.	"
Aug 29 1920	Sailed from TATEYAMA for coast of Russian territory for guard duty and returned to ODARU on Sept. 7.	"
Dec 1 1934	Granted 2nd grade salary. Relieved of main and additional duties and assigned staff officer and concurrently adjutant of 2nd Fleet.	"
Nov 1 1920	Decorated with Order of Double Rays of Rising Sun and granted 700 yen for services in 1915-20 War. Awarded memorial medal for going to front 1914-19 War	Bureau of Decorations Navy Ministry
Jun 10 1921	Flagship of 2nd Fleet was changed from KONGO to KIRISHIMA.	
Jun 27 1921	Flagship of 2nd Fleet was changed from KONGO to KIRISHIMA.	
Aug 19 1921	Sailed from SASEBO for Pt. Arthur and DALNY (guard) and returned to ARIAKE Bay on 30th of same month.	
Nov 18 1921	Relieved of main and additional duties and assigned instructor and concurrently division officer at Naval Gunnery School	Navy Ministry
Jan 11 1922	Appointed commissioner for the test airplanes take-offs from the warship "Kiso"	Yokosuka Naval Station
Nov 1 1920	Granted the Victory Medal in accordance with the Victory Medal Ordinance.	Bureau of Decorations

Dec 1 1922	Granted the 1st grade salary Relieved of main and concurrent duties Ordered to be Class A Student of the Naval Staff College	Navy Ministry " "
Sep 15 1923	Appointed member of the Navy Committee for Earthquake Relief in its Transport and Communications Section.	"
Oct 1 1923	The Navy Committee for Earthquake Relief was abolished in accordance with No. 4 of the Secretariat No. 3055.	
Apr 15 1924	Conferred the 6th Court Rank, Junior Grade	Imperial Household Min.
Sep 1 1924	Appointed Assistant Judge at the Grand Naval Maneuver of 1924.	
Oct 1 1924	Writing form of commission was reformed in accordance with "Navy Personnel" No. 79.	
Dec 1 1924	Promoted to Lt. Commander Appointed Assistant Gunnery Officer and Section Commander	Cabinet Navy Ministry
Apr 15 1925	Relieved of main and concurrent posts; ordered to reside in the U.S. Left Yokohama by the SIBERIA-MARU on May 15	Navy Ministry
May 10 1925	Set up a separate home and became head of the household.	
Nov 29 1926	Decorated with the 4th Order of Merit of the Sacred Treasure.	Bureau of Decorations
Apr 15 1927	Ordered home. Arrived at Shimonoseki on July 24	Navy Ministry
Aug 20 1927	Ordered to serve in the Naval General Staff and concurrently in the Navy Ministry. Ordered to serve at the Bureau of Naval Affairs, Navy Ministry. Assigned to the First Section.	" " Bureau of Naval Affairs
Oct 1 1927	Released from main and concurrent duties; appointed member of the Bureau of Naval Affairs of the Navy Ministry and concurrently member of the Technical Council of the Navy Technical Department.	Navy Ministry
Oct 16 1927	Appointed Commissioner to investigate the systems and institutions for the service and life.	"

Oct 1 1927	Assigned to the First Section.	Bureau of Naval Affairs
Oct 6 1927	Appointed member of the Purchase List Investigation Committee	Navy Ministry
	Appointed member of the Military Warehouse Investigation Committee.	"
	Appointed member of the Committee to Revise the Naval Battle Service Regulations.	"
	Appointed secretary of the Committee to investigate the Accounts System of the Naval Construction and Repair Office.	"
Dec 6 1927	Relieved of the duty as member of the Committee to Investigate the Naval Battle Service Regulations.	"
Mar 6 1928	Appointed member of the Preparatory Committee to Revise the Naval Regulations Dealing with Minor Punishments.	"
	Retired upon completion of the work. (Feb 14 1929)	"
Dec 10 1929	Appointed Commander.	Cabinet
Feb 7 1930	Appointed member of the Thought Investigation Committee.	Navy Ministry
Feb 14 1930	Appointed member of the Committee to Revise the Naval Regulations dealing with Minor Punishments.	"
Feb 27 1929	Attached to the Special Inspector.	"
Mar 15 1929	Promoted to the 6th Court Rank Senior Grade	Imperial Household Min.
May 23 1929	Appointed commissioner to investigate distinguished naval merit.	Navy Ministry
Nov 16 1928	Decorated with the Commemoration Medal for Coronation in accordance with Imperial Ordinance No. 188, 1928	Bureau of Decoration
Feb 1 1930	Appointed member of the Naval Terms Investigation Committee	Navy Ministry
Mar 1 1930	Appointed member of the Official Commendation Investigation Committee.	"
Mar 3 1930	Ordered to make an official trip to China.	"
Jun 20 1930	Attached to the Special Inspector.	"
Sep 11 1930	Appointed judge at the Special Grand Maneuvers in 1930.	"
Dec 15 1930	Appointed a staff officer of the 2nd Fleet.	"

Sep 5 1929	Granted the sum of ¥120 for services in the China Incident of 1928 and the China Disturbances in 1927-28.	Navy Ministry
Aug 16 1931	Traveled to IWATE Prefecture to arrange family affairs for 14 days with an added 5 days necessary for travel.	
Aug 28 1931	Returned.	
Dec 1 1931	Appointed instructor at the Naval Staff College.	"
Dec 10 1931	Appointed examination commissioner of naval students.	"
Feb 2 1932	Appointed staff officer of the 3rd Fleet.	"
Aug 23 1932	Transferred to the HAGI.	
Aug 31 1932	Transferred to the IZUMO.	
Dec 1 1932	Promoted to Captain.	Cabinet
Dec 28 1932	Promoted to the 5th Court Rank, Junior Grade.	Imperial Household Min.
Dec 1 1932	Appointed examination commissioner of naval students.	Navy Ministry
Nov 5 1932	Appointed instructor of the Naval Staff College.	"
May 10 1932	Decorated with the 3rd Order of Merit with the Order of the Sacred Treasure.	Bureau of Decoration
Jun 1 1932	Appointed judge at the Special Grand Maneuvers of 1932.	Navy Ministry
Sep 20 1932	Appointed Chief of the 1st Section of the Naval Affairs Bureau of the Navy Ministry and concurrently member of the Naval Technical Council.	"
Sep 22 1932	Appointed member of the Top Installation Standard Investigation Committee (Became extinct automatically on 11th Dec 1934 when its business finished)	"
	Appointed member of the Investigation Committee for Expedition Preparations	"
Sep 23 1932	Appointed member of the Investigation Committee for the Development of Manchuria and Mongolia.	"
Sep 22 1932	Appointed member of the Armament Limitation Investigation Committee.	"

Sep 22 1932	Appointed commissioner to investigate the system and the establishment for service and livelihood.	Navy Ministry
Sep 26 1932	Entrusted with the responsibilities as manager to assist the commissioner of the Thoughts Counter-measures Committee.	Cabinet
	Appointed examination commissioner of naval students.	Navy Ministry
	Appointed a commissioner of the Naval Propagation Department	"
	Appointed member of the Awarding Committee	"
	Appointed member of the Thought Investigation Committee	"
	Appointed member of the Naval Disciplinary Law Amending Committee	"
	Appointed member of the Committee for Investigating Power Standard of Naval Bases and Stations	"
	Appointed member of the Army and Naval Coordinating Committee for Mobilization of Munitions Industries	"
	Appointed a commissioner of the Fuel Policy Investigation Board	"
	Appointed member of the Committee for Investigating Account System of Naval Construction and Repair Department.	"
	Appointed member of the Naval Merits Investigation Committee	"
Oct 26 1933	Appointed a reserve member of the Civil Service Ordinary Limitation Committee	War Ministry
Nov 18 1933	Appointed member of the Committee for Studying Limitation of Armaments	Navy Ministry
Dec 26 1933	Appointed member of the Committee for Constructing the Naval Reference Museum (temporarily named)	"
Mar 13 1934	Appointed member of the Committee for Inquiring the Disaster of the Torpedo-boat TOMOZURU	"
Apr 5 1934	Appointed a commissioner of the Extraordinary Ships Ability Investigation Board	"
May 30 1934	Appointed a funeral commissioner for the late Admiral of the Navy Marquis Heihachiro Togo	Cabinet
Jul 19 1934	Relieved of the above duty	"
Sep 14 1934	Ordered to be present as a representative of the Imperial Government at the 15th Session of the International Red Cross Conference to be held in Tokyo from October 20 this year	Minister

Dec 21 1934	Entrusted with duty as Manager of the South Sea Islands Development Investigation Committee (Cancelled automatically on account of the repeal /of the committee/ on Dec. 23 1935.	Overseas Ministry
Jan 18 1935	Appointed a secretary to the Manchurian Affairs Board	Cabinet
Feb 1 1935	Released automatically from the membership of the Naval Technical Council by virtue of the 1935 Amendment (Imperial Ordinance No. 8) of the Naval Technical Department Ordinance. Appointed to the additional post as member of the Naval Technical Council by virtue of Imperial Ordinance No. 7. Appointed member of the Technical Council of the Naval Technical Department. Appointed member of the Technical Council of the Naval Air Headquarters.	Navy Ministry " "
Apr 29 1934	Decorated with the Imperial Military Order of the Golden Kite, 4th Class and the Middle Cordon of the Imperial Order of the Rising Sun with ¥500 Annuity. (Meritorious service war of 1931-34) Conferred a 1931-34 War Medal.	Bureau of Decoration
Mar 1 1934	Received and allowed to wear the medal signifying meritorious services in the construction of the state awarded by the Emperor of Manchuria.	Bureau of Decoration
Jun 20 1935	Civil Officials Appointed member of the/Ordinary Disciplinary Punishment Committee.	Navy Ministry
Jul 15 1935	Appointed member of the Expedient Plan Committee towards the South Seas.	"
Oct 21 1935	Appointed member of the Temporary Committee for Improving Strength of War Vessels.	"
Oct 30 1935	Ordered to serve in the Naval General Staff Office and concurrently the Navy Ministry.	
Nov 5 1935	Ordered to accompany the Plenipotentiary to the London Naval Disarmament Conference.	
Nov 16 1935	Started from Tokyo via Manchukuo and Siberia	Cabinet
Nov 6 1935	Released from the position of administrative official of the Bureau of the Manchurian Affairs.	"
Nov 30 1935	Order to serve in the Bureau of Naval Affairs of the Naval Ministry.	Minister

Nov 20 1935	Relieved as member of the Ordinary Disciplinary Committee for Civil Officials	Navy Ministry
Nov 30 1935	Relieved as reserve member of Civil Officials Ordinary Limitation Committee	War Ministry
Mar 16 1936	Appointed the Captain of the JAMA, guard and training ship. (Appointed on Mar 18 1936 - retired on Nov 20 1936)	Navy Ministry
Feb 28 1936	Returned to Japan	
Sep 21 1935	Allowed to receive and wear the Commemoration Medal to mark the visit of the Manchurian Emperor given by His Majesty.	Bureau of Decoration
Nov 16 1936	Appointed Captain of the Ryujo (The 1st Naval Fleet)	Navy Ministry
May 9 1934	Allowed to receive and wear the Third Order Keiunsho awarded by His Majesty, the Emperor of Manchukuo.	Bureau of Decoration
Dec 1 1937	Appointed the Captain of the KAGA. Granted a special grade salary.	Navy Ministry
Feb 1 1938	Promoted to the Senior 5th Court Rank	Imperial Household Min.
Apr 25 1938	Appointed the Chief of the 3rd Department of the Naval General Staff. Ordered to act as naval staff officer in the Imperial Headquarters.	Navy Ministry
May 2 1938	Appointed a member of the Expedient Plan Committee towards the South Seas. Appointed a member of the Naval Student Selection Committee. Appointed a member of the Thought Investigation Committee. Appointed a member of the Distinguished Naval Services Investigation Committee.	"
Apr 5 1938	Appointed the Chief of the 3rd Department of the Naval General Staff.	Imperial Headquarters
Nov 15 1938	Promoted to the rank of a rear admiral.	Cabinet
Dec 5 1938	Ordered to make an official tour of China	Navy Ministry
Jan 26 1939	Ordered to serve in the Navy Ministry in addition to the positions already held. Ordered to make an official tour in Europe	"
May 2 1939	Returned to Japan.	
May 10 1939	Released of the additional post	"

Oct 10 1939	Ordered to serve in the Naval General Staff and the Navy Ministry Relieved of position as Naval Staff of the Imperial Headquarters.	Navy Ministry "
Oct 18 1939	Appointed Director of the Naval Affairs Bureau of the Navy Ministry and member of the Admiral Council. (Relieved of above duties on Oct 15 1940) Appointed staff of the Examination Section for Naval War Plans in the Imperial Headquarters. Appointed standing attendant to Navy Minister in the Imperial Headquarters.	" " "
Oct 21 1939	Appointed member of the war-time Marine Insurance Indemnification Investigation. (This committee was abolished in accordance with the additional rule of Imperial Ord. No. 391 of Jun 6 1940)	Cabinet
Oct 26 1939	Appointed secretary of the Temporary Funds Adjustment Committee) Appointed temporary member of the Electric Communications Committee (This committee was abolished in accordance with Imperial Ordinance No. 923 of Dec. 27, 1940)	" "
Oct 30 1939	Entrusted with position as member of Industrial Capacity Expansion Committee Appointed member of the Committee for Planning Institutions such as Strategic Bases, etc. for 1937 Appointed Chairman of the Research Committee for disposal of China. Appointed a member of the Research Committee for Measures toward South Seas Appointed a member of the General Committee for Economizing Armament. Appointed Chief of the 1st Divisional Committee for Economizing Armament. Appointed Chief of the 5th Divisional Committee for Economizing Armament. Appointed Chairman of the Investigation Committee for the Systems and Institutions for Service and Livelihood.	" Navy Ministry " " " " "
Nov 1 1939	Appointed member of the Investigation Committee for Damages of the China Incident	Cabinet
Nov 2 1939	Appointed Councillor of the Planning Board Appointed Councillor of the Manchurian Affairs Bureau Appointed secretary of the Planning Council Appointed secretary of the National Mobilization	" " " "

Nov 2 1939	Investigation Council. Appointed Secretary of the Science Investigation Conference. Appointed member of the Liaison Committee of the Hsia Developing Board. Appointed Councillor of the General Affairs Bureau of the Commerce & Industry Ministry Appointed Councillor of the Fuel Bureau	Cabinet " " " "
Oct 25 1939	Entrusted with position as member of the General Mobilization Planning Committee Entrusted with position as member of the Legislation Committee for the General Mobilization. Entrusted with position as member of the Mobilization Committee for the Electric Power for the Traffic. (This Committee was reorganized into the Traffic Mobilization Committee on June 10, 1940) Entrusted with position as member of the Trade Committee . (This position was abolished on Sept. 17, 1940) Entrusted with position as member of the Committee for the Economic Counter-plan under the current situation. (This position was abolished on Sept. 17, 1940). Entrusted with position as member of the Science Mobilization Committee.	Planning Board " " " " "
Nov 6 1939	Appointed member of the Central Air Defense Committee.	Cabinet
Oct 18 1939	Appointed member of the Committee for Study of the Bridge of the Capital Ship.	Navy Ministry
Nov 7 1939	Appointed councillor of the Overseas Affairs Bureau of the Overseas Affairs Ministry	Cabinet
Nov 11 1939	Entrusted with position as member of the Aviation Affairs Investigation Committee Appointed councillor of the Electric Board.	Communications Ministry. Cabinet
Nov 14 1939	Appointed temporary member of the National Park Committee.	"
Dec 6 1939	Entrusted with position as member of the Committee for Restricting the Use of School Graduates	Welfare Ministry
Jan 11 1940	Appointed temporary member of the Drafting Committee.	"
Nov 30 1939	Appointed member of the Agricultural & Forestry Planning Committee	Cabinet
Dec 15 1939	Appointed member of the Steel Manufacturing Committee.	"

Dec 23 1939	Appointed manager of the Temporary Fund Adjustment Committee.	Cabinet
Dec 27 1939	Appointed government representative in the 75th Session of the Imperial Diet for matters under jurisdiction of the Navy Ministry.	"
Oct 25 1939	Appointed commissioner for reelection of naval officers trainees.	Navy Ministry
	Appointed standing commissioner for examination of midshipmen	"
	Appointed member of the Civil Service Ordinary Limitation Committee.	"
	Appointed commissioner for investigation of Naval Distinguished Services.	"
	Appointed member of the Thought Investigation Committee.	"
	Appointed member of the 2600th Anniversary Committee.	"
	Appointed member of the Committee For Study and Research of the Naval Uniform System	"
	Appointed Chairman of the Committee for Munitions Mobilization Arrangement between Army and Navy.	"
	Appointed member of the Fuel Policy Investigation Committee.	"
	Appointed member of the Committee for Investigation of Power Standard of Naval Bases and Stations.	"
	Appointed member of the Naval Punishment Regulations Revision Committee	"
	Appointed Chairman of the Munitions Peacetime Production Arrangement Central Committee (This position was abolished on Aug. 27, 1940)	"
	Appointed member of Investigation Committee for Granting the Medal of the China Incident.	"
Feb 24 1940	Entrusted with position as member of Personnel Mobilization Committee.	Planning Board
May 15 1940	Appointed Chairman of Investigation Committee of systems and Institutions for Service and Livelihood.	Navy Ministry
May 16 1940	Appointed receptionist for the Emperor of Manchukuo.	Imperial Household Min.
Jun 10 1940	Entrusted with position as a member of Electric Power Mobilization Committee	Planning Board
Jun 6 1940	Appointed member of Reinsurance Committee for the War Damages Insurance	Cabinet
Jul 17 1940	Appointed member of Cabinet Celebration Committee	"

Jul 18 1940	Appointed Vice-Chief of the 4th Reception Section in the Cabinet Celebration Committee	Cabinet
Aug 7 1940	Entrusted with position as member of the 5th Committee.	Planning Board
Aug 3 1940	Appointed Chief of Special Naval Review in Commemoration of the 2600th Year After the Accession of the Emperor JIMMA.	Navy Ministry
Aug 24 1940	Appointed member of the Investigation Committee for Experiment and Research for Institution	"
Sep 17 1940	Entrusted with position as member of the Material Control Committee	Ministry of Agriculture & Forestry.
Oct 15 1940	Ordered to serve in the Naval General Staff and concurrently in Navy Ministry	Navy Ministry
	Relieved of position as member of Naval War Plans Examination Department of Imperial General Headquarters.	"
	Relieved from position as standing attendant to Navy Minister in Imperial General Headquarters.	"
Nov 28 1940	Relieved from being entrusted with position as member of Material Control Committee	Ministry of Agriculture & Forestry.
Nov 4 1940	Relieved from position as Vice-Chief of the 4th Reception Section of the Cabinet Celebration Committee.	Cabinet.
Nov 7 1940	Relieved from position as Councillor of the General Affairs Bureau of Ministry of Commerce and Industry.	"
	Relieved from position as member of Material Utilization Committee.	"
Nov 8 1940	Relieved from position as secretary of National General Mobilization Investigation Committee.	"
	Relieved from position as secretary of Science Investigation Committee.	"
Nov 14 1940	Relieved from position as member of Iron Manufacturing Enterprise Committee.	"
Nov 31 1940	Relieved from position as Councillor of Planning Board.	"
	Relieved from position as member of Liaison Committee of China Affairs Board	"
Nov 27 1940	Relieved from position as member of the Agriculture and Forestry Planning Committee	"
Dec 2 1940	Relieved from position as member of Central Air Defense Committee.	"

Dec 7 1940	Relieved from position as Councillor of Fuel Bureau.	Cabinet
Nov 13 1940	Ordered to make an official trip to Europe (Started from Tsuraga on Dec. 6 by the Amakusa-maru)	Navy Ministry
Jan 8 1941	Relieved from being entrusted with position as member of the 5th Committee	Planning Board
Jan 18 1941	Relieved from position as Councillor of Manchukuo Affairs Bureau	Cabinet
Jan 21 1941	Relieved of duty as Councillor of the Electric Board.	"
Feb 1 1941	Relieved of duty as temporary member of the National Park Committee.	"
Feb 12 1941	Relieved of duty as member of the Reinsurance Committee for Insurance on War-time Damages.	"
Feb 2 1942	Permitted to accept and wear the 2nd Order of Merit of the Order of CHUKOKUSHO /National Patriot/awarded by Manchurian Emperor	Bureau of Decoration
Feb 2 1942	Permitted to accept and wear the Medal in commemoration of Establishment of National Founding Memorial Shrine awarded by Manchurian Emperor	"
Apr 29 1940	Decorated with the 3rd Class Golden Kite and the 2nd Order of Merit with the Order of Double Rays of Rising Sun, and granted the sum of ¥6000 in recognition of services in China Incident. Awarded Medal for service in China Incident.	" "
Oct 27 1942	Permitted to accept and wear the Grand Officer, Saint Alexandre awarded by the Bulgarian Emperor	"
Nov 1 1942	Promoted to Vice Admiral.	Cabinet
Dec 1 1942	Raised to the 4th Court Rank, Junior Grade	Imperial Household Min.
Jan 23 1941	Appointed suite attached to the Imperial delegates to the Japanese-German-Italian Combined Technical Committee held at Berlin	Cabinet.
Mar 1 1943	Relieved of duty as suite attached to the Imperial delegates to the Japan-Germany-Italy Combined Technical Committee held at Berlin Appointed Imperial delegate to the Japanese German-Italian Combined Technical Committee held at Berlin.	" "

Mar 1 1943	Relieved of duty as suite attached to the Imperial Delegates to the Japan-Germany Italy Combined Technical Committee held at Berlin. Appointed Imperial Delegate to the Japanese German-Italian Combined Technical Committee held at Berlin.	Cabinet
Apr 6 1943	Permitted to accept and wear Grande Ufficiale, Aquila Romana awarded by Italian Emperor.	"
Dec 10 1943	Permitted to accept and wear the Gross Kreuz Adler Medal awarded by the German Government.	Bureau of Decoration
Sep 20 1944	Concurrently appointed a naval attache to the Imperial Embassy in Italy	"
Mar 26 1946	Returned (Arrived at URAGA)	Cabinet
Mar 31 1946	Placed on reserve list	2nd Demob. Ministry.
Jun 15 1946	By Imperial Ordinance No. 322 of 1946, the Naval Officer Limitation Ordinance was abolished.	

43082

See Shimoda #1877, without fighting
check the words #1877 was to refer to Hong Kong as being captured without fighting

INTERNATIONAL MILITARY TRIBUNAL FOR THE FAR EAST

Battle of Hong Kong 8 Dec 1941

What is the Prosecution?

What is this response to?

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, et al

vs 43082

ARAKI, SADAO, et al

deny firing of shells in harbor - no shells visible seen



overt SWORN DEPOSITION no

DEPONENT: ABE, Yoshimitsu

Charge V Chinese # 7 page 2
1st 2 P 2 rec 13 in 4

it is a not word official

I, ABE, Yoshimitsu, having been duly sworn in accordance with the procedure followed in this country depose as follows:

1. I was born on April 10th, 1898, at Kamitoku, Tomita-Mura, Ochi-gun, Ehime. At present I live at Koyaura, Saka-Mura, Aki-gun, Hiroshima Prefecture.

2. An outline of my career is as follows:

- (1) Graduated from the Military Academy in 1920, Second Lieutenant, Infantry.
- (2) Staff-officer, North China Area Army, Major, Infantry.
- (3) Attached to the Military Affairs Bureau of the War Ministry, Lieutenant Colonel, Infantry.
- (4) Chief of Staff of the 38th Division, Colonel, Infantry.
- (5) Commander of the Army Railway Transport of the Hiroshima District. Major-General until the close of the war.

3. I took part in the battle of Hongkong in the capacity of Chief of Staff of the 38th Division. The said battle was started on command of the 23rd Army on the morning of December 8, 1941.

4. I shall explain this battle of Hongkong in two stages -- the first is the attack on the Kowloon Peninsula and the second on the Island of Hongkong.

1st stage:

Our Division advanced into the Tamaoshan line after we first rushed through the western and southwestern sides of Tapu for the purpose of seizing the enemy on the plain of Chintien and we began to break through border positions from the eastern district of Hsien-Chuen. Then we prepared ourselves for attacks on the enemy's principal position. We focused our main attack on Chin-Shang from the western part of the reservoir near the cattle-gate and penetrated quickly into the northern line of the tip of the Kowloon Peninsula after breaking through the said principal position. One part of our troops further advanced to the southern tip of the 9th Peninsula.

2nd Stage:

Attack on the Island of Hongkong.

In regard to the landing operations against the Island of Hongkong we chose the beachhead point between the northern corner of the island and Sui-Niu Wang with the northern corner as the landing point for our main force. Our right flank made preparations for an attack near Tai-Wang, whereas our left flank prepared for the attack near Tseng-Tang Shu. After the Artillery Corps of the 23rd Army and those of our Division had fired devastatingly on the enemy positions, we landed on the island. Upon completion of the landing, we immediately

advanced further to the lines of Mt. Chadenes (T.N. phonetic).

5. No air units were attached for the purpose of the battle of Hong-Kong. But there were planes attached to the 23rd Army and they joined in the operation under the command of that Army. At first they bombed enemy aerodromes and warships and later cooperated with us in our ground operations.

6. Excepting one battalion out of our divisional artillery which was assigned to the left flank, we united all the other artillery in the landing operations against the Island of HongKong and bombarded enemy artillery positions of automatic weapons, pillboxes and various obstacles laid along the water front between the north corner and Sui-Miu Wang which was to our front and after the first landing was effected we ordered them to fire at the enemy behind these defenses. Consequently, we issued no orders to fire at water level objects. Particularly, were our artillery forces strictly forbidden to bombard the town in spite of great tactical disadvantage.

7. We did not receive any information that there were Soviet merchant ships at anchor in the harbor neither before nor during the landing operations. We did see three or four sunken ships in the harbor before our attack, however, but could not tell whether it was due to bombing by a chance shell fired either by the enemy or us or from scuttling. Our bombardment was concentrated on the enemy ground positions, obstacles and artillery positions in the vicinity of our landing point. We felt no need to fire at the ships in the harbor. And indeed there is no fact behind any accusation that we fired on the ships lying at anchor in the harbor. On the contrary, it is possible that an enemy shell might have hit the anchored ships as they were directing their fire at our landing craft in the course of the landing operation. The Japanese troops did not open fire within their landing barges until they landed. The thing they did was to put up a smoke-screen while the enemy fired at our landing barges.

The landing operation was commenced at about 2100 o'clock under cover of darkness so although the enemy used searchlights, their firing was so much hit and miss it is quite probable that some of those merchant ships which were within the zone of maneuver of our landing barges might have been hit by enemy shells.

We are positive that our army absolutely never committed such acts as to lock up the ships' crew, confiscate them of their belongings or their provisions, etc.

It cannot, however, be denied that the Chinese residents who were in the occupied area of the Japanese forces, after we succeeded in the landing operations of HongKong, plundered evacuated houses and warehouses at night and sometimes even in the daytime and used small junks to loot ships in the harbor. Since our Division was still occupied with all its strength in attacking interior positions on the island at the time it was very difficult for us to be tending to the suppression of such disorders.

8. There were many ships large and small lying at anchor in the eastern half of the harbor of Hongkong, particularly, in the spot nearer to the Island of Hongkong, Taiwan, and the eastern part. But larger ones were not numerous and probably numbered less than twenty. Three or four ships were in a sunken state but their crew must have taken refuge elsewhere as we saw nobody on the ships.

Our landing barges, therefore, were compelled to thread their way around these ships lying at anchor in the Port.

We could not recognize the nationality of the ships in port because they had no flags nor any other clear marks of identification.

9. In order to avoid further useless sacrifice of human lives, the 23rd Army twice despatched its Chief of Staff Noda as a bearer of a flag of truce, to advise the British Army to surrender. Particularly, on the second occasion, we suggested to them to consider the evacuation of at least the women and children from the Island, which, however, was not accepted by the British Army.

10. With reference to prisoners of war, as our Division took charge of only disarming and keeping watch of them, I do not remember exactly how many British war prisoners there were, but I think there were about fifteen in Kowloon and about six thousand in Hongkong. P/40

The British Army troops voluntarily disarmed themselves and gathered in their barracks, so it wasn't as troublesome as we had anticipated nor did any incident occur. Thereafter the handling of the war prisoners was completely under the supervision of the 23rd Army.

11. Regarding the non-combatants in Hongkong, the 23rd Army took charge of them, but they were small in number as the majority of the families of the British had evacuated Hongkong before the battle began. The remaining number continued to live in hotels or in their own homes just as they had been doing.

12. We were deeply moved by the Imperial Command which gave us the honor of capturing Hongkong and very conscious of the heavy responsibility and duties involved.

The Divisional Commander gave us instructions on several occasions, the gist of which was as follows:

"The attack on Hongkong differs from garrisoning in China. It is an attack on a fortress which has seen years of laborious preparation by the British, and it will be against an army which is one of the strongest forces in Europe. It is therefore, certain that the history of this battle will be closely examined and commented upon by future historians for a long time. We must pledge ourselves to stake all our lives upon a victory in this battle. Particularly, no act of illegal conduct should be committed throughout the battle, such as murder, atrocities, plunder and destruction, etc. Our attitude must be gentlemanly so that we may not suffer even the slightest criticism from the enemy as well as the third Powers." ///

Throughout the battle, we strictly obeyed, without the slightest variation the purport of the above instructions.

After our Division broke through the border and captured the enemy's principal position, tactical principles demanded that the whole army should immediately storm into the town of Kowloon so that the enemy garrison for the district of Kowloon might be prevented from retreating to the Island of Hongkong. However, as it was plain that the entry of a large number of soldiers into Kowloon would necessarily throw the city into confusion, the entire army was ordered to halt at the foot of a hill to the north of the city, and only two infantry battalions with the best training records in the Division were ordered to enter the town. As a consequence the whole town was completely saved from confusion.

During our landing operations on Hongkong, enemy artillery from their positions inside the town fired fiercely at us. But despite the intense firing by the enemy our troops were strictly forbidden to bombard the town, and were ordered to aim only at such pill-box positions as were located higher on the hill than the residential section. Needless to say this proved a great tactical disadvantage in our operations but in spite of it we did our utmost to protect Hongkong from war disaster. Because our troops were not permitted to attack inside of the city, Hongkong still remains today as it used to be and there were no casualties among its residents. After the enemy on the Island of Hongkong surrendered at least three battalions were needed ordinarily to maintain peace and order of the city as well as to disarm the enemy. But we selected only one of the best infantry battalions in the Division for this difficult task, cut the number of men to the least possible, placed them on their honor and they performed wonderfully.

Even after the capture of all of Hongkong, we stationed only three select infantry battalions in the town, because unforeseen incidents might possibly follow the entry of a mass of troops into the city and its vicinity. Our main forces, therefore, were concentrated in the suburbs to the north of the town of

O A T H

I swear according to my conscience to state the truth
withholding nothing nor adding anything.

ABE, Yoshimitsu