

Nº. 3355

INTERNATIONAL MILITARY TRIBUNAL FOR THE FAR EAST

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, et al

-vs-

ARAKI, Sadao, et al

Sworn Deposition

Deponent: TANAKA, Nobuo

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, TANAKA, Nobuo, held the rank of Lieutenant-General. I was born on October 30, 1890, and am presently living in No. 3, Kanbe-Hondemachi 4-chome, Suzuga-shi, Mie Prefecture.

I was appointed Commander of the 33rd Division in May 1944. In September, 1944, when I was retreating with my troops from the front after a battle at Imparle, General KIMURA arrived in Burma as the Commander of the Burma Area Army.

2. On arriving at the Tenasserim district on May 28, 1945, I met General KIMURA at Moulmein. On that occasion he urged the necessity of enforcing strict military discipline and being good to the inhabitants; he told me to treat them with warmth and kindness because the same Burmese would help the Japanese Army out of

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difficulties and that military operations could not be carried out without their cooperation.

3. Since then I have been in charge of the defense of the Tenasserim district south of the Salween River. In those days leaders of the guerrilla units backed by the British-Indian parachute units frequently landed in this district and threatened the rear of the Japanese units.

In the vicinity of Kalagon Village, a parachute corps of the British-Indian Army had built its base, and in concert with the insurgent Burmese army, came to disturb the district under my garrison charge. The British Indian Army won over the native people by dropping from the airplanes not only arms and provisions for the guerrilla corps but also necessities for the people's cultural life, so that the power of the guerrilla corps was increased day by day. On the middle of June, 1945, I was obliged to order Colonel TSUKADA, the 215th Infantry Regimental Commander, to suppress this guerrilla corps.

On this occasion, I had the Colonel take clothes and provisions to the people for their pacification. But most unhappily the Kalagon Incident broke out due to an abnormal action of the Commander of the Battalion that attacked this village. I had always been particularly careful about my subordinates' treatment of the natives. But I never know about the so-called "Kalagon incident" until my

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battalion commander, company commander and others were summoned by the British Army after the close of the war. I had already moved to Siam. Even when I met Regimental Commander immediately before the termination of the war, he did not give me any report about this event. Consequently, I did not, on my part, give any report to Area Army Commander KIMURA concerning the same event either when I went to Moulmein on August 15 to pay him my compliments on my way to Siam, or when I met him in Bangkok where he stopped on his way back from Singapore after the termination of the war. It was because at that time I myself was quite ignorant of the happenings of the "Kalagon" Incident.

I, as the commanding officer concerned, was put in prison as a war suspect, on January 22, 1946, in connection with this affair. But I had neither given any order for such act of atrocity, nor had received any report on it. Since the Regiment Commander stated at the War Tribunal at Rangoon that he did not report this case to me, the Division Commander, it was made clear that I had no connection at all with the matter but simply was giving orders concerning tactical matters only. So I was released on December 16, 1946, and served with a working unit at the "Iron Camp" in the suburb of Rangoon. On August 4, 1947, I embarked on the last steamer <sup>bound</sup> for Japan. The case was dropped not only for me as the Division Commander but even for the Regiment Commander also. Those who were punished were

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only the Battalion Commander and some of the personnel ranking below him. It was on February 6, 1946, that I reported the Kalagon Case to the Commander of the <sup>Army</sup> Area, when I was temporarily released on bail from the Moulmein Prison and went to the Camp Insen to attend the meeting of the Anglo-Japanese War Research Society. I met General KILURA there and directly reported the matter to him. The General was very much surprised and repeatedly said to me that he felt exceedingly sorry about it. According to what I have picked up while I was in prison, it seemed to me that there were one or two other illegal acts besides the Kalagon case. In fact, two officers who were under my command were arrested and brought to Burma after the demobilization. But during the war, I had never known of such a case, or given any order in connection therewith. I did not undergo any investigation and I am left as not involved. So I did not report such cases during the war time to the Headquarters of Area Army nor did I receive any order about such matters from the Headquarters of the Area Army.

On this 4th day of September, 1947

At I.M.S.F.E.

Deponent: (signed) TANAKA, Nobuo (seal)

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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.

(signed) TAMAKI, Nobuo (seal)