

№. 3077

INTERNATIONAL MILITARY TRIBUNAL FOR THE FAR EAST

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, et al

-vs-

ARAKI, SADA0, et al

Sworn Deposition(Translation)

Deponent; KOYASEKO, Kaname

Having first duly sworn an oath on attached sheet and in accordance with the procedure followed in my country I hereby depose as follows.

(1) I was born on May 21, 1897, at No. 1468, FUTASEMOTO, KASHIWA-MURA, ASO-CUN, KUMAMOTO Prefecture, which is my permanent domicile and where at present I am still living.

(2) The gist of my career follows:

In 1928, I graduated from the Army Cadet School.

For about 3 years beginning 1941 on, I was attached to Osaka Military Preparatory School.

From 1944 to the termination of hostilities, I held (as a major) the post of the commander of the 126th Independent Infantry Battalion and participated in the operations in South China.

(3) In June, 1944, my battalion, acting in coordination with the 23rd Army's attack on Luchow, advanced from the Canton

district to the TAISHAN area and thence turning north northwards operated in the Wuchow area, a strategic point on the River Sikiang. In this operation, which began in the early part of July, we made a forced march continuously for about a month. Owing to the unexpectedly stubborn resistance of the enemy, however, we were delayed despite our strenuous efforts for a rapid advance, and spent about five days longer than the directed schedule.

In this fighting, scores of our officers and men were killed ^{or} wounded and a large amount of munitions were consumed.

(4) My unit had always been under strict orders of our army commander and other superior officers concerned to maintain military discipline with strictness and severity.

Our slogan being the three don'ts of "don't burn, don't kill, and don't plunder," I am absolutely sure that no one in the unit violated the order. So thoroughly did my men adhere to the orders of superior officers that I hereby state positively that absolutely no one under my command ever killed any Chinese, or ever set fire on any Chinese houses.

(5) Although this has no direct bearing upon the action of the Japanese army, I may add in this connection that, we were then told that, in a valley some 3ri (TN² about 12km) north of TAISHAN, there were a group of villagers forming an armed body, called the SANSHAHSIANG self-defense corps and led by members of the communist traitors-slaying Party,

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that all the members of this body, amounting some 800, were armed either with rifles or with revolvers and that they constantly oppressed the neighbouring villagers.

(b) Late in June of the same year, my unit advanced towards the TAISHAN area and then was ordered to march farther.

At that time, the coolies we had employed in the Canton district expressing their desire to return home, we gave them sufficient wages, allowances, and even clothes and let them go. The coolies then released consisted of about a half of those who had followed us from Canton. I hear that when these coolies on their way home passed by the said communist village, they were assaulted by the villagers and were looted, massacred or captured, that thereupon they retreated to the TAISHAN district and obtaining the help of the neighbouring villagers, who had been oppressed by the communists they revenged themselves on their communist enemy and this occasioned some bloodshed. With regard to this affair, I know nothing beyond what I have said above because the Chinese alone were involved in the affair, ^{and} since we were busily engaged in operations to fulfil our duty to reach WUCHOW as soon as possible, we were hurriedly marching on. If any atrocity is reported to have been committed around TAISHAN, I am inclined to think that the report, by mistake, has mixed this occurrence up with the Japanese action. I definitely state that not a single act of atrocity was ever committed by my unit.

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(7) By the above statement, I believe that the actions of my battalion were of purely military nature and included no illegal actions.

(8) I hereto attach a sketch-map, which I believe will make clear the situation around TAISHAN.

On this 15th day of June, 1947,
at Tokyo

Deponent: /s/ KOYASEKO, Kaname (seal)

I, IMANARI, Yasutaro, 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 Tokyo.

Witness: /s/ IMANARI, Yasutaro (seal)

OATH

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

/s/ KOYASEKO, Kaname (seal)

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