

I M T F E

SWORN DEPOSITION

Deponent: Major General F. S. PIGGOTT

I, Major General Francis Steward Gildercy Piggott, C.B., D.S.O., Colonel Commandant, Royal Engineers, of Rapsley, Ewhurst, in the County of Surrey, England, having been first duly sworn, make oath and say:

I first met General MUTO (Akira) in Shanghai in 1938, where I had been sent from Tokyo at the request of the British Ambassador to China and with the concurrence of the British and Japanese Governments, to settle certain questions which had arisen to the prejudice of good relations between the British and Japanese authorities in Shanghai. He was then serving on the staff of General HATA, the Commander-in-Chief, and was instrumental, under General HATA's orders, in effecting a noticeable improvement in Anglo-Japanese relations in that area.

Later, in the summer of 1939, he was head of the Japanese Army Delegation from North China, which came to Tokyo to take part in the Conference assembled to discuss, and settle if possible, the Tientsin crisis. Although the Military authorities had been overruled as regards the site of the Conference, -- they wished it to be held in Tientsin, but the Prime Minister (Baron HIRANUMA) had insisted on Tokyo -- they accepted the situation and did their best to make the Conference a success. General MUTO frequently explained to me the Army's point of view, namely that their business was with the security of their troops, and that the economic questions at the Conference concerned this security; he was anxious to get back to his military duties as soon as possible, and for this reason desired to see a speedy and successful outcome. I reported his attitude to the British Ambassador, and an account of my farewell interview with General MUTO, in which he expressed his "good wishes for the success of the Conference" appeared in the London Times about August 14, 1939.

As one soldier speaking of another I admired and trusted General MUTO.

SUBSCRIBED and sworn to before me (   
 at Cranleigh in the County of Surrey, (   
 England, this 24th day of July, 1947. (

/s/ F. S. Piggott

/s/ Basil C. W. Hart

A Commissioner for Oaths.