

Statement of ISE

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Statement of Chitoku ISE, taken at Sugamo Prison,
Tokyo, Japan, on the 28th day of July, 1947.

Interrogations by Mr. P. F. Faison, Attorney, Prosecution
Division, Legal Section, SCAP.

Interpretations by CHANG Tah-chi, civilian interpreter,
Chinese Division, Legal Section SCAP.

BY MR. FAISON:

Q Well, now, the first thing I want to know is about the
position of SHIBATA in the camp. What was his position in the
camp?

A He was the chief of the labor section.

Q Chief of the Labor Section of what?

A Hanaoka Branch Office of the Kajima Gumi Company.

Q What connection did his work have with the camp, the
Chusan Camp?

A The camp was under him.

Q Now, referring to the period prior to the incident of
July 1, who was the Commander of the Camp?

A It was Arai, Kameitaro.

Q When did he commence work as the Commander of the Camp
and when did he finish his work as Commander of the Camp?

A He became the Camp Commandant on about the 12th or 13th
of August, 1944, and quit at the end of September of the same year.

Q Who succeeded ARAI as Commander of the Camp?

A Nobody was appointed as Camp Commandant after ARAI quit.

Q Did you work in the camp from the end of September 1944 to
July 1, 1945, which was the time of the incident?

A Yes, I did.

Q What was your position during that period?

A I was a Clerk of the Chusan Camp during the period you
just referred to.

Q Who was the head man in the camp?

A During that period we had not a camp commandant. As far as ^{position} ~~authority~~ was concerned, I was the most high man in the camp.

Q What was KONO's position?

A He was Chief of the Hanaoka Branch Office.

Q What was your position/called?

A I was called by my name, Mr. ISE.

Q I mean what was your position/called?

A Camp clerk was my position.

Q Who was immediately above you in authority?

A SHIBATA.

Q Who was above SHIBATA?

A The Chief of the ^{Business} ~~Working~~ Section, MOTOI, ^{and} ~~of~~ KONO.

However, I can't tell you exactly.

Q What were SHIBATA's duties in the camp?

A I can't tell you what was his position in the camp.

However, he came to the camp every day and gave me some advices.

Q When you say advices, do you mean orders?

A Advice sometimes meant orders.

Q Were you also subject to the orders of KONO?

A Yes, it was a matter of course.

Q And were you subject to the orders of MOTOI?

A Yes, that is because he was above me in authority.

Besides, the Chusan Camp was not independent from the Branch Office.

Q Now, in relation to yourself, which of these three men had the most authority?

A KONO did.

What was SHIBATA's relation to KONO?

A SHIBATA worked under KONO.

Q In what way did SHIBATA's duties in the camp differ from your own?

A SHIBATA's duty covered the whole camp, while my duty was only part of it.

Q Did you have to report to SHIBATA?

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A Yes, that is right.

Q Did you report everything you did to SHIBATA?

A Yes, I did. However, I ^{I think} didn't report to him unimportant matters *on several occasions.*

Q Were you engaged in any work in the camp?

A There was nothing in the camp which was not entrusted with SHIBATA.

Q Now, tell me particularly, ISE, what were your duties in the camp, what kind of work did you do in the camp?

A My duty was to write camp diary, to report Chinese deaths to governmental offices concerned with deaths; to carry out the camp commandant or SHIBATA's instructions. I also kept a record of the hours of work of the laborers.

Q When you said that you had the duty to carry out the commandant's or SHIBATA's instructions, to whom were you referring by the word "commandant"?

A I mean ARAI, the man I have just mentioned before.

Q After ARAI left the camp then you reported to SHIBATA; is that right?

A I reported both to SHIBATA and to KONO.

Q Not to MOTOI?

A ^{both} I also reported to MOTOI. ^{and the Branch Office} At that time, as I was a new man in the camp, I hadn't as much authority as you think.

Q What time are you referring to, that you were a new man?

A I have reference to the time of July 1944, in the middle of July, 1944.

Q ^{did} When/you first come to the camp?

A I entered the camp at the end of August or the beginning of September, 1944.

Q Before that time you had been employed in the Labor Section of Kajima Gumi?

A Yes, I had.

Q Very long?

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A Until I entered the camp.

Q How long before you entered the camp were you an employee of the company in its labor section?

A I started working for the labor section in the middle of July 1944 until I started working for the Chusan Camp.

Q I am a little bit confused. When did you start working in the Chusan Camp?

A I started working for the camp at the end of August or the beginning of September 1944.

Q But you had worked for Kajima Gumi before that time, had you not?

A Yes.

Q Where did SHIBATA have his office?

A He had his office in the Hanaoka Branch Office of Kajima Gumi Company.

Q Where did you have your office, ISE?

A In the Chusan Camp.

Q Who was in charge of that office at the Chusan Camp?

A It should be the camp commandant. However, after ARAI quit there was no camp commandant at Chusan Camp. So it is not obvious who was in charge of the office of the camp. It might be the Chief of the Branch Office or SHIBATA or me.

Q Who ~~xxxx~~ do you mean by the Chief of the Branch Office?

A KONO.

Q How often did SHIBATA come to the camp?

A He came to the camp almost everyday.

Q Did he have a desk in the camp office?

A No, he didn't ~~xxxx have~~ have a desk in the camp office.

Q Was there telephone communication between the camp office and the branch office at Hanaoka?

A Yes, there were telephone communications between the Branch Office and the Camp Office very day.

Q Did you make ~~xxxx~~ written reports to KONO at the Branch ~~offi~~ Office?

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A I both made written reports and verbal reports to KONO by 'phone.

Q What did you report to KONO?

A I reported to KONO about deaths and the sick of the Chinese laborers. I also reported to him about foodstuffs and clothes. I also made some other kind of report to him, which I can't recall one by one.

Q Did you also report to SHIBATA?

A I also reported to SHIBATA the same thing I reported to KONO.

Q Why did you report to both of them the same thing?

A Because I had to make my report to KONO through SHIBATA.

Q You never reported to KONO directly?

A Yes, ^{I sometimes did} when KONO came to the camp ~~I would report to him directly.~~

Q Except when KONO came to the camp you always reported to him indirectly through SHIBATA. Is that what you mean to say?

A Yes, that is correct.

Q Are you sure about that?

A Yes, I am sure about that. If SHIBATA was absent of course I reported to KONO directly. ^{in that case, I think} ~~and then~~ KONO would let SHIBATA know what I reported to him when he came back.

Q Do you know what kind of work SHIBATA was doing in the camp?

A He came to the camp for the purpose of supervision and issuing of instructions and orders.

Q Who had the duty to take care of the welfare of the Chinese laborers?

A ^{I think one among the four who were SHIBATA, MOTOI,} TAKASHI, Toyokishi ~~and~~ and KONNO did.

Q Was ^{TAKAHASHI} ~~he~~ a doctor?

A At the beginning I thought he was a doctor. However, when I asked him to write a death certificate for certain dead Chinese I found out that he was not a doctor.

Q Do you remember when TAKASHI discontinued his services

in the camp, how long before the incident?

A I think he quit at the end of June.

Q Before the incident?

A Yes.

Q Are you referring to the Japanese who performed the services of a doctor in the camp?

A Yes, I am

Q Did this man live in the camp during the period that he was working in the camp?

A He sometimes stayed in the camp and sometimes went back to his own house.

Q Now, who had the duty in the camp generally to see that the sanitary conditions in the camp were good enough?

I think one among the three who were Motoi, Shibata and Kohno had. However, in view of his position, to see whether the sanitary conditions were healthful or not at the camp, Kohno ^{should be} responsible for the sanitary conditions in the camp in each case.

Q Whose duty was it to provide the Chinese prisoners of war with sufficient food to maintain their lives and health?

It was one of the three's duty who were Motoi, Shibata and Kohno.

A ~~It is very hard for me to tell who had the duty to provide sufficient food to maintain the Chinese laborers' lives.~~ However, I think the Akita Prefectural Government should ^{also} be responsible for the insufficiency of food for the Chinese laborers. All of us, including the Chief of the Branch Office, SHIBATA, and me, had a very hard time to get food for the Chinese laborers.

Q Wasn't the food sufficient for them?

A No, it was not sufficient.

Q Why do you say the food was not sufficient?

A Because I have heard ~~that~~ the Chinese laborers say they were hungry.

Q Could you tell by their appearance that they did not have enough food?

A The food was not so insufficient as can be seen from their appearance.

Q Were the Chinese thin?

A Some of them were thin, but some of them were fat.

Q Did some of them get more food than the others?

A Well, maybe it is so, but I am not quite sure about it.

Q Now, who was responsible to provide the laborers with sufficient clothing and footwear to maintain their life?

A ^{though} OBATA, Sonoske, was in charge of the distribution of clothes and footwear for the Chinese laborers, *I think one among the three who were Motoi, Shibata and Kohno should be responsible.*

Q Now, who was responsible for the failure to provide infirmary adequate, ~~sanitary~~ quarters in the camp?

A All the buildings in the camp including hospital and infirmary facilities were constructed only after the agreement ^{of Motoi,} SHIBATA ~~between~~ KONO and ~~xxxxxx~~, based upon the police's permission.

Therefore, I think it is not obvious for you to decide who was responsible for the failure of not providing sufficient infirmary facilities for the Chinese laborers.

Q It is impossible for me to decide. Inasmuch as you know ~~xxx~~ more about this thing, ~~xxx~~ can you not, therefore, make the decision and tell me who was responsible?

A According to my opinion, ^{in view of his position,} the Chief of the Branch Office, KONO, should be responsible for the failure so far as the facilities are concerned.

Q Why do you think that KONO is more responsible than SHIBATA?

A I think KONO was more responsible than SHIBATA because he was the Chief of the Branch Office. If SHIBATA were the Chief of the Branch Office then he should be more responsible than KONO.

Q Now, who would be responsible for the unsanitary conditions of the camp?

A I can't understand your real meaning of unsanitary conditions. Will you give me some instance?

Q I will ask you this question: You did not consider the sanitary conditions in the camp to be bad?

A I think the sanitary conditions at Chusan Camp were above the common level when it was compared with camps where Koreans were staying.

Q Now, when the Chinese prisoners got sick their rations were cut down. Who was responsible for that?

A At the beginning there was no difference between the food rations of the sick laborers and the well laborers. However, on one occasion the head cook and the Chinese leader, whose name was GUN Chun, came to me with the opinion that the sick men's ration should be cut off. After hearing the opinions I consulted with KONO, who then agreed with the head cook and the Chinese leader. Therefore, the decision was made to cut out the sick men's food rations.

Q Now, who was responsible for permitting the guards to take some of the food rations and cigarette rations from the Chinese?

A I think nobody ever gave such permission to permit guards to take away food rations and cigarette rations from the Chinese laborers.

Q Did any of the guards in your knowledge take part of the food rations ~~from~~ of the Chinese?

A I didn't know any guards took away food from the Chinese laborers. However, on one occasion a guard named INUMADA beat a Chinese laborer for refusing his request for cigarettes. Upon knowing that I sent for INAMADA and warned him not to conduct such a bad theft any more.

Q Now, were the guards in the camp under your direction and control?

A Yes, as long as they were in the camp they were under ^{supervision} ~~my control~~, but they were not under my control when they were working outside.

Q How many guards did you have under your control in the camp?

A There were 9 guards under my control.

Q Do you remember the names of the guards?

A They were OBATA, ICHIGUYA, FUKUDA, SHIMIZU, ISHIGAWA, YOSHIYA, NAGASAKI, ~~and OBATA~~ and INUMADA.

Q Now, was anyone of these guards ~~more~~ over the others or were they all on a level?

A Yes, they were all the same.

Q Did they all live in the camp?

A Yes, they were.

Q Did they sleep in the camp at nighttime?

A Yes.

Q In the same room?

A Yes.

Q Did you sleep with them? Did you sleep in the same room with them?

A Yes, I did.

Q Now, before the incident, some of the Chinese laborers in the camp attempted to escape. Did you know about this?

A Yes, I knew some of them attempted to escape.

Q About how many attempted to escape?

A About four or five, I think.

Q Do you know the names of any of these Chinese who attempted to escape?

A No, I don't.

Q Did you know the names of any of the Chinese in the camp?

A I knew GUN Chun, CHO Kin-tei (CHANG Chin-tin); LA Sei-Ei (LO Shi-ying); LEE Chi-chu; O Sei-ling (WONG Cheng-ling).

Q Did the guards have Japanese names for Chinese Prisoners?

A Yes, we did. We also called them by their positions; ^{in the camp} for instance, Dai Teh Chang, meaning Chinese leader.

Q Now, when these Chinese attempted to escape from the camp was the fact reported to KONO?

A Yes, whenever the escapes of the Chinese laborers occurred it was reported to KONO, SHIBATA, and MOTOI, and to the police too.

Q As a result of your reporting to these men about these attempted escapes, what orders, if any, were issued to you with a view of preventing their recurrence?

A Whenever I reported the escapes of the Chinese laborers

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to them they would get angry with me and order me to prevent them from escaping by every possible means.

Q When you say "they" to whom do you refer?

A I refer to KONO, SHIBATA, ^{Motoi,} and the police.

Q Whenever you reported the attempted escapes by Chinese laborers you reported it to KONO, SHIBATA, MOTOI and the police?

A MOTOI was informed of the escape only when KONO and SHIBATA were absent from the camp; while the rest of them I have just mentioned were informed of the escape whenever it occurred.

Q Did you inform ~~the police~~ them personally?

A Yes, I did.

Q Now, if a prisoner attempted to escape, is it correct to say that if KONO and SHIBATA and MOTOI all three were in the Branch Office that they were each informed by you of the attempted escape?

A Yes, I reported to all of them when escapes occurred.

Q Now, over what period of time prior to the incident of July 1 was it during which these attempted escapes occurred?

A Among the four or five escapes, one occurred at the end of August, 1944; whereas, the other three occurred during the period from April to the middle of June 1945.

Q How many attempted escapes occurred during the month of June 1945?

A It is hard for me to tell how many escapes occurred in the month of June.

Q Now, did you get the guards together and talk to them about these escapes after they occurred or during the time that they were occurring? At any time did you get the guards together and talk to them with a view of preventing any escapes in the future on the part of the Chinese laborers?

A I didn't, but the police, GOTO ^{and Kohno} did.

Q Where was that? Where did he call them together?

A In the Chusan Camp.

Q What place in the Chusan Camp?

A I think it was in the camp office.

Q How long before the incident?

A I think it was about in May of 1945.

Q Was KONO present?

A Yes, he was.

Q SHIBATA?

A I am not quite sure about SHIBATA.

Q How about MOTOI?

A I think he was not present at the time.

Q Were all the guards present?

A I can't tell you whether all of them were present or not.

Q Were most of them present?

A Yes, most of them were present.

Q Was FUKUDA present?

A I don't remember. Maybe he was present.

Q Now, what did GOTO have to say?

A He told the guards to stand on guard during the night-time to prevent escapes of the Chinese laborers.

Q Is that all he said?

A That is what I remember now clearly.

Q Where were they to stand guard?

A Around the camp.

Q You mean to surround all the buildings of the camp?

A Yes, I do.

Q How many guards were to stand guard during the night?

A In view of the fact that the guards had to work during the daytime, GOTO did not put his orders into practice. Instead, he ordered the guards to select the ^{night} ~~nine~~ guards from the Chinese laborers.

Q What else did GOTO say to the guards?

A He came to the camp very often, and on one occasion he ordered the guards not to overlook errors of the Chinese laborers. He also ordered the guards to beat the Chinese laborers whenever it was necessary, while he himself will be responsible for the

Q What did KONO say?

A He said that we could do nothing but follow the police's order. However, the best way was to prevent the Chinese laborers from escaping.

Q Did you call the guards together and tell them what KONO said?

A No, I didn't, *because Kono made his speech before the guards himself.*

Q How long did you remain in the camp after the July 1 incident, ISE?

A I didn't remain in the camp after the incident.

Q You came back and worked in the hospital for about a month, didn't you?

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A I worked for the Branch Office after I ^{*recovered*} got out from the hospital.

Q How long did you work in the Branch Office?

A I worked until I was arrested.

Q When was that?

A I was arrested on the last day of October, 1945.

Q Now, after the incident, the police made an investigation into the causes of the Chinese breaking camp on July 1? You remember that, do you not?

A Yes, I do.

Q You were asked many questions by the police, ~~xxxxxxx~~ no doubt?

A Yes, I was.

Q Were your statements taken down in writing?

A I don't know. The police took some part of my replies.

Q What did you tell the police was the cause of the camp incident?

A At that time I was very confused with the cause of the incident; so I just answered them that I didn't know what the cause of the incident was.

Q What did you say to the police about beatings of the Chinese?

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A I can't understand you.

Q You have stated that you were questioned by the police as to the causes of the incident of July 1. Did the police ask you if you had taken part in or witnessed any beatings of the Chinese prior to the incident?

A Yes, he did.

Q What was your answer?

A At that time I told the police that I hadn't ~~beat~~ the Chinese laborers. I also lied to them that neither FUKUDA or SHIMIZU ever beat Chinese laborers, although I witnessed FUKUDA beat Chinese laborers twice and SHIMIZU once.

Q Why did you lie to the police at that time?

A I didn't lie to them consciously. At that time I just couldn't recall the fact that FUKUDA and SHIMIZU ever beat the Chinese laborers.

Q You were able to recall the fact that FUKUDA and SHIMIZU beat the Chinese laborers afterwards; is that right?

A Yes, that is right.

Q What recalled it to your mind?

A After I thought over my replies to the police I recalled that I didn't tell the police the fact of FUKUDA's and SHIMIZU's beatings of the Chinese laborers.

Q Now KONO said this morning to us that he questioned you about the causes of the incident, about July 10, and that you said that the Chinese laborers were frequently beaten by the guards but that you had witnessed these beatings only two or three times. Did you make that statement to KONO?

Yes, I did.

A ~~I didn't tell KONO about that because he didn't inquire about it the incident, because he didn't inquire of me about the incident about that time. I think he made a mistake.~~

Q KONO said that his investigation of you, ISE, took two days.

yes, that's right.

A ~~He must have made a mistake. However, I talked with KONO about the cause of the incident later. I think it was on the~~

~~20th of July.~~

Q And what did you tell him at that time was the cause of the incident?

A At that time I told KONO that the cause of the incident was due to the mistreatment of the Chinese laborers by ^{a part} the guards which resulted in bad feelings of the Chinese laborers against ^{a part of} the Japanese guards.

Q KONO says that on July 10 you told him about the mistreatment of Chinese laborers by HIMORI, OBATA, INUMADA, ^{and} NAGASAKI. Is that true?

Yes, that's true.

A ~~It was not on the 10th of July but on the 20th of July I told him about this.~~

Q Did you make that statement to him that I have just told you about?

A Yes, I did. What I told him was that I heard from other people after the incident.

Q Now, how many beatings were inflicted on the Chinese by the Japanese guards altogether, as far as you know?

A I witnessed two or three beatings of the Chinese laborers.

Q Were those the only beatings that took place in the camp?

A I can't tell you whether there were other beatings in the camp besides what I witnessed.

Q Didn't you make an investigation to find out?

A No, I didn't.

Q Didn't you ever ask anybody? Weren't you interested to find out? *I asked about it the Chinese leader who*

said that all the guards were good.
A ~~I didn't make any investigation about the beatings of the Chinese laborers because I thought it was KONO's duty to find it out. I only ordered the guards not to beat the Chinese laborers.~~

Q Now, what were these beatings that you yourself witnessed?

A I ~~xxxx~~ didn't know the names.

Q But tell us, who did the beating?

A The Chinese laborers did the beatings.

Q Now, tell us about the two times that you saw FUKUDA beat Chinese laborers.

A On one occasion, I think it was in the early part of September 1944, I saw FUKUDA slap a Chinese ~~laborer~~ laborer twice in front of the camp. Several days later I also saw SHIMIZU slap a Chinese laborer about twice near the camp.

Q You said that you lied to the police about the beatings by FUKUDA and SHIMIZU. Are these the beatings that you have just related to us now?

A Yes, that is right.

Q You never saw FUKUDA or SHIMIZU beat Chinese prisoners of the camp with sticks? Did you ever see anybody beat Chinese laborers in the camp with sticks?

A Yes, I did.

Q Who did you see?

A I think it was the Chinese leader.

Q Where?

A Inside the Chinese laborers quarters.

Q Who was present?

A The Chinese laborers who were staying in those quarters were present. I think there were no guards present at that time.

Q You were present yourself?

A I just happened to pass by there.

Q This man that GUN Chun beat died three days later?

A I don't know about that.

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ALLIED OCCUPATION FORCES)
CITY OF TOKYO)

I, Chitoku Ise, being duly sworn on oath, state that I had read to me and understood the translation of the foregoing transcription of my interrogation and all answers contained therein, consisting of 16 pages, are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

[Signature]

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 6th day of August, 1947

Clark S. Gregory
~~P. F. PATSON~~
Prosecuting Attorney

ALLIED OCCUPATION FORCES)
CITY OF TOKYO)

I, Tah Chi Chang, Legal Section, GHQ, SCAP, Tokyo, Japan, state that I truly translated the questions and answers given from English to Japanese and from Japanese to English, respectively, and that after being transcribed, I truly translated the foregoing deposition containing 16 pages, to the witness; that the witness thereupon in my presence affixed his signature thereto.

Chang Tah-chi
Interpreter

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 6th day of August, 1947

Clark S. Gregory
~~P. F. PATSON~~
Prosecuting Attorney

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Clark S. Gregory, Prosecuting Attorney, Legal Section, GHQ SCAP, certify that on the 6th day of August, 1947, personally appeared before Chitoku Ise, and according to Tah Chi Chang gave the foregoing answers to the several questions set forth therein; that after his testimony had been transcribed, the said Chitoku Ise had read to him by the said interpreter the same and affixed his signature in my presence.

Clark S. Gregory
~~P. F. PATSON~~
Prosecuting Attorney