

INTERNATIONAL MILITARY TRIBUNAL FOR THE FAR EAST

THE UNITED STATE OF AMERICA, et al

- vs -

ARAKI, Sadao, et al,

SWORN DEPOSITION

Deponent YAZAKI, Kanju

YAZAKI, Kanju, being first duly sworn in accordance with the practice in Japan, deposes and states as follows:

That my name is YAZAKI, Kanju, and that I was a professional Army officer and held the rank of Lieutenant General at the termination of hostilities between the Allied Nations and Japan. That during my life as an Army officer I became well and personally acquainted with one DOHIHARA, Kenji, who is now one of the accused on trial before the International Military Tribunal for the Far East. My acquaintance with the former General DOHIHARA covers a number of years and I have been intimately acquainted with him since the time I was a Captain.

Prior to the China Incident and during the month of March, 1937, the accused DOHIHARA was appointed Commander of the 14th Division of the Japanese Army, which was then stationed in Utsunomiya, on the Island of Honshu, in Japan,

which was its permanent station. At the outbreak of the China Incident in July, 1937, the accused, DOHIHARA, was still the commander of the 14th Division and I was then a Lieutenant Colonel on his staff. In August we were ordered to North China, where we were engaged in military operations in the region along the Peking-Hankow Railroad, where I continued to serve as his staff officer.

At the time the China Affair broke, ~~General DOHIHARA~~ deeply regretted that it had come about and when we were departing to North China under our mobilization orders he gave us instructions and orders, which were later repeated on the battle field, in which he emphasized that the China Affair was not a war of aggression but was aimed ultimately at cooperation between Japan and China. He especially enjoined us that a rigid enforcement of regulations and orders pertaining to the protection of the Chinese people would be had. During operations and on the battle field Divisional Commander DOHIHARA gave his primary attention to purely strategic matters and, of necessity, left the details to his subordinates. However, he never lost sight of his duty as an officer to his subordinates and never hesitated to assist them personally in the discharge of their duties, whether they were important or trifling, when it came to the protection of the Chinese

people. He used to pay minute attention to duties concerning the Chinese people to avoid injury or oppression on non-combatants.

In order to illustrate my point, I would like to cite some examples which I have personally seen.

Once during operations on the river Yungting-ho, his men had decided to use a Chinese farmer's house to set up a command post for General DOHIHARA. However, when this was called to the attention of General DOHIHARA, he noticed there were Chinese women and children taking refuge in the house, and forbade his subordinates to enter. He had his office located in front of the house where he, his staff officers and subordinates camped in the open air and attended to their business.

Again near Paoting he observed some of his men burning firewood which belonged to Chinese farmers, which they had appropriated in order to warm themselves. General DOHIHARA immediately rode to the spot on horseback, scolded them soundly and made them stop at once.

Again, near Paoting General DOHIHARA saw a Japanese soldier on the march having a Chinese carry his knapsack, and immediately reprimanded the soldier. The soldier stated that he had employed the Chinese and had promised to pay him for the work. In order to be fair General DOHIHARA ordered

the Japanese soldier to renegotiate with the Chinese in his presence and when it became clear that the soldier could not speak the Chinese language, the General ordered that the soldier immediately relieve the Chinese of the knapsack and cautioned him severely concerning his future conduct in such matters.

Many such instances could be set forth. However, I mention these three only to show that even in matters which might be considered as trifling, General DOHIHARA did not permit the abuse of civilians and non-combatants. I have heard his subordinates on more than one occasion state in substance, "Our Divisional Commander loves the Chinese better than the Japanese soldiers."

General DOHIHARA had a high regard for the Chinese people and for non-combatants, as such. I have never known an occasion when the Chinese general public in any jurisdiction under the command of General DOHIHARA were not settled and peaceful towards the Japanese forces under his command. They continued in their business operations without interruption and their stores and merchandising establishments continued to prosper. It was not uncommon for the Chinese to assist the Japanese soldiers voluntarily in drawing water, preparing meals, cleaning houses, carrying goods and other.

such daily routine matters. In fact, their regard for General DOHIHARA was such that they would inform him of any bandit attack which they anticipated.

In camp, whenever there was time to spare, it was the custom of General DOHIHARA to assemble his subordinates and explain to them about the urgent necessity of maintaining friendship between the Japanese and Chinese people. I remember many of his talks extremely well as they left a deep impression upon me. For example, the following are a few samples of what could be expected in these talks:

1. "Sino-Japanese cooperation is of great significance if we are to have peace in East Asia. In order to realize the cooperation which we desire between Japan and China, the Japanese must first study China more profoundly and reach a better understanding of the Chinese people themselves. In order to know the Chinese, we must, with sincerity, associate with them."

2. "The Chinese are peace loving and gentle people, if you approach them with understanding and courtesy. They are willing to understand whatever you speak. You must not assume a violent or oppressive attitude towards them at any time."

3. "If, in our association with the Chinese people, they do not accept our opinion, it is necessary for us to reflect on ourselves instead of blaming them for the lack of

understandin on ~~their~~ part."

Not only did General DOHIHARA often speak in the manner which I have just related, but he endeavored to execute his own views and to place them in practice. It was not a matter of mere words with him, but also a sincere attitude on his part, and he was known throughout the Division for his sincerity to his ideals and teachings.

All I have stated is just by way of illustration of the attitude of General DOHIHARA and his behavior in camp and on the battle fields. He was constantly instructing and advising not only his staff officers, but all of his subordinate officers and men and we found his instructions and admonitions to be of great value in peacefully dealing with the Chinese people.

As I knew him well General DOHIHARA often confided in me; both by his behavior and his speech I knew he held an opinion opposed to the China Affair from the very beginning. However, as an Army officer, he had no choice except to obey the orders of his superiors, but even in camp, to his intimates, he always deplored the China Affair.

In the 15th year of Showa, February, 1932, due to illness, I was returned to Japan and served with the basic echelon of the 14th Division at Utsunomiya. After my return I continued to

have correspondence with General DOHIHARA and one of the letters which I received was under date of April 22, 1938. This letter was safe handed (carried by messenger) from the North China fronts and I still have it in my possession. In this letter he states:

"Our state has no basic strategic principle established for the Affairs and seems to be operating passively decoyed by the opponents and is, as it were, leading a hand to mouth existence. Moreover, without strengthening the scaffold on which she stands, she supports both the North and the Central China new Regimes, which are just like castles on the sand, and unconscious of the urgent need of consolidating the foundation, tries to arrange mere formalities of these Governments. I am greatly disappointed at this attitude of our State, and am very much concerned about it. I have no intention to rejoice in giving a big talk which is of no use. I beg you to explain, whenever you may have a chance, to the authorities with regard to the above-mentioned points and call for their reflection ..."

By way of explanation, the North regime refund to was Wang Ko-min's temporary government, and the Central China Government was Liang Hung-chih's restoration government. Knowing General DOHIHARA as I had, I knew this letter was but another of his protests against the entire China Affair, I realized that he knew his views were shared by me and that he expected me, wherever possible, to assist him.

General DOHIHARA, from young manhood onward through his career cherished an ideal for enhancement of friendly relations between Japan and China, and while he was in the Army College he made a special study of the Chinese language and of the

history of China. After graduation he was appointed a member of the General Staff and was sent to China, where he stayed for many years. His name became well known, even to the Chinese civilians. During his years in China and Manchuria he served on two occasions as Chief of the Special Services Organization at Mukden. This organization was primarily for the purpose of gathering military information and intelligence.

Whenever trouble arose between Japan and China, I know personally that much was published about the organization and its members which was based on rumor, conjecture and propaganda, which had no foundation whatever in fact. I know that because of the prominence of DOHIHARA's name in matters concerning China that he was connected with many incidents in which he did not and could not have participated.

Knowing General DOHIHARA as I do intimately, over a period of years, I know not only from his many conversation with me, but by his actual behavior that he was opposed to the China Affair from the beginning and that he never changed his attitude. He has often expressed his great regret to me that there could not be peaceful cooperation between Japan and China, which he had cherished as a lifelong ambition. He was particularly regretful moreover that the China Affair was eventually extended to the Greater East Asiatic War.

I desire to further state that I have personal knowledge of everything I have stated in this affidavit.



On this 13th day of June, 1947

At Tokyo

DEPONENT: YAZAKI, Kanju (seal)

I, OHTA, Kinjiro 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: (signed) OHTA, Kinjiro (seal)

OATH

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

YAZAKI, Kanju (seal)