

Def. Doc. #2714

Exh. No.

Translated by  
Defense Language Branch

INTERNATIONAL MILITARY TRIBUNAL FOR THE FAR EAST

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, et al

-vs-

ARAKI, Sadao, et al

Sworn Deposition (Translation)

Deponent : NISHIJIMA, Takeshi

Having been duly sworn in accordance with the procedure followed in my country, I do hereby depose and say as follows:

1. I am living at NODA, Hanno-Mechi, Irumagun, Saitama-Prefecture.
2. About the middle of Sept, 1937, I joined the Shanghai Expeditionary Army, took the field as Battalion Commander of the 1st Battalion of the 19th Infantry Regiment and participated in the siege of Nanking. At the time I held the rank of a Major.
3. Towards the end of Sept, 1937 we landed near Woosung, Shanghai and participated in the battle.

In the middle of Nov. we were ordered to pursue the enemy in the direction of Soochow with strict instructions from superiors not to destroy or burn houses unless absolutely unavoidable for operational reasons. I instructed my subordinates of this and looked over them.

4. Aside from the railway station and its vicinity being destroyed by bombings Soochow was left intact. One of the natives there told me that the city was kept from destruction because the inhabitants of the city pleaded to the Chinese Army with money to retreat from the city without fighting in the city or destroying and plundering it.
5. At a place 1 ri (TN: 2.5 miles) east of Wushin and inside its city limits, the resistance of the Chinese Forces caused a battle to break out which caused some damages to the houses near by. Upon my inspection after the battle, I found some of the contents of the provision warehouse had been carried off. I thereupon posted guards at once to guard the warehouses and prohibited the further removal of the contents by any unauthorised individual. After having reported the situation to the Intendance Department of the Division, we turned the place over into their hands. This sort of step had been ordered by superiors long before and we acted accordingly not only at Wushin but everywhere.
6. A fierce Battle was fought at a place which lies between the Mopan mountain range and Nanking. Almost all the houses there had been burned down before the occupation by the Japanese forces and the marks of plunder were strikingly evident. Nothing was left there to be utilized by the Japanese forces. We camped in tents or even without them and made the advance with no other provisions than our field rations.
7. In our drive against Nanking the movement of the Army was

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strictly controlled and no arbitrary action was allowed even to capitalize on opportune operational chances. But more detailed instructions were given by about Dec. 8th higher authorities regarding the attack upon Nanking. According to the schedule our unit was to begin the attack on Yuhuatai about Dec. 10, turn to Kwanhwamen on the afternoon of the 12th and then proceed into the attack from about the 13th. But upon receiving the news of the fall of Nanking, we only engaged in a clean up campaign near the gate and then turned back to Tangsuehen on the same night.. We entered Nanking on the 15th, deployed and were billeted in houses in the south east part of Nanking. Almost all the houses in the city were left undestroyed. There were some small fires around the billeting area, but none were started by my unit. As the higher authorities had warned us against fire incessantly before and after our entry into Nanking, my officers and men were especially careful. Upon entry into Nanking I prohibited my men to go out into the city except on official errands and I instructed them to respect and protect foreign properties and their rights and not to inflict any harm on the Chinese folks but to endear them when they went on these official errands. I placed a care-taker of fire at every billet to whom I gave stern warnings and notices concerning fire prevention. This step was taken at every front every time we billeted.

8. After my units entry into Nanking, we were billeted in such a way as to be able to start movement of pursuing the enemy at any time

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in accordance with the instructions given to us from higher up.  
Our actions were as follows during our stay at Nanking:

Dec. 13 Entered Nanking through the Kwanghuamen gate mopped up the remnants of the enemy east of the creek that runs from South to North on the west side of the Tunktsinmen gate; pushed on to Tangshuichen that night.

Dec. 14 mopped up around Tangshuichen and returned to Nanking about 7 p.m. the 15th. Dec. 16. The ceremony of reading the Imperial Rescript was held. As all the officers and men were suffering from lice, we cleaned up their personal effects with boiling water.

On the 17th the triumphant entry of the commanding General MATSUI into Nanking took place. Worked on moving our camping quarters, on the 18th the army's memorial services for the dead were held.

Moving of camping quarters continued. On the 19th regimental memorial services were held on the 20th, guard escort for the commanding General of the Army on the occasion of his inspection of the battle field and hospitals: on the occasion of his inspection of the battle field and hospitals: on the 21st and 22nd cleaned up the battle field of Yuhuatai and searched for missing persons: on the 23rd prepared for our departure. On the 24th we moved to Kunshan. In addition to the above said daily routines, various reports of battles, communicating to the bereaved families paying of allowances, soldier saving deposits, communicating to the families and receiving and distributing mails and packages among the soldiers from the home land of several months, etc all of which took so much time that we could not even have a rest.

9. When we were billeted at Nanking, going in and out of the billets

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Dec.

was very closely guarded. I got instructions to train the sentinels in the way of questioning the people, so that they might not cause trouble to the law-abiding natives on account of language difficulties. I obeyed to the letter. No superior ordered to plunder or render violence much less the Commanding General of the Army MATSUI.

On the contrary, we were directed on Dec, 19 by General MATSUI and on the 22nd by our Regimental Commander to be kind and good towards Chinese folks so that they would place a trust in the Japanese Army.

10. About Dec. 19 I went inspecting along the road which runs from Chungshanru to Hsiakwan on horse back and found no damage was done to the houses there. Before our entry into Nanking rumors were current of the awful destruction of Nanking caused by the Japanese Army's bombings, but actually witnessing it, I was able to confirm that it was untrue. I found no corpses of Chinese soldiers at Hsiakwan either. On Dec. 24th my unit turned back to the east, reached Kunshan about Jan. 5 and was ordered to stay there for garrison duty.
11. During the time of our garrison at Kunshan, a body of American pastors and medical men came over to inspect churches and hospitals there on the introduction of Lieut. Col. Oka of the Special Service Division at Shanghai. They were pleased and expressed gratitude to find those institutions had suffered only small damages and were in good order and entrusted them to my custody. After having a luncheon together we took a souvenir picture and parted. For about a month after that I also did garrison duty at

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Soechow. There the houses were standing side by side as they  
ever were. The streets were well arranged and trade was flourishing.  
No illegal conduct of the Japanese Forces were witnessed there and  
we were in harmonious terms with the native inhabitants. Recreation  
facilities were so well provided for the Japanese Army and not one  
irregularity occurred.

On this 8th day of Oct, 1947

At Tokyo

Deponent : /S/ NISHIJIMA, Takeshi (seal)

I, JODAI, Takayoshi, 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/ JODAI, Takayoshi (seal)

OATH

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

/S/ NISHIJIMA, Takeshi (seal)