

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

Deponent : -NASU Daizaburo

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

I am ex-Maj. Gen. NASU, Daizaburo, and now living at Yagototendo, Tempaku-mura, Aichi-gun, in the suburbs of Nagoya city.

ARAKI and I were classmates in the military academy. Since those days he has been opposed to interference with other nations and countries, and advocating to improve the national morality of our country.

When I was commander of the gendarmerie corps in Korea, I often met to talk with ARAKI when I came to Tokyo. In the spring of 1924, we discussed the Korean problem, when he said that at the time of the annexation of Korea with Japan he had heard heard of it abroad and that as he was opposed to it he wrote

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about it to his superior officer Gen. UTSUNOMIYA. He said that even if the Korean wished it the annexation was not good. The reason of his opposition was that a state with its own culture and long history should remain independent and develop its hereditary culture. He said that it should be independent by all means and be helped to be a good country. He asserted that Japan should improve her original place, culture and spirit and that there was every means for Japan to live by. And thus he disapproved a territorial ambition. Later, when he was confronted with the Manchurian problem, he stuck to the above-mentioned assertion. He always said that Japan should give a fraternal aid to Manchukuo for her healthy development even though Japan herself had poor resources, and should not be motivated with exploitation.

While ARAKI was Minister of War I talked with him privately whenever he came to Nagoya, and I also heard him make a speech. Whenever he came to a point of war, he emphasized that war should have the just cause and that it should be waged for the protection of the tradition of a country, and not by territorial, material, or fame ambitions. He taught that in this connection the fundamental character of the founding of the Imperial Army should be taken into consideration. It is a famous fact that after the expedition to CHINAN in 1928 ARAKI who was then chief of the Military Operations Department of the General Staff limited, with the above-mentioned spirit, awarded rewards only

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to those who had been at the front, excluding those who had been at the central posts of the Army, who, he said, must not accept such rewards.

He said that it was most necessary to settle international disputes without resorting to war, that when sacrifice on both parties was so great that there would be mountains of corpses and rivers of blood it was an ill-conducted war, and that even in a prospective war a counter-measure should be considered to avoid it, which, though difficult, was not impossible.

In the autumn of 1934 ARAKI occupied an easy post of a war councillor. Once in those days he called on my house after a long interval and we had chat at leisure, when he told me that Japan was in the most critical international condition at the time of the Manchurian Incident especially at the time of the Shanghai Incident, that he was appointed Minister of War in the midst of the Manchurian Incident which was threatening to expand and that though it was not easy as it was at the height of hostilities, he brought them to settlement at any rate, adding that it was not so successful as the capitulation of the YEDO Castle (Tokyo) at the Meiji Restoration. After the outbreak of the Pacific War he published a book entitled ~~MICSETEPE~~ KOSO (Only at the sacrifice of oneself) in which he wrote it as the fundamental character of the Imperial Army to avoid a war in its greatest possibility and to settle the situation.

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In this connection he referred to the capitulation of the YEDO Castle, which he approved very much. When I read it I knew that what he did and said in the Manchurian and the Shanghai incidents were resulted from the above-mentioned spirit of his.

The capitulation of the YEDO Castle to which he referred is the following historical fact. At the Meiji Restoration SAIGO, Nanshu, commander of the attacking forces and KATSU, Kaishu, commander of the defensive army talked without reserve and succeeded in peaceful settlement, which prevented YEDO (Tokyo) from war-damage, causing no casualty.

Since our school days at the military academy our intercourse has lasted about fifty years. During these years we talked about anything frankly. He is an inherent pacifist. I never know he has advocated by word or deed aggression, jingoism and anti-humanism. On the contrary he disliked them very much. I just now referred to his booklet entitled MIOSUPPTEKOSO (Only at the sacrifice of oneself) in which he wrote not only what I have stated but much more to the same effect. Therefore I would like to present it to the Tribunal.

On this 9 day of Sept, 1947

At I.M.T.F.E.

DEPONENT /S/ NASU Daizaburo (seal)

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I, HASUOKA Komei, 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 the same place.

Witness: /S/ HASUOKA Kōmei (seal).

OATH

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

/S/ NASU Daizaburo (seal)

極東國際軍事裁判所

亞米利加台衆國其他

對

荒木貞夫其他

宣誓供述書

供述者

那須太三郎

自分陳我國ニ行ハルル方式ニ從ヒ元ツ別紙ノ通り宣誓ヲ爲シタル上次ノ如ク供述致シマス

一私は元陸軍少將那須太三郎と申します目下愛知縣愛知郡天白村字八尋天道に住んで居ります。

一私は荒木とは士官學校同州であります。彼は青年時代から他民族、他國家への朝鮮<sup>ハルビン</sup>渉反對論者で祖國日本の道義を磨けと諭じて居りました。私は朝鮮憲兵司令官の時上京して屢々荒木と習ひよく語りました。大正十三年（一九二四年）の春でありましたか私と朝鮮問題を論じました時彼は曾て日韓合併の時海外にあつて之れを聞いたからそれに同意が出来ないといふ時先達たる宇都宮將軍に意見を述べた事を述懐して居ました。其理由はよし併合が朝鮮の希望であつたとしても一文化を持ち長い歴史を持つ國家は飽く迄獨立さして其傳統の文化を發展せしむべきで併合はいけなない何處迄も獨立のままにして支度して立派な國にしてやるべしといふにありました。日本<sup>ハルビン</sup>の地圖有日本と其固有の文化、精神を磨くべきで生きる道としてはいくらでも方法があるとして領土慾を排斥しておりました。其後彼が實際滿洲問題にぶつかつた時も同一の主張を堅持し滿洲の健全なる發達には日本は貧乏な中からでも元として度切してやる竹でなければならぬ。かりにも利益を主とする考へではいけないと常に言つておりました。

一荒木が陸軍大臣中名古屋に來る時に藤を交へて彼れと話もし又彼れの講演をするのを聞きましたか、戦争論になると必ず戦争の名分が正しくなければ

はならぬ事を強調して居ました。又戦争は何よりも元づ其國の傳統の道を  
防衛するためでなくてはならぬ。領土慾や、物質慾や、名譽慾で戦ふ事は  
あつてはならぬ。日本の海軍の本質を考へると是れに於いておりました。彼れが  
此精神を昭和三年濟南派兵の時參謀本部作戦部長でありましたが驗功行賞  
に際し軍の中央のものが心賞を受けてはならぬとて第一線將兵丈けに止め  
ましたのは有名な話であります。又同様に戦争をせずして國際紛糾を収め  
るのが第一だ若し取つてと彼我の犠牲甚大で所謂屍の山や血の河を見る穢  
では其戦は拙たと誠めました。大坂争の起らんとする時でも必ず轉換の策  
を考へて起らずに済す様にせねばならぬと六ヶ敷の語ではあるが出來ない  
事ではないと平和論を説いて居りました。



一、昭和九年の秋荒木が軍事参議官の爾職にありました時、久し振りで私の宅で緩々話をした時に彼は既往の滿洲事變時に上海事變當時は國際的に極めて危険な情勢にあつた事を話され事變の途中で皇軍大臣になつたが即ち大なる戦機の際んで居た時何とかして無事に收めやうとしたが最早戦さの最中だから容易でなかつた。併しまあ何とか終戦したが明治維新の時の江戸城（東京）明け渡しの様な事は出来なかつたと話されましたが太平洋戦争が始まつてから「身を捨ててこそ」といふ彼の著書に戦機正に熟した時でも戦を中止して無事に收めるのが皇軍の本質と述べて江戸城明け渡しの経緯と結びつけてかくなければならぬと書いてあるのを讀んで滿洲事變上陸事件の彼の實行した事が彼のこの平和愛好の精神から來た事を知りました。彼れの指摘した江戸城明け渡しとは明治維新の際江戸攻勢軍の西郷南州と防禦軍の勝海舟とが互に胸襟を請いて和平協定を成立させ江戸を戦火より免かれしめ一人の犠牲者をも出さなかつた史實を云ふのであります。私は陸軍士官学校以來荒木と交際して居りました。萬事を打ち明けて話をします。私が先天的ともいふべき平和愛好者であつて未だ會て侵略主義や好戦主義や非人道主義の言論も行動もあつた事を知りません。反對に之等を非常に忌み嫌つて居りました。只今思ひました「身を捨ててこそ」といふ小

な冊子であります。が、其中に彼れの私に話したと同趣旨のものが澤山ありますから、此本を提出致します。

昭和二十二年（一九四七年）九月九日

於極東國際軍事裁判所

供述者 那 須 太 三 郎

右ハ當立會人ノ面前ニテ宣誓シ且ツ署名捺印シタルコトヲ證明シマス。  
同日於同所

立會人 連 岡 高 明

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