

Def. Doc. #2668

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

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Sworn Deposition

Deponent: ŌUCHI ~~Yoshido~~ ^{Yoshihide}

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

- (1) I live at No. 1,234, 2-chome, Inage-machi, Chiba-shi at present.
- (2) Since our landing at Woosung at the end of September, 1937. I had taken part in the battles between Shanghai and Nanking Areas as the Acting Commander of the 7th Battery of the 9th Mountain Artillery Regiment of the 9th Division in the Expeditionary Force to Shanghai. At that time, my rank was 2nd Lieutenant of Artillery.
- (3) Our regiment assembled in the vicinity of an airfield west of Shanghai after crossing over the Soochow River about the 3rd November of the same year.

That area was rather devastated owing to cannonade

and bombing. Our regiment was then still in battle position and the military discipline was maintained with great strictness and severity.

At that rendezvous, we were given the following instruction by the Chief of Staff: "As your regiment will be sent presently to the zone where various foreign rights and interests exist, each commander ought to have his men strictly at his command and to endeavour for the maintenance of the military discipline."

I then gave my men a caution in order that the above instruction might be thoroughly understood by them and there was no one under my command who violated the discipline at the rendezvous and its vicinity.

((4) There were several women remaining in a village (the name of it was forgotten) over against the rendezvous, so the stepping into the area was strictly forbidden.

Thereupon, one night, red and green signal shells were shot up from within the village and then the shower of enemy's shells were poured down on the quarters of our unit.

So we searched all through the village on the following morning, but we could not find even a single man. Accordingly, we thought it necessary henceforth to take

strict precautions even against a woman.

- (5) About 14th November in the same year, our unit advanced as a first-line troop by the order to advance to Soochow and we scarcely met enemy resistance till we got there. Some villages along the road to Soochow were for the most part reduced to ashes, few houses had the roof left and there were no inhabitants to be seen in these villages.

As our unit advanced at the head, we never could have done such violence and I know such destruction had been done by the Chinese troops as they began to retreat.

I strictly prohibited incineration of houses and looting both for the Chinese people and for the Japanese troops coming after and perhaps owing to that order, there were much satisfactory results without any accident brought about.

- (6) We entered Soochow with no resistance or the enemy, so the streets were not destructed at all except a slight damage by air-bombing.

In this town also the removal of goods by individual soldiers was prohibited and the preparation for requisition was being conducted by intence officers but as our unit was ordered to advance westwards about 17th of November, the said requisition was not executed, and all

the soldiers were marching even with their rationed food cooked in their mess-tins.

- (7) We encountered a fierce resistance of the enemy in the mountainous zone around 30 kilometres east of Nanking and the said zone was so well prepared and defended by the Chinese troops who had been specially trained against the Japanese army as the hypothetical enemy, that their resistance to us was never so fiercely made.

Our unit was advancing again at the head and all the Japanese troops were obliged to bivouac, as the houses to be used for their quarters in this vicinity had been all burnt down by Chinese troops.

- (8) Then we received an oral order as follows:
"The aim and object for advance of our troops is the wall of Nanking and as regards the entry into the city, you shall have another order.

We marched into the Air-defense School outside of the Kwanghuamen at dawn on the 9th of December after successive desperate fighting and we found that lots of houses had been destructed and devastated to obstruct our advance. Especially those houses in the vicinity of the air-field were burnt down by incendiaryism.

Above-stated destruction was surely made by the

(6) Chinese troop, as there was no Japanese troops that marched ahead of us.

(9) On the night of 9th in December there was transmitted to us the order stating that if the enemy would not surrender at noon the following day (10 Dec), we should attack on the City of Nanking and at the same time we were given the following restriction and caution.

1. As the City of Nanking is the capital of the Republic of China you should take care not to send your shells so far as to fall within the city though it is allowed to bombard the enemy on the wall.
2. Take particular care not to drop your shells upon the foreign rights and interests and the refugee quarters in the city. (I had the map of the City of Nanking then but I have not it now with me and there are none remaining in the First Demobilization Bureau as they were destroyed by fire.)

At the above mentioned order I racked my brain from from the technical point of view of firing but fortunate I could attain the purpose as it was mentioned in the order.

(10) Our attack on Nanking was launched at about 2 o'clock on 10, December and we captured the wall of the Kwanghuamen but it was not permitted to enter the city and only the military police as well as some small units entered there.

On that day, near the wall was a burnt body of a man of unknown nationality; it was still breathing faintly.

On seeing this, Major Haga, our Battalion Commander, was enraged and gave us a strict order to find out the offender, so I also stopped the preparation for fighting, assembled my men, gave a warning and investigated the criminal, but there was no offender among the men under my command.

The surgeon who inspected the corpse decided that it seemed to have been committed at least ten hours before - prior to our entry into the city, and that a Japanese soldier must have been captured by the Chinese troops, who had burnt him to death.

Our unit turned back to Tangsuichen during that night.

(11) We entered into the City of Nanking on 15th of December and lodged several days at the Chinese barracks, where each unit mounted guard and all the soldiers were prohibited to go out; so none of them went out of the barracks except officers on official duty. And it was so with all the units in our division. Consequently, there was not a single criminal, who was charged of an illegal action.

An officer, a friend of mine, told me that there seemed to have been many refugees in the refugee quarters,

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but it was guarded by the military police; so even an officer, not to speak of a private, was not permitted to enter there.

I saw a great deal of Chinese army equipments were thrown away in disorder on the streets when I went there on official duty, but I did not find out any fire-disaster except some ruins of small fires and the streets were almost safe from destruction.

I saw a few corpses of Chinese soldiers at the area along the Yangtze River, but never found ^a corpse which was massacred.

(12) We turned back eastward on around 20th of December.

On this 29 day of Sept., 1947

At Tokyo

Deponent /S/ ŌUCHI Yoshihido (seal)

I, KAMISHIRO Takuzen, 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/ KAMISHIRO Takuzen (seal)

OATH'

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

/S/ ŌUCHI Yoshihido (seal)