

INTERNATIONAL MILITARY TRIBUNAL FOR THE FAR EAST

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, et al

-vs-

ARAKI, Sadao, et al

SWORN DEPOSITION

Deponent: OBATA, Minoru

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:

1. At the time of the termination of the war I was a colonel in the army. Now I am taking charge of ships engaged in repatriation work.
2. I know Colonel HASHIMOTO, Kingoro very well.
3. In August, 1937, when Colonel HASHIMOTO was called up by the army and became the regimental commander of the 13th Field Heavy Artillery Regiment, I was then appointed to be a battalion commander under his command. From that time till he returned to Japan in April, 1939, from Hsiangshui (China) I was always with him.
4. When he arrived at the point about 8 miles (3 RI) west of Wuhu on December 11, 1937, Colonel HASHIMOTO received the following order from Commanding General YANAGAWA and thereupon returned to Wuhu immediately:

"Unit Commander HASHIMOTO shall command his regiment together with one field artillery battalion and one infantry battalion and attack at the point near Wuhu ships which are carrying Chinese soldiers and sailing up on the Yangtse."

This order came about 2 A.M.

5. Colonel HASHIMOTO's order then to me was, "Major CBATA shall command his own unit together with one artillery battalion and occupy a position at the wharf of Wuhu and attack the fleeing Chinese fleet." This order came about 5 A.M.

6. By order of Colonel HASHIMOTO, Lt. NAKAMURA was to advance to a point about 2,000 meters downstream and to wave a handkerchief whenever he saw the fleeing enemy ships by telescope. When I saw the handkerchief waved by Lt. NAKAMURA I was to fire upon these ships.

7. It was still before dawn and not yet light; Lt. NAKAMURA waved the handkerchief. I saw through the telescope a fleet of 5 or 6 ships all gathered and anchored about 50 meters apart. I instantly began firing upon this fleet. The distance was about 4,000 meters.

8. Even after the dawn it was very difficult to see the ships clearly because of deep fog on that day, which was very typical on the Yangtse. I could only discern ships loaded with Chinese soldiers.

9. When we fired twenty or thirty shells, one of the ships put out a black smoke screen. After covering was completed by the smoke screen, one ship sailed toward us.

10. Seeing the ship coming toward us, we thought they were about to surrender, so we stopped the shelling upon them entirely. As the ship neared its hull became clear. When it came within 3,000 meters, we first discovered then it was not a Chinese army ship. At first it was not the distance but the heavy fog which made it difficult for us to tell these were not Chinese army ships.

11. After ceasing fire and while waiting for the ship to reach the wharf, we then found out by its flag that it was a

British ship and it had received two direct hits.

12. A rear admiral wearing staff officer insignia, the captain of the ship, his executive officer, and one other officer came ashore and asked us to meet for negotiations.

13. From our side Colonel HASHIMOTO, Lt. NAKAMURA, and I, together with one interpreter, took part in this negotiation. The first question they asked was why we had fired upon them. To this Colonel HASHIMOTO instantly replied, "we fired upon the ships because they were loaded with Chinese soldiers. Their next question was why we had fired on British ships. Colonel HASHIMOTO again instantly answered, "Due to the heavy fog we were not able to see and tell they were British ships."

14. Since one death had resulted from the shelling, the Captain of the British ship asked us to attend the funeral service. We sent one representative to this funeral service. This was held at the public hall.

15. This British ship was the "Ladybird". Later I learned that the matter of the Ladybird incident was taken up through diplomatic negotiations, but as to its details I know nothing.

16. Colonel HASHIMOTO and the Hashimoto forces had no connection whatsoever with the sinking of the American ship "Panay". We, the Hashimoto force, had never seen the "Panay".

17. The Hashimoto force was stopped at Wuhu, 14 or 15 "RI" (about 37 miles) from Nanking. Shortly after the fall of Nanking this force was ordered to advance to Hangchow and therefore never participated in the attack on Nanking nor did it enter into Nanking, or its vicinity.

18. The Hashimoto force did not attack Hankow nor did it enter Hankow or its vicinity.

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19. The Hashimoto force did not attack Canton (Kuang-Tung) nor did it enter Canton or its vicinity.

At the place of Mr. Itsuro Hayashi, No. 877, 3-Chome, Kami-Kitazawa-Machi, Setagaya-Ku, Tokyo, on this 11th day of January, 1947.

Signed and Sealed: OBATA, Minoru

I hereby certify that the above said person has duly sworn, subscribed and sealed thereto on before me.

On the same date and place.

Witness: signed and sealed: HAYASHI, Itsuro

Oath

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

TERADA, Masao (signed and sealed)

Not used

極東國際軍事裁判所

亞米利加合衆國其他

對

荒木貞夫其他

宣誓供述書

供述者 小幡實

目分機我國ニ行ハルル方式ニ從ヒ先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 松本大佐今引湯松ノ世話ヲシテ居リマス、終戦當時ハ陸軍大佐デアリマシタ

二 松本大佐欣五郎大佐ヲ良ク知ツテ居リマス

三 松本大佐昭和十二年八月、橋本大佐ガ召集セラレテ野戦重砲兵第十三聯隊長トナリマシタ時、其ノ部下ノ大隊長トナリ、爾來、大佐ガ召集解除トナリ修水ヨリ日本ニ歸国サレマシタ昭和十四年四月マデノ間、終始一語ニ居リマシタ

四 昭和十二年十二月十一日頃湯松方面約三里ノ所ニ到着シマシタ時、橋本大佐ハ柳川軍司令官ヨリ「中國軍ノ大部隊ガ松ニ依ツテ湯子江ヲ溯流中デアルカラ橋本部隊長ハ部下大隊及ビ野砲一大隊歩兵一大隊ヲ合セ指揮シ湯松附近ニ於テ該松國ヲ擊沈スベシ」トノ旨ノ命令ヲ受ケ、直チニ湯松ニ引返シマシタ、夫レハ午前二時頃ノ事デス

五 橋本大佐ノ私ニ對スル命令ハ「小隊小佐ハ野砲兵一大隊ヲ台セ指揮シ湯松ノ岸壁ニ陣地ヲ占領シ退却中ノ敵松國ヲ擊沈スベシ」ト云フノデアリマシタ、夫レハ午前五時頃ノ事デス

六 橋本大佐ノ命令ニ依リ中村中尉ハ約二千米下流ニ進出シ望遠鏡ニ依リ

敵松園ヲ發見シ次第ハンカチヲ振ルコトトナリ、私ハ右中村中尉ガ
ハンカチヲ振ルノヲ發見シ次第其ノ松園ヲ砲撃スルコトトナリマシ
タ
七 未ダ夜ノ十分明ケ切ラナイ薄暗イ時、中村中尉ガハンカチヲ振リマ
シタノデ、望遠鏡デ見マスト五、六隻ノ松園ガ一隻弱ラズ全部五十
米位ノ間隔ニ集結シテ旋泊シテ居リマシタ、私ハ此ノ松園ニ對シ直
チニ砲撃ヲ開始シマシタ、其ノ距離ハ四千米位デアリマシタ
八 其ノ日ハ湯子江特有ノ霧ガ特ニ深カツタノデ夜ガ明ケテモ松園ヲ明
確ニ見定メル事ハ困難デアリマシタ、唯、中國兵ヲ捕獲シテ居ルコ
トハ判リマシタ
九 二、三十發砲撃シマシタ時、其ノ松園ノ中ノ一隻ガ眞無ナ煙幕ヲ張
リマシタ、ソシテ煙幕ニ依ル遮蔽ガ完了スルト一隻ノ松園ガ我方ニ向
ツテ前進シテ参リマシタ
一〇 我方ニ向ツテ前進シテ來ルノデアリマスカラ降伏シテ來ルモノト思
ヒ、全部ニ對スル砲撃ヲ中止シテ待ツテ居リマシタトコロ、近付ク
ニ從ヒ松園ガ明カトナリ三千米以内ニ進入ツテ漸ク夫レハ中國軍ノ

松デナイ事ガ判リマシタ、始メニ其ノ松ガ中國軍ノ松デナイ事ガ判

ラナカツタノハ巨艦ガ遠イ爲デハナク艦ガ深カツタ爲デアリマス

一 砲撃ヲ中止シテ其ノ松ガ岸壁ニ着クノヲ待ツテ居マスト巨艦ニ依リ

英國松船デアルコトト共ニ二發命中シテ居ルコトガ判リマシタ

二 艦長、事務長、參謀肩章ヲ附シタ少將外一名ガ上陸シマシテ外交交

渉ヲ始メタイカラ立會ツテ吳レト申出マシタ

三 我方カラハ橋本大佐、私、中村中尉及ビ通譯ガ立會ヒマシタトコロ

先方ハ先ヅ何故砲撃シタカト詰問シマシタ、橋本大佐ハ直チニ中國

兵ヲ捕縛シテ居ル松船デアルカラ砲撃シタト答ヘマシタ、先方ハ次

ニ何故英國軍艦ヲ砲撃シタカト詰問シマシタ、橋本大佐ハ又直チニ

艦ガ深イ爲英國松船デアル事ガ判ラナカツタカラデアルト答ヘマシタ

一四 夫レカラ英國艦長ガ、死者一人ヲ出シタカラ其ノ告別式ニ立會ヘト

申シマシタノデ、我方ハ公會堂ニ於ケル告別式ニ一名ヲ立會ハセマ

シタ

一五 其ノ英國軍艦ガレデーバード號デアリマス、右レデーバード號事件

ハ其ノ後外交交渉ニ移ツタトノ事デアリマスガ詳シイ事ハ知りマセ

ヌ

一六 橋本大佐及ビ橋本部隊ハ米國船バネ一號沈没事件ニハ少シモ關係アリマセヌ、私等橋本部隊ノ者ハバネ一號ヲ見タ事モアリマセヌ

一七 橋本部隊ハ南京カラ十日、五里離レタ無湖ニ停マリ南京陥落後、間モナク杭州ニ傳達ヲ命ゼラレマシタノデ南京ヲ攻撃シタ事ハアリマセヌ、又南京ヤ其ノ附近ニ行ツタ事モアリマセヌ

一八 橋本部隊ハ漢口ヲ攻撃シタ事ハアリマセヌ、又漢口ヤ其ノ附近ニ行ツタ事モアリマセヌ

一六 橋本部隊ハ廣東ヲ攻撃シタ事ハアリマセヌ、又廣東ヤ其ノ附近ニ行ツタ事モアリマセヌ

昭和二十二年（一九四七年）一月十一日於

東京海世田谷區上北郷町三丁目八七七番地林邊郎方

供 送 者 小 幡 實

右ハ營立會人ノ面前ニテ宣讀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 林 邊 郎

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