

EXHIBIT No. 3034

(8)

INTERNATIONAL MILITARY TRIBUNAL FOR THE FAR EAST

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, et al

-Vs-

ARAKI, Sadao; et al

AFFIDAVIT

Name: Alfred F. KRITSCHER

Address: Kanke Hotel
Atami, Japan

Concerning German decorations for Japanese Army officers.

I was German military attache in Tokyo from December 4, 1940 until May 8, 1945.

The German Foreign Office was competent to grant my request made through the German Ambassador for the bestowal of German decorations upon Japanese army officers. The German Foreign Office was very reserved in granting such orders. Its reluctance was caused by two reasons:

1. It wished to limit as much as possible the number of German decorations bestowed upon foreigners in order to increase the value of the Order of the German Eagle, it being the only decoration destined to be granted to foreigners in diplomatic courtesy routine.

2. The German Foreign Office aspired to full reciprocity from the Japanese side. The German request was refused by the Japanese Foreign Office which always pointed to the fact that the different classes of the German Eagle were bestowed upon foreigners only while on the other hand the Japanese decorations, Rising Sun and Sacred Treasure, were worn by Japanese as well as by foreigners.

Neither the German Ambassador nor I regarded the maintenance of reciprocity in number between German and Japanese decorations which was so strictly required by the German Foreign Office as essential. I was much more interested in the creating and maintenance of a favorable atmosphere surrounding the Japanese officers who were assigned to work with me. The desired atmosphere was enhanced by the bestowal of occasional decorations. Sometimes the Japanese War Ministry or General Staff mentioned to me which officers they wished to be distinguished by a German decoration. Most times such hints coincided with my own intentions. Usually the Japanese officers thus mentioned to me for a German decoration did not know anything about it themselves and were often surprised when they received the order. I regarded these mutual German and Japanese decorations neither as a reward nor as a bribery but as an act of diplomatic courtesy without much significance.

To overcome the aforementioned resistance of the German Foreign Office, I regarded it necessary to word the arguments for German decorations upon Japanese officials in somewhat exaggerated

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terms. Which class of the German and Japanese decorations (second class, third class, cross, grand cross) was to be recommended depended in pursuance of the statutes of the orders, first and foremost upon the rank of the officer to be honored and not on his more or less important personal merits. This fact created a paradox in that it was impossible to decorate German or Japanese lieutenant-colonels because the German and Japanese Foreign Office had not been able to agree how to classify them, whether as colonels or as majors.

In regard to the German Embassy's telegram of May 17, 1942, the wording of the telegram was not made by me. I had handed Ambassador Ott my proposals for orders to be conferred upon Generals SUGIYAMA, Lt. Gen. KIMURA, Lt. Gen. MUTO, Maj. Gen. SATO, and some other officers not entered into this telegram.

I had proposed these officers more on account of their position in the Japanese army than because of their special accomplishment in favor of the German army. Other officers in corresponding positions, for instance Maj. Gen. OKAMOTO, then Chief of Staff in charge of G-2 department of the General Staff, had not been recommended by me as they had already received the German decoration.

That I asked for a decoration for Lt. Gen. KASAHARA, I do not remember. I do not remember the wording of my proposals for the aforementioned four officers handed by me to the Ambassador but I must have been close to the wording chosen by him in paragraphs 3-6 of the telegram. In order to overcome the German Foreign Office's reluctance, I regarded the superlative to be necessary where the positive would have been more correct and more correspondent to the simple reality. And the Ambassador added superlatives in his additional explanations.

A. F. Kretschmer

OATH

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

A. F. Kretschmer (signed)

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 24th day of April, 1947, at Tokyo, Japan.

Bernard A. Haradon (signed)
1st. Lt. Inf.
Administrative Officer
Defense Division, Legal Section