

111
Social status: Samurai family of SHIGA Prefecture ^{Checked by J. Swamy (1)}

Birth date: Jan. 18, 1894

Old family name: KAMIGUCHI

Name: YOSHIDA, Gonpachi.

Mar. 28, 1914. Graduated from HIKONE Middle

School established by SHIGA Prefecture ^(Government)

Oct. 29, 1914. Appointed military cadet ^{and} attached ^{Regiment} to the 23rd Field-Artillery Corps. (War Ministry)

Dec. 1, 1914. ~~Entered~~ ^{Entered} the above ^{Regiment} corps.
Dec. 1, 1914. ~~Appointed~~ ^{Granted the grade of} artillery private, 1st class (The 23rd Field-Artillery ^{Regiment} Corps)

Jun. 1, 1915. Promoted to artillery superior private. ~~to~~ (The 23rd Field-Artillery Regiment)

Aug. 9, 1915. Promoted to artillery corporal. ~~to~~ (The 23rd Field-Artillery Regiment)

Sep. 1, 1915. Promoted to artillery sergeant. ~~to~~ (The 23rd Field-Artillery Regiment)

Nov. 28, 1915. Entered ^{the} Military Academy

May 25, 1917. Graduated from the ^{Military Academy} ~~above~~ ^{original Regiment} school.

May 31, 1917. Returned to the ~~former~~ ^{original} corps.

Translated by
Defense Language Branch

The Current Situation and the Nation's Resolution.
An address delivered by Minister of War ARAKI, Sadao.

Excerpts from July 11th and 12th
issues of the OSAKA MAINICHI SHIMBUN, 1938.

As to the relation between Japan and China, let me state that Japan wanted to go straight along the way of Japan through the current situation for permanent peace of the East. We managed, for this purpose, to recover the Eastern spirit or civilization which is of most importance at present, and to combine and adjust it with the Western civilization. These wishes of the Japanese, however, could not curb the general trends of situation, for China turned out not to accept this sincerity of Japan's. We don't know whether or not it was CHIANG KAI-SHEK's personal intention. It is a matter of our regret that the relation between both countries has come to be in such a deplorable condition as it is now. They should have been cooperating hand in hand.

It is a matter of greatest regret that Japan has been standing under gun-fire more than one year against China, with whom Japan ought to have been cooperative, as I said before. Now that the state of things has become such, however, Japan should make her way clarified before the world, make China fully understand Japan's mentality, and make the world understand Japan's actions. Thus by all means practical we should not stop our efforts in accomplishing our purpose through the situation till the world is stabilized. There is no doubt but that this problem will be solved sooner or later if all the Japanese are in perfect unity under the virtue of His Majesty.

Now let us talk of another question. It is a question which is better, Fascism or Naziism, for us. But I think there is no need for us to look in a flurry for some model through Europe. For Japan of today is different from the Japan in the Meiji Restoration. We have now civilization and education as excellent as any.

It is greatly regrettable that the present incident has broken out between Japan and China. It may be partly due to lack of acknowledging the general tendency of the world on the part of CHIANG KAI-SHEK and his followers. But before blaming others for it, we should reflect ourselves whether or not we have been sincere enough.

May 31, 1917. Promoted to artillery sergeant-major (2) and appointed ~~cadet~~ ^{probationary officer} (The 23rd Field-Artillery ~~Corps~~ ^{Regiment})
~~approved~~

NOV. 13, 1917. ~~Decided~~ ^{by the officers selection conference} ~~for officers~~ ^{Article 12 of} ~~according to the Army~~ ^{Replacement} ~~Supplementary~~ Ordinance No. 12.

Dec. 25, 1917. Appointed ~~First~~ ^{Second} Artillery Lieutenant, (cabinet) 36.

Assigned to the 23rd Field-Artillery Regiment ~~Corps~~. (War Ministry)

Feb. 20, 1918. ~~Appointed~~ ^{Conferred} the Senior Grade of the 8th Court Rank

Apr. 1, 1920. ~~Released~~ ^{Relieved} of the main ^{post} ~~duty~~ and attached to the 26th Field-Artillery ~~Corps~~ Regiment

Apr. 1, 1921. ~~Appointed~~ ^{Promoted to} 1st Artillery Lieutenant, 26 (cabinet)

May 20, 1921. ~~Appointed~~ ^{Conferred} the Junior Grade of the 7th Court Rank.

Dec. 14, 1922. Ordered to enter the ~~Military~~ ^{Army General} Staff College. (War Ministry)

Jan. 15, 1926. ~~Released~~ ^{Relieved} of the main ^{post} ~~duty~~ and

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On June 19 the Sendai Camp was visited. It was opened on December 9, 1941. 22 U. S. citizens had vacated it two days before the visit, on their own demand. The interned are lodged in a neighboring house, while there remained in the camp 28 Allied citizens. The camp is in a wood in the midst of Sendai. Food was abundant and conditions were very favorable.

27174 From the delegation in Japan, information was provided on the camp at Zentsuji, in November, 1942. The camp was established in 1914 to lodge POWs, and accommodated again to such purpose after its abandon in 1919. It was wooden, and not surrounded by barbed wire. U. S., British, and Australian POWs were there at that time. The internees named it the University of Zentsuji, because of the courses of commerce, engineering, * stenography, navigation, Japanese, which were given by the prisoners themselves. Theatrical performances took place weekly, and a conference on Thursday evening. Religious services were celebrated by Anglican and Protestant chaplains, and health service was secured by U. S., British, and Japanese physicians.

27175 Exhibit No. 3042-A, excerpt from the Red Cross International Review from January to July, 1942, stated * that since the conflict has extended to the Pacific Area, the Committee has, as it has done for other belligerents, placed the services of the Central POW Bureau at the disposal of belligerent states, asking them to exchange through the Central Bureau lists of information of POWs, and so far as possible, on civil internees. The communication was sent to the U. S., Japan, the Netherlands in London, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Nicaragua and Salvador, Britain, Australia, Canada, and South Africa. By January 12, answers were received from U. S., Japan, Guatemala, Haiti and Nicaragua, who declared themselves ready to proceed on exchange of information.

27176 * From the delegation in Japan, information was received that Guam and Wake POWs expressed gratitude for the good treatment accorded to them. On March 12, a POW camp was visited situated in a plain between pine-covered hills. The climate was healthful, and there were no diseases. The size of the camp was three hectares, and it contained two wooden army barracks capable of receiving several hundred prisoners.

27177 * The Court's attention was called to exhibits 1639, 1640, 2038, 2035, 2036-A, B, and C, and the evidence of Stewart at page 14911 to 14937.

27179 Exhibit No. 3043, communication from the Vice-Minister of the Navy to the Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs, in reply to letter of August July 27, 1929, stated that as a result of study on the treaty, the Navy Minister reached the conclusion * that it was advisable to refrain from recommending to the Throne ratification of the Geneva Treaty on POW.

appointed ~~battalion adjutant~~ ^{of the 24th Field Artillery Regiment} ~~(War Ministry)~~ ③

Mar. 11, 1926 Appointed ~~Artillery~~ ^{Artillery} Captain, ~~File~~
(cabinet)

Apr. 15, 1926. ~~Appointed~~ ^{Conferred} the senior grade of
the 7th Court Rank.

Sep. 17, 1926: Relieved ~~of the main duty~~ ^{Post} and
appointed a company commander of
the 26th Field Artillery ~~Company~~ ^{Regiment}
(War Ministry)

Jul. 26, 1927. ~~Assigned to the~~ ^{Ordered to serve at} General Staff Office.
~~(War Ministry)~~ ^{Army}

Aug. 30, 1927 Attached to the 26th Field Artill-
~~ery Company~~ ^{Regiment} (War Ministry)

Mar. 24, 1928. Appointed a member of the ^{Army} General
Staff Office. (War Ministry)

Sep. 14, 1929. Concurrently appointed staff
officer of ~~guard~~ ^{the} in Tokyo Garrison
(War Ministry) ^{Unit}

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On June 19 the Sendai Camp was visited. It was opened on December 9, 1941. 22 U. S. citizens had vacated it two days before the visit, on their own demand. The interned are lodged in a neighboring house, while there remained in the camp 28 Allied citizens. The camp is in a wood in the midst of Sendai. Food was abundant and conditions were very favorable.

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Exhibit No. 3042A, excerpt from the Red Cross International Review from January to July, 1942, stated * that since the conflict has extended to the Pacific Area, the Committee has, as it has done for other belligerents, placed the services of the Central POW Bureau at the disposal of belligerent states, asking them to exchange through the Central Bureau lists of information of POWs, and so far as possible, on civil internees. The communication was sent to the U. S., Japan, the Netherlands in London, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Nicaragua and Salvador, Britain, Australia, Canada, and South Africa. By January 12, answers were received from U. S., Japan, Guatemala, Haiti and Nicaragua, who declared themselves ready to proceed on exchange of information.

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* From the delegation in Japan, information was received that Guam and Wake POWs expressed gratitude for the good treatment accorded to them. On March 12, a POW camp was visited situated in a plain between pine-covered hills. The climate was healthful, and there were no diseases. The size of the camp was three hectares, and it contained two wooden army barracks capable of receiving several hundred prisoners.

27177

* The Court's attention was called to exhibits 1639, 1640, 2038, 2035, 2036-A, B, and C, and the evidence of Stewart at page 14911 to 14937.

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Exhibit No. 3043, communication from the Vice-Minister of the Navy to the Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs, in reply to letter of August July 27, 1929, stated that as a result of study on the treaty, the Navy Minister reached the conclusion * that it was advisable to refrain from recommending to the Throne ratification of the Geneva Treaty on POW.

Jul. 3, 1930.	Concurrently appointed a member ⁽⁴⁾ of the laboratory attached to the Heavy Artillery School (War Ministry)
Jul. 8, 1930.	Conferred with the 6th class order of Merit with the ^{of} Sacred Treasure
May 15, 1931.	Conferred the Junior Grade of the 6th Court Rank
Nov. 28, 1931.	Assigned staff-officer of the Korean Army. (War Ministry)
Mar. 18, 1933.	Appointed Artillery Major, F. A. (cabinet)
Feb. 7, 1934.	Conferred with the 5th class order of Merit of Sacred Treasure with the ^{of} Merit
Aug. 1, 1934.	Appointed ^{director} chief of the laboratory of the Field-Artillery School and concurrently appointed instructor of the ^{same} school. (War Ministry)
Sep. 20, 1934.	Concurrently appointed instructor of the Army Cavalry School and a member of the laboratory of the ^{same} school. (War Ministry)

- Sep. 25, 1935 Assigned to the Headquarters of the Kwantung Army. (Original post maintained) (not printed in official gazette) (War Ministry) ⑤
- Apr. 29, 1934 Decorated with the 4th class order of merit with the Small Cordon of Rising Sun for meritorious war services in the incident during 1931-1934.
- Mar. 25, 1936 Released from duty with the Headquarters of Kwantung Army. (not printed in official gazette) (War Ministry)
- Jun. 15, 1936 Conferred the Senior Grade of the 6th Court Rank.
- Mar. 1, 1937 Appointed instructor of the Army Field - Artillery School, and concurrently a member of the laboratory of the same school. (concurrently, instructor and a member of the laboratory of the Army Cavalry School and a member of the laboratory of the same school (War Ministry) (as before)
- Aug. 2, 1937 Appointed ~~Artillery~~ Lieutenant Colonel Major. (Cabinet) F. L.

Aug. 16, 1937. Appointed a secretary of the ⁶ Army Munitions Examination Council Conference. (War Ministry)

Aug. 2, 1937. Concurrently appointed a member of the naval general staff office (not printed in official gazette) (Naval Ministry)

Aug. 2, 1937. Appointed a member of the Army General Staff Office. (not printed in official gazette) (War Ministry)

Aug. 24, 1937. Concurrently appointed instructor ^{General} of strategy at the Army Staff College. (not printed in official gazette) (War Ministry)

Nov. 20, 1937. Concurrently appointed naval staff-officer of the Imperial Headquarters. (Naval Ministry)

Dec. 23, 1937. Appointed a ^{committee man} member of the Army Munitions Examination Council Conference. (Cabinet)

Dec 23, 1937. Relieved of the duty of as the secretary of the Army Munitions Council. ~~at the above mentioned~~ ~~conference~~. (War Ministry)

Mar. 9, 1939.	Appointed Artillery - Colonel, the (cabinet) ②
May 19, 1939.	Decorated with the 3rd class order of Merit with the Sacred Treasure.
Apr. 1, 1939.	Conferred Awarded the Junior Grade of the 5th Court Rank.
Feb. 20, 1942.	Appointed a member ^{member} of the Army Munitions Examination ^{Control} Conference. (cabinet)
Apr. 29, 1940.	Decorated with the cord ^{middle} Cordon of the middle Rising Sun for meritorious services for ⁱⁿ the China Incident.
Sep. 26, 1942.	Relieved, ^(post #1 member) Released of the above mentioned ^{Army Munitions Council} Army Munitions Council . (cabinet)
Mar. 1, 1943.	Appointed Major-General. (Cabinet)
Mar. 15, 1943.	Conferred Awarded the Senior Grade of the 5th Court Rank.
Sep. 12, 1944.	Decorated with the 2nd class order of Merit with the Sacred Treasure.

Oct. 3 1947

MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. Sutton
FROM : EDWARD P. MONAGHAN, Chief,
Investigative Division, IPS
SUBJECT : Defense Witness

1. Please find attached hereto list of material available on the following witness and/or witnesses.

DEFENDANT

Witness General

WITNESS

YOSHIDA, Gonpachi

LIST OF MATERIAL AVAILABLE

Curriculum Vitae

2. Please acknowledge receipt of this memorandum by initialling and returning attached carbon copy to this office, Room 300.

EPM

Incl
(Described above)

EDWARD P. MONAGHAN

Social status: Samurai family of SHIGA Prefecture
Birth date: Jan. 18, 1894
Old family name: KAMIGUCHI
Name: YOSHIDA, Gonpachi

* * * * *

Mar. 26, 1914 Graduated from HIKONE Middle School
established by SHIGA Prefectural Government.

Oct. 29, 1914 Appointed Military cadet and attached to the
23rd Field-Artillery Regiment. War Ministry

Dec. 1, 1914 Entered the above Regiment.

Dec. 1, 1914 Granted the grade of artillery Private 1st Class.
(The 23rd Field-Artillery Regiment)

Jun. 1, 1915 Promoted to artillery superior private.
The 23rd Field-
Artillery Regiment

Aug. 9, 1915 Promoted to artillery corporal. "

Sep. 1, 1915 Promoted to artillery sergeant. "

Nov. 28, 1915 Entered the Military Academy.

May 25, 1917 Graduated from the Military Academy.

May 31, 1917 Returned to the original Regiment.

May 31, 1917 Promoted to artillery sergeant-major and appointed
probationary officer. The 23rd Field-
Artillery Regiment

Nov. 13, 1917 Approved by the selection conference for officers
according to Article/the Army Replacement
Ordinance. 12 of

Dec. 25, 1917 Appointed Second Lieutenant, F.A. Cabinet
Assigned to the 23rd Field-Artillery Regiment.

Feb. 20, 1918 Conferred the Senior Grade of the War Ministry
8th Court Rank.

Apr. 1, 1920 Relieved of the main post and attached to the
26th Field-Artillery Regiment.

Apr. 1, 1921	Promoted to 1st Lieutenant, F. A.	Cabinet
May 20, 1921	Conferred the Junior Grade of the 7th Court Rank.	
Dec. 14, 1922	Ordered to enter the Army General Staff College.	War Ministry
Jan. 15, 1926	Relieved of the main post and appointed battalion adjutant of the 26th Field-Artillery Regiment.	War Ministry
Mar. 11, 1926	Appointed Captain F.A.	Cabinet
Apr. 15, 1926	Conferred the Senior Grade of the 7th Court Rank.	
Sep. 17, 1926	Relieved of the main post and appointed a company commander of the 26th Field-Artillery Regiment.	War Ministry
Jul. 26, 1927	Ordered to serve at the ^{Army} General Staff Office.	War Ministry
Aug. 30, 1927	Attached to the 26th Field-Artillery Regiment.	War Ministry
Mar. 24, 1928	Appointed a member of the Army General Staff Office.	War Ministry
Sep. 14, 1929	Concurrently appointed staff-officer of the Tokyo Garrison Unit.	War Ministry
Jul. 3, 1930	Concurrently appointed a member of the laboratory attached to the Heavy-Artillery School.	War Ministry
Jul. 8, 1930	Conferred the 6th order of Merit with the Sacred Treasure.	
May 15, 1931	Conferred the Junior Grade of the 6th Court Rank.	
Nov. 28, 1931	Assigned staff-officer of the Korean Army.	War Ministry
Mar. 18, 1933	Appointed Major, F.A.	Cabinet
Feb. 7, 1934	Conferred the 5th order of Merit with the Sacred Treasure.	
Aug. 1, 1934	Appointed director of the laboratory of the Field-Artillery School and concurrently instructor of the same school.	War Ministry

Sep. 20, 1934 Concurrently appointed instructor of the Army Cavalry School and a member of the laboratory of the same school. War Ministry

Sep. 25, 1935 Assigned to the Headquarters of the Kwantung Army. (Original post maintained) (Not printed in official gazette) War Ministry

Apr. 29, 1934 Decorated with the 4th order of Merit with the Small Cordon of Rising Sun for meritorious war services in the incident during 1931-1934.

Mar. 25, 1936 Relieved of duty with the Headquarters of Kwantung Army. (Not printed in official gazette) War Ministry

Jun. 15, 1936 Conferred the Senior Grade of the 6th Court Rank.

Mar. 1, 1937 Appointed instructor of the Army Field-Artillery School, and concurrently a member of the laboratory of the same school. (Concurrently instructor of the Army Cavalry School and a member of the laboratory of the same school as before. War Ministry

Aug. 2, 1937 Appointed Lieutenant Colonel. F.A. Cabinet

Aug. 16, 1937 Appointed a secretary of the Army Munitions Council. War Ministry

Aug. 2, 1937 Concurrently appointed a member of the Naval General Staff Office. (Not printed in official gazette) Naval Ministry

Aug. 2, 1937 Appointed a member of the Army General Staff Office. (Not printed in official gazette) War Ministry

Aug. 24, 1937 Concurrently appointed instructor of strategy at the Army General Staff College. (Not printed in official gazette) War Ministry

Nov. 20, 1937 Concurrently appointed a naval staff-officer of the Imperial Headquarters. Naval Ministry

Dec. 23, 1937 Appointed a committeeman of the Army Munitions Council. Cabinet

Dec. 23, 1937 Relieved of duty as the secretary of the Army Munitions Council. War Ministry

Mar. 9, 1939	Appointed Colonel. F.A.	Cabinet
May 19, 1939	Decorated with the 3rd order of Merit with the Sacred Treasure.	
Apr. 1, 1939	Conferred the Junior Grade of the 5th Court Rank.	
Feb. 20, 1942	Appointed a member of the Army Munitions Council.	Cabinet
Apr. 29, 1940	Decorated with the middle cordon of the Rising Sun for meritorious services in the China Incident.	
Sep. 26, 1942	Relieved of the post a member of the Army Munitions Council.	Cabinet
Mar. 1, 1943	Appointed Major-General.	Cabinet
Mar. 15, 1943	Conferred the Senior Grade of the 5th Court Rank.	
Sep. 12, 1944	Decorated with the 2nd order of Merit with the Sacred Treasure.	

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DIRECT EXAMINATION OF YOSHIDA, GOMPACHI,
by Mr. Freeman.

27599
27600

* The witness identified exhibit No. 3091 as his affidavit, and verified it. * The witness stated that in August 1943, he was appointed commander of the Rangoon Air Defence Forces, and in September, 1944, became Chief of Staff of the 15th Army, where he remained until the end of the war.

27601

* General KIMURA assumed his office on September 12, 1944, and the next day delivered an address to his officers and men. He told them emphatically to encourage discipline, to punish and reward, promote friendship and good understanding and to win public favor.

27602

In obedience to KIMURA's address, the witness held an inspection of his troops and organized units to treat and rescue Burmese killed or wounded in air raids, fire service units, and units to deliver medical supplies. When appointed Chief of the 15th Army, it was retreating toward the Irrawaddy following the failure at Imphal. KIMURA instructed the witness to the same effect as in KIMURA's first address. * Besides this, he gave strict orders to the witness to avoid scorched earth tactics in retreating and to keep the natives out of the horrors of war, and to offer facilities for government officials and civilians who wished to evacuate with the Japanese.

27603

When the witness arrived at 15th Army Headquarters he found telegraphic orders from KIMURA to this effect. On assuming his post, he thought it urgent to make it thoroughly known to the whole Army KIMURA's intentions. The review of military discipline was carried out by 15th Army Commander KATAMURA and the witness to thoroughly inform the soldiers of the Area Army Commander's intentions. KATAMURA took charge of the review of major units, and the witness took charge of minor. Corps commanders likewise reviewed sub-units. At that time the 31st and 33rd Divisions were retreating with difficulty, but despite this their commanders carried out inspection * with regard to discipline on the battlefield and applied prompt punishment to unit commanders for neglecting care of arms. Scorched earth tactics were prohibited, and facilities for retreat were afforded the civilians. It was ordered to avoid billeting in residential districts. Front line forces put up with inconvenience to keep the people from suffering from the war.

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After the evacuation from Maymyo, a special order was issued to ban scorched earth tactics. KIMURA was eager to promote understanding with the Burmese, and distributed a pamphlet entitled "The Attitude to Take Toward the Burmese", and ordered it observed. They made efforts to see the order carried out. The pamphlet had articles on the differences in manners and customs, and tried to clear away misunderstanding and promote friendship.

27604

* The witness reported that the pamphlet and KIMURA's telegram to the 15th Army Headquarters could not be submitted to the Tribunal because they had been lost or burned at the time of the retreat. Besides, at the end of the war all documents other than those concerning personnel affairs, accounts and supplies, were burned by orders.

27605

At the time of the opening of the battle of Irawaddy, KIMURA held meetings at Rangoon Headquarters to consult with his officers on problems of strategy, education, and self-government. At each meeting KIMURA gave instructions and delivered repeated addresses on the maintenance of discipline and the winning of public favor. He emphasized this at other meetings also. * His subordinates concentrated efforts to obey these instructions.

Because of racial similarities, the Japanese and Burmese were well disposed toward each other. Generally, the Army was cautious in action, and enforced discipline and won the confidence of the Burmese. With increased pressure, an anti-war feeling stole into the hearts of the Burmese, particularly after the defeat at the Irrawaddy. Anti-Japanese tendency came about from the time of the revolt of the Burmese National Defense Army.

27606

After the failure at Imphal, the 15th Army suffered heavy losses of troops and arms, and there was a decline of morale and physical strength. Many soldiers suffered from disease, and it was quite difficult for the 15th Army to regain combat power. There was little supply from the rear, and they prepared for the coming battles at * Irrawaddy with difficulty. From mid-February, 1945, a frontal attack by British-Indian forces was attempted, and there was also a flank attack by way of Meiktila. As a result, their lines were cut off and each corps isolated. Land communication was cut off, and because of lack of batteries wireless communication was barely available.

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Beginning early in June 1945, land communication was scarcely possible, as this was the rainy season, and communication between a commander and his subordinates or between units was hardly carried out. Activities of British and Indian planes and guerrilla attacks in the rear vitally menaced their forces. Soldiers in minor units and stragglers were in constant danger.

27608

* There was no cross-examination of the witness.

27609

Exhibit No. 3092, the affidavit of HIRAOKA, Junzo, stated * that he was appointed an Attache to the commander of the Burma Army in March, 1943, and remained such until the end of the war. The last of February, 1945, he was appointed to the additional post of adviser to the Burma Government, and had many opportunities to contact important men in the government presided over by Bahmo.

27610

KIMURA assumed his post in a difficult political and strategic situation, but it was his special concern to secure the confidence of the Burmese. KIMURA took advantage of every opportunity to emphasize the importance of this, and warned his soldiers and the Japanese residents to that effect. * After October, 1944, KIMURA had conversations with leading men of the Burmese Government and listened to their opinions without reserve, and transmitted suggestions to those concerned for correction.

27611

The talks were heartily received by the Burmese leaders, and feeling improved toward Japan. KIMURA, Ambassador ISHII and Bahmo talked regularly at least once a month, and tried to promote understanding. After February, 1945, the strategical situation worsened and living conditions of the Burmese deteriorated. KIMURA often warned his staff, that though they were preoccupied by operational demands, they must not forget the feelings of the Burmese, nor lose their popularity, even at the * sacrifice of a part of military operations. He directed the release of textile goods to the Burmese civilians, and limited the quantity of grain purchased by the Japanese. The witness often saw scenes in the departmental conferences in which he was urging the chief of the Medical Department to promote medical relief for the sick and wounded among the Burmese.

Def. Doc. No. 1928

Translated by
Defense Language Branch

INTERNATIONAL MILITARY TRIBUNAL FOR THE FAR EAST

*Gen Kimura - his care to avoid injury
of civilian population*
THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, et al

-vs-

ARAKI, Sadao, et al

*copy of pamphlet
cont* *1.4 #2*



SWORN DEPOSITION (Translation)

Deponent: YOSHIDA Gompachi

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.

My name is YOSHIDA, Gompachi. I was formerly in service
as Major General. I was born on January 18, 1894, and now
live at No. 55, 5 chome, Noborito, Chiba-shi, Chiba Pref.
In December 1915, I entered the Military Academy. After
graduating from the Academy, I occupied various posts. I
was appointed Commander of the Rangoon Air Defense forces in
August 1943, and late in September 1945 Chief of Staff of the
15th Army where I remained until the end of the war.

2. General KIMURA, Heitaro, came to the City of Rangoon to
assume his office on September 12, 1944. The next day in the
compounds of the Headquarters of the Burma Area Army, General
KIMURA delivered an address to men and officers of the whole

Army I being present. In his address he told us emphatically to encourage military discipline and morale, to apply due and prompt punishment and rewards, to promote friendship and good understanding between the two peoples, and to win the public favor. In obedience to the General's address and for the purpose of having my men well informed of his instructions, first of all I held an inspection of troops under my command. I also organized such various units specializing in specific tasks as follows: units to treat and rescue the Burmese people killed or injured in air raids; fire service units; and units for delivery of necessary medical articles.

At the time when I was appointed Chief of Staff of the 15th Army, the Army was in retreat toward the banks of the Irrawaddy following the failure of our Impahl operations. In his interview with me on my departure for my new post, General KIMURA instructed me in detail to the same effect as was stated in the General's first address following his arrival. Besides, he gave me strict orders to avoid taking to scorched-earth tactics on our way of retreat and thus to keep the native population out of the horrors of war; and especially to afford every possible facility to those government officials and civilians who wished to evacuate with the Japanese forces. On my arrival at the Headquarters of the 15th Area Army, I found telegraphic orders from General KIMURA to the above

Def. Doc. No. 1928

effect. Upon my assumption of post, I thought it was of initial urgency to make it thoroughly known to the whole Army of the intention of General KIMURA. The review of military discipline in our Army was carried out by the Commander of the 15th Army KATAMURA and myself, with a view to thoroughly informing the soldiers of the intention of the Area Army Commander. At that time, Commander KATAMURA took charge of the review of the major units directly attached to him, and I, in his place, took charge of the minor. The commanders of army corps under the 15th Army likewise executed review on their sub-units. In those days the 31st and the 33rd Divisions were retreating with extreme difficulty, but despite the situation, Commanders of both Divisions took pains to carry out the inspection of troops with regards to military discipline on the battlefield and applied due and prompt punishment to unit commanders for neglect of taking good care of arms. As regards our relations with the Burmese people, the scorched earth tactics was, of course, prohibited and appropriate facilities for retreat were afforded to official and civilian evacuees. It was also ordered to avoid setting billets and any army camps in residential districts. In this way the forces at the front put up with all inconveniences to keep the people from suffering from the ill effects of war. Also after that, at the time of evacuation from Maymyo (about

30 kilometers north-east of Mandalay) a special order was issued to ban the scorched earth tactics.

3. General KIMURA, who was very eager to promote good understanding and cooperation between the Japanese and Burmese, distributed among his forces a pamphlet in two volumes entitled "The Attitude to Take Toward the Burmese" and ordered it to be observed. We also made efforts to see to it that the order was carried out. The pamphlet contained articles on the differences in manners and customs between the two peoples to clear away any misunderstanding so it might contribute to the friendship between them. It is the regret of this deponent that the pamphlet and the Area Army Commander KIMURA's telegram to the 15th Army Headquarters, mentioned above, cannot be submitted to the Tribunal because they had been lost or burned at the time of our retreat through enemy lines after the failure of the battle of Irrawaddy.

Besides at the end of war all documents other than those concerning personnel affairs, accounts and supplies, and military sanitation, and particularly any document having any connection with strategy and policy were burned by order of superior authorities.

4. By the time of the opening of the battle of Irrawaddy, General KIMURA had held meetings at the Area Army Headquarters in Rangoon for the purpose of consulting with respective army

staff officers and unit commanders about problems of strategy, education and self-government. At each meeting General KIMURA gave necessary instructions. At the meeting on strategy when I presented myself, he delivered repeated addresses in reference to the maintenance of military discipline and to winning public favor. It was also emphasized to the same effect at other meetings. We, as his subordinates, concentrated our efforts to carry them out in obedience to his intentions.

Because of racial similarities, from the very beginning, the Japanese Army and the Burmese people were well disposed toward each other. Generally the Japanese Army was cautious and prudent in action and enforced strict military discipline and thereby had won the confidence of the Burmese people at large. With the increasingly heavier pressure of troubles by war, an anti-war feeling was gradually stealing into the hearts of the Burmese people. Particularly since the latter period of the battle of Irrawaddy, in view of Japan's obvious defeat, an anti-Japanese tendency seemed to have been brought about among a certain portion of the people, from the time of the revolt of the Burmese National Defense Army.

6. After the failure of the operations in the Impahl zone, the 15th Army suffered heavy losses both in number of troops and arms. Remarkable decline was seen of morale and physical strength. More than that, a great number of soldiers were

suffering from diseases. Thus it was quite difficult for the 15th Army to regain its combat power. Little supply was sent from the rear and we prepared with much difficulty for the coming battle of Irrawaddy. But about the middle of February 1945, a frontal attack by predominant British-Indian Forces was attempted. In parallel with this action, a flank attack was made by British-Indian Mechanized Corps which had broken into Burma by way of Meiktila early in March. As a result, our lines were cut off on all sides, and each corps was forced into an isolated position. Every means of communication by land was cut off and, owing to the want of electric batteries, wireless communication was barely available resulting in insufficiency of command and communication. Under such situation, it was decided to rearrange our lines on the Shan Heights ranging east of Meiktila, and orders were issued to respective corps to break through the enemy siege and to assemble troops near Kalow. However, during this time we again suffered losses of a great many men and arms. Since then we often encountered the enemy. Forced marches, covering long distances, were ventured; food was scarce and there were lots of patients to go with us; communication was entirely cut off for a long time. Under such conditions the 31st and 33rd Divisions moved to the Tenasserim zone for a short stay, and the Army Headquarters and the 15th Division continued on

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their way to Siam. The mountains which they had to go over were so rugged and steep that every soldier, taking with him nothing other than his portable weapon, retreated literally with bare life. Many of the soldiers died of disease on the way. It was difficult for a minor unit to pass the zone west of Roykow (TN?) and that south of Kamipew (TN?) for attacks by guerrillas obstructed the march so often that the troops were compelled to take up a challenge while retreating. Since May 7, 1945, the 15th Army gradually assembled its forces in the Tenasserim district. Owing to the forced march over a long distance and the attacks by the guerrillas and British-Indian Forces, our soldiers were entirely fatigued both mentally and physically and 70-80% of them were ill. A large part of arms was lost. There were almost no materials and apparatus for the use of communication, so that it was extremely difficult for every commander to keep his men under his command. The Headquarters was situated at the Mouchi (TN?) mines 14 miles east of Toungoo. Every night there we suffered from attacks by guerrillas. The guerrillas also waylaid those smaller units which passed the Toungoo and Kamipew (TN?) roads, to attack them from top of cliffs or by bridges and almost never failed to kill or wound some of our soldiers.

Beginning early in June 1945, the communication by land was scarcely possible, as this was the heaviest rainy season.

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Such being the situation, the communication either between a commander and his subordinates or between one unit and another was also hardly carried out.

In addition, the activities of British-Indian planes and the disturbing attacks in the rear by guerrilla units of the Burmese National Defense Army made a vital menace to our forces. Soldiers in minor units and stragglers were in constant danger of life as a result of the pressure of defeat.

On this 30 day of June, 1947.

At Chiba.

DEPONENT /s/ YOSHIDA, Gompachi (seal)

I, KORETSUNE, Tatsumi 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 Chiba.

Witness: /s/ KORETSUNE, Tatsumi (seal)

OATH

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

/s/ YOSHIDA, Gompachi (seal)