

INTERROGATION OF  
ISHIKAWA, Tatsuzo

Date and Time: 11 May 1946, 1045-1200 hours.

Place : Room 374, War Ministry Building,  
Tokyo, Japan.

Present : ISHIKAWA, Tatsuzo  
Mr. Elton M. Hyder Interrogator  
NISHIZAKI, Tohru Interpreter  
Miss Claire Stefanelli Stenographer

Oath of Interpreter administered by  
Mr. Hyder:

Mr. Hyder : Do you solemnly swear, by Almighty God,  
that you will truly and accurately in-  
terpret and translate from English into  
Japanese and from Japanese into English,  
as may be required of you, in this pro-  
ceeding?

Mr. NISHIZAKI: I do.

Questions by : Mr. Hyder.

Q. Do you live here in Tokyo?  
A. Yes, I live here in Tokyo.

Q. What is your business? Are you a novelist?  
A. Yes, a novelist. I write mostly novels. A writer.

Q. Were you in Nanking when the Japanese Army took the  
city?  
A. After the occupation of that city. About half a month  
later the occupation ceremony was held. I then entered  
Nanking.

Q. Do you recall the date? Was it December?  
A. January 5 was when I entered the city.

(ISHIKAWA, Tatsuzo, 11 <sup>May</sup> ~~January~~ 1946 Cont'd)

- Q. Since then you have written a book, have you not, describing the events that took place in Nanking?
- A. It was in February of the same year.
- Q. You wrote this book?
- A. Yes.
- Q. It described what took place in Nanking under the occupation of the Japanese Army?
- A. After I came back to Japan I wrote the book.
- Q. Describing what took place under the Japanese Army?
- A. Do you mean.....what part of the city?
- Q. What took place, what happened, the events?
- A. My intention in writing this book dealing with the incidents that happened in Nanking was because the truth was not reported in our country. The people of our country did not know what was happening abroad so I wished to introduce what was happening abroad, to tell them the truth. This was, of course, fictionized so this is not a real and true record.
- Q. What is the name of the book?
- A. "Living Soldier".
- Q. While you were in the city of Nanking didn't you see crimes and atrocities committed by the Japanese Army?
- A. After the incident was over I entered the city so that I, myself, didn't see the atrocities that were done.
- Q. But you heard of what had taken place?
- A. Yes, I heard something about that.
- Q. Now, when you went in the city you heard various stories of what had taken place under the Army of the Japanese?
- A. Do you know Nanking?
- Q. No, I have never been there.
- A. (Rough map is drawn by Mr. ISHIKAWA showing Yangtze River and wall of the city of Nanking. He described what was going on to attack Nanking). The Chinese Army had artillery positions to the northeast of the city. The Japanese Army couldn't enter through those two gates. To give you a background, I should explain the following: On the 10th of December (13th of Showa), the Supreme Commander at that time spread a bill that was read to the Chinese forces to surrender. He despatched a mission to the northeast point of the city but they rejected it.

(ISHIKAWA, Tatsuzo, 11 <sup>May</sup> January 1946 Cont'd)

- A. The Japanese Army divided into three sections. (1) One went in \_\_\_\_\_ direction, (2) the second went by the artillery position, (3) the third went around to the northeast entrance. The troops engaged in the attack of the artillery position were organized in the Miye Prefecture. The name of the Commander - he is now General Kesago NAHAJIMA. After those positions fell, a general attack took place at every gate of the city except Uko Gate on the northwest side. The other gates were blocked by the Japanese Army. General Tang was the Chinese Commander. The troops defending the Uko Gate facing the Yangtze River came from Kwantung, the southern province of China. The purpose of the Chinese troops defending this gate was not to let the Chinese Army out of the city.
- Q. That is Uko Gate?
- A. Yes. While this army, organized in Kwantung, was defending Uko Gate, General Tang by force ran away through this gate by mounting machine guns on a truck and escaped. After the escape of General Tang, the Chinese Army without any Commander set fire to the city and began looting.
- Q. Did you learn this subsequently? You were not there at the time this happened?
- A. No, I was not there.
- Q. You learned it later from the Japanese Army?
- A. Japanese soldiers.
- Q. Do you recall names?
- A. No.
- Q. Was he a private or general?
- A. Private. Before the Japanese Army entered the city, the city was ablaze. The Japanese Army didn't bomb the city severely - maybe slight bombing. On December 12, <sup>days</sup> ~~two~~/later, the Japanese Army entered through the southeast gate. They didn't enter through the Uko Gate facing the Yangtze River until the last.
- Q. They entered through the southeast gate and the east gate?
- A. Yes. The Koha Gate was the first gate the Japanese went through and then the other gates followed. Since the Uko Gate was untouched by Japanese soldiers, the Chinese troops in disorder rushed it. Therefore, the Japanese Army got many war prisoners in the city.

(ISHIKAWA, Tatsuzo, 11 <sup>May</sup> ~~January~~ 1946 Cont'd)

Q. Do you know how many?

A. I cannot give you an exact figure but I think about 20,000.

Q. Did you see them when you entered the city? Did you see the Chinese prisoners of war?

A. Quite a few.

Q. Were they in prison camps?

A. The city was deserted. There was a district set up only for the refugees - Chinese civilians. Except for this district I did not see any Chinese people. It was almost deserted.

Q. Where did you see the Chinese prisoners of war?

A. I witnessed twenty or thirty Chinese prisoners of war walking in the city.

Q. They were not confined?

A. Those twenty or thirty prisoners of war were accompanied by Japanese soldiers.

Q. What happened to the other 20,000 that you heard about?

A. I don't have any information on that.

Q. You just heard there were about 20,000 prisoners of war?

A. The Chinese troops could not escape through the northwest or southeast gates so they forced across the Yangtze River to get to the opposite bank but this bank was occupied by the Japanese Army. The Chinese troops couldn't find any way to escape except by the Yangtze River. The Chinese troops were ordered to defend the city until the death - the troops should not turn over the city to the Japanese Army - so that civilians in the city were not allowed to leave. Before the war the population of the city was quoted to be 800,000.

Q. Before this occupation?

A. Yes, before the war. At this time there were still 500,000 civilians in the city. It was the Chinese, shall we say, custom when they were defeated to take off the Army uniform and put on civilian clothes and mingle with the civilians so that it was very difficult to identify the Chinese civilians and the Chinese soldiers. There were so many Japanese soldiers killed by Chinese civilians - maybe soldiers in civilian clothes, the Japanese Army became rather strict even to the civilians.

(ISHIKAWA, Tatsuzo, 11 <sup>May</sup> ~~January~~ 1946 Cont'd)

- A. Thus the reported atrocities happened but there were so many cases that I think happened by necessary cause.
- Q. I want to go back to the 20,000 Chinese prisoners of war. Did you learn from any source what happened to those 20,000 soldiers that were captured in the city?
- A. I heard from privates so that it should not be evidence in the War Tribunal. So far as I heard and know I will make a statement.
- Q. What do you know?
- A.. Near the Uko Gate on the northwest side there was a building of three or four floors. Chinese prisoners of war were jammed in this house and gasoline was put to it and burned.
- Q. 20,000 of them?
- A. I am not sure.
- Q. Do you know how many were burned?
- A. I have no idea.
- Q. Do you know what happened to the others?
- A. There is an airport near Chung-shang Gate. Japanese soldiers brought Chinese prisoners of war to this airport and shot them with machine guns.
- Q. Do you know how many?
- A. No.
- Q. Did you hear of any others?
- A. I was told Japanese soldiers brought Chinese soldiers to the bank of the Yangtze River and cut them.
- Q. With swords?
- A. Yes. I wish to explain. The Japanese Army advanced so quickly the supply troops could not follow them. The Japanese Army provisions were very scarce. It was rather a serious problem, I think, to feed Chinese war prisoners and civilians.
- Q. How many Chinese soldiers were killed in the battle of Nanking?
- A. In the fighting?
- Q. Yes.
- A. I never heard
- Q. Do you have any idea?

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- A. No. As anti-Japanese propaganda was 100% in the city of Nanking even civilians had a hostile feeling for the Japanese troops. As an example... a Japanese Second Lieutenant was walking along the city and he passed a girl of about seven or eight years old standing in the street. After the officer passed, the girl shot a pistol at the back of the Second Lieutenant.
- Q. Did you see this?
- A. I also heard this. It was an example to show how deep the hostile feeling of the civilians in Nanking was.
- Q. Is what you have been telling me in your book?
- A. I described it all in fictionized stories.
- Q. What you call fiction is what you really heard from Japanese privates in Nanking?
- A. Yes.
- Q. In other words, you didn't make up things. They were all based on information you collected in Nanking?
- A. Sometimes I would arrange a story for the purpose of fiction. For instance, if an incident happened in Nanking in my book I wrote that it happened on the other fronts. Thus, I fictionized.
- Q. But what you relate in your book is what you really learned in Nanking?
- A. I didn't get this information from definite sources.
- Q. But you did learn them from someone in Nanking? Japanese soldiers, or someone?
- A. Yes.
- Q. How many Chinese soldiers were burned in the building close to the northwest gate?
- A. I do not have any correct figure. I estimate about 400 or 500.
- Q. How many were cut by swords on the Yangtze Bank?
- A. I have no idea.
- Q. What about the airport?
- A. I have no idea.
- Q. Did you publish this book soon after you left Nanking?

(ISHIWATA, Tatsuzo, 11 <sup>May</sup> January 1946 Cont'd)

A. Yes, I published it by magazine but it was banned by Japanese authorities.

Q. Who in the Japanese Government banned it?

A. Perhaps, the first KONOYE Cabinet.

Q. Was it the War Minister?

A. Legally speaking it was banned by the Home Minister.

Q. Who was the Home Minister at that time? Do you recall?

A. I don't know.

Q. BABA or SUETSAGU?

A. I think maybe he was BABA. He is now dead.

Q. It was in the first KONOYE Cabinet?

A. Yes.

Q. What year was it?

A. A part of my story was published by a magazine on the 13th of February. It was banned.

Q. Did they give any reason for banning it?

A. At that time the Metropolitan Police Office tried to apply something like a martial law by the jurisdiction applied law concerning newspapers.

Q. Who did?

A. Jurisdiction civilians court. I do not know how to translate the name.

Q. Can you give us the English name in Japanese letters?

A. (Submitted on attached slip of paper). The applied item of the law is to maintain peace and order.

Q. They simply referred to this law and told you for that your book would have to be banned? Do you recall who told you that?

A. He was tried by the court. (See attached slip).

Q. Who brought the suit against you?

A. The police office sued the prosecution office and the prosecution office accused Mr. ISHIKAWA.

Q. What was the sentence?

A. Four months imprisonment.

Q. For publishing this book?

A. Yes.

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Q. You were in prison?  
A. I did not have to actually go to prison. I was under restriction for three years.

Q. But you did not have to serve the four months?  
A. If I didn't do anything which would be against the law the time would be three years. I was not imprisoned but the sentence was four months imprisonment and three years watch.

Q. Were there any publications in Japan on what took place in Nanking in 1937 or 1938?  
A. At that time Army pressure was so severe that anyone writing something like this would be imprisoned.

Q. Did it appear in the newspapers about Nanking?  
A. The Nanking Incident was not reported.

Statement by Mr. NISHIZAKI.

Q. I worked in a newspaper. The writers introduced how the Japanese Army did abroad. They praised them and never introduced such a thing at all. Mr. ISHIKAWA introduced truth. Japanese newspapers never mentioned atrocities.

Q. Even up to 1937 or 1938?  
A. No. The first atrocities introduced to our people were the atrocities done in the Philippines. That was released by SCAP.

Q. These were the first you ever heard?  
A. Yes.

.....Mr. ISHIKAWA.

Q. Did anyone else write any books on what took place in China in 1937, 1938 or 1939?  
A. Nothing happened.

Q. What about books written by Americans or English men? Could they be sold in Japan? Were they banned too?  
A. No, they were banned.

Q. Were you a journalist in 1937 working for a newspaper?  
A. No, as a writer.

Q. Just for yourself?



(ISHIKAWA, Tatsuzo, 11 <sup>May</sup> January 1946 Cont'd)

A. I went to Nanking as temporary correspondent of Chuokoro (Central Review).

Q. Were you in China in June or July of 1937 or did you go directly from here to Nanking?

A. I left Japan December 1st. and went from Shanghai into Nanking.

Q. Did you learn of any atrocities in Shanghai?

A. I stayed in Shanghai about two days.

Q. Did you learn anything?

A. No.

Q. It was occupied at that time by the Japanese Army?

A. Yes. I believe that as the city was something like an international city these kind of atrocities never happened in Shanghai.

Q. You went from Shanghai to Nanking?

A. By train.

Q. Did you learn of any atrocities committed in cities between Shanghai and Nanking?

A. I never heard anything but during the trip I saw through the windows of the train several corpses lying in fields.

Q. Soldiers or civilians?

A. Soldiers.

Q. Chinese?

A. Yes.

Q. Very many?

A. Some.

Q. What large cities did you go through from Shanghai to Nanking?

A. Along the Yangtze River. I do not know Chinese pronunciation of the names. I think Su Chang, Mushaku, Chin-kan.

Q. And you arrived in Nanking on what date?

A. If I am not mistaken, January 5.

Q. Did you talk to General MATSUI?

A. I scarcely saw Japanese officers.

Q. General MATSUI was in command at that time?

(ISHIKAWA, Tatsuzo, 11 <sup>May</sup> ~~January~~ 1946 Cont'd)

- A. I think so.
- Q. General MUTO was Chief of Staff at that time?
- A. I never heard about that.
- Q. Would you tell me briefly what your article described?
- A. Shall I read some passages of the book?
- Q. Yes.
- A. (Passages were read).
- Q. When you entered the city of Nanking atrocities were still occurring, were they not?
- A. Perhaps, that was all over.
- Q. Didn't you see or hear of any?
- A. The atrocities I heard of occurred before my entry but after I entered I never heard.
- Q. Atrocities occurred in January, February----rape, pillage, murder.
- A. Atrocities took place until peace and order of the city was established.
- Q. When was that established?
- A. As I was not there at that time I would not know but after the entrance ceremony was held. On December 12 the general attack took place. Just after that the city was occupied by Japanese troops. From 14 to 15 December the rounding up of Chinese soldiers was taking place -- mopping up operation of the city.
- Q. How many Japanese troops were in the city at that time?
- A. Maybe, about three divisions.
- Q. 15,000 men in each division?
- A. Maybe, but at this time the division was rather small as some parts of the divisions were behind.
- Q. At the time that you entered the city how many Japanese soldiers were there?
- A. About two battalions and several others were on the outside of the wall.
- Q. Divisions or battalions?
- A. I don't know. They were rather small.

(ISHIKAWA, Tatsuzo, 11 <sup>May</sup> ~~January~~ 1946 Cont'd)

- Q. You learned of these atrocities from Japanese soldiers? Those atrocities you mentioned in your magazine? Is that correct?
- A. I collected the material from privates in different sources.
- Q. Did they say that they committed these things, that these things were committed with authorization of their superior officers?
- A. I never heard those soldiers say they engaged themselves in atrocities. I was living with soldiers. I heard of these things from my comrades. My own opinion would be that the murder of one or two people could be done by privates by their own will but in the case of 10, 20, or 30 some authorization from the Chief of the Battalion or Brigade would be needed.
- Q. For so many to be committed it must be authorized by their Commander because it was so open?
- A. Yes.
- Q. Would you give us your address, please?
- A. 118, 3 Chome,  
Okusawa Machi,  
Hetagaya, Tokyo. Telephone - Denenchofu 4316.