

Translated by the  
Defense Language Branch

Testament

Though retired, I, who for years held important military positions, feel utterly overawed for having led the Empire to today's unprecedented state of near ruin. I can only atone for my sin by dying ten thousand deaths.

The railway explosion at the height of the anti-Japanese movement led to the Manchurian Incident and the Kwantung Army had no choice except to take action from the standpoint of self-defense. No instructions of any sort were received from the Government or the Military High Command. I, then commander of the Kwantung Army, am solely responsible for the action.

In leaving this world bearing full responsibility, I, hereby, pray from the bottom of my heart for the health and longevity of the Emperor, for the protection of our national constitution and for the restoration of the Empire.

Sept. 1945

HOUJO Shigeru

No. 2401

Translation Certificate

I, Charles D. Sheldon, Chief of the Defense Language Branch, hereby certify that the foregoing translation described in the above certificate is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, a correct translation and is as near as possible to the meaning of the original document.

/s/ Charles D. Sheldon.

Tokyo, Japan  
Date 27 Jan. 1947.