

THE INTERNATIONAL MILITARY TRIBUNAL FOR THE FAR EAST

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, et al

- against -

ARAKI, Sadao, et al

Sworn Deposition; SAKURAI, Tokusaburo.

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:

Affidavit

1. While I was serving as a staff officer of the 5th Division, from May, 1932, to July, 1934, General DOHIHARA was Commander of the 9th Infantry Brigade, belonging to the same Division.
2. I was appointed a staff officer of the 1st Army Corps immediately after the outbreak of the China Incident in August, 1937, and remained in this position until November, 1938. In the meantime, General DOHIHARA was Commander of the 14th Division, belonging to the 1st Army Corps. From 15 April to 12 June, 1938, while I was thus serving as a staff officer of the First Army Corps, the 14th Division

carried out the following operations simultaneously with the battle of HSUCHOW: the crossing of the Yellow River, the interception of the LUNG-HAI Railway and the capture of positions around LANGFENG and of the walled city of KAIFENG. In the course of these operations, I was attached to the 14th Division as an additional staff officer in charge of operations. Serving on the staff of General DOHIMARA, and receiving practical training from him night and day in the thick of battle, I performed my duties as a staff officer responsible for operations, while fierce fightings went on.

3. Early in 1933, the H.Q. of the 1st Army Corps was in SHIHKIACHANG (now called SHIMMEN), and the H.Q. of the 14th Division in SINSIANG (about two hundred and fifty miles to the south of SHIHKIACHANG). I was chiefly engaged in the service of supply, as a staff officer of the Third Section in the H. Q. of the 1st Army Corps. A part of the Supply Unit with Motor-lorries of the Transport Unit, and of the Communication Unit, under the direct command of the 1st Army Corps, were temporarily attached to the 14th Division stationed at SINSIANG. Officers and men of these units who, either having been relieved of their duties or having served their time in the garrison area of the 14th Division, and returning to the 1st Army Corps, unanimously told me as follow:

General DOHIMARA had such deep concern over the protection of the Chinese masses that he always issued strict orders. At the same time, he taking the lead personally saw to it

- that his orders were actually carried out, and so, all members of the Division thoroughly observed his orders. Consequently, whatever region the DOHIMARA Division occupied its inhabitants, who had taken refuge elsewhere would come back to their homes in a day or two and resumed their work as peacefully as before. As for the degree of General DOHIMARA's love towards his subordinates, there was among the officers and men of supply units such saying as Chinese civilians first, then the 14th Division, and then units directly attached to the 1st Army Corps."
4. On 13, April 1938, I was transferred to SINSIANG to serve in the 14th Division as a staff officer in charge of operations. Arriving there, I at once looked over the file of directions, instructions, and operational orders issued by the Divisional Commander. In these instructions and orders, there were many passages in which the Commander gave strict orders as to the protection of Chinese civilians, the prohibition of plunders and outrages, and the protection, of houses from fire. Besides, he explained concretely and in detail how to carry out these orders. While I was serving in the H. Q. of the First Army Corps in the rear, I used to hear people say that the officers and men of the 14th Division loved and protected the Chinese masses. I now realized that it was true. This was, I thought at

once, because the Divisional Commander on all occasions gave such prudent and thorough instructions and orders to his subordinates that they came to observe them thoroughly. According to these directions, instructions, and orders, the views of the Divisional Commander as regards the protection of the Chinese masses, were as follows:

- (1) The aim of the Imperial Army is to exterminate only the armed forces engaged in hostile actions; therefore, Japanese officers and men shall love and protect the Chinese masses.
- (2) The key to the maintenance of public peace is, not to resort to arms, but to "temper justice with mercy" in treating the Chinese masses so that they will come to place hearty confidence in the Japanese Army. Needless to say, the Japanese soldiers shall by no means commit plunders, outrages, and so on, nor shall they steal even a single chicken or a single piece of vegetable from the Chinese. Subsequently I served as staff officer in charge of operations from the time of the operation of crossing the Yellow River up to the capture of the walled city of KAIFENG. General DOHIMURA always paid much attention to the protection of the Chinese masses, and his orders for that purpose were strictly observed. There were almost no cases of plunders.

5 Early in May, 1938, in order to carry out the operation of crossing the Yellow River, my division had to leave SINSIANG, site of the Divisional H.Q. for PUYANGHSIEN, to the east of SINSIANG, where we were to begin our preparations for that crossing operation. The people of SINSIANG had such great confidence in General DOHIFARA that we could not leave the place without bidding farewell to the President of the Business Club and all others. However, a river crossing operation required, first of all, to be kept secret, and to tell them that we were moving to the east would have revealed the movements of our division. Therefore, although we were in reality moving to the east, I told the President of the Business Club that we were going westwards. Thereupon the President of the Business Club said that he was sorry to part from General DOHIFARA whom he loved and admired from the bottom of his heart, that the SINSIANG inhabitants would like to give a grand farewell fanquet in his honor, and all men and women, both young and old would line the streets and when we started. As a staff officer in charge of operations, however, I had to dissuade him from doing anything of the sort because it was sure to reveal the movement of the division. Thus, on May 5, 1938, the H.Q. of the Division started by train from a small station, over five miles distant from SINSIANG, instead of starting from SINSIANG station, which was more

likely to attract public attention. Once the people of SIBSIANG gave to General DOHARA a piece of a red hunting with letters in gold, in praise of his high moral character.

6. On the night of 11 May, 1938, in the face of the enemy, the 14th Division under the command of General DOHARA resolutely carried out the operation of crossing the Yellow River in the vicinity of PUYANG-HSIEN, and the enemy by surprise by virtue of thorough preparations and the bravery of the officers and men, dealing the opposing forces a severe blow and succeeding in the extremely difficult operation of crossing a river in the face of the enemy. Then a chase started on the following 12th. When marching, I always rode on a horse and proceeded immediately behind General DOHARA. On the evening of the 12th, we caught sight of the war-stricken Chinese, young and old, with quilts on their backs, fleeing southwards across a vast plain and taking cover in the immense expansion of barley-fields. Noticing this, General DOHARA ordered his interpreter TAKEDA, the chief guard, and some others, who were marching beside him, to tell the Chinese as follows:

"The Japanese Army have not the slightest intention of attacking anyone but the Chinese forces who oppose us. The people at large had better return to their homes and resume their work." In addition, General DOHARA himself, speaking in Chinese, told men, women, and children hurrying by

with quilts on their backs to return to their homes.

Although the villagers fled at first from their homes, they relying on the words of the General and his men, returned afterwards to their village. After they returned home, they served tea and refreshments to the officers and men of the Japanese Army.

7. Our Division launched an attack on the walled city of KAI-FENG in the afternoon of June 5. It was customary in those days, before launching an attack on any city, for us to be given by the high command a large-scale map on which were marked in red ink positions of churches, hospitals, and establishments that were within the rights and interest of the United States, Great Britain France, etc. We were under strict orders not to direct shall fire or launch attack against them. In the walled city of KAI-FENG were also such churches, hospitals, and other buildings belonging to America and England. Laying particular stress on this point, therefore, General DOHIMARA repeatedly warned his men, giving additional orders to be cautious in their assault, especially in artillery attack.

8. On the night of the 5th of June, our Division captured the walled city of KAI-FENG. A section of our forces mopped up enemy remnants in the city, while other units pursued the retreating enemy far in the direction of CHUNGMOU. Soon after the occupation, in the evening of the 6th of

June, General DOHARA accompanied by his staff officers, inspected the walled city, lest looting and similar acts should be committed. The inhabitants had all fled because of the previous day's bombardment, and there was hardly a soul seen in the streets. When General DOHARA turned a street corner, he saw a Japanese soldier coming out of a Chinese house with a chicken in his right hand; whereupon, he spoke directly to the soldier, "You should not have looted a Chinese civilian, disobeying my every day instructions. What if its owner upon his return should think that Japanese soldiers had stolen his chicken? Return it at once to where it came from!" The Division Commander personally setting good examples, even the rank and file came to observe thoroughly his instructions. In due course, the name of "the DOHARA Unit" became the equivalent of "doing no harm to Chinese civilians." As it gradually became known to the refugee Chinese civilians that that very DOHARA Unit captured the walled city of KAI-FENG, two days later they came back to resume their daily work.

9. Just when the Toshima Brigade pursued the enemy to the vicinity of CHUNGHOW, the enemy broke open the Yellow River embankment, instantly the district was flooded over. The IMAKURA Engineers Unit was engaged in the rescue work with the help of their collapsible boats. When the unit

commenced this rescue operation a large number of Chinese civilians also were suffering damages. The Chinese who were rescued from drowning expressed their hearty thanks to the Unit:

10. For this operation action, General DOHIMARA praised Colonel IWAKURA, of the Engineers who commanded the Engineers Unit.
11. While our Division was on the southward march for the purpose of intercepting the LUNGSHAI Railway at night, we often saw fire burning far in the distance. On such occasions, General DOHIMARA looked back at me and urged me to take all possible precautions lest Chinese houses shall be burnt. He said, "Warn my subordinates repeatedly to put fire out completely whenever they leave camping grounds, so that no fire may break out." General DOHIMARA continuously enforced strict discipline among his men in regard to fire, so that not a single house was burnt in the Division's operational and garrison area.
12. I had been personally acquainted with, and trained by, General DOHIMARA from the time I was captain till the time I became Lieutenant Colonel.

Being a man of noble character he always taught me to be sincere, himself acting likewise. Above all, he guided his subordinates in all matters with such benevolence that I cannot but respect him.

When I, as a staff officer in charge of operations, came into close contact with General DOHIMARA, the then Divisional

Def. Doc. No. 1485

Commander, I became deeply impressed by with his noble and sincere character I always felt it to be my highest honour to be serving such a commander as he. That General DOHIBARA used to put stress upon the protection of the Chinese masses was one manifestation of his noble character. Especially throughout various operations, he would say habitually, "Japan has to strive for the promotion of friendly relations with china." Along the CHING-PAN Railway line, SHUNTE, SZUNSIEN, CHANGTE, and CHINKI (CHWANG), where the 14th Division under command of General DOHIBARA had marched through and maintained public place after the outbreak of the China Incident, the residents of villages were greatly influenced by his virtue, and placed hearty confidence in him. Thus, peace and order were well maintained in these districts. In fact, whenever the DOHIBARA Unit left these communities the villagers one and all praise him for his noble character and regreted that he was leaving them.

On this 30th day of December, 1946.
at the International Military Tribunal
for the Far East.

Deponent: SAKURAI Tokusaburo (seal)

I, OGA, Kinjiro, hereby certify that the above statement

Def. Doc. No. 1485

was sworn by the Deponent, who affixed his signature and seal thereto in the presence of this Witness.

On the same date
at the same place.

Witness: (signed) ŌTA Minjiro (seal)

OATH

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

SAKURAI, Tokusaburo (seal)

Translation Certificate

I, HONGO, Tameo, of the Defense, hereby certify that the attached translation of Affidavit of SAKURAI, Tokusaburo 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.

Tameo Hongo

Tokyo, Japan

Date 6th March, 1947

