

INTERNATIONAL MILITARY TRIBUNAL FOR THE FAR EAST

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, et al

- vs -

ARAKI, Sadao, et al

Sworn Deposition

Deponent ; -- ICHIDA, Jiro

Having been duly sworn in accordance with the procedure followed in my country, I do hereby depose and say as follows:

1. I, ICHIDA, Jiro, I attended court on Sept., 4, 1947 as a witness. My affidavit on that occasion was the exhibit 3089. I drew up a supplementary deposition in the form of defense document 2574 in order to complement the said affidavit. And, further, I will make here an additional statement.
2. Commanding General of the Army KIMURA regarded the maintenance and enforcement of military discipline as one of the most import items for command. He took every available opportunity for its materialization. I will enumerate some of the concrete examples as follows:

3. Immediately after General KIMURA was appointed Commander of the Burma Area Army, that is, for about a month from the last part of Sept. 1944, he advanced the command post to MAYMYO where he conducted operations himself and invited there the Commander and the Chief of Staff of the 15th Army and the Chief of Staff of 33rd Army to give them a strict direction concerning maintenance of military discipline. During that while, he also inspected the military discipline of the units staying at MAYMYO.

In the beginning of Feb. 1945, he inspected the 28th Army Headquarters at TAIGII, when he encouraged the maintenance of military discipline. Then he reviewed military discipline of the units staying there. Thereafter, he advanced as far as KARO where he invited the Commander of the 33rd Army/ ^{for instructions,} Also he inspected the front line of the 33rd Division on the river IRRAWADDI, enhancing morale and discipline.

- IV. Even after the Area Army Headquarters withdrew to Moulmein at the end of April, 1945, Commander Kimura went to the front line. He visited the Headquarters of 31, 33, 49, 18 Divisions and 33 Army with a view of maintaining the military discipline. He also summoned to the Area Army Headquarters the commanders of 15th Army 31st, 33rd, 49th Divisions, 101st, 24th Mixed Brigades which withdrew to Moulmein one by one, commander of gendarmerie and staff-officers of each Army and Division, and

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he gave instructions that they, in commanding their subordinates, should put top priority on the maintenance of discipline of Japanese soldiers and winning the popularity of natives. At the Headquarters conference he repeated his instructions again and again to make them permeate among the whole army. He also dispatched the staff officers and personnel of the Headquarters to the front line to have them inspect discipline conditions.

- V. The foregoing inspection showed that all bad conditions, such as disorder caused by defeat and interruption of transportation and communication facilities, accumulated to make some portions of each corps slip from the hands of the commanders and they therefore made every possible efforts to pick them up. At the same time, in accordance with the intentions of the Area Army Commander they inspected the discipline in the battlefield so often that they found that it was maintained very strictly as far as their eyes could reach.
- VI. Commander Kimura severely punished those who broke the discipline.

For example, he punished the chief of staff of the Area Army, senior staff-officer in the first line, adjutant-general, junior adjutant, and commander of 24 Mixed Brigade for careless treatment of secret documents of the army. He punished a senior staff-officer of the 2nd Section for his continuing

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contact with a priest named Nagai contrary to the intentions of the Area Army Commander. He also punished ^{the} chief of guards of the Area Army for lack of control of his subordinates. He punished the head of the prison where the Japanese soldiers were interned for his bad management.

On this 17th day of Oct., 1947

At Tokyo

DEPONENT /S/ ICHIDA Jiro, (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 Tokyo

Witness: /S/ KORETSUNE, Tatsumi (seal)

OATH

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

/S/ ICHIDA Jiro (seal)