

Permanent Residence and Status, SHIZUOKA prefecture, Warrior Class

Former Status,

Date of Birth, Jan. 29, 1911.

Name, YOSHIE, Seiichi

Former Name,

Mar. 16, 1929. Graduated from the Preparatory Course at the Military Academy.
Mar. 16, 1929. Appointed an officer candidate Student and attached to the 3rd Infantry Regiment of the Imperial Guards by the War Ministry.
Mar. 22, 1929. Joined the 3rd Infantry Regiment of the Imperial guards.
Mar. 22, 1929. Given the rank of Superior Private, Infantry, by the 3rd Infantry Regiment of the Imperial guards.
May 23, 1929. Promoted to the rank of Corporal, Infantry by the 3rd Infantry Regiment of the Imperial guards.
July 23, 1929. Promoted to the rank of Sergeant, Infantry, by the 3rd Infantry Regiment of the Imperial guards.
Oct. 1, 1929. Enrolled in the Main Course of the Military Academy.
July 22, 1931. Promoted to the rank of Master Sergeant by the 3rd Infantry Regiment of the Imperial guards.
July 22, 1931. Appointed a Probationary Officer by the 3rd Infantry Regiment of the Imperial guards.
Sept. 22, 1931. In accordance with Article 10 of the Army Replacements Regulation, passed by the Officers Selection Board.
Oct. 26, 1931. Appointed an Army Second Lieutenant, Infantry, by the Cabinet. Attached to the 3rd Infantry Regiment of the Imperial Guards by the War Ministry.
Nov. 16, 1931. Conferred with the 8th Court Rank, Senior Grade.
Mar. 5, 1934. Appointed an Army First Lieutenant, Infantry, by the Cabinet.
Apr. 2, 1934. Conferred with the 7th Court Rank, Junior Grade.
Aug. 1, 1935. Attached to the Student Unit of the Main Course at the Military Academy by the War Ministry.
Dec. 13, 1935. Ordered to enter the Army General Staff College as a student by the War Ministry.
Dec. 26, 1935. Attached to the 3rd Infantry Regiment of the Imperial guards by the War Ministry.
Aug. 2, 1937. Appointed an Army Captain, Infantry, by the Cabinet.
Sept. 1, 1937. Conferred with the 7th Court Rank, Senior Grade.
Aug. 30, 1940. Appointed a Judge in the Army General Court Martial by the War Ministry.
Oct. 3, 1940. Dismissed as Judge in the Army General Court Martial by the War Ministry.
Nov. 4, 1940. Awarded the Imperial Orders of the Sacred Treasure, 6th Class b
Aug. 1, 1941. Appointed an Army Major by the Cabinet.
Sept. 1, 1941. Conferred with the 6th Court Rank, Junior Grade.
Apr. 29, 1940. Awarded the Imperial Military Order of the Golden Kite, 5th Class for services in the China Incident.
Awarded the Imperial Order of the Dual Rays of the Rising Sun, 5th Class.
Aug. 1, 1944. Appointed an Army Lieutenant Colonel by the Cabinet.
Aug. 15, 1944. Conferred with the 6th Court Rank, Senior Grade.

Page DIRECT EXAMINATION OF YOSHIE, Seiichi by MR. FREEMAN

34382 *The witness identified and verified Exhibit 3525 as his affidavit. The affidavit stated that the witness from 1 October 1940 to 30 April 1943 was mainly in charge of personnel affairs * of staff officers in General Headquarters and engaged in personnel and protocol business of War Ministry officers as a member of the Appointments Section of the Personnel Affairs Bureau. From 1 May 1944 until the surrender appointments of staff officers, director of the Military Affairs Bureau and Section Chiefs in that bureau were to be deliberated over by the Director of the Personnel Affairs Bureau on consultation with General Headquarters.

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34384 After the February 26 Incident the army was particularly careful of personnel administration and paid much attention to appointments so as not to be influenced by the consideration of personal intimacy. All war ministers assuming that office after the Incident strictly maintained this policy. *Consequently the autonomous power of making appointments by the Personnel Affairs Bureau was strengthened so as not to be affected by coercion etc. by outsiders. TOJO when he became War Minister also observed this policy and when appointment was to be made instructed those concerned to inquire closely into the candidate's personal history, particularly after the war broke out to make sure he had a thorough knowledge of the circumstances to carry out his new duty. Those concerned then submitted the matter to the War Minister for approval.

In 1941 the accused SATO succeeded KAWAMURA as Chief of the Military Affairs Section. The appointment was first deliberated by the Director of the Personnel Affairs Bureau NODA and then approved by the War Minister.

34385 Because of his knowledge of the Military Affairs Bureau and Military Affairs Section * through his service as Chief of the Press Section and as a front line staff officer and his experience in the United States SATO was recognized as one possessed of the deepest knowledge of not only the army situation but also of affairs at home and abroad. All in charge considered the appointment an appropriate one.

34386 In 1942 when Director of the Military Affairs Bureau MATO was transferred SATO was appointed his successor. He was first selected by the Director of the Personnel Affairs Bureau TOMINAGA and after deliberations and the approval was given by the three army chiefs he was appointed by the War Minister. This also was a very natural and appropriate appointment for SATO was familiar with the business of the bureau * since prior to the war. Furthermore he was qualified to be a War Ministry Director as he had been promoted to Major General.

NARRATIVE SUMMARY OF THE RECORD

December 3, 1947

DEFENSE - SATO

YOSHIE - Direct

Page
5594

Page

On further oral examination the witness stated that he was familiar with the occasion of SATO's appointment and it came through regular channels. As far as he knew there was no pressure brought upon the General Staff or any other appointing authority to get the appointment through.

34387

*The witness knew TANAKA, Ryukichi when he was head of the Military Service Bureau and he left this post in the summer or fall of 1942, * resigning because of illness. The witness was familiar with the circumstances under which an officer might resign from the regular army and except on account of illness preventing him from continuing his work no other reason was recognized. He knew TANAKA from the summer of 1941 until the time * he left his position as Chief of the Military Service Bureau. He was not in a position to know of TANAKA's work or of him in detail but as those of the War Ministry and General Staff were located in the same building there were frequent opportunities to meet TANAKA and he was able to hear of him quite often.

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34389

December 3, 1947

DEFENSE - SATO

YOSHIE - Cross

Page

CROSS-EXAMINATION BY COLONEL MORNANE.

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* Asked what he meant when he said that appointments of various officers were to be deliberated over by the Director of the Personnel Affairs Bureau, he stated that he meant consideration for selection of a suitable person, not only from the standpoint of his competence, but also from the standpoint of possible effects of appointments on other quarters.

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* Asked if this consideration before selection was provided for in regulations or was a matter of the War Minister's policy, he replied that generally, while there was a War Minister policy, the fundamentals were already stipulated in the regulations of the War Minister. Asked to refer the Tribunal to the particular regulation providing for the Director making the selection of various officers, he replied he didn't remember, but thought the matter was stipulated in regulations governing the organization and functions of the War Ministry. However, he didn't recall the exact language of the provisions.

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* Reference was made to the affidavit where it stated that all War Ministers, after the February 26 incident, strictly maintained this policy. Asked why he referred to it as a matter of policy if it was a matter laid down by regulation which could not be avoided, he replied that without regard to time, the regulations stipulate the basis on which such actions were to be taken, but according to the circumstances the War Minister sets down certain detailed policy.

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* In regard to the autonomous power of making appointments by the Personnel Affairs Bureau mentioned in the affidavit, the witness was asked if that meant that the Bureau actually made the appointment or if it was the War Minister who actually made it. He stated that by that he meant that the Bureau merely carried out the routine of appointments, and the actual decision was made by the War Minister.

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Exhibit 3426, * the affidavit of ABE, Nobuyuki, stated that he was a full general at the time of his retirement from active duty in 1936, when the February 26 incident occurred. He became Vice-Minister of War in 1928, and was appointed a State Minister without portfolio from June to December 1930. He was Premier from August 1939 to January 1940.

Translated by
Defense Language Branch

INTERNATIONAL MILITARY TRIBUNAL FOR THE FAR EAST

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, et al

-vs-

ARAKI, Sadao, et al



SWORN DEPOSITION (Translation)

Deponent: YOSHIE, Seichi

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.

1. I am a former lieutenant colonel and during the period of from October 1, 1940 to April 30, 1943 was mainly in charge of the personnel affairs of the army staff officers at the General Staff Headquarters, and engaged in the personnel and protocol business of the army officers in the War Ministry as a member of the Appointments Section of the Personnel Affairs Bureau since May 1, 1944 until the termination of war. The appointments of army staff officers, director of the Military Affairs Bureau and chiefs of sections in the said bureau were to be deliberated over by the director of the Personnel Affairs Bureau,

War Ministry upon consultation with the General Staff Headquarters. I am, therefore, in a position to be able to relate the general policy of the personnel administration and the order of appointment of the army at that time and the circumstances that led to the appointment of Mr. SATO, Kenryo as the Chief of the Military Affairs Section and Director of the Military Affairs Bureau.

2. Since the so-called February 26 Incident which took place on February 26, 1934, the Army was particularly careful of the personnel administration and paid much attention to the official appointment so as not to be influenced by the consideration of any personal intimacy, or in short, not to create any clique in the army. All the ministers of war who assumed the ministerial office after the incident strictly maintained this policy. Consequently, the autonomous power of making appointments by the Personnel Affairs Bureau, War Ministry, was remarkably strengthened so as not to be affected by the coercion, disturbance, etc. by the outsiders in deliberating appointments. General TOJO, when he assumed the office of War Minister, also observed this policy. Especially during his ministerial office, when an appointment was to be made, he instructed those concerned to inquire closely into the personal history of the candidate, particularly after the war broke out, to make sure of the candidate having a thorough knowledge of the circumstances to be able to

carry out the duty newly assumed, before the selection, and then he submitted it to the minister for approval.

3. In 1941, in consequence of the transfer of Colonel KAWAMURA, Saburo, Chief of the Military Affairs Section, War Ministry, to the other post, Mr. SATO, Kenryo was appointed as his successor.

The appointment was first deliberated by Lieutenant General NODA, then Director of the Personnel Affairs Bureau, and then was approved by the War Minister.

Because of his knowledge of the circumstances in the Military Affairs Bureau and the Military Affairs Section through his service at the Military Section for more than two years since its institution in 1926, his service as the Chief of the Press Section, and also his service as a staff officer at the front for about two years, and his experience of staying in the United States when he was a captain, Mr. SATO was recognized among the military circles to be a person, possessed of the deepest knowledge of not only the situation in the army but also of the same at home and abroad. All of us who were in charge of personnel affairs considered the appointment appropriate.

In 1942, when Director of the Military Affairs Bureau MUTO, Akira was transferred to another post, Mr. SATO was appointed as his successor. He was first selected by Lieutenant General TCMINAGA, then Director of the Personnel

Def. Doc. # 2782

Affairs Bureau, and after the deliberation and the approval of the selection were given therefore by the Three Chiefs of the Army (namely, Minister of War, Chief of the General Staff and Inspector General of the Military Training), he was appointed by the minister.

It was also a very natural and appropriate appointment. Mr. SATO was, as is obvious through the aforementioned career, familiar with the business in the bureau owing to his service in the Military Affairs Bureau, War Ministry, ever since just prior to the war. Furthermore, he was qualified to be a director of the War Ministry as he had already been promoted to the rank of major-general. For these reasons, he was considered to be a competent war-time director of the Military Affairs Bureau capable of handling the complicated and busy tasks effectively.

On this 20th day of October, 1947

At Tokyo-to

Deponent: /S/ YOSHIE, Seiichi (seal)

I, KAZUMA, Isaburo, 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 the same place

Witness: /S/ KAZUMA, Isaburo (seal)

Def. Doc. # 2782

OATH

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

/s/ YOSHIE, Seichi (seal)

Translated by
Defense Language Branch

INTERNATIONAL MILITARY TRIBUNAL FOR THE FAR EAST

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, et al

-vs-

ARAKI, Sadao, et al



effect of violation of military regulations

Sworn Deposition (Translation)

Deponent: YOSHIE, Seiichi

I, YOSHIE, Eiichi, first being duly sworn according to the customs of my country, make the following statement:

My address is: No. 804, 2-Chome, Shimoochiai, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo-to.

I was born 29 January 1911.

A short summary of my record is as follows:

22 July 1931, graduated from Military Academy.

1 May 1944) Member of Personnel Affairs Bureau,

1 Aug 1944) Lt.Col.) (

15 Aug 1945) Ministry of War.

Having been attached to the Personnel Affairs Bureau of the War Ministry, I am in a position to make a statement as to the effect of violation of military regulations and punishment given to service men. Under Japanese military regulations each service man was required to carry upon his person a complete record of his service, citations, decorations, unit served with, reprimands, discipline and court martial. This record was kept on the person of each individual service man. The slightest disciplinary action must be entered in this record. Each time a service man came up for promotion his personnel record was carefully examined and the slightest disciplinary action would effect his promotion; not only effect his promotion, but would effect his reputation among the other soldiers. As a result the after effect of disciplinary action was more severe than the action itself. In the event the disciplinary action was severe,

or there was a serious violation of army regulations, it would in most instances have a permanent adverse effect on his military career. Furthermore, when a person was discharged from the military service, this same record accompanied him. It was his responsibility to maintain this record upon his person at all times. In the event a discharged person had been disciplined or convicted of violation of army regulations, it was a detriment to his obtaining employment. In making his military record was taken into consideration by his prospective employer and if his military record had any irregularities it adversely effected his chances of obtaining employment other than the most menial kind.

Likewise, if a person's military record was marred by violations of regulations in the army, it effected his standing in the community where he lived. This explanation is made to show that although at the time a service man's punishment may seem light, it in effect could be very serious.

When a service man was subjected to military discipline in the Japanese Army, the results of it were of such a serious nature that many times the recipient felt disgraced, or had lost the confidence of those with whom he associated.

On this 23th day of August, 1947
At Tokyo

Deponent: /S/ YOSHIE, Seiichi (seal)

I, INOUE, Masutaro, 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/ INOUE, Masutaro (seal)

OATH

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

/S/ YOSHIE, Seiichi (seal)

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

YOSHIE, Seiichi

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.

Incl
(Described above)

EPM
EDWARD P. MONAGHAN

Permanent Residence and Status: SHIZUOKA Prefecture, Warrior Class

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