

INTERNATIONAL MILITARY TRIBUNAL FOR THE FAR EAST

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, et al

VS -
ARAKI, Sadao, et alFILE COPY
RETURN TO ROOM 361
Sworn Deposition

Deponent: Hisashi MITO

Having first duly sworn an oath as shown on attached sheet and in accordance with the procedure followed in my country I hereby depose as follows:

My name is Hisashi MITO. I was formerly a Vice-Admiral in the Japanese Navy. On the 20th of March, 1943 I held the rank of Rear Admiral and was assigned as Commander of the First Submarine Squadron under the Sixth Fleet. I have been told that the Prosecution introduced in evidence a submarine order bearing Exhibit Number 2105. (In transcript on Page 15,184.)

Early last year I was interrogated several times by the Prosecution relative to this order. We discussed it thoroughly. I told them that while it appeared to be in the same form as other orders issued I had no recollection of this particular one. After the interrogation I called Commander SHIBUYA who was my Staff Officer at that time and asked him about it. He too had no recollection whatsoever of such an order being issued.

Paragraph 4, Section B on Page 4 of the English copy containing the words "Do not stop with the sinking of enemy ships and cargoes; at the same time that you carry out the complete destruction of the crews of the enemy's ships, if possible, seize part of the crew and endeavor to secure information about the enemy" is utterly foreign to me. In the first place, it was not the policy of the Japanese Navy to conduct submarine warfare in that manner nor to my knowledge has such a procedure

ever been followed. With the advent of modern means of warfare, especially radar and airplanes, it would be sheer folly for a submarine after attacking an enemy ship to remain above water to carry out such a purpose. The practice and procedure is to immediately submerge and to leave the vicinity as quickly as possible. Therefore I can not concede that such an order would even have been issued.

I denied knowledge of the execution order and also denied that there was any collaboration to my knowledge with German submarines or that we employed any tactics based upon German origin. I was further asked concerning the source of this order, that is, from where the original basic order would have been issued. I say now, as I said then, that the parent order or basic order would have come from the Commander in Chief of the Combined Fleet and probably would have been received from the Chief of Naval General Staff at the highest point.

I have been told that the Prosecution stated it also submitted that "The Navy Minister must be held responsible for the top secret naval order for submarine operation requiring the complete destruction of crews of ships sunk by submarines * * *." This is absolutely contrary to fact. The Navy Ministry could not issue such an order since it is a matter entirely within the prerogative of the High Command and I can not conceive by any stretch of the imagination how it can be said that any such order, if actually issued, came from the Navy Ministry.

On this 25th day of November, 1947

At 661 - 3 Chome Kamitakaido,
Suginami-ku, Tokyo, Japan

DEPONENT: Hisashi MITO

I, Hisashi MITO, 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 (signed) Yoshitsugu TAKAHASHI (Seal)

OATH

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

Hisashi MITO (Seal)