

# SECRET

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS  
FAR EAST COMMAND  
Operations, CIS, G-2  
Compilation Branch

APO 500  
29 July 1947

SUBJECT : SANO Torata  
DATE OF BIRTH : 8 Aug 1889  
PRESENT ADDRESS : 988, 2-chome, Daita, Setagaya-ku, Tokyo.  
CAREER : President, Kumamoto Army Training School (RIKUGUN  
KYODO GAKKO), Kumamoto City.  
FORMER RANK : Lieutenant General.  
DATE OF RETIREMENT: 1 Dec 1945.

1-2

checked - JOS

Translated by: WAKABAYASHI Y.

CURRICULUM VITAE

SANO Torata

Born on the 8th of Aug. in 1889

Permanent Address: KAGOSHIMA prefecture

Social Rank: SAMURAI class.

May 27, 1911	<del>Was</del> graduated from the Military Academy.
June 6, 1911	<del>Was</del> appointed to <del>a</del> cadet second
Dec. 26, 1911	<del>Was</del> appointed to <del>a</del> sub-lieutenant of the infantry. <del>Was</del> ordered to <del>attach</del> to the 56th regiment of the infantry.
March 1, 1912	<del>Was</del> <sup>granted</sup> <del>conferred</del> the 8th Class of the Senior Grade of the Court Rank.
Dec. 15, 1914	<del>Was</del> appointed to <del>a</del> lieutenant

	of the infantry. <del>Granted</del>	
Feb. 20, 1915	<del>Was conferred</del> the 7th Class of the Junior Grade of the Court Rank.	
Nov. 7, 1915	<del>Was</del> awarded the 6th Order of the Single Ray Rising Sun. <del>Was</del> given YEN 450. <del>Was</del> given a war-medal for <del>engaging</del> <sup>services</sup> in the war of 1914 and 1915.	
March 20, 1920	<del>Was</del> <sup>Granted</sup> <del>conferred</del> the 7th Class of the Senior Grade of the Court Rank.	
April 20, 1921	<del>Was</del> appointed <del>to</del> captain of the infantry	Cabinet
Sept. 16, 1921	<del>Was</del> relieved of the regular appointment and <del>was</del> appointed <del>to</del> adjutant of a battalion of the 56th regiment of the infantry.	War Office

Nov. 22, 1921

~~Was~~ relieved of the regular appointmentand appointed ~~to~~ company-commander of

the 56th regiment of the infantry.

War Office.

Aug. 15, 1922

~~Was~~ relieved of the regular appointmentand appointed ~~to~~ commander of the machine-

gun unit of the 56th regiment of the infantry.

-oo-

Nov. 30, 1922

~~Was~~ awarded the 5th Order of the

Sacred Treasure.

Aug. 6, 1923

~~Was~~ relieved of the regular appointmentand appointed ~~to~~ instructor of the militaryinfantry school and <sup>concurrently</sup> ~~concurrently~~ a member of the

research department of the same school. War Office.

Aug. 20, 1924

~~Was~~ relieved of the regular appointmentand appointed ~~to~~ commander of the

machine-gun-unit of the ~~instruction~~<sup>training</sup> regiment  
of the military infantry school; and  
concurrently ~~to~~ instructor of the  
same school; ~~and~~<sup>and</sup> member of the research  
department of the school as before.

War Office

May 1, 1925

~~Was~~ appointed to ~~the~~ commander of the  
machine-gun-unit of the ~~instruction~~<sup>training</sup> regiment  
of the military infantry school and concurrently  
to ~~an~~ instructor of the same school and a  
member of the research department of  
the school.

-Bo-

-Bo-

~~Was~~<sup>promoted</sup> to the 6th Class of the  
Junior Grade of the Court Rank.

July 26, 1927

Was released of the regular and

additional posts, and appointed to   
instructor of the military infantry school  
and a member of the research department  
of the same school concurrently.

War Office

Aug. 10, 1928

appointed to  major of the  
infantry.

Cabinet

ordered  to the 46th  
regiment of the infantry.

War Office

Aug. 1, 1929

appointed to a company-  
commander of the student corps of the  
KUMAMOTO military training school.

-Do-

March 6, 1930

appointed  commander of  
the machine-gun-unit of the student corps

of the KUMAMOTO military training school. War Office

<u>Granted</u>	
May 16, 1930	<del>Was conferred</del> the 6th Class of the Senior Grade of the Court Rank
Nov. 6, 1930	<del>Was</del> awarded the 4th Order of the Sacred Treasure.
Dec. 9, 1930	<del>Was</del> appointed <del>to</del> battalion-commander of the 80th regiment of the infantry. War Office.
Dec. 20, 1933	<del>Was</del> ordered to <del>attend</del> to the 80th regiment of the infantry. -100-
March 5, 1934	<del>Was</del> appointed <del>to</del> lieutenant-colonel of the infantry. Cabinet
June 15, 1935	<u>Granted</u> <del>Was conferred</del> the 5th Class of the Junior grade of the Court Rank.
Nov. 1, 1937	<del>Was</del> appointed <del>to</del> colonel of the infantry. Cabinet

Sept. 7, 1938	<del>Was</del> awarded the 3rd Order of the	
	Sacred Treasure.	
July 1, 1940	<sup>Granted</sup> <del>was conferred</del> the 5th Class of the	
	Senior Grade of the Court Rank	
Dec. 2, 1940	<del>Was</del> appointed <del>to</del> major-general. Cabinet	
March 1, 1943	<del>Was</del> awarded the 2nd Order of the	
	Sacred Treasure.	
April 29, 1940	<del>Was</del> decorated with the 3rd Order	
	of the Golden Kite and <del>was</del> given	
	the Medium Cordon of the Rising Sun,	
	<sup>meritorious services in</sup> for <del>the merit for</del> the China incident.	
March 1, 1944	<del>Was</del> appointed <del>to</del> lieutenant-	
	general. --- not mentioned in the official	Cabinet
	gazette.	



March 10, 1944

~~Was~~ appointed ~~to~~ commander

of the 42nd division. -- not mentioned

in the official gazette.

Cabinet

April 1, 1944

Granted

~~Was conferred~~ the 4th Class of the

Junior Grade of the Court Rank.

14 May 1947

MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. Sutton ✓  
FROM : EDWARD P. MONAGHAN, Acting 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  
Testified 8 May

WITNESS

SANO, Torata

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)

*E P M*  
EDWARD P. MONAGHAN

CURRICULUM VITAE

Name: SANO Torata  
Date of Birth: 8th of Aug. in 1889  
Permanent Address: KAGOSHIMA Prefecture  
Social Rank: SAMURAI Class

- May 27 1911      Graduated from the Military Academy.
- Jun 6 1911      Appointed cadet.
- Dec 26 1911      Appointed lieutenant of the infantry, ordered to the  
56th regiment of the infantry.
- Mar 1 1912      Granted the 8th Class of the Senior Grade of the  
Court Rank.
- Dec 15 1914      Appointed lieutenant of the infantry.
- Feb.20 1915      Granted the 7th Class of the Senior Grade of the  
Court Rank.
- Apr 20 1921      Appointed captain of the infantry. (Cabinet)
- Sep 16 1921      Relieved of the regular appointment and appointed  
adjutant of a battalion of the 56th regiment of the  
infantry. (War Office)
- Nov 22 1921      Relieved of the regular appointment and appointed company-  
commander of the 56th regiment of the infantry.  
(War Office)
- Aug 15 1922      Relieved of the regular appointment and appointed  
commander of the machine-gun unit of the 56th regiment of  
the infantry. (War Office)
- Nov 30 1922      Awarded the 5th Order of the Sacred Treasure.
- Aug 6 1923      Relieved of the regular appointment and appointed  
instructor of the military infantry school and  
concurrently a member of the research department of the  
same school. (War Office)
- Aug 20 1924      Relieved of the regular appointment and appointed  
commander of the machine-gun-unit of the training  
regiment of the military infantry school and concurrently  
instructor of the same school, and member of the research  
department of the school as before. (War Office)

- May 1 1925 Appointed commander of the machine-gun-unit of the training regiment of the military infantry school and concurrently instructor of the same school and a member of the research department of the school. (War Office)
- Granted the 6th Class of the Junior Grade of the Court Rank.
- Jul 26 1927 Released of the regular and additional posts, and appointed instructor of the Military infantry school and a member of the research department of the same school concurrently. (War Office)
- Aug 10 1928 Appointed major of the infantry. (Cabinet)
- Ordered to the 46th regiment of the infantry. (War Office)
- Aug 1 1929 Appointed to a company-commander of the student corps of the KUMAMOTO military training school. (War Office)
- Mar 6 1930 Appointed commander of the machine-gun-unit of the student corps of the KUMAMOTO military training school. (War Office)
- May 16 1930 Granted 6th Class of the Senior Grade of the Court Rank.
- Nov 6 1930 Awarded the 4th Order of the Sacred Treasure.
- Dec 9 1930 Appointed battalion-commander of the 80th regiment of the infantry. (War Office)
- Dec 20 1933 Ordered to the 80th regiment of the infantry. (War Office)
- Mar 5 1934 Appointed lieutenant-colonel of the infantry. (Cabinet)
- Jun 15 1935 Granted the 5th Class of the Junior grade of the Court Rank.
- Nov 1 1937 Appointed colonel of the infantry. (Cabinet)

Sep 7 1938      Awarded the 3rd Order of the Sacred Treasure.

Jul 1 1940      Granted the 5th Class of the Senior Grade of the Court Rank.

Dec 2 1940      Appointed major-general. (Cabinet)

Mar 1 1943      Awarded the 2nd Order of the Sacred Treasure.

Apr 29 1940     Decorated with the 3rd Order of the Golden Kite and Given the Medium Cordon of the Rising Sun, for meritorious services in the China incident.

Mar 1 1944      Appointed lieutenant-general. ----- not mentioned in the official gazette. (Cabinet)

Mar 10 1944     Appointed commander of the 42nd division. -- not mentioned in the official gazette. (Cabinet)

Apr 1 1944      Granted the 4th Class of the Junior Grade of the Court Rank.

DIRECT EXAMINATION of SANO, TORATA,  
by Mr. Logan.

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21768

\* The witness stated that he lived in Chiba Prefecture, and identified exhibit No. 2567 as his affidavit and verified the same. The affidavit stated \* that the witness took part in the battle of Hankow, \* commanding the 23rd Infantry Regiment of the 6th Div. On October 26 he entered Hankow, leading the advance unit, and on November 5 evacuated the city.

21770  
21771

About 11 p. m. he went back to advance unit headquarters in Taokuanchien and looked over documents concerning preparations for the occupation on the 26th. They had been dropped on the previous day by airplane. He had no recollection of the papers or of their number, but of special importance were those specifying the instructions of HATA, the Commander, concerning the occupation and on arrangements between the army and the navy. Reading the documents made him realize the seriousness of the matter so forcibly that he made up his mind to act in faithful obedience to the Commander's wish. He called his regimental adjutant and ordered him to transmit the instructions \* and to see that they were strictly enforced. He also ordered his lower commanders, that before beginning the next day's march a number of soldiers be left at the bivouac place to look after matters, and the troops who were to join the march were to be those chosen specially.

21772

Orders were passed through channels before being transmitted to the lower formation. However, due to speedy progress, the witness feared that if they did this it would fail to reach the advance guard in time, and the instructions were delivered directly to advance troops. Scrupulous care \* was taken to prevent subordinates from falling into mistakes.

21773

Before beginning the crossing of the river, the detachment commander told them to obey the instructions of HATA and other superiors concerning Hankow occupation. Shortly after 1 p. m. the advance party arrived at the northwest end of the French Concession, when they received a report for instructions from the 3rd Battalion Commander that he had learned from the Italian Consul-General that the Chinese Army had withdrawn, but it was rumored that mines were laid, and that if the Japanese desired it, they would send a guide to lead them on a safe road.

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21774

\* The unit commander decided to enter with a guide and to relax preparations to some extent, adopting a war and peace attitude. They followed the safe roads indicated on a map to Hankow, passing around the French concession, taking over the Peace Preservation Office and other rights and interests. At 4 p. m. they were in front of the Hupeh Telegraph Office in the old British Settlement. In that place there was an area for distressed people. One of the commanders was ordered to place a guard, so that no Japanese could enter the area. Corps headquarters were at the Hupeh Telegraph Office, and the rest of the corps was billeted in empty houses.

21775

\* Since no battle was engaged in within the city, the unit had no one killed or wounded, and there were no Chinese killed, wounded, or taken prisoner. Just as the unit marched to the coast road southwest of the Japanese Settlement, about 1 p. m. on the 26th, they sighted a Japanese naval unit aboard a cruiser type warship. About 5 p. m. a landing party passed in front of the Telegraph Office. They brought with them about twenty correspondents from all Japanese newspapers.

The French Settlement had been surrounded with wire entanglements, and the entrance and exit of principal roads blocked and guarded, to prevent Japanese troops and civilians from passing.

21776

Major AKAGI called on the German Consul on October 26, about 7 p. m., and made requests to begin negotiations with the French to have the coast road opened for passage, without avail. Knowing of these negotiations, the witness' unit issued an order to prohibit Japanese from entering or going out of the French Settlement, and mounted guards to carry out the order.

21777

The 23rd Infantry, which had been on guard duty in the British Settlement, were reported to have been removed around November 4, to the Taiyehsien district after handing their duties to the 13th Division. As soon as this happened the British made a request for the cancellation of the move, but the unexpected arrival of the guards was noted for discipline \* and so highly appreciated by the inhabitants that it would bring disappointment to them.

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In answer to this request, the authorities ordered the 9th Guard Company of this regiment to mount guard continuously in Hankow after the main strength had left. Toward the early part of December they rejoined their regiment proper. The circumstances at the time were well reported in the Miyasaki Shimbun.

21778

At the time of the reception of HATA on November 3, the SANO unit marched out to the custom house wharf, and as both sides of the road were lined with guards it was impossible to see whether the camped troops were on both sides of the road. \* At the time he did not see any troops or military personnel, or civilians, passing the coast road on the lower end of the custom house wharf.

Since there were no prisoners taken in Hankow by the 23rd Regiment, there was no incident regarding prisoners. The main Chinese troops, before October 24, and the remaining troops on the evening of October 25, began to retreat, so that by the 26th the retreat was complete. There was therefore no battle in the Hankow city district, and not a single Chinese POW.

21779

The first photograph, attached to the affidavit, was taken on the road near the southwest part of the Japanese Settlement, and shows the headquarters of the SANO Unit. The second photograph shows the unit passing the French Settlement. Both were taken by a war correspondent and appeared in the papers, \* and showed a peaceful attitude, suggesting that the atmosphere was different from the excited air to be expected from battling troops.

The 23rd Infantry received letters of praise and was strict in its order and discipline. There was not one soldier who was punished in the witness' two years and five months as Commander of the Regiment, except one case where there was light disciplinary confinement due to responsibility for preventing fire.

21780

Soldiers and officers of the 23rd never murdered war prisoners. He believed there could never occur murder of war prisoners on the river road, since part of the road was east of the \*wharf and was closed to Japanese on October 27 and 28. At that time the facilities for crossing were yet incomplete.



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The 6th Division ordered its engineer regiment to take over direction and control of the personnel and materials of the units rushing to enter. The units could not accompany war prisoners. The apparatus used was light river boats used in constructing the bridge. The boat bridge had a capacity at the maximum of 4,000 foot soldiers per day.

21781

\* By the evening of October 28, if everything was carried out in good order, the 45th Infantry had crossed and the artillery and other infantry were crossing. The water units, though they arrived at Hanshu on the evening of the 27th, arrived in Hankow the day after the Branch Corps entry, and so it was impossible for them to get war prisoners there. These units advanced in the rear of the navy during the attack on the Wu-Han area. They did not fight with the Chinese water units nor on land.

Naval units necessarily would get no war prisoners because they landed on the evening of the 26th, several hours after the 23rd Infantry.

21782

\* The witness identified exhibit No. 2568 as a picture of a unit of the 23rd Infantry crossing the bridge at the French concession. He identified exhibit No. 2569 as a picture of the headquarters unit of the SANO Regiment \* marching in the Japanese concession at Hankow. He was leading the troops. He identified exhibit No. 2570 \* as a general map, showing the sectors or divisions of Hankow, showing the various routes of entry of the various units, and disposition referred to in his affidavit.

21783

21784

THERE WAS NO CROSS-EXAMINATION OF THE WITNESS.

21788

Excerpt from the Parliamentary Debates of the British House of Commons on Anglo-Japanese Conference, Defense Document No. 1053, stated \* that Britain fully recognizes the actual situation in China, where hostilities in a large scale are in progress, and notes that while this continues Japanese in China have special requirements to safeguard their security and maintain order, and have to suppress or remove acts or causes obstructing them or benefiting the enemy. Britain has no intention of allowing any act or measure prejudicial to these objects, and they will take the opportunity to

INTERNATIONAL MILITARY TRIBUNAL FOR THE FAR EAST

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, et al

-vs-

ARAKI, Sadao, et al.

Sworn Deposition

Deponent: SANO Torata

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 was born on August 8, 1889, at No. 1060, Ueno, Yokokawa-mach, Aira-gun, Kagoshima-ken.

I reside at present at No. 707, Chigusa-Shinden, Onuki-machi, Kimitsu-gun, Chiba-ken.

2. The following is a brief outline of my career.

I graduated from the Military Academy in 1911;

Appointed 2nd Lieutenant, attached to the Kurume 56 Infantry Regiment in 1911;

Took part in the Battle of Tsingtao, during World War I, in 1914;

Appointed Commander of the 23rd Regiment in May, 1938;

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took part in the Battle of Hankow.

Subsequently appointed Principal of the Kumamoto Military Training School, Commander of the Tungning Frontier Guard, Manchuria, and Commander of Nakachishima 42nd Division, Chishima, in the order mentioned; the last office I held till the end of the war.

I was appointed lieutenant-general in March, 1944.

3. I took part in the Battle of Hankow, as Commander of the 23rd Infantry Regiment belonging to the Ushijima Detachment of the 6th Division; on October 26 I entered Hankow as leader of the advance unit. On November 5 we evacuated the said city.

It was about 2 p.m. on October 25, 1938 that I led the advance unit in chase of the Chinese forces and reached Taokuanchien 1,100 meters north of Tsaichiashan, on the north-eastern extremity of Hankow.

The Chinese Army had cut off communication and traffic by causing inundations on the Yangchia-ho. They attempted to check our advance by machine-gun fire from a series of positions set up on the Changkung embankments on both sides of the Tsaichiashan fortification.

Our troops commenced crossing the river by means of one 30-passenger civilian boat and eleven 5-passenger civilian boats and landed about 7 p.m. on the Changkung embankment on

the northwestern side of the hill. The Chinese force, after having done some firing, retreated in the direction of Hankow leaving us in possession.

When the boats had crossed the river and back for the fifth time, they were found much damaged, and we felt misgivings about their security. We therefore ceased the river-crossing at about 10.30 p.m. and decided to wait the arrival of the main strength of the unit with its river-crossing equipment section before continuing our river-crossing. We therefore concentrated and bivouaced in the vicinity of Taokuanchien and Niehkow (T.N. ?).

The Chinese Army commenced bombarding the Japanese Concession about 2 p.m. on October 25, and toward evening the bombardment became fierce.

I stayed on at the river-crossing point at Taokuanchien till after evening, taking charge of the unit's river-crossing operation and other matters, but finding it dangerous to try and transport the troops in the defective boats, I gave up the undertaking about 10.30, p.m. About 11 p.m. I went back to the advance unit headquarters in the village of Taokuanchien and looked over the documents from the higher headquarters concerning preparations to be made for the intended October 26 occupation of Hankow. These documents had been dropped on

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the previous day by an airplane of our army.

I have no clear recollection of the description of the papers nor of their number; however, of special importance were those specifying the instructions of Commander-in-Chief of the Central China Army HATA concerning the Hankow occupation and the matters relating to the arrangements between the Army and the Navy. The perusal of the documents made me realize the seriousness of the occasion so forcibly that I at once made up my mind to act in faithful obedience to the commander's wish : so that the true worth of the Japanese Army might be proved in the eyes of the foreign residents. I called Captain CHOSHO, regimental adjutant, and ordered him to transmit the Commander-in-Chief's instructions, enjoining him at the same time to see that they be strictly enforced. I also ordered my subordinate officers -- battalion and company commanders-- that before we began the occupation march the next day it should be arranged that a number of soldiers be left about the place where we had bivouaced to look after the arms, materials, impedimenta and other things and that the troops who were to join the march should be those that had been chosen specially for the purpose.

Orders, notices and other announcements issued by the Central Army Headquarters were, as a rule, to pass through the corps, division and brigade before they were transmitted

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to the lower formation. However, in the present case I concluded that owing to the unexpectedly speedy progress it was feared that the instructions, if they were transmitted through the customary channels, would fail to reach the advance guard of the pursuing unit in time, and so they were careful enough to deliver the instructions directly to the advance troops. (As a matter of fact, when the headquarters of the pursuit unit was at Huangpo the headquarters of the division was located in the vicinity of Hsi-chu, 60 kilometers to the rear). This scrupulous case was specially taken, I thought, to prevent the subordinates from falling into mistakes, and I read the instructions with extreme gratitude.

The instructions both minute and careful, covered several pages, and the following are the important parts that still remain in my memory.

The gist of the instructions as to Hankow occupation.

In Hankow there are the French concessions and the other old international settlements of European and American Powers as well as the consulates-general of the Powers. Foreign nationals reside there, and for their protection there are stationed troops on guards. The Powers have their own rights and interests. The units are each requested to admonish its subordinates, enjoining them to maintain military discipline and be prudent in their behavior so as to prove the prestige

of the Imperial army in the eyes of the foreign residents. The following are the detailed items of which special note must be taken.

(a) No unit, soldier or attached civilian will intervene with foreign rights or interests.

(b) The military corps, servicemen and civilians in the service should be scrupulously careful not to cause frictions with foreign residents. Furthermore no soldier or attached civilian will negotiate with foreign residents either in a military or private capacity.

(c) No units, soldiers or attached civilians will enter the French Concession without consent of the authorities concerned.

(d) Matters to be borne in mind with relation to the Chinese people.

(1) Refrain from being stated at victory and behaving unjustly or illegally to the people of the Republic of China, whether they are officials or otherwise.

(2) No servicemen or attached civilian will independently enter any private dwelling.

(3) Without the resident's consent no billeting should be arranged and no furniture or utensils should be used.

(4) No unit, soldier or attached civilian will commandeer or work the inhabitants arbitrarily.

The situation prevailing on October 26 was as follows:

The river-crossing equipment company was greatly delayed, arriving on 26, about 8.30 a.m., with only eight collapsible boats (made of plywood fastened with thin rubber-belts). With these boats we built four pontoon rafts (by combining two boats) and began ferrying after 9 o'clock under the leadership of Detachment Commander USHIJIMA. Before beginning to cross the river, Detachment Commander USHIJIMA told us to faithfully obey the instructions given by Central Army Commander-in-Chief HATA and our other superior officers concerning the Hankow occupation, enjoining us to enhance the glory of the regimental colors. The first to cross the river was a small party led by Lieutenant-Colonel NARITOMO of the 45th Infantry Regiment. Next Commander SANO and the headquarters of the SANO unit started, but the outboard motor of the pontoon raft got out of gear which rendered it impossible for the boat to steer; the boat was actually carried about 3,000 meters down the Yangtze. It was not until eleven o'clock that they got ashore after having repaired the boat. When the main body of the ferrying troops reached a nameless village on the road over Tsaichiashan near the northeastern extremity of Hankow, it was found that there were no Chinese troops remaining in the city. There we stopped for about one hour and had our lunch. After having adjusted the deployment and seen that the uniforms and equipment of officers and men were in order we started



again at 12.30 in good order. Shortly after one o'clock the advance party of the unit headquarters arrived at the north-western end of the French Concession, when the 3rd Battalion Commander who was at the head of the unit sent the following report requesting at the same time instructions as to how to deal with the situation.

"The Italian Consul-General has communicated to us to the following effect. How shall I deal with this?

The Chinese Army has already withdrawn from Hankow, but it is rumored that there are mines laid on certain roads. If the Japanese Army desires it, we shall be glad to send a guide to lead them along a safe road on their march to Hankow."

The unit commander decided to enter the city led by the guide whom the Italian Consul-General had proposed to send, and at the same time to relax battle preparedness to some extent, adopting rather a war-and-peace attitude and to conduct a formal entry ceremony. About half past one, after about 20 minutes' rest during which time we attended to our equipment and dress, and uncovered the regimental flag, we started led by the guide (a French missionary) sent by the Italian Consulate-General. We took the way from the western end of the Japanese Settlement to the Bund and then to the Italian Consulate-General, when we were welcomed by the Italian guards and by scores of Italian nationals (men and women, young and

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old) and presented with tobacco. After several minutes' rest, we resumed our march, the 3rd Battalion--the party at the head of the unit--led by the French missionary and the unit headquarters guided by an Englishman who was proficient in Japanese. We followed the safe roads for the most part indicated on the map of Hankow (attached to these papers); we passed round the French concession, taking over on the way the empty Hankow Peace Preservation Office and other Chinese rights and interests and finally found ourselves a little after 4 o'clock in front of the Hupeh Telegraph Office in the old British Settlement.

In the British Settlement there was an area set aside for the sake of distressed people; so Captain HIGO, Commander of the 9th Company was ordered to post a guard and post sentries so that no unit, soldier or attached civilian should enter the area. The corps headquarters and the 9th Company were billeted at the Hupeh Telegraph Office and at empty houses near by, while the rest of the corps were billeted at empty houses in the neighborhood of the Kiangnan Road.

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On 26, the river at Tao Kuan chien was bridged over for crossing by means of only four boats, but as the materials used for this purpose were of poor nature such as loaded mats, the loading capacity of the bridge for personnel and munition was thereby greatly lowered. In consideration of these facts it was at first considered rather preferable to send into the city only a certain number of picked troops especially as this entry had to be made in the presence of residents of the powers, and therefore not to permit each Unit to take with them horses or heavy loads except one half of light firearms such as machine guns, and regiment artillery. So all personnel of the field artillery, mountain artillery, and trench mortar units regimental artillery and machine guns and a large number of horses, baggage, and loads of each unit were left in the vicinity of Tao Kuanchien and Niehkow and in order that communications might be kept open between the crossing-point, Surveillance guard and the Headquarters, Lientuant OCHIAI, the Second Adjutant, remained at the crossing-point. As no battle was engaged in on the 26th in HANKOW city or in its vicinity, our unit had no person either killed or wounded and on the part of the Chinese troops too there was nobody killed, wounded or taken prisoner.

Just as the SANC Unit marched on to the coast road lying in the neighbourhood of south-west edge of the Japanese

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settlement, on October 26 at about 1 p.m. and sighted a Japanese naval unit sailing up the Yangtsekang on board a cruiser-type war-ship and, afterwards at about 5 p.m., also a landing party consisting of about 20 men marching eastwards passing by the front of the Telegraphic Office of Hupei Province. On entering the Hankow city, the unit was followed by about twenty correspondents from all Japanese Newspapers.

The French Settlement, it was recognized, had been surrounded with wire entanglements and the entrance in and exit of its principal roads had been closely shut off with blocks and guarded by armed troops. It was obvious also that on the coast road within the bounds of its settlement, guards had been placed so as to prevent Japanese troops and civilians from passing.

I remember that major AKAGI, staff officer despatched by the 6th Division, called on the German Consulate General on October 20 at about 19 o'clock, and made request asking them to commence negotiations with the French Consul General in order to get the closed coast road opened to the Japanese troops and civilians for their free passage, but without avail.

Becoming aware of the negotiations commenced by the officer AKAGI, the SANO unit the same night issued an order to prohibit units, troops and attached civilians from entering or going out of the French Settlement and, moreover, mounted

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guards in order to execute this order of prohibition, and prohibit any entry in the direction of the coast road.

Our unit on October 27 by order of the Brigade, moving up dawn, commenced to form the first line of the Brigade's left wing, and starting from the neighbourhood of the present camp, marched west-ward of the city area to proceed finally up to the line linking the city government with the neighbourhood of LUNGWANG MIAO wharf, but in the course of the march neither chinese soldiers nor inhabitants were met with; judging from their houses which were closely shut, perhaps the latter had fled.

In the afternoon of 27th, the Unit received an order from the Brigade to bivouac in the vicinity of the KIANGHAN Road and Chou Shan Park and, so, the Unit proper had to put up at Liaotung Restaurant (perhaps also, the WUHAN Hotel, if I remember) situated on the western side of the CHUSHAN Road near TANG-I street.

I do not recollect minute details of the billeting of units but I do remember that an infantry platoon was billeted at HANKOW airfield.

Brigade Headquarters were set up in a certain drug store on the west side of Chung Shan Road, but I do not remember accurately where it was situated.

Around 31st October I presented myself to Division Headquarters and found that on this day they were installed in the

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building of a middle school said to have been established by the Japan-China Cultural Association located in the North-West area of the Japanese settlement.

On Oct. 27, at about 4 p.m. I received a report from the 1st Battalion Commander to the effect that a military surface unit had arrived at HANSUI (eastern side of TAPIHSHAN) of the point of confluence of the YANGTSE-KIANG and HANSUI.. From Oct. 28 onwards, our unit was day and night occupied with preparations for establishing camps. Officer and men of the 6th Division in May of this year had been incorporated into a Northern River unit Investiture Force of the Wu-Han and left WUHU, and since then our troops during about five months had to overcome the ill-famed climatic conditions and to endure all sort of hardship in the regions of WOHU, CHAOHSIEN, TUNGCHENG, ANKING, TSIENSHAN, HUANGMEI, KUANGTSI and HANKOW and, despite all this, pressing an enemy up to ten times more numerous than themselves, succeeded in moving on. Particularly since September 18th in the running battle, our forces, despite the fact that about 98% of all the combatants were infected with Malaria (among the officers of the 23rd Regiment of Infantry, only two in the person of Colonel SANO, the Unit Commander and Captain ORIONO, Chief of Company, were free of the disease), and that the Chinese retreating troops offered us desperate resistance, succeeded in breaking through on foot and in 9 months the long distance of 350 kilometers, dealing

them all the time deadly blows until we were ultimately rewarded with the long sought for successful occupation of Hankow so the long sought for. After the arrival of the SANO Unit at Hankow, the health condition of this Unit was found to be very bad and many cases of Malaria broke out among the combatants, not to speak of their bodily and mental forces which were generally in a run-down condition so that to give them a rest was considered utterly indispensable. Despite all this, the combatants, full of hope and rejoicing in anticipation of the probable outcome that the so long-desired rest would probably be allowed them in such a city as Hankow where facilities and accommodations were said to be perfect, tried to brace themselves up and, from October 27 onwards, to make all efforts to set up their camps. Nevertheless contrary to their expectation, the Unit about November 1 suddenly received the order to move to the neighbourhood of TAIYAHSIEN and, on November 7, left HANKOW to be removed to WUCHAN on November 5, by crossing the YANGTSE-KIANG, prior to proceeding finally to TAIYAHSIEN.

The 23rd Infantry Regiment which had been on guard duty in the former British Settlement were reported to have been removed, around November 4, to the TAIYAHSIEN district after handing over the guard duties to a unit under the 13th Division. No sooner did the British authorities of the former settlement know of this change than they made a request to the military

authorities requesting the cancellation of the move under the plea that an unexpected removal of the guard so noted for their military discipline and public morality and so highly appreciated by the inhabitants would surely bring great disappointment to the latter. Responding to the request, the military authorities gave order to the then 9th guard company (Company Commander, Captain Higo Morihide) of the Regiment, to mount guard continuously in HANKOW for one month after the departure of the Regiment's main strength from the city and towards the early part of December they arrived at SHIHWEIK'U, TAYEH-HSIEN, site of camps of the Regiment proper. The circumstances at that time were reported by the Japanese vernacular press and the excerpt from the "Miyasaki Shimbun" hereto attached, even though its contents differs a little from actual facts is reliable material from which to judge how the discipline and the morality of the unit were appreciated and to what degree the HANKOW inhabitants placed reliance upon them.

It was just at the time of the reception of the Area Army Commander, HATA, on November 3 that the unit commander SANO marched out to the Custom House wharf near the former foreign settlement on November 3rd, and as both sides of the road were lined with guard troops, gendarmerie and others, it was impossible to discern whether or not the camped troops were also present on both sides of the route running from Chungshan



Road to the Custom House Road.

At that time I did not sight any troops, any military personnel or any civilians passing by the coast road which lies along the lower end of the Custom House wharf.

As there was no prisoner taken in Hankow city area by the 23rd Infantry Regiment, no incident came to pass regarding prisoners.

The main force of the Chinese troops, before October 24, and a part of the remaining troops, in the evening of October 25, respectively commenced to retreat so that as of October 26, this retreat was complete and as there was no battle engaged in between the Chinese and Japanese troops in the area of Taikiashan and Hankow city district there was therefore not a single Chinese prisoner of war.

In the battle on the evening of October 25th engaged by the 23rd Infantry Regiment at the river-crossing there was only one soldier wounded, and it could almost be called a bloodless engagement and on the 26th, led by foreigners they entered ceremoniously into the Hankow suburbs. Such being the case, there was no reason for the officers or men to feel hostile and their hostile feeling against the enemy not being stirred up, they had nothing else to do other than to march gleefully into the streets of the city so that there was no fear of their illegally treating Chinese

military personnel or civilians in general. Moreover, as there were no Chinese military personnel left in the city and the group of the remaining citizens had been taken for protection into a refuge area set up within the French Settlement and the former foreign settlement, no opportunity for a possible outbreak of incidents was afforded owing to the lack of any object for such illegal treatment. Who after all could believe that the troops followed by two foreign guides and with about 20 journalists on their heels could have resorted en route to violent acts or that, in addition, troops composed of only picked soldiers well-known for their military discipline could commit unlawful acts in an area settled by residents and troops of various foreign countries?

October 27 just fell on the day on which, by order of the Brigade, the unit was to make a general move-out and there was no officer or man engaged in any action outside the unit area. And nowhere was sighted any who dared take any military actions whatsoever outside the sphere of their duties. From October 28th onwards, on the land front troops from the rear, striving to be the foremost, were being poured in continuously toward Hankow so long desired, and on the Yangtsekiang, military and naval surface units were crowding up the river. Under these circumstances, the troops who, full of enthusiasm and rejoicing and contentment, thought of nothing else but to be the first to enter triumphantly into

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Hankew and who were also exceedingly occupied with setting-up work of camps in expectation of a rest to be given them in compensation for their services so heroically rendered, surely had no occasion, to commit any unlawful acts.

The first photograph attached to this document was taken on a road near the southwest part of the Japanese settlement, and shows the headquarters of the SINO Unit about to march on the road towards the River-side Road. The second photograph shows the Japs solemnly passing by the French Settlement.

Both photographs, which were taken by a war-correspondent and appeared in the home-land newspapers show the peaceful and quiet atmosphere of the marching troops, suggesting that this atmosphere is quite different from the excited air to be expected if they were of troops marching through a street immediately after a fierce battle.

The guards of the 23th Infantry Regiment were posted at every battalion, and they kept strict watch over conduct of the Japanese soldiers. And the 9th Company of the same regiment was posted at the former British Settlement exclusively to watch over that area. Supplementing their strict service which had prevented the occurrence of offences, the Military Police, a part of which having arrived there by October 29th, joined with them on November 2nd and restrained completely the occurrence of offences.

The 23th Infantry Regiment, rewarded letters of praise during the China Incident, was strict in its order and discipline, and perfect in its education and training. This will be testified to by the fact that there was not even one soldier who had been punished during my term of office as the Regimental Commander until October of the 15th year of Showa (2 years and 5 months), except one case in which a noncommissioned officer was punished with light disciplinary confinement owing to his responsibility for preventing

fire, when a Chinese coolie burnt three cans of gasoline by mishandling.

From the above, I can conclude definitely that the soldiers and officers of the 23th Infantry Regiment never murdered war prisoners.

I believe that there could never occur any murder of war prisoners on the Yangtze River fronting the River side Road, inasmuch as I remember, the part of the said road east of (in the direction of the downstream of the Yangtze River) the wharf of the customs house was closed to Japanese troops and civilians on 27th and on 28th of October.

Moreover, as on 27th and 28th of October, the facilities for crossing the Taokuanchien River were yet incomplete owing to shortness of material for the work, and thereupon the 6th Division ordered the Commander of the 6th Engineer Regiment to exercise direction and control over the personnel and materials<sup>i</sup> of the units which were rushing to enter Hankow City, the units could not accompany war prisoners. This fact will also tend to show that there could not have been any massacre of war prisoners at that time. The apparatus used by the 6th Division for crossing the river was light river-crossing equipment made of plywood for one company which was in the custody of the River-crossing. Equipment Company attached to the Division from the 11th Division. Among these, however, there were some worn-out boats, so the boats which were actually used to construct the bridge numbered only 20. The capacity of the boat-bridge to transport troops, moreover, was very small perhaps 4,000 men on foot a day at the maximum. I suppose, on these facts, that by the evening of October 28th, if it was carried out in good order, the 45th Infantry Regiment, the second unit in the Divisions marching order,

finished crossing the river, and the artillery and infantry of the vehicle units and pioneers of every company were crossing the river. The water units of the army, though they arrived at HANSHUI in the evening of October 27th, arrived at HANKOW in the afternoon of the next day after the USHIJIMA Branch Corps entry into Hankow, so it was impossible for them, who were not engaged in battle in HANKOW, to get war prisoners there. And the said units advanced in the rear of the ships and boats of the navy during the attack at the Wu-Han area and they did not fight with the Chinese water units, nor have I heard that they fought on land. So there was no chance for them to get war prisoners.

The naval units too, would necessarily get no war prisoner because they landed at HANKOW during the evening of October 26th, that is several hours after the 23th Infantry Unit entered the city, moreover their landing place was the same as that of the latter.

To summarize the above:

The 23rd Infantry Regiment entered the central quarter of Hankow on 26th October ahead of our main body at the order of the USHIJIMA Branch Corps. Then on 27th it occupied the part of the city west of the central quarter as the foremost left-wing of the USHIJIMA Branch Corps. For the following eight days it was quartered in the neighborhood of Kiangnan Street, Hankow. On 5th November it withdrew from the city. At that time there was not a single Chinese prisoner of war in the city. Nor had we made any contact with the Chinese inhabitants there. Therefore it is certain beyond any doubt that there was no case of mistreatment or murder of Chinese inhabitants or

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prisoners of war.

On this 8th day, April, 1947,  
at Tokyo.

Deponent: (signed) SANO, Torata (seal)

I hereby certify that the above deponent swore oath and affixed hereto his signature and seal in the presence of the Witness.

on the same date,  
at the same place.

Witness: (signed) IMANARI, Yasutaro (seal)

OATH

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

/s/ SANO, Torata (seal)

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TRANSLATION CERTIFICATE

I, William W. Clarke, 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/ William W. Clark (seal)

Tokyo, Japan

Date 1 May 1947.



20 May 1947

Memo for the files

SANO, Torata

A report from G-2 reveals no information on this witness.