

EXHIBIT No. 3078

(7)



Def. Doc. #1781

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

Deponent :- OKADA, Yoshimasa

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 27 June in the 36th year of Meiji (1903) at my permanent domicile, 46 Honcho, Marugame-City, Kagawa-Prefecture, and my present address is 190, 2-Chome, Mabashi, Suginami-Ku, Tokyo.

2. My personal history is outlined as follows:-

Graduated from the Military Academy in the 13th year of Taisho (1924).

Appointed Staff-officer (Major) of the Japanese Expeditionary Forces in China in the 14th year of Showa (Oct. 1939).



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Appointed Staff-officer (Lieutenant-Colonel) of the 23rd Army  
in the 18th year of Showa (June, 1943).

Appointed Staff-officer (Colonel) of the 6th Area Army,  
Hankow and I remained to be set up to the end of the  
war.

In January in the 19th year of Showa (1944),  
the Headquarters of the Japanese Expeditionary  
Forces in China ordered the 23rd Army to capture  
Liuchow, advancing from the Canton-Area.

The original document of the order is not  
existing now, because it was burnt when the War  
ended. But as I was one of the senior Staff-officers  
of the 23rd Army at that time, I know quite well all  
the movements of the Army.

The 23rd Army was stationing in the Canton and  
the neighbouring Area. When the army got the order  
to capture Liuchow, instead of advancing directly  
towards Liuchow, the main force marched to the north,  
and the KOYASEKO force advanced to the south or to  
the opposite direction from Liuchow, concealing the  
operations plan.

The KOYASEKO force was a battalion under the  
command of the YONEYAMA Brigade, which advanced  
from Kowkong to Taishan. The force started its  
movement <sup>from</sup> Kowkong late in June and entered Taishan



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loading the van of the whole Brigade. By that time all the inhabitants of Taishan had already evacuated and not a sole was to be seen, and some soldiers of the Pacification Corps despatched by our Army burst into laughter saying "How can we pacificate people when there is not a sole to talk to?"

The KOYASEKO force tried to march towards Liuchow from the point 30 miles south of Taishan toward north and along the Si-kiang (River), but there was a very strong position of the enemy at this point and the force had a fierce battle with the enemy which lasted from the early part of July till the latter part of the same month, and casualties of the force amounted even to several scores and the force had to waste much of its arms and ammunition. The aim of the KOYASEKO Battalion's action was not to fight, but to advance secretly to Wuchow as soon as possible and to sweep the mines laid by the enemy in the Si-kiang in order to help the main force which was coming up north.

For this purpose one of the mine-sweeper groups of our Navy accompanied us. Such being the case, therefore, we were quite at a loss when we were confronted with this unexpected battle. We wanted to get to Wuchow as soon as possible, but we got



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there five days later than we had expected due to the stubborn resistance of the enemy. After a hard battle, however, we drove back the enemy and advanced towards Wuchow, and all the inhabitants in the area had already taken refuge and none of them could be seen.

The force had an urgent duty of getting to Wuchow without wasting even a moment. And therefore it could not be possible that the force had time enough to murder inhabitants or set fire to their houses on its way to Wuchow. It had simply to continue its heavy march day and night.

Moreover, the Commander of the Army had strictly ordered all the soldiers to observe the "three don'ts" that is "don't burn", "don't kill" and "don't plunder".

Force Commander KOYASEKO had been the superintendent of the Military Preparatory School in Osaka until he was appointed Commander of the force.

It was the un-written rule of the Japanese Army that a superintendent of the Military Preparatory School was to be selected and appointed from among officers of noble character, considering the education of young boys. And therefore I



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cannot believe that there should have been any atrocities committed by the men of Commander KOYASEKO, who was an idealist and man of noble character of the Japanese officers. If there had been such misconducts, I should have been informed of it, but I firmly believe that there were no such facts.

I have attached a rough sketch of the map which shows the course that the KOYASEKO force followed from Canton towards Wuchow.

On this 5th day of April, 1947  
at Tokyo

DEPONENT /S/ OKADA Yoshimasa (seal)

I, OKADA Yoshimasa, 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/ IMANARI Yasutaro (seal)

OATH

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

/S/ OKADA Yoshimasa (seal)



