

Personal History of OKADA Yoshimasa

Date of birth: 1903, June 27

Domicile: Kagawa Prefecture

1922 Mar 18 : Graduated preparatory course, of the Military Academy.
Appointed military cadet.
Attached to the 8th Infantry Regiment (War Ministry)

Mar 26 : Assigned to the 8th Infantry Regiment.
Appointed Superior Private, Infantry (the 8th Infantry Regiment).

July 1 : Promoted to Corporal, Infantry (the 8th Infantry Regiment).

Sep 1 : Promoted to Sergeant, Infantry (the 8th Infantry Regiment).

Oct 1 : Entered the regular course of the Military Academy.

1924 July 18 : Completed the regular course of the Military Academy.
At the graduation from the regular course of the Military Academy, awarded with a silver watch for his excellent records in the academy.

July 21: Appointed Sergeant-Major, Infantry (the 8th Infantry Regiment).
Appointed probational officer (the 8th Infantry Regiment).

Sep 20: According to Article 10 of the Army Replacement Ordinance, the following was approved at the Officers Selection Board.

Oct 25: Appointed 2nd Lieutenant, Infantry.

1924 Dec 16: Invested with the 8th Court Rank, Senior Grade.

1927 Oct 25: Appointed 1st Lieutenant, Infantry. Cabinet

1927 Dec 28 : Invested with the 7th Court Rank,
Junior Grade.

1928 Dec 24 : Ordered as student of the Military
Staff College (War Ministry).

1932 Dec 7 : Ordered to serve with the General Staff
Headquarters (War Ministry).

1933 Feb 1 : Invested with the 7th Court Rank,
Senior Grade.

Aug 1 : Appointed Captain, Infantry.
Appointed battalion adjutant of the
8th Infantry Regiment. War Ministry

1933 Dec 20 : Appointed member of the General Staff
Headquarters (War Ministry).

1934 Dec 10 : Assigned to the General Staff Head-
quarters (War Ministry). War Ministry

Apr 29 : Received the 5th Order of the Sacred
Treasure for his services in the
1931-34 Affairs.

1936 June 1 : Ordered to reside in China for mili-
tary research. War Ministry

1937 Jan 12: Attached to the Central Ordnance Depot. War Ministry

1938 Mar 1: Appointed Major, Infantry. Cabinet

1938 Mar 1: Invested with the 6th Court Rank,
Junior Grade.

Dec 16: Appointed research officer of the
Asia Development Office. Cabinet
Received the 5th Rank, Higher Civil
Service.
Received annual salary ¥ 2330.

Ordered to serve with the 1st Section,
Economic Department, the Asia Develop-
ment Office. Cabinet

1939 Mar 9: Relieved from main post at his own
request. Cabinet

Nov 13: Decorated with the 4th Order of the
Sacred Treasure.

1939 Mar 9: Relieved from technical adviser attached
to the Military Service Bureau, War
Ministry.

1939	Mar 9:	Appointed member of the General Staff Headquarters. Additionally appointed staff officer of the Imperial General Headquarters.	War Ministry
1940	Aug 1:	Appointed Lieut. Colonel, Infantry.	Cabinet
	Aug 15:	Invested with the 6th Court Rank, Senior Grade.	
1942	May 12:	Decorated with the 3rd order of the Sacred Treasure.	
1940	Apr 29:	Decorated with the Minor Cordon of the Order of the Rising Sun for his services in the China Incident.	
1943	Aug 2:	Appointed Colonel.	Cabinet
	Aug 16:	Invested with the 5th Court Rank, Junior Grade.	

Translated by
Chieko Iwanaga

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Academy.

21,489

was subject to restriction. This measure * was inevitable because of military operations. They were deeply concerned about the preservation of rights of third powers because the Minister of the Navy always instructed them to that effect. American and British ships wanted to navigate for the purpose of transporting food and fuel and shifting their crews. This was not restricted. Occasionally Japanese vessels were put at their disposal for transportation. The Japanese went so far as to notify them of their willingness to undertake transportation by plane in case an emergency should arise.

The same could be said about the Chu River. Restriction was inevitable due to military operations. When the necessity for maintaining such conditions lessened, the river was given free passage in April, 1940.

21,490

* Interception of communications was undertaken to protect the lives and properties of Japanese residents in China against Chinese forces. This was needed to frustrate Chinese fighting power and was applied exclusively to Chinese war ships and other vessels. They did their utmost to respect peaceful trade of third powers and made no attempt to interfere with it. The interception problem was based on international usage in case of a pacific blockade and the inspection and internment accompanying it were accomplished in the light of traditional usage.

21,491

Some vessels of third powers which joined the Chinese forces in fighting or aiding them, were interned because they could not be considered peaceful trade; vessels of third powers indistinguishable from Chinese vessels were interned. * Vessels whose Chinese nationality was changed after the declaration of the blockage were regarded as being Chinese on the principle that such transfer would not be valid unless in accord with the law of the country concerned. The vessels navigating under third power flags were inspected to determine whether such a valid step was duly taken and any ship not considered proper was taken into custody. Blockading harbors was applied to harbors

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NARRATIVE SUMMARY OF THE RECORD
MAY 5 1947
DEFENSE -III - CHINA
YAMAMOTO -Direct

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1933 Dec 20 Appointed member of the General Staff
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1934 Dec 10 Assigned to the General Staff Headquarters
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Apr. 29. Received the 5th Order of Merit with the
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1936 June 1 Ordered to reside in China for military
research (War Ministry)

1937 Jan. 12 Attached to the Central Ordnance Depot
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1938 Mar. 1 Appointed Major, infantry (Cabinet)

- 1938, Mar. 1 Invested with the 6th Court Rank,
Junior Grade.
- Dec 16 Appointed research officer of the
Asia Development Office. (Cabinet)
- Received the 5th Rank, Higher Civil Service
- " Received annual salary ¥ 2330
- Ordered to serve with the First Section,
~~the Department of Economy~~ ^{Economic Department}, the Asia
Development Office. (Cabinet)
- 1939 Mar 9. Relieved from main post at his
own request. (Cabinet)
- Nov. 13 Decorated with the 4th Order of Merit
~~with the Sacred Treasure.~~
- 1939 Mar 9. Relieved from technical adviser
attached to the Military Service Bureau,
War Ministry

MAY 5 1947

DEFENSE -III - CHINA

YAMAMOTO -Direct

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Appointed member of the General Staff

Headquarters.

Additionally appointed staff officer

of the Imperial General Headquarters

(War Ministry)

1940 Aug 1 Appointed Lieut. Colonel, Infantry

(Cabinet)

Aug 15 Invested with the 6th Court Rank, Senior Grade

1942 May 12 Decorated with the 3rd order of merit

with the Sacred Treasure

1940 Apr. 29 Decorated with the Minor Cordon of the Order of the Rising Sun for his services in the China Incident.

1943 Aug 2 Appointed Colonel (Cabinet)

Aug 16 Invested with the 5th Court Rank, Junior Grade

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16 July 1947

MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. Lopez; Capt. Robinson USN Att: Cmdr. Cole;
Mr. Edwards; 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

ITAGAKI

WITNESS

OKADA, Yoshimasa

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)

EDWARD P. MONAGHAN

Permanent residence and status: KAGAWA Prefecture.

Date of birth: 27 June 1903.

Name: OKADA, Yoshimasa.

Former status:

Former name:

18 March 1922: Graduated from the preparatory course of the Military Academy.

" " " : Appointed a cadet and assigned to the 8th Infantry Regiment by the War Ministry.

26 March " : Enlisted into the 8th Infantry Regiment.

" " " : Given the rank of Superior Private, Infantry, by the 8th Infantry Regiment.

1 July 1922: Promoted to the rank of Corporal, Infantry, by the 8th Infantry Regiment.

1 September 1922: Promoted to the rank of Sergeant, Infantry, by the 8th Infantry Regiment.

1 October 1922: Matriculated in the regular course of the Military Academy.

18 July 1924: Graduated from the regular course of the Military Academy.

" " " : At the time of graduation from the regular course of the Military Academy, awarded a silver watch for meritorious achievement.

21 July " : Promoted to the rank of Sergeant Major, Infantry, by the 8th Infantry Regt.

" " " : Appointed a probationary officer by the 8th Infantry Regiment.

20 September 1924: Passed by the Officer Selection Board in accordance with Article 10 of the Army Replacement Regulations.

25 October 1924: Commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant, Infantry, by the Cabinet. Assigned to the 8th Infantry Regiment by the War Ministry.

16 December 1924: Conferred with the 8th Court Rank, Senior Grade.

25 October 1927: Promoted to 1st Lieutenant, Infantry, by the Cabinet.

28 December 1927: Conferred with the 7th Court Rank Junior Grade.

24 December 1928: Ordered by the War Ministry to enter the Army General Staff College.

7 December 1932: Ordered to serve with the Headquarters of the General Staff by the War Ministry.

1 February 1933: Conferred with the 7th Court Rank, Senior Grade.

1 August 1933: Promoted to Captain, Infantry, by the Cabinet. Appointed a battalion adjutant in the 8th Infantry Regiment by the War Ministry.

20 December 1933: Made a member of the General Staff Headquarters by the War Ministry.

10 December 1934: Assigned to the Headquarters of the General Staff by the War Ministry.

29 April 1934: Decorated with the Imperial Order of the Sacred Treasure, 5th Class, for services in the 1931-1934 Incident.

1 June 1936: Ordered to residence in the Republic of China for the study of military affairs by the War Ministry.

12 January 1937: Assigned to the Army Ordnance Main Depot by the War Ministry.

1 March 1938: Promoted to Major, Infantry, by the Cabinet.

1 March 1938: Conferred with the 6th Court Rank, Junior Grade.

16 December 1938: Appointed an examiner on the China Affairs Board and given the 5th rank of the 'Higher Civil Service' by the Cabinet.

" " " : Granted an annual salary of 2330 yen and ordered to serve with the 1st Section, Economic Division, China Affairs Board, by the Cabinet.

9 March 1939: At his own request, relieved of the above post by the Cabinet.

13 November 1939: Decorated with the Imperial Order of the Sacred Treasure, 4th Class.

9 March 1939: Relieved as technical adviser to the Military Affairs Bureau, War Ministry. Appointed a member of the Headquarters of the General Staff. Appointed an Army Staff Officer Of Imperial Headquarters. Original post same as before. By the War Ministry.

- 1 August 1940: Promoted to Lt. Colonel, Infantry, by the Cabinet.
- 15 August 1940: Conferred with the 6th Court Rank, Senior Grade.
- 12 May 1942: Decorated with the Imperial Order of the Sacred Treasure, 3rd Class.
- 29 April 1940: Decorated with the Small Cordon of the Imperial Order of the Rising Sun for services in the CHINA Incident.
- 2 August 1943: Promoted to Colonel by the Cabinet.
- 16 August 1943: Conferred with the 5th Court Rank, Junior Grade.

Page

DIRECT EXAMINATION OF OKADA YOSHIMASA,
by Mr. Banno

30147 * The witness identified and verified exhibit
30149 3305 as his affidavit. * The affidavit stated that the
reason War Minister ITAGAKI made peace efforts with Wu
Pei-hi was to bring about a Sino-Japanese peace as
quickly as possible, and he tried to persuade the Chinese
by establishing peace societies in North and Central
China. This found response in Yen Hsi-shan in Shanshi
Province, who in answer to general public feeling, began
30150 to express * his desire for peace. He dispatched Major-
General TANAKA, Ryukichi, Chief of Staff of the First
Army in Shansi, as liaison.

In 1940, TANAKA reported the situation to General
Headquarters. ITAGAKI in China supported the negotiation
and instructed the North China army frequently, sending
staff members to work for a general peace. The negotiations
bore fruit after Chief of Staff USHIROKU was appointed, and
the meeting between Yen Hsi-shan and the First Army commander
was brought about. This was really due to the motive
power applied during ITAGAKI's tenure.

30151 The movement for peace negotiations in Hong Kong
toward Chungking went on from the spring to the summer of
1940. Lieutenant-Colonel SUZUKI, Takuji, military attache
at Hong Kong, negotiated with Sung Tsu-chich, who was
thought to * represent Sung Tzuwen of the Chungking faction.
Not only the Supreme Commander in China and Imperial
Headquarters recognized this, but the latter sent Section
Chief USUI to Hong Kong to assist. The first step in the
negotiations progressed to the discussion of fundamental
problems, and final decision was to be made between the
proper delegates at Changsha.

Chief of Staff ITAGAKI was expected to be the
Japanese delegate, and plans were made for the negotiation,
but it was finally suspended by the Chinese proposal.

THERE WAS NO CROSS-EXAMINATION OF THE WITNESS.

Pre- testimony R 27,480

Def. Doc. #1979 (Corrected Copy)

Exh. No.

Translated by
Defense Language Branch

INTERNATIONAL MILITARY TRIBUNAL FOR THE FAR EAST

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, et al

-vs-

ARAKI Sadao, et al

*1. Confess with
2. Sawabe, from staff with china*
*that
Steward*

Itagaki



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, OKADA, Yoshimasa, was a colonel in the Japanese army at the end of the war.

I am living in No. 190, 2-Chome, Mabashi, Suginami-ward.

2. I served on the staff of G. H. Q. of the China Expeditionary Force from October, 1939 to June, 1943, dealt with Intelligence.

3. Peace negotiation through Mr. Steward.

In January, 1941, we were informed by Chang Yen-Ching who was in Peking at that time that Dr. Steward, the President of Yenking University in Peking would like to have an interview with the Chief of Staff ITAGAI in China.

Def. Doc. #1979

The Chief of Staff ITAGAKI, being too occupied at the time with operations, ordered me to see Dr. Steward and enlighten him as to the Japanese anxiety for the prompt settlement of the Sino-Japanese Incident, and sound the views of Dr. Steward, who was an expert in Chinese affairs.

I remember that I went to Shanghai in the beginning of February and met Dr. Steward at the Park Hotel and talked with him through an interpreter, for about two hours, as a representative of the Chief of Staff, ITAGAKI.

I do not remember the details of the interview, but Dr. Steward indicated that he might suggest to the President of the U.S.A. that the U.S. act as mediator provided that Japan was eager for the settlement of the Sino-Japanese Incident.

I heard later on that Dr. Steward despatched a cable message to the U.S. State Department with regard to the said interview. The Chief of Staff ITAGAKI expressed his utmost eagerness at the aforementioned suggestion of American mediation, knowing from his former capacity as War Minister that it was in line with the policy of central quarters and he ordered me to go to Tokyo to report this matter.

I proceeded to Tokyo and submitted the report to the General Staff and the War Ministry, but because of the Japanese Government having started negotiations with

America separately, this matter was shelved. No further communication was made with Dr. Steward.

4. Peace Negotiation through Yen Hsi-shan.

of firm agreement

The reason why General ITAGAKI, while he was War Minister made efforts for peace with Wu Pei-hu was in order to bring... about a Sino-Japanese peace as quickly as possible and he tried to persuade the Chinese people by establishing peace societies in many places in North and Central China. This found as response on that part of YEN Hsi-shan in Shanhsi Province, who in answer to the feeling of the general public began earnestly to express his desire for peace between Japan and China. He despatched liaison to Major-General TANAKA, Ryukichi, chief of Staff of the Japanese First Army stationed in Shanhsi Province at that time.

Opinion

In 1940, Major-General TANAKA reported this situation to the General Headquarters accordingly. Chief of Staff ITAGAKI in China cordially supported the said negotiation and gave instruction to the Army in North frequently, despatching members of his staff so as to work over to a... general peace from the localized peace.

The said negotiations bore fruit during the period of the following Chief of Staff, General USHIROKU, and the meeting between YEN Hsi-shan and the commander of the First Army was brought about at last but this was really due to nothing but the motive power applied during the period of

argument

General ITAGAKI.

5. Peace negotiations in Honkong toward Chungking.

This movement was going on from spring to summer of 1940, Lieutenant-Colonel SUZUKI, Takuji, military attache' at Hongkong, conducted negotiation for Sino-Japanese peace with SUNG Tzu-chih (whom we trusted), who was said to be the youngest brother of SUNG Tzu-wen and also to be chiefly representing SUNG Tzu-wan of the Chungking faction. Not only the supreme Commander in China and the Imperial Headquarters recognized this fact, but the latter despatched to Hongkong Colonel USUI, Section Chief, who gave powerful assistance in the abovementioned negotiated negotiation. The first step of the HONGKONG negotiation progressed even as far as the discussion of fundamental problems (armistice, evacuation, the problems of Manchoukuo etc.) and the final decision was to be made between the proper delegates authorized by Japan and China respectively. CHANGSHA, being situated on the front line, was nominated as the meeting-spot for this purpose. Chief of Staff in China ITAGAKI was expected to be the delegate from our side, and plans were made concerning the arrangement of fighting lines on both sides, preparations the air port, and so forth, some of which were put into practice. The negotiation in question, however, was finally suspended by the Chinese proposal.

What

Def. Doc. #1970

On this 29 day of July, 1947

At Tokyo

DEPONENT /S/ OKADA, Yoshimasa (seal)

I, Banno Junkichi, 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/ Banno, Junkichi (seal)

OATH

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

/S/ OKADA, Yoshimasa (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



Sadao

Itagaki

Sworn Deposition (Translation)

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.

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I am living in No. 190, 2-Chome, Mabashi, Suginami-ward.

2. I served on the staff of G. H. Q. of the China Expeditionary Force from October, 1939 to June, 1943, dealt with Intelligence.

3. Peace negotiation through Mr. Steward.

In January, 1941, we were informed by Chang Yen-Ching who was in Peking at that time that Dr. Steward, the President of Yenking University in Peking would like to have an interview with the Chief of General Staff ITAGAKI in China.

The Chief of General Staff ITAGAKI, being too occupied at the time with operations, ordered me to see Dr. Steward and enlighten him as to the Japanese anxiety for the prompt settlement of the Sino-Japanese Incident, and sound the views of Dr. Steward, who was an expert in Chinese affairs.

I remember that I went to Shanghai in the beginning of February and met Dr. Steward at the Park Hotel and talked with him through an interpreter, for about two hours, as a representative of the Chief of General Staff, ITAGAKI.

I do not remember the details of the interview, but Dr. Steward, indicated that he might suggest to the President that the U.S. act as mediator provided that Japan was eager for the settlement of the Sino-Japanese Incident.

I heard later on that Dr. Steward despatched a cable message to the U.S. State Department with regard to the said interview. The Chief of General Staff ITAGAKI expressed his utmost eagerness at the aforementioned suggestion of American mediation, knowing from his former capacity as War Minister that it was in line with the policy of central quarters and he ordered me to go to Tokyo to report this matter.

I proceeded to Tokyo and submitted the report to the General Staff and the War Ministry, but because of the Japanese Government having started negotiations with America separately, this matter was shelved.

No further communication was made with Dr. Steward.

4. Peace Negotiation through Yen Hsi-shan.

The reason why General ITAGAKI, while he was War Minister made efforts for peace with Wu Pei-hu was in order to bring about a Sino-Japanese peace as quickly as possible and he tried to persuade the Chinese people by establishing peace societies in many places in North and Central China. This found as response on that part of YEN Hsi-shan in Shanhsi Province, who in answer to the feeling of the general public began earnestly to express his desire for peace between Japan and China. He despatched liaison to Major-General TANAKA Ryukichi, chief of Staff of the Japanese First Army stationed in Shanhsi Province at that time.

In 1940, Major-General TANAKA reported this situation to the General Headquarters accordingly. Chief of General Staff ITAGAKI in China cordially supported the said negotiation and gave instruction to the Army in North frequently, despatching ^{members of his staff} so as to work over to a general peace from the localized peace.

The said negotiations bore fruit during the period of the following Chief of General Staff, General USEIROKU, and the meeting between YEN Hsi-shan and the commander of the First Army was brought about at last but this was really due to nothing but the motive power applied during the period of General ITAGAKI.

5. Peace negotiations in Honkong toward Chungking.

This movement was going on from spring to summer of 1940. Lieutenant-Colonel SUZUKI, Takuji, military attache' at Hongkong, conducted negotiation for Sino-Japanese peace with SUNG Tzu-chich (whom we trusted), who was said to be the youngest brother of SUNG Tzu-wen and also to be chiefly representing SUNG Tzu-wen of the Chungking faction. Not only the supreme Commander in China and the Imperial Headquarters recognized this fact, but the latter despatched to Hongkong Colonel USUI, Section Chief, who gave powerful assistance in the abovementioned negotiated negotiation. The first step of the HONGKONG negotiation progressed even as far as the discussion of fundamental problems (armistice, evacuation, the problems of Manchoukuo etc.) and the final decision was to be made between the proper delegates authorized by Japan and China respectively. CHANGSHA, being situated on the front line, was nominated as the meeting-spot for this purpose. Chief of General Staff in China ITAGAKI was expected to be the delegate from our side, and plans were made concerning the arrangement of fighting lines on both sides, preparations the air port, and so forth, some of which were put into practice. The negotiation in question, however, was finally suspended by the Chinese proposal.

DEF. DOC. #1979

On this 29 day of July, 1947

At Tokyo

DEPONENT /S/ OKADA, Yoshimasa(seal)

I, Banno Junkichi, 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/ Banno, Junkichi(seal)

OATH

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

/S/ OKADA, Yoshimasa(seal)

Defense Documents 1756, 1757, 1781, 1782

Analysis of Affidavits:

Atrocities in Liuchow, Kwangsi Province, 1944

Defense Documents 1756, 1757, 1781, 1782 all denied that atrocities were committed during the attack upon Liuchow in 1944. Deponent SUZUKI, Teiji (Doc. 1756), then Commander of the 104th Division, deponent YONEYAMA, Yoneshika (Doc. 1757), then Commander of the 22nd Brigade, commanding the KOYASEKO Battalion, deponent OKADA, Yoshimasa (Doc. 1781), staff officer, and deponent KOYASEKO, Kaname (Doc. 1782) Commander of that battalion, all denied the commission of atrocities as related in Exh. 350 which so charged the troops of the KOYASEKO Unit.

Prosecution Evidence:

look up
Exh. 350, T.P. 4,648-4,649

The aforementioned four documents only denied the atrocities committed during military operations. We must point out the atrocities committed after the Japanese occupation, as evidenced in Exh. 352-359, T. P. 4,649-4,655.

Objections:

In paragraph 6 of Doc. 1757 and paragraph 5 of Doc. 1782, the two deponents asserted that some Chinese civilians were killed by the Chinese Communists, as they were "informed" or "told". The source of information was not given.

(cite)

deny Ex 350 R 4648

S. 5 L

Atrocities committed in 1944

cite

statements given by the deponent

*" 9 citizens - Ex 353
" in additional statements*

Ex 352 R 4651

Ex 353 R 4652

Ex 354 R 4653

cite

Ex 350 - R 4648

*Ex 352 R 4651
353 R 4652*

354 to 359 R 4655

look up exhibits nos.

Ex 354-359 and R 4655 (21 materials)

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DIRECT EXAMINATION OF OKADA, YOSHIMASA

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27480

27481

The witness identified Exh. 3076 as his affidavit and verified it. The affidavit stated that the witness was in the 6th Area Army at Hankow to June 1943. In January 1944 Headquarters of the Japanese Expeditionary Forces in China ordered the 23d Army to capture Liuchow, advancing from the Canton area. The original order for this was burned * but the witness remembered it and knew the movements of the Army.

The 23d Army was in Canton. When it got the order to capture Liuchow instead of advancing directly toward Liuchow, the main force marched to the north, and the KOYASEKO force to the south, concealing the operations plan.

The KOYASEKO force was a battalion under the command of the YONEYAMA Brigade. It started from Kowkong late in June and entered Taishan leading the van of the whole brigade. By that time all inhabitants of Taishan had already evacuated and there wasn't a soul to be seen.

27482

The force tried to march toward Liuchow from a point 30 miles south of Taishan but there was a strong enemy position and there was a fierce battle which lasted most of July * and casualties were heavy and much arms and ammunition were wasted. The aim of the battalion was not to fight but to advance secretly to Wuchow and sweep out the mines of the enemy in Si-kiang to help the main force which was coming up north. One of the navy minesweepers accompanied them. Under this situation they were at a loss when confronted with unexpected battle. They were delayed five days in getting to Wuchow, but after a hard battle they drove back the enemy and advanced toward the city.

27483

All the inhabitants had taken refuge and none could be seen. The force had the urgent duty of getting to Wuchow without wasting a moment. Therefore it could not have been possible for them to have had time enough to murder the inhabitants or set fire to their houses enroute. They had to march day and night. * 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."

KOYASEKO had been superintendent of the Military Preparatory School in Osaka until appointed commander of the force. It was the unwritten rule of the Army that a superintendent of such school be selected from officers of noble character. He therefore did not believe that there could be any atrocities committed by his men. If there had

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been, the witness would have been informed of it. He attached a rough sketch of the map showing the course that the KOYASEKO force followed from Canton toward Wuchow.

The attention of the Tribunal was called to Exh. 350, 352, 353, 354 to 359 inclusive. There was no cross-examination of the witness.

Def. Doc. #1781

See 1782

E 3076
~~*EA 1078P*~~

Translated by
Defense Language Branch

INTERNATIONAL MILITARY TRIBUNAL FOR THE FAR EAST

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, et al.

-vs-

ARAKI, Sadao, et al

objekt p. 4 - argument

Charakter d. Gogeschts - p. 4-5

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 Hencho, 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 so up to the end of the
war.

Breyer
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 KOYASEKOC 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 ^{from} 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 soul 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 soul 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 minesweeper 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

Argument

Obys

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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)

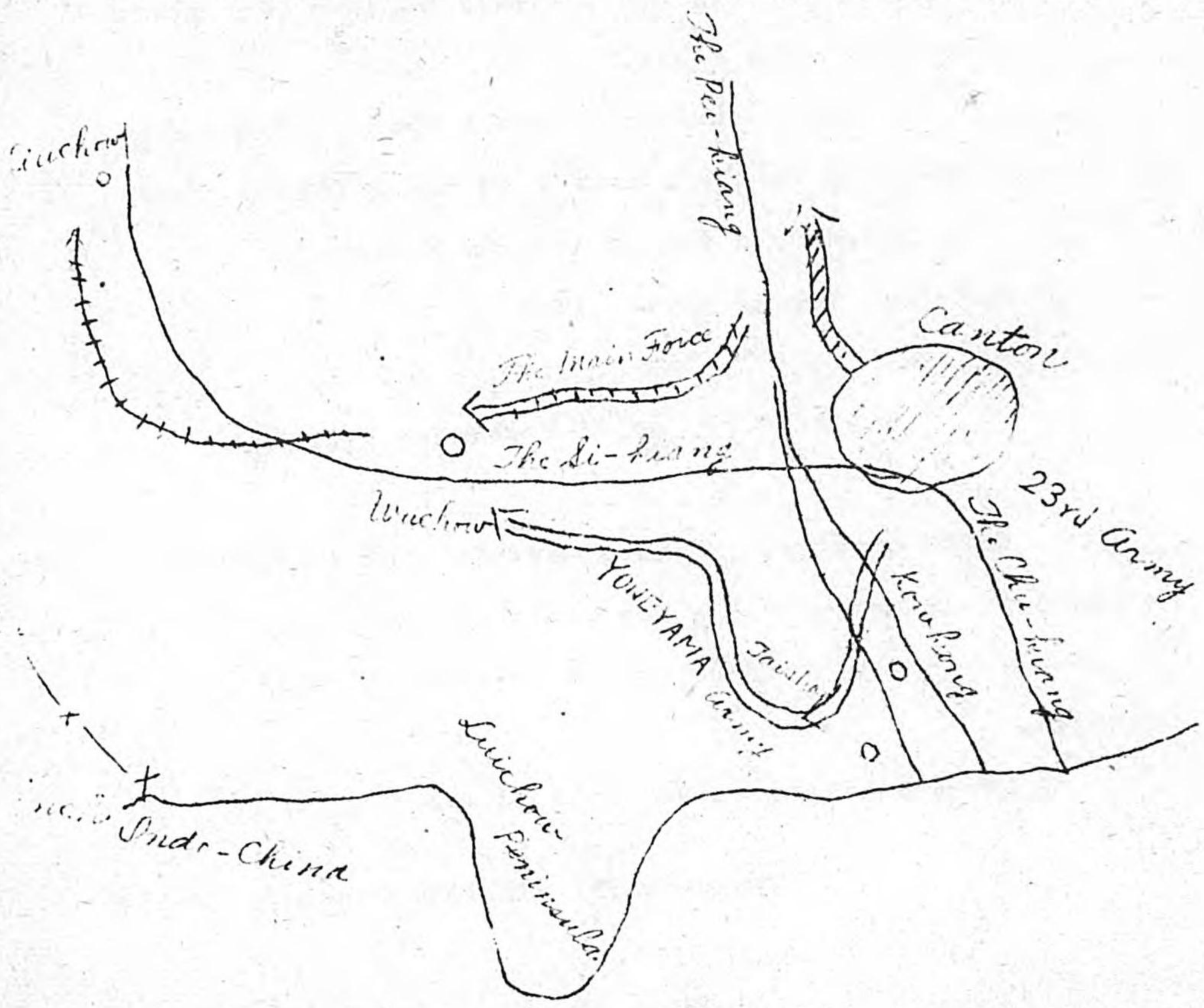
OATH

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

- 5 - /S/ OKADA Yoshimasa (seal)

Def doc No. 1781

⇓ IIA (from Hankow)
○ Kucilin



16 July 1947

MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. Lopez; Capt. Robinson USN Att: Cmdr. Cole;
Mr. Edwards; 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

ITAGAKI

WITNESS

OKADA, Yoshimasa

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)

EP M
EDWARD P. MONAGHAN

Permanent residence and status: KAGAWA Prefecture.

Date of birth: 27 June 1903.

Name: OKADA, Yoshimasa.

Former status:

Former name:

18 March 1922:

Graduated from the preparatory course of the Military Academy.

" " " :

Appointed a cadet and assigned to the 8th Infantry Regiment by the War Ministry.

26 March " :

Enlisted into the 8th Infantry Regiment.

" " " :

Given the rank of Superior Private, Infantry, by the 8th Infantry Regiment.

1 July 1922:

Promoted to the rank of Corporal, Infantry, by the 8th Infantry Regiment.

1 September 1922:

Promoted to the rank of Sergeant, Infantry, by the 8th Infantry Regiment.

1 October 1922:

Matriculated in the regular course of the Military Academy.

18 July 1924:

Graduated from the regular course of the Military Academy.

" " " :

At the time of graduation from the regular course of the Military Academy, awarded a silver watch for meritorious achievement.

21 July " :

Promoted to the rank of Sergeant Major, Infantry, by the 8th Infantry Regt.

" " " :

Appointed a probationary officer by the 8th Infantry Regiment.

20 September 1924:

Passed by the Officer Selection Board in accordance with Article 10 of the Army Replacement Regulations.

25 October 1924:

Commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant, Infantry, by the Cabinet. Assigned to the 8th Infantry Regiment by the War Ministry.

16 December 1924:

Conferred with the 8th Court Rank, Senior Grade.

25 October 1927: Promoted to 1st Lieutenant, Infantry, by the Cabinet.

28 December 1927: Conferred with the 7th Court Rank Junior Grade.

24 December 1928: Ordered by the War Ministry to enter the Army General Staff College.

7 December 1932: Ordered to serve with the Headquarters of the General Staff by the War Ministry.

1 February 1933: Conferred with the 7th Court Rank, Senior Grade.

1 August 1933: Promoted to Captain, Infantry, by the Cabinet. Appointed a battalion adjutant in the 8th Infantry Regiment by the War Ministry.

20 December 1933: Made a member of the General Staff Headquarters by the War Ministry.

10 December 1934: Assigned to the Headquarters of the General Staff by the War Ministry.

29 April 1934: Decorated with the Imperial Order of the Sacred Treasure, 5th Class, for services in the 1931-1934 Incident.

1 June 1936: Ordered to residence in the Republic of China for the study of military affairs by the War Ministry.

12 January 1937: Assigned to the Army Ordnance Main Depot by the War Ministry.

1 March 1938: Promoted to Major, Infantry, by the Cabinet.

1 March 1938: Conferred with the 6th Court Rank, Junior Grade.

16 December 1938: Appointed an examiner on the China Affairs Board and given the 5th rank of the Higher Civil Service by the Cabinet.

" " " : Granted an annual salary of 2330 yen and ordered to serve with the 1st Section, Economic Division, China Affairs Board, by the Cabinet.

9 March 1939: At his own request, relieved of the above post by the Cabinet.

13 November 1939: Decorated with the Imperial Order of the Sacred Treasure, 4th Class.

9 March 1939: Relieved as technical adviser to the Military Affairs Bureau, War Ministry. Appointed a member of the Headquarters of the General Staff. Appointed an Army Staff Officer Of Imperial Headquarters. Original post same as before. By the War Ministry.

1 August 1940: Promoted to Lt. Colonel, Infantry, by the Cabinet.
15 August 1940: Conferred with the 6th Court Rank, Senior Grade.
12 May 1942: Decorated with the Imperial Order of the Sacred Treasure,
3rd Class.
29 April 1940: Decorated with the ^{2nd} Small Gordon of the Imperial Order of the
Rising Sun for services in the CHINA Incident.
2 August 1943: Promoted to Colonel by the Cabinet.
16 August 1943: Conferred with the 5th Court Rank, Junior Grade.