

No. 2242

Ex 2242

Extract from Interrogation of HUTO, Akira
22 April 1946

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- Q. Your forces in Nanking were not being pressed by the Chinese forces in any way--so much so that you were able to celebrate the taking over, is it not?
- A. Japanese troops waited outside the city wall, and leaflets were dropped ordering the Chinese to surrender. Such orders were not obeyed; therefore, the Japanese troops entered the city by force.
- Q. How long did it take them to do it?
- A. Two days, after the actual bombardment commenced.
- Q. Do you attribute it to coincidence the fact that you were also the Deputy Chief of Staff of General YAMASHITA when the rape of Manila happened?
- A. In the case of Nanking, two or three battalions were to enter the city. However, the whole army entered within the walls, thereby resulting in the rape of Nanking. In the case of Manila, General YAMASHITA desired to avoid fighting within the city. However, certain elements of the navy and the army outside of General YAMASHITA's command remained in the city, thereby forcing American forces to attack the City of Manila.
- Q. Is fighting in the City of Manila any justification for raping of the women of Manila by your soldiers?
- A. Such is not justifiable.
- Q. Is fighting in the City of Manila any justification for your soldiers of killing thousands of civilians by burning them with gasoline or by shooting them with machine guns, including women and small children?
- A. Such is definitely not justifiable.
- Q. Can you explain the behavior of those troops in the light of education given by the army or by the Government of Japan?

- A. I regret that you ask such a question. There is no army in the world or government in the world that will instruct their people to shoot or kill children or civilian population.
- Q. Has it not troubled your conscience to find that so many innocent women and children were either killed or raped, either in China or the Philippines?
- A. After the atrocities in Nanking and Manila, and being a member of the General Staff at both incidents, I felt that something was lacking in the Japanese military education.
- Q. What do you think is lacking in military education?
- A. The troops that committed the atrocities in Nanking and Manila were men mobilized in a hurry, and they were not trained properly in military education.
- Q. When did you come across that book written by an American on the rape of Nanking?
- A. I have not seen the book, but I merely heard that such a book was printed in America.
- Q. You were told about it in 1937 - 1938?
- A. I believe it was in 1938.
- Q. Were you not ashamed as a professional soldier that such a state of things should find itself in a book indicting against your army?
- A. I felt that it was a shame to the Japanese troops.
- Q. Did not the high ranking Japanese officers discuss the matter and find out in what way you could improve the situation so that similar incidents would not be repeated in the future?
- A. There were no formal gatherings just to discuss such matters, but among the officers there were individual discussions.
- Q. Did you not feel at the time in 1938 that there must be something wrong with the information section of your army? Why was it that in the case of Nanking you only knew about ten or twenty incidents when the book mentioned written by the American, "The Rape of Nanking", the whole civilian population?

- A. As I have stated before, I have only heard of between ten to twenty incidents. How many incidents were reported within the two armies I do not know.

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- Q. When you heard in 1938 about the book mentioning about the rape of Nanking, did you not discuss the matter informally with other officers in a higher echelon?
- A. There were no discussions.
- Q. You mentioned about informal discussions about atrocities committed in China. Of what did those discussions consist?
- A. There were no discussions concerning the rape of Nanking in regards to the published book. However, because the Japanese troops were misbehaving, there were informal discussions.
- Q. What remedies were suggested in those discussions?
- A. During the China-Japanese and the Russo-Japanese War such atrocious acts were not known among the Japanese Army. It was about 1915 when Japanese troops were sent to Siberia such tendencies toward atrocity came into the limelight, thereby proving that the quality and character of the Japanese is slowly deteriorating. Therefore, education in homes and schools must be changed to meet the situation. Such discussions were held informally.
- Q. Many officers like you were worried about such atrocities because it reflected adversely on the honor and prestige of the Japanese Imperial Forces, is it not?
- A. They were very much worried.
- Q. You were worried yourself so that when the book appeared you tried to investigate what you could do in order to remedy the situation--the book on the rape of Nanking?
- A. For a long time I had been associated with the Inspector General Military Training Department, and I was very much interested in the proper education of the army.
- Q. What reforms did you introduce in the training and education of the young men who were about to go into the army so that those weaknesses which you noticed to have cropped up after the Siberian expedition in 1917 could be corrected?

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- A. At the time when Japanese troops were sent to Siberia, I was only a Second Lieutenant, so even if I did notice that I couldn't do anything about it.
- Q. But when you had influence with the office of the Adjutant General who was in charge of military training, what did you do in order to strengthen that weakness which you noticed way back in 1915?
- A. Even after I became Lieutenant General I could not do anything as I was not a divisional commander. In order to put anything into force one has to be a divisional commander.
- Q. How about when you became Chief of the Military Affairs Bureau?
- A. The Chief of the Military Bureau is only a staff under the Minister of War, and he has no power to give out orders on such.
- Q. If you were a divisional commander or if you had been in charge of the training or education in the schools, you would have given out orders to the schools that that weakness which you noticed since 1915 was strengthened and fortified?
- A. Yes. (witness laughs)
- Q. What happened in Siberia which started the deterioration of the character of the Japanese soldier?
- A. Confiscation, or rather stealing, rape, robbery, and such.