

Memo for the file

Paper No. 951 - Request for Production of Witness TANAKA,
Nobuo requested by Kimura. Facts sworn to by Tanaka:

That he served under KIMURA, Heitaro, in Burma; that the object of the military operation in the Kalagon area in which many Burmese people were killed was to attack light parachutists who were in that area and had nothing to do with the Burmese people; that he did not get a report from his subordinates concerning the alleged massacre of Burmese civilians at Kalagon and did not hear about the same until he was in jail in Moulmein; that he was released from confinement because he had no knowledge of the deaths of many Burmese at Kalagon.

TANAKA, Nobuo

Request by: KIMURA, Heitaro

Address: In Rangoon in custody of the British Army,
but is not believed to be charged as a war
criminal.

This witness is familiar with the Kalegon case in which some 500 civilian inhabitants in Kalagon, Burma, were allegedly unlawfully killed and tortured. He will testify that the accused KIMURA did not authorize nor have knowledge of this alleged atrocity, the relevancy of which is obvious.

(1st Memo)

TANAKA, Nobuo

Request by: KIMURA, Heitaro.

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This witness is familiar with the Kalagon case in which some 500 civilian inhabitants in Kalagon, Burma, were allegedly unlawfully killed and tortured. He will testify that the accused KIMURA did not authorize nor have knowledge of this alleged atrocity, the relevancy of which is obvious.

R. H. Larsh

TANAKA Nobuo

Arrested by the Military Police on 17 October 1931,
along with the leaders of the 5-15 plot.

SOURCE: "The Brocade Banner"

TANAKA Nobuo

Arrested by the Military Police & on 17 October 1931,
along with the leaders of the 5-15 plot.

SOURCE: "The Brocade Banner"

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RHL/fcd

30 April 1947

MEMORANDUM FOR: Commander Charles T. COLE
FROM : Mr. Richard H. LARSH
SUBJECT : Defense Witnesses ICHIDA, Jiro
and TANAKA, Nobuo

In reply to your memorandum of April 25, the following information is submitted:

1. ICHIDA served as Vice Chief of Staff of the Japanese Army in Burma from 22 February 1944 to the end of the war.
2. TANAKA was Commander of the 33rd Division in Burma from 27 June 1944 to the end of the war.
3. The Commanding Officer of the 3rd Battalion, 215th Regiment, 33rd Division was ICHIKAWA, Seini. He served from June 1944 to the end of the war, and it is believed that he may have been executed as a war criminal in Burma.
4. The organizational relationship between the 3rd Battalion, 215th Regiment, 33rd Division, IJA, and the Japanese Army in Burma is as follows: The 33rd Division was under the 15th Army commanded by Lt. Gen. KATAMURA from 30 August 1944 and until the end of the war. This 15th Army came directly under the Burma Area Army commanded by KIMURA which was directly under the Southern Army.

RICHARD H. LARSH, Investigator,
Investigation Division, IPS

Person

Permanent residence and status: TOKYO, commoner.

Date of birth: 30 October 1891

Name: TANAKA, Nobuo

Former status:

Former name:

Father:

Foster Father:

Mother:

Foster Mother:

28 May 1912: Graduated from the Military Academy and appointed a probationary officer.

24 December 1912: Commissioned a Second Lieutenant, Infantry. Assigned to the 3rd Infantry Regiment.

- 20 February 1913: Conferred with the 5th Court Rank, Senior Grade.
- 25 December 1915: Promoted to First Lieutenant, Infantry.
- 20 March 1916: Conferred with the 7th Court Rank, Junior Grade.
- 16 August 1917: Appointed an attendant at the NARASHINO Prisoners of War Camp.
- 1 November 1920: Decorated with the Imperial Order of the Single-Rays of the Rising Sun and granted 800 yen for war service from 1915-1920.
- 10 May 1921: Conferred with the 7th Court Rank, Senior Grade.
- 8 February 1922: Promoted to Captain, Infantry, by the Cabinet.
- same : Relieved from former duty and assigned to the 3rd Infantry Regiment as a Company Commander by the War Ministry.

- 21 November 1924: Decorated with the Imperial Order of the Sacred Treasure, 5th Class.
- 11 March 1926: Relieved from former duty and appointed a Company Commander of the 4th Battalion, Independent Garrison, by the War Ministry.
- 15 June 1926: Conferred with the 6th Court Rank, Junior Grade.
- 16 March 1929: Appointed Company Commander of the Student Unit of the KUMAMOTO N. C. O. School by the War Ministry.
- 25 May 1929: Decorated with the Imperial Order of the Sacred Treasure, 4th Class.
- 1 August 1929: Promoted to Major, Infantry, by the Cabinet.
- 1 August 1930: Appointed a Battalion Commander

of the Imperial Guards, 2nd
Infantry Regiment by the War
Ministry.

15 July 1931: Conferred with the 6th Court
Rank, Senior Grade.

18 November 1931: Assigned to the 15th Infantry
Regiment by the War Ministry.

8 August 1932: Appointed a battalion commander
of the 15th Infantry Regiment by
the War Ministry.

1 August 1933: Assigned to the 18th Infantry
Regiment by the War Ministry and
assigned to duty at the OKAZAKI
Normal School, AICHI Prefecture, by
the same.

1 August 1934: Promoted to Lieutenant Colonel,
Infantry, by the Cabinet.

29 April 1934: Decorated with the Imperial Military

Order of the Golden Kite, 4th Class,
and the Small Cordon of the
Imperial Order of the Rising Sun
for services in the 1931-1934 Incident.

8 September 1934: Decorated with the Imperial Order
of the Sacred Treasure, 3rd Class.

7 March 1936: Relieved of duty at the OKAZAKI
Normal School, AICHI Prefecture, by
the War Ministry.

" " " : Assigned to the Headquarters of
the KWANTUNG Army by the
War Ministry.

1 August 1936: Conferred with the 5th Court Rank,
Junior Grade.

2 August 1937: Relieved of duty with the Headquarters
of the KWANTUNG Army and appointed
Commander of the 51st Independent
Infantry Battalion by the War
Ministry.

- 2 August 1937:
- 1 March 1938: Promoted to Colonel, Infantry, by the Cabinet.
- 10 July 1936: Decorated with the Medium Cordon of the Imperial Order of the Rising Sun for services in the 1931-1934 Incident.
- 1 March 1941: Promoted to Major-General by the Cabinet.
- 15 March 1941: Conferred with the 5th Court Rank, Senior Grade.
- 11 April 1941: Decorated with the Imperial Order of the Sacred Treasure, 2nd Class.
- 29 April 1940: Decorated with the Imperial Military Order of the Golden Kite, 3rd Class, for services in the CHINA Incident.

27 June 1944: Promoted to Lieutenant-General by the Cabinet.

27 June 1944: Appointed commander of the 33rd Division by the Cabinet.

1 August 1944: Conferred with the 4th Court Rank, Junior Grade.

15 August 1944: Decorated with the Imperial Order of the Sacred Treasure, 1st Class.

1 May 1947

MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. Sutton; Capt. Robinson USN Att: Cmdr. Cole;
Mr. Lopez; Mr. Edwards ✓
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 - Kimura

WITNESS

Ichida, Jiro
Tanaka, Nobuo

LIST OF MATERIAL AVAILABLE

Report by Mr. Lersch

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

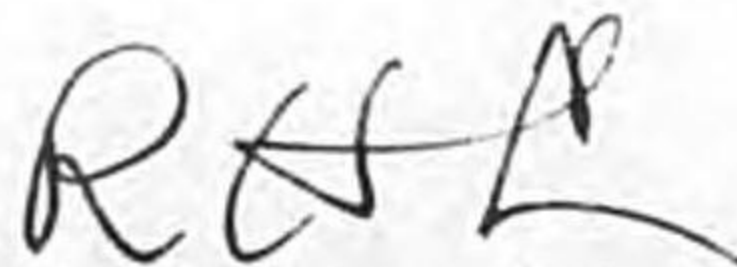
RHL/fcd

30 April 1947

MEMORANDUM FOR: Commander Charles T. COLE
FROM : Mr. Richard H. LARSH
SUBJECT : Defense Witnesses ICHIDA, Jiro
and TANAKA, Nobuo

In reply to your memorandum of April 25, the following information is submitted:

1. ICHIDA served as Vice Chief of Staff of the Japanese Army in Burma from 22 February 1944 to the end of the war.
2. TANAKA was Commander of the 33rd Division in Burma from 27 June 1944 to the end of the war.
3. The Commanding Officer of the 3rd Battalion, 215th Regiment, 33rd Division was ICHIKAWA, Seini. He served from June 1944 to the end of the war, and it is believed that he may have been executed as a war criminal in Burma.
4. The organizational relationship between the 3rd Battalion, 215th Regiment, 33rd Division, IJA, and the Japanese Army in Burma is as follows: The 33rd Division was under the 15th Army commanded by Lt. Gen. KATAMURA from 30 August 1944 and until the end of the war. This 15th Army came directly under the Burma Area Army commanded by KIMURA which was directly under the Southern Army.



RICHARD H. LARSH, Investigator,
Investigation Division, IPS

24 October 1947
Defense - KIMURA
TANAKA - Direct

Page * DIRECT EXAMINATION OF TANAKA, Nobuo
By Mr. Howard

31722 The witness identified and verified exhibit 3358 as his affidavit. The affidavit stated that the witness became commander of the 33rd division in May 1944 and the following September, when he was retreating with his troops after a battle at Imparle, KIMURA arrived in Burma as commander of the Burma Area Army.

On May 28, 1945, the witness met KIMURA at Moulmein. Then he urged the necessity of enforcing strict discipline and being good to the inhabitants, telling the witness to treat them with warmth because the Burmese would help the Japanese Army out of difficulties and military operations could not be carried out without their cooperation.

31724 * Later the witness was in charge of the defense of the district south of the Salween River. Guerrilla unit leaders, backed by British-Indian parachute units, frequently landed threatening the rear.

Near Kalagon Village, a parachute corps was based, and in concert with the insurgent Burmese Army disturbed the district. The British-Indian Army held over the natives by dropping arms and provisions for the guerrilla corps and also necessities for the people so that the power of the guerrilla corps increased. In mid June 1945 the witness ordered the 215th Infantry Regimental Commander TSUKADA to suppress the guerrillas.

31725 He had TSUKADA take clothes and provisions to the people for their pacification. But the Kalagon Incident broke out because of the abnormal action of the Battalion Commander, which attacked the village. The witness had always been careful about his subordinates' treatment of the natives, but never knew about the Kalagon Incident until his * battalion commander, company commander, and others were summoned by the British Army after the end of the war.

Even when he met his Regimental Commander after the war he did not give any report about the event and consequently the witness did not report to KIMURA concerning the event either when he went to Moulmein on August 15, or when he met KIMURA in Bangkok after the end of the war. This was because

NARRATIVE SUMMARY OF THE RECORD
24 October 1947
Defense - KIMURA
TANAKA - Direct

Page 5065

Page

the witness himself was ignorant of the Kalagon Incident. As the commanding officer concerned, he was put in prison as a war suspect on January 22, 1946. He had neither given any order for such act of atrocity nor had received any report on it.

31726* Since the Regiment Commander stated at the War Tribunal at Rangoon that he did not report this case to the witness, it was made clear that he had no connection and was released. The case was dropped not only for the witness but also for the Regiment Commander and only the battalion commander and personnel ranking below him were punished.

On 6 February 1946 the witness reported the Kalagon case to the Area Army Commander. When the witness was temporarily released on bail from the Moulmein Prison and went to Camp Insen to attend the meeting of the Anglo-Japanese War Research Society, he met KIMURA and reported the matter to him.

KIMURA was very surprised and repeatedly said he felt exceedingly sorry. According to information picked up while the witness was in prison, it seemed there were one or two more illegal acts besides the Kalagon case, and two officers who were under the witness's command were arrested and brought to Burma after the demobilization.

During the war he had never known of such a case, or given any order in connection therewith, nor did he undergo any investigation, since he was not involved. Therefore he did not report such cases to Headquarters of Area Army, nor did he receive any order about such matters from army headquarters.



Def. Doc. #2573

INTERNATIONAL MILITARY TRIBUNAL FOR THE FAR EAST

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, et al

-vs-

ARAKI, Sadao, et al

Sworn Deposition

Deponent: TANAKA, Nobuo

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, TANAKA, Nobuo, held the rank of Lieutenant-General. I was born on October 30, 1890, and am presently living in No. 3, Kanbe-Hondomachi 4-chome, Suzuga-shi, Mie Prefecture.

I was appointed Commander of the 33rd Division in May 1944. In September, 1944, when I was retreating with my troops from the front after a battle at Imparle, General KIMURA arrived in Burma as the Commander of the Burma Area Army.

2. On arriving at the Tenasserim district on May 28, 1945, I met General KIMURA at Moulmein. On that occasion he urged the necessity of enforcing strict military discipline and being good to the inhabitants; he told me to treat them with warmth and kindness because the same Burmese would help the Japanese Army out of

Def. Doc. #2573

difficulties and that military operations could not be carried out without their cooperation.

3. Since then I have been in charge of the defense of the Tenasserim district south of the Salween River. In those days leaders of the guerrilla units backed by the British-Indian parachute units frequently landed in this district and threatened the rear of the Japanese units.

In the vicinity of Kalagon Village, a parachute corps of the British-Indian Army had built its base, and in concert with the insurgent Burmese army, came to disturb the district under my garrison charge. The British Indian Army won over the native people by dropping from the airplanes not only arms and provisions for the guerrilla corps but also necessities for the people's cultural life, so that the power of the guerrilla corps was increased day by day. On the middle of June, 1945, I was obliged to order Colonel TSUKADA, the 215th Infantry Regimental Commander, to suppress this guerrilla corps.

On this occasion, I had the Colonel take clothes and provisions to the people for their pacification. But most unhappily the Kalagon Incident broke out due to an abnormal action of the Commander of the Battalion that attacked this village. I had always been particularly careful about my subordinates' treatment of the natives. But I never knew about the so-called "Kalagon incident" until my

Def. Doc. #2573

battalion commander, company commander and others were summoned by the British Army after the close of the war. I had already moved to Siam. Even when I met Regimental Commander immediately before the termination of the war, he did not give me any report about this event. Consequently, I did not, on my part, give any report to Area Army Commander KIMURA concerning the same event either when I went to Moulmein on August 15 to pay him my compliments on my way to Siam, or when I met him in Bangkok where he stopped on his way back from Singapore after the termination of the war. It was because at that time I myself was quite ignorant of the happenings of the "Kalagon" Incident.

I, as the commanding officer concerned, was put in prison as a war suspect, on January 22, 1946, in connection with this affair. But I had neither given any order for such act of atrocity, nor had received any report on it. Since the Regiment Commander stated at the War Tribunal at Rangoon that he did not report this case to me, the Division Commander, it was made clear that I had no connection at all with the matter but simply was giving orders concerning tactical matters only. So I was released on December 16, 1946, and served with a working unit at the "Iron Camp" in the suburb of Rangoon. On August 4, 1947, I embarked on the last steamer ^{bound} for Japan. The case was dropped not only for me as the Division Commander but even for the Regiment Commander also. Those who were punished were

Def. Doc. #2573

only the Battalion Commander and some of the personnel ranking below him. It was on February 6, 1946, that I reported the Kalagon Case to the Commander of the Area ^{Army} when I was temporarily released on bail from the Moulmein Prison and went to the Camp Insen to attend the meeting of the Anglo-Japanese War Research Society. I met General KIURA there and directly reported the matter to him. The General was very much surprised and repeatedly said to me that he felt exceedingly sorry about it. According to what I have picked up while I was in prison, it seemed to me that there were one or two other illegal acts besides the Kalagon case. In fact, two officers who were under my command were arrested and brought to Burma after the demobilization. But during the war, I had never known of such a case, or given any order in connection therewith. I did not undergo any investigation and I am left as not involved. So I did not report such cases during the war time to the Headquarters of Area Army nor did I receive any order about such matters from the Headquarters of the Area Army.

On this 4th day of September, 1947

At I.M.J.F.E.

Deponent: (signed) TANAKA, Nobuo (seal)

Def. Doc. #2573

I, KORETSUNE, Tatsumi, hereby certify that the above statement was sworn by the Deponent, who affixed his signature and seal thereto in the presence of this Witness.

On the same date

At the same place

Witness: (signed) KORETSUNE, Tatsumi (seal)

OATH

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

(signed) TANAKA, Nobuo (seal)

INTERNATIONAL MILITARY TRIBUNAL

FOR THE FAR EAST

Paper No. 951

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, et al

-vs-

ARAKI, Sadao, et al

- Defendants -

REQUEST FOR PRODUCTION OF WITNESS

NOW COMES KIMURA, Heitaro, by his counsel and makes this, his supplemental application for the issuance of a subpoena for Lieutenant General TANAKA, Nobuo.

Application for subpoena for said witness was made 3 February 1947 in Paper No. 722. An order was issued by the Tribunal, signed by the Honorable Sir William Webb, President of the Tribunal, being Paper No. 727, by which facilities to interview or interrogate the said witness were provided.

Facilities for interrogation were provided and among other things the following facts were sworn to by TANAKA, Nobuo:

That he served under KIMURA, Heitaro, in Burma; that the object of the military operation in the Kalagon area in which many Burmese people were killed was to attack light parachutists who were in that area and had nothing to do with the Burmese people; that he did not get a report from his subordinates concerning the alleged massacre of Burmese civilians at Kalagon and did not hear about the same until he was in jail in Moulmein; that he was released from confinement because he had no knowledge of the deaths of many Burmese at Kalagon.

WHEREFORE, it is prayed that a subpoena be issued for said TANAKA, Nobuo, ordering that he appear immediately.

KIMURA, Heitaro

by

/s/ Shiobara, Tokisaburo
SHIOBARA, Tokisaburo

/s/ Joseph C. Howard
Joseph C. Howard

His Counsel

13 May 1947.

13 May 1947

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

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

KIMURA

WITNESS

TANAKA, Nobuo

LIST OF MATERIAL AVAILABLE

Memo for the file

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

Memo for the file

Paper No. 951 - Request for Production of Witness TANAKA,
Nobuo requested by Kimura, Facts sworn to by Tanaka:

That he served under KIMURA, Heitaro, in Burma; that the object of the military operation in the Kalagon area in which many Burmese people were killed was to attack light parachutists who were in that area and had nothing to do with the Burmese people; that he did not get a report from his subordinates concerning the alleged massacre of Burmese civilians at Kalagon and did not hear about the same until he was in jail in Moulmein; that he was released from confinement because he had no knowledge of the deaths of many Burmese at Kalagon.

poena for said witness should it be found necessary to the proper defense of the accused as a result of said interrogations, and after hearing the statements and arguments of counsel for said KIMURA, Heitaro, and being fully advised in the premises, it is

ORDERED: That said supplemental application as to the following named person is granted as prayed:

LIEUT. GENERAL TANAKA, Nobuo

- (a) The Nationality of the witness is Japanese;
- (b) The witness is in Rangoon in custody of the British Army;

and that a summons be issued by the Secretary General of the Tribunal commanding said witness, Lieut. General TANAKA, Nobuo, to attend forthwith and testify before said Tribunal as a witness on behalf of the accused KIMURA, Heitaro.

Dated at Tokyo, Japan, this 14th day of May 1947.

BY THE TRIBUNAL:

(signed) W. F. Webb
PRESIDENT

DATE 3 April 1947

PROGRESS REPORT OF: TANAKA, Nobuo (KIMURA)

| <u>ITEM</u> | <u>Partially Completed</u> | <u>Fully Completed</u> |
|---|----------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Information in the hands of the Investigation Division. | _____ | <u> x </u> |
| 2. Statement in application for subpoena as to subject of witness's testimony. | _____ | <u> x </u> |
| 3. Examination of case file, if any. | _____ | <u> x </u> |
| 4. Cross-reference file on case files in office of Investigation Division. | _____ | <u> x </u> |
| 5. Cross-reference card file by subject matter of evidentiary documents in Document Division. | <u> x </u> | _____ |
| 6. Reference in evidence to witness or to the subject matter of his testimony. | <u> x </u> | _____ |
| 7. Preparation of summary of testimony already given by witness. | _____ | _____ |
| 8. Memorandum prepared by Mr. Lopez, dated March 11, 1947, relating to decorations awarded to defendants and their witnesses. | _____ | <u> x </u> |
| 9. Statement of any other investigation conducted by you. | _____ | _____ |

Pedro Lopez
Capt. James J. Robinson
William E. Edwards

By _____

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RHL/fed

30 April 1947

MEMORANDUM FOR: **Commander Charles T. COLE**
FROM : **Mr. Richard H. LARSH**
SUBJECT : **Defense Witnesses ICHIDA, Jiro and TANAKA, Nobuo**

In reply to your memorandum of April 25, the following information is submitted:

1. ICHIDA served as Vice Chief of Staff of the Japanese Army in Burma from 22 February 1944 to the end of the war.
2. TANAKA was Commander of the 33rd Division in Burma from 27 June 1944 to the end of the war.
3. The Commanding Officer of the 3rd Battalion, 215th Regiment, 33rd Division was ICHIKAWA, Seini. He served from June 1944 to the end of the war, and it is believed that he may have been executed as a war criminal in Burma.
4. The organizational relationship between the 3rd Battalion, 215th Regiment, 33rd Division, IJA, and the Japanese Army in Burma is as follows: The 33rd Division was under the 15th Army commanded by Lt. Gen. KATAMURA from 30 August 1944 and until the end of the war. This 15th Army came directly under the Burma Area Army commanded by KIMURA which was directly under the Southern Army.

(s) R. H. L.

(*) RICHARD H. LARSH, Investigator,
Investigation Division, IRS

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TANAKA, Nobuo

Request by: KIMURA, Heitaro

Address: In Rangoon in custody of the British Army,
but is not believed to be charged as a war
criminal.

This witness is familiar with the Kalegon case in which some 500 civilian inhabitants in Kalegon, Burma, were allegedly unlawfully killed and tortured. He will testify that the accused KIMURA did not authorize nor have knowledge of this alleged atrocity, the relevancy of which is obvious.

TANAKA, Nobuo

The following is an extract from Document No. 2971 (page 97), "List of Decorations awarded to Witnesses called for by the Defendants":

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Class of Decoration</u> | <u>Achievement</u> | <u>Recommending Ministry</u> |
|--------------|--|---------------------|------------------------------|
| 29 Apr. 1934 | Military Order of the Golden Kite, 4th Class | Manchurian Incident | War Ministry |
| 29 Apr. 1940 | Military Order of the Golden Kite, 3rd Class | China Incident | War Ministry |
| 29 Apr. 1934 | Minor Cordon of the Order of the Rising Sun | Manchurian Incident | War Ministry |
| 10 July 1936 | Intermediate Cordon of the Order of the Rising Sun | Manchurian Incident | War Ministry |

Resume by: Commander Cole

Date : 25 April 1947

TANAKA, Nobuo

1. Requested as witness by: KIMURA
2. Subpoena request: states that "This witness is familiar with the Kalagon case in which some 500 civilian inhabitants in Kalagon, Burma, were allegedly unlawfully killed and tortured. He will testify that the accused KIMURA did not authorize nor have knowledge of this alleged atrocity, the relevancy of which is obvious." Supplemental request states "That he served under KIMURA, Heitaro, in Burma; that the object of the military operation in the Kalagon area in which many Burmese people were killed was to attack light parachutists who were in that area and had nothing to do with the Burmese people; that he did not get a report from his subordinates concerning the alleged massacre of Burmese civilians at Kalagon and did not hear about the same until he was in jail in Moulmein; that he was released from confinement because he had no knowledge of the deaths of many Burmese at Kalagon."

3. Summary of Personal History:

- 30 Oct. 1891 - Born
Status - Commoner
- 28 May, 1912 - Graduated from the Military Academy and appointed a probationary officer
- 6 Aug. 1917 - Appointed an attendant at the Narashino Prisoner-of-War Camp.
- 1 Aug. 1930 - Appointed a Battalion Commander
- 18 Nov. 1931 - Assigned to the 15th Infantry Regiment
- 1 Aug. 1933 - Assigned to the 18th Infantry Regiment and assigned to duty at Okazaki Normal School, Aichi Prefecture.
- 7 Mar. 1936 - Assigned to Headquarters of Kwantung Army
- 2 Aug. 1937 - Appointed Commander of 51st Independent Infantry Battalion
- 1 Mar. 1941 - Promoted to Major General
- 27 June 1944 - Promoted to Lieut. General.
Appointed Commander of the 33rd Division.

4. Decorations:

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Class of Decoration</u> | <u>Achievement</u> | <u>Recommending Ministry</u> |
|--------------|---|------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1 Nov. 1920 | Imperial Order of the Single Rays of the Rising Sun | War service, 1915-1920 | |
| 21 Nov. 1924 | Imperial Order of Sacred Treasure, 5th Class | | |

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Class of Decoration</u> | <u>Achievement</u> | <u>Recommending Ministry</u> |
|--------------|---|---------------------|------------------------------|
| 29 Apr. 1934 | Military Order of the Golden Kite, 4th Class and Small Cordon of the Imperial Order of Rising Sun | Manchurian Incident | War Ministry |
| 8 Sept. 1934 | Imperial Order of Sacred Treasure, 3rd Class | | |
| 10 July 1936 | Intermediate Cordon of the Order of Rising Sun | Manchurian Incident | War Ministry |
| 29 Apr. 1940 | Military Order of Golden Kite, 3rd Class | China Incident | War Ministry |
| 15 Aug. 1944 | Imperial Order of Sacred Treasure, 1st Class | | |

5. Present Status: ex-Lieutenant General, Japanese Army.

Present Address: believed to be in Rangoon in custody of British Army but not as a war criminal.

6. Summary of Interrogations:

No interrogations available in files of IPS. British Division has been requested to obtain copies of any interrogations by British authorities in Rangoon.

7. Cross-Examination:

(a) Source Material - Evidence concerning the Kalagon Massacre is set forth in the Court Transcript (pp. 12,969 to 12,971).

(b) The Kalagon Massacre committed by Japanese soldiers during the period KIMURA was Commander-in-Chief in Burma is described in the following Prosecution documents:

(1) Court Exhibit #1540-A (Pros. Doc. #5137) - The Kalagon Massacre in which approximately 633 Burmese villagers were tortured and then put to death in July, 1945, by Japanese soldiers of the 3rd Bn., 215 Regt., 33rd Division (Transcript p. 12,969). Court Exhibit #1541-A (Pros. Doc. #5336) - contains a report of six war crimes trials at Rangoon including the trial of Major ICHIKAWA and 13 other Japanese soldiers implicated in the Kalagon Massacre (Transcript p. 12,970). The defense alleged that the operation was carried out under

superior orders as a measure of reprisal. The defense called as witnesses Col. TSUKADA, the commander of the 213 Regt. and Capt. KATAYAMA, his operational staff officer. These officers stated that the Kalagon operation was carried out on orders from the Division. Col. TSUKADA, however, suggested that ICHIKAWA had certain discretion as to whether or not he would kill all the villagers but he stated that ICHIKAWA had in no way exceeded his orders.

Major ICHIKAWA testified as follows (Court Exhibit #1541-A, p. 4): -

Q. "Do you really think that women and children were acting against the Japanese army?"

A. Yes.

Q. How do you justify the killing of the infant children?

A. There was no other alternative way of dealing with the children.

Q. Explain that a little further.

A. First, within the orders I received, the killing of the children was also included. If I spared the children they would be orphans, and as such they could not have a living. In order to save time and carry out my duties, I could not help killing them."

ICHIKAWA and three others were sentenced to death for their part in the massacre.

NOTE - His curriculum vitae (see paragraph 3 above) reveals that TANAKA, Nobuo was appointed Commander of the 33rd Division on 27 June, 1944. The IFS Investigative Division reports that TANAKA held this position until the end of the war and that the 33rd Division was directly under the 15th Army which, in turn, was directly under the Burma Area Army commanded by KIMURA. It therefore appears certain that TANAKA was in command at the time of the Kalagon Massacre in July, 1945. Accordingly, in view of the admission in evidence by Colonel TSUKADA and Captain KATAYAMA that the Kalagon Operation was carried out on orders from the 33rd Division, this witness (TANAKA, Nobuo) should be cross-examined as to his part in the atrocity. The Kalagon Massacre is the only incident in Burma in which the Japanese Army unit is identified.

(c) In the event that this witness testifies as to other matters besides the Kalagon Massacre, the following Prosecution documents dealing with atrocities committed by the Japanese Army against Burmese civilians while KIMURA was Commander-in-Chief may be pertinent:

- (1) Court Exhibit #1537-A (Pros. Doc. #5120) - murder of Burmese civilian by Kempeitai on about 20 June 1945 (Transcript p. 12,966).
- (2) Court Exhibit #1538-A (Pros. Doc. #5138) - massacre of 30 Burmese women and children by Japanese soldiers on about 24 June, 1945 (Transcript p. 12,967).
- (3) Court Exhibit #1539-A (Pros. Doc. #5337) - lists eight cases of atrocities against Burmese in June and July, 1945, including the Ebaing Massacre (machine-gunning of 92 Burmese men, women and children in June, 1945) (Transcript p. 12,968).
- (4) Court Exhibit #1544-A (Pros. Doc. #5347) - execution of seven Burmese by Japanese soldiers in May, 1945 (Transcript p. 12,974).
- (5) Court Exhibit #1551-A (Pros. Doc. #5359) - torture of a Burmese native in June, 1945, by Japanese soldiers (Transcript p. 12,979).
- (6) Court Exhibit #1553-A (Pros. Doc. #5361) - torture of 621 Burmese in January, 1945, and execution of five in March or April, 1945, by Japanese soldiers (Transcript p. 12,983).
- (7) Court Exhibit #1558-A (Pros. Doc. #5369) - mistreatment of civilian internees in February, 1945, by Japanese soldiers (Transcript p. 12,994).

For the above atrocities against Burmese during his tenure of office as Commander-in-Chief of the Japanese Army in Burma it is submitted that the accused KIMURA is directly responsible.

- (d) A TANAKA, Nobuo, was arrested on 17 October, 1931, along with HASHIMOTO, Kingoro, as one of the leaders of the 5-15 Incident. He was released soon after without punishment but was given a new assignment. ("The Brocade Banner" - CIS Report, p. 35)

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30 April 1947

MEMORANDUM FOR: Commander Charles T. COLE
FROM : Mr. Richard H. LARSH
SUBJECT : Defense Witnesses ICHIDA, Jiro and TANAKA, Nobuo

In reply to your memorandum of April 25, the following information is submitted:

1. ICHIDA served as Vice Chief of Staff of the Japanese Army in Burma from 22 February 1944 to the end of the war.
2. TANAKA was Commander of the 33rd Division in Burma from 27 June 1944 to the end of the war.
3. The Commanding Officer of the 3rd Battalion, 215th Regiment, 33rd Division was ICHIKAWA, Seini. He served from June 1944 to the end of the war, and it is believed that he may have been executed as a war criminal in Burma.
4. The organizational relationship between the 3rd Battalion, 215th Regiment, 33rd Division, IJA, and the Japanese Army in Burma is as follows: The 33rd Division was under the 15th Army commanded by Lt. Gen. KATAMURA from 30 August 1944 and until the end of the war. This 15th Army came directly under the Burma Area Army commanded by KIMURA which was directly under the Southern Army.

(s) R. H. L.

(t) RICHARD H. LARSH, Investigator,
Investigation Division, IPS

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TANAKA Nobuo

Arrested by the Military Police on 17 October 1931,
along with the leaders of the 5-15 plot.

SOURCE: "The Brocade Banner"

*File
Tanaka, Nobuo*

RHL/fcd

30 April 1947

MEMORANDUM FOR: Commander Charles T. COLE
FROM : Mr. Richard H. LARSH
SUBJECT : Defense Witnesses ICHIDA, Jiro
and TANAKA, Nobuo

In reply to your memorandum of April 25, the following information is submitted:

1. ICHIDA served as Vice Chief of Staff of the Japanese Army in Burma from 22 February 1944 to the end of the war.
2. TANAKA was Commander of the 33rd Division in Burma from 27 June 1944 to the end of the war.
3. The Commanding Officer of the 3rd Battalion, 215th Regiment, 33rd Division was ICHIKAWA, Seini. He served from June 1944 to the end of the war, and it is believed that he may have been executed as a war criminal in Burma.
4. The organizational relationship between the 3rd Battalion, 215th Regiment, 33rd Division, IJA, and the Japanese Army in Burma is as follows: The 33rd Division was under the 15th Army commanded by Lt. Gen. KATAMURA from 30 August 1944 and until the end of the war. This 15th Army came directly under the Burma Area Army commanded by KIMURA which was directly under the Southern Army.

RHL
RICHARD H. LARSH, Investigator,
Investigation Division, IPS

TANAKA, Nobuo

Request by: KIMURA, Heitaro

Address: In Rangoon in custody of the British Army,
but is not believed to be charged as a war
criminal.

This witness is familiar with the Kalegon case in which some 500 civilian inhabitants in Kalagon, Burma, were allegedly unlawfully killed and tortured. He will testify that the accused KIMURA did not authorize nor have knowledge of this alleged atrocity, the relevancy of which is obvious.

CURRICULUM VITAE

Name: TANAKA, Nobuo
Date of birth: 30 October 1891
Residence: Tokyo
Status: Commoner

28 May 1912 Graduated from the Military Academy and appointed a probationary officer.

24 Dec. 1912 Commissioned a Second Lieutenant, Infantry. Assigned to the 3rd Infantry Regiment.

20 Feb. 1913 Conferred with the 8th Court Rank, Senior Grade.

25 Dec. 1915 Promoted to First Lieutenant, Infantry.

20 Mar. 1916 Conferred with the 7th Court Rank, Junior Grade.

6 Aug. 1917 Appointed an attendant at the NARASHINO Prisoner of War Camp.

1 Nov. 1920 Decorated with the Imperial Order of the Single Rays of the Rising Sun and granted 800 yen for war service from 1915-1920.

10 May 1921 Conferred with the 7th Court Rank, Senior Grade.

8 Feb. 1922 Promoted to Captain, Infantry, by the Cabinet; Relieved from former duty and assigned to the 3rd Infantry Regiment as a Company Commander by the War Ministry.

21 Nov. 1924 Decorated with the Imperial Order of the Sacred Treasure, 5th Class.

11 Mar. 1926 Relieved from former duty and appointed a Company Commander of the 4th Battalion, Independent Garrison, by the War Ministry.

15 June 1926 Conferred with the 6th Court Rank, Junior Grade.

16 Mar. 1929 Appointed Company Commander of the Student Unit of the KUMAMOTO N.C.O. School by the War Ministry.

25 May 1929 Decorated with the Imperial Order of the Sacred Treasure, 4th Class.

1 Aug. 1929 Promoted to Major, Infantry, by the Cabinet.

1 Aug. 1930 Appointed a battalion commander of the Imperial Guards, 2nd Infantry Regiment by the War Ministry.

15 July 1931 Conferred with the 6th Court Rank, Senior Grade.

18 Nov. 1931 Assigned to the 15th Infantry Regiment by the War Ministry.

8 Aug. 1932 Appointed a battalion commander of the 15th Infantry Regiment by the War Ministry.

1 Aug. 1933 Assigned to the 18th Infantry Regiment by the War Ministry and assigned to duty at the OKAZAKI Normal School, AICHI Prefecture, by the same.

1 Aug. 1934 Promoted to Lieutenant Colonel, Infantry, by the Cabinet.

29 Apr. 1934 Decorated with the Imperial Military Order of the Golden Kite, 4th Class, and the Small Cordon of the Imperial Order of the Rising Sun for services in the 1931-1934 Incident.

8 Sept. 1934 Decorated with the Imperial Order of the Sacred Treasure, 3rd Class.

7 Mar. 1936 Relieved of duty at the OKAZAKI Normal School, AICHI Prefecture, by the War Ministry. Assigned to the Headquarters of the KWANTUNG Army by the War Ministry.

1 Aug. 1936 Conferred with the 5th Court Rank, Junior Grade.

2 Aug. 1937 Relieved of duty with the Headquarters of the KWANTUNG Army and appointed Commander of the 51st Independent Infantry Battalion by the War Ministry.

1 Mar. 1938 Promoted to Colonel, Infantry, by the Cabinet.

10 July 1936 Decorated with the Medium Cordon of the Imperial Order of the Rising Sun for services in the 1931-1934 Incident.

1 Mar. 1941 Promoted to Major General by the Cabinet.

15 Mar. 1941 Conferred with the 5th Court Rank, Senior Grade.

11 Apr. 1941 Decorated with the Imperial Order of the Sacred
Treasure, 2nd Class.

29 Apr. 1940 Decorated with the Imperial Military Order of
the Golden Kite, 3rd Class, for services in the
China Incident.

27 June 1944 Promoted to Lieutenant General by the Cabinet;
Appointed Commander of the 33rd Division by the
Cabinet.

1 Aug. 1944 Conferred with the 4th Court Rank, Junior Grade.

15 Aug. 1944 Decorated with the Imperial Order of the Sacred
Treasure, 1st Class.

TANAKA, Nobuo

The following is an extract from Document No. 2971 (page 97), "List of Decorations awarded to Witnesses called for by the Defendants":

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Class of Decoration</u> | <u>Achievement</u> | <u>Recommending Ministry</u> |
|--------------|--|---------------------|------------------------------|
| 29 Apr. 1934 | Military Order of the Golden Kite, 4th Class | Manchurian Incident | War Ministry |
| 29 Apr. 1940 | Military Order of the Golden Kite, 3rd Class | China Incident | War Ministry |
| 29 Apr. 1934 | Minor Cordon of the Order of the Rising Sun | Manchurian Incident | War Ministry |
| 10 July 1936 | Intermediate Cordon of the Order of the Rising Sun | Manchurian Incident | War Ministry |

Permanent residence and status: TOKYO, commoner.

Date of birth: 30 October 1891

Name: TANAKA, Nobuo

Former status:

Former name:

Father:

Foster Father:

Mother:

Foster Mother:

28 May 1912: Graduated from the Military Academy and appointed a probationary officer.

24 December 1912: Commissioned a Second Lieutenant, Infantry. Assigned to the 3rd Infantry Regiment.

20 February 1913: Conferred with the 8th Court Rank, Senior Grade.

25 December 1915: Promoted to First Lieutenant, Infantry.

20 March 1916: Conferred with the 7th Court Rank, Junior Grade.

6 August 1917: Appointed an attendant at the NARASHINO Prisoner of War Camp.

1 November 1920: Decorated with the Imperial Order of the Single-Rays of the Rising Sun and granted 800 yen for war service from 1915-1920.

10 May 1921: Conferred with the 7th Court Rank, Senior Grade.

8 February 1922: Promoted to Captain, Infantry, by the Cabinet.

Same: Relieved from former duty and assigned to the 3rd Infantry Regiment as a Company Commander by the War Ministry.

21 November 1924: Decorated with the Imperial Order of the Sacred Treasure, 5th Class.

- 11 March 1926: Relieved from former duty and appointed a Company Commander of the 4th Battalion, Independent Garrison, by the War Ministry.
- 15 June 1926: Conferred with the 6th Court Rank, Junior Grade.
- 16 March 1929: Appointed Company Commander of the Student Unit of the KUMAMOTO N. C. O. School by the War Ministry.
- 25 May 1929: Decorated with the Imperial Order of the Sacred Treasure, 4th Class.
- 1 August 1929: Promoted to Major, Infantry, by the Cabinet.
- 1 August 1930: Appointed a battalion commander of the Imperial Guards, 2nd Infantry Regiment by the War Ministry.
- 15 July 1931: Conferred with the 6th Court Rank, Senior Grade.
- 18 November 1931: Assigned to the 15th Infantry Regiment by the War Ministry.
- 8 August 1932: Appointed a battalion commander of the 15th Infantry Regiment by the War Ministry.
- 1 August 1933: Assigned to the 18th Infantry Regiment by the War Ministry and assigned to duty at the OKAZAKI Normal School, AICHI Prefecture, by the same.
- 1 August 1934: Promoted to Lieutenant Colonel, Infantry, by the Cabinet.
- 29 April 1934: Decorated with the Imperial Military Order of the Golden Kite, 4th Class, and the Small Cordon of the Imperial Order of the Rising Sun for services in the 1931-1934 Incident.
- 8 September 1934: Decorated with the Imperial Order of the Sacred Treasure, 3rd Class.
- 7 March 1936: Relieved of duty at the OKAZAKI Normal School, AICHI Prefecture, by the War Ministry.

- 7 March 1936: Assigned to the Headquarters of the KWANTUNG Army by the War Ministry.
- 1 August 1936: Conferred with the 5th Court Rank, Junior Grade.
- 2 August 1937: Relieved of duty with the Headquarters of the KWANTUNG Army and appointed Commander of the 51st Independent Infantry Battalion by the War Ministry.
- 2 August 1937:
- 1 March 1938: Promoted to Colonel, Infantry, by the Cabinet.
- 10 July 1936: Decorated with the Medium Cordon of the Imperial Order of the Rising Sun for services in the 1931-1934 Incident.
- 1 March 1941: Promoted to Major General by the Cabinet.
- 15 March 1941: Conferred with the 5th Court Rank, Senior Grade.
- 11 April 1941: Decorated with the Imperial Order of the Sacred Treasure, 2nd Class.
- 29 April 1940: Decorated with the Imperial Military Order of the Golden Kite, 3rd Class, for services in the China Incident.
- 27 June 1944: Promoted to Lieutenant General by the Cabinet.
- 27 June 1944: Appointed Commander of the 33rd Division by the Cabinet.
- 1 August 1944: Conferred with the 4th Court Rank, Junior Grade.
- 15 August 1944: Decorated with the Imperial Order of the Sacred Treasure, 1st Class.