

INTERNATIONAL PROSECUTION SECTION

Doc. No. 2126

20 June 1946

ANALYSIS OF DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

DESCRIPTION OF ATTACHED DOCUMENT

Title and Nature: Interrogations, etc. of OKAZAKI, Katsuo, on CHINA

Date: 1946 Original ( ) Copy (x) Language: English

Has it been translated? Yes ( ) No (x)

Has it been photostated? Yes ( ) No (x)

LOCATION OF ORIGINAL

Document Division

SOURCE OF ORIGINAL: Our Case File No. 163

PERSONS IMPLICATED: HASHIMOTO, Kingoro; MATSUI, Iwane; OKAZAKI, Katsuo

CRIMES TO WHICH DOCUMENT APPLICABLE: Aggression, CHINA

SUMMARY OF RELEVANT POINTS

Analyst: W.H.Wagner

Doc. No. 2126

INTERROGATION OF

OKAZAKI, Katsuo

Date and Time: 19 April 1946, 1120 to 1200 hours  
Place : Room 619, Meiji Building, Tokyo, Japan  
Present : OKAZAKI, Katsuo  
Mr. D. N. Sutton Interrogator  
Miss Margaret Denny Stenographer

Mr. OKAZAKI spoke in English:

Questions by Mr. Sutton

- Q. Please state your age and your present residence.
- A. I was born in 1897. My present address is 307 Maronouchi Hotel - or better, The Foreign Office.
- Q. What is your present position with the Japanese Government?
- A. Director of the General Affairs Bureau of the Foreign Office.
- Q. Please state briefly your official connection with the Japanese Government prior to 1937.
- A. I entered the Foreign Service in 1923 and was in London as Attache to the Japanese Embassy for two years. In the Foreign Office for four years and then to Shanghai as Consul for four years. Then I was Secretary of the Embassy in the United States for four years.
- Q. During what period were you in Washington?
- A. During 1933 to 1937.
- Q. After returning to Tokyo from Washington, where did you next go?
- A. To Shanghai.
- Q. And during what period were you in China?

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- A. From 1929 to 1933 and then from October 1937 to October 1938.
- Q. What was your official position in China in 1937 and 1938?
- A. I was Consul General at Large.
- Q. And where did you go in October 1938?
- A. To Canton as Consul General.
- Q. And remained there for what period?
- A. One year.
- Q. And where were you next stationed?
- A. In Hongkong from October 1939 to October 1940 as Consul General. Then to Calcutta, India, as Consul General from December 1940 to October 1941. Then I came back to Japan just before the war.
- Q. Did you not from time to time have conferences with General MATSUI during the period from October 1937 to February 1938, and if so what were the occasions of these conferences?
- A. I used to see him at least once or twice a week, mostly on the question of foreign interests in China.
- Q. Were you at Nanking at any time immediately prior to the capture or immediately following the fall of that city in 1937?
- A. Yes, after the fall of Nanking, I think it was the 16th of December, I went there.
- Q. How long were you there on that occasion?
- A. About one week.
- Q. Did you subsequently return to Nanking and if so when?
- A. Yes, several times from January 1938 to February 1938.
- Q. Did General MATSUI request you to go to Nanking?

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A. Yes.

Q. What was the purpose of your visit in December 1937?

A. To look after the foreign interests in Nanking.

Q. What was the situation there as you found it when you went on December 16th?

A. It was very bad. Soldiers were quite out of control.

Q. Did the situation continue in that manner during the week that you remained there?

A. It improved gradually.

Q. To whom did the International Committee set up and operating in Nanking at that time, of which Mr. John H. D. Rabe was Chairman and Dr. Lewis S. C. Smythe was Secretary, make its reports concerning the atrocities which were being committed in that city?

A. I think it was addressed to the Japanese Consul General in Nanking.

Q. Did these two gentlemen talk to you from time to time and make reports to you relative to the situation in Nanking?

A. Yes.

Q. How frequently?

A. Almost daily.

Q. Who was Mr. Tokuyasu FUKUDA and what was his official position?

A. He was my assistant - he was Attache of the Embassy.

Q. And who was the Consul at Nanking at that time?

A. Mr. S. HIDAKA.

Q. Was he later the Ambassador from the Japanese Government to England?

A. Yes.

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- Q. When these reports from the International Committee for the Nanking Safety Zone were made to you and to the Japanese Foreign Office in Nanking, what action was taken on the reports?
- A. I remember we sent a wire of the resume of the report and the report itself was sent by mail to the Foreign Office in Tokyo.
- Q. Then, I understand, as the reports would be made almost daily you would send a summary or resume immediately to the Foreign Office in Tokyo and then the report itself would be sent by airmail?
- A. That is right.
- Q. Were copies of these reports retained by the office at Nanking or the office at Shanghai?
- A. I should think so - in Nanking.
- Q. Did you also bring the reports which were being made almost daily to the Japanese Foreign Office in Nanking to the attention of General MATSUI or the officers under his command?
- A. Yes.
- Q. What was the reaction of General MATSUI and the officers under his command to these reports which you conveyed to him and to them?
- A. I think they did all they could to improve the situation and the situation did improve gradually.
- Q. Did the reports which were made to you from time to time confirm the situation as it actually appeared to you when you were in Nanking?
- A. To a certain extent, yes, but in some instances it was exaggerated.
- Q. Did you discuss the situation with General MATSUI in Nanking?
- A. No.
- Q. Was General MATSUI in Nanking when you were there?
- A. Yes, but he was too busy.
- Q. You mean he was too busy for you to discuss the reports with him?

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A. Yes.

Q. Did you make your reports to him in writing?

A. No, to his subordinate.

Q. Was your report to the military authorities daily as the reports were received by you?

A. I think so, but mainly by the Japanese Consul General there.

Q. You mean that the reports were transmitted principally by Mr. HIDAKA?

A. Yes.

Q. In subsequent conversations with General MATSUI did he refer to what was taking place at Nanking and make any explanation of it?

A. He used to say "There can be no excuses to be made".

Q. Did General MATSUI discuss with you or in your presence the relationship between himself and HASHIMOTO?

A. Yes, I remember he did so once or twice.

Q. What was the purport of General MATSUI's statements with regard to Colonel HASHIMOTO?

A. He seemed to be very much dissatisfied with actions taken by Colonel HASHIMOTO and he remarked he could not have him with him.

Q. Do you remember being present at any conferences which General MATSUI had with Mr. ABEND regarding Colonel HASHIMOTO?

A. I remember he had several press conferences with him, but I do not remember that particular question.

Q. Who acted as interpreter for General MATSUI at the press conferences?

A. I think it was Mr. HORIGUCHI of the Domei News Agency, but I do not remember exactly.

Q. Do you recall the incidents of the bombing and sinking of the "Panay"?

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A. Yes.

Q. When did you first learn of it?

A. The following day.

Q. Was any request made of you to take any action in connection with this incident and, if so, what?

A. No. this matter was especially important and the Foreign Office sent a special mission to China to deal with this question, so I was not in touch with this matter. When this matter was settled, General HARADA, Military Attache, went to the American Consul General to make apologies for General MATSUI, and I went with General HARADA to see the American Consul General. That was in the early part of 1938.

Q. Who do you understand was responsible for the attacks on the "Ladybird" and the "Bee"? What officer was in charge?

A. I think Colonel HASHIMOTO.

Q. And what officer was responsible for the sinking of the "Panay"?

A. That I do not know.

Certificate of Interpreter

I, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_  
(name) (Serial Number)  
being sworn on oath, state that I truly translated the questions and answers given from English to Japanese and from Japanese to English respectively, and that the above transcription of such questions and answers, consisting of \_\_\_\_\_ pages, is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 1946.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Name and Rank)

Duly Detailed Investigating Officer,  
International Prosecution Section, GHQ, SCAP.

Certificate of Stenographer

I, **Margaret Denny** hereby certify that I acted as stenographer at the interrogation set out above, and that I transcribed the foregoing questions and answers, and that the transcription is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge and belief.

*Margaret Denny*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Margaret Denny

Certificate of Interrogator.

I, (~~us~~) **David Nelson Sutton**, \_\_\_\_\_,  
and \_\_\_\_\_,

certify that on **19th** day of **April**, 1946, personally appeared before me (us) **Katsuo OKAZAKI**,  
and according to \_\_\_\_\_, Interpreter,  
gave the foregoing answers to the several questions set forth therein.

**Tokyo, Japan**  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Place  
**23 April 46**  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

*David Nelson Sutton*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
David Nelson Sutton



INTERROGATION OF

OKAZAKI, Katsuo

Date and Time: 22 April 1946, 1400 to 1530 hours

Place : Room 370 War Ministry Building  
Tokyo, Japan

Present : OKAZAKI, Katsuo  
Mr. D. N. Sutton Interrogator  
Miss Margaret Denny Stenographer

Mr. OKAZAKI spoke in English

Questions by Mr. Sutton

- Q. What was the reaction of the military to the reports which were made to them from the Consular Office in Nanking concerning the atrocities in that city?
- A. They seemed to have given good attention to it because the situation gradually improved. And I remember I was told by a staff officer that severe sentences were given in the Court Martial to some of the soldiers who acted unlawfully.
- Q. Were you advised of the action which was taken by the Foreign Office at Tokyo on the reports which were submitted to it from the Office of the Consul General in Nanking conveying the information received from the Committee for the Nanking Safety Zone?
- A. I think I saw quite a few informations indicating the steps taken by the Foreign Office to correct the situation.
- Q. What was the nature of the steps taken by the Foreign Office with regard to these reports?
- A. Generally speaking, in the line of restoring the soldiers' unlawful behaviour. But, in particular, we were instructed to ascertain the material damage done to the foreign interests and either return the property or give compensation. As to the Chinese general public, I believe the Foreign Office was trying to convince the military authorities of the unlawfulness or bad effect on the general public.

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And, if I may add, I do remember that we made compensations to the foreign interests for the damage done to the properties.

Q. Who were the assistants of Mr. HIDAHA in the Office of the Consular General in Nanking during December 1937 and January and February 1938?

A. As far as I remember, they were Mr. FUKUI, Mr. FUKUDA, and there were several more whom I can not remember. Mr. FUKUI was Acting Consul General. Mr. FUKUDA was my assistant in Shanghai, but when Nanking fell in December 1937 he was sent to Nanking as a member of the Consulate. After the fall of Nanking he was no longer my assistant.

Q. Are you familiar with the representations which were made by the American Foreign Office to Japan with regard to the atrocities which were going on in Nanking in December 1937 and until the early part of February 1938?

A. I think I read one or two American representations, but I do not quite remember just now.

Q. Are you familiar with the response of the Japanese Government to these representations?

A. That I do not remember.

Q. Why was General MATSUI relieved of command in the early part of February 1938?

A. I do not know the reasons. There were many rumors but I was not told anything officially.

Q. And do you know why Colonel HASHIMOTO was relieved of his command?

A. That, I think, was connected with the bombardment of the "Ladybird" and the "Bee".

Q. Did you visit Hankow following the fall of that city?

A. No I did not.

Q. Were you in Canton at the time of the capture of that city by Japanese forces?

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- A. I went there just after the occupation, toward the end of October 1938.
- Q. Do you recall how long after the fall of Canton it was before you went to that city?
- A. About five days after the fall of the city.
- Q. What was the condition in Canton when you went there in October 1938?
- A. The city was almost deserted. Very few Chinese could be seen in the city. Japanese troops were not stationed in the city. Only military police and those specially permitted were in the city - so it was quite different from the condition in Nanking.
- Q. Are you familiar with the arrangements which were made by the military authorities at Nanking and the Red Swastika Society for the burial of the dead, principally civilians, at Nanking during the period following the fall of that city?
- A. I do not, except that the Chinese Red Cross did very good work at that time. If I may add, I was told by the military authorities at that time that the civilians killed in Nanking were not all merely civilians. The soldiers often discarded their uniforms and passed as civilians although they carried weapons. Anyhow, the Chinese Red Swastika did a very good job and I think their reports were desirable.
- Q. Did the military attempt to make any justification of the action taken, particularly with regard to the women in Nanking?
- A. No, I do not think so, except that the report was very much exaggerated.
- Q. Are you familiar with the manner of the operation of the narcotic and opium trade in Japanese controlled territories?
- A. I know very little about it. However, there was an Opium Bureau, the aim of which was to decrease the number of opium addicts. They operated opium dens, with licenses issued by the Opium Bureau. Of course, they operated hospitals and other institutions. Those opium spots licensed by the Opium Bureau were in three classes, according to the number of beds, and they pay taxes and license money, etc. This was a Chinese Government monopoly. There was another institution which was to supply the government with opium, and this organization would buy opium formerly from Persia. During the China Incident it bought from Persia and other places, but from 1941 the source was

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mainly Yunan Province, Mongolia and Manchuria. They would obtain all the opium and distribute it to the Opium Bureau, Nanking, Shanghai, Hongkong, Peiping and other large cities in China, and I think this organization made much money and contributed a large amount to the government. Actually, there were two organizations. One was government and the other was semi-government.

- Q. When you referred to a Chinese Government monopoly, I presume you meant the Chinese Government which was set up in the occupied territory and which later became the Nanking Government?
- A. That is right.
- Q. What was the name of the organization which supplied the opium to the government? Who was the principal individual from Japan in connection with the opium and narcotics trade in China?
- A. I can not tell you with authority but, as far as I know, it may have been Mr. H. SATOMI.
- Q. It is correct that the opium and narcotic trade was sponsored in that portion of China which was occupied by Japan for two purposes: 1( to secure revenue - that is, to make money - and 2( to weaken the power to resist on the part of the Chinese people?
- A. I should say "Yes" to the first part and definitely "No" to the second part.
- Q. Were strict measures taken to prevent the use of opium and narcotics by Japanese citizens in China?
- A. Yes.
- Q. Are you familiar with the activities of STAEMER in China, both prior to the time he was Ambassador to the Nanking Government, during that time and subsequently?
- A. I met him several times but mostly on social occasions.
- Q. Do you know whether or not he was considered the most influential representative of Germany in China?
- A. Yes, I should think so.

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- Q. Are you familiar with the "Koa-in" and, if so, will you describe its purpose and how it operated?
- A. I think the Foreign Board Office was not trusted by that time by the Government, and this organization was set up to take over the functions of the Foreign Office as far as China was concerned.
- Q. Was it set up at first under the control of the military?
- A. Well, practically under the control of the military.
- Q. Was this organization the connecting link between Japan proper and the economic and political organizations set up by it in China?
- A. Mainly, yes.
- Q. Who was the principal person or the principal persons in the setting-up and functioning of the "Koa-in"?
- A. One of the principal persons in the "Koa-in" was General T. SUZUKI, who was the Chief of the General Affairs Bureau.

Certificate of Interpreter

I, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_,  
(name) (Rank) (Serial Number)

being sworn on oath, state that I truly translated the questions and answers given from English to Japanese and from Japanese to English respectively, and that the above transcription of such questions and answers, consisting of \_\_\_\_\_ pages, is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 1946.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Name and Rank)

Duly Detailed Investigating Officer,  
International Prosecution Section, GHQ, SCAP.

Certificate of Stenographer

I, Margaret Denny, hereby certify that I acted as stenographer at the interrogation set out above, and that I transcribed the foregoing questions and answers, and that the transcription is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Margaret Denny  
Margaret Denny

Certificate of Interrogator.

I, (~~was~~) David Nelson Sutton, \_\_\_\_\_,  
and \_\_\_\_\_,

certify that on the 22nd day of April, 1946, personally appeared before me (us) Katsumi OKAZAKI and according to \_\_\_\_\_, Interpreter, gave the foregoing answers to the several questions set forth therein.

Room 370, War Ministry Bldg.  
Tokyo, Japan

Place

David Nelson Sutton  
David Nelson Sutton

23 April 1946

Date