

no. 3071

INTERNATIONAL MILITARY TRIBUNAL FOR THE FAR EAST

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, et al

-vs-

ARAKI, Sadao, et al

AFFIDAVIT

Name: Alfred F. KRETSCHMER

Address: Marko Hotel  
Atami, Japan

Concerning the treatment given to Prisoners of War  
who had fallen into Japanese hands

I was German Military Attache in Tokyo from December 4,  
1940 until May 8, 1945.

Between January 1941 and March 1944, I made official  
visits to the various Japanese fronts: Manchuria, Inner Mongolia,  
North China, Central China, Hongkong, French Indo-China, Siam,  
Malaya, Singapore, Dutch East Indies, Philippines. I have not  
seen the New Guinea front.

In March 1942 when all the Axis Military and Air Attaches  
visited part of the southern regions conquered by the Japanese  
army, in Singapore only we were invited to look over one of  
the local POW camps. We declined as we had already protested  
in Manila when we were led through a civilian internment camp  
there. Perhaps because of this, our strict refusal, no one

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of us were ever again invited to visit a Japanese POW camp.

In Singapore we happened to see Australian POW driving by us in trucks. They made a healthy impression, more happy than depressed, and seemed scarcely guarded. In December 1942 or January 1943, in reprisal for the chaining of German soldiers captured during an English commando raid on one of the Channel Isles, the German government as is known, had ordered a special number of British POW to be temporarily put in chains. The German Foreign Office had commissioned Ambassador Ott to ask the Japanese Foreign Office to join in on these reprisals as Italy had promised to do. Ambassador Ott, as well as we, Naval, Air and Military Attaches, detested the extension of such reprisals and besides this we were of the opinion that the Japanese government would reject this request as not corresponding to the Bushido spirit. Ambassador Ott, therefore, remonstrated to the German Foreign Office. The remonstrator was disregarded and Ambassador Ott asked me to approach the Japanese army with the proposal. He himself would address the Japanese Foreign Office. I talked the matter over with Major YAMAZAKI of the War Ministry. The next day I received the War Ministry's answer that the Japanese Army would not join in on such German reprisals, they being contrary to the Bushido spirit. Ambassador Ott received a corresponding answer from the Japanese Foreign Office. In my conversation with the leading army circles, I learned that the desire existed among the Japanese to treat POW decently and

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according to international laws was done in the First World War with the German Tsingtao Garrison.

As to the civil internment camp in Manila which was shown us by Axis Military and Air Attaches in March 1942, I state that the quarters were somewhat crowded but the internees made a healthy impression. They were apparently allowed to govern and feed themselves.

Wherever I saw Japanese soldiers during my excursions mentioned above, they were in fair or good discipline.

OATH

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

/s/A. F. Kretschmer

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 24 day of April, 1947, at Tokyo, Japan.

/s/ Bernard A. Hargodon, 1st. Lt.  
Inf.  
Administrative Officer  
Defense Division, Legal Section