

D. D. No. 2285

III

極東國際軍事裁判所

亞米利加合衆國其他

對

荒木貞夫其他

宣誓供述書

供述者

西村善一

自分儀我國ニ行ハルル方式ニ從ヒ先ヅ別紙、通り宣誓ヲ爲シ
タル上次、如ク供述致シマス

良心ニ従ヒ眞實ヲ述ヘ何事ヲモ欺認セズ又何事ヲモ附加セザ
ルコトヲ誓フ

宣
讀
書

西
村
善



昭和二十二年（一九四七年）三月三十日

於賀茂郡竹原町

供述者

西村善一

右ハ當立會人ノ面前ニテ宣誓シ且ツ署名捺印シタルコトヲ證
明シマス

同日

於同所

立會人 岩松 良

一 私ハ西村善一デ当年五十九才広島県賀茂郡竹原町ニ住ニテ居リ
隠居ヲ致シテオリマス。

一 私ハ昭和二十年八月五日、広島原子爆弾投下サレタ日ニハ、広島市本通
リ四丁目ニ居テ居リマシタノデ、当時ノ情況ニツイテ次ノ如ク陳述致シマス。

一 私ノ住ニテ居リマシタ附近ハ繁華街デアリマシタノデ、当日モ出勤時
同デアルニモカカワラズ、私ノ家ノ周圍ノムムハヤット起キ出シテ、
ゆかたガケテ表ニ出テ居ツタノガ多イ様デアリマシタ。

私モ警戒戒警報ガ早朝解除サレマシタノデ安心ヲレテ家ノ中デ
着物ヲ着テ坐ツテ居リマシタ。

時刻ハ八時十分頃ダト思ヒマス。私ガあぐらヲ組ンテオ茶ヲ吞ンテ
オリマス時、ピカリト火光ガ致シマシタデ突サニ伏セマシタ、スルトスグ
周圍ガマツクラニナリ、私ハ意識ヲソレト同時ニ失ヒマシタ。

私ガ意識ヲ回復シタノハ、アタリガ明ルクナツテ居ル時デアリマシタ。

ガラス戸ノキハニ居タセイカ、全身ガガラスデ一杯ニカブツテ居リソレヲ
ハラヒケテ立タウトシタ多ガ立テズ、ソノ中ニ次ノ間ノ天井ガ落チテ、

来ル音が響キマシタ。 全身ニカヲ入レテヤット立ち上ツタ時、口ト鼻
カラ血ガ吹ホマシタ。

無中テ防空壕ノ中へ入りアホ向ケニナツテ居リマスト。周圍が靜カニナリ
マシテ。防空壕ヨリハヒ上ツテ行キマシタ。 是ト着物(ゆかた)が

血ダラケニナツテ居ルノニ気がツギ。私ハ急イテ洋服ト兼カヘル事ニ致シタ

所。着物ヲ脱グト。右半身がガタガタ。破片デキズダラケデアリマシタ。

ソノ動作ニ移ル迄。ワズカ五分位デアリマシタ。避難ヲスル為メ紙團ノ
通りヲ歩イテ行キマスト。途中ニハ火傷ノ為メ若シテ道端へ仰向ケニナツテ

顔ヲオサエテ居ル人ガ一杯居リマシタ。国民学校ニ行キソコテ血止メ

ノ注射ヲウツテモラヒマシタ。私ハ治療所へ行クが早カシヤセカ。

附近ニ人ハあまり居ラセシデシタ。ソコデシバラク休息ヲシテ居リマシタ。

所。後カラノ一と避難ヤ治療ヲシテモラフ為メ人ガオシヨセ。

棧庭ハ十分位中ニ一杯ニナリマシタ。私ノ左足ガ火傷ヲ負ツテ痛

出シマシタ。テモウ一度治療所へ行キマシタ。所。半死人ヤ。大火傷ノ

人々ノ為メ治療ヲ満員デアリカラト言ハレマシタ。テ。ソコカハシマシタ。

ソノ中。四方ガ火ノ海ニナツテ。半死モ。危険ヲトイフ声ガシタ。
ニワカニ。棧庭内ノ人々ガ騒シマシタ。私モ。避難スル為メニ人々ト
共ニ走リマシタ。

群集ト共ニヤツト逃ゲ出タリ時ハ四方ハ火ノ粉ト火煙ト爲シ全ク
 ドノ方向ニ行ツテ良イヤラ解^ワ又位デアリマシタ。

又ト共ニ私ハ山ノ方ヘ避難致シタ。ソノ同道端デ助ケテ呼ブ声
 ヤ親ヲ呼ブ迷子ノ子供ハ勿論皆負傷シテ居リマス。泣ク声デ全ク
 生キ地獄ノ様デアリマシタ。

私ハ自分ノ事デ精一杯デアリマス。他女ノ悲惨ナ状態ヲ見タカ
 ト言ハレテモ記憶ハアリマセン。但全ク物凄イトイフヨリ他ハアリマセン。

ヤガテトアル橋ノキハ迄来タ時(大部分ノ人々ハ逃ゲズ。又自分が歩ケス
 デ死ニテデアリマスガ)永ヲ右ミタクナリマシタ。川ニ下リマシタ。

ガシカシ川ノ中ハ死女ヤ又半火傷ヲ負ツタ女々デニ車ニモ三重ニモ

重ツテ居リ水トコロ事デアリマセン。然モ川ノ中ハ六七人モ

一面私ノ視野ノキク所ハ死女ノ山デアリマシタ。多分避難ニ来タ
 リニ入ツテ死ンダ女デセウ。

ソノ中ニ木ダ燃エテ居ル死体モアリマシタ。中デモ女學生四五人
 腕ニ動員ト書イタ腕章ヲツケテ半焼ノ大裸体ニ近イノガアツタノハ

全ク悲惨デ。顔ガ血ダラケテ居ルノハ良イ方デアリマシタ。

慘狀ニツイテ私ハ何ト申シテ良イヤラ説明申シ様ガアリマセン。

一 私ハ一人ヲ以テ避難出来ル輕傷ニスギマセンデシタデ歩ケルニ歩ケマシ
ガ小ニ近クナルニ多クテ逃ゲテソコ迄歩イタ人ハ全クホニワカカデ
アリタリ。

仲間デニ三人デオ互ニ背中デ手ヲ組ンテ歩ケナイ人ヲ真中ニシテ避難
レテ行ク中幽子生ニハ涙ガ出テ来マシタ。

ヤット武ル農家ニ辿リツキソノ家ニ入レテモラツテ一直ツイタ時私ハ意識不
明デアリマシタ。ソノ後二月間シテ気がツイタ時ハソノ農家ノ庭ノ一隅ニ
解カセテ居リソノ庭ハマルデ黒鬼ヤ赤オニノ様ニナツタ死ハ一杯
ノ中ニ居リマシタ。ソノ人々ハ組合デテ附近ヨリ建物疎開ニ広島市

ニ手付ニ行ツテ五十人全滅シタ人ノ一部ト事デアリマシタ。

一 ソノ後病院ニ入りマシタガ治療ハ十一月カカリマシタ。現在手ノ

指ハ自由ガキキマセシ。又冬ニナルト痛ンデ来マス。足ハ火傷ガ加ノ

ウシテ非常ニ時痛ミマシタ。現在デモ時々痛ミヲオホエマス。

一 附近ニ病院ハアリマシタガ軍事施設ハ全クアリマセン。

United States ^{IN THE} of America et al
vs
ARAKI Sadao

SWORN DEPOSITION

Deponent : NISHIMURA, Gen-ichi

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.

their usual summer clothes.

The air-raid warning alarm had been cancelled ~~with drawn~~ early in the morning, so that

I was sitting at home in kimono ~~being~~ ^{taking it easy.} ~~easy.~~

I remember it was about ten past eight.

I was taking tea sitting in relaxed posture ^{manner}, when suddenly a flash of lightning rushed into my eyes and, quick as thought, I fell down on my face. In an instant it turned pitch-dark around me and ^{at the same time} ~~simultaneously~~ I ~~lost my~~ ^{lost} consciousness ~~fell in entire unconsciousness.~~

It was as bright as usual when later I regained ~~came~~ to myself. my senses.

I found ~~that~~ broken pieces of window-panes
~~covered~~ all over me, for I was near the
 window.

Clearing off the splinters, and
 in vain

then I tried to stand up on my feet,

when the ceiling of the next room was

~~heard~~ to fall with a terrible crash,
 a ~~stounding~~ noise. After

extreme
 desperate efforts with all my strength I

was able to ~~stand~~, when the blood
~~could~~ gushed out

~~both~~ from my mouth and nose.

Distractedly running outside I

~~Running out like mad I~~ in vain shelter
 jumped into the dug-out and

lay
 laid myself on my back. Presently it

became
 turned quiet all around me, so I crept

out of the dug-out. ~~Then~~ I found

then
 that my summer kimono was ^(entirely) stained with

and
 blood. I threw off the kimono & put on

a coat and trousers in a great hurry.

The right half of my body was ^{and injured} cut, all over with glass splinters.

After about five minutes, I was walking down the GION street among refugees. On my way, there were a lot of people who ~~were~~ lying on their backs, were suffering from severe pain caused by burns.

→ and covering their faces with ^{their} hands.

I went to a primary school and had an ^{an} ~~stiptic~~ injection. In the beginning there were few

people about the ^{dispensary} ~~treatment office~~ was, I think,

^{than them} I was earlier in arriving there. While I was

taking a rest there, & crowds of people

came there one after another for ~~the~~ ^{medical} purposes

shelter or treatment and in ten minutes the ~~camp~~ ^{yard} was filled with

such people. I began to feel pain

burned on my left leg. ^{entered} Once again I visited

the ^{dispensary} ~~treatment office~~ but ^{soon} came ^{out} back ~~soon~~,

for I was told the medical service was

fully occupied for the treatment of ^{badly} ~~sitting~~

burned or dying people. In the mean-

time, the people ^{in the yard} ~~on the campus~~ became

excited when a warning shout was repeated by

heard that The school would soon ~~it would soon become~~

~~dangerous to stay there in the school~~

be in danger, for flames were raging

on all sides. I ^(raised myself) and joined
 the refugees, but ^{(at the sight of the shooting sparks} blazing flames
 and ^{dark} smokes all around
 us. I, like others, could not
 rightly make out which was the safest
 direction to take.

At last ~~with others~~ ^{the} I took the
 way to the hill following others. Men and
 women waiting for help. Little children
 desperately crying for their parents. ---
 all such injured people were crying
 by the roadside. It was nothing but
~~hell~~ ^{hell} on earth.

To ^{the} question ^{whether} if I saw any tragic
 situation of other people, I ~~should say~~ ^{would answer}

J. Keats,

that I do not remember any, for all
I could do was ^(do my best to) to protect my own life.

I can find no other suitable
expression than calling the situation
"ghastly."

Presently, I came to a bridge.

(By that time the greater part of the
refugees ^{had} died, for they could not walk
or escape safely.) I went down to

the water as I felt thirsty. But how

could I drink ~~water~~? There in the

river lay one ~~corpse~~ ^{corpse} on top of the other, ~~bodies~~

~~of the dead~~ ^{among them} were those who were half burned
and those who were vitally

burned.

About six or seven thousand

of bodies were piled there in the river as far as my eyes could reach.

These were perhaps the people who ^{reached} got to the river for shelter and died there.

Some bodies were still burning. The most strikingly pitious of all (which I witnessed) was the case of several tens of girl students.

(of each girl) (that they were) An arm-band indicated students mobilized for factory labor service. Some were burned ^{to the extent of} almost half the body. Some lay dead wearing almost no clothes.

Some girls who had blood-stained faces could be considered ~~were to be said~~ the less miserable among them.

2/20/69

I do not ^{have words} ~~know how~~ to explain the horrible situation at that time.

4. I was injured (so slightly) that I could walk independently ^{without} others' help, but not without difficulty. The nearer we

approached the hill, the less people, at length, only

followed us and a few ~~were~~ they who

could reach the hill.

the

(~~at~~ sight of)

a group of boy students ^{who were} giving assistance

to friends who could not walk, was so

~~shocking~~ ^{moving} that I could not help shedding

tears.

I walked on for a long time until

July 10

I came to a farmer's house. As soon as
I ~~was admitted into~~ ^{entered} the house for a
pause I fainted. It was two days
later that I ~~came to~~ ^{regained} my senses. (I found that
I had been) laid at a corner of the yard where
there ~~was~~ ^{were} a pile of corpses some of
which looked like black or red ogres.
Later I was told that those people were
among the fifty neighbors who ^{had been} sent to HIROSHIMA
to ~~help~~ ^{assist in} the building evacuation work there.
Every one of those fifty men was killed
that day.

5. After that I entered hospital

and underwent medical treatment for

July 11

the ~~following~~ ^{ensuing} twelve months until I was
cured. My fingers do not work well
and in winter they will hurt. My legs
~~which were burned~~ ^{for some time} ~~terribly~~ ^{hurt} when the
burns festered ~~and~~ ^{and} even at present
I often feel a pain in my legs.

6. There were hospitals in my neighborhood
but no military establishment
existed in the area.

Def Doc No.

On this 30 day of March, 1947

At TAKEHARAMACHI, HIROSHIMA.

DEPONENT NISHIMURA, Zen-ichi (seal)

I, IWAMATSU, Makoto 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) IWAMATSU, Makoto (seal)

OATH:

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

NISHIMURA, Zenichi (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

SWORN DEPOSITION (Translation)

Deponent: NISHIMURA, Zenichi

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. My name is NISHIMURA, Zenichi. I am 59 years old. At present I live in retirement in TAKEHARA-MACHI, KAMOGUN, HIROSHIMA PREF.
2. On the day when the first atomic bomb was dropped at HIROSHIMA, August 6, 1945, I was at 4-chome, HONCHO-DORI, of the city. I hereby state as follows as to the state of affairs at that time.
3. It was the morning rush hour in the morning and as the neighborhood where I lived was a busy quarter of the city, some neighbors who had just arisen ~~there~~ were enjoying the cool air out-of-doors in their usual summer clothes.

The air-raid warning alarm had been cancelled early in the morning, so that I was sitting at home in kimono taking it easy.

I remember it was about ten past eight. I was taking tea sitting in a relaxed posture. Then suddenly a flash of lightning rushed into

my eyes and, quick as thought, I fell down on my face. In an instant it turned pitch-dark around me and at the same time I lost consciousness.

It was as bright as usual when later I regained my senses.

I found broken pieces of window-pane all over me, for I was near the window. Clearing off splinters, I tried in vain to stand on my feet. When the ceiling of the next room was heard to fall with a terrible crash. After extreme efforts I was able to stand, when ^{the} blood gushed out both from my mouth and nose.

Distractedly running outside I jumped into the air raid shelter and lay on my back. Presently it became quiet all around, so I crept out of the dug-out. I found then that my summer kimono was entirely stained with blood. I threw off the kimono and put on a coat and trousers in a great hurry. The right half of my body was cut and injured all over with glass splinters.

After about five minutes, I was walking down the GION street among refugees. On my way, there were a lot of people who were suffering from severe pain caused by burns, lying on their back and covering their faces with their hands. I went to a primary school and had an injection. In the beginning there were few people about the dispensary as, I think, I was earlier than them in arriving there. While I was taking a rest there, crowds of people came there one after another for shelter or medical treatment and in ten minutes the yard was filled with such people. I began to feel pain on my burned left leg. Once

again I entered the dispensary but soon came out, for I was told the medical service was fully occupied for the treatment of badly burned or dying people. In the meantime, the people in the yard became excited when a warning shout was repeatedly heard that the school would soon be in danger, for flames were raging on all sides. I raised myself and joined the refugees, but at the sight of the blazing flames, shooting sparks and dark smokes all around us. I, like others, could not rightly make out which was the safest direction to take.

At last I took the way to the hill following the others. Men and women wailing for help --- little children desperately crying for their parents --- all such injured people were crying by the road side. It was nothing but hell on earth.

To the question whether I saw any tragic situation of other people, I would answer that I do not remember any, for all I could do was to do my best to protect my own life. I can find no other suitable expression than calling the situation "ghastly."

Presently I came to a bridge. (By that time the greater part of the refugees had died, for they could not walk or escape safely.) I went down to the water as I felt thirsty. But how could I drink? There in the river lay one corpse on top of the other among them were those who were half burned. About six or seven thousand bodies were piled there in the river as far as my eyes could reach. These were perhaps the people who reached the river for shelter and died there.

Some bodies were still burning. The most strikingly piteous of all

which I witnessed was the case of several tens of girl students. An arm-band of each girl indicated that they were students mobilized for factory labor service. Some were burned to the extent of almost half the body. Some lay dead wearing almost no clothes. Some girls who had blood-stained faces could be considered the less miserable among them.

I do not have words to explain the horrible situation at that time.

4. I was so slightly injured that I could walk independently ^{unitout} of others' help, but not without difficulty. The nearer we approached the hill, the less people followed us and, at length, only ~~few~~ ~~doubtless~~ ~~the~~ ~~hill~~.

~~The~~ sight of a group of boy students were on their way to refuge giving assistance to friends who could not walk was so moving that I could not help shedding tears.

I walked on for a long time until I came to a farmer's house. As soon as I entered the house for a pause I fainted. It was two days later that I regained my senses. I found that I had been laid at a corner of the yard where there was a pile of corpses some of which looked like black or red ogres. Later I was told that these people were among the fifty neighbors who had been to HIROSHIMA to assist in the building evacuation work there. Every one of those fifty men was killed that day.

5. After that I entered hospital and underwent medical treatment for the ensuing, twelve months until I was cured. My fingers do not work well and they hurt in winter. My legs hurt terribly for some time when the burns festered and even at present I often feel pain in my legs.