

Exhibit 2684

9

Translated by
Defense Language Branch

INTERNATIONAL MILITARY TRIBUNAL FOR THE FAR EAST

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, et al

-vs-

ARAKI SADAQ, et al

SWORN DEPOSITION

Deponent: IIMURA Minoru

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.

On this 26 day of April, 1947

At Tokyo

DEPONENT IIMURA Noboru (seal)

I, KIYOSE Ichiro 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 Tokyo

Witness: (signed) KIYOSE Ichiro (seal)

1. I hereby undertake to give an account of the fortifications reported to have been built in Manchuria.

As is stated at the end of the deposition which I made on August 17, 1946, it was immediately after the Nomonhan Incident that I was appointed Chief of Staff of the Kwantung Army. Since we had suffered a great damage and loss of men during that incident, we felt considerable insecure in regard to the defense of Manchuria. The measure that Commander-in-Chief Umezū adopted to meet the situation was to avert further border disputes, to construct defense installations, especially new fortifications and to strengthen the old ones. Accordingly, both the construction and strengthening of fortifications were entirely of defensive nature, and by no means of offensive nature. The depth of the positions of our fortifications can not perhaps be said short, but compared with that of Russian works, it would probably seem less great. This, however, was due to the tactical idea of the Japanese Army. Once their defense positions were set up, it was the principle of the Japanese army to defend them to the death, yielding not an inch of ground to the enemy.

2. About the construction of air-bases and air-fields.

During the period September, 1939--October, 1940, while I

DEF. DOC. #1445 .

was Chief of Staff of the Kwantung Army, there were not many air-bases and air-fields constructed, though plans to increase them were already in existence. In those days the Japanese air-forces in Manchuria were extremely meager, and so, in order to mitigate the loss and damage that we were likely to suffer at the hands of our enemy it was felt necessary that air-bases should be scattered far and wide to avoid receiving damages by one attack and that enemy raids should be rendered futile by freely moving our airplanes. Thus, it was only as a negative means to preserve our fighting strength that numbers of air-bases and air-fields were constructed.

3. About the river-crafts on the Sungari, Manchuria.

The Soviet river-crafts, including large-size gun-boats were far superior to ours in number, so that it was absolutely impossible for Japan or Manchuria to challenge the Soviet forces to a fight on the river; we were to content ourselves with constructing fortifications in the north of Chiamussu to defend in case the Soviet forces should come up the river on their offensive expedition. Such being the circumstances, it, was quite out of the question for us to attempt on our own initiative to operate against the Soviets on the Amur river when we were provided with a meager number of river-boats.

DEF. DOC. #1445

OATH

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

Signed IIMURA Minoru (seal)

TRANSLATION CERTIFICATE

I, Arthur A. Misaki, of the Defense Language Branch, hereby certify that the foregoing translation described in the above certificate is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, a correct translation and is as near as possible to the meaning of the original document.

/s/ Arthur A. Misaki

Tokyo, Japan

Date 12 April 1947

Iimura Minoru's Affidavit

I, Arthur A. Misaki, of the Defense Language Branch, hereby certify that the foregoing translation described in the above certificate is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, a correct translation and is as near as possible to the meaning of the original document.