

3185

Def. Doc. No. 2230

Exh. No.

INTERNATIONAL MILITARY TRIBUNAL FOR THE FAR EAST

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, et al)
- vs -)
ARAKI, Sadao, et al)

AFFIDAVIT OF
HATTORI, Takushiro

I, HATTORI, Takushiro, of lawful age, being first duly sworn in accordance with the customs in my country, depose and state as follows:

My name is HATTORI, Takushiro, and I now reside in the City of Tokyo. I am an ex-Colonel of the Japanese army and at the time of the Nomonhan Incident I was a Staff Officer of the Kwantung Army. I have been asked if I know whether or not the accused DOHARA, Kenji, was in any manner concerned with the Nomonhan Incident. I do know and can state as a positive fact that he was in no manner concerned with the Incident. He held the post of Attache to the General Staff from June, 1938, and was appointed Commander of the 5th Army on May 19, 1939, which post he held until he was appointed as a Supreme War Counsellor on September 28, 1939. The Nomonhan Incident occurred on the 12th of May, 1938, just a few days before General DOHARA became commander of the 5th Army. The headquarters of the 5th Army was established at Tung-an in Eastern Manchuria and its primary function was the defense of that immediate area.

Def. Doc. No. 2230

As a Staff Officer of the Awantung Army I knew that the creation of the 5th Army, of which General DOHIHARA was the first commander, had nothing to do with the Nomonhan Incident. The 5th Army had, as subordinate units, the 11th and 24th Divisions, the 3rd Cavalry Brigade and the Futau Border Garrison. None of these units participated in any manner in the Nomonhan Incident, which was going on and continued to go on for a short time after General DOHIHARA's appointment as commander, of the 5th Army. I know that General DOHIHARA was never transferred to an area that had any connection whatsoever with the Nomonhan Incident, but confined his military duties to defense in the Tung-an area.

Confusion may have arisen as to the participation of the 5th Army in the Nomonhan Incident because after it developed, the Commanding General of the Awantung Army withdrew machine gun units, mortar corps and other such units from each army in Manchuria and added them to the 6th Army, or the 23rd Division, which was then fighting at Nomonhan. Units were taken from the 5th Army as well as from other available sources, but General DOHIHARA was not officially concerned in any manner with the withdrawal of such units from his command and did not, and could not have issued the orders for such withdrawal. Toward the end of the Incident the 3rd Cavalry Brigade, which I have mentioned as one of

Def, Doc. No. 2230

the units under the 5th Army, was withdrawn from the command of the 5th Army for the purpose of adding to the Nomonhan military strength, but before this unit could be added, the Incident was concluded and the brigade never participated in the fighting. I know that the withdrawal of the 3rd Cavalry Brigade from the 5th Army was not upon the order of General DOHIHARA, nor was he in any way responsible for it. The orders were issued by higher authority.

Knowing the situation that then existed, as well as I do, and knowing the command responsibility of the various persons concerned, I can state as a positive fact that General DOHIHARA was in no manner concerned in the Nomonhan Incident.

On this 25 day of August, 1947

At Tokyo

DEPONENT ~~KINJIRO OHBA~~ (seal)

I, Kinjiro OHBA 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) Kinjiro Ohba (seal)

Def. Doc. No. 2230

OATH

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

/S/ Takushiro Hattori(seal)