

DEF. DOC. #2627

Exh. No.

ERRATA SHEET

The following corrections should be made on the
Affidavit of WAKIZAKA Jiro:

Page 4-paragraph 6, line 13-14,

"Prosecution Document No.--,"

should read

"Prosecution Document,"

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

Deponent: WAKIZAKA Jiro

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. I, WAKIZAKA, Jiro, at present live in No. 11 4 cho-me Miyako-dori, Chigusa-Ku, Nagoya.

2. In September 1937, I was serving as commander of the 36 Regiment, 9th Division. At that time I was colonel. Orders for the mobilization of my regiment was issued on around September 20th, 1937, and I took part in the engagements in Shanghai and Nanking areas under command of the Expeditionary Force to Shanghai.

The commander of the Expeditionary Force to Shanghai was General MATSUI. A friend of mine told me that it was

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ascribable to his personality, ideology, and career that the general who had been on the reserve list was appointed to that post; that, in other words, the general had for many years inquired into the state of things in China, and devoted himself to establish friendly relations between Japan and China, and had a wide acquaintance among the Chinese.

3. Upon my arriving at Shanghai, instructions of the general were often passed to me through my senior; the general, on every possible occasion, delivered instructions saying that military discipline should be strictly maintained, innocent people be pacified and protected, and foreign interests be safeguarded. Therefore I made efforts to make his instructions thoroughly understood by my officers and men, and gave them warnings so that such misdeeds as incendiary, murder, looting and rape may not occur among them.

4. While the Japanese force were advancing toward Nanking from Shanghai, my units always took the lead, and noticed that not a few houses of villages along our route had been burnt down, destroyed, or looted. The Chinese natives told us that this was due to the incendiary and destruction caused by the so-called Field-Clearing-Tactics customarily taken by the Chinese forces when they were about

to retreat, in order to check the advancement of the Japanese forces. They also told us that on the other hand, both Chinese soldiers and people looted these houses, as was usually the case with them in a war time. We endeavoured to preserve houses and other facilities for the purpose of pacifying and protecting the Chinese populace and also for the convenience of our following units, far from undertaking to burn up and destroy them. This was a common-sense of the Japanese force though higher authorities also instructed so.

5. As soon as my units captured KACHIN, some 40 kilometers south-east of Nanking at about 4 p.m. on December 8th my units immediately began to press hard on the enemy, hurriedly marched all night and at dawn of the 9th, reached JOHOCHIN, south of the KOKA-MON. It was pitch dark that night. Before we could ascertain in which direction Nanking was located, suddenly two pillars of big flames rose high up in the north, as if they were to scorch the sky. And I guessed they rose up in the direction of Nanking and made them a target of our advancement. My guessing turned out right. Later, for a few days before we captured Nanking we could see day and night flames rise up within the walls. At that time the bombing of the Japanese planes were not so intense and on the other hand, there was no bombardment of

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our artillery corps. Therefore, we concluded that either the Chinese Field-Clearing-Tactics or accidental fires as occurred in a state of confusion were presumably responsible for these flames. Hitherto, the Japanese forces were strictly warned against accidental fires. Soon after the capture of Nanking my units were engaged in extinguishing the fires of the burning houses. There happened no cases of incendiary on the part of the Japanese army and my units never caused an accidental fire.

6. My units captured the KOKA-MON in the early morning on December 13th. A furious fighting went on at this gate and, consequently, a large number of the killed and the wounded were reported on both sides. Immediately after the capture, my units took care of the killed and the wounded. Gathering up the corpses of both Japanese and Chinese forces to the same place located half-way between the KOKA-MON and the TSUSEI-MON, my units erected a grave-post and enshrined these sacrifices there. A sutra chanting was served for them by our military monk and heavenly bliss was prayed by them over a day and night during which these remains were being buried.

The number of the buried indicated in Prosecution Document No. _____, is apparently based upon the checking of the bones of both Japanese and Chinese forces killed in the preceding battles.

7. When I made a tour of inspection within the walls of Nanking on December 15th, I wanted to see the real state of things in the refugees section. The gendarmes, by whom the section was strictly guarded, however, refused my offer, saying that without a special permission, even a commander was prohibited from entering there. Then I was unable to inspect the inside of that section. On that occasion, and also later, I never heard of any illegal behaviours caused by the Japanese force inside the section.

8. A certain house was examined with a view to accommodating the headquarters of our regiment. When a certain lieutenant, bearer of the regimental colours entered that house in order to examine an air-raid shelter attached to it, he was fired on by revolvers from inside. He reported to me that he then immediatly accepted the challenge with his pistol with a result of shorting two Chinese soldiers to death. I at once instructed officers and men under my command to make precaution against the remnants of the Chinese forces and not to drop in any Chinese private houses.

9. Immediately after my units entered Nanking, a certain paymaster lieutenant found a Chinese ladies' shoe left off on the way while he was out to discharge an official business. He brought that shoe back to his quarters in order to show its wonderful fashion to his comrades.

A gendarme, however, found out this fact, and submitted a document to the court-martial on suspicion of plunderage. The lieutenant, shedding tears in my presence, asserted his innocence, and as I admitted him to be innocent, I reported to my superior official to that effect.

I remember that this case was finally found to be a minor offence not liable to prosecution. The supervision of the Japanese gendarmes in Nanking was extremely strict, and no consideration was shown even to any minor offences.

10. General MATSUI, immediately after a memorial service for the dead was held on December 18th, admonished us, senior officers, that military discipline should be more strictly maintained, and the prestige of our Imperial army be raised and efforts be made to realize friendly relations between Japan and China without delay.

After the fierce battles to capture Nanking, I was deeply struck with this righteous and benevolent mind of General MATSUI, and, in later operations and defences, I always endeavoured to exalt this spirit more and more. And after my return home, I dedicated a statuette of "Kannon" (T.N. the goddess of mercy) to the EIHEIJI Temple located in FUKUI Prefecture, in order to pray for the repose of the soul of both Japanese and Chinese killed in battles and for the peace of the Orient.

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11. I was in Nanking until the morning of December 24th. No criminal was found among those under my command. The natives became very familiar with the Japanese soldiers; some worked as cooks, and no one entertained fear toward the Japanese soldiers. And I never heard any shot inside and outside the walls after the fall of Nanking. If a machine gun was fired, its report ought to be heard, but I never heard such sort of sound.

12. After the hostilities in Nanking was over, my units undertook the responsibility of defence of Kiating. When one night a guard of the battalion headquarters under my command poured oil into a lamp, an oil can caught fire owing to his mistake, and there happened a fire by which the quarters burned down. On the charge of this accidental fire I was subjected to a reprimand in accordance with the Army Disciplinary Law. The battalion commander was put on a good behaviour, and the guard commander and that guard was heavily imprisoned. By order of commander MATSUI, military discipline was maintained in such a manner, and even a bit of unlawful act was never overlooked.

Besides the above, I do not remember any unlawful act which occurred among my units.

On this 12 day of September, 1947

At Tokyo

Deponent: /S/ WAKIZAKA Jiro (seal)

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I, KAMISHIRO Takuzen, 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: /S/ KAMISHIRO Takuzen (seal)

OATH

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

/S/ WAKIZAKA Jiro (seal)

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Page 3, paragraph 5, line 1

"Kachin" should read "Shunhwachen"

Page 3, paragraph 5, line 5

"Johochin" should read "Shanctfanctchen"

Page 3, paragraph 5, line 5

"Koka-mon" should read "Kwancthuamen"

Page 4, paragraph 6, lines 1 and 7

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Page 4, paragraph 6, line 8

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