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Exh. No.



INTERNATIONAL MILITARY TRIBUNAL FOR THE FAR EAST  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA et al

-vs-

ARAKI, Sadao et al

SWORN DEPOSITION (Translation)

Deponent: KAWAGOE, Meriji

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 am an ex-lieutenant-general and acting chief of the Liaison Office for the Demobilization in the Central district.
2. Sadao I was a staff officer to the 6th Division from August I, 1929, to August I, 1931, and attached to the Personnel Affairs Bureau of the War Ministry from August I, 1932, to March I, 1934, under Gen. ARAKI.
3. It was the thorough education of the Army into the consciousness of their being the Imperial Japanese Army. He put this policy to practice for two years while he was

Division Commander. The Japanese army had been modelled upon German and French prototypes and had not yet freed itself from the Prussian formalism. He emphasized the necessity of the Japanese army to cast off the foreign influence and stand by its own Imperial honor and Prestige. He explained the consciousness of being soldier of the Imperial army as follows:

The Japanese army was under the direct command of the Emperor and its duty was to glorify the Emperor's virtue. The Emperor's virtue is the charity founded on the gracious traditions of all the preceding Emperors back to the originator of the dynasty. The duty of the Imperial army is to administer this charity with fairness and resolution. Otherwise the prestige of the army would be demolished.

4. He explained the relation between the national situation and the Imperial Army consciousness as follows. While he was division commander, such foreign questions as the Manchurian and the Russian questions occurred. He expressed sympathy for the inhabitants of these countries but said that these affairs concerned the foreign countries so that Japan should not interfere with these questions. He also maintained that the army should not participate in politics. The Emperor declares War only when the national polity and very existence of Japan is held at the stake.

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Until that time the Imperial Japanese army should not act rashly to the dishonour of their Emperor's virtue. If our soldiers burn in the Imperial Japanese army consciousness and the entire nation cultivate their virtues, the world will naturally pay respect to Japan and our national defense will be secured without the use of the sword.

5. For the first six months or so, they had difficulty in understanding the meaning of the Imperial army Consciousness. Even an officer, inquired, would say, for example, "KOGUN ISHIKI the Imperial army consciousness is to march (KOGUN) to ISHIKI (i. e. the name of a place in KAGOSHIMA Prefecture)" or "It is to be cordially received by the inhabitants of the place after marching (KOGUN) and being quartered at night." The Division Commander was so far in advance of the officers in thought, that the officers could not understand him and consequently could not educate the soldiers in his ideal.

6. He talked on the Imperial army consciousness whenever he inspected his army and repeatedly gave instructions at the gatherings of unit commanders. The deepest impression I got of him was he expounded on his ideal for as long as 8 hours to all the army officers in KUMAMOTO, his exposition ranging from the spirit of the foundation of the Japanese army to the nature of modern warfare. He warned them against the complicated nature of future wars and concluded that in order that his Division might enhance the honor of the Imperial

army, they must all thoroughly awaken to the Imperial army consciousness. By his efforts they came to understand him.

7. The following few points are among what he advocated in order to have his ideal understood by soldiers.

a. Victory or death. No war without cause should be waged.

b. Victory without the enemy's resentment, and occupation also without the natives' resentment.

Thus war should be waged for the cause of humanity. Under any difficulty or plight inhuman acts should not be done, for they will be against the Emperor's virtues. Culture in time of peace were emphasized for soldiers in barracks.

8. Concrete measures were taken regarding this point. He upheld a high standard for the commanders' moral character, emphasized the importance of the spiritual unity of a corps with the commander as its centre.

9. He lay a great stress upon victory without the enemy's resentment. Considering the essential quality of the Imperial Japanese army, a victory cannot be a victory if it has been won by incurring the enemy's resentment. The Imperial Japanese army may lose a battle if it was for the sake of vindicating its virtue and obtaining the enemy's respect. At the time of his first inspection of the headquarters of the Kagoshima regimental district, he emphasized this point purposely to the so-called SATSUMA boys.

He said Killing and wounding of the enemy is inevitable as a battle is a matter of life or death, but we must remember that a war is not a private quarrel but a public affair in which the enemy also fight for their country. Therefore the Imperial Japanese army should be courteous and kind-hearted toward them so that the Japanese racial kindness, which is no other than a manifestation of His Majesty's charity, be vindicated and should observe the international law so admirably as to contribute even toward its further development so that the honor of the Imperial Japanese army be exalted. We need the generosity of UESUGI, Kenshin (TN; a 16th century Japanese warlord) who supplied his enemy with salt on seeing them suffering from its shortage,

10. He said about the observation of International Laws as follows.

He definitely condemned the use of poison-gases, and bacteria and was especially against any warfare that harm innocent non-combatants. With regard to the treatment of prisoners of war, he said that the Imperial Japanese army should be a model to the world and reminded us of our army's kind treatments of prisoners of war in the Chino-Japanese, and the Russo-Japanese, war as well as in World War I. There was at that time a public opinion advocating the enlargement of the calibre of Japanese rifles from 6.5 m.m. 7.5 m.m. in

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order to augment its wounding power but General ARAKI always stood against such an opinion, with the view that the use of rifles was to wound the enemy and make them leave the battle line and not to kill them so that there was no need to enlarge the caliber. He had enough confidence with that kind of rifle.

11. He meant by "occupation to be welcomed by the natives" as follows. In the battlefield, non-combatants of the enemy country or of any third power should not be molested. Looting, violating, killing and wounding of them were strictly prohibited.

It was toward the above end after all that he strongly insisted on the cleanliness of the barracks in the daily military discipline. At any time of manœuvres, he insisted that the inhabitants should not be annoyed. It is a Prussian manner, he said to settle up the wasted fields with indemnity. Japanese soldiers must treat the inhabitants with kindness and sincere respect. The fact that in our Division, the 23rd infantry regiment never damaged during manœuvres was a result, of the discipline that ARAKI Sadao gave it when he was its commander.

12. What is meant by the purification of the barracks?

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He expressly ordered that care should be taken so that articles should never be lost in the barracks. He maintained that of all the Japanese people, the soldier most directly embodied the Imperial wish so that one in military uniform, a soldier should never a moment lose his military honor. Even when free of supervision, he should maintain his dignity. As a result of such discipline lost articles were always restored to their owners and theft was practically exterminated.

13. After he was appointed War Minister, he made Gen. YAMAOKA, Juko Director of the Military Affairs Bureau. This YAMAOKA was well known for his stubbornness. In my anxiety, when I came to Tokyo from KUMAMOTO, I asked the Minister the reason why he appointed him who did not excel in military administration to that post. He replied. "The present state of Manchuria is compared to a cart laden with explosives falling down from a mountain top. As it must be stopped without explosion, so the hostilities should be settled. For this purpose the Army should be under perfect control. At present only YAMAOKA and YANAGAWA can reprimand the Army.

14. I was transferred to the Personnel Affairs Bureau in the War Ministry on August 1, 1932. I was again under

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direct guidance of Gen. ARAKI publicly and privately. The Minister's guiding principle in the War Ministry was perfect realization of a sense of the true Imperial Army, just as while he was Division Commander at KUMAMOTO.

In his address to subordinates or private instruction he emphasized the Army should stand up to the august benevolence of the Emperor, and reiterated, "Victory without the enemy's resentment and by occupation to be welcomed by natives."

15. I participated in the Pacific War, as Chief staff-officer to the 48th Division. What I was most careful about was to realize ARAKI's slogan, of years ago, victory without the enemy's resentment and occupation amid the respect of the inhabitant's. I practically succeeded after a year's education in having this spirit thoroughly understood by my soldiers. But in order to reassure its practice, I gave orders while I was in TAIWAN that any soldier who has ill-treated prisoners of war, or plundered, violated, killed or wounded natives, should be punished, not he alone, but together with his regimental commander. And, at the time, the administration in Japan was out of condition and the people, specially the farmers were so afflicted that the young officers who directly trained soldiers from farming districts were in the deep agony.



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The division commander properly lead with kindness the young officers who had been apt to fall into radicalism. He untiringly persuaded them to improve their character and to retrospect themselves. Thus he enlightened them a great deal.

On this 5 day of Spt., 1947

At \_\_\_\_\_

DEPONENT KAWAGOE Moriji (seal)

I, HASUOKA Komei 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 \_\_\_\_\_

Witness: (signed) HASUOKA Komei (seal)

OATH

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

KAWAGOE Moriji (seal)

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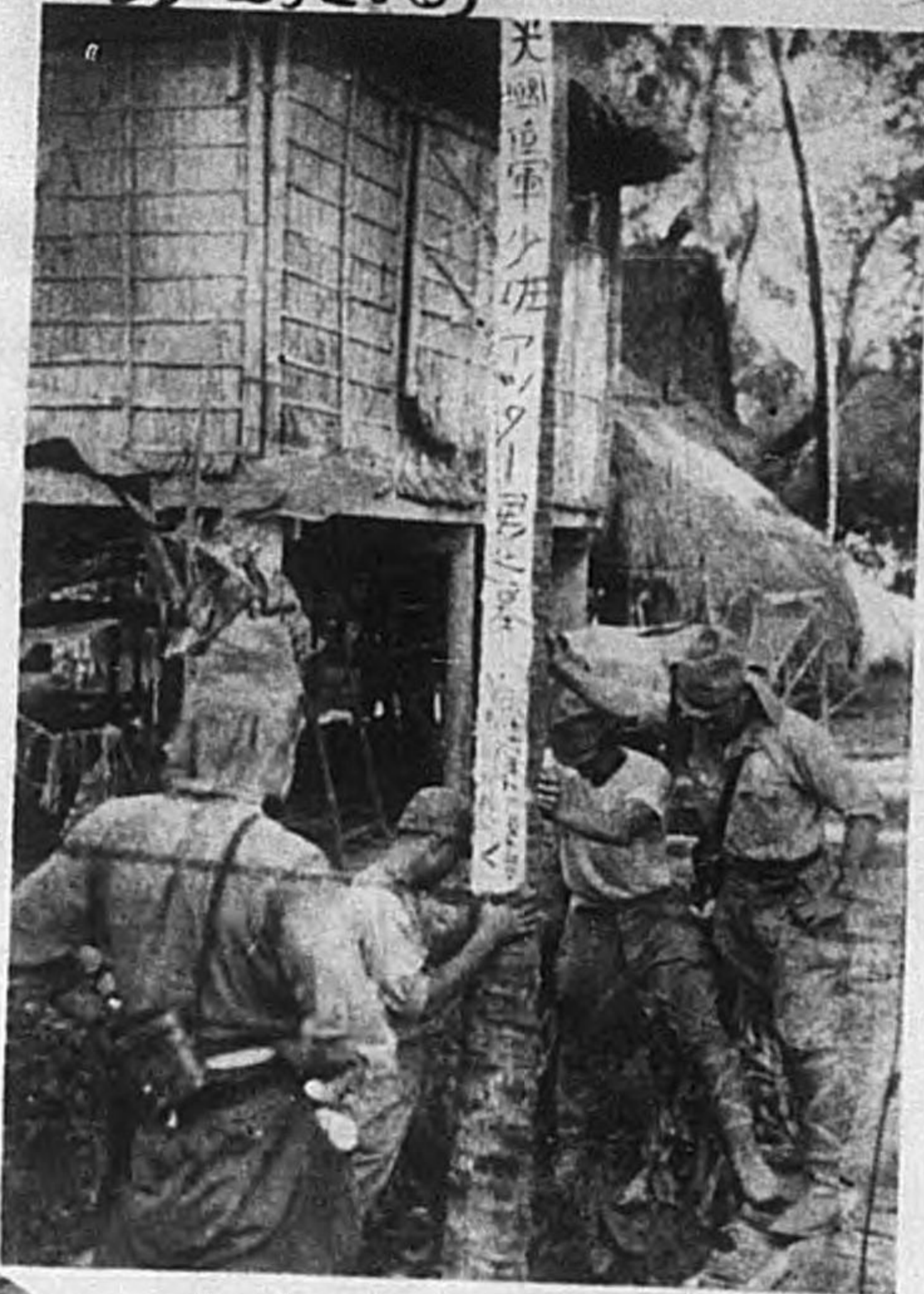
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大國軍少佐アツタノ

敵將小平少勇士達

DD # 25-20 (4)



— 俘虜收容所之景象 —