

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: YAMAGUCHI, Eiji

Having first duly sworn an oath as shown on attached sheet and in accordance with the procedure followed in our country I hereby depose as follows:

1. I, YAMAGUCHI, Eiji, am an ex-lieutenant colonel and was born on the 11th of August 1907. My present domicile is No. 134, 3-Chome, Nanjo-cho, Takada City, Niigata Prefecture. In 1929 I graduated from the Military Academy and in 1938 from the Staff College. Having been detailed on various services since then, I was appointed staff officer of the Burma Area Army on the 8th of July in 1944. Though on the 18th of July 1945 my position had been transferred formally to another one, I was in the service as the staff officer for operations until the 20th of the same month.
2. I have read the exhibits and recorded testimonies of Witnesses, both of which are related to the Japanese Army's alleged unlawful

Def. Loc. # 2586

acts in Burma. I will state here about the above exhibits and testimonies as much as I know.

(a) Concerning the alleged facts stated in thirteen exhibits, namely, No. 1535(a), 1543(a) to 1550(a), inclusive, 1554(a) to 1558(a) inclusive, and 1579 to 1582(a) inclusive. All of the above exhibits except 1557(a) and 1558(a) seem to be the ones bearing on the alleged facts which occurred before General KIMURA took the post of Commander of the Burma Area Army on the 12th of September 1944. The Tavoy Internment Camp which appears in Exhibits 1557(a) and 1558(a) was under the direct control of the head of the 24th Mixed Brigade belonging to the Burma Area Army. In December 1944, two and one-half months after KIMURA arrived in Burma, the Tavoy Internment Camp was transferred from the command of the Burma Area Army to the Thai Area Army by order of the Commander of the Southern Army. The Tavoy Internment Camp was put under the direct control of the unit which was under control of the ^{GENERAL} Commander of Thai Area Army and stationed in Tavoy.

(b) Concerning the alleged facts which appear in the twenty-one exhibits, namely 1536(a), 1559 to 1578(a) inclusive, and the facts to which both witnesses, Mr. John Williams and Major John ~~Kevin~~ Lloyd, testified on the 17th of December 1946:

Kevin

It appears from these that the facts are related to the alleged ill treatment by the Japanese armies done to war Prisoners, such as using them for the construction of the Thai-Burma Railway. The construction of the Thai-Burma Railway had been completed

already a year before General KIMURA arrived at his post as the Commander of the Burma Area Army and moreover, the construction, operation or management of which was conducted by the commander the Field Railway Corps then under the direct control of the Commander of Southern General Army. The commander of the Burma Area Army had nothing to do with the Burma-Siam Railway.

(c) Concerning the alleged facts which appear in exhibits 1584 and 1585(a):

It appears from these that the alleged facts are related to the alleged ill treatment by the Japanese armies of the war prisoners, such as using them for constructing the Mergui-Kirihkan Road from April 1945 to August of the same year. Since December 1944, Mergui Area, not to mention Tavoy Area, entered under the control of the commander of the Thai Area Army in accordance with the order of the Commander of Southern General Army. Kirihkan is in Thailand. The commander of the Burma Area Army had nothing to do with the Mergui-Kirihkan ^{Road} ~~Railway~~.

(d) Concerning the alleged facts which appear in the fifteen exhibits, namely 1537(a) to 1547(a) inclusive; 1551(a) to 1553(a) inclusive and 1583(a):

It appears from these that some of the facts occurred during General KIMURA's tenure of office as the commander of the Burma Area Army. The authorities of the Area army headquarters knew nothing about the alleged facts appearing in the said exhibits

and never issued any orders in connection therewith.

Since the alleged facts which appear in the exhibits, namely, a part of 1539(a) and 1541(a), 1542(a), 1543(a), 1545(a), and 1546(a) are undated, I shall mention them no further.

3. Ever since General KIMURA arrived at his post as the commander of the Burma Area Army, our Japanese army was continuously being defeated, thus they were put in an awkward predicament. Nevertheless, General KIMURA offered his serious efforts for the maintenance of the military discipline and for the grasping of the popular feeling throughout his tenure of office. He also endeavored to drive home his lesson by all means to his subordinate commanders who also did their best to obey their Commander. As such was the circumstances, I firmly believe that at that time the military discipline was strictly maintained and Japan and Burma were friendly.

4. The Aviation Division in Burma, the Hikari Organ in charge of liaison affairs with the Indian National Army, the South Field Railway Corps, the Marine Transport Corps and the Naval Base Forces, all of whom were in Burma, were not under the command of General KIMURA.

On this 15th day of September 1947

At Tokyo

Deponent: /s/ YAMAGUCHI, Eiji (seal)

Def. Doc. # 2586

I, KORETSUNE, Tatsumi, 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/ KORETSUNE, Tatsumi (seal)

OATH

By my conscience, I swear to tell the truth, conceal nothing and add nothing.

/s/ YAMAGUCHI, Eiji (seal)