

Def. Doc. 2783

INTERNATIONAL MILITARY TRIBUNAL FOR THE FAR EAST

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, et al

-vs-

ARAKI, Sadao, et al

AFFIDAVIT OF
KOMATSU, Mitsuhiro

I, KOMATSU, Mitsuhiro, state under oath as follows:

1. My present address is No. 1086 Yamada-machi, Kami-gun, Kochi Prefecture.

2. I was appointed in the winter of 1940 the Assistant Military Attache and concurrently the Assisting Member of the Tripartite Mixed Commission Japan-Germany-Italy in Berlin. I arrived in Berlin via Siberia together with Ambassador OSHIMA in February 1941. I was appointed the Military Attache and concurrently the member of the above mentioned Commission at the beginning of 1943 succeeding Lt. General Banzai and stayed on my post until the end of the war. During the tour of my duty in Berlin I was at first Major General, and later Lt. General.

3. Japanese members of the Tripartite Mixed Commission in Berlin based on the Tripartite Pact were Ambassador OSHIMA for the General, Lt. General Banzai and Vice Admiral Nomura for the Military and Minister Matsushima for the Economic Commission. These commissions were never convened until the outbreak of the Pacific War. Even after its outbreak they met only two or three times, and were never convened after the beginning of 1943 when I became a member of the Military Commission succeeding Lt. General Banzai. I heard from Lt. General Banzai that during the meetings there were only propogandistic reports on the past war situation by the German side.

4. Shortly after the outbreak of the Pacific War, the Military Agreement between the three countries of Japan, Germany, and Italy was concluded in January 1942. This was a purely Military Agreement concerning matters of the High Command. As far as I know and heard from late Military Attache Banzai, Ambassador OSHIMA was in fact not at all connected with this matter.

5. Ambassador OSHIMA told and consulted the military and naval attaches and other higher Embassy officials whenever he received instructions from Tokyo or had talks with German leaders. He was often telling us that because very little information was received from the Japanese Government, it was regrettable that he could not know the policy of the Japanese Government, and that he could not talk serious matters with the German side especially he did not know the future plan of Japan. What

Ambassador OSHIMA thought most important on his arrival in Berlin was, as I heard from him, to find out what perspective or plan Germany had for the future of the European war, and especially, whether and when she was in fact going to carry out landing operations against England and what preparations she was making.

6. I heard from Ambassador OSHIMA that Germany desired Japan to attack Singapore in the spring of 1941, but I learned from him that on this Singapore question he was only expressing his personal opinion on the basis of the military common sense he acquired as an ex-soldier and he did not broach this question on his own initiative. This Singapore question was brought out only before the outbreak of the German-Russian war, and thereafter Germany changed her mind and asked Japan to attack Soviet Russia, according to what I heard from Ambassador OSHIMA.

7. I was allowed to see important telegrams Ambassador OSHIMA sent to Tokyo prior to or after the dispatch. I never read a telegram by which Ambassador OSHIMA as his own opinion recommended such attacks to Tokyo.

8. Very little information was received from Tokyo as mentioned above. We in Berlin, including Ambassador OSHIMA, received almost no communication concerning the Japanese-American negotiations and could not understand the situation in Japan well. Ambassador OSHIMA expressed his opinion, even when he received the instructions to negotiate for the Non-Separate Peace Treaty immediately before the outbreak of the war; that war would not be opened between Japan and the United States. Such being the circumstances, I was very much surprised when I heard the attack on Pearl Harbor by foreign radio broadcast. Ambassador OSHIMA and all the others who gathered at the Embassy shortly thereafter expressed to each other their greatest surprise, also.

(s) KOMATSU, Mitsuhiko

At Tokyo, 31 March 1947

Witness: SHIMANOUGH, Tatsuki