

Testified
5-2

INTERNATIONAL MILITARY TRIBUNAL FOR THE FAR EAST

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, et al

-vs-

ARAKI, Sadao, et al

SWORN DEPOSITION (Translation)

DEPONENT: AOKI, Takeshi
No. 761 Horiuchi, Hayama
Kanagawa-Ken

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:

I was the Liaison Officer between the Second Combined Air Corps and the Expeditionary Forces in China. I arrived in Shanghai in mid-September 1937. I was a staff officer of the Third Fleet and concurrently a staff officer of the Shanghai Expeditionary Forces.

My duties were to supply information to the Naval forces and to send requests from the Army to the Navy. I was also a Naval expert within the Army and in order to maintain liaison I made periodic flights to and from the airfield and the Headquarters of the Third Fleet.

On December 12, 1937 requests were received from the Army to bomb Chinese ships in which Chinese soldiers were fleeing

Bombing of Panay - error -
extreme regret.
Parties permitted

from Nanking. It was reported that seven or eight large Chinese merchants ships filled with Chinese troops were fleeing up the Yangtze River and they requested assistance from the Naval Air Squadron in preventing this movement. I transmitted this request to the Air Corps by telephone. The Air Corps consented and sent several planes on the requested mission.

At that time, according to the Army reports, there were no foreign ships in the vicinity of Nanking. It was later reported that the mission was carried out with excellent results.

On December 14, 1937, I heard for the first time the bombing of the SS "PANAY". The first report stated that a foreign ship might have been bombed and I became aware of the facts when I reached Shanghai to investigate the facts in connection with this report. At Shanghai I discovered that the "PANAY" had been bombed in error, having been mistaken for one of the Chinese vessels attempting to flee from Nanking. The subsequent report of the pilot stated that the bombing of the "PANAY" was clearly an error on his part and that he had no intention of bombing a foreign vessel. It was his belief that the "PANAY" was one of the Chinese vessels fleeing from Nanking.

Insofar as the reported machine gunning of the crew is concerned, the report of the pilot denied that such machine gunning had taken place. It was not the practice of the pilots in such bombing missions to machine gun their targets.

DEF. DOC. # 1291

Very strict orders had been issued by the Commander of the Third Fleet and the Commander of the Air Corps that care should be taken not to bomb foreign ships and this incident was regarded with extreme regret. For that reason, those who were regarded as being guilty of carelessness or possible negligence were punished.

On this 15th day of April 1947,
at Tokyo

Deponent: /S/ Aoki, Takeshi (seal)

I, TATSUO INAKAWA, 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: /S/ Tatsuo, Inagawa (seal)

O A T H

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

/S/ Aoki, Takeshi (seal)

DEF. DOC. # 1291

Translation Certificate.

I, Charles D. Sheldon, Chief of the Defense Language Branch hereby certify that the attached translation of the Sworn Deposition of AOKI, Takeshi is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, a correct translation and is as near as possible to the meaning of the original document.

/s/ Charles D. Sheldon.

Tokyo, Japan

Date 21 April 1947.

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Translated by
Chiho Swanaga

AOKI TAKESHI

DATE OF BIRTH: 1903, May 29.

SOCIAL STATUS: Commoner

DOMICILE: 'Kanagawa' Prefecture

1920 Aug. 26: Ordered as a student in the Naval Academy.
(Naval Academy)

1923 July 14: ^{Certified} ~~Proved~~ to have finished the course of instruction
in the Naval Academy. (Naval Academy)

" Appointed as Naval Cadet for Second Lieutenant.
(Navy Ministry)

" Assigned to the battleship YAKUMO.
(Navy Ministry)

1924 Apr. 12: Discharged from the battleship YAKUMO duty
and assigned to the battleship HIEI.
(Navy Ministry)

" Oct. 20. Discharged from the battleship HIEI duty,

and assigned to the battleship NISSEIN.

Dec. 1. Appointed 2nd Lieutenant
(Cabinet)

Assigned to the battleship NISSEIN.
(Navy Ministry)

Dec. 27. Awarded the 8th Court Rank, Senior Grade.

1925 Dec 1 Relieved from the main office
(Navy Ministry)

Ordered as a student in the ordinary
course of the Torpedo School.
(Navy Ministry)

1926 May 28 Ordered as a student in the ordinary
course of the Gunnery School.
(Navy Ministry)

1926 Dec 1 Appointed Lieutenant ^(J.8) (Cabinet)
Attached to the Naval Flying Corps at
KASUMGA VBA. (Navy Ministry)

1926 Dec. 28 : Awarded the 7th Court Rank, Junior Grade.

1927 Mar. 1. Ordered as Flight Officer Trainee in the Naval Flying Corps at KASUMIGAWA.
(Navy Ministry)

Dec. 1. Attached to the Naval Flying Corps at YOKOSUKA (Navy Ministry)

1928 Dec. 1. Assigned to the battleship HOSHŌ.
Assigned, as an additional post, to the Naval Flying Corps at YOKOSUKA.
(Navy Ministry)

1929 Jan. 15. Relieved from the additional post.
(Navy Ministry)

1929, Nov. 1. Assigned to the Naval Flying Corps at KASUMIGAWA, and appointed additionally instructive officer in the said corps.
(Navy Ministry)

Nov. 30. Appointed Lieutenant (Cabinet)

1930, Jan. 16. Awarded the 7th Court Rank, Senior Grade.

1931 Nov. 2 Assigned to the battleship HŌ SHŌ (Navy Ministry)

1932. Nov. 15 Appointed as division officer of the Naval Flying Corps at OMVBA, and as an additional post an inspector in Aeronautics Department of the HIBO yard (Navy Ministry)

1934, Oct. 22 Appointed as commander and additionally instructive officer of Sub Division of Naval Flying Corps at KASUMI GAURA. (Navy Ministry)

1934 Apr. 29 Invested with the Order of the Golden Kite, 5th class, ¥ 350 as an annuity.

" Invested with the Fifth Order of the Rising

Sum with Dual Rays, for his services in the 1941 -
1944 Affair.

1935 Feb 15 Awarded the 6th Court Rank, Junior Grade

Oct 31 Ordered as KOSHU/T.N. classification of
flight trainee/student in Naval
War College (Navy Ministry)

Nov 15 Appointed Lieutenant Commander
(Cabinet)

1937 July 28 Assigned to the 12th Flying Corps.
(not recorded in the Tokyo Gazette)
(Navy Ministry)

Sept. 16 Appointed Staff Officer in the 3rd Fleet
(not recorded in the Tokyo Gazette)

1939 Mar. 23 Decorated with the 4th Class Order of the
Sacred Treasure

1940 Mar. 15 Awarded the 6th Court Rank, Senior Grade

- 1940 Nov. 1. Ordered to be on duties in the Naval Air Headquarters. (Navy Ministry)
- 1940 Nov. 15 Appointed Commander (Cabinet)
- 1940 Nov. 15 Assigned a member of the Training Department, the Naval Air Headquarters, additionally a member of the Bureau of Training, Navy Ministry. (Navy Ministry)
- 1940 Apr. 29 Invested with the Order of the Golden Kite, 4th class and the Minor Cordon of the Order of the Rising Sun, for his service in the China Incident.
- 1943 Aug. 16 Decorated with the 3rd Class Order of the Sacred Treasure.
- 1944 Oct. 15 Appointed Captain (Cabinet)
- " Dec. 1 Awarded the 5th Court Rank, Junior Grade.

1 May 1947

MEMORANDUM FOR: **Mr. Sutton; Mr. Edwards**

FROM : EDWARD P. MONAGHAN, Acting Chief
Investigative Division, IPS

SUBJECT : Defense Witness

1. Please find attached hereto list of material available on the following witness and/or witnesses.

DEFENDANT - General

WITNESS

LIST OF MATERIAL AVAILABLE

AOKI, Takeshi

Curriculum Vitae

2. Please acknowledge receipt of this memorandum by initialling and returning attached carbon copy to this office, Room 300.

E P M

Incl
(Described above)

EDWARD P. MONAGHAN

CURRICULUM VITAE

Personal history of AOKI, Takeshi

Date of Birth: 1903 May 29

Social Status: Commoner,

Domicile 'Kanagawa' Prefecture

- 1920 Aug. 26 Ordered as a student in the Naval Academy.
(Naval Academy)
- 1923 July 14 Certified to have finished the course of instruction
in the Naval Academy. (Naval Academy)
- " Appointed as Naval Cadet for Second Lieutenant.
(Navy Ministry)
- " Assigned to the battleship YAKUMO.
(Navy Ministry)
- 1924 Apr. 12 Discharged from the battleship YAKUMO duty and assigned
to the battleship HIEI.
(Navy Ministry)
- " Oct. 20 Discharged from the battleship HIEI duty and assigned to
the battleship NISSHIN.
- " Dec. 1 Appointed 2nd Lieutenant.
(Cabinet)
- Assigned to the battleship NISSHIN.
(Navy Ministry)
- " Dec. 27 Awarded the 8th Court Rank, Senior Grade.
- 1925 Dec. 1 Relieved from main office.
(Navy Ministry)
- Ordered as a student in the ordinary course of the
Torpedo School. (Navy Ministry)
- 1926 May. 28 Ordered as a student in the ordinary course of the
gunnery School. (Navy Ministry)

- 1926 Dec. 1 Appointed Lieutenant (T. g) (Cabinet)
Attached to the Naval Flying Corps at KASUMIGAURA.
(Navy Ministry)
- " " 28 Awarded the 7th Court Rank, Junior Grade.
- 1927 Mar. 1 Ordered as Flight Officer Trainee in the Naval Flying
Corps at KASUMIGAURA. (Navy Ministry)
- Dec. 1 Attached to the Naval Flying Corps at YOKOSUKA.
(Navy Ministry)
- 1928 Dec. 1 Assigned to the battleship HOSHO.
Assigned as an additional post, to the Naval Flying
Corps at YOKOSUKA. (Navy Ministry)
- 1929 Jan. 15 Relieved from additional post. (Navy Ministry)
- 1929 Nov. 1 Assigned to the Naval Flying Corps at KASUMIGAURA, and
appointed additionally instructive officer in the said
corps. (Navy Ministry)
- Nov. 30 Appointed Lieutenant. (Cabinet)
- 1930 Jan. 16 Awarded the 7th Court Rank, Senior Grade.
- 1931 Nov. 2 Assigned to the battleship HOSHO. (Navy Ministry)
- 1932 Nov. 15 Appointed an division officer of the Naval Flying
Corps at OMURA, and as an additional post an inspector
in Aeronautics Department of the HIRO Yard.
(Navy Ministry)
- 1934 Oct. 22 Appointed an commander and additionally instructive
officer of Sub Division of Naval Flying Corps at
KASUMIGAURA. (Navy Ministry)
- " Apr. 29 Invested with the Order of the Golden Kite, 5th class,
¥350 as an annuity.

Invested with the Fifth Order of the Rising Sun with
Dual Rays, for his services in the 1941-1944 Affairs.
- 1935 Feb. 15 Awarded the 6th Court Rank, Junior Grade.
- Oct. 31 Ordered as KOSHU/T.N. classification of flight Trainee/
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- 1935 Nov. 15 Appointed Lieutenant Commander. (Cabinet)
- 1937 July 28 Assigned to the 12th Flying Corps.
(not recorded in the Tokyo Gazette) (Navy Ministry)
- Sep. 16 Appointed Staff Officer in the 3rd Fleet.
(not recorded in the Tokyo Gazette)
- 1939 Mar. 23 Decorated with the 4th Class Order of the Sacred Treasure.
- 1940 Mar. 15 Awarded the 6th Court Rank, Senior Grade.
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(Navy Ministry)
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and the Minor Cordon of the Order of the Rising Sun, for
his services in the China Incident.
- 1943 Aug. 16 Decorated with the 3rd Class Order of the Sacred Treasure.
- 1944 Oct. 15 Appointed Captain. (Cabinet)
- " Dec. 1 Awarded the 5th Court Rank, Junior grade.

Report by Shinojima

2 May 1947

MEMO FOR THE FILE:

SUBJECT: AOKI, Takeshi

Check of IPS case files reveals no information regarding Subject.

DIRECT EXAMINATION OF AOKI, Takeshi
by: Mr. Roberts

21,362
21,363
21,364

The witness stated that he lived at Hayama, Kanagawa-Ken Prefecture. He identified * Exhibit 2526 as his affidavit. The affidavit * stated that the witness was Liaison Officer between the Second Combined Air Corps and the Expeditionary Forces in China. He arrived in Shanghai in mid-September 1937. He was staff officer of both the Third Fleet and the Shanghai Expeditionary Forces and his duties were to supply information to the navy and to send requests from the army to the navy. He was the navy expert in the army; to maintain liaison he made periodic flights from the airport and the Headquarters of the Third Fleet.

On December 12, 1937, the army requested the bombing of Chinese ships in which soldiers were fleeing from Nanking, it being reported that seven or eight large merchant ships filled with troops were fleeing up the Yangtze River.

They wanted assistance from the naval air squadron. This the witness transmitted to the air corps and received their consent and they sent several planes.

According to army reports, there were no foreign ships in the Nanking vicinity.

21,365

It was later reported that the mission was carried out with excellent results. On the 14th he heard for the first time of the bombing of the Panay, the report stating that a foreign ship might have been bombed. He learned of the facts when he reached Shanghai to investigate. He discovered that the Panay had been bombed in error, being mistaken for a Chinese vessel. The pilot later reported that the bombing was clearly an error on his part and he had no intention of bombing a foreign

NARRATIVE SUMMARY OF THE RECORD
MAY 2, 1947
DEFENSE - ~~AAKI~~ - Direct

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vessel. It was his belief that the Panay was a Chinese vessel fleeing from Nanking. The pilot denied that machine gunning of the crew took place. The pilots had no such practise of machine gunning their targets. Strict orders had been issued by the Commander of the Third Fleet and the Commander of the Air Corps that care be taken not to damage foreign ships.

21,366

* For this reason those who were regarded as guilty were punished for carelessness or possible negligence.

There was no cross-examination of the witness.

2 May 1947

MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. Sutton; Mr. Edwards

FROM : EDWARD P. MONAGHAN, Acting Chief
Investigative Division, IPS

SUBJECT : Defense Witness

1. Please find attached hereto list of material available on the following witness and/or witnesses.

DEFENDANT - General

WITNESS

AOKI, Takeshi

LIST OF MATERIAL AVAILABLE

Memo for the file

2. Please acknowledge receipt of this memorandum by initialling and returning attached carbon copy to this office, Room 300.

Incl
(Described above)

E P M
EDWARD P. MONAGHAN

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Report by Shimojima

2 May 1947

MEMO FOR THE FILE:

SUBJECT: AOKI, Takeshi

Check of IPS case files reveals no information regarding Subject.

Report by: H. Shimazuma
17 May 1947

Memo for the file

Subject: AOKI, Takeshi

Check of IPS case files reveals
no information regarding Subject.

2 May 1947

MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. Sutton; Mr. Edwards

FROM : EDWARD P. MONAGHAN, Acting Chief
Investigative Division, IPS

SUBJECT : Defense Witness

1. Please find attached hereto list of material available on the following witness and/or witnesses.

DEFENDANT - General

WITNESS

LIST OF MATERIAL AVAILABLE

ACKI, Takeshi

Memo for the file

2. Please acknowledge receipt of this memorandum by initialling and returning attached carbon copy to this office, Room 300.

Incl
(Described above)

E P M
EDWARD P. MONAGHAN

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Report by Shinojima

2 May 1947

MEMO FOR THE FILE:

SUBJECT: AOKI, Takeshi

Check of IPS case files reveals no information regarding Subject.