

INTERROGATION OF
General UMEZU, Yoshihiro

Date and Time: 19 March 1946, 1015-1215 hours

Place : Room 753, Meiji Building, Tokyo, Japan.

Present : UMEZU, Yoshihiro
Mr. E. H. Hyder Interrogator
Mr. J. F. Barry Interrogator
Lt. Paul Fujii Interpreter

Oath of Interpreter, administered
by Mr. Hyder:

Mr. Hyder : Do you solemnly swear, by Almighty
God, that you will truly and accurately
interpret and translate from English
into Japanese and from Japanese into
English, as may be required of you,
in this proceeding?

Lt. Fujii : I do.

Questions by : Mr. Hyder.

- Q. General, an investigation was made by the Japanese
Army of the Mukden Incident in 1931. Is that not
correct?
- A. Inasmuch as I was attached to an administrative branch,
I did not see the report.
- Q. By reason of that fact you did see the report, did you
not?
- A. I believe the only reports that came through my hands

(UMEZU, Yoshijiro 19 March 1946 Cont'd)

- A. were the railway attack by the Chinese and subsequent battle reports. Since it was ten years ago, I do not remember well.
- Q. It was not the Chinese that bombed the railway, was it?
- A. It was reported that they did - by the Army.
- Q. You learned subsequently that that was not correct, did you not?
- A. That was the only report I received on it.
- Q. I am not talking of reports now. I am talking of what you learned.
- A. I did hear much stories, but none from responsible parties.
- Q. From whom did you hear these stories?
- A. I am not able to list the individuals. The place where the railway was bombed still remains.
- Q. It was the Japanese who bombed that railway, was it not?
- A. Since I was not directly responsible for the Incident or Command, I wish that you would interrogate someone who was.
- Q. You knew, General, that the Incident was planned by the Kwantung Army in order to occupy Manchuria?
- A. No.
- Q. It is self-evident from the facts, is it not? A small explosion and the whole of Manchuria subsequently occupied.
- A. The occupation was because of scattered incidents. You would do best to get some information from the 1st Demobilization Bureau as they would know who was there at the time.
- Q. General, when the Mukden Incident happened you discussed it with investigators who had investigated the Incident, did you not?

(UMSZU, Yoshijiro 19 March 1946 Cont'd)

- A. I did meet some of the individuals who investigated but received no report. It was all in generalities. The only thing I did hear was the fact that Japanese troops were placed in action to protect the immediate area of the bombing. Otherwise, any reports were on operations.
- Q. The Japanese troops were placed in action according to a plan beforehand, were they not?
- A. In view of the fact that Japanese forces were small as compared to Chinese, they did have alternative plans in case of action.
- Q. What were those plans?
- A. Since I was not in operations, I do not know.
- Q. You received later operations reports. You must have known of the plans.
- A. I was in position to handle operations plans. Reports came to me as a matter of course. Plans for operations were by the Kwantung Army - not in Tokyo.
- Q. Did you see the plans?
- A. I never heard of nor saw the plans.
- Q. Did you see the order of General ARAKI that ordered the completion of occupation of Manchuria?
- A. No.
- Q. You heard of it, did you not?
- A. I never heard of nor saw such an order. As War Minister he was not in a position to issue such an order. The War Minister cannot issue such an order. He could make his personal recommendation. I could believe such an order was issued.
- Q. An order having been issued by the War Minister to complete the occupation of Manchuria, everyone on the Staff knew of it, including you.
- A. I would have known of it with other subordinates. ARAKI could not have issued it as an order. He could

(UMEZU, Yoshijiro 19 March 1946 Cont'd)

- A. have issued it under other circumstances. I still do not know of such an order. Since the Army was overseas, the movement of troops could only come through the Emperor.
- Q. Since the occupation was a matter of policy decided on by the Cabinet only, the policy could be conveyed only through order of the War Minister to the Chief of Staff, is that not correct?
- A. The War Minister would confer with the Chief of Staff and he would go to the Emperor for the order which would come back to the Staff.
- Q. When you became Commander of troops in North China the Japanese had completed the occupation of Jehol Province, had they not?
- A. Jehol was completely occupied before I became Commander.
- Q. The Japanese Army overran into Jehol, did they not?
- A. Prior to assuming my command, the Japanese troops had gone into Hopei but withdrew later.
- Q. How far into Hopei had they gone?
- A. I am not sure of the exact distance but believe it was about 1/3 of the distance to Peking.
- Q. Where were you stationed in May 1935?
- A. In Tientsin until August 1935.
- Q. In May 1935, the Japanese Army was south of the Great Wall and threatened to advance in Peking, did they not?
- A. While I was in Tientsin, nothing like that occurred.
- Q. On May 30, 1935, Japanese military commanders made demands on the Administration (Chinese) at Peking to suppress all anti-Japanese feeling?
- A. There was a conference similar to that.
- Q. Please tell me the demands made by the Japanese commanders.

(UMEZU, Yoshihiro 19 March 1946 Cont'd)

- A. The talks centered around anti-Japanese activities and suppression of bandits.
- Q. Who represented the Japanese Government in their demands?
- A. No one from the Government. The Chief of Staff represented the Army. The Chief of Staff of the occupation troops in Tientsin.
- Q. You knew quite a bit about that conference then, did you not?
- A. As far as this meeting was concerned, demand was made that the Administration stop the support of all bandits. It was a Gentlemen's Agreement, then was reputed to be an agreement written, but ~~then~~ was not.
- Q. Who represented China?
- A. Ho-Ying Ching.
- Q. As a result of the Agreement, Chinese troops withdrew, did they not?
- A. In accordance with the Agreement, troops which aggravated terrorism were withdrawn. The regular troops were allowed to withdraw.
- Q. Where did they move their troops?
- A. They withdrew far enough south so that they would not become again involved. They did not go over 250 miles.
- Q. What had the troops you designated "bandits" done that made you want them withdrawn?
- A. The main points, in addition to stirring up anti-Japanese feeling, they bothered trade caravans and murdered two pro-Japanese journalists.
- Q. You forced, as a result of the Agreement, how many Chinese troops to be withdrawn?
- A. I would estimate 3,000 to 5,000.
- Q. How did you know that Japanese troops had murdered the two Chinese (pro-Japanese) journalists?
- A. Through police reports. One was discovered in his

(UMEZU, Yoshijiro 19 March 1946 Cont'd)

- A. hotel dead. The other was killed on the road. The hotel was in the Japanese zone.
- Q. How did you know that Chinese troops murdered them?
- A. There were many such incidents. As to this, evidence pointed to the Chinese as the murderers.
- Q. General, the one killed in the hotel within the Japanese zone, looks like he was killed by Japanese, does it not?
- A. Although he was in the Japanese zone, there were Chinese in there.
- Q. You don't know whether Chinese or Japanese killed the two journalists, do you?
- A. Investigation was carried out by police and the Army. The hotel proprietor stated a Chinese had visited the journalist. Although the culprit was not identified, request was made that he be tried.
- Q. General, on what authority were you to adjudge that Chinese troops should be withdrawn simply because one Chinese killed another?
- A. I did it arbitrarily as an individual, as it might have political implications. I took it on myself as my duty was to protect the residents there.

Questions by: Mr. Barry.

- Q. While you were Chief of Staff, did you order the destruction of any secret documents or documents relating to prisoners of war?
- A. I issued no such order but I heard a subordinate had. Prisoner of war records were not under the Chief of Staff.
- Q. What subordinates do you know of that did this?
- A. I do not know of anyone specifically. I don't believe there was any reason for destroying those documents other than for pulp, etc. I heard the War Ministry

(UNEZU, Yoshijiro 19 March 1946 Cont'd)

A. discussed the destruction of records of no value.

Q. What did you hear?

A. I just heard the story.

Q. Do you know General Heitaro KIMURA?

A. There was a Commander of the Burma theater named that.

Q. Where is he now?

A. In Thailand.

Q. Is he there now?

A. Yes.

Q. While you were Commander in Chief of the Kwantung Army in Manchuria did you ever make a request for prisoners of war.

A. No.

Q. Did your Chief of Staff make a request for 1,500 prisoners of war?

A. These requests did not come from the Kwantung Army. We did not have an insufficiency of labor.

Q. Did you receive any requests from War Ministry for 1,500 prisoners of war?

A. I never made a request nor received a request for 1,500.

Q. Have you made or received any requests for prisoners of war?

A. War regulations permit prisoners of war working?

Q. Are you familiar with the Manchurian Machine Tool Company?

A. I do not recall that particular one.

Q. Do you recall the one that used prisoners of war?

A. There were quite a number using prisoners of war.

Q. How many prisoner of war camps were there in Manchuria?

A. Since I was not directly concerned, I am not familiar. There was one in Hoten.

(UMEZU, Yoshijiro 19 March 1946 Cont'd)

Q. Is that all?

A. All that was there while I was there.

Q. That camp is the only one you inspected?

A. I have seen this.

Q. What time did you inspect the camp and how many prisoners were there?

A. I was there only about ten minutes all together. I do not know the number - less than 1,000.

Q. Do you know of any correspondence in September 1942 regarding the use of war prisoners for any kind of work?

A. I have not heard of any.

Q. Do you recall while you were Commander in Chief the execution of three prisoners of war for attempting to escape?

A. No.

Questions by: Mr. Hyder.

Q. General, while Commander in Chief did you ever make any declaration regarding the punishment of enemy pilots?

A. No. There was no cause for it.

Q. General, you declared in July 1942 that enemy pilots who invade the Nippon Empire, the Manchukooan Empire, or Japanese battlefields will be punished until death for violation of international law.

A. I have no recollection of such an order.