

Def. Doc. #2489

Exh. No. 3189

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 :-TATSUMI, Yeichi

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, TATSUMI, Yeichi, of lawful age, being first duly sworn in accordance with the custom in my country, depose as follows:

I have been asked if I know anything about Gen. DOHIHARA's attitude towards prisoners of war during the time he was Commanding General of the Eastern Area Army of Japan, which position he held from May, 1943, until March, 1944. I have also been asked if I know anything concerning the control of prisoners of war in the Tokyo area during that period of time. I served as Chief of Staff to Gen. DOHIHARA for the entire period of time that he was in command of the Eastern Area Army and consequently am familiar with his policies and with the system for the control of prisoners of war in the Tokyo area.

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The main function of the Eastern Area Army was the defense of Tokyo and adjacent territory, which was by far the most important place of defense of Japan proper. As Commanding General of the Eastern Area Army Gen. ITOHARA had under his direct command several divisions, air defense units, hospitals and other special units. In short, there were literally hundreds of separate units under his command.

With reference to the handling of prisoner of war detachments throughout the main islands of Japan and occupied territories, there was a special arrangement. There had been established for the purpose of dealing with the affairs of prisoners of war two separate bureaus, one known as the prisoner of War Information Bureau, and the other as the Prisoner of War Control Bureau. The Chief of both of these units was the same person, and both organizations were set up directly under the Minister of War. All complaints received from foreign nations, and other outside sources, were routed to the Chief of the Prisoner of War Information Bureau just mentioned. In addition to these two bureaus, there was set up in the City of Tokyo an area office for the centralized control of prisoner of war detachments within the territorial jurisdiction of the Eastern Area Army. This main office was in the official chain of command under the Commanding General of the Eastern Area Army. Its branches and detachments numbered about twenty with a total of some 4,000 prisoners. The Prisoner of War Control Bureau and the Prisoner of War Information Bureau just referred to were in no manner or wise connected with the handling of prisoners of war.

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connected with the command of the Eastern Area Army, and the Commanding General of the Eastern Area Army had no control whatsoever over these two organizations. However, in accordance with the orders of the Minister of War, or upon his own initiative, the Chief of these two bureaus directed the Chiefs of the prisoner of war camps throughout Japan in regard to the control of the prisoners of war, and he or his subordinate officers often paid visits to the various branches and detachments scattered throughout the various parts of Japan for the purpose of observation and inspection or for the purpose of giving directions to them. As explained, the Commander of the Eastern Area Army, according to the official chain of command, was responsible for the control and administration of prisoners of war within his territorial jurisdiction. However, in actual practice the activities of the prisoner of War Control Bureau and Prisoner of War Information Bureau operated to relieve the administrative responsibility for prisoners of war from him, which permitted him to devote much more time to the manifold duties which he had to perform.

I know personally that during the time Gen. DOHICHI was Commander of the Eastern Area Army he never received a single complaint, either from his superior officers or from his subordinate officers, with reference to the mistreatment of prisoners of war. I do not mean he did not receive any reports on prisoners of war, because he did receive a monthly report on general conditions, but they did not refer to the mistreatment of prisoners of war.

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I know that despite the many duties which Gen. DOHIHARA was compelled to perform he was interested in the welfare of prisoners of war and would take occasion to visit the camps under his control. On one visit to the Naoetsu camp Gen. DOHIHARA learned that the camp was not adequately provided with skilled medical care, and that in an emergency it had to depend upon securing the services of doctors from cities as far away as Shibata. Despite the fact that there were many units and detachments of the Japanese Army, and many civilian communities, as devoid of medical attention as this prisoner of war camp, Gen. DOHIHARA managed to make special arrangements to provide the camp with medical care by Army physicians stationed at the Base Hospital at Takata, only a short distance away.

The policy with reference to the handling of prisoners of war was forwarded to the Commander of the Eastern Area Army over the signature of the Minister of War for his compliance and was not formulated by such commanding officer.

On this 15 day of Jun, 1947

At Tokyo

Deponent /S/ Yeichi, Tatsumi

I, Kinjiro Ohta, 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/ Kinjiro Ohta (seal)

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O.T.H

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

/S/ Yéiichi Tatsumi (seal)