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DEF DOC # 703

A General Account of Guiding the Party of
the American HANSON Foreign Investigation
Committee to the Scene of the Explosion.

by

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As I was told that the Commander-in-Chief had already given the said party a general explanation and an English translation of a note on the facts of the matter, I explained to them, in the train up to the point of the explosion the locations of the land Bridge on the PEIPING-MUKDEN Railway and of LIUFLAOKOU etc. Referring to books and posters, I told them how China was making efforts to foster and stir up anti-alien ideas ; particularly, I pointed out that China was instructing her people that Britain, the United States of America, France, Germany and Russia were all imperialistic and aggressive powers, that as Christianity teaches non-resistance, they first made the Chinese non-resistant and then they invaded China, and that all education given by foreigners had this same aim. Their questions and my answers after that were as follows;-

- Q. Why did the Japanese forces remove rails at the crossing of the PEIPING-MUKDEN Railway?
- A. Because it was necessary for our defence.
- Q. What was used for this explosion.
- A. As it was done by the enemy, we do not know. There was no residue Judging from the result, probably it was not very strong.

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Q. You say that the explosion took place at 10:30 a. m. . Was this before the express train for DALIKEN passed or after ?

A. On such a sudden occurrence, who would look at his watch, ?

But it is certain that it happened between 10:00 a. m. and 10:30 a. m., and the express train passed this point after the explosion.

Q. Did the train pass this point in spite of the explosion?

A. Because the degree of the explosion was slight, the train passed without being derailed. According to the statement of soldiers who witnessed it, the train passed leaning to one side.

Q. After the explosion were any steps taken by Japanese troops in regard to the train's progress ?

A. They tried to stop the train with a detonation signal, but it passed without stopping.

Q. I hear that, when the 3rd Company was attacked by the enemy in a Kaoliang field, they returned fire. Was there any damage sustained by the Japanese at that time ?

A. No, there was none.

Q. If the Japanese force had not pursued the challengers when most of them ran away into their camp, probably this battle would not have occurred.

A. Once a Japanese force is challenged, and an action undertaken, it has to win it. If we had done nothing with them when the enemy escaped, it was certain that the Chinese army would again have attacked us. And furthermore it is impossible to ascertain whether there are casualties or not during a battle; Moreover, at that time, it was pitch dark. (This question was a particularly foolish

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one, but as they were not military men it seemed difficult for them to this point. They pertinaciously repeated questions on this point. Fortunately, however, these foreigners understood Japanese so I explained the matter in detail and made them understand.)

Q. When did the Japanese artillery open fire?

A. I do not know the time. One does not estimate the time a battle takes by consulting one's watch. But it is certain that they opened fire after the hard fighting of the 3rd Company was reported. Shells had already been seen flying before the arrival of the main force of our battalion.

Q. Did the shells hit the target?

A. As it was night fire without proper preparation, they seemed not to hit the object.

Q. Was there no danger from this fire to the attacking Japanese army?

A. As it was dangerous, our battalion requested that fire be suspended.

Q. Was the artillery fire requested by your battalion?

A. No. It opened fire, on its own decision. In the Japanese forces any information is immediately reported to the whole army, and each unit, if need be, must exert itself to win the battle according to its own decision. The fire on the part of the artillery was in accordance with this.

Q. What were the strengths of both armies?

A. The Chinese was about 10,000 and our battalion a little more than 600.

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Q. What were the casualties of the Chinese and the Japanese in that battle?

A. On the Chinese side there were probably 400 killed in total ; for 320 were buried by the Japanese and some were found in the Kaoliang field. On the Japanese side, there were 2 killed and 22 wounded.

Q. Doesn't this comparison of these casualties indicate that the Chinese army offered no resistance?

A. Your observations on the scene will clearly show that that battle was planned by the Chinese side and what kind of fire they crossed. And the great difference in the casualties indicate the efficacy of the Japanese army : Furthermore, when the Chinese were so foolish as to fight with electric light turned on in a night battle, the Japanese, approaching the enemy from dark and shelled them, and broke into their rooms and fought hand to hand with them; close combat is the strongest point of the Japanese army; moreover most of the Chinese shells flew high.

If this battle had continued into the daytime, our casualties would have been greatly increased. This was what I tried hardest to avert. If another battle should be caused in the future, we will exterminate the Chinese unit of 10,000 strength to the last man and with no casualties on our side. Now are there no more questions about this incident? If there are I shall be glad to explain any number of them. As they said there were no more question, we started on our way back about 5:30 p. m.

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Translated by
Defense Language Branch

Certificate of Source and Authenticity of a Document

I hereby certify that the document hereto attached, written in Japanese, consisting of 3 pages and entitled "A general Account of Guiding the American HANSON Foreign Investigation Committee to the Scene of the Explosion" is a copy of the document which I drafted on the detail of my guiding of the said party on the afternoon of the 13th day of October, 1931, (the 6th Year of SHOWA) and caused to be mimeographed and bound by my subordinates.

Certified at HYOGO Pref.,
on this 20th day of January, 1947

/S/ SHIMAMOTO, Masaichi (seal)

I hereby certify that the above signature and seal were affixed hereto in the presence of the Witness.

At the same place, on the same date.

Witness : /S/ BANNO, Junkichi (seal)

TRANSLATION CERTIFICATE

I, William E. Clarke, of the Defense Language Branch, hereby certify that the foregoing translation described in the above certificate 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/ William E. Clarke

Tokyo, Japan
Date 3 March 1947