

No. 2996

EX 2996

DEF. DOC. #1692

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 (Translation)

Deponent:-GOTO, Yuzuru

In accordance with the procedure in my country having first sworn an oath as on attached sheet I hereby depose as follows:-

1. My name is GOTO, Yuzuru. I live in YOKOSUKA-city. I was formerly a naval engineer. I was at PALAO Islands from October, 1937 to April, 1938 and at SAIPAN from October, 1939 to March, 1941.
2. In PALAO Islands I was engaged in the construction of the aerodrome at FELILIU.

It was called "the farm" at that time. It was actually impossible to use it as an aerodrome, since nothing was done but ground-leveling by clearing the jungle and laying down coral. The construction of this aerodrome was undertaken by the South Seas Board, but the Navy gave assistance to that work. I was informed that the Navy's intention was to use it as a field for forced landings in time of maneuvers.

In PALAO Islands there was already a seaplane ramp with some attached establishments, but it was merely utilized for the air-route of the NIPPON Air Navigation Company, a private company, and was not for military purposes.

3. In SAIPAN, mainly I supervised the work of oil-tank construction. The oil-tanks were five in all, three of them having a capacity of about 10,000 tons while the other two had a capacity of about 1,000 tons. None of them was however completed by the time I left there for Japan in March, 1941.

There were an aerodrome and a sea-plane ramp in SAIPAN, but the aerodrome was not sufficiently surfaced, had no hangar, ^{no repair} works and no radio station. It was not completed to be utilized as an aerodrome. The sea-plane ramp was used only by the NIPPON Air Navigation Company as in PALAO.

During my stay in PALAO and SAIPAN there were no military installations. The aerodromes and oil-tanks above referred to were the only things I saw that could in any way be the subject of controversy in this regard.

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Some natives were used as labourers in the construction of aerodromes or oil-tanks, but they were not compelled by corporal discipline, nor were they treated cruelly. Reasonable wages were paid to them.

4. MANUEL BLANCO, in his Deposition (I.P.S. #6022, Court Exhibit #883), says that anti-aircraft guns and coast guns were installed at ASLETO (T.M. Phonetic) in 1940. However there were no gun installations at that time. He also states that there were air-raid shelter trenches and camouflaged hangars in 1938. There were nothing like these at that time.

5. In the Deposition of IGNACIO BELVENTE (I.P.S. #6019, Court Exhibit #885) it is stated that he heard that a dump of ammunition and large tanks were under construction near the S.I.P.A.N Harbour in 1935. This is a mistake. The construction of large tanks was commenced after I arrived at S.I.P.A.N in 1939 and not completed when I left in March of 1940 as I stated before.

6. According to the Deposition of ELIAS P. SIBLAN (I.P.S. #6020, Court Exhibit #886) the Japanese brought guns of about 10 inch caliber to S.I.P.A.N around 1937, and set them up in 1939 and 1940. However, there was no such fact. It must be that he referred to the fact that guns for manoeuvres were landed temporarily.

In the same Deposition, he states that enforced labour of natives began in 1939. It is true that natives were engaged in the construction work, but they were never used severely. Two Yen a day was no small pay at that time.

7. ANTONIO ANGALEN, in his Deposition (I.P.S. #6025, Court Exhibit #888), states that Japanese gun-emplacements were laid in 1940.

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But there was no such fact as this by the time I left SAIPAN in March, 1941.

8. CONCEPCION BLANCO, in his Deposition (I.P.S. #6021, Court Exhibit #890), states that five barracks having a capacity of about 3,000 military and naval men were constructed in 1938. However there were only two or three barracks having a capacity of about 100 persons, and there were no military or naval men.

9. VINCENTI DE LEON GUERRERO, in his Deposition (I.P.S. #6017, Court Exhibit #891), states that in SAIPAN there were six underground oil-tanks in 1937. However the construction of oil-tanks in SAIPAN was for the first time undertaken after I arrived there in 1939. He states also that gun-emplacements were laid in 1939. This is not true.

10. JOSE S. PANGELINAN, in his Deposition (I.P.S. #6018, Court Exhibit #893), states that in SAIPAN there were 2 hangars containing big and small air-planes, 1 big concrete shelter containing all kinds of explosives, bullets and bombs, 2 or 3 aircraft repair-shops, and 8 or 10 big barracks in 1940. He must refer to facts after the outbreak of the War. In 1940, there were no such constructions except two small hangars containing one seaplane and two or three small buildings. There was no big barracks, furthermore there was not a military or naval troop. There were no repair works and no shelter trenches.

On this 17th day of May, 1947,

Deponent /s/ GOTO, Yuzuru

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I hereby certify that the above was signed and sealed in the presence of this Witness.

On the same date,
at the same place.

Witness: /S/ ONO, Shinichiro (seal)

Oath

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

/S/ GOTO, Yuzuru (seal)