

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 : -KODAMA, Tomoo

Having been duly sworn in accordance with the procedure followed in my country, I do hereby depose and say as follows:

1. I am a former Lieutenant-General, residing at 31 Kitagawa-machi, 2-chome, Setagaya-ku, Tokyo.
2. From December, 1930, to August, 1933, I was the Chief of Staff of the Korean Army, as Major-General.
3. Even prior to my arrival at the said post, the people in Korea expressed a strong desire to effect an increase of army divisions for the purpose of promoting the prosperity of the land and also of strengthening the defense thereof. In the spring of 1931, representatives were sent to Tokyo to file petitions with the authorities, but the policy of General MINAMI, then War minister, was rather for the decrease of divisions and so the desired increase did not

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materialize during my tenure of office. The article of the Osaka Asahi, dated July 1st, 1931 (Exhibit #2202A) refers to a statement of the War Minister, announcing that policy to the public, that there was no possibility of increase of divisions in Korea.

4. On the night of Sept., 18th, 1931, as soon as the Korean Army received an urgent request for reinforcement from the Kwantung Army, Hayashi, Commander of Korean Army organized a combined brigade under Major-General Kamura, and ordered him to proceed to the Korea-Manchurian border, thereafter reporting the step taken to the Chief of General Staff and to the Kwantung Army.
5. In Japan, the army was so organized that matters pertaining to supreme command (troop dispositions and operations) were executed by Imperial Sanction through the Chief of General Staff exclusively. Matters pertaining to military administration (personnel, accounting, hygiene and morale) were under the charge of the War Minister who was a member of the Cabinet. Consequently, unless the Commander of Korean Army had received Imperial Sanction through the Chief of General Staff, he could not despatch troops at his own discretion to Manchuria, a foreign country.
6. On Sept., 19th about noon, a telegraphic order was received from the Chief of General Staff that the Korean Army unit should not cross the border without Imperial

Sanction. Commander Hayashi, in conformity with this order, made the Kamura Brigade stop within the Korean border south of Shingishu. The measure was at once cabled to the Commander of Kwantung Army by telegram Cho-San-Po No. 26. At that time, the wireless service of the Korean Army was in the test period, and it was out of order. Except the above-mentioned communication, no news was received from the General Staff ~~through~~ the State Cable service, and the Korean Army found itself altogether isolated from the central authorities.

7. On Sept., 21st about 10 a.m., another telegram was received from the Kwantung Army urging the Korean Army to send reinforcements, as not a single soldier remained in Mukden, following a despatch of the Second Division to Kirin. Commander Hayashi judged that the Kwantung Army, being so small in number, might have been pressed into a desperate situation, and that the lives and properties of the Japanese residents might be at stake. He was convinced that a reinforcement from Korea without a moment's delay was absolutely necessary. Making up his mind to carry out the crossing of the border on his own responsibility, he ordered the Kamura Combined Brigade to proceed to Mukden in the afternoon of Sept. 21st.
8. Although the act of Commander Hayashi without approval

from his superior was based upon his judgment of circumstances as mentioned above and was ratified by Imperial Sanction on Sept. 22nd, it is also a fact that he exceeded his authority. Hence, both Commander Hayashi and I, as his Chief of Staff, submitted formal enquiries to the central authorities whether or not we should resign (T.N. -- This enquiry is called "Shintai-ukagai" in Japanese), and expressed our penitence. A decision was later made towards Commander Hayashi and a written notice was delivered to him. When Commander Hayashi showed it to me, I found it to be an Imperial reprimand issued through the Chief of General Staff, containing the words: "Warned for future action". I, however, received no punishment under any form.

9. As the result of the Mukden Incident, there were disturbances in Chientao district, which is adjacent to north Korea. On or around Sept. 24th, 1931, a telegram was received from War Minister MINAMI to the effect that no despatch of troops should be made to the said district, but that the peace and order be maintained by the consular police previously stationed there. (The purport of this telegram is the same as telegram Riku-Man #20 of Sept. 24th, 1931, from the War Minister to the Commander of ^{Kwantung}~~Korean~~ Army). Towards the end of October, the central

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authorities took notice of the situation which became too difficult for the police alone to deal with. The Chief of General Staff issued an order under Imperial Sanction and despatched a unit to Kyokushigai in Chientao. After several months, the unit was withdrawn when peace and order were restored.

On this 7th day of April, 1947,
at Tokyo.

Deponent : /S/ KODAMA, Tomoo (seal)

OATH

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

Deponent: /S/ KODAMA, Tomoo (seal)

I, KONDO, Giichi, do hereby certify that the above statement was sworn by the Deponent, who affixed his signature and seal thereto in my presence on the same day and at the same place as above written.

Witness: /S/ KONDO, Giichi (seal)