

On February 1 Captain Robinson, having finished my interrogation, requested me to refresh my recollections as much as possible to facilitate further interrogations by him. I accordingly sum up my recollections and state, not without repetitions, as follows:-

The interrogations on that day consisted of the two points:

(1) In 1943 Foreign Minister Ribbentrop asked me if the Japanese Navy had any intention of strengthening the communication destruction warfare with submarines in the Pacific, and proposed that he was ready, should the Japanese Navy desire it, to have two German submarines presented to the Japanese Navy as suitable models for the purpose; (2) He informed me that orders had already been issued to kill the crew of any U.S. vessels sunk by German submarines.

The first point was a fact. I immediately notified Vice Admiral NOMURA, Naval Commissioner, and Rear Admiral YOKOI, Naval Attache in Berlin. The two admirals accordingly cabled the Japanese Naval authorities (meaning Navy Minister and Chief of the Naval General Staff). As for myself, I sent a telegram to the Foreign Minister asking him to transmit it to the Naval authorities. Then the Japanese Naval authorities cabled instructions to the two admirals to negotiate transfer of the German submarines. Though I informed Foreign Minister Ribbentrop of this telegram at the request of the two admirals, I had had nothing to do with the matter since that time, the negotiations being held exclusively between the two admirals and the German Navy. Under the German system, Foreign Minister Ribbentrop had the authority to take part in and talk over such military affairs, just as he told me of the above matter at the outset. But it was entirely different with us; neither the

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Foreign Minister nor the Ambassador had any such authority whatever as the Navy had the exclusive jurisdiction over such matters. We only transmitted informations to the Navy. This was why I received no telegram at all from either the Japanese Navy or the Foreign Ministry, from the beginning to the end.

Regarding the second point at the Captain's last interrogation, I misunderstood that it was also notified by Germany in 1943 together with the matter of strengthening the submarine warfare, mentioned as the first point, and I somehow mixed the first and second points. But after tracing back in my memory, I recalled that this had been told by Hitler in January 1942 (this was published in newspaper articles). Therefore, I am sure that this matter was not mentioned at the interview with Foreign Minister Ribbentrop in 1943. According to my memory I did not cable this to my Government for the following reasons:-

1. The German Government had only told me about such steps, without any official request to the Japanese Government.
2. That such measure was against the traditional spirit of Japan and was not worth any serious consideration. (At the last interrogation I told him the following story which was a noted fact and which comes from the traditional spirit of our Navy: At the time of the Russo-Japanese War KAMIMURA Squadron rescued the drowning Russian officers and men even at the cost of suspending the chasing of the Vladivostok Squadron. The Captain, however, mentioning several examples, asserted that there had been contradictory facts in the last war. As I had been in Germany during the Greater East Asia War, I do not know about the changes, but I, who left Japan five years ago, cannot imagine that the massacre

of the crew of the sunken vessels should have been perpetrated.)

3. This problem was under the sole jurisdiction of the Navy, and not in my authority. Perhaps I may have mentioned it to Admirals NOMURA and YOKOI, but my memory is not clear about it. The other day the Captain inquired whether I had received a cable order from the Japanese Navy dated Mar. 20th 1943, but I can positively assert that I never received such a cablegram. At that time, the Captain referred to the sinking of an American ship in the Indian Ocean on July 2nd 1944, but I was never notified about that. With regard to the massacre of the crew of sunken American vessel, I did not have any talks with the German Government. Moreover such a problem was under the sole jurisdiction of the Navy according to the tradition in Japan and the Foreign Ministry had nothing to do with it. As far as I know, the representatives of the Japanese Navy never talked about this problem with the German Naval authorities.

Incidentally I will state that there was opposition against such a massacre even among the German Navy. The then Chief of the Operations Section of the German Navy, Admiral Gross (T.N. Phonetic) who had been the liaison officer with the Japanese Navy (now lives at Freiburg, Germany) once told me that such a measure was against Naval customs in general.

I have stated the above according to my memory. I desire that this matter be investigated through the Japanese Navy.

Dated Feb. 19th 1946.

/s/ Hiroshi OSHIMA

(I attach herewith a translation of the above statement into English for reference)

二月一日「ロビンソン」海軍大佐ノ予ニ對スル訊問ノ後同大佐ハ更ニ尋ム  
ハキニ付記憶ヲ呼ビ返シ「カレタキ旨述ヘラレタリ依ツテ思ヒ出シタルコ  
トヲ綴メ重複ヲ厭ハス左ニ記述ス

同日ノ質問ハ左ノ二問アリ

(一)一九四三年「リッツベン」外相ヨリ日本海軍ハ太平洋ニ於テ潜水  
艦ニ依ル交通被表戦ヲ強化スル考ナキヤ若シ之カ爲日本海軍カ希望セバ  
之ニ適スル獨留水産ニ及ラ「モブール」トシテ日本海軍ニ寄贈スル用意ア  
ルコトヲ予ニ申入レタルコト

(二)獨留水産カ米船ヲ沈メタルトキ其乘組員ヲ殺スハキ旨命令セルコトヲ予  
ニ告ケタルコト

(一)ハ事實ナリ。予ハ直ニ之カ由ルニ於テ海軍委員野村海軍中將、海軍武官  
横井海軍少將ニ通信シ爾後官ハ此趣ヲ日本海軍首脳部(海軍大臣、海軍  
令部長ヲ云フ)ニ電報セリ予ヨリハ外務大臣ニ電報シ海軍首脳部ハ「特  
許」依頼セリ、然ルトコロ日本海軍首脳部ヨリ請定管ニ對シ獨留水産課受  
ノ交渉ヲ爲スハキ電報訓令アリ。爾後督ノ依頼ニ依リ予ハ之ヲ「リツベン  
」トロツブレ外相ニ傳ヘ爾後ハ爾後官ト獨留水産トノ間ニ於テ一切ノ交渉ヲ行  
ヒ予ハ之ニ對シ與セザリキ獨留ノ副皮ニテハ「リツベン」外相モ斯  
カル重事事項ニ關スルヲ以テ初メ予ニ話シタルモ日本ニ於テハ全ク海軍

ノ管掌ニ屬シ外務省及大使ニ關與ノ權限ナク之ヲ取次キタルニ止マレリ  
スルカ故ニ外務省ヨリモ日本海軍ヨリモ予ニ對シテハ最後迄一回ノ電報モ  
來ラサリキ

(ニ) 就テハ先般同海軍大臣訊問ノ際予ハ(一)ニ述ヘタル一九四三年潜水艦  
強化ノ話ト同時ニ獨刺ヨリ告ケラレタルカ如ク質問ヲ併シ若干混同セル結  
アリシモ後ニ能ク記憶ヲ辿レハ之一一九四二年一月一ヒツトラ一ヨリ告  
ケラレタルコト明ラカトナレリ(新聞記事ニ在リ)而シテ一九四三年一  
ツベントロツブレ外田トノ前記談ニハ此ノ話ナカリシコトハ確實ナリ尙  
予ノ記憶ニ依レハ本件ハ日本ニ電報セサリシ如ク思ハル、其理由ハ  
(一) 獨政府ハ予ニ對シテ斯カル處置ヲ通告セシノミニテ正式ニ日本ニ之ヲ要望  
セシモノニアラズ

(三) 日本ノ傳説精神ニ首キ考慮ノ價値ナキコト(元般訊問ノ際予ハ日露戦争  
中上村艦隊カ露軍艦隊ト交戦追撃中作戦ヲ止メテ沈没露將兵ヲ救ヒタ  
ルハ有名ナル事眞ニシテ我海軍ノ傳説精神ナルコトヲ述ヘタリ然ルトコ  
ロ同大佐ハ今回ノ戦中ノ之ニ反スル實例アリトテ其若干例示セラレタ  
ルカ予ハ大東亞戦中獨國ニ在リタル爲其間ノ變化ヲ知ラサルモ五年前  
日本ヲ去レル予ニハ沈没船員救傷ノ如キハ考ヘラレサルコトナリ)  
(四) 本件ハ海軍ノ官事頃ニシテアテノ權限外ナルコト

而シテ當時野村、横井兩提督ニハ話シタルナラント考フルモ確實ナル記憶  
ナシ、先般同入佐ヨリ一九四三年三月二十日附日本海軍ノ命令ニ付質問ア  
リシカ予ニ對シ之カ通電ナカリシコトハ確實ニ斷言シ得、又同時話サレシ  
一九四四年七月二日印度洋ニ於ケル米船擧沈ニ就テモ何等ノ通電ナカリキ、  
尙沈没米船員救傷問題ニ付獨制ト交渉セシコト皆無ナリ且ツ本件ハ我カ日  
本ニ於テハ海軍ノ尋常業務ニシテ外務省ノ關與スヘキ性質ノ事項ニアラサ  
ルカ予ノ知レル限り在伯外日本海軍代表者モ獨海軍ト本件ニ關シ話合ヲ行  
ヒタルコトナシ

附記ス、獨逸海軍ニ於テ此ノ救傷ニハ反對アリ前獨逸海軍作戰部長ニシ  
テ日本海軍トノ連絡者タリシ海軍大將「グロース」(現在獨逸「フライブ  
ルグラーニ住ス)ノ如キハ之カ「敵ノ船隻習慣ニ反スル旨ヲ語リタルコトサ  
リ

以上予ノ記憶ヲ述ヘタルカ本件ニ關シテハ日本海軍ニ就キ取調ヘラレンコ  
トヲ希望ス

昭和二十一年(一九四六年)二月十九日

大 島 浩