

WAR DEPARTMENT

Exhibit # 43

Case # 19

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE TO AVOID
PAYMENT OF POSTAGE, \$300.

*Original notes taken by
Lt Col E E Sackett in the
interrogation of Fleet Lt. Comdr.
Mogano.*

Interview with Fleet Admiral Osami Nagano.

Place: - at Admiral Nagano's home - Tokyo.

Date: + Time - 17 November 1945 - From 1340 to 1555 hours.

Present: Admiral Nagano. Capt. J.J. Rohmian
Mr. Kisota - (Interpreter). Comdr. Carr.
Mr. Geographer. Lt. Col. B.S. Sackett.

In answer to general questions put to him through the interpreter Mr. Kisota, during the interview, Admiral Nagano in substance, made the following statements. (as ^{translated} interpreted by Mr. Kisota, & as understood by Commander Carr. from the Admiral's Japanese speech.)

Because of his advanced years and the fact that he has been in retirement for the past 1 1/2 years, his ^(Adm. Nagano) memory of past events is very poor, but that he is willing to tell all he knows and now remembers.

Ever since the Jap-Russian War in 1904 - the Japanese Navy in its training problems and general overall plans, has considered the United States & British navies its potential enemies. since Japan's Navy was third in size, & if it went to war, it would have to reckon with the other two. Through the years, advancements and developments in equipment & tactics of the U.S. & British

were closely followed by the Japanese, and where they who copied & utilized those which were better than theirs (the Japanese).

As the war in China developed, the Japanese considered U.S. acts and attitude more & more hostile to them and in 1941 he (Nagano) came to the conclusion that war with the U.S. was inevitable. All this while, the Jap Navy General Staff was considering & making plans for such war against U.S., Britain & Netherlands. During the early part of 1941 Admiral Yamamoto suggested to him (Nagano) that they plan a strike against Pearl Harbor, since it was felt vital by the Navy to knock out the U.S. fleet at one surprise blow. Nagano ~~told~~ approved of the idea & told the staff to formulate a plan.

No specific naval training problems or war games were held on the Pearl Harbor attack. The plan, as finally developed, was worked out in detail by the Naval General Staff. He cannot remember the names of any particular officers who did the principal work. The plan was completed & on 5 November 1941 - and

handed to him a finished product. He indicated that he didn't know the details of the plan since the composition of the forces - ~~logistics~~ operating details were worked out by the Com'c Combined Fleet. He approved the plan. He had no personal discussions relative to the navy plan with the Army Gen staff or the Imperial Gen Staff officers (he was very vague on this point and had to be pinned down by specific questions). but relied on his staff officers to coordinate their plans with those of the Army Gen Staff directly. He did not know the Army's plans. ^{Some Army officers and Imp. Gen Staff were in favor of attacking south first to obtain oil reserves - rather than W. Pacific not to know who specifically took this position etc.}

The plan submitted 5 November contemplated that action against the US. would have to be taken early in December. since he was convinced that there was no hope of averting war and wanted to strike before the US & British could get ready.

Nov 2 Dec he had an audience with the Emperor & thereafter (same date) issued an order by authority of the Emperor. to the effect that the strike against Pearl Harbor would commence at 3:20 am - 8 Dec (Jap time) - Later Admiral corrected this statement upon referring to notes

stating the time was not in the order but that the order read in substance "not later than 8 Dec." He also said provision was made to cancel attack plans if negotiations with us were, by some chance successful. He agreed to give us original Jap. texts of these orders, as compiled from the memories of himself & other officers. That the originals (& all copies presumably) had been burned in the fire.

He did not confer with Gen. Sugiyama (Chief of Army Gen Staff) or any army staff officers, or issuance of 2 Dec. order. He presumes his naval staff officers coordinated with Army staff & that the Army likewise issued such an order. He does not know whether Gen Sugiyama conferred with Emperor or what steps army took. He did not confer with Togo, or Foreign office over it.

He agreed to permit the reporter Mr. — to give us copies of his original Jap notes. It was evident that the reporter was not taking verbatim notes but only the substance of the Japanese speech.