

R E S T R I C T E D

HEADQUARTERS
U. S. STRATEGIC BOMBING SURVEY
(PACIFIC)
APO 234
C/O POSTMASTER, SAN FRANCISCO

INTERROGATION NO. 423
(Jap Intell No 41)

PLACE: TOKYO
DATE: 23 Nov 1945

Division of Origin: Japanese Intelligence Section, G-2, USSBS.

Subject: Organization and Operation of Naval Attache Staff in Mexico.

Person Interrogated and background:

WACHI, Isuneze, Captain, IJN.

1922 Graduated from Academy.
1922-1924 Attache staff in Australia.
1925 Served on heavy cruiser
1925 Participated in Jubilee in San Francisco.
1926-1927 Studied Spanish in Tokyo Foreign Language School.
1927-1928 Served on a tanker.
1929 Served on MUTSU.
1930 Served on DD.
1929-1930 Served on gunboat.
1931 Naval Wireless School.
1932-1934 Served on CA NAKA.
1934-1936 Resident Officer in Shanghai for General Staff.
1937 Executive Officer of Tokyo Radio Station of Navy Dept.
1938-1939 Staff Officer of Naval Training School.
1939-1940 (Fall) Communications Department of General Staff.
1940 (Feb)-1941 (Dec) Assistant Naval Attache in Mexico.
1942 (Feb) Returned to U. S.
1942 (August)-1944 (Feb) Communications Department of General Staff.
1944 (Feb)-1944 (Oct) Garrison Commander IWO JIMA.
1944 (Dec)-1945 (Feb) Naval Attache to Philippines.
1945 (Feb)-1945 (Sept) Commander 32nd Assault Unit
(Small suicide boats).

Where Interviewed: Meiji Building.

Interrogators: Lt. Comdr. WILLIAM H. BOTZER, USNR
Lt. Comdr. F. SHACKELFORD, USNR

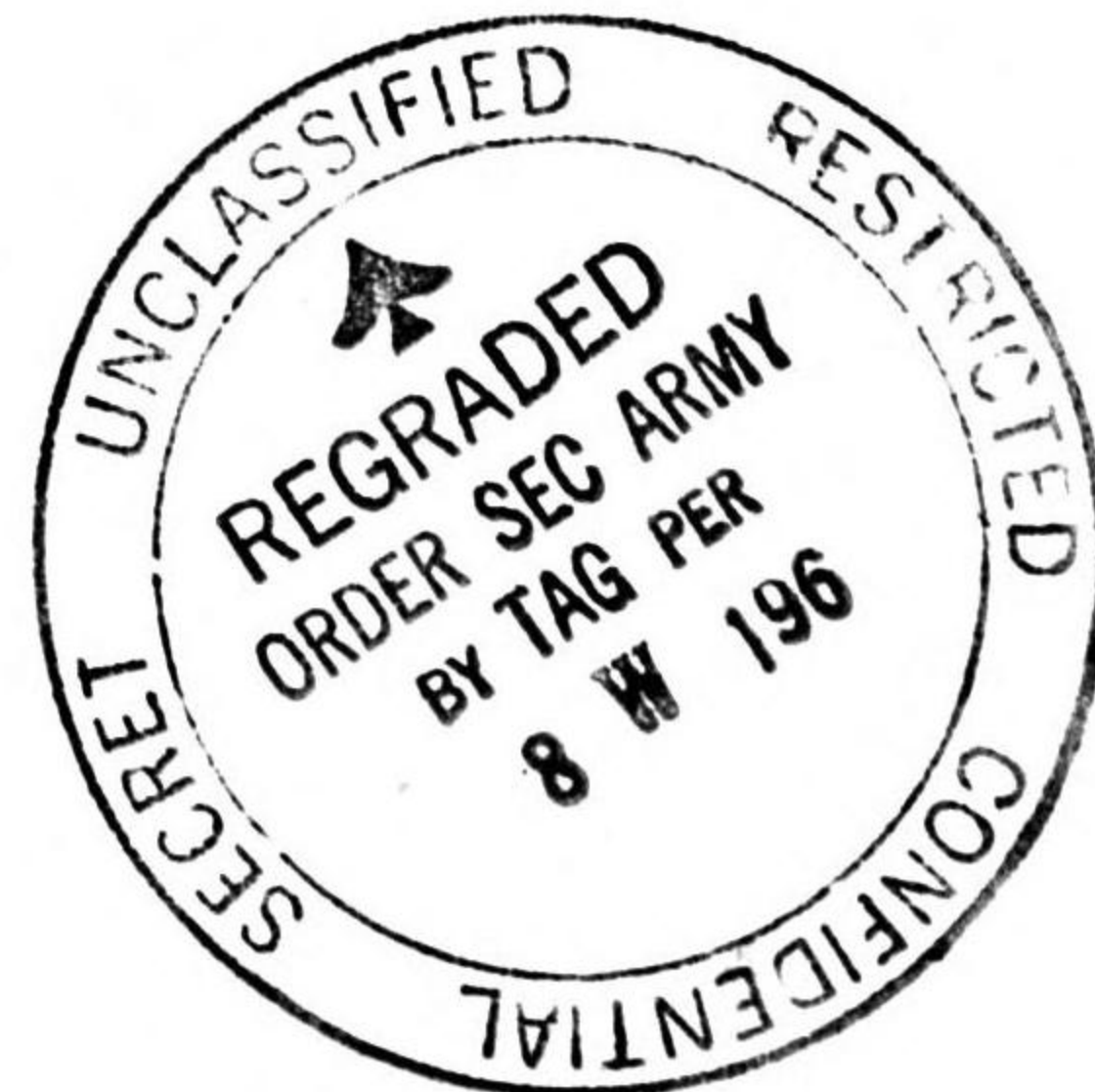
Interpreter: Major J. C. PELZEL

SUMMARY

The Naval Attache Staff in Mexico considered entertainment of high ranking Mexican Officers its most important duty and devoted much Sake and Sukiyaki to this end. Reports, based on American Publications and conversations with Mexican authorities, were sent to the General Staff in Tokyo every 2 - 3 months and concerned such matters as Mexico's attitude toward Japan and relations between the U.S. and Mexico.

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Transcript of Interrogation: (WACHI, I, Capt. IJN) _____

Q.1. Tell us of your duties as Assistant Attache in Mexico?

A. I was Spanish language officer and the general assistant to the Attache. Our area was from Mexico south to Colombia. We tried to get a more favorable Mexican attitude toward Japan.

Q.2. Did you travel widely in this area?

A. I made one round trip to Bogata.

Q.3. To whom did the Attache report?

A. The General Staff.

Q.4. Were reports made regularly?

A. Yes, every two or three months, although the reports should have been monthly. We were short of help and for this reason reported only every 2 to 3 months. The reports were excerpts from U. S. publications.

Q.5. What were your exact duties?

A. They were mainly social. We went to many functions and gave sake and sukiyaki parties. Research was important, but we had little time for it. We had close relations with our other attaches in South America.

Q.6. What did you regard as your most important duty in Mexico?

A. Entertainment of ranking Mexican officers from whom we attempted to get any data concerning anti-Japanese feeling in Mexico. There was some rivalry between our Staff and the U. S. Embassy in entertaining the Mexican generals. We thought of the Mexican as a somewhat low class people who could be best appealed to through entertainment.

Q.7. Why were you interested in creating pro-Japanese feeling among the Mexicans? Was this important to you?

A. To keep them out of the war and keep them as neutral as possible. Yes, we considered that of importance to us.

Q.8. Do you think you were successful?

A. Successful to the extent that only Colombia immediately declared war. Although other countries did later, they were not too active, as you know.

Q.9. Were you interested in and did you report shipping going through the Panama Canal?

A. No, we had no agents for such information.

Q.10. Were you interested in such shipping?

A. We had no way of getting into the area. I thought a more effective way of securing such data was by radio intelligence in TOKYO.

Q.11. How many Japanese were in Mexico?

A. About 2,000. Mostly, they were people of some substance. Roughly, 200 of the total were in Mexico City.

Transcript of Interrogation: (WACHI, I, Capt, IJN)

Q.12. Did you get over to the lower California Peninsula?

A. No. I did get to Manganillo.

Q.13. How many Japanese do you think were on that Peninsula?

A. Fishing, under pressure from the U.S., had been stopped along lower California before I got there. The personnel who remained were evacuated by the Mexican Government before the war.

Q.14. How many people were engaged in this fishing business?

A. I don't know. I think the American emphasis on our fishing industry as a source of information is comical.

Q.15. What did your reports to the General Staff contain?

A. I don't recall the details, but they contained such general information as the relations between the US and Mexico and certain pertinent information gathered from your publication. The General Staff didn't put too much emphasis on our reports.

Q.16. Did you receive any special instructions from the General Staff while in Mexico?

A. Yes, occasionally concerning special matters. Examples concerned the Japanese fishing industry and our oil interests in Mexico.

Q.17. Did you get any special instructions upon leaving Japan for Mexico?

A. I received my instructions from the General Staff and Naval Ministry, instructions telling me to create a pro-Japanese feeling in Mexico.

Q.18. Were you shipping much oil out of Mexico to Japan when you were there?

A. None. Our construction was stopped before any oil was produced.

Q.19. Were you directed from TOKYO to secure any other specific information in Mexico in addition to what you have mentioned?

A. No.

Q.20. In your work, you say that you studied newspapers and magazines?

A. Yes, both Mexican and U.S. publications (New York Times, Life, Time).

Q.21. Did you study any technical publications, manuals, etc?

A. No.

Q.22. Did you have any special service representatives in Mexico, such as the TOKUMU KIKAN that you had in Manchouchuo and the Philippines?

A. No.

Q.23. What Japanese firms were represented in Mexico?

A. Mitsubishi, Mitsui, Kato, Pacific Oil Company, Nagauchi, N.Y.K., Yokohama Specie Bank. Once a month, representatives of these met at the Embassy to discuss business problems.

Q.24. Did you work closely with representatives of the Foreign Office?

A. Yes. I was actually an assistant of the Foreign Office. We also had close relations with your Embassy Staff.

Q.25. From the Naval and Military point of view, do you think you sent valuable information back to JAPAN?

A. From Mexico, no. From Washington, yes.

Q.26. Were you familiar with the plans for attacking Pearl Harbor?

A. No. The first I knew of that was when the news was announced at a bull fight that I was watching.

Q.27. Did you work with Rear Admiral OBAYASHI who commanded a Special attack unit at YOKOSUKA?

A. No. I was in KAGOSHIMA (S. Kyushu).

Q.28. How many suicide boats did you have?

A. I had 250 at the end of the war and expected to increase this to 500 before your landing.

Q.29. When you were on Iwo Jima, what advance information did you have of incoming raids?

A. If it were an air attack, we usually knew of it when it was 200 kilometers away; if a raid by surface vessels, 30-50 kilometers away. Our sources of information were radar dispatches from the General Staff, and intercepted transmissions between your planes and between your subs.