

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

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

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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, German.) 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)