

General Seishiro ITAGAKI: Former Minister of War

- 1885 Born Iwate Prefecture. Son of Masanori Itagaki. Married Kikuko, daughter of Kenkichi Ogoshi
- 1904 Graduated Military Academy
- 1916 Graduated Military Staff College
- 1924 Assistant Military Attache in China
- 1928 Colonel, Infantry. Commander 33rd Infantry Regiment
- 1929-31 Senior Staff, Kwantung Army Headquarters
- 1932 Major General. Attached to Kwantung Army Headquarters
- 1933 Attached to General Staff Headquarters
- 1933 July-
Jan Made extensive trip through Europe and America
- 1934-35 Vice Chief of Staff, Kwantung Army; concurrently Military Attache in Manchukuo.
- 1936 Chief of Staff, Kwantung Army
- 1937-38 Commanded troops in North China
- 1938 June-
1939 Aug. War Minister in first Konoye and Hiranuma Cabinets; concurrently president, Cabinet Manchurian Affairs Bureau.
- 1939 Sept Chief of Staff, Japanese Army in China.
- 1941 July Promoted to General. Commander in Chief, Chosen Army.
- 1945 Apr Relieved as Commander in Chief by Lt. General Yoshio Kozuki.

A shrewd schemer and an able commander and staff officer. Identified with Manchuria for many years and credited with a major part in Manchurian Incident of 1931. A leader of the so-called "Young Officer" Group. Known as advocate of vigorous execution of so-called continental policy. An authority on Chinese Affairs. A close friend of former Premier Tojo, the two have been associated in the Kwantung Army during the 1930's. (70, 71)

Name: Itagaki, Seishiro

Record
5105-5105

Man. Sum.
Pg. 79

Title: Member of Board of Manchurian Affairs, June 1939

Source: Tokyo Gazette, June 1939

Was member of the Board of Manchurian Affairs set up a comprehensive plan for the expansion of productive power in Japan, Manchukuo and North China.

ITAGAKI, Seishiro

General

Request by: Dohihara

Defendant - in Sugamo

Was associate of Dohihara and served as Chief of Staff of Kwantung Army while Dohihara was in service with Kwantung Army.

Testimony believed to be relevant and concerned with Counts 1 - 17 incl.

1 TAGAKI, Seishiro Genl
Request by Doihara

Defendant - in Sugama.

Was associate of D and served as Chief
of Staff of Kwantung Army while D
was in service with Kwantung Army.

Testimony believed to be relevant
and concerned with counts 1-17 incls.

ITAGAKI, SEISHIRO

Subject of IPS case file # 383

MEMORANDUM

August 1947

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TO: Capt. Robinson, Mr. Lopez, Mr. Edwards
FROM: William E. Edwards
SUBJECT: Secret Funds Interrogation Transcripts
Citation(s) re the Defendant(s):
XXX

ITAGAKI

A series of interrogations has been conducted in connection with an investigation re alleged abuses and corrupt practices surrounding the uses made of Secret Funds by the Defendants and others, during the last War. The transcripts of such interrogations have been placed on file in the Investigative Division, Room #386.

The information briefly referred to below came to our attention in this manner: Because of your interest in the Defendant(s) it is being cited for your reference.

The essence of the information is as follows:

TANABE, Harunichi, served as Chief Secretary to the HIRANUMA Cabinet. The accused ITAGAKI was War Minister in the same Cabinet. The predecessor Cabinet Chief Secretary, one KAZAMI, turned over to TANABE a total of ¥ 5,300,000 in secret funds. Of this total sum there was ¥ 300,000 in cash in the vault in the office of the Chief Secretary. The balance of ¥ 5,000,000 was evidenced by some kind of credit slips. TANABE acknowledged receipt of this total merely by placing his seal on the name card of his predecessor. TANABE claims that he used approximately ¥ 170,000 for secret communications.

The pertinent ~~(see attached page)~~ parts will be found in the transcript of the interrogation of _____

dated _____ **TANABE, Harunichi**, at page(s) _____ (of seq.).

27 March 1947

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and "other miscellaneous expenses." When questioned about the meaning of "miscellaneous expenses," he stated that a substantial portion of the yen was used as "contributions" to various reporters and writers in order to gain favor with the Cabinet. TANABE refused to characterize these contributions as bribes but rather insisted that they be considered as "donations to gain favor."

Ultimately, the ¥ 300,000 in cash (in the office vault) dwindled to the point where it was necessary to obtain additional cash. KASAMI (predecessor) had instructed TANABE to contact the Finance Minister when additional secret funds were needed. Therefore, in February 1939, TANABE called Finance Minister ISHIWATA. ISHIWATA confirmed the fact that the Cabinet did have a ¥ 5,000,000 credit to draw upon but advised TANABE to call the War Ministry. TANABE therefore called Vice War Minister YAMAWAKI(?) who stated that ¥ 5,000,000 of War Ministry secret funds were available and that TANABE could withdraw any portion thereof he desired. TANABE therefore requested ¥ 500,000, which was brought over to the office of the Chief Secretary of the Cabinet in cash. TANABE again went through the simple procedure of acknowledging receipt of this substantial sum of yen by merely affixing his seal.

In commenting upon this transaction, TANABE stated that he had understood all along that the ¥ 5,300,000 was cabinet secret funds and was very much surprised when he was told to call upon the War Ministry for the funds by the Finance Minister, and so to learn that it was secret war funds, in fact.

While such fiscal matters were generally under the direct surveillance of the Vice War Minister, nevertheless the accused ITAGAKI must have been aware of, and must have approved, the transfer of these secret funds to the office of the Chief Secretary of the Cabinet. Moreover, he most certainly must have been aware of the uses to be made thereof, as outlined above.

24 March 1947

MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. Tavenner and Mr. Sutton
FROM: Mr. Lopez, Capt. Robinson and Mr. Edwards.
SUBJECT: Propaganda Thought Control and ITAGAKI

1. When ITAGAKI was Minister of War there was issued on 15 November 1938 a booklet entitled "Forging Ahead With the Holy War" edited by the Information Bureau of the War Ministry. The highlights of the pamphlet concerning propaganda and thought control, which might be valuable in cross-examining witnesses testifying on those subject matters are:

a. Consequently for the purpose of national defense, with the reformation of national system, the control of spirit of the people, that is, the preparation of thought warfare system is the vital policy which cannot be allowed a minute's delay from the national defense viewpoint. (Pages 30-42).

b. The man-power of JAPAN is almost equal to that of U. S. or SOVIET, so she is very favorable in regard to man-power factor. As regards the racial problem too, JAPAN is very much favored because of more pure racial formalities in comparison to that of GERMANY, SOVIET or U. S.

Therefore under this subject, it is most appropriate to pay regard to the following:

- (1) Must study fully, the psychology of each race and try not to make any blunder in administering them.
- (2) Must plan to strengthen the national consciousness by making them master the spirit of imperial way (Kodo-ha) thoroughly.
- (3) Should adopt thought measures to make people not to be taken advantages by enemy's racial disunion scheme. (Pages 30-42).

c. The important factors which should belong to propaganda are press, magazines, communication, pamphlets, literal lectures and information organs, radio, movies and other amusements; exhibitions, etc. It is very essential from peace

time to enforce national control of these organs so as to make perfect the counter measures for thought war which are developing even from peace time. (Page 41 - half of 42.)

d. So-called national general mobilization is to control and operate human and material resources for the purpose of accomplishing the national defense work in time of emergency (Summary) (Pages 97-104).

e. The source of national fighting power after all is men and spiritual power of men. Therefore spiritual mobilization is the most important among other mobilizations. For which it is necessary to control and operate educational organs and such organizations which deal in propaganda in one direction for winning victory. (Summary) (Pages 97-104).

Pedro Lopez
Capt. Robinson
William E. Edwards

By
Pedro Lopez

PROGRESS REPORT

April 3, 1947

DOHIHARA's Witness:

Itagaki, Seishiro

Completed: Items 1 to 8.

Partially completed: Item 9.

Judge Judson T. Y. Nyi

Dr. Daniel S. Ao