

WAR DEPARTMENT

Exhibit # 10

Case # 92

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Original typewritten copy
of interrogation of Adm. Yasuo Iwano
by H. S. Alexander & Waldorf

28 November 1945

INTERROGATION OF VICE ADMIRAL YASUO INOUE, I.J.N. (RET.)

Time : 28 November 1945, 0930-1130 hours.
Place: Room 334, NYK Building, Tokyo, Japan.

Present: Lt. Douglas L. Waldorf, Interrogator.
Lt. Joe B. Alexander, Interrogator.
T/4 Rickey S. Yamaguchi, Interpreter.
Vice Admiral YASUO INOUE, I.J.N. (Ret.)

- Q. What is your present residential address?
A. Yonezawa Yamagata-ken.
- Q. Where were you born?
A. Kyoto-fu, Miyazu, Japan.
- Q. What is your present age?
A. 58 years.
- Q. Are you a graduate of the Japanese Naval Academy, and if so, what was your year of graduation?
A. Yes. I graduated in the class of 1909 and was commissioned an Ensign.
- Q. Will you present the sequence of your Naval Service in chronological order?
A. 1909-1910---Special gunnery course at Yokosuka Naval Station.
1910-1917---General sea duty with 2nd Fleet.
1915---Promoted to Lieutenant 1st grade.
1917-1918---General refresher course Naval War College.
1918-1922---General sea duty with 2nd Fleet.
1922---Entered Naval War College-graduated in 1924.
1924-1925---General sea duty with the second fleet.
1925-1927---Attached Kure Naval Station as general Staff Officer
No special assignment.
1927-1930---Member of Navy General Staff, Tokyo.
1930-1931---General sea duty with 2nd Fleet. Was Executive Officer of the NACHI, under Capt. Nabura HIRATA.
1927---Promoted to commander.
1931-1932---Stationed at Kure aboard the training ship YAHAGI, as commanding officer.
1931---Promoted to Captain.
1932-1934---Stationed in Formosa as Naval Liaison Officer.
1934-1935---Capt. of the KITAKAMI, a training ship from Sasebo Naval Station.
1935-1937---Returned to Navy General Staff as Intelligence Officer, Dept. III. Promoted to Rear Admiral.

1937-1938---Assigned as commander of shore defenses at Yokosuka Naval Station. Also was commandant of trainees.
1938-1940---Chief Personnel Officer at Yokosuka.
1940-1941---Commander of defenses on the Island of KAINAN*TO off Hong Kong for nine months.
Aug.-Dec.-1941---Commander of shore defenses at Canton, China. Latter part of Dec. went to Hong Kong as an observer aboard the EJI. Was in command of defenses at Hong-Kong for 1 month.

- Q. Had you heard of the Naval War Games held during the summer of 1941 at Sukumo, Saeki, Kagoshima, and Kanoya?
A. No. I had never heard of such exercises.
- Q. How long did you remain in command of defense forces at Hong Kong?
A. Until late Feb. or 1st of Mar. 1942.
- Q. As an officer of wide experience in matters pertaining to defense, how much time prior to attack do you consider necessary for adequate defense?
A. In case of air attack, surprise would be essential to a successful operation on a shore defense position.
- Q. Do you think that 1 hours time would be sufficient to prepare your forces at Hong Kong for adequate defense?
A. Yes, if conditions were ideal.
- Q. Did you realize that diplomatic conditions between the U. S and Japan were becoming very strained in late 1941?
A. Yes, but I had no idea that an attack against the U. S. was eminent at this time.
- Q. Did you feel at that time that if diplomatic conditions broke down between the two countries, it would be advisable to attack the U.S.?
A. Yes, in the event of diplomatic failure at this time, I felt it would be a good idea to attack the United States forces.
- Q. What had you ever heard relative to a Declaration of War against the U.S.?
A. Until after the attack, I had heard nothing.
- Q. At any time during Dec., 1941, did you receive any orders alerting you against probable American attack?
A. No.
- Q. When did you first hear any information concerning the attack against Hawaii?
A. Early evening, 8 Dec., Japanese time, from a Japanese Radio Broadcast.

Q. When did you become a Vice Admiral?

A. November, 1941.

Q. What was your assignment after leaving Hong Kong in 1942?

A. I returned to Tokyo in Jan. or Feb. of 1942, and was on leave until April. From April 1942 to Jan. 1943, I was commander of escort vessels on convoys operating to Singapore and Jaigon. In Jan., 1943, I returned to Tokyo for another leave. From Apr. '43 to Mar. '45, I was in command of the shore defenses at the OMINATO Naval Station. On Mar. 8, 1945, I retired from the Naval Service.

Q. While you were attached to the Intelligence Department of the Navy General Staff, did you receive any intelligence reports from the U.S.?

A. No.

Q. In your opinion were there Japanese intelligence agents operating in the U. S. at that time?

A. I don't know--my duties were confined to the Formosa Area.

Q. Did you at any time as a member of the Navy General Staff, hear of, participate in, or plan any maneuvers or exercises concerning any attack on the U.S. or any other Western Power?

A. No.

Q. Do you have anything to add to your statement?

A. No.

YASUO INOUE, VICE ADM. (RET.)
I.J.N.

I, Rickey S. Yamaguchi, hereby certify that I acted as interpreter at the interview set out above, that I truly interpreted and translated the English questions into Japanese and the replies thereto from Japanese into English, and that the English translation of the answers set out above are true and accurate to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Rickey S. Yamaguchi
RICKEY S. YAMAGUCHI

Douglas L. Waldorf
DOUGLAS L. WALDORF
2nd Lt., Inf.

Joe B. Alexander
JOE B. ALEXANDER
2nd Lt., Infantry.