

INTERNATIONAL MILITARY TRIBUNAL FOR THE FAR EAST

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, et al

-vs-

ARAKI, Sadao, et al

AFFIDAVIT

Name: Alfred F. KRETSCHMER

Address: Kanko Hotel  
Atami, Japan

Supplementing my affidavit of April 24, 1947, I wish to explain Exhibit 1272 in which Ambassador Ott stated, "On recommendation of the Military Attache, Lt. General Heitaro KIMURA, Vice Minister of War, born 28th September 1888 in Tokyo Prefecture. KIMURA was in Germany 1922-1924. In his position of Chief of the General Staff of the Kwantung Army, October 1939 to October 1940, he especially worked in behalf of Germany. Vice Minister of War since 10 April 1941. He is one of the principal advocates of German-Japanese Military Cooperation, Grade: Great Cross." I did not word even this part of the telegram, but the Ambassador's wording is based, without any doubt, on my proposition and its dates, which, as I see now, were incorrect.

As to the wording, "he has especially worked in behalf of Germany", I am sure that it refers to the following fact:

Before the German-Soviet Russian war, tungsten, rubber, soya beans and other goods were sent to Germany via Manchuria and the Soviet Union. These shipments were often delayed by the Japanese Railway authorities in Manchuria. In such cases the German Mission in Hsingking had to ask for the help of the Headquarters of the Kwantung Army in Hsingking. But I am not sure whether such cases occurred while General KIMURA was the Chief of Staff of the Kwantung Army.

During the time General KIMURA was Vice War Minister, I was neither asked to his office, nor did he come to call on me in my office to talk with me on official business. My official connections with the War Ministry did not reach higher than to the political department, Major General SATO, and even him I met very seldom officially.

In Exhibit No. 1272, there are Ambassador Ott's additional remarks as follows: "KIMURA has closely cooperated with War Minister and Prime Minister TOJO already on the Kwantung Army. His personal relationship to TOJO as well as his primary preoccupation in his position of Prime Minister have enhanced his influence on the leadership of the War Ministry, as well as his position in regard to the other Vice Ministers to a marked degree."

I observed nothing that indicated to me that the foregoing statement of Ambassador Ott was true. I think Ambassador Ott used these exaggerated phrases only to urge the reluctant German Foreign Office to grant the decorations.

OATH

In accordance with my conscience, I swear to tell the whole truth withholding nothing and adding nothing.

/s/ A. P. Kotschner

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 4 day of July, 1947, at Tokyo, Japan.

/s/ Bernard A. Hargaden, 1st Lt.  
Inf.  
Administrative Officer  
Defense Division