

INTERROGATION OF

ISHIHARA, Kanji

24 May 1946

INTERROGATED BY: H. C. NORTON
Investigator

FILE NO.: 229

INTERROGATION OF

ISHIHARA, Kanji

Date and Time: 24 May 1946 - 0930-1130
Place : Tokyo Hospital for the Communication Ministry
Tokyo, Japan (TEISHIN)
Present: ISHIHARA, Kanji
H. C. Norton, Interrogator
Eric Fleisher, 2d Lt., O-935000,
Interpreter
Margaret Mose, (Miss) Stenographer

Questions By: Mr. Norton

Oath given to interpreter by Mr. Norton:

Mr. Norton : Do you solemnly swear, by Almighty God, that you will truly and accurately interpret and translate from English into Japanese and from Japanese into English, as may be required of you, in this proceeding?

Lt. Fleisher : I. do.

- Q. What was your rank in 1931 in the Kwantung Army?
A. 1928 to August 1932, I was a Lt. Colonel in the Kwantung Army.
Q. When did HASHIMOTO first begin to formulate a plan for taking over Manchuria?

- A. I don't know because I didn't know him at the time.
- Q. Don't you know anything about the Mukden Plot?
- A. No, I didn't know there was such a plot being planned. Just the other day General KONO, Tsunikichi wrote to me and asked some questions pertaining to this Incident because he is writing a book on the subject.
- Q. Did the government as well as the military circles have a hand in this plot?
- A. I don't know.
- Q. Who was your commander at the time of the Incident?
- A. Lt. General MIYAKE, Koji was my commander and he is now in the hands of the Russians.
- Q. Wasn't it yours and ITAGAKI's belief that Manchuria should be guided by Japan?
- A. I don't know ITAGAKI's mind but I wanted to see Manchuria become a part of Japan if an incident did occur.
- Q. Didn't you and ITAGAKI work out a five-year plan for Manchuria before the Incident occurred?
- A. No, the plan was worked out in 1936 by MIYAZAKI, Masayoshi.
- Q. Will you please give me the details of the September 18, 1931 Incident?
- A. There were about 200,000 Chinese troops in Manchuria and about 50,000 of these were stationed at Mukden. Our troops strength was only 10,000 and these troops were scattered along the Manchurian Railroad. Because of the tension between the Chinese and Japanese troops, I worked out a plan for the protection of the railroad in the event an incident should break out. This plan was ~~used~~ ^{repeated} from time to time and many people thought it was actually a part of the September 18, 1931 Incident. It has always been my impression that the Chinese blew up the railroad September 18, 1931.

- Q. Didn't Captain IMADA help blow it up?
- A. I don't believe he had anything to do with it.
- Q. Did you know that HAYASHI, Kyujiro wired Baron SHIDEHARA that the Army was contemplating a conspiracy?

Q. Yes, and the explanation is as follows:

One of my Company Commanders by the name of KAWAKAMI, in charge of a Company at Bujun was instructed by me to take his troops up the railroad tracts towards Mukden and take the Mukden airstrip if an incident occurred. Without orders from me, KAWAKAMI, because he was worried about the tension in the air, decided to hold maneuvers resulting in the taking of the airstrip. It was to be for practice only. Therefore on the 10th of September, KAWAKAMI issued orders to take the Mukden airstrip on the night of September 18th. A Mr. GODO, Head of the Coal Department of the Manchurian Railroad at Bujun, heard of this order and told his friend, HAYASHI, who in turn wired SHIDEHARA that the Army was planning a conspiracy.

- Q. How did it happen that the maneuvers were planned for the same night that the Incident occurred?
- A. It was purely coincidental.
- Q. Did you know that TATEKAWA, went to Mukden because of this wire?
- A. I don't know why he came to Mukden but he was to come on the 18th of September and ITAGAKI or I was requested to meet him. ITAGAKI was the man who met him.
- Q. Did you know that the officers of the Kwantung Army planned the Incident September 18th, because TATEKAWA was arriving?
- A. No.
- Q. Did you know that TATEKAWA was in favor of the plot?
- A. No.
- Q. How did the Kwantung Army dominate the Manchurian Government after the Incident?

- A. Like MacARTHUR is handling the Japanese Government.
- Q. Do you mean that both Governments were handled the same way? Please answer this correctly.
- A. Right after the Incident occurred a Board of Advisory was formed and these were hand-picked men from the YO-HO-KAI and the MANCHU and SEINEN RENMEI Organizations by the Kwantung Army. They were to advise the Heads of the Manchurian Government. Anything that the Board did had to be sanctioned by the Kwantung Army.
- Q. Did you know HOSHINO who was Chief of General Affairs Board; if you did what did you know about him?
- A. After the Incident occurred HOSHINO wanted to make Manchuria a part of Japan and the Kwantung Army sanctioned his policy.
- Q. Did you know anything about the invasion of Chahar Province in January 1935?
- A. I was annoyed at the time because I was not notified of this maneuver. I therefore don't know who gave the orders but the invasion went as far as Hyakuremaio. There the Japanese Army was defeated and retreated.
- Q. Did you know of the invasion of the Hopei Province in April or May of 1933?
- A. I am not familiar with this maneuver since I was a regimental commander at Sendai and was very busy training my men to fight against the Russians.
- Q. Did you know of the assassination of Chang-Tao-Lin?
- A. It happened in March or April of 1928 and I didn't arrive in Manchuria until October 1928. I didn't know the man.

Certificate of Interpreter

I, Eric Fleisher, 2d Lt., O-935000, being sworn on oath, state that I truly translated the questions and answers given from English to Japanese and from Japanese to English respectively, and that the above transcription of such questions and answers, consisting of 4 pages, is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 24th day of May 1946.

Duly Detailed Investigating Officer
International Prosecution Section
GHQ, SCAP

Certificate of Stenographer

I, Margaret Moose, hereby certify that I acted as stenographer at the interrogation set out above, and that I transcribed the foregoing questions and answers, and that the transcription is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Certificate of Interrogator

I, H. C. Norton, certify that on the 24th day of May 1946, personally appeared before me Kanji ISHIHARA and according to Lt. Fleisher, Interpreter, gave the foregoing answers to the several questions set forth therein.

Tokyo, Japan

24 May 1946