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PLACE: TOKYO
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Division of Origin: Civilian Defense.

Subject: Police Responsibilities.

Personnel interrogated and background of each:

MACHIMURA, Kingo, head of Police Section of Air Defense General Headquarters in TOJO Cabinet (August 1943 - July 1944). Presently Lieut. Governor of TOKYO Metropolitan District. (See next page for complete statement)

Where interviewed: Room 1705, Meiji Bldg., Tokyo.

Interrogator: Col JOHN B. WARDEN, FA.

Interpreter: Mr. Shoji HIRAI

Allied Officers Present: Lt Col J. H. AHRENS
Ens C.D. SHELDON

Summary:

This interrogation is concerned principally with ascertaining information regarding the responsibilities, duties, and relationships among the several police agencies of the Police Bureau (KEIBO KYOKU) of the Ministry of Home Affairs, and the Police Bureau of the Air Defense Headquarters, particularly those concerned with civilian defense, together with incidental civilian defense information.

MACHIMURA, Kingo

Graduated from the Imperial University in 1923, majoring in jurisprudence. Immediately after graduation, he was connected with the police of AOMORI prefecture as an apprentice official for two years. Then he went to SHIZUOKA prefecture where he was Chief of Commerce and Industry, Chief of Public Order, and Chief of Fisheries (three different offices) for four years.

He then went into the Ministry of the Imperial Household where he had charge of the Forestry Department. Then he became Secretary to the Minister of the Imperial Household (not a cabinet minister) for six years.

He became Chief of the Police Department of MIE and GIFU for two years, up to 1937, Then he became Head of the Police Board of the Home Affairs Ministry for one year, four months.

He became Chief of the Personnel Department of the Ministry of Home Affairs for one year, eight months.

He became Governor of TOYAMA for two years, four months.

Then he became Chief of the Police Board of the Ministry of Home Affairs (KEIHO KYOKUCHO) for one year, four months. During that time he had charge of the Defense Department (KEIBO KYOKUCHO) of Air Defense General Headquarters (BOKUSO-HOMBU) for one year.

He was out of position for seven months; then became Governor of NIIGATA for two months; then became Chief of the Metropolitan Police Board for four months, from April to August.

He is now Lieutenant Governor of Tokyo Metropolitan District.

I N T E R R O G A T I O N

- Q. Mr. MACHIMURA, Kingo, you were director of the Police Bureau of the Home Affairs Ministry from April 1943 to July 1944, is that correct?
- A. From August 1943 to July 1944.
- Q. Who was Minister of Home Affairs at that time?
- A. Mr. AN DO, Kisaburo.
- Q. That is, General ANDO?
- A. Yes, sir.
- Q. And that was in the cabinet of Premier TOJO?
- A. Yes.
- Q. In the Ministry of Home Affairs at that time, what was the title of the official who handled police affairs?
- A. Director (KEIHO KYOKUCHO).
- Q. To whom is the director of the Police Bureau responsible?
- A. He is responsible to the Minister of Home Affairs because the Minister of Home Affairs issued all orders to the director of the Police Bureau.

Q. What departments were under your bureau?

A. Police Affairs Section (KEIMU KWA), Administrative Section (GYOSEIKEISATSU KWA), Foreign Affairs Section (GAIJI KWA), Economic Peace Preserving Section, (KEIZAIHOAN KWA), Peace Preserving Section (HOAN KWA), Censorship Section (KENETSU KWA), Police Guard Section (KEIBI KWA). GYOSEIKEISATSU was known as KEIBI KWA during my administration.

Q. At the national level, does the secret police control the Department of Censorship? In other words, censorship (KENETSU KWA) is under the control of HOAN KWA).

A. No, it is under the director of the Police Bureau. The Department of Censorship and the Peace Preserving Section (HOAN KWA) were on the same level.

Q. What department in the Police Bureau handled air-raid protector or civilian defense?

A. The Police Bureau did not have anything to do with civilian air defenses. But the administrative section chief (KEIBIKACHO) had something to do with air defenses in a small degree.

Q. The Police Bureau had nothing to do with the Air Defense General Headquarters at the national level, is that correct?

A. No, but I was chief of the Police Bureau (KEIBO KYOKU) of the Air Defense General Headquarters. In that Bureau I had connection with civilian air defense.

Q. Is there a Public Peace and Order Department in the Police Bureau?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. In which one of these sections or departments does it fall?

A. The Peace Preserving Section (HOANKWA) included maintenance of order and handled intelligence cases.

Q. Which department handled criminal affairs?

A. The Police Affairs Section (KEIMUKWA).

Q. At the National level, which department of your Bureau concerned itself with fire protection matters and fire prevention?

A. During my tenure of office, fire prevention matters were handled by the Police Guard Section (KEIBIKWA). Subsequently it was changed to the GYOSEI KEISATSUKWA (administrative department.) (See C.D.D. chart)

Q. Did the secret police handle counter-espionage matters?

A. No, the Foreign Affairs Section (GAIJIKWA) handled that.

Q. Now, the Air Defense General Headquarters was organized about 1 November 1943 by General ANDO, is that correct?

A. Yes, sir. It was not organized, but it was planned. It did not take effect until the following January.

- Q. At that time was there any change made in the Police Bureau?
- A. Not in this Bureau but in the Prefectural Police Office, in force and strength.
- Q. In other words, the prefectural police were strengthened at that time on the prefectural level but no departments were introduced?
- A. No, not in the Home Affairs Ministry.
- Q. At the prefectural level, were there new departments introduced?
- A. No prefectural offices nor new departments were created but the number of personnel was increased.
- Q. What department in your Bureau interested itself in matters of evacuation of the populace?
- A. It had nothing to do with evacuation matters.
- Q. Was there anyone in the Prefectural Police Office who issued instructions to police as to how those evacuation plans were to be carried out?
- A. Yes, at the prefectural level.
- Q. What is your present connection with the metropolitan Tokyo government?
- A. I am Vice-governor at the present time.
- Q. Are you familiar with the Metropolitan Police Board operation?
- A. I was chief of the Metropolitan Police Board at the time of the Suzuki ministry.
- Q. Is "chief" the correct title?
- A. I think that is correct.
- Q. And you think it is a board, not a bureau?
- A. I think a board would be the correct thing.
- Q. It was established by Imperial edict, was it not?
- A. Yes.
- Q. Well, in the Imperial edict what was the Japanese name for it, bureau or board?
- A. In Japanese the place of the office is KEISHISOMUKAN and the person, chief, is called KEISHICHO.
- Q. We are at a loss to understand why emergency medical service was under the police. Can you explain the reason?
- A. In principal, the regional government is supposed to take care of emergency matters but in case of air raid or any disturbances, regional people will not come out on duty but the policemen will, so in the opinion of the welfare ministry, a policeman would be more capable of taking care of emergency matters.

- Q. But police are not trained, are they, other than in first aid?
- A. Policemen were not trained except to carry the wounded to the hospital.
- Q. During your time as director of the Police Bureau in the Air Defense General Headquarters, did you have anything to do with the organization of doctors and nurses for civilian defense on the national level?
- A. I did not have any authority.
- Q. Were you familiar with how it operated?
- A. I knew in general.
- Q. Was the medical profession in Japan organized for war by the National Society of Doctors and Surgeons, or how was it done?
- A. Yes, they were organized.
- Q. Under what head?
- A. At the time, Air Defense Headquarters (BOKUHOMBU). The section that handled the business cases would know about it.
- Q. The business affairs section of Air Defense Headquarters (BOKUHOMBU)?
- A. CYOMUKYOKUCHO.
- Q. Just as general information, do you happen to know whether there is a national society of physicians?
- A. Yes, it is called DAI NIPPON ISHIKAI.
- Q. And did that association undertake the recruitment of doctors and nurses and training of people in first aid?
- A. I don't know for sure. I think they did.
- Q. Does the Police Bureau in the Ministry of Home Affairs have any directive control over the police of the prefecture and the large cities?
- A. Yes, sir, the Minister of Home Affairs had the governing authority over the prefectural governor and the prefectural governor had authority over the prefectural police forces.
- Q. Did the governor of the prefecture have control over the police of the city of Nagoya, for example?
- A. Yes, sir. The prefectural governor had authority over all of the police forces. Authorities were dependent upon the governors and seldom would the Minister of Home Affairs say much about it except in a case where a general order was needed.
- Q. And that would be issued from the Ministry of Home Affairs?
- A. Yes, sir.

- Q. Can you tell me whether or not in the rural areas of the prefecture there is a separate police force that is responsible only to the governor of the prefecture?
- A. Yes, the governor had the authority.
- Q. Can you describe from your own knowledge just what duties prefectural police performed. How did they operate?
- A. In the small cities or small communities one or two policemen were stationed. Their main business was to catch thieves.
- Q. Were they motorized?
- A. All they had at best was a bicycle.
- Q. And they would cover about what territory?
- A. It would depend a good deal upon the location and places, but in small places each policeman had charge of 500 to 1000 people; in other cases as many as 10,000 people.
- Q. Can you tell me how the police and fire departments are integrated in the prefectural government?
- A. In the big cities or big prefectures they had fire departments composed of regular firemen but in the small cities or places, volunteer fire brigades were organized, called KEIBODAN.
- Q. Were the firemen public officials wearing a badge of authority the same as the police? Were they deputized as policemen?
- A. Yes sir.
- Q. As an example. At a fire, if a citizen committed a criminal act such as looting or stealing something from the house that was on fire, could the fireman make an arrest?
- A. In principal, firemen do not have the authority, but in Japan when a person is caught red-handed in a certain act, the fireman could take the action.
- Q. What administrative control over the police and firemen would the mayor or head man of a city exercise?
- A. The mayor did not have any authority over policemen or fire department people.
- Q. All authority was vested in the chief of police of the city?
- A. Yes sir.
- Q. And the chief of police was responsible directly to the governor of the prefecture?
- A. Yes sir. But in a small city where there was no regular fire department, the mayor could exercise control over the volunteer fire brigades (KEIBODAN).
- Q. Now, during war-time, what means were employed to augment or supplement the regular police forces throughout the nation? Was it done by volunteer auxiliaries or how?

A. Mainly volunteer fire brigades (KEIBODAN) augmented the police forces. But in the case of fires, school students augmented them.

Q. Was the regular paid police force in the cities increased?

A. Gradually decreased in number.

Q. Was that because of the military draft of the Army and Navy?

A. Yes sir. Efforts were made to increase it but drafting decreased it.

Q. What was the military draft age in Japan?

A. 19 to 45.

Q. In peace-time, what were the age limits of paid policemen in the cities?

A. 20 years and no limit at the top except in some prefectures. But I am not sure of what age was set as a maximum in those cases.

Q. Well, during war-time, did they supplement the ranks of the paid policemen by bringing in older men beyond the military age?

A. During the war-time, in order to increase the number, they had what they called the "Young Men's Fire Brigade" or policemen who really had policemen's clothing but did not in principle have the power of arrest. They were firemen as well as policemen. They had an age limit during peace-time but the age limit was taken out during war-time.

Q. In the civilian defense organized under volunteer fire brigades (KEIBODAN), were there auxiliary police units that went into action during an air raid?

A. In my opinion they did considerable work during an air raid.

Q. You mean the student groups or part of the Neighborhood Association Groups?

A. The voluntary fire brigades (KEIBODAN) and the student groups did the work, but in certain instances, they did not do their duty to the fullest extent.

Q. What training did they receive?

A. Voluntary fire brigades (KEIBODAN) had regular training courses planned by the chief of police.

Q. He conducted the training that they received?

A. Yes sir.

Q. How were they equipped and uniformed?

A. They had the regular uniform showing rank on the collar.

Q. They hadn't any weapon?

A. No weapons.

Q. They carried no badge or authority except the collar insignia?

- A. Collar insignia only.
- Q. Since the police had control of air-raid protection organization in action, from whom did the Police Bureau and the Ministry of Home Affairs receive instructions concerning air-raid protection? In other words, did the Air Defense General Headquarters come over to your Bureau from time to time to give instructions as to what they wanted the police and the nation to do concerning air raids?
- A. In principle, the Eastern Army Headquarters would issue orders based upon what they thought was going to happen, but invariably there was no time for those channels, so everyone did whatever they could at the time because they did not have time to follow the channel or order -- before this emergency came up, they generally knew about what to do in case of fires.
- Q. The Eastern Army Headquarters would come into the Ministry of Home Affairs and make certain suggestions about defense matters?
- A. Yes sir.
- Q. What steps would your Bureau take to carry out those instructions?
- A. By telephone.
- Q. You did carry them out?
- A. Yes sir. The Ministry of Home Affairs carried them out.
- Q. Were they generally complied with by the governors of prefectures?
- A. I think they were generally carried out.
- Q. Did the governors of the prefectures exercise any rights and privileges in changing them as they saw fit?
- A. I think they had the privilege.
- Q. Were these instructions issued in the form of orders or suggestions, or just general advice?
- A. It all depended. Some came by order, some by suggestion and some by advice.
- Q. Well, in matters of great importance, would the order be issued by Imperial ordinance?
- A. I don't think they came through by edict.
- Q. What do you know about the Air Defense Research Bureau? Was it under the KEIBODAN?
- A. That was a part of the Home Affairs office. It had no connection with KEIBODAN.
- Q. Did any part of the work of the research bureau come under police control?
- A. My department had nothing to do with it.

Q. Was the Air Defense Training School organized under your Bureau?

A. Yes.

Q. When was that organized?

A. It was in existence before I came into office.

Q. You don't know when?

A. I think the training school was organized just before the outbreak of the war.

Q. Where was this training school located?

A. I think at TODORIKICHO SETA GAYA.

Q. Do you know who was in charge of it?

A. OBATA, Haru Kazu, had charge of the training school. He is in OSAKA now, prefecture of OSAKA, and has charge of the Economics Division in the prefecture of OSAKA.

Q. What type of training did they undertake?

A. I didn't even go to see the training school and left everything to the chief and didn't get in touch with the school personally so I don't know much about it.

Q. Did they teach fire-fighting, rescue, first-aid, self-protection, how to fight incendiary fires, or what did they do in these schools?

A. All those that you mentioned. Members of the KEIBODAN had instructions in all those things.

Q. Did they also teach gas defense?

A. I think they did.

Q. Did your Bureau exercise any control over the Neighborhood Associations?

A. Yes, I had control over the Neighborhood Associations.

Q. Just what was the nature of the control? Was it rigid control or was it in an advisory capacity?

A. It was of an advisory capacity, not orders. Plans were made at the Home Affairs Ministry and sent out to the prefectural governors and the prefectural governors modified them and they were sent to the Neighborhood Associations in an advisory nature.

Q. Well, the Neighborhood Association was a national group, was it not?

A. Yes sir.

Q. Did your Bureau have anything to say about the selection of the head of it?

A. Nothing to do with the selection of the head.

- Q. Did the government subsidize the work of the Neighborhood Associations in any way?
- A. I am not sure but I do not think there was any subsidy to the Neighborhood Association.
- Q. Were any of the funds allocated to the operation of your Bureau spent on the Neighborhood Associations?
- A. I think some funds were spent in guiding the Neighborhood Associations.
- Q. Well, were you not responsible for the expenditures of public funds in your department?
- A. All the money they would spend was in the public issue of pamphlets but the expenses were paid by the local prefectures and towns and townships.
- Q. Was there a representative of the national association group located in your office at all times?
- A. Do you mean representative of the Neighborhood Association?
- Q. Yes. Was there somebody in your office that you could confer with on those matters at all times?
- A. No.
- Q. What relationships, if any, existed between your office and the Great Japan Air Defense Association?
- A. The Air Defense Association did not do much of the work except dissemination of pamphlets and supplies -- it really did not do the work of actual air defenses. The Home Ministry Office did not think much of it, so naturally they didn't have much to do with it.
- Q. That Association raised money did it not, from public subscription?
- A. Yes.
- Q. But your Bureau hadn't anything to do with the government subsidy, is that correct?
- A. It did not have much contact with the Air Defense Association.
- Q. What were the principal problems confronting your Bureau during the period of your incumbency?
- A. As the war progressed, the minds of the people were beginning to change toward the carrying on of the war. It was principally with those problems that I had difficulties.
- Q. Did the rate of crime increase?
- A. There was a general decline in the number of police cases but crimes due to economic problems such as black markets increased quite a bit.
- Q. Was it the duty of your Bureau to enforce the rationing regulations?

A. It was not a part of my duties.

Q. What was your impression concerning the attitude of the people toward the danger of air raids at the time you took office in 1943?

A. Although they had means of training for air defense, as the war progressed, they didn't have much confidence of coping with the situation. Besides, at first the Navy rather took the negative attitude that air defense by civilians was not necessary because they claimed that no enemy planes could come over Tokyo. But later, of course, that wasn't so. The Army people also did not take positive means of protecting civilians and I am very doubtful whether those conditions would have met the situation.

Q. People felt at that time that they would not suffer any air raids on their major cities?

A. Yes.

Q. And that was the general attitude of the public?

A. Yes sir.

Q. Did that affect the interest of the public in training for civilian defense?

A. No. They were not enthusiastic but they did train themselves because they were told to. But it wasn't on their own initiative.

Q. Well, did they attend meetings in the neighborhood very freely and were there large crowds? Did they have enthusiastic response to their training program?

A. The people attended the meetings but it was because everybody went. They didn't have much enthusiasm.

Q. They didn't have any incentive to go to the meeting?

A. No, everybody went.

Q. Well, is it true that people were paid to attend meetings?

A. I don't think they were paid.

Q. Did the government pay them to attend meetings?

A. No, the government did not pay for the meeting.

Q. Your friend, General ANDO, said that they did.

A. But he referred to voluntary fire brigade (KEIBODAN) people.

Q. No, I am talking about the individual citizens who attended the meetings.

A. In my opinion, General ANDO was not in a position to know the details.

Q. How did the people generally respond to the restrictions that were put upon them by air raid regulations?

- A. People as a rule would respond, not because they wanted to but they had to because it was the law, but the majority of the people doubted whether this sort of thing could cope with the coming situation.
- Q. What was the penalty imposed by the police if a man refused to cooperate in air-raid protection measures?
- A. I don't remember the exact details of the laws but, for example, if the people did not abide by the blackout regulations, they were fined. There were penalties of prison sentences, but they did not go so far. But they could imprison them.
- Q. What part did the secret police play in air-raid protection?
- A. In my opinion the secret police did not do enough to warrant mentioning.
- Q. Did they report anybody who refused to take an interest in the defense of the homeland; who refused to join in and help fight fires and take training; or join one of the block groups?
- A. I cannot say for sure that there were such cases, but I am in doubt whether they really worked to that extent.
- Q. They were under your control, were they not?
- A. Yes.
- Q. What action did the secret police take toward people who were not in sympathy with the war?
- A. It was one of their duties to watch those people that did not take a sympathetic attitude toward the carrying out of the war defenses.
- Q. What action did the secret police take toward those people who wanted the war to stop -- that were talking about peace?
- A. During my tenure of office, I did not come in contact with anyone that would say he wanted peace.
- Q. What was the general outlook of the people after the B-29 raids had started?
- A. I was out of office at the time of the first raid of B-29's, just an ordinary citizen.
- Q. As a citizen, what was your general impression?
- A. The first time I saw a B-29 was sometime in November. It was at noontime and I was on a station platform when I saw 12 B-29's fly over my head. They did not drop a bomb but I was very much afraid. But since that time I have not been quite so frightened even though I saw B-29(s).
- Q. What was the general attitude of the people? Did they think air-raid protection was futile after the heavy raids?
- A. The public began to realize that the equipment and general

preparation for air raids were futile, especially on the raids of March 9th and 10th in Tokyo. They realized that what they had done so far was futile and they all wanted to evacuate Tokyo.

Q. Before the heavy raids and during your tenure of office, do you think that the government did all they could to provide air-raid protection for the people and did the government consider that the measures they had taken were adequate?

A. At that time, they thought that was the best they could do under the circumstances but looking back now, all they had done was futile.

Q. During your career as a policeman, if you had the opportunity to do it over again, what changes would you make?

A. At that time I had to cope with limited material and limited conditions but if I had to do it over and if I had the materials, time, and manpower, I could change the construction of the buildings and give the people better shelters and more fire-fighting equipment such as engines, pumps, and everything attached to air defenses.

Q. Would you have recommended any change in the government setup at the top to avoid some of the confusion that took place?

A. Ministers of Home Affairs had to cope with air defenses but in reality Ministers of War had all the say about it and he could not do much. Also, the position of the authorities was hard to define and if I had to do it over, I would try to make the position of authorities definite, fix definite responsibility.

Q. In other words, you would fix definite responsibility for each phase of it?

A. Positions of responsibility to be more definite. At the same time, in my opinion, if the Army had actually come out to carry on civilian defense, it would have been much better.

Q. Do you think that the government started planning for civilian defense in ample time?

A. I think they had enough time for planning but in actually carrying it out, there was more of a problem.

Q. Did your Police Bureau have any intelligence on air defense organization from the Germans?

A. I don't think I had direct intelligence.

Q. What exchange of information concerning strictly police measures did you have with German authorities?

A. My staffs had communications with the German Embassy. There was a German policeman in the Embassy and my staffs always communicated with him, but I myself personally did not communicate.

Q. Are you familiar with the German police methods of civilian protection?

A. I am not familiar with them.