

HEADQUARTERS
U.S. STRATEGIC BOMBING SURVEY
(PACIFIC)
APO 234
C/O POSTMASTER, SAN FRANCISCO

INTERROGATION NO: 140

PLACE: Tokyo
DATE: 16 Oct 45

Division of Origin: Civilian Defense

SUBJECT: Great Japan Air Defense Association

Personnel interrogated and background of each:

1. MATSUMURA, Mitsuna - Chief of the Great Japan Air Defense Association (DAI NIPPON BOKU KYOKAI)
2. WADA, Senzo - Vice Admiral, Managing director and second in command.
3. HIGASHI, Hiro - Chief accountant (chief of account closing at present)
4. KIBA, Takeo - Chief of Operation and Education (assistant accountant at present)

Where interviewed: Kojinachi-ku, Nagato-cho, Ichi-chome 17

Interrogator: Colonel Howard R. Yocum

Interpreter: Mr Shoji Hirai

Allied Officers Present:	Colonel	E. R. Closson
	Lt Colonel	B. W. Beers
(All are assigned	Major	L. O. Goas
personnel of the	Lt Comdr	O. Emory
Civilian Defense	Lt Comdr	B. Rice
Division)	Lt	O. R. Leudecke
	Lt (jg)	C. E. Ripley
	Ensign	C. D. Sheldon

SUMMARY:

The interrogation covers the organization, administration, and scope of operations of The Great Japan Air Defense Association (DAI NIPPON BOKU KYOKAI), its relationship with other civilian defense organizations, and the extent of public cooperation in carrying out the program.

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

Symbols: Q - Question by the Interrogator.

A - Answer by the witness

AI- Answer supplied by the interpreter.

Q. What was the date of the creation of this organization?

A. April 28, 1939.

Q. Was it created by Imperial order, but through the efforts of the Ministry of Home Affairs with the backing of the Army and Navy.

Q. It was created at the suggestion of the Army and Navy?

A. The Army and Navy desired it very much.

Q. Did the Ministry of Home Affairs give your organization an official charter?

A. Yes, we have an official charter.

Q. Do you have a copy of the charter?

A. Yes.

Q. Do you have it here?

A. The original was burned, but we have a copy here for you.

Q. Was the original charter ever amended?

AI. He is not sure, but he thinks that the charter was amended twice.

Q. Are those revisions in this book?

A. Yes they are. On 31 March 1941 one amendment was made. This was the first amendment and reduced the contribution fees. The second amendment was made in 1943, and increased the membership fee from 1 yen to 3 yen.

A discussion then ensued concerning the possibility of a third amendment; it was finally determined that there was no third amendment, and that only two amendments had been made to the original charter.

Q. Was there ever a change in the original policy of this organization?

A. No, there was never a change.

Q. How was the association financed?

A. At first it was financed by voluntary contributions, and the contributor automatically became a member of the Association.

Q. In what manner was the organization financed?

A. Every year they had a subsidy of 100,000 yen from the Ministry of Home Affairs.

Q. Were there any municipal contributions; from the cities, towns, prefectures, etc.?

AI. Besides the home office, they organized branch associations in various localities and these branch associations collected contributions. These branch associations gave the home officer 20% of their collections.

Q. Were there any other contributions besides these from the Government and members?

A. No.

Q. Were the funds collected from members in the form of dues or in the form of contributions?

AI. They had different classes of members; the class was decided by the amount contributed.

Q. Did the members make regular payments of dues after their initial contribution?

AI. It depended on the amount contributed. Those people who contributed a large amount at first did not pay membership fees later.

Q. To whom did the Association account for the funds that they received?

AI. They made an accounting to the Minister of Home Affairs, provided the figures were approved by the Directors of the Association.

Q. Then after the account was approved by their own Directors they submitted it to the Minister of Home Affairs; is that correct?

AI. Yes.

Q. Where was the home office or the main office of this organization?

A. In this building. (address given p-1, under "Location").

Q. How many branches did they have?

AI. Forty-seven (47) in all.

Q. Did each of those branches account to the home office?

A. Once a year they reported to the home office.

Q. Did those branches account to the Ministry of Home Affairs Ministry individually?

AI. They only reported to the Home Affairs Ministry when it was absolutely necessary, or when the Ministry had requested a report.

Q. What percentage of their funds did the branches submit to the home office?

A. 20% of their contributions were to be turned in to the Home office but that rule wasn't followed very strictly.

Q. What was the reason for that?

- A. They needed the money at the branch offices, and they asked the home office to wait for a while, and finally forgot all about it.
- Q. Then the war ended and they never paid; is that correct?
- AI. In some prefectures they never collected the estimated amount and had to hold the money they had for a while.
- Q. How were the funds collected by the home office?
- AI. At first they collected a large amount; that was at the start of the organization, and they were able to pay their expenses with the 20% that was being sent in by the branch offices.
- Q. Did the prefectural governors collect the money or did the branch office collect it?
- AI. The branch office collected it, but since the prefectural governor was usually the head of the branch office, it could be said that he collected it.
- Q. How were the officers chosen in the home office?
- A. At first they were appointed by the Ministry of Home Affairs during the course of organizing the Association; later it was according to the procedure set forth in the Charter.
- Q. How were the officers selected for the branch offices?
- AI. The rules and regulations for the selection of officers is found in Articles 1 to 15 of the Appendix to the Charter.
- Q. Were the officers on full-time duty?
- A. The higher officials were, in principle, on a full-time basis, and generally they did not have enough work to do and did not devote all their time to the Association.
- Q. Did they have outside interests in other businesses, or a private business of their own?
- AI. Something like that; some of the men were businessmen and had other affairs to attend to.
- Q. Were they paid for their services as officers in the Association?
- A. They received 3000 yen per year at first, but were later raised to 5000 yen per year.
- Q. Did they all receive the same amount?
- A. Yes.
- Q. What officers were paid?
- A. The top three only; the President, and two vice-presidents.
- Q. Did the Managing Director, several other directors, several Inspectors, members of the Permanent Council, members of the Temporary Council also receive a salary?
- A. They were honorary positions and did not receive any pay.

- Q. Were the secretary and the Treasurer paid for their services?
- AI. Yes, they were classified as employees and as such received pay. Employees were paid, but the officers were not.
- Q. Just the president, Vice-presidents, and employees were paid then; is that correct?
- A. Yes, that is right, and there were also three of the managing directors paid.
- Q. Was there any governmental supervision of the functions and operations of this Association?
- AI. They received directives from the Home Affairs Ministry and also had to submit reports to the Minister of Home Affairs.
- Q. What was the nature of the directives received from the Ministry of Home Affairs?
- A. They were under the supervision of Home Affairs in reality because the president was the Minister of Home Affairs himself. He issued the directives and they were not official without his signature.
- Q. Did the government actually exercise any supervision over the selection of any of the officials?
- AI. Whatever supervision the government was to exercise is taken up in Article 19 of the Charter.
- Q. Was the Minister of Home Affairs a member of this Association?
- AI. In reality, the Ministry could not spare his time and he became a member in name only.
- Q. Did the Association provide any protective equipment to the citizens in the way of fire fighting equipment, gas defense, etc?
- A. The Association itself did not distribute air defense implements.
- Q. How about gas masks, helmets, etc?
- AI. They did not distribute the equipment themselves, but they took care of the financial end of it - in other words, they paid for it.
- Q. Who distributed the material?
- A. The cities and municipalities made the distribution.
- Q. Was distribution made to only members of the Association or to all the public?
- A. Distribution was made to the general public.
- Q. What equipment was issued in this manner?
- A. Gas masks, hand pumps, some engine (gasoline) pumps, helmets, buckets, and very few ambulances.

- Q. How about shovels and axes?
- A. They were not issued.
- Q. What percentage of the population got gas masks?
- A. In the larger cities they had a pretty good percentage but in the smaller cities they had almost none.
- Q. Do you have a list or a statement showing all the equipment distributed by the Association?
- AI. They do not have the exact numbers, because their files were burned, but they will be glad to supply an approximate amount.
- Q. Can they give it now?
- AI. They will look it up and submit a written report tomorrow morning.
- Q. Give us the channel through which this equipment was issued; did it go from the home office to the municipalities; just how was it issued?
- AI. The Home Affairs Office sent an order to the factory giving the quantity of equipment required. The factory then delivered the material to the local and prefectural offices. The local and prefectural offices then distributed the equipment to the general public who, in turn, paid the local office for the equipment received. The local office then sent the money received for the equipment to the Dai Nippon Air Defense League, which made payment to the factory or the manufacturer. In line with this, the Home Affairs Office sent the local and prefectural offices subsidy money to cover the expense of this equipment. The local offices were charged with the responsibility of supplying the Home Affairs Office with distribution requests showing the amount of equipment desired for their individual localities.
- Q. Was the equipment given to the citizens or was it loaned to them?
- AI. The Association received money for it. The general public bought the equipment.
- Q. Did they (the general public) receive the money from the Association to buy the equipment?
- A. No, the citizens paid for the equipment with their own money.
- Q. The Home Affairs Office made the contract, bought the equipment from the manufacturer and then through the local offices sold the equipment to the citizens; is that correct?
- AI. The civilian air defense implements were subsidized by the Home Office to the extent of 1/2 their cost; they bought the equipment and the citizens had to pay half the actual cost of it.
- Q. What division or what section of the Association was responsible for the training of civilian defense personnel and the general public?

- A. This Association had nothing to do with training, except issuing pamphlets.
- Q. What section was charged with the issuance of pamphlets?
- A. That organization was divided into three parts or sections; the 2nd section took care of the issuance of material and the education of those who were to become leaders of the training program. The actual training was done by the various governmental agencies.
- Q. Who was in charge of that section?
- A. Rear Admiral WADA.
- Q. Does he have a complete file on all the publications that were issued to the public?
- AI. They will show you what they have. Their complete file was burned and destroyed.
- Q. Were these publications sold or given to the public?
- A. The only price charged was the actual cost of the booklet.
- Q. What was the 3rd section in the Department?
- A. They were charged with the issuance of materials to the general public.
- Q. Was Admiral WADA in charge of the 3rd Section?
- A. Lt General KAWAMURA was in charge of that section. His address is 200 Tujido, Fujisawa-Shi, Kanagawa-Ken.
- Q. Where does the Admiral live and how can he be reached?
- AI. His address is 153 Ogigatani, Kamakura-Shi, Kanagawa-Ken. He comes to Tokyo one day a week, and can be reached at his home. He lives about 40 miles from Tokyo.
- Q. What was the relationship of the Association with the Neighborhood Group (TONAIR-GUMI)?
- A. There was no direct connection.
- Q. Was there any connection with the Block Associations?
- A. No, there was no connection.
- Q. Were the student groups part of TONARI-GUMI?
- AI. They were not in TONARE-GUMI, but were a separate group. The school children belonged to the individual TONARI-GUMI located in their own neighborhood.
- Q. What was the relationship between this organization and the student group?
- A. None.
- Q. Did our organization have any connection with the observation group?
- AI. None, except that they made presents of goods and food and sometimes money to the watchers while they were on duty.

- Q. What was the attitude of the public toward the acceptance of the program that was issued by this Association?
- A. The Association had no way of understanding their attitude because there was no direct connection with the public.
- Q. The witness has stated that the pamphlets were purchased by the people for a nominal price; were they widely purchased; was there a great desire on the part of the public to purchase these booklets and pamphlets?
- AI. At first the public was rather skeptical about the pamphlets, but later, as the raids became more severe, they desired to have the pamphlets.
- Q. About when did he find an interest suddenly taking place on the part of the public?
- AI. Around the spring of 1943. From that time on they took quite an interest in the pamphlets.
- Q. Was that the first time the public started to buy the equipment they needed?
- A. Yes.
- Q. Was civilian defense at any time abandoned by this Association as being useless or futile?
- AI. At first when the people began to have an interest in civilian defense they did not consider this Association so important the they did not feel the need of such an organization.
- Q. Was the plan eventually abandoned, or did the Association keep up until the end of the war?
- AI. At first the people saw no use for the Association because they had not been subject to air raids, and then when the raids did come the Association was powerless to help the public because they could not get the goods and implements.
- Q. What support was given to the Association by the Army and Navy?
- AI. They had no financial support from the Army and Navy, but the Army and Navy consented to assist in supplying personnel for the Association, and Admiral Wada and General Kanura were assigned.
- Q. Did the Army and the Navy assist in getting together any of the literature?
- A. Sometime they sent in a new manuscript for the pamphlets. They wrote different articles to be published in the booklets.
- Q. What steps have been taken to liquidate the organization?
- A. They have received an order from the Minister of Home Affairs to liquidate the Association.
- Q. When was it given?
- AI. He is not sure of the exact date, but it was sometime around the 28th of August.

Q. If they were to repeat the organization and operation of the Association, what changes, improvements, corrections, etc., would they make in the organization as they had it before?

AI. That is a difficult question to answer. It will be submitted in writing.

Q. Did the Association have anything to do with the development and construction of air raid shelters?

AI. At first they sent out instructions on how to build shelters but later on they had nothing at all to do with that.

The witness disclosed that the Association had sent out information on the construction of air raid shelters, but after a while they were asked by Premier Tojo not to publish such information or to build any new shelters. They then stopped construction.

Q. Does he mean that at that time there was no further policy regarding the construction of shelters; were they forbidden?

AI. Premier Tojo did not prohibit it, but just about prohibited it.

Q. What was the reason for that?

AI. He is not sure of the reason. He thinks it was for psychological reasons because if there were sufficient shelters then the public would go into them during a raid and refuse to help fight the fires.

Q. Who can we see to question regarding the type of shelter you have here in the yard? (Three different types of shelter were in the immediate vicinity of the building in which the interview took place).

A. Those shelters were put there as samples by the manufacturer, and we are not sure who put them there.

Q. Did the Association have anything to do with the development of air protection for railroads, factories, harbors, etc?

AI. As an organization they had nothing to do with protection of railroads or harbors, but they had a desire to go into this type of work.

Q. Did the Ministers of Transportation and Communications handle their own air defense matters?

A. Yes, they did.

Q. Due to their contacts and activities in this matter, do they know the individuals who handled the plans for the air defense of these places?

AI. They do not know.