

INTERNATIONAL PROSECUTION SECTION

Doc. No.

2272

Date

27 June 46

ANALYSIS OF DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

DESCRIPTION OF ATTACHED DOCUMENT

Title and Nature; *Transcript, Interrogation of Gen. MUTO, Akira*

Date: *20 Apr 46*

Original Copy

Language: *Eng*

Has it been translated? Yes No

Has it been photostated? Yes No

LOCATION OF ORIGINAL (also WITNESS if applicable)

Doc. Div.

SOURCE OF ORIGINAL:

I. P. S. (see our Case File #319)

PERSONS IMPLICATED:

Gen. MUTO

CRIMES TO WHICH DOCUMENT APPLICABLE:

SUMMARY OF RELEVANT POINTS (with page references):

Interrogation of MUTO by Messrs. Hyder + Lopez

Analyst:

C. J. Phelps

Doc. No.

INTERNATIONAL PROSECUTION SECTION

Doc. Nos. 2271-2272-2273

27 June 1946

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DESCRIPTION OF ATTACHED DOCUMENT.

Title and Nature: Transcripts, Interrogations of
Gen. MUTO, Akira

Date: See Below Original Copy Language:
English

Has it been translated? Yes No
Has it been photostated? Yes No

LOCATION OF ORIGINAL: Document Division

SOURCE OF ORIGINAL: IPS (See our Case File #319)

PERSONS IMPLICATED: Gen. MUTO

CRIMES TO WHICH DOCUMENT APPLICABLE:

SUMMARY OF RELEVANT POINTS:

<u>Doc. No.</u>	<u>Date of Interrogation</u>
2271	16 Apr 1946
2272	20 Apr 1946
2273	22 Apr 1946

Analyst: C.W.J. Phelps

Doc. Nos. 2271-2272-2273

2272

INTERROGATION OF

Akira MUTO

Date and Time: 20 April 1946, 1045 - 1200 hours

Place : Sugamo Prison, Tokyo, Japan

Present : MUTO, Akira

Mr. Pedro Lopez, Interrogator
Mr. Elton M. Hyder, Jr., Interrogator
Paul S. Fujii, 2nd Lt., Infantry, Interpreter
Miss Louise Wiehle, Stenographer

Mr. Pedro Lopez: 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. Fujii: I do.

Questions by : Mr. Pedro Lopez

Q. General, when did you take over your position as Chief of the Military Affairs Bureau?

A. October 1939.

Q. Who appointed you to that office, please?

A. The Emperor appointed me through the War Ministry.

Q. Who in the War Ministry put up your name to the Emperor?

A. I don't know.

Q. Did you have any Assistant in the running of the Bureau?

A. No Assistant.

Q. Can you tell us the main divisions of your Bureau?

A. Military Service; organization; budget; (Gunji Ka) military affairs; planning; not operational.

Q. Jinji Division is Personnel Division?

A. That was separate -- not under my command -- under personnel office.

Q. What is the nature of the Gunji Division?

A. (1) Organization, they took up the Gunji organization;
(2) System - includes the making of Army regulations;
(3) Budget.

Q. How about the Gummu Ka or the Military Affairs Section?

A. The Military Affairs Section was concerned with the administration of occupied areas; also with foreign and domestic affairs. In the latter case the division of Foreign Affairs also made contacts with the Japanese Diet.

Q. State who was charged with the duty to make the contact with the other ministries?

A. Contact with the other ministries was made through the War Minister. This division's relationships were limited to officials of the other ministries of equivalent rank.

Q. How about the contact between the General Staff and the Cabinet? What division of your Bureau handled that?

A. All important affairs came through the Gummu Kyoku, which is the Military Affairs Bureau; it went through the War Minister to the Cabinet after the minister's approval. Depending on the matter, the Gunji Ka or the Gummu Ka were consulted; then after their study of the problem, the matter was referred back through the Gummu Kyoku.

Q. There was also an Intelligence Division there, General, under the Military Affairs Bureau?

A. The Intelligence Branch was not in my division. It came under the General Staff, G-2.

Q. When you assumed office as Chief of the Bureau, who was the Head of the Gunji Division?

A. Colonel UAKURO, Takeo.

Q. His age, please, at the time -- more or less?

A. About 40.

Q. Did he hold office throughout your incumbency as Chief of the Bureau?

A. No, there was a change.

Q. When was the change?

A. The change came about the end of 1940. The new Chief was Colonel SANADA, Joichiro.

Q. Who appointed Colonel UAKURA?

A. He was appointed by the Emperor. I cannot remember who the War Minister at the time was, inasmuch as he was in China.

- Q. It was also the Emperor who appointed a successor to Colonel Joichiro SANADA?
- A. He was also appointed by the Emperor, and at that time, TOJO was the Minister.
- Q. Colonel Joichiro SANADA served with you until you resigned in April of 1942?
- A. Yes.
- Q. Who was the head of the section in charge of issuing military regulations?
- A. I cannot remember his name at this moment.
- Q. Do you remember the head of the Organization Section under the Gunji Section?
- A. The Organization and Regulation Sections were together and headed by the same man, whom I cannot remember. The Budget was a separate section.
- Q. Who was head of the Budget Section?
- A. I recall now that Colonel NISHIURA _____ was the Chief of the Organization and Regulation Sections when I took office. I cannot remember the man who held the office in the Budget Section.
- Q. When you assumed office in 1939, who was the head of the Section in charge of administration in occupied territories?
- A. I cannot remember who was in charge of the Administrative Section, but Colonel ARISUE was in charge of the Gummu Ka at that time.
- Q. His age, please, more or less?
- A. About 43.
- Q. He held that Division or Section throughout your incumbency?
- A. No, there was a change. Colonel SATO, Kenryo took office early in 1940.
- Q. The change came when TOJO became the Premier and the War Minister?
- A. TOJO was only the War Minister at that time.
- Q. Colonel SATO held that office throughout the remainder of your term as Chief of the Bureau?
- A. Yes.
- Q. Who was in charge of diplomacy in the Military Affairs Section?
- A. I am not sure, but I believe that it was Major MAKI. It may have been Lt. Colonel ISHII, Akio.

- Q. His age?
A. About 32.
- Q. Was there an Information Section in your Bureau at the time you assumed office in 1939?
A. Any information required was gathered by the respective sections through the General Staff.
- Q. I refer to the Propaganda Section. Was there one in your Bureau at the time you assumed office in 1939?
A. There was a section of the Imperial Headquarters called the Hodobu which handled information, which is what you may have been referring to previously. A part of their work was supervised in my division.
- Q. What were the duties of the Head of the Section that handled diplomatic matters?
A. Under the Foreign Affairs, this section had charge of liaison through military attachés. They also studied the General Staff opinions on foreign matter and forwarded this to the War Minister or to the Foreign Minister. On the domestic side they maintained liaison with the Diet, and in general compiled the national opinion of various problems for the War Minister.
- Q. That Section is in charge of assigning members of the military to be military attachés in the different embassies of Japan throughout the world?
A. The military attachés referred to are from foreign countries. They maintain liaison with the War Ministry. The Japanese military attachés come from the General Staff appointments.
- Q. The Diplomatic Section of the Military Affairs Bureau had it anything to do with appointments of military attachés attached to Japanese Embassies abroad?
A. No, that is done by the General Staff.
- Q. Does not the War Minister of your office approve the appointments of these military attachés?
A. No, we had nothing to do with that. Any such matters would have been taken by the Personnel Bureau. The appointments came out of the G-2 of the General Staff.
- Q. Is your office of the War Ministry consulted on the appointment of those military attachés?
A. No.

- Q. How did you gather your information about the opinion of the people of Japan for the War Ministry?
- A. Opinions were gathered through newspaper and other publications. Also members of the Diet, politicians and other individuals came to give us information.

- Q. Did you have any special agencies to gather information?
- A. We did not have any special agencies to gather information.

(I believe that the Cabinet Information Bureau was formed in 1940. I previously stated 1939.)

Questions by Mr. Hyder

- Q. General, in November, 1937, you joined the Staff of the Central China Army?
- A. Yes.
- Q. Who was the Commander of that Army?
- A. General MATSUI.
- Q. Did you join it in the first part of November? Do you recall approximately the date?
- A. In the latter part.
- Q. Nanking fell in December?
- A. Yes.
- Q. And you were there from December until when, in Nanking?
- A. I returned to Shanghai around December 24th or 25th.
- Q. Nanking fell approximately December 13th?
- A. Yes, around the 13th or 14th.
- Q. And you left about two weeks later?
- A. Yes, I was there around ten days.
- Q. And what was your position at the time?
- A. Adjutant to the Chief of Staff.

- Q. General, were you aware of the misbehavior of the Japanese troops at the time of the surrender in Nanking?
- A. At that time General MATSUI was suffering from tuberculosis and had been in the rear area. We came to Nanking for the taking over ceremonies. I remained ten days. At that time the town was already cleaned up and it was safe for us to walk about alone. I had not heard of the Japanese soldiers acting up.
- Q. Either before or after the time you entered Nanking City proper?
- A. I had heard of incidents from my superior TSUKADA, who was Chief of Staff.
- Q. What did he tell you?
- A. The original order for the taking of Nanking stated that only picked, fine troops were to enter the town. The remainder of the troops were to remain out. However, all of the units entered the town, for which action General MATSUI was reprimanded by the staff. I heard from TSUKADA that there were incidents of stealing, killing, assault and rape. Following that, orders were issued for all units except security troops to leave the town.
- Q. General, what was the reason for the order requiring that only picked troops could enter the city? Had there been misbehavior of the troops in other cities?
- A. It was felt that if too many troops were allowed in Nanking, there was due to be trouble, inasmuch as the troops had suffered many hardships since Shanghai. The men were under pressure for such a long time that it was felt inadvisable to allow them in town.
- Q. MATSUI, of course, knew of those reports?
- A. General MATSUI heard of the incidents afterwards and became quite enraged at the conduct.
- Q. Did he tell you this?
- A. I was there when General MATSUI heard of this and was being reprimanded.
- Q. By whom?
- A. By the Chief of Staff.
- (Interpreter: I made a mistake, MATSUI became mad and bawled out his subordinates.)

- Q. Now the report listed a great number of such incidents, did it not?
A. The reports did not show very many incidents. As soon as it was published, orders were issued to the MPs to suppress such activities and arrest any participants.
- Q. You issued that order?
A. The order was issued by General MATSUI.
- Q. When did he do so?
A. The order was issued as soon as he heard of the incidents. The MPs normally had the duty. However, the order was to more severely enforce the regulations.
- Q. Was the order issued just before you left or afterwards?
A. As soon as we arrived in Nanking for the ceremonies, he received the information and the order was immediately issued.
- Q. Did the incidents reported take place in November of 1937?
A. No, not in November. They first occurred after entry into Nanking.
- Q. That was approximately what date?
A. Nanking was entered around the 12th to the 14th, and I believe that's when these incidents started.
- Q. You joined MATSUI's Army as it was attempting to take the city of Nanking.
A. Yes, just before that.
- Q. How far out of the city was the Army when you joined it?
A. They were still in the vicinity of Shanghai.

Certificate of Interpreter

I, Paul S. Fujii, 2nd Lt., Inf.
(name) (Rank) (Serial Number)

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 7 pages, is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Paul S. Fujii
PAUL S. FUJII
2nd LT. INF.

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

Elton M. Hyder
(Name and Rank)

Duly Detailed Investigating Officer,
International Prosecution Section, GHQ, SCAP.

Certificate of Stenographer

I, Louise Wiehle, 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.

Louise Wiehle

Certificate of Interrogator.

XI, (we) Pedro Lopez, _____,
and Elton M. Hyder, Jr., _____,

certify that on the 20th day of April, 1946, personally appeared before us (us) General Akira MUTO and according to Paul S. Fujii, 2nd Lt., Interpreter, gave the foregoing answers to the several questions set forth therein.

Tokyo, Japan
Place
24 April 1946
Date

Elton M. Hyder
P. Lopez