

INTERNATIONAL PROSECUTION SECTION

Doc. No. 777

13 March 1946

ANALYSIS OF DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

DESCRIPTION OF ATTACHED DOCUMENT.

Title and Nature:

Letter. Burning of FI documents (no signature)

Date: Not dated (Original) Copy () Language: Jap

Has it been translated? Yes No ()

Has it been photostated? Yes () No

LOCATION OF ORIGINAL (also WITNESS if applicable) as of _____

Document Center

SOURCE OF ORIGINAL: GHQ, SCAP

PERSONS IMPLICATED: Lt. Gen. Hiroshi TAMURA

CRIMES TO WHICH DOCUMENT APPLICABLE:

Burning of Documents

SUMMARY OF RELEVANT POINTS (with page references):

Reply to SCAP Memo of 21 Oct 1945 re burning of Prisoner
of War Information Bureau, and list of documents burned.

Analyst: Capt PHELPS

Doc. No. 777

Tasaki

Reports respecting destroying literature
and records of Prisoners of War Information
Bureau. To: Maj. Yokoi (in pen)

Report is hereby made in relation to
the memorandum of SCAP dated 21st October
1945 ((21 OCT. 45 AR. KD) regarding
the destroying by fire of literatures and
records of Prisoners of War ~~and~~ Information
Bureau.

1. Shown in the annexed table ^{are} ^{burnt} literatures
and records ~~destroyed by fire~~.
2. The table contains documents of the
Administrative Dept of Prisoners of War
although not so specified by SCAP memo-
randum, because Prisoners of War and
Information Bureau and Administration
Department, Army Ministry have the office
and staff common, both actually a unit,
that the documents of the latter were
indivisably related to the former.
Moreover, documents of both offices

were equally treated and burned accordingly.
Its circumstances were as given in
clause 3.

3 Circumstances of Burning Documents

(1) On the occasion of business liaison at
the Ichigaya-Dai following the announcement
of the conclusion of war on 16th August, the
following instructions were given verbally.

Principal points of Instructions read -
(according to memory)

Those come under the regulations
for handling secret military documents
(excepting code books), and those
of which retention deemed not
desirable shall be instructed as
being burnt without fail. No
report on burning not required, ^{The command:} according to

(2) Basing on this instructions Lieutenant
General Hiroshi TAMURA, Commander of
Bureau of Prisoners of War ~~and~~ Information
concurrently Chief of Administration

Department of Prisoners of War issued the following command: -

Documents to be burned follows: -

(1) Documents stamped ("MITSU" and "KI-MITUS") "Secret" which are held at ^{the} Prisoners of War and Information ^{Bureau}, and the Administration Department;

(2) Documents belonging to the Administration Department of which keeping not necessary;

3. The burning was carried out around 16th to 19th of August according to the command. However, the psychic state of Japanese at that time being in utter confusion which ^{also} influenced over the judgement on selection and burning of documents, a portion of documents otherwise ^{should have been} preserved suffered destruction that the Prisoners of War and Information ^{Bureau} itself experiences no small inconvenience thereafter, for which occurrence the Bureau sincerely regrets.

Annex. sheet		List of Burnt Documents of PWS & I Bureau and Admin Dept. of PWS. Army Ministry.					
Classification	Name of Documents	Year (O signifies destruction)				Quality destroyed	Remarks
		1942	1943	1944	1945		
at PWS & Information Bureau.	File of Secret ^{or KIMITSU} Documents	O	O	O	O	20	
	File of secret or "MITSU" Documents	O	O	O	O	4	
	File of ^{Riku-a MITSU} Riku-a MITSU Documents of (Secret) Asiatic Dept Section	O	O	O	O	4	
	File of "Riku-a Fu" Documents of (Ordinary) Asiatic Section.	O	O	O	O	4	
	File of Orders	O	O	O	O	1	
	Files "Riku-Fu" & "Riku-Tatsu" Documents.	O	O	O	O	8	
	Files of Military Acts & Official Gazette	O	O	O	O	52	
	File respecting PW Information Personnels	O	O	O	O	8	
	" " merits of same	O	O	O	O	4	
	Note Books of received & distributed	O	O	O	O	30	
Those held	"Kai-Ho" File (Military Gazette?).	O	O	O		8	
	Indication of orders File	O	O	O	O	1	
	File of papers about meetings	O	O	O	O	11	
	File of Papers for compiling Political History		O	O	O	3	There is one to date.
Things of accounts	Duplicate receipts of Advance payments & Books	O	O	O	O	4	
	Vouches of Cooperatives Society	O	O	O	O	4	
Those common to the Bureau and Admin Dept.	File of Regulations about PWS	O	O	O	O	1	One file covering a period of 4 years.
	File of about sanitation of PWS	O	O	O		3	One file remains
	File of letters about labors of PWS	O	O	O	O	12	
	File of papers about wayning of PWS and their control	O	O	O		3	One file remains
	File of papers about punishment of PWS.	O	O			2	Two files remains.
	File of papers Internees control & control	O	O	O	O	4	
	File of papers about commital & punishment of Internees	O	O	O	O	4	
	File of Regulations to control PWS taken in respective place.	O	O	O	O	4	

IPS DOCUMENT 777

Report respecting destroying literature and records of Prisoner of War Information Bureau. To: Maj. Yokoi (in pen)

Report is hereby made in relation to the memorandum of SCAP dated 21st October, 1945 (21 Oct. 45AQ KD) regarding the destroying by fire of literature and records of the Prisoner of War Information Bureau.

1. Shown in the annexed table are burnt literature and records.
2. The table contains documents of the Administrative Department of Prisoners of War although not so specified by SCAP memorandum, because the Prisoner of War ~~and~~ Information Bureau and Administration Department, Army Ministry, have their offices and staff in common, both forming actually one single unit, so that the documents of the latter were indivisibly related to the former. Moreover, documents of both offices were equally treated and burned accordingly. Its circumstances were as given in clause 3.
3. Circumstances of Burning Documents.
 - (1) On the occasion of business liaison at the Ichigaya-Dai following the announcement of the conclusion of war on 15th August, the following instructions were given verbally. Principal points of instructions read - (according to memory)
"These come under the regulations for handling secret military documents (excepting code books), and those of which retention is deemed not desirable shall be instructed to be burnt without fail. No report on burning required, according to the command".
 - (2) Basing on this (instructions) Lieutenant General HIROSHI TAMURA, Commander of the Prisoner of War Information Bureau concurrently Chief of Administration Department of Prisoners of War issued the following command:-
Documents to be burned are as follows:-
 - (1) Documents stamped ("MITSU" and "KI-MITSU") "Secret" which are held at the Prisoner of War ~~and~~ Information Bureau and the Administration Department.
 - (2) Documents belonging to the Administration Department of which keeping is considered not necessary.
4. The burning was carried out around 16th to 19th of August according to the command. However, the psychic state of all Japanese at that time being in utter confusion which also influenced the judgment on selection and burning of documents, a portion of documents that otherwise should have been preserved suffered destruction so that the Prisoner of War ~~and~~ Information Bureau itself has experienced no small inconveniences thereafter, which occurrence the Bureau sincerely regrets.

Annex List of Burnt Documents of POW and Inf. Bureau and Adm'n Dept. of POW Army Ministry Sheet

Classification	Name of Documents (0 signifies destruction)	Year				Quantity destroyed	Remarks	
		1942	1943	1944	1945			
Those held at POW & Information Bureau	File of Secret or "KIMITSU" Documents	0	0	0	0	20		
	File of Secret or "RIKU MITSU" Documents	0	0	0	0	4		
	File of "RIKU-a-MITSU" Documents of Asiatic Section (Secret)	0	0	0	0	4		
	File of "RIKU-a-FU" Documents of Asiatic Section (Ordinary)	0	0	0	0	4		
	File of Orders	0	0	0	0	1		
	Files "RIKU-Fu" and "RIKU TATSU" Documents	0	0	0	0	8		
	Files of Military Acts and Official Gazettes	0	0	0	0	52		
	Files respecting POW Information Personnels	0	0	0	0	8		
	Files respecting merits of same	0	0	0	0	4		
	Note Books of received and distributed	0	0	0	0	30		
	"KAI-HO" File (Military Gazette)? Society's Report?	0	0	0	0	8		
	Indication of Orders File	0	0	0	0	1		
	File of papers about meetings	0	0	0	0	11		
	File of Papers for compiling Political History		0	0	0	3	There is one to date	
	Intelligence	Duplicate Receipts of Advance payments	0	0	0	0	4	
		Vouchers and Books of Co-operative Society	0	0	0	0	4	
Those common to the Bureau of Information, Adm'n Dept. of POW	File of Regulations about POW	0	0	0	0	1	One file covering a period of 4 years	
	File about sanitation of POW	0	0	0	0	3	One file remains	
	File of letters about labours of POW	0	0	0	0	12		
	File of papers about warning of POW and their control	0	0	0	0	3	One file remains	
	File of papers about punishment of POW	0	0	0	0	2	Two files remain	
	File of papers interneess control and control	0	0	0	0	4		
	File of papers about commit-al & punishment of interneess	0	0	0	0	4		
	File of Regulations to control POW taken in respective place	0	0	0	0	4		

指可力也

俘虜情報局ノ文書及記録焼却ニ關スル件報告

一九四五年十月二十一日附聯合軍最高司令部覺書 (S. O. 21 Oct. 45)

一、依ル俘虜情報局ノ文書及記録焼却ニ關シ左ノ通り報告ス

二、燒却ニ依リ破棄セラレタル文書及記録別表ノ如シ

三、聯合軍最高司令部覺書ハ俘虜情報局ノ燒却書類ニ關スル報告ヲ指令

シアル處別表ニ陸軍省俘虜管理部ノ書類ヲ記載シテ俘虜情報局ト陸軍省俘虜管理部

トカ事務所職員共ニ共通ニシテ實質上一體トアリアル爲俘虜管理部

ノ書類カ俘虜情報局ト業務ノ不可分ノ關係ヲ有スルニ因ル

而シテ此兩官廳ノ書類ハ同時ニ同様ノ取扱ヲ以テ燒却セラレタルニ

ノニシテ其経緯及狀況左記ニ三項ノ通りアリ

三、書類焼却ノ経緯及狀況

一、終戦トナルヤ八月十五日市ヶ谷營ニ於ケル業務連絡ノ際陸軍省ノ

指示トシテ書類焼却ニ關シ左ノ如ク口頭ニセラレタリ

口頭ニ要旨(記憶ニ依ル)

一、陸軍秘密書類取扱規則ノ適用ヲ受クルモノ(暗號本ヲ除ク)及其

他ノ書類ニシテ残置ヲ適當ト認メ難キモノハ保管者ニ於テ確實ニ燒

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却セシムル如ク指導相成度依命焼却報告不要

2 右ニ基キ俘虜情報局長官兼陸軍省俘虜管理部長田村中将ハ左ノ如ク命シタリ

一 燒却スヘキ書類左ノ如シ

一 俘虜情報局並ニ俘虜管理部保有ノ機秘密書類

二 陸軍省俘虜管理部ノ書類ニシテ殘置スルヲ必要トセサルモノ

3 燒却ハ右命令ニ基キ概ネ八月十六日頃ヨリ八月十九日頃ニ亘リ行

ハレタル處當時日本人全体ノ心理、狀態ハ恐慌ニ近キ極度ノ混亂ニ

陥リアリ爲メニ燒却スヘキ書類ノ選定燒却ノ實施共ニ右混亂ノ影響

ヲ免ルル能ハスシテ當然保存セラレヘキ書類ノ一部モ亦燒却セラレ

俘虜情報局自体爾後ノ事務處理ニ著シク不便ヲ感シアル實情ニシテ

本件ハ俘虜情報局ノ深ク遺憾トスル所アリ

EXTRACT CONCERNING DOCUMENTS
AND RECORDS OF THE JAPANESE
P.W. INFORMATION BUREAU WHICH
WERE BURNED AND/OR DESTROYED.

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