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# DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE WASHINGTON



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INTERNATIONAL PROSECUTION SECTION

Doc. No. 2315

Date 6/28/46

ANALYSIS OF DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

DESCRIPTION OF ATTACHED DOCULENT

at HONGKONG

Date: December, 1941 Original (N) Copy () Language: Puren

Has it been transluted? Yes (X) No (X) Has it been photostated? Yes () No (X)

LOCATION OF ORIGINAL (also WITNESS if applicable)

Document División

SOURCE OF ORIGINAL: USS & Military Prosecutor of the Parific Pres.

PERSONS IMPLICATED:

CRIMES TO WHICH DOCUMENT PPLICABLE:

Durro - Japanes Relation

SULMARY OF RELEVANT POINTS (with page references):

Report on the Grading of Che chip "KRECHET" at HONG KONG.

Report is signed by 4-Cl. SHLYCH HOV of the WORK looking

Corps.

Analyst: 2. Boldstein

Doc. No.

### INTERNATIONAL PROSECUTION SECTION

Doc. No. 2315

29 June 1946

ANALYSIS OF DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

DESCRIPTION OF ATTACHED DOCUMENT

"KRECHET" at HONGKONG Report on the sinking of the ship

Date: Dec 1941 Original (x) Copy () Language:
Russian

Has it been translated? Yes (x) No () Has it been photostated? Yes () No (x)

LOCATION OF ORIGINAL

Document Division

SOURCE OF ORIGINAL: USSR, Military Prosecutor of the Pacific Area

PERSONS IMPLICATED:

CRIMES TO WHICH DOCUMENT APPLICABLE: Russo-Japanese Relations

SUMMARY OF RELEVANT POINTS

Analyst: 2d Lt Goldstein

Doc. No. 2315

EV/-18/1

Doc. No. 2315

### REPORT

ON THE CIRCUISTANCES OF THE WRECK OF THE STEAMER "KRECHET", BELONGING TO THE STATE SEA-SHIPPING AGENCY, IN THE HARBOR OF HONG KONG

The Military Prosecution Office of the Pacific Ocean Area has established by investigation following:

That at the end of August, 1941, the ship "Krechet" arrived at the harbor of Hong Kong to be put under recondition. On December 8, 1941, the recondition of the ship was interrupted because of the opening of hostilities between Japan and USA and Great Britain.

To avoid the damaging of the ship during artillery bombardments of the docks by the Japanese forces, the ship "Krechet" was led off to the roadstead state flag of the Soviet Union being on the stern, and other flags painted on her dock and boards. There were no other ships belonging to any other country on the roadstead.

Late in the afternoon of December 14, 1941, artillery bombardment of the ship "Krechet" was began from the Koulun Island, occupied by the Japanese.

The first shells fell on the stern and the bow. Then an incendiary shell hit one of the deck-cabins, and fire broke out on the ship. After this the ship was several times directly hit by explosive and incentiary shells, which damaged the hull and the engine-room. The ship was ablaze and in about two hours sank.

The witnesses: the captain of the ship "Krechet"
Bazhanov, the senior radio-operator of the ship Pokrytiuk,
the mechanic of the ship "Svirstroy" Iordansky and others
estimated that there were 34 shells discharged by the
Japanese armed forces at the ship "Krechet" from the distance
of less than half a mile.

On leaving the ship on fire, the crew consisting of 10 men got into a boat and made for Hong Kong. But a gun shot was made at the boat from the Japanese side, and the boat was forced to sail in the direction of the Konlun Island.

RETURN TO ROOM 36.1 No. 2315

After Hong Kong was occupied, the captain of the ship "Krechet", the representative of the Commercial Mission Prokhorov and the employee of the "Exportkhleb" Ageev were summoned by the military authorities to negotiate on the matter of the wreck of the ship "Krechet".

During the talk which lasted about 3 hours, the representative of the Japanese command repeatedly threatening with responsibility for giving false testimony endeavoured to prove that the ship "Krechet" could not have been fired at by the Japanese, and tried with all means to make them testify that it was the English who had fired at the ship.

During the months that the crew stayed in Hong Kong they were constantly subjected to indignities by the Japanese, who beat them, robbed them of their personal things, money in foreign currency and food, and as a result of it the crew of the ship "Krechet" were half starving and suffered from inamition and various diseases.

The losses sustained by the state amounted to 17,700,000 rubles, which was the cost of the ship.

Military Prosecutor of the Pacific Ocean Area, Lieutenant-Colonel of the Judicial Corps

Shlychkov

20.III.46 CERTIFICATE OF TRANSLATION OF THE ABOVE DOCUMENT

I, M. Gildenblat, hereby certify that I am thoroughly conversant with the Russian and English languages: and the above is a correct and true translation of the indicated Document.

Signature:/s/ M. Gildenblat

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