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WAR DEPARTMENT

Exhibit # 14

Case # 67

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

original interrogation of
Capt. Sakayasu Arima I.J.W.
by Capt B. W. Lemayne

English

143,
303.

46

Interrogation of
Captain Takayasu Arima I. J. N

Date and Time - 26 November 1945, 1015-1200 and 1330-1430

Place - Room 334, NYK Bldg, Tokyo, Japan

Present - Captain Bertram W. Bromage, J.A.P.D.

Interrogator

S/Sgt. Tatsuo R. Fujii - Interpreter

Captain Takayasu Arima I. J. N, Witness

Q. What is your name please?

A. Takayasu Arima

Q. Are you an officer in the Japanese Navy?

A. Yes. I am now a Captain.

Q. When did you become a Captain?

A. Last October. Oct. 1944

Q. What is your present branch or department?

A. I am in the Summu Kyoku - the
Bureau of Naval Affairs.

Q. Where are you living now?

A. I am living at 1307 Ohara-cho, Meguro Ku, Tokyo

Q. Where were you educated?

A. I graduated from the Naval College and
later from the ^{Naval} War College.

①

①

Q. What rank and position in the Japanese Navy did you hold in 1941?

A. I was a staff officer of the Combined Fleet and at the same time I was assistant adjutant. The adjutant had become ill and as junior staff officer I assumed his duties.

Q. On what date did you go on the staff?

A. I became torpedo staff officer of the Combined Fleet staff in October of 1940.

Q. What was your rank at that time?

A. Lt. Commander when I joined the staff, but I was promoted to commander shortly afterwards.

Q. How long were you on the staff?

A. I left the flag ship ~~out~~ in Oct. 1942.

Q. How old are you? A. Forty years and three months.

Q. Were you in attendance at the war games at the Naval College in Tokyo in September of 1941?

A. I attended the war games at the Naval College in Tokyo, but I do not

② remember exactly when they took place.

Q. Wasn't it between 2 Sept and 13 Sept. 1941?

A. I do not remember.

Q. Who was present with you?

A. The games were chiefly conducted by the Combined Fleet.

Q. Were representatives of the Navy General Staff present?

A. Yes the Chief of the 1st Bureau of the Navy General Staff and his subordinates were present.

Q. Who ~~was~~^{was} the chief?

A. Rear Admiral Shigeru Fukudome

Q. What are the functions and responsibilities of the 1st Bureau?

A. It is the section which deals with the war plans.

Q. Who was senior officer at the war games?

A. Admiral Yamamoto was the senior officer. He presided.

Q. What others were present?

② A. I am not able to remember.

③ Q. Was Admiral Ito present?

A. I don't recall.

Q. Was Captain Kuroshima there?

A. Yes, he was acting as Chief of the Japanese side.

Q. There was your side and the enemy side wasn't there.

A. Yes

Q. Were there three teams, the N team, A team and E team.

A. The games are divided into two sides the blue and red. Perhaps the red side contains the A and E teams.

Q. Don't you remember an argument taking place between Admiral Ito and Captain Kuroshima.

A. No, I don't remember any one, because we always have many arguments on professional matters.

Q. What was the problem for the War Games.

A. It was the practice of the ^{naval} war plan.

Q. What naval war plan was under discussion?

③ A. It was ~~was~~ the plan of defense

④ against an invasion of the western

Pacific Ocean.

Q. Wasn't the attack on Pearl Harbor discussed at these games?

A. There was a separate room entirely secret. ~~to~~ Only certain persons could enter it. I think the Pearl Harbor attack was discussed there.

Q. Did you enter that room.

A. No.

Q. How do you know that the Pearl Harbor attack was discussed there?

A. I just guessed.

Q. What were your functions at the games?

A. I was umpire of the general games.

Q. Were any Army officers present at the games.

A. Some Army officers of the General Staff were invited on the last day.

Q. Who were they?

A. I don't remember their names, but the senior officer was a Colonel.

④ Q. From what section of the General Staff?

⑤ A. I am not sure, but perhaps the

section which corresponds to the 1st Section of the Naval General Staff.

Q. Did they enter the secret room?

A. I am not sure, but I believe not.

Q. At that time do you know whether the Army learned of the Pearl Harbor plans.

A. I don't know.

Q. Do you know when the Army learned about them.

A. No

Q. Did you go with the Embarked Fleet Staff when it went to Iwakuni Air Group to confer with the Army about 15 September 1941?

A. I went once to the Iwakuni Air field in that year, but I have not met with Army officers

Q. When did you go?

A. I don't remember the correct month, but it was in Autumn. Probably November.

⑥ Q. What did you do at Iwakuni on that occasion?

A. I think it was the distribution of the General order.

Q. What order are you referring to?

A. I mean the Naval War Plan of the Combined Fleet.

Q. Plan for what?

A. The last war.

Q. Do you mean the Greater East Asia War?

A. Yes.

Q. Did you see that plan?

A. Yes.

Q. When did you first see it?

A. I think the early part of November.

Q. What were the circumstances of your seeing it?

A. The same order which was given to me was distributed at Iwakuni.

Q. When was the order given to you?

A. The early part of November.

Q. Who gave it to you?

A. Admiral Yamamoto.

⑦ Q. What it printed, mimeographed or typewritten.

A. It was mimeographed

Q. How many pages did it have.

A. It was about this thick (indicating about one half inch) Perhaps thirty pages.

Q. When did you first learn that consideration was being given to an attack on Pearl Harbor?

A. I first learned of that during the latter part of September or October. Admiral Yamamoto talked to the staff on the Nagato

Q. What did he say?

A. The gist of what he said was that an attack on Pearl Harbor was the only way to rescue Japan or the Japanese Navy if war breaks out.

Q. Did Admiral Yamamoto indicate that war was imminent.

A. He did not express an opinion that it would break out. I have heard that he was opposed to war. Because of that he was unpopular with the

(A)

(B)

Army officers.

details of the

Q. You say you first learned of the plans to attack Pearl Harbor when the orders were distributed to you?

A. Yes.

Q. You actually had a copy of that order?

A. Yes. Each staff officer got a copy.

Q. Do you know where your copy is?

A. When I left the Nagato I passed it on to my successor, Commander Koike who is now dead.

Q. Do you know where a copy of that order can now be found?

A. No.

Q. Was the order designated as Combined Fleet operation order No. 1?

A. It might have been.

Q. Did the order set the date of the attack?

A. No it was a general order without dates. I think the order setting X day as December 8 was issued by Imperial Headquarters to the Combined Fleet around the 1st of December and it was ~~then~~ then immediately passed

(7)

down to the ~~command~~ task force.

Q. Did you expect to accomplish a surprise attack on Pearl Harbor.

A. Surprise attack has two meanings, a sneak attack and a tactical surprise. A sneak attack is against international law. We were taught at the Naval College to act according to international law. I assumed that the attack was made according to international law and that a declaration of war had been made.

Q. When did you learn that no declaration of war had preceded the attack?

A. I first learned that about a month before the end of the war. We had ~~sent~~ sent copies of the order to the Navy General Staff and I assumed they had acted. I think there is ample reason for America to be angry.

(9) Q. What part did you take in the attack.

(10) A. I was not in the attack. I was on the Nagato. We left the Inland Sea

and proceeded to the Bonnets to meet
the Task Force returning from the
Pearl Harbor attack to give assistance
in case any of the ships had been
damaged by the enemy attack.

I certify that I have read the questions
and answers set forth above; that said
questions were asked me in English and
were understood by me; that I answered
said questions in English as set forth
above and that my answers are true and
accurate to the best of my knowledge and
belief.

30 Nov. 1945
NYK Building
Tokyo, Japan

Takayasu Arima

有馬高泰

Captain, Imperial Japanese Navy.
海軍大佐

Bertram W. Tremayne, Jr. Capt JAGD.

Witness -

(11)

Appraisal of witness

W. Captain Takayasu Arima I.J.N.

The witness speaks reasonably good English, is intelligent and seemed cooperative. I do not believe he held back information. His knowledge of top planning appeared to be limited. I am confident he would repeat ^{in court} the story contained in his statement if called upon to do so.

Bertram W. Tremayne Jr.
Capt. JAGC.

Dec. 1945