

Interr. of KAWABE, Torashiro
(8 April 46)

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE
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INTERROGATION OF

KAWABE, Torashiro

8 April 1946

INTERROGATED BY: A.A.MUZZEY

FILE NO. 457

INTERROGATION OF

KAWABE, Torashiro (Lt.Gen.)

Date and Time: 8 April 1946, 1430-1530 hours
Place : Room 636, Meiji Building, Tokyo, Japan
Present : KAWABE, Torashiro (Lt.Gen.)
A.A.Muzzey, Interrogator
Lt.Comdr.F.B.Huggins, Interpreter
Miss Hannah Kato, Stenographer

Oath of Interpreter, administered by Mr.Muzzey

Mr.Muzzey : 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?

Comdr.Huggins: I do.

Questions by : Mr. Muzzey

Q. When and where were you born?

A. September 25, 1891 in Toyama Prefecture.

Q. Will you furnish a general background of yourself?

A. I was graduated from the Military Academy in 1912 with a commission of 2nd Lieutenant.

In 1922 I was graduated from the War College with the rank of Captain.

From 1922 to 1924 I was attached to a regiment.

From 1924 to 1926 I was attached to the Army General Staff.

KAWABE, Torashiro -Continued

In 1926 I was sent to Latvia as a language student to study Russian and remained there until 1928.

From 1928 to 1932 I was attached to the General Staff in Tokyo and in 1931 I was promoted to the rank of Lt.Col.

From 1932 to 1934 I was Military Attache in Moscow.

From 1934 to 1936 I was attached to the General Staff of the Kwantung Army in Changchung. During this period of time I was promoted to the rank of Colonel.

From 1936 to 1937 I was Commander of the Imperial Guard Artillery Regiment in Tokyo.

From 1937 to 1938 I was attached to the General Staff in Tokyo.

In July 1937 I was promoted to the rank of Major General.

In December 1938 I went to Berlin as Military Attache, Succeeding General OSHIMA, who was named Ambassador to Berlin, I remained in Germany as Military Attache until February 1940, when I returned to Tokyo.

Upon my return to Tokyo and for a period of 6 months, I was an instructor in the Shimoshizu, school of aeronautics.

From September 1940 to July 1941 I was the Commander of the 7th Air Brigade in Manchuria.

From July 1941 to December 1941, I was attached to the Chief of Staff of the General Defense Section.

In October 1941 I was promoted to the rank of Lt.Gen.

From December 1941 to April 1943, I was Chief of the General Affairs Section of the Army Bureau of Aeronautics.

From May 1943 to August 1944 I was Commander of the Air Forces in Manchuria.

From August 1944 to April 1945, I was Deputy Chief of the General Staff of the Army Air Forces.

From April 1945 to the end of the war I was Chief of the General Staff of the Army Air Forces.

I am presently Chief of the Tokai Liaison Office (Tokai Fukiun-Kan-Bu. My permanent residence is Minami Sotobori-Cho, Naka-Ku, Nagoya City.

KAWABE, torashiro -continued.

I have a brother, General KAWABE, Masakaza, who is presently confined at Sugamo Prison.

- Q. When did you first become acquainted with General OSHIMA?
- A. I am not absolutely certain, but I believe it was around 1928 or 1929, but I did not become personally acquainted with him until after I was named Military Attache to Germany.
- Q. When you went to Germany, did you know that OSHIMA was actively negotiating for the Tripartite Pact?
- A. At the time I went to Germany I did not know that OSHIMA was actively negotiating for the Tripartite Pact but I knew that such pact was being considered. I knew this because when I received my orders to go to Germany to become Military Attache Major General HIGUCHI, Kiichiro, Chief of Intelligence of the General Staff, informed me that OSHIMA had been named Ambassador to Germany for the purpose of negotiating such pact. Major General HIGUCHI's words to me in so far as I remember them were as follows: "The prospect of an alliance is good and OSHIMA has been named Ambassador to bring about the Alliance."
- Q. Did you receive any instructions regarding the proposed pact at the time you left Japan for Germany?
- A. No.
- Q. After your arrival in Germany did you discuss with OSHIMA or anyone else the proposed pact?
- A. Yes, about twice a week discussions concerning the pact were held. At these discussions there were present OSHIMA, Captain KOJIMA, Naval Attache, Rear Admiral ENDO, who succeeded Captain KOJIMA as Naval Attache, YUSAMI, Counselor to OSHIMA, FURUUCHI, Second Secretary of the Embassy and TAKEUCHI, also a Second Secretary of the Embassy.
- Q. What was the nature of these discussions concerning the Tripartite Pact?
- A. When I reached Berlin I heard that negotiations were not progressing very well and these discussions concerned the obstacles to be overcome in concluding the pact.

KAWABE, Torashiro - continued

- Q. What were the views of OSHIMA and you with respect to the pact?
- A. Our idea was to have a strong pact with Russia and England as the objectives - that both signatories would come to the aid of the other in case of war.
- Q. By that do you mean that you and OSHIMA favored a strong military alliance with Germany as against Russia and England?
- A. That is correct.
- Q. Did Germany have the same views with reference to the pact as you and OSHIMA?
- A. Yes.
- Q. What was the viewpoint of the Japanese Government at the time?
- A. The Japanese Government's view was that she would go to war in case of a German-Russian conflict but could not promise to enter into hostilities in case of a conflict between Germany and Great Britain. However, this does not necessarily mean that the Government refused to go to war with England under any circumstances, but rather that she could not promise definitely to enter the war.
- Q. How did you know what the viewpoint of the Japanese Government was?
- A. I was cognizant with the views of the Japanese Government from dispatches which I received from General Staff Headquarters and from instructions that the ITO Commission brought with them.
- Q. Is it not true then that you and OSHIMA opposed the viewpoint of the Japanese Government as brought to Germany by the ITO Commission?
- A. Yes.
- Q. Why did you and OSHIMA oppose the viewpoint of the Japanese Government?
- A. Both OSHIMA and I felt that in all fairness the Japanese Government could not expect to have Germany shoulder two responsibilities while we took on only one or say one and a half. Further, we felt that under these conditions it would be impossible to approach Germany any further with any expectation of success in consummating the pact, and

KAWABE, Torashiro -Continued

- A. (cont.) for these reasons we felt that either Japan would have to agree to the views held between Germany and us or forget the matter entirely.
- Q. How many of the discussions concerning the pact did Ambassador SHIRATORI, to Italy, attend?
- A. To the best of my recollection SHIRATORI came to Germany twice and in addition OSHIMA, ENDO and I went to Rome to see SHIRATORI. I believe that OSHIMA met with SHIRATORI one or two times in addition to these occasions that I mentioned. However, I was not present at these.
- Q. What were Ambassador SHIRATORI's views respecting the pact? Were they the same as those of OSHIMA and you?
- A. Yes, they were the same. However, comparing his views with OSHIMA's, he was much more concerned about how the Japanese Government felt about the matter.
- Q. What action or actions did OSHIMA take in attempting to conclude the pact in the light of his viewpoint?
- A. I believe he sent his views to the Japanese Government and also was very active in attempting to discover how various Ambassadors and Ministers from Japan in Europe felt about the proposed pact.
- Q. Did OSHIMA ever tell you why he opposed the Japanese Government's viewpoints with respect to the pact?
- A. I have no recollection of him ever having given any concrete reasons for his opposition.
- Q. Did OSHIMA contact Ribbentrop frequently with respect to the pact?
- A. Yes.
- Q. Was he frequently with RIBBENTROP?
- A. Yes, I believe so.
- Q. Do you know of your own knowledge whether or not OSHIMA and RIBBENTROP had the same ideas concerning the pact?

KAWABE, Torashiro - continued

- A. I believe their views were the same. I have not heard this from RIBBENTROP but from what OSHIMA told me that I believe they saw eye to eye.
- Q. When did the negotiations for the pact cease?
- A. Actual negotiations came to an end with the signing of the non-aggression pact between Germany and the Soviet Union. However, from around May 1939, there was a gradual dissolution of all talks.
- Q. Did you know that Germany was going to enter into a non-aggression pact with Russia prior to its actual consummation?
- A. No. However, I did have a feeling that something was going on and various rumors came to my ears.
- Q. Did OSHIMA know what you heard?
- A. I first heard about the possibility of there being such a non-aggression pact from OSHIMA in whose mind this matter loomed in great magnitude. I actually heard that the pact was going to be signed on the very day that RIBBENTROP left Berchtesgaden and passed through Berlin on his way to Moscow. At this time he notified OSHIMA and OSHIMA in turn told me about it. We were both very angry and felt that we had been double-crossed by RIBBENTROP.
- Q. Is that why OSHIMA resigned as Ambassador?
- A. Yes. I also urged OSHIMA to resign.
- Q. When did OSHIMA leave Germany after his resignation was sent to Japan?
- A. In October, I believe.
- Q. This was after the non-aggression pact between Germany and Russia had been signed was it not?
- A. Yes.
- Q. What was OSHIMA's attitude towards the ITO Commission during its stay in Germany?
- A. He was entirely opposed to their views and held many heated discussions with them.

KAWABE, Torashiro - continued?

Q. You would therefore say that OSHIMA was pro-Nazi in his attitude, would you not?

A. Yes.

Q. Did OSHIMA express to you his pro-Nazi attitude?

A. Yes. He told us many things about the good points of Nazi ideology. General OSHIMA was a man who had spent many years in Germany, spoke German proficiently, and knew Germany and the Germans well, was very fond of them and was extremely pro-German in his ideas. He was very fond of Hitler and his views and RIBBENTROP's seemed to coincide. I don't believe he got along very well with GOERING.

Q. To the best of your knowledge, how friendly was General OSHIMA with Heinrich HIMMLER and do you know of any occasions when they met, socially or otherwise?

A. Yes. They were friendly and I believe they met quite often, although perhaps not in an official capacity. Under ordinary circumstances I believe they saw a great deal of one another.

Q. In connection with the using of White Russians for intelligence purposes, do you know of a house that General OSHIMA owned at Falkensee?

A. Yes. He had a small office at Falkensee.

Q. You returned to Japan before the Tripartite Pact was signed did you not?

A. Yes.

Q. In the event it is necessary, will you testify to the information you have given to the questions put to you during the course of this interrogation?

A. Yes.