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HEADQUARTERS  
U.S. STRATEGIC BOMBING SURVEY  
(PACIFIC)  
APO 234  
C/O POSTMASTER SAN FRANCISCO

INTERROGATION NO 422  
(Jap Intell No 39)

PLACE: TOKYO  
DATE: 23 Nov 1945

Division of Origin: Japanese Intelligence Section, G-2, USSBS.

Subject: Organization of Naval Attache Staff in ARGENTINA.

Person Interrogated and Background:

Captain SHIGEHIRO, Atsuo, IJN.

1917: Graduated from Naval Academy.

1938: Appointed Naval Attache to ARGENTINA.

1939: Promoted to Commander.

1941: Promoted to Captain.

1941(Oct): Appointed Naval Attache to BRAZIL.

1942(July): Returned to JAPAN and became Chief of Personnel  
Section, YOKOSUKA Naval Base.

1944: Chief of the Personnel Replacement Division in MANILA.

Where Interviewed: Meiji Building.

Interrogators: Lt. Comdr. WILLIAM H. BOTZER, USNR  
Lt. Comdr. F. SHACKELFORD, USNR

Interpreter: Mr. F. Y. Nakayama

Allied Officers Present: Lt(Jg) EDGAR SNOW, USNR

SUMMARY:

The Naval Attache Staff in ARGENTINA devoted its time to gathering information from American publications and attending diplomatic and social functions. Although TOKYO required monthly reports, they were sent very infrequently and then only when matters of importance were involved, such for example, as the ARGENTINA Neutrality Declaration and movements of U.S. escort vessels from the Pacific to the Atlantic.



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Interrogation of Captain SHIGEHIRO, Atsuo, IJN.  
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Q.1. Is the Officer who replaced you as attache in Argentina now in Japan?

A. No.

Q.2. On what basis does the Imperial Navy choose its Attaches?

A. I was sent to Argentina because I spoke Spanish.

Q.3. Did you have any special training for your duties as Attache?

A. No special training, but I was on the Naval General Staff.

Q.4. Have most of your Attaches had experience on the General Staff before serving as Attaches?

A. Many of them, yes.

Q.5. What were your duties as Attache?

A. I collected information on the Argentina Navy, assisted the Ambassador and added prestige to the Embassy.

Q.6. What were your instructions before leaving JAPAN?

A. To investigate conditions of Naval affairs in South America.

Q.7. Was there any collection of Naval affairs concerning the U.S.?

A. No.

Q.8. What were your sources of information?

A. I collected much data from U.S. publications, newspapers, and magazines.

Q.9. What papers and magazines did you read?

A. New York Times, Army - Navy Journal, News Week, Time, and anything else I could find.

Q.10. Who assisted you with this?

A. No one.

Q.11. Did you examine technical manuals, reports and publications?

A. No.

Q.12. Was there anyone else there who studied such technical manuals and publications?

A. No one from JAPAN.

Q.13. What was the size of your entire diplomatic corps in ARGENTINA?

A. One secretary, one interpreter, three chancellors, one military Attache, one Naval Attache, one Consul, two Assistant Attaches.

Q.14. Am I to understand that you spent most of your time reading American publications, newspapers and magazines?

A. Much of my time, yes. I also attended diplomatic and social functions.

Q.15. What use did you make of these studies of American publications?



Interrogation of Captain SHIGEHIRO, Atsuo, IJN, (contd)

A. I made only a few important reports.

Q.16. Weren't periodical reports required?

A. Yes, monthly reports, but I neglected to make them.

Q.17. What information were these monthly reports intended to carry?

A. Movements of U.S. fleet units to the Atlantic or Pacific, primarily.

Q.18. What were your sources of information for these reports?

A. Only American publications.

Q.19. Did you get any good information from this source?

A. Not very good.

Q.20. To whom were you intended to make your reports?

A. The Naval Ministry.

Q.21. How many Japanese nationals were in ARGENTINA?

A. Approximately 6,000.

Q.22. How many Germans?

A. I don't know the exact number. I heard there were several ten thousands.

Q.23. When you left ARGENTINA, who relieved you?

A. Rear Admiral YUKISHITA, Katsumi.

Q.24. Did the Admiral bring a staff with him?

A. Yes.

Q.25. How many?

A. An assistant attache.

Q.26. You went from ARGENTINA to BRAZIL?

A. Yes.

Q.27. What were your instructions there?

A. About the same as upon going to ARGENTINA.

Q.28. What happened to you when BRAZIL broke off diplomatic relation with JAPAN?

A. "Soft internment." I was confined to my home, but could go out during the daytime.

Q.29. In ARGENTINA did you attend many meetings?

A. Yes, of a social nature, mostly.

Q.30. Did you know many Argentinians?

A. No many, but some.

Q.31. Did you employ any Argentinians?



Interrogation of Captain SHIGEHIRO, Atsuo, IJN, (contd)

A. No, I didn't.

Q.32. Did the Embassy use any of them?

A. Not many. I don't know how many.

Q.33. What was your relationship with the foreign office representatives in both BRAZIL and ARGENTINA?

A. I acted under the Ambassador. He gave me orders on diplomatic affairs.

Q.34. What kind of orders?

A. For example, at the inaugural of a President I would go along with the Ambassador.

Q.35. Is this the type of orders you mean?

A. Mostly.

Q.36. What other type of orders did the Ambassador give you?

A. I don't remember.

Q.37. Did you receive any orders from the Japanese Foreign Office or the Naval General Staff or the Naval Ministry?

A. No, except once I was asked to send in the monthly reports that I had been neglecting.

Q.38. Did you comply with this request?

A. Yes, I sent in a report on U.S. ship movements. I got the data from U.S. newspapers.

Q.39. What movement was that?

A. The problem of movement of convoys across the Atlantic and whether escort units of the Pacific Fleet should be moved to the Atlantic.

Q.40. List for me the Japanese Agencies that were in ARGENTINA and BRAZIL.

A. Mitsui, Mitsubishi, Okura, Osaka Steamship Co., Toyo (Eastern Cotton Co.) was represented in BRAZIL only. I don't remember the small concerns represented. An Embassy was in both countries. One Consulate in ARGENTINA, and 3 or 4 in BRAZIL. Each country had military and Naval Attaches.

Q.41. Any representatives of TOKUMU KIKAN, such as you had in MAN-CHOUKUO and the PHILIPPINES?

A. No.

Q.42. You were in charge of personnel at YOKOSUKA when you returned to JAPAN, were you not?

A. Yes.

Q.43. What intelligence (JOHO) Officers were listed in your files? Through what levels of Command?

A. There were none other than Rear Admiral HIRAIDE.



Interrogation of Captain SHIGEHIRO, Atsuo, IJN, (contd).

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Q.44. What was his function?

A. To curve the National Opinion.

Q.45. Was he in the 3rd Department?

A. He was Chief of HOKOBU (Propaganda Ministry).

Q.46. A part of what organization is HOKOBU?

A. DAIHONET (Imperial General Headquarters).

Q.47. Have you had much experience on ships?

A. Half of my Naval career - 15 years on ships.

Q.48. What type of ships?

A. Everything but subs and carriers.

Q.49. In what capacity have you served on BBs, CAs, CLs, and DDs?

A. On DDs as gunnery Officer and torpedo Officer. On BBs as 1st Lieutenant. On Cruisers as gunnery Officer.

Q.50. On any of these ships did you have any special officers to deal in information (intelligence)?

A. No.

Q.51. And there were none during the War?

A. I don't know for I was not on a ship during the War.

Q.52. Tell us what you know about the training of "YOMUSHI"?

A. I'm not familiar with YOMUSHI.

Q.53. You have said that you sent in only important reports while you were in ARGENTINA. What were these?

A. Examples were:

- a. The Argentina Neutrality Declaration.
- b. Severance of diplomatic relations by BRAZIL.
- c. U.S. occupation of GALAPAGOS ISLAND.
- d. Movements of escort vessels from the Pacific to the Atlantic for use in connection with convoys.