

Doc. 2944 Evid.

Folder 15

(6)

WAR CRIMES

INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT
(Colonel G. S. Woolworth)

Mr. President and Members of the Tribunal:

It is now proposed to show the individual responsibility of the defendants for the Class B Offences, ample evidence of the commission of which has already been introduced covering Japan Proper as well as all territory occupied by Japanese troops. It may well be - as suggested by Mr. Justice Mansfield in his opening statement - that the identical pattern followed by the Japanese Army and Navy in every area in the treatment of prisoners of war, civilian internees and native population, necessitates the inference of guilt of those officials of the Government of Japan such as the members of the Cabinet, some other high officials of the Government, of officers of the Imperial GHQ, and of those officers of the Army and Navy in command in the various areas where these offences took place. At the risk of redundancy, and so that this Tribunal need not rely upon implications or inferences, however convincing, this additional evidence will be adduced.

First, it is desired to invite the attention of the Tribunal as briefly as possible to the official position occupied by certain of the defendants at the time these Class B Offences have been proven to have been committed:

A - (In Tokyo)

TOJO - was Prime Minister and concurrently Minister of War -
1941-1944; also Foreign Minister - 2 Sept. 1942 to
1 October 1942.

A. - (In Tokyo)

ARAKI - was Minister of War December, 1931 to July, 1934.

HIRANUMA - was Prime Minister - January to August, 1939.

HIROTA - was Foreign Minister - September, 1933 to March, 1936.

was Prime Minister and for a time Foreign Minister
concurrently - March, 1936 to February, 1937.

Foreign Minister - June, 1937 to May, 1938.

MATSUOKA - President of the South Manchurian Railway -
(deceased)

1935- 1939; Foreign Minister, July, 1940 -
July, 1941.

MINAMI - was Minister of War - April, 1931 to December, 1931;

Commander in Chief of the Kwantung Army - 1934 -
1936.

KIMURA - was Vice-Minister of War - 1941 - 1944.

MUTO - was Chief of the Military Affairs Bureau (War Ministry) - October, 1939 - April, 1942.

SATO - was Chief of the Military Affairs Bureau (War Ministry) - April, 1942 - December, 1944.

KOISO - was Prime Minister - July, 1944 to April, 1945.

UMEZU - was Chief of Staff of the Army - July, 1944 to end of war.

SHIMADA - was Minister of the Navy - October, 1941 - February, 1944; Chief of Naval General Staff - February, 1944 - July, 1944.

NAGANO - was Chief of Naval General Staff - 1941 - February, 1944.

OKA - was Chief of Military Affairs Bureau of the Navy - 1940-1944.

TOGO - Foreign Minister - October, 1941 - 2 September, 1942, April, 1945 - August, 1945.

SHIGEMITSU - Foreign Minister - April, 1943 - April, 1945.

KIDO - Lord Keeper of Privy Seal - 1940 - 1945.

B - (In Army Commands)

MATSUI - Commander in Chief of Japanese forces in China - October, 1937 - February, 1938 (Rape of Nanking - December, 1937).

DOHISEI - Commander in Chief of Eastern Army in Japan - 1943-1944; Commander in Chief of 7th Area Army in Singapore - 1944 - April, 1945.

HASHIMOTO - Commander of Artillery Regiment which shelled the "Ladybird" - 1937.

FATA - Commander in Chief of Expeditionary Force in Central China - July, 1940 - 1944.

ITAGAKI - Commander in Chief Japanese Army in Korea - July, 1941 - March, 1945; Commander in Chief of 7th Area Army in Singapore - April, 1945 - August, 1945.

NIMURA - Commander in Chief of Japanese Army in Burma - March, 1944 to the end of the war.

MUTO - Commander of the 2nd Guards Division in Sumatra, 1943; Chief of Staff of 14th Area Army in the Philippines under General YAMASEITA in 1944.

SATO - Assistant Chief of Staff of China Expeditionary Forces - January, 1945; then Commander of the 37th Division in Indo-China and in Thailand to the end of the war.

UMESU - Commander in Chief of the Kwantung Army - 1939 - June, 1944.

Second, the agreements and assurances of the Japanese Government to abide by the Geneva Prisoner of War Convention re the treatment of prisoners of war, and so far as applicable to civilian internees, made to the United States, the Governments of Britain, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and Netherlands, are already in evidence. It is proposed to show, by evidence from official Japanese Government records, directives issued in violation of such agreements and assurances, and those among the defendants responsible therefor.

Third, it will be shown by official Japanese records of knowledge on the part of many of these defendants of the neglect, ill-treatment and illegal punishment of prisoners of war and internees.

Fourth, it will be shown by official records of the Swiss Legation, the protecting Power, of the Japanese Foreign Office and the Prisoner of War Information Bureau, that protests in behalf of the United States and Britain over failure to permit visits to prisoner of war camps and against ~~inhumane~~ inhumane treatment of prisoners of war, showed notice to many of these ~~authorities~~ whose duty it was to permit such visits and to put a stop to such inhumane treatment.

Fifth, Statistics from official records of Australia, Canada, the United Kingdom, New Zealand and the United States, will show the number of prisoners of war and the number who died in captivity.

INTERNATIONAL PROSECUTION SECTION

Doc. No. 2944

31 Dec 1946

ANALYSIS OF DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

DESCRIPTION OF ATTACHED DOCUMENT

Title and Nature: Inrdductory Statement, Col
G. S. Woolworth, with List Relating Defendants to Class
"B" and "C" Crimes

Date: 31 Dec 46 Original Copy Language: English

Has it been translated? Yes No

Has it been photostated? Yes No

LOCATION OF ORIGINAL

Document Division

SOURCE OF ORIGINAL: Col Woolworth

PERSONS IMPLICATED: SATO, Kenryo; SHIMADA, Shigetaro;
MATSUI, Iwane; DOIHARA, Kenji; KIMURA, Heitaro; MUTO, Akira;
UMEZU, Yoshijiyo; KOISO, Kuniaki; NAGANO, Osamu; OKA,
Takazumi; SHIGEMITSU, Mamoru; TOGO, Shigenori

CRIMES TO WHICH DOCUMENT APPLICABLE: Class "B" and "C"
War Crimes; Violation Geneva POW Convention; Crimes Against
Humanity

SUMMARY OF RELEVANT POINTS

Statement lists official positions of command held
by certain defendants, linking them to War Crimes (Class B
and C) committed under their authority.

Analyst: W.H.WAGNER

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