

国际检察局讯问记录

Numerical Case Files Relating to
Particular Incidents and Suspected War Criminals,
International Prosecution Section (1945-1947)

国家图书馆 上海交通大学 编

9

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CASE NO. 247

RE : YOSHIDA, ZENGO (ADMIRAL)

STATUS : PENDING

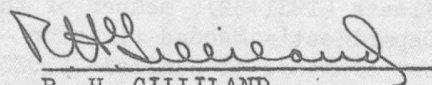
AGE : 60

ADDRESS : 114, Kakinokizaka- Machi, 1-Chome, Meguro-ku, Tokyo.

GOV'T POSTS: Aug.'39- Jan.'40., Navy Minister- Abe Cabinet.
Jan.'40- Jul.'40., Navy Minister- Yonai Cabinet.
Jul.'40- Sep.'40., Navy Minister- 2nd Konoye Cabinet.
Nov. 1940, Member Supreme War Council.
Nov.'42-Dec.'43., C-in-C of Jap fleet in China waters.
Dec.'43, Reappointed member of Supreme War Council.
Pres. of Naval Staff College.
Mar.- Aug. '44, Commander Yokosuka Naval Sta.
Aug. '44, Member Supreme War Council.
"Early" 1945, Special advisor to Emperor.

INCIDENTAL : Has been at sea much more than average high ranking officer.
Is considered a moderate with a cosmopolitan viewpoint.
Japanese rate him as resolute, taciturn, undemonstrative,
with a strong fighting spirit and fervor for sea duty.

SOURCE : CIS Files- 16 Nov. '45


R. H. GILLILAND
1st Lt. Inf.

COPIES : 3

CASE NO. : 24

SERIAL NO. : 1\

CASE NO. 24

RE : YOSHIDA, ZENGO (Admiral-
Navy Minister -
Supreme War Councilor.)

STATUS : PENDING

The "Biographies of Prominent Japanese" prepared by District Intelligence Office, Fourteenth Naval District, dated 15 September 1945, reflect the following biographical sketch of subject:

Admiral Zengo YOSHIDA - Navy Minister; Supreme War Councilor.

YOSHIDA was born 14 February 1885 in Saga Prefecture, the fourth son of Yohachi MINE. He was adopted by Uyjiro YOSHIDA. YOSHIDA entered the Naval Academy in 1901 and graduated in 1904. He became a captain in 1923, rear admiral in 1929, vice admiral in 1934, and admiral in 1940, and has been at sea more than the average Japanese high ranking naval officer. As of 1941, YOSHIDA was known to hold the Junior Grade of Third Court Rank and to have received the First Order of the Sacred Treasure and Second Order of the Rising Sun. A chronology of his naval career to 1941 includes possible participation in the battle of the Japan Sea in the Russia-Japan War, 1905: service aboard the "HASHIDATE" during a training cruise to Australia, 1908-09; graduation from the Higher Naval Collete, 1915; and the following positions: staff member of the Third Squadron (1915), instructor at the Naval Torpedo School (1918), staff member of the First Destroyer Flotilla (1919) and Training Squadron (1920), chief of the Second Section of the Bureau of Education and member of the Technical Council (1923), commanding officer of the HIRATO (1924), chief of staff at Maizuru Naval Station (1924) chief of the First Section of the Navy Department Bureau of Military Affairs (1925), commanding officer of the KONGO (1927) and of the MUTSU (1928), member of the Naval General Staff and Technical Council (1929), chief of staff of the Combined and First Fleets (1931-32), member of the Naval General Staff - chief of the Navy Department's Second Division - chief of the Naval Affairs Bureau - member of Board of Admirals (1933), Training Squadron commander and commander-in-chief of the Second Fleet (1936), commander-in-chief of the Combined and First Fleets (1936), Navy Minister in the Abe and Yonai Cabinets (1939-40), and member of the Supreme War Council (1940-41, after resignation from the Cabinet).

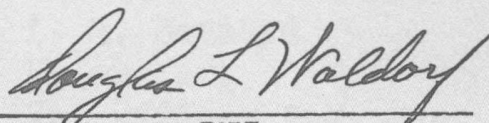
COPIES : 3 file
1 Capt Robinson

CASE NO. : 24

SERIAL NO. : 2

YOSHIDA, ZENGO
(continued)

YOSHIDA commanded a training squadron composed of the cruisers "IWATE" and "YAKUMO" which visited U. S. ports on both the East and West Coasts of the Mainland and in the Territory of Hawaii between June and October, 1936. That was said to be his first visit to the United States, and he speaks only a little English. It is of interest to note that numerous instances have been cited where YOSHIDA's signature, as Navy Minister, has appeared on "appreciation" cards sent to Japanese in the Territory of Hawaii to thank them for their contributions to the Japanese Navy. Personal invitations to "at home" parties aboard the training ships were also disseminated. In 1940, being referred to as Navy and Communications Minister, he was said to be an advisor to the committee preparing for a Tokyo conference of representatives of Japanese living abroad. In November, 1942 he was appointed commander-in-chief of Naval forces in China waters. In December, 1943 he was relieved of this post and appointed a member of the Supreme War Council. In March, 1944 he was referred to as director of the Navy Staff College. In May, 1944 he was made commandant of Yokosuka Naval Station, and in August, 1944 he was again appointed a member of the Supreme War Council, his last known position.



DOUGLAS L. WALBORN
2nd Lt, Infantry

11 December 1945

CASE NO. 24

RE : YOSHIDA, Zengo (Admiral).

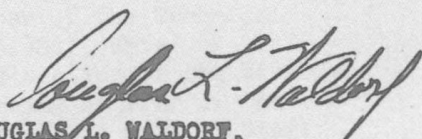
STATUS: Pending.

MEMO FOR THE FILE:

Career:

Instructor, Torpedo School.
Chief, 1st Sect. Naval Affairs Bur.
Comdr. HMS "MUTSU".
Chief Staff, Combined and 1st Fleet Staff.
Member of Staff, Naval Staff Board.
Director of Naval Affairs Bur., 1933.
Comdr-in-Chief, 2nd Fleet, 1936-37.
Comdr-in-Chief, Combined and 1st Fleet, Dec. 1937.
Navy Minister, Aug. 1939-40.
Full Admiral, Nov. 1940.

Source: Who's Who, Japan, Manchoukuo & China, 1941-42.


DOUGLAS L. WALDORF,
2nd Lt., Inf.

COPIES : 3 File

SERIAL NO. : 9

MEMORANDUM FOR GENERAL WOODCOCK, COLONEL MORROW
AND MR. FINELLY

9 January 1946

A review of File No. 24 reflects that it contains information which may be of interest to Groups A, B and C.

This information is forwarded for such action as may be deemed appropriate.

L. M. Barnard
Major Inf.
Ex. Officer Inv. Div.

COPIES: Gen. Woodcock
Col. Morrow
Mr. Finelly
Files 24

249

A

B

C

FILE NO.: 24

11 December 1945

REPORT BY: Maj. L.H. Barnard

STATUS : Pending

RE: Admiral Zengo YOSHIDA, I. J. N.

MEMO FOR THE FILE:

On 26 Nov 1945, Capt. J. J. Robinson, U.S.N.R., interviewed subject at which time the following interrogation was conducted, the original of which is in the Exhibit File in this matter, identified as Exhibit No. 30.

The original notes of Capt. Robinson are in the Exhibit File identified as Exhibit No. 31.

COPIES: 3 File 24

INTERROGATION OF
ADMIRAL ZENGO YOSHIDA, IJN

TIME : 26 November 1945, 1430-1540 hrs.

PLACE : Room 304, NYK Building, Tokyo, Japan

PRESENT : Captain J. J. Robinson, USNR, Interrogator
Douglas T. Wada, Interpreter
Admiral Zengo Yoshida, IJN

NAME : Yoshida, Zengo

ADDRESS : 114 Kakinokizaka-Machi, 1 Chome, Meguro-Ku, Tokyo

AGE : 60

EDUCATION : Naval Academy 1901-1904.

MILITARY OR NAVAL SERVICE: IJN

Q. At the time of the outbreak of the war, what position did you hold?

A. I held no position. I had retired from active government service.

Q. Why?

A. I had ruined my health from overwork.

Q. Since you were regarded as a moderate and one with cosmopolitan ideas, were you compelled to retire because of opposition from the totalitarian group?

A. No, I had overworked myself, having served for three successive years of duty at sea and later as Navy Minister. I had no sympathy with the militaristic totalitarians, but I knew no way to get rid of them.

Q. While you were on active duty, were there some men with Fascistic and totalitarian leanings?

A. There probably were some, but I managed to keep them down.

Q. What is your opinion in regard to Fascism?

A. Well, I have no definite opinion in regard to Fascism. What I know of these types of ideologies is that Fascism was started by Mussolini and Nazism by Hitler.

Q. In your opinion, what should be done to prevent the Japanese people from being misled by such totalitarian groups again?

A. Basically, it is a matter of education.

Q. Do you think that there has been success in apprehending all of the totalitarian group?

A. I cannot answer this question with authority as I have not studied this matter. I wouldn't know a Fascist, even if others claim that a certain

ADMIRAL ZENGO YOSHIDA.

person is one. Sometimes they camouflage themselves and you can't tell. So it is a matter of screening. That is, a character's background, his past actions and speeches should be reviewed.

- Q. As a matter of screening, can you screen out Japanese who were totalitarian militarists?
- A. I can't tell you with authority who is a Fascist. For example, Mitsuru Toyama. The people claimed him to be a Fascist. I don't know. But since the people think so, perhaps he was. It is the same with Admiral Kanji Kato. When I visited America, people asked me about Kanji Kato. They believed him to be a Fascist. Since the people think so, he may have been a Fascist.
- Q. Don't you agree that steps should be taken to prevent such groups of people from ever taking over the control of the government?
- A. Yes, I wholly agree with you.
- Q. During the war, did the Japanese Navy plan strategy independently of the Army?
- A. It depends on the type of battle.
- Q. Did the Navy plan its attack on Hawaii independently of the Army?
- A. No, that was because it was a purely Naval battle. The policy is for the Navy to plan its strategy independently if it is a sea battle and for the Army to plan theirs independently if it is a land battle. If cooperation of both is required, the strategy is jointly planned.
- Q. Do you know who was responsible for it?
- A. No, I had retired and kept away entirely from government affairs.
- Q. When did you first hear of the question being raised in regard to the declaration of war?
- A. Only recently, when I read the statement made by Nagano in the newspaper.
- Q. What is your opinion in regard to it?
- A. Judging from what I have read, I believe it was the result of the difficulty in translation. In my opinion, armed action should be taken only after a declaration of war has been made. And when I read the paper, I thought, "Oh! oh!, there is a big problem centering about the declaration of war."

Appraisal: Big man, long stone face, pontifical manner, took careful notes, and said nothing of importance. Suave and not too

I, Douglas T. Wada, Senior Translator, 14th Naval District, hereby certify that I acted as interpreter at the interview set out above, that I truly interpreted and translated the English questions into Japanese and the replies thereto from Japanese into English, and that the English translation of the answers set out above are true and accurate to the best of my knowledge and belief.

WITNESS:

J. Robinson
J. Robinson
Captain, U.S.N.R.

Douglas T. Wada, Senior Translator
14th Naval District.

24-6

FILE NO. : 24

Report by: Orville C. Pratt
Special Agent, CIC

RE : YOSHIDA, Zengo

DATE : 29 January 1946

STATUS: Closed

A review of ATIS and CIS files reveals the following additional information concerning YOSHIDA, Zengo:

"Born Saga Prefecture, 1884; 4th sone of Yohachi MINE; adopted by Yujiro YOSHIDA; married Tsuki, sister of Naokichi MATSUNAGA. Educated Naval Academy 1940. Career: instructor Torpedo School; chief 1st section Naval Affairs Bureau; Chief of Staff Combined and 1st Fleet; Staff, Naval Staff Board; director, Naval Affairs Bureau, 1933; Commander Training Squadron; Commander in Chief Combined and 1st Fleet, December 1937; Navy Minister August 1939 - August 1940; appointed full admiral November 1940."

SOURCE: Who's Who in Japan 1942-44.

Former Navy Minister in ABE and YONAI Cabinets.
Member of Supreme War Council (1944).

SOURCE: "Prominent Persons in Japan and Japanese Dominated Areas"
ONI, 14 N.D. Aug. 1945.

Returned to Shanghai after inspection of Japanese Naval Forces in South China, 1943.

SOURCE: FCC, DR, 10 July 1943.

Made inspection tour of units he commands at Weihaiwei, Cheboo and Linyunchiang, and returned to Shanghai 8 August 1943.

SOURCE: FCC Report on the Far East #28, Washington 31 August 1943.

Chief of Yokosuka Naval Base.

SOURCE: Abstracts on European and Far Eastern Personalities, 4 Jul 45.

Attended funeral of Admiral Chuichi NAGUMO, 20 December 1944 in Tokyo.

SOURCE: FCC, DR, 20 Dec 1944.

COPIES: 3 File 24 ✓

Chairman of Spring Festival Committee, Yasakuni Shrine.

SOURCE: FCC, DR, 25 April 1945.

Chairman of funeral services for Admiral Shiro TAKASU.

SOURCE: FCC, DR, 2 Sept 1944.

The Asahi Shimbun files discloses the following:

"In 1935 YOSHIDA traveled to Manchuria on an inspection tour of fuel and supplies."

Subject's name does not appear on any published list of war criminal suspects and he has not been interned.

Pending requests for additional investigation, case will be considered administratively closed.

CLOSED

INTERROGATION OF

YOSHIDA, Zengo

Date and Time: 30 January 1946, 1400 hours.

Place : Room 732, Meiji Building, Tokyo, Japan.

Present : Lt. Colonel Don Winder, USMC, Interrogator,
T/Sgt. Toshio Saiki, Interpreter,
Mr. Mizato, Interpreter, I.J.M.,
Zengo Yoshida.

Questions by : Lt. Colonel Winder

* * * * *

Q.: When did the Japanese Government first decide to fortify the Mandated Islands?

A.: I do not know exactly but believe it was well started by the time of the outbreak of war.

Q.: Can you give the exact year?

A.: I cannot of my own knowledge tell the exact time.

Q.: Admiral, what period of time were you Naval Minister?

A.: August 1939 to September 1940.

Q.: Do you know of your own knowledge that a radio station was constructed on Ainuman Island Jaluit Atoll in the Marshalls in January 1940?

(Discussion as to location of Jaluit - pointed out on map.)

A.: I have not the slightest recollection or knowledge about it.

Q.: Do you know that in May 1940 two 12.7 cm A/A gun positions were constructed on Enizett Island? These were twin mount guns?

A.: That too I do not know, sir.

Q.: It is alleged that in November 1940 seven coastal defense gun positions were constructed on Kwajalein. Was this fortification work ordered while you were still Naval Minister in September 1940?

A.: I do not remember.

Q.: Admiral, are you familiar with the term or unit called the Nojo unit?

A.: The name Nojo conveys no meaning.

Q.: Nojo was contracted from Shinobuhakara - did you ever hear of it?

A.: I can see no connection in those terms and the word. What is the nature of the work this unit did?

Q.: (Explained that it was a secret survey unit that went through the Mandates and was deactivated in 1938.)

A.: I know nothing about it, sir.

Q.: Do you deny that any fortification work was done in the Mandates during the period you were Naval Minister from August 1939 to September 1940?

A.: Yes. There is nothing else I can do but deny it since I have no recollection of the work that may have been carried on.

Q.: (Reference was made to the first Q. and A. then) Was it common knowledge among the Japanese Navy Officers that the Mandates were fortified prior to the outbreak of the war?

A.: I desire to explain my answer to the first question - inasmuch as some ships and planes went down there, some fortifications must have been there.

Q.: Admiral, have you now any progress reports on fortifications during the period you were Naval Minister?

A.: No.

Q.: Do you know where I could find any such records?

A.: If there are any now they would be in the Naval Ministry or the Naval General Staff and not in the hands of any individual.

Q.: Which bureau or department of the Imperial Japanese Navy had charge of constructing fortifications, assuming that ships and planes went down and that fortifications were there?

A.: All civil engineering and defense work was in charge of the Mobilization Bureau. (There was some doubt on the part of Mr. Mizato as to the translation of the term - terms as given by Sgt. Saiki below).

Q.: Who was in charge of the Mobilization Bureau during the period you were Naval Minister?

A.: Prior to the end of 1940, the Bureau of Military Affairs was in charge and then the Mobilization Bureau was organized. Rear Admiral ABE, Katsuo was in charge as Chief of the Bureau of Military Affairs. The first Chief of the Mobilization Bureau was Vice Admiral HOSHIMA, Zenshiro.

Q.: Are these admirals still alive?

A.: Yes. Both are living, but ABE is in Sweden or has just left there on his way home.

Q.: Under the treaty providing against fortifications, do you consider that it is a fair assumption that such fortifications indicated preparations for aggressive war?

Q.: (Discussion over the modified answer to the first question - "planes and ships went down" meant visited or were stationed in the Mandates, not that any ships or planes were damaged or sunk.)

Q.: Do you admit there was a treaty against fortifications?

A.: Yes.

Q.: OK, I'll amend the question. Under the treaty providing against fortifications, do you consider that it is a fair assumption that if such fortifications were in the Mandates, it would indicate preparations for aggressive war?

A.: If the assumption that there were fortifications was true, there is no doubt that was illegal, but that does not necessarily lead to the conclusion that the intention was aggression. I think there is just as much possibility of such fortifications having been undertaken for the purpose of defense. (Further explained that aggression against the United States in our minds was defense against the United States in the Japanese mind.)

* * * * *

Original notes retained.

Terms submitted by Sgt. Saiki after the interview.

Heibi Kyoku - "Bureau of Military Preparations".

Gummu Kyoku - "Bureau of Naval Affairs" for the Navy, and
"Military Affairs Bureau" for the Army.

1 February 1946, when Mr. Mizato returned for the interrogation of Admiral OKAWA, he told me in the hall that when he reported the conversation I had with Admiral YOSHIDA to the Japanese Navy, they said he should have told me that Admiral YOSHIDA was not mentally sound and that he was retired on a medical survey because of his mental condition and that was why the Admiral answered my questions the way he did. Mizato said he would have told me before the interrogation started but no opportunity was afforded. He further said Admiral OKAWA whom I was about to question was absolutely sound mentally.