



# 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

60

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FILE NO. 383

14 February 1946

MEMORANDUM FOR: Lt Riley

RE: Seishiro ITAKAKI

Information has been requested by the British Staff Members of the section concerning the background and activities of one Seishiro ITAKAKI, former Minister of War.

A check of the indices reflects that no investigation has been conducted in this matter, and it is requested that all available data concerning subject be obtained at the earliest practicable date.

LEROY M. BARNARD  
Major, Infantry  
Executive Officer  
Investigation Division

COPIES:

3 File 383  
2 Lt Riley

SERIAL NO. 1



DEPARTMENT OF STATE

INTERIM RESEARCH AND INTELLIGENCE SERVICE

Research and Analysis Branch  
Biographical Report, BR-J#106

板垣征四郎

Name ITAGAKI Seishiro, General

Address c/o Army Department, Tokyo 1/

Major Positions Commanding General of the Seventh Area Army 6/  
Commander-in-Chief of Korean Army, 1941 1/ to 1945 2/  
Chief of Staff of Japanese Army in China, 1939-1941 3/  
Minister of War in first KONO and HIRANUMA Cabinets 2/  
Commanding General of Fifth Division, 1937-1938 1/, 3/  
Chief of Staff of Kwantung Army, 1936 3/

Family History Born in January 1885 23/ in Morioka city 13/ in Iwate-ken 1/ of a poor, peasant family.4/ He was the fourth son of ITAGAKI Masanori, also listed as Seitoku, samurai, 23/ a principal retainer of the former Nambu Clan.2/ Masanori served as the head of a sub-prefecture in that region for many years but Seishiro lived with his grandparents when he was small and received spartan training from his grandfather ITAGAKI Soin, who was a Confucianist of the Nambu Clan.13/ His elder brother is ITAGAKI Seisan, for thirty-four years a professor of medicine at Kyushu Imperial University and recently appointed head of Batavia Medical College.7/ He has a younger brother Sei who in 1940 was a captain in the Navy.23/ Seishiro married Kiku 23/(Kikuko), 1/ born in February 1898. She was the cousin of OKOSHI Makoto of Fukushima-ken 23/ and the eldest daughter of OKOSHI Kenkichi, 1/ the hero of the Battle of Mukden in the Russo-Japanese War.3/ Seishiro's first son Yutaka, born in January 1922, in 1940 was a student at Musashi Higher School. His eldest daughter Kiyo, born in July 1924, was a student at Tokyo Tenth Girls High School in 1940. In addition, he has two other sons, Tadashi and Masao, who was born in August 1927, and one other daughter, Mitsuko, born September 1930.23/

Career Was graduated from the Military Academy in 1904 1/  
Second lieutenant 22/ in the Infantry in the Russo-Japanese War, 1904-1905 3/  
Graduated from the Military Staff College, 1916 5/  
Military Correspondent for Japanese Government in Hankow 10/  
Commander of the 14th Infantry Regiment 1/ of the 12th Division 6/ in 1921 1/  
Attached to the General Staff Office, 1922 1/  
Concurrently, 10/ Instructor at the Military Staff College 1/

~~SECRET~~

ITAGAKI Seishiro 22

Career continued

Assistant Military Attache at the Japanese Legation in China  
in 1924 5/  
On the Staff of the 23rd Brigade, 1927 5/  
Commander of the 23rd Infantry Regiment 5/ of the 6th Division 6/  
in 1928 5/  
Appointed Senior Staff Officer of the Kwantung Army, May 1929; 22/  
rank of Colonel 2/  
Appointed Major-General, 1932 2/  
Head of the Army Press Bureau 5/  
Toured America and Europe on inspection trip, 1933 2/  
Assistant Chief of Staff of the Kwantung Army, 1934-1936; 3/  
concurrently, in 1934 military attache at the Japanese Embassy  
in Hsinking 1/  
Appointed Chief of Staff of the Kwantung Army in 1936 3/  
Rank of Lieutenant-General, 1937 2/  
Commanding General of the Fifth Division, March 1/ 1937-April  
1938 3/  
Appointed Minister of War in KONOE Cabinet, May 1938 2/  
Re-appointed Minister of War in HIRANUMA Cabinet, January 1939; 1/  
resigned in August 1939 2/  
Concurrently President of the Manchurian Affairs Board 2/  
Chief of Staff of the Japanese Army in China, 21 September 1939-  
July 1941 3/  
Promoted to rank of full General, 7 July 1941 8/  
Appointed Commander-in-Chief of Korean Army, July 1941; 1/ served  
until at least February 1945 2/  
Commanding General of the Seventh Area Army 6/  
Acting as proxy for the Commander-in-Chief of the Southern Re-  
gions Expeditionary Forces, ITAGAKI signed surrender documents  
on 12 September 1945 7/

Comments ITAGAKI Seishiro was born in 1885 1/ of a poor, peasant family  
living in the north of Japan. 4/ The restrictions that only sons of the  
aristocracy could become officers in the army had been relaxed a few years  
before his birth, and ITAGAKI was therefore able to attend the Military  
Academy 4/ from which he was graduated in 1904. A Tokyo newspaper reports  
that ITAGAKI's academic records were "nothing to speak of"; 3/ an article  
in the Chuo Koron says that he was below the middle of his graduating  
class. 13/ Among ITAGAKI's classmates in the 16th class were DOIHARA  
Kenji, who graduated at the head of the class, OKAWURA Yasutsugu, UMEZU  
Yoshiji, ANDO Rikichi, OBATA Toshishiro, USHIJIMA Sanotsune, and ISOGAI  
Rensuke. 3/ Immediately upon graduation ITAGAKI went to Manchuria as an in-  
fantry officer in the Russo-Japanese War. 3/

As a rule officers graduate from the Military Staff College ten years  
after graduation from the Academy; ITAGAKI finished twelve years later,  
in 1916. 1/ Here, too, his scholastic attainments were reported to have  
been far from outstanding. 9/

Comments continued

Soon after his graduation he was dispatched to Hankow as military correspondent for the Japanese Government.<sup>10/</sup> By 1921 he was commander of the 14th Infantry Regiment.<sup>1/</sup> In 1922 <sup>1/</sup> he was assigned to special work on the Japanese General Staff and was, simultaneously, an instructor at the Military Staff College.<sup>10/</sup> It is at this time, according to a source, that ITAGAKI won support from those middle-rank officers who later played the most active role in the war with China.<sup>10/</sup> Willard Price attributes a good deal of his popularity to his "good stomach." "His capacity for liquor," Price says, "is a legend."<sup>16/</sup>

In 1924 ITAGAKI returned to China where he served as the Assistant Military Attache at the Japanese Legation.<sup>5/</sup> Here, he is reported to have spent several years in observation tours of China's southwestern provinces. "Observant, indifferent to danger, he readily gained a reputation at home as one of Japan's leading 'experts' on China."<sup>10/</sup> After serving for a year on the staff of the 23rd Brigade,<sup>5/</sup> in 1928 ITAGAKI was made commander of the 23rd Infantry Regiment <sup>5/</sup> of the 6th Division <sup>6/</sup> (probably on the Continent).

A year later in May 1929 he was appointed Senior Staff Officer of the Kwantung Army <sup>22/</sup> with the rank of Colonel,<sup>2/</sup> succeeding KAWAMOTO.<sup>22/</sup> ITAGAKI served under Major-General MIYAKE Mitsuharu, Chief of Staff, and Lieutenant-General HONJO Shigeru (deceased), Commander of the Kwantung Army. Among those on the staff were Lieutenant-Colonel ISHIWARA Kanji, <sup>✓</sup> the director of Military Operations, Colonel ARAI Masao (deceased), the director of Intelligence Department, and others, such as Majors USUDA Kanzo, HANATANI Tadashi, IMADA Shintaro, ENDO Saburo, and KATAKURA Chu.<sup>13/</sup>

The Manchurian Incident, which began in Mukden on 18 September 1931, was, according to T.A. Bisson, initiated by the extremist military faction, otherwise known as the MUTO-ARAKI-MASAKI clique or the "Saga group." The "young Colonels", ITAGAKI, DOIHARA Kenji, OKAMURA Yasutsugu, NAGATA and ISHIWARA Kanji were strong supporters of this military triumvirate, who demanded that the army should be given the political leadership at home, in addition to leadership in the creation of a powerful colonial empire on the Asiatic mainland.<sup>12/</sup> It is reliably reported that ITAGAKI took a prominent part in the provocation at Mukden.<sup>10/</sup>

A Japanese source says that events were successful in Manchuria because of the combination of ITAGAKI <sup>14/</sup> and ISHIWARA Kanji. The names of the two were so close, he says, that it was a single phrase "ITAGAKI ISHIWARA." ISHIWARA was the typical leader, adventurous and determined, while ITAGAKI was the coordinator and conciliator of the various factions.<sup>14/</sup> Hillis Lory says, too, that "ITAGAKI's forte was never commanding on the battlefield, but transforming the grandiose schemes of Army radicals into workable plans."<sup>11/</sup> After the successful completion of their aggression, Lory continues, he drew up the scheme for the formation of the Army-dominated puppet state of Manchukuo, elimi-

ITAGAKI Seishiro - 4

Comments continued

nating the Zaibatsu from any chance of gaining profit in the new conquest.<sup>11/</sup> ITAGAKI was one of the advocates, according to a source, of state control of capital and "economic totalitarianism" in Manchukuo.<sup>15/</sup> It was at this time beginning with the Manchurian Incident that he rose into importance, and, it is reported, the first time that the people began to know and hear about him.<sup>13/</sup>

While on the Continent ITAGAKI is known to have been active in at least one society - the Kyowakai ("harmony" or "concord"). During the Manchurian Incident ITAGAKI and ISHIWARA Kanji had planned to realize their aims concerning the Kyowakai in Manchuria, but the two men were separated. KOISO Kuniaki came to Manchuria as Chief of Staff of the Kwantung Army in 1932, ISHIWARA was sent to Geneva, and ITAGAKI was recalled to Japan.<sup>14/</sup> In addition to the Kyowakai, ITAGAKI is reported to have been one of the original members of the Kokuryukai (Black Dragon Society),<sup>3/</sup> and a leader of the Toa Remmei (East Asia League).<sup>2/</sup> About 1942 when he was again on the Continent, ITAGAKI is reported to have been starting a "China Renovation Movement" in North China, especially in Peiping and in places in Shantung. ISHIWARA Hiroichiro was said to have been supplying him with the needed funds.<sup>2/</sup>

At some time in 1932 ITAGAKI was promoted to Major-General and also became head of the Army Press Bureau.<sup>2/</sup> In March 1933 <sup>22/</sup> he became attached to the General Staff Office and the Imperial General Headquarters,<sup>5/</sup> and, it is said that more than a thousand people gathered at the station to see him off, so popular was this "father of Manchukuo."<sup>22/</sup> Subsequently he is reported to have made a trip to America and Europe for "observation and instruction."<sup>2/</sup>

In 1934 he then returned to Manchuria where he was made Assistant Chief of Staff of the Kwantung Army <sup>3/</sup> under Chief of Staff General NISHIO Toshizo.<sup>3/</sup> He also held in 1934 a concurrent position of military attache at the Japanese Embassy in Hsinking.<sup>1/</sup> According to T.A. Bisson, after September and October of 1935 during which there were many signs of the approach of a new and ominous crisis in North China, the Japanese Foreign Office accepted the army's program there to suppress anti-Japanese elements, to sever financial connections with Nanking and to cooperate militarily with the Chinese warlords "to prevent sovietization."<sup>12/</sup> On 13 October there was a conference at Dairen of officers of the Kwantung Army and the North China Garrison, which decided that plans should be pushed for a "Sino-Japanese cooperation area," and that if the "troubles" in North China were not eliminated by the Chinese Government, the Japanese Army would insist on the "divorce of North China from Nanking."<sup>12/</sup> Among those officials bringing about these major decisions with regard to the new China policy of the Japanese Government was Major-General ITAGAKI. Other representatives were Major-General TADA, Major-General ISOGAI Ronsuke, and Major-General OKAMURA Yasutsugu.<sup>12/</sup>



ITAGAKI Seishiro - 5

Comments continued

By November 1935 the Autonomous East Hopei Regime in North China was set up, 21/ devised, Willard Price says, by ITAGAKI who was continuing his "broad experiments in statecraft."16/ In 1936 ITAGAKI was appointed Chief of Staff of the Kwantung Army, succeeding NISHIO Toshizo.3/ The Commander of the Kwantung Army was General UEDA Kenkichi, but according to a Japanese source he was of less importance than his Chief of Staff. ITAGAKI was the outstanding man of the Manchurian forces; he was referred to as the "Kwantung Army's ITAGAKI" and "ITAGAKI's Kwantung Army."14/

Early in February of 1937 General HAYASHI Senjuro, when forming his new cabinet, chose ITAGAKI as his War Minister.11/ According to the Japanese source, there had been arising a demand for ITAGAKI in this position since the 26 February 1936 Incident.14/ When the "Big Three" of the Army, made up of the retiring War Minister, the Chief of the General Staff, and the Inspector General, learned of this they refused to allow the appointment 11/ saying that there were many senior to ITAGAKI and that Army regulations would not allow any deviation from this custom.13/ It was felt that "it was too early" for ITAGAKI to become Minister of War.17/ Accordingly, HAYASHI was forced by the "Big Three" to accept Lieutenant-General NAKAMURA Kotaro. Then after an eight-day tenure NAKAMURA resigned and General SUGIYAMA Gen, the real Army choice, took office.11/

In March 1937 1/ ITAGAKI having obtained the rank of Lieutenant-General 2/ was appointed Commanding General of the Fifth Division.1/ In July of that year the division moved to China 2/ and from August through October when the war with China broke out participated in the fighting in North Hopei and Shansi 2/ where ITAGAKI was defeated by the Chinese 8th Route Army at the Pinghsinkwan mountain-pass.10/ In November part of the division withdrew from North China and took part in the advance on Nanking. After the fall of Nanking it returned to North China where it rejoined the division and advanced on Ichow.2/ Later, in April 1938 at Taierhchuang in the Hsueh area, ITAGAKI's forces were trapped and 25,000 of his troops were killed in one day.3/ He prepared to commit hara-kiri but, a source says "he was persuaded that he would be more valuable alive than dead."16/ Meanwhile, however, he is alleged to have been the man who set up WANG Chin-wei in Nanking 16/ on 28 March 1938 as head of the new puppet government. In addition, he is said to have written the "peace treaty" by which the Nanking Government became a state subservient to Japan.16/

Subsequently, in May 1938 he was appointed Minister of War in the first KONOE Cabinet,2/ succeeding SUGIYAMA Gen.1/ According to a Japanese article of the day, ITAGAKI's appointment opened the way for the Army's "continental clique."13/ HSU Cheng terms him "the spearhead of Japanese military designs on the Continent."10/ "ITAGAKI was imported," he says, "to lead the extremists in the compromise" concerning the war in China

~~SECRET~~

ITAGAKI Seishiro - 6

Comments continued

with the moderates under General UGAKI. The moderates support was essential since it was finally seen that warfare was to be prolonged. In consequence, KONOE's Cabinet was reshuffled with UGAKI becoming Foreign Minister and ITAGAKI, War Minister.<sup>10/</sup> After a short while, however, the ITAGAKI extremists took control of the government.<sup>10/</sup> TOJO Hideki, who had originally been a member of the Kwantung Army clique <sup>2/</sup> and reportedly a follower of ITAGAKI,<sup>15/</sup> had already been brought into the cabinet as Vice-Minister of War.<sup>16/</sup> Then there was formed the so-called Five-Ministers' Conference, a cabinet within a cabinet which formulated official policy along extremist lines, and decided that there was to be set up in China a puppet government similar to that of Manchukuo. Extremist pressure became so strong that UGAKI resigned from his post of Foreign Minister and MATSUOKA Yosuke succeeded him.<sup>10/</sup>

ITAGAKI was reappointed War Minister in the following HIRANUMA Cabinet in January 1939, serving until its fall in August 1939. During this time he held, concurrently, the position of President of the Manchurian Affairs Board.<sup>2/</sup> He then returned to the battle areas, and on the 21st of December was appointed Chief of Staff of the Japanese Army in China.<sup>3/</sup> On 7 July 1941 he was promoted to the rank of full General;<sup>8/</sup> in the same month he was transferred to Korea as Commander-in-Chief.<sup>1/</sup> He served in this post, where he was called "the watch-dog of Russia" until at least February 1945.<sup>2/</sup>

Subsequently he was reported as Commanding General of the Seventh Area Army in the regions of Malaya, Java, Borneo and Sumatra.<sup>6/</sup> By 24 August 1945, ten days after the Japanese acceptance of the ultimatum, an Associated Press despatch stated that ITAGAKI was still holding out, and that the Allied South-east Asia Command had not even preliminary indications that he was prepared to surrender.<sup>20/</sup> On 27 August 1945 the Singapore radio reported that ITAGAKI had issued the "cease fire" order to his troops, saying that he was willing to enter into conversations with the Allied commanders as soon as he received permission from his superior, Field Marshal TERAUCHI Hisaichi.<sup>18/</sup> However, on August 30, three days later, the Paris radio broadcast to French Indo China that it was learned on August 29 that General ITAGAKI had warned TERAUCHI that he was "determined to continue the battle despite the surrender order of the Emperor."<sup>18/</sup> Nevertheless, on 12 September 1945, ITAGAKI, representing the ailing TERAUCHI, the Commander-in-Chief of the Japanese Forces in the Southern Regions, surrendered to Lord Louis Mountbatten in Singapore.<sup>19/</sup>

A reliable source calls ITAGAKI Seishiro "one of the chief firebrands of the Japanese Army, strong-willed and determined. He is a man of action as well as words. He talks little, knows his job, and is a man of the people. An officer of broad policy, he has been called the most intelligent soldier in Japan.....A soldier first and foremost, he is reputed to be completely absorbed in his work."<sup>6/</sup>

ITAGAKI Seishiro - 7

- Sources
- 1/ Who's Whos (English language)
  - 2/ IRIS Source X
  - 3/ IRIS Source S
  - 4/ John Gunther, Inside Asia
  - 5/ Japan Weekly Chronicle, 21 July 1941
  - 6/ IRIS Source F
  - 7/ Japanese broadcasts
  - 8/ Kaizo, August 1941
  - 9/ Osaka Mainichi, English Edition, June 1938
  - 10/ HSU Cheng, "Japan's Double Policy", Living Age, November 1938
  - 11/ Hillis Lory, Japan's Military Masters
  - 12/ T.A. Bisson, Japan in China
  - 13/ MORI Gihyo, "ITAGAKI Seishiro", Chuo Koron, July 1938
  - 14/ "The Army's Three Men in China, ITAGAKI, ISHIMARA and TASHIRO", Kaizo, January 1937
  - 15/ IRIS BR-#17
  - 16/ Willard Price, "The Men who drive Japan", Harpers Magazine, December 1942
  - 17/ MISHIMA Yasuo, "ITAGAKI Seishiro and SUETSUGU Nobumasa", Kaizo, March 1937
  - 18/ Japanese broadcasts
  - 19/ Washington Evening Star, 12 September 1945
  - 20/ New York Times, 25 August 1945
  - 21/ An Encyclopedia of world History, Boston 1940
  - 22/ MISHIMA Yasuo, "ITAGAKI Seishiro", Kaizo, May 1937
  - 23/ Jinji Koshin Roku, 1940

THIS RECORD IS A SUMMARY OF SUCH INTELLIGENCE (FROM ONE OR MORE SOURCES AS INDICATED) AS WAS AVAILABLE AT THE TIME OF PREPARATION. IT MAY SUBSEQUENTLY BE SUBJECT TO AMENDMENT BY ADDITIONAL OR MORE RECENT INTELLIGENCE.

29 December 1945

FILE NO.: 383

Report by Erwin O. Kittleson  
Special Agent, CIC

RE : ITAGAKI, Seishiro  
(General)

STATUS: Pending

DATE : 18 February 1946

A search of the CIS files reveals the following information:

1885 Born at Morioka, Iwate-ken, son of Masanori Itagaki. Married Kikuto, daughter of Kenkichi OGOSHI.

1904 Graduate, Military Academy. Appointed sub-lt.; took part in Russo-Japanese war as infantry officer.

1916 Graduate, Military Staff College.

1924 Ass't Military Attache at Peking. Visited many places in China while holding that post and acquired much knowledge of the country.

1928 Colonel, Infantry, Commander, 33rd Inf. Regiment.

1929 - -

1931 Senior Staff, Kwantung Army Headquarters. Took active part in 1931 Incident, forming of Manchukuo, and the fight against banditry.

One of the "young colonels" who engineered the Manchurian Incident of 1931. Advocated Northern Expansion. (Biographical Material, Library, No. 4571).

1932 Major General, attached to Kwantung Army Headquarters.

1933 Attached to General Staff Headquarters. From January to July of this year made extensive trip through Europe and America.

1934 Commanded 5th Division. Vice-Chief of Staff, Kwantung Army, and concurrently Military Attache in Manchukuo.

COPIES: 3 File 383 ✓



1936 Chief of Staff, Kwantung Army.

1937 Commanded troops in North China ... particularly in  
1938 Hsuehchow Battle. (OWI Who's Who)  
Defeated at Tai-erh-chuang, May 1938.

Jun 1938 Succeeded General SUGIYAMA as War Minister and served  
in first KONOYE and HIRANUMA Cabinets. Concurrently

Aug 1939 President, Cabinet Manchurian Affairs Bureau.  
"... it was during his term as War Minister that the  
undeclared war with Russia was fought". (Biographical  
Material, Library, No. 4571).

Sep 1939 Chief of Staff, Japanese Army in China.

Jul 1941 Promoted to General. Commander-in-Chief, Chosen Army.

17 Aug 1943 Member of the Supreme War Council. One of the most  
powerful military leaders. (OWI Confidential Report,  
No. 2320).

Apr. 1945 Relieved as Commander-in-Chief (Chosen Army) by Lt. Gen.  
Yoshio KOZUKI.

(SOURCE: Of above information is as follows unless other sources quoted  
after the individual statements: List of Officials of Jap Government  
since 1937 and Their Biographies, IRP, No. 1648, MIS, WDGS, 21 Jul 1945;  
Tokyo Directory, 1940; Who's Who in Japan, 1943-44; OSS file information  
on Report of Italian Military Attache in Tokyo, June 1938.)

Suspected War Criminal because of an unstated crime committed in  
Japan in 1938. (List of Suspected War Criminals compiled by War Crimes  
Board, JAG, 12 Sep 1945).

Member of Sakura Kai (Cherry Blossom Society), a rightest organiza-  
tion composed of some of the most noted exponents of Japanese militarism  
and aggression. (Secret Societies in Japan, Special Report No. 2, OGCIO,  
GHQ, AFPAO, 21 August 1945).

Highly regarded in all military circles; reported to be very energetic,  
quick to make up his mind, and very brilliant. Well acquainted with all  
continental problems and with Chinese and Russian Affairs. Personal friend  
of President of the Council, Fumimaro KONOYE. (Report of Italian Military  
Attache in Tokyo for June 1938 - from OSS files).

A shrewd schemer and an able commander and staff officer. Identified with Manchuria for many years and credited with a major part in Manchurian Incident in 1931. A leader of the so-called "Young Officer" Group. Known as an advocate of vigorous execution of so-called continental policy. An authority on Chinese affairs. A close friend of former Premier TOJO, the two having been associated in the Kwantung Army during the 1930's. (List of Officials of Jap Government since 1937 and their Biographies, IRP, No. 1648, MIS, WDGS, 21 Jul 1945).

One of the chief firebrands of the Japanese Army; strong-willed and determined he is a man of action as well as of words. He talks little, knows his job, and is a man of the people. An officer of broad policy, he has been called the most intelligent soldier in Japan. Of great self-reliance, he is persuasive, generous minded, and ready to take daring and decisive action. A soldier first and foremost, he is reputed to be completely absorbed in his work. In 1938 he favored concluding a military alliance between Japan and Germany. Together with Generals DOIHARA and OKAMURA he was largely responsible for the creation of Manchukuo. In his present post in Korea, he is Japan's watch-dog on Russia. (Who's Who Among Japanese Military Leaders, IRP No. 1446, MIS, WDGS, 23 January 1945).

An investigation of the ASAHI SHIMBUN Morgue File revealed the following reference to ITAGAKI:

"Back of Curtain in Establishment of Manchukuo".

Since Ryujyoko Bridge explosion on 18 Sep 1931 from that incident till establishment of Manchukuo, ITAGAKI was one of the staff officers under Chief of Staff officer MIYAKE. At that time Commander-in-Chief of Kwantung Army was General HONJO. ITAGAKI was active in both politics and the military. He was active in the establishment of Manchukuo government together with Tokuzo KOMAI, KOMAI and ITAGAKI worked to convince General MA CHAN-SHAN, Chinese, that he should work in their government and he made it possible for the Japanese to enter Chichihar. For this service, General MA was made Chief of Staff of Manchukuo.

(SOURCE: Feature article in Teikoku Nichi Nichi, dated 10 Apr 1935).

ITAGAKI in an interview with the press prior to returning to Manchukuo said, "We must strengthen our military forces in Manchukuo. Another important thing is to increase immigration to Manchukuo. The plan is to immigrate five million in twenty years."

He further stated in the interview that there was nothing to fear about war with Russia as there was nothing to fight about.

(SOURCE: News item in ASAHI SHIMBUN dated 13 May 1936).

When ITAGAKI was made War Minister, he was recommended by the "Reforming Party" in military circles. He was known as the emblem of the new reforming power. Hedei TOJO was made vice-minister under ITAGAKI.

(SOURCE: News item in ASAHI SHIMBUN dated 4 Jun 1938).

In the annual New Year statement made by the Ministers, ITAGAKI stated that war clouds were over East Asia and that now the policy should be close cooperation among Manchukuo, China and Japan as a certain nation was increasing their military strength in East Asia. Therefore we need to establish peace in our occupied territories on the continent.

We are now at the critical crossroad and the people should cooperate in accomplishing this solidarity.

(SOURCE: News item in ASAHI SHIMBUN dated 1 Jan 1939).

On 10th of March 1940, ITAGAKI spoke in Nanking of his impressions. He said that the Japan and Russian War was closed with our victory thirty-six years ago. From that time all Asiatic nations started to awaken from a long sleep and since then The Manchurian Incident and the Chinese Incident occurred. All three (incidents) have the same purpose of making all nations in Asia free and establishing peace. We are trying to put all our occupied territories under one central government in China as we respect the Chinese independence and sovereignty. That is why we call this incident the "Holy War". Foreign powers are misconstruing our idea, therefore, this is a most important time to establish a new government based on cooperation.

(SOURCE: News Item in ASAHI SHIMBUN dated 11 March 1940).

Subject's name appears on War Criminal List "C-1" and he has not been interned.

The present address of ITAGAKI has been requested from the Central Liaison Office.

The files of ATIS have been checked but shows no information in addition to that given in this report.

This report completes investigation of all principal sources of information in regard to subject.

PENDING.



IPS

ITAGAKI, Seishiro (General) LHB:mhm

Chief of Staff

25 Feb 1946

It is deemed expedient to request the arrest, as a war criminal, one General Seishiro ITAGAKI, who the Japanese Government advises is presently in Singapore.

Information is requested as to whether or not there is any policy reason why the British Liaison should not be requested to effect his immediate return to Japan for incarceration in Sugamo Prison.

Theodore Goulby  
Lt. Col. Cav.  
Chief Admin. Division

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