

4100. B-7-O.

4101. The initial specialized activities of Section B-7 were concerned specifically and almost solely with the Japanese subdivision. The Officer-in-Charge of the Japanese desk (B-7-J) was also the Officer-in-Charge of the whole section. Information on individuals and organizations engaged in collecting military and economic data on the United States and spreading propaganda for the Japanese government was actively sought.

4102. Pursuant to the Counter Espionage Section Instructions, files were set up to include Japanese nationals, citizens of Japanese ancestry and Japanese sympathizers, with special attention to Japanese military and naval officers, couriers and individuals scheduled for custodial detention in the event of war; information-seeking organizations, prefectural and overseas associations, official and quasi-official organizations; religious institutions, including Shinto and Buddhist priests; Japanese language schools; consular agents and business firms. These files soon grew and developed to such an extent that the Office of Naval Intelligence possessed better knowledge, background and control of the Japanese than the other investigative agencies. Unqualified acknowledgement of the superiority of these files came on December 7, 1941, when both the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Military Intelligence were unable to produce lists of Japanese suspects and requested this information from the Office of Naval Intelligence. Formal recognition was reiterated in the revision of the Delimitation Agreement of February 9, 1942, which granted concurrent jurisdiction and responsibility over Japanese to the Office of Naval Intelligence and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

4103. On November 25, 1940 a schematic diagram of the Japanese Intelligence organization for the United States was sent out to the Naval

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Districts, enclosed in a letter which requested each district to draw up a detailed diagram of the Japanese intelligence activities within the district and which gave instructions as to activities to be included. Propaganda and enlightenment organizations were not included, in spite of the fact that their objectives of espionage were recognized. Quasi-official organizations, associations, clubs, language schools and religious institutions, as well as the known undercover agents and subversive units were included. Previous to this, on September 25, 1940, the Director of Naval Intelligence had sent a schematic diagram of Japanese intelligence, propaganda and enlightenment organizations in the United States to the Naval Districts for information and study by district intelligence personnel. No detailed diagrams were requested from the Naval Districts at this time, but a report containing recommendations for correction and improvement of the diagram was asked for. An additional letter on October 9, 1940 gave the information that Japanese consulates, government agencies, Japanese associations, etc., were part of the Japanese espionage, intelligence and propaganda organizations in the United States.

4104. Summaries and reports were made of the Japanese newspapers in the United States and Territory of Hawaii, as these papers could, and did, carry on propaganda inimical to the interests of the United States. These reports were currently reviewed, expanded and kept up to date. Publication of the majority of these papers was suspended after the declaration of war, but those which were still being published were carefully watched.

4105. In December 1941 a survey of Japanese intelligence and propaganda in the United States during 1941 was prepared and disseminated. By 1942 the Japanese desk had prepared additional specific information on Japanese in

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Terminal Island, San Pedro, California and Bainbridge Island, Puget Sound, Washington, the activities of the Tokyo Club gambling syndicate and its interlocking affiliations, Fascist White Russians, Japanese prefectural, regional and overseas societies, and similar subjects. At the outbreak of war, these files were made available to the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Military Intelligence Service.

4106. After the declaration of war, the repatriation of Japanese aliens became an outstanding problem of concern to the Office of Naval Intelligence. The Office of Naval Intelligence was named to act as the coordinating agency in submitting to the State Department the objections to repatriation sustained by the Military Intelligence Service, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Office of Naval Intelligence and the Alien Enemy Control Unit of the Department of Justice. This guaranteed unity of action on the part of the investigative agencies and also prevented or postponed the repatriation of any individuals who had pursued activities inimical to the interests of the United States or who might furnish information of value to their native countries.

4107. By the summer of 1942, in consideration of the concept of activities being defined by ideological rather than nationality spheres, and the fact that collaborationists and black sheep existed among allied and neutral nations, the scope of the Japanese desk was enlarged. The designation of the desk was changed to B-7-0, and bearing in mind the ideological concept, the activity of the desk was enlarged to include other Orientals--Chinese, Filipino, Indian, White Russian, Korean, and Siamese. Among all these nationals were those who were Fascist-minded, who would work with the Japanese. With the Japanese control in Manchuria, White Russians were often used as Japanese tools. The Koreans, as ~~Japanese~~ ^{Japanese} nationals, could be both useful and dangerous. The Chinese who bore watching were the seamen and those who served as Japanese puppets.

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4108. Under the directive of November 2, 1942, which called for the reorganization of the Office of Naval Intelligence, the Oriental desk intensified its attention to Japanese intelligence activities in Latin America, Europe, Africa, and the Far East. It was anticipated that, as naval operations in the eastern hemisphere gave way to military occupation, the problems of counter intelligence would assume considerable proportions.

4110. SPECIAL ACTIVITIES--Outstanding among the special activities and achievements of B-7-O were the following:

(A) REPRESENTED NAVY DEPARTMENT IN THE REPATRIATION OF JAPANESE AND IN THE COLLATERAL PROBLEM OF THE EXCHANGE OF AMERICAN CITIZENS HELD IN THE FAR EAST.

(SEE PARAGRAPH 4000, SECTION II)

(B) REPRESENTED NAVY DEPARTMENT IN THE RELOCATION OF JAPANESE-AMERICANS FROM THE WEST COAST IN 1943.

(SEE PARAGRAPH 5000, SECTION II)

(C) ASSISTED WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY IN THE PLACEMENT OF JAPANESE-AMERICAN STUDENTS IN 1942 AND 1943.

(SEE PARAGRAPH 5020, SECTION II).

(D) ASSISTED THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE IN PREPARATION OF THE GOVERNMENT'S BRIEF IN CELEBRATED CASE TESTING THE CONSTITUTIONALITY OF THE MILITARY CONTROL OF AND EVACUATION FROM THE WEST COAST OF PERSONS OF JAPANESE ANCESTRY.

(SEE PARAGRAPH 5010, SECTION II)

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- (E) BEGINNING IN SEPTEMBER 1943, PREPARED AND FORWARDED WEEKLY INTELLIGENCE DIGESTS TO COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF, PACIFIC FLEET.
(SEE PARAGRAPH 6000, SECTION II)
- (F) IN SEPTEMBER 1944, PREPARED AND FORWARDED TO M-2, MARINE CORPS, INFORMATION ON THE PALAU ISLANDS GROUP.
(SEE PARAGRAPH 20,000, SECTION II)
- (G) IN OCTOBER 1944, FORWARDED TO JICPOA AN EXTENSIVE REPORT ON COLLABORATION AND PUPPETRY IN THE PHILIPPINES.
(SEE PARAGRAPH 21,000, SECTION II)
- (H) IN SEPTEMBER 1944, FURNISHED COMNAVEU AND SHARP EXTENSIVE INFORMATION ON JAPANESE AND PRO-JAPANESE ESPIONAGE ACTIVITIES IN GERMANY, FRANCE, THE NETHERLANDS AND BELGIUM.
(SEE PARAGRAPH 22,000, SECTION II)
- (I) IN NOVEMBER 1944, FORWARDED TO JICPOA EXTENSIVE COUNTER-INTELLIGENCE DATA ON TAIWAN (FORMOSA).
(SEE PARAGRAPH 25,000, SECTION II)
- (J) IN NOVEMBER 1944, FORWARDED TO JICPOA COUNTER-INTELLIGENCE DATA ON THE IZU AND BONIN ISLANDS.
(SEE PARAGRAPH 26,000, SECTION II)
- (K) IN JANUARY 1945, FORWARDED TO JICPOA EXTENSIVE COUNTER-INTELLIGENCE DATA ON THE NANSEI SHOTO.
(SEE PARAGRAPH 27,000, SECTION II)
- (L) IN APRIL 1945, FORWARDED IN JICPOA EXTENSIVE COUNTER-INTELLIGENCE DATA ON JAPAN.
(SEE PARAGRAPH 32,000, SECTION II)

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SECTION II

SPECIAL ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

1000. Trained Experts: In addition to training experts in the study of enemy, Communistic and foreign groups most likely to affect adversely the war-making power of the Navy, the section established an outstanding unit qualified to handle problems peculiar to the Japanese and the Orient and maintain files on individuals, organizations and movements adverse to U. S. Naval Policy. The suspect files of the section covered all nationalities and by 1 January 1944 compressed some 750,000 names.

1005. Japanese Spy Ring Exposed: Through the work of the section the activities of the Japanese espionage ring centered about Commander Itaru TACHIBANA, IJN, was exposed early in 1941. When TACHIBANA was seized there was found in his possession a tremendous amount of information about the U. S. Naval Establishment, defense industries, personalities and geography of the West Coast. He was deported on 23 June 1941.

1010. Italian Ships Saved for U.S. Through activities of the section, the proper Naval and Coast Guard authorities were warned in March 1941 of Italian plans to destroy Italian merchant vessels in U. S. ports in ample time to prevent execution of the whole plan and to save the vessels for U. S. usage.

1015. Watch on Japanese Embassy: Through its activities the section learned on 5 December 1941 that the Japanese Embassy in Washington had started burning secret papers. This was reported to higher authority instantly.

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