

11 July 1946

DECLASSIFIED
Authority *NND 883020*
By *ME* 10/29/91
NARA, DC

MEMORANDUM

Subject: Evidence of Japanese Subversive Activity in the United States

The Office of Naval Intelligence has reason to believe that the Japanese Government, particularly its Naval representatives in the U.S., was engaged in espionage and other subversive activities especially before the outbreak of the American Japanese War on 7 December 1941. The following examples, based on Office of Naval Intelligence files, are listed to support this belief.

Evidence of Japanese Naval Espionage

FARNSWORTH, John Semar

On 26 February 1937 FARNSWORTH, Lt. Comdr., USN, was dismissed from the Naval Service by order of a general court-martial. In November 1936 he was convicted in the District Court of the U.S. for the District of Columbia on a conspiracy indictment charging him with unlawfully disclosing information on national defense to representatives of a foreign nation in violation of Section 34, Title 50, U.S. Code. He was sentenced to be confined in the Federal penitentiary from four to twelve years. *X* ✓ FARNSWORTH admitted having sold information of military significance to Captain Bunjiro YAMAGUCHI, Captain Tamon YAMAGUCHI, Comdr. Yoshiyuki ICHIMLYA and Lt. Comdr. Akira YAMAKI, all attached to the Japanese Naval Attache's Office in Washington, D.C.

FURNISHED

KIRKEBY, Oliver Albert

X ✓ While a GM 3/c in the U.S. Navy, subject admitted furnishing Tom Kazuo TATSUMI (alias Tom YAMAMOTO), clerk at the Olympic Hotel in San Francisco, in 1935 with Naval information. TATSUMI was one of the chief contacts of Japanese Naval espionage agents on the West Coast. Photostatic copies of letters KIRKEBY sent TATSUMI are available.

THOMPSON, Harry Thomas

X ✓ THOMPSON, a former enlisted man in the U.S. Navy, was convicted in 1936 and sentenced to fifteen years for impersonating a petty officer. He sold Naval information to Japanese Naval representatives then on the West Coast, particularly Lt. Comdr. Toshio MIYAZAKI. Specific instructions by MIYAZAKI requested of THOMPSON included questions on floating mines, smoke screens and power of torpedoes. THOMPSON admitted furnishing

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THOMPSON, Harry Thomas (cont'd)

information re anti-aircraft guns on the U.S.S. MILWAUKEE, some specimen 50 caliber bullets and target practice results. On 20 December 1935, the Deputy Sheriff of Los Angeles County, James FOESE, obtained the manuscript of a narrative prepared by THOMPSON, purportedly for publication under a pseudonym, which detailed his contacts with MIYAZAKI and other Japanese government officials in the United States.

FUJII, Shigeru Lt. Comdr., IJN

Subject was engaged in intelligence activities in the Washington State area from June 1934 until 1936. In May 1935, FUJII secured confidential maps of Alaska and sent information to Japan in the ship's safe of a Nippon Yusen Kaisha liner. Evidence includes original notations by FUJII on the topography of Alaska observed by him. FUJII trained Lt. Comdr. Sadatomo OKADA, his successor.

MATSUDA, Yoshio Lt. Comdr., IJN

In 1934 and 1935 subject was Assistant Naval Attache at the Japanese Naval Attache's Office in Washington, D.C., and was active in obtaining information of military value on the East Coast. In December 1934 he was arrested by Captain E.E. LIPPHARD, Chief of Detectives in St. Petersburg, Florida for taking pictures of the USS TRENTON and the waterfront. During this same period he admitted to Captain LIPPHARD that photographs taken by him were forwarded to the Japanese Government in Tokyo. A month previously, MATSUDA was observed carefully looking at and making sketches of the Newport, Rhode Island Naval Torpedo Station and of Fort Adams.

OHMAE, Toshikazu Lt. Comdr., IJN
(Alias: FUKUCHI, Gisaburo)

Active on the West Coast of the U.S. from 1935 to 1937, subject was in possession of a document which gave Japanese Naval General Staff instructions for the obtaining of intelligence in the U.S. These instructions requested information on military tactics, identification of allied units, education and training in U.S. Navy, Naval communications.

OKADA, Sadatomo Lt. Comdr., IJN

Subject was active on the West Coast of the U.S., particularly in the Washington and Oregon area, collecting Naval information during 1940 and 1941. Considerable photostatic evidence is available of notes made by OKADA re the types of information desired by the Japanese Government (such as U.S. Navy aviation training methods, air attacks on surface ships, ship

OKADA, Sadatomo (cont'd)

building), notes on the Columbia Aircraft Company in Portland, Oregon, silhouettes of U.S. Naval vessels, a map of Seattle, Washington on which was marked the location of anti-aircraft positions, and data on Alaskan defense installations.

TACHIBANA, Itaru Lt. Comdr., IJN

Deported from the U.S. on 23 June 1941 due to accumulated evidence of extensive espionage and organizational activities on the West Coast, subject was partly responsible for establishing the U.S. branch of the NIPPON KAIGUN KYOKAI (Japan Navy League), an organization dedicated to collecting Naval information for Japan. Although the majority of TACHIBANA's information was obtained from newspapers, about 30% of information on ship movements and changes, war plants, defense facilities was obtained by observation.

*Confidential
Admission
D. H. ...
X*

Evidence of Japanese Military Espionage

NISHIMURA, Otoji Major, IJA

Active on the West Coast of the U.S. in 1935 and 1936, NISHIMURA was observed sketching the shoreline at Seward Park Beach, Washington, taking photographs of the Boeing Airport in Seattle, taking photos of Fort Lawton, taking photos of Alert Bay and Alaskan installations.

TONAMI, Munemichi Lt. Col., IJA

Subject traveled extensively on the West Coast of the U.S. obtaining information of military value in 1936 and 1937. TONAMI stated in a letter to a Colonel MATSUMOTO, dated 14 February 1936, that one of the reasons for entering the Boeing Aeronautical School was that he would be able to get some inside information on the Company itself and to make a survey of U.S. aeronautical training institutions. TONAMI was in possession of typed instructions issued by Tetsuzan NAGATA, Chief of the Military Affairs Bureau of the War Ministry, dated 29 June 1935, which required him to study new developments in the aircraft field and, specifically warned him to be very careful when attempting to obtain information of a secret nature.

X

Evidence of Japanese Foreign Office Espionage

KOTOSHIRODO, Richard Masayuki

X ✓ Formerly a clerk in the Japanese Consulate-General, Honolulu, T.H., subject is one of the few American citizens of Japanese ancestry who admitted being engaged in intelligence activities on behalf of the Japanese Government. KOTOSHIRODO admitted making innumerable trips out of Honolulu with Tadashi MORIMURA, Consular Secretary, checking movements of U.S. Fleet vessels from Pearl City Peninsula and observing defense installations.

KUEHN, Bernard Julius Otto

X ✓ An ex-officer of the German Navy, subject admitted making arrangements with the Japanese Consul General in Honolulu, Nagao KITA, for a system of signaling by lights, fires and radio (presumably to communicate with Japanese ships at sea) which signals were to be used to announce the departure of U.S. Naval units from Pearl Harbor.

Evidence of Espionage by Japanese Fishing Fleet

Reasons for believing the Japanese fishing fleet off the West Coast of the U.S. was engaged in espionage activities are partially based upon:

In 1937, Chancellor Shigemi HAYASHIDA of the Japanese Consulate in Los Angeles, California authored a report entitled "Fishing in Southern California," which gave detailed information on number and nationality of fishermen operating out of Los Angeles, San Pedro and San Diego, an entire chapter on the Japanese fishermen and statistical data, including number of Japanese fishing vessels, areas where they were operating, tonnage, port facilities and personnel crew data.

On 18 January 1942, a group of Japanese fishermen were observed fishing in the proximity of the proposed air base in Oak Harbor, Washington.

Adman? Yoshiichi TERAMAE, leading fisherman in the Hawaiian Tuna Fleet operating out of Pearl Harbor, falsified the fact that he had served in the Japanese Navy as a machinist from 1914 to 1918 when applying for a permit to enter Kaneohe Bay, a defensive sea area.

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In March 1938, Coast Guard members boarded the ESS 3,4,5 upon their arrival in San Pedro from Ensenada for the purpose of examining the ships' papers. Shin SHIBATA, long suspected espionage agent and owner of the three boats, refused to disclose the nationality of the boats in a statement filed with the Coast Guard and failed to file papers setting forth their nationality. The Japanese nationality of these vessels was affirmed by the Mexican Consulate in Los Angeles, though the Japanese Consulate denied the boats were Japanese.

Iwao KIHARA of 1415 Main Street, Seattle, Washington, the son of the head of the Main Fish Company, was a frequent caller on Lt. Comdr. Shigeru FUJII, known Naval intelligence agent.

JAPANESE NAVAL RESERVISTS ON FISHING VESSELS

Document?
Takuzo SUZUKI, allegedly a representative of the KYODO SUISAN KABUSHIKI KAISHA in Tokyo, was in Alaska in May 1936, when he went out on Japanese fishing boats with a movie camera. It was later ascertained that SUZUKI was an officer in the Japanese Navy and that he had been engaged in securing military information about Alaska.

OBSERVATION OF U.S. VESSELS

Captain R. J. HEALEY, Master of the Motor Ship WEST CUSSETA, which arrived in San Pedro on 13 November 1941 from the Orient, reported that on the outbound voyage on 13 September a Japanese coasting vessel was sighted. This Japanese ship dispatched a radio message to the Japanese Navy giving pertinent data about the MS WEST CUSSETA.

On 20 September 1941, the Japanese sampan SUMIYOSHI MARU, captained by Junichi YANAGIHARA of 534 Luna Lane, Honolulu, T.H., was apprehended by the U.S.S. SCHENLEY for entering the defensive sea area off Pearl Harbor.

The sampan YAMATO MARU, 32B82 FG 182, a radio rigged boat of the Hawaiian Tuna Packers, Ltd. of Honolulu, was observed on 2 August 1941 and on 11 September 1941 by the U.S.S. CHESTER in the firing area observing gunnery practice.

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Evidence of Espionage by Japanese Commercial Firms

YOKOHAMA SHOKIN GINKO (Yokohama Specie Bank)

X ✓
Bunjiro HIRANO, Assistant Manager of the YOKOHAMA SHOKIN GINKO branch in San Francisco, California was fully aware of Lt. Comdr. Toshio MIYAZAKI's activities in this country as attested to by two letters written by Tom Kazuo TATSUMI, then clerk at the Yamato Hotel in San Francisco. HIRANO wrote an interoffice memo in 1936 which stated that Lt. Comdr. Toshikazu OMAE used the alias of Gisaburo FUKUCHI and hid the fact that he was in the IJN. Seiichi ARAKI, formerly attached to the San Francisco branch, admitted after the outbreak of the war that he had forwarded national defense information to YOKOHAMA SHOKIN GINKO headquarters in Tokyo and that such information was not connected with the bank business.

NIPPON YUSEN KAISHA (Japan Mail Line)

*Document
verified*
In October 1941, the NYK liner AKAGI MARU transported to Mexico official Japanese documents entrusted to its captain by the Los Angeles Japanese Consulate destined for the Japanese Naval Attache in Mexico. Major Frederick Joseph RUTLAND, British Army, who was arrested in London in December 1941 as a Japanese agent, was given full cooperation by the NYK branch in Los Angeles aboard the KAMAKURA MARU in August 1939.

MITSUBISHI SHOJI KAISHA (Mitsubishi Trading Company)

On 10 January 1940, the San Francisco branch of the MITSUBISHI SHOJI KAISHA wrote to Comdr. YATSUGI in Los Angeles stating that they had recently been sending him information on the petroleum industry in California, hoping that it was of value. Evidence is available of the close cooperation given Japanese Army and Navy officers on the West Coast in connection with visiting private industrial establishments.

MITSUI & CO.

Under the guise of business negotiations and research into commercial information, MITSUI sent to its Tokyo headquarters information on the strength of the U.S. and its ability to wage war.

Miscellaneous InformationUSE OF AMERICAN PUBLICATIONS

Both prior to and during the American Japanese War, the Japanese Government through its representatives or intermediaries made extensive use of American publications as a source of espionage information concerning the military potential and activities of this country.

UNREGISTERED PROPAGANDISTS

Frederick Vincent WILLIAMS, Ralph W. TOWNSEND and David Warren RYDER were convicted of failure to abide by the Foreign Agents Registration Law in the early part of 1942. All three were engaged in the dissemination of Japanese propaganda in the U.S. as agents of or indirectly financed by Japanese Foreign Office representatives in the U.S.

He is
known?

NIPPON KAIGUN KYOKAI (Japan Navy League)

A U.S. mainland branch of the DAI NIPPON KAIGUN KYOKAI was established in Los Angeles, California, in 1938 with the backing of Dr. Takashi FURUSAWA, an alien Japanese doctor who is strongly suspected of having engaged in intelligence activities, and Lt. Comdr. Itaru TACHIBANA, known Naval intelligence agent. One of the purposes of the Japan Navy League, stated in its charter, is the collection of information on foreign Naval capabilities.

JAPANESE AGITATION AMONG THE NEGROES

Japanese Government representatives in the U.S. endeavored to organize the Negroes for the purpose of retarding the progress of plans in this country for national defense and economy. This activity started in the early 1930's with Naka NAKANE (alias Satohata TAKAHASHI) in the Detroit area. Major Ichiji SUGITA, attached to the American Section of the Second Department, Army General Staff, attempted to establish contact with NAKANE in early 1941 while on an official visit to the U.S. Yasuichi HIKIDA (alias Yonezo HIRAYAMA), attached to the Japanese Consulate-General in New York City as a research analyst, made extensive studies of the Negro situation in the U.S. and was in close contact with the Japanese Naval Inspector's Office in New York City.