

Ex 3563

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INTERNATIONAL MILITARY TRIBUNAL FOR THE FAR EAST

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, et al

- VS -

ARAKI, Sadao, et al

Sworn Deposition

Deponent: Nobuo NIIJIMA

Having first duly sworn an oath as shown on attached sheet and in accordance with the procedure followed in my country I hereby depose as follows:

1. My name is Nobuo NIIJIMA and I was formerly a Rear Admiral in the Japanese Navy. I know the facts surrounding the award received by Admiral SHIMADA in connection with the conclusion of the Anti-Comintern Pact because at that time I was in charge of decorations of naval personnel in my capacity as member of the Second Section of the Personnel Bureau of the Navy Ministry.
2. The procedure followed in regard to these decorations was as follows. The Decorations Bureau of the Cabinet, composed of civilians, through the Foreign Office received the names of potential award candidates. (The Navy itself named its own candidates for the reception of such awards.) These names so selected were submitted to the Foreign Office and by the Foreign Office to the Decorations Bureau of the Cabinet for approval or disapproval.
3. In regard to the awards for the conclusion of the Anti-Comintern Pact, the Navy submitted seventeen names to the Foreign Office which were relayed to the Decorations Bureau. The Decorations Bureau however did not accept all of these seventeen recommendations made by the Navy but rejected eleven of them including the name of Admiral SHIMADA. Thereafter

there was considerable controversy because the Army was to be given ten awards and the Navy only six. Hence the Navy sought to have the Army's awards reduced or their own increased so that they would have parity. Besides the numerical differences the awards for the Navy were of a lower order than the Army awards. The Navy was then allowed to submit a supplemental list of four persons who held ranks in the Navy corresponding to award receivers tentatively nominated by the Army. This is where Admiral SHIMADA came in. Because he was Vice Chief of Naval General Staff his was one of the four additional names submitted.

4. Therefore Admiral SHIMADA, as Vice Chief of Naval General Staff, had not been included in the original list of recipients as set out by the Decorations Bureau and the Navy had no intention of having an award given to him in his capacity as Vice Chief of Naval General Staff if the Army had agreed to a reduction in the number of its awards.
5. Hence the matter of Admiral SHIMADA receiving an award in connection with the conclusion of the Anti-Comintern Pact was really a matter of his position with the Navy and not dependent upon merit. He ultimately received only a set of small silver wine cups which was a B class award with many others receiving much higher decorations for the occasion such as medals and gold cups.

On this 19th day of November, 1947
At IMTFE, Tokyo.

DEPONENT: Nobuo NIIJIMA

I, Nobuo NIIJIMA, hereby certify that the above statement was sworn by the Deponent, who affixed his signature and seal thereto in the presence of this witness.

On the same date
At the same place.

Witness (signed) Yoshitsugu TAKAHASHI (Seal)

OATH

In accordance with my conscience I swear to tell the whole truth withholding nothing and adding nothing.

Nobuo NIIJIMA (Seal)