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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCE METHOD EXEMPTION 3B2B
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2008

WACHI Takaji

Chief of Staff, 35th Army (November 1944); Assistant Chief of Staff, Southern Army (February 1945). (Wartime O/B Information; card only)

KAWANOTO Yoshitaro supervised WACHI's RAN KIKAN in the Shanghai area, an organization set up for the purpose of subverting Chinese for use by the Japanese. A classmate of both Major General YAMAMOTO (fnu), head of the KIKU KIKAN, and Major General KAGESA Sadaaki. Major General, Japanese Army, Infantry, at the time of his leadership of the RAN KIKAN (1938-1942). He was later elevated to Lieutenant General and served from 1942 onward primarily in military commands. WACHI had had many years in China, and was quite fluent in the Chinese language, and claimed to be on good terms with many high-ranking Chungking figures in the Chinese Nationalist regime. For these reasons, not by reason of any intelligence experience, he was ordered in 1938 to form the RAN (Orchid) KIKAN, with the objective of secret political operations to subvert the Chungking government and simultaneously to procure military information concerning Chungking. When WACHI had been in Kwangsi much earlier, he had formed a close connection with LI Tsung-jen and PAI Chung-hsi, leaders of the later "Kwangsi Clique". His prime operations were aimed at subversion and defection of these individuals, which he claimed would only be a matter of time. WACHI often boasted that their friendship and loyalty toward him was very great, and LI and PAI apparently played along with him a bit. Actually, source () indicates that the general consensus of opinion was that the two Chinese leaders, who had a very influential and almost autonomous position in South China, really disliked WACHI intensely even though he did not realize it. In any event, he never succeeded in defecting them.

WACHI'S RAN KIKAN, in contrast to the UME KIKAN, produced very few reports, and although WACHI is not believed to have been dishonest, he was considered in the Shanghai area to be completely unfit for intelligence work. The RAN KIKAN remained small throughout its rather non-productive history. WACHI was a classmate of KAGESA at Army Officers' School, and their personal relations were always good except for occasional professional entanglement. Source met WACHI occasionally during his Shanghai tour of duty and was on good terms with him. Source likes WACHI but does not think much of his ability. Source first met WACHI in a professional capacity about the end of 1939. Source had rounded up a number of clandestine radio operators in the Shanghai area who had been under suspicion for some time, jailed them, and prepared to interrogate them. Several days later, WACHI phoned him, even though Source's office was a stone's throw from WACHI's and indicated quite insecurely on the telephone that several of the jailed radio operators belonged to the RAN KIKAN. Source quickly visited WACHI and WACHI could not describe nor name the operators. He did not know which officer in his unit was running those radiomen, so, with Source still present, he called in all his unit officers to find out which officer was running what radio operators! Later, when WACHI moved off into the Hankow area, as he did several times, he set up a large sign at his billet in Hangkow reading "WACHI BUTAI HQ"; visitors entering saw the eminent major general and one enlisted clerk! Most of WACHI's few subordinates were civilians, some of whom were reputed to be quite able.

As the above anecdotes illustrate, WACHI was a very insecure person for intelligence work, and apparently had few clear ideas of exactly what he was after. He frequently became very enthusiastic about a project advanced by a subordinate, approved it, and then forgot completely what it was or why he had wanted it. As a result, WACHI's projects were often very numerous, but few of them ever were followed through to

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logical and successful conclusion. His thinking was rapid, enthusiastic, and large-scale, but he could never wait for results and hardly recognized common ordinary intelligence information as a worthwhile result - BIG things had to happen, and QUICKLY to suit him. The few successes achieved on a working level by the RAN KIKAN were primarily due to subordinates and in spite of WACHI. Nevertheless, WACHI was highly thought of by Imperial GHQ. He operated far and wide with very little assistance, but if he had achieved any successes, all of Shanghai and Nanking would have heard about it from him, so it is very doubtful if he did not get very far in his political objectives. (ZJL-604, 19 Apr 51, [] CE File III-33).

Together with SATOMI Ryosaku and BABA Yusuke, KURIHARA Sho has now strengthened connections with the famous Rightist philosopher, OKAWA Shumei, and to the central figures affiliated with the GENYOSHA: TANAKA Shinichi, WACHI Takaji and KOBAYASHI Shosaburo... Many of SATOMI's private connections are not clearly discernible even now, but the following definite relationships can be reported: OIKAWA Genshichi, AKIGUSA Toshi, Lt General WACHI Takaji, SAKURABA Shiro, etc. (ZJL-621, 18 May 51, [] CE File III-36.2)

The JONAN Group contains former politicians like BABA Yusuke and TAKASE Den with connections to OKAWA Shumei and HATOYAMA Ichihiro; former diplomats KURIHARA Sho, TSUCHIDA Yutaka, and KAWAI Tatsu; ex-Army leaders TANAKA Shinichi, OBA @ SAKURABA Shiro, and, lately, OIKAWA Genshichi; former Navy leaders MAEDA Minoru, KOBAYASHI Shosaburo, KAWAHARA Yoshiro, and Admiral YAMAMOTO's son-in-law, Captain FUKUSHIMA, in addition to officials in the NSA who are former Navy men; former I.S. and TOKUNU KIKAN figures like NISHIHARA Masao, Deputy G-2, Kwantung Army, and WACHI Takaji of RAN KIKAN; last but hardly least, it includes SATOMI Ryosaku @ Hajime, onetime associate of KODAMA Yoshio's in China and supporter of the Army Intelligence Units in China by virtue of his vast economic operations, legal or otherwise - a shadowy "friend" of the great in every field.

If the present alignment of the JONAN Group is maintained and friendly relations with KAWABE Torashiro and his subordinates continue, inclusion of Assistant Kwantung Army G-2 NISHIHARA, SAKURABA Shiro, and WACHI Takaji on top subordinate levels in the Army Intelligence section will probably result. (ZJL#1473, 11 May 1951; CE File III-1)

(1800 hours, 18 May 1951) SATOMI Ryosaku and KURIHARA Sho contacted Lt General WACHI Takaji and discussed the Army revival issue. (ZJL-627, 24 May 51, [] CE File III-36.2)

Member of former SAKURAI KAI, now in anti-UGAKI Kazushige faction (ZJL-699B, 24 Aug 51, [] UGAKI Issei dossier).

(1000 hours 26 Aug 51) The following persons attended the meeting called "A Fishing Meeting" at SUGANO Fumitoshi's (@ KANNO @ KUAN Wen-Shan) house: SUGANO, SATOMI, MIURA Gieichi, KANDA Koichi, KURIHARA, IJAKURO Hideo, DOI Akio, NAKAYAMA Yu, WACHI, etc. (ZJL-735, 15 Oct 51, [] CE File III-36.2)

See ZJJ-36, pg 6, [], 7 Mar. 52. HARUKE Yoshitane Dossier.