

SHIGEMITSU, Mamoru

The particulars with regard to SHIGEMITSU, Mamoru are to be found on Page 337 of the Chronological Summary, and the additional exhibits which directly affect him are: Exhibits No. 123, 2279, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025-A, 2026, 983, 1017 (Record Page 9683), 1018 (R.P. 9688), 1023, (R.P. 9712), 2016-A, 1275 (R.P. 11,364), 773-A (R.P. 8061), 973 (R.P. 7876, 829-A (R.P. 8007), 662 (R.P. 7169), 664 (R.P. 7183), 1274.

This able diplomat, after service in the Foreign Ministry and China, was appointed in 1935 as Councillor of the Board of Manchurian Affairs, having previously been decorated for his services in China 1931-1934; in 1936 was appointed Ambassador to the U.S.S.R.; in September, 1938 was appointed Ambassador to Great Britain; in 1941 (February) he became Ambassador to the Republic of China, and finally, 20 April 1943, Minister of Foreign Affairs, which position he held until 7 April 1945 (Exhibit 123).

While still Ambassador to the U.S.S.R. (2 January 1938) he was rewarded for services in concluding the Anti-Comintern Pact (Exhibit 983).

In May 1940, while Ambassador to Great Britain, he cabled ARITA (Foreign Minister) to apply National Policy to the South Seas Areas (This after the German Conquest of Belgium and Holland) (Exhibit 1017). On 5 August 1940 he cabled MATSUOKA (Foreign Minister) to dispose of France and the Netherlands in East Asia first to profit Japan most (Exhibit 1023).

In September, 1941 he talked with KIDO about U. S. negotiations (Exhibit 2279).

While Foreign Minister he consistently denied requests of protecting Powers to visit POW Camps, which was in violation of treaties and assurances (Exhibits Nos. 2016-A, 2017, 2018, 2019).

He refused to permit the protecting Power to ask certain questions of POW in the few visits permitted to POW Camps (Exhibits Nos. 2020, 2021).

He was at Privy Council Meeting which supported the annexation by Thailand of Shan States from Burma (violation of treaties) (Exhibit No. 1275) and heard without protest TOJO's cynical remarks about International Law, a matter peculiarly within his province.

In September, 1943, he made a speech glorifying the Tri-Partite Pact (Exhibit No. 773-A); and in December, 1943, he made another speech accusing the U.S.A. and England of being forces of aggression (Exhibit No. 973).

He was notified by the Swiss (protecting Power) of the ill-treatment of POW continuously - 1943-1945 (Exhibit No. 2022).

He was notified particularly of mistreatment of POW in Thailand, and denied same, although report of bad conditions had been made to the Japanese Government (Exhibits Nos. 473, 2023, 1989).

He received protests through the Swiss re mistreatment of U. S. interned civilians, but made false reports concerning their treatment (Exhibit No. 2024).

He received protests through the Swiss re the use of U. S. POW for labor in connection with operations of war, but made false answers thereto (1943-1945) (Exhibit No. 2025-A).

He received protests through the Swiss and International Red Cross re lack of food for POW, and refused to make a change (Exhibit No. 2026).

On 31 January 1945 he made a speech in the Diet saying, ". . . . sacred mission to keep fighting for common war aims of international Justice in war of self-existence and self-defense" (Exhibit No. 829-A).

On 3 March 1945 he received a telegram from Saigon re camp in French Indo-China (Exhibit No. 662) and made no objection to Japan taking over control there 10 March 1945, although in violation of treaties and assurances (Exhibits Nos. 662, 664).

While the aggressions against China were going on in Manchuria, he was councillor of the Embassy and Consul-General in China - 1930-1934; then after the aggression in Manchuria was a "fait accompli" he became Councillor to the Board of Manchurian Affairs (1935-1936), and thereafter was decorated for services in China "Affair". (Page 337 Narrative Summary).

During the crucial period - 1936-1938, when it was essential to keep the U.S.S.R. quiet while further territory of China was seized, he was there as Ambassador. Then 1938-1941 he was Ambassador to Great Britain wiring back to Japan to further aggress in Southeast Asia against the weak powers. He was part and parcel of the conspiracy to wage a war of aggression from 1931 on.

He became a member of the Government as Foreign Minister 20 April 1943 and continued as such until 7 April 1945. To protests re mistreatment of POW and violation of treaties and assurances he turned a deaf ear. He delayed responses to, he denied, he treated with contempt, and he lied about the protests from the U. S. and Britain, submitted through Switzerland, the protecting Power. He cannot now be permitted to hide behind such a defense as that submitted in his motion that the Army "misinformed him". He was responsible for permitting to continue the violations of treaties and assurances and the customs and laws of war. As Foreign Minister it was his duty to see that Japan abided by her treaties and assurances. He failed in his duty, either through wilful ignorance or design - the evidence points to the latter.