

1 DOIHARA, General Kenji
947: ~~Szechwan~~

Jap-~~2~~ J-1

~~SECRET~~ JAPAN

1A 1215
OSS Report
F.E.D. of I-2
June 1943

Japanese super-spy, agent-provocateur extraordinary and manufacturer of incidents who figures prominently in the inner workings of Japanese espionage in China. He has been called the Japanese T. E. Lawrence and is one of the few Japanese who can pass in all respects as a Chinese in China. However, he has had so much publicity that his identity is now well known. He is clever, but, according to the Chinese, he has made many blunders. His 14th Division was severely defeated in Honan when the Chinese cut the Yellow River dikes and drowned most of his soldiers. This defeat confirmed the suspicion that he was a better trickster than he was a fighting general. In August 1942 he was taken out of China for a time and made Inspector General of Army Aviation.

hlc

General Kenji Doihara was born in August 1883. He graduated from the Military Staff College in 1912. He was Mayor of Mukden at the time of the Manchuria incident and later Chief of the Special Service Department (a secret intelligence organization) of the Japanese Kwangtung Army Garrison in Mukden and Dairen. He was promoted to Lieutenant General in 1936 and made Commander of the 14th Division in 1937. After the defeat of this division in Honan he was recalled to Japan and made Inspector General of Army Aviation. For more than twenty years Doihara bought and sold Chinese politicians and war lords in an effort to undermine China's power and establish Japan's Empire in China. Doihara was early imbued with the ideas of Mitsu Toyama, of Black Dragon Society fame, for a world-wide super-intelli-

31108
Based on an
Article in the
Detroit News
21 Sept. 1943

NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT

OVER

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Doihara (Continued)

gence, directed towards furthering Japan's aggressive, expansionist policy. Doihara is said to have once trudged all over Korea disguised as a peddler furthering the doctrines of Toyama.

Doihara concentrated on Chinese affairs and became one of the few Japanese officers who so mastered the Chinese language that, when wearing Chinese clothes, the Chinese themselves could not tell that he was a Japanese. He also learned Chinese tricks of etiquette and manner and was able to sing Chinese songs and discuss Chinese literature and art. This added to his fame, but as time went on, he became so widely known that he was unable to preserve his incognito.

Doihara in the early thirties was middle aged. An amiable-looking person, with an athletic build, he had none of the mannerisms of the typical Japanese spy of fiction. He is said to have a good-natured, pleasant manner, rather like a YMCA secretary. He made a speciality of information about people and was said to have had a dossier on every American in Shanghai, down to the last hair on his chest.

Doihara was Mayor of Mukden at the time of the Mukden Incident (1931) and is credited with being one of the planners of the incident. His appearance in any locality invariably forbode a fresh Japanese plot. Doihara was high adviser to Marshal Chang Tso-lin and is suspected of having engineered the plot that killed him. He is said to have groomed Henry Pu Yi for the job of Puppet Emperor of Manchukuo and to have been instrumental in placing him on the throne. It is believed that Doihara failed to realize his greatest ambition of

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3 Doihara (Continued)

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the scheme to separate the Five Northern Provinces from China and make them "autonomous" i.e., under Japanese control. His plans were thwarted by the wily Chinese and in 1935-36 Tokyo was not yet ready to go to war. So Doihara was repudiated by his government and his schemes for an Autonomy Movement collapsed. As a face-saver, he was able to set up a Puppet Regime in East Hopei which proved of great strategic value to Japan and was useful as a vast narcotic and smuggling base from which operations were carried on southward under the direction of Doihara's own Special Service Section of the Japanese Army. In the long years of his undercover political maneuverings, Doihara kept the press and public in the dark as to his activities, but suddenly in 1936 he broke forth with press interviews that fairly dripped of Japan's honeyed gospel of peace, happiness and prosperity for China. At the same time he denied emphatically that Japan was anti-foreign or that he had any ideas whatsoever of an Asia-for-the Asiatics. After the military mutiny in Tokyo in February 1936, Doihara was recalled to Tokyo and made Commander of the First Division. After the war started, he was back in China commanding troop divisions. It was his 14th Division which was so severely defeated in Honan when the Chinese cut the Yellow River dikes and drowned most of his soldiers in the famous battle of Taierschwang in May 1938. He returned to Japan thereafter and later was made Commander-in-Chief of the Air Force. In 1943 it was reported that he was Commander of the Eastern Military Defense Zone and concurrently a member of the Supreme War Council.

An interesting comment on Doihara is found in Vespa's book "Secret Agent of Japan". Vespa quotes the "Chief" of the Japanese Intelligence Service as saying that Doihara

OVER

4 Doihara (Continued)

worked under him for many years and that he considered Doihara much less of a Lawrence than he thought he was. Vespa quotes the "Chief" as saying: "He delights in showing his greatness by his hectoring manner. No one can deny that he has done well in many of his undertakings but the fact remains that he has many failures to his discredit, so much so that one would imagine they were the mistakes of a simple corporal rather than a Colonel in the Japanese Intelligence Service.

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In support of intensive speculation on the possibility of a Japanese drive into South China, special reference is made to the report that the notorious and formidable Lt. Gen. Kenji Doihara has recently arrived in Macao. He has long been Japan's outstanding fifth-column expert and his presence always forbodes trouble wherever he appears. His headquarters are now at Fatshan and his immediate purpose is the organization of secret operations against American installations and personnel in South China.

Dossier
No source
given

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A newspaper (CSJ - see Key issued May 15, 1944) under date of March 27, 1944 is quoted as reporting that Lt. Ichiro Shichida has been appointed head of the Army Scientific School, succeeding General Doihara. No further details.

I D C
15 Sept. 1944

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5 DOIHARA (Continued)

Jip-1

MX 29
A - 1
26 June 1944

This report states that Diyhara (sic) (presumably a misspelling of Doihara), an extremely capable man whose exploits in North China earned him the title of "Butcher", has been sent by the Japanese to a small village south of Canton to organize sabotage and assassination groups. (Note: This may be Fatshan, a suburb of Canton. See note on Card 4 and also see card INTELLIGENCE CENTER IN FATSHAN (China - 1) There are at least four schools with approximately one hundred students each, located in the Hong Kong - Canton area. Student agents are graduated about every three months and sent into Free China to damage and destroy American installations and to assassinate American personnel. Most Americans in the armed forces in China dislike China and apparent Chinese assassination of some of their number might cause serious trouble.

_____ hlc

This cable states that Chinese G-2 reports the presence of Koihara (sic) (very probably an error for Doihara) in Hankow and that "if true the situation warrants attention"

_____ CHAFX
Kunming
IN 15697
25 July 1944

_____ hlc

Commander, 7th Army, in Malaya, from March 1944. Listed as "General".

_____ BO 23 August 44

_____ cdg

Continued

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6 DOIHARA (Continued)

F C C
25 March 1944

Former Commander-in-Chief of the Eastern Defense Zone has been appointed to a certain important post. He is succeeded in his former post by General Keisuke Fujie.

_____ hlc

General Doihara was engaged in the task of adjusting the defensive structure which centered around Tokyo since May 1943.

_____ F C C
27 March 1944

_____ hlc

The Chung Shan Jih Pao under date of March 27, 1944, reported that the former Commander of the East Army, General Doihara, had recently been appointed to an unrevealed position and that he had been replaced by General Shigenosuke Fujie.

_____ I D C
Subject Index

_____ hlc

General Doihara arrived at Hankow on April 7, 1944 and is now residing at Hsi Pen Szu.

_____ D N I, China
31 May 1944

_____ hlc

A report dated July 7 from Shanghai states that after Marshal Shunroku Hata's promotion to Field Marshal, General Doihara succeeded him as Commander-in-Chief of the Japanese Expeditionary Forces in China.

_____ Y C, # 271
16 July 1944
CC- 7

FOR THE RECORD

7 DOIHARA, Kenji (Continued).

Tap 5-1

S I Files
4 April 1944

General Doihara contributed an article on the "Roots of Japan's National Policy Towards China" to the Chuo Koron in November 1938. A translation of this article appeared in Amerasia for March 1939.

The following is from the New York Times of March 26, 1944:

"In view of the seriousness of the present war situation, the commanders-in-chief of the Eastern and Western Defence Zones, which are important responsibilities in the defence of the Japanese mainland, have been changed. Out of the top job in the Eastern Defence Zone to an un-named 'certain important post' went General Kenji Doihara, 61, specialist in intelligence and propaganda, and once, briefly, Commander-in-Chief of the Japanese Air Force.

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This report quotes another report, dated 20 July 1943, as stating that Hiroshi TAKATA (qv, Macao - 1) is a personal attaché to DOIHARA, the Japanese Commander-in-Chief of the Kwangtung Army. According to this quoted report TAKATA holds "the important position of Chief of the Investigation Bureau of Fifth Columnists under the Japanese South Expeditionary Army".

_____ hlc

_____ YKX 55
Kunming
25 Oct. 19
A - 3

TOP SECRET