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STRATEGIC SERVICES UNIT, WAR DEPARTMENT

Washington, D.C.

25 September 1948

COUNTRY: Japan, Sweden.

SUBJECT: ONODERA, Major General Makoto -- Biographical Sketch of.

DATE OF INFORMATION: Subject's lifetime (1897 to present).

EVALUATION: B-2

REFERENCE: Japanese Wartime Intelligence Activities in Northern Europe; SSU, 30 September 1948; DB #1226.

The following report is based on the interrogation of subject at Sugamo Prison, Tokyo, from 6 May to 20 July 1946, by a representative of SSU. The interrogation was conducted in the German language.

## 1. Personal History

ONODERA was born 19 September 1897 at Maosura-Machi, Irate-Ku, Japan. Father: KURIGIKO; Mother: YOSHIKO. Both parents deceased. The father was a property owner and an agronomist. Married ICHINOUE Yukiko. There are three children - two sons, 15 and 17 years of age and one daughter, aged 13. The older boy has been in Japan throughout the war, attending cadet school. The daughter and the youngest son were with their parents in Stockholm. Both ONODERA and his wife are of noble birth. He refers to himself as "almost a baron". ONODERA had two brothers; both are deceased. Mrs. ONODERA's brother, Lt. Colonel ICHINOUE Kuniya, is at present working in the legal section of the Demobilization Ministry, Tokyo.

## 2. Education and Military Career

1912-15 Local cadet school in Sendai (German Section).  
1915-17 Central Cadet School, Tokyo.  
1917-19 Military Academy (Infantry Course), Tokyo.  
1919 Commissioned Second Lieutenant, attached to the 29th Infantry Regiment, Sendai.  
1920 Graduated from Military Academy where he had learned Russian.  
1923 Promoted to 1st Lieutenant, Infantry, still with the 29th Infantry Regiment, Sendai.  
1925 Appointed instructor in Preparatory Military Academy.  
1925 Matriculated at War College, Aoyama.  
1927 Married.  
1928 Promoted to Captain. Graduated from War College. Served as company commander in 29th Infantry Regiment, Sendai; later moved to Aizu Wakamatsu.

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Mar. Mar.  
1930-32

Superintendent and instructor in the experimental section of the Army Infantry School, Chiba. His instructorship was nominal and he had no teaching responsibility.

a. Superior Officers

Commandant: Lt. General YAMAMOTO, Tsuruichi (succeeded by Lt. General HARADA Keiichi). Senior Research Director: Colonel SHITANO, Kumaya (succeeded by Col. KOBATAKE Toshihiro, Col. MATSUOTO Kenji, and Col. TSUKATA, Otsu). OHODERA worked directly under the orders and supervision of Major General TSUTSUMI Masao, the leading Japanese military authority on the European and American military systems. He received instructions from Colonel KOBATAKE Toshihiro, an expert in Russian military matters. OHODERA refers to him as the Japanese Army's leading genius and a great strategist.

b. Duties

The study of European - especially USSR and German - military organizations and strategy, with the object of planning improvements for the Japanese army. OHODERA studied Russian and German military records and data from which a new Japanese Infantry Drill Manual was later compiled. In 1930 he made an inspection tour and topographical study of North Manchuria. In March 1931 he took part in tact maneuvers with the 1st and 3rd KORO Division in Japan.

c. Associates

Associates connected with this work were --  
Directors of the Research section: Lt. Col. ASANO Kichi, Lt. Col. YAMC Otsaburo, Lt. Col. HONMA Seizai.

Instructor: Captain NISHIGURA Toshiro. He was OHODERA's closest friend. He subsequently served in the USSR and was OHODERA's predecessor as Military Attaché in Stockholm. At the end of the war as a Major General, he directed the Special Intelligence Section of Imperial General Headquarters.

Aug. May  
1931-33

Army General Staff Headquarters, Department II, Russian Section of the European-American Division.

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a. Superior Officers

Chief: Prince SAIHII Shin  
Deputy Chief: Lt. General SANAZAKI Jinzaburo  
Chief of Department II: Mnj. Gen. HAGATA Totsuyama  
Chief of European-American Division:  
Col. MATSUOTO Kenji (Later Military Attaché in  
the U.S.A.), succeeded by Col. IEMURA Yutaka  
Chief of Russian Section: Lt. Col. KASAHARA  
Tateo, succeeded by Lt. Col. HATAHIKO Saburo.

b. Duties

Research in USSR tactics and strategy.

c. Associates

Major FUJITSUKA Toseo, later Military Attaché  
to Roumania; Major KAWANATA Ondo, later Military  
Attaché to the USSR, and Captain EDAMI Etsuo,  
later on staff of Imperial Headquarters and  
Military Attaché to the USSR and Germany; well  
known in the Japanese Army as an authority on  
the USSR.

At this time OKUDA also received much advice  
from Mnj. Gen. OBATA Toshio, Chief of Department III.

Mar May  
1952-53

Instructor of military science at the Army General  
Staff College.

a. Superior officer

Superintendent: Lt. Gen. USHIJIMA Sadzo  
Secretary: Mnj. Gen. DEAI Kayoshi

b. Duties

Assisted in staff drills and higher headquarters  
maneuvers. Taught tactics to the first year  
students for ten hours.

c. Associates

Colonel SUZUKI Shigasu, Col. SAKAI Koji, Major  
SUTO Ei-jiro, Lt. Col. HOSOTOWA Tadayasu, Lt. Col.  
TAKEUCHI Yutaka, Capt. HAMADA Jusio.

d. Former pupils

Col. GONDO Masatake, later Assistant Military  
Attaché in Italy and killed aboard a U-boat re-  
turning to Japan. Col. MIYAI Hisashi and Col.  
HIGUCHI, both later resident military officials  
in Germany. Col. SHIMATSUJA Tsuneyuki, later  
Resident Military Official in Roumania.

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May May 1933-34 Resident in North Manchuria. Lived in Harbin and studied Russian for future service in Europe. ONODERA says that he carried on no political activity, nor did he have any personal contact with the Russians aside from his language teacher.

He reported to the commander of the Kwantung Army, Field Marshal MUTO Nobuyoshi. The officer directly in charge of residents was Colonel KIMATSUBARA Michitaro, Chief of the Harbin Special Administration Agency. His principal acquaintance among the residents was Lieutenant KATO Yoshikido, later Military Attaché in Finland--1937-39. During this period ONODERA made a survey of the following points on the USSR-Manchurian border: Hunchun (on the Korean border); Tungling, Sulfonho, Mishan, Kulin, the vicinity of Khabarovsk, Tungohiang, Sunghua River, Haiho, Taitshih, and Manchouli.

Sept 1934 Promoted to Major.

May Dec 1934-35 Member of the General Staff Headquarters, attached to Department II, China Section. ONODERA's duties were concerned only with the USSR.

a. Superior Officers

Chief: Prince KANIKIYAMA (KANIKO HIYADEMA)  
Assistant Chief: General SUGIYAMA  
Chief of Dept. II: Major General UCCAI  
Hensuke, succeeded by Maj. Gen. OFUNO Yasuji  
Chief of China Section: Colonel YITA (FHU)  
Chief of European and American Section:  
Col. IHARA Yutaka, succeeded by Col. KANDA,  
Masatane.  
Chief of Military Geography Section, China  
Section: Lt. Gen. USUDA Kanzo (later assigned  
to political work in China and succeeded by  
Lt. Col. WACHI Takaji.)  
Chief of Russian and Western Asia, Section:  
Col. KANDA Masatane, succeeded by Lt. Col.  
KAWAMATA Odo.

b. Duties

Compilation of a military topographical study for use in operations in the USSR-Manchuria border area.

In September and October 1934, ONODERA made a trip through Vladivostok, Khabarovsk, Blagoveshchensk, Chita, Novosibirsk, and Moscow, to report on the topography and railway systems of the Far Eastern area of the USSR.

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c. Associates

Major YAMAKA, Michitaka, expert on USSR; later military attaché, Moscow; Captain KOTANI Etsuo; Captain SAITO Kozo.

Dec Mar  
1934-38

Military Attaché in the Imperial Japanese Legation, Riga, Latvia. In April 1937, assumed additional duties as Military Attaché accredited to Estonia and Lithuania. ONODERA reached Riga about 14 January 1936. He travelled by way of Korea, Manchuria and the USSR. He stopped over in Moscow to contact the Japanese Military Attaché Colonel HATA Mikosaburo and the Assistant Military Attachés KOTANI Etsuo and HORIEA Kazuo of the Embassy.

His predecessor at Riga was Lt. Colonel OUCHI Tautama, who was killed in action as Chief of Staff of the Kamatsubara Division at Nomonhan.

Nov.  
1937

e. Contacts with Personnel of Japanese Missions in Europe

Latvia

Minister: SAKUMA Makoto

Poland

Lt. General SAWADA Shigeru, Military Attaché. Warsaw was, at the time, the head office for Japanese intelligence against the USSR in Europe. Lithuania also came under the Warsaw Military Attaché's authority.

Germany

Military Attaché: Lt. General OSHIMA Hirochi.

Assistant Military Attaché:

Lt. Colonel TACHIBANA Masaharu  
Lt. Colonel ISHII Masami  
Lt. Colonel USUI Shigeki  
Captain YOKOYAMA Akira  
Captain YAMAGATA Arimitsu  
(Both of the latter were aide-de-camp to the Emperor).

Finland

Military Attaché: Lt. Colonel TERADA and his successor Major KATO Yoshinide.

France

Military Attaché: Major General KIKUCHI Koichi and his successor Lt. General DOBASHI Taketoshi.

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## England

Military Attaché: Lt. Colonel TATSUHI Eiichi.

## Italy

Military Attaché: Colonel ARISUE Seizo.

## USSR

Military Attaché: Lt. Colonel HATA  
Rikosuro and his successor Lt. Colonel  
KAWAMATA Ondo.  
Assistant Military Attaché: Captain  
KOTANI Susuo.

NOTE: His closest friends among the above  
were Lt. General SHINDA, Lt. General SAWADA,  
Lt. Colonel KAWAHATA, and Captain KOTANI.

## b. Contacts among Foreign Military Attachés

Estonian: Lt. Colonel SAARSEI, later head  
of Department II, Estonian General Staff.

Polish: Major FELIKS BRZIESEWINSKI, later  
Military Attaché in Sweden.  
USA: Major GUNTHER.

Finnish: Major INGELIUS.

Lithuanian: Colonel YAKUTIS, and his successor  
Colonel WISKAUSKAS.

Czechoslovakian: Colonel FALSKI.

German: Colonel ROSSING.

French: Major GARNIVAL, Major ABRARAI, Lt.  
Colonel NOPENEAU.

USSR: Colonel GLINSKI.

Swedish: Lt. Colonel BRUNSON, Major LANDQUIST,  
Captain Von HAYNE.

British: Lt. Colonel VALE.

## c. Personal Contacts

Latvia General ROSENSTEIN, Assistant Chief  
of Staff, Commandant of the Army General  
Staff College. Killed by the USSR Army in  
1939. Colonel KIRKUS, Chief of Department II,  
Latvian General Staff. Lt. Colonel PETERSON,  
Chief of the USSR Section, Department No. II,  
Latvian General Staff. Colonel ZERMINIS.

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successor to Lt. Colonel PETERSON. BIRZINS, Minister of the Interior and Commander-in-Chief of the "Volunteer Corps".

Estonia General RAIDMA, Commander in Chief, General REIKKI, Chief of Staff, Colonel MAASING, Chief of Department II, later Assistant Chief of Staff, Major KRISTIAN, Chief of the USSR Section, Department II, Colonel JACOBSEN, later Assistant Military Attaché in Berlin.

Germany Admiral CANARIS.

#### 4. Duties

Study of the USSR. OHODERA received abundant information from the Latvian and Estonian General Staff Intelligence Services. He considers this to have been a most successful assignment. There is no doubt that it was during these years that he made basic contact with some of his most important war-time sources.

He made a monthly trip to Tallinn and travelled in Europe as follows: Several times to Berlin; once to Paris; once to Prague; once to Budapest; several times to Warsaw; Wilno; once to Danzig. The purpose of these trips was to study political conditions. OHODERA contacted White Russian autonomists in Wilno, Danzig, Prague. He was in touch with ZARCHARCO, last premier of the Republic of White Russia in Prague, and with ARAMOWITCH, secret society chief in Danzig. He denies having participated in the plot with which these two men were connected.

OHODERA was succeeded by Major TAKATSUKI Tametsu who was subsequently transferred to the North China Expeditionary Forces and killed by terrorists in 1940.

Itinerary of return to Japan: Berlin, Paris, London, Berne, Switzerland; Rome, Naples, Suez Canal, Indian Ocean, Hong Kong, Shanghai, Yokohama.

Jan Oct  
1938

Member of the General Staff, Department II, Russian Section, and Instructor in Military Science at the Army General Staff College, Tokyo. The instructorship was nominal as he only gave three or four lectures on the USSR (internal situation, geography, and natural resources).

#### a. Superior Officers

Chief of General Staff: His Imperial Highness Prince KOTCHITO.  
Assistant Chief of Staff: Lt. General TADAI Shun.

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Chief of Department II: Lt. General HOSHA Massharu.  
Chief of Russian Section: Colonel KAWAMATA Ono.

c. Associate

Lt. Colonel YAMATO Setochi, Major KURANI Etsuo, Lt. Colonel SAITO Kozo, Lt. Colonel USUI Shigeki.

Oct June 1938-39 Attached to the Operations Section of the Expeditionary Force in China. Political Mission.

a. Superior Officers

Commandant: General HATA Shunroku, succeeded by General YAMADA Otozo.  
Chief of General Staff: Lt. General KAWABE Shoichi succeeded by Lt. General YOSHINOTO Teiichi.  
Assistant Chief of General Staff: Major General SUZUKI Shuzaku.  
Chief of Department II: Colonel TAKAHASHI Yasushi, succeeded by Colonel YAHAGI Makao.

b. Associates

KIMCHIHA Kunitake, Chief of Section I. Though assigned to Military Operations, he was very helpful in political work. Lt. Col. HAKAYAMA Yasuhito.

c. Duties

Intelligence concerning China's Communist and Nationalist movements, with particular emphasis on the C. C. group.

Organizations and Agents

(1) YOSHIDA Tosuke alias KASHIWA Seichiro, businessman.

- (a) YANG, Assistant to YOSHIDA
- (b) CHU YUEN
- (c) KIANG HAO

Shanghai representative of Chen Li Fu and Chen Kuo Fu, leaders of the CC Group.

(2) KIYURA Shiro, Agriculturist; member of the Natural Science Research Committee.

- (a) LIN SHAO TUNG, Formosan lawyer to WASEDA.
- (b) CHIA TSUN TEH, KUNG HSIANG, 'HSI Chinese peoples' Party (labor movement in Shanghai).
- (c) YEH TAI CHENG, HSU, connected with the Nationalist party.

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(d) CHANG MING, member of the Chinese racial movement.

- (3)(a) KATO Noboru, Japanese resident in China.  
(b) CHANG KUN  
(c) CHAO CHUN PING, Chinese state socialist.  
(d) CHUI CHING LAI, appointed minister in Wang Ching Wei's regime. (b), (c), and (d) were later assassinated by Wang's terrorists.  
(e) WU YAT.

e. Press Contacts

TAKAHASHI Kakuo, who gave information on the CHUNGKING and YEMAN press.  
(See "Historical Note on the Sino-Japanese War" -- SSU, 25 September 1946, DB #1226)

Jul Nov 1939-40 Instructor, Army General Staff College.

a. Superior Officers

Director: Lt. General IIMURA Minoru, succeeded by General FUJIE Keisaku S  
Secretary: Lt. General BANZAI Kazuyoshi succeeded by Lt. General NISHIMURA Issaku.

Sept. 1939 Promoted to Colonel.

Nov. 1940 Appointed Military Attaché, Imperial Japanese Legation, Stockholm, Sweden. ONODERA arrived in Stockholm 29 January 1941 via Tsuruga, Vladivostok, Khabarovsk, Chita, Novosibirsk, Moscow, Leningrad and Helsinki. He stopped over in Moscow for conversations with Ambassador TAKEKAWA, the Military Attaché Col. YAMAKA and the Naval Attaché Capt. YAMAGUCHI. He also stopped over in Helsinki to see the Military Attaché to Finland, Col. ONOUCHI.

His predecessor as Military Attaché, Stockholm, was Col. NISHIMURA Toshio, an expert on Russian and Finnish questions, who had been his colleague in infantry school and who later became head of the Special Intelligence Section, Imperial General Headquarters.

ONODERA was accredited only to the Swedish Government but was considered responsible also for Norway and Denmark.

Sept. 1943 Promoted to Major General.

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Jan. 1946 Left Naples for repatriation on the SS PLUS ULTRA.

May-July 1946 Interrogated at Sugamo Prison, Tokyo.

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