

Japan 21

OFFICE OF STRATEGIC SERVICES
Research and Analysis Branch
Biographical report, BR-1422

SECRET

Index
Regional:
Occupational:

Japan - 9

Name OGIKI Taketora (Taketomi, Taketori) 1/ 緒方 竹虎 (Japanese)

Address Tokyo, Yodohama-ku, 3 chome, Hyakunan-sho, 331 (1942) 2/

Major Positions Minister without Portfolio, President of the Bureau of Information, Chief Cabinet Secretary 3/
Vice President of the Imperial Rule Assistance Association 1/ Vice Chairman of the Council of the Civilian Volunteer Corps 3/

Family History OGIKI Taketora was born in 1888 in Fukuoka-ken, 4/ the second son of OGIKI Michio. He married OGIKI Koto, third daughter of OGIKI Kikizo. 5/ Koto was born in Kanagawa-ken in November 1891. OGIKI has three sons and two daughters. The eldest son Ichitaro was born in April 1916, graduated from Keio University and is employed by the Mitsui Mining Co. a second son, Kenji was born in October 1917 and graduated from the Tokyo First Higher School. The oldest daughter Koiko, born in October 1920, was graduated from the Ochanomizu Higher Girls School. A third son, Shiguro was born in November 1927. OGIKI has an adopted daughter, Haruko, born in Fukuoka City in May 1908, the third daughter of OGIKI Saino. She graduated from the Ochanomizu Higher Girls School. OGIKI Taketora's older brother, Daino is a doctor of medicine and a teacher at the Nagasaki Medical College. 6/

Career Graduated from Tokyo Higher Commercial School 3/
1911 - Graduated from Keio University Politics and Economics School 7/
November 1911 - Joined the Asahi Shinbun 7/
March 1920 - Went to study in Europe and America 7/
1922 - Returned to Japan 7/
April 1923 - Chief of the Disposal Office, Tokyo Asahi Shinbun 7/
October 1923 - Chief of the Political Section of the Tokyo Asahi Shinbun 7/
February 1924 - Chief of the Editorial Office of the Tokyo Asahi Shinbun 7/
1928 - Appointed Junior Managing Director of the Osaka Asahi Shinbun 1/
April 1931 - Chief Editor of the Asahi Shinbun 7/
September 1934 - Member of the Railroad Transportation Bureau Investigation Committee 6/
July 1935 - Managing Director of the Asahi Shinbun 7/
December 1935 - Elected a member of the first Board of Directors 10/

NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT

EXEMPTIONS Section 3(b)
(b)(1) Privacy
(b)(3) Methods/Sources
(b)(7) Foreign Relations

Declassified and Approved for Release
by the Central Intelligence Agency
Date: 2003

Career Continued:

- May 1938 - Chief Editor, Tokyo Asahi Shinbun and Osaka Asahi Shinbun 7/
- 1938 - Managing Director and Editor in Chief of the Osaka Asahi Shinbun. Director of Domei News Agency 1/
- May 1940 - Representative Director of the Asahi Shinbun 7/
- 1940 - Chief Editor of the Tokyo Asahi Shinbun and Managing Director of the Asahi Shinbun-sha 7/
- 1940 - Member of the new Political Structure Preparatory Committee 8/
- 1940 - Director of the Imperial Rule Assistance Association 4/
- 1941 - Chief Editor of the Tokyo Asahi Shinbun, Managing Director of the Asahi Shinbun-sha. 4/
- February 1942 - Permanent Councilor Japan News Association 7/
- 23 June 1943 - Appointed Councilor of the Bureau of Information 1/
- December 1943 - Vice President of the Asahi Shinbun 7/
- 16 June 1944 - Appointed a member of the Central Liaison Headquarters Committee of the National Rally Movement 2/
- 22 July 1944 - Minister without Portfolio in the KOISO Cabinet and concurrently President of the Bureau of Information, succeeding AKAI Hajii. Resigned as Vice President of the Asahi Shinbun. 1/
- 10 August 1944 - Appointed Vice President of the Imperial Rule Assistance Association, succeeding GOTO Fumio 3/
- 23 December 1944 - Appointed General Secretary of the Central Cooperative Council of the Imperial Rule Assistance Association, succeeding Admiral (ret) KAWAYASHI Seizo 1/
- 19 Jan. 1945 - President of the Imperial Rule Assistance Association Youth Corps (Yokusan senendan), concurrently with post as Vice President of the Imperial Rule Assistance Association, succeeding Lt. General (ret.) TATEYAMA Yoshitsugu (or Yoshikuni) 1/
- 27 January 1945 - Acting chief of the Central Headquarters of the Imperial Rule Assistance Association Youth Corps until TATEYAMA YASHI Mikio assumes the post permanently 3/
- 6 April 1945 - Resigned as Minister without Portfolio together with the rest of the KOISO Cabinet 3/
- 10 April 1945 - Resigned Presidency of the Bureau of Information, succeeded by SHIMOMURA Hiroshi 3/
- 30 April 1945 - Order of disbandment of the Imperial Rule Assistance Association Youth Corps, to give full support to the formation of the Civilian Volunteer Corps 1/ Vice Chairman of the Council of the Civilian Volunteer Corps 3/
- 20 May 1945 - Appointed a member of the Cabinet Advisory Council 1/
- 8 June 1945 - Appointed one of seven new councilors of the Bureau of Information 3/
- 17 August 1945 - Appointed Minister without Portfolio, Chief Cabinet Secretary and President of the Bureau of Information in General Prince SAIONJI KIMIMOTO's Cabinet 9/
- 14 September 1945 - Quoted as President of the Bureau of Information, succeeded by KANAI Tadamasa. 15/

Comments After graduating from the Tokyo Higher Commercial School and the Political Science and Economics Department of Waseda University, OGATA joined the staff of the Asahi Shimbun.^{6/} In March 1920 he went on a two year study trip to Europe and America. While staying in London, he made a special study of social conditions in England.^{3/} On his return to Japan in 1922 ^{7/}he rejoined the staff of the Asahi Shimbun. His rise was steady. After holding several section chief positions, including Chief of the Commercial Division and same of the China Division,^{8/} he became Chief Editor of both the Tokyo and the Osaka Asahi in May 1936.^{7/} In December 1943 he was named Vice President of the Asahi Shimbun,^{7/} a position he resigned on 21 July 1944 when he entered the KOISO Cabinet.^{1/} according to the Tokyo radio he would however remain as "a friend of the company".^{3/} (3 August 1944). One source states that OGATA was considered representative of the reactionary element in the Asahi. This element in the late twenties and the thirties was slowly gaining a greater voice in the policies of this once liberal newspaper.^{10/}

In the Contemporary Japan issue of June 1932, an article by OGATA appeared, titled: "Public Opinion and the Press".^{11/} In December 1936 OGATA was elected a member of the first Domei Board of Directors. In 1936 or 1937 HARADA Joji succeeded him as Asahi member of this board.^{10/}

OGATA seemed to have been an open admirer of the late TOYAMA Mitsuru, President of the Kaikyo (Black Ocean Society), an organization of which he himself is a leader.^{2/} He is also reported as having been active as a supporter of the press organ Asian Review of the Kokuryu kai.^{10/} In the July 1940 issue of Contemporary Japan OGATA published an article on TOYAMA. According to source this article was actually written by OGATA's friend, former premier HIROTA Koki, but it was edited and published under OGATA's name, because HIROTA did not wish to indicate so openly his close association with and admiration for TOYAMA at that time.^{10/} When TOYAMA died on 4 October 1944, OGATA was named Vice Chairman of the Committee to arrange the funeral, together with FUJII Yoshihisa.^{5/} In the 1940's OGATA was named to important political positions. When in the summer of 1940 the Imperial Rule Assistance Association was formed, OGATA was named a director and served as press representative.^{8/} On the 10th of August 1944 he became Vice President of this organization, succeeding GOTO Fumio.^{7/} In his initial statement following his appointment, he asserted that he would exert his every effort to unite the powers of the people, cooperate fully with the Imperial Rule Assistance Political Society for the purpose of unifying the home front, "increasing the fighting power of the Imperial Forces on all fronts of battle".^{3/}

Comments Continued: On 28 December of the same year he was appointed General Secretary of its Central Cooperative Council and the following 19th of January President of its Youth Corps. 1/ This appointment of OGATA followed the resignation on the 10th of January of all members of the Central Headquarters of the Imperial Rule Assistance Association Youth Corps. 1/ On the 4th of April 1945 the Tokyo Radio announced that he sent out a notice to the prefectural corps to recruit members for construction corps work on defensive positions. At the same time it was reported that he was to be "supreme commander" of this construction corps. 2/ When late in April the order for the disbandment of the Imperial Rule Assistance Association was given, OGATA was named Vice Chairman of the Civilian Volunteer Corps, an organization scheduled to supersede the Imperial Rule Assistance Association Youth Corps. 2/ (6 June). At the final meeting of the directors of the local corps of the Imperial Rule Assistance Association Youth Corps, held in Tokyo 5 June 1945, OGATA requested local leaders to give wholehearted support to the Civilian Volunteer Corps and requested everyone to strive to make the corps the supreme organization of the people. 3/

On the 23rd of June 1945 OGATA was appointed Councilor of the Bureau of Information. 1/ The next year, on the 22nd of July he entered the KOISO Cabinet as Minister without Portfolio, concurrently being President of the Bureau of Information, the first journalist to hold this position since the formation of the Bureau. Commenting on his appointment the Tokyo radio announced that "much would be expected of him as President of the Bureau of Information at this critical time". 2/ From 1 August 1944 on OGATA was to hold daily conferences at the Premier's official residence with TAMURA Takeo, Chief Cabinet Secretary. 1/

After taking up his new duties OGATA made various statements outlining the policies he intended to follow. On the 15th of August 1944, addressing a meeting of the Board of Directors of the Information Department of the Imperial Rule Assistance Association, he said he would try to lift the restrictions on the news. 2/ Four days later as host to a group of foreign press correspondents at an informal gathering at Aito Saikan, he reminded the correspondents that it was not the policy of the bureau of information to conceal any news from the public. He added that in execution of his official duties he would try to make the best use of his experience as a newspaperman and that he intended to provide reporters with all information given out by the government. 3/ The same day he made a statement that the new cabinet would adopt the same policy as that pursued under the TOJO Cabinet. He added: "In the past it was not the policy of the Bureau of Information to conceal any news from the public. The press may not interfere with a policy once it is adopted by the government." 1/ On the 24th of August 1944 he declared that from now on the Japanese people must know the complete truth, even if it is unfavorable. 10/ This statement has been interpreted by one source as a possible indication that the government might be preparing a peace offer. OGATA's statement, according to this

Comments Continued: interpretation, would be the first step in preparing public opinion for such an offer.^{10/} Answering interpellations in the 85th Diet, 9 September 1944, OGATA said: "To your opinion that public opinion is one form of fighting strength and unless it is encouraged, there is no increase in fighting, I express my hearty agreement. However, in my opinion the Government must first of all be confident of the wisdom of the people and the people must also be voluntarily responsible for the opinions they express.... I am making a study of the problem. Today, when the war situation has reached the point we face now, it would perhaps be better to adopt a drastic step for better guidance of public opinion.^{1/}

On the 6th of October, the Tokyo Radio announced, that OGATA explained the substance of the plan for guidance in decisive battles at the regular meeting of the cabinet, held at the official residence of the premier that day. His plan was passed by the Cabinet.^{5/} OGATA has participated in many national activities.^{6/} On the 20th of April 1944 he attended the graduation exercises of the Military Academy at Zama, Kanagawa-ken.^{3/} On the 28th of October 1944 he attended memorial services for NIKANO Seigo, described by one source as "Japan's no.2 reactionary".^{8/} On the 22nd of December 1944, the Tokyo Radio reported that OGATA, with other Genyosha leaders, was to attend the East Asiatic Races' Round Table Conference that day. Marquis KURODA was to be host at this conference.^{5/} On the 28th of March 1945 OGATA attended a meeting in the offices of the Information Board, to deliberate on the formation of the Eigo Kosha (Motion Pictures Corporation), a merger of several motion picture affiliations.^{3/} The Prague Radio reported, that in a statement issued on the 17th of August 1944, he reiterated his belief in a German victory and congratulated the German people on their "courageous and outstanding struggle".^{3/} On the 15th of December 1944 he gave a talk telling of the war and commending the spirit of the Japanese people.^{3/} Tokyo Radio reported on the 13th of September 1944 that OGATA was one of several newspapermen to receive a silver cup from the Emperor, for outstanding service to his country in time of war.^{8/} One source states that OGATA was a member of the Government's so-called "Brain-Trust" and in this connection ^{10/} is a member of the Asiatic Development Committee and small and middle-sized Industrial Investigation Council.^{8/} On the 5th of April 1945 the KOISO Cabinet fell.^{3/} On the 10th of May OGATA was appointed a member of the Cabinet Advisory Council of the SUZUKI Ministry.^{1/} and on the 8th of June he once more was named a Councillor of the Bureau of Information.^{3/} When, following Japan's surrender, the cabinet of Prince HIGASHI-KUNI was formed, OGATA

Comments Continued: was appointed to his former posts of Minister without Portfolio and President of the Bureau of Information, being named Chief Cabinet Secretary as well. 9/ One source states that in addition to being closely associated with former Premier HIROTA Ioki and the late TOYAMA Mitsuru, he was also on close personal terms with Premier KOISO and War Minister SUGIYAMA 10/. A usually reliable source considers him "a man to be watched". 10/ Jinji Koshin Roku 1937 states that OGATA paid a land tax of ¥ 1016. 9/ Following the occupation of Japan, OGATA was branded a war criminal and arrested on orders of General MacArthur, 15 September 1945. Subsequently he was relieved as President of the Bureau of Information, but for the moment at least he remained a cabinet member. The charge was that Ogata was a member of the Kokuryukai. This was denied by Japanese sources, including the superintendent of the Tokyo police. 14/

Summary Ogata Taketora has been a newspaperman for more than thirty years. His principal, though not his only, association has been with the Asahi Shimbun. His influence on the policies of this paper, especially in the late thirties, must have been considerable. Available information indicates that he has held positions with various nationalist organizations, including the Genyosha and the Kokuryukai. Conspicuous also has been the part he has played in the Imperial Rule Assistance Association as Vice President, leader of its Youth Corps and in several other positions. He was made a member of the KOISO Cabinet. When this cabinet fell and the order to disband the Imperial Rule Assistance Association was given, OGATA remained a public figure of prominence. He became Vice Chairman of the Civilian Volunteer Corps and a member of the Cabinet Advisory Council, in addition to being reinstated as a Councilor of the Bureau of Information. In the HIGASHI-KUNI Cabinet OGATA was given three posts, viz. Minister without Portfolio, President of the Bureau of Information and Chief Cabinet Secretary. Subsequently he was removed from his post as President of the Bureau of Information, following his arrest as a war criminal.

Sources 1/ OSS source X
2/ Who's Who in Japan 1941-1942
3/ Enemy Broadcast
4/ Japan Sen Gokoku Yearbook 1941

Sources Continued :

- 6/ Jinji Koshin Roku 1937
- 7/ Komuro Shinbun July 1944
- 8/ OSS RR-W 228
- 9/ Evening Star, 17 August 1945
- 10/ OSS source 3
- 11/ Contemporary Japan, vol. 1, 1932 - 1933
- 12/ New York Times, 28 October 1943
- 13/ PM, 14 September 1945
- 14/ Washington Post, 14 September 1945

THIS RECORD IS A SUMMARY OF SUCH INTELLIGENCE (FROM ONE OR MORE SOURCES AS INDICATED) AS WAS AVAILABLE AT THE TIME OF PREPARATION. IT MAY CONSEQUENTLY BE SUBJECT TO AMENDMENT BY ADDITIONAL OR MORE RECENT INTELLIGENCE. INDEX NUMBERS AND LETTERS ARE SOLELY FOR INDEXING STATEMENTS IN THE REPORT.

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