

Japan 21

*SID Report 122A
30/8/45*

- 21-A -

SHIMOMURA Sadamu (or Sadashi or Sada or Tei)

Minister of War. *Japan 1*

Appointed Minister of War 8/23/45 to succeed H.I.H. Prince General HIGASHI-KUNI Naruhito, Premier, who was concurrently Minister of War.

Born: 1887, Kochi-ken

Career:

1908 ~~Grad. of Military Academy, 1908 and Military Staff College. Stationed in France to study military affairs.~~

Note: Classmate at Military Academy of H.I.H. Prince General HIGASHI-KUNI who was in France for study of military tactics 1920-27.

~~Instructor at Military Staff College
Staff office of Kwantung Army and a unit commander~~

Jan. 1932-Mar. 1933 Member of Japanese Delegation at League of Nations; delegation headed by MATSUOKA Yosuke
Vice-Chief of Army General Staff Hdqts.
Commander of Tokyo Bay Fortress

1939 Promoted to Lt. General

1940 Director of Artillery and Engineering School (for 2nd lieutenants of the respective Corps)

1941 President (or Director) of Army Staff College; probably succeeded Lt. General FUJIE (or FUJIYE) Keisuke who was in post in 1940.

Mar. 25, 1942-Mar. 23, 1944 Commander of Japanese Forces in Shanghai Area

Mar. 23, 1944-Nov. 22, 1944 Commander-in-Chief of Japan Western Defense Command; succeeded Lt. General FUJIE (or FUJIYE) Keisuke; succeeded by Lt. General YOKOYAMA Isamu

Nov. 22, 1944-Aug. 23, 1945 Commander-in-Chief of North China Forces; succeeded General OKABE Naosaburo; succeeded by Lt. General NEMOTO (or TSUNEMOTO) Hiroshi (or Kiyoshi)

May 7, 1945 Promoted to full General

Aug. 23, 1945 Appointed Minister of War

Aug. 26, 1945 First Radio Address as War Minister

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"Actually, I, SHIMOMURA, while in North China, learned of our nation's acceptance of the Potsdam Declaration just before H.I.M. made his broadcast. I was completely shocked at this news which came as a bolt from the blue. It is somewhat embarrassing, but I spent the whole night in bitter tears and deep thought."

The following morning he wrote the instructional message. "I, hereby give orders to all officers and men, with bitter tears. The Imperial decision was made, based upon a farsighted policy in our country. In awe and reverence, we must accept this Imperial decision. Those who disobey or oppose the spirit, expressed in the Imperial Rescript will be firmly dealt with even though such acts might be originated from the genuine bushido spirit.

His "enlightenment" came upon remembering "Imperial instructions" which he has read daily ever since his youth. "Should the glory of the Imperial throne ever wane, you men share the sorrow with us."....

As long as there is a hope remaining, even though how small and little that may be, to guard that hope and to accomplish that hope is the path the true soldier must follow....." Advises hope and caution and to have faith in the government authorities. Warns that post war settlement will not be made in short time so will be needed. "Perseverance that can last a long period of time until the time of our grandchildren's generation. We must bear all hardships and contribute every effort to post war reconstruction"The army men and those attached to the army, following their discharge, must go into the society and must fight against the miseries of life. On this score I deeply sympathize with you. Not only the government will strive to stabilize your life but you will also strive to work at your jobs with clear hearts."

In closing refers to the story of the 47 Ronin as analogous.
(Romaji to GEA 8/26/45)

OBSF 8/30/45
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Japanese Intelligence Section
Target Intelligence Division
Analysis and Research Bureau