

Biographic Data

9 May 1952

SHORIKI, Matsutarō (正力松太郎)

Born: April 1885, Toyama Prefecture, Japan; son of SHOMANI Shōjiro; married to Hama, sister of YOSHIZAWA Seiji  
Education: Graduated, Tokyo Imperial University, law, 1911.  
Career: Entered civil service 1911; chief, Criminal Dept. of Metropolitan Police Board, resigned same 1924.  
a/o 1941, President, Yomiuri Shinbun and, concurrently chairman, Hochi Shinbun  
Address: 1/2 ~~Shikoku-machi~~ Shikoku-machi, Shiba-ku, Tokyo. 1/

Shoriki was chief of the Secretariat of the Metropolitan Police in Tokyo at the time of the rice riots and took a firm hand with this agitation. He particularly distinguished himself in his handling of the political thought problems by ordering the raids on universities and colleges which had hitherto been regarded as inviolable. Shoriki was forced to take the blame for the Toranomon incident, and retired from public office. He entered the field of journalism with the help of Baron GO Seinosuke and then with the aid of a generous loan by Count GOTO. Shoriki is known to have introduced a great many new features to Japanese journalism.

Shoriki has also been active in the field of sports. He promoted the visit of American Major League baseball players to Japan in 1931 and organized the Japanese 'Giants', the first professional baseball team in Japan. He ~~was~~ is also responsible for the building of the lawn tennis stadium in Tokyo, where he has invited such tennis experts as Tilden and Vines to give exhibition games. 2/

1940 (a) Director, Taisei Yokusan Kai (Imperial Rule Assistance Association or I.R.A.A.), a/o 10 October. 3/

1943 *note* Named chairman, organizing committee for drafting the regulations of the Greater East Asia (G.E.A.) Press Federation, 18 November. 4/

1944 *note* As president, Yomiuri Hochi Shinbun, was present at a mass rally sponsored by Domei News Agency and metropolitan journals at Ribiya Hall, Tokyo, 7 March; meeting of a propaganda nature; FURUKO Inosuke read the Imperial Rescript of Japan's Declaration of War on the US and Great Britain. 5/ *note* Newspaperman, and leading figure in the Information Bureau, I.R.A.A., a/o 30 March. 6/

*note* Nominated member, House of Peers; has rendered distinguished service in "propagandizing thoughts", 19 May. 7/

NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT

EXEMPTIONS Section 3(b)

- (2)(A) Privacy
- (2)(B) Methods/Sources
- (2)(C) Foreign Relations

Declassified and Approved for Release  
by the Central Intelligence Agency  
Date: 2005

(Shoriki- 2)

1944) Received a silver cup from the Emperor of Japan for outstanding service to his country in the war, 13 Sept.; 8/

*note*

Member-in-charge, General Affairs, I.R.A.A., Sept.; 9/  
member, Cabinet Advisory Group  
Appointed, Cabinet Advisor, 28 October 10/

*note*

1945 Shoriki, president of the Yomiuri-Hochi Shimbun, is one of five former councillors of the Board of Information who will remain in office, a/o 8 June; 11/

*note*

President of the Yomiuri-Hochi Shimbun, SHORIKI Matsutaro, is negotiating with the employees of the paper concerning the "democratization" of his newspaper, a/o 10 Nov.; 12/

*note*

Shoriki was forced out of control of the Yomiuri-Hochi Shimbun in November 1945; SUZUKI Tomin became managing editor and ran the paper although Shoriki had named BABA Tsunego to succeed him, November; 13/  
(crimes suspect)

Announced as a war/criminal by Gen. MacArthur, 3 December. 14/

1946 Shoriki will voluntarily resign from his post without waiting for promulgation of the (emergency) Imperial Ordinance, a/o 28 January; 15/

*note*

Shoriki selected SHIMIZU Iku to act as his attorney in his war crimes trial, 12 March; 16/

1947 Released from Sugamo prison, 30 August; 17/ *at Sugamo*  
informally acquitted as a war crimes suspect by the Screening Appeals Committee) *arranged*

1948 Shoriki's appeal to be 'depurged' was rejected by the Screening Appeals Committee, 22 May; 18/

1951 Released from purge, 6 August; 19/

active in promoting a television network in Japan, 15 August; 20/  
(BABA Tsunego emphasized that the new venture of Shoriki's to introduce television would have a terrific effect on public attitudes. Shoriki already has one billion yen to put up for network, and is also supported by the great financier and former war crimes suspect, ARAKAWA Giouka.) 21/

*U.S. off. order*

1-734-6

(Shoriki --3)

Outstanding war-time propagandist.... 11 Jan 46

Included on Gen. MacArthur's Dec 2 list of Jap. war criminals..... 2 Dec 45.

More than 1,000 Socialists gathered outside the office of the Yomiuri to join the newspaper's employees in demanding a war criminal trial for its president, K.S., and the resignation of the paper's directors. The Socialist chairman said that the demonstration was directed at all "war criminals" in journalistic circles. 29 Oct 45

Shoriki flatly refused the demand of the employees for the resignation of the publisher, the directors, and all the bureau chiefs of the newspaper...24 Oct

Shoriki elected executive director of the Japanese Press Association, a new organization founded by Japanese publishers led by K.S. and Kisanori Ito...1

(M. SHORIKI)

Shoriki, director, Great Japan Political Association (Iai Nippon Seijikai)...20 May 44

Appointed to the Privy Council, 18 May 44

Veteran newspaperman, one of the leading figures of the IJAP's Information Bureau, a member of the Central Liaison Headquarters of the People's Movement... 29 Mar

Councillor in the Cabinet Information Bd.... 1 July 1943

Counsellor IJAP and IJAFS 1942 27 Nov 44

Appointed to a new Cabinet Advisory Group to participate directly in the Council of State rather than to serve as merely a consultative body. Nov 44 (Info 1942)

publisher of the Yomiuri 1931 - 1941; has never been out of Japan and could not speak any foreign language.

[State, BI files, 1940 - 1946, Confidential]

Imperial People Assistance Assn.  
Political Society

General reference

Born 1885, Toyama prefecture; studied in Fourth Higher School and graduated from Tokyo Imp. Univ. Law School in 1912 and entered Home Ministry. Served as police superintendent, Metropolitan Police Board, Chief of Detectives Section, manager of the Secretariat, and as chief of Patrol Division. In Jan 1924 he was disciplinary dismissed in connection with the Teraemon incident.

In Feb 1924, by favor of Viscount Goto Shizpei, he was appointed president of the Yomiuri Shimbun and resigned his presidency in Dec 1945 when he was purged. During this period, his planning and enforcement policy was highly recognized throughout Japan the newspaper world and raised the circulation from 50,000 to 1,900,000.

Since the termination of World War II, he was appointed chairman of the Japan Baseball League and head of the Eastern Society of the Kawasaki Horse Racing Club. Diamond, 21 Feb 51, uncl.

Since  
from 1921 -- controlled a number of newspapers such as The Kyushu Nippo, The Sanjo Shimbun, the Nagasaki Nichinichi Shimbun, The Hochi Shimbun, The Shizuoka Shimbun, the Shimane Shimbun, The Osaka Shimbun, etc.  
address: 1990, Shi-juku, Zushimachi, Yokosuka City, Japan