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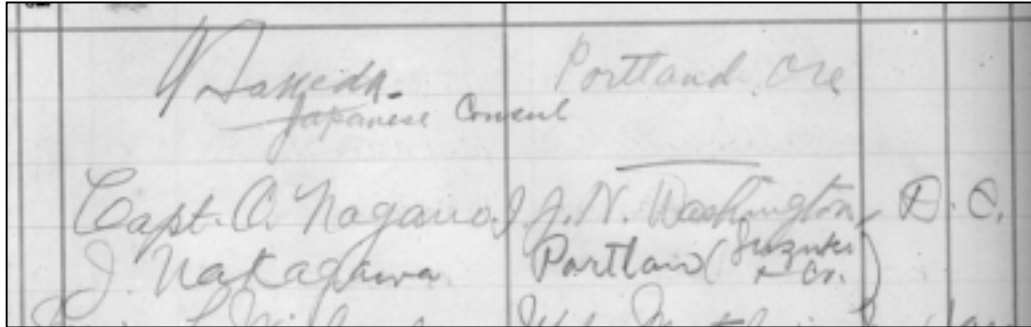
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ADMIRAL OSAMI NAGANO

B22-128

Signed Guestbook: August 2, 1922



Names evident above: (The complete party appears to include 3 on previous page 127)

I. Takeda (Japanese Consul).....Portland, Ore.

Capt. O. Nagano (J. I. N.).....Washington, D. C.

J. Nakagawa.....Portland, (Suzuki ?)

Previous page: (scanner view not shown)

William Cornfoot.....Portland (Not absolutely sure Cornfoot part of party)

Inui, T.....Kobe, Japan

Inui, S.....Kobe, Japan

Osami Nagano Vitae

Profession: Naval commander - Japanese Imperial Navy

Born: June 15, 1880/Kochi, Japan

Died: January 5, 1947/Tokyo, Japan (Age 67)

Age at Chalet: 42 years



Admiral Nagano was the Chief of the Naval General Staff - Japanese Imperial Navy, at the time of the surprise attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941.

**DETAILED STUDY OF ADMIRAL NAGANO ENTRY.....>>>
FOLLOWING PAGES**

DETAILS / ADMIRAL OSAMI NAGANO ENTRY

Rise to power

Captain Osami Nagano was to eventually become Chief of the Naval General Staff - Japanese Imperial Navy, a position of higher naval authority than Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto. (See Yamamoto details.) It was Admiral Nagano who was ultimately responsible for giving permission to Admiral Yamamoto to carry out the attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941.

Nagano, like Yamamoto, was familiar with the United States. He studied law at Harvard University and served as naval attaché in Washington D.C. (1920-23), a position that he must have occupied while at the Chalet. Nagano's rise in naval rank from Captain was impressive: In the Japanese Imperial Navy, he was Navy Minister (1936-7), Commander-In-Chief of the combined fleet (1937) and Chief of Naval General Staff (1941-4).

Nagano - War Criminal

After the Japanese surrender in 1945, Osami Nagano was tried before the International Tribunal for the Far East in Tokyo, a counterpart to the war trials conducted in Nuremberg, Germany. He was one of 28 "Class A" war criminal suspects, in a trial that was to last two and a half years. Of the 28 Japanese brought to trial, 7 were sentenced to death by hanging, 16 to life imprisonment and 2 to lesser terms. One suspect had a mental breakdown on the first day of trial and was sent to a psychiatric ward where he was released in 1948. Two defendants died during the trial of natural causes and thus escaped formal punishment. This latter fate would be the lot of Osami Nagano, who would die during the course of the trial, in 1947.

The relationship between Nagano and Yamamoto, in terms of their position of power within the hierarchy of the Japanese Imperial Navy, is illustrated by a directive Nagano sent to Yamamoto, approximately one month before the Pearl Harbor attack. This directive is formally labeled as Combined Fleet Operation Order No. 1. The motive for inclusion of this document here is instructional. It provides us with practical evidence that Nagano was in a position to tell Yamamoto what to do.

5 November 1941

Directive to: Yamamoto, C in C, Combined Fleet

1. The combined Fleet will advance necessary forces at a suitable time to their preparatory points to stand by for the start of operation in the event of unavoidable hostilities against America, Great Britain and the Netherlands, in the first days of December.

2. During the above-mentioned advance, strict watch will be kept against unexpected attacks.

3. The operational policy against America, Great Britain, and the Netherlands, in case of hostilities, is scheduled as cited in the separate volume.

*Chief of the Naval General Staff
Nagano, Osami*

The following account, well known to Pearl Harbor scholars, aptly demonstrates that it was Yamamoto who played a pivotal role in the decision to attack Pearl Harbor. This is not a direct quotation from the literature, but a summary of the event:

*At a meeting at the Tokyo Naval War College between 10 and 13 September 1941, Yamamoto's colleagues expressed strong reservations about his daring plan for an attack on Pearl Harbor; they considered it fraught with too many unforeseen dangers and were opposed to the plan. Yamamoto refused to budge, and when he failed to convert others, he offered to resign from the navy. He voiced his strong conviction that the success of the Japanese drive into southern Asia depended on the destruction of the American fleet at Pearl. His threat to resign, coupled with his enormous prestige, carried the day. * (Nagano reluctantly signed off on the decision)*

Nagano's companions:

I. Takeda, Japanese Consul, Portland, Oregon - No information has been found on this man.

J. Nakagama - No information has been found on this man. The name that appears in parenthesis after his name (Suzuki & ?) may be significant but what does it mean? There are three Suzukies cited in Gordon Prange's book on the Pearl Harbor attack. (2)

Other

- It is reported that Isoroku Yamamoto did not admire or want to serve under Osami Nagano.
- At the war crime trials, we can only guess at the sentence that Nangano might have received if he had remained alive. Had he escaped the hangman's noose and received life in prison, he would have been lucky indeed. Of the 16 defendants sentenced to life in prison, 14 would be paroled no later than 1956 - serving no more than eight years in prison. The remaining two died in prison before parole was generally instituted. **

Sources:

(1) *The Reluctant Admiral - Yamamoto and the Imperial Navy* by Hiroyuki Agawa. Kodansha International, New York City. (1979)

(2) *At Dawn We Slept - The Untold Story of Pearl Harbor* by Gordon W. Prange. Penguin Books, New York City. (1981)

(3) *Eagle Against the Sun* by Ronald H. Spector. The Free Press, New York City. (1985)

* *Japan's Decision for War* by Louis Morton. (Chapter 4 of his book available on the Internet/99)

** The Tokyo War Crimes Trials (Internet/99)