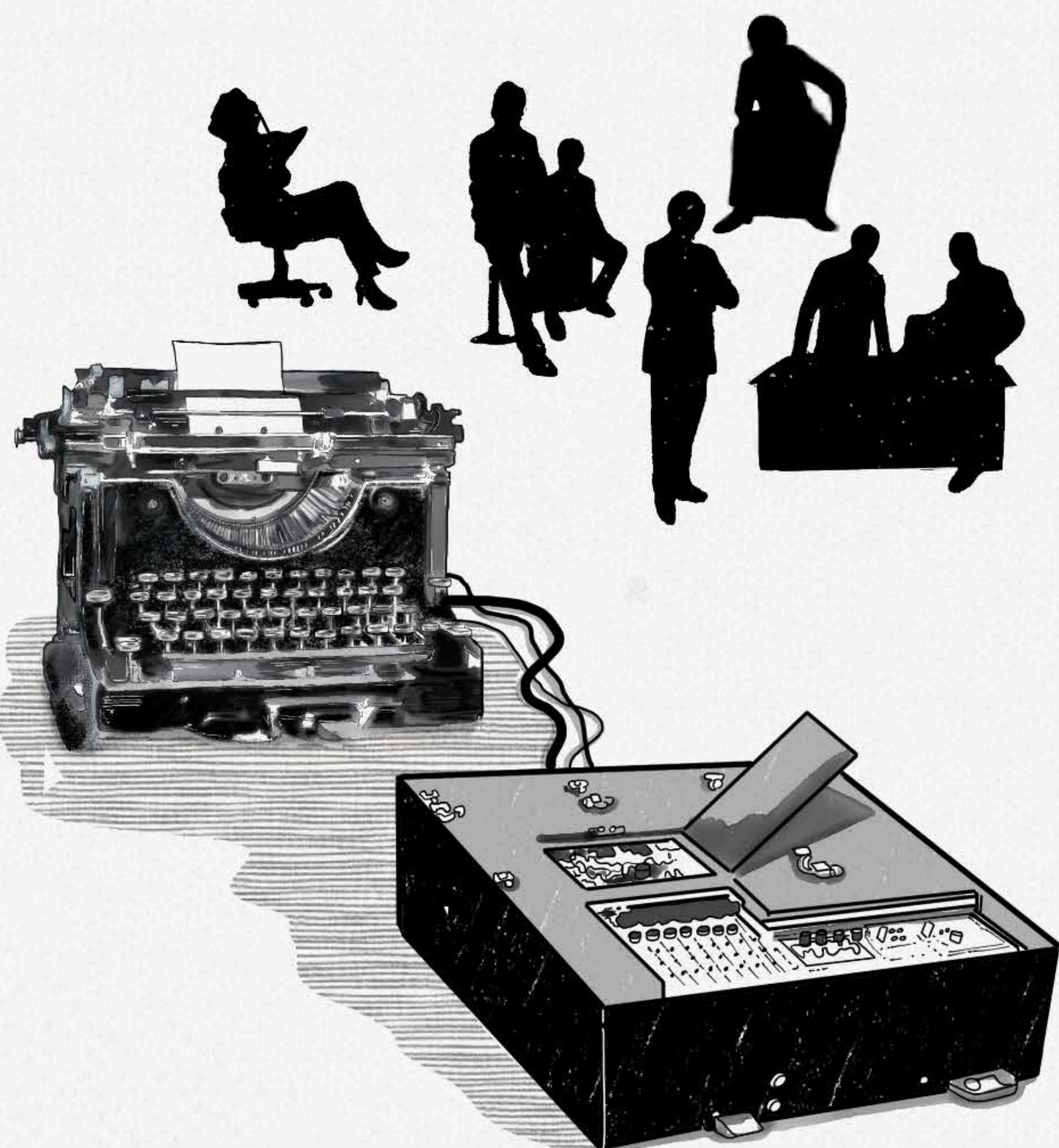


In 1939, the Japanese Foreign Ministry adopted a new machine to encipher its diplomatic messages to and from the most important cities of the world.



It took over a year, but American Army cryptanalysts led by Frank Rowlett solved this new machine, enabling US officials to read messages Japan was sending to Washington, D.C. Not knowing the Japanese name for it, the Americans nicknamed it the **"PURPLE"** machine. They built their own replica to decipher Japanese automatically --- at least as fast as the original device itself. Cryptanalyst Genevieve Grotjan found the **key to solving it.**

In October 1938, Lieutenant General Oshima Hiroshi became Japan's ambassador to Germany. He spoke fluent German and admired Adolf Hitler.



FROM THE AMBASSADOR

#012

BECAUSE ŌSHIMA (大島) WAS CONSIDERED A COMRADE, THE GERMANS INVITED HIM TO NAZI PARTY MEETINGS, GAVE HIM BRIEFINGS ABOUT THE WAR SITUATION, AND TOOK HIM ON FRONTLINE INSPECTION TOURS.

HIS REPORTS ABOUT NAZI GERMANY WERE ENCIIPHERED ON THE **PURPLE** MACHINE FOR BROADCAST TO TOKYO.

THIS MEANT THE U.S. HAD ACCESS TO THEM, AND SHARED THEM WITH ITS ALLY, GREAT BRITAIN. THIS IS SOME OF WHAT THEY LEARNED...



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Oshima met with Nazi Party leaders and senior military officers and reported on their thinking.



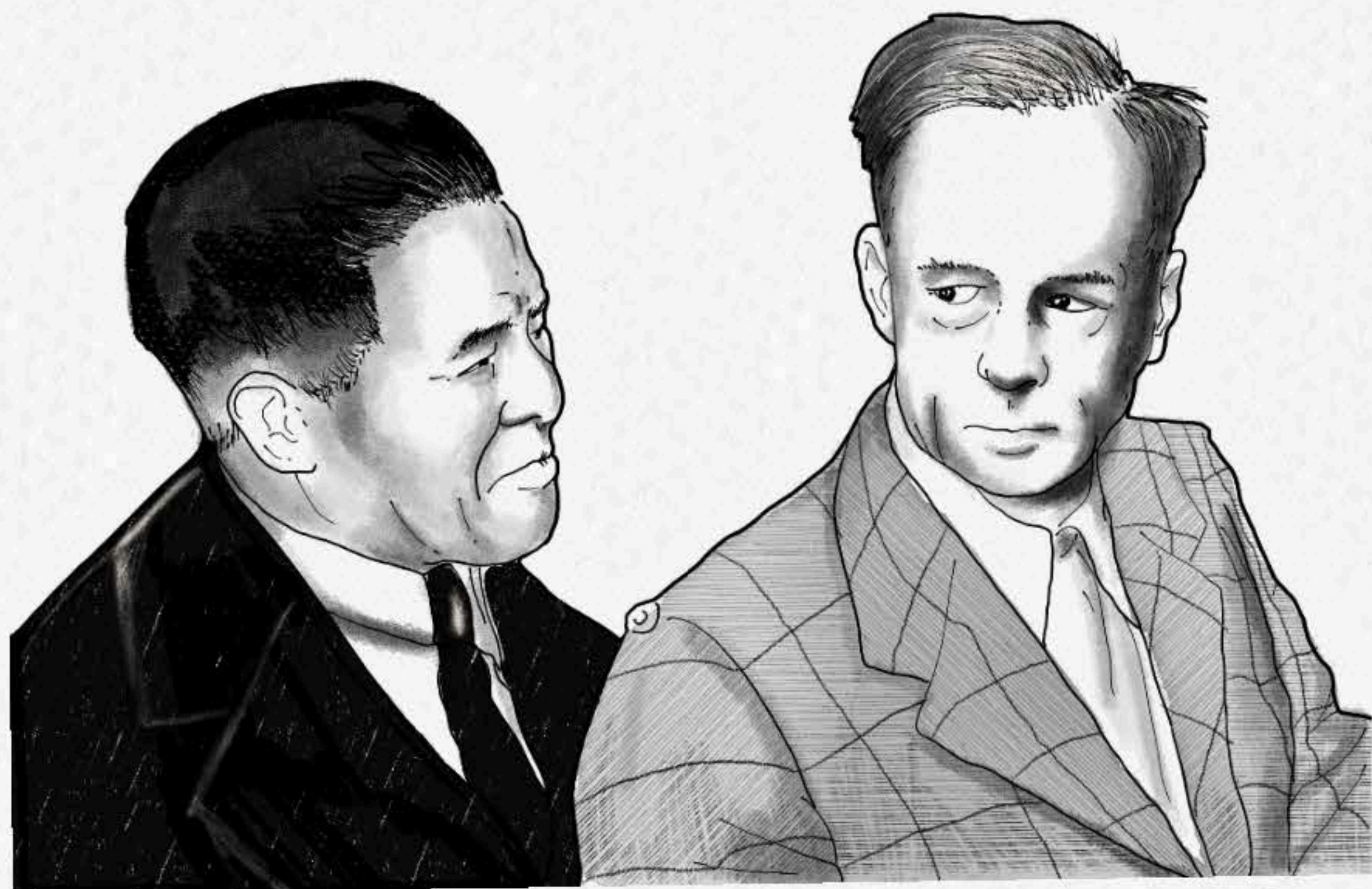
In November 1943, the German military gave Oshima and his staff a four-day tour of their defenses on the coast of France. He saw their bunkers and heavy guns. The German commander told him the plans for defense in case of attack.

AFTER DECRYPTION AND TRANSLATION,

Oshima's report was very useful to all Allied leaders, and critical to General Eisenhower and his staff when they planned the D-Day invasion of German-occupied France.



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On July 20, 1944, an anti-Nazi cabal tried to kill Hitler. In the aftermath, the German Foreign Minister had to reassure his Japanese allies that all was well. Oshima's report was welcomed by the US and Great Britain. That meant that within a day of the event, they knew as much as the German government and Japan did about the attempted assassination.



Oshima had meetings with the German Minister of Armaments as well as high-ranking military officers. In his reports to Tokyo, he cited exact statistics about existing German weaponry and the manufacturing capability for more weapons.



OOSHIMA, Hiroshi - continued:

DATE

6 Feb. 1939:
(Continued)

Quoting HARADA "in times like these the Army is simple minded: Therefore, Germany looks promising. They act as if they want to say that Germany is the only reliable nation. The Foreign Minister (ARITA) was very cautious about problems concerning Germany regardless of their importance because of the above fact."

"Germany tries to take the upper hand in everything and unless we are very cautious, she will try to take advantage of us. ARITA was continually saying this and it was also said that this had been told to the Army. This issue was brought up by the Lord Keeper of the Privy Seal. He was worried over the fact that Ambassador OOSHIMA is being used by Ribbentrop as if he were a messenger." (Part XVIII, Chap. 314, pp. 2443-5.)

7 Mar. 1939:

HARADA had dinner with Commercial Attaché SUDO at the Tokyo Club and listened to his observation of his stay in Berlin and the situation between the Army and German authorities. This was a gathering of members of the KOMEI, of which ten were invited, together with SAKAI and OKANE of the KENTU, and HOSOKAWA of the KAYU.

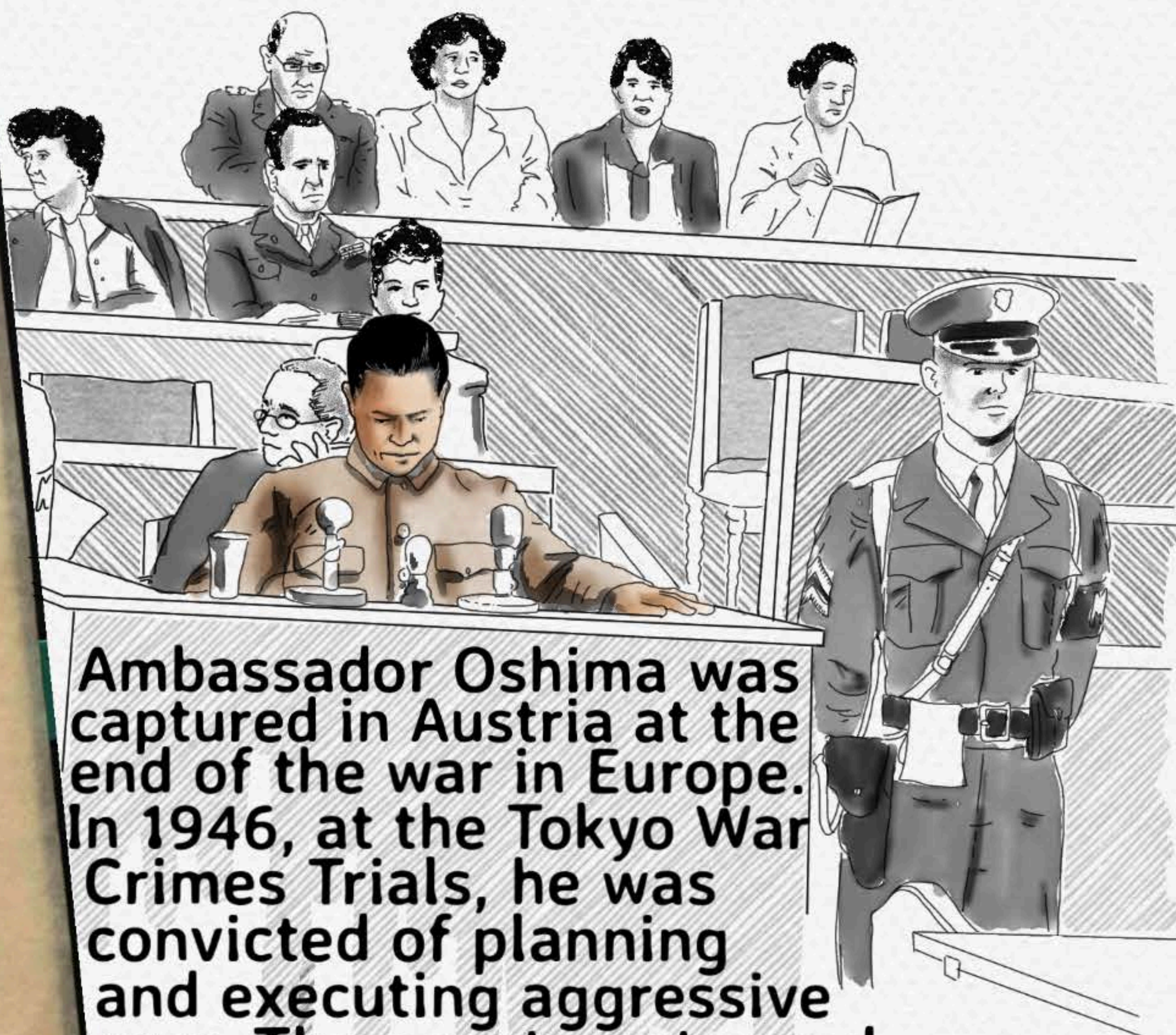
SUDO spoke of OOSHIMA, the Ambassador to Germany, whose actions are hard to distinguish between being German or Japanese. Citing examples, he also spoke of the Embassy employees whose minds became spellbound when they went to Germany, and did everything as Germany proposed.

9 Mar. 1939:

On this day HARADA had a conversation with Captain TAKAGI on a morning train ride to Tokyo. He reported to Prime Minister HIRANUMA that Captain TAKAGI advised that if a conference should be held in connection with the reply to be made to Ambassador OOSHIMA and SHIRATORI, it would be best to have all agencies come to a preliminary understanding of matters through negotiation. This was because it would be very inconvenient should the Navy and the Foreign Ministries get together and oppose the Army after the conference was convened. The Prime Minister replied, "Just the same, it is my intention not to take up this matter during the present session of the Diet, but settle after the session is adjourned."

After lunch, HARADA met the Foreign Minister (ARITA), who told him that there was no problem as far as the different agencies coming to an understanding were concerned; that the matter had been reported to the Emperor who had stated that it was an inevitable consequence of circumstances and had sanctioned it; that no matter what the Ambassadors to Rome and Berlin might say the Japanese Government could not counsel its decision; that all "we" have to do is to change the Ambassadors if they are going to rush to conclusions and say that the decisions of the Japanese Government will not do.

- 5 -



Ambassador Oshima was captured in Austria at the end of the war in Europe. In 1946, at the Tokyo War Crimes Trials, he was convicted of planning and executing aggressive war. The court sentenced him to life in prison.



When Japan regained its sovereignty in 1952, the new government paroled Ambassador Oshima, and he lived quietly at home for the rest of his life. The fact that the US Army had broken the Japanese diplomatic cipher system was still a secret. He died in 1975, never knowing he had unwittingly helped bring down the Nazi government he admired.