

The Process of establishment of the Designated Area for Stateless Refugees in Shanghai

— As described in the unpublished documents of the Naval Captain
Toshiro Saneyoshi —

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Stemming from the insight, gained in my previous work, into the fictive nature of the plan for Jewish extermination in wartime Shanghai, the present account will elucidate the process of establishment of the Designated Area for Stateless Refugees, so-called ‘Shanghai ghetto’ (18 February 1943). A day-by-day description of this process was enabled by the newly discovered documents of the Japanese Naval captain Toshiro Saneyoshi (1886-1973), who led the Special Investigation Department in the Naval Attaché’s Office in Shanghai from April 1942 to June 1943.

Analysis of these first-hand documents corroborates the conclusion that I reached in my previous work for the non-existence of interference by the Nazi authorities in this policy decision. It was on the initiative of Saneyoshi and his subordinate Tsutomu Kubota (1895-1975) that the plan of the Designated Area was conceived, embodied and executed, as they sought direction from the Naval General Staff Office and meticulously conferred with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Army, as well as the Ministry of Greater East Asia, newly formed on 1st November 1942.

As to whether or to what extent this Designated Area deserved the appellation of ‘ghetto’, the answer is to be found through further analysis of Saneyoshi documents posterior to February 1943.