

# Two Senior Japanese Naval Officers Charged With Cold-Blooded Murders

Honkong, Sept. 20, (Reuters)—The "cold-blooded murder" of 65 or 70 men—survivors of the British motorship Behar—said to have been bludgeoned unconscious and stabbed to death aboard the Japanese heavy cruiser Tone in March 1944, was alleged yesterday at a war crimes court when two senior Japanese naval officers were charged with "responsibility for the massacre."

Accused were Rear Admiral Nomasa Sakonju, commander of the 16th squadron of the Japanese southwest area fleet, and Captain Haruo Mayazumi, commander of the Tone.

The prosecution alleged that the Behar was intercepted by the Tone March 9, 1944, and sunk by gunfire, 111 passengers and crew being picked up.

On March 16, 1944, it was said Sakonju ordered the Tone's captain to "dispose of all except 15 of these survivors."

Mayazumi defied the order however, the prosecutor said, and took the survivors to Batavia, Java, where he was allowed to land the crew, 11 passengers and 20 Indians. Sakonju again ordered Mayazumi to dispose of the remainder and the Tone put out to sea where allegedly the other survivors were killed.

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