

WAR DEPARTMENT

Exhibit # 47

Case # 94

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE TO AVOID
PAYMENT OF POSTAGE, \$300.

original transcript of notes
taken by Major Barnard in
the interrogation of Capt.
Akira Sasaki

INTERVIEW OF
CAPTAIN AKIRA SASAKI, IJN

Date and Time - 28 November 1945. 0900-1200 hours.
Place - Room 305, NYK Bldg., Tokyo, Japan.
Present - Major LeRoy H Barnard, Inf., O-191597
Interpreter - 2d Lt Hideo F Uyehara, Inf., O-2030790

- Q. Captain, what is your full name and rank?
- A. Akira Sasaki, Captain, Imperial Japanese Navy.
- Q. Where do you reside?
- A. At the KURE Naval Station.
- Q. Are you married?
- A. Yes, my wife and four children live with me at the Kure Naval Station.
- Q. What are your duties there?
- A. Liaison Officer. I expect to retire on the 30th of November 1945 and will go to work with the Repatriation Bureau at the same location.
- Q. Were you present at any of the meetings in August 1941 at which time plans of the attack on the United States were worked out?
- A. No.
- Q. Were you present during the Naval exercises in September of that year at which time those theories were tested?
- A. I was present at the September maneuvers in the capacity of an umpire.
- Q. How was the Japanese Navy divided during those exercises, and what did each division represent?
- A. It was divided into three parts for maneuver purposes.
- Q. These were actually three teams representing America, England and Japan, weren't they?
- A. Yes, but we did this every year.
- Q. What was the object of the 1941 maneuvers?
- A. To determine whether or not the home islands of Japan could be defended against an attack by America and England.

- Q. What did these maneuvers demonstrate to the Japanese Navy?
- A. It proved that due to the preponderance of power of the United States Fleet, the defense of Japan would be very difficult.
- Q. Are you sure these maneuvers weren't for the purpose of testing your theories for an attack on the United States?
- A. No, defensive only.
- Q. Were maneuvers ever held to test attack theories?
- A. No.
- Q. Do you mean to say that the Japanese Navy undertook what was up to that time the world's most extensive Naval Operation without subjecting their ideas to a test in maneuvers?
- A. I know nothing of the high plans.
- Q. That wasn't the question.
- A. I have not attended all maneuvers of the Navy.
- Q. What has been the object of your naval training, then?
- A. Ever since the China Incident, all bulk supplies were cut off from the United States and all plans and maneuvers were held, not with view to war with the United States, but leading up to war.
- Q. What do you mean by leading up to war?
- A. We thought war was inevitable.
- Q. Were you ever present at any meeting when these war plans were formulated or discussed?
- A. No.
- Q. When the task force sailed from the Kuriles to attack Pearl Harbor, what security measures were taken to avoid detection?
- A. A submarine screen preceded the task force by about 300 miles until they were about six hundred miles from the target. They were instructed to radio to the task force if any ship was sighted in order that the direction of the task force could be changed.
- Q. What were the instructions after they reached this point about six hundred miles from Hawaii?

- A. I do not know. I was on Admiral Yamamoto's flagship. It did not participate in the attack, but was anchored in the Inland Sea.
- Q. Do you know what day the attack was set for?
- A. No.
- Q. Was a declaration of war to precede the attack?
- A. I believe the Navy understood that a short warning would be given.
- Q. Did the Army and Navy hold a conference at which time a declaration of war was discussed?
- A. I do not know.
- Q. Why have you no knowledge of these plans?
- A. I was completely engrossed in my job.
- Q. What was your job.
- A. To determine whether bombs or torpedoes would be more effective in narrow channels.
- Q. Which did you determine to be more effective?
- A. Torpedoes.
- Q. Those experiments were held at Saeki, weren't they?
- A. Yes.
- Q. When did you start your studies?
- A. In April or May of 1941.
- Q. As a matter of fact those experiments were conducted specifically for the purpose of determining what effect a strike at Pearl Harbor would probably have, weren't they?
- A. Yes.
- Q. What losses did you expect at Pearl Harbor?
- A. About a hundred planes and a large percentage of our surface vessels.
- Q. When you found that your attack was a success and you did not suffer anything like the losses you expected, why didn't you seize Hawaii?
- A. Due to the fact that America had frozen all raw materials, we had to seize the Philippines. This was our first objective and the attack on

Pearl Harbor was for the sole purpose of crippling the United States fleet so it could not interfere with the Philippine campaign.

Q. When did the main body of the Japanese Fleet move in to SAEKI?

A. In September and October of 1941.

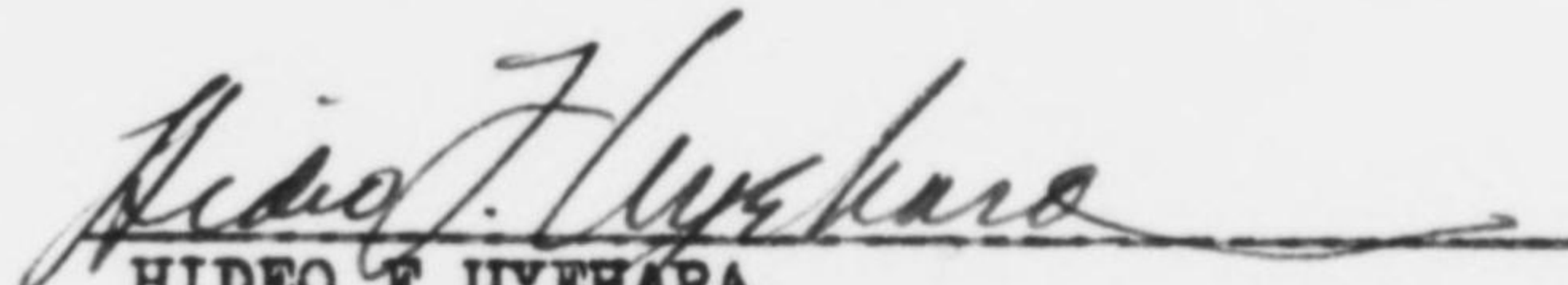
Q. You were a staff officer, didn't you ever attend any staff conferences at which the attack plans were discussed and opportunity given to the staff officers to suggest revisions or modifications of the plan to attack Pearl Harbor?

A. I don't know anything about revising any of the Pearl Harbor attack plans. I believe Admiral YAMAMOTO had very definite ideas concerning the attack. It was the Admiral's idea that we must secure the natural resources in the south and in order to do that they would have to cripple the American Fleet at Pearl Harbor. I attended some of the staff conferences, but submitted no specific recommendations and offered nothing other than the results of the bombing studies that I had been ordered to carry out.


Q. Is there anything else you wish to tell us?

A. No.

I, Hideo F. Uyehara, 2d Lt., Infantry O-2030790, hereby certify that I acted as interpreter at the interview set out above, that I truly interpreted and translated the English questions into Japanese and the replies thereto from Japanese into English, and that the English translation of the answers set out above are true and accurate to the best of my knowledge and belief.


HIDEO F UYEHARA,
2d Lt INF, O-2030790

WITNESS:


LEROY H BARNARD,
Major, Infantry.