

HEADQUARTERS  
U.S. STRATEGIC BOMBING SURVEY  
(PACIFIC)  
c/o POSTMASTER, SAN FRANCISCO

INTERROGATION NO. (USSES NO. 40)  
NAV NO. 6

Place: Tokyo  
Date: 18 October 1945

Division of Origin: Naval Analysis Division.

Subject: The Attack on Pearl Harbor.  
The Kamikaze Corps in PHILIPPINES and OKINAWA.

Personnel interrogated and background of each:

Captain FUCHIDA, Mitsuo, IJN, has been a naval aviator since 1928. In August 1941 he went to the AKAGI as air group commander, and later led the attacks on PEARL HARBOR, DARWIN and CEYLON. After duty as an instructor in the Naval Staff College and War College, he became senior Staff Officer of the First Air Fleet, in which capacity he was in the MARIANAS from September 1943 until April 1944. In April 1944 he became Air Staff Officer to CinC Combined Fleet and held that post for the duration of the war.

Where interviewed: MEIJI Building.

Interrogator: Lt. Comdr. R. P. Aiken, USNR.

Interpreter: Lt. Paul Brown, USNR.

Allied Officers Present: Col. Phillip Cole, AUS; Captain W. Pardee, AUS; Lt. Robert Garred, USNR.

SUMMARY

Captain FUCHIDA discussed the attack on Pearl Harbor, and the organization of the Kamikaze Corps during the PHILIPPINE Campaign. He also furnished information relating to suicide attacks during the OKINAWA Campaign, and Japanese Naval and Army Air Forces, plans to resist an invasion of JAPAN PROPER.

TRANSCRIPT

Q. Were you a pilot or an observer during the PEARL HARBOR attack?

A. I was an observer.

Q. How many aircraft used in the attack?

A. A total of 350.

Q. What types were employed?

A. In the first wave:	50 High Level	KATES
	40 UTB	KATES
	50 Dive Bombers	VALS
	50 VF	ZEKES

In the second wave:	50 High Level	KATES
	80 Dive Bombers	VALS
	40 VF	ZEKES

Q. How many aircraft were lost. (Failed to return to their carriers)?



Transcript of Interrogation (Captain Mitsuo FUCHIDA, IJN).  
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A. 29 in all. 9 VF in the first wave and 15 dive bombers and 5 VTB in the second wave.

Q. Which units of the fleet participated in the PEARL HARBOR attack?

A. BBs           KIYE, KIRISHIMA  
CVs           AKAGI, KAGA, SORYU, HIRYU, SHOKAKU, ZUIKAKU.  
CAS           TONE CHIKUMA.  
CL            NAGARA.  
DDs           20 (large type).

Q. How many Air Craft were employed as CAP over the Pearl Harbor attack force?

A. 50 VF from CVs plus 12 float planes from the BBs, CAs and CL.

Q. Were they in addition to the 350 planes used in the actual attack at PEARL HARBOR?

A. Yes.

Q. How many were on station at a time of the CAP?

A. About 1/3 of the 50 air craft were airborne at a time.

Q. Any losses from CAP, either VF or float planes?

A. None.

Q. Any additional planes employed as ASP?

A. None, VF served as ASP as well as CAP.

Q. How many pilots were lost in the attack?

A. A total of 29---none were recovered from the 29 air craft that failed to return.

PHILIPPINE KAMIKAZE OPERATIONS

Q. Were the CV Air Groups, that left the Empire in October 1944 being sent to the PHILIPPINES for Kamikaze attacks?

A. No. Part of the 601 Air Group was embarked in October 1944. From the remainder of the Air Group pilot personnel, 30 VF pilots were selected in November 1944 for Kamikaze operations and were sent to LUZON, to join the 201 Air Group.

Q. Were any of the 601 Air Group, embarked on carriers in October 1944, being sent to the PHILIPPINES defense as Kamikaze pilots?

A. No.

Q. How were the 30 fighter pilots selected for Kamikaze operations?

A. They were all volunteers.

Q. How did they rank in flying experience with the other pilots in the Air Group?

A. They were the best.

Q. Regarding Japanese plans for the defense of the homeland against Allied landings, how were Kamikaze aircraft to be employed?



