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

INTERFOGATION 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. Pardae, AUS; Lt. Robert Garred, USNR.

SUMMARY

Captain FUCHIDA discussed the attack on Pearl Harbor, and the organization of the Karikaze 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 40 UTB 50 Dive Bombers 50 VF	KATES KATES VALS ZEKES
	In	the	second wave:	50 High Level 80 Dive Bombers 40 VF	KATES VALS ZEKES

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

- 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?

- A. According to plans, all Kamikaze planes were to be expended when allied forces attempted landings on KYUSHU.
- Q. Were any Kamikaze planes to be held back for the defense of the KANTO Plain Area?
- A. On paper, all aircraft (both ARMY and NAVY Combat and trainer types) were to be used to resist Allied Amphibious operations against KYUSHU. Actually, I believe that some ARMY Air Units would have been held back to repel an invasion of the KANTO plain.
- Q. At OKINAWA, what was the ratio of ships hit to aircraft expended in Kamikaze attacks?
- A. I think about 1/6th of the total aircraft used hit their target.
- Q. How many Kamikaze aircraft were expended during the OKINAWA operations?
- A. About 900 in all.

 500 NAVY aircraft from JAPAN
 300 ARMY aircraft from FORMOSA
 50 NAVY aircraft from FORMOSA
 50 ARMY aircraft from FORMOSA
 These figures are approximations.
- Q. Of the 900 that were expended in the OKINAWA area, how many hit their target?
- A. Although it was widely publicized that 400 had been successful, I think that 200 would be a more accurate figure.
- Q. That percentage of hits did the JNAF expect in the KETSU Operations.
- A. We expected about the same percentage as during the OKINAWA operations.
- Q. How many Kamikaze aircraft were to be used during KETSU operations by JNAF?
- A. 2500, of which 500 were combat aircraft and 2000 were trainers, We had about 2500 remaining combat aircraft which would be used during KETSU operations for search, night torpedo, and air cover.
- Q. What were the plans for the use of the Kamikaze aircraft during KETSU operations?
- A. 500 suicide planes were to be expended during the initial Allied landing attempt. This force would be supplemented by other Kamikaze units brought in from SHIKOKU, SW HONSHU, Central HONSHU, TOKYO Area, and HOKKAIDO.
- Q. How were JNAF Kamikaze aircraft deployed throughout the Empire?
- A. 500 in KYUSHU.
 - 500 in SW HONSHU.
 - 500 in Central HONSHU.
 - 500 in TOKYO Area.
 - 300 in HOKKAIDO.
 - 200 in SHIKOKU.
- Q. What was the size and deployment of the JAAF Kamikaze force?
- A. Approximately the same as the JNAF. 2500 aircraft deployed similarly.