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~~HEADQUARTERS  
U.S. STRATEGIC BOMBING SURVEY  
(PACIFIC)  
APO #234  
C/O POSTMASTER, SAN FRANCISCO~~

NO  
WUB

PLACE Tokyo, Japan  
DATE 15 Nov. 1945

INTERROGATION NO. \_\_\_\_\_  
(Obtained from 9-2)

Division of Origin Morale Division

Subject: Control Measures of Rumor and Morale During War.

Personnel interrogated and background of each:

Mr. Takami, Police Bureau, Home Affairs, representing Mr. Koizumi.

Where interviewed Meiji Bldg

Interrogator Lt. R. V. Bowers, USNR

Interpreter Lt. Harrison, AUS

Allied Officers Present \_\_\_\_\_

Summary:

Mr. Takami did not know the subject of the interview nor was he in the least qualified to discuss it. He had been in the Army since 1939 with the exception of December 1941 - May 1942 and September 1945 to the present. During these two brief periods he has been a minor clerk in the Foreign Section of the Home Office.

The sending of such a man should be the subject of vigorous protestations to Mr. Koizumi. This is the second time we have unsuccessfully tried to get someone to discuss this topic.

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UNITED STATES STRATEGIC BOMBING SURVEY  
MORALE DIVISION  
(Pacific)

Interview with Mr. Takami, Foreign Section, Police Bureau, Home Office, representing Mr. Koizumi.

SUBJECT: Control Measures of rumor and morale during the war.

TIME: Nove 15, 1945, 1000AM - 1200 Noon

PLACE: Meiji Bldg.

INTERVIEWER: Lt. R. V. Bowers, USNR.

INTERPRETER: Lt. Harrison, AUS

Mr. Takami had sent, on request, a statement of his education and work experience. (Attached.) This showed that he probably knew nothing about the subject to be discussed, which proved correct. Thus, this was the second time we have not been sent a man who knew anything about "control measures concerning morale", Kimura being the first. Moreover Takami had had such slight contact with government that he could not have been sent in seriousness by the Japanese officials.

The interview was thus altered to discuss the only field about which Takami had any information of even marginal importance to the Morale Division, i.e. the morale of the troops in the units with which he served from May 1942 to September 1945.

Mr. Takami was not very voluble, nor did he appear to be very intelligent.

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It is of interest that he majored in English in college. Both he and Kimura knew a little English.

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Because of the paucity of information available to Takami, his answers are given in very brief form.

B represents Bowers

T represents Takami

B: What do you understand the subject of the interview to be?

T: People (Personalities).

B: With reference to what?

T: Leaders.

B: With reference to what?

T: Activities of leaders and my feelings about them.

B: Who informed you of this subject?  
T: Had a telephone call from Meiji Bldg which I couldn't understand.  
B: Who in the Japanese Gov't told you about the interview?  
T: Mizuguchi called me, but he had a toothache and wasn't very clear.  
B: What was your Major at Nippon University?  
T: English.  
B: You can speak English?  
T: Forgot English because I have been in Army so long.  
B: What overseas service have you had?  
T: Manchuria.  
B: Dates?  
T: July 1939 to January 1941. I fought against Russia.  
B: What foreign service have you had since Pearl Harbor?  
T: None (in Tokyo whole time).  
B: What kind of work did you do as a minor government clerk in early 1942?  
T: Worked with foreigners - handled money in Foreign Section.  
B: Elaborate, please.  
T: Kept data on foreigners-where they lived, the kind of work they did, etc.  
B: How did you get such data?  
T: From visiting factories and businesses.  
B: Any other sources?  
T: Ken reports.  
B: What are your duties in your present job?  
T: I handle funds.  
B: For what?  
T: Money received from Home Ministry?

B: For what purpose?

T: Salaries and expenses.

B: Do you ~~have~~ <sup>know</sup> anything about how the gov't controlled morale during the war?

T: No.

(At this point the interviewer decided to give up on the hoped for subject of the interview and question Takami on army morale.)

B: You say you came to talk about leaders--How well do you think the leaders conducted the war?

T: When war came I felt everybody had to do what he could!

B: I wish you to know that this interview is confidential and will be known only to the American authorities. You said that your army experience was entirely in the Tokyo area?

T: Yes.

B: What were your duties in the army?

T: Education for troops.

B: What kind of education?

T: Artillery training.

B: Anything else?

T: Sold articles to the troops.

B: Did you ever submit morale reports to superiors on troops?

T: No

B: What are your opinions about the morale of the troops in your area (Tokyo)?

T: At the beginning of the war it was very high, but after the air raids, it deteriorated rapidly.

B: When did this change take place?

T: July 1944, when rations began to run low and men were getting sick.

B: Tell me more about this.

T: The troops didn't want to go <sup>to</sup> the Phillipines and Malaya and many were being sent.

B: Why didn't they want to go?

T: They were afraid of being killed due to news in the papers of defeats.

B: This was during 1944?

T: Yes.

B: During the last half of 1944 can you recall the comments of the men that led you to believe morale was decreasing?

T: (Misunderstood question)

B: You said morale was lower because of defeats-what type of soldier comments led you to your belief?

T: There was constant talk about what troops would be leaving for the South next. No one wanted to go. They did not want to leave their families.

B: Among which soldiers was morale lowest and highest?

T: Same for all--none wanted to go. All were glad at beginning of war, but during 1944 morale decreased. One reason for poor morale was the government's change of policy regarding farewell celebrations for men entering service. At first the families and neighbors could all go to the train and say goodbye, but later only one or two relatives were permitted to go. This change was made to prevent too many people from knowing into what units the men were going.

B: When did this change take place?

T: 1943.

B: In this discussion of decreasing morale are you talking about officers as well as enlisted men?

T: The officers gave lectures that Japan couldn't lose the war. Morale among officers went down during the battle of the Philippines as Divisional commanders told junior officers that the war was lost.

B: How did you find this out?

T: I heard it from an officer.

B: Was your army camp bombed after December 1944?

T: Yes.

B: When?

T: Twice, by incendiaries - May and August 1945.

B: What did the soldiers think about the bombing?

T: They were disturbed; they couldn't sleep, they went into shelter.

B: What did the men think of the shelters provided to protect them against bombing?

T: They were adequate.

B: Were the men surprised that they were bombed?

T: No - they went to work to put out fires.

B: The men believed they would be bombed sometime?

T: Yes - later on in the war.

B: What seemed to be the chief worries of soldiers during the bombing period?

T: Our lives and the lives of our families.

B: Were these soldiers from all over Japan, or mainly from Tokyo?

T: Northeast Japan mainly - Sendai, Aomori, etc.

B: City or country, mainly?

T: Two-thirds were from the country.

B: Did soldiers feel that the information from officers and from newspapers were telling truth?

T: We believed newspapers, but since naval battles were never published we began to wonder because we did hear about the sinking of ships from families with relatives in the Navy.

B: Did American leaflets ever drop in your camp?

T: Yes.

B: Did soldiers ever read them?

T: Yes, but headquarters always collected them.

B: What effect on morale did these leaflets have?

T: They didn't have any effect.

B: Why?

T: Because we didn't know whether they were true or not.

B: What was the reaction of soldiers to information officers gave them about the war?

T: The soldiers at first believed the spiritual training given them by officers - that they should fight to the end - but later they began to doubt this.

B: In your camp how did officers try to raise morale of troops?

T: They gave lectures on history of Japan, with emphasis on winning war.

B: Did they institute any special measures after morale began to disintegrate?

T: They threatened imprisonment if soldiers went AWOL.

B: Can you give me example of rumors during the period of the bombing?

T: There were rumors about certain camps being burned completely; there was worry about another raid and loss of sleep.

B: What would happen to a soldier if an officer caught him passing a rumor along to another soldier?

T: Nothing.

B: How did soldiers feel when they heard about the surrender?

T: The officers wanted to continue fighting; the men couldn't believe it was true. I wasn't in camp at the time and when I returned to camp I was told by an officer that the news of the surrender wasn't true.

B: How did the men in the camp learn of the surrender?

T: By radio - the emperor's speech.

B: How did they feel when they heard that?

T: Their hearts were broken. They had heard that if Japan lost the war everybody would die.

B: What do you mean by that?

T: Everybody would be killed.

B: Who told the men that?

T: Their officers.

**U. S. STRATEGIC BOMBING SURVEY**

**APO 234, c/o Postmaster  
San Francisco, California**

USSBS  
File

**MEMORANDUM**

**From:** Lt Bower, Morale Division, USSBS  
**To :** Mr. TAKAMI, Home Ministry, Police Bureau.  
**Subject:** Personal History, Request for

1. In preparation for the interview scheduled for Thursday, November 15th at 1000, I would like to have an outline of your positions held during the war and also your educational background. The outline should include (a) the positions held and the dates for each. (b) the schools attended and dates of attendance.

2. The purpose of this request is to save time. The personal background information can be gained at the interview itself but will require several minutes to obtain.

Sincerely,

 (for Bower)

Lt Bower, Morale Division.



日本郵政省 昭和十二年九月 (1937)

昭和十六年十二月 内務省 外事課勤務 (1941)

" 十七年五月十五日 東部第十三部隊應召 (團長)

" 二十年九月九日 召集解任 (團長)

" 二十年九月十日 行政課勤務 (課長)

Appointed graduated 1937 Dec of 1941 appointed minor clerk of Home Ministry

in the Section of Foreign Affairs.

15 May 42 entered Army was Corporal in the 13th Force of the Eastern District Army

9 Sept 1945 released from Army, rank of Sgt.

14 Sep 1945 appointed minor clerk in Foreign Sect, Administrative, Home  
Ministry, Police

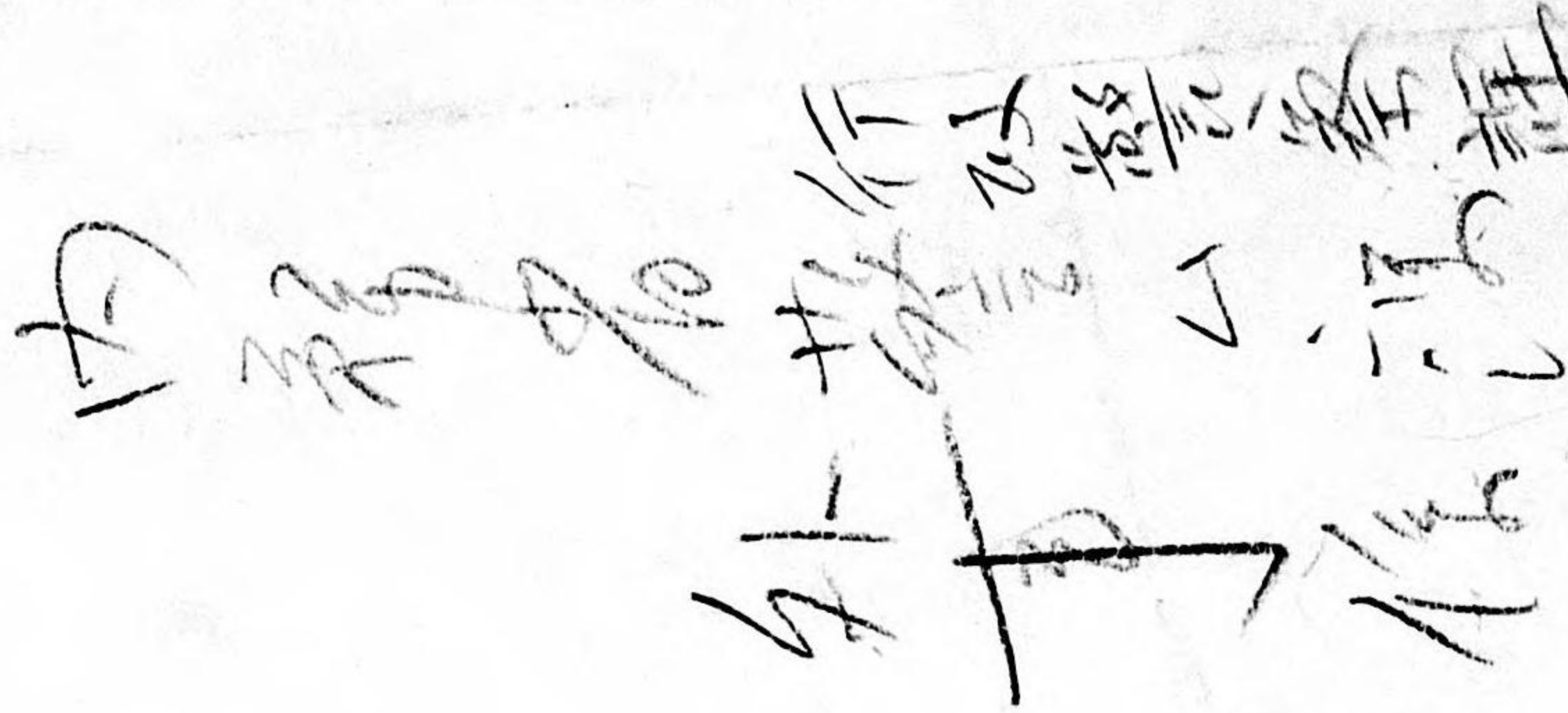
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gajisei kansatoku

External Affairs Dept

Administrative Police

Shogun's gakuin



Naomasa Kimura

gajisei gakuin  
Section of Foreign Affairs

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Handwritten text: (Lt. Bower)

略歴 career

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Handwritten text in parentheses: (10-1)