

HEADQUARTERS
U. S. STRATEGIC BOMBING SURVEY
(PACIFIC)
MILITARY ANALYSIS DIVISION



INTERROGATION NO. 520

PLACE: Tokyo
DATE: 8 Dec 1945

Division of Origin: Military Analysis

Subject: Japanese Liaison With Germany.

Personnel Interrogated and Background of Each: Major KOBAYASHI, Shige

Born 10 February 1905. In 1940 graduated from the Sendai High Industrial School (KOTO KOGYO). October 1940 became attached to the Army Aerial Technical Department (GIJUTSUBU). In January 1941 he went to Germany as an Army Engineer (RIKUGUN GISHI). Commissioned in December 1942 while in Germany (Major). Remained in Germany until July of 1945 when he left Germany and arrived in New York on the 11th of July and was sent direct to the Washington camp. On the 25th of September he was transferred to the Belford Springs Interment Camp. Went to Seattle on 16 November and left there the 23rd of November. Arrived in Japan on 6 December at Uraga. His report will treat on his activities while in Germany.

Interrogator: Major John J. Driscoll

Interpreter: Mr. Yaho

Where Interviewed: Room 712, Meiji Bldg.

Summary:

KOBAYASH was in Germany during the entire war. His job was to investigate and purchase aircraft and weapons. He gives examples of the technical cooperation between Germany and Japan, and the lack of very fruitful results. He seemed reluctant to volunteer information. He confirmed some data previously gathered in Germany.

RESTRICTED

Q. When you left for Germany you were an Engineer? What rank?
A. I was an Army Engineer (civilian) inasmuch as I was attached to the Army, but I had no military duties. I was first commissioned by the Army while in Germany and received the rank of Major.

Q. What were your duties when you first went to Germany?
A. My work was in investigating research and design on bomb releases.

Q. Did you have anything to do with the purchase and investigation of aircraft engines and weapons?
A. I was connected with the investigation and acted as assistant in the investigation and purchase of aircraft and weapons only.

Q. What about the German V-1?
A. I made investigations into it.

Q. How much information on the V-1 was sent from Germany to Japan?
A. I wasn't connected directly with the investigations on the V-1, and did not see the actual experiments, but I did see moving pictures of it and I think a slight amount of information may have been sent but by cable only.

Q. Were no drawings sent?
A. I saw the drawings of it, but I do not think it was ever sent.

Q. What items were particularly requested by the Japanese Air Force - what weapons did they want from Germany?
A. I made out a big report on this in Washington.

Q. When did you finish this report - what date?
A. It was probably finished by the 31st of August of this year.

Q. Was this report (Washington Report) on armament only or on aircraft?
A. My report only covered by activities while assisting in the purchase of aircraft and my investigations.

Q. Did you ever visit Rheinmettal in August of 1942?
A. I visited there many times and probably did visit there in that month. I can't remember exact dates.

Q. Did you study the electric primer at Rheinmettal?
A. I purchased the manufacturing rights together with all the drawings, but whether or not they ever reached Japan I do not know.

Q. How did you send them?
A. I think by submarine.

Q. Did you not get a report as to whether or not they reached Japan? Did you not make inquiries?
A. The goods were shipped sometime between late in December 1944 and early January of this year. We were forced to leave Berlin shortly after. I think the goods were shipped in several submarines and I feel certain the submarines were sunk.

Q. What were the goods - just drawings or samples of the caps?
A. They were the manufacturing rights which we had bought outright. This included drawings, chemical samples and jigs.

Q. Did the Japanese Air Force contemplate changing over to the electric primer if they could get the facilities?
A. I do not know that the Army intended to do that.

- Q.. What is your opinion of what should have been done? To what extent do you think the electric primer should have replaced the percussion primer?
- A.. I like the electric primer very much. The advantages are that in case of a single engine fighter, the accuracy of aiming and of synchronization would be greater. (It is obvious that in spite of the development of the rocket propelled craft that the ordinary type of fighter would still be used to a great extent.) Another advantage of the electric primer is that it could be electrically remote controlled. Also, in case where firing at a pursuing plane, accurate remote control would enable you to avoid shooting your own tail surfaces.
- Q. I do not understand why one should shoot ones's own tail surfaces.
- A. In a flexible gun the electric primer would be very advantageous. Only on a bomber or two-seater fighter.
- Q. Were you ever at Braunschweig at the Luftfahrtforschungsanstalts?
- A. Yes, once in December of 1943.
- Q. How many people were with you?
- A. Fifteen or twenty.
- Q. What did you see in Braunschweig?
- A. Only equipment such as the wind tunnel.
- Q.. Did you see any guns?
- A. No.
- Q.. Do you know Hackermann?
- A. No.
- Q. Dr. Braun?
- A. No.
- Q.. Dr. Rossmann?
- A. No.
- Q. Dr. T. W. Schmidt?
- A. Yes
- Q.. Are you familiar with the Schrotschosse?
- A.. No.
- Q. What do you consider the best German aircraft cannon (MG and MK) for a single-seated fighter?
- A. I think the MK-108 and the MK-103 would be the best for firing at close range.
- Q. Of the two, which do you think is the best?
- A. I am not too familiar with machine guns, so I could not say; but I think the 103 would be best for use in Japan. The 103 ammunition is too heavy for us. The 108 is light in structure making it suitable for the Japanese method of close range firing. The heavier 103 would be possibly of use in the future.
- Q. What about future developments? Did you hear of any German guns with rates of fire greatly exceeding these two, and which were of a large caliber or a similar caliber? Do you know of any aircraft guns having a 1,000 rounds per minute rate?
- A. No.
- Q. Did you ever hear of Gyro-Stablized guns?

- A. No, I have not seen it. The Germans very much disliked to give any information on any experimental weapons, even with regard to gun perfected. At first, they were not too cooperative, but from about the middle of 1943, they became cooperative on a large scale and gave information on all completed weapons.
- Q. Did you see Dr. Schmidt's studies on combat film analysis?
- A. I visited there with 10-12 other people and we were not shown much other than the wind tunnel for investigation of ballistics, and another tunnel for the investigation of firing under low pressure. We did not receive much detailed information.
- Q. Did you see the ballistic photographs they made?
- A. Yes, but not moving pictures.
- Q. From what I have gathered, you know more about the Cable Bomb than anyone else. I would like to know when you started your experiments?
- A. These are bombs which are towed and others which are released with parachutes. The basic idea wasn't my invention.
- Q. Whose was it?
- A. The basic idea came from General MASAKI.
- Q. What year?
- A. Before I went to Germany (three or four years before that time).
- Q. Did you not work under MASAKI on the Cable Bomb?
- A. From the first date of my employment with the Army, almost my entire work was in the development of these types of bombs; but the theoretical side of the work was done by Colonel MIDZUTANI who I heard had later committed suicide.
- Q. What work did the Germans do on this Cable Bomb? What type of bomb did they use?
- A. I would say that I heard they used something like the TO Bomb, that knowledge being gained through the newspapers in Switzerland in 1944. As to the Parachute Bomb, I wasn't aware of its being used in Germany at all. The Japanese had made some of the towed bomb apparatus, but abandoned it because of the rupture of the cable at any high speed and even if it did not rupture in high speeds, it would tend to trail out too far and make it useless. I did not cooperate with the Germany on the towed Cable Bomb.
- Q. What did you think the heaviest practical bomb that could be used in operation (Cable Bomb)?
- A. I think the greatest practical weight would be one KG and five KG (thin cable). The cable used would be one milligram piano wire and one and one-half stranded wire; secondly, four milligram stranded wire.
- Q. Did you not consider carrying a bomb of 50 KG and above?
- A. I had thought theoretically of it, but it was never carried out.
- Q. What were the most important aircraft weapons (and armament) that was received by the Germans from Japan during the course of the war?
- A. I know of nothing as far as I was concerned.
- Q. Were the Germans familiar with the Japanese developments in the TO and TA Bombs?
- A. I think the Japanese gave information to the Germans on the TA Bomb.

- Q. What about the Parachute and Cable Bombs?
- A. I do not think any information was given the Germans on the Cable Bomb because it proved to be impractical. As to the Parachute Bomb, I had not heard that any information was sent to Germany concerning it.
- Q. Did they ever ask you about these anti-bomber weapons?
- A. In about the middle of 1944, I was approached unofficially by the Germans to see if Japan had not some good weapons to use in anti-bomber operations. I did not have anything I could give them because I had heard that the Japanese had experimentally used the Parachute Bomb and had further heard that it wasn't very effective. I had also heard that the Cable Bomb had been abandoned as it wasn't practical, so I gave no practical suggestions.
- Q. Did you give any suggestions at all?
- A. I had no suggestions of any kind to offer the Germans because my main object in going to Germany was to look there for something that might be useful for the Japanese, and owing to that, I had not the need nor the chance to get into contact with technical people.
- Q. Who questioned you about Japanese developments?
- A. General MARQUAT.
- Q. When you left Japan which weapons were you told not to divulge to the Germans?
- A. I wasn't especially cautioned not to give away any secrets, but there are fixed Army Regulations in force determining the degree of secrecy of weapons as a whole, and as a member of the Japanese Nation (though only a civilian employee of the Army) I felt bound by those Regulations. As an instance, the TO Bomb was designed to be used as a surprise attack weapon, and I did not mention it. Later, I became aware that it had almost been abandoned.
- Q. Did you mention the TA Bomb when they asked you about Japanese weapons?
- A. In regard to the TA Bomb, I had heard that the Japanese had already given information on it to the Germans, so I only said that the Germans had already been informed of it.
- Q. What was the German opinion of the TA bomb?
- A. I have not heard that the Germans used the idea, and have not heard of any opinions resulting from German experiments with it.
- Q. Are you familiar with the Butterfly Bomb?
- A. This bomb was used by the Germans in 1941 against the Russians and after that, I heard that a few bombs were sent to Japan but I do not know if they ever were used.
- Q. How much was this bomb used against heavy bombers?
- A. It was used against planes on airfields and against marching troops.
- Q. How about air-to-air bombing?
- A. The Germans had intended to use air-to-air bombing, I think, but I do not know if this plan was carried out.
- Q. What year did they plan to use it?
- A. It probably was the same as the time when they asked me if we had any effective weapons for use against bombers (middle of 1944).

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- .. We would like your opinion on how effectively the Luftwaffe was used in combating American heavy bombers.
- A. I had no opportunity to get in touch with a source of information on that subject as the people I contracted were connected with the more technical side rather than the tactical side.
- Q. I would like your opinion on the German-Japanese cooperation and what results were effected from it.
- A. It did not come up to expectations because the two countries were too widely separated, and the efficiency of the communications between the two was not good, especially in the wireless communication field. Also, the passage between the two countries was extremely limited and if we wished to send samples, we would meet with great difficulties. Therefore, especially in the technical side, the cooperation between the two did not produce the expected results.
- Q. Who in Tokyo would be familiar with the questions you cannot answer as to the weapons exchanged? (of those who were in Germany with you)
- A. There was no person specifically assigned to cooperate in the exchange of weapons, and although I felt I wasn't the man for the job, I did not a bit of technical exchange. As I said before, there was no one assigned to do this that came back with me.
- Q. Did you not meet anyone in Germany who has been assigned to do this job of exchange?
- A. I did meet some of those people.
- Q. Who were they?
- A. Colonel Mix (Oberst Engineer).
- Q. What Japanese were working with Mix?
- A. As far as the Army was concerned, the only person connected with Mix was me. Others in the Navy were connected with him.
- Q. What Navy man worked with him?
- A. Lt Comdr KAWAKITA who is in Japan at this time. He is a real gun expert.

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- Q. Were you ever at Braunschweig at the Luftfahrtforschungsanstalt?
- A. Yes, once in December of 1943.
- Q. How many people were with you?
- A. Fifteen or twenty.
- Q. What did you see in Braunschweig?
- A. Only equipment such as the wind tunnel.
- Q. Did you see any guns?
- A. No.
- Q. Do you know Hackermann?
- A. No.
- Q. Dr. Braun?
- A. No.
- Q. Dr. Rossmann?
- A. No.
- Q. Dr. T. W. Schmidt?
- A. Yes.
- Q. Are you familiar with the Schrotschosse?
- A. No.
- Q. What do you consider the best German aircraft cannon (MG and MK) for a single-seated fighter?

- A. I think the MK-108 and the MK-103 would be the best for firing at close range.
- Q. Of the two, which do you think is the best?
- A. I am not too familiar with machine guns, so I could not say; but I think the 108 would be best for use in Japan. The 103 ammunition is too heavy for us. The 108 is light in structure making it suitable for the Japanese method of close range firing. The heavier 103 would be possibly of use in the future.
- Q. What about future developments? Did you hear of any German guns with rates of fire greatly exceeding these two, and which were of a large caliber or a similar caliber? Do you know of any aircraft guns having a 1,000 rounds per minute rate?
- A. No.
- Q. Did you ever hear of Gyro-Stabilized guns?
- A. No, I have not seen it. The Germans very much disliked to give any information on any experimental weapons, even with regard to guns perfected. At first, they were not too cooperative, but from about the middle of 1943, they became cooperative on a large scale and gave information on all completed weapons.
- Q. Did you see Dr. Schmidt's studies on combat film analysis?
- A. I visited there with 10-12 other people and we were not shown much other than the wind tunnel for investigation of ballistics, and another tunnel for the investigation of firing under low pressure. We did not receive much detailed information.
- Q. Did you see the ballistic photographs they made?
- A. Yes, but not moving pictures.
- Q. From what I have gathered, you know more about the Cable Bomb than anyone else. I would like to know when you started your experiments?
- A. These are bombs which are towed and others which are released with parachutes. The basic idea wasn't my invention.
- Q. Whose was it?
- A. The basic idea came from General MASAKI.
- Q. What year?
- A. Before I went to Germany (three or four years before that time).
- Q. Did you not work under MASAKI on the Cable Bomb?
- A. From the first date of my employment with the Army, almost my entire work was in the development of these types of bombs; but the theoretical side of the work was done by Colonel MIDZUTANI who I heard had later committed suicide.
- Q. What work did the Germans do on this Cable Bomb? What type of bomb did they use?
- A. I would say that I heard they used something like the TO Bomb, that knowledge being gained through the newspapers in Switzerland in 1944. As to the Parachute Bomb, I wasn't aware of its being used in Germany at all. The Japanese had made some of the towed bomb apparatus, but abandoned it because of the rupture of the cable at any high speed and even if it did not rupture in high speeds, it would tend to trail out too far and make it useless. I did not cooperate with the Germans on the towed Cable Bomb.

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- Q. What did you think the heaviest practical bomb that could be used in operation (Cable Bomb)?
- A. I think the greatest practical weight would be one KG and five KG (thin cable). The cable used would be one milligram piano wire and one and one-half stranded wire; secondly, four milligram stranded wire.
- Q. Did you not consider carrying a bomb of 50 KG and above?
- A. I had thought theoretically of it, but it was never carried out.
- Q. What were the most important aircraft weapons (and armament) that was received by the Germans from Japan during the course of the war?
- A. I know of nothing as far as I was concerned.
- Q. Were the Germans familiar with the Japanese developments in the TO and TA Bombs?
- A. I think the Japanese gave information to the Germans on the TA Bomb.
- Q. What about the Parachute and Cable Bombs?
- A. I do not think any information was given the Germans on the Cable Bomb because it proved to be impractical. As to the Parachute Bomb, I had not heard that any information was sent to Germany concerning it.
- Q. Did they ever ask you about these anti-bomber weapons?
- A. In about the middle of 1944, I was approached unofficially by the Germans to see if Japan had not some good weapons to use in anti-bomber operations. I did not have anything I could give them because I had heard that the Japanese had experimentally used the Parachute Bomb and had further heard that it wasn't very effective. I had also heard that the Cable Bomb had been abandoned as it wasn't practical, so I gave no practical suggestions.
- Q. Did you give any suggestions at all?
- A. I had no suggestions of any kind to offer the Germans because my main object in going to Germany was to look there for something that might be useful for the Japanese, and owing to that, I had not the need nor the chance to get into contact with technical people.
- Q. Who questioned you about the Japanese developments?
- A. General MARQUAT.
- Q. When you left Japan which weapons were you told not to divulge to the Germans?
- A. I wasn't especially cautioned not to give away any secrets, but there are fixed Army Regulations in force determining the degree of secrecy of weapons as a whole, and as a member of the Japanese Nation (though only a civilian employee of the Army) I felt bound by those Regulations. As an instance, the TO Bomb was designed to be used as a surprise attack weapon, and I did not mention it. Later, I became aware that it had almost been abandoned.
- Q. Did you mention the TA Bomb when they asked you about Japanese weapons?
- A. In regard to the TA Bomb, I had heard that the Japanese had already given information on it to the Germans, so I only said that the Germans had already been informed of it.
- Q. What was the German opinion of the TA Bomb?
- A. I have not heard that the Germans used the idea, and have not heard of any opinions resulting from German experiments with it.

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- Q. Are you familiar with the Butterfly Bomb?
- A. This bomb was used by the Germans in 1941 against the Russians and after that, I heard that a few bombs were sent to Japan but I do not know if they ever were used.
- Q. How much was this bomb used against heavy bombers?
- A. It was used against planes on airfields and against marching troops.
- Q. How about air-to-air bombing?
- A. The Germans had intended to use air-to-air bombing, I think, but I do not know if this plan was carried out.
- Q. What year did they plan to use it?
- A. It probably was the same as the time when they asked me if we had any effective weapons for use against bombers (middle of 1944).
- Q. We would like your opinion on how effectively the Luftwaffe was used in combating American heavy bombers.
- A. I had no opportunity to get in touch with a source of information on that subject as the people I contacted were connected with the more technical side rather than the tactical side.
- Q. I would like your opinion on the German-Japanese cooperation and what results were effected from it.
- A. It did not come up to expectations because the two countries were too widely separated, and the efficiency of the communications between the two was not good, especially in the wireless communications field. Also, the passage between the two countries was extremely limited and if we wished to send samples, we would meet with great difficulties. Therefore, especially in the technical side, the cooperation between the two did not produce the expected results.
- Q. Who in Tokyo would be familiar with the questions you cannot answer as to the weapons exchanged? (of those who were in Germany with you)
- A. There was no person specifically assigned to cooperate in the exchange of weapons, and although I felt I wasn't the man for the job, I did do a bit of technical exchange. As I said before, there was no one assigned to do this that came back with me.
- Q. Did you not meet anyone in Germany who had been assigned to do this job of exchange?
- A. I did meet some of those people.
- Q. Who were they?
- A. Colonel Mix (Oberst Engineer).
- Q. What Japanese were working with Mix?
- A. As far as the Army was concerned, the only person connected with Mix was me. Others in the Navy were connected with him.
- Q. What Navy men worked with him?
- A. Lt Comdr KAWAKITA who is in Japan at this time. He is a real gun expert.