

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

INTERROGATION NO. 267  
(Jap Intell #9)

Place: TOKYO  
Date: 7 Nov., 1945

Division of Origin: Japanese Intelligence Section, G-2 USSBS.

Subject: Japanese Weather Intelligence.

Person Interviewed and Background:

FUJIWARA, M. Lt. Col.

Lt. Col. Fujiwara, M., Imperial Japanese Army, graduated from the Military Academy in 1929, has served in various posts dealing primarily with meteorological and engineering matters and for the last two years of the war was in a staff job at Air General Headquarters in Meteorology. 1929, graduated Military Academy at Zama, became engineering 2nd Lt.; 1933, taught at Army Engineering School; 1934, went to Central Meteorology Observatory for Aerology training, 10 months; 1936, to Engineering-Artillery School as instructor, specializing in Meteorological teaching; 1937, to North China with Meteorological Regiment; 1939, back to Japan attached to Army Meteorological Headquarters; 1943, to Air Headquarters, Meteorological Department; 1945, April, came to KOKU SOGUN, Air General Headquarters Staff, as the Meteorological Staff Officer.

Where Interviewed: War Ministry.

Interrogators: Lt. Comdr. T.M. Curtis USNR.  
Lt. Comdr. William H. Batzer, USNR.

Interpreter: Lt. Comdr. Frank B. Eugins, USNR.

Allied Officers Present: None.

Summary:

NOTE: Since the interrogation of Lt. Col. FUJIWARA was not extensive it is considered appropriate to include all essential or important facts in the summary.

Organization of Army General Headquarters.

This is directly under the War Ministry and includes five sections.

- (1) General Affairs Section.
- (2) Training Section.
- (3) Research and Scientific Section. (Technical Matters).
- (4) Medical Section.
- (5) Supply Section.

The duties of (1), the "General Affairs Sections," consist mainly of liaison outside the Army in matters relating to Air, and Historical matters. (2) "Training Section" includes 3 sub-sections. The first of these is the "Education Division", which prepared the textbooks used at the Air Officers School, located at TOYOOKA in SAITAMA Prefecture. This school concerned itself with the theory of Aerodynamics, theory of flight, etc., but did not instruct in flying.

The second sub-section of the "Training Section" was responsible for actual flight training and for the training of bombardiers and navigators.

The "Auxiliary" section or third sub-section of "Training" was responsible for the training of ground officers connected with flying and for the instruction of navigational theory and communications.

There was no special training in Air Intelligence provided anywhere in the JAAF. There was special training of communications officers, of course, and the difficulties attendant upon exact translation of the Japanese word "JCHO" often lead to confusion with this. "JCHO", which means information (generally) or "report" is the nearest Japanese word to our "Intelligence." It also has, however, such general meaning that it is applied to any kind of information or reports, e.g. radio news broadcasts. At first Lt. Col. FUJIWARA stated that specialized intelligence training was a part of the responsibility of this "Auxiliary section" under "General Affairs." However, on further questioning and elaboration, it became apparent that he was talking about communications and not intelligence in the technical sense as we understand it.

The Meteorological Section was under Air General Headquarters and under this Section there was four "Meteorological Units" operation within the Empire:

1. (5 Companies) Northern half of HONSHU
2. (4 Companies) Southern half of HONSHU and SHIKOKU
3. (3 Companies) KYUSUKU
4. (3 Companies) KOREA

MANCHOUKHO and CHINA each had a meteorological Regiment, and independent Air Units (independent meteorological battalions within a regiment) were responsible for MANSEI, SHOTO and FORMOSA. All of these units gathered weather information and transmitted it by dispatch. Regimental and Battalion Headquarters made regional broadcasts to interested activities in their respective areas. Air units down to and including Squadrons had their own Aerological officers, full time and non-flyers, who received this information, constructed weather maps and passed weather information directly to pilots. Army ground units also had Aerological officers attached who made similar use of this information.

The majority of men attending the Air Training School had never attended the Military Academy. By and large, altho under the Army Command and under Army General Headquarters for Administrative purposes, the JAAF seemed to enjoy a great deal of independence and autonomy.

Numbers of flying personnel trained by JAAF.

1940----1944, approximately (regular officers and warrant officers)

1944----(Year greatest number were trained)

1200 officers and 3800 warrants, and in addition, Reserves were trained in 1944 (as they had been in other years of course) bringing the total flying training for that year to some 12,000 or 13,000 army pilots.