

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

RESTRICTED

PLACE: TOKYO  
DATE: 1 Dec. 1945.

INTERROGATION NO. 482

Division of Origin: G - 2

Subject: Japanese Naval Aircraft Losses.

Personnel interrogated and background of each:

Commander FUKAMIZU, Toyoji, IJN, is an officer of the Regular Navy with 17 years service. From December 1941 to June 1942 he was a member of the supply staff of the 21st Air Flotilla at Formosa. From June 1942 to January 1943 he was on the supply staff of the Southwest Area Fleet. He was in charge of the 1st section of the 1st department of the Koku Hombu, concerned with aircraft distribution records from January 1943 until the end of the war. He is an engineer and is not a pilot.

Where interviewed: Meiji Building.

Interrogator: Lt. Comdr. John B. Coleman, USNR.  
Lt. Comdr. Francis Shackelford, USNR.

Interpreter: Lt.(jg) W. Gorham, USNR.

Allied Officers Present: Squadron Leader J. Bloxham RAF.

Summary:

Commander FUKAMIZU discusses the meaning of terms and figures employed in table entitled "Japanese Naval Aircraft Losses - Dec. '41 to Aug. '45" which he prepared as an annex to USSBS Interrogation 202. Combat losses, as used in the table, comprise planes destroyed by enemy aircraft or A.A., planes lost on sunk carriers or on bases captured during the war, planes failing to return from combat missions or cracking up upon landing after combat missions, and planes destroyed on the ground by direct enemy action.

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- Q. We are familiar with your general background, and what we want to get from you this afternoon is certain data concerning Japanese aircraft losses.
- A. I want to explain that our own records were all burnt. I have been going around to naval arsenals and so forth to collect information. I haven't been able to make the rounds as suggested by Lt. Comdr. Aiken. What I propose to do is to make a round of these various places and correct the list after gathering the necessary material. This would probably take until the end of January. If the job is to be done thoroughly, it would take that long.
- Q. We are familiar with the table you have prepared for the Naval Analysis Section entitled "Japanese Naval Aircraft Losses - Dec. '41 to Aug. '45", being an annex to USSBS interrogation 202 (Nav. No. 50). What figures for what months in that table do you feel should be revised?
- A. Almost all of it is based on my own memory. The whole thing will have to be revised to meet the facts.
- Q. Every month will have to be rechecked?
- A. The monthly break-down is very difficult, but I will try to do my best. It is doubtful whether I can get actual figures.
- Q. In the table you have prepared, you have divided the losses into two categories "COMBAT LOSSES" and "OPERATIONAL LOSSES". What do "COMBAT LOSSES" mean?
- A. Plane losses due to direct enemy action only are included. Landing and take-off accidents, poor flying ability are not in it. Even in a case when a plane is very lightly damaged by enemy action and it is abandoned - in that case it is not a combat loss. Combat losses are losses due to enemy action whether in the air or strafed on the ground. Training flight losses are included in the "OPERATIONAL LOSSES" category of the table, or what we in Japan call "natural losses".
- Q. Suppose a plane crashes on take-off on a mission to intercept an American plane. In which category would that be included?
- A. If it is not through enemy action, it comes under Natural Losses ("OPERATIONAL LOSSES" in table).
- Q. Commander, if ten of your planes took off on a combat mission and none came back, would you treat those as Combat or Natural Losses?
- A. They would come under Combat Losses.
- Q. In order to be sure that we understand exactly what you mean by Combat Losses, list for us what is included in that term.
- A. (1) Most obvious is by being shot down by an enemy fighter plane or AA gun. (2) All that do not return from combat missions are classed as Combat Losses. (3) Those that pile up on landing after return from combat mission. (4) Planes receiving direct attacks from the enemy. (5) If a carrier is sunk, all planes on it will be considered as Combat Losses.

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- Q. How many planes were left on the main islands, Formosa and Korea at the end of the war?
- A. About 8,000.  
In the table, the final figures for the war in the "Grand Total" Column, i.e. 9265 COMBAT LOSSES and 16950 Natural Losses ("OPERATIONAL LOSSES") totalling 26215, were obtained by taking the number of planes existing at the beginning of the war, adding those produced during the war, and subtracting the number of planes left out the end of the war in the Japanese home islands, Formosa and Korea.
- Q. When Saipan fell, certain Japanese Navy aircraft were left on the island. Did you class these as Natural Losses ("OPERATIONAL LOSSES" in table)?
- A. No. All under Combat Losses. Planes that are lost on captured fields come under Combat Losses.
- Q. In what category did you include the planes that were on Truk at the end of the war?
- A. Planes surrendered at the end of the War on all bases outside of the home islands, Formosa, and Korea were considered Natural Losses ("Operational Losses" in Table).
- Q. Approximately how many such planes were surrendered bases at the end of the war outside the home islands, Formosa and Korea?
- A. Communications were pretty bad before the end of the war and I don't know the exact figures.
- Q. Give us an approximate estimate.
- A. In Truk not more than ten planes. None in the Philippines area, and in the entire China area about fifty operational planes. Malay, Sumatra and Java area, including training planes - any plane that would fly --, about 150 planes. These may have been some planes that could have been readily put back in commission but I don't know about that. I plan on making a survey of those.
- Q. All of those planes are included in the figure of 3814 Natural Losses ('OPERATIONAL LOSSES) for the month of August 1945 in your table?
- A. They are included there.
- Q. Commander, we are giving to you a list of specific dates of major war actions either at sea or during land campaigns. We want you to give us the best figure you can of your Combat Losses for each one of those dates.
- A. That is material that is with the Gunrei-bu (Naval General Staff) and not with my department.
- Q. Will you get them for us from the Gunrei-bu?
- A. I think you would have much better luck working with them directly.