SECRET

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
FAR EAST COMMAND
Operations, CIS, G-2
Compilation Branch

APO 500
29 July 1947

SUBJECT : HIRAMOTO, Michitaka

DATE OF BIRTH : 22 Feb 1904.

PRESENT ADDRESS : 1307 Ohara-machi, Meguro-ku, Tokyo.

OCCUPATION :

As of July 1946 Connected with Hiramoto Shokai, buying and selling.

FORMER RANK : Captain.

DATE OF RETIREMENT: 20 Oct 1945.

Incl 16

SECRET

20 May 1947

Memo for the files

HIRAMOTO, Michitaka

A report from G-2 reveals no information on this witness.

13 May 1947
Report by Henry A. Dolan, Jr.
IPS Investigative Division

Memorandum for the File:

Subject: HIRAMOTO, Michitaka

A search of IPS Case Files reveals no reference to Subject.

HIRAMOTO, Michitaka

履歴書

元海軍大佐　平本道隆

明治卅七年二月廿二日生

大正九年	八月廿六日	海軍兵學校生徒ヲ命ス
同十二年	七月十四日	海軍兵學校教程卒業ヲ證ス
同		海軍少尉候補生ヲ命ス
同十三年十二月	一日	任海軍少尉
同十五年十二月	一日	任海軍中尉
昭和三年十二月	十日	任海軍大尉
同九年十一月	一日	海軍大學校甲種學生被仰付
同十年十一月十五日		任海軍少佐
同十一年十二月	一日	補館山海軍航空隊飛行隊長
同十二年	七月十一日	補木更津海軍航空隊飛行隊長
同十二年	九月十一日	補海軍航空本部教育部部員
同十四年十二月廿二日		補海軍航空本部出仕
同十五年	一月十日	補第一聯合航空隊參謀
同十五年十一月十五日		任海軍中佐
同十六年	一月十五日	補第十一航空艦隊參謀

海軍

昭和十六年九月一日　補海軍航空本部人事部員
同　十六年九月十五日　補海軍航空隊司令部附
同　十八年八月十五日　補海軍航空隊司令部附
同　十八年九月一日　補南西方面航空艦隊參謀
同　十八年九月十五日　兼補第十三航空艦隊參謀
同　十九年五月十五日　兼補第一航空艦隊參謀
同　十九年八月十五日　兼補第三南遣艦隊參謀
同　十九年九月廿五日　免兼第一航空艦隊參謀
同　十九年十月十五日　任海軍大佐
同　十九年十一月十二月十五日　横須賀鎮守府附被仰付
同　二十年一月三日　補海軍航空本部出仕
同　二十年一月八日　總務部第一課勤務ヲ命ス
同　二十年一月十日　兼補軍需省軍需官
同　二十年一月十日　航空兵器總局勤務ヲ命ス
同　二十年六月十五日　豫備役被仰付
昭和二十一年勅令第三二二號海軍將校分限令廢止

6 May 1947

HIRAMOTO, Michitaka

Requested as general witness and testified
5 May 1947

Address - No. 1307 Ohara-machi, Meguro-ku,
Tokyo

Affidavit admitted as exhibit No. 2538 Former Captain in Japanese Navy.

Translated by
Chieko Iwanaga

The former Captain (navy) HIRAMOTO Michitaka

PERMANENT DOMICILE No. 3216, Fuchu-mura, Aki-gun Hiroshima-Prefecture.

DATE OF BIRTH 1904, Feb 22.

1920. Aug. 26 Ordered to be student in the Naval Academy.

1923, July 14 Certified to have completed the Instruction Course of the Naval Academy.

" Appointed candidate for Ensign.

1924. Dec. 1 Appointed Ensign.

1926. Dec. 1 Appointed Lieutenant (JG)

1928 Dec. 10 Appointed Lieutenant.

1. Appointed KOSHU / classification of

Flight Trainee / student in the Naval War College.

1935, Nov. 15 Appointed Lieut. Commander

1936, Dec. 1 Appointed Flying Unit Commander of Air group at 'Tateyama'.

1937, July 11 Appointed Flying Unit Commander of Air Group at 'Kisarazu'.

Sep. 11 Appointed member of the Educational Section, Naval Air Headquarters.

1939. Dec. 22 Ordered to serve with the Naval Air Headquarters.

1940. Jan. 10. Appointed staff officer, of the First Combined Air Group.

Nov. 15 Appointed Commander

1941. Jan. 15 Appointed staff officer of the 11th Air Fleet.

Sep. 1 Ordered to ~~attend at~~ serve with the Naval Air Headquarters.

Sep. 15 Appointed member of the Administration Department, the Naval Air Headquarters.

1943 Aug. 15 Assigned to the Headquarters of the Southwest Air Fleet.

Sep 1. Appointed staff officer of the Southwest Air Fleet.

Sep 20. Appointed additionally staff officer of the 13th Air Fleet.

1944. May 15. Appointed additionally staff officer of the 1st Air Fleet.

Aug. 15 Appointed additionally staff officer of

of the 3rd Southern Expeditionary Fleet.

Sep 25. Discharged from additional duty as staff officer of the 1st Air Fleet.

Oct 15. Appointed Captain

Dec 15. Assigned to the 'Yokosuka' Naval District.

1945. Jan 3 Ordered to serve with the Naval Air Headquarters.

" Ordered to be on duty with the first section, of the Administration Department.

Jan 8. Appointed as additional post, an officer of the Naval Store Department.

" Ordered to be on duty at the General Aviation Equipment Bureau.

Oct. 10. Appointed First Reserve

1946 June 15. The Naval Officers' Service Regulation was abolished, according to No 322 of the Imperial Ordinance, 1946.

9 May 1947

MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. David N. Sutton;
Mr. Smith N. Crowe

FROM : EDWARD P. MONAGHAN, Chief, Investigative Division, IPS

SUBJECT : Defense Witness

1. Please find attached hereto list of material available on the following witness and/or witnesses.

DEFENDANT - Witness General

WITNESS	LIST OF MATERIAL AVAILABLE
Hiramoto, Michitaka	curriculum vitae

2. Please acknowledge receipt of this memorandum by initialling and returning attached carbon copy to this office, Room 300.

E PM

EDWARD P. MONAGHAN

Incl
(Described above)

371

The former Captain (Navy)	HIRAMOTO, Michitaka
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1945, Oct. 10	Appointed First Reserve.
1946, June 15	The Naval Officers' Service Regulation was abolished, according to No. 322 of the Imperial Ordinance, 1946.

Re: Witness HIRAMOTO, Michitake.

1) Bombing of U.S.S. "Tutuila" (p 5 of Affidavit)

Evidence introduced (Ex 1088, p 9996) shows that U.S. protested on 16 June 1941 about damage caused to the U.S. Chancery by a bomb dropped halfway between U.S. Chancery and U.S.S. "Tutuila" (within 100-300 yds.)

This was before the tour of duty of this witness according to his affidavit —

The incident about which the witness testifies, took place on 30 July 1941. The U.S.S. "Tutuila" herself was damaged. (Foreign Relations pp 719-723; nothing is in evidence.)

2) Judge Hyi believes that witness should be crossexamined re: indiscriminate bombing of Chungking (Chung Ching) and is working on it.

HIROTA's Memoires

January 19, 1937, Page 1686

HIROTA, the Prime Minister, is reported as having said "according to the War Ministry it was decided that MIZAKI should be acquitted."

January 21, 1937, Page 1692

HIROTA met TERAUCHI and TERAUCHI said "This definitely calls for dissolution. There is no other way- - - MIZAKI was finally acquitted."

Direct Examination of HIRAMOTO, Michitaka
by Mr. Roberts

21,476

The Witness stated he lived in Tokyo. He identified Exhibit 2538 as his affidavit. * The

21,477 witness, a former navy captain stated that he had been sent twice to China, once from May 1, 1940 to Sept. 5, 1940 and from July 20 to September 1, 1941.

When he went there the first time he was air Chief Staff to the Officer in Command of the Combined Air Raid Detachment who held concurrently the post of the Commander of the First Combined Air Forces. The officer in command was under the operation directions of the Commander of the Fleet in Chinese waters.

The second time the witness was air chief of staff to the commandant of the Eleventh Air Squadron under the operational direction of the Commandant of the fleet in Chinese waters.

From May 1, 1940 to September 5th, the witness assaulted the Ssu Chuan Province, concentrating his attack on Chung Ching, to frustrate the Chinese forces from attacking and to shatter the Chinese Central Military organizations * and to put an end to * the Chinese Incident swiftly. These were called No.

21,478 101 operations carried out jointy by the army and navy.

Chung Ching is a rugged small town situated at a junction point of rivers, forming a basin, and is almost always covered by clouds. The vested rights of third powers are scattered therein and it was least fitted for bombing.

21,479 The Commandant therefore troubled himself much about selecting targets. It was in the first Shanghai battle that the Naval Air Forces took part in actual fighting. Since they were engaged in difficult fighting in small and narrow places where third powers' vested rights were involved, great care was taken in

selecting targets and all were given very strict instructions.

In assaulting Chung Ching, all necessary measures were taken to bomb exclusively military targets. Every plane had to carry a map of the streets as edited by the Naval General Staff. Headquarters of the Air Raid Corps tried to obtain the latest news on the place. In addition to spies they approached particularly Chinese leaders who had escaped and joined the Nanking Government
21480 * to gather the latest news, particularly on central military organizations. This information was put on the maps.

Out of absolute prudence they took every opportunity to explain to the crews the instructions from Tokyo referring to the standard to be observed in waging air war and the bombing regulations. They studied to heighten the fair and just spirit traditional in the navy.

The central military organizations in Chung Ching were mainly located in the west. But the Gendarmerie Headquarters and some others were found scattered within the wall. Anti-aircraft battery seemed to be well equipped and the whole town appeared as a fortress. They also received information that the Chinese fighting headquarters were shifting according to the requirements of the times. This made them assume that the fighting headquarters
21481 * were located in the western suburbs, western district within the city wall, the western opposite river side, the suburbs in the southern river side and the western suburbs located at the southern river side.

They carried out the air assaults from an altitude of two to three thousand meters, paying particular attention to the western district. They tried to aim exactly at the targets. The witness also participated in operations against the interior of the province from July 2 0 to September 1, 1941. These operations were centered on Chung Ching to make up for the poor results of the previous year's action. The objective planned and the execution,

followed the main lines of the principle determined in the previous year.

Beforehand, by diplomatic means, they requested transferring the third powers nationals to the southern river side so that they might not be jeopardized. They were constantly on the alert with regard to war vessels and ships of third powers lest stray bullets cause another Panay incident.

In the course of the attack, an air detachment was unable to drop its bombs in time because of imperfections in equipment. A bomb thrown with undue delay fell in the vicinity of the American gunboat "Tutuila" then at anchor in the river causing damage to a boat being attached to her stern. There was no
21,483 damage to the gunboat;* this incident was considered a great regret since they desired to avoid such misfortune.

They apologized for not having been able to avert the accident because the bombing was beyond their control.

The witness was sent to Tokyo and Shanghai to explain. Both the Central Authorities and the Fleet Headquarters in China expressed deep regret. The witness was reproved. He returned to his unit after being instructed that more precaution should be taken in carrying out air raids and that the vested rights of third powers should not be damaged any more.

Cross Examination by Mr. Tavenner.

21,484 The witness stated * that he did not recall in detail the damage to the United States Chancellery and the gunboat prior to June 16, 1941. However whenever foreign interests were involved, or notification to that effect made, such notice was communicated to the air corps. He was completely unaware of the Japanese Government's answer on these matters.

7 May 1947

MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. Sutton

FROM : EDWARD P. MONAGHAN, Chief, Investigative Division, IPS

SUBJECT : Defense Witness

1. Please find attached hereto list of material available on the following witness and/or witnesses.

DEFENDANT - Witness General

WITNESS	LIST OF MATERIAL AVAILABLE
HIRAMOTO, Michitaka	Memo for the file

2. Please acknowledge receipt of this memorandum by initialling and returning attached carbon copy to this office, Room 300.

E P M

EDWARD P. MONAGHAN

Incl
(Described above)

371

6 May 1947

HIRAMOTO, Michitaka

Requested as general witness and testified
5 May 1947

Address - No. 1307 Ohara-machi, Meguro-ku,
Tokyo

Affidavit admitted as exhibit No. 2538 Former Captain in

Japanese Navy.

Certified
3/5/47

Def Doc No. 1344

I M T F E

United Sta tes of America et all
ARAKI, Sadao et all

SWORN DEPOSITION
Deponent : Hiramoto, Michitaka

Having first duly sworn an oath as on attached sheet and in accordance with the procedure followed in my country I hereby depose as follows.

OATH

In accordance with my conscience I swear to tell the whole truth withholding nothing and adding nothing.

HIRAMOTO, Michitaka (seal)

Judge Mei wants
+ Efar

Bombing Chungking

Hil. Tsuruta

Def. Doc. 1344

1. I was formerly a Captain of the Japanese Navy. On November 15, 1940, I became Commander.

2. I was sent twice to China. Once, it was from the 1st of May 1940 to the 5th of September of the same year. Once, it was from the 20th of July 1941 to the 1st of September of the same year.

3. When I was sent there for the first time, I acted as the Air Chief Staff to the Officer in Command of the Combined Air Raid Detachment who held concurrently the post of the Commander of the First Combined Air Forces. This Officer in Command was placed under the operation directions of the Commander in Chief of the Fleet despatched to the Chinese waters. When I was sent there for the second time, I acted as the Air Chief Staff to the Commander in Chief of the Eleventh Air Squadron in which was placed the operation directions of the Commander in Chief of the Fleet despatched to the Chinese waters.

4. From the first of May 1940 to the 5th of September of the same year, I assaulted the areas of the Ssu Chuan Province, concentrating my attack on Chung Ching. This was carried out in order to frustrate the will of the Chinese forces to keep on fighting, to shatter the Chinese central military organizations and to put an end to the China Incident swiftly.

Reason for attack on Chungking

The operations during this period were called No. 101 operations which were carried out jointly by the Army and Navy.

5. Chung Ching is a rugged small town of four or five square miles being situated at a junction point of rivers,

Def. Doc. 1344

This town which forms a basin, is almost ever covered by clouds, and the vested rights and interests of third Power are scattered thereabouts. It was a place which was the least fitted for bombing.

most bombed city in city.

Hence, the commander troubled himself a great deal about the selection of the targets of attack. It was on the occasion of the first Shanghai battle that the Naval Air forces took part for the first time in the actual fighting since their organization. As we were engaged fro the outset in difficult fighting at the small and narrow places where the vested rights and interests of third Powers were inextricably involved, great care was taken in the selection of the targets of attack and from the Commander down to the rank and file, all were ordered to follow, very strictly, instructions given in this regard.

6. Upon assaulting Chung Ching, we had taken all necessa measures to bomb exclusively the military targets to the exclusion of other things.

(1) Every plane was instructed to carry the map of Chung Ching's streets investigated and edited by the Naval General Staff. Thus, we expected to ascertain the targets therein indicated.

(2) The Headquarters of the Air Raid Corps endeavored to obtain by all means the latest news on Chung Ching.

Not to speak of the utilization of spies, we approach particularly those Chinese leaders who escaped from Chung Ching and joined the Nanking Government, for the purpose of gathering the latest news on Chung Ching and specifice

those bearing on its central military organizations. We inscribed this information on the maps concerned with a view to determining exactly the targets of our attack.

(3) For the sake of absolute prudence we availed ourselves of every opportunity to explain to the crews the purport of instructions from the Central Government, referring to "the standard to be observed in waging air war" and "miscellaneous matters regarding the bombing regulations". Simultaneously, we have striven thereby to heighten the fair and just spirit, which has been traditional in our Navy.

Surplusage

7. The Central Military organizations in Chung Ching were mainly located in the west of the town. But the Gendarmerie Headquarters and some others were found scattered within the wall. The base for the anti-aircraft battery seemed to be sufficiently well equipped and the whole town presented the spectacle of a fortress. Furthermore, we received information that Chiang Kai-shek's fighting headquarters established at several places inside and outside the town (they were estimated at seven) were shifting according to the requirements of the times. The information made us presume that the shifting fighting Headquarters in question were located in the following districts:

(1) The western district of the city,

(2) The western suburbs,

(3) The western district within the city wall,

(4) The western opposite river side,

(5) The suburbs located at the southern river side,

(6) The western suburbs located at the southern river side, etc.

8. While taking into consideration the aforementioned circumstances, we carried out our air assaults from the altitude of 2000 - 3000 meters against the military equipment within the city, with particular attention being paid to its western district.

On these occasions, we tried to aim exactly at the targets in reliance upon our good judgment.

what targets w. within city?

9. Next, I participated in the operations against the interior of the Ssu Chuan Province from the 20th of July 1941 to the 1st of September of the same year. At that time the operations were concentrated on attacking Chung Ching and this was the second onslaught on the city. This campaign was carried out in order to make up for the poor results of the action of the previous year. Regarding the objective of attack, the plan of attack, as well as its execution, we have followed the main lines of the principle determined in the previous year.

On this occasion, we took recourse beforehand, by diplomatic means to request the transferring of the people belonging to the third Powers to the southern river side so that their vested rights and interests as well as their non-combatants might not be jeopardized.

In particular, in regard to the war vessels and ships belonging to the third Powers, we have been constantly on the alert, lest stray bullets should cause such a disaster as the sinking of the Panay.

10. It happened, however, that in the course of our attack on the military equipment east of Chung Ching City, an air detachment which had invaded from the northwestern direc-

tion was unable to drop bombs in time, presumably on account of the imperfection of their throwing appliances. A bomb thrown with undue delay fell in the vicinity of the American Gunboat "Tutuila", lying at anchor on the river and caused damage to a boat being attached to her stern.

Fortunately, there was no damage done to the Gunboat and we considered this event as a matter of great regret, for we were so much concerned with the avoidance of any sort of misfortune.

11. We apologized for not having been able to avert that accident, because of the fact that such irregular bombing was beyond our control. Be that as it may, the crew of that air detachment showed their sincere penitence for misconduct.

As for me, I was then despatched to Tokyo and Shanghai for the explanation of the matter involved. Both the Central Authorities and the Headquarters of the Fleet operating on the Chinese waters expressed their deep regret over the unhappy event, while I was duly reproved. I returned to my unit, after having received instructions to the effect that more precaution should be taken hereafter in the carrying out of air raids and that the vested rights and interests of the third Powers should not be damaged any more.

Def. Doc. 1344

On this 14th day of April 194

At Tokyo, Japan

DEPONENT: Hiramoto, Miehitaka (seal)

I, Inakawa, Tatsuo, hereby certify that the above statement was sworn by the Deponent, who affixed his signature and seal thereto in the presence of this Witness.

On the same date

At the same place

Witness: (signed) Inakawa, Tatsuo (seal)

The former Captain (Navy) HIRAMOTO, Michitaka

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