

WAR DEPARTMENT

Exhibit # 18

Case # 128

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*Original transcript of notes
taken by Lt. Alexander in the
interrogation of Capt. Chikaya
Takahashi, I. J. J.*

*Jac B. Alexander
2nd Lt., Inf.*

128

INTERROGATION OF
CAPT CHIHAYA TAKAHASHI, IJN

Date and Time: - 29 November 1945, 0930-1100 hours.
Place : - Room 334, NYK Bldg., Tokyo, Japan.
Present : - Lt Joe B Alexander, Infantry, Interrogator.
- T/4 Rickey S Yamaguchi, Interpreter.
- Captain Chihaya Takahashi, IJN.

Q. Captain, what is your present status?

A. Chief of Sendai Naval Personnel Bureau.

Q. And your present address?

A. Sendai.

Q. Captain, you have been called in to enlarge on a few statements you made to Commander Moorer, USN, on 20 October 1945 and to explain, if possible, a few additional points. Do you understand?

A. I do.

Q. At the time of the December 8, 1941 strike on Clark and Nichols Fields you were a staff officer of the 11th Air Fleet, based on Formosa, were you not?

A. I was.

Q. As a staff officer you should know when the plans were made to make that strike--when were such plans made?

A. We started planning the Philippine strike early in December--however, we had made reconnaissances in November due to action of American submarines and aircraft.

Q. From your reconnaissances and as an officer well-acquainted with tactics, do you agree that to be successful the attack should have been a surprise attack?

A. I do--that is good tactics.

Q. How much time for preparation did you think the Philippine defenses would have?

A. We did not know--our theory was that we would have to attack to find out.

Q. When did you first learn that Clark Field and Pearl Harbor were to be attacked on December 8, 1941?

A. On December 5, 1941 from my Commanding Officer.

- Q. When did you start planning the strike on Clark Field?
- A. The staff started planning a strike on Clark Field on or about the 28th of November 1941. All of us lost weight--we planned for about 10 days.
- Q. During this time and on December 5, 1941 when your Commanding Officer informed you of the plan to actually attack, did you hear any reference made to a Declaration of War?
- A. No.
- Q. Who was your Commanding Officer?
- A. Vice Admiral (now full admiral) NISHIZO TSUKAHARA.
- Q. From whom did he receive his orders?
- A. From the Commander-in-chief of the Combined Fleet through the Commander-in-chief of the Second Fleet. As well as I can remember a general order came down about 28 November 1941 to prepare to make an attack. I did not see the order but I believe it was the big attack plan--of which the strike on Clark Field was a part.
- Q. When were you told that your actual objective would be Clark Field?
- A. On the 2d or 3d of December 1941 an order from the Commander-in-Chief of the Combined Fleet stated that in the event of war, we would attack Clark Field.
- Q. Did that order mention the action at Hawaii?
- A. No--I first heard, December 5, 1941, that Pearl Harbor was to be attacked.
- Q. As I recall, your initial plan was for the Formosa based planes to hit Clark and Nichol Fields about 0730, 8 December 1941 and they actually didn't strike until about noon. Was there a change in plans?
- A. Fog and bad weather delayed the take-off.
- Q. When were the pilots alerted and the planes given ammunition and bomb loads?
- A. On 7 December 1941 the pilots knew they were going to hit Clark Field the next day. The planes were always ready.
- Q. What time did the first flight of planes actually take off?
- A. At 0800, 8 December 1941.
- Q. When the pilots took off, did they know Pearl Harbor had been attacked?
- A. No.

- Q. When did they learn that Pearl Harbor had been attacked?
- A. When they returned to the field. No one at the base knew the attack had actually taken place until the night of 8 December 1941.
- Q. Did Admiral Tsukahara attend the war games about the middle of the summer of 1941?
- A. I don't know. You see he was not our Commanding Officer then. He relieved Admiral Katagiri early in September. Admiral Tsukahara came from Tokyo to take command.
- Q. Did Admiral Tsukahara return to Tokyo or attend any war games in September?
- A. He took some of his staff officers to Tokyo for several days and they returned to the base the latter part of September.
- Q. Did you accompany the Admiral?
- A. No.
- Q. On his return did you find out what he had been to Tokyo for?
- A. I think it was to attend war games that were usually held every year about that time.
- Q. Do you know the contents of Combined Fleet Operation Order No. 1?
- A. I think that was the order we got on 28 November 1941. Right after then was when we started making plans to attack the Philippines.
- Q. Did you see the order?
- A. No.
- Q. Did you know about Order No. 2 and Order No. 3, the ones designating X Day and Y Day?
- A. I believe the order of December 2 or 3, 1941, contained something about X Day. I think it told when we were to attack Clark Field. I don't know anything about an order with Y Day in it.
- Q. Is there anything you would care to add to your statement?
- A. No.

CHIHAYA TAKASHASHI
Capt IJN

I, T/4 Rickey S Yamaguchi, 30107575, hereby certify that I acted as interpreter at the interview set out above, that I truly interpreted and translated the English questions into Japanese and the replies thereto from Japanese into English, and that the English translation of the answers set out above are true and accurate to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Rickey S. Yamaguchi
RICKEY S YAMAGUCHI

Joe B. Alexander
JOE B ALEXANDER
2d Lt. INF
Interrogator