

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

INTERROGATION NO: 125

PLACE: USSBS Cor. Rm 748
DATE: 25 Oct 45

Division of Origin: Military Analysis

SUBJECT: Japanese Army Air Force Training

Personnel interrogated and background of each:

Col KAIMOTO, Katsuo -- 26 years with the JAAF. Active pilot (fighter) until 1934. As a captain participated in the Manchurian incident in 1931. Served as a staff officer in various organizations, final assignment being chief of the training department at Air Headquarters (Ko,ku Hombu).

Where Interviewed: Rm 748, Meiji Bldg.

Interpreter: 2nd Lt Makoto M, Kirura

Allied Officers Present: Major McElwain

SUMMARY:

Col KAIMOTO, as senior training staff officer in Air Headquarters, was responsible for the administration of the entire training program. He gave a detailed account of the various phases of Army training together with an excellent chart, showing organization, functions etc.; his account included the information that JAAF training virtually ceased in April 1945 because (1) instructors were used for combat missions. (2) shortage of fuel: (3) American strafing and bombing of training installations. However, in July 1945 training was resumed on a much smaller scale. Although ground training continued in Japan, actual flight training was conducted in Manchuria. Part of the Air Academy (Rikugun Shikan Gakko) and elements of the Utsunomiya Training Flying Division (Kyodo Hikoshidan) were moved to various Manchurian locations for this purpose.

Col KAIMOTO was intelligent, cooperative, and had an exceptionally good knowledge of the army training program.