

WAR DEPARTMENT

Exhibit # 6

Case # 139

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

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Original typewritten transcript
of the interrogation of Capt. Saburo ~~Amagaki~~ ^{Amagaki} J.M.
by Maj. L.S. Bernard
AMAGAKI

INTERROGATION OF
CAPTAIN TAKAHISA AMAGAI, IMPERIAL JAPANESE NAVY

Date : 27 November 1945

Place : Room 334, NYK Building, Tokyo, Japan

Present: Major L H Barnard, O-190597

2d Lieut J B Alexander, O-1332219

Interpreter: Tech 4 Rickey Yamaguchi, ASN 30107575

Q. Captain, what is your present status?

A. I am a retired Naval officer, residing at Mito, Ibaraki Ken.

Q. When did you retire?

A. 15 October 1942.

Q. Did you formerly serve on the Japanese Aircraft Carrier HIRYU?

A. Yes.

Q. On approximately what date were you assigned to this vessel?

A. 16 August 1941.

Q. Did you participate in any of the War Games in August 1941?

A. Yes.

Q. Were you a member of the A, E, or N Group?

A. I do not understand.

Q. Who was the Admiral of the Group in which your vessel was operating?

A. Admiral Yamaguchi.

Q. What was the principle training of your Aircraft Bombing Group at this time?

A. Shallow-water bombing.

Q. Did you participate in any of the conferences of either the War or Navy Departments during the summer of 1941?

A. No.

Q. When did you first hear that such conferences had been held?

A. 26 November 1941.

Q. When did you first hear of Operation Order No 1?

A. 26 November 1941.

Q. Were you cognizent of the specific assignment of your group at that time?

A. At that time I thought that our group would probably attack Singapore.

Q. When did you learn that the object of your attack was to be Pearl Harbor

- and not Singapore?
- A. When we sailed.
- Q. On what date did your Task Force sail for the attack?
- A. 26 November 1941.
- Q. At that time what was your opinion as a Naval officer as to the probable success of such an attack?
- A. I believed we would lose 2/3 of our planes and 1/2 of the ships.
- Q. What made you believe you would incur such losses?
- A. Our Intelligence had informed us that very large appropriations had been made available to increase the defense of Hawaii, but we did not know that you did not place them in the position you had contemplated.
- Q. What was the opinion of the Naval officers concerning the attack prior to declaration of war?
- A. This was not discussed at any of the Staff Conferences which I attended.
- Q. Did you believe that an element of surprise at Pearl Harbor was considered to be essential to the success of the operation?
- A. There is a Chinese proverb which says that to attack first is right.
- Q. Of what did your Task Force consist?
- A. Six carriers, but I am not sure of the composition of the balance of the force. It was approximately two to four battleships, about two cruisers, 8 to 10 destroyers, about four submarines and six transports.
- Q. From whom did you receive information that the object of the attack was Pearl Harbor?
- A. From the Ship Commander.
- Q. Who was the Ship Commander?
- A. Captain Kakutomeo.
- Q. Roughly, what was the course of the Task Force?
- A. (Captain Amagai drew a chart indicating the course of the Task Force, which is attached).
- Q. What steps were taken to prevent observation of the Task Force by American or neutral vessels?
- A. In the initial stages we had a submarine screen approximately 300 miles to the front with instructions to report by radio the detection of any vessels in order that a change of direction of the Task Force might be accomplished.
- Q. In the final phases what action was contemplated to avoid detection?
- A. After the final direction of attack had been begun, we had orders to sink any vessel which might observe the Task Force and thus prevent

the American forces from being alerted by radio.

Q. Roughly, what distance out was this final phase considered to be?
A. Two to Six hundred miles.

Q. Who issued these orders?
A. The Ship's Commander.

Q. Did you think these were good Naval tactics?
A. I thought they were good tactics but I personally did not approve such methods. Nevertheless, I am a Naval Officer and ready to carry out the orders of the Ship's Commander.

Q. What pictures were taken of the attack of Pearl Harbor?
A. I do not know. All pictures were taken from planes launched from the Aircraft Carrier AKAGI and I did not have an opportunity to see the results of their operations.

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

Rickey Yamaguchi
Rickey Yamaguchi, ASN 30107575

WITNESSES:

Leroy H. Barnard
LEROY H BARNARD, MAJ., INF., O-190597

Joe B. Alexander
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