

WAR DEPARTMENT

Exhibit # 29

File # 83

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

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original notes taken by  
Capt Robinson U.S.N.R. in  
the interrogation of  
admiral Mikawa

1

Admiral Mikawa -

- kinked nose
- square chin & jaw
- clipped gray hair
- mustache
- square face

Q - We are interested in learning the facts leading up to the war.

A - Since truly a Navy man he does not know any of political aspects leading up to outbreak of war.

Q - In 1941 he was on sea duty so in regard to political aspects he knows nothing.

Q - Very well. On naval aspects, when did he first learn of plans leading toward outbreak of war with U.S.

A - In early Nov 1941 he rec'd orders war might break out.

Q - From whom

A - " Adm Yamamoto.

Q - Where when rec'd them?

A - Doesn't rembr. - Belld in area of Bungo channel.

Q - What wording of orders?

A - Does not know exact words but to unload everything on board in plausible.

Q - What date in Nov

A - On or about Nov 10.

2

Where were Tone & Chikuma during attack - tremble.

A - No date was set - but unit that was to attack - left for Tokape in mid Nov. to be ready.

Q - When first learned attack was to be on 8 Dec.?

A - Received order mid-Nov - if we decided we'd be on <sup>8</sup> Dec. <sup>or after</sup> Tokyo near Hawaii on about that date. Nothing was definite because Jap so Amer. negotns still going.

Q - When hear order Climb Mt Nitaka -

A (no intercept) (and direct)

still going on - Comdr in

Chief attack fleet had hoped negotns wd be complete - so be alert ~~all~~ <sup>all</sup> ~~time~~ <sup>time</sup> for wireless.

A - Heard about that secretly for first time - through papers - Secret code - for high Comdr.

Just tagging along on trip.

Long pause - hands clasped - (looking up - out) windows.

Q - How many days before 8 Dec.

A - Aircraft carrier may have known but he was not informed until last day.

3

Staccato talk -

Q - How long before planes took off -

A - Not really hiding but can't recall.

Q - A well carried out operation - so ready  
not trying to find out.

Not too sure. but heard carriers planned  
to take off 8 Dec.

(Much talk) - Orders issued by command  
by air force - to be ready ~~to~~ in

Have heard surprise attack. That told. apply to him  
an <sup>an</sup> <sup>com</sup> <sup>or</sup> <sup>chief</sup>  
That's right

Where were you & Chikuma during attack  
Under what command - what dir or squadron?  
As 8th Squadron - ~~direct~~ <sup>fleet</sup> attached here  
Direct command Nagumo.

Q - What was his <sup>main</sup> <sup>idea</sup> how surprise to be achieved?

A - That plan to let planes take off - radio silence.

Q - Did he have any input in regard to  
Decline of War. No.

Believed Nagumo's staff. (Q did he make any  
inquiry whether this  
held any sway decline)

Q - Do you have any further input? No.

4

Brown heron

The 2 cruisers taken + sent to Malaya

Harema + Kongo.

Q. - At Hawaii 7<sup>th</sup> Dec - his command only the

A. - 2 battleships

Yes - sodah

Q. - What duty assignment.

A. - Screen + guard duty -

Q. - How close come to Hawaii

Climb Mt. Mitaka -

About 200 miles

Q. - North

A. - Yes

Q. - When learn attack definitely going to take place

A. - About time when ordered to make war plans.

Q. - When first learn date of attack was to be 7<sup>th</sup> Dec.

A. - About time received orders -

Q. - Not responsive please ask Q again.

A. -

5

At up high  
unreadable

Tokyo

A - We proceeded to Kure naval base  
to unload things to be unloaded.  
Some to Sasebo at repairs.

Q - Command?

A - Third Squadron - First fleet.

Q - What flagship

A - ~~Hiei~~ Hiei.

Q - Four ships - Hiei - Kurehina Kongo  
Haruna.

Q - At what date take command?

A - About Sept. 1941.

Q - ~~How~~ Until?

A - About July 1942.

Q - Then what command

A - " comdr in chief 8th fleet.

Q - Flagship

A - Chokai - Cruiser.

Q - Shortly after battle of Savo Island.

A - Said to have sunk 4 cruisers.

Q - Total - was 8 - Cruisers + destroyers.

A - Know any <sup>names</sup> of any of US comdos?

Q - Knows nothing

A - Has he learned since then?

Q -

6

Rept Sasaki prefecture  
Yammosaki. called by CK officer  
of accept force - of Amer accept force -  
Kato -  
Vera Cruz

A matter of naval interest Sec I knew some  
of US comdr's.

Q - Savo Island action.

A - As soon as US army invaded Guadalcanal  
he took entire fleet - about 8 -

Amer had landed on 7 Aug - since they  
lacked strength to expand they had only a few  
planes + ships - carried out night attack  
on 8th - They came off Savo Id + passed  
thru channel toward Tulagi about 11  
at night + discovered Amer fleet inside  
~~the~~ of Savo Island. Had a duel about  
20 minutes - shot a task force back  
of Guadalcanal - so left in a hurry.

Q What casualties on both sides.

A Afterward called coms together - and from  
reports sank about 8 ships type not known -  
Flagship Chokai slightly hit - about 30 killed.  
Chokai's Cruiser 2 destroyed.

Q Where were task force?

A. Took over command 8th fleet in Japan Honi  
Headed south - and all ships so area -  
assembled at Rabaul - joined 8th Fleet.  
Latter part

7

Saw several -  
appeared to be cruisers

Q - what engagement next?

A - Stayed in Rabaul - Convoy supplies +  
remnants of Guadalcanal.

Q - was he in command nor engagement  
- questions.

Q - When gave up command 8th Fleet.

Q - In ~~July~~ <sup>April</sup> 1943 -

A - when did Samejima take command 8th Fleet?

A - ~~July~~ <sup>April</sup> 1943.

Q - Adm. Retd to Japan & became head of  
School of Navigation.

~~A~~

Q. Where on 7 Dec 1941.

~~A~~ In Hawaii attack group

~~A~~ - Command 3d Squadron

What ships in his Division

Only 2 - attached to ~~per~~ not recall name  
of capt of Kirishima  
Cistg Four -

How long. Sept. 3 mos - in Squadron but  
does not know name of Captain

(Anything - don't recall) - That person returned  
to Japan when Kirishima sunk Guadalcanal

