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HEADQUARTERS  
U.S. STRATEGIC BOMBING SURVEY  
(PACIFIC)  
Military Analysis Division

ANSWERS TO MILITARY ANALYSIS DIVISION QUESTIONNAIRE #8  
SOUTHWEST ASIA



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- I. The unit names and missions of Army Air Units operation in FRENCH INDO-CHINA, THAILAND, MALAYA, and BURMA from 7 Nov 1941 to 4 July 1942:
1. MALAYA: Set out in Appendix I attached hereto.
  2. BURMA: Set out in Appendix II attached hereto.
- II
1. Change in Air Operational Plans in BURMA:
    - A. In order to keep the operation on schedule, the operations of air units in BURMA were carried out without changing the general plan (i.e. the destruction of enemy air forces preceding contemplated ground operations, and thereafter giving close cooperation to the ground operation). The details of this are as follows: From 7 December 1941 to 1 January 1942 the 5th HIKOSHIDAN was engaged in a part of the MALAYA operation; and a part of the 10th HIKODAN was engaged primarily in carrying out a fixed plan against the BRITISH Air Force in the same area.
    - B. On 15 January 1942 the 5th HIKOSHIDAN (thereafter called a HIKOSHIDAN), which had participated in the PHILIPPINES operations at the beginning of the war, was sent to THAILAND to carry out operations, not assigned to the 3rd HIKOSHIDAN, in THAILAND and BURMA.
    - C.
      1. The following is a summary of the operation plan of 5th HIKOSHIDAN:
        - (a) January 1941 to March 1942: Location, BURMA. It concentrated on the destruction of enemy air forces located in the RANGOON and TONGOO area, and paved the way for the 15th Army penetration of the THAILAND-BURMA border.
        - (b) March 1942 to the end of May 1942: While destroying the BRITISH Air Force in the INDIA-BURMA border area and SOUTH WEST CHINA, it cooperated with the 15th Army in the subjugation of BURMA.
      2. The chain of command was directly from the Southern Area Army General Hq. They cooperated with the 15th Army.
      3. During these operations, they cooperated with the Naval Air Force.
    - D. MALAYA-FRENCH-INDO-CHINA Area:
      1. At the beginning of the war the 10th HIKODAN was taken from the 5th HIKOSHIDAN and put under the command of the CO of the 3rd HIKOSHIDAN. It engaged in the THAILAND and BURMA campaigns. On 15 January 1942 it was detached from the command of the CO of the 3rd HIKOSHIDAN and was returned to its original base under the 5th HIKOSHIDAN.

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2. In April and thereafter, the 7th and 12th HIKODAN, the 81st HIKOSENTAI (one CHUTAI at a time) and the 27th and 15th HIKOSENTAI were detached from the command of the CO of the 3rd HIKOSHIDAN and put under the command of the CO of the 5th HIKOSHIDAN.
3. In July the duties of the 3d HIKOSHIDAN were as follows:
  - (a) The security of the occupied areas in MALAYA and DUTCH EAST INDIES and air defense of strategic points in this area.
  - (b) Strengthening of air bases in the occupied areas.
  - (c) Improvement of the combat strength and organization of all units.
4. They first cooperated with the Navy at this time; they also began to work with the 25th Army (MALAYA) and the 16th Army (DUTCH EAST INDIES) at the same time.

- III. 1. The major attacks in the BURMA Area were as set out in Appendix 3 attached hereto.
2. The major attacks in the MALAYA and DUTCH EAST INDIES areas were as set out in Appendix 4 attached hereto.

IV. 1. Aircraft losses- BURMA (including JAVA):

TYPE OF PLANE	LOSSES IN AIR	LOSSES ON GROUND	NON-COMBAT LOSSES	TOTAL
Hq Recce Planes	5 (2)	0 (1)	3 (1)	8 (4)
Fighters	20 (30)	5 (5)	10 (5)	35 (40)
Twin-engined Light Bombers	5 (6)	2 (3)	5 (2)	12 (11)
Attack Planes	10	0	5	12 (11)
Single-engined Light Bombers	3	3	6	12
Heavy Bombers	5	0	2	7
Army Recce Planes	2	2	1	5
Direct Cooperative Recce Planes	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>5</u>
Totals	51 (38)	13 (9)	32 (8)	96 (55)

Note: The losses in SUMATRA and MALAYA were negligible.

2. Flight personnel losses - BURMA (including JAVA)
  - A. Losses in combat 50 (about 50)
  - B. Other operational losses 6 (2)
  - Total 66 (52)

3. The major losses were in air battles over RANGOON and TONGOO.

Note: The figures (TN: in part IV) cannot be expected to be entirely accurate. The figures in parenthesis represent JAVA losses.

- V. 1. At first aircraft replacements to the BURMA area came through HEITO, FORMOSA, but later they staged in SAIGON.
2. Although the rate of replacement of fighter losses was very slow, the planes of the 24th HIKOSENTAI were left in the rear echelon, SAIGON, when they moved from the PHILIPPINES. This move provided some replacements and facilitated the operation. The 4th HIKODAN (8th and 14th HIKOSENTAI) which had fought in the PHILIPPINES, was also left in HEITO and their planes, after being repaired, and flight personnel were dispatched to the front by air.
3. Until the JAVA operation, replacement of plane losses was almost 100%. In addition to replacements, planes, which had been only slightly damaged, were used after repairs were made.
- a. After the start of the JAVA operation, replacements were received in successively smaller numbers from the SAIGON air depot.
- b. Replacements from the SAIGON air depot were delivered by air by the flight personnel of the various units concerned.
- c. After the occupation of MALAYA and the DUTCH EAST INDIES, field air replacement depots were set up in SINGAPORE, SEMBAWANG and BANDOENG with smaller branch depots elsewhere. These were bases for the organization and preparation of replacements.

VI. Coordination of air operations by the Army and Navy in MALAYA:

1. The MALAYA operation was always a joint operation of the Army and Navy Air Forces but there was no command relationship. A summary of the cooperation is as follows:
- a. Daily targets and the allotment of areas:
- (1) At the beginning of the war the Navy was assigned Military installations in Southern MALAYA: the Army was assigned airfields in Northern MALAYA and BURMA. They cooperated at advance fields in THAILAND.
- (2) a. During and after this period, the Navy Air Force was principally engaged in the destruction of the BRITISH Far Eastern Fleet; the Army Air Force, besides continuing its former duties, destroyed transport shipping and cooperated with the 25th Army.
- b. The bases used by the Navy at all times were chiefly in Southern FRENCH INDO-CHINA, and SELETAR (SINGAPORE), MALAYA. The Army Air Force used occupied air fields.
- c. Fuel and ammunition: Although basically both arms used their own, when required by the circumstances, each obtained fuel from the other.
- d. Communication liaison: There was radio liaison between the headquarters of both arms (the 3rd HIKOSHIDAN and the 23d KOKUSENTAI), and a liaison staff was usually sent to the 3rd HIKOSHIDAN from the 23d KOKUSENTAI (Navy).

VII. 1. The BURMA, MALAYA, and DUTCH EAST INDIES areas:

- a. Replacement of personnel:

Although direct replacement from air force headquarters in JAPAN was principally relied on, a portion of the replacements were received from field air replacement units in PNOMPENH (later moved to KULA LAMPUR).

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b. Although losses of combat flight personnel were comparatively heavy and were accompanied by some difficulty from the standpoint of replacements, generally speaking, special measures were worked out so that operations were not adversely affected.

c. Serviceability rate:

The number of serviceable planes of all types was maintained at 60% of the planes on hand. The number of serviceable planes of particular types, from the standpoint of the nature of the operations, were on a ratio of 3 fighters to 2 light bombers to 1 heavy bomber.

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7 December 1941 - 1 March 1942  
Table of Unit Names, Unit Movements, etc., of Air  
Units Operating in the MALAYA and FRENCH INDO-CHINA Areas

Unit Name	Mission	Date	Base	No of Planes	Type	Movements	
KOKUGUN Hq	1. Battle for air supremacy in the MALAYA Area. 2. Cooperate with the 25th ARMY 3. Cooperate with the assault on THAILAND. 4. Battle for air supremacy in BURMA. 5. Raiding operations and subjugation campaign in SUMATRA. 6. Battle for aerial supremacy in JAVA West of 180° E. Long. and cooperation with the 16th Army	1 Dec 1941 to 1 Mar 1942	PALEMBANG, SINGAPORE, PHNOMPENH, KLUANG, SUNGEI				
81st HIKO-SENTAI			Same as above	14	Hq Recce Type 100		
HIKODAN Hq			COMON, COUNANG, SUNGEI, KLUANG, PALEMBANG, KALIOJATI	36	Type 1 Fighters	Principally direct cooperation with the 25th Army. Participated in PALEMBANG and West JAVA Campaigns.	
59th HIKO-SENTAI				25	Type 99 Twin-Engined Light Bomber		
75th HIKO-SENTAI				25	Do		
90th HIKO-SENTAI					27	Type 99 Attack Planes	
27th HIKO-SENTAI					6	Type 100 Hq Recce	Operated effectively in the SINGAPORE and RANGOON operations.
15th HIKO-SENTAI (less the 51st DOKURITSU HIKO-CHUTAI)							
HIKODAN Hq			PNOMPENH, KOTAPHARU, AYERTAWAR				
12th HIKO-SENTAI			ALOR-STAR	24	Type 97 Heavy Bomber		
64th HIKO-SENTAI	FUKOKU, ALOR-STAR, PALEMBANG	36	Type 1 Fighter				
60th HIKO-SENTAI	PNOMPENH, SAIGON, KUNING, BINH, KETUI	27	Type 97 Heavy Bomber				
98th HIKO-SENTAI		35	Do				
51st DOKURITSU HIKO-CHUTAI	Same as 7th HIKODAN	6	Type 100 Hq Recce				
HIKODAN Hq	FUKOKU, SINGORA, KUANTAN, BAPUP, PAHATA, TANDOENG, KARAWG				Protected the 25th Army Convoy		
1st HIKO-SENTAI		36	Type 97 Fighters				
12th HIKODAN 11th HIKO-SENTAI		36	Do				

3rd KOKUGUN

3rd HIKODAN

7th HIKODAN

12th HIKODAN

Appendix #1  
Questionnaire #8 (Cont'd)

	Unit Name	Mission	Date	Base	No of Planes	Type	Movements
10th HIKODAN	HIKODAN Hq		8 Dec 1941 to 15 Jan 1942	LAMPANG KULAN			After 15 Jan attached to the 5th HIKOSHIDAN, and moved to THAILAND to prepare for the BURMA Operation.
	62nd HIKO-SENTAI			KRAKOR	5-12	Type 97 Heavy Bomber	
	77th HIKO-SENTAI			SIEMPEAP	36	Type 97 Fighters	
	31st HIKO-SENTAI			BANGKOK	21	Type 97 Single Engined Light Bombers	
	90th DOKUR-ITSU HIKO-CHUTAI				7	Type 100 Hq Recce	

- NOTE: 1. The 83rd HIKOTAI was under the command of the 25th Army, and the 21st HIKOTAI was in FRENCH INDO-CHINA.  
2. The 1st TEISHUNAN was attached for the PALEMBANG operation.

Unit Name		Mission	Base	Type of Planes	No of Planes	Movements		
5th HIKOSHIDAN	4th HIKODAN	HIKOSHIDAN Hq	1. Dispose of the English Air Force in BURMA.	15 Jan 1942 BANGKOK, after 7 March RANLIGOON				
		HIKODAN Hq		At first BANGKOK, after BURMA Campaign moved north to TONGOO.				
		50th HIKO-SENTAI	2. Cooperate with the offensive operations of the 15th Army in BURMA	Same	Fighters	24		
		8th HIKO-SENTAI		as	Twin-Engine Light Bombers	16		
	14th HIKO-SENTAI	Above		2 CHUTAI				
	10th HIKODAN	HIKODAN Hq		THAILAND LAMPANG				
		77th HIKO-SENTAI		LAMPANG	Fighters	24	Placed under the command of the 5th HIKOSHIDAN 15 Jan 1942. Detached in July and sent to MANCHURIA.	
		31st HIKO-SENTAI		THAILAND PITSANULOKE	Single-Engined Light Bombers	20		
		62nd HIKO-SENTAI		THAILAND NAWKARN-SAWARN	Heavy Bombers	6		
		7th HIKODAN	HIKODAN Hq		SUNGEI-PATANI, TONGOO			
			64th HIKO-SENTAI		RANGOON N. TONGOO	Fighters	30	Placed under his command March 1942
			12th HIKO-SENTAI		SUNGEI-PATANI, LAMPANG	Heavy Bombers	27	
			98th HIKO-SENTAI		SUNGEI-PATANI BANGKOK	Heavy Bombers	27	

APPENDIX #2  
QUESTIONNAIRE #8 (Cont'd)

Unit Name		Mission	Base	Type of Planes	No. of Planes	Movements
12th HIKODAN	HIKODAN Hq		RANGOON			
	1st HIKO-SENTAI		RANGOON	Fighters	30	Placed under this command March 1942. Detached July 1942.
	11th HIKO-SENTAI		RANGOON	Fighters	30	
	81st HIKO-SENTAI		HLEGU	Hq Recce Planes	12	Placed under this command July 1942
	83rd HIKO-SENTAI less 52nd DOKUR-ITSU CHUTAI		MAYMYO	Army Recce Planes, 1 CHUTAI Direct co-operation Recce planes, 1 CHUTAI	6 6	Do
	27th HIKO-SENTAI		TONGOO	Attack Planes	27	Placed under this command in March 1942
	15th HIKO-SENTAI		HLEGU	Hq Recce Planes	12	Do



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ATTACKS IN THE BURMA AREA

APPENDIX #3

Date	Objective	Unit	Base	Type of Planes	No of Planes	Bombs	Results
February 1942 2-week period	RANGOON airfield	8th HIKOSENTAI 14th HIKOSENTAI 31st HIKOSENTAI 62nd HIKOSENTAI	BANGKOK BANGKOK PITSANULOKE NAKARN SAW-ANG	Twin-Engined Lt Bomber Heavy Bomber Single-Eng. Lt Bomber Twin-Engined Lt Bomber	Each time two to four	50 Kg.	60 planes
22 March 1942	MAGWE airfield	4th (50th HIKOSENTAI Hiko- dan (8th HIKOSENTAI (12th HIKOSENTAI  7th (12th HIKOSENTAI HIKO- DAN (98th HIKOSENTAI  12th (1st HIKOSENTAI HIKO- DAN (11th HIKOSENTAI	RANGOON  BANGKOK  RANGOON	Fighter Twin-Engined Lt Bomber  Heavy Bomber  Fighter	30 20  50  60	50 Kg	200 Planes
March 1942	AKYAB	7th (98th HIKOSENTAI HIKO- DAN (64th HIKOSENTAI	MAGWE TONGOO	Fighter Heavy Bomber	27 30	50 Kg	30 Planes
April 1942	YUNNAN	7th (64th HIKOSENTAI HIKO- DAN	LAMPANG	Fighters	30	12.7 mm	20

PRINCIPAL ATTACKS IN MALAYAN AND NETHERLANDS INDIES

DATE	OBJECTIVE	UNITS	BASES	TYPES OF PLANES	No. of Planes	BOMBS	RESULTS
First part of March 1942	Attack on western part of Java	3rd HIKODAN					
		90th HIKO SENTAI		fighter	20		
		75th HIKO SENTAI		Twin engine lt bomber	15	50 Kilo	Destroyed in the air
		59th HIKO SENTAI	)PALEMBANG	Twin engine lt bomber	15	100 Kilo	150
		64th HIKO SENTAI		Hq Recce plane	12		
		81st HIKO SENTAI					
		12th HIKODAN 1st HIKO SENTAI					
		11th HIKO SENTAI	TANDJOENG- KARANG	Type 97 fighter			Captured 150