

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

INTERROGATION NO. 171

PLACE: Meiji Bldg., Tokyo
DATE: 30 October 1945.

Division of Origin: Special Studies.

SUBJECT: Planning Joint Operations.

Personnel interrogated and background of each:

Lt. Col. MURATA, Kingo, now in General Affairs Section (Chief), Air Headquarters, War Ministry. Formerly General Affairs Section, Staff of Southern Army of Marshall TERAUCHI, in Manila and Saigon, pilot. Thirty eight years old, intelligent, and well informed.

Where interviewed: Meiji Building.

INTERROGATOR: Colonel Philip Cole GSC.

INTERPRETER: John Taji. (Lt Col. also brought with him a War Ministry interpreter named RYOKUGO, Shinya, who was little used).

Allied Officers Present: Captain Beveridge part of the time.

SUMMARY:

(1) Discussed interrelationships between the Air Headquarters in the War Ministry, Chief of Staff of the Army's office in Imperial GHQ, the inspector General of Aviation in Imperial GHQ, and the Commanding General Air General Army.

(2) Discussed planning for joint operations, and the degree to which Army, Army Air, Navy and Navy Air got together. It appeared that in planning the battles that started with the invasion of Leyte, Headquarters Southern Army, had one officer who was at the same time Chief Staff Officer for Strategic planning for Army Air and Navy Air. This was Lt. Colonel NISHIMURA (since killed), an Army Air officer. Members of the staff of the Naval fleet conferred frequently with the Army planners of Southern Army. In Manila the Army and Navy planners were socially close, and used to go out together evenings. Marshall TERAUCHI never voiced any criticism of the Japanese Navy's defeat, nor of the fact that Army and Navy Air were unable to prevent the Americans from making it impossible to supply and reinforce the Japanese troops in Leyte. The battle for Leyte was recognized by Southern Army, and by the troops in Japan proper as the decisive battle of the war. "We all knew that all the other arms were doing the best they could, the same as we were".

DISTRIBUTION: ALL DIVISIONS.