

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

INTERROGATION NO: 162

PLACE: Meiji Bldg, Rm 340.
DATE: 26 Oct 45

Division of Origin: Military Analysis

SUBJECT: Japanese Army Air Force Training

Personnel interrogated and background of each:

Col KAIMOTO, Katsuo, senior staff officer in the training dept of Air Headquarters.

Where interviewed: 26 Oct 45

Interrogator: Capt John C. West

Interpreter: 2nd Lt Oyama

Allied Officers Present: Col Philip Cole, GSC.

SUMMARY:

This was a continuation of the interrogation of Col KAIMOTO begun the preceding day. A detailed training program covering all phases of training with time allotted each was submitted by Col KAIMOTO. This document is at present being translated.

Col KAIMOTO stated that there was no formal training for suicide pilots other than normal training in dive-bombing technique which was a part of the regular training program. However, each individual unit did a certain amount of training in Kamikaze techniques. Approximately 3000 pilots were allotted for suicide units to be used in the defense of the homeland. These were organized in units of six men each and formed in groups of 20 units. Approximately 500 such units would have been formed and ready for operations by October or early November 1945. When asked about airborne training, Col KAIMOTO replied that he was familiar with the program only until early 1944. The largest airborne training center was at KARASEHARA, Kyushu, with a smaller training center at TSUKUBA, Honshu.

As a fuel saving device, all cadets used gliders during their first month of flying. In this way they became accustomed to being airborne and received their first lessons at the controls.

Col KAIMOTO also stated that Hq of 30 Sentō-Aiboshudan were still at AKENO. It was planned that this organization would receive the strength of the AKENO training unit and would employ this strength in suicide attacks against the Allies, using TAKAMATSU, Shikoku as a headquarters.

DISTRIBUTION: All Divisions.