

plies.]

altitude of 3,000 meters, of course he was about five and he attacked, and that does not burst into that the gasoline gushing [vapor]. He wanted to ticular plane, whether or

ne, who went missing in solitary American loss of he was observed smoking.

rently it wasn't burning, llection coincides, there ngine smoking, and that were nearby. replies.]

notions. He doesn't want down the plane, it's irn't know whether he [Lt. ngine, or any part of the re death, but he doesn't turned back.

royed during the engage-

nd then let me ask him.

: to the Buin Airport and ne in. Of course he gave come in—and when he charge of the squadron. mmanding officer of the ort. And about two hours

later, after landing, they were given the order to go back to Rabaul, so he was never asked, and he didn't ask for their opinion or their emotion of the incident.

Hall [question 16]: After the encounter, how many P-38s were claimed shot down?

[Shinagawa asks this question. Yanagiya replies.]

Shinagawa: All unconfirmed, but they reported three—but none confirmed by anyone else. These are the total that six Zero pilots reported.

Hall: All right. [question 14] How many in the flight of Zeros, how many of his comrades were shot down?

[Shinagawa asks this question. Yanagiya replies.]

Shinagawa: Out of six [Zeros], one landed on Shortland Island—an emergency landing. Five others all landed at Buin Airport, so none were lost.

Hall: In question number 13, if you would ask, did Japanese intelligence suspect codes had been broken?

Shinagawa [asks the thirteenth question]: In the debriefings, did Japanese intelligence suspect that codes had been broken?

[Yanagiya replies.]

Shinagawa: He was not directly involved in intelligence, so he just does not know; he did not know before Yamamoto's death, but because of the unusual circumstances of the encounter—prior to the Yamamoto mission he had never seen P-38s in a group of sixteen or eighteen attacking from the lower altitude—and not only that, but to even ignore Zeros flying up above to go for the bomber and nothing else, from the lower altitude with a group of sixteen or eighteen, he was [himself] certain that the code had been broken. They [the Americans] knew who was flying in the plane. It was deliberate. It was not an accident.

Hall: So the Japanese officers of the day were satisfied that that was what had happened?

Shinagawa: Well, that was his opinion, his conception, and usually in the frontline airfield, when one plane lands, the dust created by the first plane—you have to wait for awhile for the dust to settle