

Title of the Program: **“International News 2020”**

Broadcast Date: November 27, 2020

“International News 2020”: is a daily news program which airs at 10:00 p.m. on weekdays.

It is broadcasted on one of NHK’s satellite channels, “BS 1”.

Duration of the “International News 2020”: 40 minutes. **This excerpt of the Emmons segment is 11:54.**

Viewership during the week of November 23, 2020: Average of 0.4%,

which is approximately 500,000 to 600,000 people.

Below is an English translation of the segment. Mr. Esposito’s comments are in original English.

Time code:

00:06: In our “Spot Light” segment tonight, we will be looking at the “Tokko” force. Towards the end of the Pacific War, Japanese military attacked the enemy by crashing their airplanes into the enemy, and they were called the “Tokko”.

Overseas, “Tokko” is known as “Kamikaze”. This term is generally used today for a suicide attack.

How were these attacks carried out?

Currently, an investigative research of an American military ship which was sunk by Kamikaze is being conducted.

The investigation is now in its final phase. Tonight, we are reporting the investigation’s status.

00:38: [View of the sea in Okinawa. Divers diving into the sea]

We are off shore of Kouri island, in the northern part of Okinawa island.

00:50: [Divers underwater]

Earlier this month, a team of researchers from Kyushu University conducted an underwater investigation.

01:00: [Image of USS Emmons underwater]

This is USS Emmons, a U.S. Navy’s destroyer-minesweeper. Approximately 100 meters (*348 ft*) in length, USS Emmons is lying on her side, at the depth of 45 meters (*148 ft*).

01:17: On this day, the researchers photographed the stern of the ship.

01:27: They also measured the angle of the gun turret.

Tokko - Operation sacrificed its pilot’s life.

The investigation of this ship began 6 years ago. The aim of this investigation is to trace what occurred by examining the remains and keeping the records.

01:58: [A diver climbs up onto the boat from the sea]

This is Professor Hironobu Kan of Kyushu University. He is the leader of this research group.

02:10: [Professor Kan comments:]

“This site is the only place where one can actually see the remains of Kamikaze crashing into a ship, during the Pacific War. In that sense, this is an extremely important site”

02:28: [Film footage of Kamikaze attacking ships during the Battle of Okinawa]

In April 1945, in the midst of the Battle of Okinawa, “Tokko - Operation” was implemented.

02:44: [Photo of USS Emmons]

Tasked with mine-sweeping operation, USS Emmons was in off-shore Okinawa.

On April 6, USS Emmons was attacked by 5 Kamikaze and lost 64 of its crew members.

03:01: [Image of Mr. Tony Esposito, via Zoom]

We found a USS Emmons’ survivor of that Kamikaze attack, living in the state of New York.

This is Mr. Tony Esposito, who is 97 years old.

03:15: [Image of sea and clouds]

When the Kamikaze hit, Mr. Esposito was on duty at the bridge of the ship.

03:26: [Mr. Esposito’s comment, in English]

“I don’t think they were carrying machine-guns. Because, otherwise, it would have definitely got me, because it was definitely coming right at me, like, 10 feet over my head”

“I don’t know....I was scared” (*when the Kamikaze attacked*)

“We weren’t trained for anything like that” (*We did not have any prior training on what to do when/if Kamikaze hit*)

03:46: [Exterior view of Kyushu University building.

Then, inside the University, researchers are looking at photographs]

Working with more than 2,000 photographs and other information, the research team is attempting to create a 3D (*Three-Dimensional space*) model of USS Emmons.

04:03: This is USS Emmon’s 3D model being made.

USS Emmons lies sideways on the seabed, with starboard side facing down.

One can see the damage caused by Kamikaze in various places of the ship.

04:26: [Professor Kan speaking, pointing at 3D image]

“It appears that a Kamikaze came from the starboard side and crashed toward the stern of the ship.

The propeller on the right side is caved into the ship, rendering the ship inoperable and unmaneuverable”

- 04:48: [Underwater image]
It also appears that numerous Kamikaze crashed into the bridge of the ship. The bridge had 4 floors.
- 04:59: [Professor Kan speaking, pointing at 3D image]
“The bridge was attacked almost simultaneously. Each Kamikaze airplane crashed into different floors of the bridge. They first crashed into the Pilot house, followed by the Combat Information Center. They struck at the center of the ship’s operation”.
- 05:30: Moreover, they discovered a new information after studying the angle of the gun turret: Most of the guns were set at horizontal level.
- 05:50: [Professor Kan speaking, pointing at 3D image]
“I think the guns were set to horizontal angle, because they (crew of USS Emmons) were trying to shoot down the Kamikaze which were coming from low angle, close to the waterline”
The research team surmises that Kamikaze approached their target by flying low, and avoid being attacked by the American fighter planes.
From this assumption, the research team thinks that the Kamikaze squad which attacked USS Emmons had high flying skills.
- 06:23: [Image of Mr. Tony Esposito, via Zoom]
This is Mr. Esposito, a survivor of USS Emmons. His comment seems to agree with the research team’s conclusion:
“Definitely, *(the Kamikaze pilot had high flying skills)* I was surprised they didn’t hit the water before they hit us. That’s how low they were”
- 06:44: [One of the research team’s member, Mr. Katagiri walks between the stacks of boxes]
From the investigation, we are learning about the Kamikaze squad which attacked USS Emmons.
One of the research team’s member, Mr. Chiaki Katagiri, studied an airplane engine which was discovered close to USS Emmons.
- 07:05: [Underwater Image, Image of airplane engine]
This engine was discovered only 16 meters *(52 ft)* away from the USS Emmons.
- 07:14: Upon measuring the size of this engine, the research team has concluded that the engine is highly likely to be from the Japanese Imperial Army’s Type 98 Reconnaissance Plane *(Tachikawa Ki-36 type, known to the Allied Forces as “Ida”)*.
- 07:29: [Mr. Katagiri speaking]
“We compared the engine with the blueprint and concluded that it belonged to Type 98 Reconnaissance Plane”.
- 07:44: [Photograph of the Type 98 Reconnaissance Plane]
Type 98 Plane was mainly used as a reconnaissance plane.

07:54: [Photograph of the Makoto Squadron]

In addition, from the Japanese military records, we found out that the Kamikaze squadron which flew on that airplane on April 6 was the Japanese Army's 36th, 37th and 38th Makoto Squadrons.

This "Makoto" squadron consisted of 36 members. All of them were flying instructors at the Japanese Army's flight school.

08:26: [Image of Mr. Kinya Kanazawa sitting on a sofa]

This is Mr. Kinya Kanazawa who lives in Sapporo (*Japan*). He is 93 years old. Mr. Kanazawa was a pupil of one of the Makoto crew members/ flight instructors at the flight school and learned to fly.

08:51: At the time, it was a natural course of event to be chosen as a Kamikaze pilot.

[Mr. Kanazawa comments]

"I succeeded in becoming a proper aviation pilot, and I was rather proud of it. I was unaware of the war situation at the time, and we were completely indoctrinated with the military education.

"I felt that "Only I can do this (*task*)", and that I must follow the examples set by the senior colleagues".

09:14: Yet, Mr. Kanazawa came upon a diary written by one of the officers of Makoto Squadron, and learned of officer's inner turmoil.

[Image of diary belonging to Second Lieutenant Toshio Kobayashi, Captain of the 37th Makoto Squadron]

This is a diary of Second Lieutenant Toshio Kobayashi, who died at the age of 23. One month before his mission, he expressed his mixed emotions in the following entry:

09:40: [Close-up of diary. Reading of the Diary]

"In my bed, I think about life, and I think about death.

Although I constantly speak of bravery when I am awake,

Quietly I lay at night thinking about life. My mind can not find peace"

10:00: [Film footage of Type 98 Reconnaissance Airplane taking off, crew on the ground waving]

Mr. Kanazawa began to question why a reconnaissance plane, which is inferior in its capability compared to fighter jet, began to be used for Kamikaze missions.

10:13: [Mr Kanazawa's comment]

"Well, I suppose the answer to my question was that Japan was running out of airplanes, and used any type of airplanes that could fly. The whole thing was just a big mess. They (*Senior level officers of Japanese military*) didn't know what to do. At that point, I even doubt that there was a logical strategy behind their actions".

10:32: [Image of Mr. Tony Esposito, via Zoom]

Mr. Esposito learned about the Makoto Squadron for the first time today. He still can not comprehend the

concept of crashing one's airplane into the enemy.

10:44: [Mr. Esposito's comment]

"I couldn't understand it all" (*About the mentality of a Kamikaze pilot*)

"Why anybody would want to crash... and give up their lives? crash into a ship."

Interviewer: "What is your message to the Japanese people who lost their own family members?"

Mr. Esposito: "I don't know what I would say.....Sorry for their loss....."

11:18: [Image of USS Emmons underwater]

A destroyer-minesweeper USS Emmons and the Kamikaze airplane's engine lie in the sea of Okinawa.

After 75 years, this image of war is telling us a story.

11:35: [Newscaster's comment in the studio]

"Professor Kan of Kyushu University says that, 'As there are less and less survivors of the war today, it is vitally important to let an object, such as the ship wreck underwater, speak for itself'. The result of the Kyushu University's investigative research team is scheduled to be published next year".

END