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Masaaki Shimakawa

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Masaaki Shimakawa (島川 正明, *Shimakawa Masaaki*) was a warrant officer and ace fighter pilot in the Imperial Japanese Navy (IJN) during the Pacific theater of World War II. In aerial combat over the Pacific he was officially credited with destroying eight enemy aircraft with 12 or 13 assists.

Shimakawa was a member of the Tainan Air Group at the beginning of the Pacific War. Often assigned as a wingman to legendary ace Saburō Sakai, Shimakawa fought in the conquest of the Philippines and the Dutch East Indies campaign. In April 1942, Shimakawa was transferred to the aircraft carrier *Kaga's* fighter group, with which he participated in the Battle of Midway.

Surviving the loss of his carrier at Midway, Shimakawa was reassigned to the 204th Air Group with which he was assigned to the Solomon Islands campaign in August 1942. Based on Bougainville, Shimakawa and his comrades frequently tangled with the Cactus Air Force over Guadalcanal during the battle for that island. Stricken with malaria, Shimakawa was evacuated to Japan in March 1943.

After recovering from his illness, Shimakawa served as an instructor pilot with the Omura Air Group and various other units until the war ended in September 1945. Shimakawa died on 25 September 1997.

Masaaki Shimakawa

Born	December 1921 Tokushima Prefecture, Japan
Died	25 September 1997
Allegiance	Empire of Japan
Branch	Imperial Japanese Navy Air Service (IJN)
Years of service	1939–1945
Rank	Warrant Officer
Battles / wars	World War II └ Pacific War

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