



ITEM# UJGU019

## A SUKETADA WWII NAVY OFFICER KATANA SIGNED, EDO PERIOD (HOEI ERA: 1704-1711)

**Swordsmith:** Bizen no Kuni Osafune Ju SUKETADA  
**Location:** Bizen no Kuni (Okayama prefecture)  
**Measurements:** Length: 64.5cm Curvature: 2.0cm Motohaba: 3.0cm  
**Jihada:** Ko-itame  
**Hamon:** Gunome choji-midare  
**Nakago:** Ubu-nakago, ha-agari kurishiri, kiriyasuri  
**Certificate:** Shibata Mitsuo Kanteisho (a sword designated as authentic by the Japanese sword dealer Mitsuo Shibata in May 1999)  
**Included:** WWII Japanese Navy Officer fittings, shirasaya, carry bag, sword stand, maintenance kit, DVD, printed care guide, exportation paperwork to home country

**SOLD**

This graceful katana made over 300 years ago by swordsmith Suketata is shaped as a *ko-tachi*, or small tachi, that has its origins from horseback 1000 years ago. It features a beautiful *ko-itame hada* with *gunome choji-midare* (a classic Bizen School temperline that resembles clove blossoms).

It is housed in excellent condition WWII Japanese Navy Officer Kai-Gunto pattern fittings. This is highly significant as the vast majority of Navy officer swords were either mass-produced or made near or during WWII time frame. Note how the scabbard is greatly curved, this is rare.

Being a katana from the Edo period, it strongly suggests that the sword was held within the family's Samurai lineage for generations, passed down to the officer when duty to country called. Traditional depictions of *sakura* (cherry blossom) adorn the sword, the national flower of Japan. Below is a poem on a military sword blade that pays homage to the sakura.

*"Just as the cherry blossom fades and falls to the ground, so it is with my useful life. Should it prove to be of use to my Emperor, I would not fail to fall."*