

R E S T R I C T E D

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

INTERROGATION NO. 432
(Japanese Intell.#45)

PLACE: TOKYO
TIME: 24 Nov. 1945

Division of Origin: Japanese Intelligence Section, G-2, USSBS.

Subject: Selection and Assignment of Intelligence Personnel.

Person interrogated and background:

ITO, Taisuke, Captain, IJN.

1923 Graduated from Academy.

1941-1942(Nov.) Staff of Fifth Fleet.

1942-1943(April) Board of Awards and Decorations.

1943(May)-1943(July) Central Pacific Fleet Headquarters on Saipan.

1943 61st Air Flotilla.

1944(2 Months) 20th Combined Air Flotilla.

1944(Nov.) to war's end Personnel Division of Naval Ministry.

Where interviewed: Meiji Building.

Interrogator: Lt. Comdr. William H. Botzer USNR
Lt. Comdr. F. Shackelford USNR

Interpreter: Major J.C. Pelzel

Allied Officers Present: None.

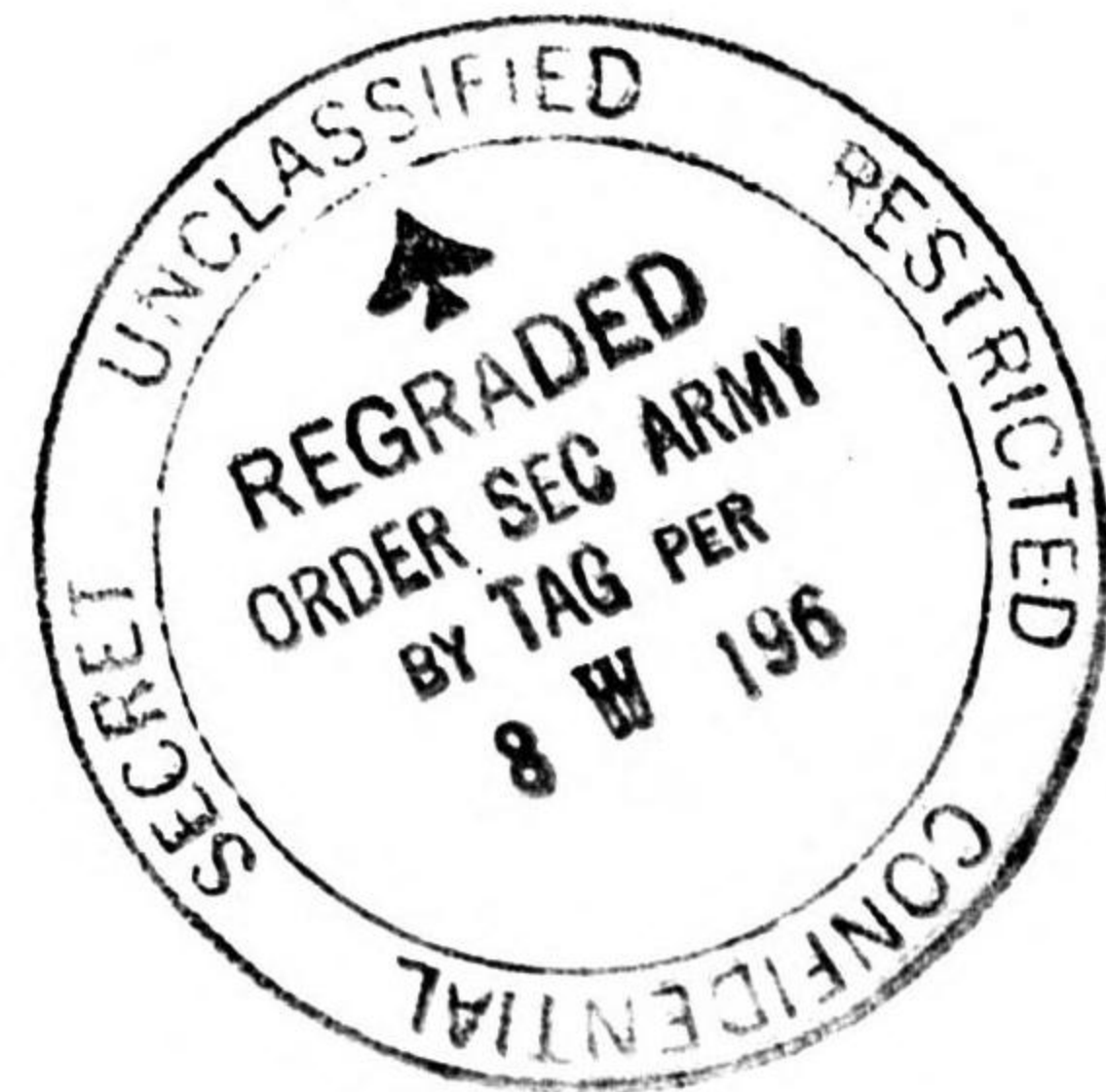
SUMMARY

Tables of Organization of the Combined Fleet, Naval General Staff and the Eight Air Fleets called for an intelligence officer but organization tables of other commands throughout the Japanese Navy did not. Usually in such lower levels intelligence duties were assigned to communications officers as additional duties. In no case were officers specially trained for intelligence work.

The Division of Personnel in the Naval Ministry usually assigned intelligence personnel on the basis of qualifications of; (1) foreign travel, (2) knowledge of foreign languages, (3) personal interest in such work. Oftentimes intelligence officers would be men of rather delicate health. In choosing the intelligence officer for the Naval General Staff, sharpness of mind was emphasized and it was preferred that he be a graduate of the Naval General College. Aptitude for intelligence work was considered in selecting communications officers for lower commands such as small fleets, air groups, and flotillas.

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Q. 1. In your Personnel Office were you generally familiar with tables of organization of Fleets, Air Groups and Ships?

A. Yes.

Q. 2. Tell us which of these tables of organization called for intelligence officers.

A. Outside of the top fleet commands no table of organization calls for intelligence officers. Such Commands calling for an intelligence officer were:

Combined Fleet

Eight Air Fleets (1, 2, 3, 5, 10, 11, 12, 13)

Naval General Staff

One or two additional officers and several petty officers were assigned to intelligence in the Combined Fleet, but this was on the initiative of the Command itself.

Q. 3. Is your Personnel Office in the Navy Ministry responsible for assigning all Naval Officers?

A. Yes.

Q. 4. Upon what basis were intelligence officers assigned by personnel?

A. These are the controlling factors:

(1) Foreign Travel.

(2) Familiarity with foreign languages.

(3) Not in vigorous health.

(4) Personal preference.

Intelligence officers for the Naval General Staff are chosen for their sharpness of mind and because generally they have gone through the Naval General College.

Q. 5. Who performed intelligence duties in the lower levels?

A. In Air Groups, flotillas and smaller fleets, such duties were usually assigned to communications officers as additional duties.

Q. 6. Did such officers with intelligence duties in Air Groups, flotillas, smaller fleets have any special intelligence training?

A. Our intelligence organization was a sparse, scanty affair. I don't know but I think communications officers received a little general training. Others got none.

Q. 7. Since intelligence duties were largely assigned to communications officers in your lower levels, did you take aptitude and ability to perform intelligence duties into account in assigning your communications officers?

A. Yes, we considered that fact and chose communications officers with aptitude for intelligence provided their qualifications for communications duty were satisfactory.

Q. 8. Did the Personnel Office assign Naval Attaches?

A. Yes, but as I am a flier I was concerned with the assignment of aviation personnel primarily. I believe, however, that the attaches were chosen on the basis of the following qualifications:

- (1) Sharpness of mind.
- (2) Knowledge of language.
- (3) Graduation from Naval General Staff College.

Q. 9. Did officers in the Naval General Staff College receive intelligence training?

A. There was a statement of the general nature of intelligence and some uses to which it might be put, but nothing beyond this.

Q. 10. Tell us what you know about the "YOMUSHI", their selection, training, assignment, and general effectiveness.

A. They are reserve officers. For the most part they are graduates of specialist or regular colleges. They were sent upon graduation from civilian colleges, to four air groups where they were trained. The Personnel Bureau had nothing to do with their training. The four air groups where they were trained were: TSUCHIURA, SHIGA, KAGOSHIMA, MIE.

Q. 11. About how many YOMUSHI were trained?

A. I don't remember, but I will find out for you. (Information later supplied 3662.)

Q. 12. What were the duties of YOMUSHI?

A. A variety of duties mainly of a clerical or administrative sort. Toward the end of the war we had too many on account of our loss of carriers and bases.

Q. 13. When did you start your YOMUSHI program?

A. Two or three years ago, I think. It was an imitation of your reserve officer program.

Q. 14. Were other reserve officers used in the Navy?

A. Yes, but usually they were trained at special schools. These became deck officers, communications officers, aerologist and other such specialists.

Q. 15. Was the YOMUSHI program effective?

A. Yes, My only regret is that it was started too late.

Q. 16. What were the ranks of YOMUSHI?

A. The highest rank of any YOMSUHI was lieutenant.

Q. 17. We notice that you were at SAIPAN for a short time. Did you have an intelligence officer?

A. I think so, but don't know.

Q. 18. Are you familiar with the duties of any such officer who might have been on SAIPAN?

A. Compiling, assessing, and distributing intelligence. General intelligence work. There was no communications intelligence unit in the Central Pacific Fleet Headquarters.