

R E S T R I C T E D

HEADQUARTERS
U.S. STRATEGIC BOMBING SURVEY
(PACIFIC)
APO 234
C/O POSTMASTER, SAN FRANCISCO

INTERROGATION NO. 492

PLACE: Tokyo
DATE:

Division of Origin: Military Analysis.

Personnel Interrogated: Captain ARASAWA

Where interviewed: Meiji Building

Interrogator: Lt. B. W. Corey

Interpreter: Mr. Dennis Kildoyle

Allied Officers Present: None

SUMMARY

Captain ARASAWA describes the application of Japanese Naval Radar. He states that only a small amount of radar was produced and very few planes were equipped with electronic devices. Both the Army and Navy did not realize the importance of radar as a war weapon until 1944. He pointed out that the Japanese could distinguish enemy planes by their use of IFF.

RESTRICTED

Q. Did you have any navigational aids?

A. We use the H-6.

Q. How?

A. We used this set to sight islands.

Q. Did you have any IFF?

A. We had one towards the end of the war but it was not employed operationally.

Q. Why did you use a different frequency than the army on your IFF?

A. We had separate research on radar. One laboratory was military and the other was Navy. The Army and Navy worked on radar independently and did not realize its use as a war weapon until too late. As far as IFF is concerned we did not feel that it was necessary because any plane that had IFF was American. In fact we did not try to find planes with our radar but tried to detect IFF and this we were able to tell when an American plane was coming. The Americans with IFF made themselves as conspicuous as a man with a Japanese lantern on a very dark night.

Q. Did you have any Ground Control Interceptors?

A. We had just finished one when the war ended.

Q. Did you use jammers?

A. No, we were studying jammers.

Q. Did jamming bother you?

A. Yes, but I do not know how badly they bothered us. I shall bring that information later.

Q. Did you use chaff?

A. We used chaff. Every plane that went out was equipped with it. We began the use of chaff in 1942.

Q. Did you have a method in employing chaff?

A. Yes, the tail gunner or the radio man dropped wads of chaff at every thousand meters.

Q. Did you have any success with chaff?

A. Yes, when we used it, we found the gun-bursts far from the actual target. We also used chaff on leaving the target at night. But we do not know with what success.

Q. What size chaff did you drop?

A. We usually dropped foil 70 cm long. But the foil was sent to various commands and it was cut at the discretion of the commander.

Q. What anti-jamming devices did you have?

A. I do not know, but I shall bring that information later.

Q. What radio controlled bombs did you have?

A. We had one photo electric bomb on which I shall bring more information to you.

Q. What did you do?

A. I was connected with Yokosuka Research and Operations Section in the Navy.

Q. When did you use radar?

A. We employed radar experimentally in March 1942.

Q. But when was it employed in operation?

A. It was employed operationally by the Yokosuka airforce in a large sea-plane, late 1942.

Q. What was the name of this piece of equipment, and where did you operate it besides Yokosuka?

A. Its name was H-6 but due to security reasons, it was referred to as a wireless telegraph set. This set was sent to all the air forces in November of 1942. The bugs that had existed in the set previously were eliminated. The first set was sent to Rabaul.

Q. Did they have good results as Rabaul?

A. No.

Q. Why?

A. The decline in performance was due to the fact that the operators had insufficient training, and insufficient replaceable stock, as well as very poor tubes.

Q. Where else did they install these sets? Burma, Formosa?

A. None were used in Burma; some were employed in Formosa.

Q. How well did they operate?

A. Very well. Battleships could be detected at a range of 50 to 60 miles, destroyers at twenty miles, and B-17s at twenty or thirty miles.

Q. Did you use this set until the end of the war?

A. No, we changed to the FK-3. It was smaller, lighter set that could be installed on smaller planes. This set was eighty percent as effective as the larger model.

Q. In how many planes did you install the FK-3?

A. We never got to the point of making them operational.

Q. What other airborne radar sets did you use operationally?

A. None.

Q. Did you have any altimeters that worked by radio?

A. Yes, we had an altimeter employed below 100 meters, that we used very successfully with a sea plane in torpedo attacks.

Q. Where did you use them and when?

A. I believe in Kyushu, but I shall bring that information in later.

Q. How many did you use?

A. Not many. We had trouble in manufacturing them.

Q. What do you think of American radar?

A. It was very good and we hoped that a complete radar would fall into our hands, but none of it ever did.

Q. What should Japan have done to achieve greater success with their radar?

A. We should have had more research, better relations between the Army and Navy in research and operation, standard nomenclature for both the Army and Navy, increased production, more distribution of radar in the field, and better training of radar personnel.