

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

ANNEX B

INTERROGATION NO. 180 U.S.S.B.S.

PLACE: TOKYO

(Obtain from G-2)

DATE: 30 October 1945

Division of Origin: OIL, CHEMICAL, AND RUBBER DIVISION.

Subject: RECORDS AND STATISTICS FOR IJN EXPLOSIVES AND PROPELLANTS.

Personnel interrogated and background of each:

Capt. Niimi, K., IJN - 2nd in Command Section #3 (explosives and propellants), Bureau #1, Technical Department.

Where interviewed: 5th Floor, Nissan Building, Offices IJN Technical Department.

Interrogator: Lt. Comdr. T. H. Evans, USNR.

Interpreter: Mr. Taji.

Allied Officers Present: Comdr. G. G. Lamb, USNR.

Summary:

- (1) Personal background and military career of Capt. Niimi.
- (2) Capt. Niimi's Section was responsible for the development, production, and testing of all explosives and propellants for the IJN. Chemical warfare (including phosphorus bombs) came under the jurisdiction of Capt. Nose, Section #3.
- (3) General organization of the Technical Department including names of key personnel, also a list of the IJN Arsenals and the private operated plants under contract with IJN for explosives. List shows damage to arsenals and private plants in terms of percent of production capacity destroyed or damaged as a result of war damage.
- (4) Capt. Niimi will prepare a brief of the manufacturing processes at the IJN Arsenals. He will include the raw materials entering the process, the basic reactions, and the end-products. Chemical symbols and composition of compounds will be used throughout. The name of the company supplying the raw material will be indicated. Capt. Niimi will further determine the status of production records at both the IJN Arsenals and private concerns producing under contract. The names of the OinC's at the IJN Arsenals will be submitted along with the report on 1 Nov.
- (5) So far as records are concerned, the Bureaus and Sections within the IJN responsible for production, inventories and consumption are, respectively,
(1) Bureau #1, Section #3 (Capt. Niimi), (2) Bureau of General Affairs,
(3) Bureau of General Affairs.

INTERROGATION

PERSONAL BACKGROUND

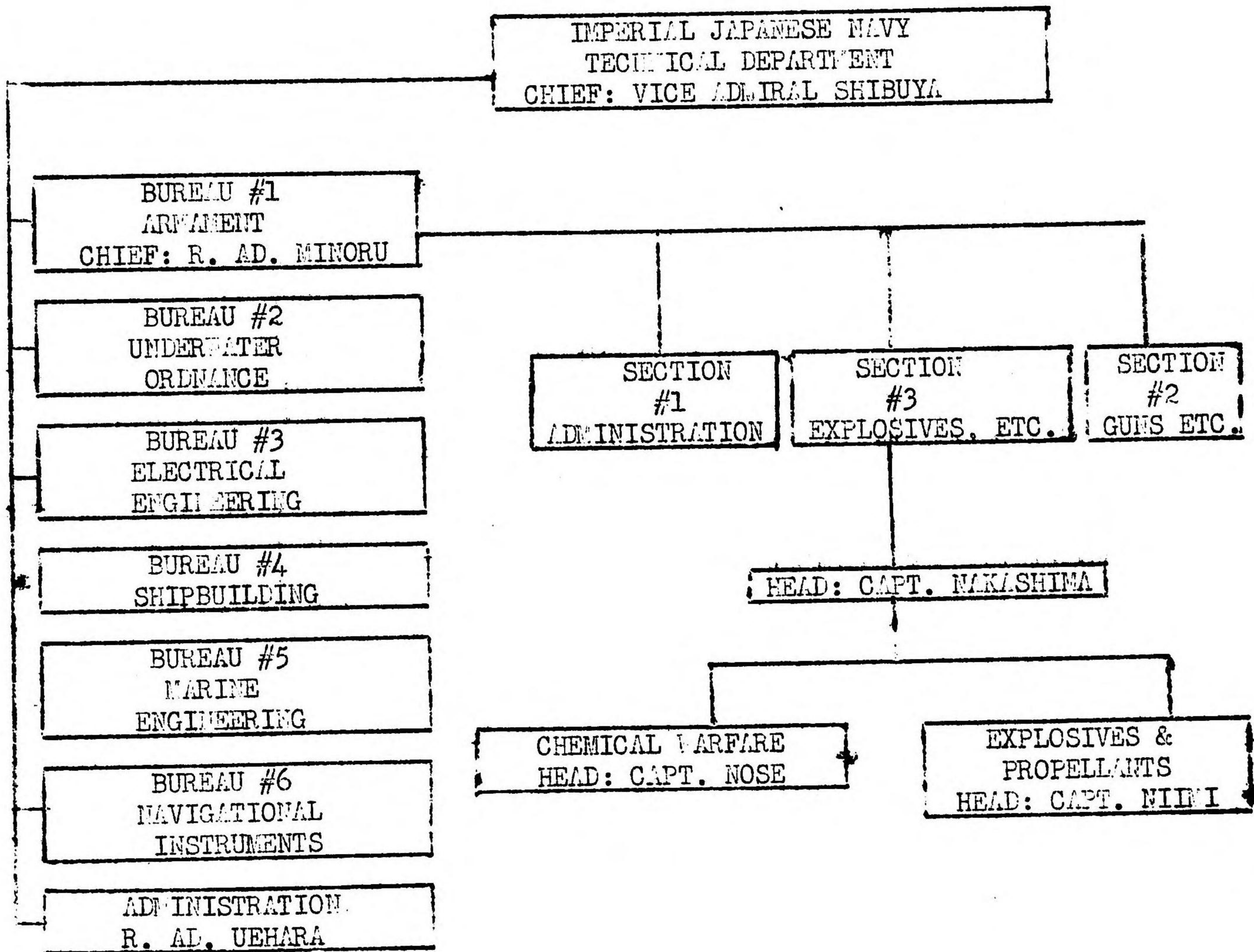
DATES

ACTIVITY

1929	Was graduated in Chemistry from Tokyo Imperial University.
1929	Commissioned a Technical Lt. (jg), IJN.
1929-1930	Gunnery Department IJN Arsenal, Kure.
1930-1937	IJN Arsenal Hiratsuka in Research Department, specializing in the stability of smokeless powder.
1937-1939	IJN Sasebo Arsenal in charge of Inspecting and Testing.
1939-1941	IJN Maizuru Arsenal in charge of Production.
1941-1945	Section #3, Bureau #1, Technical Department, IJN engaged in explosives and propellants development, production, and testing.

ORGANIZATION

Capt. Niimi briefly traced the organization of the Technical Department in general and the Bureau, Sections and Sub-Section connected with explosives and propellants. An organization chart showing the relationship between these various agencies is shown below in Fig. 1. Of the six Bureaus in the Technical Department, Bureau #1 is the one connected with explosives and propellants. There are three Sections under Bureau #1, the third of which is connected with this activity.



ARSENALS

Table #1. below lists the IJN Arsenals which produced explosives and propellants during the war. Also listed are the private concerns which produced explosives and propellants under contract with the IJN. The locations of each plant or arsenal are tabulated along with the names.

TABLE I

LIST OF IJN ARSENALS AND PRIVATE PLANTS PRODUCING
EXPLOSIVES AND PROPELLANTS

A. IJN Arsenals

	<u>Name</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>Prefecture</u>	<u>% Damaged**</u>
1.	Funaoka Naval Explosive Fac.	Funaoka	Miyagi	0
2.	Hiratsuka " " "	Hiratsuka	Kanagawa	30
3.	Maizuru " " "	Maizuru	Kyoto	0

B. Private Plants Under Contract

1.	Nihon Kako K.K.	Okitsu	Chiba	10
2.	Kanto Denki Kogyo K.K.	Hodagaya	Kanagawa	5
3.	Nihon Yushi K.K.	Taketoyo	Aichi	5
4.	Yura Senryo K.K.	Hibi	Okayama	0
5.	Nihon Kayaku Seizo K.K.	Asa	Yamaguchi	0
6.	Mitsubishi Kasei K.K.	Kurosaki	Fukuoka	0
7.	*Mitsui Kagaku Kogyo K.K.	Omuda	Fukuoka	5
8.	Nicchitsu Kagaku Kogyo K.K.	Nabeoka	Miyazuki	10
9.	*Chosen Chisso K.K.	Konans	Chosen	0

* Also produce for the IJA

** Expressed in productive capacity destroyed or damaged.

RECORDS

The situation with respect to records is outlined as follows:

- (1) Capt. Niimi claims to have personally taken charge of burning all IJN official records covering production figures of explosives and propellants.
- (2) There is a possibility of preparing overall production figures for explosives and propellants by obtaining the output reports from the IJN Arsenals and private concerns producing under contract.
- (3) Capt. Niimi will ascertain whether production figures are available at all IJN Arsenals and private plants. He will also furnish the name of the officer in charge of such records at all IJN Arsenals.

- (4) All records concerning stores and consumption of explosives and propellants are available at the IJN General Affairs Bureau, Technical Department.
- (5) Production records at the IJN Hiratsuka Arsenal are currently being burned or destroyed by joint action of the Japanese officials and Occupation Forces in that area. Efforts will be initiated this date to determine the Occupation Forces, G-2 SOP records for explosives, etc. If master copies of such records are preserved, attempt will be made to make these available to the Chemical Section, this Division.
- (6) Concerning imports, Capt. Niimi knows of no instances where explosives or propellants were imported in any appreciable quantity, but cited Germany as a possible source for imports. Any records on imports, if in existence, will be available at the IJN Maizuru Arsenal.
- (7) Captured stores records also are available at this arsenal. Capt. Niimi stated that he was of the opinion that some 3,000 tons of captured explosives had been reprocessed at Maizuru, but he did not consider that any quantity of captured stores had been made available to the IJN because of the great difficulty in meeting the specifications and testing requirements. Records are kept by Section #2.
- (8) Capt. Niimi summarized the bomb damage assessment for both IJN Arsenals and private plants as indicated in Table I. He stated that he did not have detailed damage reports available, but referred to Commander Tsujimoto in his Section who was responsible for keeping detailed information. Procedure to interrogate this officer has been initiated.

RECORDS REQUESTED AND REPORTS DUE

- (1) Data on production processes at the three IJN Arsenals, including raw materials and their source, reactions, and the several products with their chemical composition. Due 2 Nov.
- (2) Determination of the status of records at the IJN Arsenals and the names of the OinC's. A determination of the status of records at the nine private plants producing for IJN. Due 2 Nov.
- (3) List of the Officers in charge of records at the three IJN Arsenals. Due 2 Nov.