

HEADQUARTERS  
U.S. STRATEGIC BOMBING SURVEY  
(Pacific)  
APO # 234  
c/o POSTMASTER, SAN FRANCISCO

INTERROGATION NO. 219  
(Jap Intell #3)

Place: TOKYO  
Date: 2 Nov. 1945

Division of Origin: Japanese Intelligence Section.

Subject: Japanese Naval Intelligence Organization.

Personnel Interviewed and Background of each:

ARITA, Y., Captain, IJN.

Graduated Naval Academy 1920; from 1921-25, junior officer aboard various ships; 1926-27, student higher course at naval torpedo school; 1928-29, torpedo officer of destroyers; 1930-31, instructor at torpedo school; 1932-33, student at Naval War College; 1934-35, torpedo officer on war (battle) ships; 1936-37, staff officer, 2nd fleet; 1937-38, instructor at Naval Academy; 1939-40, staff member destroyer flotilla; 1941-42, staff member 3rd squadron; 1943-August 1944, staff member KURE Naval Station; August 1944-March 1945, captain of CVE KAIYO; in May 1945 became adjutant of the Naval General Staff; now in service of the first reserve.

Where Interviewed: Navy Ministry.

Interrogators: Maj. R. S. Spilman, AC.  
Lt. S. P. Ahlbum, USNR.

Interpreter: Maj. J. C. Pelzel, USMCR.

Allied Officers Present: None.

Summary:

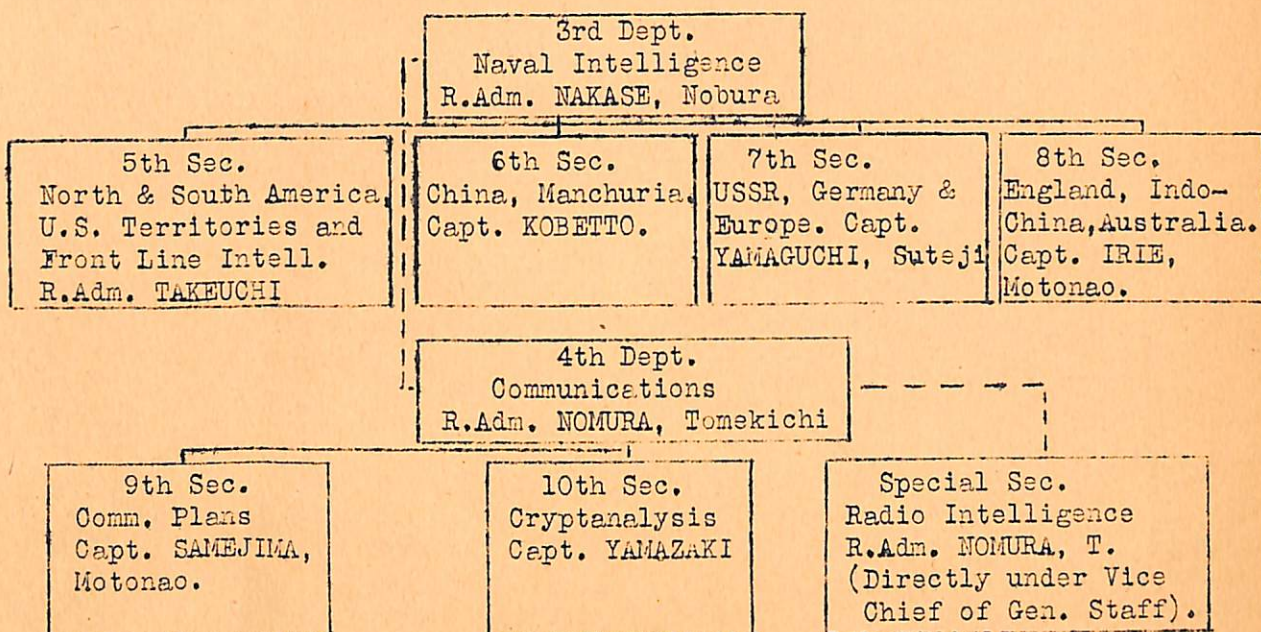
Intelligence staff organization of the Navy General Staff, based on Capt. ARITA's information and on information in FEAF Intelligence Memo #23 (10/18/45) is appended as part of the transcript. Although the adjutant was responsible for personnel in general, intelligence personnel were handled by the personnel office upon recommendations of the 3rd Department of the General Staff (Naval Intelligence).

No intelligence officer was provided aboard the CVE KAIYO during the period in which Capt. ARITA had command. He was captain for two missions, on which the KAIYO provided aerial escort for convoys between JAPAN and TAIWAN and between JAPAN and SINGAPORE between the end of October 1944 and January 1945. The KAIYO received radio reports from fleet headquarters advising of the location of Allied submarines and ships along its course, and the carrier pilots were briefed by Capt. ARITA personally prior to takeoff on such information as he felt was necessary. The pilots were interrogated upon return by the squadron commander who in turn kept the captain advised of their findings.

Each naval base and major fleet unit included radio intelligence and sighting centers, but Capt. ARITA knew of no other operational intelligence organization. His knowledge of intelligence schools was limited to a communications intelligence training course as part of the communications school. Personnel who had served in legations, as attaches or in similar posts prior to the war were, for the most part, preferred for intelligence duty.



1. Chart of Intelligence Organization, Navy General Staff.



2. Transcript of interview.

Q. Can you develop the various echelons under the major headings or sections of naval intelligence?

A. I am not familiar with the detailed organization within the sections nor with the fleet intelligence organization.

Q. Describe the organization of foreign representatives?

A. The Third Section had charge of that. I know nothing about it.

Q. What were your specific duties as adjutant for the staff?

A. My duties had to do with personnel, records, general administration matters, Intelligence personnel were handled by the personnel office upon recommendation of the Third Section.

Q. Do you know of any standard for assigning intelligence officers?

A. None, other than that, for the most part, persons from legations, naval attaches, and so forth, prior to the war, were preferred.

Q. Was that type of person assigned even to the lower echelons in the fleet and operations?

A. I had no connections with that.

Q. In your various assignments, what intelligence organization was there?

A. I never had one, either at KURE Naval Base or while on the KAIYO. Aboard ship, I received intelligence only by radio from fleet headquarters. There was no intelligence organization at KURE. In my opinion, all this was handled by general headquarters. (Later, Capt. ARITA modified this statement by pointing out that each naval base and major fleet unit had a radio intelligence and sighting center, these being the only intelligence units he knew of).

Q. Do you know how large the intelligence organization is at Tokyo headquarters?

A. Three to four officers in each sub-section, probably.



- Q. Was there any special setup for interrogating pilots on the KAIYO when they returned from a mission?
- A. My carrier was in convoy operations. We received reports from fleet headquarters concerning the location of U. S. (sic) submarines. Pilots reported their findings to the squadron leader, who reported to me. We made one trip to TAIWAN and back from the end of October to November 1944, and another to SINGAPORE and back from the end of November to January 1945.
- Q. Was information regarding ships and submarines as received from headquarters given to pilots before flight?
- A. The pilots were gathered together and briefed by me before flight.
- Q. How much information were you permitted to give them?
- A. Only such information as I thought they needed to know.
- Q. Were the pilots given any information on your own forces in the vicinity?
- A. If any was pertinent.
- Q. How did you relay the information received from pilots?
- A. I reported by radio.
- Q. To whom?
- A. That depended on communication facilities -- usually to fleet headquarters.
- Q. Only to fleet headquarters or to other ships and forces?
- A. That depended on the situation.
- Q. Did you get your information from other ships, too, or from fleet headquarters only?
- A. From other ships as much as possible. But assembled reports came from Fleet headquarters only.
- Q. Were there any photographic planes on the KAIYO?
- A. No.
- Q. Was the KAIYO attacked or did she make any attacks while you were in command?
- A. No attacks. We had some reports, but no definite sightings.
- Q. What was required to confirm a sighting by a pilot?
- A. It was confirmed when it was a direct sighting or when a little piece of equipment on the plane, a magnetic device, I believe, gave an indication.
- Q. Were there any schools for naval intelligence?
- A. None that I know of except communications intelligence training in the communication school.