

INTERROGATION REPORT NO. 24

PW's Name : [REDACTED]  
No. : JA 145039 — (204 of 210000)  
Secret No. : N 1016  
Rank : 3rd Class P.O.  
Unit : KURE NO.3 S.N.L.P.  
Where Captured : MILNE BAY  
When Captured : 26 Nov '42  
Height : 5' 2½"  
Weight : 124 lbs.  
Age : 36  
Private Address : [REDACTED]  
Civil Occupation : Department Store Porter

PW is intelligent and has talked freely.

1. PREAMBLE

2. CHRONOLOGY

a) Pre SWPA

1 Jun '27 Entered Navy at KURE - stayed in barracks there for 3½ months on usual training. Was then posted to the battleship "ISE",  
Abt Apr '28 Transferred to destroyer "SHINONOME" on which served for 1 year, was then again transferred to the cruiser "KAKO" on which served for about 6 months.  
Abt Nov '31 Taken from "KAKO" with appendicitis and stayed in hospital for 2 weeks. On discharge was sent to shore Barracks at KURE and remained there for about 4½ months on fatigue duties.  
May '32. Went to SHANGHAI with the FURUTA UNIT (DAITAI). This was a special Naval landing party under Commander FURUTA (KAIGUN CHUSA). In Shanghai was on guard duties at the TOYODA Spinning mills.

Nov '32 Returned to JAPAN and resumed former duties in Barracks at KURE.  
Nov '33 Was posted to the Battleship "FUSO" on which remained for 1 year, during which time the "FUSO" never left harbour.  
Dec '34 Was sent to MANCHUKUO with Naval Defence Unit (BOBITAI), for gets the name of O.C. who had rank of Naval Captain (KAIGUN TAISA). The unit consisted of about 200 men, and travelled by rail to HARBIN via KOREA.

31 May '35 Returned to KURE Barracks and was discharged. Returned home and worked on the farm for 1 year.

Apr '36 Joined the MATSUZAKAYA DEPT STORE in NAGOYA as general port and in Oct '41 decided to leave and return home, but owing to labour shortage and man power control, was unable to do so until permission granted at end Nov '41.

8 Dec '41 Heard over the radio that America had declared war on JAPAN. Appeared surprised when informed by interrogators that JAPAN

PW saw both Japanese and Korean women in brothels at RABAUL. At that port, he also saw white men-handling cargo.

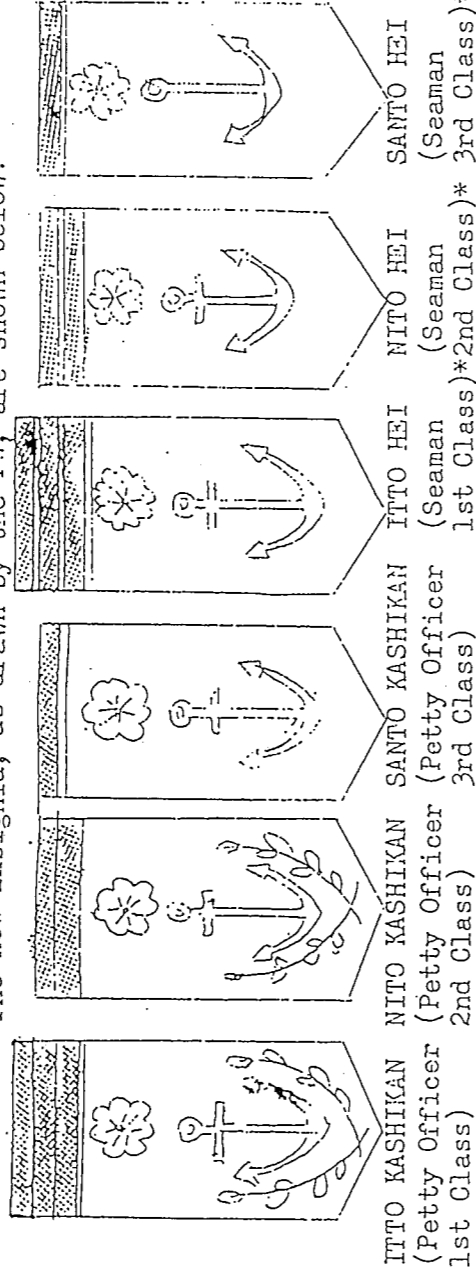
He had given no thought to writing a letter home.

21. GENERAL

a) Naval insignia

PW, giving as his source of information Jun '42 issue of the Japanese newspaper, OSAKA ASAHI, stated the arm insignia of Japanese Naval ratings have been modified, effective 1 Jul '42.

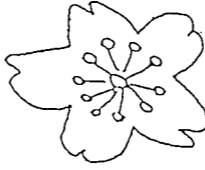
The new insignia, as drawn by the PW, are shown below:



ITTO KASHIKAN (Petty Officer 1st Class)  
 NITO KASHIKAN (Petty Officer 2nd Class)  
 SANTO KASHIKAN (Petty Officer 3rd Class)  
 ITTO HEI (Seaman 1st Class)\*  
 NITO HEI (Seaman 2nd Class)\*

\*(NOTE. PW states that the word, SUI, formerly used to differentiate naval from land forces has been omitted.)

PW further states that the branch of service is denoted by the colour of the cherry blossom in the insignia. The colour code follows :-



- Yellow- SUIHEI (Seaman)
- Green - SEIBI HEI (Ground Crew/Rigger)
- Blue - KOKU HEI (Air Corps)
- Purple- GUNGAKU HEI (Musician)
- White - KIKAN HEI (Stoker)
- Red - KOSAKU HEI (Artificer)
- Red - SHUKEI HEI (Writer)
- Red - KANGO HEI (Hospital Corps)

- (水兵)
- (砲術兵)
- (空軍兵)
- (音楽兵)
- (積込兵)
- (工務兵)
- (主務兵)
- (看護兵)

PW states that according to an article in an August (1942) issue of the newspaper, OSAKA ASAHI, Japanese Naval ratings were modified, effective November 1, 1942. This modification abolished the ratings of third and fourth class seaman. The changes, as listed by the PW are given below:

ITTO KASHIKAN (一等下士官)	(Petty officer 1st Cl)	to	JOTO HEISO (上等兵) (Sup. P. O.)
NITO KASHIKAN (二等下士官)	(Petty officer 2nd Cl)	to	ITTO KASHIKAN (一等下士官) (P.O. 1st Cl)
SANTO KASHIKAN (三等下士官)	(Petty officer 3rd Cl)	to	NITO KASHIKAN (二等下士官) (P.O.)
ITTO HEI (一等兵)	(Seaman 1st Class)	to	HEICHO (兵長) (Ldg Snn)
NITO HEI (二等兵)	(Seaman 2nd Class)	to	JOTOHEI (上等兵) (Sup Snn)
SANTO HEI (三等兵)	(Seaman 3rd Class)	to	ITTO HEI (一等兵) (Snn 1st Cl)
YONTO HEI (四等兵)	(Seaman 4th Class)	to	NITO HEI (二等兵) (Snn 2nd Cl)

The PW further states that the change in ratings was in name only, no changes in pay being involved. Each of the new ratings carries the same pay as the corresponding old rating.