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SOUTH PACIFIC FORCE
OF THE UNITED STATES PACIFIC FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER

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JRS/ewr

Serial 02018

October 29, 1943.

CONFIDENTIAL

From: The Commander South Pacific.
To: Distribution List.

Subject: PW Interrogation Reports, transmittal of.

Enclosure: X (A) Subject Reports - Nos. 123, 124 and 125.

1. Enclosure (A) includes Reports of Interrogation of the following three Japanese prisoners of war, survivors of the DD KAWAKAZE, which was sunk off VELLA LAVELLA 6 August 1943:

#123 - KAWABATA, Shigeo - JOTOHEISO (CPO) 25 mm AA MG
#124 - TOKUGAWA, Yoshio - NITOHEISO (PO 2/c) Ammunition Hoist
#125 - KANAHARA, Jihei - ITTOSUIHEI (S 1/c) Orderly

Paul W. Combs

Paul McCombs,
By direction

59353

SOUTH PACIFIC FORCE
OF THE UNITED STATES PACIFIC FLEET
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 COMSEVENTHPHIB - 1
 OIC, Fleet Radio Unit, Melbourne - 2
 AC of S, G-2, GHQ, SOWESPAC - 6
 ATIS SOWESPAC AREA - 1
 COMINCH Eastern Fleet, Admiralty, DNI, Melbourne - 3
 DMI, GHQ, New Delhi, India - 3
 NZNB - 1
 DNI, Wellington, N. Z. - 1

COMBAT INTELLIGENCE CENTER
SOUTH PACIFIC FORCE

CONFIDENTIAL

11 0624

PRISONER OF WAR INTERROGATION REPORT #123

<u>NAME</u>	<u>RANK</u>	<u>SERIAL NUMBER</u>
KAWABATA, Shigeo	JOTOHEISO (CPO)	SA SHI 1820

<u>UNIT</u>	<u>DUTY PERFORMED</u>	<u>DATE & PLACE OF CAPTURE</u>
DD KAWAKAZE	In charge 25mm AA Gun	13 Aug. 1943; VELLA LAVELLA.

-oOo-

1. PREAMBLE

PW had recovered from severe burns on face and wounds in leg. He was surly and uncommunicative at first, commenting on the exhaustive interrogation to which he was subjected, and which he appeared to resent. He was rather secure regarding names of ships, personalities and geographical data. Otherwise, his statements are considered reliable.

PW was born in KAGOSHIMA Prefecture 11 March 1916, graduated from higher elementary school, and helped on farm until voluntary enlistment in Navy in June 1935. Living relatives were mother, sister, wife (expectant), 2 brothers at home, both having completed hitches in the Navy, and 1 brother in foreign office service (see Sec. 21).

2. CHRONOLOGY

Jun.	1935	Volunteered at SASEBO. 4 months basic training.
Nov.	1935	Assigned to CA NACHI.
May	1936	Transferred to BB HARUNA.
Nov.	1936	Gunnery School at YOKOSUKA.
Nov.	1937	Assigned to BB KONGO. Observation and searchlight duties.
Nov.	1939	Gunnery School at YOKOSUKA. Advanced course.
Sep.	1940	Installing searchlight and electrical equipment on XCV ZUIHO, completing at YOKOSUKA.
Apr.	1941	Naval barracks SASEBO, unassigned.

KAWABATA, Shigeo (PW)

Nov. 1941 Assigned to DD KAWAKAZE. 25mm Gun crew and assistant electrical maintenance duties.

Dec. 5, 1941 DD KAWAKAZE left YOKOSUKA in company with 1 ship, name unrecalled.

Dec. 10, 1941 Arrived at TRUK.

Dec. 1941 Left TRUK.

Jan. 15, 1942 Off TARAKAN escorting transports. Participated in JAVA Sea Battle (see Sec. 19).

Mar. 1942 Arrived BANDJERMASIN, BORNEO. Fuelled from tanker.

Mar-Apr. 1942 PHILIPPINE operations, off ILOILO.

May. 1942 Returned to SASEBO for overhaul.

May 20, 1942 Left SASEBO for YOKOSUKA.

May 23, 1942 Left YOKOSUKA with Task Force, sortie in North Pacific, (see Sec. 4).

Jun. (mid) 1942 Returned to YOKOSUKA. KAWAKAZE patrolling TOKYO Bay area, meeting incoming unescorted ships, etc.

Aug. 11, 1942 KAWAKAZE left YOKOSUKA for RABAUL.

Aug. 20, 1942 Left RABAUL for SOLOMONS. KAWAKAZE alone, received instructions by radio to raid convoy off TULAGI. Attacked and sank 1 DD. Withdrew at full speed.

Aug. 24, 1942 Bombarded airfield near LUNGA. Attacked by 2 aircraft but escaped without damage.

Aug. 27-30, 1942 Three attempts to land reinforcements on GUADALCANAL. Intercepted by aircraft, succeeded on third try.

Aug. 31, 1942 KAWAKAZE returned to RABAUL. PW hospitalized for appendicitis.

Oct. 1, 1942 PW left in (AH) TAKASAGO MARU.

Oct. 10, 1942 Arrived SASEBO for further hospitalization.

Nov. 1942) Discharged from hospital and unassigned at
to) SASEBO barracks.

May 1943)

KAWABATA, Shigeo (PW)

May (end) 1943 Reassigned to KAWAKAZE and left SASEBO, escorting provision ship IRAKO.

Jun. 1943 Arrived TRUK. Overhauled engines which had not been sufficiently fixed at SASEBO. Patrols around TRUK ISLAND.

Jun. (end) 1943 Sank U.S. sub about 2° north of TRUK (see Sec.19).

Jul. 1943 KAWAKAZE transported few replacement troops and supplies to PONAPE and ROI (see Sec.17). Attacked by U.S. sub.

Jul. (end) 1943 KAWAKAZE left TRUK for RABAU.

Aug. 2, 1943 Transported troops from RABAU to TULUVU (NEW BRITAIN).

Aug. 3, 1943 Returned to RABAU.

Aug. 5, 1943 Embarked about 150 troops and left RABAU with DDs ARASHI and HAGIKAZE for KOLOMBANGARA. One unidentified DD joined up enroute.

Aug. 6, 1943 KAWAKAZE, ARASHI and HAGIKAZE attacked and sunk about 2300 hours.

Aug. 13, 1943 PW captured on VELLA LAVELLA.

3. DETAILS OF CAPTURE

After sinking of DD KAWAKAZE, 6 August 1943, PW believed he swam about 15 hours before reaching land. Natives proved to be friendly, gave him and other survivors fruit and potatoes, and helped them to build hut shelters. On landing of U.S. troops, many of these natives turned hostile and killed a number of Japs. PW endeavored to escape but was intercepted and had no weapons with which to defend himself.

4. ORGANIZATION

DD KAWAKAZE was under the command of the 8th Fleet and part of the 24th DesDiv. DesDiv comprised 4 DDs - KAWAKAZE, UMIKAZE, SUZUKAZE and YAMAKAZE, of which only the YAMAKAZE was known to have been sunk. Neither UMIKAZE nor SUZUKAZE had been seen by PW at either TRUK or RABAU, and PW was unable to say where they were presently employed. Whether in this area or not, they would still belong to the 24th DesDiv. PW did not think a substitute ship would be assigned to take the YAMAKAZE's place and 24th would be maintained with 3, 2 or even a single ship until extinction. Though not sure, he doubted if a division would be revived once all ships were lost.

KAWABATA, Shigeo (PW)

Internal organization on board was divided into 4 divisions as follows:-

1st Division	Gunnery
2nd "	Torpedo
3rd "	All other departments except engine
4th "	Engines

Total complement was just under 200, there being 10 commissioned officers.

5. IDENTIFICATION OF OTHER UNITS

XCV ZUIHO PW worked on board from September 1940 to March 1941, assisting in installing searchlights and other electrical equipment. Believed ship to be a converted job and originally intended as AS TAKASAKI, which name seemed familiar to PW. Claimed not to know full particulars but main characteristics recalled were:

Completion:	Date unknown, sometime after middle of 1941.
Flight Deck:	Covered stern but not sure if extended full length of deck forward.
Island:	None. Bridge, etc., were below Flight Deck.
Stack:	1, horizontal on starboard side about amidships.
Armament:	4 x 12cm AA twin mounts in sponsons. 6 x 25mm twin mount MG on gun platforms about amidships.
Aircraft:	Capacity unknown.
Speed:	No knowledge of designed speed.

BBS YAMATO and MUSASHI: PW had seen YAMATO once in JAPAN. Can only recall outline vaguely. Features that impressed PW were bunching up of armament and superstructure amidships and a definitely raised poop which he believed was for A/C. Seemed to have no information about midget subs or of "recessed" after section.

IRAKO (Prov. Ship): Was in company with DD KAWAKAZE from SASEBO to TRUK, end May, 1943.

CL TATSUTA: Still believed to be in operation, August, 1943.

AUXILIARY AIRCRAFT CARRIERS: Several of these had been seen in TRUK off and on during June-July, 1943. Could not identify any of these by name but stated that they had no "island" on flight deck.

KAWABATA, Shigeo (PW)

NEW

CRUISERS: Had heard of AGANO but not OYODO, but had seen neither. Did not know number in this class, nor had he heard names of IZUMO, IWATE, YAGUMO mentioned in their connection. PW did not think these names would be used for new construction as the old ships were still in operation to best of his knowledge.

ARMY RE-PLACEMENT UNITS: Being transported from RABAU to KOLOMBANGARA were infantry but no information as to units.

6. IDENTIFICATION OF PERSONALITIES

- KONDO, Nobutake (CHUJO - Vice-Adm.) - believed was successor to Adm. YAMAMOTO as Commander-in-Chief of Combined Fleet.
- NAGUMO, Chuichi (CHUJO - Vice-Adm.) - CO SASEBO Naval Base.
- WAKABAYASHI (SHOSA - Lt. Comdr.) - Former CO DD KAWAKAZE. Transferred to other station Sept-Oct., 1942, but particulars unrecalled.
- YANASE, Yoshio (SHOSA - Lt. Comdr.) - CO DD KAWAKAZE.
- YAMAGUCHI (TAII - Lt.) - Ch. Engr. DD " .
- KUZUHARA (TAII - Lt.) - Torp. Offr. DD " .
- FUJII, Sankichi (CHUI - Lt. (jg)) - Gunnery Offr. DD KAWAKAZE.

7. PARTICULARS OF PW'S SHIP

DD KAWAKAZE

Armament: No. 1 Turret, 1 twin 12.7cm mount) Elevation
 No. 2 " ; 1 single " " } not over
 No. 3 " , 1 twin " " } 50°.

AA - MG: 2 x 25cm twin mount. Forward of No. 2 stack at each side of superstructure. Sighting scale range: Max. 3800 meters. Ammo: Ordinary and tracer, proportion 3 or 4 to 1. Believed 1000 rounds carried.

AA - MG: 1 x 13mm twin mount. Newly installed in May, 1943 at SASEBO. Located on center line immediately forward of bridge superstructure on deck.

7

KAWABATA, Shigeo (PW)

Torpedo Tubes: 2 Quadruple mounts, 1 each aft of each stack.

Torpedoes: Type and size unknown. No spares on board last voyage.

Armor Plating: None. Believed bridge, turrets, torpedo mount casings, etc., were ordinary plate not over $\frac{1}{2}$ " thickness. Were not splinter proof.

Depth Charges: 1 "Y" D/C Thrower on fantail and D/C Dropping Gear over stern.

Magazines: Magazine for each turret. Also storage on lower deck between Nos. 2 and 3 turrets for MG ammo. Extra D/C supply obtained through hatch on fantail.

Asdic: Room situated below bridge forward of engine room.

Radar: Not installed.

Degaussing: 5 x about 1" coils completely around ship.

Compartmentation: 7 bulkheads.

Engines: H.P. and other particulars unknown.

Cruising Range: 10 days at eco. speed 12k (2880 miles).

Speed: 30k about max. as engines in poor condition.

Crew: 10 officers and about 190 men.

8. ARMAMENT AND EQUIPMENT

(Refer to Section 7 also)

Radar: PW was of the opinion that this apparatus had not yet been installed in DDs.

Torpedoes: PW claimed to have no knowledge of dimensions, etc. Stated he had stood alongside and asked questions but was refused any information.

Landing Barges: Have been carried at times but none were loaded when embarking troops at RABAUL in August 1943.

9. ENEMY METHODS

Refuelling: DD KAWAKAZE topped off her tanks immediately on arrival in harbor. Had also fuelled at sea, steaming alongside tankers at about 12k. speed.

KAWABATA, Shigeo (PW)

Rearmament of Ships: Although little had been done to KAWAKAZE when in SASEBO in May, 1943, PW thought it would be reasonable to expect that more and more AA armament would be installed in all ships. He knew of no definite program. Both twin and triple 25mm MG mounts were standard equipment.

Degaussing: PW did not know how and when used. Control was in engine room.

Watches: Lookout watches relieved every 1 1/2 hours during day and every hour at night. Tricks for other departments were double, i.e., 3 and 2 hours respectively. All watches changed on the hour or half hour.

Meal Hours: Breakfast 0630, dinner 1100, supper 1630 hours - (TOKYO TIME).

12. ENEMY SUPPLIES

PW believed that sufficient of the JAVA and BORNEO oil fields were back in production to take care of JAPAN's fuel oil requirements. He understood that the tanker that KAWAKAZE went out from TRUK at the end of June 1943 to escort in, had come directly from BORNEO. PW thought that refining also was largely done on the spot at the wells as Jap oil companies had sent their experts out as soon as the territory had been occupied. Originally both TARAKAN and BALIKPAPAN had been burnt out completely, PW having seen the fires raging for days. With regard to tankers, PW assumed there was no shortage as he had seen them wherever he had gone.

13. MORALE AND PROPAGANDA

PW has no relatives in service. He has two older brothers who have completed their hitches and probably will not be recalled now that PW is listed missing. No losses through war in the family.

Having been in the Navy continuously for 8 years, PW was not well informed on domestic conditions in JAPAN. Food and other commodities are rationed, rice is mixed with barley or buckwheat in about 70-30 proportions. Did not think there were shortages of rice stocks but no idea if domestic crop was augmented by importations from CHINA, KOREA, SIAM or BURMA. The public was doubtless under hardships but he believed they would follow the dictates of TOJO without questioning. TOJO undoubtedly was a great man. PW did not think that farmers were flourishing although from the standpoint of food, they would be better off than city people. No knowledge of the tax situation.

15. WASTAGE OR CASUALTIES

The DD KAWAKAZE was sunk off VELLA LAVELLA 6 August 1943 about 2300 hours. Believed torpedoed by MTB as PW had seen a MTB sunk by gunfire just prior. Torpedo struck under bridge section and ship sank in 5 minutes. All ship's officers believed killed as they would have been on bridge at the time.

The DDs ARASHI and HAGIKAZE left RABAU in company with the DD KAWAKAZE and were sunk in the same action. All three ships had embarked 150 or more troops each. PW doubted if more than 150 reached shore and estimated that the total loss on this occasion was in the neighborhood of 1000 in both services.

The DD YAMAKAZE was known to have been sunk but date and locality unrecalled.

PW was in the hospital when he heard that the CL YURA had been sunk in a naval action off GUADALCANAL during the latter part of October 1942.

PW acknowledged that while both navies have probably lost many destroyers, it was unfortunate for JAPAN as with U.S.' tremendous shipbuilding facilities, the U.S. Navy could stand losses of 10 to 1.

16. CHEMICAL WARFARE

PW had received elementary instruction in gases, etc., when first in the service, at which time there was considerable concern about this question in all quarters. This early apprehension appeared to have largely dissolved and far less attention was being paid to the subject when he was in JAPAN in May, 1943. PW felt that neither side would institute gas warfare as it would simply mean mutual extermination.

Gas masks were issued in the KAWAKAZE but were stored away and seldom used except when fighting fire, smoke, etc.

17. MILITARY AND NAVAL BASES

TRUK: PW was secure and avoided making any definite statements regarding anchorages used, knowledge of installations, etc. Charts were shown but he appeared to be unable to orientate himself from them, claiming ignorance of island names.

Floating

Dock: Confirmed existence of one, anchored somewhere between 2 islands, names unknown. Capacity - unknown; length said to be only sufficient for destroyers.

KAWABATA, Shigeo (PW)

Airfields: Appeared to know vaguely about one on ETEN IS.

Shipping
& Naval: Had seen 2 BBs, several ACVs and other craft but would not identify any by name.

Radar: No installations seen on any islands.

RABAUL: DD KAWAKAZE anchored in SIMPSON HARBOR in August, 1943 and lay off the town slightly northwest from the seaplane base. PW was uncertain if they had passed to the eastward of the BEEHIVES but recalled passing westward on one occasion when entering.

SASEBO: Shipbuilding facilities. PW stated that there was little activity at SASEBO as there was only 1 slipway with capacity for 2 DDs or SS at a time. In May, 1943, 2 SS were under construction. Believed that both "I" and "RQ" classes were being built there.

ROI ISLAND
(RUOTTO): Ship lay off some 5 kilometers from the island and PW had not been able to see installations very clearly. Topography appeared quite flat. Land planes seen on the airfield which appeared to occupy entire length of island. PW believed two radio masts and a few buildings (hangars or barracks) were located at one end. No seaplanes seen in the vicinity and no other shipping in the harbor at the time.

18. MEDICAL

The RABAUL Naval Hospital was not a complete institution when PW was there in October, 1942, and was known as YASEN BYOIN (Field Hospital). It appeared to be adequately staffed however and capacity was estimated at 500. Any and all cases were taken, wounded as well as ordinary maladies such as malaria.

19. ENEMY INFORMATION CONCERNING ALLIES

When leaving ROI about the beginning of July, 1943, the DD KAWAKAZE was attacked by U.S. sub when about 50 miles out. The sub did not surface but its periscope was seen at about 500 meters. The KAWAKAZE was not hit but one torpedo exploded underneath the bow, while a second torpedo burst in open water about 500 meters off a few seconds later.

KAWABATA, Shigeo (PW)

The KAWAKAZE was not damaged, i.e., no plates sprung and no flooding, but electric generator was put out of commission. The DD was attacked with depth charges but had little idea where the sub was and it was certain to have escaped. The KAWAKAZE returned to TRUK and was placed in the floating dock for bottom inspection, and it remained in dock for 3 days.

Comments were rife on board as to what type of torpedo it could have been. They wondered if the U.S. Navy had developed a "time fuse" torpedo (JIGEN GYORAI (時限)) and could use it at such close quarters. KAWAKAZE had been operating her degaussing apparatus at the time and they could not reconcile that the torpedo was merely a magnetic pistol type.

JAVA SEA ACTIONS:

On the evening of February 27, 1942, a Jap force comprising 2 CA and about 10 DD which had been brought together from various tasks, made contact with the Allied force of some 5 CA and an unknown number of DDs. Salvos were exchanged by the cruisers at extreme range while the Jap DDs maneuvered to close. A sudden squall came up during which the Allied force scattered and was lost. No sinkings on either side although probably some damage. One of the cruisers was the British EXETER and PW believes the HOUSTON was either the leading or second ship. Jap force unknown as KAWAKAZE and YAMA- or UMIKAZE had been patrolling separately until the rendezvous. CA ASHIGARA may have been one but he did not think the CA ABUKUMA was there.

No contacts made February 28. Contact was again established about noon on March 1, but in the meantime, both sides had apparently split forces. The one in which the KAWAKAZE was came across the cruiser EXETER and 2 DDs (1 British and 1 U.S.). In the ensuing action both the EXETER and the British DD were sunk after which the U.S. DD withdrew. This was a 4-stacker and PW said it showed a clean pair of heels to their DDs. This action took place off SOURABAYA.

In the meantime, the other half of the Jap force contacted the HOUSTON and other ships off BATAVIA, also on March 1st. PW had no graphic knowledge of what happened in this action except that the HOUSTON was sunk. He presumed there were some survivors; in their action some 100 PWs were picked up.

SINKING OF A U.S. SUB OFF TRUK:

While on patrol about the end of June, 1943, the KAWAKAZE saw a sub surfaced just before dawn and opened up on her with her guns. A hit was scored with the first salvo and sub immediately submerged. The

KAWABATA, Shigeo (PW)

KAWAKAZE pattern depth-charged the area with 10 to 15 charges and believed was successful as a large oil slick was later noticed. The slick was said to have been about 200 meters in length and breadth, tapering away in the form of a tear drop. No other debris noticed. It seemed unbelievable to those on board the KAWAKAZE that the sub had not seen them and apparently a very lax watch must have been kept.

In PW's opinion the Jap Navy would have nothing to worry about if the U.S. Navy was composed of the regular surface craft (DDs, Cruisers, etc.), but their auxiliary ships, particularly MTBs with their speed and maneuverability, were extremely hard targets to hit and therefore were outstanding menaces.

In the air he felt the U.S. had superiority in all classes excepting the ZERO fighters. He was also astonished at the daring of their maneuvers; he recalled that the KAWAKAZE had once been strafed by two aircraft coming in low in the face of heavy fire from the ship. Such tactics have led to intensified MG fire practice.

20. SPECIAL INTELLIGENCE

SS CON-

STRUCTION: PW stated that all first-class yards were under naval control and many of them would be building SS hulls for completion at naval yards later. He would not indicate what the rate of construction was but estimated that 2 DDs could be completed in the time taken for 1 SS.

WOODEN
SHIPS:

PW had read newspaper articles about the subject but was positive that it was meant to be applied to very small construction, say not exceeding 300 tons. He ridiculed the idea that 2000-3000 tonners could be built of wood. He knew nothing as to the standard types, specifications, methods of propulsion, etc., planned.

21. MISCELLANEOUS

PW's brother, name refused, was in the service of the Japanese Foreign Office at the outbreak of the war, and had been stationed in OREGON. He went to CHICAGO and later joined the Japanese diplomatic crowd. He was repatriated together with Ambassadors NOMURA and KURUSU on the CRIPSHOLM.

TERMINOLOGY: The phrase "KIDŌ BUTAI" (Task Force) would not be used according to PW, unless the composition of the force included at least 1 Aircraft Carrier. It would not be used to designate a force such as a DD squadron which might be organized for a special raiding mission.

(END)

COMBAT INTELLIGENCE CENTER
SOUTH PACIFIC FORCE

11 0624

CONFIDENTIAL

PRISONER OF WAR INTERROGATION REPORT #124

<u>NAME</u>	<u>RANK</u>	<u>SERIAL NUMBER</u>
TOKUGAWA, Yoshio	NITOHEISO (PO 2c)	SA CHO SUI 31585

<u>UNIT</u>	<u>DUTY PERFORMED</u>	<u>DATE & PLACE OF CAPTURE</u>
DD KAWAKAZE	Ammunition Hoist Operator	14 Aug. 1943; VELLA LAVELIA.

-oOo-

1. PREAMBLE

PW was born on 3 June 1917 in TSINGTAO and at an early age moved to SAGA CITY after the death of his parents. PW received higher elementary school education and after graduation (April, 1932) he worked as an apprentice in a tailor shop in SAGA for about 6 years until conscription. The tailor shop specialized in western style clothes. PW is married and has one son 3 years old. PW's home address is SAGA-KEN, SAGA-SHI, KANZAKI-GUN, SEBURI-MURA, AZA MASADOKORO.

PW appeared to be withholding some information by claiming ignorance, and his attitude is not the most cooperative.

2. CHRONOLOGY

May 1937 Conscription examination.

Jan. 1, 1938 Entered Navy at SASEBO.

Jan-May 1938 Naval training at SASEBO Barracks.

May 29, 1938 Transferred to DD KAWAKAZE.

Jun-Dec. 1938 DD KAWAKAZE on YANGTSE River patrol.

Jan. 1939 Returned to SASEBO.

Jan. 1939) Fleet maneuvers in JAPAN coastal waters. DD
to) KAWAKAZE went to FRENCH INDO-CHINA and returned
Nov. 1941) in November, 1939.

Dec. 5, 1941 Left SASEBO for TRUK.

Dec. 10, 1941 Arrived at TRUK, went on anti-submarine patrol off TRUK.

TOKUGAWA, Yoshio (PW)

Jan. 12, 1942 Arrived at TARAKAN, BORNEO, then to BALIKPAPAN to cover landing.

Jan. (late) 1942 Stopped at MACASSAR.

Feb. 1942 Off JAVA near BALI.

Feb. 27, 1942 Naval engagement off JAVA.

Mar. 1, 1942 Naval engagement off JAVA. CL EXETER sunk, also 3 DDs.

Mar. 2, 1942 DD KAWAKAZE left 35 rescued prisoners at MACASSAR.

Mar. 1942 Refueled at some port in Southern Borneo and proceeded to ILOILO, PANAY.

Apr. (late) 1942 Left ILOILO for SASEBO.

May 1, 1942 Arrived at SASEBO.

May (late) 1942 24th DESDIV left with fleet towards ALEUTIAN IS., returning after about 26 days.

Aug. 10, 1942 Left YOKOSUKA for SHORTLAND. Based at SHORTLAND; escort duty.

Aug. 1942 DD KAWAKAZE made a lone night raid on TULAGI shipping.

Sep. 1942 DD KAWAKAZE bombed off KOLOMBANGARA.

Oct. 1942 DD KAWAKAZE repaired at RABAUUL by repair ship.

Oct. 1942 Returned to SHORTLAND for duty.

Nov. 30, 1942 Participated in engagement off LUNGA.

Dec. 1942) Escort and guard duty between SHORTLAND and
to) GUADALCANAL.
Feb. 1943)

Mar. 1943 Went to TRUK; remained about a month.

Apr. 1943 Returned to SASEBO, PW received Petty Officer training for about a month.

May 28, 1943 Departed SASEBO.

Jun. 1, 1943 Arrived at TRUK.

Jun-Aug. 1943 At TRUK. Occasional anti-submarine patrol.

Aug. 1, 1943 Went to RABAUUL.

- TOKUGAWA, Yoshio (PW)
- Aug. 5, 1943 DD KAWAKAZE and 3 other DDs left RABAUl loaded with soldiers.
- Aug. 6, 1943 DDs attacked - KAWAKAZE sunk.
- Aug. 9, 1943 PW drifted ashore on VELLA LAVELLA.
- Aug. 14, 1943 PW captured.

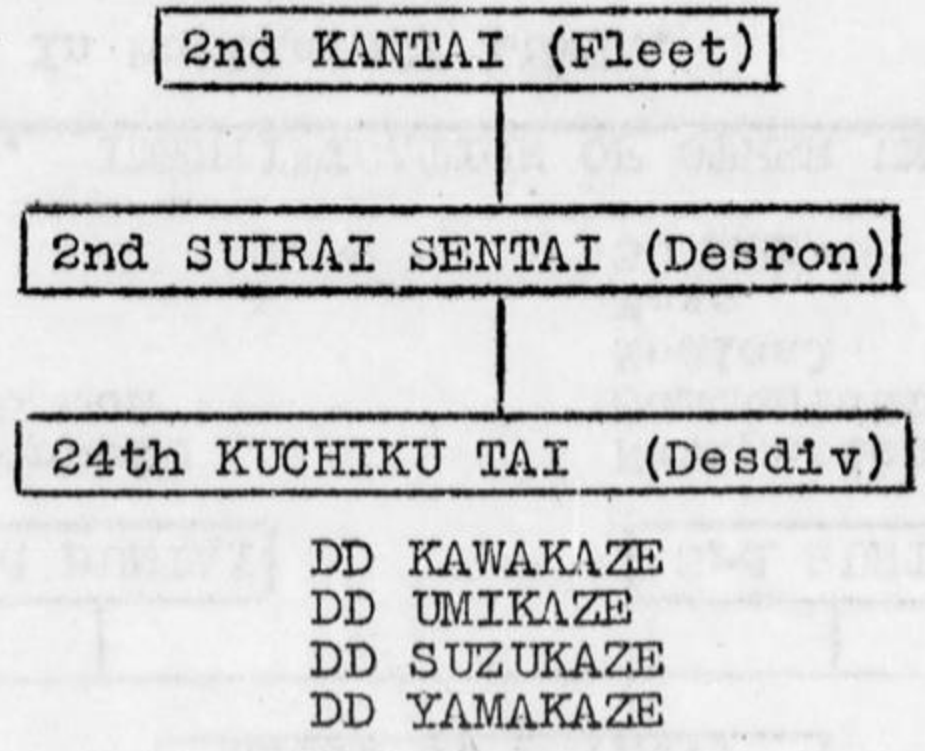
3. DETAILS OF CAPTURE

After drifting ashore on VELLA LAVELLA about August, 9, PW crawled into a native hut nearby and fell asleep from exhaustion. On waking up, PW received some food from natives - coconuts and cooked shoots. He then met some soldiers who swam ashore from the DDs and remained with them for several days. Then on August 14 PW heard that some seamen from the sunken DDs were nearby so made his way there and found about 10 men. As PW was hungry, they started to prepare some coconuts and young shoots for a meal. Then they heard someone approaching and all escaped. PW escaped out of the house but was not strong enough to run to the nearby jungle, so jumped off a low cliff to hide. Here PW was found by a native who motioned to him, so PW did not try to escape and was captured.

4. ORGANIZATION

Fleet Organization:

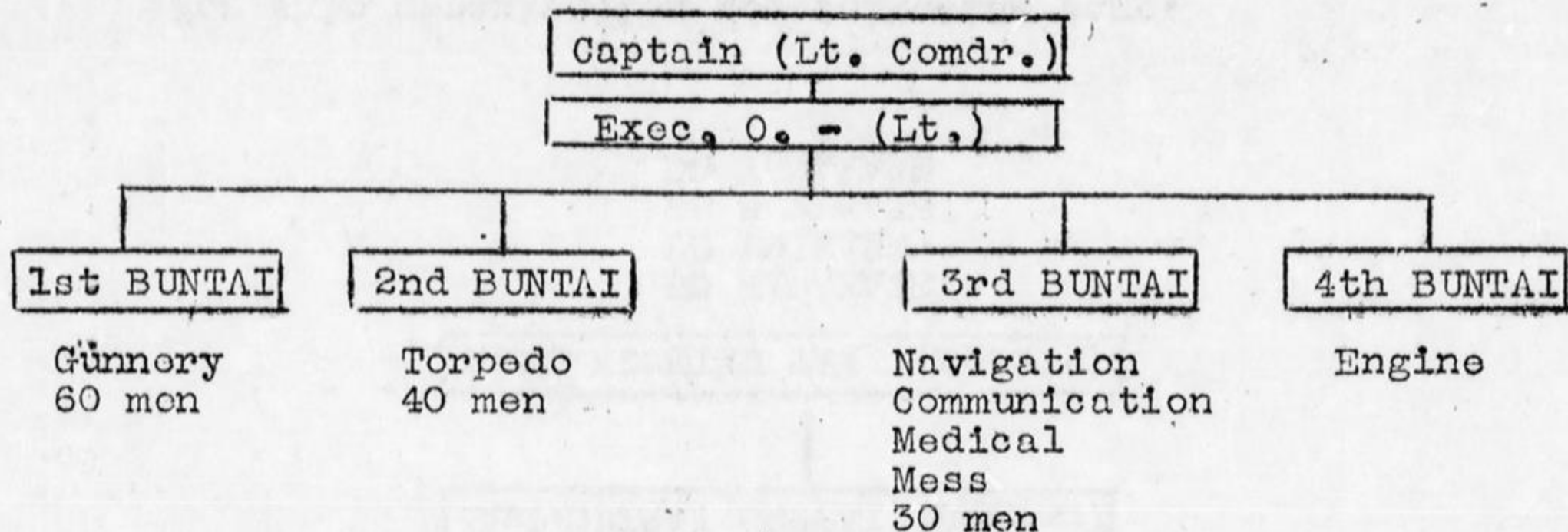
PW stated that present fleet organization was unknown, but formerly it was as follows:



For ship organization see following page.

TOKUGAWA, Yoshio (PW)

Ship organization:



5. IDENTIFICATION OF OTHER UNITS

DD SUZUKAZE) In Battle off LUNGA.
DD TERUTSUKI)

BB KONGO) In fleet movement towards ALEUTIAN IS.,
BB KIRISHIMA) May, 1942.

CA ASHIGARA) Participated in engagement off JAVA - Mar. 1, 1942.

DD HAGIKAZE) From RABAUL on August 5th. Sunk off KOLOMBANGARA.
DD ARASHI)

CA YAKUMO) PW believes old CAs, but could not give any
CA IZUMO) details nor their location.
CA IWATE)

6. IDENTIFICATION OF PERSONALITIES

YANASE, Yoshio - Lt. Comdr. - Captain - DD KAWAKAZE.

KUZUHARA - Lt. - Exec. Off. - DD KAWAKAZE.

FUJII - Lt. (jg) - CO 1st BUNTAI, Gunnery
Officer, DD KAWAKAZE.

YAMAGUCHI - W.O. - Assistant Gunnery Officer.

8. ARMAMENT AND EQUIPMENT

DD KAWAKAZE - Five 12.7cm 50 caliber guns in two twin mounts and 1 single. PW states used as AA guns but vertical traverse only about 45°.

Three sets of twin mount type 96 25mm MGs - 1 in front of bridge and one on each side of forward torpedo tubes. Use armor-piercing and tracer ammunition.

TOKUGAWA, Yoshio (PW)

Two quadruple mount torpedo tube batteries mounted amidships aft of bridge and aft of stack. Diameter approximately 60cm. Formerly had Type 90 quadruple tubes mounted.

2 "Y" Guns. 2 Depth charge dropping mechanisms. No mines. Turret armor approximately 1 inch.

Range finders: 2 - one on bridge and one aft. Length about two meters.

Protective armor covering over torpedo tubes.

Equipped with underwater submarine detecting device.

No radar.

9. TRAINING AND OPERATIONS

At SASEBO Naval Barracks PW received basic naval training. This did not include training for ship duty.

After completion of five months training PW was transferred to the DD KAWAKAZE. PW states he was a MUSHOHEI (無章) (六三) seaman without specialized school training. PW states these men were used where no special ability is needed aboard the ship. PW was a projectile loader at first, then operated the projectile hoist on the single gun turret.

When PW became NITOHEISO he attended a class in Petty Officer training where he received general Petty Officers' training. This included commands, regulations, and handling of men.

DD KAWAKAZE was on YANGTSE River patrol for a while, stopping junks and other boats for contraband such as weapons and ammunition.

On training cruises and fleet maneuvers in which the 24th DESDIV had participated, PW said the life was more rugged than in actual combat, and there were many casualties.

DD KAWAKAZE was on anti-submarine patrol off TRUK twice and on the last patrol about July 1943, she sank an enemy submarine about 130 miles north of TRUK at night.

DD KAWAKAZE and DD UMIKAZE participated in the landings on BORNEO, TARAKAN and BALIKPAPAN, and ILOILO, PANAY as part of a covering force but met no opposition.

TOKUGAWA, Yoshio (PW)

In the naval engagement off JAVA, DD UMIKAZE and DD KAWAKAZE joined CA ASHIGARA somewhere at sea and upon sighting the enemy on 27 February 1942, they attacked and the enemy scattered. The Japanese force included several other DDs also. In this engagement PW heard that the cruiser HOUSTON was sunk.

On 1 March 1942 CA ASHIGARA and DDs KAWAKAZE and UMIKAZE met the cruiser EXETER and three DDs which they engaged and sunk all of them.

PW states the entire 24th Desdiv went with a task force toward the ALEUTIAN IS. in May 1942. PW heard BB KONGO and BB KIRISHIMA were in the force and DDs were far out on the flank. After about 15 days out, the 24th TAI returned to SASEBO and PW disclaims knowledge of further movements of that force.

DD KAWAKAZE was engaged in transporting supplies, escort duty and patrol between SHORTLAND and GUADALCANAL from August 1942 and February 1943, during which time DD KAWAKAZE made one lone raid and was bombed severely once. The raid was conducted on TULAGI at night sometime in August 1942 in which DD KAWAKAZE slipped in close to the entrance of TULAGI Harbor and saw two enemy DDs. DD KAWAKAZE opened fire and shot torpedoes, sinking one enemy DD. In September, while on escort duty between SHORTLAND and GUADALCANAL. The convoy was attacked by dive bombers and DD KAWAKAZE suffered some damage on the bow and went to RABAU and was repaired by the repair ship there. PW could not give any information on the repair ship.

Returning to escort and guard duty, DD KAWAKAZE and about 7 other DDs had an engagement, which they called the LUNGA engagement, on November 30, 1942. There were some enemy CLs and DDs. According to PW, this was a hard-hitting battle and they sunk 1 enemy CL and some DDs. One DD was lost.

PW's ship DD KAWAKAZE was on the run between SHORTLAND and GUADALCANAL about 25-30 times, mostly as escort. They also carried troops and supplies a few times. As escort, DD KAWAKAZE and others beat off many attacks by planes, PTs and large ships, however, PW could not report any definite loss or damage. DD KAWAKAZE suffered damage once.

On 5 August 1943, DD KAWAKAZE and three other DDs - HAGIKAZE, ARASHI and one unknown, loaded troops at RABAU and departed for KOLOMBANGARA. DD KAWAKAZE had about 200 soldiers, unit unknown, but PW believed it was a unit being transferred to somewhere on KOLOMBANGARA. On the night of August 6, while PW was sleeping in the turret, DD KAWAKAZE was hit in the bow by a torpedo and immediately sunk. PW could not give any description of this attack.

10. COMMUNICATION

PW states the following means of communication were used:

Intra-ship:

Telephone
Voice tube - also Emergency tube.

Outside communication:

Radio.

13. MORALE AND PROPAGANDA

When questioned about morale on the ship, PW stated that it was always high.

On the home front PW states everything is favorable in spite of rationing. There is a shortage of cotton in JAPAN.

PW has not heard any U.S. propaganda broadcasts nor has seen any propaganda leaflets, but he has heard of propaganda leaflets being dropped in the BUNA Area. When questioned regarding the soldiers reactions, PW stated he heard that the leaflets were disregarded. PW has not heard of JAPAN using propaganda leaflets.

15. WASTAGE OR CASUALTIES

The only casualties on DD KAWAKAZE occurred during the bombing attack off KOLOMBANGARA when the bow was damaged. Ten men were wounded and three men were killed.

PW had heard of the following ships being sunk or damaged:

CL YURA	- Sunk October 1942.
DD TAKANAMI	- PW uncertain of the name of DD sunk in LUNGA battle.
DD ISOKAZE	- Damaged; claims to have seen her at SHORTLAND.
BB HIYEI	- Sunk in November 1942.
TATSUTA	- A hospital ship bombed twice, once at RABAU, unknown.

PW heard that a DD attacked by submarine north of BOUGAINVILLE was not sunk and had never heard of damage caused by mines.

Where five or six other DDs were at anchor, PW could not give any information regarding installations.

At the naval base at SASEBO, PW stated there were 6 or 7 docks, some large enough for BBs, but could give no other details.

TOKUGAWA, Yoshio (PW)

17. MILITARY AND NAVAL BASES

At TRUK PW had heard of HARUSHIMA but could not identify the island where he went ashore. PW believes DD KAWAKAZE anchored somewhere in the vicinity of HARUSHIMA.

18. MEDICAL

DD KAWAKAZE had one medical officer and one corpsman.

20. SPECIAL INTELLIGENCE

In the battle off JAVA on 27 February 1942, DD KAWAKAZE rescued 35 enemy survivors who PW believes were English. There were 4 or 5 officers. The rescued prisoners were given medical treatment and food and kept under canvas shelters on deck. PW believes no interrogations were conducted on board though some officers spoke their language slightly. Later the rescued prisoners were taken off at MACASSAR, but PW believes they were sent to JAPAN later.

(END)

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SOUTH PACIFIC FORCE

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CONFIDENTIAL

PRISONER OF WAR INTERROGATION REPORT #125

<u>NAME</u>	<u>RANK</u>	<u>SERIAL NUMBER</u>
KANAHARA, Jihei	ITTOSUIHEI (S1c)	SA SHI SUI - 37840

<u>UNIT</u>	<u>DUTY PERFORMED</u>	<u>DATE & PLACE OF CAPTURE</u>
DD KAWAKAZE	Orderly	13 Aug. 1943; VELLA LAVELLA.

-oOo-

1. PREAMBLE

PW was born in FUKUOKA Prefecture, FUKUOKA City, MANGYOJI MAE MACHI #1 on 24 July 1921. He graduated from the higher elementary school. He has 3 brothers and 3 sisters and his father is living. PW has worked as a postal clerk in FUKUOKA City.

PW seems to have told the truth though he lied about his age, which he later corrected and stated that he was ashamed.

2. CHRONOLOGY

May 1, 1942 Entered Navy as volunteer at SASEBO.

May-Oct. 1942 Basic training at SASEBO NAVAL BARRACKS.

Oct. 1942)
to) Torpedo training at YOKOSUKA.
Jan. 1943)

Mar. 23, 1943 Assigned to DD KAWAKAZE, which was in the docks for repairs (see Section 7).

May 1943 Left SASEBO for TRUK, convoying IRAKO MARU (ration ship).

May-July 1943 TRUK to various islands transporting rations and supplies (see Section 9).

Jul (late) 1943 Departed for RABAU L and remained there 2 days.

Aug. 5, 1943 Convoy left from RABAU L (destination unknown).

Aug. 6, 1943 DD KAWAKAZE sunk off VELLA LAVELLA.

Aug. 13, 1943 Captured on VELLA LAVELIA.

KANAHARA, Jihei (PW)

3. DETAILS OF CAPTURE

After the DD was hit PW swam for 20 hours and was cut up badly by the coral when he reached the beach. He got on land alone and after dressing his wounds went to look for food. He ate potatoes, papaya, coconuts and bananas. He met about 40-50 soldiers and sailors from the DDs that were sunk but no officers. About noon on August 13th he was resting on a tree when he saw 3 U.S. soldiers led by a native coming towards him. He slipped and was suspended in mid-air when his captors came and captured him.

4. ORGANIZATION

DD KAWAKAZE was formerly of the 24th DD TAI, the squadron of which JINISU CL was the flag. DDs UMIKAZE, SUZUKAZE and KAWAKAZE comprised the TAI but since the other DDs were sunk or damaged, KAWAKAZE was being used for convoy and transport duty and not attached to any division or squadron.

KAWAKAZE was organized as follows:

- 1st BUNTAI - Gunnery (100 men).
- 2nd BUNTAI - Torpedo (50 men).
- 3rd BUNTAI - Miscellaneous, including Navigator, Signal, Radio, Medical and Intendance (30 men).
- 4th BUNTAI - Engines (20 men).

5. IDENTIFICATION OF OTHER UNITS

PW had no knowledge of fleet or squadron organization as he had been at sea only a short time.

During his brief stay at TRUK between May and July he had seen as many as 6 CVs and XCVs at one time. One CV he saw had an island on the port side. The deck was flush with the bow and extended a little beyond the stern. He had not heard the name of the ship.

In July 1943 PW saw 6 or 7 cruisers of the TONE class come into TRUK from JAPAN. All the ships had the sloping after deck with no gun turrets. He did not see any planes on the ships. He heard that OYODO and ACANO were new CLs and that they resembled TONE and CHIKUMA.

The infantry unit that boarded KAWAKAZE near RABAUL 5 Aug. was being transferred to the 13th REGIMENT. It numbered about 200 men and came by large landing barges. These soldiers were from KYUSHU, CHUGOKU and SHIKOKU. They had rifle, HMG, grenade throwers, and mortars.

KANAHARA, Jihei (Pw)

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6. IDENTIFICATION OF PERSONALITIES

Rear Admiral	ODA, Minoru	has some connection with PW's DD.
Captain	ITAGAKI	CO SASEBO NAVAL TRAINING BARRACKS.
Lt. Comdr.	YANASE, Yoshio	CO DD KAWAKAZE.
Lt.	YANAKA, Eichi	Torpedo Officer and Executive Officer.
Lt.(jg)	FUJINO, Sankichi	Gun Officer.
Lt.(jg)	HOSODA	Medical Officer.
Ensign	TAKIZAWA, Hayao	Navigation Officer.
2nd Lt.	AKITA	Army Officer on board DD.
W.O.	ISHIBASHI, Kiyoshi	Gun Officer (No. 2 Torpedo Tube mount).
CPO	YUKI, Jiro	Assistant to Gun Officer.

8. ARMAMENT AND EQUIPMENT

KAWAKAZE's main battery consisted of five 12.7cm guns in two twin turrets and one single turret.

Additional AA protection was provided by dual mount AA MG as follows: 13mm at bow and 25mm on both sides of bridge.

Rifles were also carried for each sailor but had never been used.

PW stated that the 8th Year Type torpedo is a copy of the English Torpedo and he was taught there is very little change. He did not know the size of the torpedo. In comparing the 8th Year Type of Type 93 (which is the same size) with the U.S. torpedo, he saw at SASEBO he thought the Japanese torpedo was larger but could not say how much larger.

The 8th Year Type and the Type 93 torpedoes used on ships are about the same size but the driving mechanism and the explosive charge are far superior to the Type 93. Type 90 are also used on ships. The Type 96 and 89 are used by the subs and Type 95 are used by the planes.

9. TRAINING AND OPERATIONS

At the YOKOSUKA Torpedo School PW learned the following:

Torpedo	- Nomenclature and different types.
Mine	- Nomenclature.
General Electricity	- Telephones.
Theory of mine-sweeping.	
Torpedo tube	- Nomenclature and firing.
Depth charge	- Nomenclature.

PW stated the depth charges are the same size as the ones used by the U.S. Navy. PW states there is no definite spacing or timing of depth charge in a depth charge attack. Everything depends on the situation. The depths are 30, 60, and 90 meters. PW did not know the distance the thrower can hurl the depth charge.

The Japanese use a single and twin ship mine sweeps (TSUIKANSHIKI). On the twin ship sweeps the ships drop the paravanes over the sides facing the ships. On single sweeps the ship drops paravanes from each side of the ship. PW knows of no cases where the paravanes were used from the bow and the stern of the ship at the same time.

During the various sorties made by DD KAWAKAZE from May to July, PW states his ship carried rations, supplies, and men to various islands. On one of the sorties in July his ship fired depth charges and sank a submarine. He stated he saw black oil floating around after the depth charge attack. On one sortie they carried airplane parts and 3-bladed propellers. PW could not identify any of the islands he went to.

When the 4 DDs left RABAUL August 5 they went into a diamond formation with the No. 1 DD as the flag and No. 4 as the escort.

12. ENEMY SUPPLIES

At TRUK rations were obtained from the Navy Supply Depot which was on DUBLON ISLAND on the northwest corner of the island. There was also a refrigeration plant close by.

15. WASTAGE OR CASUALTIES

After making about 30 sorties in the SOLOMONS, the DD KAWAKAZE came back to SASEBO NAVAL BASE for repairs in March, when the PW was assigned to it. PW boarded it while it was in the docks for repairs. He stated it was damaged quite badly as one of the propellers was damaged and there were huge holes in the sides made by bombs and torpedoes. While in TRUK, PW saw a hospital ship (ASAHI MARU) which had been hit on the stern by Allied bombs. He did not know where this happened but heard the story when the ship arrived.

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KANAHARA, Jihei (PW)

PW believed all the KAWAKAZE's officers were killed when the torpedo hit amidships as all the officers were on the superstructure. Many of the soldiers and sailors that landed on VELLA LAVELLA are cut up and bruised by the coral along the beach. Ashore on VELLA LAVELLA PW heard that of the other destroyers, HAGIKAZE and ARASHI were also sunk but SHIGURE escaped.

While on a trip from TRUK to BUIN the DDs KAWAKAZE and AKIKAZE carried rations and supplies and they were attacked by a lone enemy reconnaissance plane which dropped a flare and machine-gunned the DD AKIKAZE. PW does not know what happened to AKIKAZE as his ship escaped after unloading its load and did not receive any damage.

17. MILITARY AND NAVAL BASES

On one of the sorties in July KAWAKAZE was damaged and was laid up on the floating dock at TRUK. The size of the dock is a little larger than a DD and twice as wide. PW believes it can hold a CA. He saw other DDs and AP-AKs being repaired in the dock. The repairing personnel came from shore to work.

PW states his DD anchored in a spot southwest of ETEN IS., halfway between ETEN and FEFAN IS. PW saw an airfield on one of the islands and was about 1000 meters away so he could not see anything in detail. The airfield was on the right, going ashore to the town from the DD.

PW had seen some I-Type and RO-Type subs at TRUK but knew no details.

20. SPECIAL INTELLIGENCE

PW read about the bombing of JAPAN and said it made the people get down to business. He saw a newsreel in JAPAN showing U.S. PWs getting clothes and shoes in ZENTSUJI Prison Camp.

21. MISCELLANEOUS

At SASEBO TORPEDO TESTING AND ADJUSTING SECTION 3 men can inspect a torpedo in a week if it is taken apart and 1 day if only checked. There were about 150 men working there.

The WATANABE PLANE FACTORY in FUKUOKA City is building fighter planes and bombers and aviation arms.

PW stated the most feared boat of the U.S. Navy is the PT as it is very fast and strikes with the speed of lightning and is very deadly with its torpedoes.

(END)