

ISSUED BY THE INTELLIGENCE DIVISION, OFFICE OF CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS, NAVY DEPARTMENT

ATTACHE'S REPORT

Forward seven copies (original and six carbon); this number is sponsored because of the limited quantity in O. N. I. and because of the urgency for quickly disseminating information from attachés. These copies will be distributed by O. N. I. as per footnote or otherwise, according to subject matter.

From NA/Tokyo Date Oct. 11, 1939 Serial No. 251 File No. 902-100

Source of information Reliable

Subject Japan Navy - Policy - Basic

Reference

REMARKS—(The review, indexing, and distribution of reports by O. N. I. will be greatly expedited if a brief summary of the contents is entered in this space. Mention leading geographical, personal, or political names, and the gist of the report.)

Japanese Capital Shipbuilding Program

Japan now has eight capital ships building in Navy yards.

These include:

- four 40,000 ton vessels to be completed in 1941
- four 45,000 ton vessels to be completed in 1944

All of these vessels carry twelve 16-inch guns.

Believed being built in private yards are two 15,000 ton cruisers and one 20-25,000 ton aircraft carrier.

NOV 2 1939



Franklin D. Roosevelt Library

DECLASSIFIED

DOD DIR. 5200.9 (9/27/88)

Date- 4/4/69

Signature- *[Handwritten Signature]*

Distribution:

- ONI (7)
- CinCAF (1)
- Com 16 (1)
- NA/Peiping (1)
- M/A Tokyo (1)
- ANA/Shanghai (1)
- File (1)

[Handwritten Signature]
H. H. Smith-Hutton,
Lt-Comdr., U.S. Navy,
Naval Attache.

Director	Asst. Dir.:	Adm. Serv.	Ident.	Intell.	Spec. Inv.	Training	Off. Aff.	Public Aff.	Records	Com. Div.	Nav. Div.	War College	Nav. Div.	Ordn. Div.	Arm. Div.	Eng. Div.	S.A.A.	M.A.S.	Nav. Div.	U.S. N. O.
	Chief Clerk	Asst. Dir.:	Ident.	Intell.	Spec. Inv.	Training	Off. Aff.	Public Aff.	Records	Com. Div.	Nav. Div.	War College	Nav. Div.	Ordn. Div.	Arm. Div.	Eng. Div.	S.A.A.	M.A.S.	Nav. Div.	U.S. N. O.

DECLASSIFIED

Report No. 231
 Japan
 October 11, 1939

900-000-000
 902 - Policy
 100 - Basic
 Date- 8/3/69

Japanese Capital Shipbuilding Program Signature- *JAL*

The following information in regard to Japanese capital shipbuilding program is believed to be reliable. It was obtained in conversations extending over a period of several months with various Japanese naval officers, and from other sources, principally other naval attaches. While certain details of this information may be in error it is considered that the margin of error is small. It is hoped that additional information on this subject can be obtained in the near future.

The Third and Fourth Replenishment Programs, covering the periods 1939-41 and 1939-44 respectively, provide for a total of ¥1,757,960,000 for the construction of vessels. To these amounts have been added funds estimated to exceed ¥500,000,000 originally intended for the China Incident but which have not been used for that purpose. Approximately half of this total, that is roughly ¥1,200,000,000 is being used to construct capital ships.

It was the original intention of the Japanese Navy to build only four capital ships of 40,000 tons mounting twelve 16-inch guns, and funds to begin the construction of these vessels were provided in the Third Replenishment Program. All four ships were laid down early in 1937, to be completed in 1940-41. It is understood, however, that due to various delays these vessels will not be ready until the summer of 1941. Later, under the Fourth Replenishment Program the total capital ship construction was increased to eight vessels. These four additional vessels are of approximately 43,000 tons and also mount twelve 16-inch guns.

The four ships building under the Third Program have the following characteristics:

Tonnage: 40,000 (Approximately)
 Armament: Twelve 16-inch in four triple turrets
 Speed: 28 knots (approximately)

These vessels are under construction at the following yards:

1 at Yokosuka
 2 at Kure
 1 at Sasebo

All of the above vessels have been launched and are to be completed in 1941.

The four capital ships building under the Fourth Program have the following characteristics:

Tonnage: 43,000 [approximately]
 Armament: Twelve 16-inch in four triple turrets
 Speed: 30 knots (approximately)

All four of these vessels have been laid down during the summer of 1939 at the following yards:

1 at Yokosuka
 2 at Kure
 1 at Sasebo

It is expected to complete these vessels in 1943-44.

It will be noted that according to this information all of the above capital ships are being built in navy yards. Reports

have been received from various sources that capital ships were also under construction at Mitsubishi in Nagasaki and at Kawasaki in Kobe. It is believed that these reports are in error and that Mitsubishi is building two cruisers of approximately 15,000 tons while Kawasaki is building a large carrier of 20-25,000 tons. Subsequent reports in regard to this and other aspects of the Japanese building program will be submitted in the near future.

Franklin D. Roosevelt Library

DECLASSIFIED

GOD DM. 5200.9 (9/27/68)

Date- 6/9/69

Signature- *JR*