

MINOR ISLANDS ADJACENT TO JAPAN PROPER



PART IV.

Minor Islands in the Pacific
Minor Islands in the Japan Sea

FOREIGN OFFICE
JAPANESE GOVERNMENT

JUNE 1947.

OTHER MINOR ISLANDS

UTSUYO I. (TAIYO I.)



Take I. (Tsu I.)



Daito I. Group (Daito I.)

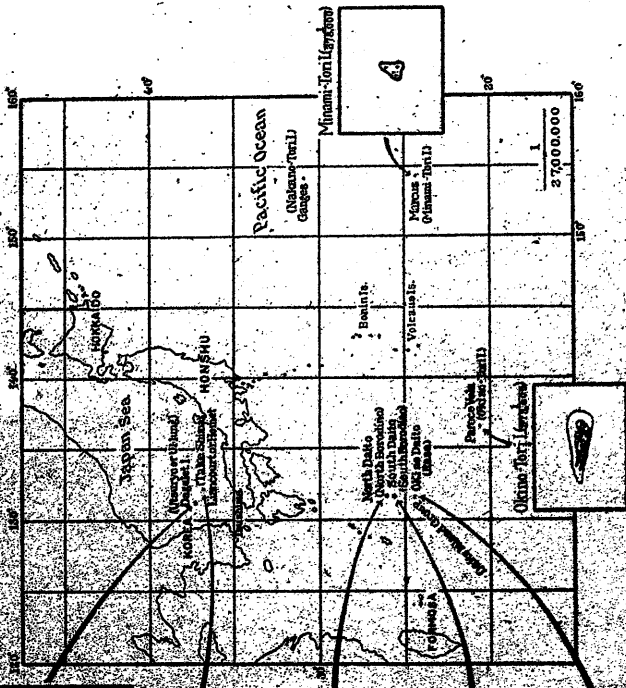
North Daito



South Daito



Okino I. (Tsu I.)



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Chapter I. Minor Islands in the Pacific

Introduction.

Japan's so-called outlying Pacific Islands include the Daito (Ogari) Island Group, Parece Vela (Oki-no-Tori-shima) and Marcus (Minami-Tori-shima) Islands. In addition to them, Ganges (Naka-no-Tori) also is sometimes included (Note 1) which however in reality is non-existent. During the period from May 27th to June 2nd, 1933, the Japanese warship *Komahashi* explored an expanse 70 miles with the island's supposed position as the center but failed to find it. As a result the naval authorities, on November 13th, 1933, notified the interested quarters under the jurisdiction of the Navy Ministry that the island did not exist, although this information was withheld from the public at that time (Note 2).

1. Daito Island Group.

1. Geography.

The Daito Island Group is isolated in mid-ocean, consisting of North and South Daito Islands (131°14' E. and 25°50' N.) about 195 miles east of the Main Island of Okinawa and of Oki-no-Daito Island (131°11' E. and 24°23' N.), about 30 miles to the south of the two islands. Administratively, the Island Group belongs to Okinawa Prefecture, but, it is separated from the Ryukyu Islands not only by a great distance but also by the Ryukyu Trench 6,000 to 7,000 meters in depth. Furthermore, unlike Okinawa, these islands are all elevated coral reefs, each with a circular basin in the center. The whole islands are composed of coral limestone, but North and South Daito Islands contain each in the center a basin of clay soil which is fit for the cultivation of the sugar-cane. Phosphate also is produced on North Daito Island and Oki-no-Daito Island. The largest of the three is South Daito Island which has area of 501 square miles.

2. History.

Maps made in Europe early in 17th century indicated an island named

Note 1. SOAP Directive of January 29th, 1940, concerning "Governmental and Administrative Separation of Certain Outlying Areas from Japan."

Note 2. How the name "Ganges" came into use is not clear. The name "Nakano Tori" was used in the Tokyo-Prefecture notification of August 6th, 1908, which was based on the basis of a report that, in August 1907, a Japanese named YAMADA, Teishiro, had discovered an island at a point 30°5' N. and 154°4' E. and which placed the same under the jurisdiction of the Ogasawara Branch of Tokyo-Prefecture.

"Amsterdam" where North and South Daito Islands are located (Note 3). The identity of that island is not clear, but it is believed the same as South Daito Island. It seems that the island was discovered and named early in the 17th century by a Hollander sailing the seas west of Japan. The name "Amsterdam" has long been used also in later maps. Contemporary maps made in Europe and America, in most cases, give North and South Daito Islands as "Borodino Islands" and Oki-no-Daito Island as "Rasa" or "Kendric." The name "Borodino" was given by a Russian naval officer, Ponafidin, in 1820, after the name of the warship when he sighted the islands. "Rasa" dates back to 1807, when a French warship sighted and so named the island.

For a long time these islands were left ownerless and uninhabited (Note 4). In 1885 the Japanese Government had the Governor of Okinawa Prefecture inspect North and South Daito Islands, and incorporated them into Japanese territory (Note 5). Thereafter various plans were made for opening up of these islands, the development work being taken in hand on South Daito Island in 1900 and on North Daito Island in 1911.

Oki-no-Daito Island was visited in 1892 by the Japanese warship *Katsuo* and formally incorporated into Japanese territory on October 17th, 1900. The work of developing the island was commenced in 1911.

3. Inhabitants.

The first settlers to arrive in the Daito Islands were 23 inhabitants of Hachijo-jima, Tokyo Prefecture. For this reason, the dominant influence on the islands used to be exercised by persons hailing from that island.

In subsequent years, natives of Okinawa Prefecture also came to these islands, and they outnumbered the settlers from Hachijo-jima, constituting over 60 percent of the whole population. Most of them, however, having come as casual laborers did not remain permanently on the islands.

Before the war, the inhabitants of North and South Daito Islands numbered respectively about 1,800 and 3,500 and they were largely members or tenant-farmers of the Dai Nippon Sugar Company.

Note 3 For example, the map of 1680 by Willem Blaeu and the map of 1689 by Johannes Hondius. The island is not found in earlier maps made in Europe.

Note 4 Commodore Perry who navigated the vicinity in 1854 says in his *Narrative* (Chap. X, p. 249):

No signs of people were discovered, and it is presumed that the islands are uninhabited.

Note 5 A party of officials dispatched by Okinawa Prefecture arrived on South Daito Island on August 29th, 1885, and, before they left the island on the 31st of that month, they had made explorations and put up a signpost indicating Japanese possession.

The latter island had a post-office, primary school, clinic and light railway for sugar plantation.

The population of Oki-no-Daito Island was about 1,300, most of whom were members or employees of the Rasa Phosphate Mining Company.

4. Industry.

The task of opening up the Daito Islands was undertaken entirely by Japanese. In the space of some 30 years after the work was started at the beginning of the present century the islands underwent a rapid development, in the manufacture of sugar and in the mining of phosphate. The yearly output of sugar amounted approximately to between 6,000 and 10,000 metric tons which corresponds to the total volume of Japanese sugar rations for infants and medical uses in 1946.

Sugar Output in Latest Ten Years

(In Metric Tons)

Year	South Daito Island	North Daito Island	Total
1935	4,237	809	5,046
1936	6,990	706	7,696
1937	6,033	915	6,948
1938	9,987	1,252	11,239
1939	9,984	1,176	11,160
1939-40	8,563	1,053	9,616
1940-1	5,104	627	5,731
1941-2	5,343	453	5,796
1942-3	5,992	859	6,851
1943-4	6,152	639	6,791

As to industrial equipment, South Daito Island has a modern sugar refinery with a daily capacity of 500 metric tons, together with its accessory installations. On North Daito Island there exist five old-style workshops for the manufacture of brown sugar.

On North Daito Island, there is carried on also phosphate mining. This enterprise was commenced in 1910, but was for a time suspended as it did not pay. It was recommenced in 1919. The phosphate deposits are estimated at 1,440,000 tons. The following table indicates the yearly shipments of phosphate to Japan Proper in the latest ten years:

Phosphate Shipment from North Daito Island in Latest Ten Years.

(In Tons)

Year	Shipments
1935	29,627
1936	42,805
1937	43,031
1938	33,900
1939	35,977
1940	33,637
1941	44,163
1942	72,084
1943	69,150
1944	40,024

The only industry on Oki-no-Daito Island is phosphate mining. The existence of phosphate deposits was confirmed in 1906, and in 1911 the mining was taken in hand. The operations were thereafter carried on by the Hasegawa Island Phosphate Mining Company. Owing to economic depression and the diminution of phosphate deposits, then accessible, the operations were suspended in 1928 and resumed in 1933. In the period 1911-1928 representing the first stage of operations, that is, from the beginning to the temporary suspension of operations, the total volume of phosphate production amounted to 1,103,344 tons. In the ensuing second stage of operations, the annual production stood at about 30,000 tons. The entire output was shipped to Japan Proper.

Phosphate Shipment from Oki-no-Daito Island

(In Tons)

Year	Shipments
1935	30,150
1936	59,563
1937	53,530
1938	58,206
1939	43,224
1940	40,180
1941	34,504
1942	45,300
1943	34,611
1944	4,728

The Daito Islands began some years ago to cultivate the potato and raise domestic animals, with the view of supplying their own wants as much as possible. However, as the islanders are engaged primarily in the

specialized cultivation of the sugar-cane and in the mining of phosphate, they had to rely on Japan Proper for food and for almost all other necessities of life.

The Daito Islands occupy an important position in regard to meteorological observation, especially in predicting the course of typhoons which visit Japan. For this purpose, an observator has hitherto been in operation on South Daito Island.

II. Marcus Island (Minami-Tori-shima).

1. Geography.

Marcus Island is situated at 24°17'30" N. and 153°58' E., 684 miles east-south-east of Chichi-jima of the Ogasawara Island Group. It is an isolated oceanic island, formed of coral reefs, flat and nearly triangular in shape, and about 0.8 square miles in area, its highest point being only 19 meters above sea level.

The island is of much importance for meteorological observations, especially for typhoons.

2. History.

It seems that existence of the island was first reported in 1864 by an American missionary who called it "Marcus" or "Weeks". Subsequently, it was visited by an American ship in 1874 and by a French ship in 1880. The island then came to be inserted in hydrographic charts, but it was at that time uninhabited and its ownership was uncertain.

In 1879, a Japanese called SAITO, Seizemon, and others, while sailing in these waters, found the island, and by visiting it several times thereafter ascertained that it was not inhabited. In 1898 one MEZUTANI, Shirōku, came to settle on the island with 23 workers under him and to engage in catching birds and fish.

On July 24, 1898, the Japanese Government made the island a part of Tokyo Prefecture and placed it under the jurisdiction of its Ogasawara Branch Office and granted license to Mizutani to carry on his undertaking.

Previously to the above, an American called A. Rosehill, cruising the south seas in 1899, discovered the island, and finding it uninhabited, affixed an American flag to a coco-palm. After returning to Honolulu, he applied to the United States State Department for permission to take guano of the island. But, as he did not go through requisite formalities, no action was taken, his application being only kept on record. In 1902 the Japanese Government learned that the aforesaid Rosehill had formed a firm called the Marcus Island Guano Company and was coming to the island. In order to explain to him the fact that the island was officially included in Japan's territory in 1898, the Japanese Government despatched to the

spot Foreign Ministry Secretary ISHII, Kikujiro (subsequently Viscount), on the warship *Kasagi*, which sailed from Yokohama on 23 July, 1902, and arrived at the island on the 27th of the same month.

Rosehill was not there as yet. So, a small corps headed by Lieutenant Akimoto remained on the island, and the *Kasagi* sailed homeward. Secretary Ishii left a letter addressed to Rosehill stating the status of the island and suggesting that if there were any doubt as to which country the island belonged to, it should be discussed between the American and Japanese Governments and the individuals should abide by their decision. A day after the *Kasagi* left the island, Captain Rosehill arrived. He read the letter handed by Lieutenant Akimoto and sailed back to Honolulu some two or three days. On his return Rosehill applied to the United States Government for the payment by the Japanese Government of the expenses incurred by the Marcus Island (Gnano) Company and of his expenses incurred. The United States Government did not, however, accede to his application.

No incident has since arisen between Japan and the United States concerning the island.

The 1000 inhabitants on the island, engaged in catching and preparing shark fins, started specimens. Their number fluctuated between 1000 and 1500. The main arm called Mawan. Fort Shima Company was engaged in the raising of guano, cultivation of coco-palms and other crops. On 25th November, 1902, most of the inhabitants have

1. Description of the Island (Oki no Tori-shima)

The island is about 170 miles southwest of the main island of Japan. It is a long, narrow island, about 2.5 miles from east to west, and about 1.5 miles from north to south.

The island is a low, flat water rock on the western side. The rocks are scattered, and rocks appearing here and there.

In the early maps published up to 1639, there was mentioned a small island to the above island. But it is not clear what it was, and who discovered it. Probably the island was

found before the beginning of the seventeenth century by the Spaniards who frequented the Pacific Ocean between Mexico and the Philippine Islands.

In 1689 this island was sighted by Dutchmen; Mathys Quast and Janszoon Tasman, and called by them as Engelsbroogte. This nomenclature had, however, been never mentioned in the charts published since then, the name *Parace Vela* being still employed. In 1789 English Captain William Douglas visited the island and since then it has come to be called Douglas Reef. Further, in 1890 the reef was surveyed by the British vessel *Amphion*.

The Japanese Government despatched the warship *Musashi* to the reef twice, in 1922 and in 1925. In the chart published in Japan, in May, 1922, it was noted as *Parace Vela*, but in the one published in September, 1929, it was put down as *Okino-Tori*.

On July 8, 1931, it was incorporated into the Japanese territory and placed under the jurisdiction of the Ogasawara Branch Office of Tokyo Prefecture.

This island constitutes an important outpost in connection with the observation of typhoons. It is also so situated as to make it an landmark on the air and sea routes. It was therefore decided to set up on it a radio station and a meteorological observatory.

The Japanese Government began construction work in June, 1936, to be completed to build up the foundation upon the coral reef under water. On account of the difficulty of transporting materials to this far and desolate spot, and the absence in the vicinity of any convenient anchorage to shelter from typhoons, the construction proved an onerous task. The project was completed after three years chiefly spent in the completion of the foundation.

Chapter II. Minor Islands in the Japan Sea

Introduction.

Of the minor islands in the Japan Sea, the present chapter deals with the Liancourt Rocks and Dagelet Island, which lie off the Tsushima Strait and some 18 miles apart from each other.

The Liancourt Rocks, also called Hornet Islands in Europe, is known in Japan as Take-shima. The Japanese name for Dagelet is Matsu-shima, or Oshiro, of which the Korean equivalent, Ul-ling is also used sometimes in the West.

The existence of these islands was known to Japanese in early times (Note 1). Originally it was the Liancourts which were called "Matsu-shima" and Dagelet, which was called "Take-shima". The reversing of the names originated in a curious combination of circumstances.

The islands, "Take-shima" was visited by Europeans in the beginning of the century, first by Captain de La Perouse (Note 2) and later by the British Commodore Perry. They named it respectively "Dagelet" and "Liancourt". The Commodore had given different longitudes for the two islands. "Take-shima" was shown as two islands in the

charts of the time, and in the map of Japan published by the British Admiralty in 1827, the islands were known as Take-shima and Matsu-shima. The names were transferred to Dagelet and Liancourt, and the latter was known as Matsu-shima, and the former as Take-shima.

It was concluded that the two islands were Matsu-shima and Dagelet, Dagelet continued to be called Matsu-shima, and Take-shima came to be transferred to the islands of Liancourt, which was later named Dagelet.

(1) *Itinerary of the Japanese Embassy to Europe, 1692-1693* (Tokyo, 1894), p. 100. (2) *Journal of the Voyage of the French Expedition to the Pacific, 1791-1795*, Vol. 2, p. 100. The expedition was commanded by Jean-Francois de La Perouse, and consisted of two frigates, *Destree* and *Arctique*. The expedition sailed from Japan on May 21, 1791, named it "Dagelet." The expedition was commanded by La Perouse, and consisted of two frigates, *Destree* and *Arctique*. The expedition sailed from Japan on May 21, 1791, named it "Dagelet." The expedition was commanded by La Perouse, and consisted of two frigates, *Destree* and *Arctique*.

Liancourts by the French.

I. Liancourt Rocks (Take-shima).

1. Geography.

Liancourt Rocks are situated at 37°9' N. and 131°56' E, being about 86 miles from Oki Islands of Shimane Prefecture. They consist of a pair of islets, 0.06 and 0.02 square miles respectively and a number of rocks scattered around them. The islets, composed of barren rocks and devoid of any overgrowth, look white being covered with birds' droppings. The rugged beaches dotted with strange looking caves are noted as breeding grounds of sea-lions (*zalophus lobatus*). Lacking in open spaces and drinking water, the islets are unfit for human habitation. The rocks scattered around are generally flat at their tops and barely show themselves above water.

2. History.

As stated in the Introduction, the Japanese knew the existence of the Liancourt Rocks from the ancient times. But the earliest documentary evidence of this knowledge is to be found in the *Inshu Shicho Gokai* (Oki Province; Things Seen and Heard) a book published in 1667, which contains the following description:

To the northwest from the Province of Oki there is Matsu-shima at a two days' distance, and at another day's distance further out there is Take-shima. The latter, also called Iso-take-shima, is rich in bamboo, fish etc.

It is clear that Matsu-shima here refers to the Liancourts (Illustration).

As for European acquaintance with the Rocks, it was in 1849 that the *Liancourt*, a French whaling ship, first sighted them and gave them their present name. The *Pallada*, a Russian frigate under the command of Admiral Putiatin, is said to have taken soundings of the adjacent sea in 1854. In the following year came the *Hornet*, a corvette of the British China Fleet, which also sounded the vicinity of the Rocks.

It should be noted that while there is a Korean name for Dagelet, none exists for the Liancourts Rocks and they are not shown in the maps made in Korea.

On February 23, 1905, the Governor of Shimane Prefecture, by a prefectural proclamation, placed the Liancourts under the jurisdiction of the Oki Islands Branch Office of the Shimane Prefectural government (Note 3).

Note 3. The United States Hydrographical Survey at present deals with Liancourt Rocks under the head of Oki group of islands.

3. Industry.

It is presumed that no one has ever settled on the islets owing to such natural conditions as stated above. In 1904, however, the inhabitants of Oki Islands began to hunt sea-lions on these islets and thereafter each summer the islanders, using Dagelet as their base, went regularly to the Rocks and built sheds as temporary quarters for the season.

II. Dagelet Island (Matsu-shima, Utsuryo or Ul-lung Island).

1. Geography.

Dagelet Island is situated at 37°30' N. and 130°52' E. and is almost equidistant from the port of Fushan of Korea and the port of Sakai of Tottori Prefecture, Japan. Its area is 28 square miles. Almost entirely covered with volcanic rocks, it presents a complicated topography with a lone peak in the middle, rising 983 meters above sea level.

The terrain is rugged, surrounded by steep cliffs nearly all around and there is no good anchorage in the adjacent waters. The mountain areas were formerly covered with dense woods but, owing to reckless deforestation, there remain to-day only a few aged trees here and there at higher altitudes. The flora of this island, though forming a small and distinct domain, is recognized to have many common features with Japan Proper. For instance, while 14 out of 90 specimens of trees are endemic, 64 are identical with those of the central part of Honshu. In passing, it is interesting to note that the cultivation in Japan of the Take-shima Lily (*Ilum hansonii*), an endemic plant of the island, is mentioned in a book published in 1710, a fact which points to an early intercourse between the island and Japan.

2. History.

It is only in 1787 that the island was first mentioned, by the name of Dagelet, in the world history of discoveries by Captain Jean François de La Pérouse of the French navy (See Note 2). In Japanese documents, however, reference was made as early as 1004 to Uruma Island, an old Japanese equivalent for Ul-lung Island.

The island was known to Koreans also from ancient times. Several attempts at colonization were made by Koreans after the middle of the 12th century. The island became later a convenient hiding-place by criminals and brigands. The Korean Government from 1400 and onward adhered for a long time to a policy of keeping it uninhabited.

As the island was thus virtually abandoned by the Korean Government, the Japanese continued to frequent it in increasing numbers. The expedition of TOYOTOMI, Hideyoshi to Korea in 1592 served to accelerate activities of the Japanese in this area, and for about a century thereafter

the island remained in all appearances a Japanese fishing base (Note 4).

From the beginning of the 17th century repeated negotiations were carried on between Japan and Korea on the question of ownership of the island.

In 1692 the arrival of a large number of Koreans in the island gave rise to a dispute, on which negotiations were conducted between the Korean Government and the feudal lord of Tsushima representing the Shogunate. As a result, in 1697 the Tokugawa Shogunate prohibited the Japanese from going to the island for fishing and informed the Korean Government to that effect. The question was thus apparently settled for the time being.

The Korean authorities, however, made no change in its policy to keep the island uninhabited even after the above mentioned incident. They despatched officials only once in three years to have them cut down trees and bamboos and collect native products to be presented to the government. The Japanese, therefore, never stopped fishing near the island (Note 5).

Toward the end of the Tokugawa Shogunate and in the early years of Meiji (around 1868), a movement gathered force in Japan urging the development of "Matsu-shima" and petitions were made to the Government. As it was ascertained that "Matsu-shima" was none other than the island which was once the subject of negotiations with the Korean Government and which the Japanese had been prohibited from entering, the petitions were not taken up by the Japanese Government, although Japanese still continued to go to the island. On the other hand the Korean Government made repeated demands to Japan to keep her subjects out of the island and at the same time tried to develop the island themselves but with no appreciable results.

The Annexation of Korea in 1910 brought the island under the rule of the Government-General of Chosen.

Note 4. In 1618, the feudal lord of Inaba, under the sanction of the Shogunate, authorized two citizens by the name of Otani and Murakawa of Yonago, Hoki Province, to visit Take-shima (viz. Dagelet).

They made yearly visits to the island for fishing and some of the catches thus caught were sent from the Inaba Clan to the Shogunate as an annual present. In 1837, a shipping agent by the name of Hachiyemon of the Hamada Clan, Iwami Province, was executed for engaging in contraband trade with Korea under the pretext of visiting Dagelet. The incident led the Shogunate to issue a proclamation prohibiting all journeys to foreign lands. In the proclamation it was stated that whereas Japanese had made frequent trips to Dagelet for fishing in older times, such trips were no longer permitted because the island had been turned over to Korea since 1697.

3. *Industry.*

The development of the island is still in an insipient stage, most of the settlers having come no earlier than several dozens of years ago. The total population, mostly Koreans, as of 1935, was 11,760, the Japanese numbering a little over 500 among them.

The industries mainly consist of agriculture and fishing. Because of the lack of alluvial soil, farming is limited to the cultivation of dry land for potatoes, corn, soy beans, wheat and other crops. The total production is barely adequate to meet the needs of the inhabitants.

The fishing industry is actively engaged in as the surrounding waters are rich in fish and sea-weeds because of the confluence of both the cold and warm currents. More than 120,000 yen worth of products are taken every year. Cattle and silk are also raised on the side-line.

General of the Army MacArthur,
Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers.

Jan. 13, 1947.

Your Excellency:

I have the honor of renewing the petition which on Aug. 6, 1946 I presented to you in behalf of the Committee of Petition for the Restoration of Islands Belonging to Hokkaido, to get these islands restored from Soviet's occupation.

1. In the petition we presented to you under the date of Aug. 6, 1946, we entreated you for your efforts to release Iturup, Kunashiri, and the Habomai Islands (Shikotan, Taraka, Shikotan, Suisho, Yuri, and Akiyuri) from Soviet's occupation, so that they may be brought under that of the U.S. Occupation Forces, for those islands properly belong to Hokkaido. Refugees from those islands who are now in Nemuro are anxiously desirous of the release of the islands which are their old home from Soviet's occupation and of an early opportunity for their return there, but contrary to their expectation they learn Soviet's authorities are furthering her occupation policy only the more strenuously.

2. This is known by the fact that, on April 12, 1946, the people's Commissariat there issued a circular (as on the attached sheet) announcing to those Japanese who remained on Kunashiri and the Habomai Islands that a Soviet's admini-

strative