

## Period IV (4) – i. Newspaper articles on policing activities by the Ryukyu Police around the Senkaku Islands

## Newspaper articles reporting that investigations had been conducted by the Ryukyu Police

## No.57 Ryukyu Police dispatches guard-ship Akatsuki to the Senkaku Islands (Newspaper article, Yaeyama Mainichi Shimbun, 1953)

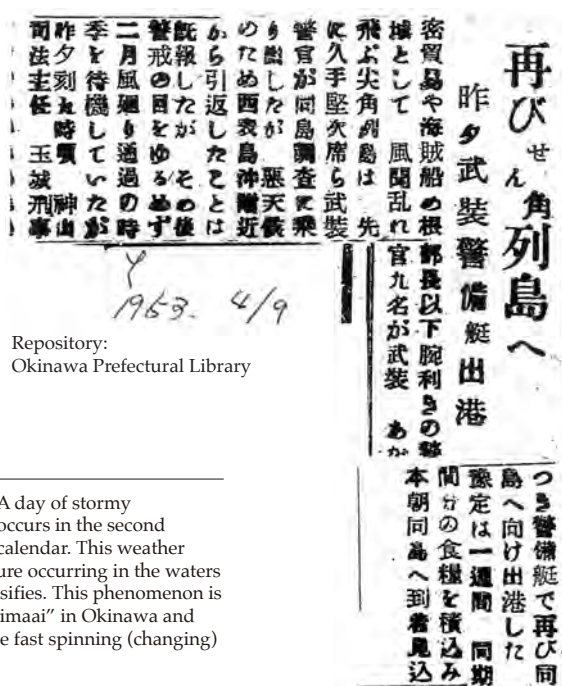
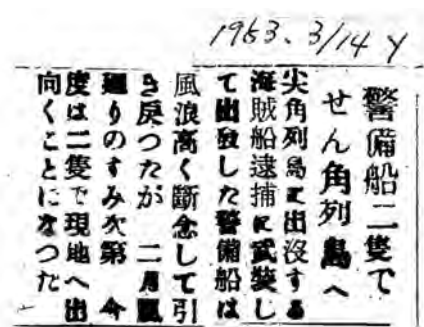
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March 14, 1953, April 9, 1953, April 11, 1953

## Overview

Newspaper articles published from March to April 1953 by Yaeyama Mainichi Shimbun that reported the patrol activities by the Ryukyu Police around the Senkaku Islands.

After World War II, the Senkaku Islands were included in the administrative area of Ishigaki Town (Ishigaki City from 1947). However, the islands, far away from the main island of Ishigaki Island, had already become uninhabited during World War II. In this regard, there were rumors soon after the end of World War II that the Senkaku Islands were used as the base for piracy and smuggling. In 1953, Ryukyu Police had a total of nine people, including a judge and armed police officers, on board its guard-ship, Akatsuki, which was deployed at Ishigaki Port, was dispatched to the Senkaku Islands, and conducted a field survey there. The results were that there were no ships grounded there at all and that “the stories about pirate ships and so on were simply unfounded rumors.” Note that the results of these surveys were reported in the Yaeyama Mainichi Shimbun, which is a local newspaper in Ishigaki City.



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## Excerpt [English translation]

[Newspaper article, Yaeyama Mainichi Shimbun, March 14, 1953]

Two guard-ships to depart for the Senkaku Islands

An armed guard-ship had set sail to arrest pirate ships around the Senkaku Islands but was forced to turn back due to the high wind and waves. However, a second attempt will be made, this time with two ships, as soon as ningachi kajimaai (\*1) is over.

\*1 Ningachi kajimaai: A day of stormy weather at sea that occurs in the second month of the lunar calendar. This weather occurs as low pressure occurring in the waters near Okinawa intensifies. This phenomenon is called “ningachi kajimaai” in Okinawa and its name refers to the fast spinning (changing) of the wind.

## Excerpt [English translation]

[Newspaper article, Yaeyama Mainichi Shimbun, April 9, 1953  
To the Senkaku Islands again

An armed guard-ship left port yesterday evening.

Previously, it was reported that Deputy Chief KUDEKEN and armed police officers embarked on an investigation of the Senkaku Islands, which have been rumored to be a base for smuggling and pirate ships, but had to turn back in the area off Iriomote Island due to bad weather. They remained highly alert and waited for ningachi kajimaai to pass, and, at around five yesterday evening, Judicial Chief KAMIYAMA, Chief of Criminal Justice TAMAKI, and nine skilled armed police officers departed again for the Senkaku Islands on board the guard-ship Akatsuki. The operation is planned for one week, and this morning they are expected to arrive at the islands with food for the planned period.

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