

Lorsta Miyako Jima was an “A” double master, rates 2H6 and 2H7; paired with Gesashi and Batan. It began operations in 1953 and had the dubious distinction of being devastated by more typhoons than any other station in WESTPAC. It was hit by at least one typhoon per year and averaged major damage every three years. In the final decade of its run, a foregone conclusion was that it would be returned to Japan upon the reversion of the Ryukyu Islands. It was last in line for WESTPAC maintenance funds and the operative order was “if it aint broke, don’t fix it “. Old wiring and vacuum tubes didn’t like being jostled. Nevertheless, hardworking and dedicated crews kept the station looking respectable and the signals dependable. The Japanese inherited a squared away station.

Lorsta Miyako was located at the far end of the island from its major town of Hirara. Relations with the local farmers and fisherman were excellent. The station was their unofficial clinic and first aid station. The crew were treated as neighbors and not GI’s.