

Nagoya Arsenal, Toriimatsu Factory, Pre-Production Prototype
by
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In the *Collector's Guide to Imperial Japanese Handguns 1893-1945* by James D. Brown, the author writes a small paragraph about the Nagoya Arsenal, Toriimatsu Factory, Pre-Production Prototypes. Following are the details about one such Type-14.

At first glance it looks like any small trigger guard variant that you would find most anywhere. That is until you start trying to fit the arsenal, era date and serial number in with known production dates and arsenals. It is dated 16,1 (Jan 1941) with serial #21867 and only displays the Nagoya Arsenal symbol on the frame. As noted in the *Collector's Guide to Imperial Japanese Handguns 1893-1945* the serial numbers assigned to this small population of Type-14's were taken from frames that had previously failed inspection. As for this frame, the serial #21867 is in the Kokubunji range for a Showa 11.3 (March 1936) dated pistol.

Note the use of the comma between the year and month versus a period. Only the Nagoya Chigusa factory used the comma during the periods of Taisho 15,11/15,12 (Nov/Dec 1926) and then during Showa 2,1 through 7,4 (Jan 1927 through April 1932) in this location. The style of both the Showa era mark and the number four in "14 Year Type" on the left side of the frame are the more square type used at the Nagoya Chigusa factory versus the more rounded type found on frames manufactured at both the Tokyo/Kokura and Kokubunji arsenals. There is a safety arrow placed on the left side of the frame between the "Safe and Fire" symbols. The size of the die stamp used for the Nagoya Arsenal symbol and Showa era stamp are 3 mm, while the date and serial number are all stamped using a 4 mm die stamp. So with all that said there is no doubt that this frame was built at the Nagoya Chigusa factory.

Upon examining this Type-14 it is apparent that the magazine safety block change has been incorporated however, none of the other changes that took place during Type-14 production prior to the 16 date of this pistol have been incorporated. However, it retains a small trigger guard, 25 grooved grips and lacks the magazine retention spring and yet with a date Showa 16,1 (Jan 1941) it should have a large trigger guard, magazine retention spring and 17 grooved grips.

With the exception of the frame, magazine release button and magazine base (which all carry Nagoya Chigusa factory inspection marks), all other parts carry inspection marks from the Kokubunji arsenal and all retain the early pre Showa 15 date styles and features. Most of the parts carry the 條 "JYO" mark which was used by Kokubunji during the Showa 11 and 12 (1935 and 1936) periods. Kokubunji used the encircled ㊦ "to" mark during the Showa 14 to Showa 16 (1939 to 1941) periods, while the 東 "TO" mark was used on parts from Showa 11 to Showa 19 (1936 to 1944). No post Showa 16 (1941) inspection marks are used on this Nambu. Inspection marks and dates used in this article were taken from *Japanese Military Cartridge Handguns 1893-1945* by Harry Derby and Jim Brown.

Another interesting feature to note is the two different styles of die stamps were used to stamp the number 7. The shapes of the two styles used differ as one appears as 7 while the other appears as 7. This of course could mean that the parts were stamped at two separate times by

different workers or simply that the person doing the stamping had two die stamps to work with and used whichever one he happened to pick up at the moment.

The lack of a final inspection mark indicates that this pistol was never intended to leave the factory. This Type-14 is truly a shop gun used for familiarization training to help train workers that were setting up the arsenal at Toriimatsu. The question I have yet to answer is; as this Type-14 was assembled in Showa 16,1 (Jan 1941), why where the trigger guard and magazine retention spring and grip groove changes not incorporated?

The following table showing inspection marks and style of stamping used is provided to help gain a better understand of this Type-14.

	Inspection markings used	Remarks
Position A	None	
Position B	None	
Position C	None	
Position D	None	
Right Grip Frame	◇ □	No marks on left grip frame.
Grips	No numbers, 東	25 serrations. Reddish in color that is proper for a pre 15 date.
Cocking Knob	867, No inspection marks	Numbers are stamped upside down. Has course knurling on gripping surface of cocking knob. 3mm ring on face of knob. Proper for pre 15 date.
Barrel Housing	867, 條	Front sight, not staked, has rounded corners on base. Proper Kokubunji front sight.
Bolt	867, 條	Polished.
Firing Pin	No numbers, 條	Polished, 73mm, which is proper for a pre 17, date.
Firing Pin Guide	867, 東 ⊕	Straw, flat sided, 47mm, which is proper except this one is stamped with serial number.
Locking Block	867, 東 ⊕	Polished.
Safety Lever	867, 條	
Sear Bar	867, 條	
Sear Bar Pin	No numbers, No inspection marks	Older style in that is beveled all the way around.
Magazine Release	867, ◇ □	Inspection marks on right end of release so they can be seen while examining pistol.
Magazine Safety Block	867, 條	
Trigger Guard	867, No inspection marks	Small Trigger Guard
Trigger	867, 條	
Magazine	867, See remarks:	Type V housing with 東. 9 grooved Type I aluminum base with ◇.

Photo of Arsenal Toriimatsu Factory, Pre-Production Prototype date and serial number markings



Photo shows comparison of the Nagoya Arsenal Toriimatsu Factory, Pre-Production Prototype dated 16,1 with standard issued Kokubunji 16.1 date

