

JAP NAVAL BASE

FOUND IN MEXICO

WASHINGTON, Saturday, Feb. 6.—When the American rescue ships San Diego and Raleigh reached the stranded Japanese cruiser Asama, on a shoal off Lower California, they discovered she had been making a coaling and supply base on a barren and isolated Mexican island in San Bartolome bay for several months, according to a report to the navy department today.

Taking advantage of the unstable Mexican government, the cruiser has been able to use this base to great advantage in operations against Germany in Pacific possessions and in guarding Japanese shipping against German raiders.

On account of the uncertainty as to which Mexican faction is qualified to demand an explanation it is doubtful whether any official action will be taken in the matter.

Rear Admiral Howard, commander in chief of the Pacific fleet, sent a wireless message to the navy department tonight that the Asama was in no immediate danger and that her crew was safe.
