

10-IR-46

11. DEFENCES

CONVOYS. DAIREN to HOKKAI. Nov '39. 41 Regt on 5 or 6 ships with an escort of 2 or 3 destroyers sailed from DAIREN via UJINA. Convoy remained at anchor at HAINAN for about a week during which time 40 to 50 vessels assembled. They then proceeded to HOKKAI.

KARATSU to CHINKAI. Apr '41. SAKURA MARU and 5 or 6 ships escorted by one or two destroyers. The journey occupied 2 or 3 days.

KONANCHIN to SINGORA. Oct '41. 41 Regt was conveyed by 5 to 6 ships, escorted by cruisers and destroyers, to HAINAN. There a convoy of 50 to 60 ships was formed and proceeded to SINGORA, landing on 6 Dec '41.

MOJI to RABAU. PW sailed on 2 Nov '42 in TOZAN MARU. Four merchant ships and one destroyer in convoy which sailed via PANGOS and MANILA and arrived at RABAU 27 Nov '42.

RABAU to MAMBARE. On 12 Dec '42 the destroyer KAZEKUMO and 4 other destroyers left RABAU at night (See sec 12).

12. ENEMY SUPPLIES

Cocoon Oil. TOZAN MARU left MOJI empty for MANILA to load coconut oil.

Rations. At MAMBARE each soldier landed with 10 days supply of rice, MISO (bean paste) SHOYU (Soy) and canned goods. At OKA the food shortage was serious; the daily rice issue being not more than 1 GO (.33 lbs). However, PW asserted they were not reduced to such dire straits as even to consider eating human flesh. He had, moreover, not heard any rumours to this effect.

13. MOBILE AND PROPAGANDA

Conditions in JAPAN. PW was in JAPAN in Oct '42 and since that date had not heard from nor written to his people. While in PHILIPPINE ISLANDS he received one comfort bag. According to PW there was no war boom in JAPAN. Everything was rationed and there were shortages.

Political Conditions in JAPAN. PW was not interested in politics and could not say how his father voted. Although he thought that war was not a good thing, he did not feel competent to express an opinion as to alternative methods of settling international disputes. PW knew nothing of Communism or of the 26 Feb '35 incident. He had no ideas on the MANCHURIAN incident or the CHINA War.

Conditions in Fighting Services. PW had no idea of the number of men mobilized in JAPAN in past 5 years. In his own village of 1500 people, 300 to 400 had gone. Many of his relatives had seen active service and he could not say how old schoolmates in the services had fared. PW on one occasion, sustained a slight leg wound. Neither he nor his companions had ever suffered from disease. There were brothels in MANILA and DAVAO, containing KOREAN women. Although these establishments were authorized by the Army, PW thought that profits went to the proprietors.

Attitude to Allied Nations. PW had no ideas about England, Chinese, he thought, except for the fighting services, did not dislike Japanese. PW believed that PsW and natives of occupied territory were well treated by Japanese, especially in PHILIPPINE ISLANDS. He had never seen white PsW forced to do coolie work.

Attitude to Axis Nations. PW did not know that certain passages in "Mein Kampf" were abridged nor did he know anything of Hitler's past. The theory that the Japanese were inferior racially to the Germans would cause anger in JAPAN.

PROPAGANDA Broadcasts. There was no radio available to his Unit.

Leaflets. He had neither seen nor heard of any propaganda leaflets.

15. WASTAGE OR CASUALTIES

YAMAGATA BUTAI. suffered casualties of 40 or 50 killed while landing at MAMBARE.

Ashes. In Sep '42 in MANILA, PW joined a group of men (17 men of 41 Regt, 120 to 130 of YAMAGATA BUTAI and some men from Field Artillery Unit) who returned to JAPAN in LIMA MARU to deliver to relatives the ashes of those killed in action. The party had in its care the relics of 1500 troops killed in PHILIPPINE ISLANDS. PW was responsible for the ashes of 121 soldiers. Ashes were in individual boxes, each marked with the name of the deceased and place of death.

MALAYAN Campaign. PW heard that casualties at SINGAPORE totalled 10,000 killed, wounded and missing from the three Divs engaged there. The 41 Regt lost from 100 to 200 killed.

16. CHEMICAL WARFARE

PW claimed to have heard of various types of gases but had no knowledge of their characteristics. Respirators were always carried and PW understood that the Japs would use gas if the enemy did. He left his respirator with the Regt when he returned to JAPAN and had no idea if it was brought to SWPA.

17. TOPOGRAPHY

RABAU. When passing through in Nov '42, PW saw a large number of ships, cruisers, destroyers and 2 submarines but no A/C carriers. He saw also 5 or 6 four-engined seaplanes afloat in the harbour.

18. MEDICAL

"PEN" drugs were unknown to PW. Vitamin tablets were issued.

19. ALLIED FORCES

Air Attacks. 12 to 14 Dec '42. Allied aircraft bombed convoy consisting of KAZEKUMO and 4 destroyers between RABAU and MAMBARE. Although A/C attacked 4 or 5 times the destroyers were not damaged as the A/C kept at a high altitude.