

10-ER-57

Educated Japanese considered that the China War could last for any time up to 100 years and some were of the opinion that the war with the Allied Nations would last about that long. TOJO was said to have expressed the opinion that the war would not end in 2 or 3 years but it would be a long drawn out affair because of the tremendous resources of USA.

Japan did not stop at North China because she had decided that it would be better to make a clean sweep now instead of having another war in 10 years time. China had become comparatively stronger than in the 1894-5 war but only obsolete equipment was being used against her, whereas the war against the Allied Nations was being waged with much more modern equipment.

Conditions in the Fighting Services Japan had sufficient equipment for 1650 "mobilization days" (PW could not explain the meaning of these words) and such a tremendous reserve of manpower that even if the war did last for 100 years, she could not be beaten. Losses of 50,000 to 60,000 killed were treated with indifference; if 200,000 were killed at one time, someone in Tokyo HQ might then start thinking.

PW's brother in law who was his only relative on active service, had not returned to Japan when he last heard of him. About 40% of PW's fellow employees had enlisted.

PW had never been wounded and had never had a disease. There were approximately 20 brothels in RABAUL, 5 in KOKOPO area and the remainder were in the town. Inmates were all Japanese women. The brothels were mainly patronized by the officers; men could rarely gain admittance. Prices were Officers ¥ 5 and men ¥ 1.

Attitude to Allied Nations PW did not believe that anti-British feeling existed in Japan. In fact, foreigners in Japan had the sympathy of the Japanese because they could not return to their own countries.

PW had always had a dislike for Chinese and Koreans. He considered that Koreans should not be placed with Japanese in the same compound as "they smell".

He did not believe that natives of occupied territories should be treated as equals of the Japanese. Owing to the Rescript of the Emperor MEIJI, natives, although not on the same footing as Japanese, were not made slaves and were well treated.

PW had never seen white PW doing coolie work. At RABAUL there were 200 white PW in a camp near the wharf. They had sufficient food. PW had spoken to one Allied PW there who stated that he had been captured in the Philippine Islands. The Allied PW refused a proffered cigarette stating that he had his own issue and by taking a cigarette from PW would have this issue curtailed.

Attitude to Axis Nations Japan is getting no assistance from Germany. Each country is fighting for its own ends and high officials of the Jap Army and Navy were well alive to the fact that Germany would never allow Japan to hold all the rubber and oil resources she had acquired. If both Japan and Germany were successful in the present war, such success would simply lead to a further war for division of the spoils.

Although Germany might think now that she was the superior nation, time would decide the issue. Japanese worship of the Emperor is quite different to the idolizing of Hitler by Germans. Hitler redeemed his country and Germans look up to him as their saviour.

Propaganda Radio PW had only listened to broadcasts in TOKYO and MANCHURIA. When there were successes, such as the Malayan campaign, losses incurred were unhesitatingly recorded. On the other hand, when there was a reverse, details of losses were announced with reserve. PW had noticed a considerable difference between war as described over the radio and as actually experienced.

Leaflets PW had not heard of propaganda leaflets. Had any been dropped over RABAUL he would have seen them fall.

14. ENEMY INTENTIONS

In connection with coming operations in NEW GUINEA, PW was told in Feb '43 by his Coy comdr, that 1 and 3 Coys were, on landing, to immediately set up their guns to repel air attacks. When the LAE garrison was sufficiently reinforced the Japs intended to move across NEW GUINEA in the direction of PORT MORESBY, under the protection of the Army Air Arm which was due to arrive in RABAUL sometime in April. After the Army Air Arm had established supremacy by continued air attacks on American installations in FORT MORESBY, the combined fleet, under the command of HE YAMAMOTO who had distinguished himself at PEARL HARBOR, PHILIPPINE Islands and in the CORAL Sea Battle, would deliver an attack on FORT MORESBY from seawards sometime in July or Aug.

PW's CO added that, apart from the fact that the Naval Air Units in RABAUL were worn out, they lacked the necessary bomber strength (of which the Army had plenty) to attempt to gain air supremacy in NEW GUINEA. The Army Air Arm had so far only played about in CHINA and, as their losses had been very low, they would be able to arrive in STPA in great strength.

PW alleged that quite half the troops in RABAUL were KWANTUNG Army. Owing to Russia's war with Germany, these troops could be easily spared. Nevertheless, PW thought Jap High Command was not doing the correct thing in sending troops so well trained in open warfare to fight in mountainous jungle country.

15. WASTAGE OR CASUALTIES.

Garrison at LAE PW was told that submarines from RABAUL had been supplying the BURMA garrison. They later supplied LAE garrison. This method was considered to be unsatisfactory and the garrison at LAE was stated to be physically worn out, having been on short rations for so long a time. PW thought that their fighting strength would be very low.

16. CHEMICAL WARFARE

50 Ind N/A Bn Personnel equipped with T 95 respirator and usual decontaminating powder. Light anti-gas clothing was also issued and PW described it as a voluminous cape with hood in one piece. Made of cheesecloth covered inside and out with treated paper. Very loose fitting so that gun could be operated from under its protection. 7 feet in length, the cape trailed on the ground round wearer.

Decontamination Squads Twenty of the 250 reinforcements for 50 N/A Bn that went from JAPAN to MANCHUKUO in Apr '41 formed a decontamination squad. They had special anti-gas training in JAPAN. Equipped with one piece heavy rubberised cloth suits consisting of hood, coat, trousers, gloves and rubber boots; the suit fastened down the front. The respirator was built into and formed part of the hood.

17. TOPOGRAPHY

RABAUL PW stated that there was a large bivouac area all along the coast of SIMPSON Harbour from the township to VULCAN Volcano. Buildings in the town area were entirely HQ of units. The RC Church was some Naval unit HQ (See Appendix E). For the most part troops bivouacked.