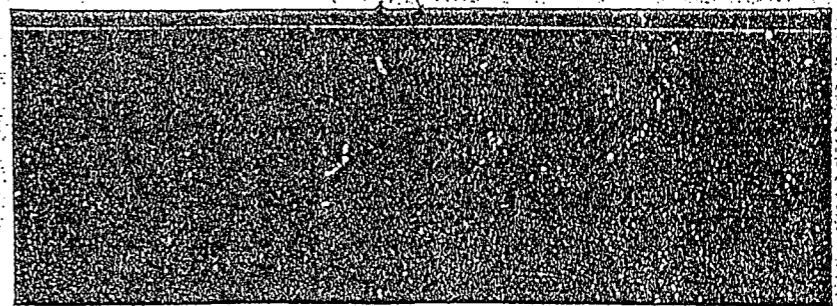


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AMENITIES
IN THE
JAPANESE ARMED FORCES

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GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
SUPREME COMMANDER FOR THE ALLIED POWERS

A.P.O. 500
15 November 1945

Published for the information of all concerned.
By command of General MACARTHUR:

R. K. SUTHERLAND
Lieutenant General, United States Army,
Chief of Staff.

OFFICIAL:

C. A. WILLOUGHBY,
Major General, G. S. C.,
Asst. Chief of Staff, G-2.

ALLIED TRANSLATOR AND INTERPRETER SECTION
SUPREME COMMANDER FOR THE ALLIED POWERS

RESEARCH REPORT

SUBJECT: AMENITIES IN THE JAPANESE ARMED FORCES

I. G. No. 6310
B.I.D. No. 1228

DATE OF ISSUE 15 November 1945

No. 120

SUMMARY:

1. This report covers information available at ATIS up to 31 March 1945 on amenities furnished by the Japanese to their armed forces.
2. There has been no attempt to establish the existence of rules regarding the availability for purchase or gratuitous issue of canteen stores, since there is a great variation, depending upon the type of troops and the area, in the handling of amenities.
3. Information has also been given as to the availability to the troops of such amusements as shows, movies, geisha entertainment, and brothels.
4. References are quoted regarding the amount of war news passed on to troops by field newspapers, bulletins, and radios.

HNB/SRE/CHR/vb

Distribution H


SIDNEY F. MASHBIR
COLONEL, S.C.
COORDINATOR

SOURCES: Captured Documents.
Statements of Prisoners of War.

INFORMATION SHOULD BE ASSESSED ACCORDINGLY

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RESTRICTED

CONTENTS

Section	Page
I. CANTEEN STORES	1
1. General	1
2. Post Exchanges and Ship Stores	1
a. Army	1
b. Navy	2
3. Gratuitous Issue	2
a. Officers	2
b. Enlisted Men	3
4. Comfort Bags	3
a. Army	3
b. Formosans and Civilians	4
II. AMUSEMENTS	5
5. General	5
6. Athletics	5
7. Movies	8
8. Geisha and Entertainment Troupes	8
a. Homeland	8
b. PALAU	8
c. South West PACIFIC Area	9
9. Brothels	9
a. Regulations	9
b. BURMA	17
c. SUMATRA	19
d. South West PACIFIC Area	19
10. Leave	20
III. NEWS	22
11. General	22
12. Newspapers	22
a. Field News Sheets	22
b. Bulletins	22
c. Announced News	22
d. No News	23
13. Radios	23
a. No Radios Issued	23
b. Officers Only	23
c. Personnel Having Radios	24
IV. MAIL	25
14. General	25
15. Army	25
a. Sending of Mail	25
b. Receiving of Mail	25
16. Navy	25
a. Sending of Mail	25
b. Receipt of Mail	26
17. Civilians	26
V. CONCLUSIONS	27
Appendix A. Forms Required by MANILA Brothels	28
Appendix B. Police Report on MANILA Brothels	33

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AMENITIES IN THE JAPANESE ARMED FORCES

"31 January 1943. Received comfort bag from TOKYO."
(ATIS Bulletin No. 1006, page 3)

(i) Prisoner of War [redacted] (JA(USA)147004), First Class Private, member of 53 Infantry Regiment, captured at SUMERU, 30 December 1943, stated:

"Comfort bags were received in CHINA, but none in the South West PACIFIC Area."
(ATIS Interrogation Report, Serial No. 362, page 9)

(z) Prisoner of War [redacted] (JA(USA) 147143), Sergeant Major of 141 Infantry Regiment, captured at TALASEA, 16 March 1944, stated:

"While in RABAUL, received one comfort bag."
(ATIS Interrogation Report, Serial No. 475, Section 13)

(h) Prisoner of War [redacted] (JA(USA)147018), Corporal, member of the 238 Regiment, captured near ARARI, 5 February 1944, stated:

"Received many comfort bags in CHINA, but none in NEW GUINEA."
(ATIS Interrogation Report, Serial No. 467, Section 13)

(2) Non-receipt of Comfort Bags.—

(a) Prisoner of War [redacted] (JA(USA) 147596), Second Lieutenant, member of 68 Independent Field Antiaircraft Battalion, captured HOLLANDIA, 2 May 1944, stated:

"He had received no packages or comfort bags."

(ATIS Interrogation Report, Serial No. 489, Section 13)

(b) Prisoner of War [redacted] (JA(USA)147459), First Class Private, member of 68 Independent Field Antiaircraft Battalion, captured HOLLANDIA, 22 April 1944, stated:

"He had received no comfort bags."

(ATIS Interrogation Report, Serial No. 468, Section 13)

(c) Prisoner of War [redacted] (JA 145648), Sergeant Major (Pilot), member of the 248 Air Regiment, captured near LAE, 12 November 1943, stated:

"He had received no comfort packages while in the South West PACIFIC Area."

(ATIS Interrogation Report, Serial No. 404, page 13)

b. Formosans and Civilians

(1) Prisoner of War [redacted] Formosan laborer, captured on GREEN ISLAND, 7 March 1944, stated:

"He had never received any gifts in way of comfort bags of any sort."

(SOPAC Interrogation Report, Serial No. 01230, page 27)

(2) Prisoner of War [redacted] (JA 145158), Medical Orderly, captured SOPUTA, 6 December 1942, stated:

"He had received no mail or comfort bags since leaving JAPAN."

(ATIS Interrogation Report, Serial No. 41, page 8)

Section II. AMUSEMENTS

5. GENERAL

It appears from information gathered that the Japanese do not make too great an effort to furnish athletic equipment to their troops. One prisoner of war stated that as far as he knew there was no organized athletics in the Japanese Army. Evidence appears to indicate that this is not entirely true because in rear areas the troops have athletic meetings. There is little evidence to support the theory that an athletic program is carried out in forward areas. In fact it appears that no athletic equipment is carried to these areas and that any participation in games must be done with makeshift equipment.

Evidence seems to indicate that the Army makes an attempt to provide occasional movies for the troops. They apparently do not furnish movies to any great degree and there is little information as to the type of movies shown the troops. One Japanese soldier was apparently rather eager to see a movie, because he infiltrated the Allied lines to see a picture in which Ginger Rogers was playing.

The Japanese apparently have organizations similar to American United Service Organization shows which are for the entertainment of their troops. It appears that these units do not travel to forward areas. They made several appearances in the South West PACIFIC Islands but soon returned to JAPAN due to Allied bombings.

The Japanese insure one form of amusement by locating their brothels in forward areas. One prisoner of war has stated that brothels are immediately established where there are any large number of troops. Majority of the women of the Japanese brothels are Japanese, Koreans, and Chinese. Although the Japanese apparently waste no time in establishing their brothels, it appears that the demand greatly exceeds the supply. This condition practically excludes the enlisted personnel, and only officers are able to take advantage of these places of business.

There appears to be quite a bit of difference of opinion among prisoners of war as to who owns and controls the brothels. The statement of a prisoner of war, who was a brothel owner in BURMA, and several lists of brothel regulations, which have been captured in South West PACIFIC Area, indicate that brothels are privately owned but under military supervision. Information available indicates that the venereal rate among Japanese troops in South West PACIFIC Area is exceedingly low.

Japanese troops are usually granted leave when in the homeland but evidence indicates that they have no policy of leave or rotation in the South West PACIFIC Area.

(a) Prisoner of War [redacted] (JA 145033), Superior Private, member of 141 Infantry Regiment, captured OIVI, 9 November 1942, stated:

"Gambling is strictly prohibited in the Japanese Army, and when it was discovered that some of the Japanese soldiers were gambling, cards were taken away from them."

(ATIS Interrogation Report, Serial No. 34, page 5)

(b) Prisoner of War [redacted] First Class Private, member of the 112 Infantry Regiment, captured at SIRZWEYA, 12 February 1944, stated:

"As for the songs the troops sang, there were none that could be said to be in general use since most sang those which were popular in their own part of JAPAN."

(Source available on request)

6. ATHLETICS

(a) "According to a petty officer second class, the 'SHUKAI SHO' (probably mess hall or day room) on KWAJALEIN had magazines, phonographs, ping-pong sets, record and radio sets. At the headquarters of 6 Base Force, sake and cigarettes were available. Volleyball was popular."

"A seaman first class complained about the lack of recreational facilities on KWAJALEIN in spite of the equipment listed above and the fact that he was able to see movies on Sundays. As a Catholic, he attended masses regularly on Sundays. According to this prisoner of war, the recreation room at SASEBO, where he took his basic training, was poor, while that of YOKOSUKA impressed him favorably because it offered a variety of food and drinks and had waitresses, baths, movies and stage shows."

(A-160 30 August 1944, pages 6-7)

(b) Extract from handwritten routine order issued 7 June 1942, by 55 Transport Regiment:

"Baseball games by TAKAMORI Force."

(ATIS Bulletin No. 151, page 2)

(c) Prisoner of War [redacted] (JA(USA)147102), Second Lieutenant, (Medical Officer), member of 141 Infantry Regiment, captured TALASEA Area, stated:

"At RAKUMBA, athletic meetings, SUMO exhibitions and plays were sometimes arranged for entertainment of troops. Baseball was frequently played in PHILIPPINES but no sports equipment was brought to NEW BRITAIN. No recreational facilities in the field."

(ATIS Interrogation Report, Serial No. 453, page 12)

(d) Prisoner of War [redacted] (JA 145531), Sergeant, member of 50 Independent Antiaircraft Battalion, captured off TROBRIAND ISLANDS, 23 March 1943, stated:

"As far as he knew there were no organized athletics in the Japanese Army."

(ATIS Interrogation Report, Serial No. 189, page 10)

(e) Prisoner of War [redacted] First Class Private, member of the 124 Infantry Regiment, captured on GUADALCANAL, 9 February 1943, stated:

"There are organizations at home which buy and collect the latest popular records and send them to the camps. There are no such things as recreational halls in the Army. Each company has its own phonograph records, games,

AMENITIES IN THE JAPANESE ARMED FORCES

7. MOVIES

(a) Prisoner of War [redacted], First Class Private, member of 124 Infantry Regiment, captured GUADALCANAL, 9 February 1943, stated:

"For morale purposes, the Japanese Army sends out motion picture caravans to Army stations. These have the necessary equipment to set up a projection unit at each camp. Traveling sound cars go about equipped with a phonograph, public address system, and the latest records." (SOPAC Interrogation Report, Serial No. 02330, page 64)

(b) Prisoner of War [redacted], JA 145335, Sergeant Major, member of 51 Field Engineer Regiment, captured TUTU, 8 April 1943, stated:

"51 Division carried a movie projector, and films were shown where electricity was available. During his stay in CANTON Area, his division saw movies, and stage shows were brought over." (ATIS Interrogation Report, Serial No. 289, page 3)

(c) Prisoner of War [redacted], Corporal, member of 143 Infantry Regiment, captured TATMAKHAL, 20 December 1943, stated:

"The only form of amusement for the soldiers in BURMA was supplied by Korean prostitutes. There are very few cinemas, no books, no talks or lectures. You came to BURMA to fight and to die, and but for an occasional visit to a brothel you are left to your own devices." (Source available on request)

(d) Extract dated 26 December 1941, from handwritten routine orders belonging to 55 Transport Regiment:

"Theatricals to be held by SAKAMOTO Force (in GUAM)." (ATIS Bulletin No. 151, page 21)

(e) Prisoner of War [redacted], Lance Corporal, member of 6 Field Artillery Regiment, captured TOROKINA Area, 23 March 1944, stated:

"He had seen movies on one occasion on BOUGAINVILLE." (SOPAC Interrogation Report, Serial No. 01459, page 36)

(f) Summary of mimeographed booklet entitled "General rules for inspection of movies", dated 12 April 1943, issued by Philippine Military Administration Inspectorate Department, kept by TACLOBAN Agency of same department:

"All movies to be shown in the PHILIPPINES are to be censored and approved by the Pacification Bureau of the Military Administration Inspectorate Department. The type, title, producer, length and summary of the picture are to be submitted to this bureau.

"Any pictures that endanger the respect or policies of the Imperial Army, threaten Japanese-Filipino or Japanese-Axis cooperation, extol Communism, criminals or Americans are not to be shown or are to have the offensive portions cut.

"Regulations are given for submitting films for approval, and for the replies thereto. Diagrams of the application form and of the certificates of approval or disapproval of the films are given." (ATIS Bulletin No. 1757, page 7)

(g) List of miscellaneous reels of captured Japanese films, all undated, captured LEYTE:

"Two reels of KODOMOGRAPH (newspaper for children) produced by ASAHI News.

"Three reels of Children's Newsreels.

"One reel entitled 'TOKYO OZUMO,' a filming of the SUMO wrestling contests.

"One reel entitled 'Young Students Walking Tour.'

"Six reels of film entitled 'The White Heron,' depicting a love drama of the late MEIJI Era.

"Two reels of films entitled 'Married Life' and 'Light and Shade' respectively, being modern type domestic dramas.

"A travelogue entitled 'HAKONE and FUJI,' depicting a tour of the mountain districts.

"Four reels of film entitled 'Parent and Child Whale.'

"One reel of film entitled 'Life of a Snake.'

"One reel of unnamed war drama depicting advance of infantry in MALAYAN Campaign." (ATIS Bulletin No. 1669, Document No. 16806, page 6)

(h) "Security. We don't take booking. A Prisoner of War recently captured in a PACIFIC Area told interrogators that he had been within the Allied perimeter several days previously. Questioned further, he said he had attended a cinema performance. The film, he contended, started 'JINGA ROGARASU.' He was able to give sufficient details of the trials and difficulties of the beautiful Ginger on the previous Tuesday evening, that left no room for doubt that he had, in fact, seen the film." (Australian Military Forces Weekly Intelligence Review, No. 109, page 14)

8. GEISHA AND ENTERTAINMENT TROUPES

a. Homeland

(1) Extracts from diary dated March to May 1942, owner and unit unknown:

"29 March. The Young Girls' Club in UTAGUARA came to entertain us. They brought us rice cake, oranges, SUSHI and Sake. We deeply appreciated their kindness.

"5 April. Approximately 100 people came from SHIKA CHO to entertain us. 16 April, 36 people came to entertain us." (ATIS Bulletin No. 245, page 2)

(2) Prisoner of War [redacted], Second Class Petty Officer, captured NEW GEORGIA, 8 July 1943, stated:

"While at KISARAZU and various other airfields he saw a traveling unit, something similar to our United Service Organization shows. He stated the performers were all professionals and the girls were pretty. These units gave away cigarettes, writing paper and candy. He stated he has not seen Geisha girls travelling and entertaining soldiers. He also stated that these units did not go out of the country as he has never seen anything like these units in RABAU or heard of them being in foreign countries." (SOPAC Interrogation Report, Serial No. 02004, page 8)

b. PALAU

Prisoner of War [redacted], JA 145346, Civilian Labor Overseer, member of Provisional Road Construction Unit, captured GIRUWA, stated:

"As there were no amusement facilities in PELIELU, with exception of one or two beer halls, prisoner of war spent his holidays mostly at

BROTHELS

KOROR where they had places of amusements, shops, cinemas, and brothels. He occasionally went to ARAKABESAN." (ATIS Interrogation Report, Serial No. 101, page 8)

c. South West PACIFIC Area

(1) Prisoner of War [redacted], Lance Corporal, member of 6 Field Artillery Regiment, captured TOROKINA Area, 23 March 1944, stated:

"During the summer of 1943, several Japanese actresses arrived at RABAU to entertain Japanese troops. Heard that same troupe came to entertain air corps personnel and some officers at ERVENTA. Names of actresses in troupe known to prisoner of war: [redacted]. After staying two to three days at ERVENTA, they returned to JAPAN because of American bombing." (SOPAC Interrogation Report, Serial No. 01459, page 36)

(2) Prisoner of War [redacted], Superior Private, member of 23 Infantry Regiment, captured BOUGAINVILLE, 6 April 1944, stated:

"In CHINA, the so-called Entertainment War Relief Groups (probably similar to American United Service Organization) organized by politicians, veterans of war, and other associations, were sent to various combat units. They usually brought Geisha girls with them and held stage shows. Famous actors, actresses, singers, and comedians visited soldiers to entertain but they had not come as far as BOUGAINVILLE." (SOPAC Interrogation Report, Serial No. 01122, page 3)

9. BROTHELS

a. Regulations

(1) MANILA

(a) Bound printed booklet (1) entitled "Rules for Authorized Restaurants and Houses of Prostitution in MANILA", issued February 1943 by Lieutenant Colonel [redacted], MANILA District Line of Communication Squad.

Part One—General Regulations

"1. In these regulations, authorized restaurants will be taken to mean those places designated by the Officer in Charge of MANILA Sector Line of Communications Duties, with the sanction of the army commanding general, as eating places for soldiers and army civilian employees. Houses of relaxation should be taken to mean those places designated by the Officer in Charge of MANILA Sector Line of Communications Duties, with the sanction of the army commanding general, which maintain hostesses (geisha or waitresses) for the entertainment of soldiers and army civilian employees.

"2. Managers may close down or suspend the operation of their establishments only with the permission of the officer in charge of MANILA Sector Line of Communications Duties.

"3. If and when the various managers meet with difficulties, the officer in charge of MANILA Sector Line of Communications Duties may either close the business or temporarily suspend it. In such cases, the managers will present a statement for recompense for any losses or for

"4. The translation of a police report listing medical inspection of brothels consisting of a group of loose sheets which accompanied this document, although not actually part of the original is relevant to the contents and has been reproduced as Appendix B.

any other inconvenience.

"4. Authorized restaurants and houses of relaxation will be used only by soldiers and army civilian employees.

Part Two—Business Operation

"5. Persons planning to operate authorized restaurants or houses of relaxation must submit the following documents to the officer in charge of MANILA Sector Line of Communications Duties. Managers must be Japanese who have had some business experience.

"a. Application for permission to open business: three copies (Appendix A, Form No. 1).

"b. Statement of business plans: three copies (Appendix A, Form No. 2).

"c. Affidavit: three copies (Appendix A, Form No. 3).

"d. Personal history: three copies.

"6. Persons receiving permission to open business will thereupon determine the number of personnel needed, and will submit three copies of their business personnel list (Appendix A, Form No. 4), one copy of the personal histories of employees, and three copies of requests for authorization of the hostesses (geisha and waitresses) (Appendix A, Form No. 5). When preparations are complete, the Officer in Charge of MANILA Sector Line of Communications Duties will be informed, and business may commence after the inspection of the establishment and the physical examination of the employees.

"7. Managers intending to change the personnel of their establishments must secure the permission of the Officer in Charge of MANILA Sector Line of Communications Duties. Hostesses (geisha and waitresses) wishing to leave the establishments must submit a request therefor (Appendix A, Form No. 6). When the hostesses (geisha and waitresses) and other employees are to be replaced, a request for permission to do so must be submitted (Appendix A, Form No. 7).

"8. Managers intending to increase the number of hostesses (geisha and waitresses), maids, and others will so inform the Officer in Charge of MANILA Sector Line of Communications Duties. The date and time for the physical examinations by the medical authorities will be announced for each occasion. On completion of the physical examinations, the examination charts together with copies of personal histories or identification papers will be submitted to the Officer in Charge of MANILA Sector Line of Communications Duties. Permission is necessary before anyone joins the establishment.

"9. The location of and the buildings used as authorized restaurants and houses of relaxation must have the approval of the Officer in Charge of MANILA Sector Line of Communications Duties. In the future, managers who cannot maintain discipline may be removed. The Officer in Charge of MANILA Sector Line of Communications Duties will be informed of any repairs contemplated for army-controlled houses.

"10. Hostesses (geisha, waitresses, maids) may, as a general rule, be re-hired at the expiration of their term of contract. (This does not apply to persons who have not been overseas at least a year). Those wishing to continue their employment will so notify the Officer in Charge of MANILA Sector Line of Communications Duties for his approval. When the medical authorities consider it suitable to discontinue the services