

INTERROGATION REPORT NO. 31

PW's Name: [REDACTED]

No. JA 145068

Secret No. M 22

Rank: 1st Class Private

Unit: NANKAI SHITAI, TOMITA BUTAI
RIKUJO KIMMU Dai 120 CHUTAI
(SHORE DUTY No. 120 Company)

Where Captured: Vicinity BASA

When Captured: About 2 or 3 Dec '42

Height: 5'2"

Weight: 117 lbs

Age: 37

Private Address: [REDACTED]

Education: Primary School - 6 years

Civil Occupations: Farmer, also worked in saw mill.

1. PREAMBLE

Subject not intelligent - complains his memory fails him and ascribes this to result of malaria. He is of typical coolie type and not gifted with much imagination.

This man was rejected in 1926 for physical reasons. Called up at the age of 35 and sent abroad after 4 months' training.

2. CHRONOLOGY

Pre SWPA

Jul '26 Conscription examination. Rejected account of eyesight and haemorrhoids.

18 Sep '41 Called up and sent to join 17 Regt, at AKITA. Found rolls full and billeted in private houses for one week and then assigned to HOKUBU 17 Regt, AKATSUKI 7290 (see Section 5). Later sent to UJINA, near HIROSHIMA, and joined SAHAKU BUTAI, MURAI TAI (see Sec 5 & 9).

Voyage Out

15 Jan '42 Left UJINA, name of ship forgotten; with about 450 men of the SAHAKU BUTAI.

Psychological.

PW had received neither letters nor comfort bag from Japan since leaving and had no idea how his people were getting on. PW did not think that there was a war boom in Japan even though workers' wages were probably on a higher level than formerly. This larger income was counterbalanced by the fact that most things were rationed, amongst them being rice, sugar, sake, galvanized iron, nails, rubber goods, charcoal and all piece goods. No leather goods were available for civilians.

PW was at home both when the Manchukou incident began and the start of the CHINA War. He had thought the latter would have soon been over. He knew nothing of the details of the 1894 war with CHINA but thought that since the beginning of this war, JAPAN had probably become relatively weaker than CHINA. PW agreed that it would have been better to have stopped at NORTH CHINA. As far as he knew, JAPAN was getting no assistance from GERMANY.

Two of his relations had seen active service in CHINA. They were still away when PW left Japan and he had not heard of them since. None of his school mates had been killed or wounded. He had not been wounded during his fighting career though he contracted malaria in NEW GUINEA. As far as he knew none of his companions had suffered from any disease.

Brothels are provided in the army, and at DAVAO he had seen Korean, Formosan and native women in them.

PW had no idea why the Chinese and Japanese could not get along. He believed that all natives in occupied territories were being treated as equals. He was of the opinion that the Rescript of the Emperor MEIJI was being carried out.

PW saw a number of white Prisoners of War at TANDJEONG PRIOK but he had not seen them doing coolie work.

PW had never heard of Hitler and scouted the idea of his claim of being on the same plane as the Emperor. Furthermore, he could not admit of German superiority.

PW's father voted in the past for the MINSEITO party. At the time when there was talk of communism in Japan, some 15 years ago, PW was at his home in AKITA. He was not in accord with the movement. He was also in AKITA at the time of the 26 Feb '36 incident which he thought was a disgraceful affair. He had no ideas relative to the anti-English movement in Japan.

PW had never had a chance to listen in to a radio in camp as none were available. He did not own a set at home and had seldom listened to broadcasts.

PW did not believe in war and expressed the hope that this one would soon be over. He feels the Emperor did not like war and that TOJO, in conjunction with other high ranking officers, acted largely on his own initiative in instituting the present conflict. He felt that Japan would have been happier if she had kept out of the war, and PW thought that it was definitely a blunder on TOJO's part.